

US envoy lauds Kuwait for protecting workers



Accountant wins 2016 Kuwait Times Ramadan contest



## MOI SETS KD 60 AS MONTHLY MINIMUM WAGE FOR MAIDS

TOTAL LABOR FORCE AMOUNTS TO 1.8M: STATISTICAL BUREAU



Min 35°  
Max 48°  
High Tide 06:52 & 19:52  
Low Tide 00:20 & 13:59

### 'FINTAS GROUP' MEMBERS JAILED

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The appeals court yesterday jailed alleged "Fintas Group" members Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahd Al-Sabah and Sheikh Ahmad Al-Dawood Al-Sabah and lawyers Falah Al-Hajraf and Abdelmohsen Al-Ateeqi, and decided to resume their trial on July 20. Suspect Hamad Al-Haroun was sentenced to 10 years in jail, while Ateeqi, Hajraf, Sheikh Khalifa Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Dawood and Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahd were sentenced for five years.

The convictions came after the suspects were accused of spreading false news and rumors by faking and publishing a video clip on social media and YouTube claiming that the head of the constitutional court Yousuf Al-Mutawa received bribes in an attempt to shake confidence in the judiciary, in addition to insulting other judges.

The court also sentenced suspect Saud Al-Asfour for one year for insulting Mutawa through Twitter with the fake video clip. It exonerated suspects Yousuf Al-Essa, Fawaz Al-Abdullah, Ahmad Al-Enezi, Mohammad Al-Jassim, Mushari Buyabes and Jarrah Al-Thafiri over insulting HH the Amir on WhatsApp because it is a private medium, but noticed that their posts talked about the Amir disrespectfully, which is against the most basic of ethics.

### SOLAR PLANE LANDS IN EGYPT



CAIRO: The Solar Impulse 2 flies over the pyramids yesterday as the experimental solar-powered airplane arrives in Egypt as part of its global voyage — AP (See Page 29)

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah yesterday issued a decision setting KD 60 as the minimum monthly wage for domestic helpers in Kuwait, in the first such step in the country. In a decision setting bylaws for implementing a landmark legislation regulating hundreds of thousands of domestic helpers in the country, the ministry also mandated that offices recruiting maids from overseas must submit a bank guarantee worth KD 40,000 valid for two years at the time of establishing the office or renewing its license.

The decision sets the procedures for settling disputes between maids, their employers or offices, which are required to provide an employment contract for them. The interior ministry's domestic helpers department is entrusted with the powers to resolve such disputes within three months. The law, passed by the Assembly last year, grants domestic helpers unprecedented rights including limiting daily working hours to eight, a mandatory weekend and a 30-day paid annual leave.

For the first time, maids are entitled to demand overtime for working extra hours. The law bans the employment of maids under 20 years and above 50 years of age. It also stipulates one maid for families of up to four, two maids for families comprising five to eight members and three maids for families consisting of more than eight people. The law also stipulates for the first time an end of service indemnity for maids equal to a month's pay for each year of service. The law applies to private drivers, maids, babysitters and cooks.

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## KUWAIT TO SELL STAKES IN OIL UNITS

COORDINATION WITH SAUDIS EYED OVER BOND SALES

### ARE EGYPT, SYRIA NEXT FOR TURKEY RAPPROCHEMENT?

ANKARA: Turkey has in the last month maneuvered to end damaging foreign policy disputes with Israel and Russia, but Egypt and Syria will be tougher nuts for Ankara to crack in its drive for regional rapprochement. Turkey has had downgraded relations with Egypt since the ousting of pro-Ankara Islamist president Mohamed Morsi by the Egyptian army in 2013. And in neighboring Syria, Turkey has made the exit of President Bashar Al-Assad a precondition for ending the more than five-year civil war that has seen some 2.7 million refugees flee to Turkey.

But the appointment of Binali Yildirim - a close ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan - as prime minister in May signified a more conciliatory approach to foreign policy after the aggressive stance of his predecessor Ahmet Davutoglu. "We will keep on increasing our friendships by observing the interests of our region and our country," Yildirim told members of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) party this week.

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KUWAIT: Kuwait is taking steps to sell minority stakes in units of the state oil producer as the government plans to tap global capital markets for funds and improve efficiency in its most important industry. The government has a four-year plan to organize and execute sales of shares in the international units and the shipping and chemical arms of Kuwait Petroleum Corp, Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, also acting oil minister, said in a phone interview with Bloomberg. KPC, responsible for the country's 3 million barrels of daily crude output, won't be part of the sale, he said.

Middle Eastern oil producers are seeking to diversify their economies and develop new sources of revenue after a supply glut triggered a plunge in crude to a fraction of its 2014 average of close to \$100 a barrel. Saudi Arabia, the biggest producer in OPEC, plans to sell as much as 5 percent of the kingdom's state producer Saudi Arabian Oil Co. by 2018. Like Saudi Arabia, neighboring Kuwait is planning an economic overhaul that would involve cutting subsidies and selling some state assets.

"We are looking into privatization," Saleh said. Kuwait is planning "definitely soon" to sell stakes of 20 percent to 30



Anas Al-Saleh

percent in the oil units, he said. The government, which would keep majority control of the energy companies once it listed their shares, is preparing for the initial public offerings even as it studies in greater detail which businesses to sell and when, Saleh said. He declined to specify dates for the IPOs or estimate how much money they would generate for the government, other than to

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LONDON: Britain's new Prime Minister Theresa May and her husband Philip John wave outside 10 Downing Street yesterday as she takes office following the formal resignation of David Cameron. — AFP

### MAY TAKES OVER AS PM, CAMERON LEAVES OFFICE

LONDON: Theresa May took over as Britain's new prime minister yesterday, promising a "bold, new, positive role" for the country less than three weeks after its seismic vote to leave the EU. May, the former interior minister who succeeds David Cameron after seeing off several rivals for leader of the Conservative Party, becomes Britain's second female leader after Margaret Thatcher. After formally being invited to form a government in a meeting with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace, May arrived at her new Downing Street residence with a promise to lead a government that would tackle "burning injustice".

"Following the referendum we face a time of great national change. And I know because we're Great Britain that we will rise to the challenge," she told reporters, flanked by her husband, Philip. "As we leave the European Union we will forge a bold new positive role for ourselves in the world. And we will make Britain a country that works not for a privileged few but for every one of us."

As Scotland mulls moves that could eventually see it break away, following the referendum in which most Scots voted to stay in the EU but England and Wales voted to leave, May said keeping the "precious" kingdom together was a priority. She was expected to announce key members of her cabinet, including the foreign, interior and finance ministers, yesterday evening before getting down to business.

EU leaders are pressing for a swift divorce following the vote to leave the

bloc on June 23, which sent shockwaves around the world and plunged Britain into uncertainty. European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker was among the first to offer his congratulations to May, and said he hoped they would meet "in the near future". "The outcome of the United Kingdom's referendum has created a new situation which the United Kingdom and the European Union will have to address soon," he said. May campaigned for Britain to remain in the EU but has stressed that she will honor the popular vote, saying repeatedly that "Brexit means Brexit". However, she has refused to be rushed on the timetable.

Earlier, Cameron had made his final statement in Downing Street flanked by his wife Samantha and three children, where he wished Britain "continued success". "It's not been an easy journey and, of course, we've not got every decision right but I do believe today our country is much stronger," the 49-year-old said. He later made the short drive to the palace, where the queen accepted his resignation after six years in office. Cameron had called the referendum and campaigned to stay in the EU in a bid to try to heal divisions in his Conservative party. He gambled, and he lost.

In his final question and answer session in the House of Commons yesterday, Cameron echoed a line he had once used to taunt former Labour premier Tony Blair. "As I once said, I was the future, once," he said.

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JAPANESE EMPEROR PLANS TO ABDICATE

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SAUDI REFORM DRIVE FACES JOBS CHALLENGE

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## OMAN MAID ABUSE VERGES ON SLAVERY

DUBAI: A leading international rights group yesterday said that foreigners employed as maids in Oman can face physical and verbal abuse while working entrapped in conditions that near slavery. A new Human Rights Watch report blames in part Oman's system of tying workers' visas to their employers, as well as police failing to enforce laws and returning runaway maids to abusive homes. The report alleges Oman's neighbor, the United Arab Emirates, acts as a gateway for maids to be trafficked into the sultanate, as Emirati employment agencies along the border put women on display "like window shopping".

"Many find themselves trapped with abusive employers and forced to work in exploitative conditions, their plight hidden behind closed doors," the HRW report said. "It is clear that abuses are widespread and that they are generally carried out with impunity." Oman's government-sponsored Human

Rights Commission and the Omani Embassy in Washington did not respond to requests for comment from AP.

Many from Asia and Africa come to Gulf Arab countries to work as maids, often as the sole provider for their families back home. While some find success, others can face abuse or find themselves working in conditions far different than those promised by recruiters, trapped without their passports. Oman, a country of 4.4 million people on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, is home to nearly 2 million foreigners, according to the government's National Center for Statistics and Information.

In the report, Human Rights Watch said its investigators interviewed 59 female migrant workers with some recounting being beaten, verbally abused, denied fair pay and working as much as 20-hour days. The report said employers routinely seized maids' passports in violation of Omani laws and those that

fled abusive situations often had police return them to their abusers under laws that consider the workers "absconders".

"Situations like those described below are at the very least dangerously close to situations of slavery," the report said. The report called on Oman to overhaul its "kafala" employee sponsorship system. The system, versions of which are used throughout the oil-rich Gulf states, gives bosses considerable power over workers by effectively binding them to a given employer. It also urged Omani police not to return those who flee violence to abusive homes.

The New York-based group also implicated the UAE for allowing maids to sneak into Oman despite restrictions from some of their home countries and other visa restrictions. It described a series of employment offices in the Emirati border city of Al Ain serving as a point for Omanis to find domestic workers. — AP





**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan. — KUNA photos



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman.

## CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES TOP OFFICIALS, AMBASSADORS



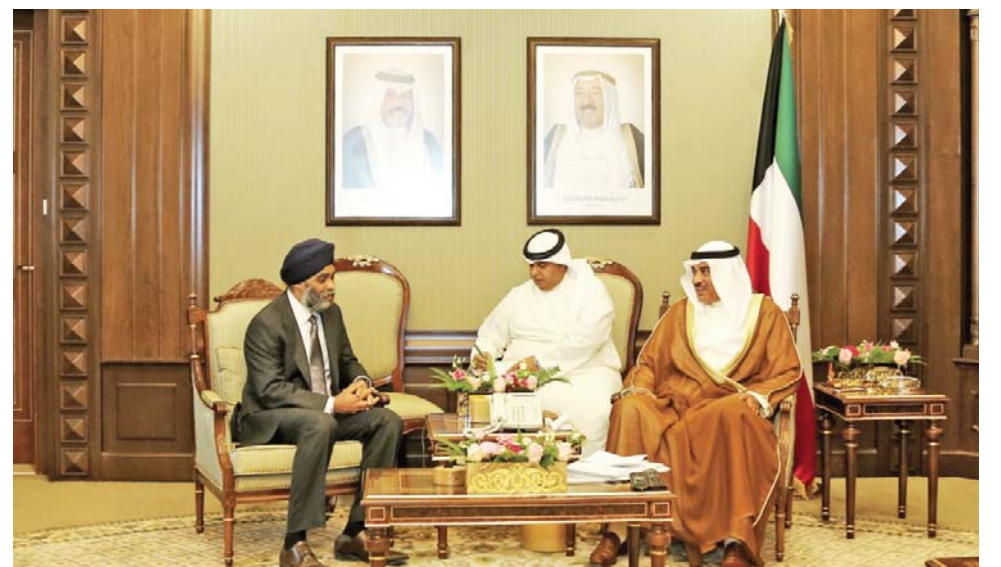
**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Bulgarian ambassador in the country Alexandar Olshevski.

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

His Highness also received Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and acting Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah accompanied by visiting Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan and delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by head of the protocol at the Diwan of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Army's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khuder. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled later met with the visiting Canadian Defense Minister and his delegation, in presence of Lt Gen Khuder.

Meanwhile, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman. His Highness also received the outgoing Bulgarian ambassador in the country Alexandar Olshevski. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Sajjan.



**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior's (Moi) Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad discussed yesterday with Bangladeshi Major General SM Matiur Rahman issues of mutual concern. — KUNA

## US ENVOY VISITS SHELTER, LAUDS KUWAIT FOR PROTECTING VULNERABLE WORKFORCE

### KUWAIT NOW AT TIER 2 FROM TIER 3 IN PROTECTING EXPATS

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** The United States' Ambassador to Kuwait lauded the Kuwaiti government yesterday on its continuing efforts to protect the most vulnerable workers in Kuwait and combat human trafficking issues in the country.

Speaking to reporters during a brief tour of the 'Expatriate Manpower Lodging Center' in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, Douglas Silliman hailed Kuwait's efforts to protect the rights of expatriate workers and fight human trafficking.

Silliman noted the importance of this shelter for many workers, which ultimately helped resolve some issues. "I want to congratulate the government of Kuwait, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor and the leadership of the shelter's chairman Falah Al-Mutairi for operating this shelter to help the most vulnerable workforce in Kuwait," he said.

"Many people come to Kuwait from other countries hoping to improve their lives. Most of them have a good experience working with their employers, but there are people who are not lucky enough, so the shelter is a really good place for them. The shelter is clean, and they have done a very good job helping women with problems in Kuwait to resolve them and get back to their countries," he added.

Silliman noted that he was especially happy that the center provides medical and psychological care to expats, as well as suitable sleeping areas and means of entertainment. He said Kuwait has taken a huge step in moving from third to second place in the US' list of the top countries protecting expat workers' rights. "Kuwait was at Tier 3 since 2009 - the lowest status when it comes to the treatment of workers. In 2016, we raised it to Tier 2. This is in recognition of its effort made recently, most especially the practical steps taken to protect the most vulnerable workers. We have witnessed the progress so far," he noted.



**KUWAIT:** United States' Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman tours the facility.



**KUWAIT:** The Expatriate Manpower Lodging Center. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

or to enforce the law. "We have provided consultation and some training for their staff. This is just one priority in our policy, but the action must be from the Kuwaiti government," he concluded.

Mutairi said the shelter was established to host female workers and is the first of its kind in the Middle East, with a capacity to receive 500 people. Kuwait is also planning on establishing a second shelter to host male workers, he added. Mutairi also noted that Kuwait has helped about 4,800 victims of human trafficking in cooperation with international humanitarian organizations and the UN.

## KRCS CONTINUES DISTRIBUTION OF AID TO DISPLACED SYRIANS IN LEBANON



**BEIRUT:** Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) continued yesterday distribution of aid to the displaced Syrian families in northern Lebanon. Head of the society's field team Yousef Al-Najjar said in a statement that food rations and detergents were distributed on some 250 displaced Syrian families in the towns of Manara, Khirbat Roha and the Western Bekaa valley in east Lebanon.

He stressed the commitment of KRCS to continue offering all sorts of help and assistance to the displaced Syrians in Lebanon and elsewhere, in addition to the host countries. He stressed keenness of the KRCS to deliver the aid by hand to the needy people in Syria, adding that the Syrians conveyed their thanks and gratitude to His Highness the Amir, government and people of Kuwait for all their help and assistance. — KUNA





## COP CAUGHT SELLING DRUGS IN JAIL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior's relations and security information department said prison authorities arrested a policeman



involved in selling drugs inside the central prison. Tips were received about policeman

Khalid Mohammad selling drugs in prison, so officials followed him until he was caught red-handed. He was sent to concerned authorities.

### Municipality campaign

Kuwait Municipality's public relations said field campaigns in Farwaniya resulted in issuing 11 citations and removing 60 advertisements. Head of the emergency team Khalid Al-Radaan said the team carries out campaigns to check any violations during and after working hours. Radaan said two of the citations were for employing workers before receiving a health certificate, two for working without a health certificate, a citation was for using excess area than what is licensed and five for public cleanliness, besides removing the ads.



## REFORM DOCUMENT: KUWAIT'S ROADMAP FOR BALANCED ECONOMY

**KUWAIT:** Eager to overcome the economic mishap caused by the low oil prices, Kuwait has taken some essential steps last March to diversify the country's sources of income. The financial and economic reform document, approved by the Kuwaiti government three months ago, focused on boosting non-oil revenues and reducing public spending, steps which aimed at achieving a balanced national economy. The six-point document also focused on reforming the financial sector, redefining the state's involvement in the national economy,

boosting the public sector's economic role, enabling citizens to kick start their own businesses, as well as encouraging the legislative and executive powers to enhance economic and financial policies. The document also aimed at enabling the government to boost its efforts for administrative and institutional reforms which will in turn attract more foreign investments to Kuwait. When submitting the document to the cabinet back in March, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas

Al-Saleh said that the document would allow people to own privatized projects at a rate of 40 percent and public-private sector joint ventures at a rate of 50 percent within 2016-19. It aims at reforming the labor market and civil service system with a view to ensure justice among workers to improve job performance and boost the public sector's efficiency by linking pay to production, said the minister. Minister Saleh was assigned by the cabinet to follow up on the implementation of the document. — KUNA

## FATCA EXTENDS DEADLINE OF COMPLIANCE REPORTS NOV END

**KUWAIT:** The US Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) has agreed to the Ministry of Finance's request to



The Ministry of Finance's Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada

extend the deadline for financial institutions to issue their FATCA compliance reports to November 30. In a press statement yesterday, the ministry's Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said that the deadline extension would give financial bodies the time needed to assemble the data required. He also noted that all financial institutions are required to register on FATCA's website before sending their details to the ministry. The law, enacted in February, aims to ensure transparency and applies to anyone incurring back taxes in the amount of \$50,000 per person or \$250,000 per company. Moreover, all US citizens and permanent residents are subject to the law, an effort to curb tax evasion and ensure stiff penalties on all tax dodgers. — KUNA

## NO RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONAL FREEDOMS: INTERIOR MINISTRY

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior refuted yesterday rumors carried by the social networks that the Ministry has enacted a number of measures restricting the use of public freedoms, especially the freedom of speech. In a press statement, the Ministry said there is no basis for claims that the Ministry monitors personal phone calls or services offered by the social networks through many popular apps. Tracking cybercrime, the statement added, would not

require watching social networks or internet users in general with the eye to incriminate them. With regard to the enforcement of the cybercrime law as of the start of its application last January, the statement said it enables the Ministry of Interior to carry out certain steps such as first responding to a complaint about the occurrence of a cybercrime and then following it up with pertinent investigation with the end result of eventually nabbing the offender or offenders,

whichever the case may be. Hackers, those who set up illegal websites, and others who carry out money-laundering schemes online or deal in human trafficking or illegal drugs online, all face strict jail sentences and hefty fines, said the statement. The statement urged all internet and social networks users to exercise caution in disseminating noxious rumors or outright mendacities for the purpose of creating social unrest. — KUNA

## MP SLAMS COLLEAGUE'S FAVORITISM

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan said that an announcement by a fellow lawmaker who allegedly said that he helped appoint his tribe members in a leadership post "makes citizens lose confidence in justice and equal opportunity." Duwaisan said what is more catastrophic is that the MP which he did not name said that he discussed the matter with His Highness the Prime Minister and Public Works Minister Ali Al-Omar, and both agreed. "We are awaiting a denial or confirmation of this," he added.



MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan

directors complained to the prosecution general against a policeman who attacked a lawyer and his client at a police station. Lawyers have called for a gathering in front of Sabah Al-Salem police station to demand that the incident should not be repeated.

### Stray camels

Following incidents of collisions with stray camels, Jahra municipality issued a circular that measures should be taken against camel pens that are in violation near highways. Director Mohammad Al-Arabi said the pens should be removed within a maximum of one week.

### Lawyer attacked

The Kuwait Lawyers Society's board of

## FAMILY UNDER SIEGE

In my view



By Talal Al-Ghannam

local@kuwaittimes.net

Good morning dear and honorable brothers and sisters, and I wish you all a happy summer vacation. In this article, I would like to add on a previous column in which I wrote about a family under siege, an issue for which had received wide-scale responses and positive reactions.

Picking up from where I left off in my previous article, I can say that the helpless and fatigue woman along with her son were waiting for a brighter future, but could not do anything or come out of their prison-like room. Just a few days before Ramadan, the two looked anxious that their ordeal could be resolved and their case would be closed. But unfortunately, they were faced by numerous obstacles such as the high rent, shortage of food, weak internet connection and many more challenges.

I came to learn that woman suffered many accidents in which she fell in the bathroom, but she did not want her son to know. And when he would hear something falling inside the bathroom, he would inquire if his mother was ok, but she would reply that the bathroom's rack had fallen, just that she does not scare the boy.

Some weird things keep appearing on the woman's body, things that look like tiny tumors, but of course the painkillers cannot do anything to her. Since the last article, so many good doers have positively interacted with the case, and some have actually assisted to ease the suffering of the family.

When asked how they could survive sometimes if aid could not be reached or if the circumstances change, the woman replied that "since Almighty Allah is with us, he will never abandon us. I am able to work and earn a little." Every time I visit them, the little boy keeps smiling thinking that I have some good news for them, but when I get ready to leave, the two pay farewell with anticipation for the next visit which hopefully would come with the salvation.

The woman has grown wary of consuming painkillers, which could ultimately negatively impact her health as compared to taking the specific medication for her case. Meanwhile, her old mother keeps insisting for the two to come back home to see her, but she keeps on telling her that they are fine and that she must finish her work contract in Kuwait before deciding to travel back home.

Till the next article insha Allah.

## News

in brief

### ALAFCO ANNOUNCES KD 9.9 MLN NET PROFIT FOR PAST 9 MONTHS

**KUWAIT:** ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company announced Wednesday a net profit of KD 9.9 million (\$32.9 million) for the first nine months of the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of ALAFCO Ahmad A Alzabin said in a press release, the company is on track in the implementation of its strategy through sale and lease-back operations and through acquisition of aircraft with lease attached. Additionally, the company has contracted with Boeing and Airbus to acquire 117 new aircraft valued at \$14.9 billion to be delivered between 2017 and 2021. ALAFCO aims to have a fleet of more than 100 aircraft by the end of the decade, in order to position itself amongst the world's top aircraft leasing companies. ALAFCO is a Kuwait-based aircraft leasing company and is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. — KUNA



ALAFCO CEO Ahmad Alzabin

### KAC opens new office in Bu Hamdoun, Lebanon

**BEIRUT:** Kuwait Airways Company (KAC) has opened a new passenger service office in city of Bu Hamdoun in the Mount Lebanon area, said KAC director in Lebanon Misha'al Al-Saleh yesterday. Passengers living in Bu Hamdoun and other towns nearby such as Sofer, Alya, Hamana, and Faloga, who normally had to go to KAC's office in Beirut to book flights, now can do so in the airline's office in Bu Hamdoun, saving them a long trip to the capital city, he said. Furthermore, he pointed out that booking of flights on KAC can also be done through the airline's online services including the use of KAC's app on smart phones. He emphasized KAC's indefatigable efforts at streamlining all its services for the comfort of its patrons. — KUNA

### Environment safety vital in KOC's projects: Official

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) affirmed yesterday that it follows strict safety measures during projects development and activities to ensure protection of the environment. The current oil exploration operations executed by the company at Kuwait Bay did not have any negative impact on maritime life forms in the area, KOC's spokesman Saad Al-Azmi said. He noted that KOC is following international environmental standards when running explorations, adding that no dead fish phenomenon had been recorded since the launch of the project at Kuwait Bay in August 2015. — KUNA

## DUO ARRESTED FOR PROSTITUTION

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Vice police arrested two Romanian women for prostitution, who were charging KD 250 per hour. Tips were received about two Romanian women coming into

the country for prostitution as part of an international network. Detectives arrested the two women in the act. The women said their visit was intended for prostitution for of KD 200 - KD 250 per hour, collect large amounts of money and leave the country.



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KUWAIT: Sebamed General Manager Aiman Al-Shara'a, representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Ashkhanani, Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad, Etihad Airways Marketing Manager Mohammad Ejner and Lulu Hypermarket's Commercial Manager Shinu Raj pose for a picture at the start of raffle draw.



Raffle draw in progress — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# ACCOUNTANT WINS 2016 KUWAIT TIMES RAMADAN CONTEST

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Indian accountant Ibrahim Hossam, 27, was named as the grand winner of this year's Kuwait Times Ramadan contest. Hossam, who works at Silver Star Building Materials in Shuwaikh, bagged the grand prize out of 3,000 entries. Kuwait Times selected and included only those with all correct answers in the raffle draw held at its offices, witnessed by Abdulaziz Ashkhanani, representative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

"I am really very surprised...I was not expecting anything," said Hossam. "I just participated for the thrill of it and since I knew all the answers, I collected the question coupons and answered them all. This is my second year to participate in the contest and I am really delighted to be chosen the winner. The questions were almost similar to last year - the only change was in the way they were framed, so it was really easy for me because I am a Muslim," he said.

Hossam won two business class return tickets to London courtesy of Etihad Airways, plus vouchers from Ruby Tuesday. "This year's questions were very easy but a bit confusing, but I still excluded many entries with the wrong answers. I hope you won't be disappointed, but try again next year," said Adnan Saad, Deputy General Manager of Kuwait Times, during the raffle draw. "I am happy to see participants from all nationalities in Kuwait and from all walks of life. This is like a family activity for everyone - they are answering questions in family settings. One family submitted about 300 entries in the name of everyone in the family including those living overseas - we don't mind as long as the answers are correct. This is one example of har-

mony, apart from the fact that you will definitely learn more from the questions we asked and you'll be informed on many issues," Saad added.

### Second winner

The second winner, Shaikh Anwar, received one economy class return ticket to Madrid, men's and women's watches, a Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 40 and a Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 50. The third winner, Kawther Hassan, received an economy return ticket to Abu Dhabi, men's and women's watches, a Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 40 and a Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 50.

Mohammad Ejner, Etihad Airways Marketing Manager, said that his company participates in the Ramadan contest every year. "This is one way of reaching out to our clients. People travel during the holidays, so our presence in the contest shows everyone that we are here to serve you. The mere fact that we are visible during the entire month of Ramadan through daily advertisements lets the customers know that we are ready to accept their holiday travel bookings. We are happy to be part of this contest and we are looking forward to the next one," said Ejner.

"We are participating in Kuwait Times' activities regularly. You have a large readership and we are always happy to be part of the Ramadan contest organized by Kuwait Times. This is just one of many participations of the hypermarket in the service of all nationalities in Kuwait. We have this special event during Ramadan, so we really care for it very much," said Shinu Raj, Lulu Hypermarket's Commercial Manager. Besides Etihad Airways and Lulu Hypermarket, this year's Ramadan contest sponsors included Sebamed and Ruby Tuesday.



Aiman Al-Shara'a distributes Sebamed gifts during the raffle draw







The 'Don't worry, be an entrepreneur' campaign team.

## MINISTRY YOUTH PROMOTES ENTREPRENEURSHIP KUWAITI YOUTH BY SPONSORING THE CAMPAIGN 'DON'T WORRY, BE AN ENTREPRENEUR'

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry for Youth Affairs announced within its systematic plan to support and promote entrepreneurship of creative Kuwaiti youth and embrace their activities and creativity works in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Center led by the entrepreneur Abeer Al-Rashed supporting the campaign 'Don't worry, be an entrepreneur' as a purposeful step of ambitious dimensions to promote the concept of entrepreneurship in the management of youth businesses and turn them into reality and accomplishment.

It is worth mentioning that the Entrepreneurship Center launched 'Don't worry, be an entrepreneur' campaign out of the idea of research and making of entrepreneurs in Kuwait to provide services for youth who are intending to set up businesses through moral and theoretical training, technical support and focus on the concept of entrepreneurship in accordance with the professional standards.

Entrepreneur Abeer Al-Rashed - Director and founder of the Entrepreneurship Center, who recently and honorably represented Kuwait in social responsibility program 'Queen' of the League of Arab States and the Union of Arab Producers, confirmed that this success is dedicated first to His Highness the Amir, may Allah protect him, as he is the commander of humanity and we are his children walking on the same way to the humanitarian work, community initiative and youth support.

### Cooperation

Rashed mentioned the cooperation of the campaign with the National Youth Association of Kuwait and the pivotal role of Sheikha Amal Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah in supporting youth projects. She also praised the creative collaboration with the Ministry for Youth Affairs while thanking the Ministry of Information, especially Adel Atalla - Director of Second Channel, Sports Channel and Kuwait radio station



Entrepreneur Abeer Al-Rashed.

for supporting and helping them to deliver the campaign to various shades of youth in the community. And it would be a positive tributary to the aspirations and creativity works of the Kuwaiti youth. She said that the campaign message set up an integrated entrepreneurship system of the youth entrepreneurs to highlight their energies and abilities in a professional entrepreneurial style with a combination of public sector facilities and the private sector funding and support. The goals of the campaign was to break the practice routine and create mechanisms and new thinking in the performance and then submitting it as an integrated entrepreneurial act and providing integrated services that cover the expected needs to set up a free trade business. That was in addition to promoting the concept of business entrepreneurship in the community and thinking out of the box, to be a change step for the better in the lives of youth and to encourage their faith to practice their ideas, elaborate them on the ground to be launched from every Kuwaiti house.

Finally, the vision of the campaign (Don't worry, be an entrepreneur) will meet with the leading active role of the Ministry for Youth to serve the Kuwaiti youth community and adapt success to serve their projects and highlight them. Vision, idea and talent without implementation are just a dream and implementation without thought is just a waste of time. Vision and implementation together can alter the world.

## INFO MINISTER TOUTS GCC MAGAZINE AS TESTAMENT TO 'YOUTH CREATIVITY'

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday touted a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) lifestyle magazine as a creative youth contribution. Sheikh Salman made the remarks after meeting with 'Khaleesque' magazine co-founders Sheikha Fouz Al-Sabah and Sheikha Nouf Al-Sabah, a statement issued by the Ministry of Information noted.

Moreover, the Minister of Information said that the country's political leaders have always strived to support the youth as means of instilling in them the ambition and confidence needed to excel in all fields. He also underscored that the magazine contains plenty of information on a plethora of cultural and national issues, which represents a youth foray into the editorial business. Meanwhile, the magazine's co-founders thanked Sheikh Salman for his continuous support of the youth. "This is evident in all fields germane to culture and media," they said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with 'Khaleesque' magazine co-founders Sheikha Fouz Al-Sabah and Sheikha Nouf Al-Sabah. — KUNA

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Al-Qabas

# MY STORY OF ADDICTION

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

I can say that I am extremely addicted to sweets, though there is nothing more harmful than it, because it is the main cause of obesity, the mother of all diseases including cancer, whose cells feed on sugar. So I decided to stop eating white and brown sugar and all food that contain it, though those in my condition should not stop all of a sudden, rather the matter should be dealt with in a scientific fashion. Here are 25 steps that can be followed, and I started with them, which can help us reduce the intake of sugar.

- 1- We must stop taking it gradually, because stopping it completely will cause depression and fatigue.
- 2- Replace it with fruits.
- 3- Prepare your meals yourself, as much as possible, because we do not know what is in the stuff we eat outside.
- 4- Refrain completely from sweeteners or artificial sugar, and do not trust what is written on some foods that "they are free of sugar", because they have been proven dangerous to health and the reaction in the stomach.
- 5- Avoid foods labeled as "free of fats", because they usually contain sugar or saccharine to improve their taste.
- 6- Avoid fizzy drinks because of the high sugar content in them, including "diet" ones.
- 7- Start your day by eating eggs and yogurt and protein drinks, because these will keep normal levels of sugar in the blood, satisfy you and keep craving for sugar away.
- 8- Do not forget to eat the three major meals, because avoiding one will increase your urge to eat sugary foods.
- 9- Keep healthy food close to you such as fruits, and eat them as soon as you feel the need for sugar.
- 10- Avoid thirst, as it is a reason for our urge to eat sugars.
- 11- Eat fruits, vegetables and natural and untreated nuts.
- 12- Eat healthy fats such as olive oil, avocado and cereals.
- 13- If you feel an urgent need for a sweet, then take a little honey.
- 14- Using medicinal spices reduces your need for sugar such as cardamom, cinnamon and nutmeg.
- 15- Try for few days to take tea and coffee, as I do, without adding sugar.
- 16- If you are a chocolate lover, then use the dark one which has 70 percent or more cocoa.
- 17- Ask a friend who you always see, or a family member, to join you in reducing sugar intake, because fighting it alone is a tiring process.
- 18- Do not assume that some foods such as salads do not have sugar, because some restaurants add it, so we must make sure about what we are eating.
- 19- Lack of enough sleep pushes us to have the urge for sugar.

This column was supposed to be published ahead of Ramadan, but I was confident that no one would do a thing in it. I wish everyone good health!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF RED, SALARY ACCOUNTS MONTHLY DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank has announced winners of both Monthly Salary Account and Red Account draws, which took place on Thursday 30 June 2016. The Salary and Red Account have a cash draw prize of KD 1,000 for each account.

Ali Nayef Johar Arnan and Bassam Waleed Abdulwahab Al-Zanki who are the lucky winners of the Salary Account and Red Account draw prize for this month, each of the two winners received cash draw prize of KD 1,000.

New Red Account or Salary Account customers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000 each. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac CTS.

For further information about Gulf Bank's red and Salary account and other prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com).



## OOREDOO ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 10TH WEEK OF ITS PREPAID CAMPAIGN SMARTPHONES AND VALUABLE PRIZES

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the tenth weekly winners of its all new prepaid campaign "Every Recharge Wins." 7 of the winners were presented with the Samsung Galaxy mobile and 1 winner with the iPad Mini 3.

**The winners of this week were:**

- Fadhel AM Al Shahhaf - Samsung Galaxy
- Ahmad Atshan Aysel Faleh - Samsung Galaxy
- Armujam Naishiappan Armujam - Samsung Galaxy
- AlSayed Ezzedine al-Sawi - Samsung Galaxy
- Fakhruddin Bai - Samsung Galaxy
- Jayyash Ali - Samsung Galaxy
- Nadu Vilakat Sadeek - Samsung Galaxy
- Daragi Jatoberha - 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 1 KD 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.



## Crime

Report

### Hacker remanded in custody

**KUWAIT:** The renewal judge refused to free a hacker who committed electronic thefts. He was arrested following several complaints about stealing money using ATM cards. Farwaniya detectives received a complaint from a citizen that KD 1,800 was withdrawn from his account. Their investigations led them to the suspect when he made a purchase in Kuwait.

### Bootlegger caught

An Indian deliveryman used his restaurant's car to deliver liquor until his arrest with 107 liquor bottles. The man's activity was discovered when a patrol noticed the driver getting nervous after he saw them, so he was stopped and confessed to having the liquor. A security source said policemen arrested the mastermind who ran the liquor trade and both were sent to concerned authorities.

### Pedestrian mugged

Three unidentified persons robbed a Filipina and threatened to hurt her as she was returning from work. A security source said the three took KD 1,000 and a new phone from her. A citizen told police in Nugra someone withdrew KD 1,000 from his bank account. Detectives are working on both cases.

### Search for swindlers

Two Syrian brothers swindled a citizen out of KD 5,000 after they convinced him of a business venture. The citizen, in his forties, told Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station that the brothers told him there was a guaranteed business, and as he fully trusted them because of close relations between their families, he gave them KD 5,000. But as soon as they got the money, they disappeared. Police are investigating.

### Brothel raided

Farwaniya police raided a brothel where seven African and Asian nationals were caught. Most of those arrested are either wanted or reported absconding. They were sent for deportation. — Al-Rai

## FULL GCC COORDINATION TO TRACE TERRORIST CELLS

**KUWAIT:** A high ranking security source said there is full coordination between state security and similar departments in Gulf countries to trace terrorists cells or sleeping cells of terrorist organizations, particularly the Islamic State (IS). He pointed to information exchange which has been highly effective in enabling Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to maintain security control and prevent the expansion of terror activities.

The continued process of monitoring cells include surveillance of those who adopt terrorist ideologies and their sympathizers, the source said. Authorities deport expats every now and then who are proven to sympathize with this ideology and terrorist organizations, while citizens who express similar sympathy are placed under close monitoring, he added.

"The Interior Ministry does not punish innocent people whose relatives commit crimes," the source meanwhile said, denying reports that three Pakistanis were deported because they are relatives of a man who committed a terrorist act in Saudi Arabia. The source said that citizens from certain countries, especially from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Iran, Syria and Iraq are allowed in the country at a minimum rate, while state security departments and the rest of GCC countries look closely into the reasons of their visits. Their visas are not issued by immigration department, but they need approval from high ranking state authorities. — Al-Anbaa



## KFH HOLDS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR 30 NEW RECRUITS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held a comprehensive training program for 30 new recruits in an attempt to improve their proficiency in banking transactions and financial services to better serve clients and cater for their aspirations. The program was tailored to qualify employees to commence work at KFH Call Center department and the branches.

The 1-month program encompassed two groups of employees; 20 for branches and 10 for Call Center. It included training courses and workshops on banking products, such as; banking cards, bank accounts, deposits, letters of guarantee, and KFH e-services. In addition, the program tackled training courses on sharia basics, counter-

feiting and fraud, GFS Ethix, not to mention the call center; its equipment, role, and the services it renders.

Moreover, the program witnessed presentations of recruits who demonstrated their proposals of developing a service or a product. These proposals undergo assessments and review by members of high level panel of KFH managers and chiefs.

Such training programs contribute to raise the bar of employees, enrich their banking knowledge and put them on track to be well equipped and prepared to assume the responsibility of serving clients and encounter any obstacle and challenge according to the highest international standards of excellence service quality.

## KFH EXHIBITS PRODUCTS AT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is currently exhibiting its services and products at the Ministry of Education through its private pavilion. The pavilion comprises a team of highly specialized direct sale experts. The exhibition shall continue for 3 months, where KFH through its presence, aims to confirm and reassure stronger communications with customers based on a comprehensive marketing plan, thus aiming to approach a large segment of customers including employees and visitors of the Ministry of Education, particularly Block 2.

Direct sale team provides information to customers, answers their queries and highlights the comprehensive KFH services and products including Al-Rabeh salary account that offers clients the opportunity to win two 2016 Range Rover's and 3 kg of Gold every 3 months, in addition to the Tammayoz, Rubban and Sundus programs. The Direct Sales team will also educate visitors on KFH investment plans, and banking cards that grants clients unique discounts up to 55% at over 150 commercial outlets and brands.

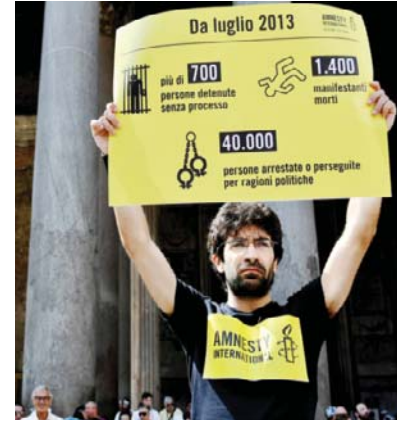
Also, KFH team will explain about the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUV's and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000" that was launched in an attempt to encourage

clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

KFH presence grants customers the opportunity to be familiar with KFH various products and services including accounts, deposits, credit cards, finance services, investment plans, credit facilities and other advantages offered by each segment of service.







**Egypt uses 'shocking' tactics against dissidents: Amnesty**

## HARDLINE MYANMAR MONK BLASTS 'DICTATOR' SUU KYI



DALLAS: Dignitaries including US President Barack Obama and former president George W. Bush join hands onstage during the singing of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" during an interfaith memorial service for the victims of the Dallas police shooting at the Morton H Meyerson Symphony Center on Tuesday. — AFP

# OBAMA PAYS TRIBUTE TO DALLAS OFFICERS

## US PRESIDENT URGES RECONCILIATION AFTER ATTACK

DALLAS: US President Barack Obama urged Americans rattled by a week of violence and protests to find "open hearts" and new empathy Tuesday in a speech that seaweed between honoring police officers for their bravery and decrying racial prejudice that can affect their work. Obama spoke near five empty chairs for the police officers killed last week by a black man seeking vengeance for police killings. Behind him, underscoring his message of unity: Dallas police officers, a racially diverse church choir and local officials who ranged from black Police Chief David Brown to former President George W. Bush, a Dallas resident.

Obama sought to reassure the nation that he understands the impact of the unsettling events of the past week - including the killing of two black men by police officers as well as the Dallas attacks. Disturbing videos of the events have "left us wounded and angry and hurt," he said. "It is as if the deepest fault lines of our democracy have suddenly been exposed, perhaps even widened."

Undaunted, the president urged Americans to cast aside such doubt and replace it with faith in the nation's institutions and progress. "Dallas, I'm here to say we must reject such despair. I'm here to insist that we are not as divided as we seem. And I know that because I

know America. I know how far we've come against impossible odds," he said. The president spoke steps away from the chairs left empty for the five men killed last Thursday while protecting hundreds of people protesting the killings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota. The Army veteran killed by police after the Dallas attack said he was motivated by revenge.

"The soul of our city was pierced," Mayor Mike Rawlings said, as he welcomed the president and a line of public officials, including Bush, who attended with his wife, Laura, Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, and Brown. The group on stage capped the ceremony by holding hands and swaying to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" - a symbol in sight and song of the service's unity theme. "Too often we judge other groups by their worst examples, while judging ourselves by our best intentions," Bush said. "And this has strained our bonds of understanding and common purpose."

Bush and other speakers paid tribute to the fallen officers - Brent Thompson, a 43-year-old newlywed; Patrick Zamarripa, 32, a Navy veteran who served in Iraq; Michael Krol, 40, an athlete and basketball lover; Michael Smith, 55, a former Army Ranger and father of two; and Lorne Ahrens, whose wife is a police detective. No one expressed his appreciation for the men more

memorably than Brown, who has emerged as the steady and charismatic face of the Dallas police. The chief spent part of his time reciting Stevie Wonder's "I'll Be Loving You Always" to express his affection for his officers.

### Powder Keg

For Obama, the moment was a chance to try to defuse what some have described as a national powder keg of emotions over race, justice, gun violence and policing. The president positioned himself as both an ally of law enforcement and a sympathizer of the Black Lives Matter movement. It's a posture neither side has completely accepted. Law enforcement officials have sharply criticized Obama and some of his policies, including a decision to stem the flow of military-grade equipment to local departments. One prominent voice, William Johnson, executive director the National Association of Police Organizations, accused Obama of waging a "war on cops."

Some protesters, meanwhile, questioned why Obama rushed home from Europe to attend the service in Dallas before meeting with the communities grieving their dead in Minnesota and Louisiana. In a gesture aimed at the answering that, as Obama flew to Dallas he telephoned the families of Alton Sterling and Philando

Castile, the men killed in confrontations in Baton Rouge and suburban St Paul. The White House said Obama worked late into the night on his speech, consulting Scripture for inspiration. After the speech, the president and Mrs. Obama spent more than an hour meeting privately with the officers' families and many of those who were wounded, the White House said. Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, and the Bushes also participated in the meetings.

After years of delivering emotional pleas for peace at similar memorials, Obama acknowledged his fatigue and the limits of his words. "I'm not naive," he said Tuesday. "I've seen how inadequate words can be in bringing about lasting change. I've seen how inadequate my own words have been." When he has doubts, Obama said, he remembers a passage from Ezekiel, in which the Lord promised to take "your heart of stone, and give you a heart of flesh."

"With an open heart we can learn to stand in each other's shoes and look at the world through each other's eyes," Obama said. "So that maybe the police officer sees his own son in that teenager with a hoodie, who's kind of goofing off but not dangerous. And the teenager, maybe the teenager will see in the police officer the same words, and values and authority of his parents." — AP



SHEFOUNIEH, Syria: A badly wounded Syrian man lies at a makeshift clinic after a strike by pro-Syrian government forces hit this town near Douma, a rebel-held town east of the capital Damascus, yesterday. — AFP

## 31 KILLED IN BOMBING OF REBEL SYRIA TOWNS

BEIRUT: Fierce bombardment of two opposition-held Syrian towns killed at least 31 civilians including children yesterday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said. Most were killed in air raids likely carried out by either President Bashar Al-Assad's regime or its Russian ally, the Observatory said. The attacks come despite the army's extension of a nationwide truce until early Friday. The freeze in fighting has yet to produce any respite in violence.

Bombing raids killed at least 16 civilians and wounded dozens more in the rebel-controlled town of Rastan in central Homs province the Observatory said. Another three civilians were killed in government shelling on the town earlier in the day. Rastan - one of the last rebel strongholds in Homs province - has suffered a devastating siege by government forces in 2012. In northwest Syria, 12 civilians including three children were killed in raids on the opposition-held town of Ariha.

The town is controlled by the Army of Conquest, a rebel alliance of mainly Islamist groups including Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front that holds almost all of Idlib province. An AFP journalist saw civil defence workers using a large bulldozer to clear debris away from a crumbling building. Some rescue workers wearing face masks used small plastic buckets to clear rubble so they could pull a thin man covered in dust out of a destroyed structure. — AFP

**The Correspondent**

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## LIBERAL HOPES DASHED AS EGYPT TURNS CONSERVATIVE

**CAIRO:** When Egypt's military overthrew the Muslim Brotherhood in 2013, Egyptians like Nabil dared to hope that their conservative country was on the brink of change. Like many gay Egyptians, Nabil faced a life of persecution and intolerance, and when the Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi came to power in 2012 he fled to the United States. Many believed that Morsi's ouster amid mass protests a year later and replacement with then-army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi would nudge Egyptian society in a more liberal direction.

But two years after Sisi took office, those hopes have been dashed by a crackdown, not just on the gay community, but on writers, intellectuals and even belly dancers who have fallen foul of conservatives and Egypt's influential Islamic authorities. "I was hoping that with the change of that theocratic regime of the Muslim Brotherhood the people will realize that they've been fooled all this time and become less conservative," Nabil said.

But any thought of returning from the United States, where he has been granted asylum, has been set aside for now. "Things are worse. Egypt has gone backwards," says Nabil, 29, who asked to be identified with a pseudonym for his protection. Morsi's overthrow unleashed a crackdown on his supporters that killed hundreds of protesters and detained thousands. Authorities then began rounding up liberal and leftist political activists who had been involved in the protests against Morsi and the 2011 uprising that ousted longtime Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak.

## Morality Laws

As Sisi has consolidated his rule, the suppression of political dissent has paved the way for a rise of conservatism, says rights lawyer Negad El Borai. "One-voice regimes are usually conservative by default," Borai says. "They're linked not only to restrictions in the political sphere, but in freedoms in general." Sisi had initially promised modernity and vowed religion would not be used in politics again.

But the authorities' actions say otherwise. In April, 11 men accused of homosexuality were sentenced to prison terms of up to 12 years after they were convicted of "debauchery". Egyptian law does not prohibit homosexuality, but gays are prosecuted under debauchery laws. "They like to show they are still Muslims: 'We're a Muslim state you guys, we have arrested some gays here,'" says Nabil.

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR) has documented at least 200 cases against gays and transgender people since Morsi's overthrow. "The sentences are terrifying," says Dalia Abd El-Hameed, head of the gender program at the EIPR. The crackdown has widened, with several artists jailed for violating morality laws. In February, writer Ahmed Naji was imprisoned for violating "public modesty" after a state-run newspaper ran an excerpt from his novel that described a sex scene. Islam Behairy, an Islamic researcher, was in December sentenced to a year in prison for "insulting religion" over remarks he made on his television program criticizing books in the Sunni Muslim canon. — AFP



**CAIRO:** In this Dec 9, 2015 file photo, Egyptian journalists hold posters calling for the release from prison detention of Mahmoud Abou-Zeid, known as Shawkan, in front of the Syndicate of Journalists building. — AP



**ROME:** Amnesty International activists hold a flash mob yesterday in Rome's Pantheon Square to remember late Italian student Giulio Regeni and other victims following their latest report. — AFP

## EGYPT USES 'SHOCKING' TACTICS AGAINST DISSIDENTS: AMNESTY 'UNPRECEDENTED SPIKE' IN FORCED DISAPPEARANCES

**CAIRO:** A leading international rights group assailed Egyptian authorities yesterday, accusing them of using abductions, torture and other shocking tactics as a tool to stifle dissent and appealing on the Egyptian president to acknowledge and investigate serious human rights violations. The country's Foreign Ministry promptly responded, lashing back at Amnesty International by saying the group was being "biased" and that it seeks to "tarnish Egypt's image".

The exchange comes as Amnesty released a new report that says there has been an "unprecedented spike" in enforced disappearances since early 2015 in Egypt under the pretext of fighting terrorism. International human rights law defines enforced disappearance as the secret abduction or imprisonment of a person, followed by the state's refusal to acknowledge that person's fate.

Amnesty's report - entitled "Egypt: Officially, you do not exist" - documents 17 cases that the London-based group says reveal "the shocking and ruthless tactics" of the Egyptian authorities to crack down on government opponents. Rape, electric shocks, and arrests of other family members were also used to force victims to give false confessions, it said. Victims range from political activists to children as young as 14 years old, the group said, adding that its report is based on more than 70 interviews with lawyers, non-government organizations, released detainees and family members of victims of torture and enforced disappearance.

Philip Luther, Director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at Amnesty International said that "the report exposes not only the brutality faced by those disappeared but also the collusion between national security forces and judicial authorities, who have been prepared to lie to cover their tracks or failed to investigate torture allegations, making them complicit in serious human rights violations."

Egypt's Foreign Ministry rejected the report, saying in a statement that Amnesty is "biased, politicized and has special interest in tarnishing Egypt's image." The ministry also said that the group depends on one-sided sources of information and on those who are in a state of "animosity toward the Egyptian state". Luther noted that Egyptian authorities "have repeatedly denied that enforced disappearances exist in the country."

## Confessions

After abductions, security authorities use torture to extract confessions, in sessions that last up to seven hours, Amnesty said. The report refers to a case of a 14-year-old boy whose name is provided by Amnesty, describing it as one of the most shocking cases of torture. It recounted the repeated rape and abuse of the teen, which Amnesty said was intended to extract confessions. The boy was among five children whose cases Amnesty documented in the report.

Luther appealed on Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to "order all state security agencies to

stop enforced disappearances, torture and other forms of ill-treatment and make clear that anyone who orders, commits or is complicit in such violations will be brought to justice". Police abuses were among the complaints that fueled the 2011 uprising that ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak. His elected successor, Islamist Mohammad Morsi, was removed by the military in 2013 after massive protests against Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood. Then military chief Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi was subsequently elected president in a landslide.

Since Morsi's removal, authorities have cracked down heavily on pro-democracy advocates, as well as Islamist supporters of Morsi. Egypt's prisons and detention centers are packed with political opponents, and courts have issued heavy prison sentences, often with little evidence or due process. Prosecutors have vigorously applied vague charges such as endangering security or stability, while turning a blind eye to police abuses ranging from torture and forced disappearances to long detentions without charge.

Official records put the number of arrests at over 30,000 from 2013 to 2015. Hundreds more are held facing the death sentence, including Morsi, his supporters and leaders of the Brotherhood, which el-Sisi's government has declared a terrorist organization. Some rights groups estimate that as many as 60,000 people have been detained for political reasons in Egypt since July 2013, according to Amnesty. — AP

## QUEUES FOR FOOD IN REBEL ALEPPO AFTER ROUTE CUT

**ALEPPO:** In a rebel-held neighbourhood in the east of Syria's second city Aleppo, more than 100 people are lined up outside a bakery, hoping to get a daily ration of bread. For some, it may be the only food available after a government advance severed the sole remaining supply route into rebel-held districts, prompting shortages and rising prices. "I've been standing here for about 45 minutes and there are still 40 people in front of me," said Ahmad al-Haj, in the queue of around 150 people.

At another nearby bakery, the queue is even longer, with some 200 people gathered. "Yesterday, my family of five didn't eat any bread because the bakeries stopped working. Today, I will only get seven pieces which will barely be enough for a single meal," he said. With their route to the outside world cut, there is no new flour coming to the city's bakeries, and fuel to light their ovens is also now hard to find.

The mood among those waiting is grim, with families arguing over their spot in the queue and the meagre portions available to families that sometimes include seven or eight people. Once an economic powerhouse and a thriving tourist destination, Aleppo has been devastated by the conflict that began in March 2011. Since mid-2012, it has been roughly divided between government control in the west and rebel control in the east, and has suffered enormous destruction in the war that has killed more than 280,000 people nationwide.

Last week, a government advance brought regime troops within firing range of the Castello Road, the only remaining supply route into the opposition-held east, effectively severing rebel neighbourhoods from the outside world. The United Nations said on Wednesday it was "deeply alarmed" by the situation in Aleppo, warning that the east was "at risk of besiegement." It also criticized civilian deaths in ongoing government air strikes on the east and rebel fire on the west.

## 'Everything is Missing'

With the Castello Road cut, shop shelves have been left empty and residents are struggling to find even basic goods. Abu Mohamed was combing through a nearby half-empty vegetable market in a bid to find potatoes, which now go for five times the price they did last week - about 500 Syrian pounds (\$1) a kilo. "I have four children and I don't know what we will eat today," he said. "The markets are totally empty, I couldn't find anything. Everything is missing - eggs, yogurt, cheese, vegetables."

Abu Mohamed, a tailor, said his salary of 25,000 Syrian pounds was no longer enough to feed his family. "The prices are so high now, so my income isn't enough for a single week." In another neighborhood, supermarket owner Mohammed Hijazi looked at the half-empty shelves of his store. His remaining stock, including cleaning supplies and perfumes, is of little interest to customers who can barely afford food. "For the past two days, my shop was full of people trying to buy canned food and dates to store them," he said. "I had to ration what each person could buy so that as many people as possible could get what they needed. But today we've nearly run out of supplies."

Other shopkeepers closed their doors in the first days after the road was cut, and only reopened after hiking their prices. The price of a kilo of dates has doubled to 800 Syrian pounds (\$3.70), while a kilo of tomatoes has gone from 100 to 600 Syrian pounds. Fuel is also in short supply and increasingly expensive, making life difficult for Hassan Yassin, a taxi driver. He has stopped working during the day for fear of government air strikes and shelling, but even at night he is no longer driving passengers because the cost of fuel makes trips too expensive. "A litre of petrol costs 1,500 Syrian pounds, so the shortest trip would cost a customer 700 Syrian pounds," he told AFP. "I've hidden my taxi so that I don't get hit in shelling. I'll sit at home without work." — AFP



**ALEPPO:** Syrian bakers pack portions of bread as people wait in line outside a bakery in a rebel held neighborhood in this northern city on Tuesday. — AFP



**WASHINGTON:** US Secretary of State John Kerry speaks during a reception in honor of Eid Al-Fitr at the State Department on Tuesday. — AFP

## KERRY TO MEET PUTIN OVER SYRIA

**WASHINGTON:** A frustrated US Secretary of State John Kerry is heading back to Moscow once again to meet President Vladimir Putin and test his commitment to the stalled Syrian peace process. Russia and the United States are nominally co-chairs of international efforts to bring Bashar Al-Assad's regime to the negotiating table with armed opposition groups. But ferocious bloodshed continues in defiance of a series of failed ceasefires, and the odd couple heading the peace effort appear increasingly at odds over the way forward.

Kerry told diners at a delayed Eid Al-Fitr supper Tuesday that he would meet Putin "to see if we can somehow advance this in the important ways that people want us to". And he told the State Department guests: "You have my word - all of you - that we will continue doing everything that we can to alleviate the suffering in Syria." But, as Kerry's spokesman John Kirby said of his boss to reporters earlier: "I'd say he's extremely frustrated, and we want to see real change in what's been going on. I believe he meant every molecule of what he said when he said that his patience was growing thin," Kirby said.

In Washington, many observers have criticized Kerry's outreach to Russia on Syria, arguing he has been strung along by a Putin seeking only to pro-

tect his client Assad. But Kirby insisted the administration is not being naive, and that Thursday's visit to Moscow, Kerry's third this year, would "probe the sincerity" of Putin's promises. Hopes for the existing peace process rest on the UN-backed blueprint sketched out by the 22-nation, US and Russian-led International Syria Support Group (ISSG).

## Drop Dead Date

Under this road map, signed by both Syria's ally Iran and Assad's pro-rebel foe Saudi Arabia, a nationwide ceasefire will precede Geneva-based talks on "political transition". Substantial political talks were once supposed to start on August 1, although Kerry has sought to underline that this is a "target" and not a "drop dead date" nor deadline. Before leaving yesterday with Kerry for Paris, from where he was due to fly on to Moscow, the spokesman said "we're mindful of the clock. We're mindful of the calendar."

Kirby said talk of the August 1 target date "underscores the importance of the secretary's trip to Moscow and the conversations that he intends to have there." But he added "clearly, we are not ignorant to the fact that achieving some sort of groundbreaking political development in two weeks is not likely." Previously, Kerry has suggested

that if there is no breakthrough by the target date then Washington might resort to an undefined "Plan B" to deal with Assad.

## Open to Ideas

He and other US officials have since played down this idea - reportedly a call for military strikes against the regime - but it is not clear if they have other options. There have been suggestions that the US and Russia might coordinate their forces to jointly go after the jihadists of the Al-Nusra Front and the so-called Islamic State. On this, Kirby said the US was "open to ideas". But on the civil war itself, Washington and Moscow are still far apart, and Kerry's counterpart Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov places the blame on the United Nations.

Lavrov said on Tuesday that UN envoy Staffan de Mistura was "shunning his duties" in not summoning the warring parties to a new round of peace talks in Geneva. On Monday, De Mistura said he wants guarantees of progress before restarting the process, warning "the key lies in a possible agreement between Russia and the United States." Washington defends De Mistura, arguing it is hard to expect the moderate opposition to come to the table while Russian-backed Syrian forces are bombarding them daily. — AFP



## OTHER 1600 PENNSYLVANIA SOURCE OF HUMOR, HEADACHES



WASHINGTON: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE is seen on June 1, 2016. — AP

WASHINGTON: Presidential candidates work for years to move in to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. For 24-year-old Nicole Berns, moving in was much easier, requiring filling out a three-page form and paying \$500 in fees. Berns' keys aren't for the White House. They're for 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, a 77-unit apartment building that began leasing about a year ago. It is just about 3 1/2 miles from the White House, which has the same numbered address but is at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW on the city's grid system. The addition of an address nearly identical to the nation's seat of power has caused some confusion, but also some amusing opportunities for residents. "I love telling people that I live there. I call it, 'The Other White House,'" said Berns, who recently moved in to the building.

Before the apartment building was built, the lot housed a used car dealership whose address was 1550 Pennsylvania Ave SE. But when developers bought the property they realized that no building had claim to the 1600 Pennsylvania Ave SE address, which also made sense for the location. Figuring it would be fun and a way to get recognition, they successfully petitioned for an address change.

Residents say they often get funny looks or disbelief when they have to give their address or hand over their driver's licenses. Carlos Gutierrez, 39, and other residents said they get asked: "You live at the White House?" The

address has produced headaches for some residents. One early resident of the building, Daniel Perry, 36, said Amazon.com initially wouldn't take orders to the address, though that's since been sorted out. Another resident said even now, she sometimes has difficulty ordering online. A recent order for a pair of summer sandals required calling the company, she said.

Residents have to make sure that anyone sending them mail puts the all-important "SE" after the address. The correct zip code - 20003 - is also key. The White House's ZIP code is 20500. A goof means the mail might eventually get to the correct recipient, but because the president's mail gets extra screening, any resident's mail with an incomplete address could be significantly delayed. Mail mix-ups happen the other way, too. Errant letters for the first family arrive at the building every so often and sit unopened by the residents' mailboxes until the US Postal Service redirects them. There's also what property manager Cameron Mahjoubi calls "prank mail" - letters sent to past presidents including Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and George Washington. The building itself doesn't provoke any double takes. Its tallest part is six stories high and it's mostly brick. There are no white columns in sight, though an American flag does fly out front. The lobby has an American flag, too: a white-on white mural, with one star added for the District of Columbia. — AP

## NEW BLACK PARTY TO CARRY ARMS IN CLEVELAND IF LEGAL

CLEVELAND: The New Black Panther Party, a "black power" movement, will carry firearms for self-defense during rallies in Cleveland ahead of next week's Republican convention, if allowed under Ohio law, the group's chairman said. The plan by the group this weekend comes as police in Cleveland brace for an influx of groups that plan demonstrations before and during the presidential nominating convention. During the attack last week in Dallas that killed five police officers, law enforcement officials said demonstrators carrying rifles led them to initially believe they were under attack by multiple shooters.

Several other groups, including some supporters of presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, have said they will carry weapons in Cleveland. "If it is an open state to carry, we will exercise our second amendment rights because there are other groups threatening to be there that are threatening to do harm to us," Hashim Nzinga, chairman of the New Black Panther Party, told Reuters in a telephone interview. "If that state allows us to bear arms, the Panthers and the others who can legally bear arms will bear arms." Nzinga said he condemned the Dallas shootings.

Officials in Ohio have said it will be legal for protesters to carry weapons at demonstrations outside the convention under that state's "open carry" law, which allows civilians to carry guns in public. "Black power" groups promote defense against racial oppression, with some advocating for the establishment of armed self-defense groups, black social institutions and a self-sufficient economy.

The New Black Panther Party has long called for a separate black nation. But Nzinga said the movement was now focused on protecting black Americans' rights. Academics say the New Black Panther Party remains marginal and largely representative of an older generation, in their 30s and 40s, rather than younger activists drawn to groups such as the anti-racism Black Lives Matter movement.

The New Black Panther Party was founded in 1989 and adopted a more radical approach than the 1960s Black Panther Party. Members of the original group have denounced the New Black Panther Party as racist, but Nzinga says his movement

includes original Black Panthers. The Southern Poverty Law Center, a hate group watchdog, describes the New Black Panther Party as "a virulently racist and anti-Semitic organization whose leaders have encouraged violence against whites, Jews and law enforcement officers."

The center tracks years of public statements by the New Black Panther Party and other groups. Nzinga denied the group was racist but said it was a fact that Jews control Hollywood and the U.S. media. The center said the group is not known to have carried out any violent attacks. The black shooter in the Dallas killings "liked" the New Black Panthers and other black nationalist groups on Facebook but was not a member.

### 'There to Protect'

Nzinga said he expected "a couple hundred" members of the New Black Panther Party to participate in and protect a black unity rally - the "National Convention of the Oppressed" - that is scheduled to begin in Cleveland on Thursday evening and end on Monday morning. Nzinga said he and the Panthers plan to leave Cleveland on Sunday, the day before the convention officially opens. "We are there to protect... We are not trying to do anything else," he said. "We are going to carry out some of these great legal rights we have to assemble, to protest and (to exercise) freedom of speech."

Nzinga says his group has grown amid racial tensions in the wake of a series of high-profile police killings of black men in the past two years. The Southern Poverty Law Center says the number of black militant chapters around the country grew from 113 in 2014 to 180 in 2015. The center says there are 892 hate groups total nationwide. It says white hate groups, such as the Aryan Brotherhood, have a much longer track record of carrying out violent attacks than black nationalist groups.

Nzinga said his group has 36 chapters nationwide but declined to reveal membership numbers. "I have people literally calling me saying this is the first time in my life I protested and I loved it," Nzinga told Reuters. "They want to be a part of something. They tried to be a part of the system and the system let them down so they want to be part of a rebellion." — Reuters

## CLINTON, THE CANDIDATE WE KNOW SO WELL - AND DON'T

AMBITION TAG HAS DOGGED HILLARY THROUGHOUT HER CAREER

NEW YORK: When she was about 14, Hillary Clinton says, she wrote to NASA volunteering for astronaut training. NASA's reply was simple and definitive: No girls. "It was the first time I had hit an obstacle I couldn't overcome with hard work and determination, and I was outraged," she would write in her book, "Living History". More than a half-century later, and after much hard work, much determination, and most of all, many, many obstacles - some undeniably of her own making - Clinton is no closer to actual space travel. She may have to settle for becoming the first female leader of the free world.

Her journey - more than three decades in the public eye, and counting - has been unlike any seen in American politics: A story of great promise, excruciating setbacks, bitter scandal, stunning comebacks, and especially reinvention - of her own life, and as a result, of the role of women in government. It's one that has fascinated not just her own country, but the world. Think about it: Is any woman more recognizable on a global scale than Hillary Clinton? If Barack Obama was the presidential candidate who seemed to come out of nowhere, Clinton's the candidate who seemed to come out of everywhere.

Americans first knew her as a governor's wife and working mother in Arkansas, then as the nation's first lady - famously claiming an office in the West Wing of the White House, not the East, as half of husband Bill Clinton's "Buy one, get one free" bargain. Touched by scandal from Whitewater to Monica Lewinsky - but also carving out her own political identity - she emerged to become a hard-working senator, the first first lady to gain elected office. We knew her as the presidential candidate who suffered a stinging defeat to Obama in 2008, but proudly claimed "18 million cracks" in the glass ceiling.

Then she reinvented herself again, becoming Obama's secretary of state, traveling almost a million miles to 112 countries. Finally, after much speculation, she announced her second run for the presidency. We knew her so well by then. Or not. Who WAS Hillary Clinton, and why, if we'd been watching her for so long, did we feel like we didn't know her? At least, that's the persistent narrative. Perhaps it's a question of layers. She's had so many different roles, of course we've seen different facets of her. But there's also a sense of impenetrability, exacerbated by her penchant for secrecy - a characteristic that has led to her greatest vulnerability in this election: the email scandal over her use of a private server.

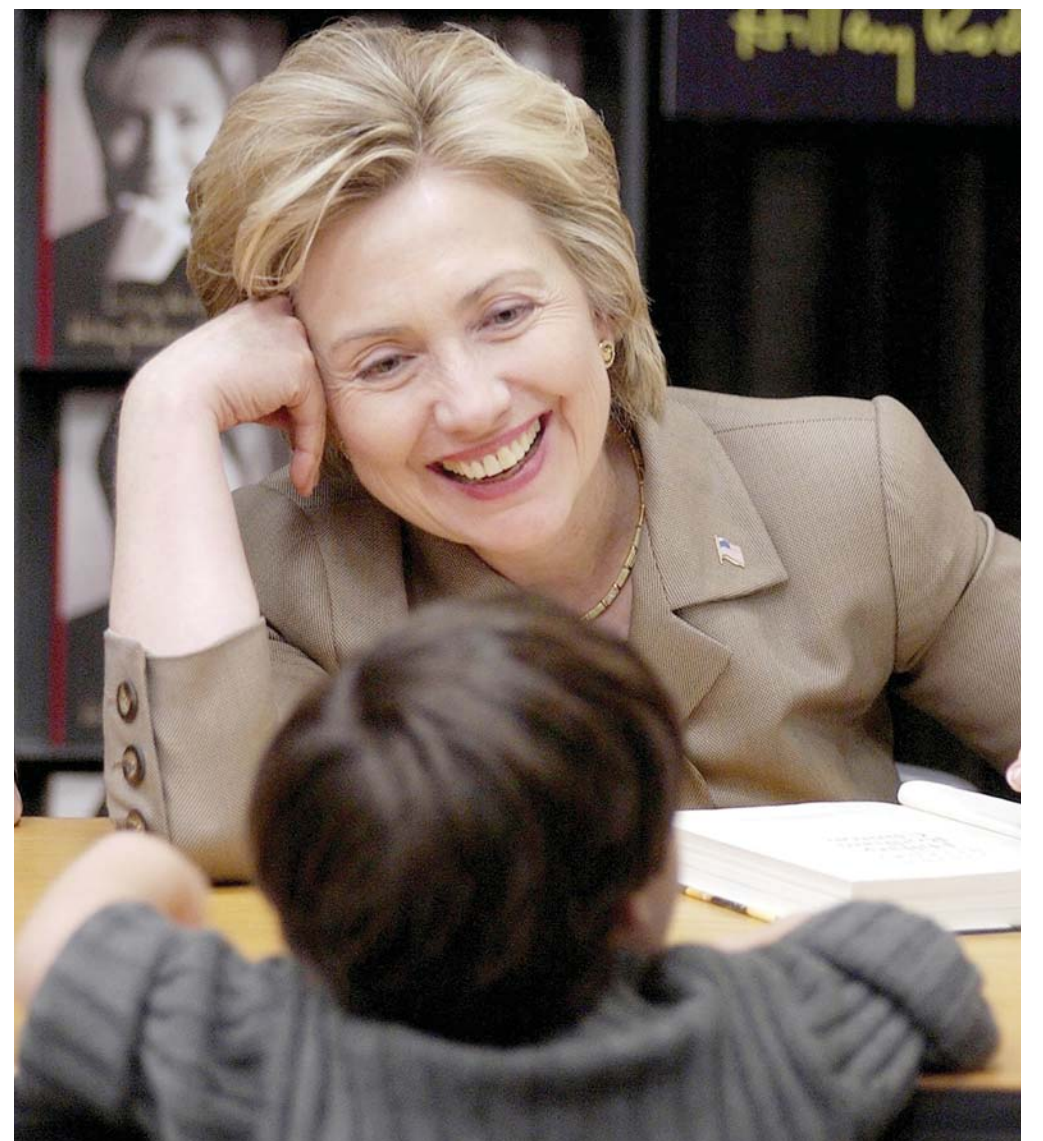
For the last 14 years, and 20 overall, Americans polled by Gallup have named Clinton their most admired woman in the world. But consider some other titles attached to her over the years: Lady Macbeth. Washington insider. Robotic. Wildly ambitious. Congenial liar. (Or Donald Trump's current favorite, "Crooked Hillary.") But also: Feminist heroine. Glass-ceiling breaker. The most prepared in the room. The most qualified presidential candidate ever. Loyal friend. Witty companion. Mom. Grandma. "It's an amazing life," says biographer Carl Bernstein, who wrote a 600-page book on her and says he still struggles to define her. "You could not make any of this stuff up." There have been polarizing figures in politics before, but it's hard to imagine any have been called as many things - wildly divergent things - as she. Does everyone simply have their own version of Hillary Clinton?

### The Ambition Thing

"Saturday Night Live" has been turning out versions for a good 25 years. Each actress spoofing Clinton - there have been nine, including Miley Cyrus rapping in a bandeau - has put her spin on the part. But there's been one constant: ambition, pure and unadulterated. "No, MINE!" blurted out Amy Poehler's Hillary, alongside Tina Fey's Sarah Palin, in agonized disbelief that John McCain's running mate was still in the race but she wasn't. Recently, Kate McKinnon has perfected a wackier, more manic ambition. In a recent scene where Clinton herself gamely played a bartender, the fake Hillary asked Huma Abedin, her aide, "Why won't the people just let me LEAD?"

Comedy aside, the ambition tag has dogged Clinton, 68, throughout her career, as if it were a bad quality rather than a necessity in high-stakes politics. The satirical website The Onion captured the irony in a 2006 headline: "Hillary Clinton Is Too Ambitious To Be The First Female President." That gets a knowing laugh from Melanne Vermeer, Clinton's chief of staff from her first lady years. "If a guy is described as ambitious, it's a noble attribute - he wants to put himself ahead," says Vermeer. "But if a woman is ambitious, it's not an attribute, it's a negative, a pejorative. It's not proper somehow."

Former Rep Patricia Schroeder thinks the ambition factor is - unfairly - key to Clinton's challenges connecting with the electorate. "We still don't like a woman who is showing ambition, especially for that level of a job," says Schroeder, who famously



DALLAS: In this Dec 4, 2003 file photo, Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton talks with Maximilian Chow-Gillette, 3, while signing her book "Living History" in Dallas. — AP

explored her own presidential candidacy decades ago. "It's: 'I'd like her if she weren't so damned ambitious. How come she wants all that power?'"

### Champion for Women

At her college graduation in 1969, Hillary Rodham was already blazing a trail: The senior from Park Ridge, Illinois, was the first student chosen to address a Wellesley commencement. She delighted many classmates when she delivered an on-the-spot rebuke to the previous speaker, a U.S. senator whose comments the grads found condescending to women. At Yale Law School, where she met Bill Clinton, she developed a keen interest in children's rights, which she pursued in post-graduate work.

It's been a particular frustration to Clinton's campaign that young Democrats haven't responded

more enthusiastically, with many attracted to the populist message of Bernie Sanders (six years her senior). There's a sense that millennials are too young to remember her efforts on behalf of social justice, particularly for women and girls on a global scale. "Young people today want to be part of something bigger... but they don't understand how much she shares those aspirations of theirs," Vermeer says.

A key moment in Clinton's political journey - and a defining personal moment - came in 1995, when as first lady she spoke at a UN Congress on women in Beijing, declaring, "Human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights." It was a time when Clinton was searching for a new identity, having failed to reform health care back home. But even she had no idea the impact those simple words would have. — AP

## 10 INMATES ESCAPE IN CANCUN BEACH RESORT

MEXICO CITY: Ten inmates escaped in Mexico's Caribbean beach resort of Cancun late Tuesday by jumping the prison wall, in the latest jailbreak to hit the country's scandal-plagued penitentiary system. The inmates beat a guard and jumped the wall, the Quintana Roo state government said in a statement. It cited witnesses as saying at least three of the escapees fled in a taxi in which they changed their clothes. "Personnel from all of the security agencies of the state are conducting an intense and broad operation to catch the prisoners," state Governor Roberto Borge said. Searchers included police and soldiers.

A state public security spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity that the escape took place at around 9:10 pm and that some of the inmates are considered "highly dangerous". The city is a popular destination for American tourists but the prison is away from the hotel district. It is located in a densely populated residential area, with one wall facing a busy road. The government said security was stepped up around the prison as well as on highways and at taxi stands and bus stations.

Local media reported that the convicts belong to two drug gangs and that they took advantage of confusion during a prison fight to escape. Two other prisoners escaped from the Cancun penitentiary in Oct 2015 while a fight left four injured

in June. But Cancun has been spared from the drug cartel violence that has plagued other parts of the country.

### Prison Problems

Mexican prisons are notoriously overcrowded, violent and often controlled by gangs. A report by the National Human Rights Commission found that inmates govern themselves in 71 state prisons across the country. In February, 49 inmates were killed in a massive brawl in the northern city of Monterrey. Mass prison breaks are not uncommon. Last month, three inmates escaped during a riot and fire in a prison just outside Mexico City that left several prisoners and police officers injured.

The biggest escape took place in Sept 2012 in a prison in the northern border town of Piedras Negras, when 131 inmates bolted through the front door. In Nov 2013, seven inmates escaped from a prison in the northern state of Tamaulipas after six prisoners were killed during a fight. But the most famous jailbreak was perpetrated by one man, Sinaloa drug cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who escaped from the country's top security prison near Mexico City in July 2015 through a 1.5-km tunnel built by his henchmen. Guzman had previously escaped from another prison in 2001, reportedly by hiding in a laundry cart. He was recaptured in January. — AFP



WESTFIELD, Indiana: Campaign supporters await the arrival of presumptive US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump during a campaign rally at Grant Park Event Center. — AFP

## TRUMP TAKES NARROW LEAD OVER CLINTON IN FLORIDA

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has overtaken his opponent Hillary Clinton in the battleground state of Florida, with the race too close to call in two other swing states, a new poll showed yesterday. "Donald Trump enters the Republican Convention on a small roll in the three most important swing states in the country," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University poll. Trump was leading 42-39 percent in Florida, compared to a 47-39 Clinton advantage in a June 21 poll.

In Ohio, Clinton and Trump were tied at 41 percent, while in Pennsylvania, Trump had 43 percent support over Clinton's 41 percent. Those are slight changes from June 21, when they were tied 40-40 in Ohio and Clinton had a 42-41 lead in Pennsylvania. Since 1960, no candidate has won the US presidency without winning at

least two of these three battleground states. The latest Quinnipiac University poll was conducted from June 30 to July 11, amid an FBI investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state.

On July 5, FBI Director James Comey said he would not recommend criminal charges against Clinton, but called her "extremely careless" in her handling of classified data. "While there is no definite link between Clinton's drop in Florida and the US Justice Department decision not to prosecute her for her handling of emails, she has lost ground to Trump on questions which measure moral standards and honesty," Brown said in a statement. The poll surveyed voters over the phone and has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points in Florida and Pennsylvania, and 3.2 percentage points in Ohio. — AFP



# ITALY MOURNS AS DEATH TOLL HITS 25

**ANDRIA:** Relatives of victims of one of Italy's worst rail accidents gathered yesterday to identify their dead, as rescuers searched for missing bodies from the wreckage of a head-on collision that claimed at least 25 lives. As the country grieved, investigators were trying to establish the cause of the high-speed crash between two busy passenger trains in the Puglia region of southern Italy. Shell-shocked families at the Policlinico hospital morgue in Bari were being called in turns to search among the coffins for their loved ones after Tuesday's tragedy.

The civil protection agency said 25 bodies had been recovered, two people were missing and 50 people had been injured. Red Cross workers asked for details to help identify the most badly mutilated bodies, from tattoos to scars and clothing color. One girl was reportedly identified by her engagement ring. "We can't rule out finding other people in the wreck. It's slow work," said Luca Cari, spokesman for the firefighter department, as emergency services used a crane and diggers to clear crumpled carriages from the track near the town of Andria. Sniffer dogs were being used to search through the wreckage.

## Black box recovered

Officials said they had recovered the black box from one of the trains which investigators hope will throw light on the collision, which happened on a stretch of single track in open countryside, slinging some carriages into bordering olive groves. One of the drivers was confirmed dead, with rescue workers recovering a hand and a leg from the mangled mess of his cabin. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi visited the site late Tuesday, saying it was "a time to cry, be close to the families, show

humanity in our pain," and vowing to "throw light on what happened and who is responsible". Investigators said at least one of the trains had been travelling very fast, and it was possible the collision was caused by human error.

One of the four-carriage trains was supposed to have waited at a station to let the other train through, before heading down the track between the towns of Corato and Andria. The go-ahead to proceed is given by the station managers by telephone. According to La Stampa, the line dates to 1965. It said a call for tenders to modernize the security system and lay a second track had been scheduled to open later this month. About 55 percent of the rail network in Italy is single track. A pot of 150 million euros allocated by the European Regional Development Fund in the 2007-2013 budget to add second tracks went largely unused, the newspaper said.

## Naming the dead

Transport Minister Graziano Delrio is expected to address parliament Wednesday about the incident. Only five of the victims had identity documents on their person, the rest presumably in wallets or bags sent flying across carriages on impact, making it more difficult for authorities to name the dead. University students, farm workers and office employees were on the trains, as well as grandparents and children. The bodies of a mother and child were pulled from the wreckage, while a trapped six-year old boy was found alive, next to his dead grandmother.

The trains were operated by private railway company Ferrovie dello Stato, just one of the 30 or so private compa-



**PUGLIA:** Remains of the train crash site lie on the ground near Corato, in the southern Italian region of Puglia as rescuers searched for missing bodies from the wreckage of a head-on collision that claimed at least 25 lives. — AFP

nies which run on small lines criss-crossing Italy in areas not covered by national operator Trenitalia. Ferrovie dello Stato said it was not possible to say how many people had been on board, as many passengers had

season tickets. The last major rail disaster in Italy was in 2009, when a freight train carrying liquid petroleum gas derailed and exploded, killing 29 people at the station in the town of Viareggio. — AFP

# MAY, MERKEL DRAW BATTLE LINES FOR THE BREXIT CLASH

## CRUNCH TALKS LOOM OVER MARKET ACCESS, IMMIGRATION

**BERLIN:** Both are pastors' daughters who rose to the top of their conservative parties. Now Theresa May and Angela Merkel, equally firm but pragmatic, will go head to head to determine Britain's future relationship with Europe. Two years the German chancellor's junior, May is highly regarded among European officials who largely welcomed news that she will become British prime minister after David Cameron bows out.

"Very disciplined" is how one senior German official who has worked closely with May described the Oxford University-educated daughter of a Church of England vicar. She has "excellent" relations with French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve, a source in Paris said. Described by one veteran British conservative as a "bloody difficult woman", 59-year-old May will need to muster all the goodwill she can in Europe. Her task is to deal with the negotiating clout and stamina of Merkel, who in 10 years as chancellor has regularly outlasted other European Union leaders at late night Brussels meetings.

Under the Lisbon Treaty, a deal on Britain's departure from the EU must be concluded with the European Council, which groups leaders of the 27 other member states. Merkel's role, however, is crucial. After Britons voted for Brexit on June 23, she met the leaders of France and Italy to plan the way ahead for the EU, showing that its biggest member states - rather than its institutions - want to determine this. Both women, who have been married for decades, saw off male challengers on their way to the top.

Merkel defeated her more flamboyant predecessor, the Social Democrat Gerhard Schroeder, at the ballot box in 2005. May, who has been British interior minister for the past six years, will become prime minister simply because Conservative members of parliament elected her leader of the ruling party. But the woman who has declared "I'm not a showy politician", is also replacing a less cautious politician in the pro-EU Cameron, whose gamble in calling the referendum failed. Merkel and May agree on one thing: in the Briton's words "Brexit means Brexit". Merkel has insisted the result of what was officially an advisory referendum must be respected.

Beyond that, battle lines are already being drawn. May says Britain will not rush to trigger the formal divorce proceedings under the Lisbon Treaty. Merkel, however, wants Britain to make its intentions clear more quickly. On Tuesday, Merkel put the ball in May's court. "We must now wait until Britain says



**This combo photo shows Britain's Home Secretary Theresa May (left) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel speaking at an EU summit in Brussels. Political observers in Germany and Britain see a lot of similarities between Britain's new leader, Theresa May, and Germany's pragmatic chancellor, Angela Merkel. — AP**

what relationship it envisages with the European Union and then we will lead, in our interests, the best negotiations for our citizens in the 27 member states," she said. The chancellor wants to retain strong links with Britain, Germany's fifth-biggest trading partner for goods, but her bigger priority is to hold together the remaining EU members.

## Very persistent

British diplomats who have worked with May in Brussels rate her highly, saying she is one of the best prepared and best informed ministers to negotiate with their EU partners. Their European counterparts agree. "She knows Brussels well, she knows the people and how things work here," said one EU official who deals with justice and home affairs. "She has always been prepared for the meetings, active in intervening, she knows the file."

Another senior EU official familiar with negotiations in which May has taken part described her as "very professional, very well respected". All the indications are May will prove a tough negotiator. "She

won't be an easy partner for the EU," said the senior EU official, adding that May does not change her tune easily. "She's been extremely consistent, very persistent." A quiet 'remain' campaigner, May must now get the best terms she can. Her biggest task is to retain British access to the EU's single market while restricting immigration from the bloc.

EU leaders say market access can come only with a commitment to the free movement of people - just what British voters rejected. Yet May has a record of negotiating compromises with the EU in such apparently black or white situations. As interior minister, she opted back into a European arrest warrant system and cross-border information sharing despite Britain's 'opt out' on EU justice and home affairs policy. In brokering those 'opt-ins', the senior EU official said: "She took a great part in the negotiations herself, she didn't rely on officials ... She has very obvious negotiating skills." Those skills will be put to the test by Merkel, who said on Monday: "We will have difficult negotiations with Britain, it will not be easy." — Reuters

# THERESA MAY'S INBOX - UNITING BRITAIN, UNCOUPLING FROM EU

**LONDON:** From negotiating Britain's exit from the EU and shoring up the economy, to mending the divisions corroding her party and country, incoming Prime Minister Theresa May faces a daunting to-do list. The Interior Minister, who took over from David Cameron less than three weeks after Britain's shock decision to quit the EU, has vowed to clinch the best possible divorce settlement from Brussels. She has also promised a more compassionate brand of conservatism that "works not for a privileged few" but for all Britons. Following is a list of the most pressing tasks at hand.

## Form a government

May's first task is to form a new cabinet, including a minister in charge of Brexit. Women are tipped to take a number of top jobs, in a team expected to mix experienced hands, like foreign minister Philip Hammond, with some who supported the "Leave" campaign, like May's campaign manager Chris Grayling.

## Serve divorce papers

May, who was an unenthusiastic Remain supporter, has insisted that "Brexit means Brexit". She has said she does not plan on triggering Article 50 - which starts a two-year clock on the country's exit from the bloc - before the end of the year. However, that was before the Conservative leadership contest, which was due to last until September, was cut short by the withdrawal of her only rival, giving May the keys to Downing Street two months early.

EU leaders have called on the government to accelerate the exit process, saying they will not discuss the contours of a new relationship with London until it has formally filed for divorce. Within Britain, May is also under pressure from Brexit supporters within her Conservative party and the UK Independence Party (UKIP) to implement the referendum result. Analysts said she will come under increased pressure from the autumn, when EU leaders meet in Brussels, to bite the bullet.

## Trade/migration trade-off

May says that Brexit means an end to the free movement of labor across Britain's borders but promised to pursue the "the best deal for Britain" with the EU. EU leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, insist that the holy grail-continued tariff-free access to the EU cherished by British companies is contingent on unfettered access to Britain for EU workers. May's challenge will be to negotiate a

compromise that protects the bulk of Britain's trade with Europe while cutting mass migration, which had been a key issue in the referendum debate.

## Safeguarding economy

With the pound see-sawing dangerously against the dollar, the Bank of England warned last week that some of the fears for the economy post-Brexit had "begun to crystallize". While the low pound has boosted exports, several property funds have suspended trading for fear of a capital flight. Banks had warned before the vote that a Brexit might force them to move some operations out of the country. May's task will be to reassure investors that Britain has set a course on how to untangle from the EU that minimizes the fallout for trade, jobs and the cost of living. She has also taken onboard anger over rampant inequality, vowing to give workers more of a say in executive pay.

## Uniting Conservatives

May inherits a Conservative Party split between those who supported the government's campaign to remain in the EU, like herself, and dissidents like Boris Johnson, Michael Gove and Andrea Leadsom. Gove and Leadsom both ran against May for the leadership but crashed out mid-race, while Johnson, who was the hot favorite to succeed Cameron, caused surprise by abstaining. The trio has publicly now rowed in behind May, but with a slim majority in parliament May faces a delicate balancing act to keep all party factions on board.

## Uniting the kingdom

May also finds herself surveying a kingdom threatened with collapse after Scotland, which voted overwhelmingly to stay in the EU, threatened to organize a new referendum on exiting the UK. May has listed defending the union as a "major priority".

## Nuclear weapons

One of the first tests of May's leadership comes on July 18, when MPs are asked to vote on the government's proposal to renew Britain's "Trident" nuclear weapons system. Cameron, who scheduled the vote as one of his last acts as premier, has called it an "essential deterrent". Opposition Labor leader, anti-war campaigner Jeremy Corbyn, wants the system scrapped. — AFP

# EU COURT SPLIT ON HEADSCARF BANS

**LUXEMBOURG:** The EU's top court faced a dilemma yesterday after a top legal officer said it was discriminatory for a firm to tell an employee to remove a Muslim headscarf, contradicting an earlier opinion in a separate case. The latest case concerns a woman, Asma Bougnaoui, who was dismissed from her job as an IT consultant in France after clients complained about her wearing a headscarf. The European Court of Justice said one of its advocates general, Eleanor Sharpston, "considers that a company policy requiring an employee to remove her Islamic headscarf when in contact with clients constitutes unlawful direct discrimination."

The senior lawyer, whose opinion must be considered by the court when it makes a final ruling at a later date, found "nothing to suggest that Ms Bougnaoui was unable to perform her duties as a design engineer because she wore an Islamic headscarf." "Indeed, (her employer's) letter terminating her employment had expressly referred to her professional competence," it added. But the view by the advocate general contradicts a separate opinion on a similar case in May in which a woman was fired by a Belgian security firm after she insist-

ed on being allowed to go to work in a headscarf.

The advocate general in that case said companies may ban Muslim headscarves if they are enforcing a general prohibition on religious symbols in the workplace. The EU court will now examine the two cases and may give its judgment in a joint decision by the end of the year, a legal source said. Opinions expressed by the EU court's advocates general are only initial views and not binding rulings, but usually the court follows the senior lawyer's advice when eventually giving its judgment.

The court could decide to give a general clarification on headscarf bans in Europe and how they may work while still obeying EU law. The wearing of headscarves and full-face veils has been an increasingly contentious debate in Europe between the forces of secularism and sections of the continent's Muslim minority. France brought in a ban on full-face veils in 2010, despite claims that the ban was discriminatory and violates freedom of expression and religion. Belgium and some parts of Switzerland have followed France's lead and similar bans have been considered in other European countries. — AFP

# FRANCE SHUTS ITS EMBASSY IN TURKEY FOR SECURITY REASONS

**ANKARA:** France yesterday said it had closed its embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara and its consulate in Istanbul until further notice for security reasons, after cancelling events to mark the July 14 Bastille Day holiday. "The Embassy of France in

Ankara, as well as the Consulate General in Istanbul will be closed from yesterday July 13, 1:00 pm, until further notice," the embassy said in a statement after scrapping the July 14 receptions at the missions on security grounds.



**ISTANBUL:** People walk past the French Consulate in Istanbul yesterday. France said it had closed its embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara and its consulate in Istanbul until further notice for security reasons. — AFP

It did not give any further details on how the closure would be implemented. France's consulate in Istanbul, its embassy in Ankara and its mission in the Aegean city of Izmir were all to have held celebrations marking the July 14 Bastille Day. French consul to Istanbul Muriel Domenach wrote on Twitter the events in all three cities had been cancelled "for security reasons" and France was in touch with the Turkish authorities.

Earlier, the Istanbul consulate had sent an email message to French citizens in Turkey saying there had been "concurring information of a serious threat against the organization of the July 14 celebrations in Turkey". It said the decision had been taken in coordination with the Turkish authorities. Turkey is on a high security alert following the June 28 attack on Istanbul's main airport which was blamed on Islamic State (IS) jihadists and killed 47 people. Thirty-seven suspects have been placed under arrest over suspicion of involvement in the attacks. Of these, 15 are Turks and 22 foreigners, according to official media.

Authorities have said a number of citizens of ex-Soviet republics are among the suspects, raising concerns over the threat to Turkey from Islamist militancy in the Central Asia and the Northern Caucasus. But of seven suspects arrested earlier this week, three are Algerian, two Tunisian and two Egyptian, the state-run Anadolu Agency said. The bombing at Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul followed a spate of attacks across the country this year blamed on IS jihadists and Kurdish militants. Several foreign missions in Turkey, including the embassies and consulates of Germany and the United States, have closed for short periods this year due to a security threat. — AFP



## INDONESIA WANTS MILITARY ESCORTS TO HALT ABDUCTIONS

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's defense minister yesterday proposed military escorts for boats sailing perilous routes to the Philippines where dozens of sailors have been kidnapped by Islamist militants in recent months. Twenty-four Indonesian crew members and a handful of Malaysians have been abducted this year travelling in the vital waterway between the three countries. The latest abduction was at the weekend when three Indonesian sailors were snatched from their vessel in Malaysian waters by gun-toting men on a speedboat and taken towards the strife-torn southern Philippines.

Philippine Islamist extremist outfit Abu Sayyaf, notorious for carrying out kidnappings-for-ransom, has been blamed for the abductions. The transport ministry last month banned Indonesian-flagged vessels from sailing to the Philippines following the kidnappings, but Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu said that he planned to make their journeys safe, once they were allowed to sail again. The boats heading from Indonesia should follow an appointed route in groups, be accompanied by military personnel and escorted by an Indonesian navy vessel, he said. The minister said that once they reach the

Philippines maritime border, the Philippine navy should take over and escort them on to their destination. "I will tell the barge businessmen, if you want to go, you must report and then go 10 barges all at once, and they will have military personnel in every barge," he said. "This cannot happen again in the future," he added, referring to abductions. After the latest kidnappings, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi urged the Philippines and Malaysia to step up maritime security.

Vice President Jusuf Kalla has also sought to discourage boat owners and businesses from paying

ransoms for the release of hostages, something he said the government never did. In May, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines agreed to launch coordinated patrols of the waters, although the countries are still working out the details. Of the Indonesians abducted this year, fourteen were released after being held in Abu Sayyaf's stronghold in the southern Philippines but the others remain in captivity. Abu Sayyaf is a loose network of a few hundred Islamist militants, formed in the 1990s with seed money from Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. — Reuters

## NATO, RUSSIA MEET AFTER TROOP BOOST

**BRUSSELS:** NATO and Russia yesterday held their first talks since the alliance agreed at a summit in Warsaw to beef up its presence in eastern Europe because of fears over the Kremlin's expansionism. The meeting between ambassadors from the 28-nation alliance and Russia is the first since April and just the second since 2014, when the Ukraine conflict plunged relations into a deep freeze.

The alliance said it would brief Moscow on last week's decision to send four battalions totaling around 4,000 soldiers to Poland and the Baltic states, which have been nervous ever since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea. Moscow said it would raise the US missile shield that NATO declared operational at the summit in the Polish capital, as well as improving airspace safety over the Baltic. "Allies and Russia will discuss three topics—the crisis in Ukraine, military transparency and the security situation in Afghanistan," NATO spokeswoman Carmen Romero said.

"In the spirit of transparency, we will brief Russia on the important decisions we took in Warsaw last week to enhance our security," Russia has been strongly critical of the NATO decision, accusing the alliance of aggression and warning that it will react to the deployment of forces in its former Soviet backyard. But NATO said it was acting purely defensively. "NATO does not pose a threat to Russia. We do not seek confrontation. We continue to aspire to a constructive relationship with Russia, when Russia's actions make that possible," Romero said. The "meeting is a sign that NATO is following through on our commitment to political dialogue with Russia."

### 'Looking-glass world'

The last talks in Brussels in April ended in "profound disagreements" between NATO and Russia over Ukraine and other issues, despite hopes they could ease years of ten-

sions. NATO leaders meeting in the Polish capital last week said they had agreed on a twin-track policy of "deterrence and dialogue" with Russia, insisting they would not back down until Moscow abided by the Minsk peace deal for Ukraine. Alliance chief Jens Stoltenberg said they "stand together" despite signs from some NATO nations like France that they want to focus on a diplomatic solution with Moscow.

Moscow however slammed NATO at the weekend for focusing on a "non-existent" threat from Russia and accusing it of living in a "military-political looking-glass world". It took a more measured line on Tuesday, with foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova saying Moscow plans to raise "increasing aviation safety in the Baltic Sea region" at the Brussels talks. Russia's NATO-member Baltic neighbors have accused Moscow of regularly violating their airspace in recent months and flying with switched-off transponders, devices that allow radars to identify planes and prevent collisions. President Vladimir Putin this month backed a call for all military aircraft flying over the Baltic region to keep their transponders on.

Russia's ambassador to NATO, Alexander Grushko, is expected to "present technical details" to avoid any aerial incidents, a senior NATO diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "We will then see if that can serve as a base to reopen communication by military channels" which have been halted since May 2014, the diplomat said. At the meeting with NATO, Moscow will also "stress the risks to strategic stability that have appeared as a result of the ongoing construction of the US and NATO anti-missile system in Europe," Zakharova said. NATO insists the missile shield is aimed at Iran or possible rogue non-state actors, and says it poses no threat to Russia's military deterrent. — AFP



**KATHMANDU:** Nepali Congress president Sher Bahadur Deuba (center) leaves the Parliament Building in Kathmandu. Nepali opposition lawmakers filed a no-confidence motion yesterday against Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli after former rebel Maoists quit his coalition, triggering fresh political turmoil in the quake-hit nation. — AFP

## MAOISTS, OPPOSITION JOIN FORCES AGAINST NEPAL PM

PRIME MINISTER FACES NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE

**KATHMANDU:** Nepal's former Maoist rebels joined forces with the largest opposition party yesterday to lodge a motion of no-confidence in the prime minister, but the impoverished Himalayan country's increasingly isolated leader vowed to fight on. Nepal has been plagued by political turmoil for years and the bid by the Maoists and the Nepali Congress Party to unseat Prime Minister KP Oli and form a new government has ushered in another phase of uncertainty.

Oli, who came to power in October, is accused by the one-time insurgents of renegeing on promises and on Tuesday they withdrew their support in parliament for his fragile coalition. "We have registered a vote of no-confidence against the prime minister," Pampha Bhusal, spokeswoman for the Maoist party said. "With our party withdrawing support for the Oli government it is in a minority and must resign." A Nepali Congress spokesman confirmed that his party had given the Maoists its backing so a no-confidence motion could be formally registered. The motion will be tabled in parliament next week before a vote is held.

Neighbors India and China compete for influence in Nepal and are both likely to be concerned by the prospect of more instability in a country struggling to rebuild after a devastating earthquake last year. Oli is Nepal's seventh prime minister since it abolished its 239-year old monarchy in 2008. The Maoists abandoned a bid to unseat him in May after they said he had agreed to work for a national consensus and address their concerns. Oli's press adviser said the prime minister would remain leader and face the no-confidence vote. "The prime minister will not resign," the adviser, Pramod Dahal, told Reuters.

### Slim chance?

With the Maoists and Congress joining forces, Oli's coalition in the 595-member parliament needs the support of other smaller parties to survive. Analysts said the arithmetic was against Oli, particularly if the motion was tabled in coming days before he had time to convince other parties to back him. "I really don't see a chance for his survival. He has faced this challenge for a long time, only now does it look successful," said

Bipin Adhikari, a constitutional expert at Kathmandu University.

However, ideological differences between the centrist Congress and the Maoists made their pact far from secure, Adhikari said. Maoist leader Prachanda, who goes by the nom-de-guerre he used in the insurgency, which means "Fierce", is the favorite to replace 64-year-old Oli if he loses the vote. The Maoists accuse Oli of failing to resolve anger in the south of the country over a new constitution, and of failing to rebuild homes and roads destroyed in last year's earthquake.

Nepal adopted a new constitution in September. Its passing looked like a rare moment of political consensus but protests soon followed. Minority Madhesi, who live mostly in Nepal's lowlands near India, imposed a four-month border blockade to protest against a proposal to carve Nepal into seven federal states, which they say would divide their homeland and deprive them of a fair say. More than 50 people were killed in clashes before protesters called off the blockade in February. Nepal has seen 23 governments since 1990 when parliamentary democracy was introduced. — Reuters



**BERLIN:** Media officers arrange the reports ahead a press conference to present the new military roadmap, the so-called White Paper in Berlin yesterday. In its first big-picture defense paper in a decade, Germany said it would work with EU and NATO allies to tackle cross-border challenges from Islamist terrorism to climate change and migrant flows. — AFP

## MAFIA BOSS BERNARDO 'THE TRACTOR' PROVENZANO DIES

**ROME:** Sicilian "Cosa Nostra" mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano, dubbed "the tractor" for the way he mowed down his victims, has died yesterday after a long illness. Provenzano, 83, was the Cosa Nostra crime group's "boss of bosses" until his arrest in 2006 after 40 years on the run, during which he communicated with his lieutenants by word of mouth or typewritten notes. He died at the San Paolo hospital in Milan in northern Italy, where he was being treated for bladder cancer.

He was born in the village of Corleone—the name of which became associated with the Sicilian mafia thanks to the "Godfather" novels and films and reportedly committed his first murder aged 25, when he killed a rival boss. He became second-in-command to mafia leader "Toto" Riina, who presided over a series of gangland wars and killings of top judges that were a hallmark of Italian life in the 1980s. Provenzano became the uncontested head of Cosa Nostra after Riina was clapped in cuffs in 1993—an arrest one supergrass said Provenzano had had a hand in.

The police sting, which came a year after bomb attacks killed anti-Mafia judges Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, was considered a major victory in the struggle against the organized crime group. Provenzano is said to have struck a deal with the authorities, persuading them that he was the only one who could forge a new strategy for Cosa Nostra and stop the attacks. The violence did largely abate, with the new boss ushering in an era in which the group focused on infiltrating the police force.

### 'God-like' shotgun skills

Provenzano later gained a second nickname, "the accountant", because of his mastery of his crime empire's finances. However, one predecessor, Luciano Leggio—dubbed "the professor" for his habit of correcting his henchmen's grammatical mistakes—said that while Provenzano fired weapons "like a

God", he had "the brain of a chicken". During the mid 1990s, when he was being actively sought by the authorities, the price on Provenzano's head was said to be some three billion lira, or around 1.5 million euros. By 2003 the bounty had risen to 2.5 million euros, but he still remained elusive. In the absence of photos of Provenzano—the most recent one reportedly dated from 1959—police were reduced to making computer enhancements of old pictures, to try and guess what he now looked like.

Police got a lucky break in 2002 when they

received a tip-off that he had undergone an operation for prostate cancer in Marseille, leaving behind a copy of an identity card which bore a false name but real photograph. Top of Italy's most-wanted list for decades, Provenzano was finally arrested in a farmhouse in his fiefdom in Corleone near Palermo. Sentenced to several consecutive life sentences, he was transferred in 2014 to hospital in Milan suffering from neurological problems. Italy's supreme court rejected a plea from his lawyers to release him on the grounds of ill health. — AFP



**BAGHERIA, Italy:** File photo shows women looking at posters bearing pictures of 'Cosa Nostra' mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano. Sicilian 'Cosa Nostra' mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano, dubbed 'the tractor' for the way he mowed his victims down, has died after a long illness, Italian media said. — AFP

## HARDLINE MYANMAR MONK BLASTS 'DICTATOR' SUU KYI

**YANGON:** A firebrand monk slammed Aung San Suu Kyi as a "dictator" yesterday, accusing Myanmar's civilian-led government of trying to destroy an ultra-nationalist Buddhist group blamed for a surge in sectarian violence across the country. The attack came after the body representing Myanmar's top monks distanced itself from the hardline Ma Ba Tha movement, a blow to its clerical legitimacy.

The Ma Ba Tha is a noisy, monk-led group at the forefront of virulently anti-Muslim protests in Myanmar in the three years since it was founded. Wirathu, the movement's most prominent figure, posted his scathing remarks on Facebook. "I have seen that the ruling party and the new civilian government is stepping forward to target me as 'Enemy Number One' to destroy the whole Ma Ba Tha group to the end," he wrote.

He also described the administration as "a woman dictator's government which is going to put me in prison". Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won a landslide victory at last November's elections. Wirathu's comments came after the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, which represents the upper echelons of the clergy in the overwhelmingly Buddhist country, issued a statement late Tuesday saying it had never endorsed Ma Ba Tha. The ultra-nationalist group recently said it was established under the committee's rules, a claim refuted by the country's top monks, putting clear water between the mainstream Buddhist clergy and the hardline group for the first time.

### Under pressure

The statement came hours ahead of a two-day gathering of around 50 of

Myanmar's top monks inside a man-made cave on the outskirts of Yangon at which Ma Ba Tha is expected to be discussed. In his Facebook post Wirathu suggested the Sangha was being controlled by the government because it was "part of the state's religious ministry" and "has to carry out the will of the government." The Ma Ba Tha emerged as a potent political force under the former military-backed government, successfully lobbying for a series of laws that rights groups say discriminate against women and religious minorities.

Scores of people have been killed in sectarian riots that have billowed out in step with their protests. But the organization lost out in the November elections that saw their allies in the ruling party trounced by Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD). It has since been trying to claw back ground, in recent weeks reviving its vitriolic rhetoric that portrays Islam as a threat to Buddhism. Last month two mosques were destroyed by Buddhist mobs in the centre and north of the country.

Much of the anti-Muslim invective in Myanmar has targeted the Rohingya—a minority denied citizenship and relegated to apartheid-like conditions ever since deadly riots tore through western Rakhine state in 2012. Their very name invokes strong emotions in Myanmar, with the Ma Ba Tha leading protests for the Rohingya to be known only as "Bengalis"—shorthand for illegal migrants from neighboring Bangladesh. De facto premier and Nobel laureate Suu Kyi has faced widespread censure from rights groups for failing to speak up for the group—who the United Nations has labeled one of the world's most persecuted people. — AFP



## ANGRY CHINA WARNS AGAINST 'CRADLE OF WAR' IN SEA

**BEIJING:** China warned rivals yesterday against turning the South China Sea into a "cradle of war" and threatened an air defense zone there, after its claims to the strategically vital waters were declared invalid. The surprisingly strong and sweeping ruling by a UN-backed tribunal in The Hague provided powerful diplomatic ammunition to the Philippines, which filed the challenge, and other claimants in their decades-long disputes with China over the resource-rich waters. China reacted furiously to Tuesday's decision, insisting it had historical rights over the sea while launching a volley of thinly veiled warnings at the United States and other critical nations.

"Do not turn the South China Sea into a cradle of war," vice foreign minister Liu Zhenmin told reporters in Beijing, as he described the ruling as waste paper. Liu also said China had "the right" to establish an air defense identification zone over the sea, which would give the Chinese military authority over foreign aircraft. A similar zone set up in 2013 in the East China Sea riled Japan, the United States and its allies. "Whether we need to set up one in the South China Sea depends on the level of threat we receive," he said. "We hope other countries will not take the chance to blackmail China."

### 'Confrontation'

The Chinese ambassador to the United States, Cui Tiankai, was even more blunt. "It will certainly intensify conflicts and even confrontation," Cui said in Washington on Tuesday. And the ruling Communist Party's mouthpiece, the People's Daily, said yesterday that China was prepared to take "all measures necessary" to protect its interests. China justifies its sovereignty claims by saying it was the first to have discovered, named and exploited the sea, and outlines its claims for most of the waterway using a vague map made up of

nine dashes that emerged in the 1940s. Those claims overlap with those of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Manila, under previous president Benigno Aquino, launched the legal case in 2013 after China took control of Scarborough Shoal, a rich fishing ground within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone and far away from the nearest major Chinese landmass. China has also in recent years built giant artificial islands capable of hosting military installations and airstrips in the Spratly archipelago, one of the biggest groups of features in the sea. Aside from stating that China's historical rights were without "legal basis", the tribunal ruled that its artificial island building and the blocking of Filipino fishermen at Scarborough Shoal were unlawful.

### 'Restraint, sobriety'

The Philippines, under new President Rodrigo Duterte, declined to celebrate the verdict. "We have to be magnanimous in victory," Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told reporters in Manila yesterday. "In very delicate matters like this you cannot be provocative in statements. We urge everybody including China to exercise restraint and sobriety." Duterte has repeatedly said he wants to improve relations with China, which plummeted under Aquino because of the dispute, and that he would seek Chinese investment for major infrastructure projects such as a railway for the impoverished southern Philippines.

He is open to direct talks with China aimed at achieving a long-awaited code of conduct among rival claimants for the sea. China has long wanted to negotiate directly, and analysts said dialogue rather than conflict was the most likely scenario. Yet a military build-up in the sea continued. China launched naval drills in the northern areas before the verdict, while the US Pacific



In this file photo, the dilapidated Philippine Navy ship LT 57 Sierra Madre is in the shallow waters of Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea. — AP

Command said it had deployed an aircraft carrier for flights to support "security" in the sea. Taiwan, which was another loser in the verdict as its claims are very similar to those of China, sent a warship yesterday to the sea to protect its claims.

Indonesia also announced it would sharply strengthen security around its islands in the sea, where there have been clashes with Chinese vessels recently. China

used deadly force to seize control of the Paracel Islands from South Vietnam in 1974, and Johnson Reef from a united Vietnam in 1988. China faced immediate pressure to abide by the ruling from Western powers, which insist they have legitimate interests in the dispute because of the need to maintain "freedom of navigation" in waters that host more than \$5 trillion in shipping trade annually. — AFP

## JAPAN EMPEROR INTENDS TO ABDICATE - 'IN A FEW YEARS'

IMPERIAL RESIGNATION UNPRECEDENTED IN MODERN JAPAN

**TOKYO:** Japanese Emperor Akihito, who has spent much of his time on the throne trying to heal the wounds of World War Two, intends to abdicate in a few years, public broadcaster NHK and other domestic media said yesterday, a step that would be unprecedented in modern Japan. The 82-year-old monarch, who has had heart surgery and been treated for prostate cancer in recent years, expressed his intention to the Imperial Household Agency, NHK said.

It did not cite a reason and officials at the agency could not immediately be reached for comment. Kyodo news agency, quoting a government source, said Akihito had been expressing his intention to abdicate to people around him for about a year, although in a separate report Kyodo quoted a senior Imperial Household Agency official as denying that the reports were correct.

Akihito has been cutting back on his official duties, handing over some of the burden to his heir, Crown Prince Naruhito, 56. Born in 1933, Akihito was heir to Emperor Hirohito, in whose name Japan fought World War Two. The soft-spoken Akihito marked the 70th anniversary of World War Two's end last year with an expression of "deep remorse", a departure from his previous remarks seen by some as an effort to cement a legacy of pacifism under threat from conservative Japanese nationalists.

"Looking back at the past, together with deep remorse over the war, I pray that this tragedy of war will not be repeated and together with the people express my deep condolences for those who fell in battle and in the ravages of war," he said. While Akihito's father was a controversial figure, Akihito "was the first post-war emperor to embrace the (pacifist) constitution and his role as a symbol of national unity," said Koichi Nakano, a political science professor at Sophia University in Tokyo. "He cares a great deal about war issues and reconciliation (with



TOKYO: Japanese Emperor Akihito waves to well-wishers who gathered for the annual New Year's greetings at the Imperial Palace in this file photo. — AFP

Asian countries). Naruhito has made clear that he will carry on with that," Nakano added.

Akihito has sought to deepen Japan's ties with the world through visits abroad. In 1992 he became the first Japanese monarch in living memory to visit China, where bitter memories of Japan's past military aggression run deep. Emperor Kokaku, who gave up the throne in 1817, was the last Japanese emperor to abdicate, NHK said. Miiko Kodama, a professor emerita at Musashi University, said the Imperial Household Law would need to be amended to allow Akihito to step down, a process that could

take time and debate in parliament.

A scientist by avocation, Akihito is the first royal heir to have married a commoner, Michiko Shoda, the daughter of a wealthy industrialist. Under the US-drafted, postwar constitution, Japan's emperor is "the symbol of the State and of the unity of the People", with no political power. Akihito's efforts to draw the imperial family closer to the people in image, if not in fact, have played into a carefully crafted picture of a "middle-class monarchy" that has helped shield it from the harsh criticism suffered by flashier royals abroad. — Reuters

## SOUTH KOREA CONFIRMS ANTI-MISSILE SYSTEM SITE

**SEOUL:** Seoul said yesterday an advanced US missile defense system will be deployed in a remote southern county and will have the capacity to protect two thirds of the country against feared attacks from the North. The plan to deploy the powerful system, which fires projectiles to smash into enemy missiles, came last week after the United States placed North Korea's "Supreme Leader" Kim Jong-Un on its sanctions blacklist for the first time.

The move prompted objections from Russia and China, who accused Washington of flexing its military muscle in the region. Tensions have soared since Pyongyang carried out its fourth nuclear test in January, followed by a series of missile launches that analysts say show the North is making progress toward being able to strike the US mainland.

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, will be deployed in Seongju county about 200 kilometers southeast of Seoul, as agreed by US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and his South Korean counterpart Han Min-Koo, according to the defense ministry in Seoul. The deployment will be completed by the end of next year and will be able to cover up to two thirds of South Korea from North Korean missiles. It will also protect key industrial facilities, including nuclear power plants and oil depots, the ministry added.

US military bases in the South will also be protected by the missile system, but Seoul and its surrounding areas will be left out. This could mean the military deploying more US Patriot anti-air and missile defense systems in these areas, Yonhap news agency

reported. There have been protests about the system's location, with residents fearing harmful economic and environmental effects. "We hope the people and residents in Seongju... render support" for the decision, the ministry said in a statement.

But thousands took to the streets yesterday in Seongju town, carrying banners reading "We absolutely oppose THAAD deployment", Yonhap news agency reported. The head of the county Kim Hang-Gon and some 10 others staged a hunger strike, cut their fingers and wrote slogans in blood on banners at yesterday's rally. "The THAAD deployment threatens the livelihood of the country's 45,000 residents, 60 percent of whom are engaged in watermelon agriculture", a group against the deployment said in a statement. North Korea threatened Monday to take "physical action" against the planned deployment of the powerful anti-missile system.

The move has also angered Beijing and Moscow, which both see it as a US bid to boost military might in the region. China on Friday said the move would "seriously damage" regional security in northeast Asia. The US and South Korea began talks on deploying the THAAD system to the Korean peninsula in February after the North fired a long-range rocket. South Korean authorities have scrambled to allay fears over possible trade retaliations from its largest trading partner China. Finance Minister Yoo Il-Ho told the National Assembly yesterday he believed China will separate politics from economic affairs and is not likely to hit the South with economic sanctions over missile system deployment. — AFP

## GERMANY PLANS TO APOLOGIZE OVER 'GENOCIDE' IN NAMIBIA

**BERLIN:** Germany plans to formally apologize to Windhoek for the genocide of indigenous Namibians a century ago, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said yesterday, but added the move would not carry any obligation of reparations. "We are working towards a joint government declaration with the following elements: common discussions on the historical events and a German apology for the action in Namibia," the spokeswoman, Sawsan Chebli, told reporters.

The joint declaration with the Namibian government can serve as a basis for a parliamentary resolution, she said, adding however that the step would not translate into legal repercussions for Germany. "On the question of whether there could be reparations or legal consequences, there are none. The apology does not come with any consequences on how we deal with the history and portray it," she said. Berlin ruled what was then called South-West Africa as a colony from 1884 to 1915.

Incensed by German settlers stealing their land and cattle and taking their women, the Herero people launched a revolt in January 1904 with warriors butchering 123 German civilians over several days. The Nama tribe joined the uprising in 1905. The colonial rulers responded ruthlessly and General Lothar von Trotha signed a notorious extermination order against the Hereros.

Rounded up in prison camps, captured Namias and Hereros died from malnutrition and severe weather. Dozens were beheaded after their deaths and their skulls sent to German researchers in Berlin for "scientific" experiments. Up to 80,000 Hereros lived in Namibia when the uprising began. Afterwards, only 15,000 were left.

Germany has since 2011 formally handed back dozens of the skulls. But Berlin has repeatedly refused to pay reparations, saying that its hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) in development aid since Namibia's independence from South Africa in 1990 was "for the benefit of all Namibians". The speaker of the German parliament last July said the slaughter of indigenous Namibians a century ago constituted a "genocide" that stemmed from a "race war".

Norbert Lammert, writing in a guest column for news weekly Die Zeit, said the Herero and Nama peoples had been systematically targeted for massacre by German imperial troops. Since then, the government has also used the term, with Chebli yesterday also saying that "we have spoken of genocide for a long time." German lawmakers in June passed a resolution recognizing the World War I massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces as genocide, drawing a furious rebuke from Turkey which called it a "historic mistake". — AFP

## WIDER IMPACTS OF SOUTH CHINA SEA COURT RULING

**MANILA:** An international ruling striking down China's claims to most of the South China Sea was chiefly a victory for the Philippines, which launched the David v Goliath legal challenge. The verdict, by a UN-backed tribunal in The Hague on Tuesday, is meant to be legally binding on just those two countries. However it has wider ramifications for the region. Here are some key questions and answers on those impacts:

### Who are the other winners?

The other nations with South China Sea coasts—Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Brunei. China claims it has sovereignty over waters almost reaching the coasts of Southeast Asian nations based on historical rights. It vaguely defined this area with a map of nine dashes. The tribunal ruled China had no historical rights and its nine-dash map had no legal basis. All those nations, not just the Philippines, can now argue in legal or diplomatic settings that China has no rights to their coastal waters.

### Any other losers?

Taiwan. Its claims to most of the sea are very similar to China's, and are based on the same old maps. Taiwan also occupies the biggest land feature in the Spratly archipelago, Itu Aba—also known as Taiping. President Tsai Ing-wen sent a warship to Taiping on Wednesday to "defend Taiwan's maritime territory".

### US military presence

The United States is not a claimant but it has in recent years been sending warships and military aircraft to the disputed waters in a show of force that has angered China. The ruling will embolden the US, providing it with legal justification for a military presence it says is needed to ensure "freedom of navigation" in the sea.

### ASEAN infighting

Probably not. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian nations—which includes the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Brunei—have for more than a decade sought to broker an agreement with China to resolve the competing claims. But ASEAN unity has crumbled with member nations Cambodia and Laos supporting China. The South China Sea will once again be a top agenda item when ASEAN holds meetings of foreign ministers and leaders in Laos this year. But don't expect a

united ASEAN stance against China.

### Wider implications

Yes. In an unrelated territorial row, Japan says it has exclusive economic rights in the Philippine Sea based on a small atoll it administers there called Okinotorishima. China, South Korea and Taiwan dispute this. Tuesday's ruling did not address this issue. But its pronouncement that similar small features in the South China Sea did not generate exclusive economic zones has led to concerns in Tokyo of legal action. — AFP



NANJING: Workers chat near a map of South China Sea on display at a maritime defense educational facility in Nanjing in east China's Jiangsu province. China blamed the Philippines for stirring up trouble and issued a policy paper yesterday calling the islands in the South China Sea its "inherent territory," a day after an international tribunal said China had no legal basis for its expansive claims. — AP



## MAY TAKES OVER AS PM, CAMERON LEAVES OFFICE

Continued from Page 1

He urged his successor, "a brilliant negotiator", to "try to be as close to the European Union as we can be, for the benefits of trade, of co-operation and of security".

May campaigned for the leadership as a safe pair of hands, who has spent six years as home secretary, one of the toughest jobs in British politics. The daughter of a Church of England pastor, she is cricket fan with a sober demeanor who lists her hobbies as cooking and walking. She has been MP for Maidenhead, the well-to-do commuter town west of London, since 1997 and was previously chairwoman of the Conservative party. May is something of an unknown quantity internationally, but European Council president Donald Tusk said he looked forward to a "fruitful working relationship" with her.

Her continental peers have said they expect her to move quickly to implement the referendum result.

Germany's Angela Merkel, France's Francois Hollande and Italy's Matteo Renzi announced yesterday that they will hold a summit in August on the matter. Women are expected to secure several top jobs in May's cabinet, including current energy minister Amber Rudd and international development minister Justine Greening.

Foreign Minister Philip Hammond and Brexit campaigner Chris Grayling, the leader of the House of Commons, are also tipped for senior positions - but George Osborne is expected to lose the finance portfolio. Friends of former London mayor Boris Johnson, who had been hotly tipped to succeed Cameron but declined to run at the last minute, said he was also hoping to play a "significant role". Investors will be watching May's first days in office closely. The Bank of England will announce Thursday whether it will cut interest rates for the first time in more than seven years to curb economic fallout from Brexit. — AFP

## KUWAIT TO SELL STAKES IN OIL UNITS

Continued from Page 1

say, "definitely we would not touch anything if it wasn't worthwhile".

Kuwait Petroleum International, which owns refineries in Asia and the Q8 chain of filling stations in Europe, is among the candidates for sale. Others are Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co, Kuwait Oil Tanker Co and Petrochemical Industries Co, said Saleh.

Kufpec, as the foreign exploration unit is known, pumps oil and natural gas in 15 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, according to its website. The company aims to reach a daily output of 200,000 barrels of oil equivalent by 2020 and maintain that level of production until 2030, it said. Kuwait Oil Tanker's fleet includes 20 vessels for transporting crude and oil products, according to its website.

In addition to the KPC subsidiaries, Kuwait may consider selling shares in domestic power companies, the postal service, a phone company and local bus operators, Saleh said. He said in an interview in May that the country planned also to issue international bonds and has started borrowing locally to cover the budget shortfall caused by lower oil prices. Kuwait ranks along with the United Arab Emirates as the fourth-largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Kuwait is also open to liaising with Saudi Arabia on its planned debt sale as the two nations prepare to test investor appetite for about \$20 billion of bonds. "If it's required and if our advisers think we should coordinate in terms of timing we would do that," Saleh said, referring to the country's plan to raise as much as \$9.9 billion in September. "We have very strong ties."

The plunge in crude is driving bond sales across the six-nation Gulf bloc as governments seek to plug budget deficits that the International Monetary Fund says could reach \$900 billion by 2021. After Qatar raised a record \$9 billion in May and Abu Dhabi \$5 billion in April, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are the next to test investor appetite for Middle Eastern debt after the sum-

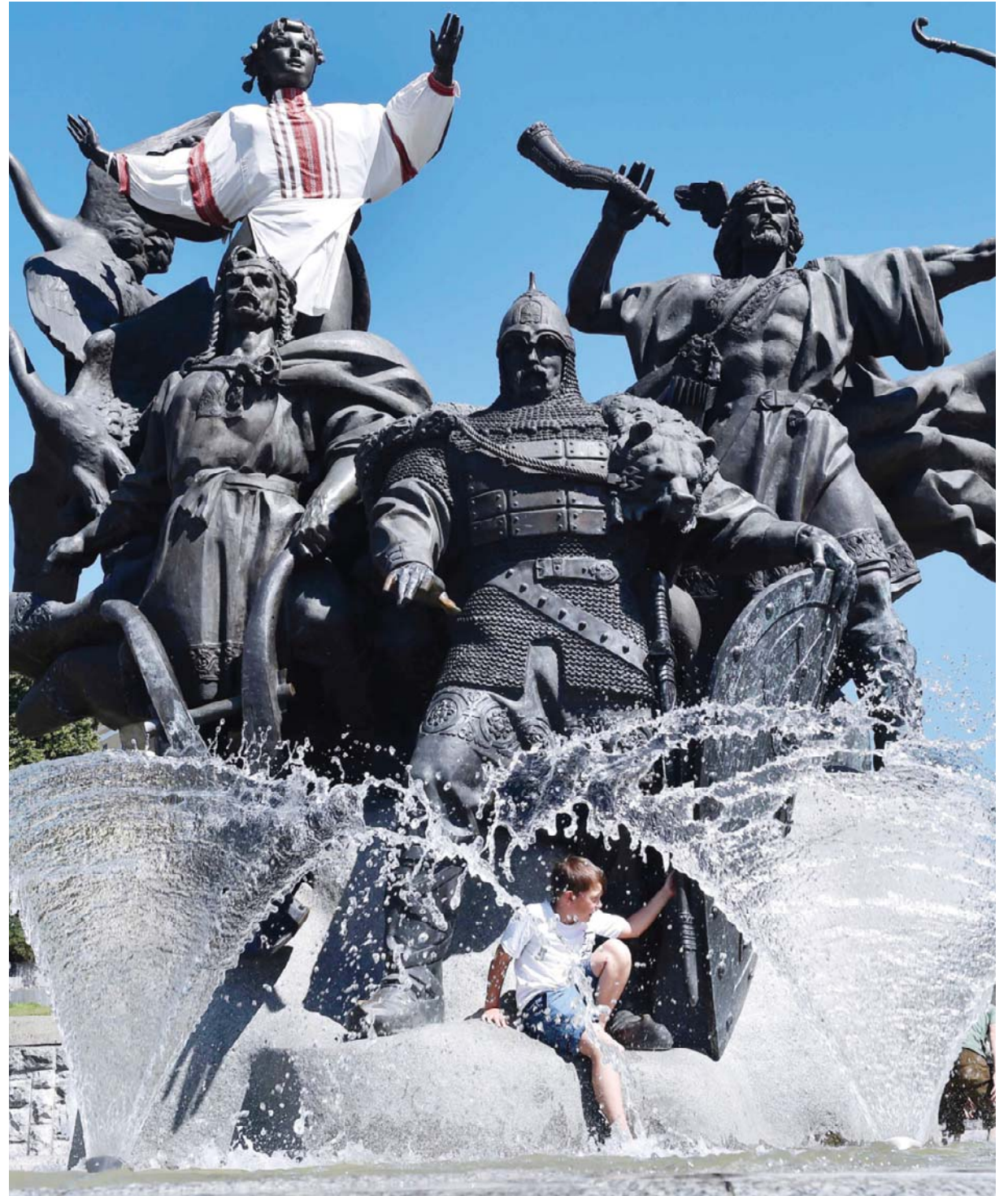
mer, with Saudi Arabia said to be also seeking at least \$10 billion.

"They are competing with each other and even if there is some coordination, at the end of the day each government is trying to raise as much money as possible while interest rates are low," said Talal Touqan, head of research at Abu Dhabi-based Al Ramz Capital LLC, a brokerage and investment bank. The surge in issuance comes as "the whole world is suffering from liquidity constraints."

Kuwait is aiming to start the international bond sales in September and has still to hire banks to manage the offering, Saleh said. Saudi Arabia has appointed JPMorgan Chase & Co, HSBC Holdings Plc and Citigroup Inc. to arrange its first international bond sale, people with knowledge of the matter said last month, with the timing of the sale likely after the summer, they said. Only half way into this year and Gulf issuers have already raised \$36.25 billion in conventional and Islamic bonds. That compares with about \$26 billion raised in all of 2015 and the \$33.5 billion sold in 2014, data compiled by Bloomberg shows.

The minister said in May that the country had hired consulting firm Oliver Wyman & Co to set up a debt management office. A special committee with officials from the finance ministry, sovereign wealth fund and central bank will decide on whether to offer Islamic or conventional debt and whether to sell the debt in tranches. Kuwait is also planning to sell as much as KD 2 billion (\$6.6 billion) domestically. "There is a huge appetite from investors" for regional debt, Saleh said. "We have good ratings, good reserves and good economic reform plans."

Low oil prices - which halved from around \$100 per barrel in 2014 - have pummeled the finances of oil-rich nations, prompting reform programs intended to save cash and restructure the economy. Saleh is seeking to cut wasteful spending, reducing utility subsidies, introducing corporate taxes and increasing fees, in common with a similar reform program in Saudi Arabia. — Bloomberg



A child refreshes himself in a fountain in Kiev during a heatwave yesterday. — AFP

## ARE EGYPT, SYRIA NEXT FOR TURKEY...

Continued from Page 1

Turkey last month agreed a normalization deal with Israel, following half a decade of downgraded ties due to the deadly storming of a Turkish aid ship bound for Gaza in May 2010. Ankara ended the crisis with Russia after Erdogan sent a letter to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, expressing regret over the downing of one of Moscow's warplanes in November.

In its latest diplomatic overtures, Turkey has gone back to its previous "zero problems with neighbors" foreign policy that defined the early years of Erdogan's time as premier. The approach rapidly deteriorated into what critics derided as a policy of "multiple problems with everyone" as Turkey had its hopes dashed of finding friendly regimes in place after the so-called Arab Spring. "Our default approach is to maintain good relations with everyone unless conflict is inevitable," a Turkish official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

After the beginning of the Syrian uprising in 2011, Turkey opened dialogue with Damascus, but Erdogan later became a fierce opponent of Assad, a leader who he had once courted as a friend. In an headline-grabbing comment yesterday, Yildirim said: "We have normalized ties with Israel and Russia. But I am sure that we will return to normal with Syria too."

There was no indication that this signaled a change in policy on Assad, which would represent a complete U-turn of the Turkish policy throughout the civil war that has been to back rebels. Officials say there is a distinction between Syria as a country and Assad. But there have been sporadic reports in recent weeks of a possible softening in Ankara's position, although Turkey denied press speculation Algeria was mediating contact.

Aaron Stein, resident senior fellow at the Atlantic

Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, said: "Turkey's softening on Assad" began last summer after Erdogan announced Assad could remain as president for up to six months while a political transition was finalized. "This policy... differed from Turkey's previous insistence that Assad leave at the beginning of the six-month timeframe," he said.

Previously, the Turkish government under Davutoglu had insisted that Assad's days were numbered. The main Istanbul-based Syrian opposition coalition says it has been assured by Ankara it still has Turkey's full support. "There is no change or shift in their policy towards the Syrian regime, their policy towards the Syrian people and revolution," Anas Al-Abdeh, head of the Istanbul-based opposition National Coalition, said Tuesday.

Observers say back-channel diplomacy, similar to that conducted with Israel, might be put into action to repair the rupture with Cairo, although Erdogan has so far ruled out reconciliation. Saudi Arabia - which is rapidly emerging as one of Turkey's closest allies after the accession of King Salman in January 2015 - is also keen to see closer ties between Cairo and Ankara. Saudi had strongly backed the ousting of Morsi, with its own ties with Ankara suffering as a result.

A senior ruling party official said this month that Ankara would soon dispatch a team to Egypt to help alleviate tensions. "God willing, a softening will take place with Egypt also," Saban Disli said. "Saudi Arabia has been pushing both Turkey and Egypt to repair relations since March 2015, the same month that Turkey and Saudi repaired their relationship," added Stein. "Turkey is certainly recalibrating its foreign policy, but repairing relations with Egypt will continue to be a heavy lift," he said. — AFP

## MOI SETS KD 60 AS MONTHLY MINIMUM WAGE..

Continued from Page 1

The Assembly had also passed another law stipulating to set up a shareholding company to recruit domestic helpers. At present, the company and offices will work side by side. Under the law, 60 percent of the proposed company's shares will be given to the union of cooperative societies and 10 percent each to four government agencies including Kuwait Investment Authority, Public Institution for Social Security, Public Authority for Minors Affairs and Kuwait Airways. According to the latest available figures, there are around 600,000 domestic helpers in Kuwait, the overwhelming majority of whom are Asian.

MP Ahmad Lari welcomed the interior ministry's decision to issue the bylaws, and described it as a civilized law. He added that the Assembly will introduce any necessary amendments to the law whenever the need exists.

MP Ahmad Ashour yesterday presented amendments to the social assistance law under which he proposed that monthly assistance be provided to needy married Kuwaiti women when they reach 40 years of age, down from the

current age of 55. He also proposed that Kuwaiti women married to foreigners or stateless people should be given social assistance, housing allowance, child allowance as well as social allowance like their male counterparts.

Meanwhile, the total numerical distribution of labor force in Kuwait hit 1.8 million, including 344,600 Kuwaitis and 1.5 million non-Kuwaitis, the Central Statistical Bureau announced yesterday. The bureau's annual report showed that male Kuwaiti employees make up 10.3 percent of the workforce, while female Kuwaiti employees make up a higher percentage with 54.8, according to statistics ending on Dec 2015.

Employees in the government sector amounted to 373,000 - Kuwaitis seizing the lion's share with 73.6 percent, while non-Kuwaitis make up 26.4 percent. In the private sector, 1.4 million employees were registered. The total numeric distribution for the non-Kuwaiti labor force recorded 89.7 percent for males and 45.2 percent for females. The top three nationalities in Kuwait's labor market are Indians at 25.8 percent, Egyptians at 23.3 percent and Kuwaitis at 18.6.

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**Kuwait Times**  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT  
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF  
ESTABLISHED 1961

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**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

Editor-in-Chief  
**ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN**

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
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## Washington Watch

LABOUR BATTLES  
EXISTENTIAL CRISIS

By Ouerdya Ait Abdelmalek and Alice Ritchie

As a new Conservative prime minister prepared to take over yesterday, Britain's opposition Labour Party was facing an existential crisis, riven by toxic splits over the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn. At least two Labour MPs will challenge Corbyn in a contest that formally gets under way this week, after Owen Smith joined Angela Eagle in announcing a bid, with the winner expected to be named in September. Corbyn has been battling to keep his job since Britain's shock vote on June 23 to leave the European Union, holding on despite a vote of no confidence backed by three-quarters of the party's members of parliament.

Efforts to keep him off the leadership ballot paper by forcing him to secure a minimum 51 nominations from Labour MPs and members of the European Parliament - a 20 percent support prerequisite for his challengers - failed late Tuesday. He will now be able to campaign over the heads of MPs to trade union backers and grassroots party members who helped propel him to victory just last September - and whose numbers have swelled in recent months.

"Whoever wins the leadership contest is almost certainly going to divide the party further," said Brian Klaas, a fellow in comparative politics at the London School of Economics. "The party faces an existential crisis because one major force in the party - the party members - cannot reconcile with another major force - Labour MPs in parliament," he told AFP. Some commentators believe a lasting split in the party may now be inevitable. "Uncivil war could split Labour forever," headlined the left-wing Daily Mirror tabloid.

"The poison in Labour's veins is so deep, so toxic, that nobody can see a way of this ending harmoniously," it said. In a sign of the tensions, a brick was thrown through Eagle's constituency office on Tuesday, causing her to demand Corbyn "get control of the people who are supporting him." "There is hatred now on both sides," wrote Jonathan Freedland in The Guardian newspaper.

## 'Breaking the Party Apart'

Corbyn has been under intense pressure since the referendum amid criticism that he did not do enough to persuade working-class voters to stay in the EU. But many moderate MPs in the party, which shifted to the centre under former premier Tony Blair, had never reconciled to anti-war campaigner Corbyn's election as leader. Eagle, a 55-year-old former trade union official, fired the starting gun for the leadership race on Monday when she formally announced her candidacy.

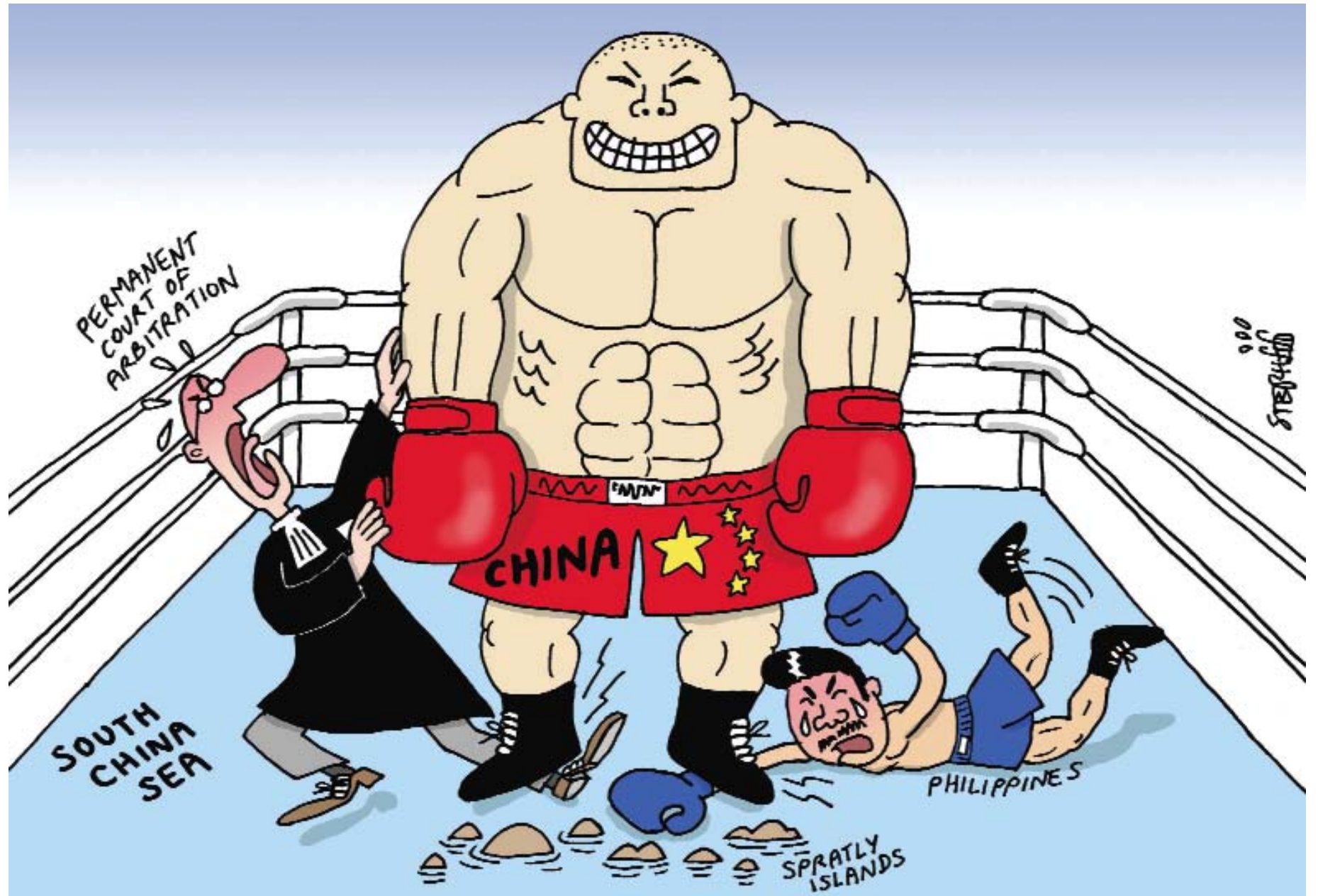
Smith, a 46-year-old member of Corbyn's shadow cabinet, announced yesterday that he would join her. The party is due to publish a formal timetable today. "If Corbyn wins, he will face the prospect of being a lame duck opposition leader - a man who is unlikely to be effective given that he has few friends or allies in Westminster," Klaas said. "That will risk breaking the party apart. But if Corbyn loses, the powerful unions and young activists that form his political base could choose to leave the party."

## 'Wrestling on the Titanic'

In his final appearance in the House of Commons, before he hands over to incoming prime minister Theresa May, David Cameron drew a contrast between his Conservative Party's orderly transition and Labour's warring. "We got on with it: we've had resignation, nomination, competition and coronation - they haven't even decided what the rules are yet," said Cameron, who stepped down after losing the EU vote. Facing him over the despatch box for the last time, Corbyn replied with a smile: "Democracy is an exciting and splendid thing and I'm enjoying every moment of it."

But in The Guardian, Freedland warned that the infighting risked blinding Labour to its "greatest, gravest problem" - its failure to engage millions of working-class voters who defied the party to vote for Brexit last month. "They could leave Labour forever," he said. He added: "Next to no one is speaking about that existential threat at all. Instead, Corbyn and Eagle are wrestling on the bridge of the Titanic, fighting for control of the wheel." — AFP

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## STATEMENT OF CHINA ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

To reaffirm China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, enhance cooperation in the South China Sea with other countries, and uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea, the Government of the People's Republic of China hereby states as follows:

I. China's Nanhai Zhudao (the South China Sea Islands) consist of Dongsha Qundao (the Dongsha Islands), Xisha Qundao (the Xisha Islands), Zhongsha Qundao (the Zhongsha Islands) and Nansha Qundao (the Nansha Islands). The activities of the Chinese people in the South China Sea date back to over 2,000 years ago. China is the first to have discovered, named, and explored and exploited Nanhai Zhudao and relevant waters, and the first to have exercised sovereignty and jurisdiction over them continuously, peacefully and effectively, thus establishing territorial sovereignty and relevant rights and interests in the South China Sea.

Following the end of the Second World War, China recovered and resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao which had been illegally occupied by Japan during its war of aggression against China. To strengthen the administration over Nanhai Zhudao, the Chinese government in 1947 reviewed and updated the geographical names of Nanhai Zhudao, compiled Nan Hai Zhu Dao Di Li Zhi Lue (A Brief Account of the Geography of the South China Sea Islands), and drew Nan Hai Zhu Dao Wei Zhi Tu (Location Map of the South China Sea Islands) on which the dotted line is marked. This map was officially published and made known to the

world by the Chinese government in February 1948.

II. Since its founding on 1 October 1949, the People's Republic of China has been firm in upholding China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea. A series of legal instruments, such as the 1958 Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China on China's Territorial Sea, the 1992 Law of the People's Republic of China on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, the 1998 Law of the People's Republic of China on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf and the 1996 Decision of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, have further reaffirmed China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea.

III. Based on the practice of the Chinese people and the Chinese government in the long course of history and the position consistently upheld by successive Chinese governments, and in accordance with national law and international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, China has territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, including, inter alia:

- China has sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao, consisting of Dongsha Qundao, Xisha Qundao, Zhongsha Qundao and Nansha Qundao;
- China has internal waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone, based on Nanhai Zhudao;

iii. China has exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, based on Nanhai Zhudao;

iv. China has historic rights in the South China Sea. The above positions are consistent with relevant international law and practice.

IV. China is always firmly opposed to the invasion and illegal occupation by certain states of some islands and reefs of China's Nansha Qundao, and activities infringing upon China's rights and interests in relevant maritime areas under China's jurisdiction. China stands ready to continue to resolve the relevant disputes peacefully through negotiation and consultation with the states directly concerned on the basis of respecting historical facts and in accordance with international law. Pending final settlement, China is also ready to make every effort with the states directly concerned to enter into provisional arrangements of a practical nature, including joint development in relevant maritime areas, in order to achieve win-win results and jointly maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

V. China respects and upholds the freedom of navigation and overflight enjoyed by all states under international law in the South China Sea, and stays ready to work with other coastal states and the international community to ensure the safety of and the unimpeded access to the international shipping lanes in the South China Sea.

NOTE: This article has been submitted by the Embassy of China in Kuwait

## PRESIDENCY IS TRUMP'S ULTIMATE EGO TRIP

By Nancy Benca

Donald Trump once owned up to the force driving him in life: Ego. "Almost every deal I have ever done has been at least partly for my ego," the billionaire declared in a 1995 New York Times opinion piece titled, "What My Ego Wants, My Ego Gets." What 70-year-old Donald John Trump wants now is the presidency. To understand why, consider the billionaire's ego not just as mere mortals might see it (an out-sized allotment of conceit) but also as Trump himself understands it (an extraordinary drive for excitement, glamour and style that produces extraordinary success). "People need ego," Trump has said. "Whole nations need ego."

The race for the White House, then, is guided by the same instincts he's relied on in a lifetime of audacious self-promotion, ambition and risk-taking. It was those instincts that allowed a fabulously wealthy businessman to pull off a mind meld with the economic anxieties of ordinary Americans, elbowing aside the Republican A-team and breaking every rule of modern politics on the way to the Republican presidential nomination. "I play to people's fantasies," Trump has acknowledged. And plenty of voters fantasize about bringing some of that Trump braggadocio to the American psyche.

Trump's candidacy has given rise to a nation of armchair analysts with their own theories about the man: He's a bully. He's a champion. He's insecure. He's a rebel. He's a narcissist. He's an optimist. He's calculating. He's unscripted. He's a pathological liar. He sees a larger truth. Trump himself shies away from self-analysis. But he's acknowledged that for much of his life, it's been all about the chase. Whatever it is, he's in it to win it.

"The same assets that excite me in the chase often, once they are acquired, leave me bored," he said in 1990 as his boom years were sliding toward bust. "For me, you see, the important thing is the getting, not the having." That mindset has generated plenty of speculation about whether Trump really wants to set aside his my-way lifestyle to shoulder the heavy demands of governing. Trump bats away such talk. But his campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, addressing why Trump wants a strong and seasoned running mate, says the candidate sees himself as chairman of the board, not CEO, and "needs an experienced person to do the part of the job he doesn't want to do."

Trump's unbounded confidence - and obsession with winning - has been a lifelong constant. One of five children in a well-to-do Queens real estate family, Donald was the brash one. "We gotta calm him down," his father would say, as Trump recalls it. "Son, take the lumps out." It's advice Trump never really embraced. Trump followed his father into real estate, but chafed within the confines of Fred Trump's realm in New York's outer boroughs. Trump crossed into Manhattan and made it big before he hit 40.

"He was at the top of his own pyramid," says Stanley Renshon, a political psychologist at the City University of

New York who is writing a book about Trump. "Nobody was going to say, 'Donald, tone it down.'" Through years of boom, bust and more than a decade of reality-TV celebrity on "The Apprentice," the deals kept coming and the price tags (and, often, the debt) kept growing - as did the hype. Always the hype.

"Harry Potter" actor Daniel Radcliffe recalls his 2005 encounter in the "Today" show studios, when he confessed to the businessman that he was nervous about making a live television appearance. Trump's advice: "Just tell them you met Mr Trump," Radcliffe told "Late Night with Seth Meyers" recently. "To this day," added Radcliffe, "I can't even relate to that level of confidence."

Trump is not all chutzpah. A Mississippi man remembers a surprise phone call from Trump after his father wrote asking for a loan to build a hotel back in 1988. Trump didn't offer a loan to the Indian-American small businessman, but did give him a pep talk and some advice. "Trump inspired my father to the fullest when he told him that Dad's immigrant story was wonderful," Suresh Chawla wrote in a 2015 letter to The Clarksdale (Mississippi) Press Register. And pro golfer Natalie Gulbis tells of Trump coaching her on how to negotiate equal pay with male competitors. Far more often, though, Americans have seen the tweet-storming settler of

scores and hurler of insults.

For all the protesters who roil his rallies, Trump himself is the heckler of our time, who happens to do his heckling from the podium. No one is immune. Not senator and war hero John McCain, not the disabled, not Mexicans, not Muslims, not even those people who make up a majority of the country (and the electorate): Women.

Aubrey Immelman, a political psychologist at Saint John's University in Minnesota who has developed a personality index to assess presidential candidates, puts Trump's level of narcissism in the "exploitative" range, surpassing any presidential nominee's score in the past two decades. "His personality is his best friend, but it's also his worst enemy," says Immelman. The man who has married three times, lives large and offers the opulence of his real estate developments as a metaphor for what he can do for America, in fact has relatively simple tastes, if you are to believe his family and him.

He's never had a drink, smoked or done drugs, he says. He's a self-proclaimed "germ freak" who'd really rather not shake your hand. Trump has singled out meatloaf as a favorite meal when he's at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. "Whenever we have it, half the people order it," Trump said in a 1997 New Yorker profile. "But then afterward, if you ask them what they ate, they always deny it." — AP



In this Dec 6, 1999, file photo, New York billionaire real estate tycoon Donald Trump makes an appearance for the media atop a Beverly Hills, California. — AP



## BRAZIL MIDFIELDER GANSO CLOSE TO SEVILLA MOVE

**SAO PAULO:** Midfielder Paulo Henrique Ganso is close to joining Spanish club Sevilla from Sao Paulo in his native Brazil, according to his current club president Carlos Silva. The 26-year-old, once billed as one of Brazil's brightest emerging talents until his progress was curtailed by injury, was included in his country's squad for the Centenary Copa America last month after a series of impressive displays for his club. "It's his wish and there's nothing we can do about it," Sao Paulo president Carlos Silva told ESPN. "To keep a player against his wishes is counterproductive. I will miss having a guy in our team with such rare talent. We are obliged to accept some things and this is one of them." Brazilian media reported that the clubs had agreed a fee of 9.5 million euros (\$10.5 million) for the playmaker. — Reuters

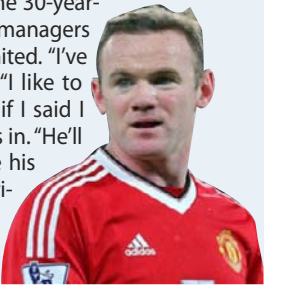


## ITALIAN NICCOLO MORNATI GETS FOUR-YEAR DOPING BAN

**MILAN:** Italian rower Niccolo Mornati will miss the Rio Olympics after being suspended for four years by the country's Anti-Doping Tribunal, the Italian National Olympic Committee said in a statement on Tuesday. The 35-year-old rower, who is the brother of Olympic silver medalist Carlo Mornati, tested positive for anastrozole, a breast cancer drug which can be used as a masking agent, on April 6 on his way back from a training camp in South Africa. Niccolo Mornati, who had qualified for the Rio Olympics, was provisionally suspended in May pending an inquiry by the tribunal but has now been banned until Feb. 5, 2020. He has three silver medals and two bronze medals from world championships in different categories. His last medal was bronze in the men's coxless pairs at the 2011 worlds in Bled, Slovenia. At the London 2012 Olympics, Mornati finished fourth with Lorenzo Carboncini in the men's coxless pairs. — Reuters

## WAYNE ROONEY LOOKING FORWARD TO MOURINHO ERA

**LONDON:** Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney admits the arrival of Jose Mourinho has given him added motivation for the season ahead. Former Chelsea boss Mourinho has suggested he preferred to play Rooney in a more attacking role, rather than see him pull strings from midfield as he did under predecessor Louis van Gaal. Rooney will be looking to forge a formidable strike partnership with new signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic, after a dearth of goals under the Dutchman last season. "I'm really excited to be working with Jose this season," the 30-year-old told the club's official magazine. "He's one of the best managers in the world and it's an exciting time for Manchester United. I've always respected him both as a man and a manager. I like to think I'm always motivated as a player but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a bit more motivated when a new manager comes in. He'll bring all these qualities with him and I'm sure he'll have his own ideas, but one of the biggest assets will be his experience." United begin their Premier League campaign with a trip to Bournemouth on Aug. 14. — Reuters



## MCILROY AND CO BRACED FOR TROON TEST IN BRITISH OPEN

**TROON:** Treacherous and unfamiliar challenges lie in wait as the British Open returns to Royal Troon this week and Rory McIlroy returns to the hunt for the Claret Jug. McIlroy, who leads a host of the sport's biggest names to have withdrawn in controversial circumstances from next month's Rio Olympics, is bidding to win his fifth major and second Open after his victory at Hoylake in 2014. Twelve months ago McIlroy was missing from the field in St Andrews after suffering an ankle injury while playing football but he will tee off on Thursday morning in the same group as Bubba Watson and Japan's Hideki Matsuyama.

"I'm excited to be back and to a golf course that I've never played before," the Northern Irishman, number four in the world, told reporters on Tuesday.

"I don't really have any experience here at Troon, so it was good to get a couple of good looks at it last week, and then I just played another 18 holes this morning."

Troon is where Tiger Woods first played in the Open as a professional in 1997. The ailing 14-time major winner is not in this year's field and instead the focus is on the current 'Big Four' of McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, Jason Day and recent US Open winner Dustin Johnson.

They have all withdrawn from the Rio Games amid much-publicised fears about the Zika virus, with Spieth pulling out at the last minute on Monday. The 22-year-old Texan will be relieved to be able to focus on the Open now after being hit with a barrage of questions about the Olympics on Tuesday. He is targeting the Claret Jug and a third major title having won the Masters and US Open last year.

"This is a very, very special tournament; everybody knows that. I crave to have that trophy in my possession at some point, and to reach a third leg of the Grand Slam this week would be a fantastic achievement and a life-long goal of mine," said Spieth, who is not in the best of form but has history on his, or at least his country's, side.

The Open has been played at Troon eight times, with the last six winners all American, most recently Todd Hamilton in 2004. In 1997 the winner was Justin Leonard, a Texan just like Spieth.

"I don't think it impacts you, but I think

it's very cool to walk through the clubhouse halls to see that," said Spieth of Troon's history.

### PITFALLS

Dustin Johnson may be the favourite and Day the world number one, but all of the sport's leading players must beware the potential pitfalls in store. Troon is home to one of golf's most iconic and deeply unpredictable holes, the 123-yard par-three eighth known as the Postage Stamp. Here is where German amateur Herman Tisseries took 15 in 1950 but also where a 71-year-old Gene Sarazen had a hole-in-one in 1973.

"I think I took an eight or a nine, so that didn't go too well," McIlroy said of his efforts in practice. "If you make four threes there this week, you're probably going to gain a bit of ground on the field."

Then there is the 11th, a 482-yard par-four with the Glasgow to Ayr railway line immediately over a four-foot high stone wall to the right side. Jack Nicklaus took 10 here in 1962. "They're both incredibly difficult, yeah," acknowledged England's Justin Rose of the two holes.

With this being the first Open at Troon since 2004, the younger stars of modern golf are unfamiliar with the course but one man who knows it all too well is Colin Montgomerie.

This is the veteran Scot's home-town Open, and his 86-year-old father will become club president next week. Montgomerie came through qualifying and will hit the championship's first tee shot at 6:35 am local time (0535 GMT) on Thursday as he goes out with Luke Donald and Australia's Marc Leishman.

The latter was involved in a three-way play-off in St Andrews last year that was won by the American Zach Johnson. It was played out in gloomy conditions on the Monday after wind and rain delayed the finish. The hope is for calmer weather this year, although Friday is expected to be particularly wet and the wind coming in from the Firth of Clyde is bound to make life difficult. "If you get it breezy, like in any Open venue, this place really shows its teeth. I think it's a fantastic Open venue and a fantastic test of golf," acknowledged the current Masters champion Danny Willett. — AFP



**TROON:** Dustin Johnson of the United States picks up his ball after playing the 5th green during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf Championship at the Royal Troon Golf Club in Troon, Scotland, yesterday. The British Open starts today. — AP

## DUSTIN WILL BE TOUGH TO BEAT, SAYS WORLD NO 1 DAY

**TROON:** The last six British Opens held at Royal Troon have been won by Americans and Dustin Johnson, the hottest player in golf, looks like he has all the credentials to send the US into seventh heaven this week. Not only did the big-hitting 32-year-old follow up his victory at last month's US Open by capturing the prestigious WGC-Bridgestone Invitational title in Ohio, he also has a good record to boast about in the world's oldest major. Johnson has finished in the top 14 in four of his seven trips to the British Open and came within a whisker of landing the coveted Claret Jug in 2011 when he wound up in a tie for second place behind Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke. "He has a lot of spotlight on him this week because he has won the last two events he's played and they've been pretty big events," world number one Jason Day told reporters on the windswept Ayrshire coastline.

"He's typically played pretty well in the Open championship so he's obviously going to be a very tough guy to beat." Johnson's surge to second in the world rankings has come as a surprise to some. His namesake Zach Johnson, however, believes it was always destined to happen.

"He's a supreme athlete and it just so happens that his sport for all of us, unfortunately, is golf," said British Open title holder Zach. "Not many guys can do what he does." Day's form has also been pretty spectacular, having triumphed seven times in the past 12 months to rise to the summit of the rankings. The Australian suffered a near-miss last year when he ended up in a share of fourth place at St Andrews.

### TOP SPOT

Winning a first British Open is clearly number one on Day's list of immediate priorities but hanging on to top spot in the rankings comes a close second.

"I think the stress of being number one in the world is a motivating factor for me just because I don't want to lose it," he said. "It's really important for me to make sure I stick to my processes and do all the hard work I can to try to stay there for as long as I can." Jordan Spieth won the US Masters and US Open in 2015 and is almost certain to figure prominently on the Troon leaderboard. The 22-year-old American, however, has

been the subject of intense scrutiny this week following his decision on Monday to opt out of next month's Rio Olympics due to health concerns. With the benefit of hindsight, Spieth clearly would have made his announcement before Monday's Games deadline. "I wish I could have made it as early as possible, not only for myself but also for Olympic golf, USA Golf," said the world number three.

"I certainly was not trying to wait until the last minute. I just couldn't make a decision and ... I was very indecisive with it." The other member of the so-called 'Big Four' of world golf, Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, is pleased to be back at his home Open after being sidelined last year because of an injury he sustained while playing a friendly game of soccer. "I guess it's the start of a new chapter for me in the Open championship," said the 2014 winner.

"It was very disappointing to miss last year but I'm determined not to miss any more for the foreseeable future and it's great to be back and have another chance to win another Claret Jug," added world number four McIlroy. The year's third major begins on Thursday. — Reuters



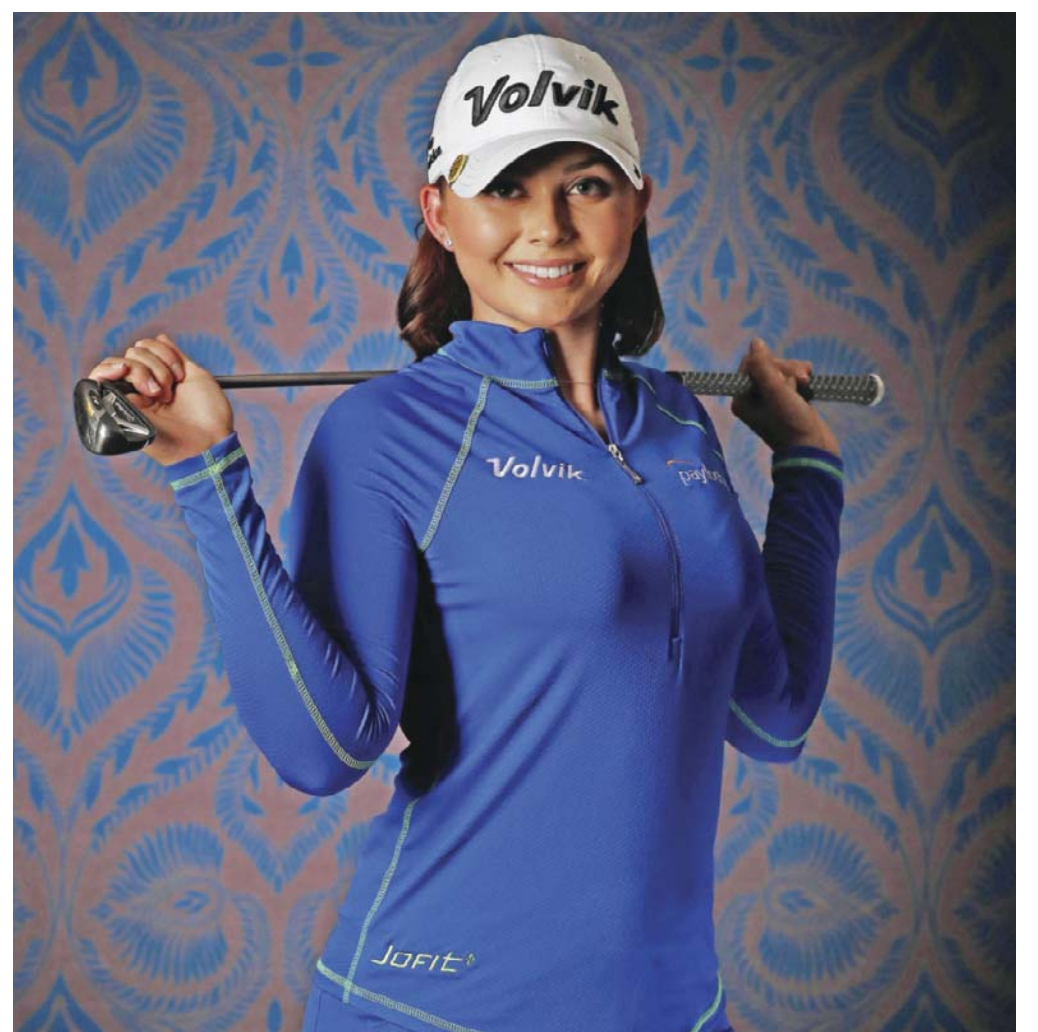
**TROON:** Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland putts on the 16th green during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf Championship at the Royal Troon Golf Club in Troon, Scotland, yesterday. — AP

## THAI STARLET EXCITED ABOUT BRITISH OPEN

**TROON:** Thailand's teenage sensation Phachara Khongwatmai just wants to "have fun" as he competes at this week's British Open at Royal Troon. Phachara, who only turned 17 in May, is the youngest player in the field at the championship after qualifying in sensational fashion back in December. "I'm proud and feel lucky that I have a chance to play in an event like this. It's like an accident that I'm here," said Phachara as he took in the surroundings on Scotland's west coast.

Phachara owes his spot at Troon to his impressive sixth-place finish at the Thailand Golf Championship on the Asian Tour, when he came in ahead of the likes of Martin Kaymer and Bubba Watson. "I didn't expect to get a chance to play in a Major so soon in my career. If I make the cut here, I'll be happy. If I don't make the cut, I'm also happy," said Phachara, whose first name means 'diamond'. He was just 14 when he became the youngest golfer to win a professional tournament in his native Thailand in July 2013.

But he knows the fresh and potentially windy conditions at Troon will be a new experience. "It's a tough golf course. But I think my bunker play, chipping and putting are my strong parts. I don't want to get too worried about the obstacles here. I will try to relax and hopefully play well. I'm looking to have fun when I'm on the golf course. If I put pressure on myself, I won't play well." Phachara will tee off in his first round at 1104 local time today. — AFP



**SYLVANIA:** Victoria Elizabeth poses for a portrait prior to the Marathon Classic Presented by Owens Corning and O-I at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania Ohio. — AFP



## US HIGH SCHOOL FEDERATION CALLS FOR PITCH LIMITS IN 2017

**RICHMOND:** The National Federation of State High School Associations has directed its members to regulate the number of pitches a high school player can throw in a game amid growing concerns about overworking young arms.

The federation did not proscribe a specific number, but a limit must be established by next season, said Elliot Hopkins, the NFHS director of sports and student services. The limits will go into effect in the spring of 2017. Every state plus the District of Columbia are federation members, Hopkins said Tuesday. Each state except Michigan has its own sports medicine advisory committee that will likely be involved in settling on a specific number. "I think

they're better suited to determine what the number is," Hopkins said, noting the number in warmer climates, where baseball season starts earlier, might be higher.

States like Texas have already established their limit at 125 pitches, and Alabama, Colorado and Kentucky have said that will be their number, too, Hopkins said. Minnesota will use 105 during the season and 115 or 120 in playoffs.

Anecdotal evidence suggested it was time to make the change. As a member of the USA Baseball sports medicine advisory committee, Hopkins said he sits between well-known sports surgeon Dr. James Andrews and former major league pitcher Tommy John at meetings. Andrews in 1974

pioneered a surgery, first performed on and then named for Tommy John, that reconstructs the ulnar collateral ligament in a pitcher's elbow, allowing them to resume their careers after rehabilitation.

"During those meetings, Dr. Andrews always expressed how more and more of his service, and his surgeries, revolved around younger kids," Hopkins said. USA Baseball, the national governing body for amateur baseball, in 2014 launched the program "Pitch Smart," which sets age-appropriate guidelines for the number of pitches a pitcher as young as 7 can throw and the amount of rest they should get between pitching appearances. Most amateur baseball leagues have adopted the

guidelines, which set 120 pitches as the maximum recommended for pitchers ages 19-22. It then also requires they receive four days of rest.

One impact Hopkins hopes will come from the rule change will be the involvement of more players. "You have maybe three or four pitchers in your bullpen typically," he said. "Now, we'll get some kids who really can't throw five innings, can't give you five innings, but they can give you a solid two, and now you've got a bullpen and you get more kids involved."

The federation will no longer require its member associations to require a certain amount of rest between appearances by a pitcher. Virginia coach Brian O'Connor,

whose team won the national championship in 2015, called the changes "a step in the right direction" but was not sure a single pitch count number will have the desired effect.

"Somebody could throw 75 pitches three different times in a week," he said. "It's not a be all, end all," said Sean Ryan, a high school coach in Richmond whose team at Benedictine plays in the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association and will not be subjected to the federation rules. He noted that a young pitcher often moves to another position during a game, or in the team's next game, where he continues throwing in between innings and in the game. — AP



SCHEVENINGEN: Olympic and Paralympic teams pose for a family picture during their presentation in Scheveningen, yesterday. — AFP

## USADA: REPORT COULD JUSTIFY RUSSIA'S EXCLUSION FROM RIO

**NEW YORK:** A report on Russian doping due out this week is expected to include details about the country's sports ministry telling its drug-testing officials which positive tests to report and which to conceal. If those details do, indeed, show up in the report, the leader of the US anti-doping effort says nothing short of removing the Russian flag from this summer's Olympics would suffice.

Travis Tygart, the CEO of the US Anti-Doping Agency, told The Associated Press he would support the same sort of action for all Russian sports that track's governing body, the IAAF, took regarding the country's track team: It barred the team but gave a small number of athletes who could prove they were clean a chance to compete under a neutral flag.

"If it's proven true, and there's been intentional subversion of the system by the Russian government ... the only outcome is they can't participate in these Olympic Games under that country's flag," Tygart said.

The World Anti-Doping Agency commissioned an investigation, being headed by Richard McLaren, into Russian doping following a New York Times story in May that detailed a state-run system that helped athletes get away with cheating and win medals at the Sochi Olympics in 2014. The McLaren report is due Friday, with public release set for next Monday.

An earlier investigation, headed by former WADA chairman Dick Pound, looked into Russian doping inside the track team; the McLaren investigation is expected to delve into all sports.

In June, based on information from Pound's report and its own follow-up, the IAAF barred Russia's track team from competing in the Olympics after deciding it had not moved aggressively enough on widespread reforms.

In announcing the decision, the IAAF issued a report that included preliminary findings from McLaren stating evidence showed a "mandatory state-directed manipulation of laboratory analytical results operating within" the Moscow anti-doping lab from at least 2011 through the summer of 2013.

The preliminary findings also said Russia's "Ministry of Sport advised the laboratory which of its adverse findings it could report to WADA, and which it had to cover up."

If those preliminary findings show up in the full report, and turn out to be just the tip of the iceberg, it would represent "an unprecedented level of criminality,"

Tygart said. Tygart previewed the findings to leaders of USA Track and Field at a meeting during Olympic Trials last weekend. There, Tygart said, "what we see now is what happened in East Germany" in the 1970s and '80s, when doping in the Eastern Bloc went virtually unchecked.

He told USATF leaders: "You have to send a message to states that corrupt the Games. I don't want to pre-judge the report but indications are that that's what's going to be in there."

USADA chairman Edwin Moses, the gold-medal-winning and world-record-setting hurdler from the 1970s and '80s, reiterated that point to the USATF.

"If an athlete is going to get sanctioned for two, four, eight years, then certainly the same should happen for any federation or agency or administrators who are involved," he said. Shortly after the Times report came out, International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach wrote an op-ed piece in USA Today saying that if allegations in the Times story were true, the IOC would "react with its record of proven zero-tolerance policy, not only with regard to individual athletes, but to all their entourage within its reach."

"Should there be evidence of an organized system contaminating other sports, the international federations and the IOC would have to make the difficult decision between collective responsibility and individual justice," Bach wrote.

On July 21, the Court of Arbitration for Sport will rule on the eligibility of 68 Russian track athletes who claim they should be able to compete despite the IAAF ban. Still undecided is whether the IOC will allow cleared Russian athletes to compete as neutral, or under the Russian flag.

If the McLaren report is as damning as expected, the IOC and international leaders in the 27 other Summer Olympic sports will have to come up with plans on similar issues on a limited timeframe.

Friday marks the three-week countdown to the Rio Games. Rich Bender, the executive director of USA Wrestling, said he had full confidence in the leadership of his sport's international federation to handle the situation correctly.

"The international federation has a significant responsibility to do everything in its power to make sure that happens," Bender said. "If you start making exceptions and compromising positions there, it weakens the statement that doping isn't tolerated." — AP

## NUUAUSALA ITCHING FOR WIGAN DEBUT

**LONDON:** Wigan Warriors new signing Frank-Paul Nuuausala turned down St Helens - and the advice of his friend Sia Soliola - before joining the Super League leaders.

The New Zealand international was announced as Wigan's new signing - effective immediately - at the end of last month but had to wait for his visa application before being presented to the media on Tuesday. The 29-year-old - who won the NRL with the Sydney Roosters in 2013 and beat Wigan in the World Challenge in 2014 - joins on a three-and-a-half year deal after falling out of favour at Canberra Raiders.

And despite Soliola trying to convince the prop to join Saints, Nuuausala insists there was only ever one club he had in mind, their fierce local rivals Wigan.

"There was a bit of interest from (St Helens) but they just didn't pull through. It was just all talk," he said. "With Wigan it was all action. I just had to weigh up my options and decide what's best for me and my family."

"Sia wanted me to play for Saints and when

he found out I was going to sign for Wigan he was giving me some stick but I also got advice from Jeff Lima and Thomas Leuluai about Wigan and I'm 100 per cent happy I chose Wigan. "When I was a kid I remember seeing Frano Botica and Wigan were always on the telly because they were winning trophies."

Shaun Wane's side went first in the Super League table last week with their win over Wakefield but are still suffering from an injury crisis - Joel Tomkins the latest to be ruled out for the rest of the season. Wigan face Leeds in a Grand Final re-match on Friday but Nuuausala is reluctant to be thrown straight into the mix.

"I really do want to play but I know, if I'm not right, I'm not going to put my hand up and disrespect that jersey. I don't want to let anyone down in my first game," added Nuuausala.

"If I'm ready to play this week, I will but if not I'll definitely be ready to play next week." Huddersfield face St Helens on Sunday and the Giants have been boosted by the news Rick Stone - former head coach of the Newcastle

Knights - will soon be flying in to the rescue.

"Top jobs such as this one don't come around very often so I'm ready to go and really can't get there quick enough," said Stone - who was sacked last July.

"I know the club has some very short-term goals in terms of wins needed in whatever league structure we end up in after 23 rounds, but I've always believed that results tend to take care of themselves if you work hard, prepare well and commit to your team-mates which are key parts of my coaching style." The Giants were beaten last time out by Hull KR who will welcome their local rivals Hull FC this weekend.

And Rovers assistant coach Willie Poching admits his side are giving their all for a Super 8s spot - despite needing a perfect finish to the season and other results to go their way.

"Benny Cockayne and many others gave it their all against Huddersfield," Poching said. "George Lawler, Iain Thornley and Dane Tilse along with others, they just kept carrying the ball whilst out on their feet." — AFP

## JUDO HEAVYWEIGHT IDALIS ORTIZ AIMS FOR GOLDEN REPEAT IN RIO

**HAVANA:** Top Cuban judoka Idalis Ortiz forged her exceptional endurance and techniques by training with men-a regimen that helped her break through in Beijing and claim Olympic gold in London. Now, she is setting her sights on a golden repeat in Rio next month. Born in the little village of Candelaria, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) outside of Havana, the smiling Ortiz learned to fall-and always to get back up-opposite male sparing partners.

They were the only ones who could cope with the extraordinary physique of the 26-year-old woman, who stands 5'8" (1.73 meters) and weighs 250 pounds (115 kilos).

The method payed off, as at just 18 years old, Ortiz claimed the bronze in Beijing, the youngest medalist in the heavyweight category. Four years later, she broke the Chinese and Japanese chokehold on the sport in London with her victory. By stealing the spotlight from the favorites, China's Tong Wen and Japan's Mika Sugimoto, Ortiz became the first judoka born outside Asia to dominate in the category at the Olympics, which first held women's judo competitions in 1992. In Rio, things will be different, she said, because the field is more even. "Whoever my opponent may be, it will be difficult," Ortiz predicted in an interview with AFP at the Cerro

Pelado training center south of Havana. The hopes of an entire nation rest on Ortiz, the most prominent competitor in a sport that brought 35 Olympic medals to the Caribbean island from 1964-2012. To reach the top of the podium in Rio next month, Ortiz will likely have to get past world number one Song Yu of China and Brazil's Maria Altheman, Ortiz's long-suffering foil who will likely be thirsty for revenge on home turf.

### FALLING AND FALLING AGAIN

The Cuban, who often has highlights in her hair, told AFP she is still eager to win titles even after taking home some 200 medals over the course of her career, including five from world championships-two gold and three bronze.

After Rio, Ortiz-a fan of Mexican movies and Brazilian telenovelas that "make you cry"-says she wants to live out another dream. "I want to take a break to start a family but I have no intention of giving up judo," she said of her 12-year relationship with a Cuban former weightlifter. For the time being, Ortiz is training hard, seven hours a day-and, as she did at the start of her career, with men. "I've always been fairly big, and there weren't any girls to take me on. I've always had to spar with men in

training," she said. "You can't imagine how many times they took me down but losing made me stronger mentally," she added.

### WINNING BY TURNS

Drilus Gonzalez, a Cuban female judo star who trains the national team, is full of praise for Ortiz. "Since she joined the national team, she's shown maturity, character and self-sacrifice. This, along with her discipline and talent, give her a winning mindset," she said. Ortiz's love affair with judo began at an early age. But everything changed when she was 14 - the moment when she arrived at the elite national training center in Havana. When she showed up for tryouts, Ortiz says that her sister was bowled over by the size of her adversaries and asked her if she truly wanted to stay. "I told her, 'So long as I'm here, I'll keep going...and after the bouts, the teacher said, 'The little one stays here.'" And for 12 years since that time, the champion has only ever gone home to visit. During major international events, Ortiz's entire family is overcome with nerves but cannot travel with her due to the cost. "My parents have never had the courage to watch me spar in person. My brothers have watched but not my parents," the champion says with a smile before heading back to the tatami mat. — AFP



## RULE CHANGED TO CURB 'HACK-A-SHAQ' INCIDENTS

**LOS ANGELES:** The NBA approved rule changes on fouls away from the ball on Tuesday, which could help reduce intentional fouling. Previously, if a foul occurred away from the play in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter or overtime, it resulted in one free throw and possession of the ball. That

rule has been extended to apply to the last two minutes of all quarters.

Intentionally fouling poor free throw shooters has become a frequent strategy of the game, an often criticized one, and the rule tweak will limit the opportunities for teams to employ that ploy. Frequently employed

against former Lakers centre Shaquille O'Neal, the strategy went on to be known as 'Hack-a-Shaq.' "In looking at the data and numerous potential solutions to combat the large increase in deliberate away-from-the-play foul situations, we believe these steps offer the most measured approach," Kiki

VanDeWeghe, NBA Executive Vice President, Basketball Operations said in a statement. "The introduction of these new rules is designed to curb the increase in such fouls without eliminating the strategy entirely." Additionally, on inbounds plays, a defensive foul before the ball is thrown in will

also be subject to one free throw and possession. Flagrant foul rules were also adjusted and will now automatically be in effect for any dangerous or excessive deliberate fouls. Previously, these types of fouls were subject to being called flagrant but were not automatic. — Reuters

## SPURS COACH POPOVICH BIDS FAREWELL TO DUNCAN

**LOS ANGELES:** San Antonio Spurs long time coach Gregg Popovich described five-time NBA champion Tim Duncan on Tuesday as the best example of a leader any coach in the NBA could hope for.

"He's the most real, consistent and true person I've met in my life," Popovich said. "When he speaks it's for a purpose. He led by example."

Popovich was speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, 24 hours after Duncan, who is considered one of the greatest players in history, announced his retirement, ending 19 brilliant seasons with the Spurs.

Duncan and Popovich formed one of the most successful duos in National Basketball Association history, accounting for the most wins ever by a player-coach combination at 1,001.

"I figured I better come out and do this and somehow say goodbye to him, which is an impossibility for a lot of reasons," said Popovich, who wore a black shirt with a picture of Duncan that read "Impossible Is Potential". "He's been the best teammate anyone could ever imagine."

Duncan wasn't present for the news conference. The 40-year-old Duncan, who

was selected as the first overall pick in the 1997 NBA draft, spent his entire career with the Spurs—an anomaly in a league where players often change teams.

The Spurs reached the playoffs in every one of his 19 seasons. "I would not be standing here if it wasn't for Tim Duncan," Popovich said. "I'd be in the Budweiser League someplace in America, fat and still trying to play basketball or coach basketball. "But he's why I'm standing. He's made livings for hundreds of us, staff and coaches, over the years and never said a word, just came to work every day."

"Came early, stayed late, was there for every single person, from the top of the roster to the bottom of the roster."

Duncan, also teamed with Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili to form one of the most successful trios in NBA history. They hold the league record for regular season wins (575) and postseason wins (126).

Duncan, a three-time NBA Finals MVP and a two-time regular season MVP, led San Antonio to titles in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2014. The Spurs posted a 1,072-438 regular-season record since drafting Duncan—the best 19-year run in league history. — AFP



**CARCASSONNE:** Stage winner Peter Sagan of Slovakia, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, and Britain's Chris Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, sprint towards the finish line of the eleventh stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 162.5 kilometers (100.7 miles) with start in Carcassonne and finish in Montpellier, France, yesterday. — AP

## CAVENDISH HAPPY FOR RARE SPRINT CHANCE

**CARCASSONNE:** Mark Cavendish has happy memories of Montpellier as the Tour de France 11th stage is set to finish there yesterday.

The Manx Missile won a sprint stage in the Mediterranean town in 2011 and he will be looking to notch up yet another Tour stage victory yesterday.

He's crossed the finish line first three times already at this Tour, taking his career total up to 29 stage wins but the 31-year-old Briton is eager for more on the 162.5km mostly flat run from Carcassonne. Following Tuesday's 10th stage that started in Andorra, Cavendish said he was relieved to be rediscovering flatter terrain. "Well, that was the last of the Pyrenees today. Won't miss them! Hopefully a nice little sprint on the cards tomorrow," he wrote on Twitter at the end of Tuesday's stage.

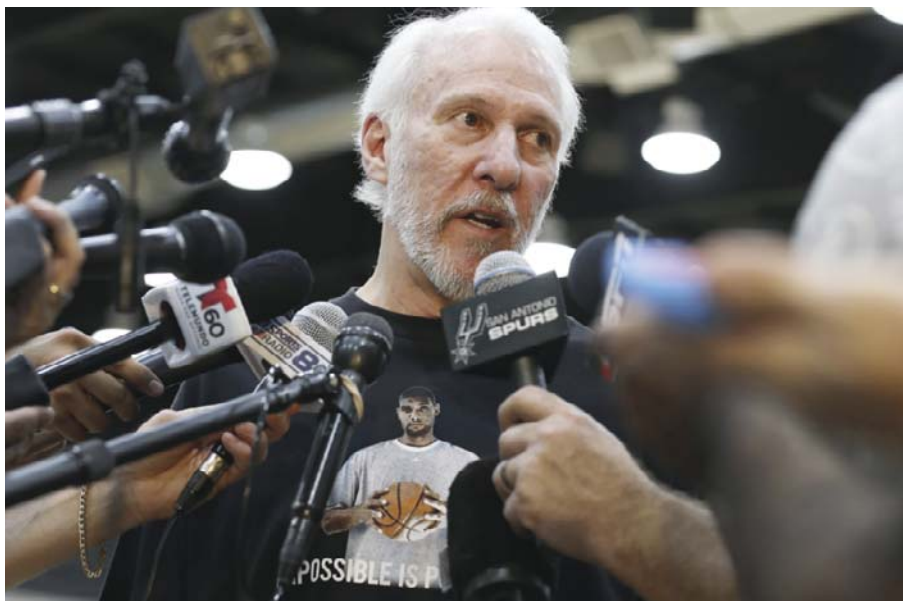
There are few opportunities left for the sprinters before the peloton reaches Paris, with Cavendish saying on Monday's rest day that he thinks there will only be two more chances.

But Wednesday's stage will be anything but straight-forward, with winds of up to 70kph expected on the route.

"When you're here & woken by the wind banging the window shutters, it's not likely to be a calm day on the bike!" added Cavendish on Twitter. In the Pyrenees he spent time simply trying to hold on and get to the finish line inside the time limit. But Wednesday's stage is one where the sprinters' teams, including Cavendish's Dimension Data outfit, will likely take no chances with the day's breakaway, never letting them far off the leash. And it won't just be about Cavendish on the road to Montpellier

where German Andre Greipel won most recently in 2013. Greipel has not had a good Tour so far this year after his best yet in 2015 when he won four stages, including the last on the Champs Elysees in Paris.

He took second place to Cavendish on the third stage Angers, losing out by an inch in a photo-finish. But that's as good as it's been for the Lotto-Soudal sprinter. Like Cavendish, though, he was glad to put the mountains behind him, although he particularly did not enjoy Tuesday's stage beginning with a long climb up to the Tour's highest point this year—the Port d'Enlivaire in Andorra at 2,400-metres above sea level. "The good thing about a 24km climb at the start from @LeTour stage 10 was that I could eat my breakfast twice...#onthelimit," joked Greipel on Twitter. — AFP



**SAN ANTONIO:** San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich addresses the media during an NBA basketball news conference, Tuesday, in San Antonio, the day after Tim Duncan announced his retirement. Popovich wore a T-shirt with the likeness of Duncan as he reflected on his relationship with the 19-year Spurs veteran and talked about his contributions to the team and to him personally. — AP

## ADAM SILVER WANTS MORE BALANCE AFTER DURANT MOVE

**LOS ANGELES:** NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Tuesday that the league might look at ways of maintaining competitive balance following Kevin Durant's blockbuster move to join the Golden State Warriors.

Silver expressed concern at the signing which creates another super team and indicated that the NBA's parity might be better served if changes were made to the collective bargaining agreement.

"Just to be absolutely clear, I do not think that's ideal from the league standpoint," Silver said of lopsided teams during a news conference at the league's annual board of governors meeting.

Durant left the Oklahoma City Thunder to sign a two-year deal worth \$54 million to join the Warriors, creating another NBA powerhouse. Silver added that Durant did not break any rules by exercising his right to change teams.

"I don't think having two super teams is good for the league," he said. "For me, part of it is designing a collective bargaining agreement that encourages the distribution of great players throughout the league. "On the other hand, I absolutely respect a player's right to become a free

agent and in this case for Kevin Durant to make a decision that he feels is best for him. "I have no idea what's in his mind or heart in terms of how he went about making that decision.

"In a way, the good news is that we are in a collective bargaining cycle, so it gives everybody an opportunity-owners and the union—to sit down behind closed doors and take a fresh look at the system and see if there is a better way that we can do it. My belief is we can make it better." The league's current agreement runs through June 30, 2021. Either side can opt out June 30, 2017, if it notifies the other side by December 15. It was negotiated during the lockout five years ago.

Silver also said the league hasn't made a decision on moving the 2017 NBA all-star game from Charlotte in protest of North Carolina's controversial restroom privacy protection law.

"We're not prepared to make a decision today," Silver said. "But we recognize the calendar is not our friend. February is quickly approaching, especially in terms of big events like the all-star games if we're going to make alternative plans." — AFP

## VENTOUX: A MOUNTAIN LIKE NO OTHER

**CARCASSONNE:** Giant of Provence or Bald Mountain? Named after a Gaulish god, or due to the howling winds at its summit? "Mont Ventoux is mythical in cycling. The greats have won there, and I dream of doing so too," said Colombian climber Nairo Quintana. The Movistar leader has tackled the great climb at the Tour once before, during the 2013 edition where he finished second. That was the day, on July 14, the French national holiday, that Quintana announced himself as a future great of the Tour. He didn't win the stage at the top of Ventoux, but his brave solo attack shook up the favourites and while Chris Froome eventually caught him and beat him to the top, the Colombian debutant had proved he was a force to be reckoned with.

Today, the Tour will again finish atop Ventoux, and on Bastille Day, when someone will add his name to the list of stars to have won when the toughest climb in France was tackled. While Alpe d'Huez has its own special place in Tour history, Ventoux is the toughest climb and most arduous challenge. There are three routes up to the barren summit that looks like it would be more at place on the moon than in the lush green summer Alps. The most common, and hardest, which will be tackled on Thursday, is from the south and the village of Bedoin.

From there, the climb is 21.8km long with an average gradient of 7.4% — but that doesn't tell the full story. The first 6km are relatively easy at less than 4% but from there on it's relentless with 15.7km at an average 8.8%.

And it's not just the steep incline that makes this such an epic feat of human endurance—there's the weather. Mont Ventoux could be named after the Gaulish god of storms and mountain summits, Vintur; or maybe the word comes from the old Gallic Ven-Top, meaning snowy peak; or perhaps it's simply derived from the French word ventoux: windy. But the theme is clear: weather is a dominant factor. And that's the case when emerging from the forest path and out into the barren landscape, over the 'col des tempestes'-the storm path—and on to the summit where winds of up to 320kph (200mph) have been recorded. The road over the mountain is often closed as the wind speed is at least 90kph for two-thirds of the year.

### YELLOW IMMORTALITY

Tackling the 'Giant of Provence' is a once-in-a-lifetime challenge all on its own and has become a favourite of amateur cyclists the world over. Those particularly boisterous even try to climb it from all three routes on the same day.

Given one single ascent can take between 90mins to 2.5hrs depending on an amateur's level, that's quite an ambitious project for anyone. The Tour professionals tackle it at the end of a 184km stage this year, and just over halfway through a Grand Boucle edition described by reigning champion Froome as "a climber's Tour".

Winning on Ventoux means making your mark on Tour history and cycling as a whole.

Belgian great and record five-time Tour winner Eddy Merckx won there in 1970 and Raymond Poulidor, the darling of France—who never won the Tour—triumphed in 1965.

In 1987 France thought they'd found the successor to Bernard Hinault—another five-time Tour winner—in Jean-Francois Bernard who won a time-trial finishing on Ventoux to snare the coveted yellow jersey. It would prove a false dawn. Just 25, Bernard lost four minutes to his main

rivals the next day and finished the Tour third, never again to challenge for the yellow immortality. Froome won there in 2013 and went on to claim his first Tour success.

Just as Ventoux can make a rider's career, though, it can also destroy it. Briton Tom Simpson, on a cocktail of drink and drugs and badly dehydrated, collapsed and died of heat exhaustion just metres from the summit in 1967.

A memorial to Simpson remains on the climb to this day, a reminder that Ventoux is a mountain like no other. — AFP

## WILL RIO OLYMPICS BE A SECURITY 'HELL'?

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Right as a top Brazilian official was confidently guaranteeing safety at next month's Olympics, Rio cops were about to head to their latest nerve-jangling assignment: body parts discovered on Copacabana beach.

Officially, Rio de Janeiro is all ready to provide security for the some half million people expected to flock to the biggest sporting event on the planet from August 5-21.

Addressing journalists with a month to go before the opening ceremony, Andrei Rodrigues, secretary for major events at the justice ministry, declared his "total confidence."

"I am completely calm," he said. That's a claim that has since been repeated by everyone from the Rio mayor to the minister of defense.

But as demonstrated by the discovery that same day of an unidentified, dismembered body next to the Olympic beach volleyball site on Copacabana, not all is well in Brazil's "Marvelous City." And Rio police—who've seen more than 50 of their colleagues killed just this year and have been protesting against late salary payments—appear far from calm.

### STREET MAYHEM

There have been 2,083 murders in Rio state in the first five months of this year, up 14 percent on the same period last year. The number of muggings has exploded and carjackings are also on the rise.

In an embarrassing incident, a truck crammed with more than \$400,000 worth of television equipment imported by German broadcasters covering the Olympics was hijacked. It was later recovered.

The real mayhem is isolated in the north and in huge slums known as favelas, rather than in the coastal areas of Barra, Copacabana and Ipanema where tourists congregate.

But with an ambitious eight-year-old community policing project in those favelas facing growing troubles, drug lords are expanding control. Last month, a gang of about 20 armed men shot their way into a central Rio hospital to res-

cue a detained boss nicknamed Fat Family. Police have reportedly killed as many as nine people in the brutal ensuing manhunt, but the fugitive remains at large.

### IS RIO A TERROR TARGET?

Brazil's lack of involvement in any wars and sheer distance from jihadist strongholds like Syria could be the best defense against any repeat of the kind of mass attacks claimed by or blamed on the Islamic State group in Bangladesh, Belgium, Iraq, Turkey and the United States this year. But hosting the globe's most watched event automatically puts a bulls-eye on Brazil, warns Robert Muggah, a security specialist at the Igarape think tank based in Rio.

"If a terrorist group wants to make a major statement at a global event, Rio would be a good place to start," he said.

Rio will be welcoming hundreds of thousands of foreigners from more than 200 countries, raising the possibility of infiltrators. The border with Paraguay is also notoriously porous, while procuring the powerful weapons wielded in the favelas would be relatively easy.

In June, Brazil's intelligence service said it had detected Portuguese-language messages linked to the Islamic State group on an online forum. An even more explicit warning came after bloody Islamist attacks in Paris last November, when a French jihadist tweeted that Brazil was the "next target." Rio's other big concern will be preventing a major cyber attack at a Games that will be heavily reliant on cloud computing, Muggah said.

Officials say a huge police presence will secure the streets. Between police drafted in from other areas and thousands of soldiers, there will be 85,000 security personnel deployed in Rio and the five cities hosting football competitions—double the number used in the 2012 London Games. A police coordination center with officers from 55 countries is to be the biggest such operation of its kind, Rodrigues said. — AFP



**MONTPELLIER:** England's Adam Yates celebrates his white jersey of best young on the podium at the end of the 162.5 km eleventh stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Carcassonne and Montpellier. — AFP



## SILVER: NO DECISION ON MOVING ALL-STAR GAME FROM CHARLOTTE

**LAS VEGAS:** NBA owners made no decision Tuesday after a lengthy debate about moving next year's All-Star Game from Charlotte because of North Carolina's law limiting protection for LGBT people.

Commissioner Adam Silver said no vote was taken at the Board of Governors meeting, but the league realizes a decision has to come fairly quickly. He said he was personally disappointed North Carolina legislators didn't modify the law enough in recent weeks to make the discussion moot.

"We feel this law is inconsistent with the core values of the league," Silver said. Silver said the NBA was put in a situation not entirely its own making because the law was enacted by North Carolina's legis-

lature after the 2017 All-Star Game was already awarded to Charlotte.

He added that the game is important for the league in ways that aren't always shown on the court. "The primary test for us is under this law whether we can successfully host our All-Star week," he said. "It is more than a game, it is a week full of activities in North Carolina. The question for us becomes in this situation, given the controversy, given the amount of discussion, given how hardened the views are, is this the place we should be in 2017, at the epicenter of global basketball where we can go celebrate our game and our values."

Silver did not say when a decision would be made on possibly moving the

game, but that the clock is ticking.

"We're not trying to keep everybody in suspense," he said. "We realize this decision has to be made very quickly." Silver's remarks come less than two weeks after North Carolina legislators revisited the law and chose to leave it largely unchanged. During their yearly work session that ended this month, the General Assembly restored the ability of workers to use state law to sue over employment discrimination on the basis of race, religion and other factors - but left gender identity and sexual orientation unprotected.

The law passed in a March special session also excludes sexual orientation and gender identity from antidiscrimination

protections related to the workplace, hotels and restaurants; and overrules local antidiscrimination ordinances. Republican leaders have said the law was passed in response to a Charlotte ordinance that would have allowed transgender people to use restrooms consistent with their gender identity.

The fate of the law is likely to be decided in federal courts where dueling lawsuits are being heard, though those results are likely to come after the NBA has to make its decision on the All-Star Game. Elsewhere, other states have filed lawsuits challenging federal guidelines on transgender bathroom access in schools.

A day before North Carolina's legisla-

ture passed the minor change related to workplace lawsuits, the NBA issued a joint statement with the Charlotte Hornets saying that it had discussed the issue "with numerous groups at the city and state levels," but it doubted proposed changes would go far enough.

Charlotte officials have said they expected the event to have an economic impact of around \$100 million, based on data from recent All-Star games in the comparable New Orleans and Orlando markets. The game could rival the \$164 million economic impact of the 2012 Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, the largest financial bump of any event for the city. — AP

## BALL TO MAKE ENGLAND DEBUT AGAINST PAKISTAN

**LONDON:** Jake Ball is set to make his England debut against Pakistan at Lord's today after captain Alastair Cook confirmed his place in the side a day before the start of the first Test.

Ball was in the squad for all three Tests without playing during England's preceding 2-0 series win (with one draw). But Ball has now been included after James Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, was ruled out of the first of this four-Test series with a shoulder injury.

"Jake will make his debut," Cook told reporters at Lord's yesterday. "Unfortunately Jimmy has missed out but it's a great opportunity for Jake," the opening batsman added.

The 25-year-old Ball has edged out fellow uncapped seamer Toby Roland-Jones, who was hoping to make his Test debut on his Middlesex home ground, from an original 12-man squad.

Ball came into England contention after a breakthrough 2015 season which saw him take 67 wickets across all formats for Nottinghamshire. He followed that up with a dramatic start to the current English campaign, which has so far seen Ball take 37 first-class wickets at an average of just 22.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how he goes, he's had a great year with Notts and looks a fine bowler," said Cook. "He's got wicket-taking balls in him, the ability to get good players out on flat wickets, and he puts the ball in good areas with good pace."

Cook added that Ball would open the attack alongside his Nottinghamshire team-mate Stuart Broad. Anderson suffered a stress fracture to his right shoulder blade during the Sri Lanka series. The 33-year-old bowled in the nets as did all-rounder Ben Stokes who is also nearing a return to full

fitness after playing for Durham as a batsman only after recent knee surgery.

But with the second Test starting at Lancashire swing specialist Anderson's Old Trafford home ground a week on Friday, the selectors were wary of taking a chance on him at Lord's.

"He's not (bowling) quite at full pace, and I think the risk of going into five-day Test match with that injury, an injury that not too many people have had, just had a bit of a doubt about it," said Cook.

"I think the selectors decided that there are three other games, and he should be fit for Old Trafford. They were concerned that if he did have one of those stints at Lord's, on a flat wicket, he could be bowling 30-odd overs and we are not quite sure how his shoulder will stand up to that."

The build-up to this match has been dominated by the expected return to Test cricket of Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir on the ground where six years ago he took part in an infamous spot-fixing scandal by deliberately bowling no-balls.

Amir, now 24, received a five-year ban from cricket for his part in the affair but Cook once more insisted he had no qualms about playing against the left-arm quick.

"I've said all along I don't think match fixers should be allowed to play but at the time he was given his punishment, he's served it so he's entitled to come back. He's served his time," said Cook.

"It's the big story about this Test match, but I thought the way both sides played in the UAE (in 2015) that the spirit between us was different to in the past, and I hope we can carry that on and talk about the cricket."

England: Alastair Cook (capt), Alex Hales, Joe Root, James Vince, Gary Ballance, Jonny Bairstow (wkt), Moeen Ali, Chris Woakes, Stuart Broad, Steven Finn, Jake Ball. — AFP



**LONDON:** Pakistan's Mohammad Amir (C) gestures during a training session at Lord's cricket ground in London yesterday. England play Pakistan in the first Test match starting today. Pakistan's Mohammad Amir will hope to put the 2010 spot-fixing scandal behind him once and for all when he returns to the scene of the crime in today's first Test against England at Lord's. — AFP

## PAKISTAN UNITES BEHIND AMIR AHEAD OF LORD'S RETURN

**KARACHI:** When Pakistan's convicted spot-fixer Mohammad Amir takes to the field at Lord's yesterday, the bowler can expect overwhelming support from his homeland as he faces a potentially prickly reception from the English crowd.

The 24-year-old appears almost certain to make his return to Test cricket at the home of cricket where he and two teammates were found guilty of arranging no-balls to order as part of an elaborate betting scam devised by a tabloid journalist six years ago.

The trio served jail sentences over the affair in what was perhaps the biggest scandal to hit the sport. England's captain Alastair Cook has already stated Amir can expect "a reaction" from English spectators while former English cricketers Kevin Pietersen and spinner Graeme Swann have joined the ranks of those calling for a life ban for all fixers.

Back home in Pakistan, however, ex-players and most fans have come around to forgiving the left-arm pacer, citing his youth at the time of his crime and early admission though some still have reservations about what example his return sets to would-be fixers.

Legendary bowler Wasim Akram, who led the country to their last Test series win in England in 1996, said he believes Amir can weather the hostility. "People want Amir to do well so there will be enormous pressure on him but I am confident that he will come out a winner," he told AFP.

Muhammad Asif, one of Amir's co-conspirators who is now playing club cricket in Norway, also pleaded for understanding. "I request to England players and fans to allow Amir to play freely. He and two of us others committed a mistake, were punished and now our bans are over so let us play," he said. Despite initial resistance from certain players, Amir's current teammates have united behind him while fans almost unanimously back their hero.

### ROAD TO REDEMPTION?

"What happened with Amir is now past," said Shariq Mahmood from Karachi, a die-hard fan who travelled to India to watch the World

Twenty20 in March this year.

"The way he (Amir) is bowling I think he will bamboozle England batsmen with his swing," he added, referring to the youngster's slew of wickets against Sussex in a warm-up match where his fast pace and late movement won wickets and praise. Zaair Hussain, a project manager at a game studio in Lahore, added: "The return of Amir has been something I've been eagerly awaiting the redemption at the end of this long tragic arc. 'A young man stupidly threw away one of the most promising careers of his generation over a pittance. From the first day, he said he would work to make himself worthy again. After five long years, his punishment served, he is back and a live wire on the pitch.'"

A few, however, expressed ambivalence because of Amir's perceived lack of humility since his return and the troubling signal his comeback sends in a country that has been tainted by the spectre of match-fixing since the 1990s. Pakistan start the tour firm underdogs,

though are considered to have their best chance of victory in the four-match Test series where much will rest on the ability of Amir and leg-spinner Yasir Shah.

"Watching him bowl in Tests, especially in England was a thing of joy so I can't not look forward to that," said Sana Kazmi, an education consultant in Karachi. "But also, personally, as a fan, I just needed him to say 'Sorry I screwed up' unconditionally and he never did that. 'I'm sorry I got misled' is not quite the same thing for me."

The differing approach by the Pakistan Cricket Board to Asif and Amir's former captain Salman Butt, both of whom remain out of national contention despite having also served their bans has also irked some.

"He's a phenomenal talent, phenomenal," said marketing professional Anthony Permal from Karachi. "So we're teaching our children that if you're really good at what you do, we will forget your sins. But, if you're mediocre, get ready to be thrown under the bus." — AFP



**LONDON:** England's captain Alastair Cook takes part in a practice session at Lord's cricket ground in London yesterday. — AFP

## TENDULKAR CALLS FOR MORE HELP FROM PITCHES FOR BOWLERS

**LONDON:** Cricket pitches need to be more bowler-friendly if the rising imbalance between bat and ball is to be addressed, Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar has said.

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) world cricket committee on Tuesday recommended limitations on the thickness and depth of bats amid concerns that the sport has tilted heavily in favour of the batsmen in recent years.

A report commissioned by the MCC, the guardian of the game's laws, in 2014 found the thickness of bats had marginally increased in the last century and that edges had broadened by 300 percent, meaning even mistimed shots could still find the boundary.

Tendulkar, who quit international cricket in 2013 as the game's most prolific batsman both in tests and the 50-over format, demanded more assistance for the bowlers from the playing surface.

"The wickets need to change; they need to be more helpful for bowlers," Tendulkar said. "In T20s, the greatest of bowlers are being reverse-swept. Three-hundred is no longer competitive in ODIs. 'So there should be at least one format where bowlers have a better chance of executing their skills and making it more interesting for spectators. 'I don't think it's got much to do with bats, but I'm sure people on the (relevant) panel will be able to look into it."

Tendulkar's views echoed the sentiments of Australian opener David Warner who said last week that flat pitches rather than bats with thicker edges are the reason batsmen have the upper hand in test cricket. Tendulkar was part of the panel that recommended Anil Kumble for the India coach's job and he expects the team to benefit from the vast experience of the former leg-spinner.

"A fabulous player, a hard competitor and will not make any compromises on the field," Tendulkar told ESPNcricinfo. "He will be out there to win each and every moment."

"He played for almost 20 years, so there is plenty to share. I'll just tell the players to grasp as much information from Anil as possible." Kumble, who came out to bowl with a bandaged jaw in a 2002 Antigua test, can also teach the players how to handle adversity, said Tendulkar. "There are always big, crunch moments in any match and how to approach those moments is important," Tendulkar said.

"In sport, over a period of time what you learn is not every day you are successful, sometimes you have to face failures. 'It is all about being a tough character and be able to stand back on your feet again and to compete the next day. Every day is a fresh day, new beginning. That is something I feel Anil will teach them." — Reuters

## ROOT DISMISSES WAHAB 'TRASH TALK'

**LONDON:** England batting mainstay Joe Root has dismissed "trash talk" by Pakistan pacer Wahab Riaz who claimed he has got the batsman's number going into the first test at Lord's starting today.

Root will return to the crucial number three position in the batting line-up against Pakistan and Wahab has already turned the heat on him, claiming the visitors have plans ready for the 25-year-old. "I heard about that. It's the same before every series, you generally get a bit of trash talk," Root told reporters.

"It's getting a bit like boxing now. He is a fantastic bowler. Good pace, gets the ball to reverse swing, so it will be interesting to see how that goes throughout the series."

Root has excelled at number four and five and the right-hander is now keen to justify his promotion to top three. "I've matured quite a lot as a player and my game has developed a lot," he said. "It will be interesting to see how it goes." Wahab reiterated Pakistan's plans to unsettle Root in Tuesday's news conference.

"You want me to tell you the plans? Every batsman has a strong point and a weak point and obviously you have to work hard on that and practise hard on that," said the 31-year-old left-arm pacer.

"Joe Root is the backbone of the England team and getting him out early will put the pressure on England. If he thinks it is just trash talk then hats off to him." — Reuters



**SAINT KITTS:** Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli (C) and his teammates warm up during a practice session at the Warner Park stadium in Bassetterre, Saint Kitts, yesterday. — AFP



## CHINA'S RICHEST MAN TO BACK 'FOOTBALL COMPETITION IN ASIA'

**BEIJING:** China, backed by its richest man, has struck a deal with FIFA to host the first China Cup from next year, a competition that will pit its national side against three international "first-class" teams - and hopefully pave the way to soccer glory.

Chinese property tycoon Wang Jianlin, whose Dalian Wanda conglomerate is already a high-level FIFA sponsor, said on Wednesday that his group and the Chinese Football Association would host the contest in the southern city of

Nanning: four games played over a week every January. European clubs often have a break around that time, potentially allowing national sides to pit their best - as China hopes. Eventually, it wants a total of eight teams to play.

"We aim to become the best football competition in Asia," Wang told reporters in Beijing. "We will use all possible measures to ensure we achieve this."

China would qualify automatically for a contest that does allow them to earn points

for global rankings - an opportunity for a country that wants to climb the FIFA table where it is currently languishing at 81, below Equatorial Guinea and Haiti.

China is preparing to compete for a spot in the 2018 World Cup. Soccer in China has been plagued by poor performances on the field and match-fixing scandals. But President Xi Jinping, a self-professed avid soccer fan, has spoken in the past of "three wishes" for China: to qualify for another World Cup since their first and only appear-

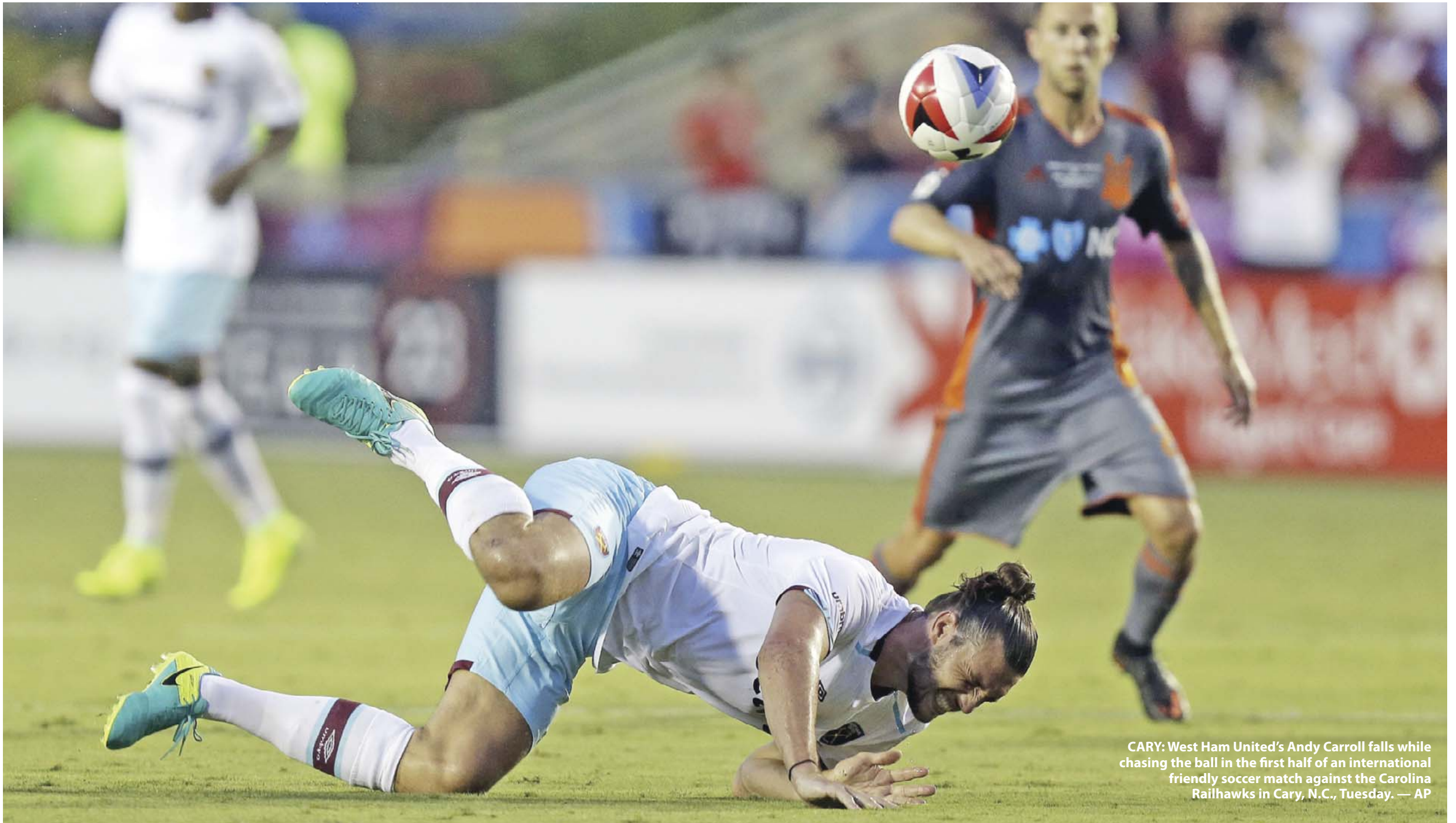
ance at the 2002 finals, to host a World Cup, and to eventually win one.

China has since said it wants to turn its team into one of the world's best by 2050. "We are duty-bound as people in the soccer industry, as members of the Chinese Football Association, to vigorously develop Chinese football," said Yu Hongchen, vice president of the Chinese Football Association.

"This is our responsibility and it is also the demand of the times." Dalian Wanda has

been at the forefront of China's push into the business of sport, building up a sports arm which already owns a 20 percent stake in Spanish soccer club Atletico Madrid.

Over the last 18 months, Wanda has sealed a series of high-profile sports investments to build up its sports business arm, from the purchase of the organiser of Ironman Triathlon races, World Triathlon Corp to the purchase of Swiss-based sports marketing firm Infront, in a \$1.2 billion deal last year. — Reuters



**CARY:** West Ham United's Andy Carroll falls while chasing the ball in the first half of an international friendly soccer match against the Carolina Railhawks in Cary, N.C., Tuesday. — AP

## CELTIC CRASH TO GIBRALTAR PART-TIMERS LINCOLN

### ALLARDYCE TAPPED UP FOR ENGLAND JOB

**LONDON:** Sam Allardyce looks to be in pole position to become the next England manager after his club Sunderland revealed yesterday they granted at his request permission to speak to the Football Association.

The 61-year-old Englishman, who was interviewed for the England job 10 years ago but lost out to Steve McClaren, spoke with the three-man FA panel on Tuesday about succeeding Roy Hodgson, who resigned after England were beaten by Iceland in the Euro 2016 last-16 clash.



**Sam Allardyce**

Sunderland, who Allardyce saved from relegation last term, made clear they wished the situation to be resolved as quickly as possible so they can prepare for another tough campaign in the Premier League. "The Football Association contacted Sunderland AFC to seek permission to speak with our manager as part of what was supposed to be a confidential discussion process with potential candidates for the position of England manager," read a statement from Sunderland.

"At Sam Allardyce's request, we agreed to

talk. "Sam is very much key to our plans. After what was an extremely challenging season, we are keen to see a period of stability, both on and off the field, and we want him to remain as manager of our football club."

"The ongoing speculation over Sam's position is extremely damaging to Sunderland AFC, particularly at this crucial time of the season and we urge the FA to respect the disruption that this process is causing and bring about a swift resolution to the matter." Meanwhile, Mamadou Sakho's tale of woe continues apace with the revelation by Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp the French international defender is set to miss the beginning of the Premier League campaign.

The 26-year-old who missed the Europa League final and Euro 2016 over a failed drugs test which he learnt last week UEFA would not be pursuing him over — is suffering from a niggling Achilles problem.

"Mama had a little issue with his Achilles when he was playing, one day on, one off, this kind of thing," Klopp said.

"When he had his little 'break' he used the time to have a little bit of treatment and that now means another three or four weeks before he can train again."

"There was no surgery, he is just not about to train at the moment. He has got some rehab of course and it's not too good a situation for him, for us, everybody."

"It's not important what I could say because everyone thinks the same. He's here, he's not available at the moment but he is doing rehab. We will see how he reacts to that and then when he can play again." Sakho's likely absence from the beginning of the season next month leaves Klopp short of central defenders. — AFP

**PARIS:** Scottish giants Celtic crashed to a 1-0 Champions League defeat to Lincoln Red Imps on Tuesday with the goal scored by Lee Casciaro, a policeman in his day job. Manager Brendan Rodgers' first competitive match in charge was a humiliating affair, with 34-year-old Casciaro inflicting the hammer blow in the 48th minute.

"Surreal, it's what people dream about, beating a big club like Celtic, we've done it here," the match winner told Sky Sports. "Getting the winning goal is something that will be with me for the rest of my life," he added.

"Historic result for our club tonight. A brave performance by our lads has delivered a dream result. Well done to all!" Lincoln tweeted. This was one of 1967 European champions' Celtic's worst ever defeats in the competition, and it left the Hoops counting on turning the second qualifying tie around in the return leg at Parkhead next week.

For Rodgers it was the worst possible start to his Celtic career, the former Liverpool boss having replaced Ronny Deila in May. Celtic turned up in Gibraltar for their first competitive fixture of the season as overwhelming favourites against their

semi-professional opponents who also included a taxi driver, a fireman in their line-up. "It's (football) like a hobby for us," Casciaro said. Named in honour of English lower-league club Lincoln City, Gibraltar's Red Imps have dominated the domestic game in recent times, much like Celtic, winning the last 14 league championships. Casciaro, who works for the Gibraltar Defence Police, author of the decisive goal in Lincoln's 2-1 win over Andorran outfit Santa Coloma in the first qualifying round last week. Celtic struggled in the heat and then got caught out by Casciaro, scorer of Gibraltar's first international goal against Scotland at Hampden in 2015, who scored from 12 yards.

The visitor's Leigh Griffiths hit the woodwork twice and French striker Moussa Dembele, making his competitive debut on his 20th birthday, had a goal disallowed after the half hour mark.

Celtic, aiming to return to the Champions League group stages for the first time since 2013/2014, had arrived at the Victoria Stadium nestling at the foot of the peninsula's famous rock unbeaten in their four warm-up matches. But despite sustained late pressure Lincoln held out for

a famous victory in front of a crowd of around 2,000. Rodgers tried to inject a sense of realism to the topsy turvy outcome.

"There is no embarrassment," he said. "It was a tough game in tough conditions. We didn't take our chances, they took their chance. "We have seen enough to see that we can get through in the second leg. Of course you are disappointed to lose. "The result here complicates it a bit for us. We move on to next week." Celtic, who have lost in the final play-off round for the past two seasons, will still fancy rescuing the tie on home soil. But Casciaro for one is not ruling out another upset in Glasgow. "We know it's going to be completely different at Celtic Park, with 50-60,000 people, but hopefully we can make an upset over there." "What just happened? We came we fought we won! @LincolnRedImps nothing is impossible! Bring on Celtic Park" added his brother, shipping agent Kyle, on Twitter. On his appointment in May Rodgers had listed one of his objectives at Celtic as "making an impact on European football" - Tuesday's result certainly did that, but not in the way he had ever envisaged. — AFP

### EGYPT'S TOP GOALSCORER FACES ASSAULT TRIAL

**CAIRO:** Egypt's all-time top goalscorer Hossam Hassan will go on trial Saturday for allegedly assaulting a government photographer during clashes after a match involving his club, a court official said. Scuffles broke out on Friday between players of Al-Masry-the Port Said team where Hassan is now head coach-and Ghazl el-Mahalla, following their 2-2 draw in a league match.

Hassan, former captain of Egypt's national team, was filmed apparently attacking a photographer who was working for the interior ministry as he was taking pictures of the clashes. The video appears to show Hassan chasing the pho-

tographer across the pitch then punching him in the head, taking his camera and smashing it on the ground next to the pitch.

The photographer filed a complaint. Hassan will face trial on charges of "assaulting and beating an official who was carrying out his duties" and for having damaged his camera, a judicial official and the police said.

His deputy Hassan Mustafa and the administrative director of the club Walid Badr will be tried with him on similar charges. The three men were placed in custody Tuesday by the prosecutor of the Suez Canal city of Ismailiya, east of Cairo,

where the match took place.

Hassan, 49, played for Egypt's two top clubs, Al-Ahly and Zamalek, and was known for his hot temper and frequent fights. Before taking charge of Al-Masry last year, Hassan had a glittering career, scoring 69 goals in 196 appearances for Egypt. On Saturday, the Egyptian Football Association suspended Hassan from taking part in his club's next three matches and fined him 10,000 Egyptian pounds (around 1,000 euros, \$1,100).

The club was also fined 20,000 Egyptian pounds (around 2,000 euros, \$2,200). — AFP

### GIGGS SIGNS UP FOR INDIAN FUTSAL LEAGUE

**NEW DELHI:** Welsh football legend Ryan Giggs will return to the pitch as a player in the inaugural Premier Futsal starting in India this week, the organisers announced yesterday. Brazilian star Ronaldinho and former AC Milan striker Hernan Crespo have also signed up for the event beginning in Chennai on Friday. Giggs, 42, recently left his assistant manager's role at Old Trafford following the arrival of former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho. "History waiting to be written! Ryan Giggs, Ronaldinho and Crespo are now part of the Premier Futsal family!" the organisers tweeted Wednesday. The tournament, which is the latest franchise-based sporting competition in India, will see six teams with five

players each lock horns in the indoor competition.

Each team will be led by a marquee player with Giggs helming Mumbai and England great Paul Scholes, who was signed up last month, leading Bangalore. Giggs enjoyed a remarkable career with Manchester United between 1990 and 2014, netting 168 goals in 963 appearances.

The Futsal has run foul of India's national football body, which runs its own Indian Super League and has advised domestic players to keep away from the event. Futsal organisers insist it is a private league and does not require any authorisation from the All India Football Federation. — AFP

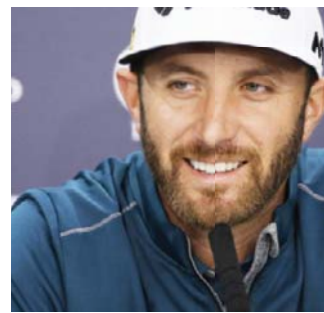


**SANTIAGO:** Brazilian Reinaldo Bastos, member of the executive committee of the Confederation of South American football (Conmebol), displays a paper with the name of Chile's team Universidad Catolica, during the draw of the Copa Sudamericana football tournament, in Santiago, on Tuesday. — AFP



## Sports

Dustin will be tough to beat, says world No 1 Day



Pakistan unites behind Amir ahead of Lord's return



THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016

ALLARDYCE TAPPED UP FOR ENGLAND JOB Page 19



SAN DIEGO: National League's Aledmys Diaz, of the St. Louis Cardinals, is struck out looking by American League's Will Harris, of the Houston Astros, during the eighth inning of the MLB baseball All-Star Game, Tuesday, in San Diego. — AP

## AL RIDES EARLY HOMERS TO 4-2 WIN IN ALL-STAR GAME

SAN DIEGO: Second-inning homers by Kansas City teammates Eric Hosmer and Salvador Perez powered the American League to a 4-2 victory over the National League on Tuesday night in the 87th All-Star Game before 42,386 at Petco Park.

The National League was leading 1-0 thanks to a Kris Bryant homer in the first inning when Hosmer tied it with a one-out homer off National League starter Johnny Cueto. Two batters later, Perez connected for a two-run shot off Cueto. Hosmer, who finished 2-for-3 with two RBIs, was named the Most Valuable Player.

Cleveland right-hander Corey Kluber was the winning pitcher and Baltimore left-hander Zach Britton collected the save. Cueto suffered the loss.

The National League stranded 10 runners and left the bases loaded in the eighth when Houston right-hander Will Harris threw a full-count, called third strike past pinch-hitter Aledmys Diaz of the St. Louis Cardinals. The heavy San Diego influence of the pregame ceremonies carried into the first inning when Bryant, a University of San Diego alum, homered on the first pitch he saw from American League starter Chris Sale in an all-Chicago matchup. The Cubs third baseman drove the ball 410 feet into the left field stands off the White Sox right-hander. But the American League retaliated in the bottom of the second against Cueto, taking a 3-1 lead on two homers by members of the reigning World Series champion Royals. With one out, Hosmer dropped a 389-foot

drive into the left field stands to tie the score at 1.

Boston outfielder Mookie Betts singled and Royals catcher Eddie Perez hit a 373-foot blast into the left field stands peppered the night before by Home Run Derby champion Giancarlo Stanton. Hosmer and Perez were the first set of teammates to homer in the same inning since Steve Garvey and Jimmy Wynn of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1975 All-Star Game. Cole Hamels continued the host city story in the top of the third when the San Diego native struck out Bryant with the tying runs at second and third with two outs. The American League extended its lead to 4-1 in the bottom of the third against Jose Fernandez of the Miami Marlins. Boston designated hitter David Ortiz, who has announced he will retire at the end of the 2016 season, drew a one-out walk and received an ovation from the crowd and hugs from the American League bench when he came out for pinch-runner Edwin Encarnacion of the Blue Jays.

Encarnacion raced to third on a double by Boston's Xander Bogaerts and scored on a single by Hosmer, the second RBI by the Royals first baseman. But Betts grounded into a double play to end the threat.

The National League cut the deficit to 4-2 in the top of the fourth. Giants catcher Buster Posey drew a one-out walk from Toronto right-hander Aaron Sanchez and came around on back-to-back singles by Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo and Marlins center fielder Marcell Osuna. — Reuters

## MANFRED SAYS DATES OF TOKYO OLYMPICS 'NOT IDEAL' FOR MLB

SAN DIEGO: As Major League Baseball prepares for talks about the 2020 Olympics, Commissioner Rob Manfred said "from a calendar prospective, the dates of the Tokyo Games are not ideal."

The International Olympic Committee executive board voted last month to support a six-nation tournament that year in both baseball and women's softball, and the full IOC is to vote in August on the inclusion of the World Baseball Softball Confederation for the Tokyo Games, which are scheduled from July 24-Aug. 9.

Baseball became a medal sport for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics but was dropped for the 2012 London Games and won't be played next month in Rio de Janeiro. MLB is reluctant to stop its season for the Olympics, and players are reticent to play anywhere other than the big league stadiums they are accustomed to.

"We're going to have some meetings with the international baseball and softball federation to fully understand what the program is going to be in Tokyo in terms of how long, how many, before we have any final decision on that issue," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday. "We like the idea of baseball being in the Olympics. We're supportive of baseball being in the Olympics."

The IOC wants the top players to appear in the Olympics, and the Japanese Central and Pacific Leagues appear open to interrupting their seasons for the Tokyo Games. The NBA has sent its players since 1992 and the NHL since 1998 - although the NHL has not yet committed for the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. In 2008, only those not on 25-man big league rosters as of late June were allowed to compete in the Beijing Games. The U.S. team included Jake Arrieta and Stephen Strasburg - both All-Stars this year.

Cuba won gold medals in 1992, 1996 and 2004, the US in 2000 and South Korea in 2008. "Is there an appreciation for the value of having baseball in the Olympics? Yes, there is," union head Tony Clark said Monday. "Is there an appreciation for the season and how or if it could work with our active players? Yeah, there's a conversation, but we run into the same roadblocks we always have." — AP

## PACQUIAO PLANS TO FIGHT AGAIN THIS YEAR: PROMOTER

LOS ANGELES: Filipino boxing star Manny Pacquiao plans to come out of retirement to fight, his promoter said Tuesday, though the boxer said no fight has yet been set.

Bob Arum told American sports broadcaster ESPN that the former welterweight champion plans to fight on either October 29 or November 5 as a main event bout in Las Vegas as long as it doesn't clash with his senate duties in the Philippines. No opponent has been named thus far. "Manny wants to come back," Arum said. "The problem is he can only come back if it doesn't interfere with his senate duties."

Arum had previously planned an October 15 fight in Mandalay Bay Events Center, but scrapped it due to upcoming votes in the senate in Pacquiao's native Philippines.

"The question is building availability because we want to do the fight in Las Vegas," Arum said about the new dates.

Arum said the most difficult part of setting up a fight is working around the boxer's busy political schedule. "He now has given us the

go-ahead to shop for a venue and an opponent and see if we can do it on a particular date or dates," Arum said. "We've been trying to work out a date that doesn't interfere with his senatorial responsibilities and his ability to train."

But in a statement, Pacquiao, who has a record of 58-6-2 with 38 knockouts, denied any firm plans on a fight. "There is no truth to media reports that I'm planning to take a leave from my senate duties just to fight again atop the ring. I want to make it clear-my priority is my legislative works," he said.

"My next fight has not yet been discussed. Should there be any, I'll make sure it will not interfere with my senate duties."

The boxer said all his training would take place in the Philippines so that he can keep participating in senate proceedings. Pacquiao typically spends half his time training in the Philippines and the other half in the US.

"Boxing is my only means of livelihood to support my family and to help those who are in need," he said.

"Politics, to me, is a vocation not a means to eke out a living. I want to maintain that belief. I want to keep my dignity intact while in public service." The 37-year-old Pacquiao last fought in April, when he won a unanimous decision over Timothy Bradley. Pacquiao said at the time that the bout would be his last.

## 'WE ARE DOING THIS PROPERLY'

Pacquiao's advisor Michael Koncz told ESPN that he working with both Arum and Pacquiao on fight plans. "Manny's primary concern and obligation is to fulfill his senatorial duties," Koncz said.

"But he misses (boxing). He misses the training. He misses being in the gym. You can see when he trains it's like a stress reliever for him. So I am working with Bob and Manny is working closely with the senate president to make sure the dates are OK. We are doing this properly." Adrien Broner (32-2, 24 KOs) was being considered as a possible opponent, but Arum said that would not happen because Broner wanted too much money for the fight. — AFP



MANILA: In this April 28, 2016, file photo, boxing star Manny Pacquiao addresses supporters as he campaigns for a seat in the Philippine Senate at San Pablo city, Laguna province south of Manila, Philippines. Pacquiao, who said before his last fight in April that he would retire, now plans to return to the ring in November against an opponent who has yet to be selected. — AP





Merkel, ministers  
to get wage hike

## BREXIT, WHAT BREXIT? SHARES NEAR 2016 HIGHS



RIYADH: Saudi students pass their final exams at a workshop in the Higher Institute for Plastics Fabrication yesterday in Riyadh. — AFP

## SAUDI REFORM DRIVE CONFRONTS JOBS CHALLENGE JOBLESS RATE FOR SAUDI WOMEN ON THE RISE

RIYADH: Their heads bowed, young Saudi men concentrate on exam papers in a workshop filled with industrial machines that will help them earn a living. The students at the Higher Institute for Plastics Fabrication (HIPF) learn to manufacture plastic bags, pipes, bottles and other products, skills they immediately put to work in what the government says is a unique model. Reducing the kingdom's high unemployment rate is a foundation-and major challenge-of the government's wide-ranging Vision 2030 reform plan unveiled in April.

It aims not only to bring more Saudis into the workforce but also to give them vocational skills needed for a diversified private sector. The HIPF and similar institutes are a focus of the effort to transform Saudi Arabia's labor force, ending decades of over-reliance on oil exports to strengthen the Gulf kingdom's industrial base. The National Transformation Program (NTP), which sets five-year targets for implementing the Vision, calls for Saudi unemployment to be cut from 11.6 percent to nine percent by 2020.

More than half of Saudis are under 25 but the International Monetary Fund last year noted "very high and rising" youth unemployment which it said must be tackled urgently. Experts say doing so will be a major challenge, with many Saudis long accustomed to a bloated public sector, a heavily subsidized economy and a lack of incentives to work. It is an attitude reflected in young Saudis like Hadi Al-Harbi, an 18-year-old ex-security guard in Makkah, who never finished middle school but would like to work again-as long as the job "is comfortable and with a good salary". More than 6.5 million foreigners were employed last year in the kingdom, whose Saudi population is about 21 million, according to data cited by Riyadh-based Jadwa Investment.

### Opportunities for women

Expatriates do everything from management to cleaning the streets and waiting on tables, in a society where many locals are reluctant to take jobs they consider menial. Almost twice as many Saudis are employed in the public sector, where hours are shorter and leave longer, than in private firms. By 2020 the government aims to cut its payroll to 40 percent of the budget from 45 percent, while seeking to foster "a culture of high performance" among all workers in the country.

Even in the private sector, some Saudis have jobs only on paper, recruited to help companies win incentives-such as a greater ability to renew visas-or avoid sanctions set up as part of the government's effort to get more nationals employed. Another goal of the NTP

is to expand the workforce's number of women, whose job opportunities were traditionally restricted in a male-dominated, conservative Islamic society.

The jobless rate for Saudi women rose slightly last year to 33.8 percent. The figure was nearly twice as high for women in their 20s, according to Jadwa. "In our culture it was hard for us to go to work or try to find our own way. It was not allowed," says Saleema Shaker al-Malki, 30, a Riyadh mother of three who has never had a job. Completely covered except for her eyes, according to the practice of many Saudi women, she hopes the NTP can help her find suitable work "so that I can escape from the routine life... and achieve my dreams". Improved education is a focus of the Vision 2030 plan, which calls for expanded vocational training and "rigorous standards" in basic learning.

### Transition 'not easy'

A foreign education expert in Saudi Arabia told AFP the reforms will take years. Saudi Arabia's well-equipped training institutes may "talk the talk" but standards still lag, the expert said. The HIPF plastics institute is among the most advanced of about 240 schools run by the government's Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC). Some, like the HIPF, are partnerships between the TVTC and industry firms that run them. The TVTC says the approach is unique because students receive a job as well as training, which is conducted in English. "From Day One of training" the newly arrived students, HIPF is fulfilling Vision 2030's goal of employment, said Khaled al-Ghefaily, the school's executive director.

Each day starts with calisthenics and an inspection of students' uniforms, which helps instill "discipline" and a strong work ethic, Ghefaily says at the school in an industrial district in Riyadh. The course concludes with a job placement before graduates continue to full-time employment. Abdullah Al-Ameri, 23, who will graduate later this year, says that aside from working in the industry many fellow students also hope to open their own plastic businesses. "So they will start their own jobs and give jobs to others," Ameri says.

Established in 2007, the HIPF has graduated more than 1,000 young men, about 70 percent of whom are still employed in the private sector. Ghefaily says he is satisfied "to some extent" with that record, given that Saudi Arabia's plastics sector has for decades relied on low-paid expatriates. To succeed further, he said, the industry must evolve from a focus on consumer goods to more complex "higher value" production, which would broaden job opportunities. "To do the transition is not easy," he says — AFP



RIYADH: Khaled Al-Ghefaily, executive director of the Higher Institute for Plastics Fabrication, speaks to AFP in the Saudi capital Riyadh. — AFP

## 'BREXIT MANAGERS' NEW BREED OF EXECUTIVES

LONDON: Britain's decision to leave the European Union is driving demand for a new breed of corporate executive - high-powered troubleshooters who can help companies draw up and implement plans to cope with Brexit. Companies are typically looking to hire these consultants or managers for three to nine months, and they are often businessmen with international experience who have been on the boards of big firms, several recruiters said.

Executives who also have expertise in the areas of risk and compliance are in particular demand, they added, while some companies are keen on M&A expertise to help them capitalize on any expansion opportunities that might arise from Brexit. London-based recruitment firm Harvey Nash Group said it had seen a doubling of inquiries from companies of 500-plus employees for Brexit "change" managers. Depending on the size of project, this kind of troubleshooter could charge around 1,000 to 2,000 pounds a day (\$1,300-\$2,700), it added.

"Clients (are) saying we want somebody to put in place a plan of action that allows us to either benefit or to manage the challenges that Brexit has put upon us," said Robert Grimsey, marketing director at the firm,

which recruits for sectors including technology and IT outsourcing. "Interim managers are like contractors - but these are executives, very high-powered executives. So, people who used to be on boards of companies that decide to take a job where they work on projects, six months or nine months."

Grimsey said the demand was coming from both British companies and international firms with UK operations but that it was still early days, less than a month after Britons voted to leave the EU in the June 23 referendum. He declined to specify how many inquiries his recruiter had received, adding that many were initial approaches and it often took a hiring company up to six months to set up appointments.

James Callander, managing director at London-based recruitment consultancy Freshminds, also said demand for such consultants was rising as companies sought to understand what the future might hold and put a strategy in place. "We are expecting consulting firms to be quite busy because every single company needs a plan. You need smart people to think about that and obviously have a variety of different implications based on ... how our negotiations go with the EU." — Reuters



# BOEING INKS JET DEALS WITH CHINESE, SPANISH CARRIERS

## MITSUBISHI TAKES AIM AT IRANIAN REGIONAL JET MARKET

**FARNBOROUGH:** US aircraftmaker Boeing yesterday confirmed orders from Air Europa of Spain and Ruili Airlines of China at the Farnborough airshow. Air Europa has purchased 20 single-aisle 737 MAX 8 jets worth \$2.2 billion at list prices, in an order previously attributed to an unnamed buyer. Airlines typically negotiate discounts on high volume aircraft orders. Boeing added that it has also finalised a deal to sell six 787-9 Dreamliners, worth \$1.59 billion at list prices, to Chinese carrier Ruili Airlines. The transaction represents the first widebody order

for the carrier which is based in Yunnan province in China. Ruili Airlines had already announced its intention to order the aircraft in May.

### Iranian jet market

In another development, Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp believes Iran will need around 100-150 regional jets over the next ten years and is aiming to win a chunk of the business for its new Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ), it said at the Farnborough Airshow yesterday. Spokeswoman Miho Takahashi said the company was research-

ing the Iranian market, but not in talks over a specific deal. Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp announced on Monday that Swedish aircraft leasing company Rockton had signed a letter of intent to buy 10 MRJ90 aircraft, with an option for an additional 10, the new plane's first deal in Europe. The MRJ made its maiden test flight in November and represents Japan's long-held ambition to re-establish a commercial aircraft industry. Development snags, however, have delayed its planned entry into operation by around four years. — Agencies

# ZAIN LAUNCHES VOICE OVER LTE (VOLTE) TECHNOLOGY

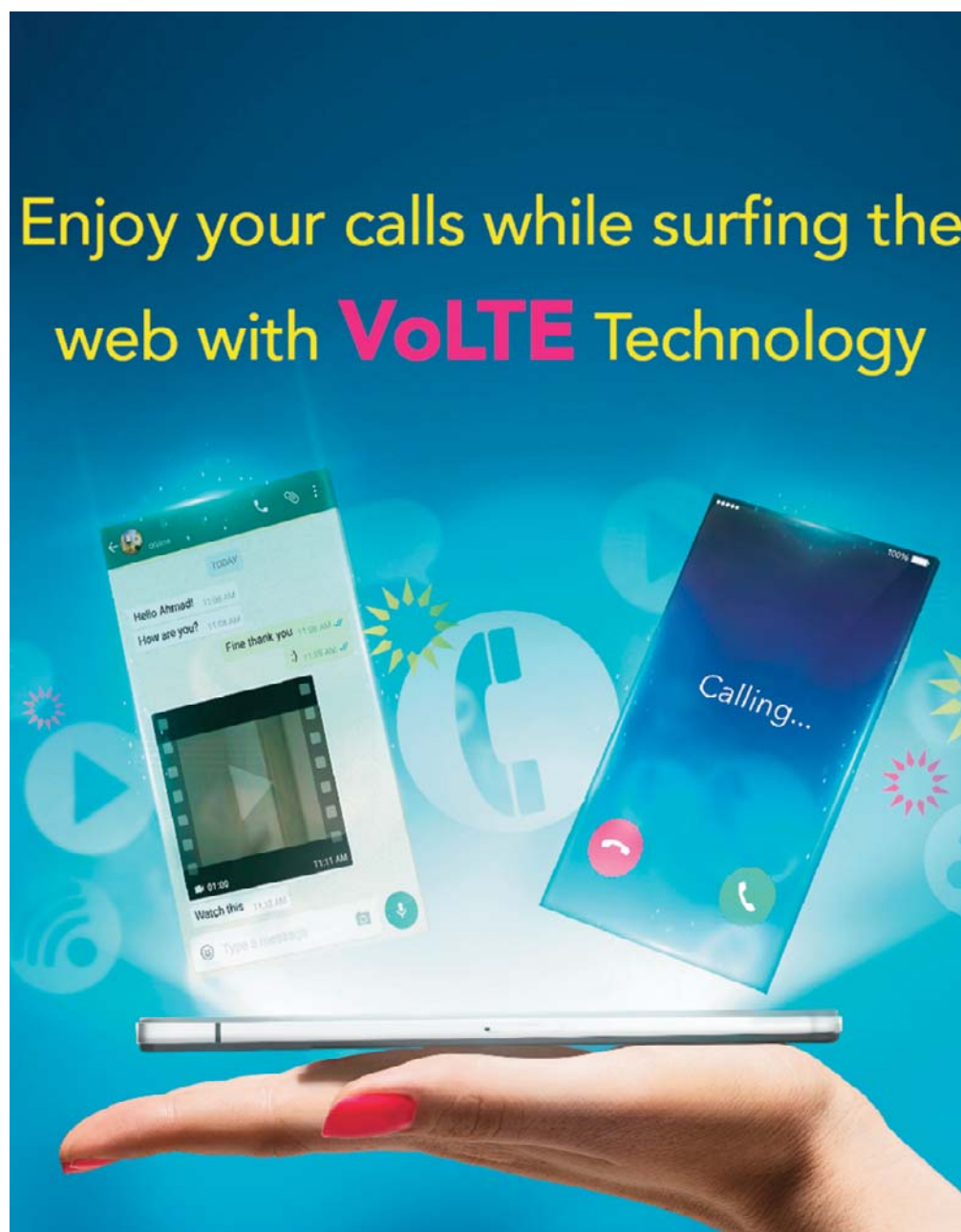
**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, yesterday announced the launch of Voice over LTE (VoLTE) technology in Kuwait on its advanced LTE-A network, offering customers an unprecedented experience with the latest technology in the telecommunications industry. The launch of VoLTE came after Zain had completed extensive research to test the readiness of its network and its operational and technical ability to take on the most updated technologies for unmatched communications services nationwide.

The company, who serves the largest family of subscribers in Kuwait, stated that VoLTE services bring customers a number of significant improvements. The service enhances overall customer experience without interrupting their LTE-A Internet experience. Zain's existing LTE-A network coverage and voice calls on the network will allow customers to feel the difference with the deployment of the newest enhancement. Connection times will be significantly shorter which will come to complement and improve customers' experience.

Customers making connections on the LTE-A network while on a phone call will be able to do so in a smooth manner without having any conflicts in lag time or the existing phone call. The VoLTE advancement technology offers users the chance to perform a clear phone call while surfing the internet in full speed capacity.

VoLTE is currently fully compatible with the following devices: iPhone 6/6s, iPhone 6 Plus/6s Plus, iPhone SE, Galaxy S6, and Galaxy S6 Edge.

It is worth noting that Zain was the first telecommunications company to have launched the 4G LTE service in Kuwait in late 2012, in addition to successfully testing the Middle East's first 4.5G mobile broadband technology on its advanced network, reaching high-speeds of 1 gigabyte per second (1 Gbps). The company will continue designing and introducing latest technological advancements that will further enhance customers' overall experience on its network wherever they may be. Zain embraces two major elements, namely, "Innovations" and "Excellence" so that customers will experience a clearer voice call and a faster internet speed.



Enjoy your calls while surfing the web with VoLTE Technology

# OMAN'S BANK MUSCAT Q2 NET PROFIT EDGES HIGHER

## CONDITIONS STILL TOUGH FOR OMANI BANKS

**DUBAI:** Oman's largest lender Bank Muscat posted a slight increase in second-quarter net profit yesterday, helped by a rise in net interest income and increased recovery of bad debts, sending its shares up and lifting banking sector stocks. The bank made a profit of 46.7 million rials (\$121.3 million) in the three-month period ending June 30, up from 46.5 million rials a year earlier, and just ahead of the average estimates of four analysts polled by Reuters, who forecast a quarterly profit of 43.3 million rials. Bank Muscat did not disclose a quarterly breakdown of its earnings so Reuters calculated the figures based on previous financial

statements. With smaller government reserves than many of its neighbors, Oman has been more vulnerable to the two-year slump in oil prices. Omani banks have suffered in the form of rising cost of funding as the government has been less able to provide liquidity due to reduced oil profits.

During the second quarter, Bank Muscat's expenses rose by 1.2 percent against the same period of last year. However net interest income, profits from lending, rose by 6.6 percent to 62.3 million rials. This helped alleviate a 12.1 percent drop over the same period in non-interest income, including income from fees and com-

mission, to 34.6 million rials, Reuters calculations showed. In another reflection of the challenging economic environment, the bank's provisions edged up by 6.8 percent from the same period last year, although its recoveries of bad debts edged up 10.6 percent to curtail the impact. Bank Muscat's encouraging results sent its shares up as much as 2 percent although they ended yesterday trade 1.1 percent higher. Shares in other Omani banks performed strongly with Bank Dhofar and National Bank of Oman, number two and three by assets, rising 3.9 pct and 1.6 pct respectively. — Reuters

National Bank of Kuwait  
Financial Markets  
Daily Report  
At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Global Stock Indices						
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Dow Jones	18,226.93	18,347.67	120.74	▲	0.66	5.29
NASDAQ	4,988.64	5,022.82	34.18	▲	0.69	0.31
SBP 500	2,137.16	2,152.14	14.98	▲	0.70	5.29
Financial Times	6,680.69	6,695.36	14.67	▲	0.22	7.26
DAX	9,964.07	9,986.33	22.26	▲	0.22	-6.95
CAC 40	4,331.38	4,353.19	21.81	▲	0.50	-6.12
Swiss	8,143.13	8,153.31	10.18	▲	0.13	-7.54
Nikkei 225	16,095.65	16,231.43	135.78	▲	0.84	-14.72
Topix	1,285.73	1,300.26	14.53	▲	1.13	-15.97
Hang Seng	21,224.74	21,322.37	97.63	▲	0.46	-2.70
Straits Times	2,901.82	2,910.65	8.83	▲	0.30	0.97

MENA Stock Indices						
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Kuwait	5,377.75	5,386.10	8.35	▲	0.16	-4.41
Saudi Arabia	6,625.78	6,683.48	57.70	▲	0.87	-4.14
Dubai	3,437.51	3,483.94	46.43	▲	1.35	9.09
Abu Dhabi	4,542.74	4,574.13	31.39	▲	0.69	5.47
Bahrain	1,166.72	1,174.44	7.72	▲	0.66	-4.04
Qatar	10,140.79	10,319.74	178.95	▲	1.76	-2.77
Oman	5,848.89	5,915.46	66.57	▲	1.14	8.19
Lebanon	1,157.15	1,158.87	1.72	▲	0.15	-1.06
Jordan	2,098.41	2,097.80	-0.61	▼	-0.03	-1.77
Egypt	7,457.50	7,566.23	108.73	▲	1.46	6.44
Morocco	9,609.12	9,671.57	62.45	▲	0.65	7.66
Tunisia	5,398.88	5,397.18	-1.70	▼	-0.03	7.07

Global Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2990	3.2933	2.9723	2.4791	3.2432	344.90	4.3196
Saudi Riyal	0.08131		0.2678	0.2417	0.2016	0.2637	28.04	0.3512
US Dollar	0.30365	3.7346		0.9025	0.7528	0.9848	104.73	1.3116
Euro	0.33644	4.1379	1.1080		0.8343	1.0913	116.06	1.4534
Sterling Pound	0.40337	4.9610	1.3284	1.1986		1.3086	139.15	1.7426
Swiss Franc	0.30834	3.7922	1.0154	0.9163	0.7642		106.37	1.3319
Japanese Yen	0.00290	0.0357	0.0095	0.0086	0.0072	0.0094		0.0125
Australian Dollar	0.23150	2.8473	0.7624	0.6880	0.5739	0.7508	79.85	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate								
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Emirates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30365	3.7346	0.3744	3.6273	0.3831	3.6576	8.7700
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2933		12.2990	1.2331	11.9457	1.2617	12.0454	28.8819
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08131		0.1003	0.9713	0.1026	0.9794	2.3483
Bahraini Dinar	2.6707	0.81094	9.9738		9.6873	1.0232	9.7682	23.4216
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08371	1.0296	0.1032		0.1056	1.0084	2.4178
Omani Riyal	2.6101	0.79255	9.7476	0.9773	9.4675		9.5466	22.8904
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08302	1.0211	0.1024	0.9917	0.1047		2.3977
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03462	0.4258	0.0427	0.4136	0.0437	0.4171	

Global Interest Rates					
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.43	0.48	0.68	0.98	1.29
Euro	-0.38	-0.36	-0.30	-0.19	-0.07
Sterling Pound	0.43	0.44	0.50	0.59	0.82
Swiss Franc	-0.81	-0.80	-0.76	-0.69	-0.57
Australian Dollar	1.84	1.88	1.78	1.73	1.67
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.87	0.87	1.00	1.08

Global Bond Yields				
Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.67	1.06	1.48	2.20
Europe	-0.68	-0.59	-0.12	0.45
United Kingdom	0.12	0.36	0.77	1.62

Commodities						
Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %	
Kuwait Oil	42.66	42.65	-0.01	▼	-0.02	32.61
Brent	46.08	45.21	-0.87	▼	-1.89	18.42
West Texas	46.87	46.77	-0.10	▼	-0.21	20.78
Gold	1331.25	1337.56	6.31	▲	0.47	20.28
Silver	20.12	20.30	0.18	▲	0.87	31.16

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

## EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>		
Japanese Yen	2,911	
Indian Rupees	4,512	
Pakistani Rupees	2,891	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2,081	
Nepali Rupees	2,826	
Singapore Dollar	225.780	
Hongkong Dollar	39.097	
Bangladesh Taka	3.863	
Philippine Peso	6.419	
Thai Baht	8.626	
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>		
Saudi Riyal	80.843	
Qatari Riyal	83.276	
ani Riyal	787.422	
Bahraini Dinar	805.100	
UAE Dirham	82.539	
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.950	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.513	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217	
Tunisian Dinar	138.230	
Jordanian Dinar	427.750	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.020	
Syrian Lira	2,0160	
Morocco Dirham	31.302	
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>		
US Dollar Transfer	303.000	
Euro	336.940	

Sterling Pound	405.260
Canadian dollar	232.900
Turkish lira	105.210
Swiss Franc	308.240
Australian Dollar	231.800
US Dollar Buying	301.800
<b>GOLD</b>	
20 Gram	270.480
10 Gram	138.160
5 Gram	69.920

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollar	232.445
Sterling Pound	393.145
Euro	335.450
Swiss Frank	298.925
Bahrain Dinar	801.276
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	427.030
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.088
Indian Rupees	4.508
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippines Peso	6.431
Cyprus pound	159.630
Japanese Yen	3.980
Syrian Pound	2.395
Nepalese Rupees	3.805

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.386265	0.411265
Czech Korune	0.004388	0.016388
Danish Krone	0.040985	0.045985
Euro	0.0329530	0.0338530
Norwegian Krone	0.031911	0.037111
Romanian Leu	0.086903	0.086903
Slovakia	0.009032	0.019032
Swedish Krona	0.031439	0.036439
Swiss Franc	0.299612	0.310612
Turkish Lira	0.099882	0.110182
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.221891	0.233891
New Zealand Dollar	0.213403	0.222903
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.226237	0.235237
Georgia Lari	0.136827	0.136827
US Dollars	0.298850	0.303850
US Dollars Mint	0.299350	0.303850
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003391	0.003975
Chinese Yuan	0.044020	0.047520
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036987	0.039737

Indian Rupee	0.004324	0.004734
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002828	0.003008
Kenyan Shilling	0.003116	0.003116
Korean Won	0.000254	
0.0002698		
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072230	0.078230
Nepalese Rupee	0.002857	0.003027
Pakistan Rupee	0.002724	0.003014
Philippine Peso	0.006359	0.006659
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.219638	0.229638
South African Rand	0.015127	0.023627
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001674	0.002254
Taiwan	0.009295	0.009475
Thai Baht	0.008290	0.008840
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.797012	0.805512
Egyptian Pound	0.027099	0.032217
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.423439	0.432439
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019321	0.043321
Nigerian Naira	0.001250	0.001885
Omani Riyal	0.780463	0.786143
Qatar Riyal	0.082402	0.083852
Saudi Riyal	0.079700	0.081000
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.134931	0.142931
Turkish Lira	0.099882	



## NIGERIAN OIL TRADE UNION SUSPENDS STRIKE

**ABUJA:** A Nigerian union representing oil workers has suspended a strike that some feared would lead to fuel shortages and disrupt crude production, one of its leaders said yesterday. The strike by about 10,000 members of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), which includes refinery workers and office staff, began today over issues that include oil sector reforms and pay.

A prolonged drop in global crude prices and a spate of attacks by militants on oil and gas facilities in the southern Niger Delta region briefly pushed oil production to 30-year lows, hitting the economy

hard over the past few months. Last week the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) cautioned people against panic buying. There have been no signs of fuel shortages so far. The strike "has been suspended in the early hours of today, around 04:00 am (0300 GMT)," said Lumumba Okugbawa, PENGASSAN acting general secretary, adding that "some understandings" had been reached.

Talks with government officials, including the oil minister, the labor minister and NNPC's new group managing director, were held on Monday and Tuesday. The agreement to suspend the strike was reached in the early hours of yesterday. "The sus-

pension is not just on paper. People have returned to work," said NNPC spokesman Garba Deen Muhammad. A communique issued after the meeting and seen by Reuters shows that issues discussed included joint venture funding and cash call arrears, which the union said had stalled the creation of new jobs and investment in the sector. Cash calls are the government's financial obligations to joint venture projects between NNPC and international and local oil companies.

The communique stated that "the meeting was satisfied on the new model of the new joint venture arrangement" put in place by the petroleum min-

istry and NNPC as well as the payment structure "to pay off the arrears of the old joint venture cash calls inherited by the new government". Reforms to be carried out once the Petroleum Industry Bill is passed into law were also discussed. The bill to overhaul the industry has been in the works for a decade. It will cover environmental, tax and revenue-sharing rules. The communique also showed that members of the Nigeria Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) took part in the talks and signed up to the agreement, even though NUPENG members had worked during the PENGASSAN strike. — Reuters

## INDIA COAL MINING AMBITION HURTS INDIGENOUS GROUP

**MUMBAI:** India's drive to ramp up coal output to meet growing energy needs has resulted in members of the Adivasi tribe being displaced from their ancestral lands and forced to wait years to be resettled, Amnesty International said yesterday. The global human rights group said the Adivasi had suffered disproportionately from India's push for coal. One in six of the 87,000 Indians who have been displaced over the past 40 years by state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL) is Adivasi, Amnesty said.

Laws to protect vulnerable communities such as indigenous groups are poorly implemented and regularly flouted, it said. "Adivasi communities, who traditionally have strong links to land and forests, have suffered disproportionately from development-induced displacement and environmental destruction in India," Amnesty said in a report. "The domestic Indian legal framework does not fully recognize the rights of indigenous peoples," it said. Coal accounts for more than 60 percent of India's electricity capacity, and the government plans to nearly double annual coal output by 2020, opening a new mine nearly every month.

Many of India's coal reserves are located in the central and eastern states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha where more than a quarter of the country's Adivasi population lives. "Coal is essential for our national security and we have to go where the coal is," said N Das, a chief general manager at Coal India, the country's top coal producer. "We follow all the laws, work closely with the local communities, provide jobs, set up welfare initiatives and take steps to minimize the environmental impact of mining," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

### Serious impacts

Adivasi are among the most marginalized communities. They make up about 8 percent of India's population of 1.2 billion, but about 40 percent of the 60 million people displaced by development projects in past decades, the government estimates. Adivasi are routinely shut out of decisions on the acquisition of their lands for coal mines with many evicted, poorly compensated and made to wait years for resettlement, Amnesty said.

"The violations of their rights to consultation and consent around land acquisition, environmental impacts, indigenous self-governance and the use of traditional lands has led to serious impacts on their lives and livelihoods," it said. Acquisition of land for public-sector coal mining is governed by the Coal Bearing Areas Acquisition and Development Act (1957), a law analysts say is antiquated and falls well short of international human rights law and standards.

A 2014 law on land acquisition for development projects aimed for greater transparency by requiring the consent of affected families, and a social impact assessment study. But the law exempts land acquired for public-sector coal mining. Amnesty said in some cases legal requirements were adhered to but carried out in a way that did not help Adivasi communities. For example, the intent to acquire land for the Kumdanda mine in Chhattisgarh was announced in the official government gazette and in a newspaper, yet more than a third of the residents near the mine were not literate, Amnesty said.

An environmental impact assessment hearing was poorly publicised and monitored by security personnel, it said. "We've lived next to this mine for almost 30 years, and watched our wells go dry, forests disappear and fields become unproductive," Amnesty quoted a villager, Mahesh Mahant, as saying. "What is the point of this environmental public hearing, except to tell us that we're not fit to live here anymore?" Amnesty also highlighted the environmental damage, soil erosion and pollution caused by coal mining in India, which is largely open cast.

Among the 10 cities with the most air pollution, four are in India, according to the World Health Organization, with the use of coal in power generation a leading source of pollution. "We should be looking at ways to increase the efficiency of existing mines, rather than open new mines," Sreedhar Ramamurthi at the non-profit Mines, Minerals & People, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "The very nature of coal mining is so harmful," he said. "We must ensure stringent compliance of laws and resolve the issues of rehabilitation and resettlement to mitigate the damage." — Reuters



**TAIPEI:** A notice notifying customers on the suspension of ATM machines is seen as a security guard keeps watch at a branch of Taiwan's First Commercial Bank in Taipei, after more than \$2 million were stolen from over thirty ATMs in Taiwan. — AFP

## TAIWAN SEEKS 2 RUSSIANS IN \$2 MILLION ATM MALWARE HEIST

### BANKS FREEZE WITHDRAWALS AT ABOUT 1,000 ATMS

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan investigators suspect two Russian nationals hacked into a major domestic bank's ATMs last weekend, using malware to withdraw more than \$2 million from dozens of machines in the country's first recorded case of its kind. Combining cybercrime with daylight robbery after a typhoon battered greater Taipei, the suspects may have used a cellphone to trigger 41 First Bank ATMs to dispense fat wads of bills, investigators said yesterday.

In each case, the still-at-large suspects took the money and left quickly, filmed on close-circuit TV cameras. As Taiwan officials continue to piece together how the crime was committed, the theft shows growing boldness in attacks on ATMs in Asia. In May, a gang stole \$13 million from Japanese ATMs in a three-hour, 14,000 withdrawal spree. Since discovering the theft on Monday, a range of Taiwan's biggest state-run banks have frozen withdrawals from nearly 1,000 ATMs of the kind used in the heist, supplied by Germany's Wincor Nixdorf.

About 4 percent of Taiwan's national ATM network of 27,200 machines is affected, leaving

customers obliged to use other machines. The Ministry of Justice's Investigation Bureau yesterday said two Russian suspects have been identified, but declined to disclose their names. It said it believed the pair left Taiwan early on Monday, and was still investigating whether a possible third one might have been involved.

"So far we think it could have been done remotely, such as via a cellphone, laptop or hacked First Bank staff PC," said Lin Cheng-hsien, a spokesperson for the bureau. First Bank reported \$750 million (\$2.2 million) was stolen from its ATMs in hits that investigators said took place at various times during both daytime and nightfall. Investigators have identified three different malware programs that were used to trigger withdrawals. "After testing the malware, we confirmed hacked ATMs will dispense cash immediately according to the malware," the bureau said in a statement.

The raid on Wincor machines comes as its agreed 1.7 billion euro (\$1.88 billion) acquisition by U.S. peer Diebold moves closer to its expected closure this summer, creating a global leader

in ATMs with a market share of about 35 percent. Wincor said it had been informed about concerted attacks on its ATMs in Taiwan. "Attacks follow a similar pattern, irrespective of their make or brand, and we as well as the banks are aware of them," a Wincor official in Germany told Reuters by email. "The details of the attack are being examined by the police, banks as well as experts from Wincor Nixdorf. To support the local teams we have sent security experts."

Officials of Taiwan's banking regulator, the Banking Bureau, declined to comment on the details of the incident, beyond saying First Bank will have to take the loss. It said, however, First Bank's users will not be affected and it will ask local banks to establish monitoring system of their ATMs over the next month. At least four major state-run financial institutions, including First Bank, Chang Hwa Bank, Taiwan Cooperative Bank and Chunghwa Post Co., suspended cash withdrawals service on their ATMs as a precaution. They didn't say when the service would be restored, nor whether the suspension might affect their financial performance. — Reuters

## CHINA'S EXPORTS, IMPORTS FALL; TRADE OUTLOOK DIM

### EXPORTS DOWN 4.8%; IMPORTS FALL 8.4%

**BEIJING:** China's exports fell more than expected in June as global demand remained stubbornly weak and as Britain's decision to leave the European Union clouds the outlook for one of Beijing's biggest markets. Imports also shrank more than forecast, suggesting the impact of a flurry of measures to stimulate growth in the world's second-largest economy may be fading, after encouraging readings in May.

"The uncertainty of Brexit is likely to weigh on demand for China's exports to the EU, similar to the situation when the European debt crisis in 2011-12 intensified," ANZ economists Raymond Yeung and Louis Lam wrote in a note. "Clearly, China's external outlook will still face tremendous challenges." Exports fell 4.8 percent in June from a year earlier and were down 7.7 percent in the first half of 2016, the General Administration of Customs said yesterday, adding that China's economy faces increasing

downward pressure and the trade situation will be severe this year.

Imports dropped 8.4 percent from a year earlier. That resulted in a trade surplus of \$48.11 billion in June, versus forecasts of \$46.64 billion and May's \$49.98 billion. Economists polled by Reuters had expected June exports to fall 4.1 percent, matching May's decline, and expected imports to fall 5 percent, following May's 0.4 percent dip. The import decline in May was the smallest since late 2014, raising hopes that China's domestic demand was picking up.

However, China's imports of iron ore, crude oil, copper and soybeans all eased in June from the preceding month. "The world economy still faces many uncertainties. For example, Brexit, expectations of an interest rate hike by the Federal Reserve, volatile international financial markets, the geopolitical situation, the threat of terrorism ... these will affect the confidence of consumers and investors globally and

curb international trade," customs spokesman Huang Songping told a news conference.

"We believe China's trade situation remains grim and complex this year. The downward pressure is still relatively big."

June industrial output, investment and retail sales will be released on Friday, along with second-quarter gross domestic product, which is expected to show a slight loss of momentum from earlier in the year.

### Outlook dark

Exports to the United States - China's top export market - fell 10.4 percent in June on-year, while shipments to the European Union - its second biggest market - fell 3.6 percent. Still, China's steel exports were the second-highest on record, pointing to sluggish demand at home but also likely to signal even greater tensions with its major trading partners. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told his Chinese counterparts in Beijing yesterday that overcapacity in the steel sector is a very serious problem.

Fresh weakness in the yuan currency appears to have done little so far to help China's struggling exporters. The yuan fell about 3 percent versus the dollar and nearly 6 percent against a broader basket in the second quarter, though Chinese officials have said repeatedly they will not purposely devalue the currency to boost exports. Analysts at ANZ said currency depreciation impacted the headline growth numbers. Exports in yuan terms rose 1.3 percent.

The data also showed first-half imports from Hong Kong surged 130 percent. Analysts say large jumps in such imports in the past have been a channel for capital outflows through fake invoicing as companies worry about the yuan weakening. But spokesman Huang said that the increase in imports from Hong Kong was mainly driven by gold, noting that imports actually fell 2 percent after stripping out gold imports. "Although gold imports are rising fast, the imported value is not very big. We cannot reach a conclusion on large-scale capital outflows due to surging imports from Hong Kong," said Huang. — Reuters

## MALAYSIA SLASHES INTEREST RATES FIRST TIME IN 7 YEARS

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia yesterday cut interest rates for the first time in seven years in a shock move as the economy struggles with weak exports and an uncertain global outlook. The decision to slash borrowing costs by 25 basis points to 3.00 percent follows similar moves by Singapore and Indonesia and comes as major central banks around the world look to ease monetary policy to kickstart growth.

"Exports are projected to remain weak following more subdued demand from Malaysia's key trading partners," Bank Negara said in a statement. The benchmark rate has been kept steady since July 2014, when it was raised by 0.25 percentage point, but it is the first cut since 2009. "It is a pleasant surprise. The policy cut is in tandem with other regional economies. It would support much needed growth," Kenanga Research econo-

mist Wan Suhaimi Saidi said. Malaysia's economy expanded 4.2 percent in the first quarter, its slowest rate since a 1.1 percent contraction in the third quarter of 2009 during the global financial crisis.

The figure was also the fifth straight quarter of slowing growth, adding to pressure on policymakers as the price of oil - a key export - remains subdued, denting revenues and putting severe pressure on the ringgit. The move comes just over two months into the tenure of new bank governor Muhammad Ibrahim, who replaced Zeti Akhtar Aziz after 16 years at the helm. Zeti was respected for her steady hand during her time in office but was widely seen to be at odds with Prime Minister Najib Razak over allegations he faces linked to state-owned fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). — AFP

## SAUDI CONSORTIUM CLOSES \$1.825 BILLION REFINANCING

**RIYADH:** A consortium of electricity companies led by Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power has completed refinancing of more than \$1.825 billion in debt for its Rabigh 1 power project, ACWA Power said yesterday. The consortium, which includes state-run Saudi Electricity Company (SEC) and Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), runs the 1240 MW fuel oil-fired plant on the western coast of Saudi Arabia. The refinancing consists of a conventional international tranche and two Islamic riyal-denominated parts, it said in a statement.

A dollar-denominated portion worth more than \$300 million was provided by a group of Korean insurance companies, including Samsung Life and Dongbu Insurance/Hyundai Asset Management, as well as banks including Natixis, Credit Agricole and Standard Chartered. Saudi's Alinma Bank and Al Rajhi Bank provided

a riyal-denominated sharia-compliant tranche of 3.2 billion riyals (\$850 million). A separate 2.4 billion riyal loan came from National Commercial Bank, Banque Saudi Fransi, Arab National Bank, Samba Financial Group and Saudi British Bank (SABB).

Reuters reported in December that Rabigh Electricity Company, the special purpose vehicle which controls the project, was in talks with banks to raise a loan worth up to \$2 billion to replace the capital invested to construct the plant. The Rabigh 1 plant cost \$2.5 billion to build and has been in full commercial operation since 2013. It was the first in the kingdom where the contract to build and operate the project was awarded in an open tender process by SEC, which promised to purchase all power produced by the plant for a period of 20 years. — Reuters



**LIANYUNGANG:** Workers in the process of making soft toys at a toy factory in Lianyungang, in eastern China's Jiangsu province. — AFP



# BREXIT, WHAT BREXIT? SHARES NEAR 2016 HIGHS

## EUROPEAN STOCK MARKETS HEAD FOR FIFTH DAY OF GAINS

**LONDON:** Stock markets traded within sight of their highest levels this year yesterday as the prospect of stimulative economic policy across the developed world eased immediate concern over Britain's vote to leave the European Union. The swift moves by the Conservative Party that see Theresa May replacing David Cameron as prime minister yesterday have helped fund a recovery that, aside from sterling itself, has wiped out the negative reaction to the June 23 vote.

Asian markets outside Japan gained another third of a percent to come within a hair's breadth of the year's highs from April, while European shares rose 0.2 percent, on course for their fifth straight day of gains. Traders say that concerns over the economic and political impact of what promise to be torturous exit talks between London and Brussels have not gone away, but they are certainly on the back burner for a moment.

US stock futures showed Wall Street set to build further on record highs hit on Tuesday. Expectations that sterling's fall will help

British companies has London's FTSE index at its highest since last August. "This is a short term relief rally thanks to some certainty around the swift handover to a new PM," said Tobias Davis, Head of Corporate Treasury Sales at Western Union in London. "The path ahead still looks incredibly challenging. Equities are only rallying thanks to negative yields across most of the curve in Swiss, German and Japanese markets. In reality, the economic landscape is deteriorating."

Sterling, whose 14 percent fall made it

one of the main victims of last month's referendum, hit its highest in more than a week at \$1.3340. But for every blip higher for the pound at the moment there are more sellers ready to bet it will fall further in the months ahead and it quickly fell back to stand just 0.2 percent stronger on the day at \$1.3280. The yen, investors' go-to currency in times of market stress was also up half a percent against the euro and dollar after falling sharply on the back of Japan's move into another round of stimulative policy.

The debate among currency traders around Thursday's Bank of England meeting is also now not whether it will cut interest rates but by how much - some measure of the concern over the economy's fate for the rest of the year. "I'm struck at the enthusiasm of all and sundry to tell us that European and US growth rates will hardly be affected by the UK post-referendum slowdown," Societe Generale's Kit Juckes said in a note to clients. "That flies in the face of the increased correlation of major economies' growth rates in an ever more connected world."

### Stimulus

In commodities, oil prices dropped after industry group American Petroleum Institute (API) reported a surprise build of 2.2 million barrels in US crude stockpiles last week. Brent crude futures fell 1.6 percent to \$47.71 after surging roughly 5 percent on Tuesday on broad improvement in risk sentiment. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered a new round of fiscal stimulus spending, as expected, after an election victory on Sunday. His meeting with former US Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke, a proponent of "helicopter money" policies - printing money and directly handing it to the private sector to stimulate the economy - fuelled speculation that some of the stimulus plan could be funded by Bank of Japan easing.

The European Central Bank is also widely expected to take a dovish stance when it holds its policy review a week later. "After being faced with the prospect of a major slowdown in global activity in the wake of the Brexit vote, governments and central banks worldwide are now expected to do their utmost to reassure markets and provide stimulus," wrote Angus Nicholson, market analyst at IG in Melbourne. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Wednesday 13 July 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price index	▲ 8.35	5,386.10	5,377.75	5,390.21	5,375.40					
Weighted Index	▼ -0.43	348.62	349.05	350.15	347.10					
KSX 15	▼ -1.11	797.46	798.57	802.64	791.51					
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
MARIN	95	95	500	48	1	95	▲ 0.0			
IKARUS	40.0	40.0	8,754	350	1	40.0	▼ -0.5			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▲ 0.0			
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	▲ 0.0			
ENERGYH	47.0	46.0	84,500	3,948	6	47.0	▲ 0.0			
GPI	41.0	40.0	208,972	8,473	14	41.0	▲ 0.5			
ABAR	93	93	3,500	326	1	93	▼ -7.0			
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>306,226</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>779.74</b>	<b>▼ -3.17</b>			
KFOUC	172	168	26,931	4,525	6	168	▼ -2.0			
BPCO	510	495	1,515	772	2	495	▼ -15.0			
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0			
ALQURAIN	200	188	105,543	20,441	23	196	▲ 6.0			
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>133,989</b>	<b>25,738</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>964.51</b>	<b>▼ -0.82</b>			
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0			
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0			
CABLE	380	375	3,065	1,152	4	380	▲ 10.0			
SHIP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	▲ 0.0			
PCEM	960	960	22,880	21,965	3	960	▲ 0.0			
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0			
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	▲ 0.0			
ACICO	290	290	100	29	1	290	▲ 0.0			
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0			
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	▲ 0.0			
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	240	▲ 0.0			
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	▲ 0.0			
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0			
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.0			
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0			
SALBOOKH	68	68	22,300	1,516	3	68	▼ -1.0			
AGLTY	475	470	62,290	29,516	8	470	▲ 0.0			
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0			
CLEANING	40.0	39.5	32,258	1,278	3	40.0	▲ 1.0			
KSL	44.5	44.5	5,197	231	3	44.5	▲ 1.5			
KPCO	174	174	60,000	10,440	2	174	▲ 0.0			
HUMANSOFT	1,440	1,440	5	7	1	1,440	▲ 40.0			
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	▲ 0.0			
SAFWAN	330	330	4,985	1,645	1	330	▲ 15.0			
GFC	32.0	30.0	25,700	800	15	31.0	▼ -1.0			
MAYADEEN	27.0	26.0	1,068,824	28,269	18	26.5	▲ 0.0			
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	▲ 0.0			
MTCC	59	59	247,500	14,603	10	59	▼ -1.0			
UPAC	690	690	3,500	2,415	1	690	▲ 0.0			
ALAFAC	206	200	28,350	5,708	8	206	▲ 4.0			
MUBARRAD	60	58	12,000	698	4	60	▲ 1.0			
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0			
SCEM	80	80	67,500	5,400	2	80	▲ 2.0			
GCEM	75	74	371,060	27,619	9	75	▲ 1.0			
QIC	70	70	1,820	127	1	70	▼ -2.0			
FCEM	75	75	4,000	300	1	75	▲ 0.0			
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0			
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	▲ 0.0			
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>2,043,334</b>	<b>153,719</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1062.33</b>	<b>▲ 6.46</b>			
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▲ 0.0			
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0			
PAPCO	100	100	2,750	275	2	100	▼ -4.0			
CATTL	200	200	74,600	14,920	4	200	▲ 2.0			
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	▲ 0.0			
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0			
FOOD	2,500	2,480	472,583	1,172,646	27	2,500	▲ 0.0			
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>549,933</b>	<b>1,187,841</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1173.76</b>	<b>▼ -3.38</b>			
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0			
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0			
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0			
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1013.42</b>	<b>▲ 12.60</b>			
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,680	▲ 0			
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0			
SULTAN	59	57	128,511	7,412	9	57	▼ -3			
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	▲ 0			
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0			
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	▲ 0			
QULAFUEL	110	108	39,070	4,274	15	110	▲ 2			
MUNTAZAHAT	88	88	10,090	888	2	88	▼ -1			
JAZEERA	880	880	52,754	46,424	6	880	▲ 0			
SOOR	114	108	1,588,340	178,739	17	112	▲ 4			
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108	▲ 0			
ALRAI	158	156	50,000	7,810	9	156	▼ -2			
ZIMAH	46.5	43.5	11,598,436	522,965	359	44.0	▼ -1			
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▲ 0			
Mezzan	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,080	▲ 0			
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>13,467,201</b>	<b>768,511</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>991.14</b>	<b>▼ -3.28</b>			
ZAIN	340	335	83,776	28,280	16	335	▼ -5			
OOREDOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,140	▲ 2			
HITSTELEC	40.5	39.5	4,562,532	182,627	60	40.0	▲ 0			
VIVA	930	920	52,757	48,786	49	920	▼ -10			
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>4,699,065</b>	<b>259,693</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>601.94</b>	<b>▼ -4.78</b>			
NBK	570	550	3,999,069	2,239,342	99	560	▲ 0			
GBK	230	230	39,588	9,105	5	230	▲ 2			
CBK	400	400	350	140	1	400	▼ -10			
ABK	310	310	160,891	49,876	10	310	▼ -10			
ALMUTAHED	400	395	22,080	8,722	5	395	▲ 0			
KIB	186	186	100,000	18,600	1	186	▲ 0			
BURG	325	320	167,342	54,374	7	325	▲ 0			
KFIN	460	455	1,221,336	556,178	25	460	▲ 0			
BOUBYAN	380	375	242,712	92,057	25	380	▲ 0			
ATHM	188	188	78,801	14,815	4	188	▼ -2			
IUBHR	35.0	34.0	711,600	24,475	20	34.5	▼ -1			
WARBABANK	170	168	821,374	139,591	90	168	▲ 0			
<b>Banks</b>			<b>7,565,143</b>	<b>3,207,275</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>779.57</b>	<b>▼ -4.61</b>			
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0			
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	▲ 0			
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▲ 0			
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▲ 0			
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0			
FTI	48.0	48.0	2,000	96	1	48.0	▼ -2.0			
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	28.5	▲ 0.0			
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.5	▲ 0.0			
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>2,000</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1013.73</b>	<b>▼ -3.89</b>			
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
SOKOUK	35.5	35.0	349,602	12,301	14	35.0	▲ 0.5			
KRE	52	52	74,736	3,886	5	52	▲ 0.0			
URC	106	106	20,000	2,120	7	106	▲ 8.0			
NRE	89	87	1,868,200	163,669	39	89	▲ 2.0			
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.0			
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	▲ 0.0			
AREEC	138	138	61,000	8,418	5	138	▲ 0.0			
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	43.5	▲ 0.0			
ARABREC	32.0	32.0	319,689	10,230	7	32.0	▲ 0.5			
ERESCO	51	49.5	716,335	35,602	21	50	▲ 0.5			



## HUNGARY'S ANTI-IMMIGRANT PM FACES WORKFORCE SHORTAGE

**BUDAPEST:** A population slump in Hungary is presenting Prime Minister Viktor Orban's anti-immigration government with a headache: How to plug labor supply shortages without turning to foreigners. Hungary, an EU member since 2004, has seen 400,000 people leave the country since 2008, and 850,000 over the past 35 years. In addition, since the 1980s, the ex-communist central European country has had one of the lowest birth rates in Europe, bringing the overall population below the 10-million mark.

As a result, at least a quarter of Hungarian firms are experiencing problems finding workers, said the Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists (MGYOSZ) in a recent study. "The Hungarian economic train can't get out of the station because there are no wheels," said the report. Call centre employee Mark Stern and his teacher wife Rita, about to move to Ireland with their toddler Marci, are among the latest to join the exodus.

"We have friends in Ireland, we speak English and there are lots of opportunities for people there who want to work," Rita, 32 said in Gyomro, a town outside Budapest, as she made her farewells. The conservative Orban, in power since 2010 and a father of five himself, has attempted to redress the dire situation with a raft of measures aimed at getting Hungarians to have more babies or return from abroad. Since June, Hungarians returning have been able to benefit from a welcome-back present of 3,000 euros (\$3,330) as well as help finding work and accommodation.

Only 105 people have taken up the offer since June 2015, however. Couples planning to have three children in the next decade, or those with three kids already, can get 10 million forints (35,700 euros, \$35,480) towards buying a property, and a low-interest



**BUDAPEST:** A mother pushes a baby carriage in Budapest. — AFP

loan of the same amount. More than 12,500 people have signed up for this scheme in the past year, contributing to a rise in real state prices of between 10 and 30 percent, according to economists.

There is more the government can do, said Balazs Kapitany, head of the national demographics office, not

least when it comes to red tape for re-entering the education and health systems. But longer term, he says, it will be difficult for Hungary's population to grow. "The children from Hungary's 1970-75 baby boom will soon be too old to have children, and the succeeding generations are not very numerous," he said.

### Immigration the answer?

The answer, and one turned to by other European countries facing similar, if less acute, challenges may be immigration, Mihaly Varga, Hungary's economy minister, said last week. But, in spite of employer woes, importing workers would be a difficult measure to swallow for a government that has put up billboards telling foreigners not to take Hungarians' jobs. The premier has often argued that immigration cannot compensate for labour shortages, and has been anything but welcoming to foreigners, particularly Muslims, in the last year.

The influx of mostly Muslim refugees and migrants into the EU over the last 12 months poses a security threat and threatens the continent's Christian identity, Orban has said.

Around 400,000 migrants and refugees passed through Hungary in 2015 before the government sealed off the southern borders with razor wire and fences. An EU plan for member countries to take in migrants according to a mandatory quota meanwhile has also been furiously slammed by Budapest which will put the issue to a referendum in October.

The need to reconcile Orban's anti-foreigner stance with Hungary's growing demand for new sources of manpower looks though to have already caused a shift in approach. According to Varga, the ministry is mulling a plan by MGYOSZ that proposes allowing non-EU citizens to live and work in the country.

The scheme could copy countries like Poland, the body said, where around one million people from neighboring Ukraine are employed. Labor shortages in sectors like tourism and construction could be filled by "skilled, culturally integrable guest workers," according to MGYOSZ. — AFP



**ATHENS:** A man walks next to train tracks during a 24-hour strike of the Greek railway company, TRAINOSE, against the government's privatization plan in Athens. — AFP

## ONE YEAR AFTER BAILOUT, GREECE STRUGGLES FOR BRIGHTER FUTURE

**ATHENS:** A year after it fought and lost a tug-of-war with its creditors, Greece remains a country that seems adrift, and many of its citizens view the present as joyless and the future as grim. Summer 2015 saw Greece's youthful left-wing Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras wage an extraordinary battle between the mighty European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Over five months, Tsipras and his firebrand finance minister, Yanis Varoufakis, took Greece and Europe to the brink as they demanded the creditors ease reforms imposed under two previous bailouts agreed since 2010. As the EU, ECB and IMF took a hard line, Greece's financial flows shrank and a bank crisis loomed-but Tsipras, instead of buckling, stunned the world by announcing a referendum on the new deal proposed by creditors. On July 5, 62 percent of voters rejected the package.

But even with the mandate of the Greek people behind him, Tsipras backed down: the risk of seeing Greece thrown out of the euro-zone was too much. Instead, in a dramatic U-turn, he let go of Varoufakis, replaced him with the more moderate Euclid Tsakalotos and just over a week later, signed the third bailout. The deal was worth 86 billion euros over three years and laden with conditions, such as tax hikes and pension reforms, considered by critics to be so tough that social media buzzed with talk of a coup d'etat.

Since then, Greece has soldiered on, weathering popular unrest and the consequences of the 2015 migration crisis, while Tsipras strives to defend his leftwing credentials. The EU has already paid out almost 30 billion euros and talks have begun on easing Greece's debt, which amounts to 182 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). "Greece has reached an important milestone," European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker said last month. Klaus Regling, who heads the EU's rescue fund, the European Stability Mechanism, is less jauntily, complaining that it took nine months instead of the expected

three to complete the first review of the bailout. Others critics say the poker game dealt a hefty blow to confidence, especially in the banking system. Tsipras says he remains true to his principles and has responded to the many defections and criticisms from his party, Syriza, sparked by his U-turn. Last month, he described voters' rejection of the austerity measures as "a sublime act against the euro bigwigs promoting austerity but also against the establishment which wanted to stifle the country." For political scientist Georges Sefertzis, "this way of seeming to negotiate very hard while allowing things to drag on could be his biggest mistake yet."

### 'Deep frustration'

According to the European Commission, Greece's economy is this year set to shrink by 0.3 percent, continuing a slide uninterrupted since 2009 except for 2014. "The government is applying solutions dictated by its ideology," lamented lawmaker Theodore Fortsakis, of the opposition New Democracy (ND) party. Fortsakis takes Tsipras to task for favoring tax hikes over budget cuts to meet the bailout plan's targets for primary budget surpluses (before debt service).

These targets are 0.5 percent of GDP this year, 1.75 percent in 2017 and 3.5 percent in 2018. Fortsakis said he felt "deep frustration towards our European friends who agreed to this phony recovery plan," saying this was perhaps due to their being keen to get rid of the Greek problem before their own elections or, in Britain's case, the Brexit referendum. There are some, including the IMF and Bank of Greece Governor Yannis Stournaras, who reckon on the 3.5 percent target in 2018 is unrealistic.

The government has undertaken to cut the pensions and benefits of civil servants if it fails to reach the targets and to proceed with a controversial round of privatizations. These are dangerous moves, says Sefertzis, which could prompt snap elections as the government would quite like pass the buck to the ND, which currently enjoys a lead of 11.5 points over Syriza in opinion polls. — AFP

## BOE MULLS RATE CUT

**LONDON:** The Bank of England is mulling whether to cut interest rates for the first time in over seven years to curb economic fallout from Britain's vote to exit the EU. The BoE today concludes its first interest-rate meeting since Britain voted on June 23 to exit the European Union and subsequent comments by governor Mark Carney that "some monetary policy easing will likely be required over the summer".

Jonathan Loynes, economist at Capital Economics research group, said "given that the biggest near-term threat to the economy is uncertainty and its adverse effects on confidence, an interest rate cut" could help to re-assure households and markets following the referendum result. While markets are pricing in a cut as early as this week, some analysts believe a drop in the BoE's main lending rate from 0.50 percent to a new record low of 0.25 percent or even zero may not

now occur until August. This they say is owing to Theresa May's quick appointment as prime minister having reduced some of the political uncertainty that has gripped Britain since the shock referendum result.

Whether or not a rate cut occurs today or in August, markets expect that by the end of the British summer the BoE will unveil a fresh means of stimulating the economy, as the government heads into tough negotiations on quitting the EU. Analysts suggest there could for example be some more cash stimulus pumped around the British economy to encourage lending by commercial banks. The central bank's quantitative easing (QE) program, launched alongside record-low interest rates during the global financial crisis, has enabled an additional £375 billion (\$494 billion, 445 billion euros) to move through the economy. — AFP

# MERKEL, MINISTERS TO GET WAGE HIKE

## GERMANY ISSUES 10-YEAR BOND

**BERLIN:** The German government yesterday approved a pay raise for the cabinet for this and next year, bringing Chancellor Angela Merkel's monthly wages to 18,820 euros (\$20,810). Members of the cabinet will enjoy a wage hike of 2.2 percent effective from March 1, 2016, and a second increase of 2.35 percent from February 1, 2017. That would raise the German leader's monthly salary and residence allowance from 17,992 at the moment to 18,820 euros next February.

Merkel would therefore make more than her French counterpart Francois Hollande, who draws an annual wage of 179,000 euros a year or 14,917 euros a month. Yet her salary is dwarfed by those of Germany's best paid executives, who get millions in euros in annual salaries. The cabinet's wage hike this year would also be slightly lower than the 2.4 percent gain agreed under collective bargaining for public sector workers, due to provisions set aside for pensions.

After a decade of enforced wage moderation, German workers have begun receiving more generous pay increases. Unions and employers in Germany's powerful metalworking industry agreed in May a 4.8-percent pay hike that will set the tone for wage negotiations in most other key sectors of Europe's biggest economy.

### 10-year bond

In another development, Germany issued a 10-year bond at a negative interest for the first time yesterday, as fears about Brexit and economic worries cause investors to rush to the safety of German debt. The German central bank or Bundesbank announced that it sold more than 4.0 billion euros (\$4.5 billion) of a new 10-year bond with a yield of minus 0.05 percent. In all, a total 4.783 billion in bids were received for the zero-interest rate bonds. And some 4.038 billion euros were allotted, the Bundesbank said. The 10-year German government bond or "Bund" acts as a benchmark on the debt markets and regarded as one of the safest investments.

It is the first time that investors have accepted negative returns in the first issue of a bond,



**BERLIN:** German Chancellor Angela Merkel takes part in a weekly meeting of the German Cabinet at the Chancellery in Berlin yesterday. — AFP

meaning they will pay for the privilege of owning rock-solid German bonds amid fears about the consequences of the British vote to quit the European union and economic worries. While borrowers traditionally pay interest on the money they are loaned, in the face of heightened political and economic uncertainty, those interest rates have come down to record lows recently as investors flock to safe havens to park their cash.

By accepting negative yields, investors are effectively ditching any hope of a return on their investment in what seems a reasonable price to pay to escape the uncertainties of falling stock markets or volatile commodities and currencies. Interest rates on sovereign debt have been low for some time as central banks snap up government bonds from investors in an effort to boost economic growth through increased liquidity.

The European Central Bank has slashed its key interest rates to zero and launched a massive bond-buying program known as quantitative easing (QE) in a bid to get the euro-zone economy back on its feet and push inflation higher.

Germany is just one of three countries in the euro area and six in the European Union to enjoy a top-notch triple-A rating on its sovereign debt. Germany's own finances have benefitted from its safe-haven status in recent years, because with investors favoring German sovereign debt, borrowing rates in Europe's biggest economy have come down. The government has seen its annual interest payments fall from more than 40 billion euros per year in 2008 to 21 billion euros in 2015. The reduced debt servicing costs enabled Germany to balance its budget in 2014 for the first time since 1969 and a year ahead of target. — Agencies

# EURO-ZONE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FALLS 1.2%

**BRUSSELS:** Euro-zone industrial production fell back 1.2 percent month on month in May, reversing a revised 1.4 percent rise for April, Eurostat data showed yesterday, raising concerns of sluggish growth. Explaining the fall, the European statistics body cited production of energy falling by 4.3 percent, capital goods by 2.3 percent and durable consumer goods by 1.4 percent. A Capital Economics research note suggested that "industry will probably detract from euro-zone GDP growth in the second quarter.

The 1.2 percent fall was weaker than the consensus forecast of a shallower 0.8 percent (month on month) drop. "The general weakness seen in today's release clearly shows that euro-zone industry is struggling to gain traction," Capital Economics added. It cited the feared impact ahead of the UK's vote to leave the European Union and the effect of higher oil prices which could force the European Central Bank to loosen monetary policy still further.

Industrial production rose 0.5 percent year-on-year in the euro-zone and 1.1 percent in the 28-member bloc as a whole. Across the 28-member Union as a whole industrial production fell 1.1 percent in May after a 1.5 percent increase in April, Eurostat said. "After a solid increase in the first quarter of 2016, the industrial output is set for a clear slowdown in the second quarter, confirming our view that GDP growth will decelerate in spring after a strong performance" at the beginning of the year, said Daniele Vernazza, lead UK economist at UniCredit bank.

"To assess the near-term impact of Brexit on

the euro-zone industrial sector we have to wait for the July round of business surveys. Since Brexit is expected to drag down economic activity in the euro-zone mostly via the trade channel, the industrial sector is likely to shift down a gear in the next months," he added.

The largest falls inside the 19-member euro-zone showed Dutch industrial production dropping 7.8 percent in May, by 4.4 percent in Portugal and 4.3 percent in Greece. The Baltic states of Lithuania and Latvia fared better with rises of 3.9 percent and 2.4 percent.

### 'Zero sanctions' urged

Meanwhile, European Commission economy chief Pierre Moscovici yesterday indicated he wants to see euro-zone deficit miscreants Spain and Portugal escape sanctions. The EU on Tuesday threatened both countries with swingeing fines for failing to fix years of high deficits, although Brussels has previously avoided wielding its disciplinary powers for budgetary overshooting.

"I hope we shall be capable of going towards zero sanctions once Spain and Portugal give us good guarantees" that they are trying to bring spending into line, Moscovici told Europe 1 radio. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has 20 days to decide on sanctions after euro-zone finance ministers found Lisbon and Madrid had not taken "effective action" to bring down their deficits.

Both countries, who now must lobby the EU to plead their case, could face fines of up to 0.2 per-

cent of GDP-nearly 2.2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) in Spain's case and 360 million euros for Portugal based on 2015 data under an "excessive deficit procedure."

Both countries have been battling to rein in spending, having been hit hard by the euro-zone debt crisis. The Iberian neighbors have been in the EU's deficit bad books since 2009 owing to recurrent fiscal holes, even though bailed-out Portugal sharply cut its budget deficit from close to 10 percent of GDP in 2010 to 4.4 percent last year. Spain, while avoiding a euro-zone bailout, endured six years of recession and last year reported a deficit of 5.1 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) way off the target of 4.2 percent set for it by the commission and the normal 3.0-percent limit.

Moscovici voiced sympathy for both on an issue also sensitive for France, widely expected to miss a promise to bring its own deficit back under the 3.0 percent limit next year. "I have never been a supporter of austerity. I do not believe the rules were drawn up to punish. I do not think sanctions are the right response," he explained.

Moscovici said he believed the rules were rather "a process to encourage deficit cutting" rather than a "punitive process." On Tuesday, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said "the rules are the rules," albeit ones which should be applied "intelligently" on a case-by-case basis. But Germany is leading more hawkish members of the bloc in forcing the pace on paring down deficits and ramping up pressure on overspenders. — Agencies



**Win cash prizes in Ramadan**  
for every KD1 you pay from your bill via:  
direct debit, VIVA app, VIVA website or call center at 102.

**KD 500** fortnightly

**KD 1000** grand prize

**KD 100** daily

## VIVA NAMES 'WIN BIG IN RAMADAN' WINNERS

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest growing and most developed telecom operator, has announced the fourth week's winners of the campaign "Win Big in Ramadan" that allowed postpaid customers to win valuable cash prizes during the holy month of Ramadan. The winner of the big prize KD 1000 prize is Nadiah Murtada Mostafa Eidan, and the 500 KD prize's winner is Dalal Ayed Awadh. In addition, the names of daily draw's winners with prize KD 100 are: Shaikha Sayaf Mahdi Al-Mutairi, Aslam

Murtada Husen, Fadi Nabeel Mahmoud Abu Salem, Tahseen Maazouz, Mohammad Abd Al-Sabar Tawfeeq, Nouf Adel Abdullah Al-Manei, Mohammad Abdullah Najjar Al-Mutairi, Khalaf Mahmoud Melajji. VIVA gave the customers a wonderful opportunity to win amazing cash prizes this Ramadan - KD 100 daily, KD 500 fortnightly and KD 1000 at the end of the month, once they pay their VIVA bills through Direct Debit, VIVA website, VIVA App or by calling 102 during the holy month.

## US GAS GLUT IS DISAPPEARING

**LONDON:** US natural gas prices have risen by a third since hitting a two-decade low in the first quarter, amid signs supply and demand are rebalancing and excess stocks left over from an unusually warm winter are being worked down. The volume of gas in working storage hit a record 4.01 trillion cubic feet in November 2015 and is still at 3.18 trillion cubic feet, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

Gas stocks are 513 billion cubic feet (19 percent) higher than in the same week in 2015. But the build has shrunk steadily from a record 1.014 trillion cubic feet (69 percent) in March. In response to the earlier slide in prices, the number of rigs drilling for oil and gas across the United States has fallen to the lowest level since World War Two. By the start of June 2016, there were just 82 rigs drilling for gas, down from over 300 in June 2014, according to services company Baker Hughes.

Output from the unusually productive wells drilled into the Marcellus and Utica shale formations underneath Pennsylvania and Ohio has continued to increase. But output from older gas-producing states including Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma has fallen sharply as drilling activity has dried up. For the United States as a whole, there are no longer enough new oil and gas wells being drilled to replace declining gas output from old wells. Gross withdrawals of gas from wells were down by nearly 2 percent in April 2016 compared with the same month in 2015.

At the same time, gas consumption is rising, with deliveries to industrial customers and electric power producers sharply up. Cheap gas has accelerated the structural shift away from coal com-

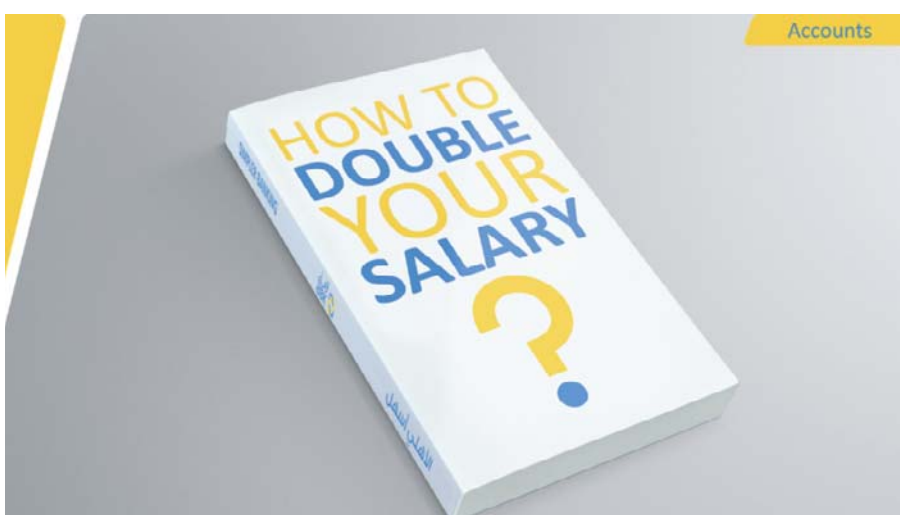
bustion in electricity production while encouraging the expansion of more gas-intensive industrial processes. In the short term, the developing imbalance between production and consumption was masked by an unusually warm winter in 2015/16. Mild weather cut residential and commercial heating demand for gas and left the market carrying unusually high stocks by March 2016.

But the mild weather was at least partially down to the presence of El Nino in the Pacific. As El Nino fades and is replaced by La Nina, the winter of 2016/17 will almost certainly be colder, boosting gas demand. Declining output while consumption is increasing is clearly unsustainable.

As President Richard Nixon's chief economic advisor Herbert Stein wrote: "If something cannot go on forever, it will stop". In the medium term, there will have to be more oil and gas drilling to stabilize gas production and meet growing demand, and that requires higher prices for oil, gas and hydrocarbon liquids.

Futures prices are already anticipating a tighter supply-demand-stocks balance at the end of next winter. Futures prices for gas delivered in March 2017 have risen 31 percent from \$2.50 to \$3.28 per million British thermal units. The rise in oil and gas prices over the last four months has sparked a small increase in the number of rigs drilling, though so far mostly targeting oil-rich rather than gas-rich formations. But moving the market onto a more sustainable supply-demand-stocks trajectory will likely require the rise in oil and gas prices to be sustained and extended to support more drilling activity while curbing consumption growth and exports. — Reuters

## ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS



**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 10th and 11th "Double Your Salary" weekly draws on 4 & 12 July, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this period. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and is running until 30 September, 2016. The winners were: Dalal Ahmad Saeed (Fahaheel Branch); Andrew Charles Denby (Jleeb Al Shoukh Branch); Ali Mesbah AlAjmi (Jahra Branch); Falah Mubarak AlEnezi (Head Office Branch).

New customers who transfer their salary

to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw. The next "Double Your Salary" draw will be held on 19 July 2016, where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names. For more information on Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

# CHEVROLET 'OFFER OF THE YEAR' CONTINUES

CASH PRIZES UP TO 1200 KD

**KUWAIT:** In response to the huge success and massive customer reception it received in the month the Ramadan, Yusuf Ahmad Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet in Kuwait, is proud to continue its strongest offer of the year. This exceptional promotion entails special prices, valuable gifts and amazing benefits on a range of Chevrolet's most popular 2016 models. The celebrated promotion provides everyone a chance to own brand new cars at never-before-seen value, including the challenge-worthy Tahoe that starts at KD13,995. Another car included is the stunning Impala that can now be owned starting at KD8,495 as well as the city-smart Trax, which is available at a starting price of KD4,650.

Alghanim Chevrolet is also offering customers guaranteed cash gifts whereby they draw one or two coupons based on the purchased car model, for a chance to win cash prizes from KD300 to KD 1,200. To go beyond customers' expectations, the KD300 coupons will be offered at the same amount of the KD600 coupons, giving customers a fair chance to win big.

In addition, customers will also enjoy valuable complimentary gifts that include a service contract for three years or every 60,000km, window tinting at KromOzone, the most popular place for quality vehicle accessories and, finally, free third-party insurance and registration. All these free perks and outstanding benefits make purchasing a brand-new car the best decision to make this summer and all year long. Alghanim Chevrolet urges its customer to take advantage of this offer before the end of July by visiting any of its Chevrolet showrooms around the country, in Safat Alghanim Al-Rai, Sharq, Fahaheel, Al-Ahmadj, and Shuwaikh.

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

## Chevrolet's Strongest Offer of the Year

**FREE** guaranteed cash gift up to **KD 1200\***

**+ FREE** service contract for 3 years or 60,000 km

**+ FREE** window tinting from KromOzone

**+ FREE** third-party insurance and registration



## KAMCO REAL ESTATE YIELD FUND ACQUIRES REAL ESTATE IN RIYADH

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, announced KAMCO Real Estate Yield Fund's (KREYF) acquisition of approximately 16,500 sq. meters of commercial real estate in the city of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The company stated that the step towards acquiring the property, which consists of storage space rented by one of the leading retail companies in the region, is a key element in KREYF's core strategy to increase revenue while achieving the best returns for investors in the fund. In a related development, the company announced the Fund's ongoing success in terms of reaching a weighted average occupancy rate of 93% and growing the Fund's size by 195% since inception, which demonstrates the market demand for such income-generating products.

In addition to that, the Fund managed to increase its rate of return since inception to 7.4% and to distribute USD 0.10 as cash dividends per unit for investors by the end of June 2016. On this occasion, Khaled Fouad, Chief Investment Officer at KAMCO said, "The acquisition move was a strategic one in terms of the property's location, which overlooks four roads granting easy access in and out of the area. Aside from



**Khaled Fouad, Chief Investment Officer at KAMCO**

the location, the variety of additional investment advantages the property has to offer will help enhance the Funds' performance as a whole."

"KREYF has achieved a remarkable level of performance across all terms, especially in comparison to the performance of similar funds in the market since the date of inception. The Fund managed to distribute quarterly returns that exceed those of a regular savings account for the sixth consecutive quarter.

An increase in the Fund's volume of assets under management since inception, which represents 195%, is a crucial element in the Fund's performance strategy to provide investors with consistent returns at the lowest possible risk," he added. Khaled Fouad continued to say, "KAMCO is persistent towards providing varied strategic investment products and services of which are low-risk and income generating, to ensure that we progressively deliver higher rates of returns to investors.

KREYF is characterized by its prudent investment strategy, aiming to generate steady cash flows during the investment period, via the distribution of quarterly cash dividends. The fund, which is US Dollar dominated with a minimal subscription of 5,000 units at the subscribed month's NAV per unit, provides the investor with an option to redeem units semi-annually upon the end of a one year lock-in period."

## YEN RECOUPS SOME LOSSES

**TOKYO:** The yen clawed back some of this week's losses in Asian trading yesterday, after it sank to 2-1/2-week lows reached this week as the prospects for more economic stimulus in Japan helped bolster risk sentiment. The dollar slipped 0.5 percent to 104.20 yen. On Tuesday, the greenback scaled a peak of 104.98 yen, its highest level since June 24. For the week, the dollar was still up about 3.6 percent against the yen. The euro fell 0.5 percent to 115.26 yen but was still up about 3.7 percent so far this week. "There has been some profit-taking by people who were yen-short, and that led the yen to rise today," said Ayako Sera, market economist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank in Tokyo.

Part of the yen's recent weakness was also due to some investors' hopes that former U.S. Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke's meetings with Japanese leaders this week would herald the adoption of a "helicopter money" stimulus policy. That term, coined by American economist Milton Friedman, was cited by Bernanke before he became Fed chairman in 2006, when talking about how central banks might finance government budgets as a way to fight deflation.

"Some investors were also hoping that 'helicopter money' was coming to Japan, but the chief cabinet secretary just explicitly said that was not going to happen, and the dollar came off," Sera said. The dollar hit its session low of 103.95 yen shortly after Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference that the Bank of Japan will decide monetary policy steps based on factors such as market movements and the economic environment, and that it was not true that the government was considering "helicopter money."

In addition to short-term profit-taking, rebounding equity markets have led investors to reduce their holdings of safe-haven assets like the yen, which had surged in the aftermath of Britain's shock vote last month to leave the

European Union. But some market participants caution against reading too much into this week's yen moves. While the yen may ease further in the near term, a sustained drop against the dollar seems unlikely, said Daisuke Karakama, chief market economist at Mizuho Bank. "I think these moves are nothing more than position squaring and will prove temporary," Karakama said, referring to the yen's broad retreat this week.

Expectations of more economic stimulus in Japan have contributed to the recovery in risk sentiment. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday told his economy minister to compile an economic stimulus package by the end of this month to revive a flagging economy. Besides fiscal spending, there is also focus on whether

Japan's central bank will expand its monetary stimulus at its policy meeting later this month, especially after Bernanke told Abe that the BOJ has steps left available to support the economy.

Against the dollar, the euro edged slightly up to \$1.1064. Sterling was 0.3 percent higher at \$1.3288, after climbing 1.9 percent on Tuesday. The recently battered pound has enjoyed some relief this week as interior minister Theresa May's likely ascension to the job of British prime minister helped calm investors unnerved by Brexit and political turmoil. For sterling, this week's main economic event is a Bank of England policy meeting on Thursday which markets expect will bring about a cut in interest rates to shield the economy from the immediate shock of the Brexit vote. — Reuters

## SAUDI COMMENTS SHOW 'HIGHER OIL PRICE DESIRE'

**LONDON:** OPEC delegates say comments from top exporter Saudi Arabia, which two years ago led the group to drop its historic role of supporting oil prices, are a change in tone and a sign the kingdom is looking - verbally for now - to prop up the market. Khalid Al-Falih, who took over this year from long-serving Saudi oil minister Ali Al-Naimi, told German newspaper Handelsblatt that an oil price higher than \$50 is needed to achieve a balance in oil markets in the long term.

There is certainly no sign yet of an actual policy shift by Saudi Arabia, or of the kingdom cutting supplies to support prices. Indeed, Riyadh told OPEC it raised its output in June to within a whisker of a record high reached a year ago. But OPEC insiders say Falih's comments,

and a remark he made last month raising the possibility Saudi Arabia may return to its role of balancing oil supply and demand, contrasted with previous statements from Saudi oil officials. "This a change in the Saudi position," an OPEC delegate from a major Middle East producer said of Falih's remarks. "Before, they did not mention a range of prices they were looking for." "They are looking for a higher price, but they want a moderate price."

In May, Saudi oil sources said the kingdom would not return to the old pattern of cutting output any time soon to support prices. Naimi frequently said prices were determined by the market, without giving a preferred range. The optimum oil price, Falih told the paper, lies somewhere in between \$50 and \$100. — Reuters



## POKEMON GO DIGITAL POPULARITY ALSO WARPING REAL LIFE

**LOS ANGELES:** The 'Pokemon Go' craze has sent legions of players hiking around cities and battling with 'pocket monsters' on their smartphones. It marks a turning point for augmented reality, or technology that superimposes a digital facade on the real world.

But the game's popularity has created unintended consequences in everyday life, from annoyed property owners dealing with hordes of monster hunters to store owners using the game to attract customers. Though perhaps that's to be expected from a game that has players visit real-world landmarks such as train stations, churches and museums in order to find and trap cartoon creatures.

Here's a look at some of the bigger questions that have emerged since the game went live last Wednesday:

### Can digital lures lead to real cash?

Some shops are exploring ways to use 'Pokemon Go' to drum up business. An Atlanta cafe owned by digital ad agency Huge turned out to be roughly 30 feet away from two prominent 'Pokestops' - game representations of physical landmarks where players can stock up on digital game gear. So it spent about \$40 in real money to add digital "lures" to the stops, refreshing them every 30 minutes. The lures increase the chance that rare Pokemon with names like 'Starmie' and 'Poliwhag' turn up nearby - drawing players in turn. "Our corner was essentially lit up all day long," says Huge executive creative director Derek Fridman.

In San Francisco, enthusiastic players working for Kawika's Ocean Beach Deli likewise set out lures and branded the store as a "charging station" for drained phones. (The game is notoriously hard on batteries.)

Given that the shop is bracketed by Pokestops on one side and a battle arena on the other, players "have no choice but to walk past us," says owner David Nottage III. "So we put up some signs." The deli plans additional Pokemon-related activities in the future.

### Who's to blame when playing really gets out of hand?

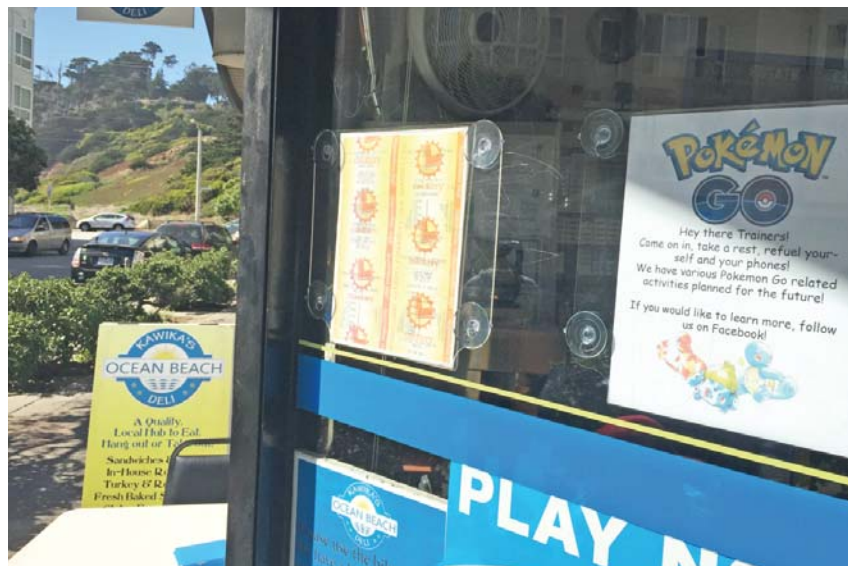
In St Louis, police say robbers perched near attractive digital spots to rob players engrossed in the game.

Another man who lives in a former church says his home - now also a Pokestop - has become a digital magnet for 'Pokemon Go' players, who sometimes block his driveway and passing traffic as they pull over to stare at their phones.

A 21-year old player in Forest Grove, Oregon, even shrugged off a stab wound to continue his gaming. He approached a stranger on the street and asked him if he was playing, too, police say.

The other man then stabbed him. Police say the player described his attacker, refused treatment and continued on his Pokemon hunt.

Phoenix police are telling people not to trespass while playing the game. New York's subway is warning people not to jump onto the tracks to chase digital



**SAN FRANCISCO:** A sign outside of Kawika's Ocean Beach Deli advertises Pokemon Go related activities to passersby in San Francisco, on Monday, July 11, 2016. — AP

'Rattatas.' The National Safety Council implored players not to play and drive.

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC called playing the game inside its walls "extremely inappropriate" and is trying to remove itself from the game. At The Associated Press bureau in Los Angeles, an outdated reference to a statue no longer on the property beckons Pokemon players in from the street.

Todd Richmond, a director at the Institute for Creative Technologies at the University of Southern California, says a big debate is brewing over who controls digi-

tal assets associated with real world property. "This is the problem with technology adoption - we don't have time to slowly dip our toe in the water," he says. "Tenants have had no say, no input, and now they're part of it."

**How big can augmented reality get?**  
Stock in Nintendo, which part owns 'Pokemon Go,' jumped 25 percent on Monday and another 13 percent Tuesday, adding nearly \$8 billion to its market value as investors assessed the breakout game. But Jefferies analyst Atul Goyal says that's

### Does this affect my privacy?

Adam Reeve, principal architect of security firm Red Owl, however, found that 'Pokemon Go' required overly broad permission for those using a Google account as a sign-in. Even setting aside the location data collected by the app, he said, the app is a "huge security risk." He noted the app, in theory, could allow 'Pokemon Go' to read one's Gmail, send email as you and access your Google search history.

Niantic said in a blog post Monday that it never intended to request such sweeping data access, hasn't collected information beyond the user's ID and email address. By Tuesday, signing in on an iPhone with a Google ID showed this pared back authorization. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this June 12, 2009 file photo, people line to enter the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. — AP

## ARLINGTON, HOLOCAUST MUSEUM: STOP CATCHING POKEMON HERE

TWO BOYS INJURED WHEN HIT BY VAN NEAR IOWA CITY

**CAPITALS:** The US Holocaust Memorial Museum and Arlington National Cemetery requested Tuesday that smartphone users refrain from "catching" Pokemon when they visit. Like many other landmarks, the museum and the military cemetery are featured in the popular new 'Pokemon Go' game. Players can stumble upon Pokemon while wandering their grounds. The museum is a Pokestop - a place where players can get free in-game items - and online users say the cemetery also contains Pokestops.

Museum officials are trying to have it removed from the game, Communications Director Andrew Hollinger said in a statement. He said playing the game inside a memorial to victims of Nazism is "extremely inappropriate." At Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, spokesman Stephen Smith said the move was pre-emptive rather than to address a problem they're already seeing.

"Playing games such as 'Pokemon Go' on these hallowed grounds would not be deemed appropriate," cemetery officials said in a statement. He said the cemetery's layout makes it difficult to know whether an individual visitor is playing the game on his phone or using the cemetery's own app to navigate landmarks in a respectful manner. Game developers Niantic Labs did not immediately respond to The Washington Post's question of whether it could stop Pokemon from popping up inside the museum.

## POKEMON-MANIA VINDICATES NINTENDO'S MOBILE GAME SHIFT

**TOKYO:** With Pokemon-mania sweeping the planet, Nintendo's nascent shift into mobile gaming has proved a massive hit, vindicating the Japanese videogame giant's decision to unshackle itself from a long-standing consoles-only policy. Since its release last week, smartphone game Pokemon Go has been winning legions of fans around the world, downloaded millions of times and topping the rankings at official online shops. The game hasn't even been released in Japan yet, but Pokemon franchise creator Nintendo is reaping the rewards as its Tokyo-listed shares skyrocket in response to the app's sizzling debut.

The stock was up nearly 60 percent in just four sessions as of Tuesday. That eye-popping rally has boosted Nintendo's market value by billions of dollars and underscored how investors see the game as crucial to its fledgling migration on to mobile devices.

The free app was adapted to the mobile internet age by US-based Niantic Labs, a company spun out of Google last year. "Investors have big expectations that Pokemon Go will open a new chapter in Nintendo's future growth," said Takashi Oba, a senior strategist at Okasan Securities in Tokyo.

In March, the Kyoto-based creator of Super Mario and Donkey Kong released its first mobile game "Miitomo" - a free-to-play and interactive game that allows users to cre-

### Not allowed

In Poland, the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum says it does not allow people to play 'Pokemon Go' on their smartphones during visits to the former German death camp because it is "disrespectful on many levels."

'Pokemon Go' is a hugely popular new reality game that uses GPS and allows players to search locations in the real world to find virtual little creatures. There have been reports of people playing the game at Auschwitz and other somber memorial sites across the world.

The Auschwitz memorial wrote Tuesday on Twitter: "Do not allow playing #PokemonGO on the site of our Memorial and similar places. It's disrespectful on many levels." The museum could not be reached for comment Wednesday on the matter.

'Pokemon Go' has been officially rolled out in Germany yesterday. The makers of the game, which is partly owned by Nintendo, announced on Twitter that the game was available yesterday in Europe's biggest economy.

The game has sparked a frenzy of players wandering around US cities hunting for "pocket monsters" to fight. Some have criticized the real-world locations to which the game sends players to battle virtual monsters. 'Pokemon Go' developer Niantic apologized last year for making Nazi concentration camps part of its mobile role-playing game 'Ingress.' — AP

ate avatars-as it tries to compete in an industry that has increasingly moved online.

That followed the firm's announcement last year that it was teaming up with Japanese mobile specialist DeNA to develop games for smartphones based on its host of popular characters. "Markets are thinking that since Pokemon Go is a big hit, Nintendo's original smartphone games will also sell," said SMBC Nikko Securities analyst Eiji Maeda.

### Smartphone future

The mobile strategy marked a U-turn for a company that had resisted the move for years, insisting that games for smartphones and tablets risked hollowing out its core business and damaging the value of its games.

But its balance sheet suffered and Nintendo's Wii U console failed to match the popularity of the original, forcing a rethink. "Sales have been slowing, Nintendo was long focused on console games and has not seen a big hit since the Wii series," Oba said.

Nintendo President Satoru Iwata, a leading figure in the videogame industry who died of cancer last year at the age of 55, was a firm backer of the consoles-only view. Iwata had overseen the success of Nintendo's Wii and a surge in revenue before smartphone games started eating away at the company's success. — AFP

## LINKEDIN STUDY REVEALS MENA JOB SEEKERS' TOP PRIORITIES

51 PERCENT 'ACTIVELY SEARCHING' FOR NEW ROLES

**MIDDLE EAST:** LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, has announced findings from its annual 2016 MENA Talent Trends study providing new insights into job seekers' top priorities, and how recruiters can effectively engage potential candidates and compete for the best talent.

The findings ultimately reveal that almost everyone is interested in hearing about new job opportunities, even if they are not actively looking for a change. In fact, a massive 94 percent of professionals in MENA said they are interested in learning about new jobs. Moreover, approximately 51 percent of respondents in the MENA survey said they were "actively searching" for new roles, which is significantly higher than the global average of 36 percent.

"The region's job market is evolving as a result of many external socio-economic factors. In this environment, it is essential for companies to assess their recruiting strategy and ensure it is aligned with the priorities of today's professionals," says Ali Matar, Head of LinkedIn Talent Solutions, Southern Europe, Middle East and North Africa. "Investing in channels for the public to research jobs before they apply and empowering employees to contribute towards recruitment needs are particularly advantageous. Getting specific about your company's culture and values will also meet job seekers' desire to know more about their long-term prospects before jumping into a role."

### Roadblocks in finding jobs

Given the challenging job market globally, the survey investigates the biggest roadblocks that candidates in the region face from companies when finding jobs. Compared to their global counterparts, professionals in MENA don't hear back as frequently after applying to a company (32 percent of respondents in MENA cited this as a challenge), and more find it difficult to negotiate their salary and role with companies compared to the global average (31 percent of respondents in MENA cited this as a challenge).

One possible reason for this disparity is the transparency of information-or lack thereof-between recruiters and job seekers. The survey found that the number one request from candidates to know about prospective companies is to understand the company's culture and values (54 percent cited this as a priority in MENA). This was then followed by a greater understanding of perks and benefits, as well as the corporate mission, company leadership, and the company's actual products and services.

"I would do extensive search about the company from all the available sources. I want to know details about its leaders, employees, business environment, successes and failures," comments Saeed Mubarak, Intelligent Field Team Leader at Saudi Aramco and one of the participants in the survey.



**Ali Matar, Head of LinkedIn Talent Solutions, Southern Europe, Middle East and North Africa**

### Learning about and landing new roles

In an effort to better connect talent and opportunity, the survey also explores how people learn about new jobs and ultimately land their desired role. Compared to their global peers, professionals in MENA are actually more likely to find out about a new job from a corporate recruiter (13 percent) or someone in their personal network (25 percent) rather than reading online articles about the company.

After hearing about these positions, job seekers in MENA tend to not apply right away, with more than half first researching the company in detail and nearly half saying that they update

their resume before applying. The use of technology is also instrumental in landing the final job. Professionals in MENA were found to be more likely to land a new job by applying through social networks like LinkedIn and through company careers websites than their global counterparts.

The annual Talent Trends report from LinkedIn is based on surveys of over 33,000 professionals around the world. The survey includes input from 3,298 LinkedIn members in the MENA region between January and March 2016, of which 35 percent of these were citizens of MENA countries.



## NEW TEST FOR NINTENDO? NORTH KOREA AN OBSTACLE FOR SOUTH KOREAN POKEMON HUNTERS

MAPPING REGULATION TO AFFECT SOUTH KOREA LAUNCH

**SEOUL:** Nintendo's smash hit Pokemon Go is likely to face hurdles in South Korea, where Google mapping functions are restricted due to security issues with North Korea - though some fans are already trekking out to one remote area where it can be played.

South Korea is the world's fourth-biggest gaming market after China, the United States and Japan, according to Amsterdam-based research firm Newzoo, potentially representing a big opportunity loss for Nintendo and game publisher Niantic if it can't be officially rolled out. The augmented reality game where players walk around neighborhoods in real life, searching out Pokemon to catch and train, relies on Google Maps to work. But in most of South Korea those functions have been limited by the government, which is technically still at war with North Korea, for national security reasons.

"Due to government restrictions on maps data, it's impossible for Pokemon Go to work properly using Google Maps service in South

Korea," a person familiar with the matter said, declining to be identified as the person was not authorized to speak on the issue.

Representatives for Niantic were not immediately available to comment. Nintendo and Alphabet's Google declined to comment. Nintendo's first venture into mobile gaming has only been officially launched in the United States, Australia and New Zealand with other countries such as Japan slated to see a launch soon. The craze has sent Nintendo's shares skyrocketing and although they lost some ground on Wednesday as investors took profits. The stock has gained 46 percent, adding nearly \$10 billion to the company's market value since Thursday's close.

Despite the limited rollout so far, users in other countries have sought to get in on the action either by downloading the game file in some way or masking their account so that it appears as if they have either an Australian or US account for example.

Those tactics are believed to be exacerbating logging-in problems. By early Wednesday, about 1,300 Pokemon Go users had reported problems accessing the game in Australia over the last two days, according to website aussie-outages.com.

In South Korea, some impatient fans have rushed to Sokcho, a city close to the border with North Korea - an area where the game can be played as it has not been classified as South Korean territory in Google map data.

"I didn't go to some big tourist attraction; all I did was walk around for tens of kilometers to play a game. But I'm more satisfied with this than any other trip. I would still be in Sokcho had it not been for an urgent issue," one user posted on an internet message board. Indeed, the city of Sokcho has been quick to capitalize on its unusual status, sharing maps on of free wi-fi areas and advertising itself on social media as "the only Pokemon Go holy land on the peninsula." — Reuters



## ILLINOIS MOVES TO SHUT DOWN FAILING HEALTH INSURANCE CO-OP

**CHICAGO:** An Illinois health insurance co-op with 49,000 policyholders in the state has become the latest casualty among a dwindling group of non-profit alternative insurers set up under the Affordable Care Act.

Illinois regulators took steps Tuesday to shut down Land of Lincoln Health, a 3-year-old startup that lost \$90 million in 2015 and more than \$17 million through May 31.

Illinois Department of Insurance officials announced they are seeking a court order allowing the state to take over Land of Lincoln Health and prepare the company for liquidation.

The department's acting director, Anne Melissa Dowling, will work with the federal government to establish a 60-day special enrollment period for Land of Lincoln policyholders to find and purchase new health coverage.

During the transition, policyholders must continue to pay their premiums to maintain their coverage and health care providers must continue to honor their contracts for service to patients, according to a department news release.

Land of Lincoln is a nonprofit co-op, one of 23 established under the Affordable Care Act. Nationwide, more than a dozen of the original co-

ops have closed. Last month, Dowling tried an unusual maneuver to help the company by blocking it from paying a \$31.8 million bill to the federal government. Dowling wrote in a June 30 letter to the federal government that she has ordered Land of Lincoln Health not to pay until it gets what it's owed by the feds - nearly \$73 million - under a separate provision of President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act.

That didn't work, according to the Illinois department's news release, which said the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services would not suspend the company's risk adjustment pro-

gram liability. "It's an unfortunate day for Land of Lincoln members and for competition in the Illinois insurance market," said Land of Lincoln spokesman Dennis O'Sullivan. "It's unfortunate that CMS chose not to work with the state of Illinois as it went above and beyond with a plan to help consumers."

Land of Lincoln was formed under the Affordable Care Act's nonprofit health insurance co-op provision and funded by low-interest federal loans. The co-ops were intended to increase competition among insurance companies and lower prices for consumers. — AP

## LOWER-COST BIOTECH DRUG GETS THUMBS UP FROM FDA PANEL

**WASHINGTON:** The second-biggest selling drug in the world could get some cheaper competition in the US, after a federal panel endorsed an alternative version of the pricey medication used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases.

A panel of Food and Drug Administration advisers voted unanimously in favor of Amgen's version of AbbVie's Humira, a biotech drug that raked in nearly \$15 billion last year, according to IMS Health. While not binding, the recommendation likely paves the way for FDA approval of the knockoff drug.

For years, biotech drugs faced no competition because there was no regulatory way to approve copycat versions, even after patents had expired. If approved, Amgen's drug would join a new wave of so-called biosimilars, which have the potential to generate billions in savings for U.S. insurers, doctors and patients.

But it could take years for those savings to arrive. Evercore ISI analyst Mark Schoenebaum says the earliest Amgen could launch its product would be March 2017, though that would risk infringing patents which AbbVie says protect its drug until at least 2022. Wall Street analysts expect the patent issue to be fought in court, and then for Amgen's drug to launch sometime between 2018 and 2022.

First approved in 2002, Humira has long been among the most profitable drugs in the world. It accounted for 60 percent of AbbVie's total revenue last year. The injectable drug, which blocks chemicals linked to inflammation, is approved for multiple uses, including rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease and psoriasis.

Thousand Oaks, Calif.-based Amgen is seeking FDA approval to market its version, known only as ABP 501, for seven diseases. Amgen is itself a biotech powerhouse, and it too has medications facing competition from cheaper versions. The company is working to hedge those losses by developing lower-cost versions of competitors' drugs.

Biotech drugs are powerful, injected medicines produced in living cells that are typically much more expensive than traditional, chemical-based drugs. In 2015, six of the 10 top-selling medicines globally were biotech drugs, with more than \$56 billion in combined sales.

The FDA only approved the first lower-cost biotech drug last March, a Novartis version of the Amgen drug Neupogen. Pfizer won approval to market a second biosimilar in April, a version of Johnson & Johnson's Remicade, but it is not yet for sale.

Questions remain about just how much savings US biosimilars will deliver. Novartis' Zarxio sells for 15 percent less than the original Neupogen. Experts predict biosimilar discounts of 15 percent to 30 percent in the US.

In Europe, where governments regulate prices, discounts are higher. Development of lower-cost anti-inflammatory drugs like Humira is considered



**HOUSTON:** File photo, shows AbbVie's signature drug Humira, in Houston. Humira, the second-biggest selling drug in the world, could soon get some cheaper competition in the US, after a federal panel, on Tuesday, endorsed an alternative version of the pricey injectable medication used to treat various inflammatory diseases. — AP

pivotal in reducing US spending on specialty drugs, which has doubled to \$150 billion since 2010, according to IMS Health.

Yesterday, the same panel of FDA advisers will review a Novartis version of Enbrel, which is marketed by Amgen. — AP

## OBAMACARE 2.0: OBAMA CALLS FOR REVISITING THE PUBLIC OPTION

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama is laying out a blueprint for addressing unsolved problems with his signature health law, including a renewed call for a "public option" to let Americans buy insurance from the government.

Obama's assessment of the Affordable Care Act comes in an eight-page article in the Journal of the American Medical Association, a peer-reviewed publication. The article debuted Monday on the journal's website, and Obama plans to echo the themes in public events and speeches in the coming weeks.

Replete with academic-style citations, the article is largely a self-congratulatory look at what Obama sees as the accomplishments of his law: millions of Americans who have gained coverage, slower growth in overall health costs and better coordination of care to improve quality. Yet it's also a memo for Democrat Hillary Clinton on how she can build on his legacy if elected president. Obama's latest ideas are likely to be dismissed by Republicans, who remain committed to repealing the health care law. In polls, "Obamacare" continues to divide the public.

Despite progress under his administration, "too many Americans still strain to pay for their physician visits and prescriptions, cover their deductibles or pay their monthly insurance bills," Obama wrote. Others struggle to navigate the "bewildering" health system. Too many still lack insurance coverage, he added. Obama urged lawmakers to "revisit" the public plan, especially in areas of the country where there is little or no competition among private insurers participating in HealthCare.gov and state-run marketplaces created by the law.

Many experts consider that at least three insurers are needed for a competitive market. But many small towns and rural areas have only one option. The problem is growing, as some commercial insurers scale back their participation in the health law's markets, and more than a dozen non-profit insurance co-ops have collapsed.

Kristie Canegallo, White House deputy chief of staff, said Obama will keep making his case for a public option to voters, but he doesn't plan to send the Republican-run Congress new legislation to implement it.

"This Congress is not going to act on a proposal like that," Canegallo said. During hard-fought negotiations in Congress before Obama signed the law in 2010, liberals pushed vehemently for a public option, in which Americans could opt for a

government-run plan similar to Medicare. It was scuttled to secure enough votes from moderate Democrats to pass the bill.

Now, Obama aims to influence the debate about health care in the presidential election. A public health insurance option would stop well-short of the government-run system that Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders turned into a rallying cry. But some liberals believe it could be a steppingstone. Clinton has said if elected she'd work with interested governors to implement state-based versions of the public option.

Republican Donald Trump has said he'd end "Obamacare" and replace it with something better, though he's been vague on the specifics. A recent nonpartisan analysis found that the plan Trump has outlined would make 18 million people uninsured.

In a counterpoint to Obama's article published Monday by the same medical journal, a conservative policy expert called for an overhaul of the health care law.

Stuart Butler of the Brookings Institution think tank did not advocate repeal, but said the system is too complicated for many consumers, and subsidies for moderate-income families are inadequate. Butler said states should take advantage of a provision in the law that would allow them to redesign coverage starting in 2017.

"Core parts of the ACA need to be reassessed and revised," wrote Butler. The health care law has been the major driver in reducing the nation's uninsured rate to about 9 percent, a historic low. It provides subsidized private health insurance to people without workplace coverage across the country, and offers a Medicaid expansion that states can use to cover more low-income residents.

In the article, Obama repeatedly blamed "hyperpartisanship" for preventing more progress, pointing out that the 19 states that have refused to expand Medicaid under his law haven't done as well reducing the number of uninsured residents. He urged more of those mostly GOP-run states to accept the Medicaid expansion.

Obama also urged lawmakers to make the subsidies for private health insurance more generous. And citing the high cost of prescriptions, he called for new legislation to force drug companies to disclose more information about their production costs, as well as to give the government authority to negotiate prices for some high-priced medications. Those proposals basically align with ideas that Clinton has already put forward. — AP



**HYDERABAD:** An Indian doctor (L) consults with patients at the Fever Hospital (Quarantine Hospital) in Hyderabad yesterday. The hospital gets around 600 to 800 patients per day suffering from seasonal diseases including dengue fever and cholera. — AFP



**HYDERABAD:** An Indian child eats from a bowl on a street in the Vaddera Basthi slum in Hyderabad yesterday. More than one third of India's 62 million children aged five or less are stunted in their growth, according to a global report. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim warned during a visit to India in June that "if you walk into the future economy with 40 percent of your workforce having been stunted as children, you are simply not going to be able to compete." — AFP

## AIDS CONFERENCE RETURNS TO A CHANGED SOUTH AFRICA

**JOHANNESBURG:** The South Africa that hosts a global AIDS Conference next week has come a long way from the "AIDS pariah" that did so 16 years ago, when then President Thabo Mbeki stunningly dismissed the link between HIV and the disease.

At the epicentre of the worldwide AIDS pandemic, South Africa now boasts the largest treatment programme in the world, with 3.4 million people receiving the anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs that allow those living with HIV to lead normal lives. The contrast with the Mbeki era, when the health minister touted beetroot and the African potato as AIDS remedies and hundreds of delegates walked out of the conference when the president suggested poverty might be the leading cause of AIDS, could hardly be sharper.

During his presidency, Mbeki embraced a fringe movement of HIV deniers and resisted international and domestic pressure to seriously address the AIDS crisis. Instead, he denounced ARVs as Western inventions with poisonous side effects. "The patients were dying like flies. We were treating them with tender loving care and vitamins. We had nothing," said Dr. Jean Basset, who founded the HIV treatment center at the Witkoppen Clinic in Johannesburg in 1996. Patience Ndllovu was one of those who received treatment at the clinic. Diagnosed with HIV in 2002, she received only vitamins as treatment at first.

"They were difficult times. To raise a child and me being in that status, I was so scared," Ndllovu, now 38, said. Ndllovu said that, at her lowest point, her CD4 count - a

measure of how well the immune system is working - had dropped below 200, meaning her condition had progressed to AIDS. She began receiving ARVs in 2004 after the Mbeki government began a reluctant roll-out of the life-saving drugs to the sickest AIDS patients following a 2003 court ruling. She recovered.

**NEEDLESS DEATHS**  
Many South Africans living with HIV were not so lucky. A 2008 Harvard University study estimated that Mbeki's obstruction resulted in at least 330,000 unnecessary deaths in the first half of the decade.

"It was a lost decade. We blew the years 2000 to 2008 with political obfuscation," said Mark Heywood, cofounder of the Treatment Action Campaign, an advocacy group that for many years was the leading public voice on HIV in South Africa. Major change did not come until new leadership was in place. Mbeki was ousted in 2008, and the following year Aaron Motsoaledi, a respected doctor, was appointed health minister by new South African president Jacob Zuma. Motsoaledi immediately refocused the government response to the pandemic, launching a nationwide testing campaign and expanding ARV treatment.

"Motsoaledi has done a remarkable job," said Dr. Chris Beyrer, president of the International AIDS Society, the organizer of the conference in Durban from July 18 to 22. "For South Africa to have over three million on antiviral therapy - that is just extraordinary."

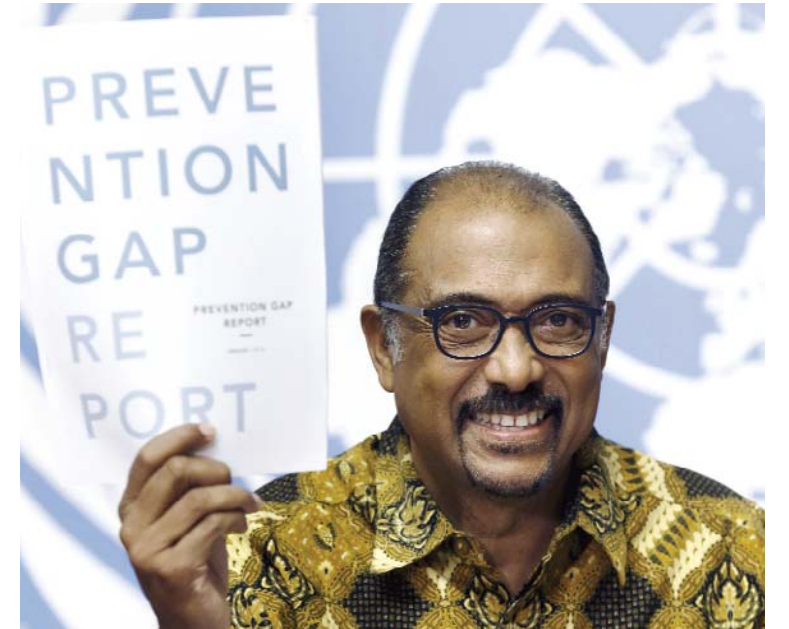
Today seven million South Africans, 19 percent of the adult

population, live with HIV.

The epidemic robbed many families of breadwinners, created an army of orphans and struck down millions in the prime of their working lives. While great progress in providing treatment has been made, the social and economic costs of the delayed response are still being felt.

"Mbeki was responsible for a huge number of people dying," said Dr. Francois Venter, Deputy Executive Director of the Reproductive Health and HIV Institute at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand. "He has a large amount of accounting to do for a huge num-

ber of people who are dead and families who are decimated and an economy that could be much stronger," he said. Mbeki remains unphased by such attacks. In a letter posted on his foundation's website in March of this year, he pushed back against critics of his record on HIV, repeating his assertion that a "virus cannot cause a syndrome." For those like Ndllovu, the shift in South Africa's response to the HIV epidemic has saved and changed lives. "It is a normal life. You've got this disease, but you're still alive. As long as you take your treatment and follow what your doctors are telling you, everything will be OK," she said. — Reuters



**GENEVA:** Michel Sidibe, Executive Director of the United Nations Organization UNAIDS, presents the UNAIDS' new report on HIV prevention gaps, during a press conference, at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday. — AP



## SOLAR PLANE LANDS IN EGYPT IN PENULTIMATE STOP OF WORLD TOUR

**CAIRO:** The Solar Impulse 2 landed in Cairo yesterday for its penultimate stop as the solar-powered plane nears the end of its marathon tour around the world.

After the two-day flight from Spain, just one final leg lies between it and its final destination, Abu Dhabi, where it started its odyssey in March last year.

The aircraft landed in Spain last month, after completing the first solo transatlantic flight powered only by sunlight. After setting off from Seville on Monday morning, the plane passed through Algerian, Tunisian, Italian and Greek airspace, and flew over the Giza Pyramids before touching down at Cairo airport at around 7:10 am (0510 GMT). Its support crew cheered as the plane, no heavier than a car but with the wingspan of a Boeing

747, landed, and trailed after it on bicycles. It had finished the 3,745 kilometre (2,327 mile) journey with an average speed of 76.7 kilometres (47.7 miles) an hour, the flight organiser said. "It was fantastic, everything worked well," pilot Andre Borschberg told the control tower, as a live stream from the cockpit was broadcast on Solar Impulse 2's Facebook page.

He emerged from the cockpit and hugged Bertrand Piccard, with whom he has taken turns flying the plane around the world.

Solar Impulse is being flown on its 35,400-kilometre (22,000 mile) trip in stages, with Piccard and his Swiss compatriot Borschberg alternating at the controls of the single-seat plane.

Piccard, who had arrived early to greet the aircraft, told reporters that flying Solar Impulse 2 showed what new technologies can do. The 58-year-old had flown the plane across the Atlantic in a 6,765 kilometre (4,200 mile) journey.

### 'REALITY OF TODAY'

It had completed its flight from New York to Seville in 71 hours, flying through the night with the energy stored in its 17,000 photovoltaic cells. "It's a new era for energy," he said. "I love to fly this plane because when you are in the air for several days you have the impression to be in a film of science fiction," he said. "You look at the sun, you look at your motors, they turn for days

and for days, no fuel. And you think that's a miracle. That's magic. It is actually the reality of today. This is what we can do with these new technologies." He said the pilot takes 20 minute naps during the long flights, as the plane inches across the sky.

Borschberg had piloted the plane in its 8,924 kilometre (5,545 mile) flight from Japan to Hawaii in 118 hours, breaking the previous record for the longest uninterrupted journey in aviation history. "It is comfortable. But of course you need to train for that," Piccard said. Borschberg and Piccard have said they want to raise awareness of renewable energy sources and technologies with their project. Piccard said the plane could fly continuously. "The pilot is the limit," he told AFP. — AFP

## NEW KIDNEYS 40 YEARS APART SHOW TRANSPLANT PROGRESS

**WASHINGTON:** Brenda Hudson recalls weeks spent in a glass-enclosed isolation room after her first kidney transplant, her family allowed to visit only when suited up against germs.

That transplant lasted a remarkable four decades - and now Hudson's recovery from a second one, this time faster and surrounded by germ visitors, showcases how far organ transplants have come and the hurdles that still await.

"I'm ready to be well again," Hudson exclaimed before being wheeled into an operating room at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital last month, far more confident than back at age 17 when she was that hospital's first recipient of a living-donor kidney.

Transplants still require courage, but medical advances haven't just helped patients. Hudson's initial donor, her older sister, has a scar stretching from belly to side where doctors cut into her rib cage. This time Hudson's husband donated, and went home two days after surgeons squeezed his kidney through a roughly 3-inch incision.

Hudson's own lupus-damaged kidneys were removed about a month before her first transplant. That's hardly ever done anymore - nonworking kidneys shrink to make room.

Back then, finding a donor was pretty miraculous. It still is.

And with more than 120,000 people on the national waiting list for a kidney or other donated organ - but only about 30,000 transplants performed each year - new moves are getting underway to try to ease the critical shortage. Efforts range from smartphone apps letting would-be donors register with a few clicks, to helping transplant centers use some organs that today would be discarded for fear they're not good enough.

"I really didn't think about getting another kidney. How could I be that fortunate?" said Hudson, 57, of Owings, Maryland, who this time went home five days after surgery. Her thoughts strayed to friends on dialysis: "I just wish we could see more donors coming out."

The average kidney from a deceased donor lasts 10 years, while one from a living donor averages about 15 years, said Dr. David Klassen of UNOS, the United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system. Doctors can't explain why occasionally people like Hudson beat those odds by a lot.

Dana Hudson knew his wife wouldn't ask for another kidney so when her first deteriorated badly enough to require dialysis, he volunteered.

Dr. Matthew Cooper, Georgetown's kidney and pancreas transplant director, examined the fist-sized organ and proclaimed it "a beauty."

Sewing it into its new owner, however, would prove nerve-racking. More than 6,000 people died last year waiting for a new kidney, liver, lung or other organ, according to UNOS.

Last month, the White House issued a call to reduce the wait, and highlighted \$160 million in regenerative research that one day might offer alternative therapies. Kidneys are

most in demand, with nearly 100,000 people on the national transplant list awaiting one.

"Without a transplant, we lose way too many people," said Georgetown's Cooper. "It's just an organ supply problem." To try boosting that supply: Apple says its upcoming software update will let iPhone users register as an organ donor through its health app, linking to Donate Life America's national registry. Georgetown also is developing an app for smartphones and tablets that will allow a click for donor registration.

Studies are underway to preserve donated organs longer by pumping them with oxygenated fluids, and to spur use of higher-risk organs that work despite not being in optimal condition, Klassen said.

And the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Donate Life launched a new Facebook page to educate the public about the need for living donors; fewer than 6,000 every year give a kidney or part of their liver.

It's hard to ask, and there are some disincentives. A living donor's surgery is covered by the recipient's insurance but not related costs such as lost wages. Dana Hudson expects to be away from his truck-driving job for about four weeks but said, "The most important thing is that she gets better."

Back at Georgetown, where about a third of kidney transplants now are from living donors, Dana Hudson underwent a battery of tests to be sure he was healthy enough to live with one kidney.

The "keyhole" surgery used for living donation today is easier on patients but trickier for surgeons. Guided by a miniature camera, Dr. Seyed Ghasemian inserted long-handled probes through tiny abdominal incisions and painstakingly snipped the kidney free from surrounding tissue. It was producing plenty of urine and had great blood vessels, Ghasemian reported. But he paused before severing that blood supply, the point of no return. Across the hall, Cooper had found a problem with Brenda Hudson.

Hunched tensely over the operating table, Cooper was uncovering arteries hardened by high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes - no good for sewing on her husband's kidney.

Finally the surgeons devised a way for blood vessels to feed the incoming organ. "This was not an easy case," Cooper said. "You have to have a Plan B."

Back across the hall again, Ghasemian made the last cut to Dana Hudson's kidney and tugged it through a slit in the abdomen.

Taking the kidney, Cooper flushed out the donor's blood, cleaned away some yellowish fat and carefully carried it to Brenda Hudson - with one brief stop. Using high-tech imaging, researchers scanned the kidney's filtering tubules as part of a study to better determine which donated organs will have the best outcome. Soon after being stitched into place, Brenda Hudson's new kidney started to work. Two days later, she softly told her husband: "It's pretty amazing what you did for me, honey." — AP



**NEW YORK:** This 2006 colored scanning electron micrograph image made available by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows the O157:H7 strain of the E. coli bacteria. Bacteria with a special type of resistance to antibiotics have been found for a second time in the US, increasing worries that the country will soon see a superbug that cannot be treated with known medications. This case, first reported in a medical journal Monday, occurred a year earlier in New York. — AP

## SUPERBUG PRECURSOR FOUND IN US AGAIN

**NEW YORK:** A New York City patient was infected with bacteria that had a special type of resistance to antibiotics last year, the earliest known case in the US of bacteria that could lead to a superbug impervious to medications.

The bacteria were found in a patient who was treated in May of 2015 and reported in a study published Monday. They were discovered by an Iowa company that's been testing thousands of bacteria collected from patients from around the world over the last two years.

The company, JMI Laboratories, found hundreds globally that were resistant to colistin, an old, powerful antibiotic that is now seen as a drug of last resort. Health officials worry that these bacteria will spread their resistance to last-resort antibiotics to other bacteria that are already resistant to front-line antibiotics, creating germs that can't be killed by any known drugs.

A similar infection was reported in a Pennsylvania woman earlier this year and initially reported as the first known US case. But the New York case happened almost a year before, and scientists now believe these bacteria were likely in people in the US even earlier.

### WHY ARE PEOPLE WORRIED?

Since the 1940s, doctors have used antibiotics to beat back a large number of dangerous bacteri-

al diseases. Over the decades, bacteria have adapted to become resistant to more and more of the drugs. An exception has been an old antibiotic called colistin. But recently scientists have spotted evidence of colistin-resistant infections in animals and people in China, Europe and Canada. Now, at least two human infections have also been seen in the United States.

### ARE THESE COLISTIN-RESISTANT GERMS SOME NEW BREED OF BACTERIA?

No. In both the US cases, they were E. coli bacteria, a common type of germ found in the gut. In both cases, while they were resistant to colistin, they were vulnerable to more common antibiotics and were not hard to treat. "It's not an immediate threat," said Mariana Castanheira, one of the study's authors.

### SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Bacteria often mingle and swap genetic material. The E. coli bacteria in New York and Pennsylvania were vulnerable to other antibiotics, but some other germs are nearly impervious. Colistin is reserved for germs that already resist one of the other last lines of defense - antibiotics called carbapenems. If carbapenem-resistant bacteria absorb the colistin-resistance gene, that could set the stage for creation of supergerms

impervious to all known antibiotics.

### WHEN DID THIS FOR OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE FIRST APPEAR?

Scientists think the colistin-resistant gene was in bacteria in livestock in China as far back as the 1980s. Reports of these bacteria in humans date back to 2008, and since have been confirmed in Asia, Europe, Canada and the United States.

Until this study, none of the reported US infections were thought to have occurred before this year, when colistin resistance was detected in pigs in Illinois and South Carolina, and in the 49-year-old Pennsylvania woman who had gone to a military clinic with symptoms of a urinary tract infection. But the new report found the New York case in 2015, and Castanheira said it's likely colistin-resistant bacteria were in the United States before that.

### WHAT MORE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE CASE?

No additional details about that patient were released by the researchers or in their study, published online Monday in Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, a journal of the American Society of Microbiology. The authors believe it is the most comprehensive search to date of bacteria that have the colistin-resistant gene, which is known as mcr-1. — AP

# CLINIC PAGE



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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم



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## CARE: AN ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN AL MULLA & BEHBEHANI

Organization Development Project "CARE" is directly linked with Communication, Attitude, Reaching out to the customers and exceeding expectations. Organization Development has gained momentum in recent years with the aim improve the overall organizational efficiency through planned change. Today's Corporate World is facing several threats and challenges and at the same time there are opportunities available.

It is said that acquiring a good position through these opportunities needs "Continuous Improvement" in all facets. The emphasis in Organization Development is planned change and Organizational Development experts suggests multiple strategies and interventions to bring about overall business and operational development in organizations with the help of total people involvement and participation. Project "CARE" is based on an internal Organizational Development activity and recently inaugurated the project by the Senior Management with a focus towards full implementation throughout the organization. Involvement of all employees in understanding their role in an organization is an important element, CARE is supported by sub-projects like, "KAIZEN (Continuous Improvement)" and "Employee Suggestions Scheme".

"Our aim is to have ongoing improvements at all levels, together with the correct attitude to strengthen the Organizational Strategies. Senior Management support is vital to create a sustainable working environment with



consistency and continuity in the overall people development to support our Organizational Development Initiatives" said by Imad Flayhan, Board member, Al Mulla & Behbehani.

KAIZEN: Change for the better: The proven philosophy of KAIZEN is "Everyday improvement, Everybody's Improvement and Everywhere Improvement". Improvement needs change and calculated change guarantees improvement. Al Mulla Behbehani Motors

Company (MBMC), earlier this year launched the "KAIZEN" Initiative and "Employee Suggestions Scheme" Initiative under CARE Project in an impressive event where invitees from across the departments has witness the "CARE & KAIZEN" launches as well as the introduction of Employee Suggestions Scheme. Executives and senior management has expressed their full support and commitment towards CARE, KAIZEN and Employee suggestion Scheme Initiatives.

On a journey towards business excellence, MBMC is using Kaizen as one of the tools to support its business objectives and long-term strategies. Believing in 'Quality Guarantees Progress' MBMC is committed to introduce best practices and benchmark its operations with world-class organizations and institutions. Oscar Rivoli, General Manager, MBMC explained the Vision, Mission and New Initiatives Details and expressed his vote of thanks to all concerned.



## ACK STUDENTS CONCLUDES INTERNSHIP AT ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES

The Alumni & Career Placement Center at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) has received an award from Alghanim Industries during the Internship Graduation Ceremony in conclusion to a month-long internship program with the esteemed company.

The internship consisted of 6 students from ACK's School of Engineering that were split up to groups. These groups were ranked in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place based on business evaluations throughout the program. The internship started with a tour of the X-site Alghanim showroom at the Avenues mall, as well as visits to the Kuwait Insulating Material Manufacturing Co. (KIMMCO) and the Kirby Building Systems facilities in Mina Abdullah.

The internship took place throughout the month of June over a 4-week period and witnessed participants from local

and international universities. Students in each group were given an assignment for each business model, which they had to prepare a presentation for. The students were evaluated on overall performance, communication and comprehension, attitude, work habits and presentation skills.

Commenting on this accomplishment, Dr Zeina Nehme, the Manager of the Alumni & Career Placement Center at ACK said: "I would like to thank Alghanim Industries for giving such an amazing opportunity to our students providing them with exposure to the real world and to work in teams with students from other universities in Kuwait and abroad. It was indeed a great learning experience for all the students, and I am very proud to proclaim that ACK has provided the largest number of participating students this year out of all the other universities."



## UPAC EMPLOYEES RAISE FUNDS TO FEED THE UNDERPRIVILEGED DURING RAMADAN

During the month of Ramadan, 15 employees from United Projects for Aviation Services Company (UPAC) raised funds to provide Iftar meals for underprivileged individuals in Kuwait. The donation was given to the Kuwait state charity Zakat House (Bait Al-Zakat), and matched

by UPAC. Zakat House organized the meal distribution. Nadia Akil, CEO of UPAC, said, "UPAC is committed to giving back to our local communities. It is great to see our employees so engaged in embracing our culture of social responsibility and trying to make a difference where it is most needed."



### Greetings



### Congratulations

Abeer Hanafi and her fiance Ali Mohammed recently celebrated their engagement in Cairo amongst family and friends. Congratulations and heartiest wishes of a happy life from Yasmien & Hassan.





## FRENCH SCHOOL OF KUWAIT ACHIEVES OUTSTANDING RESULTS ON GCC LEVEL

The French School of Kuwait announced that it had achieved a 100% success rate in the French Baccalaureate which is well known for its demand on the academic performance. 75% of candidates received an honorable mention or very honorable. Which such great results, most of our students are eligible to enter the most prestigious universities and schools from around the world.



## SHERATON FAMILY CELEBRATES EID AL FITR

Marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, a joyous family oriented celebration of Eid Al Fitr was organized by the Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait in one of its luxurious ballroom - The Grand Diamond Ballroom. All the associates and their families were invited to share the occasion where camaraderie was reflected between all of them.

This year festivity has a bizarre way of celebrating as the General Manager, Mr Fahed Abushaar and the Executive Management literally put themselves in the associates' shoes. Instead of wearing their usual suit, they wore a chef uniform and served the associates with delicious dishes and refreshments. This unusual gesture surprised the employees and their families as they felt special being served by top level management. The celebration brought goodwill and

gave message that everybody is equal to provide the best service. On this occasion, Mr Fahed Abushaar, the General Manager thanked all employees and their families for the support, loyalty, continuous commitment to provide the best and most refined services to our honored guests and by maintaining its leadership in the hospitality industry for 50 years of success.

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## TRIPLE HONORS FOR ETIHAD AIRWAYS AT SKYTRAX WORLD AIRLINE AWARDS

Etihad Airways has received three highly coveted awards for the World's Best First Class Airline, World's Best First Class Onboard Catering, and World's Best First Class Airline Seat for its First Apartments and Suites, at the annual Skytrax World Airline Awards announced today at the Farnborough Air Show in the United Kingdom. The prestigious World Airline Awards are widely considered to be a global benchmark of airline excellence. Winners are chosen based on the votes and findings of a 10-month survey of over 18 million air travelers from more than 100 countries.

Calum Laming, Vice President of Guest Experience at Etihad Airways, said: "In 2014 we redefined the First Class travel experience with the introduction of a new onboard experience on all flights and the revolutionary cabins on our new fleet of Airbus A380 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. This demonstrates our continuing commitment to First Class flying and to providing innovative and inspirational travel experiences."

"The airline is tremendously proud that, based on the results of a huge global customer satisfaction survey, we have yet again been presented with these prestigious awards for the world's finest First Class experience. We have enhanced the experience even further this year through investment in our products, services and cabins and this is a welcome reward for those efforts."

In recent years, the airline has won numerous awards for its First Class and Business Class products. This also marks the second time the airline has won all three First Class award categories at the World Airline Awards. The A380 First Class cabin boasts nine First Apartments, unique living spaces which at 39 square feet in area, are 74 per cent larger than the airline's current award-winning First Class suites, and feature a Poltrona Frau leather armchair and a separate ottoman which converts into a full-length 80.5 inch long bed. A dedicated

shower room is available for exclusive use by First Class guests.

While the Boeing 777s are equipped with eight private First Suites in a unique curved aisle setting, an airline industry first, with a 10 per cent increase in personal space. The forward and aft facing suites feature a large Poltrona Frau leather armchair which converts into an 80.5 inch fully-flat bed. The suites feature 24 inch TV monitors, large dining tables for dual dining, personal wardrobes and privacy doors.

Etihad Airways' remaining three-class configured long haul fleet of Boeing 777s and Airbus A330/A340 family aircraft is configured with a private First Class suite product, also featuring Poltrona Frau leather seating. Inspired by the world's best hotels, restaurants and private members' clubs, Etihad Airways' First Class features elegant fine dining throughout with a delicate component that encourages the multi-course experience. The onboard Chefs, many of who hail from fine dining establishments around the world, provide an onboard pantry of fresh ingredients including proteins and vegetables. These talented crew members can discuss made to order requests with the guest and can prepare a bespoke dining experience tailored to their preference. A Chef is available in First Class on every Etihad Airways flight.

Guests can choose from an extensive haute cuisine à la carte menu, or can select fine steaks and sides from the Lounge and Grill menu, complemented by a choice of side dishes and sauces, and can also choose delicious meals and snacks throughout the flight from the All Day Dine menu. This Summer, the airline also opened its flagship First Class Lounge & Spa at Abu Dhabi International Airport. The lounge includes an à la carte restaurant, showcase bar, fitness room, cigar lounge, Six Senses Spa, Style & Shave barbers, nail bar, TV room, secluded relaxation room, prayer room and children's play room which ensure that all guests receive a personalized experience.

## PAMPER YOUR FAMILY AT MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT WITH A SPECIAL SUMMER PACKAGE

Marina Hotel Kuwait announced its much awaited summer package and special vacation getaway to experience summer fun at its best. Guests are offered absolute pampering and leisure with a resort-feel ambience through its facilities away from the city's busy routine.

The all-inclusive Marina Hotel package guarantees real joy under the sun with its secluded private beach and three pools: lap pool, kids' pool and family pool with the Marina Waves pool bar. Guests can relax in their rooms, all overlooking the beautiful Arabian Sea, at a rate starting from KD 88 for a double Superior Room per night, buffet breakfast included. The package provides free access to the hotel's many facilities: the Coral Reef Health Club & Spa, the squash court, beach and pool area.

Well known for its delicious international cuisine, guest can go for first-rate dining at the hotel's two celebrated restaurants: 'The Six Palms' and the 'Atlantis'. For mouth-watering delicacies, indulge in international, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes from a scrumptious array of menu choices in a tranquil setting. Additionally guests availing the summer package can take advantage of the 20% discount on buffet lunch and dinner at the Atlantis Restaurant. With a walking distance to the Marina Mall and Marina Crescent, one can enjoy a complete holiday with easy access to their favorite shopping destinations. Make sure you book your room at the award winning Marina Hotel Kuwait for a unique getaway experience and excellent standard of quality service.







- 03:25 Wildest Africa
- 04:15 Gator Boys
- 05:02 Treehouse Masters
- 05:49 Bondi Vet
- 06:36 Swamp Brothers
- 07:00 Swamp Brothers
- 07:25 Too Cute!
- 08:15 Bondi Vet
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Too Cute!
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 Bondi Vet
- 13:45 Gator Boys
- 14:40 Treehouse Masters
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Wildest Africa
- 17:25 River Monsters
- 18:20 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 18:45 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Wildest Africa
- 21:05 Treehouse Masters
- 22:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 22:25 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
- 00:45 Monsters Inside Me
- 01:40 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 02:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
- 02:35 Tanked

- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 07:50 My Cat From Hell
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Bondi Vet
- 12:00 My Cat From Hell
- 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 Doki
- 16:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
- 17:00 Deadliest Space Weather
- 17:25 Deadliest Space Weather
- 17:50 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 19:30 Mythbusters
- 20:20 How It's Made
- 20:45 How It's Made
- 21:10 Deadliest Space Weather
- 21:35 Deadliest Space Weather
- 22:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival
- 00:30 Mythbusters
- 01:20 Deadliest Space Weather
- 01:45 Deadliest Space Weather
- 02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files

- 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
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopdidoo
- 07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 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
- 16:55 Sofia The First
- 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
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- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero



- 03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 03:48 Nowhere To Hide
- 04:36 Nowhere To Hide
- 05:24 Nowhere To Hide
- 06:12 Nowhere To Hide
- 07:00 Tabloid
- 07:50 Tabloid
- 08:40 Tabloid
- 09:30 Tabloid
- 10:20 Love The Way You Lie
- 11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 12:00 Nowhere To Hide
- 12:50 Nowhere To Hide
- 13:40 Nowhere To Hide
- 14:30 Nowhere To Hide
- 15:20 Love The Way You Lie
- 16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 17:00 Murder Comes To Town
- 17:50 Murder Comes To Town
- 18:40 Murder Comes To Town
- 19:30 Murder Comes To Town
- 20:20 Love The Way You Lie
- 21:10 California Investigator
- 21:35 California Investigator
- 22:00 Vanity Fair Confidential
- 22:50 Murder Among Friends
- 23:40 Disappeared
- 00:30 Reclaim
- 01:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
- 02:10 Murder Among Friends



- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A



- 03:25 Bedlam
- 04:15 Doctors
- 04:45 Eastenders
- 05:15 Sinbad
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Doctors
- 07:00 Doctors
- 07:30 Eastenders
- 08:05 Father Brown
- 08:55 Upstairs Downstairs
- 09:50 Sinbad
- 10:40 Doctors
- 11:10 Eastenders
- 11:40 Father Brown
- 12:30 Upstairs Downstairs
- 13:25 Sinbad
- 14:15 Doctors
- 14:45 Eastenders
- 15:20 Father Brown
- 16:15 Call The Midwife
- 17:10 Sinbad
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Father Brown
- 20:00 Holly City
- 21:00 I Want My Wife Back
- 21:30 Rev.
- 22:00 The Living And The Dead
- 23:00 Hebburn
- 23:30 Hebburn
- 00:00 Doctors
- 00:30 Eastenders
- 01:00 Holly City
- 01:55 I Want My Wife Back
- 02:20 Rev.



HOPE SPRINGS ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
- KSA
- 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 It's Not Rocket Science
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Eggheads
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 20:30 Code Of A Killer
- 21:25 It's Not Rocket Science
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Eggheads
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 03:01 Paw Patrol
- 03:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 03:35 Dora The Explorer
- 03:59 Max & Ruby
- 04:07 Bubble Guppies
- 04:29 Little Charmers
- 04:41 Shimmer And Shine
- 05:05 Dora And Friends
- 05:27 Zack & Quack
- 05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 06:00 Paw Patrol
- 06:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 06:36 Dora The Explorer
- 07:00 Wanda And The Alien
- 07:11 Zack & Quack
- 07:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
- 07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 08:10 Paw Patrol
- 08:35 Shimmer And Shine
- 08:58 Dora The Explorer
- 09:22 Little Charmers
- 09:32 Paw Patrol
- 09:57 Bubble Guppies
- 10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
- 10:42 Roary The Racing Car
- 10:52 Team Umizoomi
- 11:15 Louie
- 11:22 Louie
- 11:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
- 11:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 11:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 12:03 Max & Ruby
- 12:26 Wanda And The Alien
- 12:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 12:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 13:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 13:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
- 13:45 Zack & Quack
- 13:55 Zack & Quack
- 14:05 Team Umizoomi
- 14:28 Louie
- 14:35 Louie
- 14:40 Olive The Ostrich
- 14:44 Olive The Ostrich
- 14:49 Paw Patrol
- 15:01 Paw Patrol
- 15:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
- 15:35 Dora The Explorer
- 15:59 Max & Ruby
- 16:07 Bubble Guppies
- 16:29 Little Charmers
- 16:41 Shimmer And Shine
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- 22:42 Roary The Racing Car
- 22:52 Team Umizoomi
- 23:15 Louie
- 23:22 Louie
- 23:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
- 23:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 23:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 00:03 Max & Ruby



FAST & FURIOUS 6 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



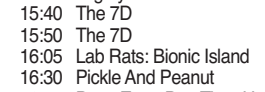
- 03:15 Wheels That Fall
- 03:45 Extreme Collectors
- 04:05 Auction Hunters
- 04:30 Storage Hunters UK
- 05:00 How Things Work
- 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 06:50 Junkyard Empire
- 07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 08:30 Extreme Collectors
- 08:55 Auction Hunters
- 09:20 Storage Hunters UK
- 09:45 How Things Work
- 10:35 Mythbusters
- 11:25 Man vs Expert
- 12:15 Incredible Engineering
- Blunders: Fixed
- 13:05 Extreme Collectors
- 13:30 Auction Hunters
- 13:55 Storage Hunters UK
- 14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 15:10 Junkyard Empire
- 16:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 16:50 How Things Work
- 17:40 What On Earth?
- 18:30 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 19:20 Kings Of The Wild
- 20:10 Auction Hunters
- 20:35 Storage Hunters UK
- 21:00 What On Earth?
- 21:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 22:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
- 23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 00:20 Junkyard Empire
- 01:10 What On Earth?
- 02:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
- 02:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert

- Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 06:55 Gravity Falls
- 07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:45 Backstage
- 08:10 Bunk'd
- 08:35 Jessie
- 09:00 Jessie
- 09:25 Liv And Maddie
- 09:50 Liv And Maddie
- 10:15 Austin & Ally
- 10:40 Dog With A Blog
- 11:05 Dog With A Blog
- 11:30 Girl Meets World
- 11:55 Girl Meets World
- 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

- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 02:00 Calimero
- 02:15 Zou
- 02:30 Loopdidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack



- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Supa Strikas
- 08:40 Mighty Med: There Is A Storm Coming
- 09:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 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
- 12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 13:30 Mighty Med: There Is A Storm Coming
- 14:20 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:45 Phineas And Ferb
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Mighty Med
- 15:40 The 7D
- 15:50 The 7D
- 16:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 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: Bionic Island
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 AnneDroids
- 19:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 20:00 Kirby Buckets
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Pickle And Peanut
- 21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

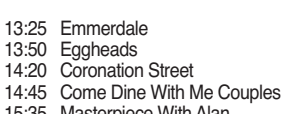


- 03:25 Together
- 03:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
- 05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 08:00 Together
- 08:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
- 09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 10:40 The Chase
- 11:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

- 06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 09:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 11:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 15:30 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
- 20:30 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
- 21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 22:30 Man v Food
- 23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:00 Iron Chef America
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man v Food
- 02:30 Man v Food



- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 04:00 Man Fire Food
- 04:30 Man Fire Food
- 05:00 Chopped



- 03:01 Paw Patrol
- 03:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
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- 23:22 Louie
- 23:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
- 23:53 Olive The Ostrich
- 23:58 Olive The Ostrich
- 00:03 Max & Ruby



- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 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 Winx Club
- 08:12 The Loud House
- 08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 09:24 Harvey Beaks
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Harvey Beaks
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Get Blake

- 14:12 Rabbits Invasion
- 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 15:00 Game Shakers
- 15:24 The Loud House
- 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 16:36 Harvey Beaks
- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 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
- 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 21:48 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 22:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:24 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
- 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



- 03:00 Living With Fran
- 03:30 Mad Love
- 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 The Last Man On Earth
- 10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 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 Mad Love
- 14:30 The Last Man On Earth
- 15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 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 Mad Love
- 19:00 Suburgatory
- 19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Dr. Ken
- 21:30 Modern Family
- 22:00 Ballers
- 22:30 Bordertown
- 23:00 Life In Pieces
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:00 Dr. Ken
- 01:00 Modern Family
- 01:30 Ballers
- 02:00 Bordertown
- 02:30 Life In Pieces



- 03:00 Better Call Saul
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 07:00 Rosewood
- 08:00 The Whispers
- 09:00 Code Black
- 10:00 Stitchers
- 11:00 Rosewood
- 12:00 The Whispers
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 The Blacklist
- 19:00 Supergirl
- 20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 21:00 Castle
- 22:00 Lucifer
- 23:00 Better Call Saul
- 00:00 Rosewood
- 01:00 Castle
- 02:00 Lucifer



- 03:45 Need For Speed
- 06:00 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise
- 08:00 Wrath
- 10:00 Fast & Furious 6
- 12:15 Batman vs. Robin
- 13:45 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise
- 15:45 The Package
- 17:45 Fast & Furious 6
- 20:00 I, Robot
- 22:00 Child's Play 2
- 00:00 22 Bullets



- 04:00 Bubble Boy
- 06:00 Green Card
- 08:00 Bottle Rocket
- 10:00 Bubble Boy
- 12:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 14:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
- 16:00 Bottle Rocket
- 18:00 500 Days Of Summer
- 20:00 St. Vincent
- 2



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (14/07/2016 TO 20/07/2016)

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b>		NOW YOU SEE ME 2	2:30 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	11:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:30 AM	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	5:15 PM	AVENUES-2	7:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:45 PM	FINDING DORY -3D	7:45 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	11:30 AM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	4:00 PM	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	10:00 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX	2:00 PM
SULTAN- HINDI	6:15 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:30 AM	GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	4:30 PM
INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	9:30 PM	<b>FANAR-3</b>		GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	7:00 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:05 AM	FINDING DORY	12:45 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX	9:30 PM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>		FINDING DORY	3:00 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	12:05 AM
GHOSTBUSTERS	1:00 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	5:15 PM	AVENUES-3	11:30 AM
GHOSTBUSTERS	3:30 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	8:30 PM	FINDING DORY	1:45 PM
FINDING DORY -3D	5:45 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	11:45 PM	ABU SHANAB	1:45 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS	8:00 PM	<b>FANAR-4</b>		ABU SHANAB	4:15 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	10:15 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS	1:00 PM	ABU SHANAB	6:45 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS	12:45 AM	MARAUDERS	3:15 PM	ABU SHANAB	9:15 PM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>		GHOSTBUSTERS	5:30 PM	ABU SHANAB	11:45 PM
FINDING DORY	12:45 PM	MARAUDERS	8:00 PM	<b>360° 1</b>	
FINDING DORY	3:00 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS	10:15 PM	FINDING DORY -3D	12:15 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	5:30 PM	MARAUDERS	12:45 AM	FINDING DORY -3D	2:30 PM
ABU SHANAB	7:45 PM	<b>FANAR-5</b>		FINDING DORY -3D	4:45 PM
ABU SHANAB	10:00 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:30 AM	FINDING DORY -3D	7:00 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:30 AM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:45 PM	FINDING DORY	9:15 PM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>		TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	4:00 PM	KILL COMMAND	11:30 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	11:30 AM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	6:15 PM	<b>360° 2</b>	
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	1:45 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	8:30 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	12:45 PM
SULTAN- HINDI	4:00 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	10:45 PM	NO FRI	
ABU SHANAB	7:15 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:00 AM	FINDING DORY	1:30 PM
ABU SHANAB	9:30 PM	<b>MARINA-1</b>		FRI	
NOW YOU SEE ME 2	11:45 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS	12:15 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	4:00 PM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>		GHOSTBUSTERS	2:30 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	7:30 PM
FINDING DORY	12:45 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS	4:45 PM	SULTAN- HINDI	11:00 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	3:00 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS	7:00 PM	<b>360° 3</b>	
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	5:15 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	9:15 PM	FINDING DORY	11:30 AM
FINDING DORY	7:30 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:05 AM	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	1:45 PM
INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	9:45 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b>		INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	4:15 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:15 AM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:45 PM	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	6:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	3:30 PM	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	9:15 PM
FINDING DORY -3D	11:30 AM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	5:45 PM	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	11:45 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS	1:30 PM	ABU SHANAB	8:00 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
FINDING DORY -3D	3:45 PM	ABU SHANAB	10:15 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS	1:00 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS	6:00 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:30 AM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	3:15 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	8:15 PM	<b>MARINA-3</b>		GHOSTBUSTERS	5:30 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS	10:30 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:00 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	7:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	12:45 AM	FINDING DORY	3:15 PM	GHOSTBUSTERS	10:00 PM
<b>FANAR-1</b>		FINDING DORY	5:30 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	12:15 AM
GHOSTBUSTERS	12:00 PM	FINDING DORY	7:45 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
GHOSTBUSTERS	2:45 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	10:00 PM	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:30 PM
ABU SHANAB	5:15 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	12:15 AM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	3:00 PM
ABU SHANAB	7:30 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b>		ABU SHANAB	5:45 PM
ABU SHANAB	9:45 PM	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:45 AM	ABU SHANAB	8:00 PM
ABU SHANAB	12:05 AM	SULTAN- HINDI	2:00 PM	ABU SHANAB	10:15 PM
<b>FANAR-2</b>		SULTAN- HINDI	5:15 PM	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:30 AM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2	11:45 AM	SULTAN- HINDI	8:30 PM		

### WANTED

**For ladies salon in Salmiya**

- 1) Lady hair dresser
- 2) Lady cleaner
- 3) Lady receptionist (Arabic/English)
- 4) Driver

Send your resume on [lafemkwt@gmail.com](mailto:lafemkwt@gmail.com)  
 Or call: 66711141 / 66733222

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jayaraman Sekar holder of Indian Passport No. K7934219, residing at D.No. 215 a Middle Street, Thevarkan Danallur Village Kulikarai Post Kudavasal Taluk, Tanjore district, hereby changed my name to Jayaraman Ravichandran. (C 5188)

### FOR SALE

Nissan Altima 2013 black run only 34000 KM for sale, used by a senior manager Only genuine buyers call 51355170

### Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:24
Shorook	04:58
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:28
Maghrib:	18:50
Isha:	20:20



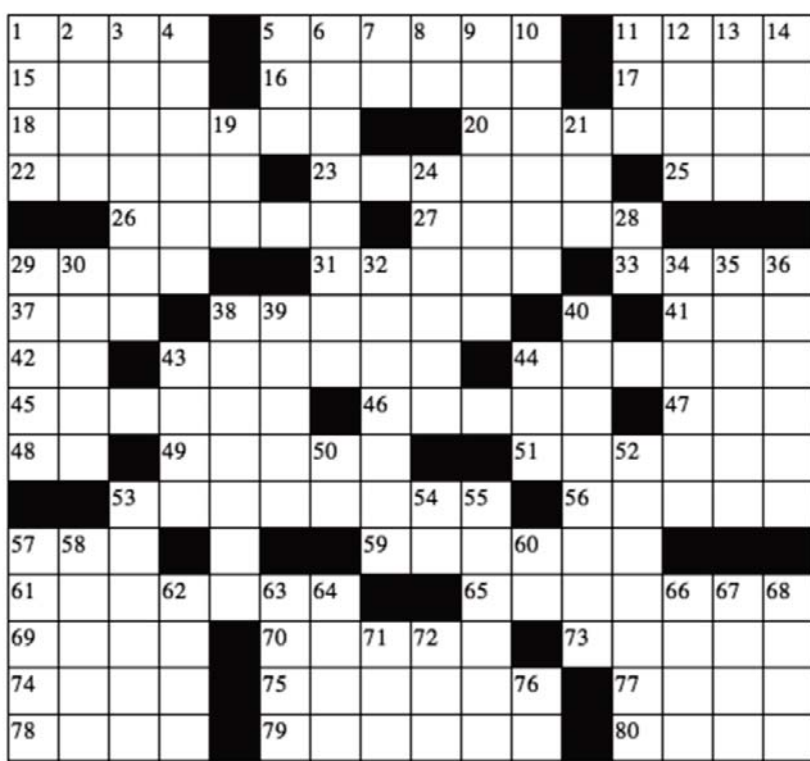
## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Arrival Flights on Thursday 14/7/2016				Departure Flights on Thursday 14/7/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	FDK	802	Damascus	13:15
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	JZR	189	Dubai	15:15
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVB	505	Jeddah	16:00
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	SVB	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
QTR	8511	Doha	04:55	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	VDA	4913	ULY	18:30
DXH	170	Bahrain	05:10	FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	563	Amman	19:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	238	Amman	19:15
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	JAV	622	Amman	19:45
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	MSR	621	Cairo	20:20
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
SVB	512	Riyadh	07:50	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
RJA	648	Amman	09:30	DXH	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
SYR	341	Damascus	10:30	KAC	381	Dubai	22:25
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	THY	1401	ADB	22:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10				
KAC	620	Doha	13:10				



CROSSWORD 1311



ACROSS

1. A large round wicker basket (used on farms).
5. Abnormally deficient in color as suggesting physical or emotional distress.
11. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
15. Having a feeling of home.
16. Small dry indehiscent fruit with the seed distinct from the fruit wall.
17. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
18. Challenge the honesty or credibility of.
20. A tiny or scarcely detectable amount.
22. A member of the extinct Algonquian people formerly living in northern Indiana and southern Michigan.
23. A wrongful dispossession.
25. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
26. Mild form of diabetes mellitus that develops gradually in adults.
27. ('cease' is a noun only in the phrase 'without cease') End v 1.
29. (Greek mythology) Goddess of the earth and mother of Cronus and the Titans in ancient mythology.
31. The ninth month of the Hindu calendar.
33. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
37. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.
41. Ratio of the adjacent side to the hypotenuse.
42. Before noon.
45. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Daypro).
46. Excluded from use or mention.
47. (British) Your grandmother.
48. Half the width of an em.
49. Deduce (a principle) or construe (a meaning).
51. Form a mental image of something that is not present or that is not the case.
56. Battle in World War I (1917).
57. How long something has existed.
59. East Indian tart yellow berrylike fruit.
61. An innocuous or inert medication.
65. Metal supports for logs in a fireplace.
69. Having nine hinged bands of bony plates.
70. (Philippine) A dish of marinated vegetables and meat or fish.
73. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.
74. In bed.
75. See, as with attention.
77. The basic unit of money in Cambodia.
78. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
79. A large fleet.
80. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.

DOWN

1. A thin wedge of material (wood or metal or stone) for driving into crevices.
2. A member of a Finnish people living in the northwestern Urals in Russia.
3. Enter into a list of prospective jurors.
4. Septicemia caused by pus-forming bacteria released from an abscess.
5. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
6. A member of the North American Indian people of the Pit river valley in northern California.
7. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
8. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
9. In place of, or as an alternative to.
10. Reduce in worth, character, etc..
11. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
12. Mentally or physically infirm with age.
13. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
14. Type genus of the Ranidae.
19. A resource.
21. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
24. An internal representation of the world.
28. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
30. Someone whose business is advertising.
32. Of or relating to or near the gluteus muscles.
34. Pertaining to one of the small sacs (as in a compound gland).
35. Discover the location of.
36. A genus of Stromateidae.
38. Of a leaf shape.
39. The sensation that results when olfactory receptors in the nose are stimulated by particular chemicals in gaseous form.
40. Genus of small orchids of the northern hemisphere with creeping rhizomes and stalked ovate leaves and small flowers.
43. A detailed description of design criteria for a piece of work.
44. Hawaiian dish of taro rooted to a paste and often allowed to ferment.
50. A radioactive transuranic element.
52. Jointed and nearly leafless desert shrub having reduced scalelike leaves and reddish fleshy seeds.
53. The bottom of a sea or ocean.
54. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
55. Enclose or enfold completely with or as if with a covering.
58. Fleshy spore-bearing inner mass of e.g. a puffball or stinkhorn.
60. A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.
62. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
63. A small cake leavened with yeast.
64. A European river.
66. The lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
67. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
68. Offering fun and gaiety.
71. A unit of electrical resistance equal to the resistance between two points on a conductor when a potential difference of one volt between them produces a current of one ampere.
72. A long thin fluffy scarf of feathers or fur.
76. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A friend in the workplace may often seek your advice. You are able to cut through the red tape and get at what is beneath and behind a problem. This may be a good time to help this person to learn his or her own problem-solving techniques and to become more confident. You are a good teacher and this process should be a lot easier than constantly being distracted from your own work. You are all heart... You will be pleased to see others become independent. Children, animals and all creative work get top billing this afternoon and you may find yourself sitting with family or a friend's child. Have a goodie bag ready that is age appropriate with some surprise for each child tucked inside and you will have a happy time with the visit.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You have an inner urge to be all things to all people and would rather bend than argue or make an issue. This can be beneficial if you have some outlet for your frustrations. You should be recognizing some real relief from the stress and emotional strain you have been experiencing of late. Make it a habit to meditate by listening to that quiet inner voice at least once a day for ten or fifteen minutes. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you. Be careful that you do not indulge too much just now; it would be easy to become relaxed so much that you overeat or purchase all the fun things you see. Romantic, social or artistic efforts can be enjoyed tonight. You will enjoy a positive ending to this very full day.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a great time to be with others in work, school or play. A class, lecture or visiting executive has new ideas and inspirations to pass along today. Farsighted and traditional, you enjoy success and the successful. There can be increased income because of new and improved contracts. You can also increase your financial gains now by calling in loans you made last year, or even earlier. There can also be some additional income through a special sale, advertising or public relations. Financial security and enjoying the finer things in life, appreciating and creating things others long to have—these experiences assume a high priority. There is an exotic and glamorous dimension to your art of flirting at this time. Expect love to warm your heart tonight.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have become so interested in real estate that you may give some thought of becoming an agent. You may be looking for some good investments and real estate seems to be where you could make some good choices. There is a yearning to settle down. If you have been renting you may now be interested in purchasing a home for yourself. The study of real estate may be the path to a beautiful new home. Your professional life is vastly improving and it may be time to consider a request for a raise or job advancement. There are sweet surprises in the least expected place. You may decide on a particular investment this afternoon—a good choice. Romantic and social experiences show evidence of your excellent taste.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could be gaining quite a bit of attention from superiors or through the accomplishments related to your work. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility more than usual. Your employer is probably happy to get you for you are a natural in management positions. This is the perfect time to be assertive and move forward with your career decisions. You have all the drive and energy you could want—it should be easy to channel it. The path is open and clear. Positive changes in personal attitudes are evident. This evening is a time for imagination and creativity. This, coupled with the ability to put your thoughts into words, allows you to captivate and spellbind. This may mean you are entertaining tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is an easy, calm day that should find everything running smoothly. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may be in the forecast. Working with rather than against the energies of the day should be easy to do. There is a natural ability to use emotions in productive ways. Hard work and all things physical, such as sports and outdoor activities, should be a snap this afternoon. You are able to manage and see how to work with the energy of others. Nurturing or being nurtured, sympathy, a yearning to settle down and a fondness for things that have stood the test of time are feelings that you express now. Planning for the next holiday activities or family gathering is in the final stage now and all is positive.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may feel that you have given enough notice as to how you feel about certain things and now you are really beginning to become peeved. People keep making the same mistakes. Perhaps you really did not make yourself clear take a deep breath and think back through previous conversations. This time, make your comments in writing—you will see better results. This is a perfect time for new ideas and taking the novel approach. Your keen business sense is never sharper than when you are working with or for others—a group, corporation, etc. Your actions receive support from those around you today. You are highly motivated when it comes to relationships. There is an opportunity to enjoy a social affair with your loved one this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have an innate love of the law and working through things. You will not be put off by problems and obstacles that might seem to be keeping you from your usual routine. You bring an unexpected twist or insight to several subject matters today—you also seem to have a ready wit. Pay attention to the change in your pocket or purse—make it count. Perhaps when you get home this afternoon, you could begin a new trend or habit by placing your loose change in a can or jar near the door. This can go toward a cleaning bill or that vacation you never feel you could afford. This evening, as usual, friends will find you in a generous and loving mood. A surprise awaits you this evening. You may have a lucky streak as well today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Before you leave for work this morning the phone rings. You have close friends and enjoy the interaction between them. The day is upbeat and active from the very moment you open your eyes. Your bright wit and talkative streak make you always ready for a conversation. You love to get your ideas across to others and communication in any form is where you are happiest. Teaching, lecturing and guiding others should be a real consideration for a professional choice. Today you will jump right in with your ideas, expressing your thoughts, etc. You can bring secrets into the light of day by the wink of your eye. You are brilliant when it comes to insights into the mind and motivation—yours or others'. Your analytical powers are superb.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are effective in what you try to accomplish today. Others gather around you to learn some special method or technique. You can be a good team player as well and when it is your turn to do the listening, you learn with great enthusiasm. You would make an excellent counselor, teacher or even an a-1 student. You will be asked to help someone that is not as smart as you are. This evening you may want to take a break from these intense sessions of learning and teaching events to just enjoy the family. You are very appreciative of the people in your life and can handle emotional, personal issues and vulnerable areas where angels fear to tread. People sense this and trust you with sensitive matters, inner worries and questions of personal identity.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Working longer and harder is not necessarily the way to success. If you feel you need to work overtime or concentrate more fully on your work, make it a point to take your breaks and consume healthy foods while you are at it. If you do not check yourself on this, who will others may depend on you too much when it comes to group issues and important meetings today. You, however, are not the only important player at this meeting. There are opportunities for you to achieve and help the company grow. This is always an avenue for pride of accomplishments. There are also opportunities to help others achieve and maintain their interest to achieve and excel. Relax and enjoy a social event tonight; you will sleep well.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Challenges are a known to you and may allow you the opportunity to teach others how to be calm and carry on while discovering answers to the dilemmas that can occur throughout the workday. This may mean you are a survivalist trainer, an emergency care doctor or nurse, a fire or police officer or some other type of profession. You will find the right place to express your talent and to be an example for others. You can be a real moving force in the lives of others, and as a natural group leader or trainer, your organizational skills are obvious. This afternoon you may feel it is time to get serious about taking care of yourself and no matter what size or look you want to achieve, you are wise to make future medical appointments for checkups.

WORD SEARCH

Farm 1 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

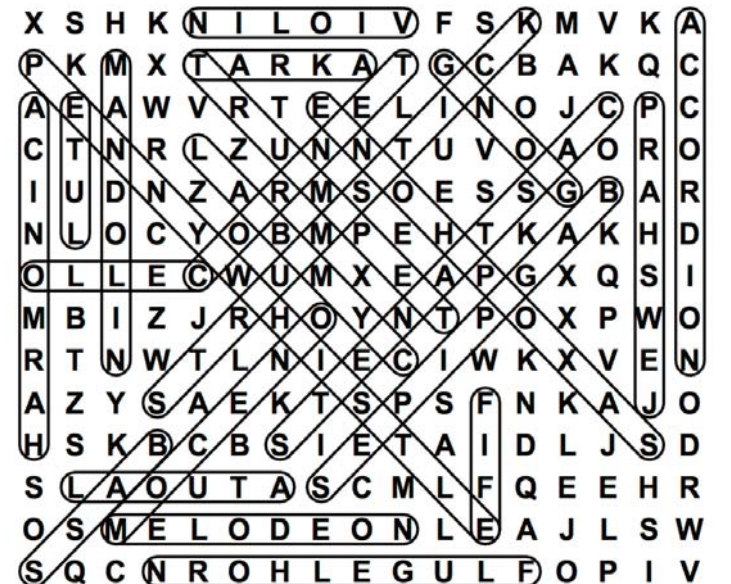


- BALER
- BARN
- BUTTER
- CAT
- CHICKENS
- CREAM
- DAIRY
- EGGS
- FARMER
- FERTILIZER
- GRAIN
- HARROW
- HAY
- HOUSE
- MILK
- PLOW
- PRODUCE
- SOW
- TRACTOR
- TURKEYS
- WEATHERVANE
- WEEDS
- WELL

Yesterday Solution

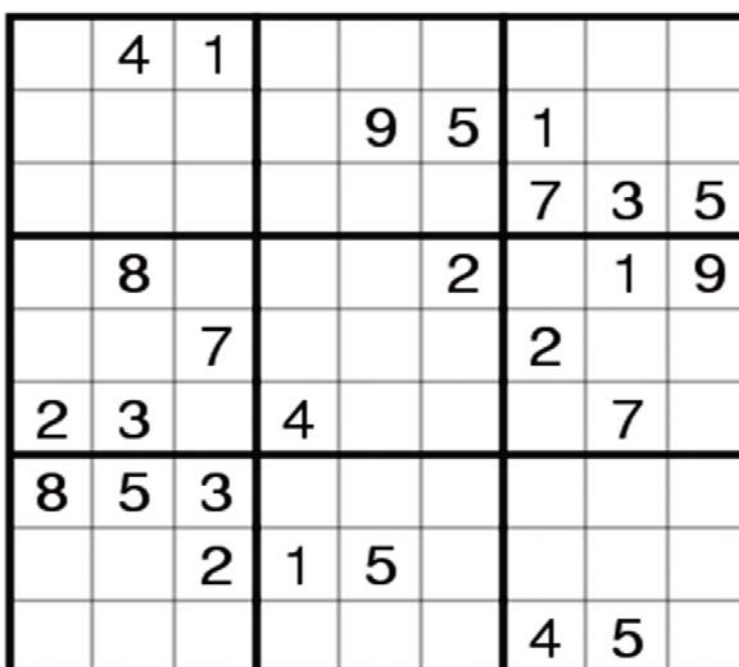
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Musical Instruments 3 - Solution

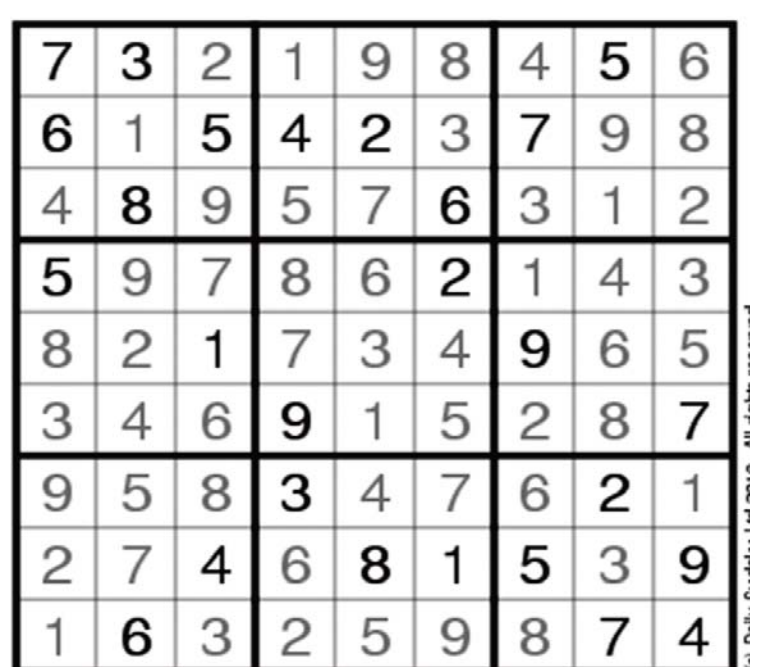


- ACCORDION
- BAGPIPES
- BASS
- CASTANETS
- CELLO
- CORNET
- CYMBAL
- FIFE
- FLUGELHORN
- GONG
- HARMONICA
- JEWS HARP
- LAOUTA
- LUTE
- MANDOLIN
- MELODEON
- MOCENO
- PENNY WHISTLE
- SAXOPHONE
- STRUMSTICK
- TARKA
- TRUMPET
- VIOLIN

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322

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

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

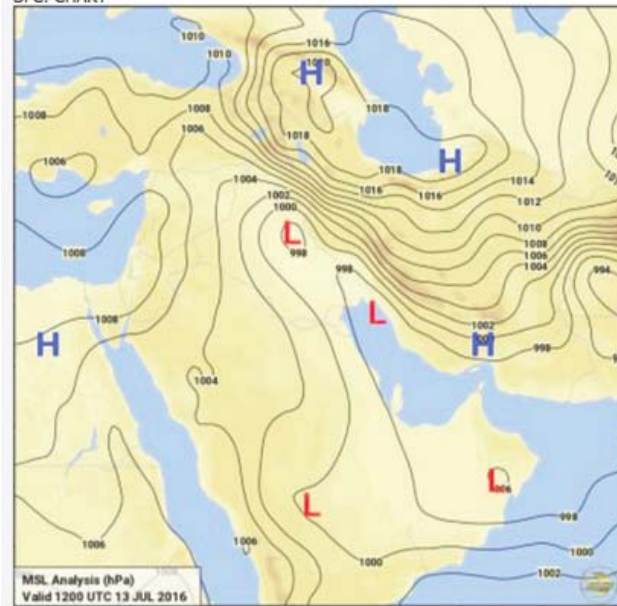
Issued 13/07/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 30 °C

By Night :Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 32 km/h

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	very hot	very hot	very hot + blowing dust	very hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	30	32	34	33
Max Temp °C	48	49	47	49
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	north westerly	north westerly to northerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 26	12 - 35	25 - 50	20 - 45

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

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	33	47
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30	47
ABDALY	30	47
BUBYAN	29	46
JAHRA	31	47
FAILAKA ISLAND	30	46
SALMIYAH	33	45
AHMADI	33	43
JAL ALYAH	29	47
QAROH ISLAND	33	36
UMM AL-MARADEM	33	40
NUWAISIB	31	46
WAFRA	31	46
MANAGISH	28	46
SALMY	27	45
MUTRIBA	28	48

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	45
Min Temp (°C)	31
Max Rel Hum (%)	20
Min Rel Hum (%)	05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	64 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	04:58
Sunset	18:50

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:24
Sunrise	04:58
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:50
Isha	20:20



PRIVATE CLINICS

<b>Ophthalmologists</b>	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
<b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b>	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
<b>General Practitioners</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Rafea	25333501
<b>Urologists</b>	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

<b>Plastic Surgeons</b>	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
<b>Family Doctor</b>	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
<b>Psychiatrists</b>	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
<b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b>	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
<b>General Surgeons</b>	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
<b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b>	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

<b>Paediatricians</b>	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarooof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
<b>Dermatology</b>	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
<b>Dentists</b>	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
<b>Neurologists</b>	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
<b>Gastrologists</b>	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

<b>Endocrinologist</b>	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
<b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b>	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
<b>Rheumatologists:</b>	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
<b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b>	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
<b>Consultant Cardiologist</b>	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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## GOSSIP



## Gomez breaks record for most liked Instagram post

**T**he 'Come and Get It' hitmaker - who is followed by 89.1 million people on the social media site - shared a photo of herself sipping Coca-Cola two weeks ago and the image has already garnered over four million likes, over 300,000 more than the previous record-holding image - which she also featured in. The record was previously held by a blurry throwback photo posted by Selena's ex-boyfriend Justin Bieber in March that featured the former couple kissing, and had attracted 3.7 million likes. The new most popular picture showed the 23-year-old singer wearing a red top and staring directly at the camera as she sips the carbonated beverage through a striped straw. Referring to the fact her song 'Me & the Rhythm' is quoted on the bottle as part of the drinks company's 'Share a Coke and a Song' campaign, Selena captioned the post: 'when your lyrics are on the

bottle.' Prior to Selena and Justin's record-breaking photos, the most liked photo was a 2015 image of Kendall Jenner with her hair formed into hearts that had attracted 3.6 million likes. Selena recently admitted she is "done" talking about her on/off relationship with Justin, who she was with from 2011 to 2014. She said: "At first I didn't care. To me it was: I'm 18, I have a boyfriend, we look cute together, we like that. Then I got my heart broken and I cared. "Because people had no idea what was going on, but everywhere it was a million different things. I was kind of in a corner, banging my head against the wall. I didn't know where to go. I'm so exhausted. I honestly am so done. I care about his health and well-being. But I can't do it anymore."

## Adele covers Spice Girls on 'Carpool Karaoke'



**T**he 'Hello' hitmaker spoke about her long love of the girl group when she featured on the 'Late, Late Show' earlier this year, and also sang their debut single 'Wannabe', and Geri Horner was overjoyed that the 28-year-old singer "connected" with her group over their shared backgrounds. Geri wrote in an essay for America's Marie Claire magazine: "I felt so proud watching Adele on James Corden's 'Carpool Karaoke' segment gone viral video saying she loved the Spice Girls. "She connected with us, she says, because we were just five ordinary girls who 'got out.' 'I didn't know what I wanted to get out of, but I wanted to get out,' she explains. It's something that we - and many other girls, too - felt: We all wanted to get out, stand up and be heard, be counted and have a voice that mattered. "And there we were in those platform shoes! Our message screamed it for every girl. "We all felt it, and as sisters all around the world connected through our music and songs, we shared that feeling. "Suddenly, we weren't alone. Real girl power says you don't have to be perfect, you just have to be united." And Geri believes the Spice Girls have always been "bigger" than herself and her bandmates, Emma Bunton, Victoria Beckham, Mel B and Mel C. She added: "The Spice Girls is bigger than one, two, three, four, or five members. It belongs to us all. " During her appearance on 'Carpool Karaoke', Adele told host James she was "truly heartbroken" for the first time when Geri quit the Spice Girls in 2003. The 'Skyfall' singer also discussed how her time as a devotee of the group was a "really important" period for her as they were such an inspiration. She explained: "It was a huge moment in my life when they came out. "It was girl power, and it was these five ordinary girls who did so well and got out. I was like, 'I want to get out.' It was a really important period of my life."



## Kanye West's daughter wants to see Grandma in heaven

**T**he 'Famous' rapper tragically lost his mom Donda due to surgery complications in 2007 and took to Twitter on her birthday on Tuesday to share an old photo of him with his beloved parent, along with three-year-old North's sweet message asking to meet her. Alongside the throwback photo, Kanye wrote: "NORI ASKED IF THE AIRPLANE COULD TAKE HER TO HEAVEN TO SEE YOU FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, I LOVE YOU (sic)"Kanye's wife, 35-year-old Kim Kardashian West - with whom he also has seven-month-old son Saint - also paid her respects and shared a fan page's tribute on her Twitter. The re-tweeted message read: "#HappyBirthdayDondaWest Thank you for the son

you raised so beautifully. Rest Peacefully (sic)" Earlier this year, the 39-year-old star unveiled his plans to release a video game called 'Only One: The Game', which immortalizes Donda. At the time, he revealed: "I worked on a video game and I wanted to show you all. The idea of the game is my mom travelling through the gates of heaven." The trailer previewed at the event showed Donda travelling through the clouds on a horse before she grows wings and begins to fly. Meanwhile, Kanye previously claimed his mother would still be alive if he never moved to Los Angeles.

## John Cena wants to be co-host on 'Live With Kelly!'

**T**he 39-year-old wrestler has been a guest on Kelly Ripa's morning talk show and believes he could be the right man to fill Michael Strahan's seat following the former NFL player's decision to leave in May to join ABC's 'Good Morning America' full-time. In an interview with 'Extra', he said: "I would absolutely take it, I would take it in a heartbeat ... I would be the first guy to be able to host in the morning and go fight at night." Cena has been diversifying his career outside of the ring and has appeared in films such as 'Trainwreck', 'Sisters' 'Daddy's Home' and will be hosting the 2016 ESPY Awards becoming the first wrestler to ever do so. However, the multi-time world champion is adamant he has no intention of following in the footsteps of his peers Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson and Dave Bautista and giving up grappling for Hollywood stardom. Cena - who has been on WWE TV since 2002 - said: "I don't plan on leaving the WWE ever. They're in 180 countries, they have 650 million homes they reach each week, they have over half a billion social followers ... why in the name of whatever we believe in would I shut that off? They have such a powerful voice, such an excited fan base, and I actually love doing it." I flew all through the day and night just to show up on 'Monday Night RAW' for a minute and a half last night and I loved it - I loved every second of it."



## Heard reunites with her ex-girlfriend

**T**he 30-year-old actress was spotted tucking into lunch with her former flame Tasya Van Ree, whom she split from five years ago, at Republique in Los Angeles earlier this week. Amber, who brought her beloved pet Yorkshire Terrier along with her in a doggy bag, arrived at the plush eatery five minutes after the 40-year-old photographer before spending an hour catching up over delicious grub. Amber dated the happy-snapper for four years and, during that time, the blonde beauty legally changed her surname to Van Ree. It was also claimed the pair held a private ceremony in 2011 in New York, around the time same-sex marriage was legal there, but the pair reportedly didn't make it official. Due to their marriage not being official, Amber didn't need to file for divorce when the pair went their separate ways but she did petition to change her name back in 2013. She was granted the request the following year - three months after she got engaged to Johnny in 2014. Meanwhile, Amber's lunch date with Tasya comes two months after she filed for divorce from the 53-year-old actor. She claimed in court at the time that her decision was prompted by Johnny physically attacking her with an iPhone, leaving her with a bruised eye. In court documents, Amber alleged that, "during the entirety of our relationship, Johnny has been verbally and physically abusive to me. I endured excessive emotional, verbal and physical abuse from Johnny, which has included angry hostile, humiliating and threatening assaults to me whenever I questioned his authority or disagreed with him". The actress was granted a temporary restraining order, which instructs Johnny to remain 100 yards away from his wife at all times, although her request to ban him from seeing her pet pooch was thrown out.

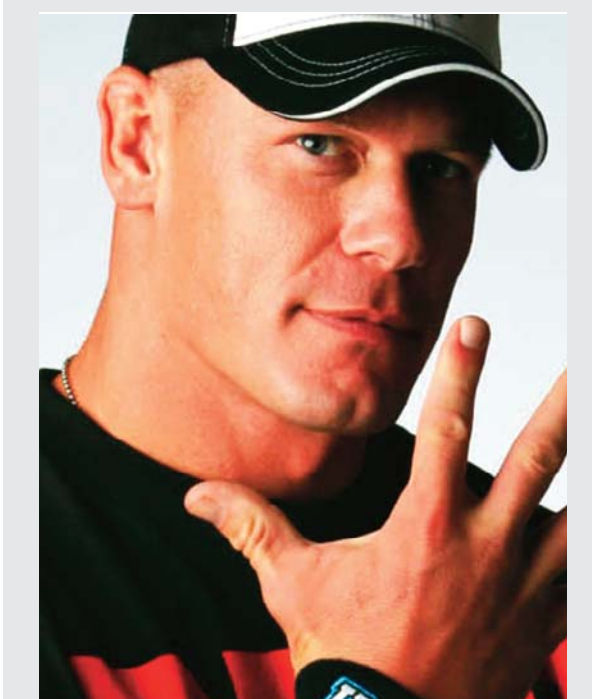
## Tom Hanks' mother has died

**T**he 60-year-old actor paid a touching tribute to Janet Marylyn Frager on Tuesday in which he praised the "beauty" for making a difference to a number of people. Alongside a picture of his mom in her younger years, he wrote on Instagram: "This beauty? My mom. She was the difference in many lives. Many lives. We say goodbye to her today. Safe crossing, mom! Hanx." A few hours later, the 'Saving Mr Banks' actor posted another image of the State Theatre in Red Bluff, California, recalling happy memories as he and Janet watched many movies there when he was younger. The post read: "Red Bluff, California. Saw many movies here with our Mom. Thanks for all who came to see her off. Hanx." Tom's wife Rita Wilson also took to social media to pay tribute to her late mother-in-law. Alongside a picture of her spouse and his parent, she wrote: "This wonderful lady gave birth to my husband, and three other children. Thank you for bringing my love into the world. She is at peace now."



## Lohan struggling to learn Russian

**T**he 'Mean Girls' actress wanted to be able to communicate better with fiance Egor Tarabasov and his family so has been having lessons in his native tongue, but it seems they are not going well. A source said: "You've got to give Lindsay points for trying. She really thought she would be able to do it because of her acting training, but she always gets the order of words wrong and her verb usage is abhorrent." The 30-year-old star's linguistic skills are so bad, Egor's family are trying to improve their English instead so they don't have to hear her botched attempts at their language. The source added to heat magazine: "Egor and his family were really encouraging at first, but after a few months they're beginning to realize she's a lost cause. "Hearing her trying to speak Russian makes their ears bleed. "They're good natured about it and are pleased that she tried, but now Egor's parents are just brushing up on their English, just so they can communicate with their son's choice of wife."





## GOSSIP



## Malik was told to quit One Direction by 'an alien'

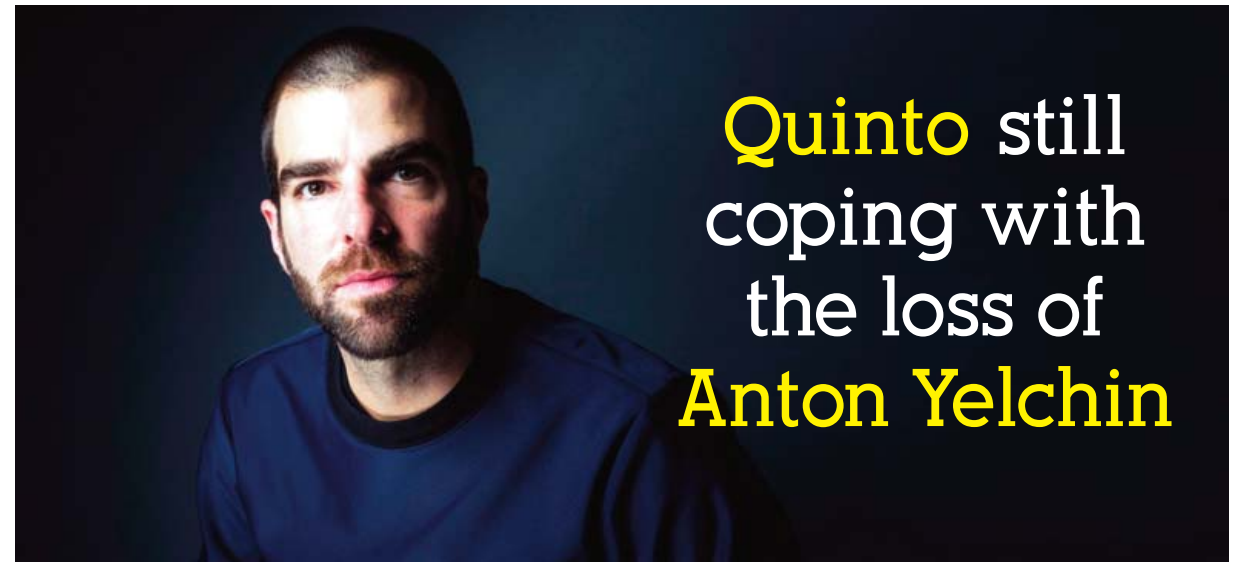
**T**he 23-year-old singer songwriter - who quit the group in March this year - has revealed a visitation from an extra-terrestrial being in his dream made him realize he needed to leave the boy band, which was made up of Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson, Liam Payne and Harry Styles. Speaking to Glamour magazine about his revelation to quit the group, he said: "An alien spoke to me in a dream." And the dark-haired heart-throb has admitted the late 'Thriller' hitmaker Michael Jackson was his greatest musical influence and inspired him to embark on a career in the music industry. Speaking about his inspiration, he said: "No question: 'Thriller' by Michael Jackson." However, the 'PillowTalk' soloist has revealed he has an obsession with the late reggae musician Bob Marley, and regularly plays tribute to the 'One Love' hitmaker after his performances. When asked about the first thing he does when he steps off of the stage, he said:

"Pay homage to Bob Marley." Meanwhile, Zayn - who is currently dating supermodel Gigi Hadid despite splitting earlier this year month after seven months of dating - has admitted the blonde beauty was his biggest support through his "dark" period which made them closer than ever. Speaking previously, a source said: "Things are back to normal with them. They got through a rough patch that Zayn was facing personally and it started to put a dark cloud on their relationship. Gigi was there for him when he needed her the most and that brought them closer than ever." The couple are rumored to be putting all their energy into mending their romance by spending time together and away from prying eyes.

## Aniston fed up of pregnancy rumors



**T**he 'Friends' star penned a lengthy essay for The Huffington Post newspaper where she insisted she has had enough of the "shocking lengths" the paparazzi will go to get a photo of her or her husband Justin Theroux. She wrote: "Let me start by saying that addressing gossip is something I have never done. I don't like to give energy to the business of lies, but I wanted to participate in a larger conversation that has already begun and needs to continue. Since I'm not on social media, I decided to put my thoughts here in writing. "For the record, I am not pregnant. What I am fed up. I'm fed up with the sport-like scrutiny and body shaming that occurs daily under the guise of 'journalism,' the 'First Amendment' and 'celebrity news.' "Every day my husband and I are harassed by dozens of aggressive photographers staked outside our home who will go to shocking lengths to obtain any kind of photo, even if it means endangering us or the unlucky pedestrians who happen to be nearby. But setting aside the public safety aspect, I want to focus on the bigger picture of what this insane tabloid ritual represents to all of us." The 47-year-old actress went on to slam the "objectification and scrutiny" women are put through. She added: "The objectification and scrutiny we put women through is absurd and disturbing. The way I am portrayed by the media is simply a reflection of how we see and portray women in general, measured against some warped standard of beauty. "Sometimes cultural standards just need a different perspective so we can see them for what they really are - a collective acceptance ... a subconscious agreement. We are in charge of our agreement. Little girls everywhere are absorbing our agreement, passive or otherwise."



## Quinto still coping with the loss of Anton Yelchin

**T**he actor tragically lost his life when he was trapped by his own car in a freak accident in Los Angeles last month and his co-star is hopeful the upcoming film 'Star Trek Beyond' will celebrate his "incredible spirit." Speaking to BANG Showbiz at the film's premiere in Leicester Square, London on Tuesday evening he said: "We pay tribute to him in our own ways all of the time and losing him is one of the hardest things that's happened to any of us. I think this whole thing is so difficult in proximity to that tragedy and it has to be about celebrating Anton and his incredible spirit and the life he lived. "He's gone way too soon but left behind people that are full of love for him and his work. Watching him on screen makes us all feel heartened by knowing that we got

to spend some incredible time together." Meanwhile, Simon Pegg previously paid tribute to Anton, admitting he was like a part of his "family". He said: "He should still be here, but we have to make this about Anton now. And we talked about how hard it was gonna be to get out there and bang the drum for this movie when we've lost one of our family. "But for his sake and for his memory we're gonna make it. It's something that we just now have to contend with." And Zachary also recently described Anton's passing as a "devastating loss".



## Bell was 'moved' by reaction to her battle with depression

**T**he 35-year-old star opened up about her mental health struggles recently and is so thrilled she managed to help other people who are suffering. She told the new issue of Redbook magazine: "It didn't occur to me that I would help anybody. Also, I didn't expect to be so moved by people's comments on social media about how they had been prescribed medication and never wanted to take it until now because it finally didn't feel shameful. "You're labeled as a failure if you can't kick depression. That's bulls\*\*t. You would never deny a diabetic his insulin and go, 'Why can't you process sugar on your own?'" Meanwhile, the 'Frozen' star - who has Lincoln, three, and Delta, 18 months, with her husband Dax Shepard -

previously admitted having depression left her feeling "worthless". She shared at the time: "For me, depression is not sadness. It's not having a bad day and needing a hug. It gave me a complete and utter sense of isolation and loneliness. Its debilitation was all-consuming, and it shut down my mental circuit board. "I felt worthless, like I had nothing to offer, like I was a failure. Now, after seeking help, I can see that those thoughts, of course, couldn't have been more wrong. It's important for me to be candid about this so people in a similar situation can realize that they are not worthless and that they do have something to offer. We all do."



## Lively's family give her 'security and happiness'

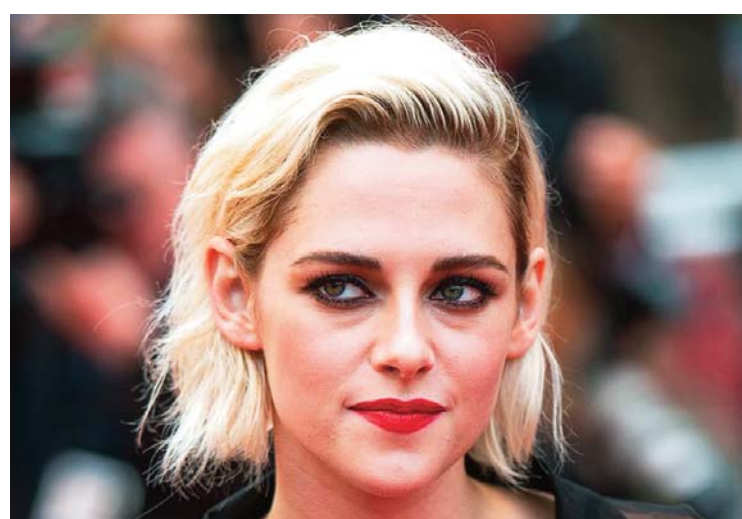
**T**he 'Gossip Girl' star has praised her husband Ryan Reynolds and her 18-month-old daughter James for helping her navigate through Hollywood. She told USA TODAY: "We've both given up projects that we really love because we can't keep our family together. People often think their career is something they have to chase and maintain, but for us, we said, 'Let's always chase and maintain our personal life.'" This is a career that's like the stock market: You've got to stay hot while you're hot. But your family, that's the real thing that gives you security and success and happiness." Meanwhile, the 28-year-old actress previously joked her and the 'Deadpool' star are "breeders". She said: "I'm one of five kids. My husband is one of four, so we're officially breeders. You can go on our website and we will give you some of our children." And Blake loves raising her daughter because

she is so much "fun". She shared: "She's always doing something fun and exciting. She's the most fun, funny human being I've ever been around in my life." The blonde beauty recently admitted she is keen to raise her kids in the same "normal" way her husband was brought up. She said: "Ryan had a nice, normal upbringing, and we want our kids to have the same normal life that we had. We don't ever want to rob them of what we had, because we'd feel really selfish. "I'd rather not have to deal with it at all, but we knew the lifestyle we were getting into, and while it's hard ... it's another thing when it's our child. She didn't have the opportunity to make a decision about what she wants."



## Robbie studied Jared Leto like a psychologist

**T**he 26-year-old star worked alongside the 44-year-old actor in hotly-anticipated movie 'Suicide Squad' and admitted she found it hard to "get through to him at first" because he was always in character. She told Bustle: "He's in character all the time. I spent a lot of time trying to figure out their relationship. Because he's got this facade up, it was really hard for me to get through to him at first. So I was like, okay, I gotta approach this as if I'm trying to crack the Joker. "It's a test that psychologists use to determine what mental illness people might have. It's a list of 500 questions or something. Whenever we had time to rehearse or improvise, or even in scenes, I'd just start with those questions ... I'd see which ones would catch him off guard and how, how he'd react, and I'd be like, 'Okay, I'm gonna go for this tactic now.'" Meanwhile, Margot previously revealed she accepted a role in 'Suicide Squad' without seeing the script. She said: "I never really thought to myself, 'Oh, I want to be in a comic-book movie.' When I first about it I was about to do a different project, and they said, 'Before you sign on for that, would you consider playing Harley Quinn?' I was like, 'Okay, can I read the script?' And they were like, 'There's no script.' 'Okay, is there anyone attached?' 'No one attached.' ... Is there a director?' 'Yeah, David Ayer.' And I was like, 'Well, I'm in!' And that was kind of it! I didn't sign on to do a comic-book movie, nor had I ever expected to. But if I was to do it, David was the guy I wanted to work with."



## Stewart says love is an 'intense overwhelming' feeling

**T**he 'Twilight' star was forced to remember the first time she fell in love and had her heartbroken for her role in 'Equals' and whilst she has good memories about love, she admits relationships can go "epically bad" as well. She told Entertainment Tonight: "I read the script and I was just like, 'This is going to suck and hurt to think about.'" "You just place yourself in that feeling that maybe you've had before - it's the most visceral, intense overwhelming feeling - so when it's really great, it's epically great, and when it's really bad, it's epically bad. So we knew going into it, this was gonna be like ... 'Oof, this is going to hurt.'" Meanwhile, the 26-year-old star - who has romanced both men and women in the past - insists she never wants to define her sexuality. She said: "Me not defining it right now is the whole basis of what I'm about. If you don't get it, I don't have time for you. There's acceptance that's become really rampant and cool. You don't have to immediately know how to define yourself. "I had to have some answer about who I was. I felt this weird responsibility, because I didn't want to seem fearful. But nothing seemed appropriate. So I was like, how do I define that? 'I'm not going to. Plus, I didn't want to screw with other people. I didn't want to be this example: It's so easy. I don't want it to seem like it was stupid for them to have a hard time. I find the movement that's occurring to be so important, that I want to be part of it." - Bangshowbiz



Film Review

## Woody Allen's 'Cafe Society' is a disjointed meander

Woody Allen has outdone himself at age 80. Not only has he kept up his blistering pace of pushing out a movie a year, but this time he's really delivered two films, only loosely connected by jangling neurosis. "Cafe Society," starring Jesse Eisenberg as the sweet but awkward Allen stand-in, is a meandering look at lost love that is split between the highball-sipping, fur-wearing elite nightclubs of Manhattan and Hollywood in the 1930s. We never spend enough time in either location to really care about anyone there and so the film comes off disjointed and unconnected.

Allen seems both intrigued and repulsed by all the glamour and never keeps a consistent tone, just as his leading man stumbles trying to achieve coherence, seemingly alternating in every other scene from nebbish, stuttering clown to passive-aggressive bully to suave sophisticate. Allen narrates his own tale, but mostly tells the audience exactly what we're already seeing, undercutting his actors. There are a few gems in the script (including the line: "Life is a comedy written by a sadistic comedy writer") but the screenwriter is conflicted over whether he's writing a noir, a satire or a romantic comedy.

Allen's cinematographer is three-time Academy Award winner Vittorio Storaro, who combines with costume designer Suzy Benzinger and production designer Santo Loquasto, to recreate lush, gorgeous spaces filled with black ties and shimmering gowns, all elegantly lit. The soundtrack is also super, consisting of classics like "Jeepers Creepers" and "The Lady is a Tramp." Basically, the look and sound is jaw-dropping; the story at the center is ho-hum. The first half follows the New York-born Bobby Dorfman (Eisenberg) as he flees West for adventure in Tinseltown. His uncle (a very good

Steve Carell) is a high-powered yet insecure movie agent who puts him under his wing.

A broken romantic triangle sends Bobby back to New York pining for a lost love in the film's second half. He becomes a cool, glad-handing nightclub manager - odd, since he's supposed to be so self-conscious and internal - for his gangster brother (Corey Stoll, hitting the wiseguy bit a little hard). Bobby gets married to Blake Lively (whose job here is to simply wear dresses fabulously) and has a family.

What connects these stories is Kristen Stewart, a former assistant of Bobby's uncle who walks into the New York club one day like a ghost from the past, a scene as melodramatic as it sounds. Stewart is good at being cold; not so good here as the source of anyone's wild adoration.

The film, which never really catches a full head of steam, sort of peters out by the end. There are some wistful glances and the notion that people do foolish things. And that's about it. In "Cafe Society," the martinis are dry, stunning women fall for weirdos and irritating people are shot in the head and dumped in concrete, but all in good fun. We learn that men and women can love two people at once, and good people can cheat. No one really grows up. Even hookers are funny.

You'll end up feeling about the film like Bobby about Los Angeles - "half-bored, half-fascinated." And that's a pretty poor average, even for two poorly stitched-together films. "Cafe Society," an Amazon Studios release from Lionsgate, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some violence, a drug reference, suggestive material and smoking." Running time: 96 minutes. One star out of four. — AP



In this image released by Lionsgate, Jesse Eisenberg, left, and Kristen Stewart appear in a scene from "Cafe Society." — AP



This file photo taken on September 20, 2015 shows winners of the award for Outstanding Drama Series for 'Game of Thrones' as they pose in the Press Room during the 67th Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, California. — AFP/AP photos

## 'Game of Thrones' tipped to top Emmys nods

Hollywood begins the run up to its annual prize-giving season today with "Game of Thrones" tipped once again to dominate the field at the announcement of the television industry's 2016 Emmy Awards nominations. The Television Academy's 19,000 members were given two weeks in June to sift through a crowded field of more than 8,000 entries from shows aired during the previous 12 months.

HBO's fantasy epic about noble families vying for control of the Iron Throne is expected to net a raft of nods after raking in a record-breaking 12 awards last year, including best drama series. The academy tends to nominate and vote conservatively, but this year could see a number of nods go to newcomers like USA's Golden Globe winner "Mr. Robot" and FX's hotly-tipped "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story." Tried-and-tested favorites are nevertheless expected to dominate and "Downton Abbey" (PBS) will be hoping to bow out on a high after its last season.

The most star-studded category is likely to be best actor in a limited series or TV movie with the field led by six-time Emmy winner Bryan Cranston, who has received rave reviews for anchoring HBO's Lyndon B Johnson biopic "All the Way." Benedict Cumberbatch, Idris Elba and Anthony Hopkins will also be expecting nominations while other big name contenders in the category include Bill Murray and Johnny Depp. The topic of race is likely to figure heavily in the limited series category - formerly known as "outstanding miniseries" - with "The People v. O.J. Simpson" tipped to be matched up with historical saga "Roots" and ABC's "American Crime."

**'Spectacular'**

"Downton Abbey" picked up eight nominations last year but won only for "hairstyling" and will be hoping to mark its final season with a fourth nod in the prestigious outstanding drama category. Last

year's other drama nominees - "Breaking Bad" spinoff "Better Call Saul," "Game of Thrones," political thrillers "Homeland" and "House of Cards," and prison dramedy "Orange is the New Black" - are all eligible again this year.

"With 'Homeland' and 'House of Cards' coasting on a perception they were 'better' this season, I think they're probably safe, and 'Downton Abbey' has that 'last season' glow," TV critic Daniel Fienberg said in a commentary for the Hollywood Reporter. "After a great second season, I'd hope 'Better Call Saul' only adds nominations and doesn't subtract, so 'Orange is the New Black' is vulnerable, especially with its comedy/drama ambiguity."

Academy members were able to select up to 10 programs per category but, unlike the Oscars, do not rank their choices for the Emmys, with nominees determined by a simple tally. There are seven

nominees in "comedy series" and "drama series" and six in the rest. Anthony Anderson, star of ABC's hit series "black-ish," and "Gilmore Girls" actress Lauren Graham will present the nominations for the 68th Emmy Awards at the Television Academy in Los Angeles.

Second round voting will take place from August 15 to August 29 while the awards, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, will be broadcast live from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles on September 18 on ABC. "Television is enjoying the most spectacular run in its history with breakthrough creativity, emerging platforms and dynamic new opportunities for our industry's storytellers," said Academy chairman Bruce Rosenblum. — AFP



In this Sept. 20, 2015 file photo, Viola Davis poses in the press room with the award for outstanding lead actress in a drama series for 'How to Get Away with Murder' at the 67th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

## Dreams take flight for Pakistan's pigeon racers

A flock of pigeons take off from a Lahore roof top at dawn, rising above the city's Mughal-era minarets before disappearing out of sight. Rather than being viewed as pests, these birds are champions of endurance who evoke a passionate following across Pakistan. "It is a love affair," says Akhlaq Khan, a famous octogenarian pigeon-fancier and author of the only book on the subject in Pakistan. "You don't see anything there, no difference between the birds," he says, cradling a plump bird with a white body and coloured head. "But I can tell the worth of each bird by looking at the eyes and feathers."

On his rooftop in a leafy district of Pakistan's cultural capital, hundreds of birds are cooing in massive light blue cages in the sweltering Punjabi summer. In film and folklore, pigeons, or "kabootar" are associated with love letters destined for harems and for military orders sent to champion warriors by kings of yesteryear. "Flying breeds in India were introduced by the Mughals," says Khan referring to the Muslim dynasty that ruled the subcontinent from the early 16th century till the mid-19th. Pigeon followers broadly class the birds into those known for their competitive flying ability, and those prized for their looks. Akbar the Great was renowned for his pigeon passion, and, according to one scholar of the court "had 20,000 birds of different types," said Khan.

**The Bold and the Beautiful**

Millions of fans across the country are enthralled by low and high altitude flying competitions, and races in which opponents attempt to distract each others' birds, etc. It is a rare pastime that brings together people from different social backgrounds - experts are often illiterate and the owners are rich. A good pigeon can be valued at hundreds of dollars, equivalent to several months salary for many Pakistanis.

Bird cages and enthusiasts can be found on rooftops in the old

A caretaker releases racing pigeons from their cage on the final day of the pigeon race national championship.



districts of cities across the country. Pakistani pigeons and experts have also been taken by Arab royals for tournaments in the Gulf. For so-called "high-flying" pigeons, the rules are simple: At dawn, each team of seven or eleven pigeons take off from their perches, spend the day flying out of sight, and when they return at nightfall, the flight time of each pigeon is added up and an average is calculated. The winning team is the one which has the longest average flight time after a total of seven or eleven flights held every two days.

"We fly pigeon around 5 in morning after stamping them, and if the pigeon comes back around 4 to 5 in the evening we consider them good," explains Syed Mehtab Shah, a participant in the

Bahrain Cup, one of a number of tournaments organized in spring and autumn. "I love beating my competitors, it brings me joy and fame," explains the pigeon-fancier from Islamabad, surrounded by several friends who have come to see his pigeons land one evening following an endurance flight. The conversation halts as two birds, which spent the day flying at 3,000 meters and are recognizable by the pink paint daubed under their wings, come in to land. Grabbing binoculars, the audience admire the birds' precision landing, which was guided by flags.

**Alcohol and steroids**

The best champions, capable of flying for more than 12 hours

without food or drink in exhausting heat, are showered with luxurious treatment often reserved for humans. The pigeon masters, known as "ustads," give their birds long massages with a damp towel and special concoctions to boost performance.

In his book, Khan reveals his diet plans for the winged athletes: Crushed almonds, cardamom and Indian lotus seed powder, as well as a "water of life" - laced with cumin, pepper and other spices. He speaks too of the benefits of port and whisky, illegal in Pakistan, precious saffron and ginseng. There is no governing body regulating pigeon racing, so other less natural ingredients can creep in to the diet. "Anabolic steroids, calcium tablets and sometimes sedative tablets are used," says Waqar Haider, a student of Akhlaq Khan, from Rawalpindi.

The victors can take home mobile phones, motorcycles and even cars - proving a winning bird in hand can be worth more than several in the proverbial shrubbery. In this way, the story of love became a story of money. "It fell into disrepute because people started gambling," explains Khan. And it has become necessary to deal with the inevitable jealousy. Haider's wife spends long hours peeling almonds and cooking for her husband's guests during each competition. She concedes shyly: "He spends more time with his birds with me." — AFP



In this photograph taken on May 30, 2016, a Pakistani racing pigeon owner feeds his pigeon after a day of flying during the pigeon race national championship in Islamabad. — AFP photos



A spectator uses binoculars as he watches pigeons fly overhead.



A caretaker counts racing pigeons before their release.



A caretaker holds a pair of racing pigeons after a day of flying during the pigeon race national championship.





Brazilian designers Humberto (L) and Fernando Campana pose for pictures at their studio in Sao Paulo. — AFP photos



## Brazil's designer brothers turn chaos into art

Designers Humberto and Fernando Campana improvise and explore in their quest for strange new creations. But their biggest inspiration is on their doorstep: Everyday, discarded objects in their colorful and chaotic homeland, Brazil. Armchairs made from rag dolls, stuffed toy crocodiles or hundreds of yards of woven rope are among the offbeat creations that have made the brothers renowned in the design world.

In their sun-flooded Sao Paulo studio, a team of artisans sews leather and brushes fleeces that will cover new items of furniture, while others enter data on computers. "This is a laboratory," says Humberto, the elder of the brothers at 63. "We are always seeking new forms of expression." The key to their work is surprising the viewer by their choice of materials. They make sofas out of cardboard and turn plastic packaging into chairs.

One of their signature works, the "Favela," is an armchair made of shards of wood, resembling the shanty huts cobbled together by dwellers in Brazil's

vast slums. The younger brother Fernando, 55, says their work aims to imitate "how people improvise shelter, building their houses out of objects they find in the street." Like other Campana designs, these "Favelas" sell for thousands of dollars in shops worldwide. Their work features in the collections of top modern art institutions such as New York's MOMA museum and the Pompidou Center in Paris. But the Campanas have also worked with small cooperatives and artisans to support local traditional crafts.

### 'Homage to chaos'

Theirs is an "urgent, spontaneous form of design," says Fernando. For him it reflects a unique "Brazilian know-how." "Brazilian design can offer the world improvisation, but done well," he says. "You transfer the material from one function to another and give it an everyday use." Works such as the "Boa," a sofa that curls like a snake, or "Coral," a chair that looks bumpy like a reef, evoke Brazil's natural

beauty. The brothers had no formal training in design. Humberto studied law and Fernando architecture.

They started designing in the 1980s and mounted their first exhibition in 1989. They dismiss rigid design conventions. "That is not Brazil," Humberto says. "Brazil has cultural richness... It is much more than just straight lines." Their "Red Armchair" was first made with 500 meters of red rope they found discarded in 1993. They wove it around a frame like a nest. "The idea for a project always originates in the materials," he adds. "We transform the banal into the sophisticated." A chic Italian design firm discovered the brothers and the chair made the Campanas name, Humberto says. "That chair is our homage to chaos." — AFP



## New York Fashion Week



Models walk the runway at the Ovadia & Sons and Cadet runway at Skylight Clarkson in New York City. — AFP photos

## Reviving 'Ghostbusters' and keeping the original spirit

Forget everything you think you know about the new "Ghostbusters" movie. For all the scrutiny, hand-wringing and vitriol, you'd think it was about a presidential campaign, not just a kindhearted comedy based on a 32-year-old idea that features four funny women instead of four funny men. But between the Sony hack, a course-shifting death and an elusive movie star, a few internet trolls were decidedly the least of anyone's worries.

As producer Ivan Reitman puts it: "The movie is the only answer to the question, 'Is the movie good, or not?'" In the long and twisty development process, the big question internally was never about gender. It was about whether to reboot or pass the torch. Reitman, who directed the original "Ghostbusters," had been working on a third film, a pure sequel to "Ghostbusters II," which would have focused on the now-grown son of Bill Murray and Sigourney Weaver's characters. The film was greenlit and a script was in the works - which, by the way, featured a mixed gender cast - but it wasn't going all that smoothly.

Murray wasn't enthusiastic about a sequel in general and demanded that his character be killed off after five minutes. And then Harold Ramis, the beloved co-star and co-writer of the original, got very sick with vasculitis and died in February 2014 at the age of 69. "It just broke all of our hearts," Reitman said. "There was no way to do that movie without him and with a reluctant Bill. I decided I would give up the directing and negotiated a deal to make it possible for the studio to continue this thing that we started."

### 'Beast fest'

Shortly after, "Bridesmaids" director Paul Feig entered the picture, through then-Sony Pictures chief Amy Pascal, with interest from comedy superstars Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Wiig. Feig brought on Katie Dippold, who wrote



In this image released by Sony Pictures, from left, Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon, Kristen Wiig and Leslie Jones appear in a scene from, "Ghostbusters." — AP photos

"The Heat," to co-write the screenplay, and they were off - holding on for dear life amid the turmoil caused by the breach of Sony's computer system. Feig added up-and-coming "Saturday Night Live" cast members Leslie Jones and Kate McKinnon to round out the four Ghostbusters.

"When Paul told me the four people who were on it, I was like, 'Oh he's going for a beast fest.' All of us are comedic beasts," said Jones, whose worries about how the four personalities would mesh in an ensemble were quickly assuaged. Feig prides himself on his ability to assemble great comedic energies, and Reitman was on board too, deciding to give Feig space to make the film he wanted. "I knew very early that we were in very good shape when I saw the four of them together," said Reitman. "There's this remarkable in-step quality that really good improvisers can do with each other. You believe the truth of them having been together forever, even if they haven't." Reitman had a simple rule: he didn't want this film to be an insult to the first, a spoof, send up, or silly version.

And it's not. The story is its own creation about the formation of the

Ghostbusters, set in the present day where the 1984 Ghostbusters don't exist and only a few eccentric scientists believe in the paranormal. For Wiig, it was "an easy yes." She took comfort in knowing that they also had the support and participation of the original cast, including Murray, Dan Aykroyd (also a producer), Ernie Hudson and Sigourney Weaver. "It really felt like we were being blessed in such a way that we were all part of this thing together. It's kind of what the spirit of the movie is," Wiig said. The stakes are high, but not necessarily superhero level. The film cost around \$150 million to make, and Reitman and Aykroyd have plans for some sort of an expanded universe under the Ghost Corps banner. While there are no specific plans - or contracts - for a sequel yet, the story doesn't exactly close the books on the cast, either. "I've been waiting for this moment," Reitman said. "Let everyone see it, and you decide." — AP



In this April 12, 2016, file photo, director Paul Feig, center, poses with cast members, from left, Kate McKinnon, Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig and Leslie Jones during the Sony Pictures Entertainment presentation of "Ghostbusters," at CinemaCon 2016 in Las Vegas.



# Lifestyle

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2016

'Game of Thrones' tipped to top Emmys nods

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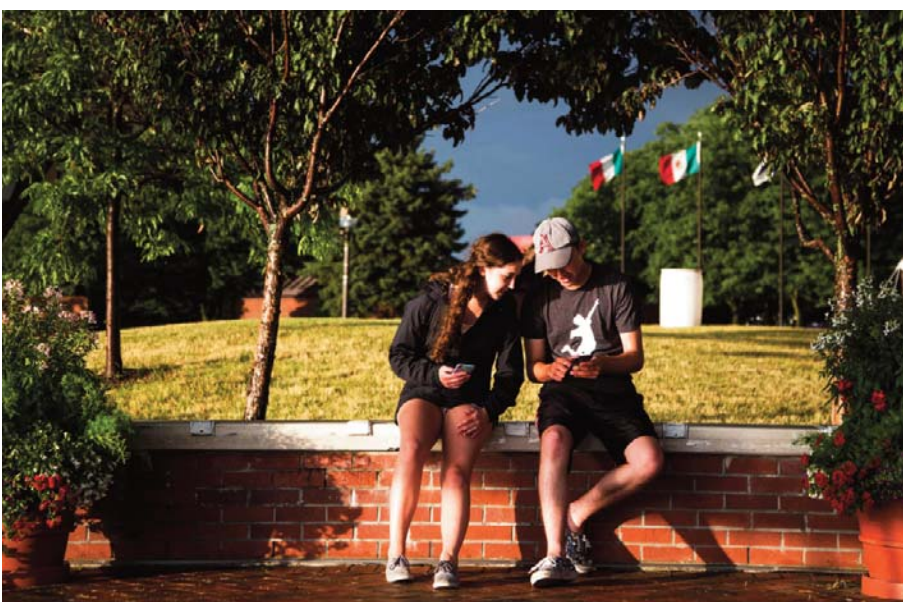


This file picture taken on August 16, 2015 shows dozens of people dressed up as Pikachu, the famous character of Nintendo's videogame software Pokemon, dancing with fans as the final of a nine-day "Pikachu Outbreak" event in Yokohama, in suburban Tokyo. — AP/AFP photos

## Pokemon Go unleashes legions of monster hunters



Two friends hunt cartoon monsters in front of San Francisco City Hall on July 12, 2016 in California.



Justice Ratajczak, right, and Katherine Bruck sit down as they play "Pokemon Go" in Wenonah Park Tuesday, July 12, 2016, in downtown Bay City.



Justin Smith makes a quick stop on his bicycle to catch a Pokemon while playing "Pokemon Go" Tuesday, July 12, 2016, in downtown Bay City.

Roland James Rodas sprang from bed near midnight to race outside and catch a nocturnal Pokemon. Edith Duro interrupted dinner to pursue a nearby creature. A player who identified himself only as Nick B. spent part of Tuesday on a quest to reach a "PokeStop" tucked away in San Francisco's posh Nob Hill.

"It was in someone's backyard basically," he said, as he and a friend hunted Pokemon in front of San Francisco City Hall. "We had to climb through a car park to get close enough to it." Since its release in the United States, Australia and New Zealand last week, the free Pokemon Go smartphone game that overlays play on the real world has triggered a craze tinged with obsession. The app based on a Nintendo title that debuted 20 years ago was adapted to the mobile internet age by Niantic Labs, a company spun out of Google last year.

The game uses GPS and mapping capabilities in mobile phones to let players roam the real world to find "PokeStops" stocked with supplies and hunt cartoon monsters to capture and train for battles. Players visit "gyms" where the creatures can be conditioned as combatants to seize such training facilities. "I had heard of augmented reality games and never quite understood what that all meant until this game came out," Roxanne Cook told AFP on Monday while hunting Pokemon in a San Francisco park during her lunch break. "I think it is fascinating; really interesting and fun."

### 'Everyone is playing'

The popularity of Pokemon Go has overwhelmed servers used to host play, leaving players frustrated but seemingly undeterred. App analytics company SensorTower estimates the game has already been downloaded 7.5 million times in the United States, and brings in \$1.6 million per day on Apple's iOS app store from sales of virtual items, the Techcrunch site reported. Rodas, 23, spent the weekend hunting, training and fighting Pokemon, taking breaks only for food, sleep and to charge his phone.

"Everyone is playing," Rodas said. "I haven't hung out with my friends this much in a while. Every other day we are getting together just to walk around playing the game." Evidence of the craze is easy to spot. Hordes of people can be seen walking in circles or wandering, eyes riveted to smartphone screens. Chatter ranges from shouted Pokemon sightings to consultations about where to recharge phone batteries.

They are hunting cartoon monsters called Pokemon that are overlaid on real world settings when viewed through cameras on phones. Players swipe their fingers across phone screens to hit creatures with virtual balls used to capture monsters. Bicyclists or cars will suddenly pull over near spots which, in the game, are PokeStops or gyms. "It takes me longer to ride my bike to work now, because I stop at every PokeStop," said Cook. "I also take longer ways to where I need to go, just to have more stops along the way."

Cook, a mom, said that part of the game's appeal for her was "the thrill of the hunt" and the fun of capturing rare Pokemon. She also enjoyed the social aspect of the game, getting people out into places such as parks to play and talk together. "To be honest, it does feel a little bit weird being a grown man out here playing video games," Steven Kong, 33, said while hunting Pokemon in the San Francisco Civic Center. A Twitter employee playing Pokemon Go while on a break from his job at the company's San Francisco headquarters advised hunting outside nearby luxury condos owned by rich techies. They don't mind spending cash to buy the game's virtual "incense" that makes Pokemon come to a player instead of the other way around.

Many players said their connections to Pokemon stretch back to childhood. "It is a bit nostalgic for us, and once it catches on, like anything that is viral, everyone else wants to

see what it is about," Kong said of the game's dizzying popularity.



### Risk and Respect

Pokemon Go comes with warnings for players to remain aware of their surroundings. Police have urged players not to venture into places that are dangerous or off-limits, and to watch out for criminals who may turn them from hunters to prey. Many businesses have welcomed the craze, offering discounts or deals to visiting Pokemon Go players. However, some venues in the US such as Washington's Holocaust Museum and Arlington National Cemetery are asking people to be respectful and refrain from gameplay there. Concerns have also been raised about whether data collected about players and their whereabouts is being kept private and safe. US Senator Al Franken on Tuesday set Niantic a letter asking for information regarding what it does with data gathered about players. — AFP

A customer visits a shop selling Pokemon goods in Tokyo.



Sameer Uddin and Michelle Macias play 'Pokemon Go' on their smartphones outside of Nintendo's flagship store, July 11, 2016 in New York City.