

## Eid Mubarak

## عيدكم مبارك

# SAUDIS RATTLED BY TERROR ATTACKS; BOMBINGS KILL 4

## SUICIDE BOMBERS HIT 3 SAUDI CITIES, PAKISTANI ATTACKER IDENTIFIED



Min 32°  
Max 47°  
High Tide  
01:42 & 12:16  
Low Tide  
06:59 & 19:59



150 FILS

NO: 16926

40 PAGES

### EID GREETINGS

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan wishes HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Cabinet members, heads of states around the world, Kuwaitis, expatriates and our valued readers Eid Mubarak. Kuwait Times will not be published from July 7 to 9. Our next issue will be published on Sunday, July 10.

### Ramadan Kareem

## FAREWELL! RAMADAN

By Teresa Leshner

Although the hardship of Ramadan is about to end and festivities of Eid are about to begin, there will be sadness in every devout Muslim's heart that Ramadan has passed. Barely having had their last breakfast at sunset, they will immediately start looking forward to the next Ramadan and counting the months and weeks until it comes again.

They will begin to greet one another with the phrase "Asakom min awadah" which means, "May you repeat it." Some people may tilt their head in confusion and wonder why would anyone look forward to a month of daily 16-hour fasts in 45 degree temperatures? What is so special about Ramadan? First of all, Ramadan is an opportunity to express your devotion to Allah.

Everything on the earth was created for us, according to many verses in the Quran (eg, 2:29). Many use their time and the earth's resources to satisfy themselves through acquiring things, entertaining themselves and seeking sensual pleasures. Doing so is not necessarily forbidden but it shouldn't be the goal of one's life. So why were we created? Allah gave us life and He hopes that we will voluntarily give it back to him through worship and submission to His will.

Almost everything we do in life has some sort of return for us, even if it is done purely for Allah's sake. For example, when we give charity, others benefit and we feel their happiness too. But fasting in Ramadan is a chance to show our devotion to our Lord, because nobody benefits from the fast. Nobody even knows if you are fasting, so this expression of faith is purely for Allah.

Another reason many people are sad to bid Ramadan farewell is because the atmosphere of intensified worship and charity will pass, as well as the extra rewards that we are promised. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said that one who fasts during Ramadan with faith and hope in Allah's reward will have his past sins forgiven. One who prays at night in Ramadan with faith and hope in Allah's reward will also have his past sins forgiven.

And only in Ramadan can we experience Lailatul-Qadr, whose merit is worth a thousand months, according to the Quran. These holy days and nights are treasures to devout Muslims. And soon this unique holy season will pass and life will go on as usual. I will miss Ramadan and all the lessons it teaches me. I have learned so much about myself - about how my body can adjust to extreme circumstances, and about how dedicated I can be when I am striving to accomplish something important.

Continued on Page 13

## NASA JUNO SPACECRAFT LOOPS AROUND JUPITER

MIAMI: NASA celebrated a key triumph yesterday as its \$1.1 billion Juno spacecraft successfully slipped into orbit around Jupiter on a mission to probe the origin of the solar system. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, erupted in cheers as the solar observatory entered its aimed-for orbit around the biggest planet in our cosmic neighborhood at 11:53 pm.

"We are there. We are in orbit. We conquered Jupiter," said Scott Bolton, NASA's principal investigator from the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. "It is almost like a dream coming true." Juno launched five years ago from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and has traveled 1.7 billion miles since then.

Continued on Page 13



PASADENA: A 1/5th size scale model of NASA's Juno spacecraft is displayed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. — AFP



MEDINA: People stand near an explosion site in Medina. (Inset) Undated photo shows Abdullah Qalzar Khan, who is alleged to have carried out a suicide attack in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia identified the suicide bomber as a Pakistani resident of the kingdom who arrived 12 years ago to work as a driver. — AP



RIYADH: Outrage spread yesterday after a deadly suicide bombing at Islam's second-holiest site in the Saudi city of Medina, one of three attacks in the kingdom on a single day. Religious and political leaders across the Middle East denounced the attack near the Prophet's Mosque that left four dead and came as Muslims prepare for the feast this week marking the end of the holy month Ramadan.

There were no claims of responsibility for Monday's bombings in Medina, Jeddah and the eastern city of Qatif, but the Islamic State group had urged its supporters to carry out attacks during Ramadan. The jihadist group has claimed or been blamed for a wave of shootings and bombings during the holy month this year, including in Orlando, Bangladesh, Istanbul and Baghdad.

The suicide bombing in Medina came during sunset prayers at the mosque where Islam's Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is buried and which attracts millions of pilgrims each year. The Saudi Interior Ministry said officers became suspicious of a man heading for the Prophet's Mosque through a parking lot. "As they tried to stop him, he blew himself up with an explosive belt causing his death and the death of four police," the statement said, adding that five others were wounded. The targeting of Medina caused widespread outrage, both in Saudi Arabia and across the Muslim world. The head of Saudi Arabia's Shura Council, the kingdom's main government advisory body, called it an "unprecedented" incident.

Continued on Page 13

## News

in brief

### Muslim teens beaten outside a NY mosque

NEW YORK: Two Muslim teenagers were beaten outside a New York City mosque by an attacker who shouted slurs at them, a rights group said on Monday, calling for police to investigate the incident as a bias crime. The attack early on Sunday was at least the third involving Muslims in the United States over the weekend. A law enforcement source said investigators had ruled out the incident as a bias crime. The New York chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, said in a statement that a 16-year-old boy was attacked outside Brooklyn's Muslim Community Center as he took a break from prayers. A surveillance video released by CAIR showed a man punching, kicking and stomping the youth as he lay in the street. Another teenager on a bicycle was chased and attacked when he rode past the boy. CAIR said the man was reportedly heard shouting: "You Muslims are the cause of all the problems of the world" and calling the youths "terrorists."

### Iraqi interior minister resigns after bombing

BAGHDAD: Iraq's Interior Minister says he submitted his resignation in the wake of Sunday's devastating suicide bombing in central Baghdad, which killed at least 200 people. Mohammed Salem Al-Ghabban told reporters yesterday that the government "has failed in having the different array of security forces work under a unified plan in Baghdad." He says Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi has not yet accepted his resignation. Al-Ghabban called on the government to hand over security inside the cities solely to the Interior Ministry. He says he submitted a reform plan when he took office in 2015, but it was shelved. Responsibility for securing Baghdad is shared by the army, federal and local police. The Interior Ministry is in charge of the police. In recent years, militants have carried out bombings and other attacks in and around Baghdad on an almost daily basis.

### Nearly 30,000 'foreign terrorists' in Syria, Iraq

GENEVA: Nearly 30,000 "foreign terrorist fighters" are currently in Syria and Iraq, a high-ranking UN official said yesterday, warning that the risk of attacks in their home countries was growing. "The number of foreign terrorist fighters is very high" in war-ravaged Syria and neighboring Iraq, said Jean-Paul Laborde, UN assistant secretary general and head of its Counter-Terrorism Committee. "There are nearly 30,000, and now that the territory held by Daesh (the Islamic State group) is shrinking in Iraq, we are seeing them return, not only to Europe but to all of their countries of origin, like Tunisia, Morocco," he told reporters in Geneva. "The terrorist attacks in those countries of origin risk getting bigger and bigger to counter-balance the pressure on them" on the ground in Syria and Iraq, he said. Laborde urged countries to put in place a "filter system to distinguish between the large majority of (returning) foreign fighters, who are not dangerous... and those who are."

## KILLING OF SAUDI MOTHER SPARKS DEBATE ABOUT ISLAMIC SCHOLAR

### TWINS ACCUSED OF KILLING THEIR MOTHER

DUBAI: Driven by radical beliefs, twin brothers allegedly killed their mother in Saudi Arabia after she tried to stop them from joining Islamic State in Syria in a case that outraged Saudi Arabians worried about rising Islamic militancy. The June 24 killing, in a country where respect for elders is seen as a bedrock of society, whipped up a storm of debate over the possible influence of a mediaeval Islamic scholar revered as a forerunner of Saudi Arabia's Wahhabi school of Sunni Islam.

Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman General Mansour Al-Turki said the pair were suspects in the killing. "The only thing (we have established) is that they (the twins) follow Takfiri ideology," Turki said, using a phrase which Saudi authorities use to refer to Islamist militancy. "The case is still under investigation," said the spokesman, who declined to give further details.

Reuters was unable to contact the 20-year-old twins, or their lawyers or family members, and could not independently confirm if the alleged killing was influenced by Islamic State or religious ideology - or what the mother actually said. In a statement after the attack, the interior ministry said that the twins, Khaled and Saleh Al-Oraini, were arrested on suspicion of stabbing their 67-year-old mother Haila, their 73-year-old

father and their 22-year-old brother at the family home in the capital Riyadh. The mother, who died of her wounds, had objected to her sons joining Islamic State jihadists in Syria, Saudi media reported.

The father and brother were in hospital in a serious condition, while the alleged attackers were arrested trying to flee across the border to Yemen, media said. Reuters was unable to confirm the status of family members or the whereabouts of the suspects. "Had this come from drug addicts or ignorant youth, it would not have been unusual," Saudi writer Mohammad Ali Al-Mahmoud said. "The shock is that it came from a pair of religious children acting in the name of Islam." This is the fifth killing of family members by suspected militants in Saudi Arabia since July last year, the online Saudi news website akhbaar24 reported on June 26.

There have been similar cases of other killings of close relatives by Islamic state members, including a widely reported incident in January in which a suspected militant killed his mother in public in the Syrian city of Raqqa because she had encouraged him to leave the group. The killings compounded fears of radicalization in the kingdom.

Continued on Page 13

## GULF CABLES CROWNED CHAMPIONS



KUWAIT: Gulf Cables Chairman Bader Al-Khorafi celebrates with his son Nasser after Gulf Cables team win the 37th Al-Roudhan Ramadan futsal tournament on Monday. — (See Page 20)



## AMIR CONDEMNS TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN SAUDI ARABIA

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has telephoned Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia, expressing strong condemnation of the two terrorist bombing attacks that happened in the Kingdom yesterday.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, in the telephone contact with the Saudi Monarch, denounced in strongest terms the two terrorist explosions; one targeted a security office near Prophet Mohammad Holy Mosque in Madinah and the other happened in Al-Qatif in eastern sector of the country, killing the innocent, terrorizing the citizens and undermining the Kingdom's security.

Such satanic acts where the culprits desecrated sanctity of the houses of Allah, the Holy Month of Ramadan and wasted lives of the innocent, contradict "Our religion Islam and all other heavenly laws and covenants and human race values," His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad stated during his contact with King Salman.

Moreover, His Highness the Amir expressed to King Salman congratulations on forecast advent of Eid Al-Fitr, praying to His Almighty that the happy occasion may recur in the two brotherly countries, in the Arab and Muslim nations.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir for the "generous gesture that embodies the ties between the two brotherly countries." He reciprocated on the Eid good wishes, in addition to wishing Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad life-long good health and further prosperity for the State of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem condemned the suicidal attacks on two mosques in Saudi Arabia that claimed a number of servicemen and civilians. An attack occurred outside the Grand Mosque in Madinah killing and injuring security forces and civilians, while the other took place near a mosque in Qateef, eastern Saudi Arabia.

Ghanem, in a cable to President of the Saudi Shura Council Abdullah bin Ibrahim, said attacking the holy places was a proof that terrorism was not related to any religion and that terrorists knew nothing about teaching of Islam.

Ghanem, extending condolences for the families of the victims, reaffirmed solidarity of the Kuwaiti people with their Saudi brothers. He said Saudi Arabia was paying the price of confronting terrorism and terrorists, but the Kingdom would be victorious in defeating terror as well as protecting sacred places.

The State of Kuwait had condemned the wave of terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia, as a source from the Ministry of Interior denounced attacks on mosques in the cities of Qateef and Madinah, which killed a number of innocent lives. "These heinous attacks are indicative of radical and malicious ideologies," the source noted.

Moreover, the source underscored that Kuwait stands in solidarity with Saudi Arabia and supports its efforts to uphold security and stability. The statement also conveyed condolences and sympathies to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery for those wounded. — KUNA

# AMIR, CROWN PRINCE RECEIVE EID AL-FITR GREETINGS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has received Eid Al-Fitr greetings from His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness Chief of the National Guards Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy Chief of the National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The top leaders expressed in the cables to His Highness the Amir their faithful loyalty to the dear homeland and the people of Kuwait, wishing His Highness life-long good health so Kuwait may prosper under his leadership with further progress. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad reciprocated, expressing identical sentiments to the officials, also expressing good wishes to the Arab and Muslim nations.

His Highness the Crown Prince wished His Highness the Amir good health, praying God to help him achieve further prosperity and stability for the nation, in light of the strong national unity, security and safety the country enjoys. His Highness the Amir sent a reply to His Highness the Crown Prince, expressing his appreciation for this good sentiment and congratulating him on the Eid.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received a cable from Ghanem who congratulated him on the Eid, on behalf of MPs. In reply, His Highness the Crown Prince sent cable to Ghanem congratulating him and the MPs on the occasion, and wished



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Kuwait many returns of the occasion under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir.

His Highness the Crown Prince sent cables of congratulations on Eid El-Fitr to the National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah. His Highness the Crown Prince received replies from the National Guard Chief and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah who both congratulated him on the occasion.

Also His Highness the Crown Prince

received congratulating cables on the Eid from senior Sheikhs, Sheikh Meshaal Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received cables congratulating him on the Eid from ministers, governors and other state officials and diplomats, as well as many Kuwaiti citizens and

expats. His Highness the Crown Prince sent cables in reply congratulating all on the occasion.

In the meantime, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince exchanged Eid Al-Fitr greetings with Kings and presidents of Arab and Muslim nations, hoping the happy occasion may recur with heavenly blessings, security and stability for these countries.

His Highness the Amir received a phone call Monday from King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa congratulating him on advent of Eid Al-Fitr. King Hamad wished this happy occasion returned on the two countries and their people, the Arab and Muslim worlds with further prosperity, as well as bestowing His Highness the Amir with good health. His Highness the Amir thanked King Hamad for his call, and wished the Bahraini people lasting development and prosperity under the leadership of the Monarch.

## BAHRAIN SUPPORTS KUWAIT'S MEASURES TAKEN TO MAINTAIN SECURITY, COMBAT TERRORISM

**MANAMA:** The Kingdom of Bahrain has stressed its full solidarity with the State of Kuwait in all measures taken to maintain security and stability, and combat terrorist plots which seek to undermine the country's stability and safety of people.

Bahrain's Foreign Ministry said in a press statement on Monday that these measures ensure the protection of the state's properties and institutions, and the continuation of development and prosperity paths under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The statement reiterated the depth of historic and brotherly relations with Kuwait, indicating that Bahrain affirmed that it stands side by side with the State of Kuwait in its endeavors aiming to combat violence and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Kingdom of Bahrain expressed its strong condemnation and denouncement of attempts seeking to under-

mine stability and security of Kuwait and its national unity, the statement said. Member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will continue decisively combating terrorism which poses a threat to GCC nations and member states, it noted.

Bahrain's Minister of Interior Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa lauded, in a telephone conversation with Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, the success made by Kuwaiti security apparatuses that led to the arrest of member of "terrorist groups", it said.

Sheikh Rashid also voiced its support for measures taken by Kuwait aiming at maintaining security and confronting firmly everybody tries to pose a threat to the country's stability and security, it said. Sheikh Rashid reiterated full cooperation in all conditions between security authorities of the two countries in the framework of the firm brotherly relations, the statement concluded. — KUNA



Sheikh Sultan bin Salman Al Hethleen

## TRIBAL CHIEF CONDEMNS BAHRAIN BLAST

**KUWAIT:** Chief of the Ajman tribe Sheikh Sultan bin Salman Al Hethleen condemned the terrorist explosion that took place in East Eker area in the Kingdom of Bahrain. He described this terrorist act as 'a villainous attack' that targeted innocent citizens and expats during the holy month of Ramadan. He said such heinous acts do not represent Islam and are far from the simplest of human principles. Hethleen called for open and quick solidarity with the Kingdom of Bahrain, as did the GCC countries, adding that he is sure authorities will identify the culprits in this criminal act that targeted our dear people in Bahrain. "[The culprits] target all Arab GCC countries both leadership and sincere people," he said. Hethleen condoled King Fahad bin Essa, his crown prince and the prime minister, and prayed to Almighty Allah to bestow His mercy on the victims.



## QATAR HOSTING OF WORLD CUP 2022 SOURCE OF PRIDE: GHANEM

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem said on Monday that Kuwait and Kuwaitis were ready to harness all potentials and efforts to support the brothers in Qatar to contribute to the success of hosting the 2022 World Cup.

This came during Ghanem's reception of Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for projects and national heritage and official in charge of organizing the World Cup in Qatar Hassan Al-Thawadi and Assistant Secretary-General of the Competition Nasser Al-Khater.

Ghanem said that Qatar hosting of this global event is a source of pride for all Gulf and Arab people, expressing his confidence in the ability of Qataris in the organization of such major events, especially since Qatar had demonstrated its ability in hosting such world events. Meanwhile, Thawadi gave a detailed explanation of the Qatari preparations to organize the FIFA World Cup for 2022, reviewing the importance of such world championship. — KUNA

## KRCS DELIVERS 670 FOOD BASKETS TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN FALLUJAH BLOOD BAGS DONATED TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) announced yesterday that it has distributed 670 food baskets to displaced families in the Iraqi province of Anbar, amidst deteriorating humanitarian conditions there. The residents of the city of Fallujah in Anbar are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, "before the situation morphs into a humanitarian catastrophe," KRCS Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hassawi said.

Moreover, he noted that the food baskets would be delivered directly to the displaced families, saying that such aid aims to mitigate the adversity these families have to endure. Meanwhile, the KRCS Deputy Chairman said that the aid is part of relief campaigns encompassing numerous locations across Iraq. He also added that KRCS aims to dole out as much relief aid as possible to ameliorate the living conditions of the needy. Meanwhile, KRCS announced that it has signed an agreement with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) for the purchase of bags of blood to equip hospitals with tools needed to aid Syrian refugees in the country. In collaboration with LRC, KRCS works to dole out as much aid as possible to meet the needs of refugees, said KRCS's delegate to Lebanon Msaad Al-Enezi in a statement.

"After the Eid holidays, KRCS will initiate a new phase of nutritive aid to various locations across Lebanon," Enezi noted. During the course of the holy month of Ramadan, KRCS had launched a mass "fast-breaking campaign" where it distributed 30,000 meals to Syrian refugees in the country, part of the society's incessant aid of the needy. — KUNA





## RAPE REPORT LED TO FUGITIVE'S ARREST SUSPECT WANTED TO SERVE 91 YEARS IN JAIL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A rape report led police to arrest a suspect wanted to serve several sentences with a total jail time of 91 years and eight months. Investigations had went underway after police received a complaint from the Philippines Embassy about a rape case against a number of Filipina nationals. Embassy officials told police that an unknown person would contact people who offer to relinquish the services of their Filipina domestic helpers. He would then agree with the employer to take the maid for a trial period, but would instead sexually assault the maid and escape, according to the embassy's complaint. Investigations led police to identify the suspect as 30-year-old Raed Waleed Mayouf, Kuwaiti, who was arrested inside furnished apartment in Mahboulah. The man was taken to the proper authorities for further action. On that regard, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Media Department released a statement, urging the public to contact certified domestic help offices only to hire or return maids.



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs a meeting with senior security officials yesterday to review current plans and developments. — KUNA

## INTERIOR MINISTRY VOWS PREEMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST TERRORISM

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior is determined to continue to carry out 'preemptive strikes' to protect the nation from the perils of terrorism, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled made the remarks in a statement issued by the ministry after he chaired a meeting with senior security officials to review current plans and

developments. Moreover, he noted that the use of preemptive strikes have paid ultimate dividends as authorities have been able to thwart a number of terrorist plots targeting the nation. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled also underscored that the security of the nation takes ultimate precedence as turmoil grips the region.

Meanwhile, the Interior Minister said that he had received several phone calls from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders

commending security forces on their recent achievements and their efforts to uphold security in the country. "True security is the ability to repel all threats that aim to do harm and kill innocent lives," he noted, adding that the nation is grateful for and confident in the efforts of security personnel. With the onset of the Eid Al-Fitr holidays, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled sought to allay concerns of safety, urging the people of Kuwait to stay calm. "All security precautions are in place," he said. — KUNA



**Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) signed a two year health insurance contract with Warba Insurance Company to treat firemen. KFSD Director General Lt General Yousef Al-Ansari received the General Advisor of Warba Insurance Mohammad Al-Alban and Assistant CEO Osama Al-Wazan.**

## STOLTENBERG: NATO TRAINING CENTER IN KUWAIT IMPORTANT PLATFORM FOR GULF COOPERATION

**BRUSSELS:** NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Monday that the Alliance is working with several Gulf countries in the fight against terrorism and in particular against the so-called Islamic States (IS) and to project stability in the region.

"One of the main messages at the Warsaw summit will be that NATO will work to fight terrorism and fight Islamic state (IS) by working with partner countries in the wider Middle East region and North Africa to enable them to fight terrorism," he told a press conference ahead of the NATO summit in Warsaw, Poland, on Friday and Saturday.

In reply to a question by Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) at the press conference, the NATO chief said "we are also working with several countries in the Gulf region and we will soon inaugurate a NATO training Center in Kuwait." "I visited Kuwait recently, saw the construction at the center and this center will be an important platform for regional cooperation between Gulf countries and NATO, addressing for instance what we can do to project stability," he added. NATO is now training Iraqi forces inside Jordan but they will take a decision at Warsaw to expand that training of Iraqi forces inside Iraq. NATO is also working with Tunisia to develop their intelligence capacities but also their security forces, he noted. He said that this week's NATO Summit in Warsaw comes "at a defining time for our security. With threats and challenges from many directions."

### Further enhancement

"So at our Summit in Warsaw, we will agree to further enhance our military presence in the eastern part of the Alliance," Stoltenberg said. Another major theme of the Summit will be projecting stability beyond NATO borders, he said adding that "when our neighbors are more stable, we are more secure. NATO can, and will do more to support them. We will decide that NATO AWACS aircraft will provide information to the Global Coalition to counter IS." The NATO leaders will agree on a role for NATO in the Central Mediterranean, complementing the European Union's Operation Sophia. And building on our effective cooperation in the Aegean to cut lines of human trafficking, he added. "Afghanistan remains our largest operation. President Ghani and



Chief Executive Abdullah will join us in Warsaw," he said.

In an earlier interview, Stoltenberg said that King of Jordan Abdullah II has been invited to the summit together with the Presidents of the EU Council and the EU Commission among others to participate in a meeting on NATO efforts to project stability to NATO's Southern neighborhood. He stressed that "Jordan is one of NATO's most active and effective partners and a valuable partner for NATO in projecting international security."

"I would like to take this opportunity to convey my deepest condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah II and to the Jordanian people for the tragic terrorist attack that took place at the Syrian border on 21 June. My thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones and with those who have been wounded. More than ever, we need to stand united against the scourge of terrorism," he said. "We will continue to support Jordan in the fight against terrorism," he stressed. There will also be at the sidelines of the Warsaw summit a Defense Ministers meeting with partner countries taking part in NATO's Interoperability Platform initiative, which will include Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, he said. — KUNA

## KFH HOLDS A GIRGIAN EVENT FOR KIDS AT DISCOVERY MALL



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held a girgian event for kids at Discovery mall as part of its social responsibility and in the framework of its eventful Ramadan program. KFH Public Relations team distributed girgian confectionery and gifts to the children amidst friendly and passionate Ramadan atmospheres. girgian is considered as an important occasion for children to enjoy. It is a folkloric event associated with the holy month of Ramadan and it contributes in spreading joy and love among children. It is worth noting that KFH is keen on holding girgian events on an annual basis in efforts to reinforce ties with all segments of the society.



**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced the conclusion of its 20th annual Ramadan social program, in which more than 1,000 iftar meals were distributed daily throughout the holy month. Meanwhile, NBK visited an orphanage in Shuwaikh to share the Eid Al-Fitr joy with children there.





KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Al-Tamimi hosted a Ramadan reception this year, which was attended by government officials, ambassadors, and a large group of citizens.— Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



**Ramadan Quiz 2016**

الإتقاد  
**ETIHAD AIRWAYS**  
 ABU DHABI

**Lulu HYPERMARKET**

**Ruby Tuesday**

**Ramadan Quiz**

All thirty coupons with the correct answers must be sent to the newspaper to be eligible for the raffle draw.

All coupons must be submitted by Friday 8 July, 2016 to Kuwait Times offices.

The winners will be announced on 18 July, 2016.

All winners are advised to visit Kuwait Times offices from Monday 19 July to receive their prizes.

Espresso **Eid Mubarak** Baby sebamed

## CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS: BENEFICIARIES AND INSTRUMENTS OF DIVINE MERCY

**KUWAIT:** The Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue at the Vatican City sent the following message to commemorate the Islamic holy month of Ramadan and the advent of the Islamic holiday of Eid Al-Fitr:

**‘Dear Muslim brothers and sisters,**  
 The month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr is an important religious event for Muslims around the world, focused on fasting, prayer and good deeds, and is esteemed by Christians, your friends and neighbors. On behalf of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and Christians all over the world, we extend best wishes for a spiritually rewarding fast, supported by good deeds, and for a joyful feast. As is our cherished custom, we wish to share with you on this occasion some reflections in the hope of strengthening the spiritual bonds we share.

A theme that is close to the hearts of Muslims and Christians alike is mercy. We know that Christianity and Islam both believe in a merciful God, who shows his mercy and compassion towards all his creatures, in particular the human family. He created us out of immense love. He is merciful in caring for each of us, bestowing upon us the gifts we need for our daily life, such as food, shelter and security. God’s mercy is manifested in a partic-

ular way, however, through the pardon of our faults; hence he is the one who pardons (al-Gh, fir), but the one who pardons much and always (al-Ghafour).

To underscore the importance of mercy, His Holiness Pope Francis declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy to be celebrated from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016. In this regard he said: “Here... is the reason for the Jubilee: Because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation” (“Homily”, 11 April 2015).

Your pilgrimage (hajj) to the Holy places, mainly Makkah and Medina, is surely a special time for you to experience God’s mercy. In fact, among the well-known aspirations addressed to Muslim pilgrims is: “I wish you a blessed pilgrimage, praiseworthy efforts and the pardon of your sins”. Making a pilgrimage to obtain God’s pardon for sins, both for the living and dead, is truly a salient custom practice among believers.

We, Christians and Muslims, are called to do our best to imitate God. He, the Merciful, asks us to be merciful and compassionate towards others,

especially those who are in any kind of need. So too he calls us to be forgiving of one another.

When we gaze upon humanity today, we are saddened to see so many victims of conflicts and violence - here we think in particular of the elderly, and children and women, especially those who fall prey to human trafficking and the many people who suffer from poverty, illness, natural disasters and unemployment.

We cannot close our eyes to these realities, or turn away from these sufferings. It is true that situation are often very complex and that their solution exceeds our capacities. It is vital, therefore, that all work together in assisting those in need. It is a source of great hope when we experience or hear of Muslims and Christians joining hands to help the needy. When we do join hands, we heed an important command in our respective religions and show forth God’s mercy, thus offering a more credible witness, individually and communally, to our beliefs. May the Merciful and Almighty God help us to walk always along the path of goodness and compassion!

We join our prayerful good wishes to those of Pope Francis for abundant blessings during Ramadan and for a lasting joy of Eid al-Fitr. Happy Feast to you all!

### Photo

of the day



**Culture shock:** Old Arab houses defy modernity, as they continue to withstand the test of time and remain despite Kuwait’s rapid development during the period that followed the discovery of oil. Photo prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Al-Lella, researcher in heritage, Ministry of Information. (Source: ‘Kuwait Miracle on the Desert’, by David Cooke).





KUWAIT: Throughout the holy month of Ramadan, the Nayef Palace was once again a popular destination in the moments before iftar this year. Children and their families gathered in the yards outside the popular landscape in Kuwait City to watch the canon's fire, which signaled the end of a long fasting day. —KUNA photos



Young Voices

'I WANT TO HELP KIDS BECOME HEALTHY SO THEY CAN ENJOY THEIR CHILDHOOD'

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

Nearly a quarter of Kuwait's entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints.

This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait's future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.



Some may be surprised with what might come from those little lips when they speak about themselves, their dreams and their perceptions of the world around them. Seven-year-old Amna Al-Hassan is a beautiful girl who loves trying new things, making adventures and challenges, traveling and seeing new places, making new friends, as well as raising and feeding domestic animals. Amna sees herself as a bright and professional career woman, who can support her family and country.

"I want to become a surgeon, a doctor for children," she said. "I want to help children to become healthy and active, so they can enjoy their childhood free of any pain." This is not surprising, since she, ever since a very young age, has been taking part in talent fine-tuning classes and personal development activities, such as ballet dancing, art studios, discussion groups for critical thinking, creativity, confidence and social sharing.

"I created portraits for Bait Al-Yasameen in order to be sold in an art auction to support the Syrian refugees' schools in Lebanon. I exchanged letters with them with the hope to meet them one day at their home country," she said.

Like other kids, she enjoys visiting the Ice Skating Rink, Kidzania, Discovery Mall, Winterland, Trampo

at Promenade, the Kuwait Scientific Center's aquarium, the 360 ART center, K- Summer Camp, and watching her favorite movies at the movie theatre. "I also like to paint my nails, holding parties and doing some outdoor activities with my siblings during the summer and winter," added Amna.

She thinks that Kuwait is a lovely and caring country because the people are so kind and they love to help each other. "We do not have wars," she said. However, Amna believes that Kuwait can become a dreamland by taking good care of the environment, recycling and giving kids a chance to participate in the decision making process about education. "I wish that Kuwait will come up with many inventions that can assist the world to become a better one and support humanity," she finally concluded. Amna is planning to visit Germany and hopes to get a chance to do some fun activities, meet new friends, attend shows, take a lot of pictures, visit new places, eat new food and buy souvenirs for her best friends.



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Crime

Report

# AHMADI MAN STABS FATHER

**KUWAIT:** A citizen attacked his father with a knife, who only suffered a superficial cut. The suspect was arrested by Ahmadi detectives after escaping from the house located in Fahd Al-Ahmad. A security source said a call came from a citizen claiming his drug addict son pulled a knife at him and attempted to stab him. Detectives located the suspect and arrested him after stiff resistance, and he was taken to the detectives department for interrogation.

**Suspicious bags**

Security authorities went on alert after two separate calls about two suspicious bags. Interior Ministry operations received a call from a citizen about a bag near Batla Al-Basman Mosque in Andalus, so explosives experts went to the area and checked the bag but did not find anything. The second call was from Siddeeq about another bag but nothing was found. The callers are being summoned for questioning.

**Drug dealers caught**

Drugs Control General Department's (DCGD) Director Col Waleed Al-Duraei sent a British national to the public prosecution charged with bringing in drugs for sale. Duraei received a tip about plans by the Briton to get marijuana in a parcel, so a plan was made to catch him red-handed. A source said that information was received about the expat going to the air cargo department to get the parcel, and when he was on his way home, he was arrested. Meanwhile, a bedoon was arrested as four kilograms of shabu were found in his house. A source said the bedoon was convinced to sell 50 gm to an undercover agent, and was caught with the marked notes.

**Drug possession**

Rabiya police sent a citizen to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) when they found 120 Captagon tablets and two heroin joints with him. A security source said a police patrol suspected a man in a car, so they asked him for his ID. He seemed scared and nervous, so he was searched and the drugs were found with him. Meanwhile, two citizens were arrested by special forces with 61 tablets on Fahaheel Expressway and were sent to the DCGD.

**Bootlegger caught**

Criminal detectives arrested a Danish man with 28 imported liquor bottles, trying to sell them in Hawally. Detectives received a tip about the man trading in imported liquor. He was arrested in Shaab with the 28 bottles. He was sent to DCGD. Meanwhile, two Indian men were arrested by Hawally police with 30 bottles of liquor in Salmiya during an sale. A police patrol saw a car in an open area, so they approached it and found two Asians buying and selling liquor. Both were sent to concerned authorities.

**Firearm found**

Low tide led to the discovery of a firearm and 500 rounds buried at a beach. Interior Ministry operations received a call from an Asian expat who works as a guard at a chalet, saying he found a weapon and rounds buried at the beach. Ahmadi security men rushed to the area and recovered the stash.

**Fight**

Jahra police broke up a fight between two citizens in a mosque in Qasr, and one of them suffered injuries. A security source said worshippers could not control the fight, so police went to the mosque. Investigations are underway.

**Client freed**

Hawally police freed a woman detained by the owner of a salon in Salmiya following a dispute between the two. A security source said the citizen called police and asked them to help her out of a problem she got into when she went to a salon. A dispute took place with the owner, who did not let her leave. Police freed the woman, then took both women to the police station, where they exchanged charges.—Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



# PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY ANNOUNCES LATEST PARTIAL ROAD OPENINGS

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works announced yesterday the partial opening of a 1.25km directional ramp on the Jahra Road Development Project which connects to the new entrance ramp extending 1.5km into the recently opened 4 km section of the elevated Jamal Abdul Nasser Development Project's viaduct heading from Grenada to Kuwait city to serve the hospital area. The directional ramp is a 30 meter high (4th level) division from the recently opened portion of the elevated Jahra Road viaduct, opposite to the General Traffic Department, connecting to the Jamal Abdul Nasser's project 8m high (3rd level) ramp over the hospitals road. Road users accessing this directional ramp will now be able to connect to Jamal Abdul Nasser Street and this is the first of many future openings that will connect both the Jahra Road and Jamal Abdul Nasser Street Development Projects.

**Landmark opening**

Engineer Ahmad Al-Hassan, the Assistant Undersecretary for the Road Engineering Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Public Works, commented: "This is a landmark opening as it connects together two of Kuwait's largest and most strategic projects - The Jahra Road Development Project and The Jamal Abdul Nasser Street Development Project. As both service residential, commercial, medical and educational areas, the openings we have had, and will be having in the coming year will provide an even greater ease of movement to road users."

"This is the latest in a series of partial openings witnessed on the Jahra Road Development Project. There has been a noticeable improvement felt by all road users and with more openings scheduled, we expect to see an even greater flow of traffic in the areas serviced by this project. As with every opening, The Ministry of Interior and the General Directorate of Traffic have been working closely

with us, and inspections have been carried out to ensure that all safety standards and necessary opening procedures have been met. In order to ensure minimal disruption, the ramp opening took place during a low-traffic period," added Yasser Boudastour, Project Engineer at the Jahra Road Development Project.

**Almost finished**

The Project Engineer of Jamal Abdul Nasser Street Development Project, Engineer Mahmoud Ramadan, reiterated that the main bridges and structures of the project are nearing the finish line, with the remaining works including the final technical installations and finishing, in addition to the completion of the relocation and refurbishment of services and utilities.

"The Ministry of Public Works is still committed to follow up on the partial openings progress of its two projects as planned in coordination with other engineering ministries and associated parties, and we ask all road users to follow the instructions of traffic and adhere to the speed limits on the road for their own safety in order to continue works on the project sites with minimal inconvenience" added Engineer Mahmoud

The mega projects involves the construction of approximately 38 km of viaducts for both projects - a 17.7 km in Jahra Road including 7.3 km of mainline Jahra Road, 2.4 km of bridges on linked roads and 8.0 km of ramps, including a trough at the 2nd Ring Road intersection, 10 pedestrian bridges, and service roads - whereas in Jamal Abdul Nasser Street, 18 km of viaducts include 8km of the mainline and 10 km of exit/entry ramps at 3 main interchanges, in addition to a 760 m trough at the 2nd Ring Road intersection, 8 pedestrian overpasses with 20 km of service roads. Both projects include a series of major service and utility relocation and revamp.

Al-Qabas

# SEASONAL THREATS

By Salah Al-Sayer

**B**efore the liberation of Kuwait, while we were gathering around a fire, a friend looked at me with a smile and said: 'The boil has burst'. This happened while military vehicles patrolled residential areas, tanks roared on roads, Iraqi intelligence knocked our doors in search for resistance fighters, anti-aircraft guns roared above schools, black rain fell like drops of tar because the raindrops mixed with the smoke resulting from burning oil wells, silent questions clouded children eyes, women were very frightened and men were too sad yet full of faith.

My friend's smile at that gloomy time showed that he had grown impatient and

*My friend's smile at that gloomy time showed that he had grown impatient and that what happened was inevitable*

that what happened was inevitable, because ever since it was subject to Ottoman power, Iraq has been a threat to Kuwait, which naturally enough, used to keep silent and opt for wisdom and talks. This made successive Iraqi regimes continuously threaten Kuwait, and thus my friend's words were true.

Threats had been constant like a boil that keeps swelling until it starts developing pus inside, make a patient irritated until this boil bursts and throws out what it contains. Describing the threats as a 'boil' came back to my mind while I was watching the recent developments in Bahrain that has got used to constant foreign threats, until those threats became more like a seasonal ceremony related to the development of incidents there.

Whenever the Bahraini government practices its authorities within its own borders, sovereignty and on its own issues and concerns, threats and intimidations pour in. However, this time threats exceeded Bahrain and went as far as setting the entire region on fire, which is a very bad omen and another huge boil!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Qabas

# MOBILE JAMS

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

**E**veryone faces daily traffic jams, but what are the reasons? The most common one is perhaps the mobile phone. When the red light turns green, we wait for cars to start moving, but they do not move until the light turns red again. When you look around, you see everyone busy with their phones, some taking pictures, others talking on the phone, while others are busy with Instagram, Facebook or other social media.

Every day when I drive, I see many things. Once I saw a girl driving her car and taking selfies, without consideration to those behind or in front of her. Once when I was trying to make a turn, I saw a young

*Once I saw a girl driving her car and taking selfies, without consideration to those behind or in front of her*

man slowing down with his phone in one hand surfing Instagram, and I wonder about those who Snapchat while driving!

The question that presents itself is: What is so important that deserves attention while driving? Recklessness and not complying with traffic laws leads to catastrophes and accidents. Before picking up his phone for any of the reasons that we mentioned above, he will find that his life is more valuable than entertaining others at his expense.

Security authorities should activate and stiffen the laws with regards to using the phone while driving, because the majority of jams are caused by the phone. Not only traffic jams, but most car accidents that lead to death have mobiles as the main reason. So we request the security authorities not to stop at fines, but also revoke the license and confiscate the mobile, so we will not have 'mobile jams.'

—Translated by Kuwait Times



# BURGAN BANK AWAKENS A SENSE OF SHARING THROUGH ITS GIRGIAN VISITS

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank recently concluded its annual girgian visits to a number of organizations and associations as part of its corporate social responsibility Ramadan program. The visits aimed at encouraging community engagement, solidarity, and charity in Kuwait while drawing smiles on people's faces during the blessed Month of Ramadan. Burgan Bank's Corporate Communications representatives took part in the visits by distributing hundreds of girgian gift bags to people while providing fun-packed days of activities. The bank's visits covered the Palliative Care Center (PCC) for Cancer Patients, Abeer 2 Voluntary Team for Mentally Disabled, the Kuwait Psychological Medicine Hospital and Kuwait Sports Club. The bank also distributed girgian gifts to the children at Moevenpick Hotel and Resort Al-Bida'a during their summer camp. Through this Kuwaiti tradition, the bank's gir-

gian visits awakened a sense of kindness and giving within the hearts of all people, during the holy month of Ramadan. Burgan Bank will continue portraying its dedication to being a key player in Kuwait's social fabric and will further initiate heartfelt activities throughout the year. It is worth mentioning that Burgan Bank's support to this initiative falls under its recently launched full-fledged community program entitled 'ENGAGE' - Together to be the change.

This program sheds light on important aspects affecting every segment of the society by promoting social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives. Burgan Bank's approach to 'ENGAGE' begins with a vital principle that as a Kuwaiti financial institution, its conduct and policies should be aligned with the needs and interests of the Kuwaiti society.







**'Mosque-mobile' makes praying easier in Jakarta**

**DRUG LORD'S PET HIPPOS ROAM COLOMBIAN VILLAGE**

**US-IRAN EDUCATION EXCHANGE PLANS COOL  
 HARDLINE MEDIA CAST VISIT AS EFFORT TO BUILD SPY NETWORK**

**WASHINGTON/ANKARA:** Just before last year's nuclear deal with Iran, five US universities visited the country to explore renewing educational ties that flourished before the Islamic Revolution. The group, which included representatives from Rutgers and the University of Southern California (USC), found a desire on both sides for more exchanges and concluded that US students and scholars would be warmly welcomed in Iran.

But there was a hitch - the head of the delegation, Allan Goodman, was a former US intelligence analyst. In March this year he was attacked in hardline Iranian media reports which have painted the June 2015 visit as a US attempt to build an espionage network and undermine the Iranian state. US officials and Goodman's employer, the Institute of International Education (IIE), say that's not the case and that there was no US government involvement in the trip.

Nevertheless, the negative press reports have cooled efforts to rebuild educational ties in the wake of the landmark nuclear deal, two US officials said. They said the US government is now cautioning American universities against moving too fast and that the schools themselves are treading warily. "People looked at that backlash and said 'Let's go slow,'" said one of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Goodman, who lists his intelligence background in his online biography, did not respond to repeated interview requests. Earlier in his career, he coordinated the daily intelligence briefing President Jimmy Carter received in 1979 and 1980, a period when the Islamic Revolution toppled the Shah and dozens of US diplomats were held hostage in Tehran. The CIA declined comment on Goodman's intelligence past, saying it does not discuss personnel matters. The State Department and Iranian foreign ministry also declined comment. The episode highlights the political struggle between Iranians who want

to work with the United States and hardliners who often raise espionage accusations and fear opening up will undermine their rule. US officials say it also illustrates the challenge of establishing even seemingly innocuous exchanges given Iranian mistrust of foreign involvement in its affairs.

That mistrust dates to Britain's exploitation of its oil, the CIA-sponsored coup that overthrew its prime minister, Mohammed Mossadegh, in 1953 and Shah Mohammed

Reza Pahlavi's subsequent brutal reign. The official said he had expected at least one memorandum of understanding between a US and an Iranian university to have been signed by now. A senior Iranian official said it appeared that the foreign ministry had "suspended the issue". The IIE's mission is to advance educational exchanges and access to education worldwide. It administers the Fulbright program that sends US students and scholars abroad and brings foreign ones here.

**'Topple the Iranian Establishment'**

In March, Mashregh, a Persian language online news service allied with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, cast the delegation's visit as a way for Washington to create a network of students to spy for the United States after returning to Iran. It also said Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif invited the group, which included Ball State University, Pitzer College and Wayne State University. A second senior Iranian offi-

cial said Zarif "had invited the group." The Iranian foreign ministry declined to comment.

Zarif, who received his doctorate from the University of Denver and served as Iran's UN ambassador, was Iran's chief negotiator in the nuclear deal, under which Tehran agreed to restrict its nuclear program in return for relief from US, European Union and United Nations sanctions. He was regularly lambasted during and after the nuclear talks by hardliners who accused him of crossing Iran's "red lines" over the deal. "It seems that the government ... by welcoming the American delegation's visit, has welcomed the American government's plans to topple the Iranian establishment," Mashregh said. Iran's Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology invited the delegation, according to IIE spokeswoman Sharon Witherell. "The visit was not part of any US government program, and was not funded by the government," she said in an emailed statement, adding that the group does not regard the criticism of Goodman as a setback to its efforts. "There is interest on both sides in reestablishing mutually beneficial academic ties."

For current and former US officials, the criticism is an unjustified attempt to discredit Goodman, who has devoted nearly two decades to educational exchanges and, in any case, was an intelligence analyst rather than an agent. Former US officials said Goodman was at the CIA at a time when there was little movement of analysts into operations.

Given his past professional ties to the CIA, Goodman would be "effectively disqualified from current intelligence operations" because he would be unable to establish the "cover" or pretext that would be needed, said analyst Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists. "Raising alarms about spying is a convenient way for Iranian opponents of US-Iran rapprochement to derail and undermine all contacts with Americans," added Aftergood, an expert on secrecy, national security and classification policy. — Reuters



**SARAJEVO:** A Bosnian Muslim man wearing a traditional Bosnian outfit fires a cannon from a vantage point overlooking Sarajevo to mark the end of daily fasting on the final day of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan late on Monday. With sunrise yesterday, Bosnian Muslims started celebrations of Eid Al-Fitr. — AFP

**IS-LINKED SUICIDE BOMBER  
 ATTACKS INDONESIA POLICE**

**JAKARTA:** An Indonesian suicide bomber believed to be a supporter of the Islamic State militant group attacked a police station in the city of Solo yesterday, killing himself and wounding a police officer, security officials said. Indonesia has been on heightened alert since Islamic State claimed responsibility for its first attack in the Southeast Asian country last January in Jakarta, in which eight people were killed including the four attackers.

Shortly after yesterday's attack,

President Joko Widodo, who is from Solo and a former mayor of the city, urged calm and ordered police to arrest anyone who may have been connected to the bomber. "I have asked the police chief to chase down the network and uncover who is the suicide bomber," the president told reporters. "We hope people remain calm on this last fasting day. No need to be scared." Police have stepped up security at churches, mosques, shopping malls and airports as

Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, prepares to celebrate the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Police said the attacker detonated the bomb he was wearing shortly after driving his motorcycle into the grounds of the police station in Solo, which is known as a hotbed of religious fundamentalism. A police officer who tried to stop him from entering sustained minor wounds.

Police said they believed the suicide bomber was Nur Rohman, a suspected follower of Bahrun Naim, an Indonesian fighting for Islamic State in Syria. Naim is believed to be one of the masterminds of the Jakarta attacks in January. Security officials fear that Naim and other Islamic State leaders were now asking their supporters in Indonesia and in other countries to launch attacks at home, instead of being drawn to the fight in the Middle East.

"What is happening in Indonesia is a spillover of conflicts in the Middle East," Tito Karnavian, the of the National Counterterrorism Agency, told reporters in Solo. Southeast Asian militants fighting for Islamic State in the Middle East have said they have chosen one of the most wanted men in the Philippines to head a regional faction of the radical group that includes Indonesians and Malaysians, security officials said last month. — Reuters



**SOLO, Indonesia:** Police stand guard outside a police station in this Indonesian city yesterday after a suicide bomber riding a motorbike blew himself up in an attack on a police station. — AFP

**TRUMP DEFENDS 'STAR' TWEET;  
 CLINTON SAYS IT'S ANTI-SEMITIC**

**NEW YORK:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Monday defended a social media post he made two days earlier that included an image depicting Democratic rival Hillary Clinton against a backdrop of cash and a Star of David, while Clinton called the image anti-Semitic. In a tweet on Monday, Trump said he had not meant the six-pointed star to refer to the Star of David, which is a symbol of Judaism. Rather, he said, the star could have referred to a sheriff's badge, which is shaped similarly except for small circles at the ends of each of its six points, or a "plain star."

The presumptive Republican nominee later released a statement saying Clinton's criticism of the image was an attempt to distract the public from "the dishonest behavior of herself and her husband". He was referring to a heavily criticized private meeting last week between former President Bill Clinton and U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch as an investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state nears a conclusion.

His tweet came after Mic News reported on Sunday that the image attacking Clinton - which included the words: "History made" and, inside the star, "most corrupt candidate ever!" - had been shared on a neo-Nazi web forum called /pol/.

Reuters confirmed the image was posted there on June 22 by viewing a link to an archived version of a /pol/ page, although the page has since been updated and the image removed.

"Donald Trump's use of a blatantly anti-Semitic image from racist websites to promote his campaign would be disturbing enough, but the fact that it's a part of a pattern should give voters major cause for concern," Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, said in a statement emailed to reporters on Monday. The Nazis forced Jews to wear a Star of David on their clothing to identify themselves during the Holocaust.

Trump posted and deleted the tweet on Saturday, then tweeted a similar image in which the star was replaced by a circle. On Monday, he lashed out at journalists for continuing to report on the original tweet. "Dishonest media is trying their absolute best to depict a star in a tweet as the Star of David rather than a Sheriff's Star, or plain star!" Trump wrote on Twitter. Saturday's incident was the latest departure by Trump from a recent effort to appease Republicans worried about his brash public persona by trying to appear more restrained. The Republican convention, where Trump is expected to be named the party's nominee for the Nov. 8 presidential election, is two weeks away.

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## DRUG LORD'S PET HIPPOS ROAM COLOMBIAN VILLAGE

**DORADAL, Colombia:** More than 20 years after Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar died in a gunfight with police, a strange legacy survives him: His pet hippos. Look out of the window in the dead of night in the village of Doradal and you may see one plodding down the street. Police killed or locked up Escobar's drug gang, but not the hippos in his private zoo. Left to themselves on his Napoles Estate, they bred to become what's said to be the biggest wild hippo herd outside Africa - a local curiosity and a hazard.

"I was going to football training this morning about 6:30 and there was one in the meadow, opposite the school," says Lina Maria Alvarez, 12. Just outside the village, Diego Alejandro Rojas, 19, shines a flashlight on a black mass grazing among the tall grass. Its eyes catch the light and shine like glowworms. "They come from the Napoles Estate along the canal after nightfall," Rojas says. "They are like the village pets. I'm more afraid of the snakes than the hippos."

### Hippo Paradise

David Echeverri Lopez, a biologist from the regional environmental corporation Cornare, says it is the biggest herd of wild hippopotamuses outside of Africa. The have thrived in this green spot in northern Colombia, but Echeverri warns they are a hazard for the local area and its

environment. They break fences and defecate in the rivers. "This is a paradise for them," said local veterinarian Jairo Leon Henao. "They have no predators so they are more at peace than they would be in their natural habitat and they have been reproducing faster."

### Hippo Aggression

Escobar bought four hippos from a zoo in California and flew them to his ranch in the early 1980s, Echeverri says. He now estimates there are about 35 in the area. Doradal and the Escobar's old ranch lie 190 km from the city of Medellin, which gave its name to his cartel. Escobar was one of the richest and most powerful criminals ever. His racket grew into a multi-million dollar business that dominated the cocaine trade and was blamed for numerous killings. Like his gang, hippos can be very fierce, naturalists say.

"If they get aggressive they pose a risk to Colombian biodiversity. They could displace native fauna" such as otters and endangered manatees, Echeverri says. "It is an invasive species and very resistant to everything. They carry diseases that can kill livestock," Echeverri says, standing by the lake at Hacienda Napoles, where hippos' giant snouts and ears poke out of the water. They threaten fishing too. "They pollute the water courses where they defecate," Echeverri says. — AFP



**DORADAL, Colombia:** A hippo is seen at the Hacienda Napoles theme park, once the private zoo of drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, at his Napoles ranch in Antioquia department on June 22, 2016. — AFP



**NAIROBI:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta shake hands at State House yesterday. — AP

## NETANYAHU SAYS ISRAEL AND KENYA SHARE TERROR THREAT

### KENYATTA SAYS HATCHET HAS BEEN BURIED

**NAIROBI:** Israel and Kenya should work hand-in-hand against terrorism, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in Nairobi yesterday during the second leg of a four-nation Africa tour. Saying Kenya and Israel "face the same challenges" of terrorism, Netanyahu cited the 2013 attack on the Israeli-owned Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi in which at least 67 people were killed by four gunmen. "We have also experienced similar attacks in our country," Netanyahu said. "Working together will help us defeat the scourge of this terror even faster."

On Monday the prime minister visited Uganda to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Israeli raid on Entebbe airport in which his brother Yonatan was killed rescuing hostages held by German and Palestinian hijackers. Despite his personal loss, Netanyahu said the raid was, "a devastating blow to international terrorism."

In Nairobi the Israeli leader promised to share intelligence and provide "direct assistance" aimed at saving lives. "There is a raging battle

with terrorism," Netanyahu said. Relations between Africa and Israel have been strained over the years. In the 1960s the Arab-Israeli conflict drove a wedge between African countries, many of which were embroiled in liberation struggles, and the Jewish state.

Later, wars between Israel and its neighbors in 1967 and 1973 led North African nations to urge sub-Saharan African states to cut ties with Israel, which many did. Israel's support for the apartheid regime in South Africa - which ended in 1994 - also soured relations with much of the rest of the continent. Yesterday, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said the hatchet had since been buried. "We have had difficult relations with Israel as a continent, but the world has changed and we can't live in history," he said. "We will find more ways to cooperate and our relationship can only become stronger."

The two leaders also discussed investment opportunities, student exchanges, easing of visa restrictions and opportunities to employ Israeli technologies in health, water and agriculture

development. "Israel is coming back to Africa and Africa is coming back to Israel," Netanyahu said, insisting that Kenya and Israel share "common opportunities" as well as threats. "Africa has no better friend outside of Africa in the practical needs of security and development than the state of Israel," he said.

On the eve of Netanyahu's tour Israel announced a relatively modest \$13 million aid package to strengthen economic ties and cooperation with African countries. Israel's business with Africa constitutes only two percent of its foreign trade, leaving plenty of room for growth while demand for its defence expertise and products is rising. It also sees African countries as potential allies, particularly at the United Nations and other international bodies, where it is regularly condemned over its occupation of the West Bank and blockade of the Gaza Strip. Netanyahu is due to visit Rwanda today, where he will meet with President Paul Kagame and visit a memorial to the 1994 genocide, before travelling to Ethiopia. — AFP

## NO SUMMER BREAK FOR MIGRANT SCHOOLCHILDREN IN GREEK CAMP

**SKARAMANGAS, Greece:** "B for book, C for car..." repeat a dozen six and seven-year-olds in an English class taught by two refugee volunteers in a makeshift classroom at a Greek migrant camp. There will be no summer holidays for these pupils, who have to make up for lost time as Greece prepares plans to educate around 8,500 refugee children, starting in September. The volunteer teachers from Syria, an engineer and a university student, are among about 20 refugees giving lessons to 670 students between the ages of six and 13 at the Skaramangas camp in the suburbs of Athens.

Half of the refugees in the camp - Syrians, Afghans and Iraqi Kurds - are under the age of 17. With only two classrooms set up in shipping containers, each child receives about two hours of classes per week, including lessons in their native languages - Arabic, Dari and Kurdish - plus English and maths. "It's only a drop," says Syrian engineer Bazel Shrayyef, but still "the start of a return to normality" for the children who have faced war and exile and are in danger of becoming apathetic from a life put on hold.

The volunteer teachers say rebuilding ties to school is essential for the children. "We have children who are eight to 10 years old who don't even know how to hold a pen or write their name in their language," says Syrian Luayy Koman Al Babille, a former student of palaeography in Aleppo, who initiated the education efforts at the camp. In a makeshift teachers' lounge, also inside a container, he puts together textbooks from Syrian programs on the Internet, careful to remove anything that could aggravate tensions.

According to the NGO Save the Children, which has warned of the risk of a lost genera-

tion, the refugee children stuck in camps in Greece on average have not been in school for a year and a half. And more than a fifth of school-age children have never set foot in a classroom.

### 'Children are Angry'

In Skaramangas, refugees wait to know where they will be relocated in the European Union, or if they will be given asylum in Greece - so they don't know where they will be living in six months to a year from now. "In our classes it's hard for students to concentrate for a long time, we have to keep getting them to pay attention," says Ianni Baveas, one of the local volunteers who teaches the children Greek. "A lot of the children are angry," adds her fellow volunteer Poppy Paraskevopoulou.

She says she has been waging a battle with charity groups, the administration and the army which manages the refugee camp to get eight more classrooms to have a real education program. The challenge for Greece, where some 50,000 refugees are stranded after the closing of Europe's borders through the Balkan countries in late February, is to create a school program for the children in the camps.

The Greek education ministry is working on it, incorporating the initiatives like the one in Skaramangas and the pool of volunteers who have fostered solidarity with the refugees. The program set to start in September would include classes to integrate the students, in the camps or at public facilities, ahead of proper schooling. But there are many difficulties in achieving that goal. The refugee population is very mixed and still very unsettled. And national education is underfunded in debt-racked Greece after six years of austerity. — AFP



**ATHENS:** Children follow English lessons in a container converted into a classroom on June 24, 2016 at the refugee camp of Skaramangas. — AFP

## BOKO HARAM TRAGEDY: MALNUTRITION RISING

**MAIDUGURI, Nigeria:** Halima cries as her mother Yagana lifts her up to be weighed. The one-year-old girl's belly protrudes over legs that are barely more than paper-thin skin and bone. The baby has been treated for severe acute malnutrition for a week since arriving in the city of Maiduguri, northeast Nigeria, weighing just 4.5 kg. The course of high-energy food supplements has helped her put on 0.7 kg. But she is still hardly bigger than a healthy newborn.



**MAIDUGURI:** This photo taken on June 30, 2016 shows a young baby boy suffering from severe acute malnutrition in the Muna informal settlement on the outskirts of the capital of Borno State. — AFP

Flies crawl on her face as she sits on her mother's lap at the nutrition clinic. Volunteers clean up her diarrhoea from the floor and Yagana wipes her daughter's bare bottom with a dirty rag. Yagana, from the village of Dire, in the Mafa area of Borno, once had six children. Halima is the only one still alive. "Soldiers told us to leave, just leave, leave," she said. Baby Halima "just fell sick. We had no food."

### Humanitarian Emergency

Northeast Nigeria has been torn apart for the last seven years by Boko Haram insurgents. At least 20,000 people have been killed and more than 2.6 million others left homeless by the Islamist fighters. But as Nigeria's military recaptures territory from the militants in the remote region, the full effects of the conflict are being laid bare as aid agencies are finally able to move in. With homes and businesses destroyed and farmland devastated, the United Nations has warned that some 50,000 children could starve to death this year in Borno state alone if nothing is done.

"We estimate that there will be almost a quarter of a million children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Borno this year," said Unicef Nigeria representative Jean Gough. "Unless we reach these children with treatment, one in five of them will die. We cannot allow that to happen." Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has said at least 188 people died in the month to June 22, mainly from diarrhoea and malnutrition, in Bama, some 70 km from Maiduguri. — AFP

## ODD JOBS IN ISTANBUL FOR YOUNG SYRIANS

**ISTANBUL:** Receptionist, waiter, hairdresser, pastry-seller: these are the jobs of the ambitious young Syrians who abandoned their dreams in Damascus to start from scratch in Istanbul. In Fatih, a densely-packed neighborhood that serves as a hub for Arabs in Turkey's biggest city, the traces of home are everywhere. The delicate scent of Aleppo's famous soap floats out of storefronts, mingling with the enticing aromas of the pistachio and almond pastries sold throughout Syria.

Rafik carefully piles a kilo of sticky baklava into a cardboard box bearing the legend "Treats from Damascus" in Arabic. "I designed the logo for the shop and the packaging myself," says the 27-year-old - a brief return to the creativity of his former days as an artisan wood carver. "I always fought to study what I wanted. I was passionate about it and nothing could turn me away from art and design."

But that was before the war that has been ravaging his homeland since 2011 - and before the army of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad began calling up young men like him for conscription. "It wasn't bombs that I fled - it was the possibility of becoming one of those people throwing the bombs," says Rafik, who like other refugees would only give his first name. Further up the road, Ahmad dozes in the summer heat at the restaurant where he waits tables, before the arrival of the first customers after the Ramadan fast ends at nightfall.

"My parents gave everything so I could do my accountancy studies," says the 24-year-old, whose sad eyes don't match his bright smile. "Today I find myself far from them, in a country where I haven't mastered the language and where, as a waiter, I have to do everything in the restaurant." But Ahmad has no regrets over his decision to head to Istanbul two years ago - even though he earns only 900 Turkish liras (\$310) a month as a waiter and has to share a flat with three other Syrians to cover the rent. "I had the choice between war and exile, and I didn't even hesitate," he says.

### 'We have No Country'

Turkey has taken in 2.7 million people from neighboring Syria since the start of the brutal conflict. Ankara has refused to grant them official refugee status, referring to them as "guests," though President Recep Tayyip Erdogan signalled recently that they could eventually be granted citizenship. Very few have work permits and many struggle to eke out a living on odd jobs. Around a tenth live in refugee camps, the rest in towns and cities - including some 350,000 who have come to Istanbul.

Nour, 26, arrived in the city alone a few months ago and now works as a receptionist in a language school founded by a fellow Syrian. She won't go into details about what pushed her to leave behind her "family, work and love life," saying simply that she left for "ideological reasons." "I know I'm luckier than a lot of other Syrians who live in tents or who beg in the street, but that's not enough to make me happy here," she says, her voice cracking.

But she expresses pride in how young Syrians in Istanbul are doing their best to fit in. "I feel like I can be useful to my compatriots here," she said. "Since our country can't offer us anything anymore, we have to adapt to the Turks who have welcomed us and learn their language. Our students are mainly young Syrians in their 20s and 30s. They are very motivated and in less than six months they're getting by in Turkish." Maher, a 29-year-old hairdresser, learnt his Turkish on the Internet. "It's quick and really efficient. If you're motivated you can do anything," he says. In Damascus he had his own salon; here, he's working for someone else. "It's not exactly the future I dreamed of," he admits. "I hope I can go home one day." But pastry-seller Rafik doesn't see himself ever going back to Syria. "In 1948 the Palestinians thought they'd be going home in a few days - look where they are today," he says. "We don't have a country anymore," he adds, handing a box of cakes to a customer. — AFP



**ISTANBUL:** Syrian and Turkish people walk in a street next to shops with Arabic lettering on Monday in the Fatih neighborhood. — AFP



## WHY SCOTLAND, UNLIKE ITS NEIGHBORS, VOTED TO STAY

**MOTHERWELL, Scotland:** Cooling towers, blast furnaces and coking coal. The grit and humor of steelworkers heading to early-morning shifts. That was Motherwell before the steelworks closed and the "Steelopolis" of Scotland became another tattered, post-industrial town trying to find its place in a service economy. Had this been south of the border, maybe Robert Butcher, whose father lost his job when the Ravenscraig steelworks closed in 1992, would have channeled his resentment toward the European Union. But unlike many blue-collar voters in England and Wales, Butcher doesn't see how leaving the 28-nation bloc would benefit declining industrial towns like Motherwell that were once the backbone of the sprawling British Empire.

"Britain is not what it was. It thinks it is. But it's not. And it's as simple as that," said Butcher, a 52-year-old metal worker, fixing his car in the front of an abandoned home not far from the former Ravenscraig worksite. In one of the defining splits of last week's EU referendum, all 32 council areas in Scotland as well as Northern Ireland went against their southern neighbors and voted for Britain to stay in the bloc. Even towns shattered by the demise of shipyards, coal mines and steelworks made the calculus that quitting the EU wouldn't turn things around for them. "I think it's a lot to do with the Scottish independence movement," said Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh, one of the 54 legislators representing the Scottish National Party in the British Parliament.

A lawyer and former actress, Ahmed-Sheikh said the SNP's enthusiastic campaigning for continued British EU membership helps explain why Scotland voted to "remain." The party leads the local Scottish government and spearheaded an unsuccessful campaign for Scottish independence in a 2014 referendum. "It really is unfathomable to imagine Scotland not being part of the EU," she said, outside her constituency office in Alloa, a town once known for its wool industry. "People up and down the country are thinking that they're going to wake up tomorrow and it's all going to be a really bad dream."

Immediately after the vote, SNP leader and Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon raised the possibility of a repeat referendum on Scottish independence, saying it's unfair for Scots to be pulled out of the EU against their will simply due to the larger numbers of English voters. In Edinburgh, a picturesque university city where kilt-wearing bagpipers entertain tourists on the Royal Mile, 74 percent voted to "remain" - the highest in Scotland. The overall win for the "leave" side in Britain appeared to deepen the animosity toward England among some Scots.

### Shock

Others were just shocked by the outcome. "The day that the result came out I

was on my way to one of the agricultural shows in Edinburgh," said Lindsay Wright, a 23-year-old celebrating her degree in veterinary medicine. "And the atmosphere there was just one of dismay, and sort of 'What will happen now, how will it affect our livelihoods?'"

She said perhaps Scots voted differently from the English and the Welsh because they already had thought through the consequences of leaving the EU when they voted in the 2014 independence referendum. Leaving Britain would have meant leaving the EU, too, at least temporarily. In that 2014 ballot, 55 percent of Scots voted to stay in the UK. To be sure, not all Scots feel the same way about Europe. Unionists marching Saturday with British flags and Protestant banners in the annual Orange Order parade in Glasgow rejected the assertion that Scotland was being dragged out of the EU by other parts of the UK.

"There's isn't a Scottish vote, there was a UK vote," said Findley McLaughlin, a penny whistle player in the Protestant Boys marching band. "The SNP have got an agenda, 100 percent. They just want to break up the (United Kingdom). And it'll never work." Anthony Ridge Newman, an associate researcher at the University of Glasgow, said Scottish nationalism has changed the way Scots "view their place in the United Kingdom and the way they view their place in Europe." However, he said, there's a contradiction in how the Scottish National Party calls for independence from Britain while still wanting to remain part of the larger EU.

Motherwell, southeast of Glasgow, belongs to an area where 62 percent of voters backed remaining in the EU. Places with the same recent history of decline in England and Wales typically voted "leave" by a similar margin. Iron works and coal mines made Motherwell one of Scotland's most important industrial centers in the 19th century. The Ravenscraig steelworks opened in 1957 and its closure in 1992 left hundreds of steelworkers jobless and affected thousands of related businesses. "It was all right for them that went and got their redundancy," Butcher said in a thick Glaswegian accent, taking a break from replacing a bulb on his headlights. "But if you didn't get a job within a year, you had to start living off the money."

The cooling towers came down in 1996 but the Ravenscraig site is still undergoing redevelopment. Derelict and polluted land is still being cleaned up to be reopened for residential or commercial developments - a project partially funded by the EU. Asked why he thought industrial towns in England and Scotland voted so differently despite sharing so many traits, Butcher said it comes down to how they view their place in the world. "There are a lot of things England likes with the EU, but they don't run it," he said. "And that's their only problem, when they don't run it. They like to have the last say." — AP

# VOTING BEGINS IN RACE TO REPLACE BRITISH PREMIER

## INTERIOR MINISTER MAY CLEAR FRONTRUNNER

**LONDON:** Britain's Conservative party started voting yesterday to replace outgoing Prime Minister David Cameron following his resignation in the wake of Britain's shock decision to leave the European Union. Interior minister Theresa May is the clear frontrunner, pitching herself as a sober operator capable of unifying a party fractured by last month's referendum and of leading Britain out of the EU. The new leader will also have to ease fears over Brexit's effect on the economy, with the Bank of England on Monday moving to boost bank lending as it warned that risks to financial stability "have begun to crystallize."

May has said she does not plan to invoke Article 50, the formal procedure for leaving the EU, until the end of the year at the earliest, despite pressure from European leaders for a quicker divorce. May campaigned for Britain to stay in the EU but now says that "Brexit means Brexit" and has ruled out an early election or a second referendum - both seen as possible ways of rowing back from the result. One of her leading rivals, Andrea Leadsom, who campaigned for Britain to leave, has said she wants exit negotiations to be "as short as possible" in order to avoid "prolonged uncertainty."

The ruling party's 330 MPs will vote for one of five candidates, with the least popular being eliminated ahead of similar votes to reduce the shortlist to two. The party's 150,000 members will then decide the winner, with the result to be declared on Sept. 9.

### Brexit's 'Sad Heroes'

The race took a dramatic turn last week when justice minister Michael Gove announced his candidacy, delivering a stinging attack on pro-Leave ally Boris Johnson moments before he was expected to announce his own bid. A wounded Johnson pulled out of the contest but the affair appears to have turned some MPs against Gove. Leadsom received Johnson's backing on Tuesday. "Andrea Leadsom offers the zap, the drive, and the determination essential for the next leader of this country," said the former London mayor. "She possesses the qualities needed to bring together leavers and remainers in the weeks and months ahead."

The vote has shaken Britain's political order, plunging both the Conservatives and opposition Labour party into chaos. Leading Brexit campaigner, MEP Nigel Farage, resigned as head of the UK Independence Party on Monday, saying his "political ambition has been achieved." "The Brexit heroes of yesterday are now the sad heroes of today," European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker told the European Parliament. "Those who have contributed to the situation in the UK have resigned, Johnson, Farage and others. They are as it were retro-nationalists, they are not patriots," he said. "Patriots don't resign when things get difficult, they stay."

Britain's negotiations to leave the EU will form a key plank of each leadership bid, and May told MPs on Monday that the status of EU residents already in Britain was up for debate. Gove and Leadsom have said EU citizens should be given guarantees they can stay.

### Labour Crisis Talks

Leadsom insisted she would drive a hard bargain with Brussels, if elected. "I know how to strike a deal in a tough negotiation," she said. May, who campaigned to stay in the EU, has already secured the support of 115 MPs, while Leadsom has 40 declared



**LONDON:** British Secretary of State for Justice and leadership candidate for Britain's ruling Conservative Party Michael Gove gives a thumbs-up to photographers as he arrives for a cabinet meeting at 10 Downing Street yesterday. — AP

supporters. Outsiders Stephen Crabb and Liam Fox complete the line-up. Further rounds of voting will be held on Thursday and the following Tuesday until two candidates remain.

In the Labour Party, leader Jeremy Corbyn is still clinging to his job, despite being defeated in a non-binding no-confidence vote of Labour law-

makers angry at his lacklustre campaigning to stay in the EU. Deputy leader Tom Watson was set to hold emergency talks on Tuesday with influential trade union leaders in an attempt to force Corbyn's resignation, but the leader posted a message to party members on Monday, promising he was "carrying on." — AFP

## FRANCE ATTACKS PROBE URGES INTEL OVERHAUL

**PARIS:** A French inquiry into the terror attacks that rocked Paris in 2015 yesterday recommended a fusion of the country's intelligence services after the "global failure" of the country's myriad agencies. The parliamentary inquiry was set up in February to probe possible security failings in the run-up to the two major jihadist attacks in Paris last year that left 147 people dead. "The two big intelligence bosses admitted during their hearings that the 2015 attacks represent a 'global intelligence failure,'" said Socialist lawmaker Sebastien Pietrasanta.

France currently has six different intelligence units answering to the interior, defense and economy ministries. After 200 hours of hearings, lawmakers found that the different agencies had struggled to communicate about known Islamists who had either been under surveillance, in prison or had their phones tapped at some point before carrying out attacks. The president of the commission of inquiry, former judge Georges Fenech, said the barriers between the various intelligence services led to the surveillance of Charlie Hebdo attacker Said Kouachi being lifted when he moved from Paris to the northeastern city of Reims.

The next time he was heard of was when he

and his brother Cherif opened fire at the satirical weekly in Paris on January 7 last year, killing 12 people. Two days later, Amedy Coulibaly, who met Cherif in prison, took shoppers hostage at a Jewish supermarket, killing four people. He also shot dead a policewoman in Paris. Justice Minister Jean-Jacques Urvoas said during his hearing that Coulibaly - a known radical and repeat offender - represented intelligence failings within the prison system, having been released from custody without being put under surveillance.

The French system of judicial supervision, whereby terror suspects not deemed dangerous enough to be remanded in custody are instead ordered to report regularly to the police, also contained "weaknesses," said Pietrasanta. Samy Amimour, who was involved in the attack on the Bataclan concert hall on November 13, when a team of jihadists killed 130 people across Paris nightspots, was able to travel to Syria in 2013 despite a ban on leaving France. The lawmakers heard from an anti-terrorism judge that terrorists were subject to the same level of surveillance as small-time crooks who peddle marijuana when released from prison under court supervision. — AFP

## RUSSIA BALTIC OUTPOST DIGS IN FOR STANDOFF WITH NATO

**KALININGRAD, Russia:** On the curb-side outside the civilian airport in Kaliningrad, Russia's Baltic Sea outpost, a group of about 20 servicemen in Russian navy uniforms lined up earlier this month, waiting for a bus to take them to their base. "We are an additional reinforcement," one of the young men, who said he and his colleagues had flown in that day, told Reuters as they waited on the rain-soaked tarmac. He gave no further details.

Russia and NATO are each building up their military capability across eastern Europe, spurred by the conflict in Ukraine which has prompted officials on both sides to talk of the risk of a new, Cold War-style confrontation. For Russia, a strategic centerpiece is here in Kaliningrad. A relic of the Soviet Union, it is a small piece of Russian territory sandwiched between NATO members Poland and Lithuania, allowing the Kremlin to project its military power into the alliance's northern flank.

During a three-day visit by Reuters earlier this month, there was ample visible evidence of Russia enhancing its military presence. Trucks moved military equipment from a port to locations inland, small groups of servicemen flew in, work was under way to boost security near one base and extensive construction was taking place at another base housing a military radar system. Reuters was able to see only a glimpse of what the Russian military is doing in Kaliningrad. Much of the region is off-limits to foreigners without a special permit and at one point men in civilian clothes ordered photos of military infrastructure deleted. The Russian defence ministry did not respond to questions about its deployments in Kaliningrad.

But much of the activity talked with what military analysts and Western diplomats say Russia is doing: preparing to station new missiles in Kaliningrad and build a web of anti-aircraft systems that could challenge NATO aircraft over the Baltic states and parts of Poland. Russia's military build-up will be on the agenda when leaders of NATO member states meet in Warsaw on July 8 for an alliance sum-

mit. Russia says it has been forced to respond because NATO is drawing closer to its borders.

"When it comes to threats in the (Kaliningrad) area, indeed we can talk of an increase in the intensity of Russia's aggression in recent days," Poland's Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz told Reuters. "These threats have a very important, dangerous role, always present in NATO's thinking - these are anti-access activities, which are a serious threat to the alliance."

### Radar Station

Kaliningrad was born after World War Two when Soviet troops occupied the German port of Königsberg. The war left most of the city bombed to rubble. The remaining German population was expelled and the city annexed to the Soviet Union, resettled with Russians and renamed Kaliningrad in honour of a Soviet leader who died in 1946. After the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 it became a Russian exclave, with no land borders with other parts of Russia.

According to NATO planners, Russia is using Kaliningrad to pursue what is known as an anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) strategy for surrounding areas. That involves a strategic layering of surface-to-air missiles to block off NATO's air access, if needed, to the three Baltic states and about a third of Poland. Some Western officials believe the Baltic states, which have large ethnic Russian minorities, could be seized by Moscow, much as Russia took control of Ukraine's Crimea region two years ago. Moscow says it has no such intention, but needs to beef up its defences because of NATO buildup in the Baltic.

Unlike Ukraine, the Baltic states are part of NATO, which means the alliance would be bound to act to protect them from any threat to their territory. A European Union diplomat who focuses on security said Russia's strategy for adding anti-air capability in Kaliningrad "will only progress - the process is centralized and well-coordinated." And the Russians spend the greatest amount of financial resources on those capabili-

ties," the diplomat said. "The question is what is it intended for?"

The biggest construction works seen by Reuters were at the Pionersky Radar Station, on Kaliningrad's northern coast. The radar itself, whose range covers all of Europe and which gives early warning of air attack, became operational in 2014. Now, the military is expanding the infrastructure around it. Trucks carrying sand and gravel could be seen driving into the base. Dump trucks, a truck-mounted crane and an excavator were parked nearby. Construction workers walked in and out of the base, some in camouflage trousers. "The station is strategic for Russia, that's where a lot of work is going on," said a soldier based there.

Information posted on the website of Russia's Federal Agency for Special Construction, which carries out construction projects for the military, said work was underway to build barracks, a heating plant, canteens, a medical station, storage units, a firefighting station, a social club and sports facilities. New buildings could be seen behind the gate into the base. Two local sources said the new accommodation could house up to several hundred service personnel.

Military activity could also be observed in the region's main city, also called Kaliningrad. Military trucks could be seen emerging from the Kaliningrad port - a civilian facility that has a military section - and heading to other parts of the region. Several of the trucks were carrying small artillery pieces. Others had containers on the back, and in other cases the cargo was concealed beneath a tarpaulin.

At a third location, near the town of Svetlyi, a watchtower just off the road had been renovated, and a swathe of forest around it had been freshly felled to improve sight lines from the tower. Two local sources familiar with the military set-up in the region said the watchtower was part of a chain of security to protect a military compound near Svetlyi that stored the arsenal of Russia's Baltic Fleet, headquartered at the nearby port of Baltiysk. — Reuters

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## ISOLATED AND LACKING RIGHTS, MYANMAR MAIDS TOIL

**YANGON:** Khin Htar Kyu was in her late teens when she left her village in Wakema Township in Myanmar's southern Ayeyarwady Region with a younger sister to find work in Yangon to help pay the debts of her farming family. On arrival she took the first job she was offered and began work as a live-in housemaid with a family in Sanchaung Township. Four years have passed and the 23-year-old has rarely had a day off. She usually works from 4 am to 10 pm to cook, clean and take care of young children, earning US\$85 per month and free meals and lodging. "Sometimes, I want to take one day off during the week but I can't," Khin Htar Kyu said. "I was happier as a farmer, I had a lot of quiet and freedom. I need not care about anything except my crops."

Across Myanmar, there are tens of thousands of girls like Khin Htar Kyu who leave their families to become a domestic worker and send money home. The urban migration is a longstanding practice in Myanmar but the process of relatives or neighbors connecting girls with wealthier families is being replaced by recruitment agencies and unregistered brokers, prompting calls for more to be done to ensure they are treated well and know their rights.

Women and child rights activists say they usually receive little pay and lack labour rights protection, and the maids are often young - or underage - and vulnerable to various forms of abuse by their employer. Naw Aye Aye Hlaing, programme manager with Yangon-

based non-governmental organisation Women Can Do It, said workers usually don't complain as they are isolated in their employers' homes and lack support when they want to report abuses.

"Myanmar has no special support group to help housemaids as they are seen as unimportant workers," she said, adding that more must be done to ensure proper treatment of workers. "Housemaids should be set reasonable tasks ... (and) employers should be responsible for creating a safe working environment," said Naw Aye Aye Hlaing.

**Vulnerable and Unprotected**

Aung Myo Min, executive director at NGO Equality Myanmar, said many maids are children from poor families who cannot care for them. They are placed with wealthier households and provide free labour in return for a roof over their heads. "Some of these children have a lower status than domestic workers - they just get a meal and shelter, not money, for their work," he said. Maung Maung Soe, a lawyer in Yangon, told Myanmar Now, an independent website supported by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, that maids are often poorly fed, lack proper sleeping quarters and are regularly beaten.

Yet, court cases against abusive employers are rare as maids lack legal avenues to complain. "They have little legal protection as there are no (labour) laws to pro-

tect housemaids against employers. But if they are accused of stealing money from their employer they can easily be prosecuted," said Maung Maung Soe, who has provided legal aid to abused workers. Files at Yangon Regional Police Headquarters obtained by Myanmar Now show authorities recorded only eight cases of criminal abuse of maids by employers in the whole country between 2011 to 2015, four cases of which were in Yangon.

In only one case an employer was sentenced. Kyi Hla Myint, a man from Yangon's Bahan Township, received three years in prison with hard labour in February 2014 for beating a 14-year-old girl, burning her hands with cooking oil, and locking her up in a room without food. In 2013, a 14-year-old housemaid filed a complaint with police over beatings on her head, back, arms and chest by members of a family in North Dagon Township who employed her for four years. Three of them are now facing criminal prosecution.

**Legal Protection Needed**

Rights activists said the cases are just the tip of the iceberg as many abuses go unreported because victims lack the knowledge to stand up to their employers or because issues are quietly settled by employers. "Only if housemaids have major injuries on their bodies can they have enough proof for a police complaint.

Otherwise, it is very difficult for them," said Maung Maung Soe. Aung Myo Min, of Equality Myanmar, said the government should draw up legal protections for domestic workers and inform them of their rights. "Housemaids need to know how and where they can file complaints against abuses by employers," he said.

Nyunt Win, deputy director-general at Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, said the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Manpower has held talks with civil society organisations over drafting a law to set a minimum age for domestic workers and provide basic labour rights, such as working hours and holidays. He acknowledged the workers' situation was poorly regulated. "There are many controversial issues regarding housemaids, including working hours and off-days," Nyunt Win said, before adding that maids "should not refuse to prepare meals or wash clothes at the time when their employers come home".

Myanmar Now contacted several lawmakers in the ruling National League for Democracy but none knew of the draft law. The Yangon Kayin Baptist Women's Association has created an organisation called Protection for Women in Household Services that tries to ensure girls are employed by families who treat them well. Naw Phaw Wah, the director of the organization, said her staff have helped about 100 maids find safe jobs and carry out regular visits to check on their working situation. — Reuters



**DHAKA:** People offer flowers to pay their respects to the victims of the attack on Holey Artisan Bakery yesterday. — AP

## BANGLADESH POLICE MAY HAVE KILLED HOSTAGE BY MISTAKE

### SIX MEN KILLED BY POLICE; FIVE NAMED IN CASE FILING

**DHAKA:** Bangladeshi police said yesterday one of the men they shot dead during the siege of a Dhaka cafe on the weekend may have been a hostage killed by mistake, while the hunt for accomplices of the gunmen who killed 20 people focused on six suspects. Police yesterday named five Bangladeshi gunmen who stormed the restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone late on Friday. Most of the victims in the violence claimed by Islamic State were foreigners, from Italy, Japan, India and the United States.

It was one of the deadliest militant attacks in Bangladesh, where Islamic State and Al-Qaeda have claimed a series of killings of liberals and members of religious minorities in the past year. The government has dismissed those claims, as it did the Islamic State claim of responsibility for Friday's attack. Pictures of five young men clutching guns and grinning in front of a black flag were posted on an Islamic State website hours after the attack, along with the claim of responsibility, but despite that, authorities have ruled out a foreign link.

Police believe that Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), an outlawed domestic group that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, played a significant role in organising the band of privileged, educated young attackers. Confusion over exactly how many gunmen were involved was at least partly cleared up on Tuesday when police said among the six people security forces killed when they

stormed the building to end a 12-hour stand-off was Saiful Islam Chowkidar, a pizza maker at the Holey Artisan restaurant.

"We killed six people in the restaurant. A case has been registered against five. The sixth man was a restaurant employee," Saiful Islam, a top police official investigating the attack, told Reuters. "He may not be involved," he said, adding that the investigation was going on. An employee of the cafe, shown a photo of a man killed at the eatery and wearing a chef's outfit, identified him as Chowkidar, and said he had worked there for 18 months. Police named five men as attackers in a case filed on Tuesday to allow them to launch official investigations, including questioning families of the militants for clues as to what turned them into killers. Two other suspects are in hospital.

**'Guided'**

Police said they were hunting for six members of the JMB who were suspected of organising the attack. "Six members of JMB have been shown as accused in the case. We are trying to arrest them because they could be the mastermind," Islam said. The JMB has been accused of involvement in many of the killings over the past year and Islam said police were interrogating more than 130 of its members already in custody in the hope of gleaning clues. "We don't know who is the mastermind behind the

attack. We just know that these boys were guided to launch an attack on the restaurant," he said.

The five named in the case filing were Nibras Islam, Rohan Imtiaz, Meer Saameh Mubasheer, Khairul Islam and Shafiqul Islam. The attack marked a major escalation in the scale and brutality of violence aimed at forcing strict Islamic rule in Bangladesh, whose 160 million people are mostly Muslim. It has shocked the country, as have details emerging about the well-to-do lives of some of the gunmen.

At least three of the gunmen were from wealthy, liberal families who had attended elite Dhaka schools, in contrast to the traditional Bangladeshi militant's path from poverty and a madrassa education to violence. Three of the attackers had been missing since the beginning of the year, police have said. Two had attended a private university in Malaysia, one of whom, Nibras Islam, was not particularly religious, according to a student who played football with him at a private college in Dhaka between 2009 and 2011.

"We are in touch with investigators in Malaysia and they are sharing all the information but as of now we have not found any links with international militant groups," Islam said. One of the dead gunmen was from a poor family and had studied at a madrassa and another hailed from a lower-middle class background, said another senior police official who declined to be identified. — Reuters

## RED, WHITE AND EXTRA BLUE AS TIGHT SECURITY MARKS I-DAY

**NEW YORK:** The United States celebrated the July Fourth holiday on Monday with parades, baking contests and picnics draped in red, white and an extra layer of blue, as police ramped up patrols because of concerns about terrorism and gun violence. Millions of Americans marked independence from Britain with celebrations as boisterous as a music-packed party by country music legend Willie Nelson for 10,000 people at a race track in Austin, Texas, and as staid as colonial-era costumed actors reading the Declaration of Independence at the US National Archives in Washington.

"It's a good day for reflecting on the positive things about America - the sense of freedom that you can go after and achieve whatever you want," said Helen Donaldson, 48, the mother of a multi-ethnic family of four adopted teens living in Maplewood, New Jersey. Donaldson, a white Australian immigrant, cheered with her two New Jersey-born African-American daughters, both 12 and dressed in red, white and blue, as a recording of the Star Spangled Banner played to kick off a children's relay race. Nearby, in the baking contest tent, 13-year-old Nate Fisher entered his cherry blueberry tart into competition. "I have high hopes," he said, flashing a smile.

History was made in the traditional hot-dog-eating contest at New York's Coney Island when long-time champion Joey "Jaws" Chestnut took back the Mustard Yellow International Belt from last year's upstart winner Matt Stonie. Chestnut set an unofficial new world record by downing 70 hotdogs in 10 minutes - topping his previous record of 69 franks. In the women's division, Miki Sudo successfully defended her title by eating 38 hotdogs in 10 minutes.



**NEW YORK:** Fourth of July fireworks explode in front of the Lower Manhattan skyline as seen from Brooklyn Bridge Park on Monday. — AP

With the holiday taking place days after attacks in Baghdad, Dhaka and Istanbul, the New York Police Department deployed eight new "vapor wake" dogs, trained to sniff out explosives on a moving target in a crowd. The department's presence this holiday was boosted by nearly 2,000 new officers just days after they graduated on Friday from the New York City Police Academy. "You're going to see a lot of people in heavy vests, helmets and long guns and they can respond at a moment's notice to any incident," NYPD Chief of Department James O'Neill told a news conference. "There's also a lot you won't see."

**Chicago Braced for Violence**

Police in Chicago, which has seen a spike in gun murders this year, announced a stepped-up presence with more than 5,000 officers on patrol over the long weekend, traditionally one of the year's most violent, said Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson. The Chicago Tribune said at least three people had been killed and 34 wounded over the holiday weekend by Monday evening. Dry weather forecasts across the country thrilled fireworks lovers, although some spots in Michigan have been so rain-starved that pyrotechnic shows were canceled in a handful of communities near Detroit because of the risk of fires.

A 19-year-old tourist in New York's Central Park suffered a severe foot wound on Sunday after an apparent homemade firework exploded when he jumped off a rock and stepped on the device, authorities said. In Compton, California, a 9-year-old girl's hand had to be amputated when she was injured after unwittingly picking up a lit firework, media said. — Reuters

## POLITICIAN STUNNED BY SON'S ROLE IN ATTACK

**DHAKA:** A Bangladeshi politician spoke yesterday of his horror to learn his son was among the suspects who murdered foreigners at a Dhaka cafe, and said many young men from wealthy, educated families were going missing. Imtiaz Khan Babul said his 22-year-old son Rohan Imtiaz, who was killed when commandos stormed the cafe on Saturday, had been a top-scoring student whose behavior gave no hint he was radicalized before he disappeared last December. "I was stunned and speechless to learn that my son had done such a heinous thing," a tearful Babul told AFP. "I don't know what changed him. There was nothing that would suggest that he was getting radicalized. He hardly read any religious books."

Babul, an official with the ruling Awami League party, said he believed his son may have been "brainwashed" online. He had not seen Rohan since travelling to India in December with his maths teacher wife, leaving their three children in Dhaka. In the months following Rohan's disappearance, Babul lobbied senior party officials to help find his only son and even scoured the city's morgues. As he searched, he met other families who had suffered the same fate. "I met so many parents whose boys had gone missing," he said. "Even yesterday, one of them was saying that I was lucky that I got the body of my boy. Some of them are not so lucky."

Security forces shot dead six men when they stormed the cafe, bringing the all-night siege to an end, while one suspected attacker was taken alive and is being questioned.

Police initially identified all six as suspected attackers, but yesterday they said they were looking into whether one was a kitchen worker who was held hostage. Relatives of Saiful Islam Chowkidar raised the alarm after recognizing the 39-year-old among the pictures of the suspects police released after the siege. "We protested. We said he was never a militant. He was hardworking man and one of the best pizza and pasta makers in Bangladesh," Chowkidar's cousin Solaiman told AFP. "We went to the military, but they would not hand over the body, they said he was a suspect."

**Diplomat Concerns**

Witnesses say the perpetrators of the attack, claimed by the Islamic State group, spared the lives of Muslims. The 20 people killed included nine Italians, seven Japanese, a US citizen and a 19-year-old Indian student. Yesterday, the bodies of the Japanese victims arrived on a government plane in Tokyo. All had worked with the government-run Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Bangladesh. Authorities said an aircraft carrying the bodies of the nine Italian victims had flown out of Dhaka early Tuesday. Bangladesh's foreign minister met diplomats Tuesday following the attack, the worst by far targeting the international community in Dhaka. Hundreds of foreign firms operate out of Bangladesh and its clothes manufacturing industry is the lifeblood of the economy, accounting for more than 80 percent of exports. — AFP

## MODI EXPANDS CABINET INTO ONE OF BIGGEST

**NEW DELHI:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inducted 19 new ministers into his cabinet yesterday to bolster his two-year-administration but drew criticism that he was backtracking on a promise of lean government. The ministers, announced by the government, were sworn-in at a ceremony at the presidential palace but their portfolios were not immediately announced. A top government source told Reuters Modi had dropped five of cabinet colleagues. A formal announcement on the changes was expected later on Tuesday.

With the expansion, the size of Modi's cabinet has swelled to 78 - one of the biggest in years and

a far cry from Modi's 2014 election promise of "minimum government and maximum governance". "If this was a reform-minded government, you would be reducing the numbers of people and portfolios, shedding ministries," said Manoj Joshi, a political expert at Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. "What you can read from this is that it is not particularly efficient or concerned about governance," Joshi said, referring to Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

Modi swept to power in May 2014 on a promise of jobs and growth. However, critics have questioned his government's performance and political

analysts say the ruling party suffers from a shortage of experienced members. A number of new ministers hail from India's backward castes, members of which are widely expected to play a critical role in an election in the most populous state of Uttar Pradesh next year.

That state election is likely to have a bearing on Modi's bid to retain power in a general election, due by 2019. "His eyes are set on his re-election in 2019," said Neeraj Chowdhury, an independent political analyst. "He has given representation to the social groups that voted for him in the last general election."



**NEW DELHI:** Indian President Pranab Mukherjee (third left) stands Prime Minister Narendra Modi (fourth left) and with newly inducted ministers at a swearing-in ceremony at the Presidential Palace yesterday. — AP



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## 'MOSQUE-MOBILE' MAKES PRAYING EASIER IN JAKARTA

**JAKARTA:** As the call to prayer rang out across the Indonesian capital, Sutikno faced a dilemma - the devout Muslim needed to set off through Jakarta's notorious traffic to pick up his wife but did not want to miss out on worshipping. However for him and others juggling the demands of hectic, 21st century life and piety

in the crowded capital of the world's most populous Muslim-majority country, a solution has just pulled up.

The "mosque-mobile" started cruising through Jakarta in June as the Islamic holy month of Ramadan drew to a close, aiming to ensure Muslims did not miss out on prayers by setting up in busy places, such as

near festivals and sports events. Sutikno, a middle-aged office worker who like many Indonesians goes by one name, came across the van parked between a sports stadium and shopping malls, and it proved a godsend. "I was supposed to go to a mosque that is quite far away but then I saw this one," he told AFP. "I just parked my car and performed my prayers here. I can save time and go and pick up my wife faster."

The green and white van has been specially adapted to become a mobile place of worship. At prayer time, the sides of the vehicle open up and a small stage is extended, from which the imam preaches. Prayer rugs are rolled out in front of the van, with space for up to 100 people, and a handful can worship inside the vehicle. It also provides special robes for women and a tank of water for the faithful to ritually cleanse themselves before praying. The mosque started operating in Jakarta with a team of four in the final week of Ramadan, a month of fasting and piety, but plans to continue afterwards.

The van offers its services between 3:00 pm (0800 GMT) and 7:00 pm (1100 GMT) for two prayer sessions, at a time traffic is bad as millions flood out of downtown areas and head back to satellite cities. Muslims are supposed to pray five times a day. During Ramadan, the crew running the Jakarta "mosque-mobile" also serve snacks to people stuck in gridlock when it is time to break their fast.

### Overcrowded, Traffic-Choked Cities

The van is run by the Archipelago Mosque Foundation, an organisation that sets up and maintains mosques, with funding provided by Adira Sharia, a group that provides Islamic-compliant financing for motor vehicles. "We were concerned that there was a lack of places of worship at crowded spots such as music concerts, festivals and football games. Sometimes people intend to pray, but because there are no facilities, they skip it," said Hamzah Fadri, director of the mosque foundation.

The Jakarta mosque-on-wheels has hit the streets after the foundation launched a mobile place of worship in the city of Bandung, southeast of the capital on the main island of Java. The Bandung mosque proved a success, offering prayer sessions at 50 different locations in its first year of operation, and the foundation hopes the van in the capital - which is slightly larger than the Bandung model - can do even better.

Indonesia is already home to some 800,000 mosques, including a large number in Jakarta and other major cities. But with many people stuck in gridlock at prayer time - particularly during Ramadan - and ad hoc festivals and sports events typically failing to provide facilities for praying, the foundation believes the "mobile-mosque" will be a great help. — AFP



**JAKARTA:** This picture taken on June 28, 2016 shows Indonesian men offering prayers at a "mobile mosque" outside a sports complex. — AFP

## CHINA, JAPAN JETS IN CLOSE EAST CHINA SEA ENCOUNTER

### CHINESE PAPER SAYS SHOULD PREPARE FOR ARMED CLASH

**BEIJING:** Beijing and Tokyo were at loggerheads Tuesday over accusations Japanese warplanes locked their fire control radar onto Chinese aircraft, as state-run Chinese media said the country needed to be ready for "military confrontation" elsewhere. Beijing has long been embroiled in fierce territorial disputes with Tokyo over Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea, and with a host of littoral states over the South China Sea, which it claims almost in its entirety.

Chinese vessels and planes regularly enter waters and airspace near the East China Sea islands, called Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China. China's defense ministry late Monday accused Japanese fighter jets of using their fire control radar to lock onto two Chinese aircraft on "routine patrol" in the Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) it declared unilaterally in 2013. The aggressive move generally means an attacker is ready to fire weapons at a target.

Japan's deputy chief cabinet secretary Koichi Hagiuda denied the accusation yesterday, telling reporters that Tokyo's Self-Defence Forces had scrambled F15 jets to monitor Chinese aircraft. "There are no facts showing that we took provocative action against Chinese military planes," he said. In 2013, Tokyo demanded Beijing apologise when it said a Chinese frigate had locked its fire-control radar onto a Japanese destroyer in international waters.

The row over the islands has seen relations between the world's second- and third-largest economies plunge in recent years, before recovering slightly, although they remain poor. Beijing is also involved in a separate set of territorial disputes with other littoral neighbors over its extensive claims in the strategic and resource-rich South China Sea. It has rapidly built up reefs and outcrops into artificial islands with facilities capable of military use. The issue has raised tensions in the region and with the United States, which has key defense treaties with Japan and other allies in the area.

Yesterday, China began a week of naval exercises in waters around the Paracel Islands, in the northern part of the sea. They came a week before a United Nations-backed tribunal in The Hague rules on a case brought by the Philippines challenging China's position. Beijing has boycotted the hearings and is engaged in a major diplomatic and publicity drive to try to delegitimize the process.

### Bitter Pill of Humiliation

In an editorial yesterday, the Global Times - a newspaper owned by the People's Daily group that often takes a nationalistic tone - said China should accelerate the build-up of its defense capabilities and "must be prepared for any military confrontation." "Even though China cannot keep up with the US militarily in the short-term, it should be able to let the US pay a cost it cannot stand if it intervenes

in the South China Sea dispute by force," it added.

Beijing also accuses Tokyo of interfering in the South China Sea, where it is not a claimant but has strengthened ties with some of the Asian giant's rivals, including the Philippines. China bases its maritime claims on a vaguely defined "nine dash line" dating back to maps it produced in the 1940s, and has been asserting them more aggressively in recent years. Manila lodged its suit against Beijing at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in early 2013, saying that after 17 years of negotiations it had exhausted all political and diplomatic avenues to settle the dispute.

The tribunal will issue its ruling on July 12, though China has consistently rejected its right to hear the case and has taken no part in the proceedings. At a regular briefing yesterday, Chinese ministry of foreign affairs spokesman Hong Lei reiterated that Beijing rejected all third-party resolutions of the dispute. The hearing would "in no way help peace and stability" in the region, he said, adding: "We will not accept any settlement imposed on us."

The arbitration case had been orchestrated by the Philippines and the US to portray China as "an outcast from a rules-based international community," said an editorial in the China Daily. The newspaper, which is published by the government, added: "It is naive to expect China to swallow the bitter pill of humiliation." — AFP



**SYDNEY:** Temporary Australian Electoral Commission workers sort through absentee ballot papers yesterday. — AFP

## TURNBULL DEFIES CRITICS AS VOTE COUNT RESUMES

**SYDNEY:** Embattled Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull defended his performance after widespread calls for his resignation and said yesterday he was confident of retaining office after vote counting resumed in a cliffhanger election. Electoral officials began counting 1.5 million postal and absentee votes that will be crucial to the result of Saturday's election, which is still seen as too close to call. That process is likely to carry on for days, possibly weeks, leaving Australia in a political vacuum after Turnbull's gamble in calling an early election backfired badly with a much bigger swing than expected against his conservative coalition.

Turnbull's Liberal-National coalition has so far secured 68 lower house seats and the centre-left Labor opposition 67, according to projections by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, both agonisingly short of the 76 seats needed to form a majority government in the House of Representatives. Ten seats remain in doubt. Turnbull said in his first public comments since Sunday that he took full responsibility for his coalition's campaign and that he was still confident of winning a majority.

"There is no doubt that there is a level of disillusionment with politics, with government and with the major parties," Turnbull told reporters. "We need to listen very carefully to concerns of the Australian people expressed through this election," he said. Turnbull's disastrous polling has led to attacks from inside and outside his party after he gambled and called elections in both houses of parliament in an attempt to settle a querulous upper house Senate.

The political stability he had sought has evaporated, with a wave of independents winning office, likely making it impossible for him to push ahead with his reformist economic

agenda, including a \$50 billion (\$37.7 billion) corporate tax break. Labor leader Bill Shorten, who has been appearing in what has been described as a cross-country victory lap, warned Turnbull against making any further drastic decisions, and said Labor was ready to work with all parties in parliament.

"I really think Malcolm Turnbull ... has done a grave disservice to this country and he has given us instability," Shorten told reporters in Queensland state. The election was meant to end political turmoil that had seen four prime ministers in three years. Instead, it left Turnbull's own leadership in question less than a year after he ousted then prime minister Tony Abbott in a party-room coup.

Turnbull is being blamed for a series of missteps, beginning with triggering the double dissolution of parliament in May, and a long eight-week campaign that allowed time for Labor to hit key issues like healthcare and company tax cuts. Abbott's supporters, including former chief of staff Peta Credlin and Senator Cory Bernardi, have made blistering attacks on Turnbull's judgment. At the same time, independents who could hold the balance of power have refused to commit to either the coalition or Labor.

Former prime minister John Howard, a hugely influential figure in conservative politics, joined Attorney-General George Brandis and Treasurer Scott Morrison in urging unity behind Turnbull. "This hasn't been an outcome we wanted but it's not the end of the world. People shouldn't start slitting their throats, certainly not Liberals," Howard told reporters. Peter Chen, a political analyst at the University of Sydney, said the election had exposed Turnbull as a failure. "I think probably what he should be doing is cleaning out his desk. He's done," Chen said. — Reuters



**LIUZHOU, China:** A general view shows the swollen Liujiang River in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region yesterday. — AFP

## CHINA FLOODS KILL 130, WIPE OUT CROPS

**SHANGHAI:** Severe flooding across central and southern China over the past week has killed almost 130 people, damaged more than 1.9 million hectares of crops and led to direct economic losses of more than 38 billion yuan (\$5.7 billion), state media said yesterday. Premier Li Keqiang traveled on Tuesday to Anhui, one of the hardest-hit provinces, where he met residents and encouraged officials to do everything they could to protect lives and livelihoods. Li was also to visit Hunan province.

Heavy rainfall had killed 128 people across 11 provinces and regions and 42 people are missing, state news agency Xinhua reported. More than 1.3 million people have been forced out of their homes, it said. Weather forecasts predicted more downpours during what is traditionally China's flood season. Xinhua said more than 1.9 million hectares of cropland had been damaged and another 295,000 hectares had been destroyed, resulting in direct economic losses of 38.2 billion yuan. More than 40,000 buildings have also collapsed, it added.

It was not clear how that would affect the summer grain harvest, which was expected to reach 140 million tonnes this year. The stormy weather also took a toll on farm animals. In Anhui, the flooding killed some 7,100 hogs, 215 bulls and 5.14 million fowl, the China News Service reported. In the southern province of Hunan, torrential rain and flooding had forced more than 100 trains to stop or take detours since midnight on Sunday, Xinhua reported.

In one city, about 3 tonnes of gasoline and diesel leaked from a petrol station on Monday, contain-

ing floodwater that flowed into a river, it said. Water in 43 rivers in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River had exceeded warning levels and

patrols were monitoring dykes, Xinhua quoted Chen Guiyu, an official with the Yangtze River Water Resources Commission, as saying. — Reuters

## CAR BOMB KILLS POLICEMAN IN REBEL-HIT SOUTH THAILAND

**BANGKOK:** A car bomb in Thailand's conflict-hit south killed a policeman and wounded two others yesterday, as the kingdom's junta chief vowed to boost security in the Muslim-majority region during Ramadan. The blast, which hit a police checkpoint sending debris and a thick plume of smoke into the sky, is the latest in a spate of attacks that have killed more than 20 people during the Muslim holy fasting month.

Violence in Thailand's "Deep South" - the southernmost provinces bordering Malaysia - tends to spike during Ramadan before rebels return home for the Eid festival. The area has been battered by 12 years of violence between the Buddhist-majority state and shadowy Muslim rebels seeking greater autonomy for the culturally distinct provinces. The region was annexed by Thailand more than a century ago. Near-daily shootings and roadside bombs have left more than 6,500 dead since 2004, most of them civilians.

Yesterday's car bomb, a rare form of attack, was the second to strike the region in less than two weeks. "The bomb was hidden inside a pick-up truck. The suspects drove and parked the truck at the checkpoint before fleeing," said Lieutenant Colonel Sompong Rongyang, a police officer at the scene in Nong Chik in Pattani province. A policeman's body was found after a bomb disposal team cleared the site, police said, adding that two others were hospitalized for burns.

Thailand's military, which seized control of the country in a 2014 coup, has pledged to jump-start peace talks with the insurgents, but there has been little progress. The military has however been credited with reducing violence with tougher security measures. Junta chief Prayut Chan-O-Cha called Tuesday for heightened safety in the area, which is ruled under emergency laws and awash with military officers, ahead of Eid this week. "We have to step up security measures and all forces must be on standby," he said. — AFP

## THAI GOVERNMENT RULES OUT DEATH PENALTY FOR RAPISTS

**BANGKOK:** Thailand's Justice Ministry says it has no plan to execute rapists who murder their victims, saying such a harsh penalty would provoke more rapists to kill. The ministry's third-ranking official, Tawatchai Thaiyo, posted the comments Monday on his Facebook page amid growing outrage over the suspected rape and murder of a 27-year-old teacher, whose alleged attacker was a convicted rapist who lived in her apartment building. The woman's death has prompted calls for harsher penalties for rapes and capital punishment for fatal rapes.

Capital punishment is legal in Thailand for 35 different crimes, including drug offenses, terrorism, national security crimes, murder and fatal rapes. But in practice, the death penalty is rarely used. The last execution was carried out in 2009 for two drug traffickers. "If raping equals the death penalty, it would encourage rapists to kill all victims to shut their mouths," Tawatchai said. "Wouldn't it be better if we require all convicted rapists to undergo a rehabilitation program and give them support to prevent them from committing such crimes again?"

Part of the public anger is over the prison system's failure, in this case, to rehabilitate. The main suspect in the attack Friday is a 27-year-old factory worker who was released from prison last August after serving less than two years behind bars for

raping a friend's wife. He initially told police that he lived a few doors down from the teacher and knew her apartment door was broken, so he sneaked in late Friday with the intention of raping her but she fought back so he killed her, local media reported. He later changed his confession to say he had no intention of raping but only wanted to rob the teacher. Another neighbor found the woman's naked body, her throat slashed, the day after the attack.

The suspect, identified as Chatree Ruamsungnoen, was arrested Saturday and police canceled a subsequent reenactment of the crime, which is common in Thailand when suspects confess, over concern he would be attacked by angry mobs. The head of Thailand's military government also commented on the case, saying he disagreed with the calls for capital punishment.

"Look at what other countries are doing globally. Human rights laws have stopped capital punishment in many countries around the world," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said, adding that severe penalties alone won't prevent rapes. Even if the punishment were "three executions" it still might not be enough to deter criminals, he said. "Society has to help pressure them," Prayuth added, saying public condemnation could be a greater deterrent than the death penalty. — AP



# KIAROSTAMI, GIANT OF IRANIAN CINEMA DIES

TEHRAN: Tributes poured in yesterday for Iranian film-maker Abbas Kiarostami, acclaimed as a "towering figure" in world cinema, following his death in France at the age of 76. Kiarostami, who won the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 for "Taste of Cherry", emerged from the Iranian New Wave of the late 1960s to become one of the world's most revered directors.

Hollywood legend Martin Scorsese praised his "extraordinary body of work". "He was a true gentleman, and, truly, one of our great artists," Scorsese told The Hollywood Reporter. Kiarostami's poetic parables of ordinary lives won him international acclaim, with French director Jean-Luc Godard once declaring that "film begins with DW Griffith and ends with Abbas Kiarostami."

News of his death broke late on Monday, with Iranian media reporting that he died from a blood clot in the brain following months of treatment for intestinal problems. The ISNA news agency said he had returned to Iran from his home in Paris to undergo several operations between February and April, before travelling back to France last week for further treatment. "Kiarostami's different and deep outlook on life, and his invitation to peace and friendship, will be an everlasting achievement," tweeted President Hassan Rouhani.

Foreign Minister Javad Zarif added: "Iran has lost a towering figure in international cinema". Just last week, Kiarostami had been invited to join the Academy in Hollywood as part of its efforts to increase the diversity of its Oscar judges. "He wasn't just a film-maker. He was a modern mystic, both in his cinema and his private life," Asghar Farhadi, another of Iran's renowned directors, told Britain's The Guardian. Iranian cinemas were due to pause showings yesterday evening for a prayer in Kiarostami's memory, ISNA reported.

### Cultural ambassador

Deciding to stay on after the Islamic revolution of 1979, Kiarostami was able to skirt the difficulties faced by other directors since his films were never overtly political, preferring to tell philosophical tales about the lives of ordinary people. Although some of his films were banned in Iran, he became an ambassador for the country's continued cultural riches. "On the one hand, there is the state cinema, financed by the authorities... then there is an independent sector that is flourishing," he told reporters at Cannes in May.

In a statement yesterday, French President Francois Hollande praised the director for forging "close artistic ties and deep friendships" with France. Born in the Iranian capital on June 22, 1940, Kiarostami studied painting at the University of



Abbas Kiarostami

Tehran before finding work as a graphic designer and director of commercials. He joined the Centre for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults in 1969 as head of the film department, freeing him to make his own films. Two years later, he released his first work, a short film called "Bread and Alley", followed by the feature-length "The Traveller" in 1973, which confirmed his position as a pioneer of the "realism" school.

Kiarostami was launched on to the international stage by his "Koker" trilogy, named after the town in which they were set and starting with 1987's "Where is the Friend's Home?" His films were known for their modest style, dark realism and sly humor. They were almost always shot in real locations, often featuring non-actors. "Some refer to his pictures as 'minimal' or 'minimalist', but it's actually the opposite," Scorsese told The Hollywood Reporter. "Every scene in 'Taste of Cherry' or 'Where is the Friend's Home?' is overflowing with beauty and surprise, patiently and exquisitely captured."

Kiarostami's Palme d'Or victory in 1997 led to some difficulties in his home country after French actress Catherine Deneuve gave him a kiss while presenting the award enough to garner the fury of conservatives in Iran. He went on to win the Special Jury Prize at the Venice film festival two years later for "The Wind Will Carry Us". He travelled the world in his later years, making films such as "Certified Copy" in Italy and "Like Someone in Love" in Japan. Although this afforded him greater freedom from Iran's censors, the globe-trotting was also an attempt, he said, to tell stories about "universal characters, that can be accessible to everyone." — AFP

## FAREWELL! RAMADAN

Continued from Page 1

I learn about my weaknesses too, and without the usual distractions, I am able to pinpoint specific attitudes and habits that I need to change. I will miss Ramadan for the brotherhood and sisterhood that is so apparent as Muslims join together in one great project, which is fasting for a month while striving to accomplish the most good and expressing our gratitude and reliance through frequent prayer and supplication.

Everyone will miss this immense opportunity to draw closer to Allah. Once Ramadan has passed, the focus on worship and charity will pass and mundane duties and distractions will creep back into our lives. I will miss the feeling of lightness when my stomach is empty and my head is clear - when I am naturally drawn to thoughts of God and His abundant blessings. I will miss the joy of breaking fast, and the camaraderie

of fellow fasters who gathered for the meal.

I will miss the attention to the Quran, and waking up in the last part of the night to pray. The moments of Ramadan are slipping quickly away, and the opportunity to demonstrate such devotion in solidarity with all Muslims worldwide is passing. Farewell, Ramadan, we will miss you. As we start counting the days until your return, stay in our memories and inspire us to carry on with our worship through fasting, reading Quran and praying late at night. Be with us, Ramadan, throughout the coming year.

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.

## KILLING OF SAUDI MOTHER SPARKS DEBATE...

Continued from Page 1

On Monday, suicide bombers struck three cities in an apparently coordinated campaign of attacks as Saudis prepared to break their daily fast observed during the holy month of Ramadan, killing at least four security personnel and themselves.

### Impassioned debate

The case has caused impassioned debate because Islam teaches that devotion to caring for elders is a pathway to heaven. Some scholars and media commentators have asked if it was the teachings of Ibn Taymiyya, a 13th century Islamic scholar from Damascus known for his fatwas (religious opinion) espoused by rulers of Saudi Arabia, demands rigid adherence to what it sees as Islam's original practices and a rejection of more modern ideas. These links, as well as shared practices such as the use of beheading as a means of execution, led some Western commentators to accuse Riyadh of sympathy with groups like Islamic State which holds territory in Iraq and Syria.

However, Western-allied Riyadh says Ibn Abdul-Wahhab was a reformer. The Saudi government rejects any talk of links between his message and that of modern jihadists, denouncing Islamic State and Al-Qaeda as terrorists and religious heretics. But Riyadh's official stance has not prevented scholars and commentators from seizing on the latest killing to dissect the degree to which Ibn Taymiyya is responsible for motivating today's jihadists.

"Some are angry at me for pointing out the legacy of Ibn

Taymiyya in the religious violence that is sweeping us," prominent scholar, Abdul-Salam Al-Wail, professor of sociology at King Saud University, wrote on his Twitter account. "To the Shaikh al-Islam (Ibn Taymiyya), human life is cheap and his legacy clarifies this," he added, using the honorific of the renowned scholar, who spent time in jail for his beliefs and who resisted Mongol invaders. Wail said that while Ibn Taymiyya was a prolific scholar for his time, he pointed to his fatwas that permit a son to kill an apostate father, saying they contradict the essence of Islam.

The case drew a rare intervention from the Saudi Islamic affairs minister, Saleh bin Abdul-Aziz Al Al-Sheikh, who was quoted as saying that Ibn Taymiyya's fatwa allowing a son to kill his father had been taken out of context. "The statement by the Shaikh al-Islam, may God have mercy on him ... is intended for if they meet at war in which the son is on the side of the faithful and the father is on the side of apostates," he was quoted by Rashed bin Othman Al-Zahrani, deputy chairman of the Electronic Islam Academy, as saying.

"This means that only in this case and it does not contradict the verse which states: be kind to thy parents," the minister added in comments published in Al-Hayat, Al-Jazirah and other Saudi media outlets. Reuters was unable to contact the minister to confirm his comments. Joining debate over the case, several writers and scholars said it was time to remove the sanctity from traditional theology that permits such actions, saying ancient teachings are not always appropriate in the modern age.

Writing on Twitter after the killing, columnist Mohammed al-Sheikh called for reviewing "our readings of the theological heritage of Ibn Taymiyya" to clarify it belonged "to a different time and different circumstances. Otherwise, terrorism will not end." Al-Mahmoud said the first step in fighting militant ideology would be by opening up Ibn Taymiyya's teachings for debate. "What is needed now is to drain this swamp, by opening the door to criticizing our heritage," the writer, Al-Mahmoud said. "What is needed is to shake the confidence in these teachings that are being imported from our distant past." — Reuters

## SAUDIS RATTLED BY TERROR ATTACKS; BOMBINGS...

Continued from Page 1

"This crime, which causes goosebumps, could not have been perpetrated by someone who had an atom of belief in his heart," Abdullah Al-Sheikh said. Cairo-based Al-Azhar, the highest authority in Sunni Islam, condemned the attacks and stressed "the sanctity of the houses of God, especially the Prophet's Mosque." Saudi Arabia's supreme council of clerics said the blasts "prove that those renegades... have violated everything that is sacred." The attack drew condemnation across Islam's religious divide, with Shiite power Iran calling for Muslim unity after the attacks in its Sunni-dominated regional rival.

"There are no more red lines left for terrorists to cross. Sunnis, Shiites will both remain victims unless we stand united as one," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Twitter. Lebanon-based Shiite militant group Hezbollah-which Saudi Arabia accuses of supporting "terrorist acts" across the region-also denounced the Medina attack as "a new sign of the terrorists' contempt for all that Muslims consider sacred." The governments of Turkey and Lebanon joined in the condemnation, while Iraq said the attacks amounted to "heinous crimes".

Middle East expert Madhawi Al-Rasheed said the attack in Medina appeared aimed at humiliating the Saudi government, the guardian of Islam's holiest sites. "It's an attempt to actually embarrass the Saudi government because it boasts of protecting the pilgrims and the holy places," said Rasheed, a visiting professor at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute. There also seemed to be an "organized effort by the perpetrators to coordinate their work," poten-

tially signaling a worsening security situation in Saudi, she said.

### IS urged Ramadan attacks

At the same time as the Medina attack, another suicide bombing occurred near a Shiite mosque across the country in the Shiite-populated Gulf city of Qatif. The Saudi interior ministry said "the body parts of three people were found" at the site but had not yet been identified. Nasima Al-Sada, a Qatif resident, called the attackers crazy and said: "I don't know where they get this idea." Monday's first attack happened in the western Saudi city of Jeddah, where two police officers were wounded in a suicide bombing near the US consulate in the early hours.

The interior ministry said a Pakistani resident, Abdullah Qalzar Khan, 35, carried out the Jeddah attack. He had been living with his wife and her parents in the city for 12 years. The US embassy in Riyadh reported no casualties among consulate staff during the attack, which coincided with the US July 4 Independence Day holiday. Since late 2014 a series of bombings and shootings claimed by IS in Saudi Arabia has targeted minority Shiites as well as members of the security forces, killing dozens of people.

Most of the attacks have been staged in Eastern Province, home to the majority of Shiites in the Sunni-dominated Gulf state. IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi has called for attacks on Saudi Arabia, which is taking part in the US-led coalition bombing the jihadists in Syria and Iraq. The group also considers Shiites to be heretics. IS spokesman Abu Mohamed Al-Adnani had in late May urged the group's supporters to carry out attacks during Ramadan. — AFP

## NASA JUNO SPACECRAFT LOOPS AROUND JUPITER

Continued from Page 1

Its arrival marks the start of a 20-month mission during which scientists hope to find out more about how much water Jupiter holds and the makeup of its core to figure out how the gas giant-and other planets including Earth-formed billions of years ago.

"This amazing universe that we see, how does that work and how did it begin?" asked NASA project scientist Steve Levin. "That is one of the amazing things about working for NASA and working on big projects. You get to answer big questions." The spacecraft is equipped with nine science instruments, including a camera, which prior to orbit captured a video of Jupiter and its moons gliding around it at different speeds.

"In all of history we've never really been able to see the motion of any heavenly body against another," said Bolton, after showing the video during a post-orbit press conference for the first time. "This is the king of our solar system and its disciples going around it," he said. "To me, it is very significant. We are finally able to see with real video, with real pictures, this movement and we have only been able to imagine it up until today." All non-essential equipment was turned off for the approach, but the first post-orbit pictures from the spacecraft's on-board camera should arrive in a few days, NASA said.

"The spacecraft worked perfectly, which is always nice when you're driving a vehicle with 1.7 billion miles on the odometer," said Rick Nybakken, Juno project manager from Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Juno's inaugural lap

around the solar system's most massive planet-the fifth from the sun-will last 53 days. Subsequent orbits will be shorter, about two weeks each. The first mission designed to see beneath Jupiter's clouds, Juno is named after the Roman goddess who was the wife of Jupiter, the god of the sky in ancient mythology. The spacecraft orbits Jupiter from pole to pole, sampling its charged particles and magnetic fields for the first time and revealing more about the auroras in ultraviolet light that can be seen around the planet's polar regions.

Juno should circle the planet 37 times before finally making a death plunge in 2018, to prevent the spacecraft from causing damage to any of Jupiter's icy moons, which NASA hopes to explore one day for signs of life. Although Juno is not the first spacecraft to orbit Jupiter, NASA says its path will bring it closer than its predecessor, Galileo, which launched in 1989. That spacecraft found evidence of subsurface saltwater on Jupiter's moons Europa, Ganymede and Callisto before making a final plunge toward Jupiter in 2003. Juno's orbital track is closer than Galileo's-this time within 3,100 miles (5,000 kilometers) above the cloud tops.

With an atmosphere of hydrogen and helium, Jupiter is known for its Great Red Spot, a storm bigger than Earth that has been raging for hundreds of years. On Monday, Heidi Becker, senior engineer on radiation effects at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, described the close approach as going "into the scariest part of the scariest place... part of Jupiter's radiation environment where nobody has ever been." — AFP

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## Focus

IN RECOLLECTION  
OF 'GREAT MAN'

July 8 this year marks the 22nd anniversary of the death of Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. On the occasion of the day the Korean and other progressive peoples of the world are looking back upon the life of President Kim Il Sung who accomplished the undying exploits for the history and humankind with his outstanding ideology and theory and revolutionary practice. Kim Il Sung was born into a poor farmer's family in Korea which was under the military occupation by the Japanese imperialists (1905-1945).

He embarked on the road of revolutionary struggle in his early teens, determined to save the destiny of the country and people. In the course of blazing the trail of the revolution he created the Juche idea and Songun idea, which he brilliantly implemented in the whole period of his revolutionary career spanning 70 years. The Juche idea and Songun idea proved their truthfulness and vitality to the full, thus becoming the great guiding ideas in realizing independence of the masses and the valuable spiritual wealth common to mankind.

President Kim Il Sung was an outstanding leader who established the social system centred on the masses of the people in the DPRK and set an example in accomplishing the cause of mankind for independence. He organized and waged the 15-year-long anti-Japanese armed struggle and achieved Korea's liberation (August 15, 1945). After the liberation he founded the Workers' Party of Korea (October 10, 1945), successfully carried out the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution, and, on this basis, founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (September 9, 1948).

He led the Fatherland Liberation War, the Korean war (1950-1953), to victory, thereby defending the country's sovereignty and dignity from the aggression by the US-led imperialist allied forces. He also successfully conducted postwar rehabilitation, socialist revolution and the construction of socialism in several stages, developing the DPRK into a people-centered socialist power, independent in politics, self-sufficient in economy and self-reliant in national defense.

The President performed great exploits in realizing the cause of reunifying the divided Korea. He put forward fair and reasonable proposals for the country's reunification, such as the three principles of national reunification, the proposal for founding a Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo, and the 10-point program for the great unity of the whole nation. He also wisely led the reunification movement, thus ushering in a bright prospect for the Korean reunification.

The President made great contribution to the cause of making the world independent. By advancing the slogan, "Peoples of the world who advocate independence, unite!" he rendered sincere assistance to the national liberation and independent development of many countries of the world and energetically led such progressive movements of the world as socialist movement and non-aligned movement should hold fast to their ideals and principles. Kim Il Sung was the incarnation of benevolence. No one in the world valued people and loved them like him.

Everybody who met the President was greatly enchanted by his personality and worshipped him. German writer Luise Rinzer, a very devout Catholic, praised that the President was a godlike man whether he liked it or not. Jimmy Carter, former president of the United States, stated that President Kim Il Sung was greater than George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, the most illustrious early US presidents, all combined.

Kim Il Sung was, indeed, the most outstanding leader, peerlessly great person, and great saint of mankind, representative of the 20th century. Though he passed away, his ideology and cause are being carried forward brilliantly. The Korean people preserve him in his lifetime appearance and hold him in high esteem as the eternal President of the DPRK. They keep the Juche idea and Songun idea he authored as their unchanging guiding ideas, and cherish it as their unshakable faith and will to follow the road of independence, road of Songun and road of socialism he pioneered.

In the closing years of the last century the cause of socialism in the DPRK was faced with the worst circumstances, caused by the great national loss over the sudden death of the President, collapse of socialism in several countries and subsequent anti-DPRK stifling offensives by the imperialist allied forces, and natural disasters that hit the country for consecutive years.

However, the Korean people held higher the banner of Songun and turned out in the confrontation with imperialism and the US, defending firmly their socialism. They further provided a springboard for attaining a gigantic goal of building a thriving socialist nation as the President had wished. From then on miraculous events have taken place in the Korean people's building of a thriving country, boosting the DPRK to the rank of artificial satellite manufacturer and launcher, and nuclear state acknowledged by the world.

In the course of implementing the lines and proposals of independent reunification he had advanced the June 15 reunification era under the banner of By Our Nation Itself was brought about in the Korean peninsula, thus opening a radical phase in the Korean reunification movement. The DPRK, in its efforts to realize the cause of global independence clarified by him, has greatly contributed to the worldwide socialist reconstruction movement and its new upsurge, and accomplishment of the anti-imperialist independent cause of the world.

Praise and admiration for the immortal exploits of the President and his noble personality are still ringing out among many people of the world. The April Spring Friendship Art Festival that had been held in grandeur in Pyongyang in celebration of his birth anniversary has continued even after his death. Recollection and commemorative meetings, seminars, book and photo shows and other events are held in many countries as an annual event on the occasion of his birth and death anniversaries.



## EU AUTHORITY FRAYING IN REACTION TO BREXIT VOTE

By Paul Taylor

The European Union's authority is fraying as governments and politicians in many members challenge EU policies and take aim at "Brussels bureaucracy" in the aftermath of Britain's vote to leave the 28-nation bloc. The Czech president and some contenders for the French presidency have called for their own referendums on continued membership of the pan-European economic and political community, although no such plebiscite is on the cards in the near future. Verbal assaults on the role of the European Commission and the European Parliament since the British shock almost two weeks ago look more like an attempt to appease domestic public opinion than a concerted drive to strip Brussels of its main powers.

But they could further undermine the legitimacy of the EU's common institutions in the eyes of citizens. France, facing a presidential election next year, has threatened to stop obeying EU rules on workers posted from one member state to another, which it says undercuts the jobs of native employees. President Francois Hollande has also demanded a rewriting of EU merger control rules and restrictions on state aid to industry to enable the creation of "European champions".

Socialist Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Sunday an EU regulation allowing employers to pay seconded workers less than their local counterparts must be changed soon or Paris would stop applying it. Employers are not now obliged to pay posted workers more than the minimum wage of the host country - often well below the average wage in the sector - and they pay social contributions in their home country welfare systems which are usually far lower than those in western Europe. Central and east European governments oppose moves to reduce the gap.

"There must be equal treatment

upwards to fight social dumping," Valls said. Spooked by a surge of support for anti-EU nationalist Marine Le Pen, conservative candidate Alain Juppe called on Monday for a new balance of power between Brussels and member states and a halt to further EU enlargement, ending Turkey's membership bid. He called last week for a referendum on a "new Europe". Italy is demanding a loosening of recently adopted EU regulations that make shareholders, bondholders and depositors liable for the losses of failed banks before taxpayers.

## Soulless technocracy

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, who has fought to bend EU budget deficit rules and now seeks to pump billions of euros into his country's ailing banks if needed to shore them up, said on Monday the EU was run by "a technocracy with no soul". He also opposed sanctions against fellow southern members Spain and Portugal for violating the EU's deficit limits last year - a step the Commission is due to consider yesterday in a German-backed drive to uphold the much-abused budget rules. Italy's banks are saddled with 360 billion euros (\$401.18 billion) in bad loans and their share prices plunged after last month's Brexit vote. Rome is in talks with the EU Commission to devise a plan to recapitalize its lenders with public money limiting losses for bank investors.

Dutch and German ministers have attacked a Commission decision that the European Parliament can approve a trade pact with Canada without referring it to national parliaments. The Dutch parliament was assured it would have a chance to weigh in on the treaty. But perhaps most worryingly for the EU, senior ministers in Germany, the bloc's reluctant hegemon, are advocating shrinking the executive Commission, trimming its powers, and bypassing common European institutions to take more decisions by intergovern-



BERLIN: A woman holds a poster during a protest opposing Britain's exit from the European Union in Berlin. — AP

mental agreement. A call from veteran German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, long an advocate of closer integration, to shift more policy decision-making to governments for expediency's sake was among the most striking indicators of the mood around Europe. "If the Commission doesn't get involved, then we should take the matter into our own hands and solve problems between governments," Schäuble told Welt am Sonntag newspaper, saying now was a time for pragmatism. "This intergovernmental approach proved successful during the euro zone crisis," he added. Berlin insisted on setting up the euro zone's rescue fund as an intergovernmental body outside the control of the EU's common institutions, giving itself a veto on each stage of bail-outs for distressed states and the decisive say on fiscal policy conditions. Many experts say further moves towards inter-governmentalism would accentuate

German dominance and increase resentment among other EU members. Among some former communist countries that joined the bloc in 2004, there is resentment at perceived meddling by Brussels, notably on issues concerning the rule of law and media freedom, as well as environmental regulation.

The Polish and Czech foreign ministers called last week for European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to resign as a scapegoat for the June 23 British vote. The Visegrad Group of four central European countries - Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia - demanded that the powers of the EU executive be reined in and more competences be returned to capitals. "We need to change the overall functioning of the EU and I think it is needed to change the functioning of the European Commission," said Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka. — Reuters

## IN OR OUT? BREXIT LIMBO GIVES EU HEADACHE

The European Union says it will not be "paralyzed" after Britons voted to leave, but Brussels policymakers say uncertainty over Britain's future is already complicating the lawmaking process for the rest of the EU. As London waits, possibly for months, for a successor to Prime Minister David Cameron to start negotiating an exit that will retain its easy access to EU markets, some Europeans fear that Britain could obstruct legislation to strengthen its hand.

"We cannot afford to be stuck in limbo. The British must not hold the EU to ransom," former Belgian premier Guy Verhofstadt told the European Parliament in a Brexit debate last week. But despite his call, echoed across Brussels, for Britain to launch the two-year process of withdrawal, Cameron has left that

to whoever the party chooses to replace him in September.

Some frontrunners for Conservative leader say they see no hurry to trigger Article 50 of the EU treaty, the start of formal negotiations to leave the bloc, and some Britons want the referendum result reversed. "It's slightly surreal," a British diplomat conceded, as EU leaders rule out any discussion of Brexit terms before Article 50 is live, so that EU officials and diplomats are in a vacuum. One gag doing the rounds in Brussels recalls "Schroedinger's cat": as the physicist's imaginary pet was both alive and dead, so Britain is both in the EU and out, at the table but silent.

Britain is scheduled to chair ministerial councils for six months from next July. But Cameron has also left to a successor whether

to go ahead with the presidency, irritating officials who reckon it takes two years to prepare a good agenda. The official line from a British government spokesman is: "We remain a part of the EU until negotiations are concluded." But British officials admit that on matters that will not affect Britain once it has left-most issues-they can have little say, leaving only short-term business-next year's EU fishing quotas, say-in which diplomats are speaking out. "We are in a holding pattern," the British diplomat said.

## Bloody awkward

Legally, British ministers retain full voting power in European councils, including a veto on some issues, and, in 751-seat EU parliament, Britain's 73 members keep voting. But a Briton has already resigned a key parliamentary role on climate change, long an issue Britain has led on. Legislation due this month to spread the burden of cutting carbon dioxide emissions could be held up, some officials say, while they rework the sums to exclude the bloc's second-biggest economy without knowing when, or even if, it will leave. "We already feel we have lost credibility in the eyes of other MEPs," a UK parliamentary source said. That Brexit has begun is evident in the European Commission, the EU executive, where British nominee Jonathan Hill resigned, costing London a key role overseeing financial regulation that was seen as helping the City against the euro zone.

Cameron's successor can still nominate another commissioner, but cannot expect a major job; EU officials, stung by Britain's shock vote, sneer that London may get "commissioner for ballet". At the level of summits of national leaders, too, Cameron saw himself frozen out when the other 27 met on Wednesday in his absence. For now, without Britain the European Council cannot make

law, but such meetings will be common once London triggers Article 50, which keeps it out of negotiations with itself.

The divorce is unprecedented and it is unclear whether Britain should be excluded only from explicit talks on Brexit or from other debates on trade policy, say-in which any EU decisions today may affect Britain as an outside power. More troubling for some is that Britain might, depending on who will lead it, not trigger Article 50 and use its insider rights as leverage to force negotiation on a deal for itself. "They could just be bloody awkward," a senior EU official said, fearing Britain could hold councils to ransom.

States no longer have a veto on many issues, however, and one EU envoy warned: "If the UK makes problems, majority voting might be applied quite heartlessly." Another senior official said that if Britain does not launch Article 50 this year and dares be obstructive in the EU to force negotiations, then the Union could look at its legal options. Citing EU treaty Article 4 demanding "sincere cooperation" from member states, the official said: "If your action paralyses the system then we can legally oblige you." He acknowledged, though, that such threats from Brussels carry limited weight.

## Parliamentary questions

The European Parliament is also struggling with Brexit. Last week, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker turned to pro-Leave British members to ask: "Why are you here?" The parliament's German speaker, Martin Schulz, has told lawmakers there will be no change in Britons' rights, even once withdrawal talks start under Article 50, until Britain leaves. However, MEPs' formal rights are few; influence comes from holding office on committees or steering through legislation. — Reuters



LONDON: 'Remain' supporters gather on Park Lane in London, before marching to Parliament Square to show their support for the European Union in the wake of the referendum decision for Britain to leave the EU, known as 'Brexit'. — AP



SWANSEA SIGN FER ON PERMANENT DEAL

**SWANSEA:** Swansea City completed the signing of Dutch midfielder Leroy Fer from Queens Park Rangers on a permanent deal yesterday for an undisclosed fee. The Netherlands international impressed head coach Francesco Guidolin while on loan at the Liberty Stadium last season. The Welsh outfit are his third club in English football, after QPR and Norwich City. "I'm very happy, from the first minute I felt at home," he told the club's website. "We did very good in the second half of the season. "If we play like that, we can aim for higher, and that's what we want. Hopefully some new strong players (will) come in to help us. "It makes it easier for me as well, if a coach wants you. (Guidolin) was surprised (at my ability), he said." The 26-year-old was relegated from the Premier League at both Carrow Road and Loftus Road, but last season he helped Swansea recover from a poor start to the campaign to secure safety. He scored eight goals in 50 QPR appearances, and has played for the Netherlands 11 times. — AFP



BERLUSCONI READY TO SELL AC MILAN TO CHINESE INVESTOR

**MILAN:** Italy's billionaire former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi said yesterday he was ready to sell AC Milan to a Chinese investor as long as 400 million euros are invested in the struggling Serie A giants over two years. "I gave up all claims to the price, I accepted what was offered to me, which does not even take into account the importance of the brand," Berlusconi said. The 79-year-old media mogul did not name the investor but said it was a "Chinese company with public capital". "I demanded the new owners commit to invest at least 400 million euros (about \$450 million) in AC Milan over the next two years," he told reporters on his release from hospital after open-heart surgery. He had initially hoped to keep the fallen seven-time European champions "in Italian hands" but in May the club said Berlusconi's holding company Fininvest had begun serious negotiations with a Chinese consortium. The takeover would see AC Milan become the second Milan club, after Inter Milan, to be sold to Asian owners. Inter was taken over by Indonesian businessman Erick Thohir in November 2014. — AFP

UEFA NOT HAPPY ABOUT BALE DAUGHTER ON PITCH

**PARIS:** UEFA are not happy with Gareth Bale and other Wales players parading their children on the Euro 2016 pitch in Paris after their last 16 win over Northern Ireland. "It is always cute when the kids are there," said UEFA operations director Martin Kallen. "But it is a European Championship not a family party." Bale hugging his daughter Alba on the Parc des Princes pitch after the 1-0 win over Northern Ireland became one of the images of Euro 2016 after. Other players also had their children on the pitch. "We are not 100 percent against it, but we are cautious. We have to guarantee security," Kallen said. "There should be a certain order. There are also certain safety issues behind it. "Small kids five, six years old. If something happens what do you do," said the Swiss official, who said there would be problems if there was a pitch invasion. "The stadium is not the safest place. You have to have that under control." — AFP



MLB results/standings

Milwaukee 1, Washington 0; Tampa Bay 4, LA Angels 2; Boston 12, Texas 5; Chicago White Sox 8, NY Yankees 2; Oakland 3, Minnesota 1; Houston 2, Seattle 1; Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 2; Chicago Cubs 10, Cincinnati 4; Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 2; San Francisco 3, Colorado 1; NY Mets 8, Miami 6; Toronto 6, Kansas City 2.

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	47	35	.573	-
Boston	45	37	.549	2
Toronto	46	39	.541	2.5
NY Yankees	40	42	.488	7
Tampa Bay	34	48	.415	13

Central Division

Cleveland	50	32	.610	-
Detroit	44	39	.530	6.5
Kansas City	43	39	.524	7
Chicago White Sox	43	40	.518	7.5
Minnesota	27	55	.329	23

Western Division

Texas	52	32	.619	-
Houston	44	39	.530	7.5
Seattle	43	40	.518	8.5
Oakland	36	47	.434	15.5
LA Angels	33	50	.398	18.5

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	50	34	.595	-
NY Mets	45	37	.549	4
Miami	43	40	.518	6.5
Philadelphia	38	46	.452	12
Atlanta	28	55	.337	21.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	52	30	.634	-
St. Louis	43	39	.524	9
Pittsburgh	42	41	.506	10.5
Milwaukee	36	46	.439	16
Cincinnati	30	54	.357	23

Western Division

San Francisco	53	32	.624	-
LA Dodgers	48	37	.565	5
Colorado	37	45	.451	14.5
Arizona	37	48	.435	16
San Diego	36	47	.434	16



TORONTO: Toronto Blue Jays' Edwin Encarnacion, left, gets tagged out on a slide to home plate by Kansas City Royals' Salvador Perez during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Toronto, Monday. — AP

SANCHEZ WINS 8TH DECISION, BLUE JAYS TOP ROYALS 6-2

**KANSAS CITY:** Aaron Sanchez pitched eight one-run innings, Darwin Barney and Josh Donaldson hit two-run singles in a five-run seventh inning and the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Kansas City Royals 6-2 on Monday night. Sanchez has not lost since April 11 held the Royals to three hits, including a home run by Kendrys Morales, one walk and struck out three as the Blue Jays (46-39) won their third straight game. Edinson Volquez allowed four hits, three walks and four runs in six-plus innings as the Royals (43-39) lost their second game in a row and dropped to 16-28

on the road. The right-hander struck out five and hit a batter.

CUBS 10, REDS 4

Kyle Hendricks scattered four hits and did not allow an earned run over 5 1/3 innings while Chicago teammate backed him with three home runs to snap a four-game losing streak in a victory over Cincinnati. Hendricks collected his third win in his last four starts while allowing four hits and one unearned run, walking one and striking out a pair. Addison Russell went 2-for-5 with three RBIs

and two runs, Willson Contreras was 2-for-4 with two runs scored while Jason Heyward went 2-or-4 with two RBIs.

BREWERS 1, NATIONALS 0

Junior Guerra allowed just two hits in 7 1/3 innings and Martin Maldonado hit a solo homer as Milwaukee beat Washington. Will Smith retired two batters in the eighth for the Brewers and closer Jeremy Jeffress, a Virginia native, pitched the ninth for his 22nd save as a light rain fell. The Brewers snapped a four-game losing streak while first-place Washington lost for just the second time in nine games.

ATHLETICS 3, TWINS 1

Oakland scored three runs in the seventh inning in a come-from-behind win over Minnesota. After being held scoreless through six innings, Oakland third baseman Danny Valencia opened the seventh with a double into the right-center field gap, advanced to third on a fielder's choice and scored on a single by Stephen Vogt. A broken bat bloop to shallow left by Billy Butler loaded the bases and two batters later, Coco Crisp singled to center, scoring a pair of runs for a 3-1 lead.

RAYS 4, ANGELS 2

Tampa Bay hasn't won often in the last three weeks, but they have had a surprisingly good chance when Matt Moore is pitching. Moore held Los Angeles to two runs in 6 2/3 innings, as the Rays won for just the third time in 19 games. The Angels have now lost 12 of 14 games. The Rays' bullpen, which had allowed runs in 17 of the last 18 games, got the final seven outs. Ryan Garton struck out Mike Trout and got C.J. Cron to pop out foul in the ninth, stranding two runners for his first career save.

ASTROS 2, MARINERS 1

Lance McCullers delivered a masterful performance coming off a missed turn in the rotation while George Springer supplied the offense in Houston's win. McCullers produced his best start of the season, working seven dominant innings in his first start since June 22. He allowed one run on five hits and one walk while matching his season high of 10 strikeouts. He retired 14 consecutive Mariners during the middle stretch of his outing and also danced around trouble in the first and seventh innings.

WHITE SOX 8, YANKEES 2

Tim Anderson and Dioner Navarro each hit two-run home runs, and Chicago pulled away

for the win. Anderson finished 2-for-4 with two runs scored and two RBIs. Todd Frazier went 3-for-3 with two doubles, two walks, two runs scored and an RBI as Chicago won its third consecutive game. White Sox right-hander James Shields limited the Yankees to two runs in six innings to win his second straight decision. Shields allowed five hits, walked two and struck out three.

RED SOX 12, RANGERS 5

Rick Porcello and Boston spotted heavy-hitting Texas four runs in the first inning and then came roaring back to drub the team with the best record in the American League. Porcello, who became Boston's first 10-game winner, shut down Texas for the rest of his six-inning outing. For the second straight day, all nine Red Sox starters had at least one hit as Boston collected a season-high 21 hits.

Sandy Leon ripped four hits, Brock Holt, Dustin Pedroia, Travis Shaw and Mookie Betts homered, Xander Bogaerts and Pedroia had three hits apiece and Hanley Ramirez and David Ortiz both stroked two doubles in the victory. The Red Sox have recorded 22 runs on 37 hits in two games.

PHILLIES 8, BRAVES 2

What was the coldest offense in the majors through the first two months of the year has suddenly become one of the hottest as Philadelphia's deluge continued at the expense of Atlanta rookie Joel De La Cruz. Jerad Eickhoff picked up a win for the fourth time in his last five decisions. It was one of the strongest outings of the season for the 26-year-old, who gave up just two runs on five hits while striking out eight in 7 2/3 innings. The Braves (28-55), who lost for the eighth time in the last 11 games, have the second-worst record in the majors, ahead of only Minnesota (27-55).

PIRATES 4, CARDINALS 2

Gregory Polanco accomplished a first and Pittsburgh is back over .500. Belting two homers in a game for the first time in his major league career, Polanco led Pittsburgh to its fifth straight win. With the Pirates trailing 1-0 in the top of the sixth, Polanco drilled a 2-1 pitch from starter Carlos Martinez 392 feet over the right-field wall. Polanco capped the scoring in the eighth by greeting reliever Seth Maness with his 12th homer of the year, a line drive that sliced inside the left-field foul pole.

GIANTS 3, ROCKIES 1

Jake Peavy recorded a win on July 4 for the first time in his 15-year career, limiting

Colorado to one run over 6 2/3 innings. Buster Posey and Angel Pagan hit home runs off Rockies' Tyler Anderson. The loss was the Rockies' sixth in a row.

METS 8, MARLINS 6

Yoenis Cespedes' two-run double with two outs in the eighth inning snapped a tie as New York overcame a six-run deficit to beat Miami at Citi Field. The Mets (45-37) trailed 6-0 in the fourth inning before storming back to earn their fifth straight win. The Marlins (43-40) have lost five of seven. Jerry Blevins earned the win by stranding a runner at third for the final out of the eighth. Right-hander Jeury Familia notched his 29th save despite allowing a hit and walk in the ninth.

INDIANS 5, TIGERS 3

Mike Napoli's two-run home run in the seventh inning broke a 3-3 tie and lifted Cleveland to a victory over Detroit at Progressive Field. With the win, Cleveland is 10-0 vs. Detroit this season. The American League Central Division-leading Indians extended their lead over the second-place Tigers to 6 1/2 games. The loss snaps Detroit's six-game winning streak. Reliever Jeff Manship (1-1) pitched 1 1/3 perfect innings to get the win and Cody Allen pitched the ninth to earn his 18th save.

PADRES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Derek Norris homered, doubled and drove in three runs to help lead San Diego past Arizona. Yangervis Solarte also homered, Matt Kemp doubled home a run and Ryan Schimpf added a pair of doubles for the Padres, who have won three of four. Norris left the game in the bottom of the eighth after he was hit on Brandon Drury's backswing. Luis Perdomo (3-3), allowed three earned runs—the fourth straight start in which he's given up three or more-over six-plus innings but earned his first win since June 15.

DODGERS 7, ORIOLES 5

Chase Utley registered three hits and drove in two runs as Los Angeles rallied for a win over Baltimore at Dodger Stadium. Yasiel Puig and Yasmani Grandal each hit solo home runs, and Kenley Jansen got his 25th save as the Dodgers used their fifth consecutive victory to remain five games behind the first-place San Francisco Giants in the National League West. Corey Seager went 2-for-5 to extend his hitting streak to 17 games, a career high and the National League's longest this year. — Reuters



SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco Giants outfielders, from left, Jarrett Parker, Angel Pagan, and Mac Williamson celebrate the 3-1 win over the Colorado Rockies after a baseball game Monday, in San Francisco. — AP



## BUTTON ACCEPTS BRITISH GP PODIUM WILL STAY A STEP TOO FAR

**LONDON:** Jenson Button has not stood on the British Grand Prix podium in 16 attempts and, heading into what could be his last chance on Sunday, accepts it may never happen.

The McLaren Formula One driver's best result on home soil is fourth-in 2004, 2010 and 2014. "We won't be fighting for a podium. There is another British guy (Mercedes's triple champion Lewis Hamilton) that will be, but I won't have that opportunity which is a

shame," the 36-year-old Button told reporters.

Whether he will get another chance, only time will tell. Out of contract at the end of the season, but linked to Williams on the paddock rumour mill, the 2009 world champion said he would not be treating the weekend as a farewell.

"There is no point thinking it might be my last because then I have to go through those emotions again if it

isn't my last," he said. "In a way it would be a shame if I didn't think of it as my last, and it was my last. But then again I don't want to go into the weekend thinking 'Oh, it is going to be my last' - and get to the end of the year and think 'I want to do another'."

Button has 15 wins to his credit and has won in Monaco, Spa and Suzuka among the classic circuits. He also has the biggest prize of all, won with Brawn GP, to console him. "Would I

rather have a world championship than win the British Grand Prix? Yes, of course. So, I have achieved my main target in Formula One," he said.

McLaren, a great team struggling to get back on top after their switch to Honda engines in 2015, have not won a race since 2012 and it has been more than two years since they celebrated a podium finish.

The former champions are improving, however, and Button started third

and finished sixth in Austria last weekend.

"I don't know if it is going to be my last British Grand Prix... all I know is that I will do my best with what I have available, and that is all I can do in front of the home crowd," he said.

"They have been so supportive since the start of my career in Formula One up until now, through the good years and the bad years, they have always been fantastic." — Reuters

## US PLAYER BANNED FOR LIFE IN S KOREA

**SEOUL:** A US-born basketball star accused of forging birth certificates was banned for life in South Korea yesterday, after she tried to qualify as a local to play in the domestic league.

Centre Chelsey Lee and her two agents are suspected of fabricating her and her father's birth certificates to suggest she had a South Korean grandmother.

Teams in the Women's Korean Basketball League (WKBL) are only allowed two foreign players, but international players with a Korean parent or grandparent are not included in the quota.

Following a board meeting Tuesday, WKBL Commissioner Shin Sun-woo said Lee will be suspended for life and her game records will be annulled. Lee's team, Bucheon KEB Hana Bank, finished second in the 2015-16 season but their records and ranking will also be nullified, Shin added.

Shin said the league will now scrap the

extra quota for overseas Korean players to prevent similar cases in the future. Bucheon KEB Hana Bank issued a public apology, vowing to take legal actions against Lee and her agents.

"We're very sorry," the team said, adding the club's owner and head coach will step down. Miami-born centre Lee, 26, won the league's rookie of the year honours in the 2015-16 season after playing a major role in Bucheon KEB Hana Bank reaching the championship series.

Lee had been recommended for South Korean citizenship by the Korean Basketball Association and the Korean Olympic Committee so that she could help South Korea qualify for this year's Olympic Games.

But some of the documents she provided raised suspicion, and following a months-long investigation prosecutors concluded the birth certificates were forged. —AFP

## HAMILTON PRAYING FOR REAL RACE AT SILVERSTONE

**LONDON:** Lewis Hamilton will head into his home British Grand Prix praying for the sake of the fans that angry Mercedes bosses continue to allow him and team mate Nico Rosberg to race each other freely.

The pair collided on the last lap in Austria on Sunday, with Mercedes team head Toto Wolff threatening to impose 'team orders'-making them hold position in the closing stages- after what he called a "brainless" accident. A 140,000-strong crowd is expected at Silverstone on Sunday with most cheering on Hamilton who won last year. "You could go to Silverstone and be told 'Don't move'. That would be the worst," Hamilton told reporters after winning Sunday's race while Rosberg limped home fourth in a damaged car and had his overall lead cut to 11 points. "I didn't come into this to be in that situation," added the triple Formula One world champion who said team orders went against all his racing values. "I will pray and hope that's not the situation, firstly for myself because that would take the joy of racing out and second for the fans because it will rob the fans of what they pay so much for," said Hamilton.

"They save up all year to go to the

Silverstone GP or whatever race it is. Team orders is not something that should deprive them."

Hamilton said real racing was the reason why fans were so passionate about the sport, spending hours in muddy campsites and handing over hard-earned cash to buy merchandise. "My fans feel what I'm feeling and it's why I have such a connection with them," he explained. The champion recognised emotions were running high but suggested "brainless" might not have been the best word for Wolff to use.

Hamilton also recalled the infamous 2002 Austrian Grand Prix where Ferrari's Brazilian driver Rubens Barrichello led all the way but was then ordered at the end to let Michael Schumacher win.

"I was disappointed as a fan back then and we never want to see team orders like that ever happen," he said. "The great thing is that Toto and (non-executive chairman) Niki (Lauda) have been great these past three years in allowing us to race.

"We're driving at 200-plus mph and you expect us to drive around and never, ever have a problem? I doubt it. So I hope that it doesn't change and we can continue to race." — Reuters



Lewis Hamilton



Kevin Durant

## DURANT LEAVES THUNDER, GIVING WARRIORS LOOK OF SUPER TEAM

**OKLAHOMA CITY:** Kevin Durant's decision to join the Warriors on Monday sent tremors through the NBA, and players and executives throughout the league immediately started to contemplate how the newest super team would alter the landscape. "That's crazy!!!! KD in GSW????? Wizards center Marcin Gortat tweeted. "(Are) they gonna score 200 points a game?"

The Warriors already were a super team before one of the league's most unstoppable scorers decided to leave Oklahoma City for the Bay Area. Golden State won the championship in 2015, rolled to a regular-season record 73 victories last season and came within one game of back-to-back titles when they lost to the Cleveland Cavaliers Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

Now they have added the player who nearly eliminated them a round earlier.

Though not everyone is anointing them next year's champions. "Everyone is so hyped up on the matchup problems on the offensive end? They still gotta come down the other end," Pistons All-Star center Andre Drummond tweeted. "Not a very big team." Durant's decision immediately rekindled the discussion about stars leaving teams to chase a championship elsewhere. Durant spent his first nine seasons in Oklahoma City.

### HEAD WEST

While there, he helped lead the Thunder to the Western Conference finals four times and to the NBA Finals in 2012, where they lost to the Heat, another super team formed when LeBron James and Chris Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami. Durant himself spoke out negatively about creating super teams when James made his decision in 2010.

But after the Thunder could never get to the top of the mountain with Durant, Russell Westbrook and Serge Ibaka - and even though they had the Warriors down 3-1 in the confer-

ence finals - Durant opted to head west.

"If you can't beat um, join um," Clippers forward Paul Pierce tweeted to tweak Durant. When James left Cleveland for Miami, stars such as Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley and

Magic Johnson were critical of the decision to join forces with players he had competed against. "There's no way, with hindsight, I would've ever called up Larry (Bird), called up Magic and said, 'Hey, look, let's get together and play on one team,'" Jordan said in 2010. "But that's ... things are different. I can't say that's a bad thing. It's an opportunity these kids have today. In all honesty, I was trying to beat those guys." Denver Nuggets forward Jusuf Nurkic was equally puzzled by Durant's decision.

"Somebody beat you! And you go there...?" Nurkic tweeted. "Superstar not doing that man."

### BIGGER ADVANTAGE

While Durant has never been too concerned by outside opinions, his decision may also have ramifications on the NBA's collective bargaining negotiations. During the last lockout, the owners pushed to make changes to the agreement so that teams, especially those in smaller markets, would have a bigger advantage in retaining players. Commissioner Adam Silver has said in the past that those changes were effective, but the influx of new money into the system this summer from the league's new \$24 billion television contract, and Stephen Curry's bargain contract that was negotiated when he was struggling with ankle injuries, conspired to give the Warriors enough wiggle room to spend \$54 million on Durant. The league and the players' union can opt out of the current CBA this year, and both sides have been negotiating to try to avoid another work stoppage.

One of the biggest talking points Silver has been making over the past six months is the league's continued push for more parity. "The

intention wasn't that in this system that teams could sign, without going above the tax, that many max player contracts and that many All-Stars," Silver said during All-Star weekend in Toronto. "So if you ask me from a league standpoint, we would prefer that our All-Stars be distributed around the league rather than having so many All-Stars in one market. But we'll see what happens this summer."

### IMPORTANT COGS

The summer is here, and so are the Warriors, who still have work to do.

The Heat went 2-2 in the finals during the James, Wade and Bosh era, including a loss to the underdog Dallas Mavericks in their first season together. When James went back to Cleveland to team up with Kevin Love and Kyrie Irving, the Cavaliers lost in the finals their first year before winning this season.

And everyone remembers the Los Angeles Lakers falling short both in 2003-04 - when Gary Payton and Karl Malone joined Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal to chase a title - and even more spectacularly in 2012-13 when Dwight Howard and Steve Nash came to town. This time appears to be different, with all four of Golden State's All-Stars aged 28 or younger and squarely in their prime. "Only problem there's only 1 ball," Jazz center Rudy Gobert tweeted. And only so much money, as odd as that sounds this summer.

So the Warriors have agreed to trade Andrew Bogut and will likely have to jettison Harrison Barnes - two important cogs for them the past two seasons - and will rely on several minimum salary veterans to fill out the roster for depth.

They will also face a crush of attention and many hoping they fail. Warriors forward Draymond Green no doubt understands this, and got straight to the point with Durant in his first message to him on Twitter: "Block out the noise." — AP

## SPRINTERS PLAN TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST CAVENDISH

**SAUMUR:** Germany's top two sprinters have been left smarting ahead of yesterday's fourth stage of the Tour de France. Briton Mark Cavendish has dominated the sprints so far, winning the first and third stages ahead of Marcel Kittel and Andre Greipel respectively. It's been a remarkable turnaround for the 31-year-old Manxman, who had to play second fiddle to Kittel and Greipel over the previous three editions of the Grand Boucle.

But the Germans are gunning for their more illustrious rival ahead of Tuesday's 237km ride from Saumur to Limoges the longest stage of this year's Tour. Kittel's struggles-he finished seventh in Monday's sprint finish-are particularly baffling given he's widely considered to be the fastest man in the peloton. He won four stages in both 2013 and 2014 before missing last year's race due to injury and illness. But he says his Etixx team made mistakes in the run-in to Monday's finish on a slight uphill gradient.

"We learnt it the hard way today (Monday): if your timing sucks, you won't win a sprint in the Tour. Time to move on & concentrate on tomorrow (Tuesday)," Kittel wrote on Twitter after the third stage.

That stage was marked by a slow and pedestrian pace for the first five hours of racing before the peloton finally kicked into gear and chased down French breakaway pair Armino Fonseca and Thomas Voeckler. Greipel suggested on Twitter that the sprinters' teams wouldn't allow Tuesday's stage to get

so stale. "So @LeTour what I found out 2day. Sitting on the saddle for 6h is boring - riding to a finish with 196 fresh riders isn't that exciting," he complained. Greipel was edged out by barely an inch by Cavendish, who overhauled him at the last possible moment in yesterday's finish to claim a 28th Tour stage win, equalling the mark of Bernard Hinault in joint second on the all-time list. It will be another day to conserve energy and stay out of trouble for the overall contenders as the Tour continues to career south towards the big mountains.

Today's stage includes a lumpy finish that will probably shred the peloton, but on Tuesday there will almost certainly be a bunch sprint. Things have been going well for reigning Tour champion Chris Froome, who is fourth overall at just 14sec off race leader and yellow jersey wearer Peter Sagan.

"We're really happy with where we are with Chris. You can't control everything but we're pleased with the position at the moment," said Sky sports director Servais Knaben.

Froome's main rival Nairo Quintana is also well placed, two positions behind Froome but on the same time as the Briton. Both sprinted hard on Tuesday's stage to stay near the front and came home in 22nd and 23rd place respectively. But that drew criticism from Cavendish and Sagan, who accused the overall contenders of getting in the sprinters' way. —AFP



PARIS: Great Britain's Mark Cavendish rides during the 237 km fourth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Saumur and Limoges.— AFP



## ALI CENTURY BUILDS ON AMIR HAUL IN PAKISTAN OPENER

**TAUNTON:** Azhar Ali made an unbeaten century to strengthen Pakistan's position on the final day of their England tour opener against Somerset at Taunton on Tuesday. Ali (101 not out) and Asad Shafiq (69 not out) shared a stand of 138 in 30 overs as Pakistan made 236 for four declared in their second innings.

That left Somerset needing a huge total of 468 in 73 overs for victory.

But given Somerset had collapsed to 128 in their first innings, with left-arm paceman Mohammad Amir

taking an impressive three for 36, just holding out for a draw would be a fine achievement for the south-west county.

However, a sunny day at Taunton meant there was less swing in the air for Pakistan's pacemen than earlier in the match. Veteran Somerset opener Marcus Trescothick, the former England batsman, drove both Amir and Sohail Khan down the ground.

He also late cut Khan for a couple of fours. At lunch, Somerset were 47 for one with 40-year-old left-hander

Trescothick 37 not out. But first-class debutant Adam Hose was out off what became the last ball before lunch when he was lbw to leg-spinner Yasir Shah for eight after he missed a ball that went straight on.

Pakistan resumed Tuesday on 140 for four, with Ali 50 not out and Shafiq unbeaten on 26. Shafiq went on to complete a 76-ball fifty with seven fours. The pair were especially severe on Somerset's spinners on Tuesday, with the 31-year-old Ali hoisting teenager

Dom Bess for two huge sixes over long-on in successive balls. As soon as Ali had gone to his 26th first-class century, in 168 balls including 12 fours and two sixes, Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq declared.

Former spot-fixer Amir took three for 36 in 11 overs in Somerset's meagre first innings. Amir's exciting career came to a shuddering halt during a Lord's Test in 2010 when he and new-ball partner Mohammad Asif were caught bowling no-balls to order on the instructions of

captain Salman Butt as part of a tabloid newspaper sting operation.

All three received five-year bans from cricket and together with sports agent Mazhar Majeed, jail terms.

Amir, who served three months in an English young offenders institute, has only featured in the game's shorter formats since his return to Pakistan duty in January. But the 24-year-old left-armer is now back in England and could make his Test return in the first of a four-match series at Lord's on July 14. — AFP

## RUSSIA SAYS 68 ATHLETES ASKED TO COMPETE IN RIO

**MOSCOW:** Russia's athletics federation yesterday published a list of the 68 athletes who have formally requested to be allowed to compete at the Rio Olympics following a decision to suspend the track and field team.

The athletes have "met the criteria" to participate and were approved by Russian coaches, said the federation (ARAF), which last month had its suspension over allegations of institutionalised and pervasive doping upheld by athletics' ruling body the IAAF. "Every athlete has sent in an individual request to participate in the Olympic Games, for confirmation by the IAAF," ARAF said. The list includes track and field stars like world champion hurdler Sergey Shubenkov, long-jumper Darya Klishina, and pole vault tsarina Yelena Isinbayeva. The IAAF's ruling on June 17 said that Russia's athletics federation was up to two years away from returning to operational compliance with anti-doping requirements.

But it left the door ajar to some competitors not tainted by doping to compete as neutrals in Rio.

The International Olympic Committee

went a step further and said athletes who pass an individual test by the IAAF can compete under their nation's flag. The process through which athletes can "clearly and convincingly show that they are not tainted by the Russian system" as the IAAF demands before the Games begin is not entirely clear.

The World Anti-Doping Association (WADA) argues that tough measures are key to send a message that doping is unacceptable, while another investigation of Russian doping is still ongoing, with a report to be published next week. The WADA investigations were launched following allegations revealed by whistleblowing athlete Yuliya Stepanova last year, who said athletics officials supply banned substances to competitors in exchange for a share of athletes' fees.

Stepanova last Friday was declared eligible to compete under a neutral flag. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said Monday it will decide whether to overturn the ban against Russia's athletics programme by July 21, two weeks before the start of the Rio Games. — AFP

## BERIAN UPSET AS CRASH ROW FLARES AT US TRIALS

**EUGENE:** World indoor 800 meters champion Boris Berian suffered an upset defeat at the US Olympic trials here Monday as a dramatic collision in the women's two-lap race left two of the front-runners in tears.

Berian, a rising star in the 800m who was working in a McDonald's restaurant two years ago, was narrowly beaten in the final stretch at Hayward Field, finishing second behind Clayton Murphy.

Murphy came home in 1 minute 44.76 seconds, just ahead of Berian who was second in 1:44.92 with Charles Jock third in 1:45.48. All three runners booked their tickets to Rio in the performance. Despite the defeat Berian was delighted to have secured his Olympic qualification. "All this came so fast, it's just amazing right now," Berian said. Murphy's victory was the biggest racing surprise in the fourth day of action but was overshadowed by controversy in the women's 800m as a final-bend collision knocked Alysia Montano and Brenda Martinez out of contention. Montano, an outspoken voice in the fight against drugs and who has missed out on several medals at major championships after finishing behind Russian runners later found to have been doping, appeared to clip Martinez from behind with around 150 meters to go.

Martinez was knocked off balance and out of contention as Kate Grace raced clear to win in 1:59.10 ahead of Aje Wilson and Chrishuna Williams. Montano, 30, meanwhile had collapsed sobbing to the track before crossing the line in tears, as she digested the end of her dream of competing in Rio four years after she was denied a bronze at the 2012 London Games. Martinez said the incident had been triggered after she was knocked off balance from behind. "I don't know, I got clipped from behind. I just tried catching my fall but by then they were already making another gear,

another move and I just couldn't regain my composure," she told reporters, tears welling.

### BLAME GAME

Martinez's coach pointed the finger of blame at Montano-but the former Olympian denied responsibility.

"I don't know what happened to Brenda but she ended up tripping and I found myself jumping around her and then someone kicked me out from behind," Montano said.

"I didn't touch anyone. You can go back and watch the footage - she just jumps straight out."

Asked about the suggestion from Martinez's coach that she had been to blame for the incident, Montano replied: "He needs to go and watch the footage but if this is going to be a blame game I don't really want to play that right now." Reflecting on her emotional finish, Montano said she had realized her Olympic dream was over as soon as she crashed to the floor. "It doesn't really settle in at that moment in time. You just say 'Get up' and they're really far away. And your heart breaks," she said, choking back tears. Elsewhere Sunday in the men's pole vault, rising star Sam Kendrick comfortably qualified with a winning leap of 5.91 meters, well clear of his nearest rival Cale Simmons who failed at 5.70.

Kendricks, a second lieutenant in the US Army reserve, was unable to set what would have been a world leading best with three failures at 6.00. The 23-year-old from Mississippi has emerged as the nearest rival to France's Renaud Lavillenie, the reigning Olympic champion, who edged Kendrick into silver at the World Indoor Championships in March.

In the day's other final, Cyrus Hostetler won the javelin with a throw of 83.24m. Curtis Thompson was second with 82.88m and Riley Dolezal third. — AFP



**EUGENE:** Alysia Montano falls to the track in the Women's 800 Meter Final during the 2016 US Olympic Track & Field Team Trials at Hayward Field yesterday in Eugene, Oregon. — AFP

## MONTANO RAILS AGAINST 'CORRUPT' IAAF AFTER MISSING RIO SPOT

**EUGENE:** A distraught Alysia Montano called her career "a farce" and branded the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) "a corrupt institution" after crashing out of the US Olympic trials on Monday.

The 800 metres runner, who believes she has been denied at least three global medals by dope cheats, had hoped this would be the year she finally made the Olympic podium. But with less than 100 metres to go in Monday's final she became entangled with Brenda Martinez and fell to the track, eventually finishing dead last.

That ended any hope of her going to Rio since only the top three finishers in the cut-throat trials advance. Tears flowed from the 30-year-old defending US champion as she spoke to reporters and the agony only intensified after she was asked why this had been such an emotional year. "I'm missing three medals in like

eight years of my life as a professional runner," said Montano, who believes she lost medals because of cheating rivals at the 2011 and 2013 world championships.

Fifth at the 2012 Olympics, Montano has since seen both winner Mariya Savinova and bronze medallist Ekaterina Poistogova, both Russians, accused of doping by a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report.

"My entire professional career has been a farce basically," said the emotional Montano. "Now everyone is talking about the Russians not running in the Olympics but they are missing the whole point that the IAAF is a corrupt institution which is still running the game for us professional athletes." The IAAF was not immediately available for comment. The former president of the sport's global governing body, Lamine Diack, has been accused by French investigators

of receiving over 1 million euros (\$1.09 million) in bribes to cover up positive doping tests.

Diack's son Papa Massata Diack, a former IAAF consultant also embroiled in the case, has denied any involvement in bribery or corruption and says his father is also innocent. The IAAF has also called for Russian athletes to be banned from the Rio Games after a WADA report unearthed what it alleged was evidence of systematic state-sponsored doping. Emotionally, it had all been difficult to cope with as she chased a spot in Rio, Montano said.

"Trying not to take that anger with me to today and still try to be in the sport, knowing that who's been running the show have been using us all along. That's why it was an emotional struggle for me," Montano said. "And I made it all the way to the final, with all that emotional baggage." — Reuters

## SOUTH KOREAN ARCHERS TARGET MORE GOLD IN RIO

**SEOUL:** Ki Bo-bae is under no illusions about the pressure she will face in Rio as she bids to become the first archer to defend an individual Olympic title but after shooting more than 500 arrows a day in training the South Korean is ready for the challenge.

Archery has been a gold mine for Korea at the Olympics with the country's athletes hogging 19 of the 36 titles up for grabs since the sport returned in its modern format in 1972. The strong performance of the archery team, who have won at least two golds at each Games since 1988, has helped the Koreans to punch above their weight in the overall medals table. With that success has come expectation, Ki told Reuters. "Previous Korean archery teams have left a legacy with their great achievements and for many South Koreans when they think of the Olympics they remember how successful our archers have been," she said.

"So there is a bit of pressure weighing on our shoulders in that regard. But we have to think positive and the only way to overcome that pressure is through training." Training is something the Koreans take very seriously. Still sporting nasty sunburn from a practice session on Mount Halla on Korea's Jeju Island, Ki loosed arrows with frightening accuracy at the target as torrential rain hammered down at the Taeneung national training centre in Seoul. If Ki was distracted by the rain she did not show it. Cameras flashed, telephones rang, the media jostled for position but still she did not flinch.

Hardly surprising, though, given that the team practised at a baseball stadium last weekend before a domestic league game in order to get used to crowd noise.

Such has been the success of Korean archers that their coaches are in high demand around the world, which has gone some way to levelling the playing field.

"It's true that the average level of technique and skills have gone up but Asian ath-

letes are still head and shoulders above everyone else," said Ki.

### ABSENT STARS?

While Korea are confident of getting golds in archery as well as shooting, judo and taekwondo, two of their biggest stars may not be on the plane to Rio. Olympic vault champion Yang Hak-seon missed two selection trials due to a torn Achilles but a gymnastics official said on Tuesday they would hold three more trials in the hope that he would be fit enough to try to claim a place on their five-man team.

The situation regarding swimmer Park Tae-hwan remains in the hands of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). Park, the first Korean to win an Olympic swimming medal

when he won the 400 metres freestyle gold in Beijing, completed an 18-month doping ban imposed by world governing body FINA in March. However, as per Korea Olympic Committee regulations, he was then subject to an additional three-year ban from the day the FINA suspension expired.

Park took his case to the CAS and filed an injunction with a local court, which ruled he should be eligible for selection. "The opinion from CAS has not come out yet," national Olympic Committee President Kim Jung-haeng said at a news conference. "We would need to respect both the ruling from the Seoul Eastern District Court and also the CAS ruling." — Reuters



**EUGENE:** Clayton Murphy, left, winner, and Boris Berian, in second place, celebrate after men's 800-meter final at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials, Monday, in Eugene Ore. — AP



**SEOUL:** South Korean archery national team member Ki Bo-bae, a 2012 London Olympic gold medalist, prepares to shoot during a media day for the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympic Summer games at the Korean National Training Center in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday. The 2016 Olympic Summer games will be held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil from Aug 5 to Aug 21. — AP



## STEPANOVA 'VERY WELCOME' AT EUROPEAN CHAMPS: HANSEN

**AMSTERDAM:** Doping cheat-turned-whistle blower Yuliya Stepanova is "very welcome" at the European Athletics Championships, track and field's continental chief insisted yesterday.

Stepanova received a two-year ban from the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) in 2013 after abnormalities showed up in her biological passport.

But in 2014, she and her husband Vitaly Stepanov, who had worked at the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), appeared in a German television documentary as whistle blowers of widespread doping fraud in the Russian sports system.

Following the startling revelations, which have since plunged the IAAF into its worst-ever crisis and seen Russia banned, the Stepanovs left Moscow for

Germany and have since settled in the United States.

The IAAF Doping Review Board unanimously accepted Stepanova's application, "seeking exceptional eligibility, to compete in international competition as a neutral athlete."

She will now make her controversial return to competition at the Euros in Amsterdam, with round one of the women's 800m scheduled for Wednesday.

"She has been cleared by the IAAF taskforce to be able to compete if she was cleared by the anti-doping review board," European Athletics president Svein Arne Hansen told reporters Tuesday.

"She's a symbol to the clean athletes. With her brave statements and brave actions, she's really going out there to protect our sport."

"We are happy to see her here. She is treated like

every other athlete, there's nothing special.

"She's very welcome because she's done a great job for the sport," Hansen said of the 30-year-old who has been vilified in her native Russia, with critics also rounding on the IAAF for seemingly rewarding a former doping cheat.

The IAAF banned the Russian athletics federation from international competition in November, but 68 athletes have formally requested to be allowed to compete at the Rio Olympics under special criteria.

Hansen hinted he would be more than willing to accept Russian athletes in Amsterdam should they be cleared by the IAAF.

"The IAAF doping review board are still working very hard," he said.

"If they clear some athletes tonight or tomorrow

morning, we're very happy to see them at the European championships. "Clean athletes are always welcome." But France's Renelle Lamotte, the leading European woman over 800m this season with a best of 1:58.01, said that she did not agree with Stepanova's return to competition.

"I am against the fact that athletes who once doped can come back. Whether they denounced the system or not, it's an injustice," she said.

French federation president and IAAF Council member Bernard Amsalem, however, praised Stepanova as a "courageous woman who dared to speak out." "She's a symbol of the fight against doping, something to which athletics is totally committed, and an example other sports would do well to follow." — AFP



OMAHA: (L-R) Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky of the United States celebrate during Day Eight of the 2016 US Olympic Team Swimming Trials at CenturyLink Center on Monday in Omaha, Nebraska. — AFP

## US SWIM TRIALS CLOSE WITH NO WORLD RECORDS, RIO GAMES NEXT

**OMAHA:** The US Olympic swim team has a history of improving its times from the trials to the games. The Americans are counting on it happening again next month in Rio after not setting a single world record during the eight-day selection meet.

Led by Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky, the US still boasts the most powerful swim team in the world. But other countries have improved since four years ago in London and Phelps knows he's got to be much better by the time the Rio Games begin.

Clearly, there's cause for concern. Many of the times swum in Omaha were slower than the 2012 trials, where no world records were set. Ryan Lochte and Missy Franklin struck this time around and they'll be joined by 29 rookies on the team, one more than in London.

"We're going to have to improve for sure," David Marsh, head coach of the US women's team, said Sunday. Phelps has said he wants to swim another personal best at least once before he retires after Rio. He was faster at last year's summer nationals where he swam times that would have won medals at the world championships in Russia.

"It's been 2009 since I've done a best time," he

said. "It's frustrating to not be able to go the same time or faster than I did last year, especially because I think I'm in better shape than I was last year."

Phelps joked that if Bowman doesn't have a plan to make him faster he'll have to fire the only coach he's had his entire career. "His times this week were mediocre, and I'm crystal clear on what to do," said Bowman, who will guide the US men in Rio.

## EXPECTATIONS

Phelps qualified in three individual events, Ledecky and newcomer Maya DiRado made it in three each, and Franklin will swim two. Ledecky carries huge expectations into her second Olympics. In January, she lowered her own world mark in the 800-meter freestyle at a meet in Austin, Texas, where she set world-leading times in the 200 and 400 freestyles. She'll try to become the first woman since American Debbie Meyers at the 1968 Mexico City Games to sweep the 200, 400 and 800 free.

"I'm just going to focus on my racing and what my goals are, and anybody else's expectations don't really mean that much to me," Ledecky said.

The average age of the men's team is 23.9 years,

with Anthony Ervin the oldest at 35. The women's team averages 22.3 years, with Ledecky the youngest at 19 just as she was in 2012.

Several stalwarts of the US team failed to punch tickets to Rio, including Natalie Coughlin, Tyler Clary, Matt Grevers, Cullen Jones and Jessica Hardy. All of them medaled in London, where the team won a leading 31 medals, including 18 golds.

"It's challenging being at trials and being able to make the transition from here to the games," Phelps said. "You got to be ready when the lights come on and if you're not, you could fall short by a hundredth or a few hundredths, and that's the tough part."

Heading to his fifth and last Olympics at 31, Phelps appears more willing than he has in the past to share his experience and expertise with his younger teammates. He certainly has more time, with eight events no longer on his schedule.

"If I can do anything to help the rookies, I'm all for it," he said. "Just being able to help them just kind of stay in their relaxed zone, not get worked up because it is the Olympics. It's just another meet, you know?" — AP

## JAEGER, WEITZEIL WIN FINAL 2 RACES OF US OLYMPIC TRIALS

**OMAHA:** Connor Jaeger had to swim nearly a mile to earn another race at the Olympics. Abbey Weitzeil claimed her second individual event in Rio with a frantic dash from one end of the pool to the other.

The final night of the US Olympic swimming trials came down to the long and short of it, a pair of races that couldn't provide more of a contrast. Jaeger used a powerful finishing kick to pull away from Jordan Wilimovsky in the 1,500-meter freestyle Sunday night, while Weitzeil claimed victory in the 50 free just ahead of Simone Manuel.

The metric mile was a two-man race all the way. By the end, no one was within a half-lap of the leaders. Jaeger got a strong kick off the next-to-last wall and began to get some separation on his only challenger. Pulling away on the final lap, he finished in 14 minutes, 47.61 seconds.

"He's the fastest American ever, so it's fun to just try and hang with him as far as I can," said Wilimovsky, who touched in 14:49.19 - more than 17 seconds ahead of third-place finisher Michael McBroom.

Jaeger and Wilimovsky had already locked up their berths in Rio before they dove in the pool. Jaeger also won the 400 free, while Wilimovsky had earned a spot for the U.S. in the open-water event

at Rio. Now, he'll become the first U.S. swimmer to compete in both the pool and the ocean at the same Olympics.

"It's really, really cool," Wilimovsky said. "Obviously open water has only been around (at the Olympics) since 2008, so it's not that old." Jaeger won a silver medal in the 1,500 at last year's world championships. Four years ago, he finished sixth in the event at the London Olympics.

"We're going to have to be better in Rio," said Jaeger, who was more than 6 seconds off his personal-best time.

The 50 free was a carbon copy of the 100 free. Weitzeil won in 24.28 seconds and Manuel was next at 24.33 - the same 1-2 finish they had in the two-lap race. Madison Kennedy missed out on a trip to Rio by 15-hundredths of a second.

"I'm super stoked," Weitzeil said. "I came to this meet in 2012 as a 16-year-old just making the cuts, just came to participate. To go from then to now in four years, winning events that I was thinking about during that time, it's just amazing. It hasn't set in what I've actually done."

Four other swimmers who already earned spots on the Olympic team were farther back.

Olivia Smoliga finished fourth, while Dana Vollmer, Lia Neal and Amanda Weir brought up the back of the pack. — AP



OMAHA: Connor Jaeger of the United States competes in a heat for the Men's 1500 Meter Freestyle during Day Seven of the 2016 US Olympic Team Swimming Trials at CenturyLink Center on Monday in Omaha, Nebraska. — AFP

## ANNA MEARES ON TRACK FOR MORE RIO GLORY

**MELBOURNE:** The turn of the Olympic cycle has ushered in a new generation of riders plotting to overthrow track queen Anna Meares, but the seasoned Australian is confident of being in top gear to defend her sprint title at the Rio de Janeiro Games.

The double Olympic champion was confirmed in Australia's formidable track team for Rio yesterday and will become only the third woman to compete in the velodrome at four Olympics.

Having medalled at Athens, Beijing and London, Meares will saddle up a month before her 33rd birthday, her place in the pantheon of Olympic cycling greats already assured.

But four years after her dramatic London win over champion sprinter Victoria Pendleton signalled the end of one era, she is determined to see off the next wave of challengers.

"I feel nerves and I think that's normal," the 11-

times world champion told Reuters in an interview yesterday. "I think it reiterates to me (the Olympics) are still important even after all these years. Two-thirds of my life I've dedicated to being a cyclist."

"I've had a lot of time to deal with the shift of Victoria Pendleton and another eight or nine women who have retired since London."

"There was a big adjustment as a new influx of younger girls came through and many are still coached by the same coaches who worked with the previous generation."

"So there is a combination of new, young bodies and old coaching heads which has made it very difficult in the years between London and Rio."

"That said, that's what keeps me interested and intrigued in the sport. It's never stagnant and changes with the strengths and weaknesses that come through with new girls and the older coaching

philosophies that have to adapt and evolve with each Olympic cycle."

## SOLACE IN ROUTINE

The interval between the Games has been an emotional roller-coaster for the Australian, whose marriage to her high-school sweetheart fell apart in 2014.

She was devastated by the break-up and contemplated retiring from the sport before finding solace in the familiar routines of training and competition.

She clinched her 11th world title with victory in the keirin at Paris last year but has not had it all her way since.

German Kristina Vogel, who won the team sprint gold at the London Olympics, took her keirin title at the world championships in the same velodrome in March, and the Australian failed to make the podium in the individual sprint won by China's Zhong Tianshi.

Meares, however, has a veteran's sense of her body's capabilities and is confident she will be in peak form when she rolls into the Barra Velodrome next month. "I know I've got a big task ahead of me and I know where I'm tracking," said Meares, who won her first Olympic gold at the age of 20 in the now-defunct 500 metres time trial at Athens.

"I know what my goals were at the start of the campaign, where my analysis and re-analysis have put me at this point in time."

"And I also trust my coach Gary West and his support team and the plan we have going into Rio to be at my best for that competition."

Meares has set goals for Rio, where she will compete in the keirin, the individual sprint and the team sprint with Stephanie Morton. But as in London four years ago, she is keeping them to herself.

"My coach and my manager are the only ones that know them," she said.

"That keeps me in some control of analysing what my results are like in Rio because I understand there's the pressure and expectation for me to perform and deliver like I always have done." — Reuters



Anna Meares

## FIFA: MORE SECURITY FOR WORLD CUP AFTER EURO 2016 VIOLENCE

**MOSCOW:** Extra security measures are planned for the 2018 World Cup in Russia following hooligan violence at the European Championship, new FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura said yesterday.

Russian fans, some equipped with martial arts gear, clashed with English supporters in Marseille city center and inside the stadium during the tournament in France.

Asked during her first visit to Moscow about fears that such violence could be repeated in Russia, Samoura said "there will be additional measures," including known troublemakers being banned from stadiums.

Samoura said FIFA observers attended all host cities during the European Championship, and their recommendations would form a key part of future security policy.

"All these lessons learned will be used not only here but also in the future by FIFA in any country where we identify a high risk of security," she said.

Samoura did not provide specifics of the new measures or say whether any FIFA observers were present for the violence in Marseille.

"Security during the World Cup in the Russian Federation is guaranteed by the government," Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko said. "The security will be unobtrusive, but serious."

It is not the first time security plans for the 2018 World Cup have been altered. Last year, organizers said there would be a greater focus on securing

fan zones from terrorism in the wake of attacks in Paris.

Russia has tightened its anti-hooligan measures in the run-up to the World Cup, introducing legislation to ban offenders from stadiums. An amendment to that law, signed this week by President Vladimir Putin, means blacklisted fans' names will be published by Russian police.

Russian authorities provided just 30 names of suspected troublemakers to French police ahead of Euro 2016, against 2,500 supplied by Germany.

However, Marseille authorities thanked Russian police for sharing intelligence which led to the convictions of three Russian fans for involvement in the Marseille violence and the deportation of 20 more.

Samoura announced the tightened security measures for the World Cup as FIFA revealed the ticket prices for the 2018 tournament.

The cheapest tickets for foreign fans at group stage games will rise more than 16 percent since 2014, with the new prices set at \$105 - a \$15 increase on the equivalent tickets in Brazil two years ago.

Tickets for the final cost between \$455 and \$1,100, and those for the opening game between \$220 and \$550. Russian residents can benefit from sharp discounts, with the cheapest tickets for the domestic audience selling for 1,280 rubles (\$20), roughly the same as those for local fans at the previous tournaments in Brazil and South Africa. — AP



## BRAZIL MEMORIES BUOY BATTERED GERMANY FOR FRANCE

**EVIAN:** Germany face hosts France in the Euro 2016 semi-finals tomorrow in the midst of an injury crisis, but buoyed by memories of their flooring of Brazil at the same stage of the 2014 World Cup.

The Marseille clash will be another test of Germany's mettle after their historic quarter-final defeat of Italy. Die Mannschaft are without three stars with defender Mats Hummels suspended, plus striker Mario Gomez and midfielder Sami Khedira injured.

Captain Bastian Schweinsteiger is highly doubtful with a knee strain, but nevertheless the world champions are relishing the French challenge. Joachim Loew has compared the situation to two years ago when Germany stunned hosts Brazil 7-1.

France's 5-2 hammering of minnows Iceland in the quarter-finals on Sunday

means the hosts come to Marseille with hopes high-game on, says Loew. "The majority of the people in the stadium will be behind France, the country is now full of this euphoria, this energy," said Germany's head coach.

"It's great when it's like this. In Brazil, it was just the same. There were 200 million behind the team and we coped well," he said with a heavy hint of understatement.

### MIDFIELD CHANGES

A scoreline similar to the sensational 7-1 drubbing is very unlikely, but the message from the German camp is clear-challenge accepted.

"France will have gained a lot of confidence from their victory, but they know, regardless of our personal situation, what

we can do. I'm looking forward to the game," said Loew. Thomas Mueller and Mario Goetze, who will replace Gomez, are likely to start up front in Marseille as Loew hinted at a 4-4-2 line-up, rather than the 3-5-2 which beat Italy.

But a new face is set to be seen in the middle. Either Emre Can of Liverpool or Borussia Dortmund's Julian Weigl is set to partner Toni Kroos in the defensive midfield with Khedira out and Schweinsteiger struggling. "We're going to have to make changes and find solutions," said Loew. I trust any of my players in the squad, but I won't play anyone who is not 100 percent fit." He was full of praise for France's star-studded attack of Olivier Giroud, Dimitri Payet and Antoine Griezmann, all of whom scored against Iceland. As it was against

Italy, who Germany had never previously beaten at a major tournament, this is another tie steeped in history, while France will want revenge.

### FRENCH REVENGE

Les Bleus lost to Germany in the 2014 World Cup quarter-finals at Rio de Janeiro's Maracana, thanks to Mats Hummels' first-half header. And France has never fully forgiven Germany for their penalty shoot-out defeat in the controversial semi-finals of the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

An epic 3-3 draw, with four goals scored in extra-time, came down to a penalty shoot-out which Germany won 5-4, but the match is remembered for a brutal incident.

France's Patrick Battiston was knocked unconscious, with two teeth missing and

three cracked ribs, after a collision with Germany goalkeeper Harald Schumacher.

Although no foul was given by the referee it did nothing for diplomatic relations between the European neighbours. Loew deflected any questions of the 1982 match, but talked up the current French team, who he believes will be harder to beat than Italy.

"France are harder to predict, they are more flexible," said Loew after their win over Iceland. "They had a few problems to get into the tournament, but you could see that the early goal freed them up and were 3-0 up at half-time.

"They will have almost a fanatical support behind them in Marseille and forwards in form, like Giroud, Griezmann and Payet. "I've always said they are amongst the favourites. I love games like this." — AFP

## WALES JIBES FIRE BALE FOR EURO SEMI-FINAL

**DINARD:** Gareth Bale will have the taunts of team-mates past and present echoing in his memory when he takes to the field for Wales in today's Euro 2016 semi-final against Portugal.

Bale saw five major tournaments come and go over the first 10 years of his career, but with Wales having ended their 58-year wait on the international sidelines, the 26-year-old is making up for lost time.

Chris Coleman's side have created a sensation by reaching the last four in France and it has given Bale reason to recall with a smile the jibes to which he was once subjected.

"I have had a lot of abuse over the years," the Real Madrid forward told reporters at the Wales media centre in Dinard, northwest France. "Just when we used to lose and when we were (ranked) 100th in the world.

You have nine weeks' holiday instead of two. "It is good to finally be in a major tournament, actually doing great things with our national team. It is great to be a part of." Should Bale reach the final, he could find himself facing Germany midfielder Toni Kroos, his Madrid team-mate, who took a dim view of Wales's chances prior to the tournament. "I remember Toni Kroos saying we'd only have three games. So it would be nice to meet him in the final," Bale said with a smile.

"It was a good laugh and a joke, a bit of banter. But we've obviously exceeded a lot of people's expectations. We understand that and we're just enjoying it now." Wales's stunning 3-1 victory over Belgium in the quarter-finals took the team into uncharted past their previous best major tournament showing of a

last-eight finish at the 1958 World Cup.

But Bale says that the atmosphere within the Wales camp is "exactly the same", with regular quizzes helping to prevent the players dwelling on the enormity of what they have achieved.

### DENMARK AND GREECE INSPIRATION

"We're still doing our quizzes," said Bale, who is on a quiz team with Chris Gunter, Joe Allen, Hal Robson-Kanu, Danny Ward and Ben Davies.

"We won again today. That is six in a row now. We're on fire!" The squad have also been watching as many games at the Euro as possible. Bale praised the unrated Iceland for their "amazing journey" to the quarter-finals, where they lost 5-2 to France. With Wales now flying the flag alone for the minor nations, Bale is drawing inspiration from Denmark and Greece, who defied expectations to win the European Championship in 1992 and 2004 respectively.

Having arrived in France after a second Champions League triumph with Madrid, Bale had his eyes on the final from the start-unlike some of his team-mates, who have had to hastily rearrange holiday and even wedding plans as Wales have voyaged deeper into the tournament.

"I fully believed that we could do something. That is why I booked my holiday for the 11th (the day after the final). I am not like the others," he said.

"I fully believed that we could do something. You see the fairytale of Greece and Denmark and stuff, and you think: 'Why can't we do it?'" Inevitably, Wednesday's game has been portrayed as a shootout between Bale and his Madrid team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo, who captains Portugal.

Former Wales midfielder Ryan Giggs, who has played with both players, entered the debate on Monday, telling CNN that on current form, he would want Bale in his team over the Portugal number seven. But Bale gives the comparisons short shrift. "It's irrelevant, to be honest. Everyone says it's me and Ronaldo, but it's Wales v Portugal," he said. "We could both not have a kick all game and a team will win, so it's really not about us. I'm sure the press will hype it up, but I know full well it's about us as a team." — AFP

## MOURINHO TARGETS GLORY AT MAN UNITED UNVEILING

**LONDON:** New Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho announced his return to English football yesterday by reminding the world that he is a proven winner who will tell his players to forget the past three years of under-achievement and instead target success.

In a news conference at Old Trafford before 25 camera crews from around the world, Mourinho covered a wide range of issues from transfer targets to the need for Wayne Rooney to continue playing as a striker and the departure of Ryan Giggs.

He seemed determined to deflect attention away from himself to "the biggest club in the world". The 53-year-old, who described himself as "the Special One" and then "the Happy One" during similar media conferences to announce his arrivals at Chelsea in 2004 and 2013, adopted a more serious and less showy approach yesterday.

"I want everything. I want to win matches, I want to play well. I want to score goals, I don't want to concede goals. I want everything," he said.

Improving on last year's fifth place would not be sufficient, he said, indicating that he intended to return United, who won the last of their 20 league titles in 2013, to their former position of dominance.

"There are some managers who won the title 10 years ago, some have not won a title ever. The last time I won the title was one year ago. So if I have something to prove, imagine the others.

"For Manchester United fans for so many years success was just routine but the last three years I want to forget. I will never be able to work without success. I feel a bit frustrated that I am not playing Champions League. I do not hide I chase Sir Alex (Ferguson's) records in the Champions League."

Turning to Rooney, Mourinho suggested the 30-year-old's future lay up front and not in midfield where England manager Roy Hodgson employed him in a failed experiment at the European Championship in France.

"In football there are many jobs but the most difficult to find is the guy who puts the ball in the back of the net. (Rooney) will never play 50 metres away from the goal. He will be a nine, 10, 9.5, not a six or an eight. You can tell me his pass is amaz-



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United's new Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho poses with a scarf on the pitch during a photocall at Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, northern England, yesterday. Jose Mourinho officially started work as Manchester United manager at the club's Carrington training base yesterday. The 53-year-old was appointed as United boss in May after the sacking of Dutchman Louis van Gaal. — AFP

ing but my pass is amazing too without pressure."

Mourinho, who was out of work for five months after being sacked by Chelsea, said former United manager Ferguson had offered him two pieces of advice on joining the club: to bring an umbrella to cope with the notorious Manchester weather and a bottle of wine for them to share.

The Portuguese also addressed the sudden departure of Giggs from the club after 29 years, denying that the decision had been down to him. "It's not my responsibility that Ryan is not in club. The job Ryan wanted was the manager's job and the club decided that was the job for me.

"Ryan wants to be a manager and made a decision, which was brave and honest. I would never stop him coming back, I would always say yes."

Mourinho bridled at suggestions he did not promote young players, saying he had promoted 49 players from academies, but

admitted he intended to sign another big-name player to bring to four the number of close-season signings at United.

"We decided four targets. From these targets, we have three. Until we don't have the fourth, we are still working hard. Myself and the structure. When we have the fourth, I will breathe."

United have already signed Villarreal defender Eric Bailly and PSG striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic while Dortmund midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan is on his way to the club. They have also been heavily linked with a 100-million-pound (\$131.37-million) move for Juventus's Paul Pogba, their former player, but Mourinho did not say if the Frenchman was a target.

United's first game under Mourinho will be against Borussia Dortmund in the International Champions Cup in Shanghai on July 22. Their Premier League season begins with a trip to Bournemouth on Aug. 13. — Reuters

**Matches on TV**  
(Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP	
<b>Portugal v Wales</b>	<b>22:00</b>
beIN MAX 2 HD	
beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
beIN MAX 1 HD	
beIN MAX 4 HD FR	

## BERDYCH BLASTS WIMBLEDON DUELLING IN THE DUSK

**LONDON:** Tomas Berdych fired a verbal volley at Wimbledon after being forced to play on into the twilight gloom then return yesterday to book his place in the quarter-finals.

The Czech 10th seed was locked at 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (10/8), 6-7 (9/11) with compatriot Jiri Vesely when their fourth round tie on Court Three was finally suspended on Monday.

Play finished a few minutes after the 9:19pm sunset in London and conditions were gloomy even before going into the lengthy tie-break. All other matches had been called off for the evening.

The pair returned for the final set yesterday, which 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Berdych won 6-3, claiming victory on his eighth match point.

"I can't really see. That's the fact. I was just asking to stop. When I ask, I've been told, 'It's too late, you have to finish that,'" he said of the fourth set tie break. "The referee tells you that the Hawk-Eye is not in operation anymore. I don't know why actually we have to play in those situations when a very accurate machine is not able to operate. I don't think the human eye can see better than that. That's another fact.

"I experienced this for a third time in a row. So I'm actually getting used to it."

Berdych asked if the match could be moved under the lights of the Centre Court roof, as has happened before with matches suspended due to darkness. Play can continue on Centre Court until 11:00pm.

But the frustrated Berdych said he had been literally

left in the dark. "I was asking for it. Especially when I've been playing for last couple of days consecutively. I just felt like there would be a chance to finish. But there was not really a clear answer why not," he said.

### PLAYER POWER CALL

Two years ago, Berdych was involved in the latest-ever finish on Wimbledon's outside courts, when he lost to Marin Cilic at 9:38pm on June 27, 2014 — a full 16 minutes after sunset. Berdych called for more player power in deciding whether to carry on in fading light.

"We should have definitely some word in that because we are the ones who are on the court. We are the ones that are performing," he said.

"The decisions are made by people who are sitting at the chair. That's a bit unfair in this sense." However, "when you feel that you can't really change any decision, it's really pointless to try."

Berdych next faces France's 22-year-old Lucas Pouille, the 32nd seed, in Wednesday's second match on Court One. It is only the second time the 30-year-old has reached the last eight since his run to the final six years ago. "I practiced with him one day before the tournament started. That's the only time we've spent on the court together.

"There are plenty of things to see about his game. That's what I'm going to do and prepare with my team," said the Czech number one. "Hopefully everything goes well, I can make the match done-and finally have a day off." — AFP



**WIMBLEDON:** Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych returns to Czech Republic's Jiri Vesely during their men's singles fourth round match on the ninth day of the 2016 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London. — AFP



# Sports

Durant leaves Thunder, giving Warriors look of super team



South Korean archers target more gold in Rio



WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2016

MOURINHO TARGETS GLORY AT MAN UNITED UNVEILING Page 19



WIMBLEDON: Germany's Angelique Kerber returns against Romania's Simona Halep during their women's singles quarter-final match on the ninth day of the 2016 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. — AFP

## VENUS, KERBER SET-UP WIMBLEDON S-FINAL CLASH

LONDON: Venus Williams is back in the semifinals of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in six years. Making another title run at the age of 36, the five-time Wimbledon champion beat Yaroslava

Shvedova 7-6 (5), 6-2 yesterday, advancing to the final four at the All England Club for the first time since 2009 and first time at any major since the 2010 US Open. "I love playing the game, I always have," the eighth-seeded Williams said. "When you're winning matches it makes it that much sweeter. I can't lie about that."

From 5-2 down in the tiebreaker, Williams ran off five straight points to take the first set, then rolled through the second set on No. 1 Court. She's one win away from returning to the Wimbledon final for the first time since 2009, where she lost to sister Serena, a six-time champion. "The wins and the losses they all lead to these big

moments," Venus said. "You can't always have this big moment. If you're Serena Williams, I guess that happens a lot. As Venus Williams, this is an awesome day."

Venus will next face No. 4 Angelique Kerber, the Australian Open champion who held off No 5 Simona Halep 7-5, 7-6 (2) in the first match on Centre Court, a defensive battle that featured 13 breaks of serve, including eight in a row in the first set.

Top-ranked Serena Williams was playing No. 21-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova on Centre Court in another quarterfinal. The winner will play either No. 19 Dominika Cibulkova or Elena Vesnina, who faced off on No. 1 Court.

In the completion of a fourth-round men's match suspended by darkness on Monday at one set apiece, No. 10 Tomas Berdych overcame Czech countryman Jiri Vesely 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (8), 6-7 (9), 6-3. Berdych, the 2010

Wimbledon runner-up, will play Lucas Pouille of France in Wednesday's men's quarterfinals.

### OLDEST PLAYER

Venus Williams, the oldest player in the women's field, has made a remarkable resurgence in her 19th appearance at Wimbledon. She was already the oldest player to advance to a Grand Slam quarterfinal since Martina Navratilova made it this far at Wimbledon in 1994 at the age of 37.

Venus won her first title at the All England Club in 2000, and then added titles in 2001, '05, '07 and '08, but has been slowed in recent years by Sjogren's syndrome, a condition that can cause joint pain and saps energy.

Yesterday Shvedova - a 96th-ranked player from Kazakhstan contesting her third Grand Slam quarterfinal - saved a set point against Williams with a forehand

winner while serving at 5-4 in the first set. Shvedova then went up 5-2 in the tiebreaker, but stalled as Williams rallied to take command.

"Oh wow," Venus said. "I mean, what a tough day on the court. The first set, I felt like I had so many opportunities, but then she would play so well. And even the tiebreaker, it seemed like she was

going to win it, and somehow walked out of that with the set. What a day it was against an opponent who was just on fire." Kerber has a 3-2 career edge against Williams, but they haven't faced each other since 2014. The German won in straight sets on grass at Wimbledon at the 2012 London Olympics "We've had a lot of great matches, she and I. We haven't played in a while," Williams said. "Clearly, she's had a great year, another great result in the Slam. I would love to be walking toward the final, and progress made today." — AP

## GULF CABLES CROWNED CHAMPIONS

### 37TH AL-ROUDHAN RAMADAN FUTSAL TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: The 37th Al-Roudhan Ramadan futsal tournament concluded on Monday under the patronage of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, which was held over the month of Ramadan, with the crowning of the Gulf Cables team after it defeated Kuwait International Bank in a shootout.

The match, that saw a large number of officials and fans attending, headed by National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, ended in a 3-3 draw after regular time.

Ghanem told journalists this prestigious tournament, that has a name dear to Kuwaitis, witnesses success year after year because of its organizers' keenness

to meet the wishes of its fans by attracting world stars in the world of futsal. He added that what distinguishes the tournament is the repute it enjoys and the fans' interaction with its activities, which is one of the most important factors of its success and continuity, and it has become the most important sports event to be held in Ramadan.

Sheikh Salman said he was honored to represent HH the Amir in the closing ceremony of this major tournament that has special attention from the Amir, and reminded of the efforts made by the organizing committee to ensure the success of this distinguished tournament, which has international status.

The tournament was held at Martyr Fahd Al-Ahmad Center in Daiya.



The victorious Gulf Cables.





# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2016

Twin crises expose Angola's failure to kick its oil habit

Page 22

DAMAC Properties introduces AKOYA Imagine development

Page 26



US factory orders fall, but rising order backlogs help

Pages 23

## GLOBAL ECONOMY: UNSETTLING FEELINGS

Page 25



LONDON: Bank of England governor Mark Carney leaves after speaking at a news conference at the Bank of England in London yesterday. — AP

# BOE TAKES STEPS TO MEET BREXIT CHALLENGE

## STERLING SKIDS TO NEW 31-YEAR LOW

**LONDON:** The Bank of England took steps to ensure British banks keep lending and insurers do not dump corporate bonds as it said the economic risks it warned of before the vote to leave the European Union had started to materialize.

Sterling fell to a fresh 31-year low against the US dollar, hit by the suspension of trading in British real estate funds run by major investment firms, and there were other new signs of weakness in the economy. The BoE, which is trying to offset the hit to the economy from the June 23 referendum result, said it would lower the amount of capital banks are required to hold in reserve, freeing up an extra 150 billion pounds (\$196 billion) for lending.

Governor Mark Carney said the Bank had warned in March that risks around the referendum posed the most significant near-term domestic risks to financial stability. "Some of those risks have begun to crystallise," he said. Finance minister George Osborne met the heads of top banks and said afterwards they had told him they were in good shape to cope with the turmoil caused by the vote's shock result.

"They report back that capital is strong, liquidity is strong, and we've got to make sure that lending is available to businesses... and they've assured me that it will be," he said.

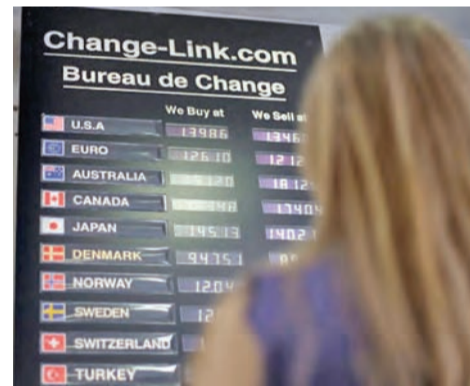
The BoE move reversed a decision it took earlier this year, when it started tightening screws on lenders because Britain's economy had

appeared set for more growth. "It means that three quarters of UK banks, accounting for 90 percent of the stock of UK lending, will immediately have greater flexibility to supply credit to UK households and firms," Carney said. Amid uncertainty about Osborne's future as finance minister following the announcement by Prime Minister David Cameron that he will resign, more responsibility has fallen on Carney and the BoE to steer Britain through its political crisis. Sterling resumed its fall, sinking more than 1.4 percent to below \$1.31 for the first time since September 1985. It was down 1.2 percent against the euro. Yields on 20 and 30-year British government bonds hit new lows.

### PROPERTY WORRIES

The slide in the value of the pound came after the fund arm of insurer Aviva said it had suspended its 1.8 billion-pound UK Property Trust, following a similar move on Monday by insurer Standard Life.

The BoE said foreign flows of capital into commercial real estate fell 50 percent in the first three months of 2016 and transactions fell further in the second quarter, an extreme example of concern among investors about the referendum. On the stock market, housebuilding firms were trading sharply lower, with shares in Berkeley Group, Barratt Development, Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon all down more than 5 percent. There



**LONDON:** Sterling hit a fresh 31-year low against the dollar yesterday as investors worried about the economic and financial fallout of Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

were other signs of economic weakness on Tuesday and the BoE said: "The current outlook for UK financial stability is challenging."

Business confidence fell sharply in the days after the vote to leave the EU, a survey showed, and retailer John Lewis said its sales grew more slowly last week. Furthermore, Britain's dominant services industry grew at its slowest pace in three years in June, according to a survey conducted mostly before the referendum. The BoE said it was closely monitoring investors' willingness to

fund Britain's large current account deficit after the shock outcome of the vote, as well as high levels of household debt and the subdued global economy. But there were also signs of calm. A BoE auction to provide banks with liquidity passed without an increase in demand and Britain sold government bonds without any problems. Carney said the fall in sterling should help ease the balance of payments shortfall but the pace of investment would also be important.

### BREXIT RISKS

The BoE's announcement on bank capital followed an unusually explicit comment by Carney last week that he believed the BoE would ease monetary policy soon too. "These measures are really about Carney aligning the Bank of England's guns in case the UK economy enters a downturn," Aberdeen Asset Management Investment Manager James Athey said. "He's not waiting for anything bad to happen, but rather acting in case it does." The BoE told banks in March to increase the amount they hold against cyclical upticks in the credit cycle.

Now, by putting the so-called counter-cyclical capital buffer back to zero until at least June 2017, banks' capital requirements will be eased by 5.7 billion pounds, potentially freeing up an extra 150 billion pounds for lending.

The BoE also gave insurers more time to adjust to new EU capital rules to avoid pressuring them

to dump corporate bonds and avoid high capital charges as interest rates plunge.

The BoE said it would keep a close eye on the buy-to-let mortgage sector, in case landlords sell as property prices fall, and on the rising numbers of vulnerable indebted households.

### STERLING SINKS

Sterling hit a fresh 31-year low against the dollar yesterday, as investors worried about the economic and financial fallout of Britain's vote to leave the European Union. The pound, the asset that has borne the brunt of market concerns about the economic impact of the vote, slid as much as 1.3 percent on Tuesday to hit \$1.3112, its lowest since September 1985. That left it around 12 percent below its levels before the June 23 referendum.

Sterling did briefly inch higher after Bank of England Governor Mark Carney, speaking following the publication of the Bank's semi-annual Financial Stability Report, said the fall in the currency should help ease the balance of payments shortfall, but it then gave up those gains to trade down 1.1 percent on the day by 1130 GMT at \$1.3143. "One of the most striking things for us is the fact that he (Carney) spoke quite openly about the need for sterling to adjust to act as a stabiliser, and that its weakness was necessary...so that was actually a positive spin," said ING currency strategist Viraj Patel. — Agencies

# SAUDI PETCHEM FIRMS MAY SEEK M&A AS PART OF EFFICIENCY DRIVE

**KHOBAR:** Saudi petrochemicals producers are looking for mergers and acquisitions to secure scale and raw materials as part of an efficiency drive to adjust their businesses to lower oil prices. The industry has developed substantially since the 1970s, fuelled by cheap gas feedstock provided by the Saudi government. Saudi Basic Industries Corp (SABIC), the kingdom's biggest petchems firm, is the world's fourth-largest by sales behind German BASF and Bayer and US Dow Chemical.

But a government decision in December to raise feedstock prices, has forced petchem firms to reconsider their business models, already hit by lower product prices due to cheap crude. Saudi companies have already invested abroad with SABIC signing a coal to chemicals project in China. Another reaction has been consideration of potential mergers and acquisitions. "We made a commitment at SABIC to improve our efficiency to absorb the additional cost for the feedstock and we will do that, but we still look for any other options that can position SABIC competitively for investment through acquisitions," the company's acting CEO Yousef al-Benyan, told Reuters.

The acquisitions route could create a number of benefits, including increased scale for businesses to drive efficiencies, sourcing raw materials, and expanding into new product ranges. Petrochemicals are the

second-largest contributor to Saudi's economy at 7-10 percent of GDP and has the potential to be a significant part of the kingdom's Vision 2030 economic plan.

"The way forward is to crack naphtha or to grow outside, and me and everybody are looking outside. By increasing gas prices, the opposite will happen, it is definitely not going to encourage investors to go further downstream," Mutlaq al-Morished, chief executive of National Industrialization Co (Tasnee) said.

### INEFFICIENCIES

It is the increase in feedstock prices that has jolted the Saudi petchems industry into action, as previously they could enjoy much improved margins thanks to subsidies. Remove the subsidies-the Saudi government has pledged to phase out "support" over the next five years-and high-priced oil and Saudi is competing on a level playing field.

"What is alarming in the Saudi petrochemical industry is its obsolete fixed assets and inefficiency, where large numbers of plants today are more than 20-30 years old and do not match parameters of fuel consumption and need to be replaced," said Mohammed Alomran, a member of the Saudi Economic Association. Most Saudi petchem firms are now undertaking restructuring programs to slash costs-Tasnee said it has cut 2,000 jobs, while SABIC is reviewing

some of its investments. It could help to switch to a more effective feedstock, but this is being inhibited by Saudi's shortage of gas. "I think the Saudi petchem industry is more constrained by new gas allocations than by price," said Sanjay Sharma vice President - Middle East and India at IHS Chemical Consulting.

Aramco plans to double gas output in a decade but it is unclear just how much will go to petrochemicals. One alternative is deriving petrochemicals directly from crude oil, with Aramco and SABIC announcing this week they were studying building an oil-to-chemicals (OTC) venture.

OTC will open up a number of new downstream product lines to Saudi producers, which fits with the kingdom's strategic goals of creating more higher-value products. But the technology is still developmental and there are question marks over how it would work commercially, Sadad Al-Husseini, a former top executive of Aramco, says.

Therefore, perhaps the most promising short-term solution would be to go down the M&A route for more feedstock supply. Aramco has indicated it would seek opportunities in global upstream gas, while SABIC has said in May it would look to North America for gas to fuel growth. However, it is unlikely to result in M&A within the Saudi sector due to cumbersome rules on combining listed companies. — Reuters

# SAUDI ARABIA'S OIL RESERVES: HOW BIG ARE THEY REALLY?

**LONDON:** "How much oil lies beneath the desert sands of Saudi Arabia and how long will it last before running out?" is a question that has intrigued and confounded oil experts for five decades. The kingdom has proven reserves of 266 billion barrels according to government estimates submitted to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries ("Annual Statistical Bulletin", OPEC, 2015).

If these numbers are correct, Saudi Arabia's reserves will last for another 70 years at the average production rate of 10.2 million barrels per day reported for 2015. But there is widespread scepticism about the official estimates, which were abruptly raised without explanation from 170 billion barrels in 1987 to 260 billion in 1989. Official reserves have remained constant every year since then at 260-265 billion barrels, even as the country has consumed or exported another 94 billion barrels ("Statistical Review of World Energy", BP, 2016). If the government data is accurate, the kingdom has managed the remarkable feat of exactly replacing each produced barrel with new discoveries or increased estimates of the amount recoverable from existing fields.

But most of the country's giant and super-giant oil fields were discovered between 1936 and 1970 and no comparable discoveries have been made since then. The implied increase in reserves must therefore come from enhanced estimates of the amount of oil recoverable from existing reservoirs.

The problem is that field-by-field production profiles and reserve estimates are state secrets known by only a small group of insid-

ers, making it impossible to test or verify them. Analyzing Saudi reserves and trying to predict when the kingdom's production will begin to decline has been a graveyard for the reputation of professional oil analysts.

The kingdom is currently producing more oil than ever before, defying predictions that its output would peak and then fall ("Twilight in the desert", Simmons, 2005).

### RESERVE ESTIMATES

The oil industry employs a number of different ways of classifying the amount of oil available for future production. The broadest category is the total amount of original oil in place (OoIP) in the reservoir formation before production began. In the 1970s, there was broad agreement that the OoIP of Saudi Arabia's discovered oil fields was around 530 billion barrels. The estimate for original oil in place was reported to the US Senate's Subcommittee on International Economic Policy by executives for Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco). Aramco was then jointly owned by four US oil companies (Exxon, Texaco, Socal and Mobil) as well as the government of Saudi Arabia so its owners and executives could be required to testify.

The subcommittee report, now nearly 40 years old, contains some of the last detailed information about Saudi reserves in the public domain ("The future of Saudi Arabian oil production", U.S. Senate, 1979). But not all of the original oil in place can be produced technically or profitably so most analysts focus on a series of narrower measures which look at the amount of technically and economically recoverable reserves. — Reuters



# OOREDOO ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS PREPAID CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the ninth weekly winners of its all new prepaid campaign "Every Recharge Wins." Seven of the winners were presented with the Samsung Galaxy mobile and 1 winner with the iPad Mini 3.

**The winners of this week are:**  
Darrell Castillo — Samsung Galaxy,  
Fawzia Jalali — Samsung Galaxy,  
Nand Sing — Samsung Galaxy,  
Mohammad Abdullah Hussain — Samsung Galaxy  
Ziaul Miah — Samsung Galaxy,  
Iqbal Fars — Samsung Galaxy,  
Saud Salim Al-Ajami — Samsung Galaxy,  
Teyah Faraj — iPad Mini 3.

Ooredoo's "Every Recharge Wins" campaign is the first of its kind, providing customers with chances to enter daily, weekly, and monthly draws, in addition to a grand draw for each KD1 recharge. Customers can win smart phones, tablets, cash prizes and a grand prize, which is the 2016 Toyota Prado V6. The more customers recharge their lines, the more chances they get to win.



In addition to the draws, customers will also be entitled to get free SMSs, internet, Nojoom points or minutes, instantly upon every recharge. To take part in these draws and win one of the great prizes, customers

merely need to recharge their prepaid lines. The more the customers recharge, the more chances they have to win. All winners will be contacted directly and an announcement with the winners' names will be made.



Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to

the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential.

# TWIN CRISES EXPOSE ANGOLA'S FAILURE TO KICK ITS OIL HABIT

## PUSH TO BROADEN ECONOMY TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

**LUANDA:** A month ago, a 17 ton shipment of bananas left Angola for Portugal in what state media heralded as a "first symbolic batch" in the resurgence of a farming sector wiped out by civil war.

But that war ended 14 years ago and since then Angola has overlooked agriculture, developing instead an addiction to oil income and the imports it buys. Now, with crude less than half its price of two years ago, the country appears to be grinding to a halt. Africa's top oil producer needs more than a container load of fruit to solve a financial and economic crisis - compounded by a public health crisis - that has laid bare the failings of the "diversification" mantra of Jose Eduardo dos Santos, its president for the last 37 years.

Oil wealth turned Angola into sub-Saharan Africa's third-biggest economy and one of the continent's few "upper-middle income" states. But beyond the high-rises on the capital's Dubai-style coastal promenade, the problems are plain to see. Cranes stand idle atop half-finished concrete office blocks in Luanda while piles of rubbish lie uncollected in the streets, a result of municipal budget cuts imposed this year to try to balance the books.

The squalor is a breeding ground for vermin, flies and disease, and health experts say it is no coincidence that a yellow fever epidemic that started in December in one of Luanda's vast slums has spread across the country and beyond, reaching even China.

"Luanda is dirty, disgusting," said 58-year-old businessman Antonio Bobbe, edging past a vagrant rummaging through a mound of trash. "The government doesn't do anything. There's no responsibility. You should see the rats. They're huge." On top of the filth, a shortage of hard currency makes doing business tough for anyone but the well-connected. "If you have friends, government friends, you can get dollars. If not, nothing," said Bobbe. "We hope that

the situation changes, but at the moment there's no light at the end of the tunnel."

### "ANGOLA RISING" NO MORE

Before independence from Portugal in 1974, Angola was a major exporter of fruit, coffee and sisal. Then two decades of conflict destroyed commercial agriculture and since peace returned in 2002 problems ranging from rural workers in sugar plantations to uprooted rural workers have frustrated efforts to revive it. While Angola has rebuilt an impressive infrastructure, getting any sort of productive industry off the ground has gone nowhere apart from the oil on which it relied to achieve breakneck economic growth.

It now churns out 1.8 million barrels a day from its offshore fields and is China's leading crude supplier. But those petro-dollars come at a price. Oil accounts for 40 percent of GDP, 70 percent of government revenues and 95 percent of foreign exchange income, leaving the nation of 25 million people dangerously exposed to fluctuations in world oil markets.

With crude languishing at \$50 a barrel, down from over \$100 in mid-2014, Angola is starved of dollars. Growth has slowed to 3 percent - almost a recession in local terms - while the national currency has collapsed and inflation in a country that imports almost everything hit an annual 29 percent in May. For dos Santos, a Soviet-trained oil engineer regarded as the pillar of post-war stability, the timing of the twin crises could not be worse. They have struck a year before an election and two years before what the 73-year-old president has said will be his retirement.

"The fragilities of the post-conflict state that dos Santos has built are being exposed," said Paula Roque, an Angola expert at Britain's Oxford University. "That whole rhetoric of 'Angola Rising' no

longer holds." Desperate, the government swallowed its pride and sought help from the World Health Organization against yellow fever but last week the International Monetary Fund said Luanda had ended talks about a broad financial rescue package. The government has not commented and finance minister Armando Manuel did not respond to requests for an interview.

### GOLDEN GOOSE

Besides yellow fever, few indicators are as telling as the kwanza currency, down more than 40 percent in the last year against the dollar at the official central bank rate. Available only to a lucky few individuals and firms, the rate is of little consequence to ordinary Angolans, who have to rely on a black market where the kwanza is worth as little as 570 to the dollar, less than a third its official value of 165.

"For people bringing in anything from the United States or South Africa it's very difficult," said 26-year-old Nadio Medina, who used to import used cars from South Africa. Now he sells eggs wholesale to pavement burger stalls. In an unusually frank admission last month, dos Santos admitted that bloated state oil company Sonangol, the central pillar of the economy and the source of nearly all its dollars, had not paid a cent into state coffers since January.

"Our country lives upon imports - imports for food, for raw materials to national manufacturers, for industry, agriculture, construction," he said. "We need to make other goods to export besides the oil. That is a strategic task."

Yet looking past the rhetoric, the only thing likely to change is Sonangol. Last month, dos Santos made his 43-year-old daughter Isabel chief executive, inviting cries of "supersonic nepotism" from anti-graft website Maka Angola, a rare dissenting voice in one of Africa's most politically-closed states.

Last year, for instance, 17 members of a Luanda book club were jailed for reading a volume described as a "blue-print for non-violent resistance to repressive regimes". Isabel dos Santos - said by Forbes magazine to be Africa's richest woman - insisted her appointment was everything to do with shaking up Sonangol and nothing to do with a dynastic dos Santos succession plan, as her father's opponents allege. "It's not because of politics. I was brought into this project because of my experience from the private business sector," she told Reuters in an interview that laid out her central aim: to produce more oil for less money.

Foreign oil firms Chevron and BP applauded her plans that include having Boston Consulting Group and PriceWaterhouseCoopers as advisers and stripping out Sonangol's real estate, banking and aviation units to focus on oil. To many, the overhaul is the clearest sign yet that President dos Santos really is preparing for retirement but not necessarily to make way for his daughter. — Reuters

# 'SWEETEST' TOWN CLINGS TO HERSHEY, ADDING TO TAKEOVER HURDLES

**HERSHEY, Pennsylvania:** The town of Hershey, Pennsylvania, calls itself the "sweetest place on earth." But if chocolate giant Hershey Co. considers any new acquisition offer in the coming weeks, it could face bitter opposition from some in its namesake town, where residents have prospered from its presence and tend to be fierce defenders of its independence.

The impact of such views goes beyond sentimental in the wake of Mondelez International Inc's \$23 billion bid to buy the company, which Hershey said on June 30 it had rejected. The town of Hershey, where the company's staunchest loyalists are referred to as "Hershey-ites", has real influence over corporate decisions.

The Hershey Trust, a \$12 billion school charity and the company's controlling shareholder, has become increasingly involved in the local community over the decades, and has appeared to listen to its concerns in the past. Pennsylvania's attorney general, who supervises the trust and can ask a court to block any deal, holds an elected office and is sensitive to local concerns, though the current office holder is not planning to seek reelection.

Pennsylvania law requires any charitable trust to consider, when selling an asset, the "special relationship of the asset and its economic impact as a principal business enterprise on the community" and the "special value" of its ties to the community.

Since the company was founded by Milton Hershey 122 years ago, residents here have fought many plans that would have changed Hershey Co. and, in turn, a community built around one of the world's most famous confectioners. Although the Hershey Trust rejected the bid by the maker of Oreos cookies, a spike in Hershey's share price above the bid of \$107 per share has indicated investors expect a new offer.

Many in the rural town of around 14,000 people voiced apprehension to Reuters about a sale, despite apparent reassurances from Mondelez.

The food and beverage multinational has offered to keep Hershey's name, move its headquarters to Hershey, and preserve jobs, according to people familiar with the matter who declined to be identified because Mondelez has not disclosed details of the bid. Most residents declined to give their full names, citing local sensitivities around discussing the firm, which employs 4,800 people here.

"I don't think they should sell the company," said a 76-year-old woman who gave her name as G.C., as she guided visitors through Hershey's Chocolate World, a sprawling candy store stocked with giant chocolate bars. "Hershey is Hershey. It should always be Milton Hershey. He did good for the community," said the woman, who has worked at Chocolate World for eight years.

### "IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HERSHEY"

A 3.5-hour train ride from New York, Hershey stretches out across verdant fields between delectably named streets such as Chocolate Avenue and Cocoa Avenue. Between well tended lawns and street lamps shaped like the popular Hershey's Kisses Chocolate, Hershey is dotted with landmarks from a theatre to a cemetery that are tied to the confectioner. Residents point to houses built by Milton Hershey for his factory workers and extol the "Hershey legacy", where a successful business looks after the people, the way Hershey did at the height of the Great Depression in the 1930s by embarking on a construction spree in town to create jobs. House prices and income levels in Hershey are substantially higher compared to neighboring towns in Pennsylvania, according to government data. — Reuters



# UAE'S UNITED ARAB BANK SIGNS \$150M 2-YR LOAN

**DUBAI:** United Arab Bank (UAB), a United Arab Emirates-based lender, has secured a \$150 million loan of two years duration, sources aware of the matter said yesterday.

The transaction is the latest loan raised by a regional bank as liquidity comes under pressure from lower oil prices and a weaker economy. UAB began a marketing period for the loan in May, saying at the time that the cash would be used for general corporate purposes and prepayment of an existing syndicated facility.

Bahrain's Bank ABC, Germany's Commerzbank and UAE's Emirates NBD arranged the deal, which was closed at the end of June, according to three sources aware of the matter.

Four additional banks joined the transaction during the marketing phase, two of the sources said: Banco Popular Espanol, Banka Kombetare Tregtare, Commercial Bank of Qatar and Habib Bank. UAB did not immediately respond to a request for comment. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.966
Indian Rupees	4.492
Pakistani Rupees	2.891
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.069
Nepali Rupees	2.815
Singapore Dollar	225.470
Hongkong Dollar	39.031
Bangladesh Taka	3.860
Philippine Peso	6.477
Thai Baht	8.645

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.790
Qatari Riyal	83.221
ani Riyal	786.902
Bahraini Dinar	804.570
UAE Dirham	82.484

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	34.490
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	31.542
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	104.780
Jordanian Dinar	427.470
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.019
Syrian Lira	2.019
Morocco Dirham	138.770

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.800
Euro	341.860
Sterling Pound	403.030

Canadian dollar	236.190
Turkish lira	104.780
Swiss Franc	313.780
Australian Dollar	228.920
US Dollar Buying	301.600

#### GOLD

20 Gram	271.450
10 Gram	138.640
5 Gram	70.170

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.750
Canadian Dollar	234.832
Sterling Pound	402.409
Euro	338.122
Swiss Frank	295.856
Bahrain Dinar	800.880
UAE Dirhams	82.660
Qatari Riyals	83.870
Saudi Riyals	81.454
Jordanian Dinar	426.816
Egyptian Pound	33.996
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.075
Indian Rupees	4.504
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Bangladesh Taka	3.856
Philippines Peso	6.462
Cyprus pound	159.551
Japanese Yen	3.948
Syrian Pound	2.394
Nepalese Rupees	3.801

Malaysian Ringgit	76.600
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.873
Thai Bhat	9.600
Turkish Lira	104.496

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.394078	0.409078
Czech Korune	0.004410	0.016410
Danish Krone	0.041163	0.046163
Euro	0.0331045	0.0340045
Norwegian Krone	0.032309	0.037509
Romanian Leu	0.074407	0.074407
Slovakia	0.009016	0.019016
Swedish Krona	0.031770	0.036770
Swiss Franc	0.304693	0.315693
Turkish Lira	0.099759	0.110059
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.218787	0.230787
New Zealand Dollar	0.211308	0.220808
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.229358	0.238358
Georgina Lari	0.136668	0.136668
US Dollars	0.298500	0.303200
US Dollars Mint	0.299000	0.303200
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003387	0.003971
Chinese Yuan	0.044104	0.047604

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036916	0.039666
Indian Rupee	0.004334	0.004744
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002876	0.003056
Kenyan Shilling	0.002986	0.002986
Korean Won	0.000251	0.000266
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072045	0.078045
Nepalese Rupee	0.002853	0.003023
Pakistan Rupee	0.002744	0.003034
Philippine Peso	0.006412	0.006712
Sierra Leone	0.000051	0.000057
Singapore Dollar	0.218862	0.228862
South African Rand	0.014607	0.023107
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001672	0.002252
Taiwan	0.009257	0.009437
Thai Baht	0.008302	0.008852

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796083	0.804583
Egyptian Pound	0.027064	0.032182
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422943	0.431943
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019285	0.043285
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779554	0.785234
Qatar Riyal	0.082305	0.083755
Saudi Riyal	0.079607	0.080907
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.136075	0.144075
Turkish Lira	0.099759	0.110059
UAE Dirhams	0.080906	0.082606
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447



## FREE TRADE POSSIBLE WITH UK: GERMAN FARM MINISTER

**BERLIN:** Britain could be involved in a free trade deal with the European Union after British EU membership ends via the European Economic Area (EEA), German Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt said yesterday.

The free trade zone EEA could provide an option to allow the multi-billion-euro food and farm trade between Britain and the EU to continue, Schmidt told Reuters. "We export a large amount to the United Kingdom and are well positioned there with our products," Schmidt said. "That will naturally have to be newly negotiated." He added: "It cannot be excluded that in some sectors there could be tariff and non-tariff trade barriers (after Brexit). It will also

not be the case that the internal market will be transferred 100 percent to a non-member country." "But the concept European Economic Area offers itself, for example," Schmidt said.

The EEA enables countries including Norway to have free trade with the European Union. Germany sold 4.54 billion euros (\$5.06 billion) of agricultural products to Britain in 2015 including meat and grain, while German factories also supply much of Britain's coffee and cocoa.

British whisky, cheddar and stilton cheese are prominent on German supermarket shelves. But Germany's trade with Britain is still a relatively small

part of Germany's total 2015 agricultural exports of 68.5 billion euros, he said. "We should use Brexit as an occasion to review whether all regulations are really necessary in Europe's complex agricultural structure," Schmidt said. Meanwhile, a new EU aid package for dairy farmers likely to be announced on July 18 is expected to include EU-wide measures to restrain milk production, Schmidt said.

"There is too much supply on the milk market," Schmidt said. "We need volume discipline in milk production. EU aid will be coupled to a reduction of milk volumes. But there will be no new quota."

European dairy farmers have suffered a collapse in

milk prices as output rose after the end of restrictive EU production quotas last year, while a Russian embargo on EU food imports and weak Chinese dairy imports created a supply surplus.

The EU's agriculture commissioner said on Thursday that a new package of financial support for European dairy farmers was being prepared but also ruled out a return to restrictive production quotas. "It is of central importance that the EU takes action jointly," Schmidt said. "Different reactions from individual EU countries would distort the competitive situation."

"The EU will lay down a framework which will then be completed nationally." — Reuters



**ATHENS:** A woman walks past a placard reading 'No to their Yes' yesterday in Athens one year after the Greek referendum, where 62 percent of the population voted 'No' to further austerity measures. — AFP

## UK HOUSING MARKET STEADIES AFTER DIP

**LONDON:** Britain's housing market has steadied after some deal cancellations immediately after the country voted to leave the European Union, housebuilder Persimmon said yesterday.

Chief Executive Jeff Fairburn said it was too early to judge the impact of the June 23 "Brexit" decision, but his company's focus on lower priced deals involving first-time buyers and first-time movers made it well placed to cope with any turmoil. "There is some uncertainty among people about what's happened and that's natural, but we've not seen that translate to any significant change in our trading," he told Reuters. Britain's top housebuilders, including Taylor Wimpey, Barratt and Berkeley as well as Persimmon, saw a combined 8 billion pounds (\$11 billion) wiped off their market value following the Brexit vote.

Although the stocks have seen some recovery since, they are still trading below their pre-referendum levels, with confidence rattled by the first suspension of a UK property fund since 2008, multiple analyst downgrades of the sector and government warnings over a possible fall in house prices. At 0900 GMT, Persimmon shares were down 4.6 percent at 1,369 pence, despite the company posting a 12 percent rise in first-half revenue and saying it was on track to meet analysts' consensus rev-

enue and profit forecasts for the full fiscal year. Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Laith Khalaf said investors were likely to "push the sell button first, and ask questions later" until a clearer picture of the housing market emerged.

Retirement home builder McCarthy & Stone said last week uncertain market conditions could affect its ability to meet its full-year sales volume target, while London-focused estate agent Foxtons said its earnings could fall. Analysts said Persimmon was in a good position to cope with any turbulence, with a strong land bank and forward orders of 1.36 billion pounds (\$1.79 billion) as of June 30.

It also has a further 5.50 pounds per share to return to investors under a previously announced scheme running until 2021, which Fairburn said remained on track. Liberum analyst Charlie Campbell wrote in a note that the company's dividend yield should "at least" support its shares. Persimmon said legal completions rose 6 percent to 7,238 units in the six months to June 30, adding it had "good levels" of sales in May and June.

When asked what the company would do if Brexit led to a recession, as some economists have warned, Fairburn said it could stop buying land and instead conserve cash. — Reuters

## UK RETAILER JOHN LEWIS'S SALES GROWTH SLOWED

**LONDON:** Sales growth at British retailer John Lewis's department store chain slowed in the week to July 2 - the week following Britain's vote to leave the European Union. As the only British retailer to publish weekly sales data it provides the most up-to-date snapshot of shopping behaviour after the June 23 referendum, though the data is clouded by the impact of the summer sale and year-on-year weather comparisons. The employee-owned John Lewis Partnership owns Britain's biggest department store chain as well as the upmarket Waitrose supermarket chain.

The firm said yesterday that its department store sales in the last week were up 2.1 percent on a year ago at 90.8 million pounds (\$119.3 million), having increased 7.3 percent in the previous week when it started its summer sale a week earlier than last year. "Summer Clearance continued to attract customers into John Lewis (department store) shops and the cooler weather also played its part, with last week competing with 35C temperatures during the same week in 2015," the firm said, making no

mention of the referendum result in its brief commentary. Waitrose sales fell 2.8 percent on a year ago over the week, having been down 0.7 percent in the previous week.

John Lewis said a year on year decrease was expected at Waitrose as the equivalent week was one of the sunniest of 2015 and was also a time of significant national marketing activity. A survey published on Thursday showed confidence among British consumers fell sharply in the days after the referendum.

The YouGov/CEBR Consumer Confidence Index, which measures people's economic sentiment on a daily basis, slumped to its lowest level since May 2013, when Britain's economy was just starting to emerge from its post-financial crisis sluggishness. While Britain's FTSE 100 index of blue chip stocks has recovered from its post-Brexit slump, given a bias to overseas earners, UK-focused stocks such as general retailers are still significantly down, reflecting the possible impact of the current economic and political uncertainty on consumer confidence and spending. — Reuters



**CHICAGO:** Plant employees drive 2011 Ford Explorer vehicles off the assembly line at Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant in Chicago. The US government is investigating complaints from Ford Explorer owners who say they smelled exhaust gas inside their SUVs. — AP

## US FACTORY ORDERS FALL, BUT RISING ORDER BACKLOGS HELP

**WASHINGTON:** New orders for US factory goods fell in May on weak demand for transportation and defense capital goods, but growing order backlogs and lean inventories suggested the worst of the manufacturing downturn was probably over.

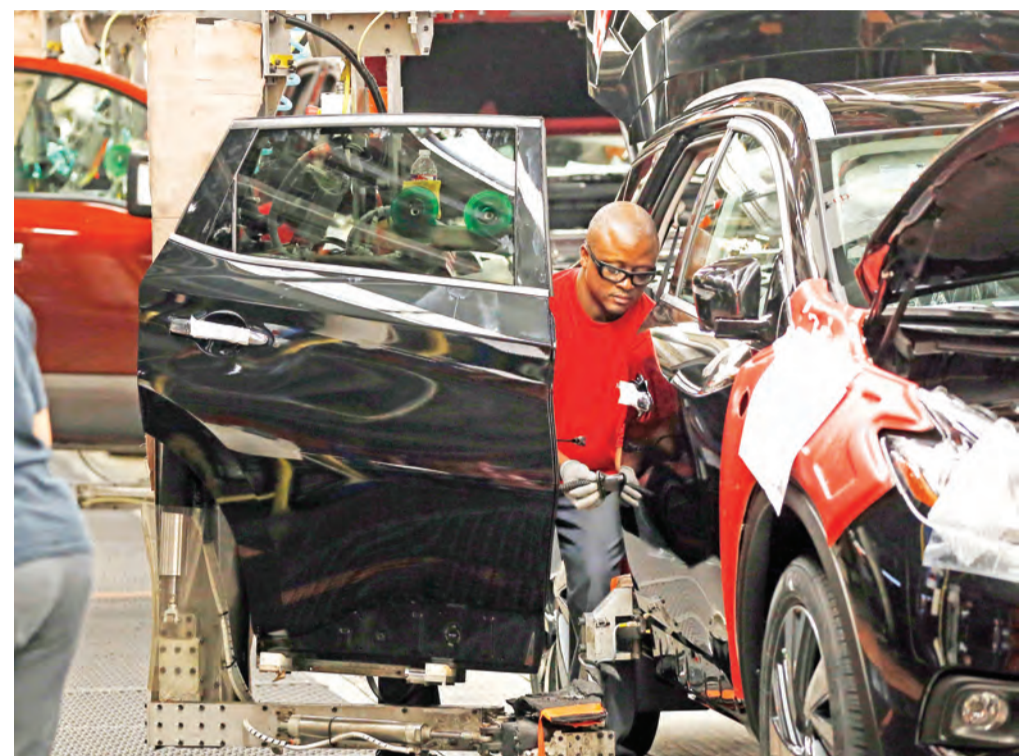
The Commerce Department said yesterday new orders for manufactured goods declined 1.0 percent after two straight months of increases. May's drop was in line with economists' expectations and followed a 1.8 percent increase in April. The department also said orders for non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft fell 0.4 percent in May instead of the 0.7 percent drop reported last month. These so-called core capital goods are seen as a measure of business confidence and spending plans on equipment.

Core capital goods shipments, which are used to calculate business equipment spending in the gross domestic product report, dropped 0.5 percent in May as reported last month.

US financial markets were little moved by the report. Manufacturing, which accounts for about 12 percent of the economy, has been squeezed by a strong dollar and weak global demand, which have undercut exports of factory goods, as well as efforts by businesses to reduce an inventory bloat.

The sector has also been hurt by spending cuts by energy firms as they adjust to reduced profits from cheaper oil. The rise, however, signs the sector could be close to turning the corner. The Institute for Supply Management (ISM) survey last Friday showed a gauge of national activity surged in June, with factories reporting strong increases in new orders, including exports, order backlogs and inventories.

But a stunning vote last month in Britain to leave the European Unions poses a risk to both manufacturing and the services sectors. A survey by the ISM last week found that, while most procurement executives do not foresee major disruptions, many were cautiously watching the



**CANTON:** A technician works on a door assembly for a Nissan Altima on the line at the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant in Canton, Mississippi. The Commerce Department reported on US factory orders for May yesterday. — AP

situation closely and believed the so-called Brexit would hamper growth.

In May, orders for transportation equipment fell 5.7 percent, despite a 0.8 percent increase in demand for motor vehicles and parts. Defense capital goods orders tumbled 28.1 percent.

Orders for machinery, which have been hurt by weak demand in the energy and agricultural sectors, gained 0.3 percent. Orders for electrical equipment, appliances and components slipped 0.6 percent. Orders for computers and electronic

products were unchanged.

Inventories of factory goods dipped 0.1 percent, suggesting factories were making progress in reducing the inventory bloat. That could support future production at factories. Inventories have declined in 12 of the last 13 months. The inventories-to-shipments ratio was at 1.36 in May, unchanged from April. Unfilled orders at factories increased 0.2 percent after rising 0.6 percent in April. They have increased in four of the last five months. — Reuters

## NIGERIA OIL MINISTER REPLACED AS STATE OIL COMPANY BOSS

**ABUJA:** Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has replaced Oil Minister Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu as group managing director of state oil company NNPC as part of a wider board overhaul. Oil accounts for about 70 percent of Nigeria's revenue, but the OPEC member has been hit hard by a prolonged drop in crude prices that has caused the deepest crisis in Africa's biggest economy for more than a decade. Dr Maikanti Kacalla Baru, previously group executive director for exploration and production, will take the reins from Kachikwu, who will remain on the board as chairman, the president's spokesman said on Monday.

Buhari, elected last year, has accused the previous administration of failing to save when crude oil cost more than \$100 a barrel. In 2013 the central bank governor said that tens of billions of dollars in oil revenue had failed to make

it into state coffers, which the company denied.

Kachikwu was appointed minister of state for oil last year, making him a junior minister, while Buhari kept the petroleum minister portfolio for himself in order to oversee energy sector reforms. Baru's previous roles at the state oil company included a six year stint, from 1992 to 1999, as an executive at the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), an NNPC subsidiary, where he worked on gas-related projects. "President Buhari urges the new board to ensure the successful delivery of the mandate of NNPC and serve the nation by upholding the public trust placed on them in managing this critical national asset," said Buhari's spokesman Femi Adesina.

The president's chief of staff, Abba Kyari, joins the new board, which replaces the one dissolved by Buhari in June last year. "Reconstituting the

board appears to be an attempt to adopt a different approach with a sense of proper oversight and accountability," said Antony Goldman, head of Nigeria-focused PM Consulting. "The issue in the past has been that NNPC has been involved in deals that benefited certain individuals but not Nigeria as a whole," he added. Kachikwu, a former Exxon Mobil executive, was brought in by Buhari as head of NNPC last August and was named as minister of state for oil when his cabinet was appointed a few months later.

Rolake Akinkugbe, head of energy and natural resources at FBN Capital, said there was "always a question around how you could have the head of the national oil company who was also the oil minister." "Being moved to chairman, where he will not be involved in day-to-day operations but retains strategic input, helps to resolve that issue," she said. — Reuters

## UBS TOLD TO HAND CLIENT INFO TO FRENCH TAXMAN

**ZURICH:** Swiss banking giant UBS said yesterday it had been ordered to hand over client information to the French tax authorities, amid allegations it orchestrated a vast system of tax fraud in France.

UBS said the Swiss federal tax administration (FTA) had demanded that it provide information about former and current clients living in France, based on data from 2006 to 2008, following a French request for international administrative assistance. "Pursuant to the disclosure order, UBS is required to produce the requested information to the FTA," the bank said in a statement, adding though that it had "expressed its concerns to the FTA that the legal grounds for this request are ambiguous at best".

UBS said that it had taken measures to inform affected clients, but stressed that many of the accounts affected by the French request had been closed.

The bank said the French request was based on data received from the Germany authorities, who have previously conducted a range of tax probes involving Swiss banks. "Certain data related to UBS clients booked in Switzerland was seized during these investigations and also apparently shared with other European countries," UBS said, adding that it "expects other countries to file similar requests." Yesterday's announcement came after French finance prosecutors last week asked for UBS to face trial for allegedly orchestrating a vast system of tax fraud in France, according to a legal source.

France opened a probe into UBS after former employees blew the whistle over the bank's alleged system of setting up dual accounts to hide the movement of capital into Switzerland between 2004 and 2012.

UBS denies the accusations, arguing that its involvement in such financial operations has not been proven. Meanwhile, the documents Germany handed to French judges last year allowed them to evaluate the assets of French clients held by the bank in 2008 at nearly 12 billion euros (\$13.5 billion), according to a source close to the investigation. However not all involved tax evasion. UBS has been embroiled in a whole series of similar cases, most notably in the United States where the authorities said the bank used Switzerland's banking secrecy laws to help rich clients avoid the taxman. — Reuters



**Employees work in the new mineral water bottling plant for Nestle Vera Natura located in Castrocielo, central Italy yesterday. The factory will be a new model for future development of the entire mineral water industry, with a potential of production of 220 million liters of water during the first year. — AFP**



# BREXIT AND THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE

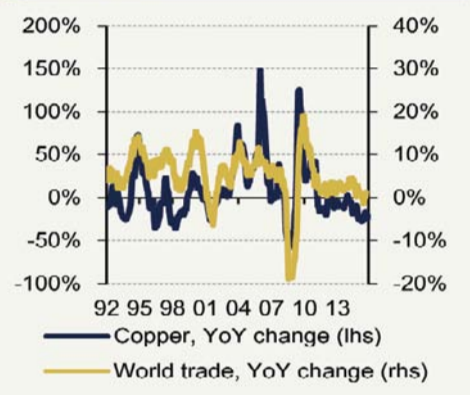
BLOOMBERG-BOFA MERRILL LYNCH GLOBAL RESEARCH

Global growth is now expected at 3 percent in 2016, versus 3.4 percent at beginning of the year. The decision of the UK to leave the EU has thrown a curveball to the commodity space. In our view, the UK is too small to matter for global raw material markets, as such. Yet, global uncertainty created by the Brexit vote may damage economies outside Britain. The collateral impact from that is much more of a concern. To that point, our global economics team has reduced GDP growth forecasts for a range of countries. Working these figures through our global copper demand growth model suggests that metals offtake should expand at a slower pace in 2016/17.

Our copper demand model factors in continued subdued activity. We have reduced expected copper demand growth, working weaker GDP expansion figures into our models.

We will follow a handful of indicators to evaluate how severe of an impact Brexit has on the commodity space in the coming months. Confidence, which has often been closely correlated with copper quotations, is one of those variables.

Chart 1: Copper benefitted from rising global trade



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research

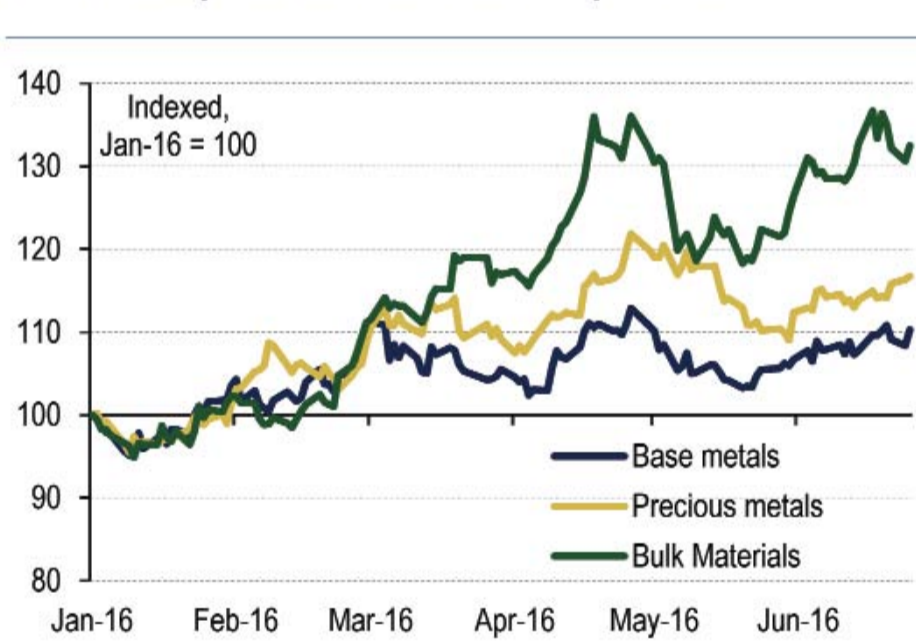
Confidence may take a hit, which would be an issue. Copper prices have been correlated to global trade cyclical commodities.

**The vote of discontent**

Beyond the cyclical headwinds to growth, we are also increasingly concerned about structural impediments, a point we had made in a recent gold note (see Global Metals Weekly: Era of uncertainty, weak growth and gold 17 June 2016).

In essence, wealth distribution, immigration and sovereignty have been contentious issues in various countries, largely reflecting the discontent of the population with the increase of globalization seen in recent decades. Linked to that, populism has often been an obstacle to put measures in place that would tackle lacklustre economic growth.

Chart 2: Metal prices have rallied in the run-up to Brexit



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research

**Brent and WTI crude oil**

OPEC's output potential freeze, a strong driving season, easy money, and falling US shale output should push WTI prices to \$47 by June. With Saudi domestic demand surging 350 k b/d from winter to summer, exports may drop by a similar amount by July. As Saudi no longer tempers seasonal price swings, lower demand and refinery turnarounds may push oil back down to \$39 by September.

Past maintenance, and assuming a normal winter, we see WTI rebounding to \$54 by year-end. Prepare for a W-shaped recovery in oil. We project non-OPEC supply to contract by

900 kb/d in 2016, compared with an average 20-year expansion of 710 thousand b/d.

Light-heavy oil spreads may widen on a forward basis as light crude output declines relative to heavy over the next 18 months. The change in the crude oil slate comes from a contraction in light non-OPEC supply against an expansion of OPEC medium-heavy barrels.

The current forward oil price structure has fallen too far to enable a medium term balance in supply and demand. Oil prices need to average \$55-\$75/bbl so non-OPEC output can re-attain 2015 levels by 2020 and prevent a huge shortfall. We estimate global oil demand will increase by 1.2 mn b/d per annum over five years at \$55-\$75, and by 1.7 mn b/d at \$30/bbl.

**Cyclical commodities**

The mined commodities have rallied sharply YTD, reinforcing our view that fundamentals have started to stabilize. Recent upside was driven by a confluence of factors, including signs that the global economy has been strengthening.

This also highlights that our business-cycle model has transitioned from downturn to the recession and into the recovery stage, which is usually the most bullish period for the metals.

Of course, this is also a reason that copper prices rallied the most in almost a decade as we moved toward the end of 2Q16. This performance is even more remarkable when keeping in mind the Brexit vote on 23 June.

**China a mixed story**

Unsettling as Brexit may be, the stabilization of commodity fundamentals was heavily influenced by a U-turn from China's government, which has implemented another round of monetary and fiscal stimulus after cracking down on the economy ruthlessly in 2014/15. The effectiveness of these shows that activity in the housing sector and investment by the grid have recovered. Charts show the implications for metals demand, which both models suggest has expanded at a rate of just under 10 percent YoY YTD.

**Steady underlying**

Digging a bit deeper, steadier economic activity in China has so far not taken copper out of recent ranges because the domestic physical market was well supplied after record shipments in 4Q15 and 1Q16; of course, trade has now fallen to levels that are consistent with the shortages implied by our annual supply and demand model, suggesting further large declines in copper trade would be unusual.

This looks at this from a slightly different angle, showing that prices on the Shanghai Futures Exchange underperformed quotations on the London Metals Exchange.

The weakness of copper fundamentals in China was also mirrored by physical premia1,

Table 1: Price forecasts, fundamental drivers and risks

Metal	2016E	2017E	Fundamental drivers	Risks (D = downside; U = upside)
Aluminium	\$1,541/t 70c/lb	\$1,650/t 80c/lb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We believe fair value for premia is between \$50t and \$100t</li> <li>Lower premia make Chinese exports less economic</li> <li>Producers in World ex-China and China have curtailed production;</li> <li>Cuts in China need to be permanent for prices to bottom out. Given the country's reform drive, we see scope for this to happen.</li> <li>We forecast a deficit for 2016, but a surplus for 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: No production discipline in China/ World ex-China</li> <li>D: China exports more metal from an oversupplied domestic market</li> <li>U: Smelter restraint and/or production disruptions reduce output.</li> <li>U: Stronger than anticipated demand growth</li> </ul>
Copper	\$4,882/t 221c/lb	\$4,747/t 215c/lb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demand growth to be more balanced between China and World ex-China; events in the US and Europe to remain market relevant.</li> <li>China imported record amounts of copper in 2H15, with stocks building, shipments to the country should decline</li> <li>Another round of mine cutbacks and stronger global growth in 2H16 may push prices higher than</li> <li>We forecast a deficit for 2016 and a surplus for 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: China re-exports metal</li> <li>D: Recovery of global demand subsidies</li> <li>U: meaningful production cuts would rebalance the market quicker than we anticipate</li> <li>U: Strong restocking through the supply chain on improved confidence</li> <li>U: Continued production disruptions in coming quarters</li> </ul>
Lead	\$1,920/t 87c/lb	\$2,279/t 103c/lb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scrap market has remained tight, the concentrates market has tightened.</li> <li>Chinese demand has weakened on a slowdown of E-bike sales.</li> <li>Offtake in World ex-China has been stable</li> <li>We forecast deficits in 2016 and 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: Destocking in China or higher lead exports from the country.</li> <li>U: Supply squeeze continues especially on the scrap market.</li> </ul>
Nickel	\$9,252/t 420c/lb	\$10,750/t 488c/lb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indonesia's export ban has impact on global nickel supply.</li> <li>Indonesia starts to export NPI, so the window for a rally is closing in the coming quarters. Miners in World ex-China have been reluctant to cut production, but output has fallen.</li> <li>Demand in China/ World ex-China has been weak, but should strengthen.</li> <li>We anticipate deficits in 2016 and 2017.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: NPI producers don't close shop, ore inventories last for longer and more ores are imported from the Philippines.</li> <li>D: Faster ramp-up of Indonesian NPI production</li> <li>D: Stainless steel demand remains subdued</li> </ul>
Zinc	\$2,020/t 91c/lb	\$2,273/t 103c/lb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zinc surpluses have fallen consistently since 2009, a trend we believe will continue, given a lack of mine supply growth</li> <li>Falling mine supply growth to boost China's refined zinc imports and reduce concentrate purchases/domestic refined supply.</li> <li>We anticipate deficits in 2015 and 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: Unreported inventories exist on the zinc market. More metal could become available.</li> <li>D: The zinc market is fragmented. There is evidence that miners, especially in China, could consider further output increases.</li> </ul>
Gold	\$1,234/oz	\$1,325/oz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fed hikes are the only obstacle to a sustained bull market. We anticipate a normalisation of rates, but don't think aggressive hikes are likely.</li> <li>The global economy to reflate and with the Fed may be less hawkish, both of which would be supportive for gold</li> <li>Prices to bottom in 2016.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: Deterioration of investor sentiment</li> <li>D: Real rates become more positive on deflation/ disinflation; strong equity markets</li> <li>D: High gold prices deter buyers of physical gold; increased scrap supply.</li> </ul>
Silver	\$16.47/oz	\$18.88/oz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The silver market has been rebalancing, with mine supply finally falling and industrial demand steady</li> <li>Investor demand has shown pockets of strength; coin sales have been very strong</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U: Investors returning to the market</li> <li>U: China's imports to rise</li> <li>D: ETF liquidation</li> <li>D: More supply</li> </ul>
Platinum	\$1042/oz	\$1,150/oz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producers in South Africa need to show more production discipline; putting more ounces into the market at lower cost is not a recipe for success.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: Jewellery demand suffers due to rising prices.</li> <li>D: In palladium, the risk of deliveries from Russian stockpiles has not gone away</li> </ul>
Palladium	\$644/oz	\$750/oz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chinese demand has rebounded and investors have been selling less PGMs</li> <li>We don't expect big deficits, but prices should stabilise.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: Demand from key buyers like Europe not increasing</li> <li>U: Production disruptions reduce availability of PT and PD</li> </ul>
Iron Ore	\$46t CIF	\$48t CIF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The global iron ore market remains oversupplied as production increases; current prices help rebalance the market</li> <li>To restore normality on the iron ore market, production curtailments are essential. We forecast a surplus in the coming years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: China's steel production slowing sharply</li> <li>U: Stronger Chinese demand, for instance due to restocking</li> <li>U: Mine closures/ slowdown in production increases</li> </ul>
HCC Thermal coal	\$81/t \$47/t	\$80/t \$45/t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We forecast Newcastle thermal coal prices to average \$47/mt in 2016. Stocks are high, Chinese seaborne demand is weak, and recent production cuts are insufficient to balance the market.</li> <li>Lower oil prices and producer FX have pushed down USD production costs, requiring lower USD coal to force production cuts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D: Lack of supply discipline</li> <li>U: Chinese steel production stronger (HCC)</li> <li>U: Mine closures</li> </ul>
Brent and WTI crude oil	\$45/bbl \$46/bbl	\$59/bbl \$61/bbl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OPEC's output potential freeze, a strong driving season, easy money, and falling US shale output should push WTI prices to \$47 by June. With Saudi domestic demand surging 350 k b/d from winter to summer, exports may drop by a similar amount by July. As Saudi no longer tempers seasonal price swings, lower demand and refinery turnarounds may push oil back down to \$39 by September.</li> <li>Past maintenance, and assuming a normal winter, we see WTI rebounding to \$54 by year-end. Prepare for a W-shaped recovery in oil.</li> <li>We project non-OPEC supply to contract by</li> </ul>	

Source: BofA Merrill Lynch Global Commodity Research

that the stimulus may start to fade into the second half. This is, to some extent, also mirrored by Chart 17, which shows that gross local government bond issuance has remained elevated. Of course, part of this is driven by debt-to-bond swaps. This program is aimed at shifting CNY15tn of debt into the credit market over a period of three years. In our view, it helps to reduce the debt burden at least temporarily, in turn, limiting downside risks to the economy.

Physical premia have to be paid on top of the quoted LME price; they can include items such as transportation cost and insurance. However, they are also an indicator for the tightness of regional markets.

**Currency is problematic**

Changing tack slightly, we acknowledge that not all is hunky dory in China and we track various developments, including currency movements, closely, especially after authorities have resumed fixing the CNY lower. A falling Chinese currency tended to be bearish for commodities, as Chart 18 shows, with the dynamic playing out through two transmission channels:

Imports: China is a critical buyer of commodities, including copper, on international markets. As such, a decline in the CNY affects purchasing power, which, in the past, often pushed equilibrium prices lower.

Exports: China has overcapacities for raw materials, including aluminium and steel. A weaker CNY increases the competitiveness of Chinese producers, enabling them to ship more metal abroad.

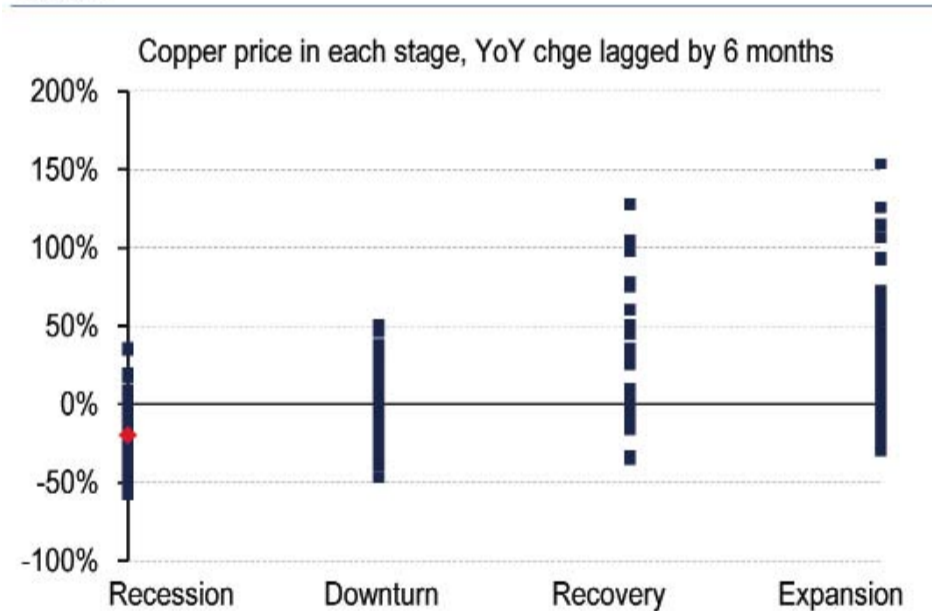
Having said that, it is worth noting that copper fell during periods of both appreciation and depreciation in recent years, suggesting the linkage between FX and commodity markets is somewhat tenuous, at best. In fact, we believe that the multi-year copper bear market was caused by a structural slowdown of demand in China, accompanied by a stronger CNY. Meanwhile, the government often weakened the exchange rate during periods of economic distress, leading to a coincidental movement between copper and the Chinese currency.

Against this backdrop, we believe the government is now pushing the CNY to a new market equilibrium level, ie, the devaluations may not necessarily be a reflection of the authorities deliberately shifting exchange rates as a policy tool to manage the economy. Hence, the dynamics of the currency market may, to some extent, have changed. To that point, copper rallied 6 percent in June, even though the CNY fell by 7 percent, which reduces our immediate concerns over the Chinese currency.

**Scrap market remains tight**

Looking at the supply side, we outlined in a recent note that mine supply losses YTD have been in line with our 6 percent disruption allowance for the entire year. Disruptions to that tune would lead to a roughly balanced refined market for the full year.

Chart 4: The "recovery" stage is normally the most bullish period for metals



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research

**Copper supply at a crossroads**

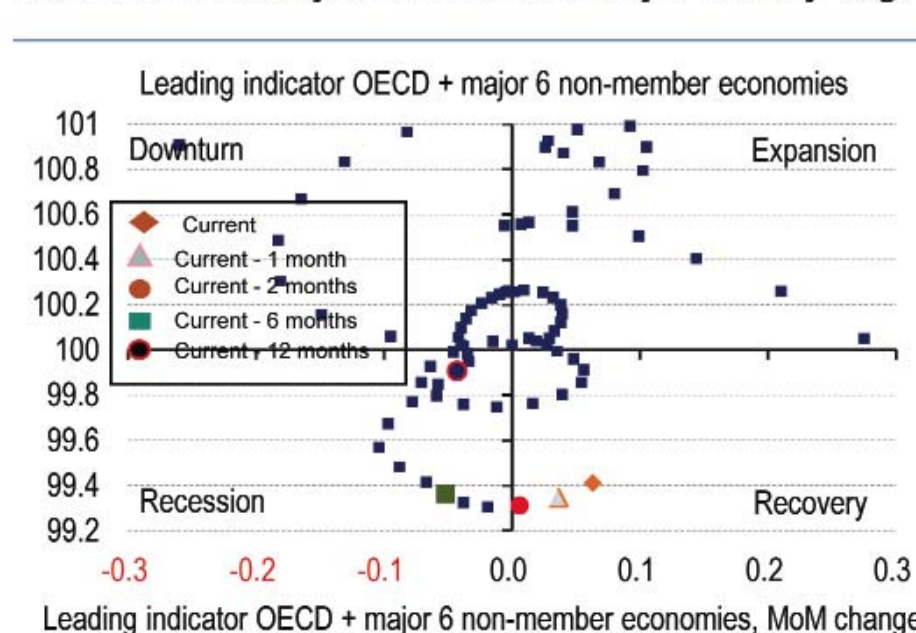
The data highlights that scrap usage, measured as a percentage of the global copper market, has declined. This dynamic is not unusual in bear markets, as low prices often reduce the incentive to ship scrap into the market; in addition, subdued manufacturing activity also caps scrap generation.

Tighter scrap markets in the World ex-China which highlights that scrap discounts (scrap is priced with a discount to refined metal) have been particularly low in Europe. Meanwhile, looking at China, it may suggest

that scrap discounts there have been trending higher. We believe this is partially influenced by increased scrap generation as the country's metals market has matured.

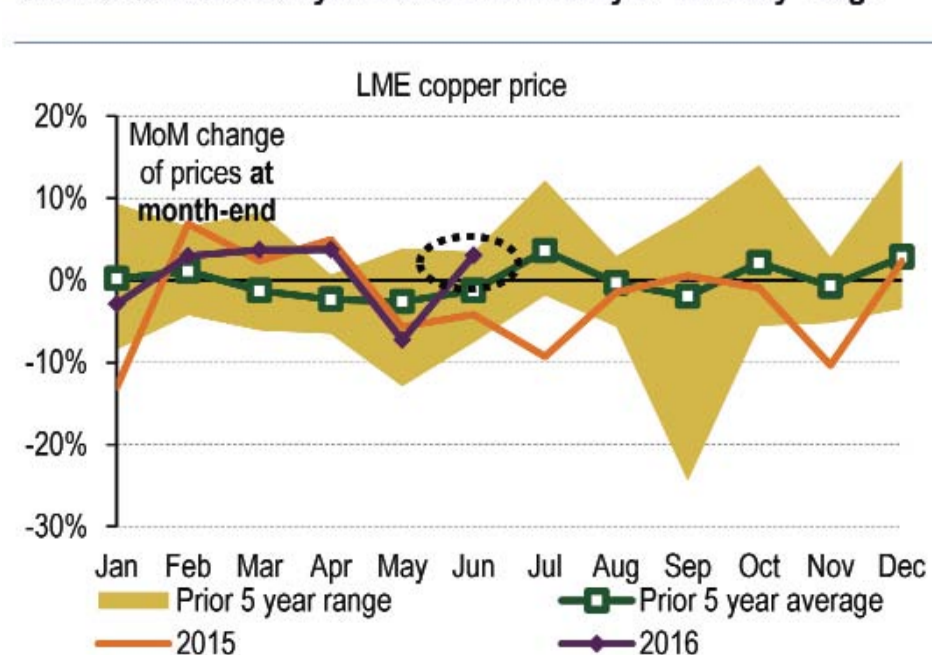
Of course, this is one reason that refined copper output has been running above the levels seen in 2015 and a critical impediment to sustained rallies. Putting it together, beyond the tactical price strength in 2H and factoring in also the cyclical headwinds, we maintain our cautious view for 2017, with prices likely averaging \$4,747/t (215c/lb).

Chart 3: Our business cycle model has been firmly in "recovery" stage



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research

Chart 5: Our business cycle model is now firmly in "recovery" stage



Source: Bloomberg, BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research



## GLOBAL ECONOMY: UNSETTLING FEELINGS

## Bank of Merrill Lynch Report

We were in Poland and Hungary last week. The mood in Warsaw was more constructive, and investors walked away with better feelings but with high doubts still, likely accentuated by OFE reform plans announced this week. A day in Budapest left us with still many questions about the NBH's constraints in hiking cycles.

But, given the global outlook, we think the central bank is unlikely to face a big challenge any time soon. In Argentina, the statistics agency released new GDP statistics for 2004-15 including large revisions, downward for real GDP and upward for the deflator. Growth was lowered by 1 percent annual average in 2004-14, more in line with private estimates. Nominal GDP is up to \$ 620bn in 2015 due to the higher deflator. The economy officially entered a recession in 16Q1. We forecast a 0.9 percent GDP contraction in 2016 and a 3.1 percent expansion in 2017.

In Brazil, the trade balance posted a \$4.0 billion surplus in June (vs a \$6.4bn in May, according to the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade (MDIC). This is in line with our expectation and below the market's at \$4.2bn.

In Colombia, according to the National Statistical Institute (DANE), the economic activity index (ISE) increased 0.6 percent yoy in April, seasonally adjusted, from 3.3 percent yoy in March and 3.0 percent yoy in April 2015. Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) Governor Amer gave a long interview to the local press over the weekend, voicing some strong opinions regarding EGP. He called defending EGP a 'big mistake' and said that the authorities had 'two choices: either keep the pound stable or get factories working'. He added that he will take what he thinks are, in his view, the 'right decisions' and 'bear the responsibility'.

In Mexico, the Banxico survey is out. Consensus expects headline inflation at 3.10 percent for year-end 2016 and 3.39 percent for 2017 (vs 3.09 percent and 3.37 percent in past survey) (BofA: 3.3 and 3.4 percent, respectively). In Nigeria: According to local press, the CBN is planning the dissolution of the board and management of Skye Bank and to partially take it over.

In Turkey, June headline CPI stood at 7.64 percent yoy (0.47 percent mom), up from 6.6 percent in the previous month, below our (7.9 percent) expectations but above consensus (7.0 percent). Core inflation remained elevated, easing only marginally to 8.67 percent, from 8.7 percent in the previous month. Trading ideas and investment strategies discussed herein may give rise to significant risk and are not suitable for all investors. Investors should have experience in FX markets and the financial resources to absorb any losses arising from applying these ideas or strategies. BofA Merrill Lynch does and seeks to do business with issuers covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report.

## Better mood in Warsaw

Locals appeared more constructive, and fixed income investors walked away with better feelings but still in high doubts. These are the impressions after our research trip to Warsaw last week.

The worst case of full nationalization of the second pillar private pension funds (OFE) is ruled out, while we view the authorities' plans to boost long-term savings

constructively. But high uncertainty on the final outcome of OFE reform and frequent policy changes by PIS could keep the markets nervous, negative for equities, and cautious to neutral for FX and local bonds.

## Fiscal: Kicking the can down the road

There is more evidence that the authorities are taking it more slowly on the remaining big-ticket election promises so as not to threaten the 3 percent of GDP budget deficit threshold. This commitment seems to have been strengthened by the external pressures from rating agencies and, most recently, Brexit risks.

Tax free allowance hike will not be implemented in 2017, and is envisaged to be part of a tax unification project, combining personal income tax and the health and social security charges. A simple increase in allowance from PLN3,091 to PLN8,000 to all individuals would bring an annual cost of PLN20bn (1.1 percent of GDP). But the Finance Ministry expects the tax unification plans to be budget neutral, with low-income work-

would be afraid to pass any CHF bill without a good knowledge of the costs involved. We continue to see no strong appetite for the government to push for a quick solution or high burden for banks. To our knowledge, there has been no official engagement between the government and Duda's office on this issue. The range of costs estimates so far (PLN30-60bn) seems too excessive versus the banking sector's net profit of PLN13.5bn in 2015. Any loss making bank could apply to be exempted from corporate and bank tax. Given the tight fiscal space in 2017, the Finance Ministry is likely very sensitive to any losses in revenues, and thus will likely advocate a cautious approach on CHF loan plans. Deputy PM and Economy Minister Mateusz Morawiecki presented on Monday proposals to strengthen long-term private savings in Poland. The plans envisage a merger of 75 percent of the second pillar (OFE) and the third pillar (IKE), and the remaining 25 percent of OFE to go back to the state. The Economy Ministry also plans various incentives to encourage long-term savings in

bonus of PLN250. The fiscal cost is around 0.1 percent of GDP pa, assuming 5.5m people joins out of 7.3m employees.

## Argentina: Back to \$600bn

The statistics agency Indec released new GDP statistics for 2004-15 including large revisions, downward for real GDP and upward for the deflator. Growth was lowered by 1 percent annual average in 2004-14, more in line with private estimates, increasing the credibility of the statistics. Nominal GDP is up to \$ 620bn in 2015 as the higher deflator more than offset the lower real GDP. The economy officially entered a recession in 16Q1. We forecast a 0.9 percent GDP contraction in 2016 and a 3.1 percent expansion in 2017.

Revised statistics confirmed the suspicions suggested by private estimates. Argentina economy growth in 2004-2015 was much slower than previously reported during the Kirchner's government.

The most important revisions for 2004-15 are:

Chart 1: Hungary wages outperforming peers



ers seeing their tax burden lower, and high income workers seeing a rise in the overall burden.

A retirement age cut is still to be decided this week, with a strong push from the Finance Ministry to condition pensions on a minimum number of years worked. If FinMin's version is approved, the costs would be halved in the first year from PLN8.6bn. Officials are also pointing to implementation from only mid-2017, or even 2018.

## CHF loans

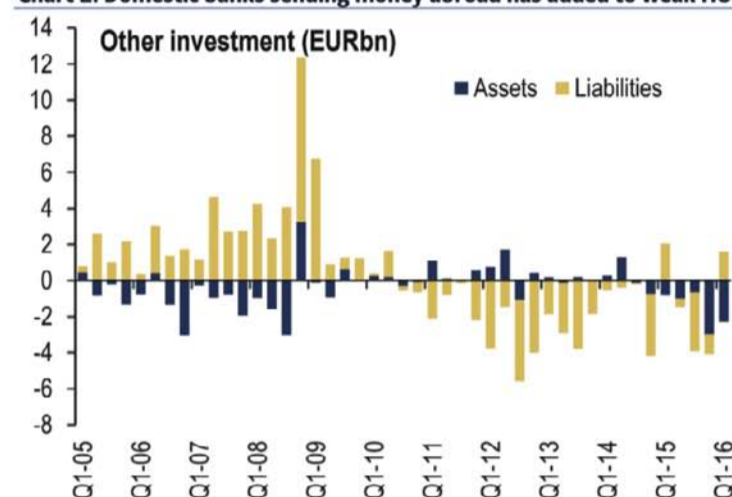
The recent PLN depreciation has led to even more pressure on President Andrzej Duda to submit a formal conversion proposal, but at the same time the fragile market sentiment post Brexit calls for high caution. The President's office is considering options to make conversion automatic unless borrowers ask for exemption, and envisaging returns FX spreads at a cost of PLN15bn for banks. They also favour 'fair' exchange rates so that CHF borrowers are not favored versus PLN-loan holders. But as of now there are no credible estimates of total costs, which in our view makes it less likely for a government endorsement any time soon. This is confirmed by comments from Minister Henryk Kowalczyk that he

the private pillar going forward. The aim is to have the new private pension system from January 2018. But Morawiecki also noted that this is a draft of ideas and more discussions with different ministries and social partners will be carried out.

75 percent of OFE assets, which are currently invested in Polish equities (PLN103bn), will be merged with the purely voluntary third pillar IKE for each individual's account. One can eventually decide on which private managers they want to oversee their pension savings. But for the first two years, the Polish Development Fund (PFR) will be in charge to build up the system before releasing it private managers.

25 percent of OFE assets, which are mainly in cash and foreign investments (PLN35bn), will be transferred to the Demographic Reserve Fund (FRD). This would cut public debt by around 2pp of GDP, and have no impact on the budget. New initiatives for pension savings: Employees will be automatically enrolled in a new contribution scheme, 2-4 percent of income with the option to opt out within three months. Employers can declare 2-3 percent contribution, with a compulsory minimum of 2 percent, of which the state subsidizes 0.5pp. Each employee will also receive a welcome

Chart 2: Domestic banks sending money abroad has added to weak HUF



1) 2014 Real GDP level is down 19.3 percent due to 9.5 percent lower 2004 GDP (base year) and lower cumulative growth in 2004-2014 (45.1 percent instead of 62.9 percent).

2) 2014 deflator revised up 29.6 percent, surprising on the upside, as a result of the 36.5 percent increase in the private consumption deflator, consistent with well documented CPI inflation underreporting.

3) 2014 nominal GDP is 4.1 percent up: as the higher deflator more than offset lower real GDP.

4) Negative growth revisions started in 2007 and were substantial for some years: 2009 (-6.0 percent vs 0.1 percent), 2012 (-1.1 percent vs 0.8 percent) and 2014 (-2.6 percent vs 0.5 percent). See Chart 1. In contrast, 2015 growth was revised up to 2.4 percent from 2.1 percent.

The revisions were more extreme than we expected with a larger downward real revision and upward deflator revisions. After these changes, 2015 nominal GDP is up 12.9 percent (measured in USD, up from \$550bn to \$620bn) compared to our previous estimates, which would significantly reduce standard ratios to GDP such as primary deficit. Note that while GDP numbers were revised, 2004 remains the base year.

## WORLD STOCKS SLIDE AS POST-BREXIT RALLY FADES

LONDON: World stocks extended losses yesterday and a week-long rally in Asia finally came to an end with traders cashing in profits while keeping a nervous eye on a brewing crisis in Italy's banking industry. Shares worldwide had pushed higher since last week after a string of major central banks promised they would shore up financial markets to protect them against any negative fallout from Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

There were also hopes one of the EU's biggest economies breaking away might not be as painful for global markets as initially assumed. But as Europe mostly posted losses for a second straight day, and Asia's rally ended, investors said jitters were back.

"After share price rises last week and profit-taking yesterday, caution will reign in European activity today," analysts at Germany's Postbank said. All eyes are now on remarks by Bank of England governor Mark Carney, expected later Tuesday. Germany's DAX index and the CAC both lost ground in early business, while London's FTSE 100 managed to remain steady. But the pound was back under pressure, buying \$1.3117 and hovering only a touch above its 31-year lows touched last week.

Non-European financial business still provided support, noted David Croy, a senior rates strategist in Wellington at ANZ Bank New Zealand. "But it doesn't alter the fact that caution on behalf of central banks, the forthcoming Brexit negotiations with the EU and the wave of elections in Europe next year have raised political risk in Europe," he said. Tokyo finished 0.7 percent lower, while Seoul dipped 0.3 percent and Hong Kong fell 1.5 percent, although Shanghai rose 0.6 percent.

Sydney sank one percent with Australia looking set for a hung parliament after weekend elections threw up no clear winner.

## Italian bank woes

The financial sector remained under pressure Tuesday after a warning from the European Central Bank that Italy's number-three lender Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, the world's oldest bank, had dangerously high levels of bad debt. The Italian banking system is emerging as a big worry for investors, compounding problems after Britain's decision to leave the EU, with stress test results on the continent's lenders due on July 29. Italy's banks are expected to show capital shortfalls.

BMPS shares, quoted in Milan, saw another bad day after record lows Monday, falling by a further almost ten percent.

Asian markets mostly fell yesterday as a week-long rally finally came to an end with



TOKYO: A man is reflected on the electronic board of a securities firm in Tokyo. Asian markets mostly fell yesterday as a week-long rally finally came to an end with traders cashing in profits. — AP

traders cashing in profits while keeping a nervous eye on a brewing crisis in Italy's banking industry. Shares worldwide have pushed higher since last week after a string of major central banks promised they would shore up financial markets to protect them against any negative effects from Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

There were also hopes one of the EU's biggest economies breaking away might not be as painful for global markets as initially assumed. However, analysts said that with so many uncertainties surrounding the future of the country as well as ongoing weaknesses around the world, the rally had run out of steam.

"The market's love affair with yield and all-things-not-Europe remains supportive," said David Croy, a senior rates strategist in Wellington at ANZ Bank New Zealand. "But it doesn't alter the fact that caution on behalf of central banks, the forthcoming Brexit negotiations with the EU and the wave of elections in Europe next year have raised political risk in Europe."

Tokyo finished 0.7 percent lower, while Seoul dipped 0.3 percent and Hong Kong fell 1.5 percent, although Shanghai rose 0.6 percent.

Sydney sank one percent with Australia looking set for a hung parliament after weekend elections threw up no clear winner. Standard & Poor's has warned the country's top-notch AAA rating could be in danger if whoever wins office cannot improve budget balances.

## Futures lower

US stock index futures were lower yesterday, tracking a decline in oil prices, as investors shifted their attention to global growth worries post Brexit.

\* Data from China showed that the country's services sector activity rose to an 11-month high in June, but a composite measure of activity including manufacturing fell to its lowest in four months.

\* Oil prices fell more than 2 percent as a potential economic slowdown weighed on prospects of demand.

\* Britain's vote to leave the European Union late last month sent global markets into a tizzy as investors worried of its consequences.

\* The Bank of England said the outlook for UK's financial stability post-Brexit was "challenging" and reversed its March decision to increase the amount of capital that banks must hold against upturns in the credit cycle.

\* Wall Street closed down higher for the fourth day on Friday as investor sentiment was buoyed by strong manufacturing data.

\* The Commerce Department will release a report that is expected to show that new orders for manufacturing goods fell by 1 percent in May, compared to 1.9 percent in April. The data is expected at 10:00 am ET.

\* While traders do not expect the US Federal Reserve Bank to raise interest rates this year, they will keenly watch policymakers' comments on what the Fed's next step would be. —Agencies

## OIL FALLS BELOW \$49 ON ECONOMIC JITTERS

LONDON: Oil fell below \$49 a barrel yesterday, pressured by concerns that a potential slowdown in economic growth could sap demand and by persistent signs of abundant supply despite another militant attack on Nigeria's oil industry. Worries about the economic impact of leaving the European Union hit Britain's property market and drove the pound to a 31-year low. A flurry of data from China in the coming weeks is expected to show weakness in trade and investment.

Brent crude was down \$1.19 at \$48.91 a barrel at 1309 GMT. The global benchmark is still up more than 80 percent from a 12-year low close to \$27 reached in January. US crude was down \$1.35 at \$47.64 a barrel. "Asia has been relatively weak and China is not providing much support," said Olivier Jakob, oil analyst at Petromatrix, who also said weak refined products were pressuring crude. "Without the support of the products and with a structure in crude oil that is weakening, it is difficult to think that crude can break away to the upside."

British bank Barclays said concern over the global economy was weighing. "The deterioration in the global economic out-

look, financial market uncertainty and ripple effects on key areas of oil demand growth are likely to exacerbate already-lacklustre industrial demand growth trends," the bank said in a report.

Oil has gained support this year from the perception that a supply glut that has halved oil prices in the last two years may be easing, and from unplanned outages from Canada to Nigeria. But signs of ample supply of crude and products persist. A partial recovery in Nigeria contributed to a rise in OPEC crude production last month, a Reuters survey found last week. Several tankers carrying gasoline-making components have dropped anchor off New York harbour, unable to discharge as onshore tanks are full. In Libya, where oil output has slowed to a trickle due to conflict, the National Oil Corporation has agreed to merge with its domestic rival, raising hopes the OPEC country could start to pump more.

"Further downward price pressure is expected as signs of an oversupplied global market refuse to go away," said oil broker PVM, adding that "macroeconomic risk" was scaring buyers away. — Reuters

## GOLD SLIPS BACK BELOW \$1,350 AS INVESTORS CASH IN GAINS

LONDON: Gold slipped below \$1,350 an ounce yesterday after the previous day's rally towards a recent two-year high ran out of steam, though prices were supported by continued uncertainty following Britain's vote to leave the European Union. The Brexit vote sent gold to its highest since early 2014 on June 24. While concerns about global growth and monetary policy continued to support gold it has failed to match that since.

Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$1,347.90 an ounce at 1330 GMT. "There is some profit taking coming in," Mitsubishi analyst Jonathan Butler said. "We've seen gross long positions in gold reach record highs and clearly many investors are in a position to take profit. We're some \$100 above where we were in the middle of last month."

Elevated risk aversion will likely continue to support gold prices, however, he said. European shares fell 1.4 percent as nervous investors cashed in gains after a four-day winning streak ended on Monday, despite hopes of increased central bank stimulus to offset a likely downturn triggered by Brexit.

The Japanese yen rose almost 1 percent against the euro and dollar while sterling hit its lowest since the aftermath of the Brexit

vote. "The market is extremely nervous," said Afshin Nabavi, head of trading at MKS. "That's why gold and silver are benefiting."

US gold futures for August delivery were up \$11.80 an ounce at \$1,350.80. US markets were closed on Monday for the Independence Day holiday. Silver was 2.4 percent lower at \$19.80 an ounce, having jumped above \$21 an ounce for the first time in two years in the previous session.

It posted its biggest weekly gain in nearly three years following the Brexit referendum, hitting its most expensive relative to gold since September 2014. "Silver had soared by nearly 19 percent at its peak since the beginning of last week without there having been any news to justify such a pronounced price rise," Commerzbank said in a note. "Evidently speculative financial investors played a major part in the price increase."

"In our opinion, there is now considerable correction potential from this side. If the 'hot air' were to dissipate, the silver price could come under more significant pressure." Platinum was up 0.1 percent at \$1,066 an ounce, while palladium, which had fallen more than 4 percent earlier, was down 1.6 percent at \$603.90. — Reuters



## PHILIPS LAUNCHES NEW SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM 2016-2020 'HEALTHY PEOPLE, SUSTAINABLE PLANET'

**KUWAIT:** Philips announced the launch of its new 5-year sustainability program, 'Healthy people, sustainable planet', during a webinar hosted by the company's CEO Frans van Houten. This new program builds on Philips' objective to improve the lives of three billion people a year in 2025 [1] by making the world healthier and more sustainable through innovation. The program objectives are based on three pillars: creating value for Philips' customers through sustainable solutions, leading by example in its sus-

tainable operations, and multiplying its impact by driving sustainability through its supply chain.

The program builds on the success of EcoVision, Philips' sustainability approach that spanned the years 1994 to 2015. In 2015, Philips was recognized as a world leader for corporate action on climate change, achieving a perfect score in the CDP Climate Change survey for the third year in a row, and being named industry leader in the 'Industrial Conglomerates' category in the Dow

Jones Sustainability Index.

Important targets set in the new program for 2020 include:

- \* 70 percent of turnover from green revenues and 15% from circular revenues
- \* Carbon-neutral operations, 100 percent renewable electricity
- \* Enhanced supplier sustainability to deliver structural improvements

"I am extremely proud to share the 'Healthy people, sustainable planet' program," said Frans van Houten. "At Philips, we fully embrace sustainability, because

of its benefits for society, and because we believe that it is a driver for economic growth. That's why sustainability is an integral part of our company strategy. Our new program reflects our commitment to the universally agreed United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, especially those to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. We have set ambitious targets for our innovations, products, solutions, operations

and the business partners we work with, to meet those objectives." Further details on the 'Healthy people, sustainable planet' program can be found here.

Market intelligence and statistical data are used for the number of people touched by our solutions that contribute to a healthy life or a sustainable planet. The average time these solutions are used is then multiplied by the number of solutions delivered in a year. After elimination of double counts, this results in the number of lives improved.



### DAMAC PROPERTIES INTRODUCES AKOYA IMAGINE DEVELOPMENT

**DUBAI:** DAMAC Properties unveiled AKOYA Imagine, a cluster of homes surrounded by the lush greens and fairways of the international golf course. Set at the heart of the AKOYA Oxygen master development, AKOYA Imagine presents a collection of colourful villas aimed at young couples and families, representing the perfect permanent residence or vacation home.

In Phase 1, three-bedroom villas will be released with starting prices of AED 1.2 million, spread across an attractive three-year payment plan. Homes will also benefit from free service charges for five years. The units will go on sale on Saturday, 9th July in Dubai at DAMAC Maison Canal Views, Al Abraj Street from 11am to 11pm.

As a vibrant community nestled within a wonderful green backdrop, AKOYA Imagine is a neighbourhood for those who are contemporary and relaxed in their style of living. Indoor and outdoor spaces are carefully arranged to offer a casual way of life that blends function with social, family living and an artful palette of colours. Interiors are open, airy and splashed with zesty hues, which balance warmth with cooling tones, energy with serenity and space with intimacy. Ziad El Chaar, Managing Director,

DAMAC Properties, said: "AKOYA Imagine is targeted towards a new type of buyer - young, professional and savvy to the lifestyle and financial benefits of buying in an international golf course community. This type of community is proven to consistently yield higher returns than a purely residential one and there is a limited supply in Dubai. Combined with the Tiger Woods Design element, a villa in AKOYA Imagine presents a very lucrative investment, not to mention an extremely attractive home."

Supporting El Chaar's statement, advisory firm KPMG stated in a recent report that golf courses typically increase the valuation of adjacent real estate by up to 20 percent when compared to similar real estate in a neighborhood without the golf course component.

AKOYA Oxygen is a 55-million-square-foot master development that will showcase the greenest living spaces in Dubai. Home to the 18-hole championship golf course by Tiger Woods Design, the eagerly anticipated development boasts easy access to Dubai's major highways; yet is far enough away from the bustle of the city to offer a tranquil pace of life in a beautiful green setting.



### GULF BANK'S NEW RED ACCOUNT HOLDERS ENJOY LATEST MOVIES AT CINESCAPE WITH A FREE TICKET

**KUWAIT:** As part of the Eid Al-Fitar celebrations, Gulf Bank is announcing an exclusive offer for its red account holders to watch the latest films at Kuwait National Cinema Company (KNCC) cinemas between July 7th and 11th 2016. New red customers, who open an account at the Avenues mall, will be receiving a free ticket to watch the latest movies.

During the period of the promotion, Gulf Bank will have a red booth present at the KNCC cinema in the Avenues Mall to showcase its products and services to potential and existing customers.

Gulf Bank continuously looks for new and interesting initiatives to reward its loyal customer base over the year. Gulf Bank is committed to providing its red customers with the right promotions

that are tailored to meet their specific needs and to better enjoy their holidays. Gulf Bank is pleased to celebrate this occasion with the people of Kuwait.

Gulf Bank's red program is for high school, college and university students aged 15 to 25 years old. There is no minimum deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge. There is no minimum deposit required to open the account or minimum balance charge.

To join Gulf Bank's red program or to find out more of its benefits, visit one of the Bank's 56 branches, contact the Customer Contact Centre on 1805805 for assistance and guidance or log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), Gulf Bank's website.



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بنك الخليج  
GULF BANK

## OOREDOO BUILDS CLOSER CONNECTIONS ACROSS ITS FOOTPRINT DURING RAMADAN

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo companies have organised a series of charitable and community initiatives in support of the spirit of the Holy Month of Ramadan across the Middle East, North Africa and Southeast Asia this June.

The diverse range of campaigns and initiatives shared the core theme of building closer



connections, between communities and between people and their faith. This key theme was highlighted by Ooredoo's "Closer Connections" Ramadan TVC, which has been seen by more than 4.3 million people on global video-sharing website YouTube.

Ooredoo's Ramadan TVC was the first short film created through collaboration between Ooredoo Group, Ooredoo Qatar, Ooredoo Kuwait and Ooredoo Oman. Featuring inspirational people from the three countries, the #CloserConnections campaign focuses on the bond that everybody feels - both with each other and with their religion - during the Holy Month.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo, said: "The whole Ooredoo family comes together to help people across our communities during the Holy Month, and this year has seen a wave of volunteers working on projects that deliver real benefits. In particular, it has been inspiring to see people from different operations across our footprint work together on some of these inspirational initiatives."

In Qatar, volunteers have participated in a range of activities designed to reach our across the community, including volunteer visits to the Qatar Foundation for Elderly Care, Hamad Hospital and Fahad Bin Jassim Kidney Centre, and a program to distribute Iftar packs to people breaking their fast at Woqod petrol stations across the country.

There has also been a strong spirit of volunteering in Kuwait, which the launch of the second edition of Ooredoo's successful volunteer program in cooperation with "Spread the Passion", a local non-profit organization for young people. The training program has included workshops and training camps. In addition, volunteers from Ooredoo Kuwait have distributed more than 17,000 Iftar meals during the Holy Month through a distribution centre at its headquarters and a special tent.

In Iraq, Asiacell, an Ooredoo company, has launched a national CSR project to collect clothing for children in orphanages across the country. The clothing will be distributed over the Eid holiday, providing new clothing for children without families. In Palestine, Wataniya Mobile



organised a range of Ramadan activities, including distributing packs at the Al Aqsa Mosque to everyone heading from the West Bank to perform Friday prayers on the first Friday of Ramadan. The company also equipped an ER tent at Al Aqsa Mosque to provide all first aid assistance from trained staff to any visitor who required it.

Ooredoo Oman began its 12th Ooredoo Goodwill Journey on 12 June, receiving a warm send-off from crowds of well-wishers as it set out on its annual 2,000 kilometre voyage of community support. Starting out from Salalah in the Governorate of Dhofar, a team of 22 goodwill ambassadors travelled to Shlaeem and Hallaniyat Islands, Al Jazir, Mudhiabi, Sur, Bowsheer and Qurayyat, before the final stop on 26 June.

During the journey, volunteers donated essential equipment, supplies and educational materials to local organisations and associations to help support education and entrepreneurship opportunities for women and young people. In addition, the volunteers held a variety of events to celebrate the spirit of the Holy Month.

Over the past 11 years, Ooredoo Oman's goodwill ambassadors have travelled more than 53,000 km, visited 171 charities, and provided assistance to around 11,000 people in different locations across Oman.

Ooredoo Algeria sponsored three Ramadan tents in provinces across the country to enable people to break their fast in comfort. In addition, the company organised a programme of hospital visits where volunteers went to cheer up sick children. Ooredoo also conducted Ramadan activities in Indonesia this year, where Waleed

Al-Sayed, Deputy CEO, Ooredoo, made a significant donation to the International Digital Braille Qur'an Foundation in a special ceremony held on the first day of the Holy Month. In addition, Ooredoo donated USD 10,000 to the House of Atmanto's Internet Foundation, which provides training and development for people in need.

In addition, Ooredoo donated school kits and funding for five orphanages and for a number of foundations that help the destitute in Indonesia.

#### Innovative Islamic Content

As well as charity and community campaigns, Ooredoo has also released a range of innovative Islamic content during the Holy Month.

In the Maldives, Ooredoo customers could benefit from free prayer alerts, free Quran translations and free hadith available on their phones. In addition, customers were able to subscribe to free religious quotes via SMS as part of the service. Ooredoo Tunisia choose to connect people, to innovate and to share with people new experiences, launching a dedicated free Ramadan app that provide exclusive Islamic content and by offering "Kadonet", a new service that enabled customers to purchase data bundles for other users. The channel has been specially designed to enable customers to provide children and seniors with data, so that everybody can share wishes and Ramadan greetings during the Holy Month, even if they are unsure how to purchase data themselves.

Wataniya Mobile launched a special "Top-Up and Win" Campaign in Palestine to mark the Holy Month. The campaign gave customers the chance to win instant prizes when they topped-up and when they received and made calls.

## ABU DHABI TO HOST INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL WEEK 2016 ON NOV 21-25

### PROGRAM TO DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL NETWORKING AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING EXPERIENCE

**ABU DHABI:** International Travel Week-Abu Dhabi (ITW-Abu Dhabi) has officially announced that the dynamic UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, will play host to the world's largest hosted buyer program - providing a unique and powerful backdrop against which the tourism industry's key players will seek to shape future business and maximise new revenue streams within the fastest growing travel sector that is halal, medical and shopping tourism.

Taking place from November 21-25, 2016, at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, ITW-Abu Dhabi will aim to deliver a comprehensive program which will combine targeted meetings with first-class networking opportunities, inspiring knowledge-bound seminars and innovative experiences, culminating in a glittering gala awards evening to celebrate outstanding achievements across the international halal tourism landscape.

Commenting on the strategic partnership with the host destination, Andy Buchanan, Executive Organising Committee Director commented: "We are thrilled to bring ITW Abu Dhabi to the culturally-rich and trailblazing city of Abu Dhabi. Against this remarkable backdrop, participants will have the opportunity to discover, connect and be enriched, which in turn will assist them in defining and driving the future of their own business." Indonesia Ministry of Tourism is delighted to be the official Headline Sponsor for the ITW Abu Dhabi 2016, and commented that, "Indonesia participates again in 2016 but this time bigger than 2015 as we want to bring more sales." As a major sponsor of the summit, Indonesia Ministry of Tourism expects to welcome key international delegations, investors, tourism associations and market-leading specialists to the summit.

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#### Evolutionary progression

ITW-Abu Dhabi is a progressive and evolu-

tionary event which has developed from last year's World Halal Travel Summit.

The 2015 edition enjoyed unprecedented success, where the summit yielded impressive results, generating more than \$18.4 million worth of business on the show floor, and a further \$73.5 million stemming from opportunities directly created at the event.

With more than 6,000 travel professionals expected to participate in this year's ITW-Abu Dhabi, this transformative five-day event is hotly-anticipated to be the premium platform for the global halal travel, medical and shopping tourism industry.

With a dedicated commitment to the fiercely and hugely influential fast-growing travel sectors, ITW-Abu Dhabi will continue to shine the spotlight on the exceptional halal, medical and shopping-relevant opportunities available worldwide at this year's event, with major influencers bringing their insight and knowledge to the seminar stage.

#### Expansion of 'ITW-Abu Dhabi'

Hot on the heels of 2015's World Halal Travel Summit success, and in response to growing demand for a platform for discussion and recognition on halal, medical and shopping tourism segments, ITW-Abu Dhabi will this year open up a Ministerial Forum, a high level debate of ministers and key stakeholders on Intra OIC (Organisation of Islamic Co-operation), medical and shopping tourism and the real world challenges of implementation.

ITW-Abu Dhabi will also host the second World Halal Travel Awards, a glittering event to recognize outstanding products and service within the halal tourism sector. The winners of the 2016 World Halal Travel Awards will be announced at a gala event in Abu Dhabi on 22nd November 2016. The awards ceremony forms a crucial element of the summit which is

the largest gathering of global executives operating in the family friendly travel sector. For the first time, ITW-Abu Dhabi will also introduce 'The Family Vacation Show' wherein exhibitors will have a chance to interact with consumers face-to-face. The event will be information packed and created to directly sell and introduce offers, packages and promotions to qualified consumer travel audience.

#### Results-driven

According to Buchanan, the expanded 2016 edition is expected to be a boon for all involved: "ITW-Abu Dhabi was established with a clear objective of providing opportunities to explore and maximise on the latest trends and offerings within the fastest growing travel segments namely halal, medical and shopping tourism. In a concerted effort to distinguish itself on the halal, medical and shopping travel industry event landscape, ITW Abu Dhabi aims to deliver an elevated business-to-business platform that is innovative, inspiring, and result-driven, with the structured five-day program including elements such as knowledge-sharing seminars, show floor meetings, exceptional networking experiences and a dazzling awards evening. I expect the 2016 edition to be a windfall for those organisations and individuals that exhibit and participate."

Confirmed participation for the ITW-Abu Dhabi 2016, stretching across multiple spectrums, hails from a diverse spread of key players including Accor Hotels, Bangladesh Tourism Board, Dinar Standard, Etihad Airways, HCA Healthcare, Holiday Bosnia, Jannah Hotels, Marjan Island Resort & Spa, Medical Tourism Association, Sofyan Hospitality, Sri Lanka Ecotourism Foundation, Swiss Medical Network, Thomson Reuters, VPS Healthcare and Wonderful Indonesia, the 2016 headline Sponsors.



## TESLA CRASH SHOWS LIMITS OF SELF-DRIVING TECHNOLOGY

**DETROIT:** The US government is investigating the first reported death of a driver whose car was in self-driving mode when he crashed. Joshua D. Brown, 40, died May 7 when his Tesla Model S, which was operating on "autopilot," failed to activate its brakes and hit a truck in Florida.

The crash raises questions about autonomous and semi-autonomous cars, their capabilities and their limits. Here are answers to some of those questions:

### Q: ARE THERE SELF-DRIVING CARS ON US STREETS RIGHT NOW?

**A:** Yes, but in limited numbers. Various companies, including Google, Ford and Uber, have test fleets of autonomous cars running in specific areas, including Mountain View, California, and Austin, Texas.

Right now, those vehicles always have a steering wheel, brakes and a driver ready to take over in case of a problem, but prototype cars without steering wheels are also being developed.

### Q: HOW DO THEY WORK?

**A:** A network of cameras, radars and lasers feeds information to the car's computers, helping to fill in the gaps in the GPS system, which knows how to get the car from point to point. Cameras let the car see what's around it, while radar senses things in the dark or in inclement weather. Lasers constantly scan the road and give a three-dimensional picture of what's going on.

### Q: ARE THERE LAWS ALLOWING SELF-DRIVING CARS?

**A:** Right now, it's a patchwork. Eight states - including Nevada, Michigan, Florida and Tennessee - and Washington DC, have laws allowing autonomous vehicles. Other states have legislation in the works. Later this summer, the federal government is expected to release guidelines for the safe deployment of autonomous vehicles.

### Q: WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SELF-DRIVING CARS?

**A:** Self-driving cars have the potential to save lives by anticipating accidents before they happen. Intel CEO Brian Krzanich said Friday that 90 percent of car accidents are caused by human error, and distracted or drowsy driving accounts for some 13 percent of those crashes. The accidents cost about \$870 billion a year globally.

### Q: CAN I BUY A SELF-DRIVING CAR?

**A:** No. A few automakers offer cars and SUVs with semi-autonomous modes that can perform some functions without help from the driver, including maintaining a set speed, braking, changing lanes and even parallel parking.

Semi-autonomous features can be found on high-end vehicles from Tesla, Mercedes-Benz, Infiniti and Volvo. Some lower-priced models have them, too. Toyota, for example, plans to make automatic emergency braking standard on its



**There is just no luck for Tesla in China. After slow sales, lay-offs, competition, and near-murder they are now facing a nasty accident in Nanjing in China.**

vehicles by 2017, ahead of a self-imposed deadline of 2022 that most automakers have agreed to.

### Q: WHEN WILL COMPLETELY SELF-DRIVING CARS BE AVAILABLE TO CONSUMERS?

**A:** That's not yet clear. Volvo plans a large-scale test of driverless cars in Sweden next year. Google wants to make cars available to the public around the end of 2019. BMW, Intel and Israel's Mobileye have

teamed up to roll out the cars by 2021.

IHS Automotive, a consulting firm, predicts that the US will see the earliest deployment of autonomous vehicles, with several thousand on the road by 2020. That number will rise to 4.5 million vehicles by 2035, IHS says. But even if the vehicles are on the road, they might not be in your garage. The earliest self-driving cars might be on-demand taxis, employee shuttles or other shared vehicles.

### Q: WHAT ARE THE TECHNICAL CHALLENGES TO GETTING AUTONOMOUS CARS ON THE ROAD?

**A:** Driverless cars need detailed maps to follow, and companies are still mapping roads. They also can have trouble staying within lanes in heavy rain or snow. And, as the Tesla crash showed, there will always be scenarios that driverless cars can't foresee or navigate correctly.

Brown's car didn't see an oncoming tractor-trailer because it was white against a brightly lit sky. Tesla CEO Elon Musk said the car's radar is also designed to tune out what looks like overhead signs to prevent false braking.

### Q: HOW COULD THE TESLA AUTOPILOT NOT SEE SOMETHING AS LARGE AS A TRACTOR-TRAILER?

**A:** Raj Rajkumar, a computer engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University who leads its autonomous vehicle research, said computers can't be programmed to handle every situation. But Tesla may need to adjust its radar, he said.

Tesla would not comment directly on the radar and computer programs, but the company issued a statement saying that it continually advances its software by analyzing hundreds of millions of miles of driving data. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is looking at the design and performance of Tesla's system as part of its investigation. — AP

## WHEN NEIGHBORHOOD IS OWNED BY BILLION-DOLLAR COMPANIES

**APOPKA, Florida:** Many of the single-family homes in the Piedmont Park neighborhood of Apopka, Florida, used to be owned by families - the Vargases and the Townes, the Pierces and the Riddles. Now, they're owned by Blackstone, American Homes 4 Rent and Colony Starwood Homes, companies associated with big real estate investment firms.

And the occupants are tenants, not owners. In the decade since the housing boom deflated into a bust, financial firms recognized an investment opportunity in hard-hit areas like this Orlando suburb. Single-family homes lost to foreclosure could be bought cheaply and transformed into rent-generating income streams.

The corporate purchases have spread through Piedmont Park and surrounding neighborhoods, where the percentage of renters rose from a bit over 10 percent to more than 35 percent within a decade. Piedmont Park homeowners complain that the result is more transient neighbors, less engagement at homeowners' meetings and difficulties reaching absentee corporate landlords. Apopka Mayor Joe Kilsheimer regards the surge of renters in houses throughout central Florida as an unfortunate consequence of the damage this region absorbed from the Great Recession and housing bust. "Having an owner-occupied house is better for a neighborhood and better for a community than a house occupied by renters," Kilsheimer said. "They are invested in their children's school. They're invested the quality of life in their community." Claudette Guerrier, one of the original homeowners in Piedmont Park from its development in 1988, feels disheartened by the transformation. She said her four-bedroom, two-story house has been broken into twice recently.

"It was better in the beginning; now it's not so good," Guerrier said. In the aftermath of a housing crisis, metro Orlando suffered one of the highest foreclosure rates in the nation. A few homes in Piedmont Park sat empty for months, attracting squatters who moved in and were hard to evict, said Karin Settle, president of the local homeowners association. One house of college-age renters, she said, threw fraternity-like parties with 20 or so cars parked outside and drunk men hanging out on the porch - something the neighborhood didn't see in years past.

Several homeowners have said they're considering selling their homes because there are so many renters now, she said. "If these people come in and they're out-of-state investors - some place in Canada or Arizona you don't really have a physical office or people to contact about when there is something going on with the home," Settle said. "On the good side, they come in, renovate the house, typically gut it. They paint it, fix the fence and it looks nice from the curb. But then these companies don't take a lot of pains in terms of who they rent to."

Laura Smith, a resident for 17 years, was close friends with her neighbors in the house behind hers until they moved a couple of years ago. Since then, she said, it's been one renter after another. "They just come and go; you just see different cars," Smith said. "I say to myself, 'I should make a better effort to get to

know them.' But by the time I get around to it, they're gone."

The three-bedroom, two-bath home next door to Michelle Harner's house was sold in March. She was hoping that owner-occupants would move in. But the telltale signs of a corporate landlord appeared within days. "Somebody doesn't buy a house like that and turn around and rip everything out and completely remodel the whole thing and put a new roof on it five days after buying the house," she said. Property records show that the house was bought at the end of March by Freo Florida LLC for \$145,000. Freo Florida, part of Progress Residential Trust, which owns over 3,000 homes around the nation, listed the house on Zillow as a rental for \$1,325 a month. Some renters do show pride in tending to their homes, Harner said, but it's often easy to pick out which homes are rentals. Yards tend to be untended, cars are parked all over the street, "and you see one family a year come and go."

The transient nature brings other challenges. At a recent homeowners' association meeting to discuss installing a new playground, only nine homeowners showed up from a neighborhood with more than 400 residents. A decade ago, dozens would likely have attended. "When you have a high percentage of renters, you end up having a low turnout at things like homeowners' association meetings, when you do a community yard sale," Harner said. "That collaboration sort of declines."

Ask the renters themselves, and some will say that very sense of community is what they value most about living there. Nicole Caverly, who began renting in the Piedmont Park neighborhood this year, doesn't consider herself a disengaged neighbor. After having lived for years in an apartment building where people kept to themselves, she loves living where she can chat with neighbors during walks.

The previous owners had lost the house to foreclosure in 2015, after which it was bought by Freo. Caverly, a store manager, says the management company her landlord uses has been pleasantly responsive. It quickly fixed troubled locks on the front door after she moved in with her daughter and boyfriend.

She is saving for a down payment to buy a home. But she doesn't yearn for the responsibilities of ownership - from having to fix appliances to dealing with insect infestations.

For now, Caverly observed, "It's a renters' market because nobody can afford a down payment." There are few signs that the real estate investment companies plan to sell many of the homes they bought. But the temptation to do so will keep rising if home prices do. In the meantime, the companies have scaled back their purchases - from 9 percent of all sales nationwide in 2013 to about 2.5 percent early this year, said Daren Blomquist, a vice president at RealtyTrac, which tracks housing data and trends.

The industry has been consolidating as companies try to create efficiencies of scale. Colony American Homes and Starwood Waypoint Residential merged this year. And American Residential Properties merged with American Homes 4 Rent late last year. — AP



**PARIS:** A woman carrying a backpack with a sticker reading "Red card to the labor law" stands behind French CRS anti-riot police during a demonstration against the government's proposed labour reforms in Paris yesterday. — AFP

## FRENCH PM FORCES THROUGH CONTESTED LABOR REFORMS

### VALLS DEFENDS MOVE ON RISING UNEMPLOYMENT

**PARIS:** French Socialist Prime Minister Manuel Valls yesterday bypassed parliament to force through labor reforms that have sparked four months of strikes and street protests.

"This country is too used to mass unemployment," Valls told parliament as many members booed and several walked out of the chamber. He said a "coalition of immobility" had stymied the reforms, which aim at reducing unemployment by freeing up the job market notably by making it easier for employers to hire and fire staff. It was the second time the embattled government used the so-called 49-3 provision for this package of reforms, as it could not count on the votes of legislators on the Socialist Party's left flank. It used the same measure to force a package of economic reforms through parliament last year, also to prevent the rebel left flank of the party from sinking it.

The labour bill now continues on its bicameral shuttle. It returns to the Senate before its definitive adoption by the lower house on July 22 - when Valls is expected to again resort to the 49-3 manoeuvre for the final step. In the streets meanwhile, protesters staged their 12th show of opposition to the controversial package, seen as too pro-business and a threat to cherished workers' rights. However the numbers were down from previous protests. A Paris protest drew up to 7,500 people according to police and 45,000 according to the hardline CGT union.

Demonstrations peaked on March 31 at 390,000 people across the country, according to official figures, while the unions claim the figure was 1.2 million.

Unemployment in France stands at a stubborn 10 percent overall, but for young people the figure is closer to 25 percent. Union- and student-backed demonstrations against the reforms began nearly four months ago, with some protests descending into violence.

MPs have 24 hours to decide whether to call a vote of no confidence in Valls' government, which the rightwing opposition has already ruled out. The government survived a vote of no-confidence by a comfortable margin over its use of the 49-3 clause in May.

On Tuesday the head of the Republicans' parliamentary group, Christian Jacob, said the centre-right party would not call such a vote this time around. Union- and student-backed demonstrations against the reforms began in early March, with some protests descending into violence. The worst unrest was seen in Paris on June 14, just four days after the start of the Euro 2016 football championships in France, when around 40 people were hurt and dozens were



**PARIS:** French Labor Minister Myriam El Khomri (C-R) and French lawmaker Philippe Vigier (C-R) are pictured prior to a debate on the government's planned labor law reforms yesterday. — AFP arrested. President Francois Hollande, who faces a re-election bid next April, had hoped for a signature reform to reverse his dire approval ratings.

### 800 amendments

But pressure from the street, as well as parliament's back benches, caused the government to water down the proposals, which only angered bosses while failing to satisfy the unions. The main sticking point has been a measure giving precedence to agreements negotiated between

companies and their staff over deals reached with unions across entire industrial sectors notably on working hours.

"Compromise was possible, it was even within reach," said Christian Paul, head of the Socialist rebels. Pierre Gattaz, the head of the employers' federation MEDEF, said last week that he was "very disappointed" with the bill in its watered-down form, calling it a "monument of complexity, absolutely illegible" for small and medium-sized businesses. — AFP

## LUFTHANSA REACHES LONG-TERM NO-STRIKE DEAL WITH CABIN STAFF

**FRANKFURT:** German airline Lufthansa yesterday unveiled the details of a wide-ranging deal on pay and working conditions for its cabin staff, including a no-strike agreement and job guarantees until 2021.

Bringing to an end a long and bitter industrial dispute that hit thousands of passengers, Lufthansa and the cabin crews' union UFO said that both sides had accepted a "comprehensive agreement" drawn up during months of arbitration. The talks had been mediated by Matthias Platzeck, the former Social Democrat president of the regional state of Brandenburg.

The deal covered issues ranging from pension rights, pay increases, a long-term no-strike agreement and job guarantees until 2021, the

two sides said in a joint statement.

Lufthansa's personnel chief Bettina Volkens said that with Platzeck's support, the airline and the union had "managed to reach a solution at the bargaining table out of the public eye."

"It was a struggle to reach an agreement in which it was necessary for both sides to make cutbacks from their original position. The current compromise demonstrates that the effort was worthwhile," she said. UFO's chief negotiator Nicoletta Baublies said Platzeck "managed very neatly to bring our diverging interests together in the best possible way: Lufthansa has achieved economic and political security without taking anything away from individual employees at any point." — AFP



**APOPKA:** A real estate sign in the Piedmont Park neighborhood in Apopka, Florida a former agricultural hub now crowded with housing developments. Where one in 10 homes was once a rental, now more than a third are. — AP



## COAL DUST KILLS 23,000 PER YEAR IN EU: REPORT

**PARIS:** Lung-penetrating dust from coal-fired power plants in the European Union claims some 23,000 lives a year and racks up tens of billions of euros in health costs, an NGO report said yesterday. Even as the bloc shifts towards renewable sources like wind and Sun energy, coal still accounted for 18 percent of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions in 2014 and a quarter of its electricity mix in 2015, said the analysis.

Emissions from 257 power plants for which data was available "were associated with 22,900 premature deaths in 2013," said the report entitled "Europe's dark cloud: How coal-burning countries make their

neighbors sick." There are a total of 280 coal-fired plants. The study was compiled by researchers from four green energy lobby groups: the Health and Environment Alliance, the WWF, Climate Action Network Europe and Sandbag.

In addition to deaths, the report blamed coal plant pollution for nearly 12,000 new cases of chronic bronchitis and more than half-a-million asthma attacks in children in the EU in 2013. The medical treatment required, as well as reduced productivity caused by absence from work, amassed "substantial costs" of 32.4 billion to 62.3 billion euros (\$36 billion to \$70 billion), said

the report. About 83 percent of deaths, some 19,000 in total, were blamed on inhalation of fine particulate matter, airborne particles so small-under 2.5 micrometers in diameter-that they can enter deep into the lungs and bloodstream.

### Hearth disease, cancer

"Most common causes of death connected to particulate matter exposure are strokes, heart disease, chronic lung disease or lung cancer," said the report. It warned the particles "are transported hundreds of kilometers and across national borders, impacting the health of people both within the

country of production and further afield."

The report listed the EU's worst offenders, attributing 4,690 premature deaths to coal power stations in Poland, 2,490 to Germany, 1,660 to Romania, 1,390 to Bulgaria and 1,350 to Britain. The five countries most affected by pollution from their own as well as neighboring countries were Germany with 3,630 deaths, Italy with 1,610, France with 1,380, Greece with 1,050, and Hungary with 700. "Air pollution is responsible for millions of deaths worldwide," Roberto Bertolini, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative to the EU said in a statement. "Higher tempera-

tures from climate change will exacerbate the problem."

A similar study in the United States had attributed more than 13,000 premature deaths to coal pollution, while Indian research has blamed as many as 115,000 premature deaths and 20 million asthma cases per year on coal.

In Paris last December 195 nations agreed to curb climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas in a bid to limit global warming to "well below" two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) from pre-industrial levels. — AFP



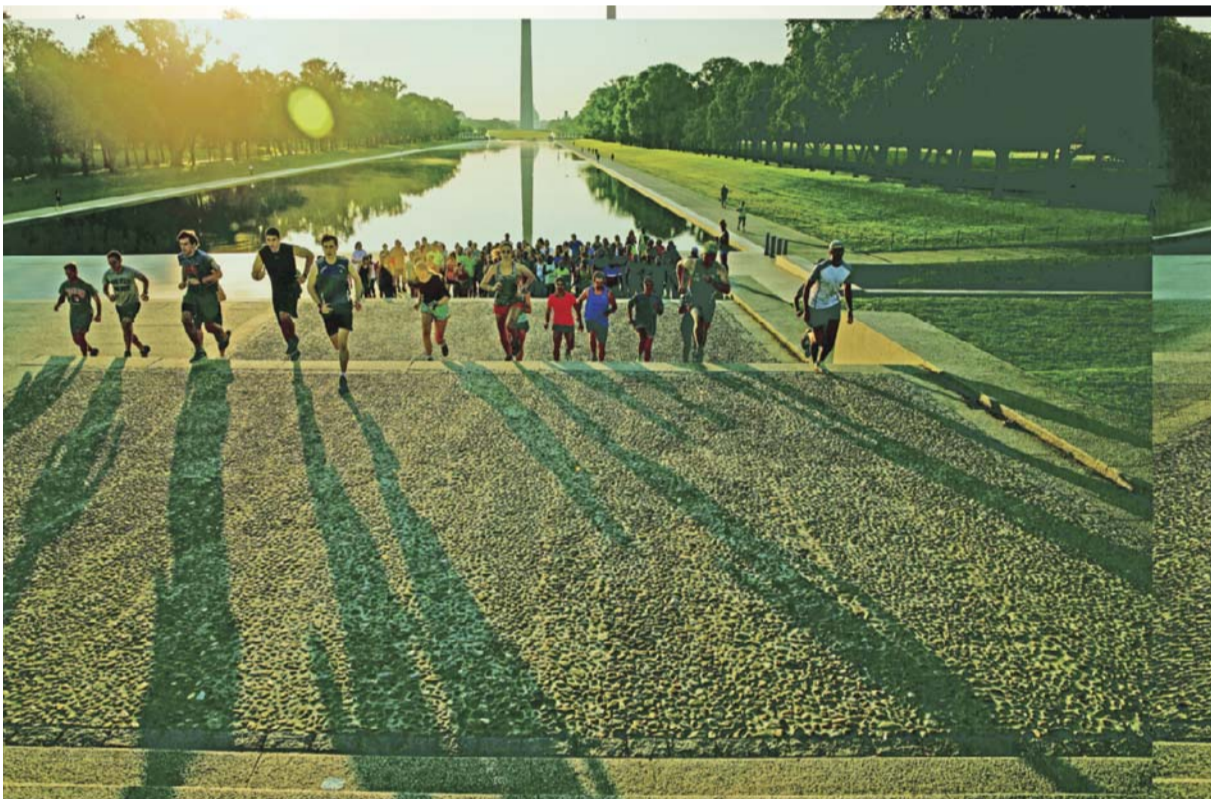
WASHINGTON: Members of the running group "November Project" rest after their work out of running up and down the stairs of the Lincoln Memorial. — AP photos



WASHINGTON: Members of the running group "November Project" sit together for a photo after running up and down the stairs of the Lincoln Memorial.

## FORGET THE GYM, WORKOUT BUFFS HIT UP NATIONAL LANDMARKS

'IT CREATES A SENTIMENTAL WAY TO CONNECT WITH YOUR CITY'



WASHINGTON: Members of the running group "November Project" run up and down the stairs near the Lincoln Memorial.



WASHINGTON: Members of the running group "November Project" run up and down the stairs at the Lincoln Memorial.

**WASHINGTON:** When college rowing buddies Bojan Mandaric and Brogan Graham vowed to stay in shape post-graduation, they didn't want to shovel out hundreds to join a gym or even drop \$20 for a yoga class. So they returned to one of their most grueling college workouts: the stairs at Harvard Stadium. Five years later, there are nearly 800 others running those steps with them at 6:30 am every Wednesday. Their routine, known as the November Project, now has thousands of participants and free workout clubs in 20 cities, capitalizing on what's become a popular fitness trend, with other groups and individuals also gathering in iconic spots to get their sweat on.

Sites include national monuments, historic landmarks and other public spaces around the country, ranging from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, to the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, to New York City's Gracie Mansion, the historic home where the mayor lives. The mountains of stairs and wide stone platforms

at these sites are ideal for box jumps, step routines and tricep dips. Often the workouts must be held at dawn before the tourist crowds arrive with selfie sticks. But the scenic views these landmarks offer cannot be rivaled by looking out the window of a non-descript gym.

"It creates a sentimental way to connect with your city," said Mandaric. "There's a romantic component to it, you're working out, endorphins are flowing, you're meeting cool new people." In Pennsylvania, the hot spot is the Philadelphia Museum of Art's front steps - best known for the famous scene from the movie "Rocky" where Sylvester Stallone's character culminates his morning jog and jumps triumphantly. CoreFitness' Lauren Krinis' 6 am class draws about 45 people. "It really is fun to watch people who think, 'I could never run up and down the stairs,' who then go run it four or five times and do a full boot camp class or yoga session. It's probably one of the most motivating places you can work out," Krinis said.

### National Park Service

Some parks have imposed restrictions on fitness groups, requiring classes to be free or banning classes above a certain size. National Park Service officials say parks can play an important role in contributing to a healthy America and encourage their use for exercise, but many memorials and monuments have areas where jogging and group workouts are not allowed, in order to "maintain a reflective and contemplative atmosphere." Still, the National Mall, home to the Lincoln Memorial, hosts International Yoga Day and the Marine Corps Marathon, and November Project groups work out at the Lincoln Memorial steps early Wednesday mornings.

At the iconic Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Denver, Joe Hendricks' free workout on Saturday mornings had been drawing a few hundred people. But two years ago, he said, the city ordered groups with more than 20 people to limit sessions to Sunday only. Now,

roughly 200 join him for a Sunday workout that includes everything from backward crawls to the bleachers to "piggy back" exercises where you carry your partner. Hendricks, 53, leads the workouts alongside several other fitness groups and soloists at the sandstone monoliths where the Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains. "It's a workout mecca really for Denver. It's just so energizing to have so many people around you and real motivating. People are high-fiving each other. Most people there are working out much harder than they would on their own," he said.

Kim Wagler leads free boot camp classes and a walking club at the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum in Canton, Ohio, which has 108 steps. "A lot of people are terrified to join a gym because they're afraid of feeling uncomfortable and that's a nice place where there's a wide variety of people there," Wagler said. "You're not just going to show up and everyone is super fit and super lean." But

some visitors have complained about runners and walkers at the monument. "We do not want the grounds to be an outdoor gym. It is disrespectful to the president," McKinley site director Joyce Yut said in an email.

On a recent Wednesday at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, one of the nation's most popular tourist destinations, 39-year-old Mary Kusler was pushing her way through a vicious circuit of 17 times up the steps. "It reminds you of the beauty of DC, of the calmness before the craziness of the everyday life here in DC," said Kusler, who's been working out at the memorial for two years. "The people are what you come back for. The stairs and the getting fit in the process is an added bonus." It's a sentiment that is echoed by other workout groups. Hendricks met his wife of five years at his Red Rocks boot camp. "It's become almost like a social group," he said. "This summer alone there are nine weddings happening of people that have met at my group." — AP

## HUSBAND SURPRISES WIFE WITH 500 ROSES AFTER HER CHEMO TREATMENT

**OMAHA:** A dozen roses simply weren't enough for a Nebraska man who wanted "to do something special" for his wife to celebrate her last chemotherapy treatment. So, he raised money and surprised her with 500. Video of the surprise shows Alissa Bousquet's repeating "holy moly" in disbelief as friends and family delivered 36 vases of roses to her at the Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center in

Omaha. Husband Brad Bousquet writes that he secretly texted wife Alissa's friends and family to help with the effort. The roses sold for \$10 each with the proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research. He says the rose drive raised more than \$4,500. Bousquet writes that the flowers were shared with other patients at the hospital. — AP

## JAPANESE JAILED FOR CUTTING OFF AND FLUSHING RIVAL PRIVATE PART

**TOKYO:** A former boxer who chopped off the penis of his wife's lover with a pair of garden shears before flushing it down the toilet was jailed in Japan yesterday. Ikki Kotsugai, 25, carried out the "vicious" attack in August 2015 when he burst into the office of a lawyer who had an affair with his wife. Kotsugai, an ex-boxer and law student, became enraged after mistakenly believing his wife had been forced to

sleep with her boss at a legal firm, when in reality the affair was consensual, the judge said at Tokyo District Court, according to Jiji Press.

The Sankei Shimbun daily newspaper reported that Kotsugai's wife had falsely told him that she was forced to have sex with the lawyer. He was sentenced to four years and six months Tuesday by presiding judge Kazunori Karei. — AFP

## SHORTAGE OF SYRINGES HAMPERS CONGO'S FIGHT AGAINST YELLOW FEVER

**KINSHASA:** A shortage of syringes is hampering plans to vaccinate people in Democratic Republic of Congo against a yellow fever epidemic despite the arrival of more than one million doses of vaccine, health officials said yesterday.

Congo's government declared a yellow fever epidemic last month in the capital Kinshasa and two other provinces near the border with Angola.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says some 1,400 suspected cases of the haemorrhagic virus in Congo have resulted so far in 82 deaths and is particularly concerned about conditions in Kinshasa, a city of 12 million with poor health services and a climate conducive to mosquitoes.

The disease has killed 350 people in Angola since December. The WHO plans to begin a vaccination campaign in the province of Kwango near the Angolan border on July

20 but the UN body's spokesman in Congo, Eugene Kabambi, said the country had only about four million syringes but needed 10 million. Kabambi said some 1.08 million vaccine doses had arrived in Kinshasa in recent days, but declined to say when he thought more syringes might be delivered.

Health officials are reluctant to begin the vaccination campaign in only one zone in densely-populated Kinshasa for reasons of public safety and order. "If we only organize in Kisenso, there will be huge crowds coming to Kisenso to obtain the vaccine and that could become unmanageable," Kabambi said, referring to the first zone officials plan to target in the capital city. "So we're going to wait a little to obtain more (syringes)."

### Global vaccine shortage

The global stockpile of yellow fever vaccine stands at about 6 million doses after

having been depleted twice this year to immunize people in Angola, Uganda and Congo. The current method for making vaccines, using chicken eggs, takes a year. Health officials plan to administer a fifth of the standard dose in Kinshasa due to the shortage of the vaccine. The lower dosage provides temporary protection against the disease but does not confer lifelong immunity.

More than one million people were vaccinated in Kinshasa during a campaign from May 26-June 4 in two health zones. But the effort was hampered by disorganization as residents of other districts flocked to the vaccination sites, preventing many local residents from receiving the injection.

Kabambi said other regions along the Angolan border would eventually be vaccinated, depending on how many more doses are made available, in order to create an "immune buffer". — Reuters



## UNCERTAINTY LOOMS AS VERMONT BECOMES 1ST STATE TO LABEL GMOs

**MONTPELIER:** Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders joined other Vermont leaders Friday to celebrate the state's newly implemented law requiring labels on genetically modified food and blast proposed federal legislation that could pre-empt the state requirement. Vermont became the first state Friday to require the labeling of food containing GMOs, or genetically modified organisms.

"Vermont had the courage to say ... 'If it's the right thing to do, what are we waiting for,'" Democratic Gov Peter Shumlin said to cheers from a rally audience of about 150 people on the Statehouse steps. Vermont Sen Sanders sharply criticized the compromise bill in Congress that called for less stringent regulations, and said the bill has several shortcomings. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill next week.

The federal legislation would allow an electronic code on a package to stand in for a label, requiring a smartphone and internet connection for a consumer to know whether the product contained genetically modified ingredients, Sanders said. Many products, including corn products, beet sugar and soy oils that are in many processed foods, could be exempt from the requirement, he added. "Perhaps most shockingly and what exposes the partial nature of this legislation, this bill imposes no penalties whatsoever for violating the labeling requirement, making the legislation essentially meaningless," Sanders said. Vermont's law imposes a penalty of \$1,000 per day per genetically modified product that is not labeled as required.

At the Hunger Mountain Co-op in Montpelier, which specializes in natural foods and local products, general manager Kari Bradley said it was frustrating that a state law the cooperative has supported since its inception in the legislature might be erased from the books by federal action. He said food co-ops elsewhere in the country cheered them on but their states didn't have the political climate to pass a labeling law. The federal bill is "not a solution that's

in the spirit of the Vermont law," he said.

Food producers argue the science doesn't find significant difference between foods that are genetically modified and those that are not. But they also say they don't want to end up with a patchwork of multiple state regulatory schemes. Industry groups including the Grocery Manufacturers Association have sued to block the Vermont law, arguing that the labeling requirement amounts to compelled speech in violation of the First Amendment. The litigation is pending in federal court. Meanwhile, food companies and retailers said they have taken steps to be in compliance as of July 1, the start date of the state law that passed in 2014. At Mehuron's Supermarket in Waitsfield, manager Bruce Hyde Jr. said he and his team were ready while noting that stores like his have to rely on national food companies to apply labels to products with genetically modified ingredients.

Campbell Soup Co has printed and shipped product labeled to comply with Vermont's law, company spokesman Thomas Hushen said, and the company remains "committed to label on-package" throughout the country. Coca-Cola spokesman Ben Sheidler said the company was making a "good-faith effort" to comply with the law but some lower-volume products and packages "could be temporarily unavailable in Vermont."

Eric Blom, a spokesman for Maine-based regional chain Hannaford Supermarkets, said the chain has new labels for any store-brand products it carries that contain genetically modified ingredients and those labels will be going to Vermont and throughout Hannaford's distribution system. Grocery Manufacturers Association spokesman Roger Lowe said the group hopes Congress acts quickly on the legislation. He said, "Since the state of Vermont has given companies 30 days to correct any alleged GMO labeling violations, the immediate impact, if any, on companies in July should be limited." — AP



**WISCONSIN:** Researchers at the Wisconsin National Primate research Center (WNPRC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, perform an ultrasound on a pregnant rhesus macaque monkey infected with the Zika virus in Madison, Wisconsin. Researchers at the University released a study detailing how research at the facility has found the Zika virus persisted in the blood of pregnant monkeys for 30 to 70 days but only around 7 days in others. The study also found that monkeys previously infected with the virus were resistant to a second infection, which suggests the animals have a naturally occurring immunity. — AFP

## ZIKA VIRUS A CONCERN FOR POOR URBAN AREAS ALONG GULF COAST

**HOUSTON:** The poorest parts of Houston remind Dr Peter Hotez of some of the neighborhoods in Latin America hardest hit by Zika. Broken window screens. Limited air conditioning. Trash piles that seem to re-appear even after they're cleaned up. On a hot, humid day this month, Hotez pointed at one pile that included old tires and a smashed-in television with water pooling inside. It was a textbook habitat for the mosquitoes that carry and transmit the Zika virus, and one example of the challenge facing public health officials.

"I'm showing you Zika heaven," said Hotez, the tropical medicine dean at Baylor College of Medicine. Hotez and other tropical disease specialists are most concerned about impoverished urban areas along the Gulf Coast, where the numbers of the mosquito that spreads Zika are expected to spike. Texas already has dealt with dengue fever, transmitted by the same mosquito. Zika causes only a mild and brief illness, at worst, in most people. But it can cause fetal death and severe brain defects in the children of women infected during pregnancy.

So far, Texas officials have reported 48 people infected with Zika, all associated with travel. In one case, the virus was sexually transmitted by someone who had been infected abroad. Public health officials have spent months preparing for what they are certain will be at least some locally transmitted cases. "It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when," said Dr Umair Shah, the executive director of the Harris County public health department.

Florida and other states in the South where the Aedes aegypti mosquito is present also are taking steps to prepare. In Florida, for example, Gov Rick Scott used his emergency powers last week to authorize spending up to \$26.2 million for Zika. His action comes as Congress remains stalemated on President Barack Obama's \$1.9 billion proposal to fight the virus. A scaled-back \$1.1 billion Republican-drafted measure was blocked in the Senate on Tuesday by Democrats opposed to its denial of new funding for Planned Parenthood clinics in Puerto Rico, where there already are more than 1,800 locally acquired cases, and to easing rules on pesticide spraying.

In Texas, major cities have sophisticated mosqui-

to screening programs and years of dealing with other mosquito-borne illnesses like dengue and West Nile virus.

But local authorities in most of the state have limited or no mosquito surveillance. The mosquitoes they do capture are typically sent to outside labs, and getting results can take weeks. The smallest counties often have a single person driving around conducting surveillance - "Chuck in a truck," Hotez calls it. The state health department has spent more than \$400,000 since the start of the year to expand its lab capacity and to buy mosquito traps. It also launched a \$2 million Zika awareness campaign. Shah said there are cuts that can be made, "but there comes a point where you stretch people too much."

In Harris County, which encompasses Houston and is the third-most populous county in the US, officials aren't waiting for the federal government. They purchased their own testing machines and have retrofitted two labs to run tests only for Zika to get results faster. Mosquito traps are set out on lawns and inside sewers in more than 250 designated areas. Thus far, no mosquitoes have tested positive for Zika. If one does, the county will send out

three-person investigative teams and use staff from other agencies and volunteers to clear any containers with water and other possible mosquito breeding grounds.

### Improving our areas

Other counties don't have the same capacity. Hidalgo County, which covers McAllen and poor areas along the border with Mexico, is using 12 traps to collect mosquitoes for testing, county health director Eduardo Olivarez said. Officials also are trying to get residents to clean up trash and install window and door screens. He is stymied by the problem of old tires collecting across the county, apparently on their way to and from Mexico. The county has several "colonias," settlements with recent immigrants that often lack running water or basic infrastructure. Still, Olivarez says he's not expecting large Zika outbreaks because even the poorest parts of his county are less congested and have more air conditioning.

"Do we have poor areas? Can we look at improving our areas? Definitely," Olivarez said. "But I get people who get dengue and West Nile, and they live in air-conditioned homes." — AP

## NEW MEXICO COURT: DOCTORS CAN'T HELP PATIENTS END LIVES

**ALBUQUERQUE:** The New Mexico Supreme Court has ruled that terminally ill patients cannot end their lives with help from doctors, ending what right-to-die advocates thought would be a successful legal fight. In a 5-0 opinion, the high court overturned a previous district court decision that doctors could not be prosecuted under the state's assisted suicide law, which classifies helping with suicide as a fourth-degree felony.

"If we were to recognize an absolute, fundamental right to physician aid in dying, constitutional questions would abound regarding legislation that defined terminal illness or provided for protective procedures to assure that a patient was making an informed and independent decision," Justice Edward Chavez wrote for the court.

Doctors can legally help terminally ill patients end their lives in five states - California, Oregon, Washington, Montana and Vermont - and advocates have spurred debate in dozens of other statehouses around the country. So far, they've been unsuccessful. Officials with the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, which launched the legal challenge in the state 2012, called the ruling "tragic news" for patients fighting

terminal illness. "From the very beginning this case has been about giving people more options and control at the end of life, and we are deeply disappointed that the courts have decided against allowing doctors to care for their patients in this way," ACLU-NM cooperating attorney Laura Schauer Ives said.

ACLU-NM spokesman Micah McCoy said the group will now turn its attention to changing state law. The legal challenge involves a Santa Fe woman with advanced uterine cancer who wanted courts to clarify New Mexico's laws preventing her from ending her life and putting doctors in legal trouble.

The justices were asked to throw out the state's assisted suicide law. In oral arguments, the New Mexico Attorney General's Office argued the final decision on the legality of the practice should be left to state lawmakers, not the courts. California last year joined the four other states in passing a law that allows residents to legally end their lives with medication prescribed by a doctor. State lawmakers approved the measure following the heavily publicized case of Brittany Maynard, a 29-year-old California woman with brain cancer who moved to Oregon to legally end her life in 2014. — AP

## PRACTICE SURGERIES GO VIRTUAL AT CHICAGO MEDICAL CENTER

**CHICAGO:** Rush University Medical Center in Chicago is adopting virtual reality technology to train its obstetrics and gynecology residents in surgical techniques. The technology will allow Rush to do away with practice operations on pigs, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. As a result, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals agreed to cover half of the \$12,000 cost of the training module. The system will allow the 24 residents to practice using a joystick or surgical tools while they see a virtual patient through a screen. Students will practice common procedures on the uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

"Surgery is no different than learning how to play an instrument or a sport," said OB/GYN residency Director Dr Xavier Pombar. "The more practice you have, the better you get." The module is scheduled to be in place in August. Fourth-year resident Michelle Beck said the software will allow her to become proficient in a variety of surgical concepts. "We'll be able to practice everything from basic concepts to full surgeries and receive feedback in real time," Beck said. The system "scores competency - how effective your movement was, how long it took you to complete the task - and then gives you a percentage." — AP

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248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
ر. فهد علي المخيزيم

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# INDO KUWAIT FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ORGANIZED RAMADAN GHABQA

The Indo Kuwait Friendship Society (IKFS) organized a ghabqa for IKFS members on Saturday, 2nd July 2016 (27th Ramadan 1437 Hijri) at Ahmad Tower - Fatma Auditorium amidst a galaxy of Kuwaiti, Indian and dignitaries.

The Qabka evening commenced at 10.30 pm by recitation of verses from the Holy Quran by Miss Alameera almubeenah. Before starting the main program Sunil Jain, Ambassador of India, came to the venue and graced the event.

A K S Abdul Nazar, General Secretary welcomed the guests and said that 'Ghabqa', a wonderful tradition of the locals has been adopted by the IKFS first time since establishment of IKFS in 2011. Qabka considered as a local tradition celebrated in the month of Ramadan after Taraweeh prayers.

Sayid Nasir Al-Mashoor Thangal, (Head of Foreign Exchange and Options at National Investment Co.), Former Board Member of Indian Community School and patron of IKFS admired IKFS team for organizing a ghabqa event and said that Ghabqa helps to foster strong ties amongst families and friends. He added that In fasting, by refraining from the natural human urges to satisfy one's appetite, we are exercising our ability of self-restraint, so that we can then apply it to our everyday life to bring about self-improvement. Also admired IKFS President Dr Ghalib Al-Mashoor, President for his personal initiative for organizing such a wonderful event named as Ghabqa.

Aziz Bin Al-Rasheedi, Media Giant and Known personality among Kuwaiti Public relations, as well as Bu Mohamed, a leading Kuwaiti businessman delivered complimentary speeches. They said they are very much honored to participate in the IKFS GABKA Event. Aziz said that these kind of programs will help to strengthen the ties between Kuwaitis and Indians. This is a form of an expression where our love, friendship and gratitude to the wonderful peoples of both India and Kuwait.

Kuwait Tamila Islamic Committee (K-Tic) President Mohamed Meerasha Baqawi also added some words in Urdu/Hindi language while telling to develop and strengthen our powers of self-control, so that we can resist wrongful desires and bad habits, and there-



fore "guard against evil".

Talib Ba-Wazir, IKFS Patron said that Ramadan fasting will help us to learn to refrain from usurping other's rights and belongings. In fasting we voluntarily give up even what is rightfully ours; how can then we think of taking what is not ours but belongs to someone else?

The Chief Guest from Chennai Moulana Ahmed Abdul Cader Alim Mahlari, (A Quran and Hadees Researcher, and Khateeb in

Kayalpatinam Big Masjid) delivered Ramadan Message while saying that for the past almost 30 days we have been fasting and hopefully attained nearness and closeness to Allah so that Allah becomes a reality in our lives. As we bear the rigors of fasting purely for the sake of following a Divine commandment, knowing and feeling that Allah can see all our actions however secret, it intensifies the consciousness of Allah in our hearts, resulting in a higher spiritual experience.



Dr Ghalib Al-Mashoor, in his presidential speech reiterated the Charity and generosity and urged to speed up especially during Ramadan. It becomes obligatory when the sun sets on the last day of Ramadan. Anyone who gets married, has a baby born to him or becomes Muslim before the sun sets on that day, has to give zakat al-fitr (on behalf of himself and/or his new wife or new baby), but if that happens after sunset, he does not have to give it. Whoever dies after sunset on the night

of fitr, zakat al-fitr must be given on his behalf. This is what Ahmad stated."(Al-Mughni)

DrAl-Mashoor added that "We learn to give, and not to take. The deprivation of fasting makes us sympathies with the suffering of others, and desirous of alleviating it; and it makes us remember the blessings of life which we normally take for granted". Anas also thanked IKFS for arranging QABKA. Iftekhar Ahamed, Treasure expressed vote of thanks followed by ghabqa dinner.



Majdi Qambar, General Manager and Shareholder of Amjad, Fairouz and Nada International real estate companies hosted an iftar for his group of companies at Sheraton Hotel recently.







## 200,000 CALORIES BURNED TO DATE BY AL-MUHALLAB MALL 'FITNESS DONATION PROGRAM' PARTICIPANTS

ONLY 100,000 CALORIES LEFT TO MEET THE TARGET

**A**l-Muhallab Mall proudly announced today that its first ever fitness program has received an overwhelming participation by volunteers who successfully burned 200,000 calories out of the initial target of 300,000 calories over a period of 2 months only. The program comes in collaboration with Flare Gym and Fawzia Sultan Rehabilitation Institute (FSRI) with an aim of helping participants lose weight while presenting the monetary reward to those in need.

Since the launch of the program in April 2016, the mall has received great attendance in its track area, with health watchers and the general public participating to play a role in this program and achieving more than 200,000 Calories. Flare Gym trainers are consistently providing exercise tips and sessions to enable participants to burn more calories, achieve a healthiest lifestyle, as well as donating to a noble cause.

Commenting on the program, Shaikhah Al-Fadhalah - Senior Marketing Officer at Al-Muhallab Mall, said: "We are overwhelmed by the success we are witnessing by all the participants of Al-Muhallab Mall's Fitness Donation Program. The amount of calories burned coupled by the passion of the general public to participate, is indeed something we are very proud of. Our main aim from this program is to give the public an opportunity to enhance their lifestyles to a healthy and athletic one, as



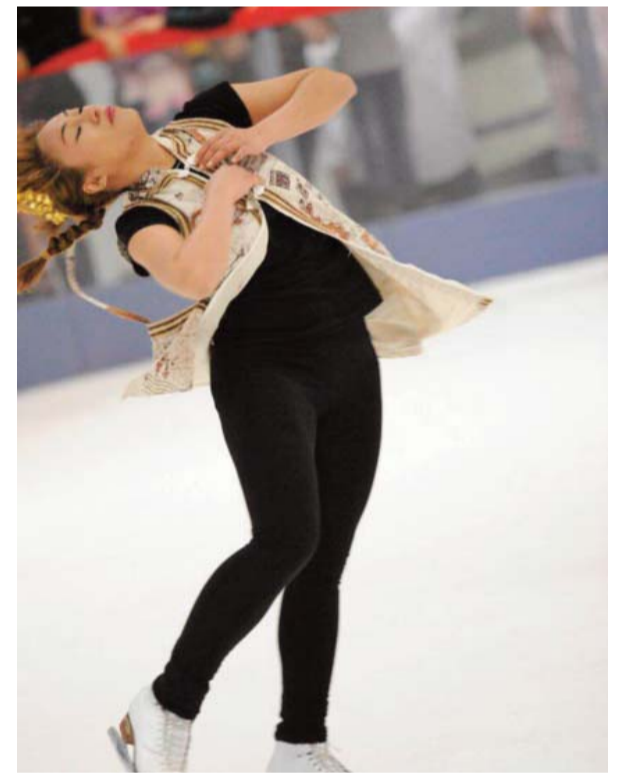
well as infusing a sense of responsibility to those in need by integrating a social responsibility factor within them. So much has been achieved to date, and only 100,000 calories left to be accomplished. Therefore on behalf of Al-Muhallab Mall I would like to invite everyone to take part in this cause, to help us make a difference in people's lives."

The 'Fitness Donation Program' invites all sects of the community to collectively lose 300,000 Calories until the end of the year, through running on the track in the 1st floor, every Tuesday from 5-7 pm. After jointly accumulating 300,000 Calories, the participants will be able to donate 3,000 Kuwaiti Dinars to those in need in FSRI.



It is worth mentioning that FSRI is a pioneer in providing the highest quality of compassionate rehabilitation care in Kuwait, which optimizes function and improves the quality of life for the people of Kuwait and the GCC Region by engaging qualified clinicians and supporting research and education. Al-Muhallab Mall's recently refurbished

brand identity and corporate strategy aims at engaging with the general public through specially designed monthly activities and events that would meet the needs of every segment of the society.



## THE PROMENADE CELEBRATES GIRGIAN NIGHTS WITH CHILDREN

**C**elebrating the traditional Girgian Nights, the Promenade invited all children to a week-long celebratory program from June 19 - 23. The celebrations took place in various locations, including The Promenade Cultural Center and the Promenade ice rink, and were marked by the attendance of several influencers and social media celebrities. The program included Hababa story telling sessions for children, accompanied by a puppet show at the Promenade Cultural Center, as well as a figure skating show by the World Champion Figure Skater, Coach Leia, accompanied by a number of talented children.

Children attended the Girgian Nights celebrations in their Kuwaiti traditional attire, and the shows were accompanied by traditional Girgian music and folk hymns. The audience also received gifts and surprises along with the shows.

Girgian is a tradition deeply rooted in the Kuwaiti culture. It aims at teaching children the value of giving during the holy month of Ramadan. Celebration of Girgian illustrates The Promenade's commitment to enhancing Kuwaiti culture during the holy month, as well as instilling the spirit of giving and compassion in all children.





03:25 Into The Pride
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
06:12 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
06:36 Meet The Sloths
07:00 Meet The Sloths
07:25 Too Cute!

23:40 Disappeared
00:30 Redrum
01:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
02:10 Murder Among Friends
Disney Channel
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:30 Lab Rats: Bionic Action Hero
14:20 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Phineas And Ferb
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Mighty Med
15:40 The 7D
15:50 The 7D
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Phineas And Ferb
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything

10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Wins Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Harvey Beaks
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 The Loud House
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
15:48 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 Harvey Beaks
17:00 Get Blake
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 The Loud House
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
20:55 K.C. Undercover
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants

BBC FIRST
03:20 Whitechapel
04:15 Casualty
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:50 Casualty
08:40 Father Brown
09:25 The Paradise
10:20 Doctor Who
11:10 Casualty
12:05 Father Brown
12:50 The Paradise
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Casualty
15:30 Father Brown
16:15 The Paradise
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Doctors
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Silent Witness
21:00 Silent Witness
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Bedlam
23:40 Doctors
00:10 Doctors
00:40 Silent Witness
01:35 Silent Witness
02:30 Ripper Street

12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Shake It Up
13:10 Shake It Up
13:35 Jessie
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Alex & Co.
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Liv And Maddie
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Jessie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
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
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
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
01:55 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta

03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Heat Seekers
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man v Food
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man v Food

03:00 Living With Fran
03:30 Breaking In
04:00 Better With You
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Hank
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Better With You
08:30 Hank
09:00 Living With Fran
09:30 Suburgatory
10:00 Angie Tribeca
10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 George Lopez
12:30 Better With You
13:00 Hank
13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
14:00 Breaking In
14:30 Suburgatory
15:00 Angie Tribeca
15:30 Dr. Ken
16:00 Modern Family
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Living With Fran
18:30 Breaking In
19:00 Suburgatory
19:30 Men At Work
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
22:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
23:00 Life In Pieces
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Modern Family
02:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
02:30 Life In Pieces

Discovery Channel HD
03:40 Dirty Money
04:00 Storage Wars Canada
04:35 Storage Hunters UK
05:00 How Things Work
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
06:50 Wheeler Dealers: Top 5
07:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
08:30 Dirty Money
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Storage Hunters UK
09:45 How Things Work
10:35 Gold Divers
11:25 Pacific Warriors
12:15 Outback Truckers
13:05 Dirty Money
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Wheeler Dealers: Top 5
16:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
16:50 How Things Work
17:40 Diamond River Hunters
18:30 Deadliest Job Interview
19:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 Diamond River Hunters
21:50 Deadliest Job Interview
22:40 Dive Wars Australia
23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Top 5
01:10 Diamond River Hunters
02:00 Deadliest Job Interview
02:50 Dive Wars Australia

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
13:55 Miles From Tomorrow
14:25 The Lion Guard
14:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:20 Doc McStuffins
15:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
16:30 Doc McStuffins
17:25 Goldie & Bear
17:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:20 The Lion Guard
18:45 Miles From Tomorrow
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45 Unbungalieviable
23:00 Zou
23:30 Henry Hugglemonster
23:45 PJ Masks
24:00 Doc McStuffins
24:15 Loopedidoo
24:30 Art Attack
24:45 Calimero
24:55 Zou
25:00 Art Attack

03:25 Lewis
04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 Lewis
08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 Pick Me!
11:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:30 Code Of A Killer
17:25 Don't Tell The Bride
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Eggheads
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
20:30 Code Of A Killer
21:25 Don't Tell The Bride
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

03:00 Five Days
04:00 Entourage
04:30 Entourage
05:00 Wit
05:00 Einstein And Eddington
06:00 An Apology To Elephants
07:00 Nightgale
11:30 The Dead Mother's Club
13:00 If These Walls Could Talk
15:00 The Tears Of Sichuan Province
15:45 Something The Lord Made
17:45 The Dead Mother's Club
19:00 The Wire
20:00 Six Feet Under
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Olive Kitteridge
23:00 House Of Saddam
00:00 The Wire
01:00 Six Feet Under
02:00 True Blood

03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Dick v Dom Go Wild
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:50 Ultimate Survival
13:40 How It's Made
14:05 How It's Made
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Dick v Dom Go Wild
16:35 Kids vs Film
17:00 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
17:50 Driving Me Crazy
18:40 Nextworld
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
21:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
22:00 Driving Me Crazy
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
02:10 Driving Me Crazy

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22:00 Driving Me Crazy
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
02:10 Driving Me Crazy

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:12 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Wins Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger

03:00 Better Call America
04:00 Good Morning America
06:30 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Rosewood
08:00 The Whispers
09:00 Supergirl
10:00 Trust Me
11:00 Rosewood
12:00 The Whispers
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show



47 RONIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

03:00 Rudderless
05:00 Before I Go To Sleep
07:00 Grand Central
09:00 A Mother Betrayed
11:00 Before I Go To Sleep
13:00 The French Minister
15:00 Reach Me
17:00 A Mother Betrayed
19:00 Goodbye World
21:00 The Disappearance Of Eleanor Rigby: Him
23:00 One Last Look
01:00 A Mother Betrayed
03:00 Freaky Friday
05:00 Mulan
07:00 Big Hero 6
09:00 Toy Story
11:00 A Bug's Life
13:00 Toy Story 2
15:00 Monsters Inc
17:00 Finding Nemo
19:00 The Incredibles
21:00 Rataatouille
23:00 Wall-E
01:00 Wall-E
04:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
06:00 Raising Helen
08:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
10:00 Bringing Down The House
12:00 Raising Helen
14:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
16:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
18:00 Mr. Destiny
20:00 Trust Me
22:00 What We Do In The Shadows
24:00 Three Men And A Little Lady
02:00 Trust Me
03:00 I Will Follow You Into The Dark
01:30 Les Miserables
04:15 Ana Maria In Novela Land
06:00 Song For Marlon
08:00 Boychoir
10:00 50 To 1
12:00 Taken 3
14:00 So Undercover
16:00 Boychoir
17:45 The Walk
20:00 Great Expectations
22:15 Whiplash
00:15 Boychoir
02:00 The Walk
03:00 My Daughter Must Live
04:30 Instinct
06:45 The Hurricane
09:15 Jack
11:15 Pearl Harbor
14:30 Shanghai
16:30 A Lot Like Love
18:30 My Daughter Must Live
20:00 Gone Baby Gone
22:00 Scary Movie 5
23:15 10 Things I Hate About You
01:00 Greenberg
03:00 My Daughter Must Live
04:30 Instinct
06:45 The Hurricane
09:15 Jack
11:15 Pearl Harbor
14:30 Shanghai
16:30 A Lot Like Love
18:30 My Daughter Must Live
20:00 Gone Baby Gone
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06:45 The Hurricane
09:15 Jack
11:15 Pearl Harbor
14:30 Shanghai
16:30 A Lot Like Love
18:30 My Daughter Must Live
20:00 Gone Baby Gone
22:00 Scary Movie 5
23:15 10 Things I Hate About You
01:00 Greenberg

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY
03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Nightmare Next Door
11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
12:00 I Almost Got Away With It
15:20 Heartbreakers
16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
17:00 I Was Murdered
20:20 Heartbreakers
21:10 California Investigator
22:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
22:50 Murder Among Friends

06:00 Booster
06:10 Super Matrak
07:35 Super Matrak
07:55 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Supa Strikas
08:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Action Hero
09:35 Mighty Med
10:00 K.C. Undercover
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Supa Strikas
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Kirby Buckets
12:10 Kirby Buckets



LAST KNIGHTS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

04:15 The Matador
05:30 Les Paul: Chasing Sound
07:00 The Overbrook Brothers
08:40 The Trip To Bountiful
10:25 The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill
12:00 All On The Line
13:00 Theatreland
13:30 Banksy: Does New York
14:50 Printer's Progress
15:45 ATP: All Tomorrow's Parties
17:10 Adonis
17:20 Letter's From The South
19:05 The Overbrook Brothers
20:40 Christmas, Again
22:00 The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill
23:35 The Trip To Bountiful
01:20 Letter's From The South
03:15 Ballroom Blitz
04:00 Six Little Mcghees
04:25 Six Little Mcghees
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Little People, Big World
05:35 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Shopping Is My Life
07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Oprah: Prime
08:55 Oprah: Where Are They Now?
09:45 Little People, Big World
10:10 Little People, Big World



# CLASSIFIEDS

## Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 6/7/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 6/7/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAD	302	Amman	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:25	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
BAW	157	London	06:40	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	BAW	156	Muscat	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	JZR	1770	Jeddah	08:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	08:55
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20				
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25				
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50				
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55				
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00				
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25				
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35				
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15				
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:35				
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00				
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:05				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15				
JZR	1771	Jeddah	14:15				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20				
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30				
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30				
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50				
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00				
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10				
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10				
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				
RJA	640	Amman	16:00				
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10				
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15				
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20				
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45				
NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50				
KAC	562	Amman	16:55				
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05				
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15				
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30				
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30				
CCE	343	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:35				

**DIAL161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223

Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426

General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoubi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501

Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60

Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581

Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0

Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321

Dentists	
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787

General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148

Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mubarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282

Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924

Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288

Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290

Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210

Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	2611555-2622555

Gastrologists	
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924

Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288

Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290

Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210

Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	2611555-2622555

Gastrologists	
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation available One big room available in a two bedroom flat in Mahbulah for a decent lady or bachelor. Please contact 66901533 or 55891657 3-7-2016

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

### EMERGENCY 112

#### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:19
Shorook	04:54
Duhr:	11:53
Asr:	15:27
Maghrib:	18:51
Isha:	20:22

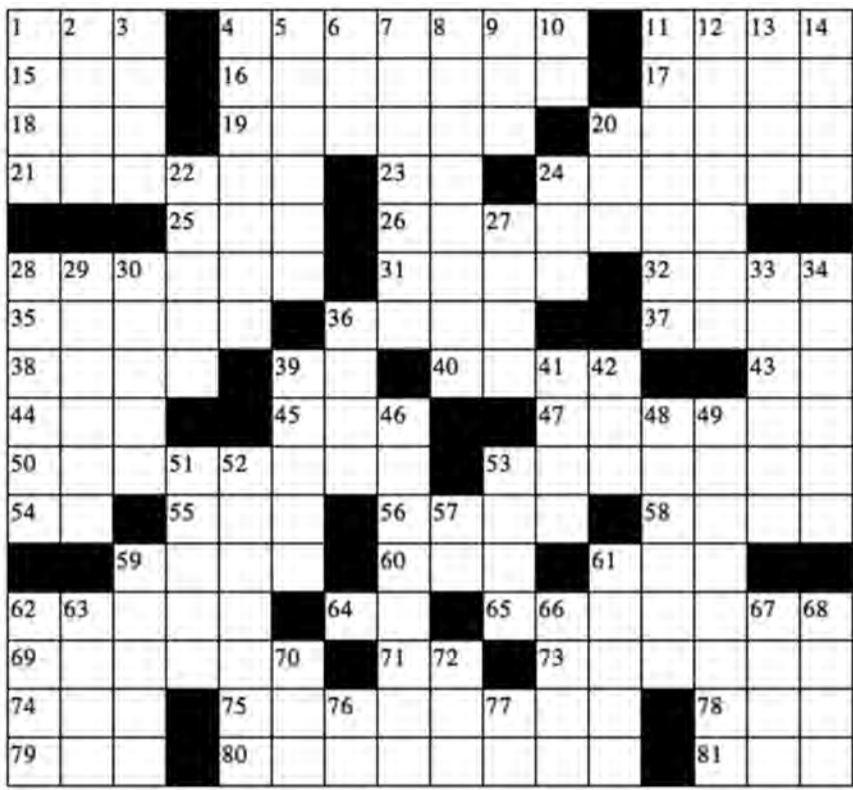


### INTERNATIONAL CALLS

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CROSSWORD 1306



ACROSS

1. Experiencing or showing sorrow or unhappiness.
4. An Asian country under the control of China.
11. Catch sight of.
15. A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
16. Aroused to action.
17. A disdainful pouting grimace.
18. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
19. Showing a high degree of refinement and the assurance that comes from wide social experience.
21. The basic unit of money in Gambia.
23. (chemistry) P(otential of) H(ydrogen).
25. A loud harsh or strident noise.
26. Freshwater fish of Central America having a long swordlike tail.
28. Philippine tree similar to the breadfruit tree bearing edible fruit.
31. Relatively small fast-moving sloth.
32. A compact mass.
35. Large swift fly the female of which sucks blood of various animals.
37. An endorsement.
38. A door-like movable barrier in a fence or wall.
40. Elegant and stylish.
43. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
44. European strong-scented perennial herb with gray-green bitter-tasting leaves.
45. The cry made by sheep.
47. Austrian physician who tried to treat diseases with a form of hypnotism (1734-1815).
50. Showing or feeling admiration.
54. A state in northwestern United States on the Pacific.
55. A colloid in a more solid form than a sol.
56. A large quantity of written matter.
58. Stairway in India leading down to a landing on the water.
60. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
62. A volcano in south central Guatemala.
64. A person forced to flee from home or country.
65. One of two official languages of Norway.
69. An artificial language related to Ido.
71. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
73. A percussion instrument consisting of a pair of hollow pieces of wood or bone (usually held between the thumb and fingers) that are made to click together (as by Spanish dancers) in rhythm with the dance.
74. A hospital unit staffed and equipped to provide intensive care.
75. Omission or suppression of parts of words or sentences.
78. Preserve of crushed fruit.
79. Cut off from a whole.
80. Widespread genus or herbs or soft-wooded arborescent shrubs cultivated for their showy flowers.
81. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from a aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
2. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
3. The face of a timepiece.
4. An impudent or insolent rejoinder.
5. United States writer remembered for his stories (1783-1859).
6. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.
7. An abundant tasteless odorless multivalent nonmetallic element.
8. Lacking strength or vigor.
9. (meaning literally 'born') Used to indicate the maiden or family name of a married woman.
10. A ductile silvery-white ductile ferromagnetic trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
11. A government order imposing a trade barrier.
12. A milk substitute containing soybean flour and water.
13. Cry weakly or softly.
14. A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
20. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
22. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
24. An acute febrile highly contagious viral disease.
27. Any of the short curved hairs that grow from the edges of the eyelids.
29. Type genus of the Alaudidae.
30. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
33. Swelling from excessive accumulation of serous fluid in tissue.
34. A republic in the Asian subcontinent in southern Asia.
36. Broken husks of the seeds of cereal grains that are separated from the flour by sifting.
39. A promontory in northern Morocco opposite the Rock of Gibraltar.
41. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
42. An emotional response that has been acquired by conditioning.
46. A loss of the ability to write or to express thoughts in writing because of a brain lesion.
48. Used as an Italian courtesy title.
49. A great raja.
51. Any of a group of heavenly spirits under the god Anu.
52. Do over, as of (part of) a house.
53. (Old Testament) Cain and Abel were the first children of Adam and Eve born after the Fall of Man.
57. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
59. A pause during which things are calm or activities are diminished.
61. Squash bugs.
63. Beyond what is natural.
66. (Norse mythology) The primeval giant slain by Odin and his brothers and from whose body they created the world.
67. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
68. God of love and erotic desire.
70. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
72. (usually followed by 'to') Naturally disposed toward.
76. Being five more than fifty.
77. A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Mental discipline should come easily for you. Problems and obstacles are easy to conquer. You know what you are doing so well that you could be chosen to help or teach others. Not to worry, once others learn all the intricacies of what you do, there is room in your day to be more into management. Very little, if any, slips by you as you have special techniques for proofing work or products so that a customer will be writing to your company about how pleased they are with the quality of your products. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. It is good that you seek new ideas in management. You bring a great deal of love to your work. A strong urge for the social life may find you active this afternoon.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have an inborn ability to guide and lead others through the many difficulties in life. You could be very much in demand as a counselor-even if you actually work as a counselor. Solving problems in the workplace seems easier than usual. There is an instinct to be powerful and in control-pulling the strings. This is a good day to get things done. There is good eye-hand coordination and a sustained effort that will make most any task run well. You may feel like exercising or getting out and about this evening. Perhaps visiting friends or dinner out with a loved one is in order now. If you are entertaining this evening, you will not have to fish for compliments. Having everything prepared in advance, you have time to visit.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

There are many opportunities to make practical decisions today-you may need to give yourself a little time before responding in some cases. Your ideas run deeper than superficial issues in which an interest in depth psychology could evolve. Your sense of responsibility is so well developed that you may find you are managing things a little more than you would like at this time. This may be a good time to put in for an upgrade in your employment. You are needed to interact in the ways you know best. When you are more able to express your talents you will appreciate how others work to develop their talent. The people with whom you work will enjoy a little time of sharing and comparing notes about time away from work.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There are many things to accomplish now and your concentration is so intense you may find that people have to raise their voice to get your attention. You have a natural sense of organization and come across as disciplined and careful, perhaps a little too sober. Ease up this afternoon, co-workers may want you to take a long noon break with them. You have natural psychological ability, in particular when working with the public. Your ability to discriminate real breakthroughs and to spot new trends makes you able to work in areas at the very fringe of technology. A presentation you have prepared will be a successful production. The evening brings friends and loved ones close to your heart. Tonight is for love.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You feel understanding and accepting and are easily moved by the problems of others. Psychology in all of its forms is a driving force in your life. An understanding into the needs and wants of others and an appreciation for their frailties, as well as your own, make you more cautious and conservative-pick your battles with care. There is a goal to reach today and your focus is on target. You are connected to farseeing visions and group work of all kinds. You may be a bit independent when working with standard policies, however. Your sense of discrimination when it comes to practical issues is excellent. You are quick to compliment good problem-solving techniques in others. You like to work. A loved one needs you tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Discovering what you truly believe in-fighting for it, even-is a high personal priority. You may decide to quietly create an opportunity to push a truth-in-lending law or uncover the real story behind a story. Religion, law, politics, travel and higher education are some of the arenas where this may take place. This is a time of testing your limits to see how far you can go. Communicating well is important to you. You will make every effort to be patient and make sure you are understood. You would do well in a career that involves music, poetry, writing, psychology and philosophy-any realm of the imagination. You can help or teach others by sharing your own understanding. Examining your life is over, living it is now.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Things are happening and your career depends upon your own ambition and drive. You are able to use your good thinking process and you feel what is the right thing to do; you enjoy being in control. A management job is in your future. The secret here is to trust in your own judgment. As long as you are looking for the most positive end, you will do well. It is very important to focus on getting any facts straight-there could be trickery at this time. This is a better time to sell than to buy and a time to eliminate the excessive-carpool. There is a need to improve channels of understanding and appreciation. Classes in meditation, problem solving and even dancing can be a great activity for you and your partner or mate-consider. Romance is fun this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your thoughts and ideas may not mesh with the plans and methods of someone you meet with today. You have a radical approach to communities and group work. You are unusually motivated toward an end result that will help many people. This may not have been your original plan but it has turned out to be just where you need to be. Things will eventually be helpful to your own purpose if you maintain low tones for now. Tall mountains and steep valleys are calling your name. It could be that you enjoy mountain climbing or hang-gliding but if you could wait one more month the weather will be much better. You enjoy exploring and extreme sports; you can take advantage of these few weeks to improve the physical status.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

You may decide that this is the best time to buckle down and secure your career. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility guide you and prove successful. There is a special job that you would enjoy. Your career could assume a much more determined and solid form when you consider these things. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on importance. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need. Communicating by phone, e-mail, snail-mail, etc., is where your attention moves this evening-fun topics. Lots of time is spent on your computer later this evening and you have plenty of fun playing a game or chatting with your favorite friend.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find yourself very appreciative of your very own skills today. You might enjoy putting together facts, solving problems and finding solutions for others, etc. A renewed appreciation for your work may be apparent to your superiors-in fact, to everybody. You develop a knack for organizing things and people, as a sense of ambition and practicality takes hold. Work, achievement and ambition take priority. You are entering into a cycle of mental development that emphasizes the past and your roots in life. Curiosity about such things leads to study and research-perhaps the discovery of a family crest, real estate or home and family planning take on greater importance. You can find some excellent resources in the library for references.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your presence is important in the workplace, particularly today when you are most tempted to stay home. You do tend to overwork and over worry about the people you help and today you are needed in a place similar to a courtroom. You will be able to help guide at least two people today and will help to encourage a piece of mind where frustration has been overwhelming. You are good with people and may find yourself working in a courtroom, hospital or some type of rehabilitation clinic. You may complain of never having any privacy or time to think. You have a pattern of living that seems to throw you into contact with many people. Patience with yourself is extremely important and you will find yourself much more at ease with an art type of outlet.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are able to draw a clear picture of your ideas and others will understand your meaning. The events of the morning have the makings for a bright and witty day. You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project requiring a conservative mind. This afternoon you are very out-front and candid with co-workers. Your intensity and passionate approach to life are obvious to all who meet you. Your mind cuts right through all the window dressing and gets right down to the quick. Before anyone knows it, you have the results for everyone to see. You are the first person they run to when personal or business answers are needed. Hug a tree this afternoon. Homemade ice cream also deserves your special attention.

WORD SEARCH

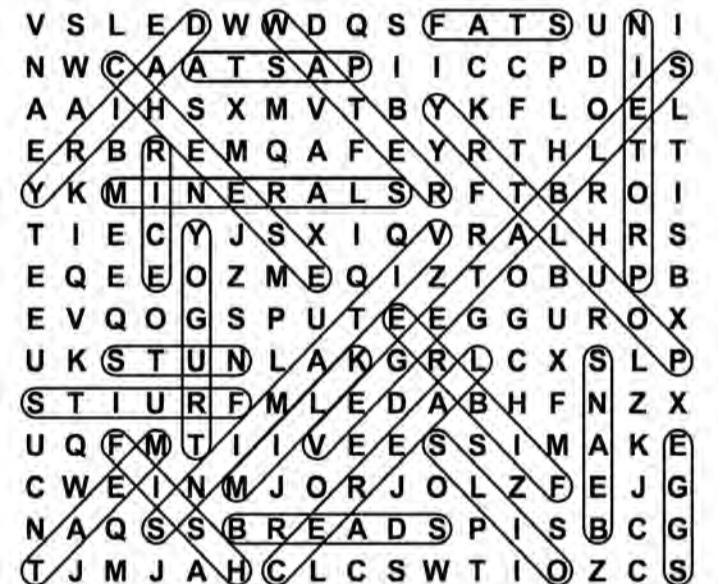
Car Parts 1 - Word Search  
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- |                |              |                |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| AIR BAG        | DOORS        | SEAT BELT      |
| BODY           | ENGINE       | STEERING WHEEL |
| BRAKE          | GAS TANK     | TAIL LIGHT     |
| CAR SEAT       | HOOD         | TIRES          |
| CARRIER RACK   | MUFFLER      | TRUNK          |
| CHILD SEAT     | POWER WINDOW | WHEELS         |
| CRUISE CONTROL | RADIO        | WINDSHIELD     |
| DEFOGGER       | ROOF         |                |

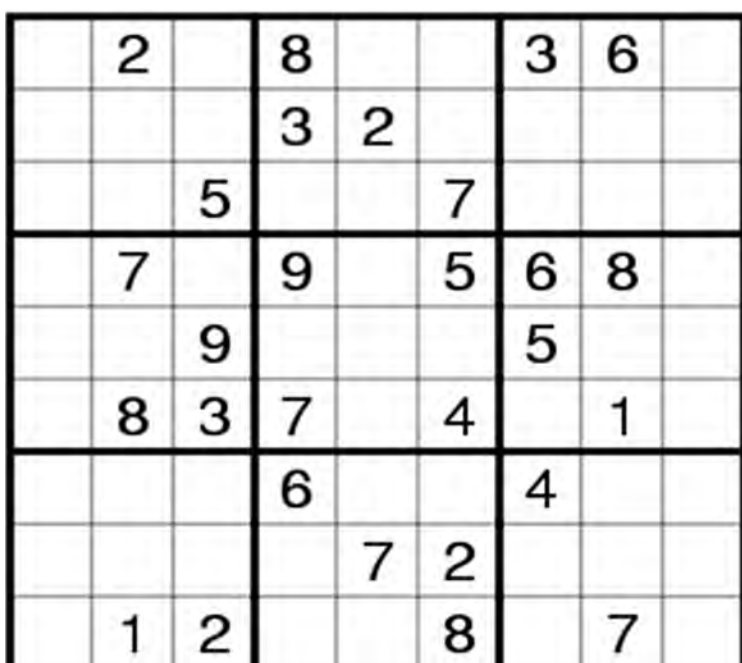
Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles  
Good Eating - Solution



- |        |          |            |
|--------|----------|------------|
| BEANS  | FISH     | POULTRY    |
| BREADS | FRUITS   | PROTEIN    |
| CEREAL | MEAT     | RICE       |
| CHEESE | MILK     | VEGETABLES |
| DAIRY  | MINERALS | VITAMINS   |
| EGGS   | NUTS     | WATER      |
| FATS   | OILS     | YOGURT     |
| FIBRE  | PASTA    |            |

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution







## ACTIVITY



## A SOCK OWL

### You will need

- 1 odd sock
- 2 buttons
- 1 small triangle of orange felt
- cotton wool (stuffing)
- scissors
- sewing machine
- needle and thread
- glue

### Activity

1. Starting below the heel, cut the ankle part of the sock from the foot part. Make a rounded curve for the owl's head. (The opening of the sock will be the bottom of the owl's body.)
2. Now cut out the toe part of the sock, the very tip. Cut that in half to form two teeny-tiny wings for your owl.
3. With the remaining section, cut it up the side to open it out. Now cut out a rough circle that will form the base of the owl. (So it should be able to fit roughly into the diameter of the sock's ankle opening.)
4. Now take the body part, turn right sides together and sew it along the top curved edge.
5. Sew each wing along one side to form the wings.
6. Keeping the body inside out and with right sides together, pin the base circle that you cut earlier into the base of the owl's body, leaving a seam of about 5mm.
7. Sew around that but make sure you leave a gap big enough to turn the owl right side out and stuff it with cotton wool.
8. Turn the owl right side out through the gap you left. Stuff it with cotton wool through the same gap. Now use a needle and thread to slip stitch the gap closed.
9. Sew on the owl's wings.
10. Sew on the owl's eyes. Glue the beak

## Did you know?



- Trees are tall plants made of wood.
- Plants that aren't quite tall enough to be considered trees are often called shrubs.
- Trees can live for thousands of years.
- Some trees can grow to around 100 meters in height!
- The tallest species of trees in the world include the Coast Redwood, Giant Sequoia, Coast Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce and Australian Mountain Ash.
- The Giant Sequoia is not only tall, it is also wide. Because of its amazing size, some believe that the Giant Sequoia is the largest living organism in the world!
- Trees produce oxygen and reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- The roots of a tree usually grow underground, helping keep it stable and providing it with water and important nutrients.
- Water and nutrients travel up the tree trunk, through the branches and all the way out to the leaves.
- The trunk of a tree is protected by an outside layer of bark.
- The way a tree grows through different seasons can be seen by growth rings in the wood, they can even be used to determine the age of a tree.
- Planting trees can help prevent erosion.
- Wood from trees can be used in a number of different ways including as a building material and energy source.

## SUDOKU

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

Solution

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

## RECIPES FOR KIDS

### Spring Rolls



### What you need

- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips
- 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 5 cups bean sprouts
- 2 cups chopped cabbage
- 1 cup grated carrots
- 5 fresh shiitake mushrooms, sliced
- 2 scallions, sliced
- 3 teaspoons minced fresh ginger
- 24 spring roll wrappers

### What to do

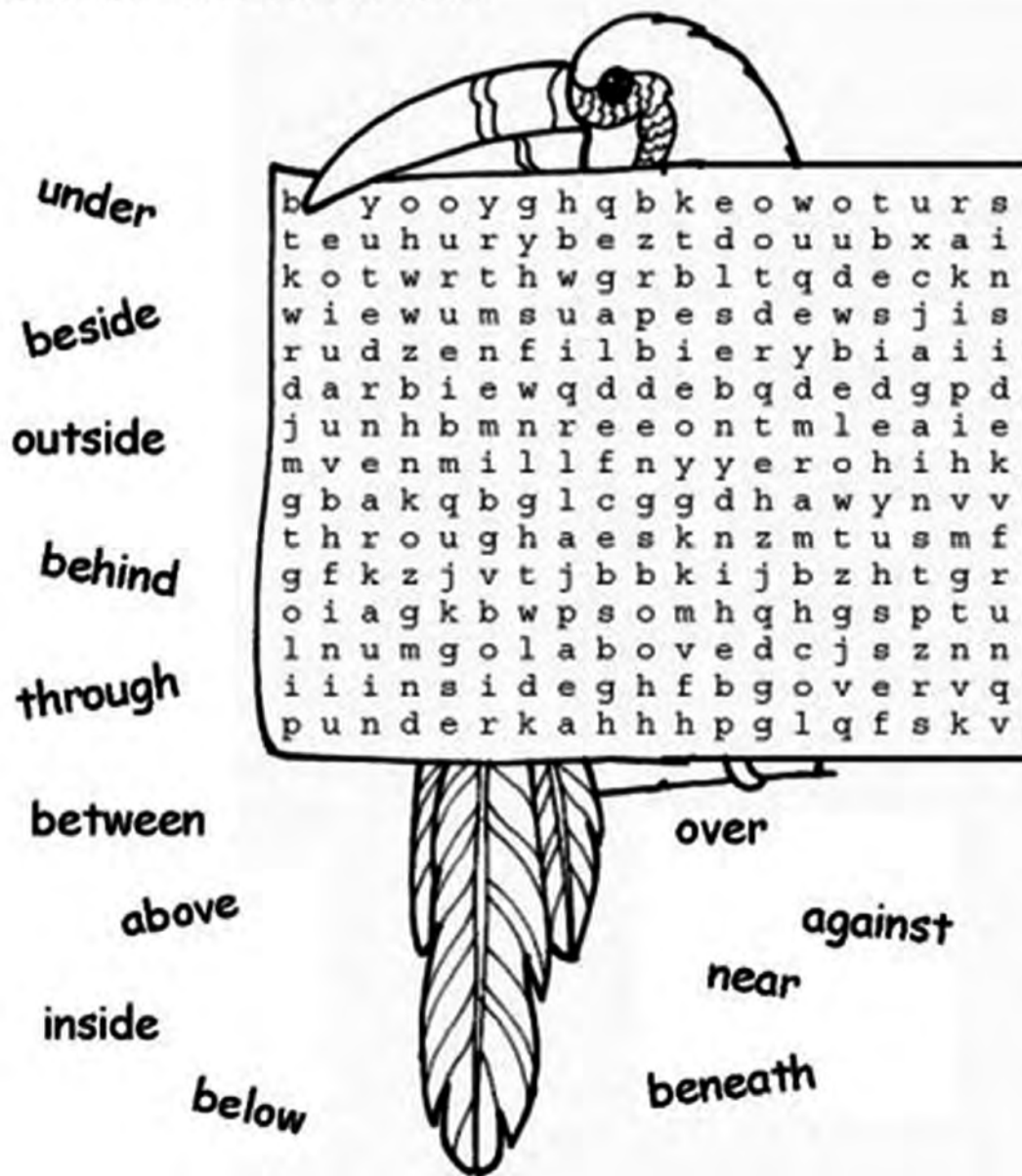
1. In a medium bowl, marinate the chicken with 1 teaspoon salt, pepper, soy sauce, and cornstarch.
2. In a wok or sauté pan, warm the vegetable and sesame oils over medium heat.
3. Add the bean sprouts, cabbage, carrots, mushrooms, scallions, and ginger and sauté, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes.
4. Add the marinated chicken and sauté, stirring occasionally, until cooked through, about 8 minutes.
5. Fill a pie plate with warm water.
6. Immerse 1 spring roll wrapper in the water until pliable, about 15 seconds, then transfer to a cutting board.
7. Place a heaping tablespoon of filling down the center of the wrapper.
8. Fold the bottom of the wrapper over the filling, then fold both sides into the center, and roll the wrapper up tightly to form a spring roll.
9. Transfer the spring roll to a plate and keep covered with a damp paper towel.
10. Repeat with the remaining spring roll wrappers and filling.

## Color me!



## Preposition Word Search Puzzle

Find and circle the prepositions in the puzzle.



The okapi is a mammal native to the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Central Africa. Although the okapi bears striped markings reminiscent of zebras, it is most closely related to the giraffe. The okapi and the giraffe are the only living members of the family Giraffidae. The okapi stands about 1.5 m tall at the shoulder and has an average body length of about 2.5 m. Its weight ranges from 200 to 350 kg. It has a long neck, and large, flexible ears. Its coat is a chocolate to reddish brown, much in contrast with the white horizontal stripes and rings on the legs and white ankles. Male okapis have short, hair-covered horns called ossicones, less than 15 cm (5.9 in) in length. Females possess hair whorls, and ossicones are absent.

Okapis are primarily diurnal but may be active for a few hours in darkness. They are essentially solitary, coming together only to breed. Okapis are herbivores, feeding on tree leaves and buds, grasses, ferns, fruits, and fungi. Rut in males and estrus in females does not depend on the season. In captivity, estrous cycles recur every 15 days. The gestational period is around 440 to 450 days long, following which usually a single calf is born. The juveniles are kept in hiding, and nursing takes place infrequently. Juveniles start taking solid food from

three months, and weaning takes place at six months.

Okapis inhabit canopy forests at altitudes of 500-1,500 m. They are endemic to the tropical forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where they occur across the central, northern and eastern regions. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) classifies the okapi as endangered. Major threats include habitat loss due to logging and human settlement. Extensive hunting for bush meat and skin and illegal mining have also led to a decline in populations. The Okapi Conservation Project was established in 1987 to protect okapi populations.

### Diet

Okapis are herbivores, feeding on tree leaves and buds, grasses, ferns, fruits, and fungi. They prefer to feed in tree fall gaps. The staple food comprises shrubs and lianas. The main constituents of the diet are woody, dicotyledonous species; monocotyledonous plants are not eaten regularly.

In the Ituri forest, the okapi feeds mainly upon the plant families Acanthaceae, Ebenaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Flacourtiaceae, Loganiaceae, Rubiaceae and Violaceae.

## Okapi



## JOKES

Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—Boo—Boo Who?  
A: Well you don't have to cry about it.

Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—Theodore—Theodore who?  
A: Theodore is stuck and it won't open!

Q: Knock-knock—Who's there?—Cher—Cher who?  
A: Cher would be nice if you opened the door!

Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—Amos—Amos who?  
A: A mosquito bit me!

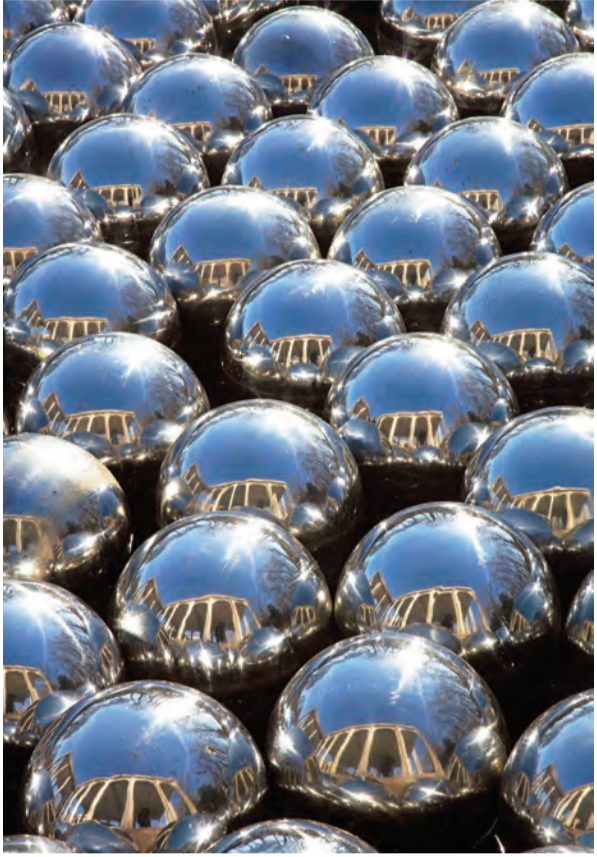
Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—Police—Police Who?  
A: Police let us in, it's cold out here!

Q: Knock-knock—Who's there?—Amarillo—Amarillo who?  
A: Amarillo nice guy.





# Homes Glass House Installations: The 'Yayoi Kusama: Narcissus Garden'



These undated photos provided by The Glass House show parts of the art exhibit titled 'Yayoi Kusama: Narcissus Garden,' at The Glass House in New Canaan, Conn. — AP photos

## Restaurant owner in Idaho potato country writes ode to fries

**F**ried or baked, sprinkled with truffle oil or flavored with crumbled herbs, french fries are an enduring dish, fancied up or served the simple way around the globe. But what do we REALLY know about the history of the lowly sliced potato, or in a broader sense, the lowly sliced yam, okra or just about any vegetable that can be, well, sliced and fried, sauteed or roasted, coated or battered. Blogs, books and recipes abound. Add to the record a kitschy, new book, "Fries! An Illustrated Guide to the World's Favorite Food," by a restaurateur from the heart of potato country, Boise, Idaho.



Blake Lingle, co-founder and co-owner of the Boise Fry Company, with four locations there and one in Portland, Oregon, has some fun with his bite-size guide, written not for the hardcore foodie or food historian but the rest of us - just regular old potato lovers. Lingle makes clear that he's no food scholar. To sum up the history of fries, he broadened their definition beyond sliced potatoes, to include yams, sweet potatoes and other vegetables prepared in different ways. Therein lies some interesting conjecture.

For instance, one of the earlier references to frying is the Bible's Leviticus, 2:7 to be exact: "If your grain offering is cooked in a pan, it is to be made of the finest flour and some olive oil." Is it possible that a vegetable made its way into the pan, Lingle wonders. The book of Numbers references cucumbers and leeks, among other things, in 11:5.

Some historians claim that Egyptians were frying foods as early as 2500 BC. Lingle is betting that vegetables were among them. But the Romans wrote stuff down, including what is considered the world's oldest cookbook, the Apicius, likely

compiled between the late fourth and early fifth centuries AD. It includes a recipe for fried chicken with fried vegetables. Lingle found no evidence, however, that vegetables were sliced.

More to the point and elsewhere in the world, it's probable that sliced potatoes were included in an Andean dish called Pachamanca during the Inca Empire. If so, the Andean fry predated the European fry by a few hundred years. The Spanish stole the potato, and possibly the sweet potato, from the Incas and brought it to Europe, Lingle said.

But it was a Belgian journalist, Jo Gerard, who claimed sliced potatoes were being fried alongside fish in his country in the late 1600s, predating the same claim by the French by three quarters to a full century, Lingle said. The Belgians blame the Americans for mistakenly giving french fries the name when they confused French-speaking Belgian soldiers in possession of some sort of fried esculents with French-speaking French soldiers during World War I.

Regardless, Belgium does appear to consume more fries per capita than any other country, Lingle said. "There seems to be a certain amount of conflicting information out there," he added in a recent interview. "I don't know what the true answer is." Fries remain all over the map, as a default side in the Americas and Europe, and often considered among the national dishes of Britain and Belgium when served with fish and mussels, respectively, Lingle said.

### So where are most potatoes grown?

Fifty years ago, China was the world's fifth-largest producer behind the USSR, Germany, Poland and the United States. Today, China is the largest producer, Lingle writes. But in per-capita terms, when it comes to potato and fry consumption, Americans eat twice as many potatoes as the Chinese. Next to no research exists on fry consumption by country, beyond the frozen-fry market, Lingle writes. Most fries are initially cooked in factories and cooked again in homes, restaurants and "friteries."

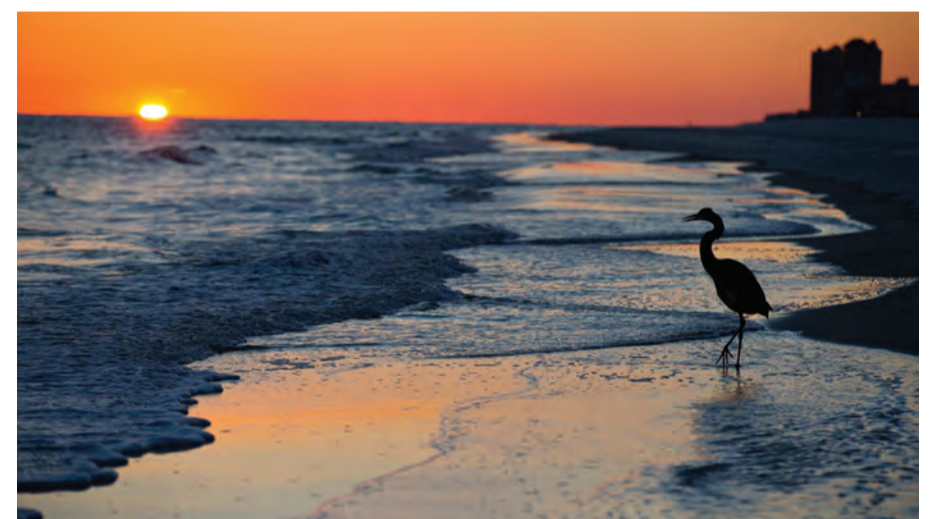
One thing is sure: chefs are having a fry field day, Lingle said. Many are hand-cutting, inventing signature coatings and dips and experimenting with techniques often reserved for other foods, such as dehydration and sous vide, the method of sealing food in plastic bags then placing them in water baths or steam.

And then there's the hash brown question. Are they fries? "Yeah I think hash browns are fries," Lingle laughed. "If it's been sliced and then cooked some way it's, in my opinion, a fry." — AP

## Busy holiday weekend boosts surging Alabama tourism numbers

**A**long, busy holiday weekend along the Gulf Coast and elsewhere is helping boost a surge in tourism in Alabama. Industry leaders say hotels and condominiums in Baldwin County are reporting high occupancy rates for the July 4 holiday. Lakes and rivers from the Tennessee Valley to Eufaula will also be clogged with boaters if the weather holds out, and at least two dozen communities are holding celebrations including fireworks shows or concerts.

Alabama's tourism director, Lee Sentell, says it all adds up to a profitable period for the hospitality and visitor industry, particularly with the strengthening economy. Tourists spent a record \$12.7 billion in the state last year, and officials hope for another record year in 2016. — AP



A blue heron walks along the beach at sunset in Orange Beach, Ala. — AP photos



Light reflects off the many hotel windows lining the beach that tourists have flocked to for the holiday weekend in Orange Beach, Ala.



Beachgoers take to the Gulf Shores for a long holiday weekend in Orange Beach, Ala.



Bevin Walker, 12, of Sylacauga, Ala., plays volleyball near the shoreline with her family in Orange Beach, Ala.



A young boy rides a wave on a body board in Orange Beach, Ala.





# DIOR GOES BACK TO BASICS AS CHIURI WAITS IN WINGS



**W**ith Italian designer Maria Grazia Chiuri expected to take the reins at Christian Dior within days, the French fashion house went back to its eminently wearable roots in its Paris haute couture show yesterday. Swiss pair Lucie Meier and Serge Ruffieux, who have been holding the fort since the shock departure of Belgian designer Raf Simon last October, did not try to reinvent the wheel before handing over to Valentino's Chiuri. Instead they returned to one of founder Christian Dior's favorite visual tricks—contrasting black and white.

Apart from a few sprinkles of gold leaf, the typically feminine collection shown before a celebrity-studded audience that included singer Celine Dion and actress Marion

Cotillard comprised only the two colors. The pair, who won warm applause at the end, quoted the master himself who said, "White is simple, pure and goes with everything... while I could write a whole book about black." While they paid tribute to the expertise of the famous Dior couture studios, speculation grew that Chiuri's appointment was imminent. A well-placed source told AFP last week that the 52-year-old Italian had been anointed to take over the luxury French brand.

Chiuri has turned around the fortunes of Valentino with her longtime creative partner Pierpaolo Piccioli, making it one of the hottest and most profitable houses in Europe. Neither Dior nor Valentino would comment on her possible appointment, nor whether Piccioli would be joining her.





FASHION

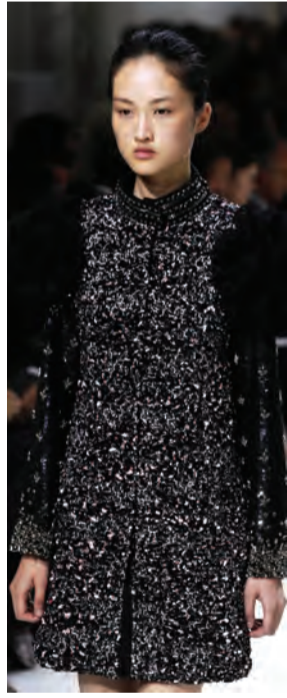


Models present creations for Chanel during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AP/AFP photos

Sensual Van Herpen

If Dior may have lacked invention, the brilliant Dutch designer Iris van Herpen made up for it in spades. In what was the most poetic and subtly suggestive show of the season thus far, she created a line of exquisite high tech dresses inspired by the Japanese concept of "seijaku", of "finding serenity amidst life's chaos". Three dresses in particular stood out amongst creations presented like art installations in a baroque church to the sound of Zen bowl music played live by Japanese musician Kazuya Nagaya. The first, an almost transparent bubble dress made from more than "one thousand... hand-blown glass bubbles in transparent silicone, creates a bioluminescent prism around the body," the designer said. Another sheer creation used a similar technique to coat "tens of thousands of Swarovski water drop crystals" to give the idea of "wet skin covered in dew drops".

While the third exuded a subversive sensuality with pearl-coated cotton and tulle cut to resemble opening oysters. Van Herpen, however, said it was inspired by the study of "cymatics, which visualizes sound waves". "For me it is very important to show that fashion can do different things. Innovation is needed, craftsmanship, showing that there is a different way of making a garment. We have to move on," she told AFP. "I was very inspired by my visits to Japan, it is a beautiful culture," she added. In contrast, Schiaparelli paid homage to its famous "Circus" collection of 1938, when its founder Elsa Schiaparelli roped in surrealist artists including Salvador Dali and Jean Cocteau to help her design her fabrics. — AFP







Models present creations by Giambattista Valli during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris.



Models present creations for Christian Dior during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show.





Russian Muslims pray outside the central mosque in Moscow yesterday, during celebrations of Eid Al-Fitr marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. — AFP

## Iran cinema conquers world despite restrictions

The outpouring of tributes for Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, who died yesterday, has reminded the world of Iran's huge impact on art-house cinema despite restrictions on its artists. "On the one hand, there is the state cinema, financed by the authorities... then there is an independent sector that is flourishing," Kiarostami told reporters at the Cannes Film Festival in May. A few days later, the point was underlined when "The Salesman" by Iranian director Asghar Farhadi walked away with two awards-very rare at Cannes-for best screenplay and best actress.

US indie hero Jim Jarmusch, who cast exiled Iranian actress Golshifteh Farahani in his latest film "Paterson", described Iran as "one of the gardens of cinema on our planet" at a Cannes news conference. The key to Iranian cinema's international success lies in its position as "a bridge between the Western and Muslim worlds," said Scott Roxborough of The Hollywood Reporter.

"For Western audiences, Iranian cinema has been the ultimate combination of the familiar and the strange," he told AFP. "The visual style and storytelling are familiar, but the political and cultural setting are fascinatingly foreign." Roxborough said the challenges of working within the tight regulations of the censors actually benefited Iranian filmmakers, forcing them to create a "subtle and unique cinematic language."

"Because they were unable to directly deal with political issues, they looked inward-focusing on personal stories, often stories of childhood. "Because metaphorical language was considered suspect, they specialized in realism that appeared on its surface to be like a documentary, but took on an almost fabulous, mythic character."

### Red lines

Iran's cinematic achievements are all the more impressive for



This file photo taken on March 16, 2014 shows Iranian Film Director Abbas Kiarostami posing during his visit to the 54th Cartagena Film Festival. — AP/AFP photos

the constraints its filmmakers face in a country of strict religious, political and cultural red lines, where directors must have every script pre-approved by the state. Jafar Panahi, a close protégé of Kiarostami, won last year's top prize at the Berlin film festival for "Taxi" despite being banned from making films for 20 years after he tried to make a documentary about anti-government protests in 2009. Meanwhile, a 30-year-old director, Keywan Karimi, was sentenced to 223 lashes and six years in prison-later greatly reduced after an uproar from artists in Iran and worldwide-for making a film about graffiti.

But Iranians have one of the richest artistic traditions on the planet-dating back to the great Persian poets of the ancient world-and art remains a central part of daily life despite the current challenges. "We may be behind in many fields... but for sure in art, we can attract the attention of the whole world," award-winning Iranian director Shahram Mokri told AFP. He said Kiarostami showed how to set aside the daily concerns of politics to speak about universal themes and issues.

"He kept himself away from any marginal issues, from judging others, and focused on art, poetry and painting. He just lived in the world of art. He went beyond Iranian borders," said Mokri. Despite a wealth of great filmmakers, it was the singular achievements of Kiarostami that opened the way for those that followed. "He definitely paved ways for others and influenced a great deal of people," Farhadi told Britain's The Guardian. "He wasn't just a film-maker, he was a modern mystic, both in his cinema and his private life." Kiarostami, who won the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 for "Taste of Cherry", emerged from the Iranian New Wave of the late 1960s to become one of the world's most revered directors. — AFP



This file photo taken on May 22, 2014 shows Iranian director and President of the Cinefondation Jury Abbas Kiarostami posing during a photo-call of "The Cinefondation Jury" at the 67th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.



## 'Saq Al Bambo' and 'Been Galbin': Episode 29

By Nawara Fattahova

Kuwait Times is publishing a daily recap of two Kuwaiti soap operas aired on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here are the recaps of the 29th episodes:

### 'Saq Al Bambo' (Bamboo Stalk)

Eisa comes home and finds Merla, who tells him she wants to talk. But he refuses and takes the keys of his flat to not let her come again. Eisa is angry with Ghasan, Hind and Merla, and tells Khawla they are liars. Khawla asks him what he wants, but he is confused. She says she thinks that Merla loves him and tells him that Ghasan and Hind brought Merla to let him forget about Noor.

Merla comes to Eisa's workplace, telling him they should talk as she is leaving for the Philippines. His friend Ibrahim tells him that a Filipina committed suicide by jumping from a roof of the house and that her name was Luzviminda.

Ghanima asks Khawla about her brother and she tells her that he will get married to his cousin Merla. Ghanima gets angry, saying he should marry a Kuwaiti since he is saying he is Kuwaiti, but she rejects it should be Noor. Ghanima then tells Khawla that Eisa, the brother of Noor, wants to marry her, and that she agrees.

Eisa is helping Jaber and his friend with the election campaign of Hind. He tells Jaber that he is Eisa Al-Tarouf and that Hind is his aunt and Khawla is his sister. Jaber is surprised how they let him stay in a servant's room. Eisa then goes with Jaber to Hind's symposium and tells all his cousins who are there that he is their cousin. Eisa is fired from his work.

### Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

Noora didn't tell Bashar that Dana told her she is getting married. Dana was still hesitant, but Fareeda told her she has

to forget the past and start new life with Masoud, who loves her, while Bashar doesn't think of her. Bashar returns to Aryam's home and she promises to change her behavior and not force him to do anything, and he promises her not to leave her again. Mihsen's mother falls unconscious after a heart attack and they take her to the hospital. Noora asks Bashar to go with her to Dubai as Mihsen can't travel with her, and he agrees. Aryam suggests to go with him, but he said it's not a good idea. Bashar and Noora go to Dubai and they meet Dana at the hotel. Dana blames Noora for coming with Bashar as she didn't want to see him at her wedding as she is getting married just to forget him. Bashar still loves Dana and regrets that he divorced her. He goes with Noora and Dana for dinner and tells Dana he realizes that he loves her.

