

High demand for part-time domestic helpers



Three French troops killed in Libya intel operation



The Real Fouz: How to get the perfect summer tan!



Female swimmer challenges Libyan taboos



## BANGLADESHIS EMPLOYED FOR LABOR, NOT POLICE WORK: MOI

INFO MINISTRY ISSUES EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS OF E-MEDIA LAW



Min 35°  
Max 51°  
High Tide 01:29 & 12:03  
Low Tide 06:37 & 19:38

### COURT FREES 4 IN FINTAS GROUP CASE

MOSQUE ROW RAGES

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The court of appeals yesterday freed on bail four men including two members of the ruling family charged with insulting the judiciary and spreading false news about Kuwait. The men are among 13 people in the case locally known as the Fintas Group, who were also charged of insulting HH the Amir and the judiciary. The four men - Sheikh Athbi Al-Fahd Al-Sabah, the former two-time chief of the state security department, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Dawood, both members of the ruling family, and Falah Al-Hajraf and Abdulmohsen Al-Ateeqi - were asked by the court to pay KD 5,000 each and are banned from leaving the country.

The four men had been in jail since last week after the court refused to free them. They and Sheikh Khalifa Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the former editor-in-chief of Al-Watan newspaper, were sentenced to five years in jail. Sheikh Khalifa has not appeared in court and remains outside the country. A sixth man was sentenced to one year in jail while a seventh was handed a 10-year jail term in absentia. Six other people were acquitted.

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### 6,000 BOTTLES OF LIQUOR BUSTED



KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives, in cooperation with customs officers, foiled an attempt to smuggle 6,000 bottles of liquor from a Gulf country at Shuwaikh Port. Farwaniya detectives were tipped about the shipment labeled as containing housewares, so they coordinated with customs detectives at Shuwaikh Port, and the movement of the shipment was followed and the suspect container was put under surveillance. A Pakistani national named Shahrayar Mohammad went yesterday to receive the container and was arrested, in addition to another man who was with him, named Mohammed Mustafa Khan. When the container was unloaded, the first half of it contained household items, while the other half was loaded with 500 boxes containing 6,000 liquor bottles. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Contrary to what has been shown on social media, the Minister of Interior employs skilled blue-collar Bangladeshi workers to carry out manual labor requirements of the ministry excluding security and police work, a ministry statement said yesterday. These Bangladeshi workers are often electricians, auto mechanics, engine repairmen, painters, carpenters and so on and have nothing to do with the Ministry of Interior's security and police operations, said the statement.

They have been employed in implementation of an agreement between Kuwait's Ministry of Defense and Bangladesh, indicated the statement, noting that about 293 of these workers and technicians have already started working in the Ministry of Interior. It is expected that about 350 more will be employed annually for the next three years as per the agreement between the ministry and Bangladesh, emphasized the statement, underscoring that these workers are all skilled in their fields of endeavor. The ministry statement stressed that these workers are not officially associated in any way with ministry security or police duties. They are not allowed to use police cruisers, only ministry service vehicles and vans.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information has issued a decree on the executive regulations of law 8/2016 that deals with electronic media outlets, describing it as a crucial legislative addition that would help complete all laws related to the media. In light of the meteoric development of media and communications technology, the ministry is instrumental to the works of electronic media, the ministry said, noting that all outlets are obliged to register on www.elow.media.gov.kw to obtain a permit starting Sunday, July 24, 2016.

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AL-RAM: A Palestinian boy bids farewell to 12-year-old Mohiyeh Al-Tabakhi, who was killed by Israeli soldiers who fired rubber-coated bullets near Jerusalem the day before, during his funeral in this Palestinian village between Jerusalem and Ramallah in the Israeli occupied West Bank yesterday. The boy was hit in the chest by a rubber-coated bullet which caused cardiac arrest, medical sources said. — AFP

## ANTI-IS COALITION PLANS NEXT STEPS

### REPUBLICANS PICK TRUMP AMID RIFTS, PLAGIARISM ROW

CLEVELAND: Freshly crowned Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump tried yesterday to draw a line under a plagiarism scandal that has rocked his campaign, with a staffer offering to resign. Having prevailed in his remarkable run to the Republican White House nomination, Trump turned to his next task of quieting questions about his campaign's professionalism and healing crippling party divisions.

A Trump staffer admitted to using Michelle Obama quotes in a speech delivered by Melania Trump at the Republican convention, apologizing and offering to resign over the plagiarism row - an offer however rejected by the nominee. Melania Trump had "always liked" the current first lady and had "read me some passages from Mrs Obama's speech" over the telephone as examples of what she wanted to tell the convention on Monday, said the staffer, Meredith McIver.

"I wrote them down and later included some of the phrasing in the draft that ultimately became the final speech. I did not check Mrs Obama's speeches. This was my mistake, and I feel terrible for the chaos I have caused," she said. "No harm was meant." Trump wasted little time basking in the glow of his historic achievement, flipping the script once again on the Republican National Convention and telling delegates he would see them yesterday, a day before he officially accepts the nomination.

After a roller-coaster campaign that saw Trump defeat 16 rivals and steamroll stubborn party opposition, the tycoon said it was time to "go all the way"

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JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Maryland:

Defense Secretary Ash Carter yesterday urged a gathering of defense leaders to do more in the fight against Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, as they huddled to map out the next steps in the campaign. "We must ensure that our partners on the ground have what they need to win the fight and then hold, rebuild, and govern their territory," he told the more than 30 ministers and leaders. "We must not rest." Carter spoke during the opening of the private session at Joint Base Andrews.

Defense and foreign ministers are in Washington for two days of meetings as the fights for key cities in Iraq and Syria move forward. And some are expected to pledge more contributions to the battle. The gathering comes as Iraqi security forces, aided by the coalition, are preparing to encircle and eventually attempt to retake the key northern city of Mosul. The meeting of defense leaders lasted about two hours. They were expected to see a military demonstration after lunch, before adjourning.

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ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Maryland: Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Sheikh Khalid Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah arrives to attend the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL Meeting yesterday. — AP

## SAUDI CLERICS RENEW POKEMON FATWA

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's top clerics renewed a religious edict that warns against playing Pokemon - this time as the wildly popular mobile phone application "Pokemon Go". First issued in 2001 when the game was played with cards, the decree says Pokemon violates Islamic prohibitions against gambling, uses devious Masonic-like symbols and promotes "forbidden images". The edict, or fatwa, has reappeared in a ticker on the home page of the kingdom's portal for official religious decrees.

The 15-year-old fatwa said the game was too much like gambling and that the concept of its characters appeared to be based on Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, which is rejected by Islam. It also said the game contained other elements prohibited by Islamic law, including "polytheism against God by

multiplying the number of deities, and gambling, which God has forbidden in the Quran and likened to wine and idols".

Saudi-based Arab News reported yesterday that Sheikh Saleh Al-Fozan, a member of the kingdom's ultraconservative council of senior clerics, said the current version of the game is the same as the old one. The edict notes that a six-pointed star in the game, for example, is associated with the state of Israel and that certain triangular symbols hold important meanings for the Freemasonry. Crosses in the game are a symbol of Christianity, while other symbols are associated with polytheism, including those from Japan's native Shinto religion, says the edict.

Additionally, the edict states parents are using the game to punish and reward children, while warning that adults could gamble

away money playing the game. The augmented reality game sees users chasing digital critters that pop up as you move about the real world. There have been reports of distracted players walking into trees, crashing their cars, and even being robbed and stabbed by crooks who lured players trying to pounce on Pikachus or chase Charmanders.

The game is popular in the Middle East and many gamers have downloaded the app though it's not been officially released regionally. A senior official at Egypt's Al-Azhar, the preeminent seat of Sunni scholarship in the Muslim world, has also spoken out against the game. Al-Azhar Undersecretary Abbas Shumman said users can lose their sense of reality and endanger themselves while playing.

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## BLAZE RIPS THROUGH DUBAI SKYSCRAPER

DOHA MALL CATCHES FIRE

DUBAI: A residential skyscraper in Dubai caught fire yesterday in the densely populated Marina district, sending columns of smoke into the air and pieces of the building's facade tumbling below. The afternoon blaze engulfed the upper floors of the Sulafa Tower. The fire quickly spread to other floors and the sides of the building with flames engulfing more than 30 storeys and scorching the exterior of the building. It appeared to have spread to the interiors of some of the apartments, as well.

Nora Maki, who lives across the street, says the flames "spread like wildfire" but that firefighters "did an amazing job" of getting it under control. Firefighters could be seen on some of the balconies trying to reach out to extinguish the fire. "It was really scary," Maki said. "You could hear almost explosions ... and there was debris flying around."

The fire did not cause any casualties and civil defense crews evacuated all residents to ensure their safety, according to the official Twitter account of the Dubai Media Office. It is the latest in a number of sky-

scraper fires across the United Arab Emirates in recent months. The most prominent was a New Year's inferno at a 63-story residence near the world's tallest tower, the Burj Khalifa. Police also blamed the fire at the upscale The Address Downtown Dubai building on faulty wiring.

In November last year, fire engulfed three residential blocs in central Dubai and led to services on a metro line being suspended, although no one was hurt. In February, a blaze gutted one of the emirate's tallest buildings, also in the Marina neighborhood.

It destroyed luxury flats in the Torch tower and prompted authorities to evacuate nearby blocks. In 2012, a huge blaze gutted the 34-storey Tamweel Tower in the nearby Jumeirah Lake Towers district. It was later revealed to have been caused by a cigarette butt thrown into a bin.

Dubai has vowed to supervise construction crews more strictly and monitor the material they use, as well as implement

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**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah (center) reads a letter presented to him by Chadian Foreign Minister Moussa Faki (left), in the presence of Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. — KUNA photos



**His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Saleh Al-Omar.**

### SHEIKHA FATIMA STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING EGYPTIAN-KUWAITI TIES

**CAIRO:** Chairwoman of Eskan Global Group in GCC countries Sheikh Fatima Humoud Al-Sabah has underlined the importance of enhancing Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations in all fields, mainly the economic one. Sheikh Fatima made the statement Tuesday, on the sidelines of events of the conference and exhibition on "elite real estate" held earlier during the day.



**Sheikha Fatima Humoud Al-Sabah**

The aim of the event is to buttress Egyptian economy through encouraging foreign investors to carry out projects in the country, she said, adding that situations are stable in Egypt now. The event is held upon directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi aiming to strengthen historic ties between the two countries, she noted.

She said the group is organizing the exhibition for the first time in Egypt, pointing to some exhibitions in Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE. She pointed out that there are also a number of exhibitions in the State of Kuwait throughout the year. Meanwhile Mahmoud Afifi, chairman of Eskan Global Group in Egypt, stressed the importance of the event in reviving the real estate market in the region. He said in a similar statement that participating companies are seeking to carry out new investments in Egypt. He thanked His Highness the Amir for continued support for Egypt. —KUNA

## CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES LETTER FROM CHADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received yesterday Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and visiting Chadian Foreign

Minister Moussa Faki. Faki handed His Highness the Deputy Amir a letter to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, dealing with bilateral relations and ways to enhance them. The meeting was attended by Head of

Protocols at the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Earlier, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of

Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, and the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Saleh Al-Omar. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh.—KUNA

## ACTING PREMIER MEETS UN ENVOY

OULD CHEIKH AHMAD MEETS ANSARULLAH, GPC WITHIN 'KUWAIT CONSULTATIONS'

**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad at Bayan Palace yesterday. The meeting touched on Kuwait's unwavering support to the UN envoy's relentless efforts in the recently resumed Yemeni peace talks. The meeting was attended by Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Minister for Protocols Ambassador Dhari Ajjan Al-Ajran and other senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Later, Ould Cheikh Ahmad held a meeting with delegations of the Yemeni Ansarullah movement and the General People's Congress (GPC) as part of the 'Kuwait consultations' on Yemen. The meeting preceded another meeting with the UN envoy was scheduled to hold with Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Malik Al-Mekhlafi who is leading the government's delegation to the

talks seeking peace in the country.

Ould Cheikh Ahmad's talks with the Yemeni warring parties focused on means of preparing the ground and reaching understanding to carry on with the consultations that aim to conclude a final and comprehensive solution to the crisis in Yemen, and the ensued humanitarian situation there.

#### Tangible progress

He seeks during these talks to a convergence of views among the Yemeni stakeholders on a host of thorny topics that impede efforts to realize tangible progress to end the ongoing conflict in Yemen, especially issues relevant to withdrawal, handing over of weapons, releasing prisoners and restoring state institutions.

During the meeting with the UN envoy, Mekhlafi was expected to raise the issue of the safeguards the government's delegation has been seeking to continue the Kuwait consultations. The delegation has demanded an obvi-

ous categorical acknowledgement of the legitimacy of Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and the UN Resolution 2216.

The UN-brokered intra-Yemeni peace talks resumed in Kuwait Saturday after a two-week stoppage period. The UN envoy had announced on June 29 stopping the talks till July 15. Yet it was postponed a day due to the government's delegation refusal to participate. The talks first began in Kuwait on April 21. The envoy on Saturday called on the parties in the consultations to take decisive decisions to authenticate their intentions for resolving the Yemeni crisis.

Ould Cheikh Ahmad, addressing the session of resumed consultations among the parties Saturday, said the groups should substantiate good intentions for settling the crisis according to the UN Security Council Resolution 2216, other relevant resolutions, the GCC Initiative and Its Implementing Mechanism, and the outcome of the Yemeni National Dialogue. —KUNA

## EU LAUDS AMIR'S EFFORTS TO RESOLVE YEMEN CRISIS

JARALLAH MEETS MOGHERINI, BELGIAN OFFICIAL

**BRUSSELS:** EU High Representative Federica Mogherini met Tuesday with Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah to exchange views on the situation in the region in particular in Iraq and Syria, praising Kuwait's role to resolve Yemen crisis.

According to a statement released by her office this evening, during the meeting, "Mogherini commended the instrumental efforts of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in promoting a peaceful solution to the Yemeni conflict by hosting UN-facilitated talks in Kuwait City."

Mogherini and Jarallah discussed ways to swiftly promote a negotiated and inclusive political settlements in Yemen by working with all the parties, the UN and regional actors, it noted. They welcomed the fruitful outcome of the EU-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Joint Council and Ministerial meeting held on Monday in Brussels.

They also discussed ways to strengthen relations between the European Union and the State of Kuwait. They seized this opportunity to formally sign a Cooperation Arrangement between the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The EEAS is the EU's foreign service.

It said that "this Arrangement aims to complement the implementation of the EU-GCC Cooperation Agreement of 1988 by fostering cooperation between the EEAS and the Ministry, by ways of increased exchanges between officials and efforts to promote regular political dialogue and concrete cooperation initiatives." It added that the two way EU-Kuwait trade in goods totaled 10.2 billion euro in 2015 with a positive trade balance of 1.8 billion euro in the EU's favor.

#### First country

Meanwhile, Jarallah said that Kuwait is the first country in the Gulf Cooperation Council to sign such an arrangement with the EU. He noted that both the EU and Kuwait are leading humanitarian aid players and that this MoU will contribute in boosting their cooperation in this field.

He explained that this MoU offers Kuwait the opportunity to cooperate with the 28-

member European bloc outside the EU, for example to give aid and assistance the EU provides to Africa. It also gives us the opportunity to cooperate with the EU in areas like energy, investment and in many areas which strengthen the cooperation between Kuwait and the EU, he said.

Jarallah noted that the EU is a huge organization capable of offering assistance and expertise to other countries. "Through this MoU we can profit from the expertise and capabilities of the EU in Kuwait and also outside Kuwait," he added.

#### Fruitful talks

In other news, Jarallah met Dirk Achten, Secretary General of the Belgian foreign ministry, Tuesday evening and discussed the progress of bilateral relations. "The talks were very fruitful and constructive. We discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest between the two countries," Jarallah told the Kuwait news agency, KUNA, and Kuwait TV after the meeting.

He noted that Belgium and Kuwait are enjoying excellent ties since 50 years and that the two countries are cooperating in many fields. "We stressed our desire to strengthen cooperation in these fields," he said and cited the example of Belgian-Kuwaiti cooperation in the medical sector, education, and also security cooperation.

"We stressed the importance of security cooperation and exchange of information between the two countries and also the possibility of signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries to boost cooperation in this field," he said.

Jarallah said Kuwait has huge investments in Belgium which have reached \$1.1 billion. He also said trade exchanges between the two countries are good but they need to be expanded and upgraded. There will be regular consultations between the officials of the two countries through joint committees, he said. "The horizon of Belgium-Kuwait ties is very promising and constructive. We felt that the Belgian side is seriously interested in boosting relations with Kuwait and we also expressed our desire to strengthen these ties," added the Kuwaiti official. —KUNA

## INFORMATION MINISTER APPLAUDS HIGH-ACHIEVING KUWAITI WOMEN



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with high-achieving professional Kuwaiti women. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait never wavers in giving unlimited support to young Kuwaitis who demonstrate their prowess and talents on the local and international levels, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday.

He made that press statement after having met in his office with a bevy of female Kuwaiti high achieving professionals. They include Dr Nora Al-Masha'an who earned a PhD degree in coastal engineering and oil slicks from the University of Johns Hopkins, and Jenan bin Salama who has been chosen by the Sorbonne University in France as a lecturer on linguistics based research, and Dr Dima Al-Weqayyan who has been selected as a judge in a highly-regarded mock-trial in the United States and airline pilot Munira Bu-Arki, who has the distinction of becoming the first female Kuwaiti pilot of commercial air flights. The minister applauded these ladies for their professional excellence in their chosen fields of interest, underscoring the fine examples they have set for other young female Kuwaitis to follow. — KUNA



**BRUSSELS:** EU High Representative Federica Mogherini meets with Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah. —KUNA



**Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister Ambassador Khaled Al-Jarallah meets with Secretary General of the Belgian foreign ministry Dirk Achten.**

## BAHRAINI MINISTER LAUDS KUWAIT'S SUPPORT OF BAHRAIN'S SECURITY

**MANAMA:** Bahrain's Interior Minister Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa lauded Kuwait's support of his country's security and stability. The statement came during Al Khalifa's meeting with Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain

Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah yesterday. Meanwhile, Sheikh Azzam affirmed that Bahrain's security was important to the State of Kuwait, stressing that supporting Bahrain on all levels is an undisputed matter for the Kuwaiti people and leadership. — KUNA



# HIGH DEMAND FOR LEGALIZING PART-TIME DOMESTIC HELPERS



**KUWAIT:** This file photo shows Asian housemaids wait at an office for domestic workers at a commercial complex in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** Domestic helpers usually work fulltime in their sponsors' houses in Kuwait. They are hired directly from labor-exporting countries like Ethiopia, India, Nepal and the Philippines, or sometimes they are hired from local recruitment agencies. But for those residents who are unable or unwilling to sponsor a fulltime maid in Kuwait, the option of hiring part-time helpers from numerous maid agencies in the country is a reasonable one.

Kuwait has faced a slew of challenges in recent years regarding the recruitment, hiring and treatment of domestic helpers, most of whom come from impoverished countries. But hiring a part-time maid is now becoming an unnerving task for many residents as most agencies have made recruitment costs more expensive for some nationalities.

Numerous domestic help agencies claim to offer part-time cleaning services at affordable rates. Maid agencies charge KD 180 per month for domestic helpers from India, Nepal and Ethiopia. Meanwhile, hiring a maid from Sri Lanka costs KD 200 a month. It also depends on the location and the type of accommodation, where a maid that can cook and clean is hired for a higher cost than one who can only clean.

Many expats also employ helpers, whether for cleaning, driving, childcare or cooking. In fact it has become quite common for residents to have domestic help - some have live-in helpers while others have part-time ones. In many families, both the husband and wife work, so hiring a maid becomes necessary in order to keep the household running in a neat and orderly fashion.

According to Kuwaiti laws, it is not legal for citizens or expats to engage domestic helpers for part-time work. The maid can only work for her sponsor and his immediate family, despite demands by a large number of residents to allow this type of work.

Last week, Kuwait has set a minimum wage for its hundreds of thousands of mostly Asian domestic workers, in a first for Gulf states which have come under widespread accusations of abuse. A decree issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah set the minimum wage at KD 60 (\$200) a month and also granted domestic staff a raft of other rights.



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah met with US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman yesterday on the occasion of the end of the envoy's tenure in the country. Meanwhile, Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad met with Canadian Ambassador to Kuwait Martin Morrow. The two sides discussed boosting security cooperation between the two countries, the Interior Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

# 'LOW CONCENTRATION' POLLUTED WATERS NEED 45 DAYS TO ARRIVE: RESEARCHER

## 'VERY HOT' WEATHER TODAY AND TOMORROW

By Meshal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti researcher presented a digital model to predict the time in which pollutants coming from an explosion reported recently in an Iranian petrochemical industries' compound would arrive to Kuwaiti waters.

In case there were polluted waters from the Bu Ali compound which is located northeast of the Arabian Gulf, they will reach Kuwait within 45 days at a very low concentration, said Dr Yousuf Al-Aseeri from the coastal areas management program at the environment research center of Kuwait Scientific Research Center. This is because of the effect of currents and shallow areas, where pollutants get scattered horizontally, while this process results in mixing polluted waters, thus reducing pollutants' concentration, he explained.

Dr Aseeri said a 3D digital model was used, which is able to predict the details of movement

of northern Arabian Gulf waters, where large a flow to the sea was predicted due to the explosion. This flow was injected with a digital tracing substance to determine the time of the pollutants' arrival, as well as its concentration at Kuwaiti coasts.

**53 C degrees**

Meteorologist Essa Ramadan said Kuwait is among the countries that will be most affected by hot weather today and tomorrow, and temperatures will reach 53 C degrees, while direct heat will reach nearly 60 C degrees. Kuwait has been witnessing very hot weather with high humidity and temperatures reaching 47 C degrees. He said the hot air mass over Saudi Arabia and GCC countries will dissipate on Saturday.

**Unpaid wages**

The problem of cleaning workers who staged

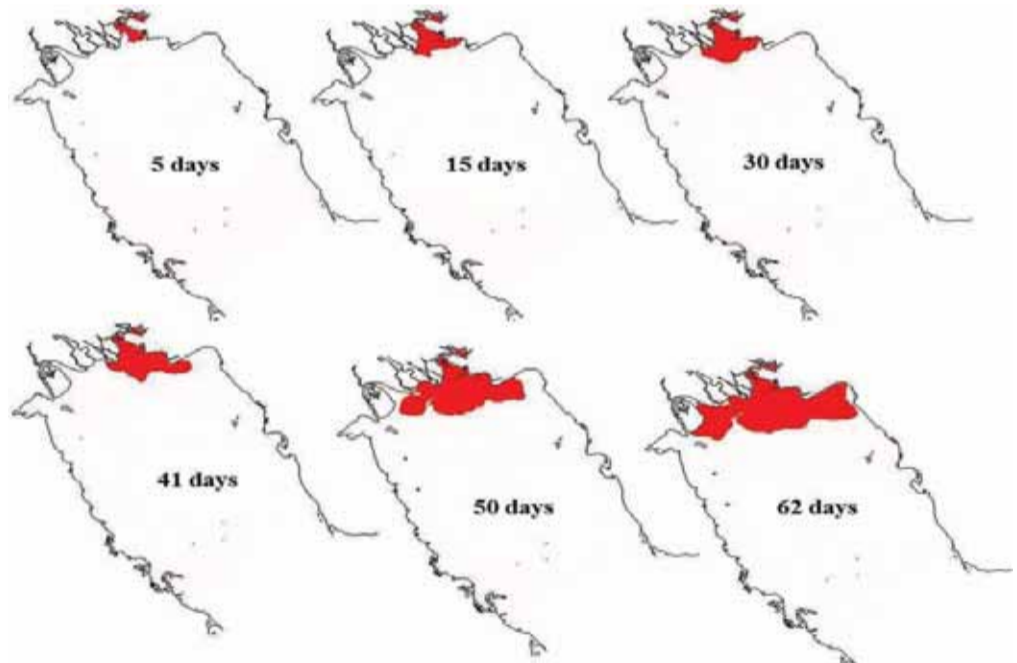
a protest at Kuwait International Airport last week is ongoing although they were promised to be paid months ago. Some laborers said they did not receive salaries for three months, and their problem was not solved despite promises from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. The workers are threatening to carry out a new strike to demand their due payments.

**Municipality law**

Kuwait Municipality Director General Eng Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said the new municipality law (33/2016) was sent to the legal department to receive its opinion on the matter. Meanwhile, Eng Ali Al-Moussa Municipal Council member and rapporteur of the Capital committee lauded the new law. He said the law came to remove complexity in procedures concerning the work of ministries involved, but argued at the same time that there are some 'unclear items' that need more clarifications. He also lauded the item related to the documentary cycle in regards to transactions at Kuwait Municipality and Municipal Council, adding that a three-month period was specified to finish transactions, otherwise the minister has the option to make a decision if there was no answer from the council within that timeframe.

**Catering services**

Public Authority for Food and Nutrition said it will adopt Kuwait Municipality proposals in regards to organizing the work of vehicles used by catering companies to transport food following the decision of the cabinet to transfer authority over this subject to it. Essa Al-Kandari, the authority's chairman of the board, said in a letter to Kuwait Municipality's Director Ahmad Al-Manfouhi that according to the authority's law, administrative, supervisory, technical, and local laboratories' units related to food affairs should continue their duties until a decision is issued by the cabinet to move those units under the authority. Kandari further mentioned that the law which established the authority and municipality letters that included some recommendations that must be included in the rules of organizing activities of vehicles used to sell and deliver food and meals.



**KUWAIT:** A diagram that shows the estimated date in which contaminated water, albeit in very low concentration, could reach Kuwaiti waters, according to a recent study conducted in Kuwait.

# 40 LABOR LAW VIOLATORS CAUGHT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Relations and Security Information at the Interior Ministry said Residency Affairs detectives carried out a security campaign in Sharq, which resulted in arresting 40 expatriates

who were found in violation of labor regulations. The workers were found to have article 20 visas issued to domestic helpers, which cannot be transferred to article 18 that allow a holder to work in shops. They were sent to concerned authorities.

In other news, Ahmadi police carried out a campaign against traffic law violators, which resulted in issuing 42 tickets and impounding one vehicle. Meanwhile, 34 fugitives wanted on several criminal cases were arrested during the same campaign.



# KISR, LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAND-IN-HAND TO ADDRESS WATER SECURITY CHALLENGES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) said recently that it was cooperating with all authorities dealing with water in the country in order to address water security challenges. KISR and French research centers are currently working on a prototype project for water desalination through the use of solar power, said Dr Mohammad Al-Rashed, acting KISR Director General.

This project is within the framework of a cooperation agreement between the governments of Kuwait and France, explained Rashed, who made the remarks during visits to the water desalination research station and Kadhma water factory in Doha Area. The project, to be officially launched after two years, will use the solar power thus minimize use of fossil energy in the

water desalination operations, he said.

Rashed said the visits aimed at getting acquainted with quality of water in Kadhma factory as well as progress of water desalination research. He said the water research center aimed at implementing water management and desalination projects. Engineer Ali Al-Adwani, Director of Kadhma factory, said demand on bottled water increased due to growing of economy and population, noting that every person consumed an average of 500 liters of water per day. He said in a statement the factory's objective was to develop the locally-made fresh water to lessen dependence on drinking water imports. Adwani said the bottled water include the major ingredients recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** A view from inside the Kuwait Credit Bank's headquarters building.—KUNA

# CREDIT BANK PROVIDES HIGH STANDARD FINANCIAL SERVICES

**KUWAIT:** The coordinated mechanism of action of Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) works on a solid base of organization and accuracy in spite of the tremendous efforts shown by loans since establishing the bank until early July, amounting to about KD 8.7 billion. KCB's headquarters is located in a crowded commercial district in downtown Kuwait, and it includes many ways to provide clients convenience as well as the helpful reception staff to answer any query.

Director General of Kuwait Credit Bank Salah Al-Mudhaf said in an interview yesterday that the enactment of law number 40 of 1960 to establish the Credit Bank, it was meant to facilitate citizens with real estate, industrial and agricultural credit in addition to lending to state employees to ensure their salaries or bonuses. "No one imagined that the year 2016 would witness the achievements of the automated link between the bank and the relevant organizations of the state, the online services", he said. He added that in the period from early April until late June, a total of 807 citizens benefited from mortgage loans provided by Kuwait Credit Bank, while 120 widows and divorced benefited from the women's loans, 48 citizens from loan portfolio, and

1663 citizens from social loans.

In the framework of KCB's continued efforts to develop and expand, the bank is working on laying the foundation stone for a new branch in Eqaila area, while the main building will be in South Surra Area to serve the whole southern areas of Kuwait.

Mudhaf said that according to a statistical report, since the establishment of the bank until the beginning of July, outgoing loans and aid reached more than KD seven billion for about 360,285 beneficiaries.

About women's housing loans, Mudhaf pointed out that with the implementation of Law No. 2 of 2011 regarding women loans, the loans have risen from KD 45,000 to reach KD 70,000. In 2015, the beneficiaries from the mortgage loans granted by the bank amounted to KD 16,913 citizens, he added, stressing the great contributions of the bank regarding the social loans that amounted to some KD 198 million last year.

Kuwait Credit Bank is a public body and submits to the supervision of the Minister of State for Housing Affairs, according to the decree number 81 of 2007. The bank has Board of Directors responsible for drawing up its general policy and supervises its implementations. — KUNA



In Brief

IICO SENDS RELIEF AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

AMMAN: A fresh shipment of relief supplies weighing a total 13 tons of aid has been delivered from Kuwait's International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) to Syrian refugees in Jordan. Airlifted by a Kuwaiti Air Force plane, the aid shipment is the third of its kind by the IICO to Jordan in one and a half months. It contains basic food commodities, clothes, blankets and other necessary supplies. — KUNA



KRCS DISTRIBUTES AID TO REFUGEES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) distribution of aid continued for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, giving humanitarian supplies to 250 families in Qulaiaat town in northern Lebanon on Tuesday. A package of aid, which included foodstuff, cleaning materials and gifts for children, is sufficient to a family of five members for a whole month, said Abdullah Al-Zaid, head of KRCS mission to Lebanon. — KUNA



KRCS TO SEND FOOD BASKETS FOR REFUGEES IN FALLUJAH

KUWAIT: Some 10,000 food baskets were prepared for distribution to displaced Iraqis in Fallujah, Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi said yesterday. This batch was part of a 20,000 food baskets package aimed for delivery to displaced Iraqis elsewhere in the country, Hasawi indicated, adding that the society had handed some 2,200 food baskets to the needy in the Iraq Kurdistan region. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: The head office building of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in Shuwaikh. — KUNA photo

KAMCO ORGANIZES '5 CHOICES', '7 HABITS' WORKSHOP SESSIONS

TO INCREASE EMPLOYEE EFFICIENCY PRODUCTIVITY

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest AUMs in the region, and a winner of the prestigious Kuwait Asset Manager of the Year Award 2015, hosts FranklinCovey's "The 5 Choices to Extraordinary Productivity" and "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People - Organizational Culture Transformation" workshop sessions. The '5 Choices' workshop concentrated primarily on increasing employee productivity through implementing a five-step decision process. While the '7 Habits' focused on the seven key principles that help individuals and leaders become more effective.

Both sessions, held at the Chairman's Club in KIPCO Tower, included select KAMCO employees who were eager to improve and enhance their productivity in their personal and professional life. Senior Consulting Partner at FranklinCovey, May Jabri, delivered the highly successful and renowned '5 choices' workshop in cooperation with KAMCO's HR team and The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). Sherif Selim, Consulting Partner at FranklinCovey, delivered the third '7 Habits' workshop.

Long-term strategy

Mohammed Al-Hubail, Chief Operating Officer at KAMCO, said, "KAMCO's HR representatives have successfully collaborated with the FranklinCovey team to deliver two more effective workshops to KAMCO employees. These workshops are essential towards progressively developing our long-term strategy, focusing primarily on providing our employees with the necessary tools they need to shift from being ordinary to extraordinary. We



Mohammed Abdullah Al-Hubail

believe that setting the learning curve for our employees coupled with the right environment will allow them to reach groundbreaking results. Investing in our employees is in line with our human resource development initiative to train and educate our employees, leading to increased work efficiency, productivity and overall job satisfaction." Hubail added, "We would like to show our appreciation and gratitude towards KFAS for assisting and supporting KAMCO's human resource development initiative and for supporting other firms within the private sector. Their hard work and effort put forth towards correlating and connecting companies within the private sector with firms that retain the necessary resources and tools to elevate a company's performance to the next level." The workshop focused primarily on several productivity principles, which if

implemented in the appropriate manner, could lead to directing energy and attention towards making wiser decisions that can create extraordinary outcomes for the individual and the organization as a whole. The five choices presented and explained during the workshop encourage acting on the important tasks rather than the urgent, guiding decision-making through a framework of what success looks like in an individual's most important roles, the efficiency of weekly and daily planning to execute the most important things with excellence, getting a grasp on technology and using it to improve and simplify daily tasks rather than cause distractions, and defining simple ways to increase energy in order to think clearly, make good decisions and feel more accomplished at the end of every day.

The '7 Habits' workshop concentrated on the seven key principles that help individuals and leaders become more effective. The first habit covered in the session inspires personal change in terms of taking responsibility for the individual's behavior, results and growth. The second emphasizes focusing on time and energy that can be controlled, rather than what is uncontrollable. The third habit pushes employees to execute and take action on the most important priorities. The fourth habit encourages colleagues to work effectively and efficiently with others to achieve optimal results. The fifth brings attention to the need to communicate effectively at all levels of the organization. The sixth habit accentuates the importance of innovating and problem solving with those who have a different point of view. The final habit seeks continuous improvement and renewal, professionally and personally.



KUWAIT: These file photos show workshops and activities organized by the Islam Presentation Committee's (IPC). — KUNA

IPC BECOMING IMPORTANT ACTOR IN GLOBAL CHARITY WORK



KUWAIT: Kuwait has become an important actor in global charity work, as the country of giving and humanitarian initiatives, said Director General of Islam Presentation Committee (IPC) Abdulaziz Al-Duaij yesterday. The IPC's work aims to introduce non-Muslims with Islam according to a method of wisdom and good advice, Duaij said. The total number of IPC preachers has reached around 90, 30 of them are women, he said, adding that IPC needs to have more than 200 preachers to keep up with the increasing number of branches and to deliver the great message of Islam.

The number of people converting to Islam since the founding of the IPC in 1978 reached about 73,000 from different nationalities, and about 1,296 people reverted to Islam during the holy

month of Ramadan this year, he added.

The IPC is working on providing social, educational and religious services for many new Muslims as well as for the children of the Muslim communities living in Kuwait, through the establishment of Friday sermons in different languages and organizing iftar projects annually. IPC has offered more than 85,000 iftar meals this year.

The committee has also organized about 58 Umrah trip for new Muslims, in addition to distributing about 50,000 gift bags with a million copies of preaching flyers in different languages and about 400,000 books. The IPC has also distributed a million CDs in 14 different languages in addition to teaching about 5,000 people that converted to Islam as well as organizing 15 Quran memorization competitions. — KUNA





# 'POKEMON GO' SENDS PEOPLE INTO A FRENZY

## PLAYERS 'ESCAPE' REALITY AND INDULGE INTO VIRTUAL WORLD, PROFESSOR WARNS

By Talal Al-Ghannam

**KUWAIT:** Where is the Pokemon? Where is it hiding? How can I catch it? These are questions that are raised by users of the newly-launched Pokemon Go game which has taken the world by storm. The wildly popular mobile app, which is based on a 1990s Nintendo game, has created a global frenzy as players roam the real world looking for virtual cartoon monsters.

The smartphone game, which lets the user hunt virtual creatures called Pokemon in real life via an augmented reality platform, has already dominated download charts in the US and Australia and, drove a lot of young people crazy trying to hunt down these pocket monsters. Pokemon are spotted in the wild, and are generated based on their geographical habitat. For example, if the Pokemon is a water

cotton socks as cotton absorbs moisture and get sun protection.

Among the most important tips while using the smart game is to use sunglasses to protect your eyes from UV rays. While the Pokemon players are out hunting for the creatures, they are advised to keep drinking water, particularly during summer, as it is easy to get dehydrated, doing blister patrol, reapplying sunscreen and remaining aware of the surroundings.

### No go

In Kuwait, the country has said 'no' to Pokemon Go in certain places. The Interior Ministry issued a statement warning users of the smash mobile phone application from taking pictures of any vital government, military or security location. It also warned users not to chase pocket monsters at mosques, shopping



KUWAIT: Kids chasing virtual creatures called 'Pokemon' using the Pokemon Go app through their smart devices. — KUNA



Dr Khaled Al-Qahs, Media Professor at Kuwait University.



Dr Saud Al-Ghanem, Sociology Professor at Kuwait University.

type, it would be found by the sea. If its type was rock or ground, it would be found near deserts, while grass-type Pokemon are often common in parks or green areas.

People capture the Pokemon and gain experience points to reach higher levels. They have an option of joining one of three teams in the game, which allow the player to conquer gyms that are placed randomly in the environment and compete with other teams.

Pokemon Go is a free-to-play location-based augmented reality mobile game which is developed by Niantic and was released in July 2016 for iOS and Android devices. There are about 9.55 million active users in the US only. Thus it has overcome the active users of twitter and is expected to outgrow every social media.

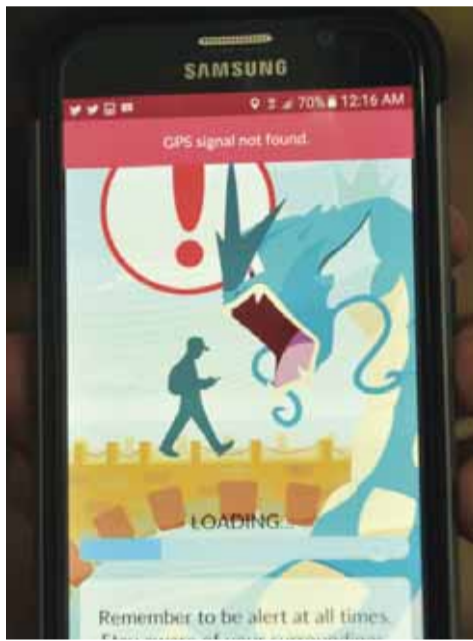
And if you insist on playing the game, there are many guidelines that you may need to consider while playing including making sure you are wearing appropriate footwear, sneakers or walking shoes that are ideal, ditch the

centers, malls and oil installations. Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahad has warned that there will be no excuses for anyone claiming ignorance of the law.

Kuwait's Ministry of Communications has also warned smartphone users against downloading popular smartphone game Pokemon Go. Assistant Undersecretary Hamad Al-Qattan said the ministry was discussing 'means of protection' from such games with the Communications and Information Technology Authority.

He added that games like Pokemon Go may cause harm to its users in particular and society in general. He pointed out that users of the app might be in danger of potential road accidents if they use the app while driving or crossing roads.

Media Professor at Kuwait University Dr Khaled Al-Qahs said while commenting on the new trend from a media perspective that this game resembles other games that emerge every now and then, expecting the heavy



demand on it would diminish with time.

He added that the game has been exploited for a commercial reason and has also conquered the virtual world, saying that the game would have never been given such popularity



if the social media outlets did not constitute as an incubator for it.

From a social perspective, Kuwait University's Sociology Professor Dr Saud Abdulaziz Al-Ghanem argued that once the Pokemon game user starts playing the game, he or she separates from his or her real world and indulges into the virtual world. "He starts running after a picture that only appears on his or her mobile screen, thus, becoming unable to take decisive decisions or actions because of his or her indulgence into the virtual world of the Pokemon," he said.

Asked about the social dangers that may arise as a result of the game, Dr Saud pointed out that the game users may suffer social iso-

lation for being attached to the game rather than the real world and for searching for virtual creatures which vary in shape and colors, thus, forcing the game users to escape the real world and indulge into the virtual world instead. However, with the temperature in Kuwait exceeding 50 C degrees in the shade, will the game still be attractive and fascinating to its fans? Young people are seen roaming the streets, mosques, malls and at the sea searching for the little creatures, a matter that can cause unwanted harms.

Though Pokemon Go has not officially come to nations in the Arabian Gulf, many have downloaded the app. Authorities in the United Arab Emirates also have warned users to be careful while chasing digital critters in the augmented reality game.

The game requires the phone to transmit its location via GPS and uses its camera, a matter that prompted the UAE's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to warn that the game violates privacy and could lead 'criminals' to spread viruses.

Lastly, the Pokemon Go game has really turned the virtual world upside down with millions of people around the world becoming addicted to this game, whereas there are thousands of virtual games which have not got this popularity. — KUNA

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Crime

Report

**SMOKE COMES OUT OF EMPTY APARTMENT**

**KUWAIT:** Smoke was coming out of a closed apartment in Jabriya, whose residents are out of Kuwait, so citizens called the police, who called the fire department. They then went to the apartment with a warrant to break down the door. The smoke was due to faulty wiring. Power was cut off and the owner, who is in Europe, was informed.

**Family dispute**

A female citizen walked into Reqqa police station with a medical report and told them she was visiting her sister with her young son to discuss certain family problems, but her half-sister and her daughters beat her. A complaint was lodged against the sister and her husband, who threatened to harm his sister-in-law. Police are investigating.

**Man assaulted**

An Indian man was forced to sign papers at knifepoint. He told Salmiya police that an unidentified person stormed his apartment with a knife and forced him to sign documents he could not read because they were in Arabic. The suspect then ran away. A complaint was lodged, while the Indian is waiting to find out what he signed.

**Officer insulted**

A Syrian man did not like that an employee at the commerce ministry told him that his transaction does not meet the requirements, and insulted the employee. He was taken to Fahaeel police station. The Kuwaiti employee, who did not know the details of the suspect, went to the police station and lodged a complaint, but the company details led to identifying him, so he was summoned and detained.

**Cross-dressers caught**

Police arrested three cross-dressers with women's clothes and illicit pills. They were sent to the Drugs Control General Department. Special missions patrols asked a car to stop, but the driver attempted to escape, so they asked for backup and the road was closed, so the three got out and started running, but they were chased and caught. They were found to be a bedoon and Iranians. When the car was searched, 180 tablets were found in addition to a bag full of cosmetics. They were sent to concerned authorities.

**ACs stolen**

Jahra detectives are looking for unidentified persons who stole central air conditioning units at Jahra labor department, making employees work in extreme heat. A security source said when employees felt the heat, they called technicians, only to find the units were stolen. — Al-Rai



القلمس Al-Qabas

**MY BEAUTIFUL AGELESS FRIEND**

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

I love Britain, and I adore everything in it - the people, museums, roads, rain, history and currency. There I experienced my second, failed childish love and on its roads I got lost for hours and hours, looking for someone to comfort me in my loneliness during the nights of its cold winters, at a time when I did not know the difference between my elbow and arm.

Half a century elapsed very quickly since I knew that old lady who acted young, or the young lady who acted old, because London does not grow old no matter how many days will go by. Its memories, and my memories about it and all the knowledge and friendships I got there will remain with me with its marvelous characters in my memory that is full with 3/4 of a century of the spectrum of time and place.

Britain of yesterday, Britain of the Beatles, miniskirts, Bertrand Russell, Victoria Club, the Palm, Harrods, Queens Way, Earls Court, Rolls Royce and Mini Cooper cars, James Bond '007', Profumo and his beautiful lover Christine Keeler and hundreds of beautiful faces and many other international and domestic faces, all began to get old and become pale, even the grand Barclays, as its assets became prone to being snapped up in Asia.

Britain became like its queen, sedate with a great past, but it is old and cannot cope with emerging tigers, not even the tigers jumping around it, which existed not too long ago in its control and remained in its commonwealth, whose colors also faded, and Britain became a country that is being hit by economic blow after financial blow, and it is suffering without being able to do much to fend off the blows.

Britain, that I walked around the streets, roads and flats of, and felt the taste of freedom and humanity in your capital, I promise you to be, like many others, faithful no matter what times will do to you. You were loyal, kind and wonderful with me and my country, and it is not our character to be unfaithful! I know very well that your greatness is not in the currency, nor in belonging to Europe, nor in your politicians - rather in your universities, institutes, laboratories, in your culture, humanitarianism, hospitals and newspapers, heritage, as well as what you publish every day in the form of books and useful innovations, and all this will keep your magnificence and beauty regardless of time.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

**MARKAZ SPONSORS FACULTY OF MEDICINE'S GRADUATION CEREMONY**

**KUWAIT:** As part of its strategy to build human capacity in order to enable and maintain a sustainable future, Kuwait Financial Centre KPSC 'Markaz' has sponsored the graduation ceremony of the 7th year students of the Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University. This sponsorship reflects Markaz's continuous commitment to supporting the youths, who are the bricks of building the society, especially in the fields of education and developing the skills of Kuwaiti youths. Alrazi Y Al-Budaiwi, Head of Media and Communications at Markaz said: "Markaz is keen to encourage this youths segment, as they are the doctors of the future, and support them in achieving their goals. Thus, Markaz sponsorship of the graduation ceremony of the Faculty of Medicine's students emphasizes its appreciation to their efforts to learn and achieve sustainability." Budaiwi added: "We believe that investing in education will contribute in preparing successful, efficient models of the youths who are capable of serving Kuwait and developing it, which will reflect positively on developing the business environment in Kuwait, especially in the private sector."



**KUWAIT:** Alrazi Al-Budaiwi, Head of Media and Communication at Markaz, receives an honoring shield during the graduation ceremony of the 7th year students in Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait University.

This sponsorship comes as part of Markaz corporate citizenship strategy that aims at fulfilling the corporate social and economic responsibilities through three main pillars, which are a) building human capabilities, b) aligning our business environment with the principles of sustainable development, c)

and promoting good governance in the business environment. Our activities within this strategy include several variety of topics aimed at sustainability, including the development of the capacities of young people and enabling them to utilize their abilities towards achieving a sustainable future."



**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's Maritime Border Security Department held a graduation ceremony for officers who underwent a training course to drive specialized boats. Brigadier General Mubarak Al-Omairi, Director of the Coastguards General Department attended the ceremony.



**OOREDOO ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 12TH WEEK OF ITS PREPAID CAMPAIGN**

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the twelfth 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.

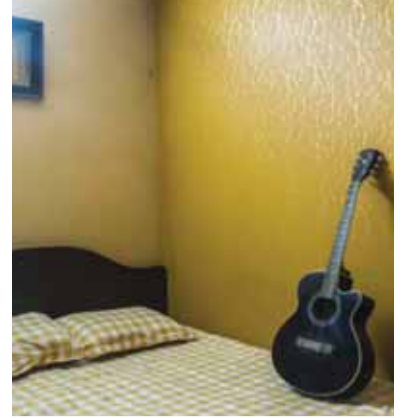
- The winners of this week were:
- Naser Radwan Mohammad - Samsung Galaxy
  - Majdi Hussain Hussain Dahroj - Samsung Galaxy
  - Sally Catalan - Samsung Galaxy
  - Ahmad Mohammad Abdel Kawi Abu Eid - Samsung Galaxy
  - Ali Mahmoud Hussin Khaja - Samsung Galaxy
  - Agnes Cuevas Musa - Samsung Galaxy
  - Nora Ali Mohammed Al-Mutairi - Samsung Galaxy

- Abdulaziz Mohammed - 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 SMS, 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.



**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry participated in a meeting organized yesterday by the Kuwaiti Fishermen Association. Lieutenant Colonel Sheikh Mubarak Al-Sabah from the Marine Border Security Department spoke during the meeting about the Coastguard General Department's role in maintaining security in territorial waters, and urged fishermen to abide by regulations that govern the process of sailing beyond Kuwait's maritime borders. Meanwhile, Lieutenant Abdullah Al-Essa, Head of the Marine Environment Monitoring Police Department, urged fishermen to abide by environmental regulations while fishing in Kuwait waters.





**Bangladesh says 261 missing, radicalization fears escalate**

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## THE SHADOWY ROLE OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN TERROR

# FRANCE TO EXTEND STATE OF EMERGENCY

## HOLLANDE CALLS TO PAVE WAY TOWARDS A 'NATIONAL GUARD'

**PARIS:** French lawmakers voted massively yesterday to extend a state of emergency as President Francois Hollande said that a call to boost reserve forces had paved the way towards a "National Guard." The government is scrambling to find new ways to assure a jittery population after its third major attack in 18 months saw a truck driver plough into a crowd celebrating Bastille Day in Nice, killing 84 people.

After seven hours of fraught debate into the night, during which the opposition accused the government of being lax on security, the lower house of parliament voted by 489 to 26 to prolong the state of emergency for a further six months. It is the fourth time the measures have been extended since Islamic State jihadists struck Paris in November, killing 130 people at restaurants, a concert hall and the national stadium.

Hollande had planned to lift the measures on July 26 but changed tack after the Nice attack by Tunisian Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel. The Islamic State (IS) group said the Tunisian driver was one of its "soldiers" but investigators say that while he showed a recent interest in jihadist activity, there was no evidence he acted on behalf of IS. Hollande said that of the 331 people injured in the attack, 15 were still fighting for their lives. The victims came from 38 different nations.

### Extra police powers

As part of the government's reaction to the attack-which has exposed it to tough questions over security failures-a call has gone out for volunteers in the reserve forces. Between current reservists, and the call for more volunteers, "we can say that France, with you, is forming a National Guard," Hollande said yesterday on a visit to a military training complex in southwest France. France's reserve force comprises civilian volunteers in the police,

army and paramilitary police, who can be deployed for specific missions.

Hollande's Socialist government had proposed a three-month extension to the state of emergency but relented to demands from the conservative opposition that the tough security laws be kept in place until the end of January.

The laws give the police extra powers to carry out searches and place people under house arrest.

Yesterday, MPs also voted to allow authorities to search luggage and vehicles without prior approval from a prosecutor and to allow the police to seize data from computers and mobile phones. The bill now passes to the upper house, the Senate, which was debating it yesterday afternoon. With elections due next year, the cross-party solidarity seen after last year's attack on satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a Jewish supermarket has evaporated.

During a visit to Portugal Tuesday Hollande appealed for greater unity. "The terrorists want to divide us, to separate us and turn people against each other," he warned. The government has defended its response to the jihadist threat, pointing to a raft of new anti-terror laws and the deployment of thousands of troops to patrol the streets. A recent parliamentary commission of inquiry said however the new laws had had a "limited impact" on security.

### 'There will be other attacks'

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Manuel Valls warned the country about the enduring nature of the menace from extremists returning from jihad in the Middle East or becoming radicalized at home, by devouring propaganda on the internet. "Even if these words are hard to say, it's my duty to do so: There will be other attacks and there will be other innocent people killed. "We must learn to live with this



**SAINT ASTIER:** French President Francois Hollande (4th L) visits the National Gendarmerie Training Centre. — AFP

threat," he told parliament, accusing opponents who suggested the Nice attack could have been thwarted of "lying to the French".

Five people are still being held over the Nice attack. Among them is a 22-year-old man

to whom Bouhlel sent a text message minutes before the attack about a pistol he used to fire at the police. Friends and relatives of the 31-year-old father of three, who had a history of violence, told police he showed no interest in

religion until recently. However, authorities found "very violent" photos on his computer, including of corpses, fighters posing with the IS flag and photos of Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden. — AFP

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## ISRAEL MAY SOON SHED LIGHT ON 'STOLEN BABIES' MYSTERY

**ELYAKHIN:** Shoshana Dugma says she still clearly remembers the morning 66 years ago when she went to feed her baby at an immigrant camp in Israel and discovered she had vanished. "At six in the morning, I was the first person at the nursery, and there was nothing," the 83-year-old, who at the time had just arrived from Yemen, said of her 11-month-old daughter Mazal. "Nothing in her bed."

Such stories of babies from immigrant families disappearing have been told in Israel for decades, but growing calls to unseal official documents on the allegations mean new light could soon be shed. Activists and family members believe up to several thousand babies were taken in the years after Israel became a country in 1948, mainly from Jewish Yemenite families, but also from immigrants of other

Arab or Balkan nations. They allege that babies were stolen and given to Jewish families of Western origin in Israel and even abroad, mainly those who could not have children on their own.

According to their accounts, hospital officials would inform parents their baby had died, but would not hand over a body for burial. Official inquiries have in the past found that most of the children whose cases were examined did indeed die, noting the poor health conditions and other complications at immigrant camps at the time. Doubts have however persisted and activists call the investigations insufficient. The allegations have put a spotlight on intra-Jewish racism, with Jews of European origin traditionally held up as Israel's elite and those from elsewhere alleging discrimination.

A lawmaker from the ruling Likud party, Nurit Koren, has formed a caucus dedicated to "reaching the truth—where the children disappeared to, who gave the order," she told AFP. Politicians from across the political spectrum have backed her, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has expressed support for opening files supposed to remain sealed for several more decades. "It's a bleeding wound in the nation's heart," said Koren, who is of Yemenite origin.

### 'Honey, go home'

After Israel's founding, the country set up camps to accommodate the influx of immigrants from mainly Arab countries. About 30,000 Jews arrived from Yemen around 1949, including those in poor health due to the arduous conditions of

the journey, according to Esther Meir-Glitzstein, a professor at Ben Gurion University specialising in Yemenite immigration to Israel. In addition to language barriers, she argued that they also faced "paternalism" from Israelis of European origin, who may have reasoned that some of the children of Arab-speaking Jews would be better off with different families.

In 1950, Dugma was 17 and said she was living in a tent in a camp in northern Israel with her husband and older children. Babies were kept in separate nurseries with better conditions. "I put her to sleep around midnight," Dugma said in an interview with AFP, speaking in Hebrew peppered with Arabic at her home in the Israeli town of Elyakhin, near the Mediterranean coast. "She wasn't sick.

She wasn't weak. She was a great eater."

The next morning the baby was gone, she said, adding that she has had no word on what happened since. There are many other such allegations.

Barood Jibli's seven-month-old baby girl Tziona was fine the last time she saw her in the nursery. When Jibli, who had also come from Yemen, went to tend to her one morning in 1950, she was met by nurses instead, she said. "They told me she wasn't feeling well" and was in a hospital in Haifa, the 86-year-old said. Jibli and her husband rushed there, only to be turned away. "We said, 'show me my child.' They said 'she's dead,'" she told AFP on the balcony of her small house in Elyakhin. "I said 'that can't be. I fed her yesterday. She's healthy and strong.' They said 'honey, go home, there's nothing we can do.'" —AFP

## 3 FRENCH SOLDIERS KILLED IN LIBYA INTEL OPERATION

**PARIS:** Three French soldiers were killed during a mission to gather intelligence in Libya, President Francois Hollande said yesterday, in the first official confirmation that France has troops in the country where IS controls a key city. Hollande said the troops died in a helicopter accident while taking part in "dangerous intelligence operations". He did not say when the incident took place. Libyan sources gave a different account of events, telling AFP the M17 helicopter was shot down by surface-to-air missiles.

They were "probably targeted by Islamist groups in the Magroun area, about 65 kilometres west of Benghazi" on Sunday, a commander of forces loyal to a controversial general, Khalifa Haftar, said. Another source close to Haftar—who opposes the internationally backed unity government in Tripoli as well as the Islamist factions that have overrun large parts of the country—said the dead soldiers were military advisors.

Announcing their deaths earlier Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian praised the officers' "courage of devotion" but gave no details of how they were killed. Rival militias in Libya have been vying for power since the overthrow of veteran dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Several Islamist groups, including the Islamic State, have a presence around Benghazi which is situated in the east, analysts said. IS' main stronghold is the central coastal city of Sirte. Forces loyal to the unity government have been embroiled in a two-month

battle to try to retake the city from the jihadists.

### Europe's Shores at Risk

Western powers have been nervously watching the group's advance on Europe's doorstep. Hollande said Libya was experiencing "dangerous instability" and noted: "It's only a few hundred kilometres from Europe's shores." France had previously revealed its warplanes were carrying out reconnaissance flights over the country from the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier. But Paris has never confirmed reports that it has intelligence agents and/or special forces on the ground.

France, together with Britain, led the push in 2011 for the NATO-led campaign of airstrikes that helped topple Gaddafi's regime. The two countries were later accused of not doing enough to support Libya after the intervention. British media reported in May that British special forces had taken part in combat against IS in the country's northeast.

The news of the soldiers' deaths comes as France struggles to recover from a massacre in Nice last week, in which a Tunisian with a fascination for jihad slammed a truck into a crowd, killing 84 people. IS, which directed last year's attacks on the national stadium in Paris and several nightspots in the capital, claimed the attack. But French investigators have said there is no proof Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel was acting on the group's behalf. —AFP



**HAKKARI:** This file photo taken on May 30, 2016 shows a general view of damaged buildings following heavy fighting between government troops and Kurdish fighters after the curfew on May 30, 2016 in the majority Kurdish city town of Yuksekova. — AFP

## EVEN AFTER TURKEY COUP, NO END ON HORIZON FOR PKK BLOODSHED

### SECURITY FORCES AND MILITANTS LOCKED IN CONFLICT

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish security forces and Kurdish militants are locked in a grinding conflict with no end in sight even after the botched coup, following a year of renewed fighting that has sown death and devastation in Turkey's southeast. The coup bid on Friday to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was staged by disgruntled members of the Turkish army, which has taken the lead role in the conflict and borne the brunt of the losses on the Turkish side. By late Tuesday, four days after the failed putsch, Turkish F-16s were back in the air to launch their first strikes against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) since the coup attempt, bombing its bases in northern Iraq. Until a year ago, a largely respected two-and-a-half year truce had sparked hopes of a final peace deal to end Turkey's three-decade conflict with the PKK. But the fighting resumed last July and an accord now seems further away than ever. In a bloody sequence of events, 34 people pro-Kurdish activists were killed on July 20 last year close to the Syrian border in a bombing blamed on Islamic State group (IS) jihadists. Accusing Turkey of collaborating with IS—a claim Ankara fiercely denies the PKK then killed two police as they slept in what it called an act of revenge a day later.

The PKK then tore up the truce it had declared in March 2013 and resumed attacks on security forces, which retaliated with relentless operations in Kurdish urban centers and air raids in the mountains of southeast Turkey and against PKK bases in northern Iraq. The latest raids appear to be a sign that Erdogan has regained full control of the military to pursue his battle against the PKK. "The two actors were ready for the resumption of the conflict and that explains why the escalation has been so serious," said Yohanan Benhaim of the Paris 1-Pantheon Sorbonne University. But the resumption of violence "has been disastrous for the actors as well as the civilian population," he added.

### 'Widespread destruction'

Founded by radical leftist students led by Abdullah Ocalan in the 1970s, the PKK formally launched its insurrection against the Turkish state in 1984. Initially it sought independence for Turkey's Kurdish minority-making up around 20 percent of the population—although over the years the emphasis switched to greater rights and self-rule. Existing tensions were fuelled by the conflict in neighboring Syria, where Kurdish militias were battling to stop the advance of IS.

The Kurds accused Turkey of encouraging the rise of the Islamists but Ankara saw the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia as simply the Syrian branch of the PKK. According to Turkish authorities, at least 483 members of the security forces have been killed in attacks since the truce collapsed last year. They also say over 7,000 members of the PKK have been eliminated, a figure that is impossible to independently verify.

With the fighting reducing parts of some towns to rubble, some 355,000 people have been internally displaced, according to Human Rights Watch, which has also denounced "widespread unlawful destruction of private property". One shift in the conflict has been attempts by the PKK to establish themselves in Turkish urban centres, away from their remote mountain strongholds, with militants launching patrols and setting up barricades.

The army responded by launching crushing military operations backed by curfews to root out PKK

in almost two dozen towns which activists say took a heavy toll on civilians. Images from the targeted areas showed the scale of the violence, like in the historic Sur district of Diyarbakir or the town of Cizre which could easily have been mistaken for areas in Homs or Aleppo—both of which have been devastated by five years of war in neighboring Syria. "The government could not allow the PKK to obtain territorial control in urban areas," said Sinan Ulgen, director of the Edam think tank, adding that the violence had risen to a level "never before seen".

But for all the human suffering, analysts question where the fighting has taken either side, with the PKK no closer to achieving its goals but the Turkish government also no closer to defeating the group. "After a year since the start of this tragedy, there is no sign that the cycle of violence is going to end," said Ulgen. "The PKK failed in its aim of launching its own governance model in the southeast of Turkey due to the lack of popular support that it had been counting on. It strengthened itself in Syria, but not in Turkey." — AFP



**ANKARA:** A man poses for a picture next to children feeding pigeons in front of the Guven Monument (The Monument of Safety) off the main Kizilay Square. — AFP

## ANKARA SEEKS TO RE-EMERGE FROM RUBBLE OF FAILED COUP

**ANKARA:** The 10-storey police headquarters in Ankara, meant to be a symbol of might and order, is now a wreck, gutted by a successive air raids during the night of Turkey's failed coup. "I do not know how long the rebuilding will take. But we have started," a senior Turkish police official told AFP at the scene, surveying the extent of the damage. The coup plotters, who sought to oust President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from power overnight Friday, targeted above all key institutions in the capital including this police headquarters, the parliament and the presidency itself.

The damage from these aerial attacks has been considerable to buildings that Turks consider sometimes ominous symbols of the state's power. The coup plotters seized F-16 fighter jets and attack helicopters from air bases and then flew them above the capital, terrifying residents. The facade of the police headquarters is now a distorted wreck while the ground in front is covered in broken glass which crunches like icy snow underfoot.

Even the big letters of its official name have been hit. Some have fallen off while others hang precariously, threatening to follow. The air is still thick with dust from the rubble, making breathing uncomfortable. The ground floor department used to handle thousands of people a day, handing out passports where computers and desks now sit forlornly in the ruins. Upstairs the scene is even

worse with office walls blown out. Pictures of modern Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk stare down from remaining walls as if the country's greatest hero was appalled by the damage. "We were under attack from helicopters and F-16s. Especially after midnight, the intensity increased," said the police official, who asked not to be identified. "They would take a break, but then come back and with even more intensity."

In Golbasi, outside Ankara, 42 people were killed in two strikes by the rebel plotters on a Special Forces headquarters, in what appears to have been the deadliest single incident of the coup night. One air attack hit the guard house where a security scanner still stands uselessly in the rubble. Another struck the roof of the main building, blowing out the exterior walls and exposing the dormitory with the beds pillows and mattresses still in place as they were when the deadly strike hit.

Police stand guard outside the wrecked shell of the building as weeping relatives of victims try to come to terms with the devastation. A different kind of trauma was experienced at the headquarters of state broadcaster TRT, stormed by the coup plotters who forced a news anchor to read a message declaring they had taken control. "The staff had their hands tied behind their backs and were forced to the ground," said deputy head of news Kudret Dogandemir. —AFP

## THE SHADOWY ROLE OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN EXTREMISM, TERROR

**PARIS:** After family members of the driver who slammed a truck into a holiday crowd in the French city of Nice said he suffered from depression, questions have been raised again about the links between mental illness, extreme ideology and mass violence. Mental illness cannot be blamed for terror attacks, experts say. The overwhelming majority of people with mental illness never turn violent. But mental health disorders may make some people more susceptible to extremist ideology, and in rare cases that ideology can lead to horrific acts.

"People who are loners and who become angry and resentful can easily be drawn to extremist ideologies," said Dr Raj Persaud, a psychiatrist and professor at London's Gresham College. "They begin to dehumanize others and may not need much more motivation before deciding to commit a terrorist attack." It is not known for sure that the Nice attacker, 31-year-old Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, was mentally ill. It is also unclear whether he was acting out of personal impulse or was driven by ideology. But the Nice attack and other recent ones, like the attack at a nightclub in Orlando, have involved a murky mix of extreme ideology and hints of mental illness.

"Terrorist acts are not caused by mental illness but mental illness can provide a background that's receptive to terrorist activity," said Persaud. Relatives of Bouhlel say he was

once prescribed anti-psychotic medication. They describe an angry young man estranged from his wife and withdrawn from society. Bouhlel's uncle in Tunisia, Sadok Bouhlel, told The Associated Press that his nephew's family problems made him vulnerable to an Algerian recruiter for the Islamic State group who converted him in just two weeks.

### Angry men

Still, there are angry men estranged from their wives and withdrawn from society around the world who will never feel the impulse to slaughter a crowd of innocent people. Paul Gill, a senior lecturer in security and crime science at University College London, says mass attacks are often triggered by a constellation of problems and do not depend on a mental health disorder. "Just because you have psychological issues, it doesn't mean you will turn to violence," he said.

He said there's a higher rate of mental health issues among "lone wolf attackers" as opposed to people involved in a terrorist network, according to his study of more than 100 such assailants. Among those in his research were the 2005 London suicide bombers and Anders Breivik, the right-wing Norwegian who killed 77 people in a shooting-and-bombing rampage. Other experts said the decision of some attackers to align themselves with an extremist ideology can be driven more by opportunism than beliefs. —AP



**NICE:** Employees of Negresko Hotel observe a minute of silence in Nice, southern France, Monday, July 18, 2016, to honor the victims of the Bastille Day attack. — AP



## CRUZ CONTROL: NO ENDORSEMENT, BUT PLENTY OF POLITICAL AMBITION

**CLEVELAND:** Sen Ted Cruz's Texas-size political ambitions will be on full display Wednesday as the primary runner-up delivers a prime-time convention speech, but holds off on a full-throated endorsement of Republican nominee Donald Trump. The conservative senator repeatedly clashed with Trump during a bitter primary fight, with the New York businessman mocking the lawmaker as "Lyn' Ted." With an eye toward 2020, Cruz's team drafted a convention speech focusing on adherence to the Constitution, a calling card for conservatives and a perceived contrast with Trump.

Cruz has not endorsed Trump despite pleas for party unity from the campaign and senior GOP officials. Nor is he expected to in his speech, which was carefully screened by Trump campaign officials, the senator's aides said.

Paul Manafort, Trump's top campaign adviser, said Wednesday that it will be clear from Cruz' speech that he's supporting Trump, though "how he says it, I don't know." In a brief interview with The Associated Press, Manafort dismissed the impor-

ance of Cruz using the word endorse. "No, it doesn't at all. The point is the same... If he's voting that's the signal," he said.

### Modern conservative

Before Trump even accepts the nomination, Cruz's supporters as well as critics say undercurrents in Cleveland are emboldening the senator's band of believers and stoking his 2020 prospects, should Trump lose in November. Cruz is eager to be seen as the face of the modern conservative movement should Trump lose in November and create an open GOP field in four years. So what Cruz says Wednesday during his prime-time convention speech will be closely watched for clues about his presidential aspirations. "I'm hopeful it's a speech that rings so true and so motivating that we think of 1976 and Ronald Reagan," said Iowa Rep Steve King, a Cruz supporter.

King was referring to Reagan's words after losing the nomination to Gerald Ford only to win the presidency four years later. Should Trump lose, King said

of Cruz, the speech will be "the marker for him as front-runner" for 2020. Cruz halted his campaign two months ago, having outlasted all but Trump in a field that once numbered 17 candidates. He finished a distant second in the delegate accumulation during the Republican nominating campaign.

His supporters clung to hope that that the convention would adopt rules that would free delegates to disregard the results of state contests and swing behind Cruz at the 11th hour.

That hope was quickly dashed in opening-day proceedings. Easily spotted in their cowboy hats and Lone Star flag shirts, dozens of Texas delegates shouted their objection when the push to change the rules was declared defeated in a voice vote that sounded close to those in the hall. An effort to have the vote recorded also failed, leaving anti-Trump Republicans feeling mistreated.

"There isn't a Band-Aid big enough" to heal the hurt that erupted Monday, said Cruz supporter Ivette Lozano of Dallas. But she was looking ahead. "The plan is 2020, and we have an opportunity to do

that," said Lozano, a family practice physician. Besides his prime-time speech, Cruz plans to hold a delegate appreciation event Wednesday, and address the Texas delegation today. Ron Kaufman, a Republican national committeeman from Massachusetts, said the flare-up over rules was choreographed to demonstrate public support for Cruz and preserve his future.

"These votes had nothing to do with Trump," he said. "This is all about Ted Cruz trying to make the party smaller." By smaller, he meant that Cruz supporters were pushing for primaries where only registered Republicans can participate. Cruz was more successful in such contests than in ones also open to voters who aren't registered Republicans.

Former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, who led Cruz's delegate strategy, denied the rules fight was for Cruz's benefit. "The hope was more to encourage these conservative delegates and continue building the party from the grassroots," Cuccinelli said. "But unfortunately that opportunity this time has passed us by." — AP



**CLEVELAND:** Cameras focus on the Trump family during roll call on the second day of the Republican National Convention on July 19, 2016 at the Quicken Loans Arena. — AFP

## CAN TRUMP CONVINCE THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN VOTERS?

**CLEVELAND:** For two nights in a row, the sea of humanity packed into the Republican National Convention has been overwhelmingly white with African American faces few and far between. The party that gave the world the first black US secretary of state in Colin Powell and the first African American woman secretary of state in Condoleezza Rice has been accused of alienating black voters and one man in particular is getting the blame: Donald Trump.

"I can't speak for the whole community but I can speak for me and he has turned me off," says black retiree and Hillary Clinton supporter Gloria Bivins attending a civil rights convention in Ohio. The billionaire Republican nominee has insulted immigrants, Muslims, women and the handicapped, and been accused of playing coy with white supremacists, doing nothing to win over the descendants of slavery. While a recent Quinnipiac University poll found Clinton and Trump neck and neck nationwide, it said whites back the business tycoon 47-34 percent and black voters support Clinton 91-one percent.

The man whose job it is to change those numbers, Telly Lovelace, director of African American initiatives and urban media at the Republican National Committee, says it is too early to write him off.

"For him to win the Republican nomination he had to appeal to white voters," Lovelace told AFP. Now that primary season is over, Trump will change tack and start to talk about minority issues, he said. But Lovelace admitted he is still working out his strategy for how best to convey Republican messages in black communities.

### At least consider it

"Mr Trump has this bling factor which will attract a lot of African American and minorities to at least consider voting for him," he said. Four years ago when the Republicans lost to Barack Obama for the second time, they commissioned a report that concluded that America had changed and to win power they must court minority voters. Lovelace dismissed widespread criticism on the 2016 campaign trail that the party has not adequately reformed itself.

While Mitt Romney won six percent of the black vote in the 2012, he said, Republicans got 10 percent of the black vote in the 2014 mid-term elections and Ohio Governor John Kasich 26 percent. Yet

the optics, at least, do not look good for Trump. Unlike Clinton, he declined to address black civil rights organization the NAACP, in what has become a rite of passage for US presidential candidates. Of 71 prime-time speakers scheduled to speak at the four-day convention in Cleveland, Politico said only seven are black.

The most prominent of them, former presidential candidate and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, made no mention of currently tense race relations, fueled by acts of violence and police shootings. Outside the arena, Eric Smith, an African American business owner from Maryland told AFP that he took time off work to travel to Cleveland to prove that there is "a diverse amount of support for Trump." Dressed in a campaign T-shirt, he said he was talking to political opponents in an attempt to prove that the nominee is not racist.

### The other side

"I've been hugging non-Trump supporters!" he said. "A lot of people think what they hear on the news, which isn't true, it's not true," he said. "So what I do is give them the other side." For his part Tony Williams, 54, a Republican party member and state legislature staffer from Michigan attending forums on the sidelines of the convention said he was "comfortable" with Trump. A lifelong Republican, he did not vote for Obama, the country's first black president, and supports Trump's tax reform policies, pro-life position on abortion and backing of conservative judges on the Supreme Court.

Nevertheless he confessed that Trump was his third choice, behind Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and Florida Senator Marco Rubio. He also thinks Trump must do more to unify the party. "Sometimes it's his tone that is somewhat abrasive," he said. "His speech Thursday night will go a long way toward solidifying the base." In Cincinnati at the NAACP convention, retired lobbyist Terry Pruitt, said Trump had alienated all types of Americans-not just blacks.

"I think there are certainly factions and groups of the Republican party who genuinely want to do what they can to reach a united country and eliminate some of the racial problems," he said. "With the right leadership we can tone down some of the rhetoric, that's why I have a big struggle with Donald Trump at this point because how do you take back some of the statements that he's made?" — AFP

## OUTNUMBERED AND OUTMUSCLED AS DUMP-TRUMPERS THUMPED BY GOP

'WHATEVER WE PLANNED, APPARENTLY IT DIDN'T HAPPEN'

**CLEVELAND:** After weeks of planning and one ferocious outburst that upstaged nearly everything on the Republican National Convention's first day, conservatives' feisty but always improbable effort to deny Donald Trump the GOP presidential nomination succumbed to multiple causes of death. The lack of vital signs grew daily, culminating during Tuesday's roll call of the states that formally put Trump over the top. That vote saw a fizzling of what conservatives hoped would be an effort by some delegates to brazenly ignore state party rules and back the candidate of their choice, not Trump.

"Whatever may or may not have been planned, apparently it didn't happen," said Colorado delegate Kevin Grantham. He said party leaders wanted to "make sure that Donald Trump is the nominee, regardless of what the states said, regardless of what the delegates say." The anti-Trump conservatives unified with another faction trying to alter party rules to shift power from the establishment Republican National Committee to grassroots activists, including many supporters of Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a defeated presidential hopeful. But they were badly outnumbered by Trump delegates and party regulars who believed, like him or not, he'd won this year's GOP primaries.

### Crushing the rebellion

Also weighing against them - the rebels' lack of an alternative candidate, vigorous lobbying by an alliance between the Trump campaign and the RNC and a growing sense it was time to unite against presumptive Democratic pick Hillary Clinton. "You can stand your ground until the point comes when you would be compromising the country or the state," said Steve House, chairman of the Colorado GOP, whose delegation was loaded with dissidents and Cruz supporters. "The team said, 'Let's stand up and support the nominee.'"

On the other side of the arena, the Utah delegation gamely announced that it was casting its 40 votes for Cruz. But the presiding officer



**WESTLAKE, Ohio:** Speaker of the House Rep Paul Ryan, R-Wis, holds a "Terrible Towel" during a breakfast with Pennsylvania delegates during the Republican National Convention. — AP

awarded all those delegates to Trump because of a quirk in Utah GOP rules that allow votes only for active candidates at the convention - and Trump was the only one. "There's been a lot of effort to make sure we have a smooth convention, that Donald Trump is the nominee and that we unite," said Phil Wright, chairman of the Utah delegation. He said awarding all the votes to Trump was the GOP's way "of trying to squash any dissent."

Since it became clear last spring that Trump was the likely nominee, conservative delegates around the country plotted ways to use the party's rules to derail him at the convention. They organized using social media, conference calls and seemingly endless emails. But they were soundly thrashed last week when the convention's rules committee approved guidelines for this week's gathering. That carried over to the convention itself, which is run by party leaders

who wield the gavel and make final rulings on disputes.

On Monday, conservatives demanded a final shot at rewriting party rules but were blocked. Their roars of outrage drew widespread coverage and distracted from party leaders' efforts to show unity, but still they lost. During Tuesday's roll call, the Alaska delegation split its 28 votes among Trump, Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. Convention officials counted all 28 Alaskan delegates for Trump, citing a discrepancy in state party rules, and overruled the delegation when it demanded a fresh count. Underlining the futility in challenging party leaders, GOP Chairman Reince Priebus explained the ruling against Alaska to the entire convention and said, "In any event, have a great night." He then quickly left the stage as music began to play, leaving the Alaska delegates unhappy and vanquished. — AP

## FLAG BURNING FUELING TENSIONS OUTSIDE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

**CLEVELAND:** A threatened flag burning yesterday and a wall-building stunt mocking Donald Trump's Mexican border plan have potential to fuel already bubbling tensions outside the Republican National Convention. Several protests Tuesday erupted into skirmishes and marchers tried to push their way into blocked off downtown streets. Officers used bicycles to wall-off intersections and for the first time during the convention ordered demonstrators to disperse under the threat of arrest.

"We don't care who it is. Stay on the sidewalk," Lt Michael Butler said as the demonstrators made their way. "We don't want the sideshow." The convention is a magnet for people supporting and denouncing disparate causes, from policing to immigration. Yesterday, anti-government and anti-racism protesters are set to burn an American flag at an undisclosed location. A Latino social justice organization is holding an exercise on the city's Public Square to "wall off"

what they see as Trump's hateful rhetoric. Other protests are also planned.

Despite Tuesday's histrionics, police said there were no protest-related arrests. One skirmish broke out when right-wing conspiracy theorist and radio show host Alex Jones started speaking through a bullhorn. Police on bicycles pushed back a surging crowd, and Jones was whisked away. Minutes later, more officers on bicycles formed a line to separate a conservative religious group from a communist-leaning organization carrying a sign that read, "America Was Never Great."

Overall, five people have been arrested since the convention started, police spokeswoman Sgt. Jennifer Caccia said. That includes one person accused of trying to steal a state trooper's gas mask and three people who allegedly climbed flagpoles at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and hung an anti-Donald Trump banner. The demonstrators on Tuesday - including anti-

Muslim protesters, religious conservatives and marchers decrying racism and "murder by police" - appeared outnumbered by law enforcement officers and members of the media.

Demonstrators soon spilled into the streets, and some appeared to be making their way toward the convention arena before turning back. More skirmishes broke out at one intersection. But by the evening, the protests were breaking up. About 300 officers from more than a dozen law enforcement agencies are patrolling downtown Cleveland on bicycles during the convention. A contingent of bicycle officers made a coordinated effort to keep about 20 marchers from advancing, lifting their bicycles and charging forward a few feet at a time as they yelled, "move back!" Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams waded into crowds of demonstrators during the day, warning one group, "It's an unlawful gathering. You're blocking a city street." They eventually moved along. — AP



**CLEVELAND:** Alex Jones, second from right, an American conspiracy theorist, radio show host, is escorted out of a crowd of protesters after he said he was attacked in Public Square. — AP

## TRUMP AND VP PENCE PUT RELATIONSHIP ON DISPLAY

**CLEVELAND:** Freshly minted as his party's choice for the White House, Republican Donald Trump yesterday will make a display of solidarity with his running mate, Indiana Governor Mike Pence, a social conservative who is at odds with Trump on many issues. Pence, the keynote speaker on the third day of the Republican convention in Cleveland, has been well received by the Republican Party's social conservative wing, who were skeptical of Trump's commitment to opposing abortion and same-sex marriage but trust his running mate, a former US lawmaker.

But joint appearances between the two men have been awkward. Trump and Pence shared the stage only briefly on Saturday as Pence publicly agreed to be Trump's running mate, and their first televised interview together, on CBS's "60 Minutes," was not smooth. For example, asked about Pence's support in Congress for war in Iraq, Trump respond-

ed, "I don't care," saying Pence was allowed to make occasional mistakes. When the interviewer asked if Democratic presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton should get the same wiggle room on her own Iraq vote when she was a US senator, Trump said, "No."

The choreography of the Cleveland convention where Trump was formally named the party's nominee for the Nov 8 election has been uneven. At times, anti-Trump delegates interrupted to shout their displeasure.

Tuesday's session was intended to focus on the economy, but few speakers hewed to the theme. Several convention delegates called Trump's choice of running mate a step toward uniting a bitterly divided Republican Party and working to build bridges with the party's establishment. Pence's performance yesterday, and his interactions with Trump, could help to seal hesitant Republicans at home on the duo. — Reuters



## READING THE RUNES: DENMARK'S BRAIN MELTING CITIZENSHIP TEST

**COPENHAGEN:** What was written on King Harald Bluetooth's rune stone around the year 965? What is the Danish ballet La Sylphide all about? These questions are not drawn from an admission test to a prestigious university but from Denmark's renewed exam for anyone aspiring to get Danish citizenship. The Danes-to-be-or rather wannabes have 45 minutes to answer the intensive multiple choice questionnaire covering the Scandinavian kingdom's history, culture, politics and habits from Viking times to the modern era.

The test can be a gamble for migrants, many of whom are unschooled and striving to decipher the country's tricky language. And even Danes, who have had a go at the test for fun, have struggled to attain the minimum of 32 correct answers out of 40. More than two out of three foreigners who gave it a shot in June's session failed the test, figures from the immigration and integration ministry revealed. Those who failed will be given a second chance in December.

### 'Applicants not studying'

Integration Minister Inger Støjberg, who has in the past few months signed a series of reforms restricting foreigners' entry and stay on Danish soil, said 35 of the correct answers are included in material distributed to applicants free of charge before the test. "The relatively high failure rate is due to people not preparing themselves properly and studying the material that is available to all," he said.

Foreigners are questioned about the adoption of female suffrage, taxes, electing members of parliament, the queen's role in politics or reinstatement of border controls during the migrant crisis in January 2016. They are also asked if following a religious belief exempts them from respecting "other rules that prevail in society", in addition to several questions about the successive invasions and wars fought on Danish territory. The predominantly Lutheran country has also thrown in a few questions about its religious identity, including the one about Easter eggs to which the correct answer is that they represent fertility. While major events in Danish history may be useful for new citizens to learn, critics say other questions do little to assess the candidates' integration into their new home country.

### 'Humor and humanity'

The trivia that foreigners are expected to know includes the release year of the

Olsen Gang, a popular Danish film series (1968). One of its lead actors, Morten Grunwald, admitted even he could not remember when the first film had been released. "A test like this should not define if one can become Danish citizen or not. It's about other qualities, such as humor and humanity," Grunwald told national radio service DR. And when it comes to La Sylphide, few Danes would recall that Auguste Bournonville's ballet from 1836 tells the story of an unfortunate young Scotsman who abandons his fiancée for the ethereal beauty of a sylph and ends up losing both.

"The Danish government is doing what it can to avoid receiving too many people from outside, both refugees and regular immigrants," Luc de-Visme, a 70-year-old Frenchman who has lived in the country for 44 years and who sat for the test, told AFP. Although he ended up passing, he admitted having guessed the answers to eight of the 40 questions. For citizenship-seekers the grilling does not end at the general knowledge test. Then come the language exams, both oral and written. Linguist Poul Neergaard said Danish is more difficult to learn than many other languages, not least because Danes barely pronounce their many vowels. "We swallow half of the words," he said.

### 'Knowledge not memory'

When the general knowledge test was first introduced in 2007 by a centre-right government, the failure rates were even higher than now. The current centre-left coalition made the questions easier, resulting in 93.5 percent of candidates passing the test in December 2015. But throughout last year, tens of thousands of migrants arrived in or transited via Denmark, prompting the government to join forces with the far-right Danish People's Party to tighten the screw in the citizenship test, among a slew of measures destined to make the country less attractive for migrants.

Even the opposition social democrats were in favour of a stricter test but claim not to have had a role in choosing the questions. "We wanted to see if the applicants knew a little about the Danish culture and history, not if they have a good memory," social democrat lawmaker Mattias Tesfaye told AFP. And Harald Bluetooth's stone: The inscription says the king brought Christianity to the Danes. —AFP



WUERZBURG: Refugees, some of whom come from Syria, and their supporters demonstrate with posters written with 'we love peace'. —AP

## GERMAN TRAIN ATTACKER'S NATIONALITY IN QUESTION

'CASE LIES BETWEEN A CRAZED RAMPAGE AND TERRORISM'

**BERLIN:** German authorities cast doubt yesterday on whether a teenager who went on an axe rampage on a Bavarian train was really an Afghan refugee, saying he might have been from Pakistan. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the teenager was believed to be a "lone wolf" attacker who appeared to have been "inspired" by the Islamic State group but was not a member of the jihadist network. "This is perhaps a case that lies somewhere between a crazed rampage and terrorism," de Maiziere told reporters.

He said investigators were still trying to determine the true identity of the 17-year-old who was shot dead by police following the train attack in which he injured five people, two of them critically. The Islamic State group released a video Tuesday purportedly featuring the assailant announcing in Pashto he would carry out an "operation" in Germany, and presenting himself as a "soldier of the caliphate". German authorities said they had authenticated the video.

However, security service sources now think he might have pretended to be Afghan on arrival in Germany in 2015 in order to have a better chance of securing asylum, ZDF public television reported. In the IS video the youth uses phrases of a dialect of Pashto spoken in Pakistan-not Afghanistan-and experts have indicated that his accent is also clearly Pakistani, ZDF said. A Pakistani document was also found in his room.

### Distress as trigger?

De Maiziere noted however that both Afghanistan and Pakistan had Pashtun communities and said German authorities had received an application for family reunification from the teenager for relatives in Afghanistan. He added that investigators were also looking closely at accounts from the assailant's foster family that he received a phone call Saturday informing him of the death of a friend in Afghanistan and whether his apparent distress over the news was a possible trigger for the attack.

Authorities Tuesday found a hand-painted IS flag and what they called a suicide letter addressed to his father among the attacker's belongings. Locals described the assailant as "calm and even-keeled" and a "devout Muslim who did not appear to be radical or a fanatic", according to Joachim Herrmann, interior minister of Bavaria state. Police however said he wrote in the letter that the world's Muslims "must defend themselves". "Now pray for me that I can take revenge on non-believers, pray for me that I can get to heaven," the note said. Prosecutors said he shouted "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) three times as he rampaged through the carriage.

### Brutal ordeal

Germany has thus far escaped the kind of large-scale jihadist attack seen in the southern French city of Nice last week, in which 31-year-old Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouheli used a truck to

mow down 84 people. That attack was also claimed by IS without the assailant having clear ties to the group.

A record 1.1 million migrants and refugees were let in to Germany last year, with Syrians making up the largest group followed by Afghans. The assailant had arrived as an unaccompanied minor in Germany in June 2015 and had been staying with a foster family in the region of the attack for the last two weeks. Meanwhile a family of tourists from Hong Kong hurt in the assault revealed graphic details of their brutal ordeal.

The elder daughter of the Yau family told local media that her parents tried to defend her sister's boyfriend when the axe-wielding teenager attacked him. "Originally the assailant was attacking my sister's boyfriend and when my mother and father saw, they went up to get in the way and then they got injured," Sylvia, 30, told the Hong Kong-based Apple Daily newspaper. Her father and sister's boyfriend are now in intensive care with serious head injuries. Her sister Tracy, 26, and mother, 58, were also injured, while Sylvia's 17-year-old brother was unharmed. Sylvia and her husband, who travelled to Germany on Tuesday night accompanied by officials from Hong Kong's immigration department, told how their family had been enjoying their holiday before the attack. "My father-in-law's friends received pictures and said they were having lots of fun," said Sylvia's husband, who was not named. —AFP



ROISSY-EN-FRANCE: An armed French soldier of the 8th RPIMA (8e regiment de parachutistes d'infanterie de marine), part of Operation Sentinelle, patrols at the Charles de Gaulle Airport. —AFP

## EUROPOL WARNS 'LONE WOLF' ATTACKS ARE HARD TO DETECT

**THE HAGUE:** Europe is at major risk of so-called "lone-wolf" terror attacks, its policing agency said yesterday, with the latest incidents showing "how difficult it is to detect and disrupt suspects". Recent incidents including Monday's attack on a German train and last week's carnage in Nice which left 84 people dead "remain a favored tactic by the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda," Europol said in a statement. "Both groups have repeatedly called on Muslims living in western countries to perpetrate lone actor attacks in their countries of residence," it said.

In the latest incident, the Islamic State group Tuesday released a video purportedly featuring a 17-year-old migrant who went on an axe rampage on a train at Wuerzburg in southern Germany, injuring five people, two critically. "Although IS has claimed responsibility for the latest attacks, none... seem to have been planned, logistically supported or executed directly by IS," Europol said.

Despite the attackers' pledges of allegiance to the IS group, "their actual involvement... cannot be established," Europol said. The Hague-based policing organization also released its 2015 "EU Terrorism and Trend Report" saying 151 people died and more than 350 others were injured in terror attacks last year in the 28-member bloc.

### 'Women recruiting in Europe'

The 55-page report only looked at 2015 and did not take into account the

Nice attack or the attacks on the Brussels airport and metro stations in March in which 32 people died. "In 2015 the EU experienced a massive number of casualties caused by terrorist attacks," Europol chief Rob Wainwright said. "The carefully planned attacks demonstrate the elevated threat to the EU from a fanatical minority... based in the Middle East, combined with a network of people born and raised in the EU," he said.

These people are "often radicalized within a short space of time, (and) proven willing to act as facilitators and active accomplices in terrorism," Wainwright said. A significant number of all foreign terrorist travelers in Syria and Iraq are now female, the report said, and women have also "proven to be very successful in facilitating and recruiting while still in the EU".

These women are trained in the use of weapons though are probably not currently taking part in active combat, Europol added. "Their roles may change in the future, which may have an effect on the nature and impact" of Islamic State group operations in Europe, the policing agency warned. Last year, 687 suspects were arrested, of whom 198 were convicted of jihadist activities. Europol warned: "It is a highly challenging task for the security services and law enforcement to prevent every terrorist attack by keeping track of the ever-increasing numbers of people suspected of being, in one way, or another sympathetic to IS ideology." —AFP

## S SUDAN'S FREEDOM IN PERIL

**JUBA:** South Sudan journalist John Gatluak knew the risks of war: his radio station was destroyed twice but he never stopped broadcasting the news, even when hiding in swamps. But the quiet, deeply committed journalist was shot dead on July 11 in the capital Juba, the latest in a string of killings and assaults on media and rights groups daring to criticize the leaders of a conflict that has driven the world's youngest nation to the depths of despair.

"Being a journalist in South Sudan is risking one's life," Gatluak said last year when his station in the war-ravaged town of Leer was looted again, according to a statement from his employer Internews, which supports media freedom. "But I have dedicated myself to serving my community through radio as a watchdog, informing them about what the politicians are doing." His wife gave birth to their third child the day after he was hunted down and shot at close range when his compound was stormed by gunmen.

### Ethnic killings

The latest violence echoed the December 2013 start of the civil war with fighting starting in Juba, leaving in tatters a peace deal that was hoped would end the bitter conflict between President Salva Kiir and arch-rival Riek Machar, now vice-president in a so-called unity government. Hundreds died in this latest spasm of violence, which began with a shootout at the presidential palace between men loyal to Kiir and Machar on the eve of South Sudan's fifth anniversary of independence.

Like many of the tens of thousands killed in a war that has divided the country along tribal lines, reports suggest Gatluak was targeted for his ethnicity. Scars across his forehead marked him out as a Nuer, the same ethnicity as Machar. Nine journalists have been killed since 2015, including government cameraman Kamula Duro, who died after fighting erupted between rival forces at the presidential palace on July 8. Bullets smashed into the popular Eye Radio station office in Juba, which continued reporting through some of the worst of the fighting. Last year a reporter was shot in an apparently targeted attack, days after Kiir publicly threatened to kill journalists who reported "against the country".

"Officials have intensified repressive measures," press freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders (known by its French acronym, RSF) said, which ranks South Sudan as the 140th worst nation out of 180 for press freedoms

worldwide. The US-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said the crackdown is just the latest in a string of efforts to muzzle the press, including beatings, threats, arrests and the closure of several newspapers.

For some, the latest violence is the final straw, but with security forces restricting South Sudanese men from using land borders or the airport, those who want to leave must risk using back routes to smuggle themselves to safety. "The rest are in fear across the country," said CEPO, a civil society group.

### Arrests and beatings

Others have been arrested. Veteran journalist Alfred Taban was arrested on Saturday and his Juba Monitor newspaper closed after he wrote in an editorial arguing that South Sudan's leaders had "completely failed". He is no stranger to arrest, having worked as a journalist in Khartoum before Sudan split in 2011, where he was repeatedly harassed for his support for an independent South Sudan.

Hassan Shire of East African rights group Defend Defenders called it: "another unacceptable attack on free speech at a time when the country needs it most". Taban, who is in poor health, joins journalist George Livio, who worked for the UN-backed Radio Miraya in the town of

Wau. He has been in detention since his arrest in August 2014. Civil society leaders are also wary of speaking out. "The system in South Sudan cracks down on anything that is not in accordance with the 'norm', the author of the popular satirical Saakam website told AFP.

"It is understood... that if you are not in agreement with what they do, you must be an enemy or even worse-a paid enemy. Not many have or will want to dare go into investigative journalism for fear of being gunned down as a spy." Amid the gloom, Saakam's satire has continued to mock leaders with stories that provoke laughter but that are all too close to the bone. "Former rebels intend to remain 'In Opposition' even if they democratically become majority in government," one satirical Saakam piece read.

"New 5 Sudan states run out of new symbols, clash over old ones," another headline read, poking fun at how Kiir undermined the fundamental power-sharing pillar of the peace deal by nearly tripling the number of regional states. But in a serious reflection, Saakam said the "real threat" to journalists and their families "cannot be overstated". One recent post by Saakam highlighted a genuine message urging peace from the president of Somalia, a country that is a byword for anarchy. "At least listen to Somalia," the post read. —AFP



JUBA: Hundreds of South Sudanese protest in Juba, South Sudan against foreign military intervention. — AP



## MYANMAR'S MILITARY INVESTIGATES 'WAR CRIME' IN AN ERA OF REFORM

**MONG YAW:** The first and second bodies pulled from the shallow grave in northern Myanmar didn't belong to Aik Chin's missing son. Nor, he prayed, did the third, whose face was unrecognizable from a severe beating. But then Aik Chin checked the corpse's fingertips - his 17-year-old son had lost one in a childhood accident - and his legs began to buckle. "When I realized it was my little boy, I collapsed and blacked out," he said. "I don't remember anything after that."

Soldiers entered the village of Mong Yaw on June 25 and rounded up dozens of men, witnesses told Reuters. Aik Chin's son and four others were led away, never to be seen alive again. Two other men - brothers - were shot while trying to escape on a motorbike and their bodies found in a ditch, villagers said. Myanmar's armed forces have often been accused of abuses by human rights groups and Western governments during decades of conflict with ethnic armed separatists in its wild border zones. What is unusual in this case is that the military high command has been taking the allegations seriously.

Major Thein Zaw of the army's Northeast Command said a court martial had begun, although he could not say how many soldiers were on trial or what charges they faced, and local government officials said several soldiers had been

arrested. Villagers say a senior army officer has promised them a full investigation. However, multiple requests by Reuters for comment from the army in the northern city Lashio and the capital Naypyitaw were declined or went unanswered. The military said it would address the issue at a news conference yesterday.

Ringed by misty hills, Mong Yaw lies in a remote corner of northern Shan State, a region ravaged by war and poverty. Thousands of people have been displaced by decades of fighting between the military and ethnic insurgents. Last year the military lost hundreds of men in a bid to retake a rebel-held region bordering China. Fuelling the conflict is Myanmar's lucrative narcotics trade, which is centered in lawless Shan state.

### Sensitive image

It is extremely rare in Myanmar for soldiers to be held accountable for alleged abuses, or for such allegations to be investigated transparently, rights groups such as Amnesty International say. The military's response this time suggests a heightened sensitivity about its image as it tries to present itself as a responsible partner in Myanmar's democratic transition and seeks closer ties with its Western counterparts. Myanmar was a military dictatorship for nearly half a century until a quasi-

civilian government of former generals replaced the junta in 2011 and launched a series of political and economic reforms.

Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was swept into office in April after winning a landslide election last year, but the military still holds immense power. Police and local officials told villagers in Mong Yaw in the days after the late June killings that they couldn't investigate because the military was already doing so.

Then, on July 3, the region's vice-commander, Major General Kyaw Soe, visited Mong Yaw and promised a full probe, said villagers. He also gave each bereaved family 300,000 kyat (\$250) as a gesture of sympathy, local people said.

General Kyaw Soe said some soldiers had been arrested, but gave no further details. This surprised local activists, who say they have spent decades documenting similar incidents by ill-disciplined troops amid a culture of impunity. "The military has never done anything like this," said Sai Han, an ethnic Shan leader of the Tai Youth Organization, based in Lashio. He called what happened at Mong Yaw a "war crime" committed by soldiers against civilians. News of the killings had spread fast, aided by cellphones that have only recently become ubiquitous in Myanmar and by testimony from a population emboldened in an era

of reform, Sai Han said, suggesting that the publicity had made it impossible for the military to brush aside the allegations.

### 'Drunk and angry'

Sai Mong Tan, 22, was weeding a cornfield with his 17-year-old brother, Sai Shwe Lu, when the soldiers arrived. "They seemed drunk," he told Reuters. "I could smell alcohol on them. They were very angry." The military later said they had come under attack from rebels in the area, although Sai Han and other local activists said there had been no insurgent activity. The brothers were marched to a nearby road, where dozens more soldiers had detained about a hundred people, and were forced to squat with their hands behind their heads.

The soldiers beat and interrogated the men, demanding to know if anyone had spotted insurgents in the area, said Sai Mong Tan. He then watched as soldiers tied up his younger brother and the four other victims and led them away. Reuters could not independently confirm this account, although it matched the version of events described by other villagers and local officials and rights activists. Sai Mong Tan believes his brother was singled out because he didn't speak Burmese and couldn't answer the soldiers' questions. —Reuters



**PESHAWAR:** Pakistani activists from Al-Badar Mujahideen shout slogans during a protest to denounce recent violence by Indian security forces in the Indian-administered Kashmir. — AFP

## PROTESTERS RAISE PAKISTANI FLAGS IN KASHMIR PROTESTS

**SRINAGAR:** Government forces in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir yesterday removed dozens of black and Pakistani flags hoisted by residents observing a "black day" to protest the killing of a top rebel leader. Indian forces feared fresh trouble after Pakistan called for observing a "black day" in the country to express solidarity with "Kashmiris who are facing atrocities at the hands of Indian forces."

Life remained paralyzed and streets deserted in Indian-controlled Kashmir as police and paramilitary soldiers in riot gear enforced a strict curfew for the 12th straight day yesterday in the disputed region. Pakistan says it provides political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris and anti-India rebels who demand Kashmir's independence from India or merger with Pakistan. Responding to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's appeal, Pakistanis held rallies in various parts of the country, including its portion of Kashmir to condemn "human rights violation in India's part of Kashmir."

In a statement, Sharif said "Kashmir cannot be accepted as an internal matter of India" as the United Nations has already declared it a disputed area. Sharif said that India had promised to the world to arrange a plebiscite in Indian-controlled Kashmir, but such a commitment was yet to be honored. The largest street protests in recent years erupted after Indian troops killed Burhan Wani, a popular 22-year-old rebel leader on July 8, leading to clashes that left 46 people, mostly teens and young men, and a policeman dead. Nearly 2,000 civilians and about 1,600 government troops have been injured.

Virtually no information was coming out from most parts of Indian-controlled Kashmir, especially the south where most of the killings occurred, as newspapers, cellular and internet services remained suspended. Landline phone access was limited, except in Kashmir's main city of Srinagar. The information void was fueling a cycle of rumors in the restive region.

## INDIAN POLICE ARREST THREE OVER STUDENT'S GANG-RAPE

**NEW DELHI:** Indian police have arrested three suspects over the alleged gang-rape of a student by a group of men, two of whom had been charged with a previous attack on her, an officer said yesterday. The 21-year-old, who belongs to the lowest Dalit caste, has told police she was abducted near her college in the north Indian state of Haryana last week by the five men, who then drugged and raped her. According to relatives quoted in Indian media, she identified all five as the men who had raped her before, in 2013. Two men were charged over that attack, but were released on bail while awaiting trial.

"We arrested three of them yesterday," Pushpa Khatri, a police officer involved in the investigation, told AFP without giving further details. It was unclear whether the two men already facing charges were among those arrested. Police said they were still looking for two other suspects in the latest case. The woman was found unconscious in bushes on the side of a highway last Wednesday night.

Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region, is divided between India and Pakistan, but both claim it in its entirety. Most people in Indian-held part resent the presence of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops.

Since 1989, more than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising against Indian rule and the subsequent Indian military crackdown. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over control of Kashmir since British colonialists left the Indian subcontinent in 1947. India's External Affairs Ministry responded to Pakistan's call for a "black day" in solidarity with Kashmiris by saying Islamabad should stop "interfering in India's internal affairs and destabilizing the situation."

Despite round-the-clock curfew and information blackout, the protests, marked by clashes between rock-throwing Kashmiris and troops firing live ammunition, pellet guns and tear gas, have persisted. With shops closed, people were struggling to cope with shortages of food, medicines and other necessities.

### Principal charged with sedition over map

Meanwhile, an Indian school principal and two others have been charged with sedition for printing an incorrect map of disputed Kashmir, police said yesterday, an offence technically punishable by a maximum of life in jail. The principal was arrested on Monday along with the school's owner and a printing press owner following a complaint by a right-wing Hindu activist, who spotted the map in a school diary.

Police said hundreds of diaries were printed by the private Green Bells Public School in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, showing parts of Kashmir within the borders of arch-rivals Pakistan and China. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but New Delhi imposes tight restrictions on all printed maps, insisting they show all of Kashmir as being within Indian borders. —Agencies

Her family has said the five men had issued threats before the latest attack, demanding that they withdraw the case lodged after the 2013 assault. The family also told Indian media they had been forced to move away from their home district after the 2013 attack because of harassment. However, some of those accused in the latest case have denied involvement, saying they were not in the area on the day of the alleged assault.

The fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in Delhi in 2012 shone a global spotlight on frightening levels of violence against women in India and led to major reform of India's rape laws. Authorities promised speedier trials and increased punishments for offenders, but attacks still occur frequently and cases are often slow to come to court. The most recent official figures show that 36,735 rapes were reported across the country in 2014, although activists say the true number is likely much higher because of the social stigma attached to sexual crimes. —AFP

## BANGLADESH SAYS 261 MISSING, RADICALIZATION FEARS ESCALATE

DOCTORS, ENGINEERS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS AMONG MISSING

**DHAKA:** Doctors, engineers and university students are among 261 people officially missing in Bangladesh, with some feared recruited by Islamic militant groups, as the country reels from a wave of deadly attacks. More than two weeks after Islamists killed 20 foreign hostages in a siege at a cafe in Dhaka, police published a list overnight Tuesday of those missing and urged information on their whereabouts. "We have to find them," elite Rapid Action Battalion spokesman Mufti Mahmud Khan told AFP, without saying how many were suspected to have joined extremist groups at home and abroad.

Bangladesh was spurred into launching a nationwide hunt for people reported missing by their families in recent times, following the July 1 siege claimed by Islamic State group (IS). Police and parents said the five who stormed the Western-style cafe and hacked the hostages to death had gone missing months earlier. At least two gunmen who carried out a deadly attack days later at a massive Eid prayer service had also previously disappeared.

As the list was published on Facebook, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reiterated her secular government's determination to "root out the scourge of militancy". Hasina, who has long denied IS and Al-Qaeda have a foothold in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, urged villagers to form committees to gather information on those missing. "We will find out everything who are patronizing them (the militants), who are providing them with arms, money and other support. We will find out who are misguiding young students," she told parliament.

The list shows a diverse range of mainly young people who have fallen off the radar including some from wealthy families and with good jobs, and others at university, long thought by experts to be a recruiting ground for radicals. Local media reported on Wednesday dozens have travelled to the Middle East to join IS. It includes Tahmid Rahman, son of a former home secretary and election commissioner, who was seen in a video, thought to have been shot overseas, and released by IS immediately after the siege praising the attackers.

"Back in 2003-4, Tahmid used to be the lead singer of an underground rock band. Then he became one of the top contestants of the (talent) reality show 'Close Up One'," said a friend who did not want to be named. "After seeing him in the video I felt a shiver down my spine thinking of him holding a machete instead of a microphone."

Before he disappeared from his home, he used to tell his fellow musicians to leave music



**DHAKA:** This photograph taken on July 4, 2016, shows a guitar standing on the bed of Mir Saameh Mubasheer at his family home. — AFP

as it is forbidden in Islam," he told AFP. "He had a good job at a telecommunications company," he said of Rahman, whose friends think he went missing about a year ago.

### Missing ignored

Security analyst Abdur Rob said authorities have until now ignored the issue of Bangladesh's missing, adding some may have already joined IS and other groups. "Had the authorities taken the issue of missing young men seriously, the terror attacks in Gulshan cafe and in the Eid congregation could have been avoided," said Rob, a professor at private North South University in Dhaka. "Still it is not too late. Authorities should scrutinize the list, take help from universities to learn who are missing for what reasons and act accordingly," he told AFP. "It may go a long way to preventing the next attack."

Hasina's government has blamed a string of recent murders of secular bloggers and religious minorities on local not overseas militant groups, along with the opposition whom it accuses of

trying to destabilize the country. But since the siege, it has launched a crackdown on social media sites, saying they are being used to recruit young men to jihadist groups. Police said a family of five comprising a doctor, his college professor wife, their two daughters and son-in-law have been missing since October. "We're probing where they've gone," local police station chief Rafiqul Islam told AFP, while another officer told local media the family was suspected to have flown to Syria.

Another on the list, marine engineer Najibullah Ansari, had been missing for over a year when his parents contacted police after this month's national manhunt.

According to his family, Ansari was last in touch with his brother in January 2015 on Facebook, saying that he was in Iraq fighting with jihadists. "I have come to Iraq. Tell father and mother not to worry for me. I have come here for jihad," read the message according to a screen shot seen by local daily Dhaka Tribune. "I will never return home," he said. — AFP

## INDIAN LAWMAKERS IN UPROAR OVER ATTACKS ON LOWER CASTES

**NEW DELHI:** India's Parliament was in an uproar yesterday after four men belonging to the low-caste Dalit community were beaten while trying to skin a dead cow in western India. Lawmakers from the opposition parties shouted slogans while accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government of failing to protect the Dalits, who belong to the lowest rung of Hinduism's caste hierarchy. Videos of the four being stripped and beaten with sticks by men claiming to be cow protectors in Gujarat state last week have gone viral and have sparked protests by Dalit groups across the state.

Hindus consider cows to be sacred, and the slaughter of cows is banned in many parts of India. Slaughtering a cow carries a punishment of up to seven years in jail. Attacks against Muslims and Dalits accused of eating or smuggling beef have risen since Modi's Hindu-nationalist party came to power two years ago. Vigilante groups comprising mostly members of Hindu nationalist organizations have become active in small towns and cities across India over the past year. Last year, a Muslim man was lynched by a mob in northern Uttar Pradesh state over charges that his

family had eaten beef for dinner.

Dalits usually carry out undesirable tasks such as skinning dead animals, and many work in tanneries and in the leather industry. The four men who were attacked by vigilantes in Una town in Gujarat last week worked in a tannery. In the video, they were seen pleading that they were tannery workers who were only skinning the dead animal. Home Minister Rajnath Singh told lawmakers in Parliament yesterday that the victims were

attacked by a group of men who hit them with metal pipes and wooden rods. Singh said nine people involved in the attack had been arrested.

### Strict action

On Tuesday, Gujarat's top elected official, Chief Minister Anandiben Patel, promised that her government would take strict action against those involved in the attack. Four police officers who failed to take action have been sus-

pending for dereliction of duty, she said. Several towns in Gujarat have been rocked by protests since last week's beating incident, and at least 10 Dalit men have attempted suicide, lawmakers told Parliament yesterday.

The Dalit protests turned violent in some towns. In the state's Amreli district, a police constable was killed when angry mobs pelted police with stones. "Dalits are being oppressed in Gujarat and we have to raise our voices to get the government to act," said Derek O'Brien, a lawmaker from West Bengal state. "This is an organized crime that is happening in Gujarat."

Although caste discrimination was banned soon after India's independence from Britain in 1947, the practice persists. Successive governments have set quotas for jobs and university spots to level out disadvantages faced by lower castes, but it has been difficult to change social attitudes.

In Parliament, Singh condemned the attacks and called on all political parties to help end discrimination against Dalits. "Atrocities against Dalits are a social evil," he said. "I appeal to all political parties to take this as a challenge and wipe out this problem." — AP



**AHMEDABAD:** Members of India's low-caste Dalit community block traffic and shout slogans. — AP



## N KOREA SAYS MISSILE TESTS SIMULATED NUCLEAR STRIKE

**SEOUL:** North Korea said yesterday its latest ballistic missile tests trialed detonation devices for possible nuclear strikes on US targets in South Korea and were personally monitored by supreme leader Kim Jong-Un. Tuesday's test firing of three missiles in violation of existing UN resolutions was seen as an angry reaction to the planned deployment of a US missile defense system in the South.

The launch of the two Scud missiles and one intermediate-range Rodong was condemned by the United States, Japan and South Korea, who vowed a collective diplomatic response. The tests were ordered and monitored by Kim Jong-Un and the range of the missiles was limited to simulate pre-emptive attacks on South Korean ports and airfields hosting US military "hardware", the North's official KCNA news agency said. The tests "examined

the operational features of the detonating devices of nuclear warheads mounted on the ballistic rockets at the designated altitude over the target area," it said.

According to the South Korean military, the two Scuds flew between 500 and 600 kilometers into the Sea of Japan, while the Rodong was fired about an hour later. A photo from the test, published on the front page of the North Korean ruling party's Rodong Sinmun newspaper, showed Kim sitting at a desk covered by a large map of the Korean peninsula. The map was clearly marked with a possible missile flight path from the North to South's southern coast, around the major ports of Ulsan and Busan.

**'Deeply troubling'**  
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on

Tuesday said the tests were "deeply troubling" and undermined efforts to reduce tension on the Korean peninsula. UN resolutions prohibit North Korea from developing ballistic missile technology. Pyongyang has repeatedly warned of pre-emptive nuclear strikes against the South and US targets there and elsewhere, although the main focus of its nuclear weapons program is to develop a credible strike threat against the US mainland. A series of missile tests this year aimed at backing up that threat led to the recent agreement between Seoul and Washington to deploy the sophisticated US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, in South Korea. Last week, Pyongyang responded to the announcement by threatening to take "physical action". There are nearly 30,000 US troops permanently stationed in South Korea. North Korea-US

tensions had already been stoked by Pyongyang's fury at Washington's decision to personally target leader Kim with sanctions related to human rights abuses. The North test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile on July 9, following back-to-back tests of a powerful new medium-range missile on June 22. Those two missiles achieved a significant increase in flight distance over previous failed launches and were believed to be of a much-hyped, intermediate-range "Musudan"-theoretically capable of reaching US bases as far away as Guam.

### Technical breakthroughs

Since carrying out a fourth nuclear test in January, which prompted a significant tightening of UN sanctions, North Korea has claimed a series of technical breakthroughs for its weapons program.

It said it had miniaturized a nuclear warhead to fit on a missile and successfully tested an engine designed for an intercontinental ballistic missile that could reach the US mainland. While some experts say the claims are exaggerated, most acknowledge that the North's nuclear and ballistic missile programs have made significant strides.

In a separate dispatch yesterday, KCNA quoted a spokesman for the Korean People's Army (KPA) unit based in the border truce village of Panmunjom calling for all US troops to leave the South immediately. "The KPA already solemnly declared that the US imperialist aggression forces in South Korea are its first strike target," the spokesman said. "The US should go back home, abandoning its wicked intention for a permanent stay in South Korea," he added. — AFP

## CHINA BACKS PHILIPPINE'S CONTROVERSIAL DRUG WAR

**MANILA:** China has offered its support to the Philippine's controversial drug crackdown pushed by new President Rodrigo Duterte, which has been slammed by rights groups for encouraging extrajudicial killings and vigilante justice. "China fully understands that the Philippine government under the leadership of Rodrigo Duterte has taken it as a top priority in cracking down (on) drug-related crimes," China's embassy in Manila said in a statement issued Tuesday. "China has expressed explicitly to the new administration China's willingness for effective cooperation in this regard, and would like to work out a specific plan of action with the Philippine side."

Duterte swept to power in May on a promise to clampdown on drugs, and police have since confirmed killing nearly 200 people in a two-month crime blitz. There has also been a surge in killings by

anti-drug vigilantes who leave victims' corpses on city streets wrapped in packaging tape with signs accusing them of being drug dealers. The statement from the Chinese embassy made no reference to the killings—which have prompted a backlash from domestic and international rights groups—only saying fighting drug-related crimes was a "shared responsibility of all countries in the world."

It added: "The Chinese government has been firm and severe in drug control and in punishing all drug criminals in accordance with laws regardless of their nationalities." Beijing is known to execute drug offenders and in recent years has put to death several Filipinos found guilty of smuggling narcotics into China. On Sunday, Duterte said he planned to ask China why so many of its nationals were being arrested for illegal drugs in the Philippines. — AFP



HONG KONG: A vendor uses her phone in her stall at the annual book fair. — AFP

## TOP US ADMIRAL SAYS FRIENDLY CHINA EXCHANGES CONDITIONAL ON SAFETY

**BEIJING:** The top US admiral said yesterday that friendly exchanges with China's navy are conditional on safe interactions at sea, an indication of Washington's concern over recent fractious encounters with Chinese forces in and over the disputed South China Sea. On a visit to the northern Chinese port of Qingdao, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson said he backs more exchanges, but added, "In this area we must judge each other by our deeds and actions, not just by our words." "I am supportive of a continued and deepening navy-to-navy relationship, but I will be continuously reassessing my support conditioned on continued safe and professional interactions at sea," Richardson said, according to a Navy news release.

Richardson is on what the Navy is calling a five-day visit to "improve mutual understanding and encourage professional interaction between the two navies." In Qingdao, he visited the headquarters of China's North Sea Fleet and met with its commander, Vice Adm. Yuan Yubai. Richardson "underscored the importance of lawful and safe operations in the South China Sea and elsewhere where professional navies operate," the Navy said. He said the US Navy would continue to conduct "routine and lawful operations" around the world, including in the South China Sea, in order to protect "the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of sea and airspace guaranteed to all." "This will not change," Richardson said. He was also scheduled to visit China's first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, along with a submarine training base.

### Unsafe maneuvering

On Monday, he met in Beijing with his Chinese counterpart, Wu Shengli, who took a hard line on China's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, where China has been building airstrips, harbors and military facilities on man-made islands created by piling sand on top of coral reefs. The US refuses to recognize the new features as possessing the legal status of islands and has emphasized the

point by sending Navy ships to sail close to them on so-called freedom of navigation missions. That has incensed China, which has responded by dispatching its own vessels to threaten and harass the US ships.

Chinese planes have also engaged recently in what the US described as unsafe maneuvering close to American surveillance aircraft. Coinciding with Richardson's visit, China is also holding military drills in an area of the South China Sea south of its island province of Hainan. A former information minister, Zhao Qizheng, said at a news conference in Singapore on Tuesday that the drills were a direct response to frequent US exercises in the area.

Meanwhile, China's highest-ranking officer, Gen. Fan Changlong, is making an inspection visit to the Southern Theater Command, which includes the South China Sea. On Tuesday, Fan ordered officers and others to "profoundly understand the complexity of the grim situation facing our nation's security, step up all preparations for military struggle, ensure that orders are followed, and that we can get there and fight to win."

Despite suspicions on both sides, US-China military-to-military exchanges have steadily gained pace in recent years. China's navy is currently taking part for the second time in the Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, the world's largest naval drills, hosted by the US off Hawaii and including military forces from 26 nations. US law limits the scope of US military drills with China to areas such as search and rescue and humanitarian and disaster relief. It's unclear what specific issues Richardson has discussed, but Wu told him that China had no intention of abandoning its plans to fully equip its newly created islands and would resolutely defend its interests and sovereignty claims in the region. China has firmly rejected last week's ruling by an international arbitration panel in The Hague that essentially voided China's South China Sea maritime claims. — AP

## PUBLISHERS TAKE ON CHINA AT HONG KONG BOOK FAIR

### SMALL BOOK PUBLISHERS DETERMINED TO FIGHT

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong's feisty publishing industry vowed to take on China by selling books critical of Beijing, despite the disappearances of five city booksellers, as a major annual book fair began yesterday. The booksellers, who went missing last year and resurfaced in the mainland, worked for a Hong Kong publishing house known for gossipy titles about China's political leaders. One of the men is still detained and another, who skipped bail and is now in Hong Kong, has revealed how he was blindfolded and interrogated for months during his detention.

Some mainstream bookstores in Hong Kong removed works likely to offend mainland authorities from their shelves in the wake of the disappearances. And while independent shop owners are still willing to stock the books, some have told AFP that salacious or critical titles about Beijing politics have dwindled as publishers have been scared off. But on the first day of the book fair yesterday, there was determination to keep fighting. "As a publishing house, I personally think I should not worry... You lose if you start to worry," said Jimmy Pang, head of Hong Kong publisher Subculture.

Pang said he would not stop printing political books out of fear, but described the pressure on the Hong Kong industry as "white terror." "If a book is suddenly banned, say after some mainland officials say it is, the whole line of production can get into trouble, from its writer, publisher, to the distributor and even readers. It can happen two or three years after the book is printed," Pang said.

One of Subculture's political authors, Lam Hong-ching, is promoting a book on self-determination for semi-autonomous Hong Kong, reflecting a growing desire among young campaigners for more distance from Beijing. "People are worried. Some writers don't even write anymore. Some publishers don't dare to print," Lam told AFP. "But it's even more important to write these books now, otherwise residents are not properly informed." Lam says he fears for his own safety and has not renewed the permit held by Hong Kong residents which allows them to visit the mainland.

### Forbidden fruit

The fair has always been a source of books that would be banned on the mainland, with many readers crossing the border to browse titles off limits at home. Despite the pressures, there are still a number of booths this year selling works ranging from steamy tomes about the sex lives of Chinese leaders to literature advocating political rights in the face of Beijing. One mainland visitor, who gave his name as Shu, said he had taken a holiday from his home in Shanghai so that he could read books unavailable in China. "I want to read them here, but I won't bring them home. I'm worried to do so," the 46-year-old marketing consultant told AFP.

Shu said he wanted more liberal ideas to be heard and would be disappointed if Hong Kong stopped producing the books.

Bookshop owner Paul Tang says the demand from mainland readers is undented. But he adds

that the industry itself has undoubtedly been hit by the missing bookseller saga, with the supply to his shop of gossipy titles about Beijing politicians having been halved. One publisher he knew emigrated in the wake of the disappearances and cut

all contacts with his authors, says Tang, whose shop is not far from the Causeway Bay bookstore where the five booksellers sold their titles. "Some publishers just raised their hands and said they would give up," he said. — AFP

## INDONESIA BANS POLICE, ARMY FROM PLAYING POKEMON GO

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia is banning police and military personnel from playing Pokemon Go while on duty, officials said yesterday, after the defense minister warned the smartphone game was a security threat. It came as the Jakarta presidential palace also prohibited playing the popular game around the premises, with signs appearing that read "Playing or hunting Pokemon is forbidden in the area of the palace". Indonesians have joined the frenzy for Pokemon Go, which has become a worldwide hit since launching two weeks ago and has already been blamed for a wave of crimes, traffic violations and complaints in cities around the globe.

Despite Pokemon Go not yet being officially available in Indonesia, many have downloaded it illegally and taken to the streets to hunt for virtual "pocket monsters". But its popularity has caused concern among the security establishment's top echelons, with officials suggesting its high-tech capabilities could be put to use in spying. "Spying can come in different forms," said headline Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryaucudu, adding that the game was "just not right".

The military will soon issue an order banning all personnel from playing Pokemon Go

during work hours as it seeks to protect high-security sites, military spokesman Tatang Sulaiman told AFP. The order will note concerns that devices being used to play the game can send data over the Internet to other countries. The announcement came after a Frenchman was briefly detained this week when he accidentally wandered onto a military base on Java island as he played Pokemon Go. Police officers across the country were already sent an order on Tuesday banning them from playing the game while on duty, a spokesman said.

"We are worried that police officers may become addicted and we don't want that because a police officer's duty is to serve the public. The job requires hard work and concentration," said national police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar. At the presidential palace, press chief Bey Machmudin said the ban had been introduced as "this is the president's office not a playground". It came several days after a minister said he had spotted some Pokemon in the palace. Pokemon Go uses smartphone satellite location, graphics and camera capabilities to overlay cartoon monsters on real-world settings, challenging players to capture and train the creatures for battles. — AFP



BEIJING: US Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, left, and Commander of the Chinese Navy Adm. Wu Shengli, right, talk at the Chinese Navy Headquarters. — AP



JAKARTA: In this Monday, July 18, 2016 photo, people gaze at their smartphones as they play "Pokemon Go". — AP



## RUSSIAN BALLOON IS HALFWAY TO CIRCUMNAVIGATING GLOBE

**CANBERRA:** A 65-year-old Russian adventurer was battling sleep deprivation, freezing temperatures and ice in his oxygen mask but was ahead of schedule for his record attempt to fly solo in a balloon around the world nonstop, his son said yesterday. Fedor Konyukhov has drifted more than halfway around the world since he lifted off from Northam in Western Australia state on July 12 in a carbon box 2 meters high, 2 meters long and 1.8 meters wide suspended from a 56-meter -tall helium and hot-air balloon.

Oscar Konyukhov, who heads the support team based at Northam, said his father was on track to return to Earth somewhere in Australia on Sunday - 12 days after he started. The previous record of 13 days and eight hours was set by American adventurer Steve Fossett in 2002. "Mentally, he's very strong," said Oscar, who usually communicates with his father by text message. "It's a boost to morale to be more than halfway and he's looking forward to seeing the Australian coast."

For all their meticulous planning ahead of the flight, mistakes have become apparent. The heating system is inadequate with temperatures in the gondola ranging from 5 degrees Celsius during the day to below freezing at night. Flying at altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 meters, Fedor continually needs to use bottled oxygen. Because he only took two masks - one with a short hose for use inside the gondola and

the other with a long hose for use outside - Fedor regularly needs to clear the mask of ice and condensation.

"We should've given him at least two or three sets so if one is full of ice, then throw it away and get a brand new one," the son said. "It's a minor thing, but it's also a big thing because there's nothing small in this project." Fedor aimed to get four hours sleep a day in naps of 30 or 40 minutes between hours of checking and maintaining equipment and instruments. His direction and altitude were constantly monitored by his ground crew, who look for signs that he might have overslept and are ready to make contact by satellite phone or radio.

"Sometimes when we see that he's descending and we don't know why, we call him and ask: What's going on?" Oscar said. Oscar estimated the 1.6-metric ton balloon had flown 20,000 kilometers at speeds up to 250 kilometers per hour by Wednesday and had 13,000 kilometers to go. The balloon was expected to reach South Africa on Thursday before the final leg east across the Indian Ocean. The pilot would attempt to navigate around a low pressure system over the Indian Ocean, which made the duration of the crossing difficult to predict, Oscar said. "The last leg across the Indian Ocean will be very difficult," Oscar said, because of the weather and challenges in steering a balloon at the mercy of winds toward Australia. —AP



**KIEV:** A man lights a candle on the site where Belarus-born journalist Pavel Sheremet was killed in a car bomb in central Kiev yesterday. —AFP

# PRO-WESTERN REPORTER DIES IN KIEV CAR BOMB

### NEW DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY, FEAR TO UKRAINE

**KIEV:** A car bomb in Kiev yesterday killed a pro-Western reporter from a news site whose founder was beheaded 16 years ago after probing the alleged crimes of Ukrainian leaders. The killing of 44-year-old Pavel Sheremet—a Russian national born in Belarus—added a new degree of uncertainty and fear to a country struggling with a pro-Moscow insurgency in the east and a prolonged stretch of economic woes.

It also underscores the dangers Ukrainian reporters face despite Kiev's alliance with the West and its historic break with Moscow in a 2014 pro-EU revolt. Sheremet died when his bomb-rigged car exploded while he was driving to work along one of central Kiev's cobble-stoned streets. President Petro Poroshenko immediately demanded that the perpetrators be brought to justice for this "terrible tragedy." "I am shocked—there are no other words for it," he wrote on Facebook. The charred remains of Sheremet's car-its doors flung open and the windshield shattered—stood behind a police cordon as investigators worked at the scene and sirens wailed. A taxi driver who gave his name only as Petro told AFP that the blast was so fierce that "the flames from the windscreen went up to the second floor." "He was in shock from pain and his legs seemed to be broken," the driver said. He said witnesses called for an ambulance and started dragging Sheremet out of the burning wreck. Sheremet was unable to speak but was moaning from pain. It remained unclear at which point he died.

#### 'Brazen murder'

The interior ministry called the killing a "brazen murder" aimed at destabilizing the country. Sheremet wrote opinion pieces and conducted interviews with top officials in which he demanded answers for the slow pace of Kiev's efforts to stamp out embedded corruption and achieve sustainable growth. He collaborated with Ukrainska Pravda for four years. Its founder Georgiy Gongadze was murdered in 2000 after digging into the alleged financial and other crimes committed by then-president Leonid Kuchma—a close ally of Russia at the time. Gongadze's killing was a national scandal that dragged on through the courts for years and at one point appeared to implicate Kuchma himself. But Kuchma escaped conviction and no one has yet

been charged with ordering Gongadze's death. Ukrainska Pravda editor Sevghil Musaieva-Borovyk told AFP she thought Sheremet was killed because of his "professional work." "He loved and believed in Ukraine," the news site added in a statement. "That is why he criticized Ukrainian society."

#### 'Life of purpose and integrity'

Sheremet founded the popular Belarusky Partizan opposition website after being detained and kicked out of the authoritarian former Soviet state of Belarus. He then worked for Russia's ORT television network and at one point was anchor on the country's most watched news show Vremya (Time). He later joined Russia's state Obshchestvennoye Televideniye (Public Television) before resigning after less than a year in protest at Russia's stance toward Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman

Dmitry Peskov said "the murder of a Russian citizen and a journalist in Ukraine is cause for very serious concern in the Kremlin." And Russia's foreign ministry called Sheremet "another victim of the (political) system that now exists" in Ukraine. The US embassy in Kiev said it was "shocked and saddened at the news."

"Pavel led a life of purpose and integrity in multiple countries. We respect him as a fearless practitioner and supporter of freedom of speech," the US statement said. The killing comes as Ukraine continues to battle pro-Russian eastern separatists and struggles to reach stability that could end the political infighting thought brought down past governments. The 27-month conflict that Kiev and its allies accuse Russia of backing has claimed nearly 9,500 lives and devastated Moscow's ties with the West at time when the two are trying to find a joint solution to the Syrian war. —AFP



**In this Tuesday, July 12, 2016 photo released Wednesday, July 20, 2016 by Morton, Russian adventurer Fedor Konyukhov floats at more than 6,000 meters (20,000 feet) above an area close to Northam in Western Australia state in his helium and hot-air balloon as he makes a record attempt to fly solo in a balloon around the world nonstop. — AP**

## HUNGARY LAUNCHES NEW ANTI-MIGRANT OFFENSIVE

**BUDAPEST:** Hungary stepped up its anti-migrant rhetoric yesterday with a new media offensive against refugees, ahead of a vote in October on troubled EU plans to relocate asylum-seekers among member states. Run under the slogan "Did you know?", the right-wing government unveiled a series of ads on its website blaming recent terrorist attacks in Europe on the refugee crisis, which has been rattling the bloc since 2015. "The Paris attacks were committed by migrants," reads one slogan in reference to last November's coordinated assaults that left 130 people dead in the French capital.

Among the perpetrators were two men who had entered Europe among the flow of Syrians and Iraqis arriving on Greek shores last summer. Other messages warn that "violence against woman has

increased exponentially since the start of the migrant wave" and that "in Libya alone, a million migrants wait to come to Europe". The ads will be published in the print press, broadcast on TV and radio, and plastered on billboards all over Hungary in the coming weeks, the government said.

The opposition news website 444.hu slammed the campaign for "solely aiming to spread unlimited xenophobia across the country". Earlier this month, the government announced it would hold a national vote on the EU's controversial plan to share 160,000 migrants around the 28-nation bloc via mandatory quotas. Prime Minister Viktor Orban has been a fierce opponent of the proposal, saying it violated national sovereignty and that the EU had no right to "redraw Europe's cultural and religious identity". —AFP

## INDIAN MUSLIM WOMEN DEFY TRADITION, MEN TO BE JUDGES

**MUMBAI:** An Indian Muslim women's rights organization is training women to be qazis, or judges, a role traditionally reserved for men, amid growing demand for more representation for women. The Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) is training its first intake of 30 women in Koranic law, constitutional law and gender rights. The year-long program aims to produce a steady stream of female qazis across India, its co-founder said.

The Indian constitution allows Muslims, the country's biggest religious minority, to regulate matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance through their own civil code. The qazi, usually a hereditary title, plays an important role by solemnizing marriage and finalizing divorce and settlements. "Traditionally, qazis have all been men, and their judgment has never been questioned, even if many are unfair to women," said Zakia Soman, a co-founder of BMMA in Mumbai. "But it's important to have women hear and rep-

resent women who are in a vulnerable position. Besides, there is no bar on women qazis as per the Koran," she said.

The move comes at a time of growing dissent against laws that activists say discriminate against Muslim women. A survey by BMMA last year showed more than 90 percent of Muslim women want to end the "triple talaq" divorce tradition and polygamy. Last month, the Supreme Court said it would examine how far it could interfere in Muslim laws, as it heard a plea to end the practice allowing Muslim men to divorce their wives by saying "talaq" three times.

Muslims make up 13 percent of India's 1.2 billion population, yet government data show they are among some of the most excluded and marginalized communities. The women being trained to be qazis are largely community workers and activists from states including Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar, Soman said. —Reuters

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In my view

MOSUL IN FOCUS  
TWO YEARS AFTER  
IS TAKEOVER

By Stephen Kalin and Phil Stewart

When Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi pledged in December that Iraq would retake Islamic State's de facto capital Mosul by the end of 2016, the target was greeted with scepticism by Western allies and officials within his own government. Less than seven months on, the Iraqi military has recaptured most major militant positions in western Anbar province and advanced towards Mosul, the largest city still under the ultra-hard-line group's control across its self-proclaimed caliphate.

Last month's recapture of Fallujah, followed swiftly by Qayara airbase 60 km south of Mosul and the announcement of a fresh deployment of US forces, lent momentum to the campaign, which the administration of President Barack Obama would like to finish before January. "Progress against Daesh (IS) has now put liberation of Mosul strongly on the agenda," the top United Nations official in Iraq said last week. Abadi, backed by a US-led military coalition, now wants to move on Mosul by October, a senior Baghdad-based diplomat and a Western official said, both declining to be identified. Asked about the October date, Abadi's spokesman reiterated the year-end timeframe but said the timing of specific actions were up to military commanders and would not be made public. Despite growing confidence in Iraq's military two years after it collapsed in the face of Islamic State's advance, much remains to be done to prepare for Mosul and critics say Abadi's year-end deadline is still too ambitious.

Mosul and Tel Afar, another IS stronghold 65 km to the west, have been ringed by Kurdish peshmerga forces from the east, north and west for months, but jihadists are operating in a vast desert area to the south spanning 14,000 sq km between the Tigris river and the Syrian border. War planners say the campaign needs 20,000-30,000 troops. Forces must advance from Qayara, where 5,000 army forces and a division from the counter-terrorism service (CTS) are stationed. Other army and CTS units will also be mobilized. A few thousand police and 15,000 local fighters are being organized to hold land after the assault.

## 'Important Milestone'

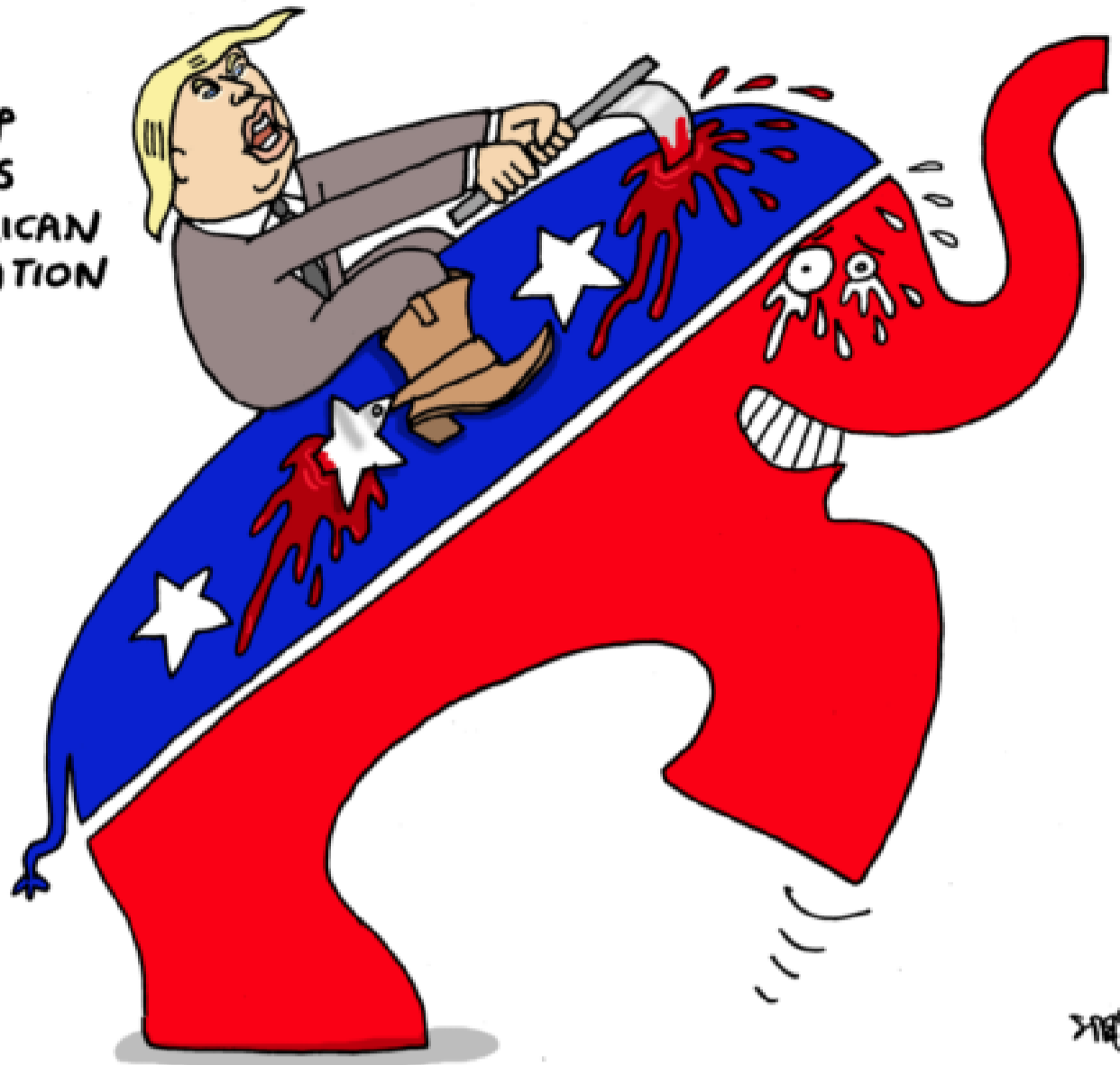
"While Qayara is an important milestone for the Iraqis, they still have a long way to go to reach the outskirts of Mosul, and then the bigger challenge is to cordon off south of Mosul," said a source in the Kurdistan regional security council. "Qayara is just one point in that wide corridor." US forces, which peaked at around 170,000 military personnel after the 2003 invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, failed to secure the area southwest of Mosul completely when they fought Al-Qaeda, Islamic State's predecessor. And Western officials say retaking Mosul without a plan to restore security, basic services and governance, along with money and personnel to implement it immediately, risks repeating the mistake the Bush administration made in 2003, by toppling the government without plans for a new one. US and Iraqi authorities are confident troops will be ready for the assault on Mosul. Given its recent success, they will likely use a "starburst" attack, a US military official said, thrusting to the centre with air strikes and then attacking IS defences from behind. "You don't necessarily have to fight the whole city at once. You maybe only have to fight pieces and parts of the city." Spokesman Sabah Al-Numan said CTS would strike from multiple directions with intense air support he described as "shock and awe". He declined to comment on when any assault might take place.

## Flight or Fight

Yet much depends on how IS responds. Mosul still houses one million civilians and has strong symbolism as the place where the caliphate was declared in June 2014. The Kurdish security source, echoing Iraqi officials, expects the jihadists "to fight to die, till the last bullet". The source said up to 10,000 jihadists are in the city, though a coalition spokesman said that was high and likely to fall ahead of the assault. An alternative scenario envisions an outflow of fighters resigned to lose Mosul but live to fight another day, which IS media may already be preparing its supporters for.

The caliphate cannot "be eliminated by destroying some city or besieging another", Al-Nabaa newspaper said last month. Coalition head Lieutenant General Sean MacFarland expects senior leaders and foreign fighters could flee "just as they tried to do in Fallujah - unsuccessfully". Jihadists may use desert paths to enter Syria, where an array of forces affords them better cover, said Bill Roggio, a counter-terrorism expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. — Reuters

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TRUMP  
SEALS  
REPUBLICAN  
NOMINATION

## ERDOGAN BEATS FOES, BUT AT HIGH COST TO STABILITY

By Samia Nakhoul and Nick Tattersall

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, whose fate was in the balance as rebel soldiers tried to topple him, has triumphed against his enemies and quickly reasserted his grip on power. But the failed military coup is further polarizing a nation in turmoil. The upheaval following the attempted putsch on Friday night is far from over. It has traumatized the nation and caused irreparable damage to a military seen as a bedrock of stability in a country fighting Islamic State and a Kurdish insurgency.

"In the end, Erdogan and his supporters won the day (but) nobody in Turkey has won in the long-term," wrote Hugh Pope and Nigar Goksel of the International Crisis Group. They predicted that "damage to the army - more important than ever, given the turmoil in Turkey's neighborhood - will be severe." The move by a faction inside the army triggered an eruption of nationalist and Islamist feeling in support of Erdogan that has emboldened the government to unleash a crackdown. Thousands of opponents have been purged from the army and courts, universities and the civil service.

Erdogan and the ruling AK Party, its roots in Islamist politics, accuse Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, a former ally turned bitter rival, of orchestrating the plot and have called for his extradition from the United States. Erdogan's spokesman said a formal request was being drawn up. Some 35,000 members of the army, police, judiciary, and civil service have been detained or suspended on suspicion of Gulenist links since the abortive coup, during which more than 230 people were killed. The purge extended to the education sector on Tuesday, with all university deans ordered to resign, according to state TRT television, and the licenses of 21,000 private school teachers revoked. Private schools in Turkey and abroad had long provided Gulen's movement with new recruits and financing. Around 1,400 people were wounded as soldiers commandeered tanks, attack helicopters and warplanes in their bid to seize power, strafe parliament and the intelligence headquarters and trying to seize the main airport and bridges in Istanbul. "This is a trauma and like all traumas it is going to color everything that comes next," said Hakan Altinay of Washington's Brookings Institution. "It certainly helps Erdogan, who has been talking about the Gulenists' sinister plots for a long time, and now there is a plot more sinister than he could have thought." The purges already

appear to be going beyond Gulen's purported followers. "I'm sure they are going to use this incident to mop up other undesirables as well. What happened is so grave that they don't need any extra fuel, just the act itself is galvanizing enough," Altinay said.

The speed and size of the clampdown, along with calls to reinstate the death penalty for the plotters, is causing alarm among Western allies who are insisting Ankara must uphold the rule of law in the country, a NATO member and European Union candidate state that is Washington's most powerful Muslim ally. It is unlikely, analysts say, that such calls will be heeded. The failed coup shook the leadership to the core and came close to eliminating Erdogan and other top figures.

## 'This Changes Everything'

Some Turkey analysts say that Erdogan - who said he narrowly missed being assassinated by the mutineers - is using the revolt as a pretext to extend and consolidate his power. The failed coup, they say, has armed Erdogan with ammunition to remove remaining obstacles to his drive to replace Turkey's parliamentary democracy with a presidential system, a move that would require changing the constitution and which his opponents see as a path to growing authoritarianism. "He can become the president he has dreamt of, but the country is unmanageable right now," said one government critic who declined to be identified for fear of arrest. "There are no functioning laws to take the heat out."

This is a closed system accumulating pressure all the time ... We have entered an abyss." Erdogan's aides dismiss such claims. His spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, said it took several thousand soldiers to carry out the coup attempt and that it was "only natural" for Turkey to apply the rule of law to arrest suspects on charges of treason. "There's nothing exceptional or surprising about the fact that several thousand people have been arrested," he told reporters in Istanbul.

Erdogan called the coup "a gift from God" enabling him to "cleanse the army", and the massive purges have included the constitutional court, seen by Erdogan's critics as the sole body still able to challenge an erosion of the rule of law. "This coup changes everything."

The country is in a very tense mood. The ferociousness of the crackdown is a big worry," said Mustafa Akyol, a columnist and author of "Islam without extremes: a Muslim case for Liberty". "There is a major upheaval in the army and the secu-

city forces and a lot of officers will be purged. How they will replace them (and) how they will train them are major issues," he said. "It is a major, major crisis."

## 'Institutional Collapse'

On Turkey's streets, emboldened Islamist followers of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) have paraded in a show of support, fuelling fears of retribution against those seen as pro-Gulenist or other opponents. Some public figures critical of Erdogan are keeping a low profile. "How you demobilize the crowd is a concern. I don't think it is high up on the list of concerns of the AKP government because they really feared for their lives," Altinay said.

A senior Western diplomat based in Ankara said the public mood and the mobilization of "Islamist mobs" was worrying, as was what appeared to be the mass screening of civil servants. "Erdogan has gotten so much power and prestige now and being critical of him at this stage is not possible, you will be accused of being with the coup...The upheaval will be there for a while," Akyol said. The failed coup has exposed the fragility of the military and intelligence services, which failed to detect early on an extensive plot involving senior commanders from the army and air force. "This is so surreal."

There is institutional collapse on many levels. The top two generals were taken hostage by their two closest aides," Altinay said. "I'm sure their confidence is shaken because if they can't even choose the people with whom they are going to spend 24 hours, how are they going to trust anyone else. It is such a blow," he said.

The latest events leave Turkey, already reeling from the effects of attacks by Kurdish and Islamic State suicide bombers, more exposed and vulnerable. Despite the rallying of the main opposition parties behind Erdogan as the army mutiny unfolded, there are fears among secularists that the country, already divided over the AKP's increasingly emphatic Islamism, will drift further towards more populist religious politics and a tighter autocratic structure.

Observers point to the unprecedented call by imams at mosques across the country, answering Erdogan's appeal and urging believers to take to the streets to defend their country. "Turkey's democracy and Western affiliation may end up being the coup's first victims," said Marc Pierini, former EU ambassador to Ankara and a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe. — Reuters

## WHAT IT WAS LIKE COVERING FAILED COUP

Istanbul-based AFP photographers Bulent Kilic and Ozan Kose had close calls during the long night they spent on the streets of Istanbul capturing Turkey's failed coup on Friday night and Saturday morning. Bulent was set upon by an angry mob on one of the bridges crossing the Bosphorus, while Ozan found himself in the crossfire between soldiers and police near Taksim Square. Here, in interviews carried out for AFP's blog (correspondent.afp.com), they recount their experiences and reflect on one of the most dramatic nights for the country in decades.

KILIC: Friday evening I was shooting one of the two bridges across the Bosphorus because they had a light show for the victims of the Nice attacks in France. They lit the bridge in the red, white and blue of the French flag. As I was shooting, at one point I realized that the traffic on the bridge had stopped. This wasn't normal because it wasn't the regular rush hour. I got some calls from friends and colleagues that something was going on and then I called Ozan.

He said something was going on, too. So I took the car with two fellow photographers and we headed to the bridge. We drove past a military school where apparently the coup had started. By this time we heard that the military had closed the bridge, so I was driving like a crazy person. A soldier flagged us down. I slowed the car down and shot pictures outside the window. "Why are you driving like this," he asked me. "I should ask you why I am driving like this," I answered. "The military has taken over the government," he said.

When he told me that, I crashed into the car in front of me. My foot must have slipped off the break and I forgot to press it again. "Ok, thank you," I said and drove off. I drove even crazier to the bridge now. Along the way I saw people in uniform detaining some people. I took some shots. The people in uniform started to shout at me. "Ok, sorry!" I yelled back and kept on driving. When I got to the bridge and saw so many soldiers around, I called the office. It's a coup, you have to send photographers before they close the airports, I told them.

Then I went home to take my flak jacket and helmet and more equipment because I was sure there'd be clashes. Turkey has a history of coups. I was six months old when the last bloody one happened, but I have read books, I've talked about it to my father. So I have an idea of what happens. And I was sure there'd be clashes. Then I headed back to the bridge.

## Suddenly they began to shoot at us

KOSE: On Friday evening I was at the French consulate shooting the commemorations about Nice. I left around 9 pm and went home. When I was home, I saw tweets that soldiers were blocking the two Bosphorus bridges and that they were detaining some police officers and that similar stuff was going on in Ankara. I knew something was wrong, but I didn't think it was a military coup. I went to the prime minister's office. I figured if there was a coup, they'd try to take the prime minister's Istanbul office. I

stayed there for an hour, but nothing happened, there were no soldiers there.

I saw some police stopping cars on the street and just taking their keys. After an hour, I heard that soldiers were in Taksim Square, so I headed there. First I walked - there were no taxis or buses on the street. Then I managed to flag down a minivan that was heading in that direction, with eight people inside. The driver dropped us off near a military base near Taksim. So we got out of the car - me and eight ordinary people, civilians. And suddenly they began to shoot at us. Police were on one side, soldiers on the other. And us in the middle.

One of the guys who was in that minivan with me was shot in the head. He was a metre away from me. I saw him drop to the ground. I heard bullets whizzing past me, I saw the spent ones falling at my feet. So I began to run. I ran and ran and ran. After about 200 metres, I stopped next to a white car. The driver had been shot, slumped in the seat. I was shocked. I couldn't understand what was going on, what was happening. I took some pictures of him and I ran to Taksim Square.

## I didn't expect so many people would be ready to die

KILIC: When I got back to the bridge I saw some people starting to gather in front of the military. I was thinking about Egypt. In Egypt, the people started to march and the soldiers shot at the people. It happened just like this. People started to march on the Bosphorus bridge and the soldiers started to shoot into the crowd. And when I saw this, I thought this is something serious. I took cover. I was shocked - I didn't expect so many people would be ready to die. I could see the soldiers shooting. But they, the people facing off in front of them, they didn't stop.

I pulled back, sent some photos and went back. I saw a tank firing at the people. At the same time, you had jets flying low over the city, setting off sonic booms.

I thought they would bomb the police station and made a mental note to stay away from it. And then, I don't know how it happened, but it became morning. It was like in a film - you go out for a normal day and suddenly it's 24 hours later. That's how I felt. I went out to shoot the bridge for the Nice commemorative service and then I realized that the sun was coming up.

By that point, the people who had gathered were pushing to get to the soldiers' position. Word spread that the soldiers on the other bridge had abandoned theirs, which only spurred the crowd on. Then suddenly the people were running toward the tanks. I ran with them.

Then someone next to me said, "They're killing soldiers over there." I went in that direction and saw a soldier, a simple rank and file, who was being attacked with knives and kicked. He was already dead. People around were shouting "Throw him off the bridge!"

And then, other guy pulled off my helmet and hit me with it. And then others started to hit me. "Throw him off the bridge!" I heard. I thought they were going to kill me. And then out of

nowhere some guy appeared, screaming, "What the hell are you doing?" And I started yelling "Stop! Stop! I'm from the prime minister's office!" When I said that, they stopped.

## There was gunfire everywhere

KOSE: When I got to Taksim Square, I saw that there were about a hundred soldiers there. And there was a group of government supporters all around them, waving Turkish flags and shouting "Go back to your base! Go back to your base!" I took some pictures and 20 minutes later, the soldiers began to shoot into the air. The people continued to shout slogans. At that point, I didn't see anyone injured. After 10 minutes, they shot at their feet or directly at them.

Some soldiers pointed their guns into the air and some point their guns at the people. Then there was chaos. Everybody was running, they were trying to protect themselves from the fire. At that point, two jets flew really low over the city, setting off sonic booms. The noise broke some store windows. At first I thought they were bombing somewhere.

I decided to change my position. It was a mess, there was gunfire everywhere. I saw helicopters flying above. There were people everywhere. Some were angry and protesting and some were just trying to go home. It was total chaos. I saw lots of injured people. It was night, so you couldn't really see anything. You only heard gunfire. Whenever the gunfire was near, I tried to change my position and protect myself. And that's how I spent my night, wandering from place to place.

Around 3 or 4 am, I saw some people who were catching soldiers and taking them to the police. I saw about three or four soldiers like that. In the early morning, I went to the office, took a helmet and flak jacket and went out again. Everyone was shocked about this. I've heard my father and my grandfathers talking about the coups that they lived through and they always said that they usually did it early in the morning because there were few people on the street and that there were always soldiers everywhere, they would just take over. And when I went to Taksim, there were those 100 soldiers facing off a larger crowd.

## Nothing will be same after this

KILIC: Later I learned that journalists were beaten everywhere. They beat a friend of mine, they broke his nose. That was a big shock to me. They're clashing with the military, but they are also beating journalists. This is my home and they're beating journalists. And then I saw some of the things being put on Twitter. They were broadcasting how they were killing soldiers on Twitter. That soldier who was next to me? They apparently cut off his head. I saw the pictures on Twitter.

On that bridge, it's the most scared that I've ever been. And I've covered wars, I've been to Syria. This is my country, this is my home, this is the bridge that I've known since childhood. And the people were losing control on the streets. Nothing will be the same after this. — AFP



## TURKEY SET FOR EMERGENCY MEASURES TO QUELL TURMOIL

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey was to announce emergency measures yesterday to try to shore up stability and prevent damage to the economy as it purges thousands of members of the security forces, judiciary, civil service and academia after an abortive coup. About 60,000 soldiers, police, judges, civil servants and teachers have been suspended, detained or are under investigation since the military coup attempt, raising tensions across the country of 80 million which borders Syria's chaos and is a Western ally against Islamic State.

Academics were banned from travelling abroad yesterday in what a Turkish official said was a temporary measure to prevent the risk of alleged coup plotters in universities from fleeing. State TRT television said 95 academics had been removed from their posts at Istanbul University alone. "Universities have always been crucial for military juntas in Turkey and certain individuals are believed to be in contact with cells within the military," the official said.

President Tayyip Erdogan blames the network of US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen for Friday night's attempted coup, in which more than 230 people were killed as soldiers commandeered fighters jets, military helicopters and tanks to try to overthrow the government. Erdogan has vowed to clean the "virus" responsible for the plot from all state institutions. The depth and scale of the purges have raised concern among Western allies that Erdogan is trying to suppress all dissent, and that opponents unconnected with the plot will be caught in the net.

He was to chair meetings in his palace yesterday of the cabinet and the National Security Council, after which a series of emergency measures are expected to be announced. In a sign of how shaken Turkey's leadership has been by the coup attempt, with dozens of generals arrested as well as Erdogan's aide de camp, government ministers and top officials have not been briefed in advance of the meetings. "The cabinet meeting is classified at the highest level for national security reasons. The palace will give ministers a dossier just beforehand," one senior official told Reuters. "Ministers do not yet know what is going to be discussed."

Around a third of Turkey's roughly 360 serving generals have been detained since the coup attempt, a second senior official said, with 99 charged pending trial and 14 more being held. The defense ministry is investigating all military judges and prosecutors, and has suspended 262 of them, broadcaster NTV reported, while 900 police officers in the capital Ankara were also suspended yesterday. The purge also extended to civil servants in the environment and sports ministries.

The threat of prolonged instability in a NATO member country, which had not seen a violent military coup for more than three decades, has shaken investors' confidence. Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek told Reuters a priority in the measures to be discussed yesterday would be preventing damage to the economy. He also said on Twitter they would be "market-friendly" and would prioritize structural reform.

Around 1,400 people were wounded as soldiers commandeered tanks, attack helicopters and warplanes, strafing parliament and the intelligence headquarters and trying to seize the main airport and bridges in Istanbul. At the height of the abortive coup, the rebel pilots of two F-16 fighter jets had Erdogan's plane in their sights as he returned to Istanbul from a holiday on the coast. Erdogan said he was almost killed or

captured by the mutineers.

In testimony published by the Hurriyet newspaper and corroborated by a Turkish official, an infantry lieutenant-colonel said the coup plotters had tried to persuade military chief Hulusi Akar, who was being held hostage, to join the effort to overthrow Erdogan but that he had refused. "When he refused, they couldn't convince the senior commanders either. Akar's refusal to be a part of this paved the way for the failure of the coup attempt," the written transcript published by the newspaper said.

Erdogan, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, ministers, senior commanders and generals had been due to be taken one by one during the night of the coup bid, the testimony said. Turkey's Western allies have expressed solidarity with the government over the coup attempt but have also voiced increasing alarm at the scale and swiftness of the response, urging it to adhere to democratic values.

On Tuesday, authorities shut down media outlets deemed to be supportive of Gulen and said 15,000 people had been suspended from the education ministry along with 100 intelligence officials. A further 492 people were removed from duty at the Religious Affairs Directorate, 257 at the prime minister's office and 300 at the energy ministry. Those moves come after the detention of more than 6,000 members of the armed forces, from foot soldiers to commanders, and the suspension of close to 3,000 judges and prosecutors. About 8,000 police officers, including in the capital Ankara and the biggest city Istanbul, have also been removed.

Erdogan's spokesman said on Tuesday the government was preparing a formal request to the United States for the extradition of Gulen. US President Barack Obama discussed the status of Gulen in a telephone call with Erdogan on Tuesday, the White House said, urging Ankara to show restraint as it pursues those responsible for the coup attempt. Seventy-five-year-old Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania but has a network of supporters within Turkey, has condemned the abortive coup and denied any role in it.

A former ally-turned critic of Erdogan, he suggested the president staged it as an excuse for a crackdown after a steady accumulation of control during 14 years in power. Prime Minister Yildirim accused Washington, which has said it will consider Gulen's extradition only if clear evidence is provided, of double standards in its fight against terrorism. Yildirim said the justice ministry had sent a dossier to US authorities on Gulen, whose religious movement blends conservative Islamic values with a pro-Western outlook and who has a network of supporters within Turkey.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest confirmed Ankara had filed materials in electronic form with the US government, which officials were reviewing. Any extradition request from Turkey, once submitted, would be evaluated under the terms of a treaty between the two countries, he added. Such a request would face legal and political hurdles in the United States. Even if approved by a judge, it would still have to go to Secretary of State John Kerry, who can consider non-legal factors, such as humanitarian arguments. "I urge the US government to reject any effort to abuse the extradition process to carry out political vendettas," Gulen said on Tuesday in a statement issued by the Alliance for Shared Values, a group associated with the cleric. — Reuters

## SAUDI CLERICS RENEW POKEMON FATWA

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The state-run Al-Ahram reported Shumman saying a "manic attachment to technology" can also make people forgetful toward worship and prayer.

Neighboring Kuwait's Interior Ministry warned users

last week not to play the game at mosques, shopping centers, malls and oil installations. Authorities in the United Arab Emirates warned users to be careful playing mobile games that request a user's geographical location because it could be used by criminals to lure them. — Agencies



RIYADH: A Saudi man plays the Pokemon Go game on his mobile in the capital on July 17, 2016. — AFP (See Page 5 & 27)

## ANTI-IS COALITION PLANS NEXT STEPS

Continued from Page 1

This is the fourth time that Carter has convened an anti-Islamic State coalition meeting. Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said Carter had planned to talk about the military campaign and how it can be accelerated. Secretary of State John Kerry was hosting a separate conference at the State Department yesterday to try to raise at least \$2 billion from donor nations to help Iraq as it takes territory from the Islamic State group.

"This is a cause that truly deserves a firm and generous commitment from everybody," Kerry said. The money will go to humanitarian aid for displaced people, demining, immediate help to recently liberated communities and the people returning to them as well as medium-to long-term reconstruction and development assistance. The UN estimates that there are currently 10 million Iraqis in need of assistance and that number is likely to exceed 13 million by year's end.

Today, Kerry will host a joint meeting of defense and foreign ministers in the counter-IS coalition. They are expected to talk about the coordination of political and military efforts, including counter-terrorist financing, combating the flow of foreign fighters, and the stabilization of cities and towns that have been freed from Islamic State control. "We are succeeding on the ground in Iraq and Syria but we have a lot of work to do," said Brett McGurk, the president's special representative to the counter-IS coalition. "This is an enormous challenge that will be with us for years to come."

He told reporters that the situation in Libya and a rise in the number of foreign fighters there will be one

major focus of the meeting today. "Libya is incredibly complicated to say the least," he said, noting that until six months ago the country was without a functioning central government. "We have some momentum, the discussion will be how to build on this momentum."

The gathering comes on the heels of the NATO summit in Warsaw earlier this month, when allies agreed to boost support for the anti-Islamic State mission. NATO agreed to start a training and capacity-building mission for Iraqi armed forces in Iraq, and the allies agreed in principle that alliance surveillance aircraft would be able to provide direct support to the U.S.-led coalition fighting IS in Syria and Iraq.

The alliance will also begin flights by AWACS surveillance planes this fall and will set up an intelligence center in Tunisia, a major recruiting ground for IS. The US has announced that it will send 560 additional troops to Iraq to transform a newly retaken air base into a staging hub for the long-awaited battle to recapture Mosul from Islamic State militants. The new American forces should arrive in the coming days and weeks. Most of the engineers, logistics personnel, security and communications forces will concentrate on building up the Qayara air base, about 40 km south of Mosul.

The extremist group captured Mosul in the summer of 2014. It is the second largest city in Iraq and has been used as the group's main headquarters since. The coalition is also looking to reinforce the fight in Syria, where US-backed forces are in a tough fight for the town of Manbij. Manbij lies on a key supply line from Turkey to the Islamic State's de facto capital of Raqqa. Ousting the militants from Raqqa is a key goal for the coalition. — AP



Syrian civilians are seen following an air strike by Syrian government forces on the rebel-held northwestern city of Idlib yesterday. More than 280,000 people have been killed and millions displaced since Syria's civil war erupted with the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2011. — AFP

## BLAZE RIPS THROUGH DUBAI SKYSCRAPER

Continued from Page 1

new fire safety regulations. Though the infernos have not led to any casualties, at least 30,000 buildings across the nation have cladding or paneling similar to the kind that safety and construction experts have blamed for the rapid spread of the fires. The UAE revised its building safety code in 2013 to require that cladding on all new buildings over 15-m-tall be fire-resistant, but older buildings are exempt.

Separately, a fire broke out yesterday at a shopping mall under construction in Qatar's capital, the second such blaze in the 2020 World Cup host nation in less than four months. No casualties were reported and firefighters were able to contain the blaze at the Tawar Mall, according to the Ministry of Interior and the mall operator. Photos on

social media showed thick black smoke billowing from the complex, which is due to open in the last three months of this year with more than 300 retail outlets.

The mall said the fire was concentrated in "a small area" on the second floor. The company's chairman, Jassim Al-Kuwari, said it caused minimal damage and would not delay construction. "Tawar Mall is equipped with most developed equipment to protect the mall and to deal with these kind of accidents," he said in a statement.

In April, a fire broke out at another mall being built in Doha. That blaze near a stadium that will host some of the World Cup forced the evacuation of 14,000 workers. A 2012 fire at yet another shopping mall, the high-end Villaggio, was the country's deadliest disaster in recent memory. That fire killed 19 people, including 13 children, many of them foreigners. — Agencies

## COURT FREES 4 IN FINTAS GROUP CASE

Continued from Page 1

Both the public prosecution and the convicts had challenged the criminal court's ruling. The men were accused of using social media to spread lies about Kuwait and insult the judiciary and the Amir. All the men denied the charges. The court set Sept 28 for the next hearing.

In another development, lawyer Adel Abdulhadi yesterday sued the prime minister and the ministers of public works and awqaf and Islamic affairs for deciding to demolish a historical mosque and asked the court to issue an urgent order to stop the demolition. The decision to demolish the 123-year-old Shamlan Al-Roumi mosque in Sharq has triggered a political controversy, with several MPs threatening to grill ministers if the mosque is razed. The mosque is located at a major intersection and its demolition is required to clear way for a key road in the capital.

Public Works Minister Ali Al-Omair said the mosque will be moved to another location and its historical value will be preserved. Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane said that the ministry had asked the government not to demolish the mosque because of its historical value. But MP Ahmad Al-Qhudhaibi slammed the government contradictions over the issue. He said that the ministry of awqaf claimed that it had objected to the demolition in a letter to the ministry of public works in May, but the latter said it was the awqaf ministry that issued the demolition license in April.

He added that Omair claimed that the mosque's construction is new (after renovation works) and does not contain any historical value, while the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letter clearly said that the mosque is classified as a key historical site that should be preserved. The lawmaker warned that demolishing the mosque will have a costly political price.

## REPUBLICANS PICK TRUMP AMID RIFTS...

Continued from Page 1

and beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in November. "This is a movement," he told the delegates via video link. When the brash real estate mogul came down the escalators of Trump Tower in New York 13 months ago to announce his candidacy, few experts gave him even the faintest chance.

His campaign has defied political norms - embracing racially inflammatory policies, offending key voting blocs, eschewing big-spending advertising campaigns and relying on saturated media coverage above campaign structure. "It's unbelievable. It's surreal. I'm so proud of my father," said Trump's eldest daughter and businesswoman Ivanka Trump, often described as his secret weapon. "He's the ultimate outsider and he did it. We are so proud of him."

Around the convention floor, Trump's victory was far from universally welcomed. Many delegates clapped politely after his victory, a few angrily walked out or voiced their unease. But some delegates who supported others in the primaries were already lining up behind Trump. "Everybody realizes now that the family infighting is over, we do in fact have a candidate, and I would hope that 99 percent-plus of Republicans get behind that candidate moving forward," said Gary Inmon, a Texas delegate bound to Senator Ted Cruz but who is now solidly behind the nominee.

As the last vestiges of Republican resistance were quashed, there were fresh signs that the party establishment had thrown its lot in with Trump in a bid to beat Clinton. New Jersey Governor Chris Christie led delegates in declaring Clinton "guilty" and encouraged visceral chants of "lock her up". Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan, who hesitated to endorse Trump earlier this year, sounded like he was all-in at the

convention. "The Obama years are almost over. The Clinton years are way over," Ryan said. "Two-thousand sixteen is the year America moves on."

The Trump campaign will hope that disdain for Clinton will unite the party and make a series of missteps - like the plagiarism scandal - irrelevant. "The party is unified, we're all here, I will bet you if you polled this place, there is not one vote for Hillary Clinton in this building," former key Trump lieutenant Corey Lewandowski told AFP. "People are ready for a fundamental and unequivocal change in Washington and the person who is going to bring that is Donald Trump."

On Tuesday, Donald Trump Jr, the candidate's eldest son, made a sweeping speech peppered with personal anecdotes that humanized his father. The married father of five touched on themes of economic inequality and job creation, promised healthcare for "our most vulnerable citizens" and vowed to improve public education. As in Melania Trump's speech the night before, similarities were noted between phrases in the junior Trump's keynote and an article published in a conservative publication. But he was saved from controversy when the author of the May 2 article in American Conservative, FH Buckley, stepped forward to say he had been a principal speechwriter. "So it's not an issue," Buckley told Time.com.

Yesterday, another son, Eric Trump, was to make the case for his father, while two senators whom Trump vanquished in the primary race, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, were also to speak. Trump's vice presidential pick, Indiana Governor Mike Pence, was to address the confab as well. Clinton wasted no time seeking to capitalize on Trump's party victory. "Donald Trump just became the Republican nominee. Chip in now to make sure he never steps foot in the Oval Office," she said in a fundraising tweet. — AFP

## BANGLADESHIS EMPLOYED FOR LABOR...

Continued from Page 1

Moreover, the ministry called on all electronic media outlets to abide by law 8/2016 as contributors to the growth of the media sector. The ministry also underscored how helpful these media outlets can be to stave off extreme ideologies, while espousing various virtues for the betterment of the nation.

Minister of Information and Minister of State for

Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah previously announced that the law dealing with electronic media would be implemented soon, with users of these outlets being the ultimate beneficiaries. The law works to "promote freedom of expression while ensuring unhindered access to information. It also aims to eliminate all impediments to the spread of information on electronic media outlets in a way that would conserve national values and interests". —KUNA



### PORTUGAL REWARD COACH SANTOS WITH NEW CONTRACT

**LISBON:** Portugal coach Fernando Santos will remain in charge of the Euro 2016 winners until after the next European Championship, the national football federation said yesterday. Santos, 61, led Portugal to its first European title with an extra-time triumph over hosts France in Paris earlier this month. The victory has earned him a contract extension from his employers. "The Portuguese Football Federation and the national team coach Fernando Santos reached an agreement to renew the contract that they have had since September 2014," the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) said in a statement. "The new agreement between the FPF and Fernando Santos will run until after Euro 2020, coinciding with the end of the current mandate of the directors of the Portuguese Football Federation." Portugal begin their 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign on September 6 against Switzerland in Basel. —Reuters



### IHEANACHO GIVEN GREEN LIGHT FOR CHINA TRIP

**LONDON:** Nigeria striker Kelechi Iheanacho has been given the green light to take part in Manchester City's pre-season tour of China. Despite reports Iheanacho would not be able to travel to Asia due to visa issues, the highly-rated 19-year-old was named in City's squad yesterday. Iheanacho will now have a chance to impress new City manager Pep Guardiola in the club's two glamour friendlies against Manchester United in Beijing on Monday and Borussia Dortmund in Shenzhen the following Thursday. England internationals Joe Hart and Raheem Sterling were also in a 34-man group, as were new signings Aleksandr Zinchenko and Nolito, star striker Sergio Aguero and key midfielder David Silva. Pablo Zabaleta makes his return from injury and captain Vincent Kompany will also be present. Ilkay Gundogan, another pre-season recruit, was not included due to injury, while Kevin de Bruyne, Eliaquim Mangala and Bacary Sagna remain on leave following their involvement at Euro 2016. Former Bayern Munich boss Guardiola will also have the opportunity to take a closer look at emerging talents Tosin Adarabioyo, Bersant Celina, Manu Garcia and Aleix Garcia, who are among 10 City youngsters on the trip. —AFP

### LIVERPOOL SEAL DEAL FOR ESTONIA DEFENDER KLAVAN

**LONDON:** Liverpool have finalised the signing of Estonia defender Ragnar Klavan from Augsburg, the Premier League club confirmed yesterday. Klavan agreed a "long-term contract" after passing a medical at Liverpool's Melwood training ground and will cost the Reds a reported £4.2 million (\$5.5 million, 5 million euros). The 30-year-old has won over 100 caps for Estonia and is well known to Liverpool's German manager Jurgen Klopp, a former Borussia Dortmund coach, after spending four seasons playing in the Bundesliga. Klavan, who featured in both legs of Augsburg's Europa League last-32 tie against Liverpool in February, will provide cover at centre-back as Mamadou Sakho and Joe Gomez are both currently injured and Tiago Ilori is heading to the Olympics with Portugal. The defender is Klopp's fifth close-season signing, following the arrival of goalkeeper Loris Karius, defender Joel Matip, midfielder Marko Grujic and forward Sadio Mane. "I'm really honoured to be part of this amazing club, this amazing team," Klavan told Liverpool's website. —AFP



## SHEIKH SALMAN LAUDS TENNIS TEAM FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

### HAMILTON POISED TO SEIZE CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD IN F1

**BUDAPEST:** Lewis Hamilton heads into Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix fired up to complete a hat-trick of victories and seize the lead in the Formula One title race for the first time this season. The triple world champion trails Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg by just one point after a sensational fourth win of the season two weeks ago in his home British Grand Prix at Silverstone. Hamilton, who also won the race before that in Austria, surfed the Silverstone crowd in jubilation and will be hoping the wave of momentum building up behind his title defence carries him back to the top. "Ever since the low of Barcelona I've been able to cultivate this really strong mental attitude and I'm really feeling that fire inside me right now," said Hamilton, who trailed Rosberg by 43 points after the pair collided and crashed out on the first lap in May's Spanish Grand Prix. "I'm feeling fresh, feeling powerful and feeling confident heading to Hungary. It's a track that for some reason has always suited my style and I have incredible support there." Hamilton has won four times at the 4.3-km long Hungaroring circuit, outside Budapest, including his first victory for Mercedes in 2013. Another win for the 31-year-old at the halfway stage of the championship would be more than any driver has managed in Hungary. Hamilton and seven-times world champion Michael Schumacher currently hold the record. Rosberg, who dropped from second to third in

Silverstone after a post-race penalty for breaching radio rules, will be determined to deny him that honour. "The battle is on with Lewis and I'm feeling great in myself and great in the car," said Rosberg, winner of five races this year including the first four. While the spotlight is trained on the Hamilton versus Rosberg battle, resurgent Red Bull could steal the show. Despite winning 41 of the 48 races since the start of the V6 turbo-hybrid era in 2014, Mercedes have yet to win in Hungary with the new engine. Australian Daniel Ricciardo won for Red Bull in 2014 while Sebastian Vettel was triumphant for Ferrari last year. With Ferrari's challenge fading over the last few rounds, Red Bull see a real chance to add a second win to Max Verstappen's Spanish Grand Prix triumph. "We're actually in the race with Mercedes now at certain circuits which is great to see," said team principal Christian Horner. "We've got some of the more powerful circuits out of the way ... and the circuits coming up will hopefully play to some of our strengths." Hungary also offers misfiring McLaren the chance of a strong result at a circuit that has been good to them in the past. Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso both scored their maiden wins in Hungary, albeit with different teams, while McLaren last year scored their best result of a difficult first season with engine partners Honda. "I'm keen to see how we perform there," said Button. —Reuters



Lewis Hamilton

### RED FLAG AS MAO LIMO LOOKALIKES JOIN SILK WAY

**DUNHUANG:** A fleet of 4x4s built to recall Red Flag limousines-China's stately national vehicle, beloved by Mao Zedong-are barreling through the Gobi towards Beijing's Tiananmen Square in the Silk Way Rally. "We usually drive BMW Minis. But this race goes through China. We wanted a car that could represent the country," said Yan Ke, the manager of the JJ-Sports squad, one of 23 Chinese teams competing in the Moscow to Beijing contest. "We settled on this model not out of admiration for Mao, but out of patriotism," Yan, a regular on the renowned Paris-Dakar event, told AFP. The Red Flag, a boxy black limo with distinctive round headlights and an enormous metal front grille, has long been the vehicle of choice for the top echelons of China's Communist Party. In 1958 during a visit to a state-run car factory, Mao who was then being driven around in a Soviet-made vehicle-bemoaned the fact he could not travel in a Chinese-made car. No sooner said than done: a "shock team" was formed with the express ambition of creating a Chinese limousine for the Great Helmsman. Taking its name from a popular communist slogan and its technology largely from overseas, the cars were in production by the late 1950s. And to this day, the limousines-which now mostly use German car maker Audi's technology-are still trotted out to ferry the regime's top leaders around with pomp and ceremony. In September 2015, at an event marking the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, President Xi Jinping cruised sedately down Beijing's longest avenue standing in

a convertible Red Flag and saluting the soldiers lining the route. "Delirious" reception - The JJ-Sports cars are built by the team themselves, using Chevrolet engines and with the bodywork inspired by the Red Flag's designs, complete with staring headlights and the distinctive grille. "When we passed the border with Kazakhstan to China the crowds were delirious," Yan said. "Customs officials and Chinese soldiers all came to take pictures with the car. The oldest, who were born in the 50s, even cried-it reminded them of their youth," he added. The Red Flag lookalikes are, he hopes, a way to bring motor sports to a broader audience in China. The sport was almost non-existent in the 1980s, but is now booming. By next year China will have nine professional race tracks, according to the Chinese Federation of Motor Sports. And this September, it will host its second ever World Rally Championship (WRC) event-rallying's highest level-seventeen years after its first in 1999. On the Silk Way Rally, the best-placed of JJ-Sports' three drivers, Li Aidong, is currently 34th. The race is "a chance for us to challenge the legends like Sebastian Loeb", the WRC's most successful ever driver, said manager Yan. "Our goal is not to finish first-it is to fly the Chinese flag and reach the finish line in Tiananmen Square,"-the Red Flag limousine's natural habitat, when participating in parades. "We'd have come full circle." —AFP

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Tennis members Mohammad Al-Ghareeb and Abdallah Maqdis received congratulatory letters from Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah on their win of the Davis Cup against Malaysia which was held in Kuwait recently. Sheikh Salman said "I congratulate you on this occasion on this outstanding achievement, wishing you more success for the sake of Kuwait sport." He added "We ask Almighty Allah to make our efforts to serve Kuwait a success and keep its flag hoisted high under the wise leadership of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Al-Ghareeb and Maqdis expressed appreciation for Sheikh Salman's letter, on their major achievement against Malaysia in Davis Cup ending the round with 4-1 result. Mohammad Al-Ghareeb and Abdallah Maqdis thanked the Minister and Public Authority for Sports on the continued support they, as well as their teammates receive,



Sheikh Salman

which made it possible for them to make several achievements in the name of Kuwait.



Abdallah Maqdis



Mohammad Al-Ghareeb



## SUNS TO FACE SPURS, MAVERICKS IN MEXICO CITY IN JANUARY

**NEW YORK:** Phoenix will face the San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks next January at Mexico City, the NBA announced yesterday after booking two regular-season games in Mexico for the first time. "We've been playing NBA games in Mexico for 25 years

and we're thrilled that for the first time we are bringing two regular-season games to Mexico City," said NBA commissioner Adam Silver.

The Suns, featuring 13-year NBA veteran guard Leandro Barbosa of Brazil, will face Dallas on January 12 and the Spurs two

nights later at Mexico City Arena.

The Mavericks feature German star forward Dirk Nowitzki and Puerto Rico's J.J. Barea while the Spurs are sparked by NBA All-Stars Manu Ginobili, Tony Parker and Pau Gasol.

"We are thrilled to be playing in

Mexico City," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said. "It's great for the Mavs, the NBA and a great way to tear down walls and barriers between our countries."

The NBA will have staged 24 games in Mexico since 1992 after the latest two matchups, the most

staged outside any nation other than the United States and Canada.

"It's an honor to make history alongside the NBA and call Mexico City a second home of the Suns this season," Suns president Jason Rowley said. "We're extremely

proud to represent the NBA as it continues to grow the game internationally."

"We're honored to be part of this trip and look forward to seeing all of our great fans in Mexico City," added Spurs president R.C. Buford. — AFP



**MANILA:** This photo taken on June 26, 2016 shows teenager Piolo Perez of the Smokey Mountain baseball team batting during practice at the former dumpsite in Manila. Inspired by a Hollywood film starring Kevin Costner about a farmer who builds a baseball diamond on his cornfield, Manila's huge landfill nicknamed Smokey Mountain has its own "Field of Dreams" to stop its youth going astray. — AFP

## 'FIELD OF DREAMS' OFFERS BASEBALL HOPE IN PHILIPPINES

**MANILA:** Teenager Piolo Perez swings his bat on a baseball field built atop the Philippines' most notorious trash heap, sending home run balls crashing through the shanties mushrooming on the outfield. Inspired by a Hollywood film starring Kevin Costner about a farmer who builds a baseball diamond on his cornfield, Manila's huge landfill nicknamed Smokey Mountain has its own "Field of Dreams" to stop its youth going astray. "If it weren't for baseball, I'd still be picking trash," Perez, a scrawny 15-year-old catcher, told AFP in between swinging at pitches in Sunday training. Like his 60-plus teammates, Perez, used to collect recyclable materials from the truckloads of rubbish from around the nation's capital of 12 million people that is dumped on the seaford district.

But he now has a sporting scholarship thanks to a baseball and softball programme, run by a charity group and local business people. Poverty is widespread in the Philippines, with one in four Filipinos earning a mere \$1.30 a day, but the conditions at the Smokey Mountain squatter colony are especially dire.

Smokey Mountain, which got its name because of the acrid smoke that rose from decomposing waste at the rubbish dump, was officially 'closed' by the government 20 years ago. It cleared some of the land to build five-storey apartment buildings for the 15,000 'garbage gleaners' that lived and worked there.

But authorities left much of the rubbish behind, and the dumping continued illegally. New shanties sprouted and the whole area came to be known as Smokey Mountain.

Now the original grass-overgrown 20-hectare (49-acre) dump rises like a parody of the Boston Red Sox's "Green Monster" wall off third base. The cramped and bumpy field, the size of three basketball courts, is ringed by rapidly spreading squatter shanties. Close by is a murky open sewer

er that empties into Manila Bay.

A home run almost always entails losing the ball to the foul-smelling water or sending it crashing through the ramshackle houses.

### BASEBALL TEAM INSTEAD OF GANGS

Many Smokey Mountain residents still depend on gleaning trash to make a living despite efforts by the government and civic groups to wean them away from the activity.

Baseball and softball for girls has proved a successful option for youths aged 7-18, said Marvin Navarro, community development director for the Manila branch of Junior Chamber International, a key sponsor. "It's also a way to get them out of the negative aspects of the community such as drugs, gangs and stealing," Navarro told AFP. Though overshadowed by basketball, baseball has deep roots in the Asian country, a US colony for nearly 50 years before winning independence in 1946. The programmes began when civic groups looking to help out slum residents found children playing rudimentary baseball at the old dump using improvised bats and gloves fashioned out of rubber sandals and cartons. "It was just flat land which was full of garbage, not really conducive for the sports, so talks were made... to really convert this lot into a proper sports field," Navarro said.

A government agency let the team use the lot for free, and corporate sponsors including US firms operating in the Philippines cleared the field and provided uniforms and playing equipment. Retired baseball superstars from Japan's major league are also brought in at least once a year for free clinics to the team and its coaches, Navarro said.

### SCHOLARSHIP HOPE

Perez, the son of a tricycle driver, learned to

play baseball at the lot when he was eight.

He was also going to school but it was a precarious existence, as he had to spend hours each day collecting plastic water bottles to raise enough money for the study fees of 50 pesos (just over a dollar) a day. The boy, who idolises the Miami Marlins' Japanese outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, a batting and base-stealing champion, stopped collecting garbage after earning a high school sports scholarship at the Timoteo Paez Integrated School nearby. Garry Riparip, the community's head coach, said the main challenge was convincing parents to let their children play and go to school, instead of forcing them to collect trash.

"We're trying to change their mindset, so that they will put more importance to education than earning a living from garbage. If they graduate many more opportunities will open up for them," he told AFP. Another issue for the children is overcoming diffidence to compete against well-heeled opponents with slick uniforms and top-of-the-line equipment. "It's intimidating at times playing against teams from wealthy schools. Our team has to share the gloves," said Rica Lacorte, 13, who plays third base for the girls' team.

Despite the odds, Smokey Mountain teams compete in the country's little league tournaments, and many of them have excelled, Riparip, 48, said. Their under-15 girls team went to the Junior League Softball World Series in the United States in 2014.

Though they still live in the slum, 15 boys are also currently on playing scholarships with three prestigious Manila universities, he added. Lacorte, the daughter of a taxi driver who lives at one of the tenement units, told AFP she and her parents wanted her to follow the same path.

"My parents support my softball activities. They want me to meet more friends and perhaps win a scholarship," she said. — AFP

## HUMBLE 'BENGAL TIGER' SIDDIKUR EYES OLYMPIC GLORY IN RIO

**DHAKA:** During a childhood spent retrieving stray balls on a golf course near his slum in Dhaka, Siddikur Rahman never even got to hear about the Olympics, let alone dream of competing in them.

"When I was starting out, the Olympics was just not something that I knew anything about," recalls the man who will be Bangladesh's flag-bearer at next month's opening ceremony in Rio de Janeiro.

"It's only really because of my caddie, who is from Malaysia, that I came to appreciate quite how prestigious an event it. He told me how I would make history if I qualified, so then I got serious about it."

By finishing in the top 60 Olympic ranking list at last week's cut-off point, the 31-year-old Siddikur became the first Bangladeshi to qualify automatically for the world's biggest sporting event.

Bangladesh is the most populous country never to have won an Olympic medal and all previous entrants have had to rely on wildcards provided by the International Olympic Committee and other international sports bodies.

In a country where cricket is king, the dearth of local participants means the Olympics have traditionally struggled to attract much interest. Coverage on the television and in newspapers is extremely limited.

Siddikur's history-making is even more noteworthy given his humble origins as the son of an autorickshaw driver who was brought up in one of the Bangladeshi capital's teeming slum neighbourhoods.

When he was 10, he landed a job ferretting out balls that had landed in the rough at Dhaka's prestigious Kurmitola Golf Club (KGC).

### 'BENGAL TIGER'

As well as helping put food on the family table, the job kindled a love of the sport that has since brought him two titles on

the Asian Tour and earned him the nickname as the 'Tiger Woods of Bengal'.

The club allowed its ball-boys to play the game on every Monday and Siddikur used the opportunity to showcase his talent.

"As a boy, my only real ambition was to become a player as it was better than gathering balls," Siddikur told AFP in an interview at the KGC.

"Then when I did start playing, I thought maybe if I can get a job on the professional tour in India then that would be great-it could change my life."

His early years as a professional were indeed spent in India and he joined the Asian Tour in 2009. He has since finished in the top 10 of the tour's Order Of Merit on three occasions.

Many golfers-including the world's top four Jason Day, Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth and Rory McIlroy-have decided not to compete in Rio where golf is making a comeback as an Olympics sport after 112 years.

But for a player such as Siddikur, whose chances of winning a major are remote, the tournament represents a chance of glory on a global stage that he wouldn't miss for the world.

He effectively secured his berth for Olympics by finishing runner-up at a tournament in Mauritius earlier this year, a result that he says has fuelled his hopes of winning an admittedly unlikely medal in Rio.

"My target in Mauritius was to finish in the top 10 or so, and that would mean I would go to the Olympics. But I came second and the same thing can happen any time, for any player on any golf course," he said.

"I have a good feeling about the Olympics and I am preparing myself very nicely. I will try my best and I leave the rest to Almighty." — AFP



Siddikur Rahman

## KUWAIT'S AMBASSADOR ALI AL-KHALED HAILS COOPERATION WITH ITALY OVER SHOOTING SPORT



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah during the reception of the Kuwaiti shooting team.

**ROME:** Kuwaiti Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah hailed the level of cooperation between Kuwait and Italy in the fields of Shooting Sport and the achievement of Kuwaiti Shooters in international arenas.

The statements were made during the ambassador's reception of the Kuwaiti shooting team on the occasion of concluding its training at Umbriaverde facility in Todi city, central Italy and its participation in the Clay Shooting tournament.

He added that Kuwaiti shooters achieved advanced levels in this sport, thanks to the attention given by various state institutions in sports and youth, a sides the care rendered by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Amir's Grand Prix was held for the second year with the participation of over 300 international shooters from 50 countries.

The event was sponsored by the Italian Shooting Federation and Kuwait Petroleum Italia (Q8), in cooperation with Kuwait Embassy.

He also hailed the hospitality extended by President of the Italian Shooting Federation Luciano Rossi and the big success of His Highness the Amir's Shooting Grand Prix.

For his part, Chairman of the Arab Shooting Union and Kuwait Shooting Sport Federation Duaj Khalaf Al-Otaibi praised efforts of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Ambassador for their sponsorship of the tourney. — KUNA

## INJURED WOODS TO SIT OUT REST OF SEASON

**NAPA:** Tiger Woods has shut it down for the rest of the professional golf season, bringing into question his playing future as the best golfer of his generation will be away from the sport for over a year when, and if, he returns. Woods, who is recovering from multiple back surgeries that have kept him out of action for nearly a year, hinted earlier this year that he might not play this season but it was finally made official on Tuesday.

The PGA Championship announced that Woods had withdrawn from the July 28-31 event at Baltusrol, marking the first time he will miss all four majors in a calendar year, while his agent confirmed his client is done for the season. "Not going to play in the '15/'16 season. We will assess this Fall when to come back and play for the '16/'17 season," Mark Steinberg said in an email to Reuters after Golf Channel had first reported the news.

The 2016-17 PGA Tour season starts in mid-October in Napa, California, which marks the start of a seven-tournament run through November before the schedule resumes in January. No one, not even Woods, can possibly know how the former world number one will fare when he makes his PGA Tour return after an absence that dates back to the Wyndham Championship in August 2015, where he tied for 10th.

Woods, famously, used to say he would never tee it up in a golf tournament unless he thought he was capable of winning and he is clearly being cautious about rushing his return to a game that has since seen a handful of young stars crowd the top of the world rankings.

Woods, who made 11 starts on the PGA Tour last season and just seven the season before, had his first back surgery in early 2014. A second microdiscectomy was performed last September with a follow-up procedure six weeks later. In late February, in an effort to shoot down reports that suggested he endured setbacks during his rehabilitation process, Woods posted a video of himself swinging a golf club in front of an indoor golf simulator, seemingly without discomfort. A week later the 14-times major champion said he was feeling "a lot better" and still had intentions of playing golf "at the highest level."

In mid-May, Woods said he was "progressing nicely" but then hit three balls into the water on a short par-three hole during an exhibition to promote a tournament he hosts. Last month, Woods indicated that he might not return to competition this year, saying he needed to be patient during his recovery.

A winner of 79 PGA Tour titles, Woods was world number one a record total of 683 weeks but his form has slipped dramatically in recent years due to injuries and the mastering of a new swing, while his ranking has plummeted to a mind-boggling 628th. "It's been a long road," Woods said in April after playing his first stretch of holes since last August, at a golf course opening in Montgomery, Texas.

"To actually be able to play soccer with my kids again, to do something like this, to be able to live life, that's what's been nice. Five months ago I couldn't."

The 40-year-old Woods has not won a tournament since 2013 and last won a major at the 2008 US Open. — Reuters



## FEDERER, NADAL JOIN MURRAY IN SKIPPING ROGERS CUP

**TORONTO:** Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have pulled out of the Rogers Cup, leaving the Toronto tournament without three of the world's top four men's tennis players. Tennis Canada announced the withdrawals Tuesday, a day after Wimbledon champion and world No. 2 Andy Murray said he would not defend his Rogers Cup title this year, citing fatigue. No. 3 Federer is coming off a run to the semifinals at Wimbledon, where he lost in five sets to Canada's Milos Raonic. "Toronto is one of my favorite events on the calendar and I am disappointed that I won't be able to compete in front of the great tennis fans in Canada," Federer said in a statement. "Looking ahead, it is best for me that I take more time after Wimbledon. I look

forward to coming back to Canada next year." Fourth-ranked Nadal has not played since withdrawing from the French Open after suffering a wrist injury. "I only started practicing a week ago after my wrist injury and I am not ready to play such an important event," he said in a statement. "I am very much looking forward to playing in Toronto in a couple of years since I have always been treated great in that tournament and have a lot of great Canadian fans."

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic and Raonic, whom Murray beat in three sets in the Wimbledon final, remain part of the Rogers Cup field. The tournament begins with the start of qualifying on Saturday.

In San Francisco, Alison Riske over-

came some third-set jitters to beat Varvara Lepchenko 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) and advance to the second round Tuesday at the WTA Tour's Stanford tournament.

Riske had to rally twice in the match against the eighth-seeded Lepchenko, dropping the first set and then letting a 4-2 lead slip away in the third before winning in a tie-breaker.

She jumped out to a 5-2 lead in the tie-breaker before clinching the all-American encounter after two hours and five minutes. Riske, ranked 78th in the world, improved to 11-12 on the year. She next plays Romanian qualifier Ana Bogdan. Riske now has a 3-2 edge over Lepchenko in career meetings, having won the last three after dropping the first two matches. She is trying to

improve on her quarter-final showing in her debut in this event last year.

Riske reached the final in her first tournament of 2016 in Shenzhen, where she lost to Agnieszka Radwanska. But she struggled to find her form since, losing in the first round of the Australian Open and at Indian Wells.

In the night session 17-year-old American Catherine Bellis posted her first main draw win of the season outlasting fellow teen Jelena Ostapenko in straight sets 6-4, 6-4.

Bellis, who burst onto the scene in 2014 when she became the youngest at age 15 to win a main draw match at the US Open, benefitted from the sixth seeded Ostapenko's nine double faults.

"In the end, I was just a little bit more

consistent than she was," Bellis said. "I had a couple of heart attacks, but it's all good." In other matches Tuesday, Poland's Magda Linette beat Czech Kristyna Pliskova 2-6, 6-2, 7-5; American wildcard Julia Boserup beat Japan's Naomi Osaka 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 and Urszula Radwanska of Poland toppled Kateryna Bondarenko 6-4, 7-5.

Boserup, who reached the third round of Wimbledon this year in her Grand Slam debut, managed to win Tuesday despite making eight double faults and posting just one ace. Osaka blasted seven aces and had two double faults in the two hour, nine minute match. Boserup will square off against third seed Johanna Konta in the second round.—Agencies



**STANFORD:** Catherine Bellis of the United States competes against Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia during day two of the Bank of the West Classic at the Stanford University Taube Family Tennis Stadium on Tuesday in Stanford, California. —AFP

## INDIA HEAVY FAVOURITES AGAINST WEST INDIES

**NORTH SOUND:** West Indies and India commence a four-Test series at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua today with the visitors heavily favoured to extend a 14-year unbeaten run against the hosts.

Such is the gap in performance between the two teams that anything less than a 3-0 triumph by the Indians will see them lose rating points in their quest to close the gap on Australia at the top of the official international Test rankings.

Despite an outstanding 2016 for the West Indies in shorter forms of the game, which has seen success at the Under-19 World Cup in Bangladesh, triumph for both the men's and women's teams at the World T20 in India and an encouraging effort in reaching the final of the Tri-Nation One-Day International Series on home soil last month, they continue to struggle in the traditional Test arena.

They lost 2-0 in both their last two series in Sri Lanka and Australia at the end of 2015.

Periods of competitiveness were too fleeting in those matches, highlighting the chronic inconsistency of the Caribbean side which has left them languishing eighth in the world Test rankings with only Bangladesh and Zimbabwe below them. West Indies selectors have taken the bold step of dropping experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Denesh Ramdin for Shane Dowrich, who made his Test debut as a specialist batsman against Australia in Dominica a year ago. They have stuck with veteran batsman Marlon Samuels, but he is badly in need of a run of scores. Functional but unattractive opener Kraigg Brathwaite will be entrusted with the tough task of providing solidity at the top of the order. West Indies' biggest concern, though, is in the bowling department where the two main wicket-takers, pacer Shannon Gabriel and leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo, have been injury-prone over the past 12 months. Fast-medium bowler Miguel Cummins is tipped for a Test debut having replaced the retired Jerome Taylor while skipper Jason Holder and fellow all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite are likely to be called upon to produce long, tight spells of



**NEW DELHI:** Former Australian cricketer Craig McDermott (R) watches as Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni speaks during a promotional event in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

medium pace. India appear to be contemplating omitting the seasoned Rohit Sharma from their middle-order and still seem undecided over the pace-spin balance of their bowling attack on a pitch that traditionally gets slower and lower over five days. Spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are likely to be relied upon in Antigua, but India possess a third spin option in Amit Mishra. Ishant Sharma, Umesh Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are vying to take the new ball, while the visitors' attacking stroke-makers, led by captain Virat Kohli, will be expected to turn the screws with the bat.

### Teams (probable):

West Indies - Jason Holder (captain), Kraigg Brathwaite, Leon Johnson, Darren Bravo, Marlon Samuels, Shane Dowrich (wicketkeeper), Jermaine Blackwood, Carlos Brathwaite, Devendra Bishoo, Miguel Cummins, Shannon Gabriel.

India - Virat Kohli (captain), Shikhar Dhawan, Murali Vijay, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Wriddhiman Saha (wicketkeeper), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Amit Mishra, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ishant Sharma. —AFP

## 'COOLER' SAM QUERREY WINS, STEPHENS OUT AT WASHINGTON

**WASHINGTON:** Sam Querrey made a triumphant start to his first event since stunning top-ranked Novak Djokovic at Wimbledon, rallying Tuesday to reach the third round of the ATP and WTA Washington Open. The 28-year-old American outlasted compatriot Bjorn Fratangelo 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-4, avenging a first-round French Open loss in May and spoiling his rival's 23rd birthday in the first hardcourt event on the road to the US Open. "Even without the Novak win, it would have been tough," Querrey said. "It was one of those matches you have to fight through and I'm happy I fought through the way I did."

Eighth seed Querrey downed Djokovic in the third round on Wimbledon grass, ending the Serb's 30-match major win streak on his way to his first career Grand Slam quarter-final after 10 years of trying, where he lost to Canada's Milos Raonic.

"I feel the same, maybe a little cooler," Querrey said. "I'm confident."

Beating Novak or not, I'm feeling confident." On the women's side, Japan's Risa Ozaki second-seeded defending champion Sloane Stephens 6-2, 6-1. The 136th-ranked Asian standout needed only 56 minutes to rout the 23rd-ranked American.

"I would say (it was) all me. She played a solid match but I helped a lot," Stephens said. "It just sucks. One of those days. It was

really bad. Hopefully I just pull myself together and do better next week." It was Querrey's first hardcourt match in more than three months and his first night match in some time, but the world number 29 did not drop his level after dropping the first set to a foe rated 79 spots below him. "I was bummed I lost that," he said. "But it didn't take a lot of energy out of me."

Next up for Querrey is Ukraine's 11th-seeded Alexandr Dolgoplov, who edged Australian Jordan Thompson 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7/4). Stephens found defending her first WTA title a difficult task, but with crowns this year at Auckland, Acapulco and Charleston, she will have more chances.

"A lot of things come with defending a title, which I had never had to do before," she said. "It was a little debilitating, but I get to defend another one in January."

Puerto Rican third seed Monica Puig outought France's Oceane Dodin 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 to advance into the second round. She could face Aussie top seed Samantha Stosur in the semi-finals. "I don't like to think that way," Puig said. "In reality I'm still one of the up and comers. I don't think I'm one of the favorites." Three matches were halted by rain and will be finished. Rain and hail were so severe that people on the grounds were evacuated from tents and taken inside the main stadium to wait until the storm passed. — AFP



**STANFORD:** Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia competes against Catherine Bellis of the United States during day two of the Bank of the West Classic. — AFP

## FEMALE SWIMMER DANIAH HAGUL CHALLENGES LIBYAN TABOOS

**TRIPOLI:** Few Libyan women would wear a swimming costume in public, but Daniah Hagul wants to help change a conservative society when she competes at the Rio Olympics.

In Libya "a significant number of boys but hardly any other girls swim, so I hope that they watch me and are inspired to do the same," said the 17-year-old. Libya has a 1,770-kilometre (1,100-mile) coastline, but on top of social pressures and political strife that followed the 2011 revolt against dictator Moamer Kadhafi, swimming pools and clubs are almost non-existent. The budget of the Libyan Swimming Federation (LSF) is severely limited. Hagul will be the first female swimmer to represent Libya in the Olympics since the revolution.

"It's such an honour and a privilege and I can't wait to do my country proud," she told AFP.

Hagul has won medals in international competitions and qualified for last year's World Championships in Kazan, Russia. Hagul's rise owes much to her parents' decision to move to Malta in the 1990s. Many Libyans live in exile on the Mediterranean island. "In Malta it gets really hot in the summer. Everyone is always either in the pool or in the sea and everyone has to know how to swim," she said. "So I began swimming lessons just to know how to swim at about the age of three or four. And when I was 12 I just decided that I wanted to take it up properly, competitively." Her father Bashir said living outside of Libya made it possible for Hagul to compete internationally.

### BEACON FOR LIBYAN WOMEN

Bashir and his wife Samira hope that their daughter can help change mentalities in their country. "Competitive swimming for girls is new to Libya and some people are finding the concept too much of a challenge," said Samira. "However, I truly believe it all starts with parents who should challenge rigid mindsets by encouraging and supporting their girls to pursue this great sport." Few women have represented Libya at the Olympics. At the 2008 Beijing Games, Libyan-American Asmahan Farhat won a heat in a 100m breaststroke but did not get to the semi-finals. Freestyler Amira Edrahi competed at Athens in 2004, the first Libyan woman swimmer at an Olympics since Soad and Nadia Fezzani in the 1980 Moscow Games. The Libyan press has given Daniah little coverage. But she is often mentioned on social media by Libyans who hope she can win a medal—a rare good news story for a country immersed in conflict. Hagul has won a place at the Mount Kelly school in Britain's

Devon countryside. The school has produced 19 Olympic or Commonwealth Games swimmers and six Olympic medal winners.

She is not impressed by the British weather but is inspired by the school's swimming programme devised by Robin Brew who swam for Britain at the 1984 Olympics.

"Robin is a great coach and mentor," Hagul said. With Rio looming, Hagul gets up early every morning to swim lengths before classes. During holidays in Malta, she spends hours training with her coach. "I remember watching the 2012 London Olympics at my grandfather's farm in Azzahra, Libya where we used to spend all our summer holidays," she said. "I used to watch all the swimming events really closely and thought how wonderful it would be if I could represent Libya at the next Olympics." But even after she caught the attention of the Libyan Olympic Committee, financial support has been limited because of the country's strife. Her training and travel costs have mostly been covered by her

parents. A Libyan conglomerate, HBGroup, has also supported her. A crowd-funding campaign—"Help fund Daniah's Olympic Dream!"—collected more than 6,800 euros (\$7,700) in a month. "A lot of blood, sweat and tears have gone into her swimming and it has all paid off," said Hagul's mother. "Daniah is very focused, determined and always rises to a challenge."

Hagul hopes to start university in 2017 and qualify as an architect. "I've always loved maths and design and recently I have developed a real interest in photography. I think the combination of all three subjects will hopefully pave the way for a career for me as an architect," she says. Hagul is also looking forward to hearing the stories of other Libyan athletes in Rio.

Only one other Libyan, 50-metre freestyler Ahmed Attellesey, will be competing in the swimming. He trains in Sweden. Other Libyans will compete in judo, taekwondo, athletics and rowing. Libyans have taken part 10 Olympics, but never won a medal. —AFP

## BOUCHARD BATTLES ZIKA FEAR OVER OLYMPIC CHOICE

**WASHINGTON:** Canada's Eugenie Bouchard remains undecided about playing in the Rio Olympics barely two weeks before the start, Zika virus fears stealing the joy from what would be her first Games. "I don't know what I'll do at this point," she said Tuesday after a first-round loss at the WTA and ATP Washington Open. "I'll make the decision next week I guess." The mosquito-transmitted Zika virus causes severe illness and has been linked to birth defects, a factor causing the 22-year-old the greatest concern. "I don't know if the health of my future babies is worth it," Bouchard said. "That's what I'm trying to decide in my head." The world's four top men's golfers, paced by Australian Jason Day, have withdrawn from Rio and several top tennis players have followed, including Romania's fifth-ranked Simona Halep, Czech Tomas Berdych and Bouchard's compatriot Milos Raonic, fresh off his own Wimbledon runner-up effort.

"I see more and more people drop out. Some golfers pulled out, the high profile ones. This gets you thinking," Bouchard said. "I'm trying to learn as much as I can about it. I don't know if anyone knows enough about it."

Tennis Canada officials said Tuesday that

Bouchard handled paperwork and plane flights and hotel rooms are booked. But she still has not settled on going to Brazil.

"It's just unfortunate to have this situation," Bouchard said. "It really sucks to be honest. Maybe I will just wake up on the deadline and see." Bouchard, ranked 41st, was as high as fifth in the world in 2014, when she was the Wimbledon runner-up.

After suffering a concussion last year when she slipped on the locker room floor at the US Open, the Montreal native has battled back to 41st in the rankings with finals runs this year at Hobart and Kuala Lumpur, but has not added to her lone WTA title won in Nurnberg in 2014. Italy's Camila Giorgi ousted Bouchard 7-5, 6-4 Tuesday while Romanian eighth seed Monica Niculescu was sent packing by American Christina McHale 6-3, 6-4.

McHale played in the WTA event at Rio in February and felt confident in her Zika precautions for what was a summer event rather than a winter season one as the Olympics are. "I think if you follow the instructions it will be OK," McHale said. "I understand the concerns. It's unfortunate it's taking away from the atmosphere of it."—AFP



## RUSSIA NAMES OLYMPIC SQUAD DESPITE BAN THREAT

**MOSCOW:** Russia's Olympic Committee pressed yesterday with its preparations for the Rio Olympic Games despite the threat of a ban for state-run doping hanging over the country. At a regular meeting in Moscow the executive board approved a 387-strong team to compete at this summer's games starting on August 5. The team's line-up includes the 68 track and field athletes, whose fate hinges on the Court of Arbitration

for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, which will rule Thursday on whether the IAAF had grounds to impose a blanket ban on Russia's athletics federation.

"The (Olympic) squad's line-up has been formed according to the applications of the country's sports federations," the committee chief Alexander Zhukov told the press. The Olympic Committee released a statement on their website saying that 387 competitors were included

in the list. The preparations come despite a mammoth scandal that sees Russia under threat of a blanket Olympic ban following bombshell allegations of state-controlled cheating.

An independent WADA commission led by Canadian investigator Richard McLaren, which detailed an elaborate cheating scheme run by Russia's sports ministry with help from the FSB state intelligence agency. The International

Olympic Committee (IOC) said it would study "legal options" before deciding whether to ban Russia from the Rio Games following emergency talks on Tuesday. A spokesman for the committee said Wednesday it would decide "within seven days" on whether to ban Russia from the Rio Games over rampant state-run doping. The IOC ordered a disciplinary commission to look into what McLaren commission Monday's report

called a "state-dictated failsafe system" of drug cheating that included Russia's secret service swapping dirty urine samples for clean ones through a hole in a wall in Sochi. The IOC—which faces a race against the clock to reach a final decision on Russians in Rio—said it "will explore the legal options with regard to a collective ban of all Russian athletes for the Olympic Games 2016 versus the right to individual justice". —AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** 86-year-old French-Brazilian Georges Mehdi (L), 9th dan in judo, instructs Brazilian judokas at the Brazilian "Choque" special police unit headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on July 2, 2016, ahead of the Rio Olympic Games. — AFP

## HOW BRAZIL MADE JAPANESE SPORT JUDO ITS OWN

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Frenchman Georges Mehdi speaks perfect Portuguese, so there's no problem communicating with the ranks of Brazilian judo black belts. But when he gives lessons in Japanese discipline, they don't seem to understand.

"When I start to talk, you must sit," the 86-year-old judo master, who has a rare ninth dan belt, reprimands the more than 100 judokas attending a master class in a Rio de Janeiro gym.

"This is judo, not where you come to laugh!" Startled, the Brazilians, all adults and many of them instructors themselves, fall silent-and sit.

Judo, a more than century-old Japanese martial art imbued with notions of discipline, respect and hierarchy, might sound culturally a world away from Brazil, a country so relaxed as to verge frequently on chaos. Yet Brazil has become a judo powerhouse, with 19 Olympic medals and expectations of more next month when Rio will be the first South American city to host the Summer Games. How did it happen?

### EXOTIC ROOTS

Brazil's world-girdling journey from judo zero to podium regular is as twisted as the most complicated judo throw.

The sport's founder, Jigoro Kano, spread judo to Europe and the Americas around the turn of the 20th century, but Brazil was slow to catch on. For decades, judo remained largely restricted to the Japanese immigrant community based in Sao Paulo. When Brazil won its first judo Olympic medal in 1972, it was thanks to Chiaki Ishii, a Japanese-born and raised immigrant. By then, though, the sport was finally going mainstream and another immigrant—this time a Frenchman turned Brazilian with a love of Japan—was part of the reason.

Mehdi launched his judo career in Brazil in the early 1950s after arriving in the country when he was about 17, having left behind his hometown of Saint-Etienne and the lingering shadow of World War II. "I didn't want to stay in France anymore. I was fighting in the streets every day," he said during a break at the master class. "My mother was fed up with me."

Rising rapidly through Brazil's judo ranks and becoming a naturalized citizen, Mehdi became a repeat national champion, even fighting well above his 82 kilograms (180 pounds). "But then after being Brazilian champion in all categories, I understood that I didn't know anything," Mehdi says. "So I decided to go to Japan."

### DEEPER VALUES

During almost five years under Japanese

masters like the legendary Isao Okano, Mehdi says he learned what was really missing back in Brazil—not so much technique but rather judo's deeper qualities. "Discipline, education, traditions and being serious. The Brazilians didn't have any of that," he said.

Upon his return to Rio, Mehdi remained one of Brazil's top judokas, winning medals in the 1963 and 1967 Pan-American Games, and became national coach. With a reputation for strictness and dedication, he introduced modern methods like circuit training and pushed the sport out of the margins, topping up his knowledge with regular visits to Japan.

Today, Brazil is ninth in the Olympic judo medal haul, if you count the Soviet Union. That's far behind the sport's kings Japan, France and South Korea, but very much elite. At the Rio Games, the judo team hopes to make the most of home advantage, which automatically ensured places in every weight class. Oswaldo Simoes, a veteran of the 1980 Brazilian Olympic team in Moscow, reckons the men's and women's teams could each get three medals. "Today judo has become a tradition in Brazil. It's on every corner—and Georges Mehdi was part of that," said the 63-year-old Simoes, a seventh dan black belt who was a Pan-American champion and now teaches.

### DISCIPLINE AND BRAZILIANS

If discipline was the root of Mehdi's success, his purist approach may have also led to his decade-long national coaching and playing career ending in acrimony.

He had a major row with the Brazilian Judo Confederation over what he says was improper behavior during the 1967 World Championships at Salt Lake City. "I was expelled by the confederation because I was very strict," he said, adding that he still finds "Brazilians are badly brought up." Afterwards, Mehdi dedicated himself to teaching around the world, but even now his intensity can take his adopted compatriots by surprise. During the master class, Mehdi, who still has deadly throwing skills despite his age, frequently expressed exasperation. "When I call you to come, you don't shuffle over!" Mehdi boomed at a black belt. "In Japan you'd never do that. You'd come running. So go back and come properly!"

Vania Benzaquen, a 46-year-old judoka who trains regularly with Mehdi at his club in southern Rio, said, "You go to some academies in Brazil and you'll see people lying on the tatami talking and laughing. Not with him, though." "He demands we pay attention to detail." — AFP

## OLYMPICS MAY SHINE BUT PLENTY TO LAMENT IN RECESSION-HIT RIO

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Across a busy street from the Maracana stadium, host of two World Cup finals and next month the stage for the opening of the first-ever Olympics in South America, squats the massive concrete complex of the State University of Rio de Janeiro.

But the university, a pioneer in offering scholarships for low-income and minority students, has not enjoyed the same government largesse as the emblematic stadium, recipient since 2010 of more than 1.2 billion reais (\$370 million) in state funds for World Cup and Olympic remodeling.

Even as producers test lights at the Maracan, for showtime Aug. 5, garbage mounts at the campus where 23,000 student have not attended classes since March because of missed payments to professors, contractors and university staff.

A nearby university hospital, a regional center for transplants and cancer treatments, has been so short of funds that doctors have this year regularly had to cut back on treatment because they lacked syringes, latex gloves, chemotherapy medicines and antibiotics.

"It has never been so precarious," says

Edmar Santos, the hospital's director, explaining that cutbacks in the state budget mean the facility some days treats fewer than half the patients it normally would.

Two weeks before the Games begin, a recession and fiscal crisis are biting deep into the lives of more than 12 million people who live in and around this coastal city, stoking resentment over the some 40 billion reais (\$12 billion) spent on Olympic projects.

State pensioners and employees, including teachers, health workers and police, have been getting paid late or not at all.

Many residents are unhappy that so-called Olympic legacy projects, including a new subway line and bus corridors, do little to help most of the population, instead further benefiting upscale districts.

On Tuesday, a leading pollster said half the Brazilians it surveyed are opposed to hosting the Olympics and 63 percent believe the Games bring more costs than benefits. Vandals earlier this week spray painted the cars of a new light rail system that runs through central Rio, a project criticized by many as useful only for tourists. "Luxury transport, trashy hospitals," they painted.—Reuters

## IOC TO TAKE A WEEK TO DECIDE ON RUSSIA RIO OLYMPIC BAN

**LAUSANNE:** The International Olympic Committee said yesterday it would take up to a week to decide whether to ban Russia from the Rio Olympics over its "state" doping machine. Amid widespread agonising within the IOC over how to handle its biggest doping scandal, the final verdict could come less than 10 days from the Rio opening ceremony on August 5.

The IOC executive decided on Tuesday to wait until after a Court of Arbitration in Sport (CAS) ruling expected today before deciding whether a blanket Olympic ban on Russian competitors should be imposed. The IOC, which said it needed to study all "legal options", has now signalled it will take every day possible for one of the most important decisions in Olympic history. "We expect a decision within seven days on the participation of Russian competitors in Rio," IOC media relations chief Emmanuelle Moreau told AFP. The IOC has already banned Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko and all other ministry officials from the Rio Games and withdrawn backing for international events in Russia over the doping programme revealed by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren this week.

McLaren, who produced a report for the World Anti-Doping Agency, said there was a "state-dictated failsafe system" of drug cheating. IOC president Thomas Bach called Russia's actions a "shocking and unprecedented attack on the integrity of sport and on the Olympic Games."

### 'RELUCTANT' IOC

WADA has called for Russia to be banned and are believed to have backing from the United States, Canada, Germany, Japan and other nations. "It's a complex issue to ban a country, but we're delighted to see they're considering it," New Zealand Olympic Committee secretary-general Kerey Smith said. But some senior officials have expressed doubts whether the IOC wants to expel Russia. Dick Pound, an IOC member and former WADA president, said it was right for the IOC to take time to make a decision.

But he added: "I do get the impression reading between the lines, however, that the IOC is for some reason very reluctant to think about a total exclusion of the Russians."

Pound said an Olympic ban "would force Russia to acknowledge that the rest of the world is not prepared to play with them unless they change." Several national Olympic committees have also voiced support for Russia's case that it would be wrong to exclude Russian athletes who have not failed drug tests. Italian Olympic committee president Giovanni Malago said athletes were right to complain about Russian drug cheats.

But he said no one can say all Russian athletes are cheats and added: "In the public's imagination participation in the Olympics is for everyone. So I cannot imagine it without Russia." The Association of Summer Olympic Federations has also urged caution. The IOC said after Tuesday's executive talks it will "explore the legal options with regard to a collective ban of all Russian athletes" against "the right to individual justice."

Evian Bach has called for a way to let clean athletes compete in Rio. It must first wait for the CAS ruling on an appeal by 68 Russian athletes against an Olympic ban ordered by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The IAAF suspended all Russian track and field competitors after an earlier inquiry, chaired by Pound, found widespread "state-sponsored" doping in athletics.

While waiting for the legal opinions, the IOC has barred Mutko, a long-time ally of President Vladimir Putin, from the Rio Games. The IOC also ordered a disciplinary commission to look into the sports ministry's role in the drug cheating that included Russia's secret service swapping dirty urine samples for clean ones through a hole in a wall at the Sochi Olympics.

The IOC said it will not grant any Rio accreditation "to any official of the Russian Ministry of Sport or any person implicated in the (McLaren) report." Mutko has denied any wrongdoing. He said he has suspended five top deputies, including his number two Yuri Nagornykh, described as the point man for running the cheating scheme.

The IOC executive also ordered a reanalysis of all samples by Russian athletes taken at the Sochi Olympics. That means several more weeks and months of inquiries.

And the IOC said it would not give backing to any international sports events in Russia.

It called on winter sports federations to "freeze" preparations for major events in Russia and look for alternative organisers.

The McLaren case against Russia followed allegations made by the former boss of the Moscow anti-doping laboratory Grigory Rodchenkov who is in hiding in the United States and is wanted by Russia. — AFP



**MOSCOW:** President of Russia's Olympic Committee Alexander Zhukov opens the meeting of Russia's Olympic Committee in Moscow, yesterday. Zhukov says he expects a final decision by Sunday on whether the entire Russian team will be banned from next month's games in Rio over doping. — AP

## FROOME CRACKS RIVALS AS ZAKARIN WINS 17TH STAGE

**FINHAUT-EMOSSON:** Britain's Chris Froome took another big step towards a third Tour de France title when he dropped his main rivals in the finale of the 17th stage, a 184-km mountain trek won by Russian Ilnur Zakarin yesterday.

Froome (Team Sky) attacked inside the final two km in the last ascent, a punishing 10.4-km climb at an average gradient of 8.4 percent and Dutchman Bauke Mollema, second overall, as well as last year's runner-up Nairo Quintana, could not follow.

The Briton finished on the wheel of former team mate Richie Porte (BMC), the Australian emerging as a potential podium finisher in Paris. Froome, who stayed behind Porte in the final straight, extended his lead over Mollema (Trek-Segafredo) to 2:27 and compatriot Adam Yates (Orica) to 2:53.

"There was no real need to get on the front tactically, obviously it was the first day of a four-day block, tomorrow is going to be critical," said Froome, referring to Thursday's 18th stage, a brutal 17-km uphill time trial from Sallanches to Megeve.

Colombian Quintana (Movistar), who has been lacking his usual stamina in the long climbs, is fourth, 3:27 off the pace after losing 28 seconds to Froome when he was expected to attack. The decisive move was made by Porte, who jumped away from the favourites' group about 2km from the line, with Froome the only rider able to follow him thanks to a short but brutal acceleration.

Porte climbed from seventh to sixth overall, 4:27 off the pace, but his recent form suggests he will continue to move up the GC (general classification), taking sole leadership at BMC after team mate Tejay van Garderen cracked in the penultimate climb of a gru-

elling day in the Swiss Alps. Frenchman Romain Bardet (AG2r-La Mondiale) continued his fine Tour, moving up one spot to fifth, 4:15 off the lead.

### CRAZY HOUR

A 14-man breakaway, featuring world champion Peter Sagan and his Tinkoff team mate Rafal Majka, the polka dot jersey wearer, took shape after a crazy first hour of racing during which the peloton covered 51.8km.

They reached the foot of the penultimate ascent, a 13-km climb to the Col de la Forclaz at an average gradient of 7.9 percent, with a 13-minute advantage.

Majka was the first at the top, strengthening his lead in the mountain classification. The main bunch was quickly skimmed down to about 20 riders and American Van Garderen, who was targeting a podium finish in Paris, was dropped midway through the ascent. Quintana's team mate, Spaniard Alejandro Valverde, also fell behind in the last climb, losing all reasonable hope of repeating his third-place finish of 2015.

Majka (Tinkoff) and Colombian Jarlinson Pantano (IAM Cycling), winner of the 15th stage, attacked the leading group in the descent. They were joined in the final climb by Zakarin (Katusha), who jumped away 6.5km from the finish, followed by Pantano.

The Russian went again with 5.8km left and never looked back, his medallion tapping on his bare chest until he managed to zip up his jersey before crossing the line, his face a mask of pain, for a first Tour stage win. "I'm really happy, I want to thank my team mates. I gave everything. It's really, really big for me," said Zakarin, who is back at the top after a horror crash in this year's Giro d'Italia.—Reuters



**BERNE:** Stage winner Russia's Ilnur Zakarin celebrates on the podium after winning the 184.5 km seventeenth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Berne and Finhaut-Emosson. — AFP



# Sports

Hamilton poised to seize championship lead in F1

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Froome cracks rivals as Zakarin wins Tour 17th stage

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'FIELD OF DREAMS' OFFERS BASEBALL HOPE IN PHILIPPINES Page 17



CHICAGO: New York Mets second baseman Neil Walker (20) turns a game ending double play forcing Chicago Cubs' Matt Szczur out at second and getting Kris Bryant at first during the ninth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, in Chicago. The Mets won 2-1. — AP

## FAMILIA ESCAPES JAM IN 9TH, METS BEAT CUBS

CHICAGO: Jeury Familia escaped a bases-loaded jam with a game-ending double play after Rene Rivera drove in the tiebreaking run with two outs in the top of the ninth, lifting the New York Mets over the Chicago Cubs 2-1 on Tuesday night. Familia walked Addison Russell and Miguel Montero to start the ninth, then Javier Baez reached on a bunt single when third baseman Jose Reyes threw wide to first. Pinch-hitter Matt Szczur hit a grounder to first baseman James Loney, and Loney threw out Russell at the plate. Kris Bryant then hit into a 5-4-3 double play to give Familia his 33rd save in 33 chances. Rivera had the third single in the ninth - following hits by Loney and Asdrubal Cabrera - off Hector Rondon (1-2) as the Mets beat the Cubs for the fifth time in six games after sweeping them in last year's NL Championship Series. Hansel Robles (4-3) pitched two scoreless innings in relief for the win.

### RED SOX 4, GIANTS 0

David Ortiz hit a three-run homer and Rick Porcello remained unbeaten at home as Boston beat struggling San Francisco. Brock Holt also homered for the Red Sox, who won for the seventh time in eight games. The NL West-leading Giants remained winless since the All-Star break with their fourth straight loss. Porcello (12-2) scattered four hits over 6 1-3 innings, improving to 9-0 at home. Jake Peavy (5-8), a key member of Boston's 2013 World Series champions, struck out six over six innings and held his former teammates to three hits, but two left the park. The Giants played at Fenway Park for the first time since 2007.

### DODGERS 8, NATIONALS 4

Chase Utley drove in three runs with three hits, including a leadoff homer that quickly spoiled the major league debut of Reynaldo Lopez and sent Los Angeles over Washington. Los Angeles swept three games from Washington at home in June and has won six straight in the series. Scott Kazmir (8-3) gave up one run and four hits in seven innings, striking out eight. He extended his unbeaten streak to 12 starts, going 6-0 in that span. Lopez (0-1), considered one of Washington's top prospects, allowed six runs and 10 hits in 4 2/3 innings. He struck out nine, featuring a fastball in the upper 90s mph.

### PIRATES 3, BREWERS 2

Josh Harrison tripled leading off the bottom of the ninth and scored when the throw from the outfield skipped past Milwaukee third baseman Hernan Perez and out of play to lift Pittsburgh. Perez's RBI single off Pittsburgh All-Star closer Mark Melancon (1-1) with two outs in the ninth tied the game, but the tie was short-lived. Harrison's drive off Tyler Thornburg (3-4) was just out of the reach of Milwaukee center fielder Kirk Nieuwenhuis. Harrison chugged to third then popped up and strolled home when the relay throw from second baseman Scooter Gennett went by Perez. Pirates rookie Jameson Taillon pitched six innings in his return from the disabled list, narrowly avoiding serious injury after taking a 105 mph line drive off his head in the second. The 24-

year-old rookie lay on the ground for several moments while being tended to by trainers but was permitted to stay in the game.

### MARLINS 2, PHILLIES 1, 10 INNINGS

Christian Yelich homered and drove in the winning run with a single in the 10th inning. J.T. Realmuto added two hits for the Marlins, who won their third straight to remain one game ahead of the New York Mets for the second wild-card spot in the National League. Adeiny Hechavarria opened the 10th with a double off David Hernandez (1-3). After Hernandez walked Martin Prado to put runners on first and second with two outs, Phillies manager Pete Mackanin lifted Hernandez so left-hander Daniel Stumpf could face the left-handed Yelich. Yelich put Miami in front by lacing Stumpf's 3-2 pitch to left field, easily scoring Hechavarria. A.J. Ramos pitched a scoreless 10th for his 31st save in 32 opportunities. Mike Dunn (2-1) tossed a 1-2-3 ninth to earn the victory.

### INDIANS 7, ROYALS 3

Danny Salazar handled the Royals for the third time this season while the Cleveland Indians roughed up Kansas City's starter-by-committee. Salazar (11-3) allowed three runs over 6 2-3 innings while striking out seven. Mike Napoli hit a two-run homer off Brian Flynn (1-1), and Carlos Santana drove in two runs. Francisco Lindor also homered as the AL Central leaders snapped a five-game skid at Kauffman Stadium.

### BLUE JAYS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Edwin Encarnacion hit his 25th home run and Aaron Sanchez pitched seven strong innings for Toronto.

Sanchez (10-1), pitching on nine days' rest thanks to the All-Star break, allowed a run and scattered six hits to improve to 9-0 in his last 15 starts. He struck out five with no walks and hit two batters. Zack Godley (2-1), called up from Triple-A Reno to make the start for Arizona, went five innings, giving up four runs, three earned, and six hits. He struck out seven and walked one.

### YANKEES 7, ORIOLES 1

Starlin Castro hit a two-run homer and drove in four runs, Nathan Eovaldi won for the first time since May and New York beat Baltimore to move back above .500. The AL East-leading Orioles have lost three in a row. Castro homered in the second off Vance Worley (2-1) and hit a two-run double in the sixth. Chase Headley added a two-run homer in the eighth. Making his first start since July 1 following three relief outings caused by a six-start winless streak, Eovaldi (8-6) won for the first time since May 29.

### ANGELS 8, RANGERS 6

Albert Pujols hit a pair of three-run homers and Los Angeles remained unbeaten since the All-Star break with its season-best fifth straight victory. Pujols connected in the fourth and fifth innings against Kyle Lohse (0-2) for his second multi-homer game in three days, driving in six runs for the first time since 2009. Pujols' homers were the 578th and 579th of his career, pulling him closer to Mark McGwire (583) for 10th place on baseball's career list. Tim Lincecum (2-3) had seven strikeouts while winning for the second time in his six starts for the Angels. Huston Street pitched the ninth for his eighth save - his first since June 14.

### ATHLETICS 4, ASTROS 3, 10 INNINGS

Marcus Semien scored from second base on Josh Reddick's two-out infield single in the 10th inning to lift Oakland. The A's rallied from three runs down and trailed 3-2 before Coco Crisp's game-tying double off Astros closer Will Harris in the ninth. After the Astros stranded the bases loaded in the top of the 10th, Reddick won it with the sixth walkoff hit of his career. Semien singled with two outs off Pat Neshek (2-2) and stole second. Yonder Alonso walked before Reddick singled to deep shortstop. Houston's Carlos Correa fielded the ball cleanly but threw wide of home as Semien slid safely in with the winning run. Mark Rzepczynski (1-0) got the last out in the top of the 10th for the win.

### WHITE SOX 6, MARINERS 1

Melky Cabrera hit a tie-breaking homer leading off the seventh inning. Todd Frazier added a two-run shot in the ninth and Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak. Cabrera lined his ninth home run of the season just over the wall in left field off Seattle starter Wade Miley (6-7) to snap a 1-1 tie. Chicago starter Jose Quintana (8-8) threw six innings and his only major mistake was Robinson Cano's 22nd home run in the fourth inning.

### TWINS 6, TIGERS 2

Tommy Milone held Detroit scoreless until the ninth inning, and Minnesota broke through with five runs in the seventh. Brian Dozier hit a two-run homer and Eduardo Nunez had three RBIs. Milone (3-2) left in the ninth. Down 6-0 at the start of the inning, Detroit scored twice and loaded the bases with one out. Brandon Kintzler struck out James McCann and Jose Iglesias to end it. Anibal Sanchez (5-11) struck out 10 in six-plus innings.

### RAYS 10, ROCKIES 1

Blake Snell held Colorado to one hit over six strong innings, Evan Longoria homered and drove in three runs and Tampa Bay ended an 11-game road losing streak. Snell (2-4) struck out nine and Matt Andriese pitched the final three innings for his first save. Steve Pearce also homered in his return from the disabled list for the Rays, who ended the third longest road losing streak in club history. They broke out against Rockies starter Tyler Chatwood (8-6).

### BRAVES 5, REDS 4, 11 INNINGS

Atlanta's bullpen blew a two-run lead in the ninth inning, but Ender Inciarte hit a sacrifice fly in the 11th that evened a series between the NL's worst teams. Nick Markakis started the winning rally with a single off Tony Cingrani (2-3) and took third on Jeff Francoeur's single off Blake Wood. Inciarte's fly to deep center broke the tie. Mauricio Cabrera (1-0) got the last five outs for his first career win. — AP

## MLB results/standings

NY Yankees 7, Baltimore 1; LA Dodgers 8, Washington 4; Miami 2, Philadelphia 1 (10 innings); Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 2; NY Mets 2, Chicago Cubs 1; Minnesota 6, Detroit 2; Atlanta 5, Cincinnati 4 (11 innings); Boston 4, San Francisco 0; Cleveland 7, Kansas City 3; Tampa Bay 10, Colorado 1; Toronto 5, Arizona 1; Oakland 4, Houston 3 (10 innings); LA Angels 8, Texas 6; Chicago White Sox 6, Seattle 1.

American League				National League			
Eastern Division				Eastern Division			
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	56	38	.596
Baltimore	53	39	.576	Miami	51	42	.548
Boston	52	39	.571	NY Mets	50	43	.538
Toronto	53	42	.558	Philadelphia	43	52	.453
NY Yankees	47	46	.505	Atlanta	33	61	.351
Tampa Bay	36	57	.387	17.5	Central Division		
Central Division				Chicago Cubs	56	37	.602
Cleveland	55	38	.591	St. Louis	48	44	.522
Detroit	49	45	.521	Pittsburgh	48	45	.516
Kansas City	47	46	.505	Milwaukee	39	52	.429
Chicago White Sox	46	47	.495	Cincinnati	35	59	.372
Minnesota	34	59	.366	21	Western Division		
Western Division				San Francisco	57	37	.606
Texas	55	40	.579	LA Dodgers	53	42	.558
Houston	50	44	.532	Colorado	43	50	.462
Seattle	47	47	.500	San Diego	41	52	.441
LA Angels	42	52	.447	Oakland	40	54	.426
Oakland	42	52	.447	12.5			





**BOE SEES 'NO CLEAR' EVIDENCE OF SHARP BREXIT HIT YET**



KABUL: Afghan women laborers prepare pistachio seeds at a local dried fruit factory in Kabul. — AFP

**PISTACHIOS, GREEN GOLD COVETED BY TALEBAN**

**MILITANTS DEPRIVING AFGHANISTAN OF MUCH-NEEDED EXPORT INCOME**

**KABUL:** Afghanistan takes pride in its world-class pistachios, but with looters harvesting the nuts well before maturity fears are growing that the Taliban and local strongmen are depriving the war-battered country of much-needed export income. Pistachios are not ripe for the picking until late July, but raiders rushed the forests earlier this month and, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, illegally harvested up to 40 percent of the country's still-green crop.

In the northern province of Samangan, the offensive began on July 7 - the second day of Eid, the major celebration marking the end of Ramadan, says acting head of the provincial department of agriculture Rafiullah Roshanzada. "Between 100 and 150 residents of the province stormed the pistachio forests in Hazrat Sultan and Koh Gogird," he says, naming two districts in the province. Security forces rushed to the scene and arrested many of them, he says, but the damage was done.

"The problem is that they were collected before ripe... the harvest has decreased," he adds, citing figures that show provincial yield could be nearly halved in 2016 compared

with last year. Similar scenes are repeated all along the "pistachio belt" that runs from Badakhshan in northeast Afghanistan to Kunduz in the north and Herat in the west. "Government forces have no authority over the pistachio forests in Badghis province, because they lie in Taliban-controlled areas," says Hafizullah Benish, agriculture director in the western province. The Taliban and local strongmen collected the crops from the roughly 27,000 hectares of land too early, he reports.

"I can tell you, these pistachios will not be sold because they are raw, not ripe." If they had waited, Benish adds, the crop could have sold for an estimated 35 million Afghanis (\$525,000). "They are being collected by the Taliban and armed locals," also laments head of the Badghis governor's office, Sharafuddin Madjeedi. To stop the bleeding, the government has for the past several years banned access to the pistachio forests near harvest time in 11 provinces, says Mohammad Aman Amanyar, the forest supervisor for the Agriculture Ministry.

Defiance of the ban constitutes a "crime," he says-but that

is not enough of a deterrent, for among the militants and the strongmen are Afghanistan's desperately poor. "Collecting pistachios from the forest is a golden opportunity for them and to save a bit of money for themselves," says 32-year-old Shafi, an agricultural laborer in Samangan who uses only one name. "If the government forces and powerful individuals do not stop the people, they can collect enough pistachios to make around 1,000 to 2,000 Afghanis (\$15 to \$30) every day," he tells AFP — enough to feed a family for a week.

**Pistachios to firewood**

Amanyar disputes the idea of any economic benefit, however, arguing that Afghans are wildly undercutting the price of their own crop. In Badghis province, he says, a "seer" (Central Asian unit equivalent to about seven kilos) of pistachios stolen while still green can sell for about 400 Afghanis, instead of the 1,500 to 2,000 Afghanis it can sell for when they are fully ripe. "It's far too early," he says. Pistachios are targeted more than any other nut because

they grow without cultivation in natural state forests, he says-unlike a cash crop like peanuts, which are better protected by their owners. Nearly four decades ago, before the near continuous wars that have since ravaged Afghanistan, the country was carpeted with up to 450,000 hectares of pistachio forest, he says.

Now, after violence and misery, "40 to 50 percent of the trees are gone for firewood, or are victims of climate change and drought," Amanyar reports. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and USAID, forest density across the country has considerably thinned, from an average of 40-100 trees per hectare before the war to 20-40 trees today. For the past dozen years, efforts to green the country saw 9,700 hectares of pistachio replanted, says Amanyar. Exports of the popular crop ranged from 500 to 1,500 tons of shelled nuts over the same time period, worth \$4.2 million in 2014. Not enough to compete with opium production that generates, according to the UN, about \$160 million a year in Afghanistan. But enough, for some, to make ends meet. — AFP

**THAILAND JUNTA OFFERS MILLION BAHT RAFFLE TO BRING TAX RETURNS ONLINE**

**E-PAYMENTS TO BRING INFORMAL ECONOMY ONLINE**

**BANGKOK:** "Want to win a million baht? Go for e-payment," says Thailand's junta, offering a lucky draw as an incentive to use a new online payment scheme for business, in an effort to bring some of the massive informal economy onto the books and boost tax revenues. As Southeast Asian economies struggle and tax income misses budget targets, Thailand's finance minister is hopeful a nationwide e-payment scheme will add tax revenue of 100 billion baht (\$2.9 billion) a year to the coffers.

Finance Minister Apisak Tantivorawong has estimated the move will save banks and businesses a combined 75 billion baht a year though other policymakers expect it could take some time for businesses to change their habits. Cash and cheques now make up 80 percent of transactions. A coup in May 2014 ended months of political unrest, but the generals have struggled to revive Southeast Asia's second-largest economy as exports and consumption remain weak.

To promote the scheme, the junta will next year offer consumers and merchants a monthly lucky draw of cash awards worth 7 million baht (\$200,400) for a year. Transactions made through the system will qualify for a chance to win. Some 5.5 million baht will be for e-payment customers, with the biggest prize of one million baht and the rest for business operators that install electronic data capture (EDC) machines. "This should make people go for e-payment quickly," Apisak said, adding the junta aimed to bring big and small businesses into the e-payment system.

Under the system, transaction information is sent to the revenue department, so the government "can see all trade flows, making tax avoidance more difficult," said Krisada Chinavicharana, head of the ministry's fiscal policy office. Tax evasion in Thailand is a major problem for the government. Former Finance Minister Sommai Phasee estimated

evasion may have cost Thailand 30 percent of VAT revenue. In the fiscal year ended in September 2015, tax revenue was about 2.3 trillion baht, down 9 percent from the budget target, with VAT at 709 billion baht. Thai tax revenue is equivalent to about 17 percent of GDP.

The junta is also urging small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to register a single accounting book by giving them tax incentives and no tax retroactive checks, which will help expand the tax base and prevent firms from avoiding taxes by keeping two books - one for tax authorities and the other for banks.

From 2019, banks will have to use the same accounts companies' submit to the tax authorities as the basis for lending decisions. "We think this policy is a good step, and it will tend to decrease the informal sector," said Kiatipong Ariyapruhya, senior country economist of the World Bank for Thailand, adding Thailand's informal economy accounted for half of GDP between 1999-2007. Thailand has about 2.7 million SMEs - some 700,000 are registered and only about 450,000 pay taxes, according to the Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion.

Under the master plan, a new money-transfer system, PromptPay, will enable people to transfer money and make e-payments using a mobile phone or national identification card linked to a bank account from October. The scheme will later be widened to include complete electronic tax services and all government payments. Electronic payments will be more convenient but some expressed concern about privacy. "It will be good in a sense that it will prevent employees from taking money from the cash register, but it won't be good because the tax man will know everything," said Panisa Boonchaiwattana, a coffee shop manager in Bangkok, who said she would use an EDC machine. — Reuters

**QATAR, SAUDI FALL; FX TROUBLES EGYPT**

**Mideast Stock Markets**

**DUBAI:** Stock markets in Qatar and Saudi Arabia were pulled lower yesterday by two blue-chip companies whose weak second-quarter earnings missed forecasts, while Egypt was hurt by a fresh slide of its currency in the black market. Commercial Bank of Qatar slumped 6.6 percent after it posted a 63 percent drop in second quarter net attributable profit to 212.3 million riyals (\$58.3 million); analysts polled by Reuters had forecast 339.5 million riyals. Other Qatari banks also fell, even though they had reported strong earnings at the start of this week. Qatar Islamic Bank dropped 1.6 percent. The main Qatari index dropped 0.5 percent to 10,592 points, but closed 81 points above its session low.

In Saudi Arabia, Saudi Electricity Co (SEC) dropped 0.5 percent after it reported a 28 percent fall in second-quarter net profit to 1.4 billion riyals (\$381 million). Analysts at NCB Capital had forecast 2.4 billion riyals. SEC cited the higher cost of fuel and depreciation of assets, without elaborating. The kingdom's 2016 state budget contained hikes in fuel and electricity prices but the company had previously said these would not have a significant effect on its earnings overall.

The main Saudi index edged down 0.2 percent. But some Saudi banks fared well after several reported earnings that met expectations. Saudi Hollandi Bank rose 0.8 percent after reporting a flat net profit of 540 million riyals, beating the average analyst forecast of 508 million riyals. In Egypt, the main index extended the previous day's decline and dropped 1.2 percent after the Egyptian pound weakened to 11.75 per dollar on the black market, its lowest level since that market emerged.

The central bank has been keeping the currency artificially fixed at 8.78 pounds since its devaluation in mid-March. Since the central bank's comments to local media

on July 3 about the fixed currency rate being a "mistake," the pound has tumbled in the black market, and economists believe a further devaluation - possibly accompanied by further interest rate hikes - may be imminent. The March devaluation triggered a strong rally in the stock market on hopes that it would prompt foreign fund inflows, but that largely did not happen, so investors are more gloomy this time around. Nine-tenths of traded shares declined yesterday with heavily traded Orascom Telecom dropping 3.6 percent. Ezz Steel, hit by the country's gas shortage, sank 3.9 percent after it reported its first-quarter net loss widened from a year earlier.

**Dubai, Abu Dhabi**

In Dubai, Emaar Properties climbed 1.7 percent to 7.02 dirhams, its highest close in 11 months, in active trade. It closed above technical resistance on its October 2015 peak of 7.01 dirhams; another such close on Thursday would trigger a reverse head and shoulders pattern formed by the highs and lows since last August and pointing up in the long term to at least the April 2015 peak of 8.39 dirhams. "Passive emerging market funds, which have been underweight the region, are now accumulating shares in companies such as Emaar to ensure equal weights," said a Dubai-based equity portfolio manager.

Buying of Emaar was also encouraged this week by local consultancy ValuStrat saying the Dubai real estate market had a good chance of starting to recover in the second half of 2016, although many other analysts think property prices have further to fall. Dubai's main stock index added 0.6 percent yesterday. Abu Dhabi's index climbed by the same margin with support from large-caps; Aldar Properties, the largest listed property developer in Abu Dhabi, jumped 4.3 percent. — Reuters



# LEBANON'S CENTRAL BANK PLEDGES STABILITY AMID POLITICAL PARALYSIS

## SYRIAN CONFLICT, POLITICAL PARALYSIS DRAG ON GROWTH

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's central bank chief said he will ensure local banks comply with a US law targeting Hezbollah's finances, weeks after a bomb attack at a major Lebanese lender that had begun closing accounts linked to the militant group. Riad Salameh said the US law must be enforced to keep Lebanon's banks within the global financial system and stabilize the hugely indebted economy as neighboring Syria's civil war hits tourism and growth.

"Of course this (law) has created a lot of tension in the country, and the tension was not good for Lebanon, but overall we have preserved the objectives that we had in mind," he said. Passed in December, the law threatens to bar from the US financial market any bank that knowingly engages with Hezbollah, designated a terrorist organization by the United States. It has led to a standoff between the central bank and Hezbollah, which views it as a breach of sovereignty.

Salameh and the US Treasury have repeatedly said the Hezbollah Financing Prevention Act is not designed to hurt Lebanon's economy or to unjustly prevent members of Lebanon's Shiite community from accessing banking services. Hezbollah, whose fighters played a major role in forcing Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon in 2000, enjoys strong support among Lebanese Shiites. Its members include government ministers, MPs, and local councilors. Salameh would not comment on how many accounts had been closed so far, or how many were under investigation.

"The process is being respected by the banks and a Special Investigations Commission is look-

ing individually at every request to close accounts that they deem are in contradiction with the law," Salameh said. With government debt of 136.7 percent of GDP in 2015, the third-highest among countries rated by Fitch, confidence in Lebanon's central bank—seen as one of the only effective institutions in the weak state—is vitally important. "The banking sector in Lebanon is the cornerstone of stability in the country," said Salameh, who took office in 1993, making him currently the world's second longest-serving central bank head after Uzbekistan. "Lebanon is funded by its banking sector only."

**Cost of war**  
Battered by regional instability and a huge refugee burden Lebanon's traditional economic resilience is being put under ever increasing strain. Salameh forecasts growth of 1.5 to 2 percent for 2016, in line with a World Bank projection of 1.8 percent but far below the 8-9 percent growth rates seen in the years before 2011. Political paralysis that has kept the post-president vacant for over two years is also testing confidence in the country and curbing foreign direct investment (FDI). FDI, a key source of foreign exchange, dropped to about 5 percent of GDP in 2015, compared to 12.5 percent of GDP in 2009, according to central bank and World Bank data.

"The Syrian presence ... in terms of displaced population has created costs for Lebanon which is reflected in the economy," Salameh said. "It has also created less consumption and investment ... because many Gulf citizens don't come anymore

to shop in Beirut or to buy real estate in Lebanon due to the war in Syria." Fitch cut Lebanon's credit rating to B- from B last week, citing political risks and the deepening toll Syria's civil war is having on Lebanon's economy and politics. It was last rated B- in 2006, during the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

Laws to allow oil and gas exploration, which could raise revenues to help cut the deficit, or public-private partnerships to revive crumbling public services, have been stalled by the political impasse that has also left the presidency vacant. "Lebanon needs to put its act together (on reforms)," Salameh said. "The time we are wasting is costly." He said the central bank will keep stabilizing the economy for "as long as it takes" for the government to become more effective, pass a budget and tackle the structural deficit. "The other scenario is not good for Lebanon and it is much more costly than the costs we are incurring as a central bank to maintain confidence of the markets."

Confidence in the central bank remains high and should ensure Lebanon can continue to fund itself, he added. "You can see that from the stability we are witnessing in interest rates charged on Lebanese debt that are much lower than comparable rated countries in the world," Salameh said.

"I think this confidence has been preserved. We didn't see pressure to change Lebanese pounds into foreign currencies. This year we expect growth in (bank) deposits by almost 5 percent. "Of course, we would have been much happier if there were not ... these laws that create tension in our market." — Reuters

# KFH NAMES 7 WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named 7 winners of the first draw of the new banking cards campaign themed "Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUVs and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are: Tahani Almutairi, Mohammad Alharbi, Meshal Alajmi, Dalal Althuwaini, Saad AlZuabi, Abdullah Alduraie and Mohammad Aldasoqi. For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will gain a chance to enter a draw and win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz cars and a chance to win the value of their purchases up to \$2000 daily for 100 days ending October 11th 2016. It is worth noting that KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used in international purchases are eligible for the daily draw.

Moreover, clients will gain the chance to enter 2 draws to win 2 Mercedes-Benz cars. The first draw will be for the first car Mercedes Benz GLE 400. This draw will be held after 50 days of the launch for purchasing transactions conducted from day 1 to day 50, while the second draw will be for the second car Mercedes Benz GLE 450 Coupe, and will be held after 100 days of the launch for purchasing conducted from day 51 to day 100 of the campaign.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster the bank's pioneering position in the



field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, while benefitting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence, especially that it dominates the largest market share in the

field of banking cards. KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.

# ADIA TO REMAIN AS A LONG-TERM INVESTOR

**ABU DHABI:** Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), one of the world's biggest sovereign wealth funds, said yesterday it would remain a patient, long-term investor despite a drop in its returns last year due to slowing global growth. In US dollar terms, the 20-year annualized rate of return on ADIA's portfolio fell to 6.5 percent in 2015 from 7.4 percent the year before, the fund said in its annual review.

The 30-year rate of return slipped to 7.5 percent from 8.4 percent. The drop was mainly the result of strong returns in the mid-1980s and 1990s falling out of the rolling averages, and the recent returns were consistent with historical levels, the review added.

"Against a backdrop of slowing global growth, ADIA's investment strategy will remain

focused on identifying long-term trends and patiently growing capital," Managing Director Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan said. Now in its 40th year, and headquartered in the oil-rich capital of the United Arab Emirates, ADIA invests across more than two dozen asset classes globally. It does not disclose the total size of its assets, but the U.S.-based Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute, which tracks the industry, estimates them at \$792 billion.

ADIA continued to reduce the proportion of its assets managed by external fund managers last year, to 60 percent, by strengthening its in-house capabilities, the review said. In 2013, external fund managers managed 75 percent of ADIA's assets and in 2014, 65 percent. Also, ADIA reduced the proportion of its

assets invested in passively managed or index-replicating strategies to 50 percent in 2015 from 55 percent in the previous year.

While the review gave few financial details of ADIA's investments in different asset classes, it said the fund expanded its real estate and infrastructure portfolio.

Key acquisitions in 2015 included assets in the US warehouse market, a 50 percent stake in Germany's motorway services group Tank & Rast, and Transgrid, an electricity transmission business in New South Wales, Australia. Last year also saw the completion of a direct investment by ADIA in ReNew Power, one of India's largest clean energy companies. — Reuters

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	18,516.55	18,533.05	16.50	▲	6.36
NASDAQ	5,079.59	5,055.79	-23.80	▲	0.97
S&P 500	2,161.74	2,166.89	5.15	▲	6.02
Financial Times	6,655.42	6,668.03	-27.39	▼	-0.41
DAX	10,063.13	9,943.62	-119.51	▼	-1.19
CAL 40	4,357.74	4,311.47	-46.27	▼	-1.06
Swiss	8,161.60	8,082.65	-78.95	▼	-0.97
Nikkei 225	16,497.85	16,773.31	275.46	▲	-12.14
Totxk	1,317.10	1,331.39	14.29	▲	1.08
Hang Seng	21,803.18	21,673.20	-129.98	▼	-0.60
Straits Times	2,928.76	2,919.54	-9.22	▼	0.31

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	5,380.45	5,370.83	-9.62	▼	-0.18
Saudi Arabia	6,681.97	6,652.54	-29.43	▼	0.11
Dubai	3,535.20	3,526.16	-9.04	▼	-0.26
Abu Dhabi	4,586.05	4,583.41	-2.64	▼	0.06
Bahrain	1,164.03	1,162.56	-1.47	▼	-0.13
Qatar	10,585.08	10,648.58	63.50	▲	0.60
Oman	5,843.77	5,839.28	-4.49	▼	-0.08
Lebanon	1,157.11	1,154.70	-2.41	▼	0.66
Jordan	2,112.57	2,117.34	4.77	▲	-1.11
Egypt	7,628.64	7,606.86	-21.78	▼	0.29
Morocco	9,784.18	9,763.59	-20.59	▼	-0.21
Tunisia	5,379.65	5,374.46	-5.19	▼	0.10

Currency	Kuwait Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.2930	3.2916	2.9767	2.9767	3.2350	349.18	1.3912
Saudi Riyal	0.08135		0.2678	0.2421	0.2032	0.2632	28.40	0.3572
US Dollar	0.30380	3.7346		0.9043	0.7588	0.9878	106.08	1.3340
Euro	0.33594	4.1297	1.1058		0.8393	1.0871	117.34	1.4762
Sterling Pound	0.40038	4.9718	1.3179	1.1915		1.2956	139.84	1.7585
Swiss Franc	0.30912	3.8000	1.0175	0.9199	0.7718		107.96	1.3574
Japanese Yen	0.00286	0.0352	0.0094	0.0085	0.0072	0.0093		0.0126
Australian Dollar	0.22773	2.7995	0.7496	0.6774	0.5687	0.7367	79.52	

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwait Dinar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Omani Riyal	Qatari Riyal	Emirati Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30380	3.7346	0.3745	3.6270	0.3832	3.6573	8.7700
Kuwait Dinar	1.2916		12.2930	1.2377	11.9388	1.2617	12.0385	28.8677
Saudi Riyal	0.2678	0.08135		0.1003	0.9712	0.1026	0.9793	2.3483
Bahraini Dinar	2.6702	0.81121	0.9722		0.6849	1.0731	0.7658	23.4179
Omani Riyal	0.2757	0.08376	1.0297	0.1033		0.1056	1.0084	2.4180
Omani Riyal	2.6099	0.79290	0.7471	0.9774	0.4663		0.5453	22.8892
Emirati Dirham	0.2734	0.08307	1.0211	0.1024	0.9917	0.1048		2.3979
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03464	0.4258	0.0477	0.4136	0.0437	0.4170	

Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
Kuwait Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.91
US Dollar	0.43	0.48	0.69	1.00	5055.00
Euro	-0.38	-0.36	0.30	0.19	0.06
Sterling Pound	0.48	0.48	0.52	0.61	0.83
Swiss Franc	-0.81	-0.80	0.76	0.76	0.55
Australian Dollar	1.84	1.90	1.75	1.69	1.61
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.87	0.88	1.02	1.11

Country	2-Year	3-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.67	1.10	1.55	2.27
Europe	0.67	0.97	0.91	0.49
United Kingdom	0.16	0.38	0.80	1.66

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	11.35	11.41	0.06	▲	0.15
Brent	45.31	45.42	0.11	▲	17.04
West Texas	45.28	45.18	-0.10	▼	-0.22
Gold	1348.39	1341.20	-7.19	▼	-0.21
Silver	20.02	19.97	-0.05	▼	-0.26

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>		
Japanese Yen	2.872	
Indian Rupees	4.517	
Pakistani Rupees	2.895	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083	
Nepali Rupees	2.827	
Singapore Dollar	225.810	
Hongkong Dollar	39.096	
Bangladesh Taka	3.865	
Philippine Peso	6.485	
Thai Baht	8.680	
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>		
Saudi Riyal	80.883	
Qatari Riyal	83.317	
UAE Dirham	787.812	
Bahraini Dinar	805.500	
UAE Dirham	82.580	
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.950	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.530	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218	
Tunisian Dinar	138.110	
Jordanian Dinar	427.970	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.021	
Syrian Lira	2.0162	
Morocco Dirham	31.447	
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>		
US Dollar Transfer	303.150	
Euro	337.100	

Sterling Pound	403.190	
Canadian dollar	235.270	
Turkish lira	105.330	
Swiss Franc	310.290	
Australian Dollar	231.910	
US Dollar Buying	301.950	
<b>GOLD</b>		
20 Gram	268.660	
10 Gram	137.250	
5 Gram	69.470	
<b>DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD</b>		
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate	
US Dollar	303.600	
Canadian Dollar	233.305	
Sterling Pound	398.710	
Euro	335.315	
Swiss Frank	300.275	
Bahrain Dinar	802.590	
UAE Dirhams	82.890	
Qatari Riyals	84.105	
Saudi Riyals	81.680	
Jordanian Dinar	428.015	
Egyptian Pound	34.092	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.082	
Indian Rupees	4.515	
Pakistani Rupees	2.893	
Bangladesh Taka	3.865	
Philippines Peso	6.464	
Cyprus pound	159.996	
Japanese Yen	3.855	
Syrian Pound	2.401	
Nepalese Rupees	3.815	

Malaysian Ringgit	76.090	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.735	
Thai Bhat	9.635	
Turkish Lira	100.040	
<b>BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY</b>		
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate	
British Pound	0.394287	0.409287
Czech Korune	0.004384	0.016384
Danish Krone	0.040991	0.045991
Euro	0.031786	0.036986
Norwegian Krone	0.031786	0.036986
Romanian Leu	0.074681	0.074681
Slovakia	0.009039	0.019039
Swedish Krona	0.031366	0.036366
Swiss Franc	0.301598	0.312598
Turkish Lira	0.099566	0.109866
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.221703	0.233703
New Zealand Dollar	0.208613	0.218113
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.228640	0.237640
Georgina Lari	0.136895	0.136895
US Dollars	0.299000	0.304000
US Dollars Mint	0.299500	0.304000
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003393	0.003977
Chinese Yuan	0.043974	0.047474
Hong Kong Dollar	0.039750	0.039750
Indian Rupee	0.004372	0.004782

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002788	0.002968
Kenyan Shilling	0.002984	0.002984
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072364	0.078364
Nepalese Rupee	0.002858	0.003028
Pakistan Rupee	0.002726	0.003016
Philippine Peso	0.006377	0.006677
Sierra Leone	0.000052	0.000058
Singapore Dollar	0.219183	0.229183
South African Rand	0.015062	0.023562
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001676	0.002256
Taiwan	0.009358	0.009358
Thai Baht	0.008354	0.008904
<b>Arab</b>		





CARDIFF: British Prime Minister Theresa May (left) and the First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones, pose for a photograph ahead of their meeting at the Senedd, the National Assembly for Wales building, in Cardiff, south Wales. — AFP

# BANK OF ENGLAND SEES 'NO CLEAR' EVIDENCE OF SHARP BREXIT HIT YET

## JOBLESS RATE HITS NEW 10-YEAR LOW IN RUN-UP TO VOTE

**LONDON:** The Bank of England said yesterday it had seen no clear signs yet of a sharp economic slowdown after last month's vote to leave the European Union, raising questions over how aggressively it will act to boost the economy when it meets next month. The BoE's regional agents, who speak regularly with companies, said business uncertainty had risen markedly but most firms did not plan to cut hiring or investment.

"As yet, there was no clear evidence of a sharp general slowing in activity," the report said. A Reuters poll yesterday showed economists saw an average 60 percent chance that the British economy will suffer a recession in the coming year and most expect the BoE will cut rates on Aug 4. With no hard data yet published on the impact of the Brexit vote on the economy, investors are taking their cue from any fresh signs of what might be going on.

Sterling jumped almost a cent against the US dollar as the BoE report struck a less downbeat tone than other surveys which have shown falls in business and consumer confidence. "This is the coal face and engine room of an economy, and it matters a lot to us what they do. I am not surprised to see sterling rally and rate cut expectations pushed back," said Neil Jones, London-based head of hedge fund FX sales at Japanese bank Mizuho. Last week the British central bank surprised markets by keeping interest rates on hold, rather than cutting them to a record low.

But it also said most of its policymakers expected to approve a stimulus package at their Aug. 4 meeting. As well as a rate cut, this could also mean a resumption of bond purchases and other measures to boost bank lending. On Friday the central bank's chief economist, Andy Haldane, said he was willing to use a "sledgehammer to crack a nut" in cushioning any slowdown. But another policymaker, Martin Weale, said the case for action in August had not yet been made. The report also dented demand at an auction of 1.5 billion pounds (\$1.97 billion) of 20-year government debt.

### Hit still to come?

Yesterday's report leaves open the risk that the full impact of the Brexit vote is yet to be felt. Earlier this month the BoE said it expected the economy to slow markedly as a result of the decision to leave the EU, and on Tuesday the International Monetary Fund cut its growth forecast for Britain next year to 1.3 percent from 2.2 percent.

Many firms told the BoE they were reviewing their strategy in light of the unexpected outcome of the vote and about a third expected to cut hiring or investment over the next 12 months. "There were a few reports of planned foreign direct inward investment being postponed," the report said. "A number of companies were considering alternative European locations for aspects of their business, and some contacts within large international firms expected their continental European operations to receive a greater share of future investment than their UK ones," it added. The BoE has estimated Britain's economy was growing roughly in line with its

long-run average before the June 23 EU vote. Data yesterday showed the unemployment rate dropped to its lowest since 2005, at 4.9 percent in the three months to May.

The BoE report contrasted with a survey of British households, published by financial data company Markit yesterday, which showed households at their gloomiest about the economic outlook in two-and-a-half years. Figures on Monday from accountants Deloitte showed four out of five chief financial officers of large British companies planned to reduce investment in the year ahead, and were at their most pessimistic since the 2008 financial crisis. — Reuters

## NEW BRITISH FINANCE MINISTER TO FACE BREXIT GRILLING AT G20

### G20 PARTNERS SEEK CLARITY ON UK PLANS

**LONDON:** Britain's new finance minister Philip Hammond will this week face calls from anxious peers around the world to explain how his country can pull off a smooth exit from the European Union and minimize the damage to the fragile global economy. A month after the Brexit shock hammered markets and added to the prospect of more stimulus from major central banks, Hammond will attend a July 23-24 meeting of finance chiefs from the Group of 20 leading economies in the Chinese city of Chengdu. There, the former foreign minister is likely to come under pressure to provide clarity on Britain's strategy for leaving the EU and negotiating a new trade deal.

The process is likely to take years and could put fresh strains on Europe's economy, which has barely recovered from the euro zone debt crisis. US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew visited Britain twice last week, as the country changed prime ministers as well as finance ministers, to say a deal that tightly bound Britain and the EU was "in the best interests of Europe, of the United States and the global economy." A Canadian finance ministry official said Brexit and its implications for public support for international trade would dominate the G20 gathering.

The shock "Leave" victory in Britain's June 23 EU membership referendum has underscored the deep dissatisfaction among many voters in rich countries with the globalised economy. That is something that the anti-free trade US Republican candidate Donald Trump hopes will boost his chances in November's

presidential election. It also adds to the challenge for the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors to steer the world economy out of a slow-growth rut that has lasted since the financial crisis. Hammond said on Tuesday the Bank of England would take the first steps to help steer the economy through its Brexit shock, and possible budget measures would not come until later this year.

### Forces of division

The International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday it had been planning to raise its forecasts for global growth until Brexit threw "a spanner in the works" and prompted the Fund to trim its forecasts. It said the outlook would be a lot worse if Britain failed to strike a friendly deal with the EU. "Brexit is symptomatic of a broader threat to the global economy," Lena Komileva, managing director of G+ Economics, a consultancy. "The forces of division are threatening the forces of cohesion and that makes coordinating growth policies harder."

George Magnus, a senior economic adviser to UBS, said Hammond - who supported Britain staying in the EU - would be pressed to provide some of the missing detail behind new Prime Minister Theresa May's promise that "Brexit means Brexit." "There will be a strong interest on the part of the Europeans and with varying degrees the US, China and India and other important countries, who will want an idea of the dynamic implications that Brexit might have for the EU itself," he said. — Reuters

## STERLING SLIDE POUNDS EUROTUNNEL OUTLOOK

**PARIS:** Eurotunnel, which manages the rail link under the Channel, lowered yesterday its earnings targets due the fall in the value of the pound but said that Brexit would not harm long-term growth.

Sales fell 10.3 percent to 581.8 million euros (\$639.2 million), although three-quarters of this was due to the shutting down of its ferry service MyFerryLink, the company said. The rest was attributable to the value of the pound, which had already slid before the vote by Britain to leave the European Union in June, after which it collapsed to a 31-year low against the dollar before recovering slightly.

But Eurotunnel said its analysts "have concluded that the potential impact of this decision is not likely to affect the long term sustainable growth of the Channel Tunnel's activity..." "During the 22 years that the Tunnel has been in operation, sterling has experienced significant fluctuations against the euro without hindering the general trend of traffic growth," it added. It also said Brexit would be unlikely to have a major impact on travel formalities as Britain had never belonged to the passport-free travel zone in Europe, while "commercial relations between London and the Continent are strong and durable".

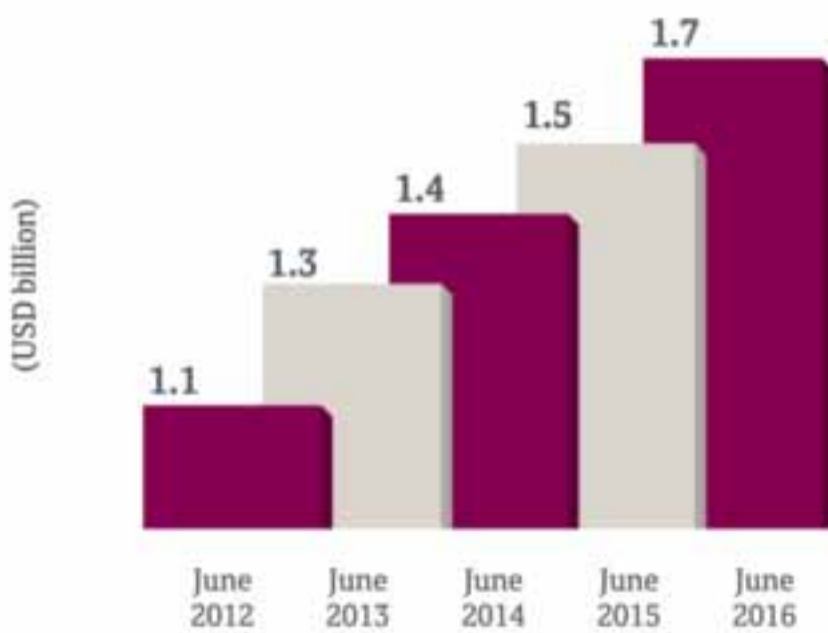
### 'Financial market uncertainty'

Chief executive Jacques Gounon said that "despite the financial market uncertainty generated by the United Kingdom voting to leave the European Union, the Group remains confident in the performance of its economic model and in its outlook". Operating profit as measured by earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) slid 1.3 percent to 248.7 million euro, although it would have grown 3.6 percent if exchange rates were held constant. But the company lowered its 2016 EBITDA target from 560 million euros 535 million euros.

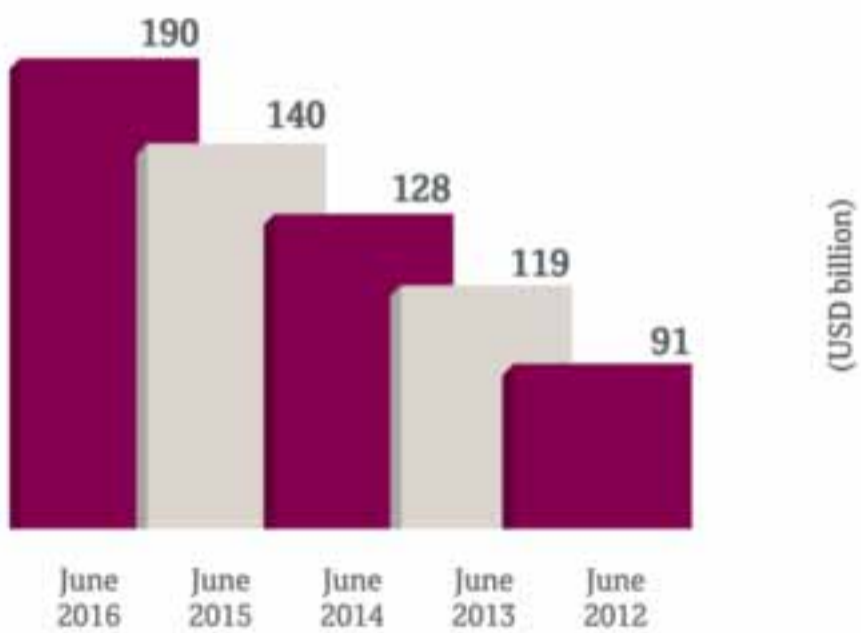
However that new target is based on the pound being worth 1.27 euros, while yesterday morning it traded around 1.19 euros. Net profits in the first half of the year came in at 59.8 million euros, a jump of 53 percent, as the ferry operations no longer weighed on the bottom line. Gounon told journalists "we aren't seeing any slowdown in reservations for this summer".

The company said the March terror attacks in Brussels that left 32 dead and strikes in Belgium and France had led to a decline in traffic on the Eurostar high-speed passenger service of just 3 percent. Gounon pointed to increasing traffic of lorries on the Truck Shuttle service, but the migrant crisis appeared to still have a strong effect on rail freight, which fell 43 percent by volume. Eurotunnel's shares were down 1 percent in morning trading while the main index on the Paris stock exchange was up 0.7 percent. — AFP

Net Profit US\$1.7 billion, up by 12% on June 2015



Total Assets US\$190 billion, up by 36% on June 2015



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# TECH EARNINGS LIFT EUROPEAN SHARES

## SHARES RISE IN HONG KONG, AUSTRALIA, INDIA

**LONDON:** Forecast-beating earnings in the tech sector lifted European shares yesterday and the dollar strengthened on growing expectations the US Federal Reserve may raise interest rates before the end of the year. Oil prices edged up before US data that may signal whether a supply glut in the top consuming country was easing, while the stronger dollar weighed on commodity prices.

Wall Street looked set to open higher, according to index futures. The pan-European STOXX 600 share index rose 0.9 percent, led by the technology sector after SAP, Europe's largest software group, and ASML Holding, a supplier to semiconductor makers, reported quarterly results that beat forecasts.

The tech sector has been in focus this week

since Japan's Softbank agreed to buy Britain's chip designer ARM for \$32 billion. The STOXX 600 technology index was up 2.5 percent on the day and nearly 10 percent since the start of last week, heading for its biggest two-week gain in more than seven years. "So far, European earnings have been better than expected, with investors focusing on company guidance to form a view on the market's like-

ly direction," Christian Stocker, equity strategist at UniCredit in Munich, said.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan edged up 0.3 percent, having reached its highest in almost nine months last week. Shares rose in Hong Kong, Australia, India and much of Southeast Asia, but retreated in South Korea and China. Japan's Nikkei fell 0.3 percent, on track for its first decline in seven days. Investors' risk appetite, which has recovered rapidly from the Brexit shock in late June, received a sobering reminder after the International Monetary Fund cut its global growth forecasts for the next two years on Tuesday, citing uncertainty over Britain's looming exit from the European Union.

However, strong US housing starts data on Tuesday, which led investors to assign a greater probability to the Fed raising interest rates this year, lifted the dollar to a four-month high against a basket of its peers. The dollar index hit its highest since March 10 before pulling back to stand up 0.1 percent on the day. The euro fell 0.1 percent to 1.0662 per dollar. "The dollar is now being supported by rising US rate expectations. The likelihood of a Fed rate hike before the end of the year that is being priced in by the markets has almost

returned to the levels seen before the EU referendum," said Thu Lan Nguyen, currency strategist at Commerzbank.

Sterling, meanwhile, recovered all its earlier losses against the US currency after a Bank of England survey showed no clear evidence of a slowdown in economic activity since the Brexit vote. The pound, which fell 1 percent on Tuesday, rose a full cent to \$1.3186 after the survey was published. It was last at \$1.3180, up 0.5 percent on the day. Oil prices edged up before the latest weekly US crude inventory numbers. Brent crude, the international benchmark, was up 22 cents a barrel at \$46.88.

### Tarnished metals

The price of copper, the worst-performing commodity so far this year, fell as the stronger dollar prompted investors to take profits on earlier gains. London copper fell 0.8 percent to \$4,946.50. Gold also fell and last stood at about \$1,326 an ounce, down 0.5 percent on the day. In debt markets, German 10-year government bond yields held steady at minus 0.09 percent. Germany sold 3.4 billion euros of new five-year bonds at a record low yield at auction of minus 0.51 percent. The bonds carried a zero percent coupon and drew investor bids worth less than the amount on offer. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Wednesday 20 July 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price Index	▲ 8.38	5,379.21	5,370.83	5,379.21	5,366.85	Volume	103,727,940			
Weighted Index	▲ 3.50	362.01	348.51	362.01	348.51	Value (KWD)	8,212,745			
KSX 15	▲ 11.79	812.32	800.53	812.32	800.53	Number of Trades	2,413			

Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change			
MARIN	95	94	37,000	3,520	9	95	▲ 1.0			
HARUS	40.0	39.0	275,328	10,907	11	40.0	▲ 1.0			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	— 0.0			
NAFESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	— 0.0			
ENERGYH	48.5	48.0	161,645	7,569	15	48.5	▲ 1.5			
GPI	41.3	39.5	5,167,865	236,500	75	49.5	▲ 0.5			
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	— 0.0			
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>5,841,838</b>	<b>230,496</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>789.21</b>	<b>▲ 7.65</b>			
KFCUC	166	164	7,765	1,289	2	164	▼ 2.0			
BCC	500	500	50,572	45,286	2	500	▲ 5.0			
ALKUCIT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	— 0.0			
ALQURAN	162	160	19,967	3,815	7	162	▲ 2.0			
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>118,305</b>	<b>59,389</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>957.98</b>	<b>▲ 3.35</b>			
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	— 0.0			
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	306	— 0.0			
CABLE	365	360	155,075	53,744	24	360	▼ 5.0			
SHIP	162	156	21,890	3,455	6	162	▼ 2.0			
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	940	— 0.0			
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0.0			
MRC	62	62	10,000	620	1	62	▲ 3.0			
ACICO	265	265	3,939	1,044	3	265	▲ 10.0			
GSMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0			
HCC	130	130	2,000	260	1	130	▼ 10.0			
KEMMC	220	220	1,000	220	1	220	▼ 10.0			
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	— 0.0			
EQUIPMENT	64	61	2,363,446	148,386	62	61	▼ 2.0			
NOCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	— 0.0			
GYPBUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0			
SALBOOKH	66	64	614,277	39,822	44	64	▼ 3.0			
AGLTY	475	470	145,355	69,038	7	475	— 0.0			
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0			
CLEANING	43.0	39.5	637,450	25,480	6	39.5	▲ 0.5			
KGL	45.0	45.0	2,500	113	3	45.0	▼ 0.5			
KQPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	— 0.0			
HUMANISOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,400	— 0.0			
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	— 0.0			
SAPWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	— 0.0			
SFC	30.0	27.0	5,000	141	4	27.0	▼ 2.0			
MAYADEEN	27.0	28.5	3,024,811	89,158	32	27.0	▲ 0.5			
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	— 0.0			
MITC	60	59	244,290	14,400	9	59	▼ 1.0			
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	— 0.0			
ALAFCO	200	200	38,750	7,750	5	200	▼ 0.0			
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	— 0.0			
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	— 0.0			
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0			
GCEN	76	76	50,000	3,800	2	76	▲ 1.0			
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	— 0.0			
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	76	— 0.0			
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	— 0.0			
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	77	— 0.0			
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>7,312,814</b>	<b>453,491</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1051.64</b>	<b>▼ 3.96</b>			
KSH	170	170	2,510	427	2	170	▲ 10.0			
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0			
PAPCO	106	104	250	26	2	106	▼ 2.0			
CATL	210	200	619,302	106,231	23	206	▼ 4.0			
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	— 0.0			
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	— 0.0			
FOOD	2,480	2,460	120,615	296,713	13	2,480	▲ 20.0			
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>642,677</b>	<b>402,397</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1199.23</b>	<b>▲ 38.6</b>			
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0.0			
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0.0			
YACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230	— 0.0			
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1027.79</b>	<b>— 0.00</b>			
KCIN	1,480	1,480	800	885	2	1,480	▼ 160			
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0.0			
SULTAN	56	57	78,478	4,475	8	58	— 0.0			
CABLETV	20.0	20.0	500	10	1	20.0	▲ 3			
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0.0			
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	— 0.0			
DULAFUEL	110	110	9,522	1,047	8	110	— 0.0			
MUNTAZAHAT	88	88	8,510	784	1	88	▼ 1			
JAZERA	850	860	246,195	213,461	13	890	— 0.0			
SOOR	112	110	20,621	2,308	9	112	— 0.0			
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0			
ALRA	162	162	4,850	785	1	162	— 0.0			
ZIMAH	42.5	41.5	4,042,740	158,416	118	41.5	▼ 1			
LFIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0.0			
Muzaff	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,100	— 0.0			
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>4,412,385</b>	<b>392,175</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>971.19</b>	<b>▼ 5.84</b>			
ZAIN	336	325	1,110,767	338,984	47	336	▲ 19			
COREDOO	1,100	1,100	518	670	1	1,100	— 0.0			
HITSTELEC	40.0	39.5	5,049,826	230,884	91	40.0	▲ 1			
VIVA	630	630	23,163	2,542	30	630	— 0.0			
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>6,184,307</b>	<b>591,980</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>691.51</b>	<b>▲ 5.29</b>			
NSK	600	590	719,798	425,366	28	600	▲ 19			
GBK	238	234	982,553	231,527	38	236	▲ 4			
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	— 0.0			
ABK	330	330	1	0	1	330	▲ 19			
ALMUTAHED	400	395	1,672	660	4	395	— 0.0			
KIB	188	184	759,150	148,038	16	186	— 0.0			
BURG	330	325	3,091,163	999,076	45	330	▲ 5			
KFIN	455	450	616,591	277,723	33	455	▲ 19			
BOUBYAN	365	360	611,437	195,599	29	360	— 0.0			
AUB	162	150	372,600	73,874	10	162	▲ 2			
ITHMR	35.0	34.5	261,350	19,062	10	34.5	▼ 1			
VARBANK	172	170	358,223	81,298	68	170	▼ 2			
<b>Banks</b>			<b>7,714,848</b>	<b>2,420,785</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>799.24</b>	<b>▲ 6.34</b>			
KINS	260	260	2,520	847	1	260	— 0.0			
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	— 0.0			
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	— 0.0			
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	— 0.0			
KUNAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0			
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0			
WIETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	— 0.0			
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0			
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>2,920</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1025.82</b>	<b>— 0.00</b>			

Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KWD)	Trades	Last	Change			
SOKOUK	34.5	34.0	387,000	13,327	13	34.0	— 0.0			
KRE	50	52	846,545	28,421	5	63	▲ 1.0			
URC	110	66	87,500	9,545	14	110	▲ 10.0			
NRE	78	77	3,351,925	251,517	65	77	▼ 4.0			
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	500	69	1	138	▲ 6.0			
MASSALEH	0.0	0.								



## CHINA'S WANDA TO SELL CONTENTIOUS MADRID LANDMARK

**MADRID:** China's property and entertainment giant Wanda has agreed to sell a historic Madrid skyscraper, a source close to negotiations said yesterday, after feuding with city authorities over plans to renovate the landmark. Wanda acquired the 25-storey Edificio Espana, completed in the 1950s under the dictatorship of General Francisco Franco, in June 2014 for 265 million euros (now \$292 million) and wanted to turn it into a hotel and shopping centre.

The group had reportedly planned to knock down the facade, re-model the interior and build it again with the same materials. But Madrid's left-wing town hall-elected last year insisted that the original facades of what it considers a building of historical importance be preserved, eventually prompting Wanda to get rid of the skyscraper.

According to the source, who wished to remain anonymous, Spanish investment group Baraka made an offer for the building above the 265 million euros Wanda paid for it. The source refused to say exactly how much Baraka had offered to pay, but added that both groups had reached an agreement on the sale, which, according to the El Pais daily, will not be finalized until September. Both



**MADRID:** Photo shows the Edificio Espana building, on the Plaza de Espana square, in Madrid. China's property and entertainment giant Wanda has finally agreed to sell the historic 25-storey Edificio Espana skyscraper after feuding with city authorities over plans to renovate the landmark building. — AFP

Baraka and property consultants JLL, tasked with selling the building, refused to comment when contacted by AFP.

Hugely imposing, the skyscraper dominates one end of the Plaza de Espana square in western Madrid and while it was a prized architectural jewel during Franco's brutal rule, residents of the capital are hugely attached to a building few associate with the dictator. It has stood empty since 2006 - a symbol of the 2008 real estate collapse that thrust Spain into a damaging economic crisis.

Wanda, owned by one of China's richest men Wang Jianlin, has been on a high-profile overseas acquisition spree in recent years, such as the \$3.5-billion purchase of Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment in January.

The group has also bought the organizer of Ironman extreme endurance contests, Swiss sports marketing group Infront, and a stake in Spanish football club Atletico Madrid, which reached the Champions League final this year. It burst into the international spotlight in 2012 by buying US cinema chain AMC Entertainment for \$2.6 billion. Wang's group also owns more than 200 malls, shopping complexes and luxury hotels across China. — AFP

### News

in brief

#### Greece repays \$2.5 billion to European Central Bank

**ATHENS:** Greece repaid yesterday 2.3 billion euros (\$2.5 billion) to the European Central Bank, a source with knowledge of the matter said. The sum, representing one of Greece's largest debt milestones this year, was repaid thanks to EU bailout cash. Greece last month received 7.5 billion euros from its European creditors, part of a three-year, 86-billion-euro rescue accepted by the leftist government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras last year. The 2015 agreement was the product of fraught negotiations that took months and nearly saw Greece kicked out of the euro. The June bailout payment was clinched after the leftist government grudgingly adopted a number of fiscal measures demanded by its creditors, including tax hikes and a mechanism to slash spending in case of budget overruns. The European Stability Mechanism-the body controlling Greece's bailout loans-has said that another 2.8 billion will be available once additional reforms are delivered.

#### Midea secures near-86% stake in Germany's Kuka

**SHANGHAI:** Chinese appliance giant Midea said yesterday it has secured almost 86 percent of German industrial robotics supplier Kuka, giving it overwhelming control despite controversy in Europe over its multi-billion-euro offer. Midea offered 115 euros per share for Kuka in June, valuing the firm-one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial robots-at 4.6 billion euros (\$5.1 billion). By Friday the offer had been accepted for 72.18 percent of Kuka stock, according to a statement posted by Midea on its website. Midea already held a 13.51 percent stake in Kuka, giving it a total of 85.69 percent, it said. Midea, best known for selling washing machines and air conditioners, caused a stir with its play for the high-profile technology firm. The Kuka deal has raised concerns in Europe about the transfer of advanced technology to China. European media reported that officials in Brussels and Berlin oppose a Chinese takeover of the firm-allegations denied by Germany. The powerful IG Metall trade union has also sought to find different buyers for Kuka shares, pushing for a 25.1 percent stake previously owned by technology company Voith to remain in German hands.

#### Wizz Air cuts growth plans, blames Brexit

**LONDON:** Hungarian budget airline Wizz Air yesterday cut back its British expansion plans and blamed Brexit and the subsequent slump in sterling. The group announced it was "halving" its plans for second-half growth in Britain "as a direct result of Brexit and the weaker British pound". The news, contained in Wizz Air's quarterly results statement, came after the pound tumbled in the wake of Britain's shock EU exit referendum. "The UK's decision to leave the European Union has led to a notable weakness in fares-in euro terms-on routes to/from the UK, mainly due to the much weaker British pound," a company spokesman said. "Wizz Air has already started re-adjusting its network due to this weakness and halving its intended second half growth to the UK and re-deploying this capacity to other non-UK routes." The budget carrier had previously intended to increase its capacity to/from Britain by 30 percent, but this will be trimmed to 15 percent. Plans for new routes would still go ahead but the frequency of flights will not be increased for the time being, according to the group.

#### Germany's SAP confirms outlook after strong Q2

**FRANKFURT:** German software giant SAP yesterday confirmed its full-year targets after strong growth in its cloud business propelled earnings and sales in the second quarter. SAP said in a statement that net profit soared by 73 percent to 813 million euros (\$896 million) in the period from April to June. The increase was partly attributable to the fact that the year-earlier figure had included restructuring costs. But the increase also reflected a strong operating performance with strong demand for its cloud products pushing up overall revenues by 5.4 percent to 5.237 billion euros. Cloud computing is a different way of delivering applications and services to companies and consumers. Programs are hosted in the internet "cloud" rather than on a client's server or computer and delivered via broadband connections, thus opening up many possibilities to tailor services to just what is needed and reducing the need for businesses to buy and maintain equipment. SAP said revenues in its cloud business grew by 30 percent to 720 million euros. "Our momentum couldn't be stronger," chief executive Bill McDermott boasted in a telephone news conference.

## KFC, APPLE IN CHINA HIT BY SOUTH CHINA SEA SPAT

### STATE MEDIA FANNING PUBLIC ANGER

**BEIJING:** To the challenges facing KFC and Apple in China, add a surprise backlash from Beijing's spat with the Philippines over the South China Sea. Nationalists are protesting at KFC outlets and calling for a boycott, spurred by government accusations that Washington encouraged Manila to oppose Beijing's claims to vast tracts of ocean. Photos circulated online show young Chinese wearing scarves with patriotic slogans smashing Apple iPhones in protest.

State media have fanned public anger with a torrent of criticism of last week's ruling by a UN tribunal, which found no legal basis for Beijing's claim to most of the South China Sea. "The Chinese public, as optimistic and positive as they are, are deeply patriotic and nationalistic, especially people who are younger," said James Roy of the research firm China Market Research Group.

KFC and Apple "are just very closely associated with the United States, and you are seeing people picking the closest symbol they can think of to demonstrate against." The protests are a reminder of the

political risks for global brands in China, where they regularly become targets of nationalist sentiment, often stirred up by official media. In 2012, sales of Japanese autos plunged when Tokyo and Beijing were in a dispute over control of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea.

The Chinese leadership has tried to tamp down this week's protests with demands in state media to leave foreign companies and their customers alone. "This is not the right way to express patriotism," said the government's Xinhua News Agency. The China Daily newspaper called the protests "jingoism that does a disservice to the spirit of devotion to the nation."

Some KFC customers have responded by posting photos of themselves online with a bucket of chicken, axes or other weapons and signs reading, "patriotic hooligans, try harassing me and I'll take you out." Phone calls to spokespeople for KFC in China and written messages sent through the company website weren't answered. A man in the eastern city of Yangzhou, northwest of Shanghai,

said he watched a protest Tuesday morning after seeing a note online appealing to people to take part. He said it also told protesters to boycott Japanese and Korean goods.

"A group of more than 20 people including children broke into the restaurant and shouted at customers to leave," the witness, Guo Lu, said by phone from Yangzhou. He said police arrived quickly and pushed the protesters out of the restaurant. The timing is unusually bad for KFC, which is China's biggest restaurant chain with more than 5,000 outlets but is overhauling its struggling business after a food scandal and marketing missteps. KFC's owner, Yum Brands Inc., is preparing to spin off its China unit, which also includes Pizza Hut restaurants, as a separate company in October in hopes of improving its performance.

KFC has long been an all-purpose target for protests about US issues, especially in areas outside big cities with few other foreign symbols. In 1999, after NATO jets bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, protesters wrecked KFC restaurants. The

company and other foreign chain restaurants in China also face an upheaval as customers migrate to fast-growing local competitors they say offer more nutritious meals. For its part, Apple has faced a series of legal hurdles this year in China, its second-biggest market. In April, it suspended its iBooks and iTunes Movies services, reportedly due to an order by Chinese regulators.

The next month, an intellectual property tribunal ordered Apple to stop selling its iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus in Beijing after finding they look too much like a model made by a small Chinese brand. Apple was allowed to continue sales while it appeals. Also in May, a court ruled a Chinese company is allowed to use the iPhone trademark on bags, wallets and other leather goods. An Apple spokeswoman responded to a request for comment by pointing to CEO Tim Cook's positive comments in April about the company's future in China. Cook said Apple was "really optimistic" and planned to open five more stores in China during the current quarter for a total of 40. — AP



### AL SAYER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE TOYOTA RAMADAN PROMOTION RAFFLE DRAWS

**T**oyota and Mohamed Naser Al Sayer (MNSS), one of the Al Sayer Group Holding Companies has announced names of the raffle draw winners conducted as part of the Ramadan promotion, in cooperation with Kuwait Finance House and Ahli United Bank. During the promotion period customers purchasing a new car grabbed the chance to win one of 8 Toyota Yaris Hatchbacks in addition to guaranteed gifts. Names of the 8 raffle draw winners are as below:

1. Meshal Ali SagheerAlenezi
2. Asrar Yousef Alqabandi
3. Ahmed Salem Mohammed Alhindawi
4. Abdullah Hindi MabkhotAlajmi
5. Ali Mohamed Salman Alshunaiti
6. Bader Salem Mohamed Elshamri
7. Mr. Abdulaziz Basam Bader Alshamri
8. Mr. Dalal Abdulla Mohammed Alsoualmi

According to Johan Heilsitz Senior Business Director Toyota MNSS "We are pleased to see the positive results



of this year's Ramadan promotion and I thank our valued customers for their participation. This is again a testimony of consistent efforts to make ever better cars that has enabled Toyota to retain the position of most automotive brand in the world. With Toyota Al Sayer Be Reassured - you are always guaranteed the best products, services and facilities and we are committed to making your journey smoother."

**With Toyota Everyone is a Winner:** Toyota Ramadan offers which ended on 7 July 2016 were from another dimension where customers picked their scratch & win coupon with every purchase to win a guaranteed prize including any of the following: up to 1500 liters fuel card, Canon IXUS 170 Camera, Perfume Gift Box or Caribou Coffee Voucher. Customers also benefitted from valuable Ramadan gift, 5 years open mileage warranty, service for 1 year or 20000 KM, courtesy car, 3rd party insurance, free registration, T-Connect service and convenient financing solutions.

### THREE KD 5,000 WINNERS IN NBK'S AL JAWHARA DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced three lucky winners in Al Jawhara weekly draws during the month of July. The draws were conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce Representatives. Dima Khaled Al Essa, Ayeshe Amash Al Azmi and Marzouq Falah Al Jassar each won KD 5,000. The winners expressed their gratitude and thanked NBK for its great services and promotions. NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to Al Jawhara Account enables customers to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing or transferring from Al Jawhara account. Al Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw. Al Jawhara accounts are available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.



## VW PROFIT TOPS FORECAST, BUT TAKES ANOTHER DIESELGATE HIT

**FRANKFURT:** Volkswagen said cost cutting and rising European car sales helped it to beat first-half underlying profit forecasts, though it set aside another 2.2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) to cover costs related to its "dieselgate" emissions scandal. Europe's biggest carmaker is battling to restore its reputation after admitting in September to fitting illegal software that could deactivate emissions controls on around 11 million diesel vehicles worldwide.

Some analysts said the stronger-than-expected results for the six months ended June were a sign a recovery might be taking hold, and Volkswagen (VW) shares jumped more than 5 percent after the news yesterday. "Today's press release is the start of a move in the right direction," said Barclays analysts, who have an "overweight" rating on VW shares. However, the German company also said it was taking another one-off hit of 2.2 billion euros, "mainly related to further legal risks predominantly arising in North America."

VW has already set aside about \$18 billion to cover the cost of its emissions cheating scandal, mainly vehicle refts and a settlement with US authorities, and analysts had

expected lawsuits and potential regulatory fines to increase that number. Three US states announced on Tuesday civil lawsuits against VW claiming senior executives covered up evidence that the carmaker had cheated emissions tests for years. DZ Bank kept its "sell" rating on VW shares yesterday, citing continued uncertainty surrounding the company, despite first-half results which it said signaled the second quarter performance was the company's best on record.

#### Turnaround hopes

In an unscheduled update ahead of interim results on July 28, VW said its first-half operating profit before one-off items rose 7 percent to 7.5 billion euros. Evercore ISI analyst Arndt Ellinghorst said that suggested second-quarter operating profit was about 1 billion euros higher than analysts' consensus forecast. Including one-off items, VW said its first-half operating profit dropped 22 percent to 5.3 billion euros. It said the improvement in operating performance was driven by its mass-market VW brand, its largest by sales, and helped by rising European car sales, cost cutting and a return of orders from large corporate fleets.

But it added tough economic conditions, particularly in South America and Russia, and volatile exchange rates remained challenges, and kept its forecast for a full-year decline in group revenues of up to 5 percent and an operating return on sales of 5-6 percent. Evercore ISI's Ellinghorst was particularly encouraged by the improvement at the VW brand, which has long been a weak spot for a group that makes cars ranging from upmarket Audis and Porsches to cheaper Seats and Skodas.

"We continue to believe that the market is complacent with respect to the amount and speed of change that the VW new management team is currently implementing," he said. VW is in the midst of a cost-cutting drive across the group aimed at making billions of euros of savings, with a particular focus at its namesake brand, whose profit margins have long lagged rivals such as Toyota. Analysts have said much could depend on ongoing talks between management and unions over the future of German plants, with VW's powerful unions pushing for fixed quotas on production, investment and output that could limit savings. — Reuters



## CHINA HYUNDAI DEALERS SEEK UP TO \$135 MILLION COMPENSATION

### DEALERS SAY AUTOMAKER REDUCED SUPPLY

**BEIJING:** A group of Hyundai Motor Co dealers in China is seeking 800 million-900 million yuan (\$120 million-135 million) in compensation from the South Korean automaker, saying Hyundai has cut the flow of models it exports to them, resulting in dealership losses and closures. The group's leader, Wang Rongzhen said yesterday that the automaker has scaled back the range of models it supplies to dealers in Hyundai imports in China, only consistently supplying one model, while steadily increasing car manufacturing in China.

"We sell cars, if you don't give us cars, naturally we won't be able to go on, we'll close," Wang said in an interview, estimating import dealers are losing between 3 million and 10 million yuan a year each. The group seeking compensation represents 30 of the roughly 40 remaining imported Hyundai dealers in the country. The Hyundai row is brewing as car

dealers in China, sure-fire moneymakers for decades, have had a troubled transition to slower growth in the world's biggest auto market in the last two years. Many dealers are looking to manufacturers for support in soaking up losses: Germany's BMW AG agreed to pay out \$820 million to cash-strapped dealers in early 2015.

According to the China Auto Dealers Chamber of Commerce, which is helping to organise the dealers, Hyundai's import-only dealer network has already halved in size since 2014. Hyundai said in a statement earlier this week it is keeping communications open in an effort to find "an amicable solution" with the import-only dealers, noting that import dealers account for less than 1 percent of its sales in China. The automaker sold about 1.1 million passenger vehicles in China in 2015.

It didn't immediately comment yesterday on the amount Wang said his group was seeking in

compensation. Wang said that the group of dealers has been meeting informally with Hyundai executives on and off since last month.

Currently, only the Velostar hatchback coupe is consistently available to Hyundai import dealers in China, Wang said, with the Genesis luxury sedan and a large version of the Sante Fe sport-utility vehicle being supplied irregularly. Hyundai has said the dealers can apply to become vendors of cars made in China by Beijing Hyundai, its joint venture with domestic automaker BAIC Motor Corp, but no import dealership has successfully done so, Wang said. Sales for Hyundai overall in China fell early this year because of its aging product portfolio but have rebounded since April, driven by the redesigned Elantra sedan. The company plans to finish building its fourth and fifth plant in China by next year. — Reuters

## NISSAN CHALLENGES FASTEST MAN ON EARTH, USAIN BOLT

**DUBAI:** Six-time Olympic gold medalist and Nissan Global Director of Excitement Usain Bolt has risen to numerous challenges on the track. Now, in Nissan's digital campaign, "Bolt v Flame," he faces an unprecedented challenger - fire. Released today across Nissan digital channels, a two-minute, documentary-style film shows Bolt being challenged in a fictional "Fire Research Laboratory" to contend against the speed of a flame. Bolt shares in the video what it feels like to be the fastest person on Earth and how he prepares to compete on the world's biggest stage, saying, "I set goals for myself. My goal is to be the greatest." The video, filmed in Bolt's home country of Jamaica, also shows the sprinter driving his custom Nissan GT-R painted in "Bolt Gold."

"Usain Bolt's daring attitude to always go further is inspiring. We wanted people to experience the inner strength of the most famous sprinter in history when posed with a challenge to reach even further. This is also an opportunity for fans to see Usain with his custom Nissan GT-R, which soon will be available in Brazil. To see the world's fastest man driving the world's fastest mass-produced car is exhilarating," said Ronaldo Znidarsis, VP Marketing & Sales, Nissan Brazil.

The Bolt v Flame film project is supported by a global social media tease campaign, featuring a series of 9.58 second videos and movie posters created from 19,000 actual matchsticks being lit on fire for dramatic effect.

Additional footage and behind-the-scenes videos featuring Bolt will be released over the next month. The campaign is being supported through a robust paid social effort across Brazil. Visit the Nissan Brazil YouTube and Facebook pages to watch Bolt vs. Flame.



## CASH CRUNCH HITS NIGERIA MASS WEDDINGS

**KANO:** Low global oil prices have hurt Nigeria's economy, taking it to the brink of recession. But the resulting cash crunch has also had a more unexpected effect-on mass weddings. More than 10,000 women have registered for the state-sponsored program in Kano, said Abba Sufi, director-general of the northern city's "morality police", the Hisbah. "At the moment we have over 10,000 women who have registered for the mass wedding program and are waiting to be introduced to prospective suitors when the project resumes," he said.

"The women include divorcees and girls of marriage age registered in person and via social media platforms we operate." The matchmaking program began in 2012 to help divorcees remarry in Kano state, which has the highest divorce rate in Nigeria. Under the scheme, the state government pays the bride price and provides furniture and household utensils for the newlyweds. A total of 1,111 couples tied the knot in an elaborate event at Kano's main mosque in December 2013. At the time, the Hisbah said it had arranged 4,461 marriages since the program began.

### Funding problems

Nigeria, one of Africa's main oil producers, depends on the sale of crude for 70 percent of government revenue but income has been slashed since prices plunged around the world two years ago. State governments have struggled to pay public sector wages; the naira has weakened, causing a shortage of foreign exchange, hitting investment and key imports of goods, fuel and food.

At the same time, inflation has soared to nearly 11-year highs, with predictions of more devaluation to come and further rises in the cost of living. "The cash crunch has compelled us to halt the program, which has resulted in a huge backlog of women intent on getting the right husbands to marry through the matchmaking process," said Sufi. Hajara Umar, a divorced mother of three children, said she registered to find a husband two years ago but has been frustrated because of the lack of funding. "We are calling on the authorities to resume the mass wedding. We are not asking for too much, just the basic things we need to start a new married life," she said.

### Widespread poverty

Widespread poverty has been blamed for the rising number of divorces in Kano city and the surrounding state, as well as the decline in traditional marriage ceremonies between men and women. Kano's economy declined sharply in the 1980s because of electricity shortages, which forced up production costs, high bank lending rates and competition from cheap foreign imports. More than 400 of Kano city's 500 textile factories were forced to close, leaving thousands jobless and creating the highest unemployment rate of any of Nigeria's 36 states.

The economic decline has had a direct impact on families, leading to divorces in a mainly Muslim society where polygamy is prevalent. With no access to education and parental care, children from broken homes have ended up on the street, fending for themselves and also falling into crime and drugs. "I can't afford to provide the furniture, which is an essential provision for marriage in our culture," said one

divorcee, who asked not to be identified. "I have been divorced for five years and I so much need to remarry. I registered a year ago... it's worrisome the mass wedding has been delayed due to the economic downturn."

### Private sector

The mass wedding project was seen as a solution to the situation and also at preventing Boko Haram Islamists from recruiting disaffected and impoverished youth for their violent insurgency. The north's conservative culture gives a husband absolute powers in marriage but men have often abused it and divorced their wives at will.

Under the matchmaking project, couples can

only divorce with the explicit consent of the state government and the Hisbah.

Any man who unilaterally divorces his wife risks going to jail. "The security the mass wedding program provides for the wife makes many women to prefer getting married through the program because she knows the husband cannot divorce her at will," said Sufi. To resume mass weddings, the Hisbah wants funding from the private sector and wealthy individuals-but in the current climate that is proving difficult. "We can't allow the program to crash because of its immense social benefits which makes stopping it altogether unthinkable despite the economic crunch," said Sufi. —AFP



**KANO:** Brides attend a wedding feast at the Kano state governor's office after taking part in a mass wedding at the central mosque in Nigeria's second city of Kano. Low global oil prices have hurt Nigeria's economy, taking it to the brink of recession. —AFP

## UNILEVER PURCHASES DOLLAR SHAVE CLUB

**THE HAGUE:** Anglo-Dutch food and consumer products giant Unilever said yesterday it had bought the Dollar Shave Club, a US start-up that has shaken up the market with its subscription model. Unilever did not disclose the price paid for the California-based company, but both Bloomberg News and Fortune magazine reported it was around \$1 billion (910 million euros), or about five times its projected revenue this year.

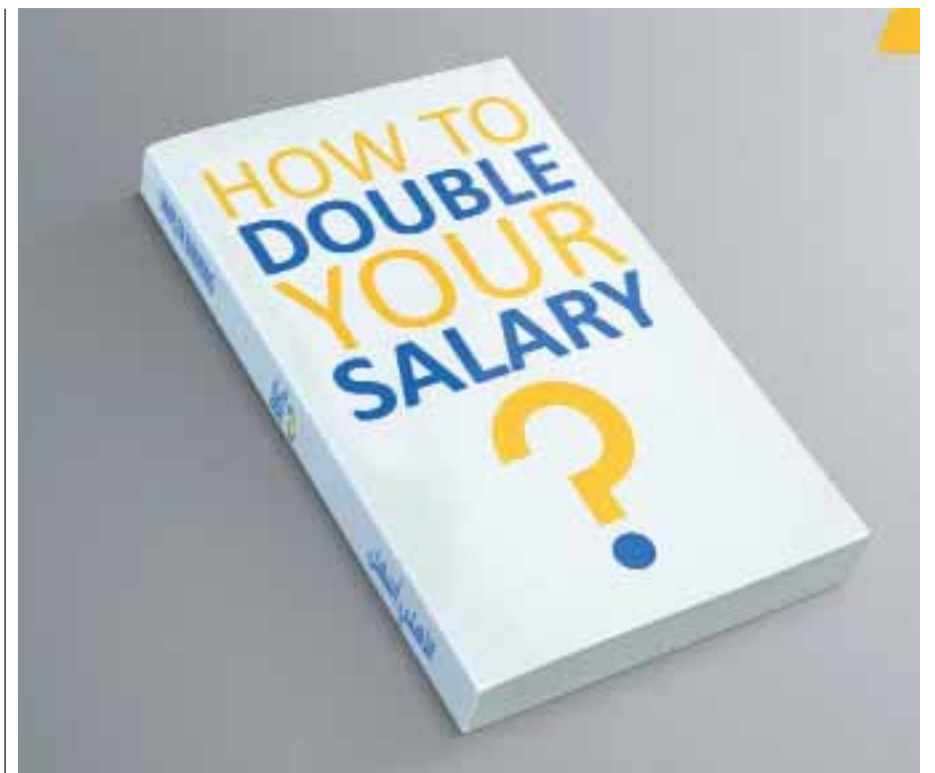
Founded in 2012, Dollar Shave Club has quickly "grown into a full male grooming business that has transformed the shaving category with its lifestyle brand empowering 3.2 million members", said Unilever in a statement. The company offered US men an alternative to increasingly expensive blades sold in stores with its subscriptions over the internet that delivered a month's worth of twin-blade razors for as little as \$1 plus shipping.

Multi-blade models can be had for under \$10

including shipping and the company now offers a range of men's personal care products. Dollar Shave Club will give Unilever a boost in the men's razor market.

Although active in more than 190 countries with a stable of household brands, including Lipton tea and Knorr soups, Unilever has few in the men's personal care segment. In fact Dollar Shave Club, although available only in the United States, Australia and Canada, already has a higher share of the global men's shaving market than Unilever, according to data from Euromonitor International.

"We plan to leverage the global strength of Unilever to support Dollar Shave Club in achieving its full potential in terms of offering and reach," said Kees Kruythoff, president of Unilever North America. Unilever will have a long way to go before challenging the global dominance of Procter & Gamble and its Gillette brand in the men's razor segment, however. —AFP



## ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 12th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 19th 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 week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and is running until 30 September, 2016. The winners this week are: (1) Abdulrahman Eissa Saleh Al Wazaq - Ministries Complex Branch. (2) Meena Jamal Yousef Nan - Salmiya Branch.

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatical-

ly 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 26th 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 about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlani Ahli' at 1899899.

## BREXIT: CAUSES AND THE CONSEQUENCES

By Dr Wafaa Sbeiti

Although there was a lot of appeals from political and economic leaders all around the world for Britain to stay in EU and although the IMF, the OECD, the IFS experts lined up to say economic growth would be hobbled, unemployment would go up, the pound would plummet and although the Treasury has issued a series of dire warnings, even claiming that Britain would be plunged into a year-long recession in the event of Brexit- In a memorable choice on Thursday 23rd of June 2016- the population of Britain voted in favor of a British way out, or Brexit, they weren't convinced by what they were told and they prefer to exit.

This action poses an important question, about the reasons behind Brexit. Actually there are a lot of reasons behind voting out. The British people took this step because there is deadlock and inflexibility in the house stemming from a variety of issues which are all EU related issues. British people, thought that the EU held back Britain with too many rules and regulations and that the EU was gaining control of Britain.

Record levels of EU immigration to the UK was one of the huge causes that affected the vote. The issue fed into wider questions of national and cultural identity, which suited Leave's message - particularly to lower income voters. The result suggested that concerns about levels of migration into the UK over the past 10 years, their impact on society, and what might happen in the next 20 years were more widely felt and ran even deeper than people had suspected.

Euro-sceptics argue that leaving the EU would allow Britain to regain control of its borders in order to curb soaring immigration and increase security. The people of the UK believe that the EU has not done a good job in controlling the immigration crisis. As a result, British people claim that their jobs and schools have been taken over by immigrants due to weak controls over borders. The UK was contributing a lot to the EU budget and it saw itself as being able to stand up on its own feet economically without the help of the other EU members, so it believed that Brexit would make sense economically in some form.

It worth mentioning here that the UK's relationship with Europe has never been simple or static. It took the country years to join what was then the European Community.

There have been decades of scepticism towards the EU among politicians and in large parts of the UK media. The younger generation was generally seen as pro-EU but it remains to be seen - once the details of the voting are looked into - how the result broke down by age. What appears clear from the campaign is that the vote to leave was as much a statement about the country's national identity, and all that involves, as it was about its economic and political future.

Most of the voters who voted to exit they believed that this decision will make immigration laws stricter and deport current migrants. In addition, most British people are unhappy with the fact that there is a high unemployment rate amongst themselves and Brexit was seen as a solution to this issue. Increasing number of migrant workers from Eastern Europe taking over British jobs. UK citizens believe that the EU is bureaucratic and the UK is a democracy. Hence British citizens want

to have their own rules and regulations rather than being imposed by others. The British people think that the EU are strict, centralized, regulated and controlled, and therefore will not succeed in the economic world in the future.

For example, there are a lot of restrictions made by EU legislations that inhibit the required agricultural production by British fishers and farmers, and therefore, products' prices are higher than they should be. They argue that leaving would allow the UK to diversify its international links, and this is one of the factors that affected on Brexit. There have also been claims by people of the UK that they would like to see Britain great again as they were in the 1970's. With UK exiting the EU, they will have their own trade deals with other nations and legislate in the interests of the British manufacturing industry.

Needless to say, the vote out sent shockwaves all around the world. Since the referendum results have been released, the global economy started going downhill. The British Pound Sterling has dropped in value against other currencies to its lowest level since 1987. Emergency steps are being taken to calm the economic turmoil. We have seen immediate actions from Banks like JP Morgan and Citibank have started shifting their investment division employees out of their headquarters in England and moved them to places like Dublin and Frankfurt in order to be able to perform better when it comes to investment decisions.

In the short and medium run, The economy will suffer from recession, higher unemployment, which may result in cut of interest rate and further easing quantitative easing. Slowdown in housing market transactions (as of experts' expectations decrease by 15%) which will put down pressures on property prices in the short term, Low pound value will alert international property investors from all around the world to take this advantage from attractive exchange rate and buy more properties in UK, houses' prices will fall in the short term.

But in the long term it means that we will have shortage in housing market, which will lead to increase in prices again in the medium to long term, As buyers will adopt wait and see policy, demand for rental accommodation expected to rise, As housing supply falls, demand from tenants will increase as the cost of renting will rise across the country.

Furthermore, As a result of vote out, the UK will no longer have free movement of the concept of a single market with the EU. This means that British people will now require a visa to visit neighboring countries. On the other side, Immigration, visas and work permits for the UK will become much more to difficult to obtain.

Trade will be restricted because of regulations that will be in place that make it harder for goods to move around since the United Kingdom is not a part of the European Union. Multinational corporations that are headquartered in London expected to move elsewhere to be within the European Union which would lead to job losses. It will take a while for businesses and companies to find ways to run business and matters as their situation have changed significantly. Many have been thinking of relocating due to costs and issues on that line.



## AS PCs DECLINE, MICROSOFT BETTING FUTURE ON THE CLOUD

**SAN FRANCISCO:** In a world where there's a smartphone app for everything, one company - Amazon.com Inc. - has long been the host for an outsized share of online software and computing services. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella wants to change that. Nadella has poured billions of dollars into building new data centers around the world, hoping to position Microsoft as the leading alternative to Amazon in selling online computing power - housed in remote centers or "clouds" - to internet startups and big corporations, as well as consumers.

As evidence the investment is paying off, Microsoft Corp reported Tuesday that its Azure cloud-computing business more than doubled in sales last quarter, compared with a year earlier. That growth, combined with increases in revenue from Windows software licenses and other key segments, helped offset a big decline in revenue from the Nokia smartphone business that Microsoft largely shut down last year. If Amazon has been the undisputed king of the cloud, analysts say Microsoft, Google and a few other tech giants are emerging as rivals.

The competition could mean lower prices and more innovation, both for businesses that buy cloud-computing services and for consumers who use popular apps - from Netflix to Pinterest and Airbnb - that run in the cloud. Amazon pioneered the cloud business almost 10 years ago, when the online retailer began renting out unused capacity on its own servers. Estimates vary, depending on how you define "cloud computing," but analysts at Synergy Research Group say Amazon still has more than 30 percent of the market, while Microsoft has grown to 10 percent - partly on the strength of Microsoft's promise that its cloud services are compatible with Microsoft software that customers already have on their own computers.

IBM and Google have 7 and 5 percent, respectively. Like Microsoft, IBM reported this week that its cloud revenues increased in the last quarter, despite a broader decline in its traditional software business. For consumers, competition in the cloud-computing industry could mean their favorite social media site or streaming entertainment app doesn't depend on a single company to keep its service running. Increasingly, that's also true for big companies like General Electric and Boeing, which provide online data and other services for their commercial customers, and which recently signed deals to move some of those services to Microsoft's cloud.

"Some companies will want to work with multiple cloud providers, so if anything goes wrong, they have redundancy," said Frank Gillett, a tech analyst with Forrester Research. For Microsoft, meanwhile, cloud computing has been the company's biggest source of growth in recent quarters. It's helped drive up Microsoft's stock price by 15 percent over the last year, despite sluggish sales of PC software and the near-collapse of its floundering smartphone business. The company's stock was up about 4 percent in after-hours trading Tuesday following the earnings report.

Some investors worry the cloud business isn't as profitable as selling traditional software, since the latter didn't require massive spending on data centers. But cloud computing is "the area that offers the highest potential for the entire company to grow its way out of a very mature PC business," said Dan Morgan, senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust, which holds Microsoft shares. Results from Microsoft's latest quarter underscored that trend. The company doesn't disclose revenue for its Azure cloud computing service by itself. But Microsoft's "Intelligent Cloud" division - which includes Azure and some software that customers use in their own data centers - reported revenue of \$6.7 billion, up 7 percent from a year earlier. That helped boost Microsoft's overall sales to \$22.6 billion, after adjusting for deferred revenue, for an overall increase of 2 percent.

Revenue from the division that includes Microsoft's Office productivity software was up 5 percent. But sales from the "More Personal Computing" segment fell 4 percent. The latter includes licensing fees that PC makers pay for Windows software, which saw an uncharacteristic increase, offset by declining revenue from smartphones and Xbox consoles. Microsoft still relies heavily on the PC business, and it's been aggressively promoting Windows 10, the latest version of its operating software for PCs and other devices. But Nadella has positioned Windows 10 as part of a broader software ecosystem that includes money-making online services like Skype and the ad-supported Bing search engine.

In a rare concession, Microsoft signaled last week that it was backing off its stated goal of getting Windows 10 on a billion devices by 2018. Analysts say the timetable was probably slowed by a continued slump in global PC demand, as well as Microsoft's failure to persuade consumers to buy Windows-based phones. —AP



**TOKYO:** This file photo shows costumed performers as Pikachu, the popular animation Pokemon series character, performing at the Yokohama Dance Parade in Yokohama. —AFP

## JAPANESE GAMERS LEFT WAITING FOR POKEMON GO'S HOME LAUNCH

### 'JAPAN LAUNCH WAS DUE YESTERDAY BUT NOW DELAYED'

**TOKYO:** Gamers in Japan, home of Nintendo Co's Pokemon, waited in vain yesterday for the launch of its smash-hit mobile phone game, amid media reports that the developers behind it had hit the brakes over concerns that manic demand would overload server capacity. Nintendo's shares suffered a rare bad day since Pokemon GO took the world by storm, tumbling 13 percent to around 27,765 yen (\$261) on the disappointment. Even so, the stock has gained 86 percent since its US launch earlier this month, adding \$17 billion to its market capitalization.

"Isn't Japan the home of Pokemon? I beg them to hurry up!" said Toshihide Onchi, a 40-year-old system engineer who took part in the trial of the game's beta version. Late on Tuesday technology news site TechCrunch and other media outlets reported the launch would take place the following day. TechCrunch later reported a postponement, but said the rollout for one of the world's most critical gaming markets was still imminent. A spokeswoman for Pokemon Company, which created the game along with Nintendo and Google-spinoff Niantic, declined to comment on the report, reiterating that nothing had been decided over the Japan launch date.

Nintendo referred any queries regarding



**TOKYO:** The logo of Japanese gaming giant Nintendo is displayed at a show room in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

Pokemon GO to Pokemon Company. Investors and analysts are betting the success of game, available officially in 35 countries and played in many more, will be transformational for Nintendo. While Pokemon GO will not prove a major direct boost, it could prompt Nintendo to cash in more effectively on an extensive cupboard of characters. Until Pokemon GO, the company had focused on more profitable consoles and snubbed mobile games.

#### Candy crushed?

Niantic CEO John Hanke told Reuters on Friday the developers were being extra-cautious in Japan, given the level of expectation and sheer number of players. "The technical challenge for us is having enough server capacity on the back end to handle that number of users," he said. Pokemon GO, which marries a classic 20-year-old franchise with augmented reality, is on its way to becoming the first mobile game to break the \$4 billion-per-year barrier, beating Candy Crush Saga, according to Macquarie Research.

Others too have benefited from the craze. Shares of Japan's McDonald's Holdings Co ended up 9.8 percent after the TechCrunch report said the fast-food chain operator would become the game's first sponsor. TechCrunch said the sponsorship would see McDonald's 3,000-plus fast food restaurants across Japan become "gyms," or battlegrounds, for Pokemon collectors. The chain already gives away Pokemon-themed toys with its Happy Meals. McDonald's Japan said yesterday that it planned to collaborate on the game "soon." The statement said it will announce details of the collaboration when it is ready. — Reuters



**WASHINGTON:** This file photo, shows the Microsoft Corp logo outside the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Washington. —AP

## MACY'S TESTS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MOBILE TOOL TO IMPROVE SERVICE

**NEW YORK:** Macy's is testing a mobile tool using artificial intelligence that lets shoppers get answers customized to the store they're in - like where a particular brand is located or what's in stock - that they would normally ask a sales associate face-to-face. The tool, which the nation's largest department store chain calls a "mobile companion," can be accessed for now through a browser and will accept questions in 10 US locations about products, services and facilities. It uses natural language and offers feedback in seconds.

It's developed by IBM Watson - the Jeopardy-winning "cognitive computing" service and is designed to keep learning more about the store's customers. That's a key element as Macy's seeks to spur sluggish sales, make being at the store more enjoyable and distinguish itself from online portals and specialty retailers. "We want to improve the shopping experience. We want the customers to shop at Macy's and come back," Serena Potter, Macy's group vice president of digital media strategy told The Associated Press. The goal: Boost sales while freeing up employees to focus on more complicated customer requests.

Potter said Macy's worked with sales associates to compile the most common inquiries per store. Macy's then fed the system questions and information so it can recognize what's being asked and what the answer is. Since the pilot was quietly launched last month, the number of queries ballooned to the low thousands per store. Five Macy's locations - in Bethesda, Maryland; Woodbridge, New Jersey; Portland, Oregon;

Arcadia, California; and Miami, Florida - are focusing on the self-serve initiative.

#### Significant potential

Five others - Short Hills, New Jersey; Buford, Georgia; Atlanta, Georgia; North Miami, Florida; and Garden City, New York - will have a feature that lets customers summon a sales associate. The two Miami locations will have it available in Spanish as well. Customers can click on macys.com/storehelp on their mobile device, but Potter said the company is working on an app. She declined to say when the tool might be rolled out nationwide.

The mobile tool has significant potential to help Macy's develop deeper relationships with customers by eventually offering shoppers help in styling outfits and other services. IBM Watson's vice president Stephen Gold says the technology, once trained, can pick up if customers are frustrated based on their answers and can alert a sales associate. The technology is similar to artificial intelligence the company is working on with brands such as 1-800 Flowers and North Face, but in those cases, it answers questions on their websites.

Macy's is accelerating its efforts to reinvent its business as online leader Amazon.com is expected to surpass the department store in clothing sales next year. The company's sales dropped 4 percent to \$27.08 billion for the year ended January 30, and it has slashed its full-year profit and revenue outlook for the year. Reversing that will be the major challenge for incoming CEO Jeff Gennette, who succeeds longtime chief Terry Lundgren early next year. —AP



**NEW YORK:** In this undated photo provided by Macy's Inc, the department store's new mobile tool is demonstrated. — AP

## MOO-VING OUT: SENSOR SENDS TEXT ALERTS FROM COWS IN LABOR

**DURHAM, New Hampshire:** University of New Hampshire dairy researchers are more relaxed these days about monitoring pregnant cows: A sensor attached to their tails sends text alerts to help detect when they're in labor. Moocall measures tail movement patterns triggered by labor contractions. On average, it alerts dairy managers by cellphone and email about an hour before a cow gives birth.

Moocall was developed in Ireland and released commercially last year. The company says the University of Kentucky also uses the technology. Doctoral student Kayla Aragona says with about 70 calves are born every year at the farm, it's a help. But it's not foolproof. One unhappy cow rubbed her tail up against everything and banged the sensor on the wall to try to get it to fall off, leading to false alarms. —AP



**NEW HAMPSHIRE:** University of New Hampshire student Kayla Aragona displays a device called Moocall with a pregnant cow named Magenta, in Durham, New Hampshire. — AP

## WHATSAPP SERVICE BRIEFLY BLOCKED YET AGAIN IN BRAZIL

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** The hugely popular WhatsApp smartphone messaging service was briefly blocked by a Brazilian court Tuesday for the third time in less than a year after failing to surrender user data to police. The latest drama ended after the Supreme Court president, Ricardo Lewandowski, accepted an appeal against a lower court order that shut down the service nearly four hours earlier.

"The suspension of service apparently violates the fundamental precept of freedom of expression and communication," the Supreme Court said, adding that Lewandowski found that the lower court judge's decision seemed "not very reasonable and not very proportional." WhatsApp gradually resumed normal service after the high court's ruling. This had been the fourth court-ordered suspension of WhatsApp, which is owned by social media giant Facebook, since February 2015 and the third in the last 12 months.

The long-running dispute pits Brazilian authorities' insistence that they need access to communications between alleged criminals against Facebook's argument that it is protecting privacy and freedom of communication. In the last incident, in May, the blockage lasted a day before being lifted on appeal. The shutdowns have angered users reliant on the free app.

Cell phone fees for texting and calls are high in Brazil and WhatsApp's group chat and image-sharing functions have become embedded in everyday social interaction. "We hope that this puts an end to blocks that have punished millions of Brazilians and that people can continue using services like WhatsApp to stay in touch with those who matter to them," the company said in a statement.

**Nationwide block**  
Earlier, lower court Judge Daniela Barbosa

had ordered telecom companies to put an immediate nationwide stop to WhatsApp services. Barbosa blasted Facebook as irrespons-



**BRAZIL:** A man checks his cell phone outside a shopping mall in Sao Paulo, Brazil. — AP

ble for refusing "to provide information that will be critical to the success of an investigation and later to bolster the criminal case." It was not clear what was involved in the criminal case, but Barbosa said Facebook had been issued with three requests to provide messages to police investigators in Duque de Caxias, north of Rio de Janeiro.

The 19-page court ruling said Facebook must comply or face fines of 50,000 reais (\$15,265) a day. WhatsApp was defiant, calling the order an "indiscriminate" threat to "people's ability to communicate, to run their businesses and to live their lives." The company said it hoped "to see this block lifted as soon as possible."

#### Judge's anger

Billionaire Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg called the May shutdown "very scary in a democracy." But in the latest ruling, Barbosa criticized Facebook's attitude, saying the company responded to Brazilian police with its own list of questions demanding explanations, adding that these were made in English, as if Brazil were "some small republic."

The judge said those mourning the loss of WhatsApp "should remember that the main victim of the crimes being investigated is society itself, with the certainty that all the time, new victims are being created and new crimes are being committed while the judiciary is unable to stop the incidents or punish those responsible."

WhatsApp responded in its statement that it doesn't comply in revealing the encrypted communications because "we cannot share information we don't have access to." WhatsApp is estimated to be used by 100 million Brazilians, making Brazil the second biggest user country after South Africa, according to data cited by the court. —AFP



## EU PUTS BURDEN ON RICH NORTH IN NEW GREENHOUSE GAS TARGETS

**BRUSSELS:** The European Union yesterday unveiled national targets for cutting greenhouse gases by 2030, placing the burden on richer northern countries to help meet the bloc's UN goal. The plans for the 28 EU member states put the onus on Sweden, Luxembourg, Finland, Denmark, Germany,

Britain, France and Austria as the bloc seeks to meet its commitment to cut emissions by 40 percent over 1990 levels.

The EU set the 2030 target as its overall pledge in the UN's climate agreement, reached in Paris last December. Its members must now agree on how this burden is

shared out. "The national binding targets we are proposing are fair, flexible and realistic," EU Climate Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete said in a statement. "They set the right incentives to unleash investments in sectors like transport, agriculture, buildings and waste management."

Under the targets, which are based on economic growth, powerhouse Germany and tiny Luxembourg must cut emissions by 40 percent over 2005 levels, while Finland and Denmark must cut emissions by 39 percent. Britain—which has voted to leave the EU—and France are asked to cut emissions by

37 percent while Netherlands and Austria should cut by 36 percent, according to the numbers released by the European Commission, the EU executive. But the system allows for flexibility. Member states can reduce emissions jointly across a range of sectors and over time. —AFP

## HOW DOES ZIKA SPREAD? UTAH INFECTION RAISES QUESTIONS

**NEW YORK:** Health officials are trying to unravel how a relative may have picked up a Zika infection from a Utah man who died. The tropical virus rarely spreads from person to person, not like the flu or the measles. The virus can pass from a pregnant woman to her fetus and cause birth defects. And it can also be spread through sex. But it is mostly spread by mosquitoes. In the Utah case, health officials are looking for other explanations. Only the elderly man, who died in late June, had been in a country with a Zika outbreak - not the relative who had been caring for him.

### How is Zika usually spread?

The bite of a mosquito. That's behind the large outbreaks in dozens of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. It's the same mosquito - *Aedes aegypti* - that can spread other tropical diseases, like dengue fever, chikungunya and yellow fever. In fact, the bug was known as the yellow fever mosquito for many years.

### How does that work?

It starts with a person who is infected with Zika. A female mosquito bites that person and drinks in blood, which it needs to make eggs. Then it spreads the virus when it bites another person nearby. Health officials don't think that's what happened in Utah; the Zika mosquito hasn't been seen in Salt Lake City. But it's theoretically possible that an infected mosquito returned with the elderly man from his trip abroad - perhaps in his suitcase - and bit the relative.

### What about blood?

Zika can be spread through blood, but official stress that mosquito bites are the way most people are infected. There's been

at least one instance of a lab worker who was accidentally infected through blood. The virus stays in the blood for about a week. The Food and Drug Administration has recommended that blood banks decline donations from people who have traveled to Zika areas within the previous month.

### But, what else?

Evidence of Zika infection has been found in number of other body fluids, including saliva, urine, semen, vaginal fluid and even breast milk. Scientists have established that it's been spread through sex, mostly by men to their partners. Health officials say there's no evidence that Zika can be spread through coughing or sneezing or routine touching.

### What happened in Utah?

The elderly man had an extremely large amount of virus in his blood - the most ever seen. That helped make this case highly unusual, said officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Higher levels of virus in the blood can make someone more contagious. His infection was only confirmed through tests after he died. He had another health condition, which health officials have not identified, and it is unclear if Zika played a role in his death.

Disease detectives are investigating the possibility that the relative somehow caught it while caring for the elderly man at a home and in a hospital. The male relative had developed a mild Zika illness and quickly recovered. In most people, the virus causes a mild illness at worst. Investigators are doing more interviewing and testing other family members and health-care workers who may have been in close contact with the man who died. They also are trapping local mosquitoes. —AP



CALIFORNIA: A sign is posted on a beach warning of the dangers of sewage contaminated water in Long Beach, California. — AP

## LA-AREA SEWAGE SPILL BRINGS CLOSURE OF BEACH WATERS

'WATER TESTED FOR BACTERIA TO DETERMINE ITS SAFETY'

**LOS ANGELES:** Southern California waters that draw visitors from around the world are off-limits thanks to a million-gallon sewage spill. A buried pipe some 20 miles away in Los Angeles collapsed, causing a blockage and a spill of 2.4 million gallons of raw sewage that belched stinky sludge onto streets and into storm drains. Beaches in Long Beach and Seal Beach were closed to swimmers and waders until at least yesterday while health officials tested the waters for bacteria to determine whether it was safe.

Crews managed to contain, divert or vacuum up at least 750,000 gallons after the Monday spill, but the rest flowed into the Los Angeles River, and some may have reached the Pacific Ocean, officials said.

The flow was stopped Tuesday and an above-

ground bypass system was being built so repairs and cleanup could get underway, said Adel Hagekhalil, assistant director of Los Angeles Sanitation. Beaches in Long Beach and Seal Beach were closed to swimmers and waders until at least yesterday while health officials tested the waters for bacteria to determine whether it was safe.

Warning signs and flags were up and lifeguards shooed way some visitors. "Just pure disappointment," beachgoer Francisco Aleman of Lake Elsinore told KABC-TV. "My little sister, she wanted to come to the beach forever, the whole summer...she gets here and it's like, you can't get in, so what's the point, you know?"

The closure was a financial hit for M&M Surfing School of Seal Beach, which had to can-

cel classes for 70 students at a loss of \$85 each. "Nobody went out," owner Michael Pless said. "The bummer is I have people coming from all over the world. I have people from England, Sweden. I had people flying in to meet me."

Pless said he took some younger students, whose parents had dropped them off, to his home pool and Jacuzzi. "They didn't get to surf but they got to play," Pless said.

The 1929 concrete, tiled-lined pipe that broke was 18 feet underground, while more recent pipes are 80 to 100 feet below, Hagekhalil said. The top collapsed and choked the pipe with debris, creating an overflow. The cause of the collapse wasn't clear. The pipe had been scheduled for replacement in two years. "It just didn't wait for us," Hagekhalil said. —AP



SALT LAKE LAKE: A tray of *Aedes dorsalis* and *Culex tarsalis* mosquitoes are shown collected at the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District, near Salt Lake City. — AP

## FLORIDA PROBES 'NON-TRAVEL' RELATED CASE OF ZIKA

**MIAMI:** Florida health officials said Tuesday they are investigating a potential case of Zika infection that was not contracted by someone traveling to a region affected by the mosquito-borne virus.

Until now, there has been no sign that mosquitoes carrying Zika have arrived in the continental US, but officials have warned that the possibility was looming. The US territory of Puerto Rico has seen a spike in cases in recent months. It was not immediately clear whether the Florida case involved mosquito bites or sexual contact, since both are known routes of transmission.

The Florida Health Department "is conducting an investigation into a possible non-travel related case of Zika virus in Miami-Dade County," it said in a statement. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Florida had confirmed a Zika infection, and that the CDC is "closely coordinating with Florida officials," according to a statement sent to AFP. The CDC said federal authorities would, upon request, "conduct additional laboratory testing."

As of mid-July, there have been 1,306 cases of Zika in the continental United States, nearly all involving people who had traveled to areas in Latin America and the Caribbean

basin that are affected by the current outbreak. Fourteen of the cases were transmitted by sexual contact between those who had traveled and their US-based partners. Earlier this week, a case emerged in Utah in which a caregiver appeared to have been infected by an elderly patient, though the exact route of transmission remains unknown.

### Birth defects

Zika is a concern because if a pregnant woman is infected, she faces a higher risk of bearing a child with microcephaly, in which the skull and brain are malformed and smaller than normal. The "CDC has been working with state, local, and territorial health officials to prepare for the possibility of locally acquired Zika infection in the United States," the agency said. "To date, CDC has provided Florida more than \$2 million in Zika-specific funding and about \$27 million in emergency preparedness funding that can be used toward Zika response efforts."

The Florida Department of Health said Zika prevention kits and repellent would be available for pickup at the health department and distributed in the area being studied. "Zika kits are intended for pregnant women," the health department said. — AFP

## EATING OILY FISH MAY BOOST BOWEL CANCER SURVIVAL

**PARIS:** People with bowel cancer may improve their survival chances by eating a lot of omega 3 fatty acids found in oily fish like tuna and salmon, a study suggested yesterday. Analysis of data from more than 170,000 people in the United States revealed that among 1,659 who developed bowel cancer, there was a strong correlation between higher omega 3 intake and lower risk of death, it said.

"Compared with patients who consumed less than 0.1 grams of omega 3 fatty acids daily, those who consumed at least 0.3 grams daily after their diagnosis, had a 41 percent lower risk of dying from their disease," said a statement on the findings published in the British journal

Gut. "If the findings can be reproduced in other studies, patients with bowel cancer might benefit from boosting their oily fish intake to help prolong their survival."

Further research was needed to prove the link was not coincidental, and that omega 3 actively lowered death risk, said the team. Yet, the findings "provide the first line of population-based evidence for the potentially positive impact of oily fish omega 3 fatty acids on bowel cancer survival". Omega 3s play a crucial role in growth and healthy brain function, but cannot be manufactured by the human body. They are ingested through so-called "fatty" fish and other sea foods, some plants, and certain nut oils. —AFP

**KINSHASA:** Democratic Republic of Congo launched a campaign yesterday to vaccinate about a million people against yellow fever over the next 10 days in the capital Kinshasa and a nearby province. A wider campaign to vaccinate more than 10 million people in the city and along the border with Angola will have to wait at least two more weeks, however, due to shortages of vaccine and syringes. "Now I am armored. Now I have the blood of a soldier," said Claudy Pindi, who is in his forties, holding up his yellow vaccination card.

Pindi was among the first to be vaccinated in Kinshasa's Kisenso district, where four people are suspected of having died from yellow fever. Congo's health minister declared a yellow fever epidemic last month after the hemorrhagic virus spread from Angola, where 350 people have died since last December in the worst outbreak in decades. Congo had registered 1,798 suspected cases of yellow fever as of July 11, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), including 75 deaths believed caused by the disease.

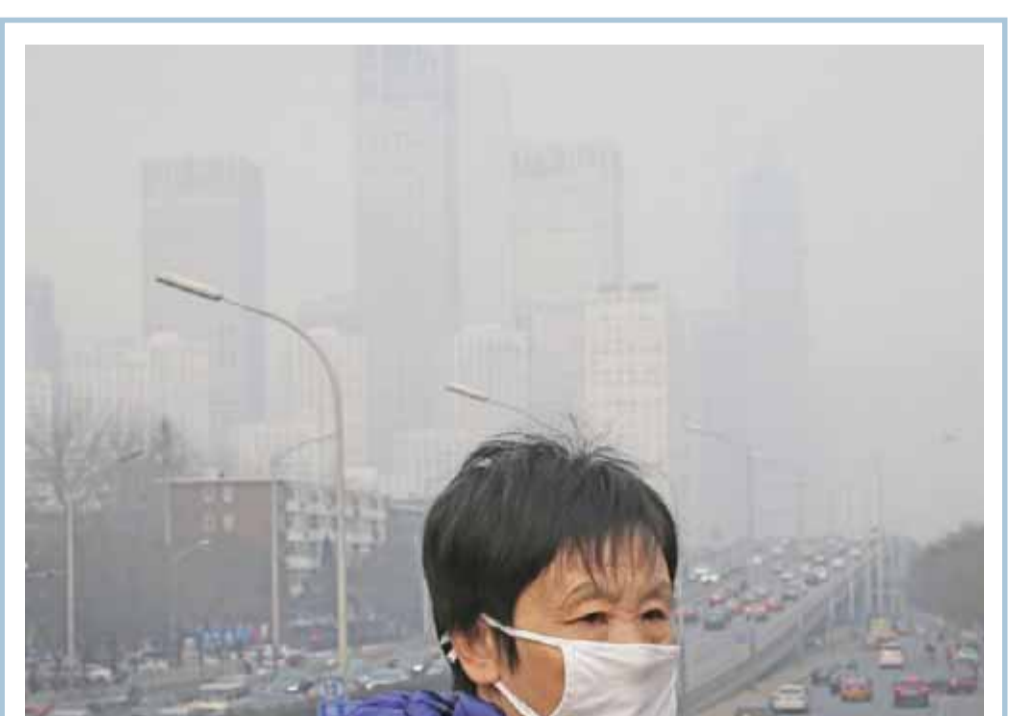
Only 68 cases have been laboratory confirmed however, due to a technical problem over the last three weeks that hindered the shipping of a chemical used in testing. Over 100 people queued to be vaccinated yesterday under tents set up by health workers on a soccer pitch in Kisenso. Authorities have identified around 80 suspected cases of yellow fever there. Residents of three health zones in Kwango province, which abuts the Angolan border, will also be vaccinated during the campaign.

"We are very sure we will stop the spread of the virus," said Gedeon Siana, supervising nurse for the Kisenso health zone. "At the community level, the monitoring is very active."

The vaccination drive is the second this year after more than two million people were vaccinated in Kinshasa and Kongo Central province in late May. Health officials have also expressed concerns about beginning with such a targeted approach in Kinshasa, a chaotic megacity of some 12 million people.

During the last vaccination drive in May, people arrived from outside targeted areas, preventing some local residents from being vaccinated and provoking violence outside some health centers. Eugene Kabambi, a WHO spokesman in Kinshasa, said authorities were using community leaders and street campaigners with megaphones to promote the current drive. "We've avoided a strong publicity campaign. We've focused on word of mouth communication," he said.

The yellow fever vaccine takes one year to manufacture and there currently exist just 8 million doses in the world after stocks were depleted in series of outbreaks earlier this year. — Reuters



BEIJING: In this file photo, a woman wearing a mask for protection against pollution walks on a pedestrian overhead bridge as office buildings in Central Business District of Beijing are shrouded with smog. — AP

## AIR POLLUTION UP IN A THIRD OF CHINESE CITIES: GREENPEACE

**BEIJING:** Air pollution levels rose in nearly a third of Chinese cities monitored in the second quarter, environmental campaign group Greenpeace said yesterday. China's cities are often hit by severe pollution from coal-burning by power stations, heavy industry and vehicle use, and it has become a major source of discontent with the ruling Communist Party. Air quality worsened year-on-year in 103 cities in April-June, nearly 30 percent of those monitored, Greenpeace said. It cited pollution data collated from China's environmental protection ministry, which makes live figures available but does not publish full historic or comparative statistics.

Communist authorities are looking to retool the economy away from heavy industry and exports to one led more by consumer demand, but the transition is proving bumpy. "It is now clearer than ever that air pollution and coal-burning heavy industry

are directly connected," said Greenpeace's East Asia climate and energy campaigner Dong Liansai. China's financial hub Shanghai saw its average PM2.5 level rise 6.1 percent to 48.4 micrograms per cubic meter in the April-June period, in comparison with the same period in 2015.

Exposure to the minute particles in the 2.5 size range can affect lung function and worsen medical conditions such as asthma and heart disease. But Beijing saw its PM2.5 level drop 6.9 percent to 59.2 micrograms per cubic meter in the same period, year-on-year.

The World Health Organization's recommended maximum is an average 25 micrograms over 24 hours and 10 micrograms over a year. The government has declared "war on pollution" and vowed to reduce the proportion of energy derived from coal and fossil fuels, but critics say efforts have fallen short of expectations. — AFP





FILE PHOTO: In this frame from NASA TV, the SpaceX Dragon capsule arrives at the International Space Station bearing supplies yesterday. — AP

## SPACE X DRAGON CAPSULE DELIVERS NEW SPACE STATION DOCKING PORT

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: SpaceX finally made good on its delivery of a space station docking port yesterday morning. A Dragon capsule arrived at the International Space Station, bearing more than 2 tons of supplies. The shipment includes a docking port needed for future rocket ships. SpaceX is working on a crew-worthy Dragon, while Boeing is developing a capsule for astronauts named Starliner. SpaceX launched its latest Dragon from Cape Canaveral on Monday.

A year earlier, the first of these new docking rings was destroyed in a SpaceX launch accident. NASA and Boeing - which makes the ports - is working on a replacement that should fly in another 1 1/2 years.

The two US space station residents used a robot arm for yesterday's 250-mile-high operation above America's Great Lakes. "We've captured us a Dragon," reported astronaut Jeffrey Williams. "We look forward to the work that it brings." Mission Control replied, "This event is an important step on the journey of the International Space Station mission."

Now let's get this vehicle berthed so we can get to work. The newly arrived science experiments include a DNA decoder, or sequencer, that will get a workout by the first virus-hunter in space, NASA astronaut Kate Rubins. This is the second high-flying delivery this week. A Russian supply ship pulled in Monday night. — AP

# GROUP CLONES CALIFORNIA GIANT TREES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

## 'MINIATURE OF 3,000-YEAR-OLD TREE, A BIOLOGICAL MIRACLE'

CAMP NELSON, California: At the foot of a giant sequoia in California's Sierra Nevada, two arborists stepped into harnesses then inched up ropes more than 20 stories into the dizzying canopy of a tree that survived thousands of years, enduring drought, wildfire and disease. There, the arborists clipped off tips of young branches to be hand-delivered across the country, cloned in a lab and eventually planted in a forest in some other part of the world.

The two are part of a cadre of modern day Johnny Apple seeds who believe California's giant sequoias and coastal redwoods are blessed with some of the heartiest genetics of any trees on Earth - and that propagating them will help reverse climate change, at least in a small way. "It's a biological miracle," said tree climber Jim Clark, firmly back on the ground and holding a green sprig to his lips as if to kiss it. "This piece of tissue ... can be rooted, and we have a miniature 3,000-year-old tree."

The cloning expedition to Camp Nelson, a mountain community about 100 miles southeast of Fresno, was led by David Milarch, co-founder of Archangel Ancient Tree Archive. The Michigan-based nurseryman preaches the urgency of restoring the Earth's decimated forests. In two decades, he says his nonprofit group has cloned 170 types of trees and planted more than 300,000 of them in seven countries with willing landowners. "It's really a race against time," Milarch said. "If we start right now, we can go after climate change and reverse it before it's too late."



CALIFORNIA: In this photo, arborist Jim Clark inches up a giant sequoia to collect new growth from its canopy in the southern Sierra Nevada near Camp Nelson, California. — AP

designed to encourage rooting. Cloning ancient trees is tricky business, lab workers say, and many samples don't survive. Later this year, Archangel's team will come west to plant up to 1,000 sequoia and redwood saplings in a cool, damp region of Oregon where the trees will have the best chance to grow.

Bill Werner, a horticulture consultant based in Monterey, California, who has worked with Archangel, says that in the face of global warming, it's easy to dismiss the efforts of a "renegade" group that relies heavily on donations and volunteer nurserymen and arborists. "That's not fair," Werner said. "It may be a drop in the bucket, but at least somebody's doing something." — AP



MICHIGAN: This photo shows trays of freshly planted tips of cuttings from giant sequoia trees at the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive laboratory in Copemish, Michigan. — AP



MICHIGAN: In this photo, Tom Brodhagen, left, Jim Clark, center, and Chris Moore examine cuttings from giant sequoia trees in the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive laboratory in Copemish, Michigan. — AP

## SNAKE ON A TRAIN: AUSTRALIAN POLICE SEIZE NORTHBOUND PET PYTHON

SYDNEY: A pet python called 'Bread' was confiscated by New South Wales Police yesterday after the snake's owner started showing him off on a train. Bread, a one-meter (3 feet) diamond python, was pulled out of a backpack by a 20-year-old man on a northbound Central Coast train, with worried passengers calling the police concerned for the snake's safety.

Police met the man at Woy Woy train station, 80 km (50 miles) north of Sydney, at 1 am and took the yellow and black snake when

the owner said he didn't have a permit for it. "If I could give one piece of advice, don't get your snake out on a train," Brisbane Waters Police Commander Superintendent Danny Sullivan said.

The man was expected to be arrested for possessing and displaying protected fauna which carries a penalty of A\$300 (\$225), police said. Bread was taken to the Australian Reptile Park in Somersby, 50 km (30 miles) north of Sydney, and was in good health, Sullivan added. — Reuters

## FRACKING MAY WORSEN ASTHMA FOR NEARBY RESIDENTS: STUDY

CHICAGO: Fracking may worsen asthma in children and adults who live near sites where the oil and gas drilling method is used, according to an 8-year study in Pennsylvania.

The study found that asthma treatments were as much as four times more common in patients living closer to areas with more or bigger active wells than those living far away. But the study did not establish that fracking directly caused or worsened asthma. There's also no way to tell from the study whether asthma patients exposed to fracking fare worse than those exposed to more traditional gas drilling methods or to other industrial activities.

Fracking refers to hydraulic fracturing, a technique for extracting oil and gas by injecting water, sand and chemicals into wells at high pressure to crack rock. Environmental effects include exhaust, dust and noise from heavy truck traffic transporting water and other materials, and from drilling rigs and compressors. Fracking and improved drilling methods led to a boom in production of oil and gas in several US states, including Pennsylvania, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado.

Sara Rasmussen, the study's lead author and a researcher at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, said pollution and stress from the noise caused by fracking might explain the results. But the authors emphasized that the study doesn't prove what caused patients' symptoms. More than 25 million US adults and children have asthma, a disease that narrows airways in the lungs. Symptoms include wheezing, breathing difficulties and chest tightness, and they can sometimes flare up with exposure to dust, air pollution and stress.

Previous research has found heavy air

pollution in areas where oil and gas drilling is booming. Industry groups responding to the new research said air samplings measured by Pennsylvania authorities near natural gas operations during some of the study years found pollutant levels unlikely to cause health issues. But samplings were limited and didn't reflect potential cumulative effects of emissions from the drilling sites. The new study was published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

The researchers noted that between 2005 and 2012, more than 6,200 fracking wells were drilled in Pennsylvania. They used electronic health records to identify almost 36,000 asthma patients treated during that time in the Geisinger Health System, which covers more than 40 counties in Pennsylvania.

Evidence of asthma attacks included new prescriptions for steroid medicines, emergency-room treatment for asthma and asthma hospitalizations. During the study, there were more than 20,000 new oral steroid prescriptions ordered, almost 5,000 asthma hospitalizations and almost 2,000 ER asthma visits.

Those outcomes were 50 percent to four times more common in asthma patients living closer to areas with more or bigger active wells than among those living far away. The highest risk for asthma attacks occurred in people living a median of about 12 miles from drilled wells. The lowest risk was for people living a median of about 40 miles away.

Dr Norman H Edelman, senior scientific adviser for the American Lung Association, called the study "interesting and provocative." But he said it only shows an association between fracking and asthma, not a "cause and effect," and that more rigorous research is needed. "Asthma is a huge problem," he said. "Anything we can do to elucidate the causes will be very useful." — AP

### Global problem

Sequoias growing in the Sierra are among the biggest and oldest trees on Earth, some nearly 300 feet tall and up to 3,000 years old. Relying on common sense that he says is being borne out by science, Milarch, 66, believes their size and robustness make them ideal for absorbing greenhouse gases that drive climate change on the planet. He likens them to people who drink and smoke all their lives, yet thrive well into their 90s. One skeptic is Todd Dawson, a professor of integrated biology at the University of California, Berkeley. He admires Archangel's creative efforts but says it's unclear whether the towering trees have superior genes or whether they were simply lucky not to meet the fate of a logger's saw. Chances are slim, he said, that cloning and planting a limited number of trees will cool the warming planet. He favors more sweeping approaches such as curbing the use of fossil fuels and protecting vast rainforests. "That's one of the things about global warming - it's a global problem," Dawson said. "You're going to have to plant a lot of trees to combat global warming."

A team of about a dozen expert tree climbers from across the country volunteered for the expedition in May to restock Archangel's store of genetic samples. They risked their lives to climb to the ends of massive limbs, starting in the southern Sierra sequoia grove and winding up nearly 500 miles away in Northern California, where they carefully collected additional samples from coastal redwoods - a taller, thinner cousin of the giant sequoia.

### Fluorescent lights

Clark wrapped the clippings he gathered in damp newspaper, placed them inside ice-filled duffel bags and boarded an overnight flight to the Archangel's lab across country in Copemish, a rural village in northwestern Michigan. There, Clark and another propagation specialist snipped off some 2,000 shoots a few inches long and planted them in small containers of a peat-and-gel mixture. Another 1,000 fingernail-sized bits of greenery were placed into jars containing a blend of seaweed-based gelatin and growth hormones.

The samples grow beneath purplish fluorescent lights under humidity and temperatures

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

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



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368





# AHMADI GOVERNOR HONORS WINNERS OF SECOND RAMADAN CONTEST



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah patronized the ceremony honoring winners of the second Ramadan contest for memorizing and reciting the holy Quran. The ceremony was also attended by Awqaf Ministry Undersecretary for Mosques Affairs, Dr Waleed Al-Shuaib, Ahmadi Security Director General, Brig Abdallah Al-Mulla and Sabahiya and Ahmadi Acting Mayor Saad Al-Maie.







## WIN UP TO 10 KILOS OF GOLD CAMPAIGN WINNER

**R**avi Ayanoli, raffle draw winner of 'Win up to 10 kilos of gold' campaign by Malabar Gold and Diamonds receives the prize 1/4 KG gold from Lukman, Branch Head - Malabar Gold and Diamonds and Shahil, Branch Head - Malabar Gold & Diamonds in the presence of officials from Malabar Gold and Diamonds.

## COSTA TO UNVEIL NEW FROSTINO FLAVOR AT KUWAIT'S 1ST INDOOR BEACH EVENT

**C**osta Coffee, London's favorite coffee shop chain and part of Alghanim Industries Food and Beverage portfolio, is announcing the launch of its anticipated summer drink, the new strawberry cheesecake Frostino, during a launch event titled, "Friday Frostino Frenzy," which will take place in Costa Coffee's selected stores on July 22nd, 2016.

As part of its ongoing strategy to broaden its product range, the new strawberry cheesecake Frostino will offer customers the comforting opportunity to cool off during the summer heat and indulge in another exciting beverage from Costa's growing menu. The new Frostino overwhelms the tastebuds with a creamy texture reminiscent of the lusciousness of a strawberry cheesecake that dessert lovers love so much.

On this fun occasion, Costa Coffee will recreate the first indoor beach in Kuwait in selected stores while distributing samples of the new Frostino drink, all

while creating fun vibes for everyone to enjoy. Each store will have its own unique look and feel as each is designed by the baristas working in that location.

However, the overarching theme and objective for each design is to incorporate beach elements and summer nuances, hence creating the first indoor beach in the country. Since Alghanim Industries' acquisition of the brand in July 2013, Costa Coffee is more than just making irresistible coffee; it is committed to diversify its product offerings continuously in response to market trends and needs.

Commenting on this occasion is, Haamed Alfulaij, General Manager of Costa Coffee Kuwait: "With temperatures soaring to 50C+ in Kuwait, we wanted to create something special for our customers to enjoy and cool off. What makes this event special is that each store has been challenged to show its own personality to its customers. All stores will be competing to make the best indoor beach in Kuwait to celebrate

the launch of our delicious strawberry cheesecake Frostino. We can't wait for our customers to try it!"

It is noteworthy to mention that Costa Coffee has recently introduced a new specialized menu that was created in collaboration with the world-renowned and professional baker, author, television and radio celebrity, Dean Brettschneider, who has made a name for himself in the international world of artisan baking via his own brand, Global Bakery.

All customers are invited to join the "Friday Frostino Frenzy" by visiting any of Costa Coffee's selected locations to try out the free sampled strawberry cheesecake Frostino at the Marina Crescent, Sheikha Complex, Al Kout, Miral, Argan, Jahra, Avenues, Marina Mall, Kaifan, Army Officers Club, Sea View, The View, and TSC Hawalli. To voice any enquiries, customers can visit any of Costa Coffee's social media platforms under the name CostaKuwait on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat.



## LULU HYPERMARKET FELICITATES WINNERS OF 'GIFT VOUCHER DELIGHTS 2016' CAMPAIGN

**L**uLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, felicitated the winners of their 'LuLu Gift Voucher Delights 2016' campaign, at a prize distribution ceremony that was held at the hypermarket's Al Rai outlet on Tuesday, 19 July. Prizes were distributed to the winners by members of LuLu's top management in the presence of a large audience.

The 'LuLu Gift Voucher Delights 2016' promotion, which was held from 25 May to 6 July at all outlets of the hyper-

market, provided customers with a raffle coupon for every KD5 worth of shopping. Draws to pick winners of the raffle draw were held at the Al Rai, Qurain, Salmiya and Egaila outlets of LuLu Hypermarket. Four winners of the 'LuLu Gift Voucher Delights 2016' campaign received gift vouchers worth KD500 each, while 200 other winners received gift coupons for KD50 each.

The prize distribution ceremony at Al Rai outlet saw the top management of LuLu Hypermarket distribute a total of

KD12,000 worth of gift coupons to 204 lucky winners. On the same occasion, winners of the Ramadan Quiz competition, which was held during the Holy Month of Ramadan, were also felicitated. Top officials of LuLu Hypermarket and Madhyamam, a leading Malayalam media publication, which co-sponsored the quiz competition in association with LuLu Exchange, a premier money-remittance company in the country, distributed prizes to the quiz competition winners.

Winners of the quiz competition received valuable prizes, including three IKON 32-inch LED televisions, 60 IKON rechargeable torches and KD650 worth of gift vouchers. LuLu Hypermarket's 'Gift Voucher Delights 2016' campaign provided customers with the opportunity to win fabulous gift coupons while shopping for quality products at affordable prices. The promotion was part of the hypermarket's continuous efforts to build brand loyalty and make shopping an exciting experience for customers.





**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

03:25	Wildest Africa
04:15	Gator Boys
05:02	Treehouse Masters
05:49	Bondi Vet
06:36	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
13:45	Gator Boys
14:40	Treehouse Masters
15:35	Tanked
16:30	Wildest Africa
17:25	Big Fish Man
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
22:55	Gator Boys
23:50	Big Fish Man
00:45	Monsters Inside Me
01:40	The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
02:35	Tanked

11:35	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
17:50	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

04:50	Zou
05:00	Loopidoo
05:15	Art Attack
05:35	Henry Hugglemonster
05:50	Calimero
06:00	Zou
06:20	Loopidoo
06:35	Art Attack
07:00	The Hive
07:10	Zou
07:25	Loopidoo
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
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22:00	Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30	Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45	Unbungeablevable
22:50	Zou
23:05	Henry Hugglemonster
23:20	Calimero
23:35	Zou
23:50	Loopidoo
00:05	Art Attack
00:30	Henry Hugglemonster
00:45	Calimero
01:00	Zou
01:15	Loopidoo
01:30	Art Attack

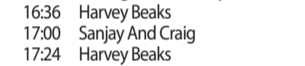
20:00	Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00	Ace Of Cakes
22:00	Patricia Heaton Parties
23:00	Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00	Iron Chef America
01:00	Ace Of Cakes
02:30	Patricia Heaton Parties



03:25	Midsomer Murders
05:15	Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10	The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05	Chopping Block
08:00	Midsomer Murders
09:50	Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40	The Chase
11:35	Chopping Block
12:30	The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:25	Emmerdale
13:50	Emmerdale
14:20	Coronation Street
14:45	Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35	Chopping Block
16:30	Don't Tell The Bride
17:25	The Syndicate
18:20	Emmerdale
18:45	Emmerdale
19:10	Coronation Street
19:35	Chopping Block
20:30	Don't Tell The Bride
21:25	The Syndicate
22:20	Coronation Street
22:50	Emmerdale
23:15	Emmerdale
23:40	The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:35	Coronation Street
01:00	Emmerdale
01:30	Emmerdale
02:00	Coronation Street
02:30	The Doctor Blake Mysteries



03:00	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
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
11:24	SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00	Breadwinners
13:24	The Loud House
13:48	Get Blake
14:12	Rabbids Invasion
14:36	100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00	Game Shakers
15:24	The Loud House
15:48	SpongeBob SquarePants
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
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21:00	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24	Breadwinners
21:48	Sanjay And Craig
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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



13:00	I Hate My Teenage Daughter
13:30	The Bernie Mac Show
14:00	Mad Love
14:30	Suburgatory
15:00	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30	Dr. Ken
16:00	Last Man Standing
16:30	George Lopez
17:00	Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00	Two And A Half Men
18:30	Two And A Half Men
19:00	Suburgatory
19:30	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
20:00	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00	Dr. Ken
21:30	Last Man Standing
22:00	South Park
22:30	Louie
23:00	Web Therapy
23:30	Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30	Dr. Ken
01:00	Last Man Standing
01:30	South Park
02:00	Louie
02:30	Web Therapy



03:00	Living With Fran
03:30	Mad Love
04:00	The Goldbergs
04:30	The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30	I Hate My Teenage Daughter
06:00	George Lopez
06:30	The Bernie Mac Show
07:00	Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00	The Goldbergs
08:30	I Hate My Teenage Daughter
09:00	Living With Fran
09:30	Suburgatory
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	The Goldbergs



03:00	Lords Of London
04:45	Memorial Day (2011)
06:45	Mood Indigo
09:00	Changing Hearts
11:00	Memorial Day (2011)
13:00	Sunshine On Leith
15:00	Escobar: Paradise Lost
17:00	Changing Hearts
18:45	Go For Sisters
21:00	Nightcrawler
23:00	Two Mothers
01:00	Changing Hearts
02:45	Go For Sisters



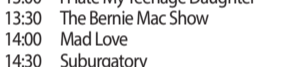
03:00	Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb
05:00	Clockstoppers
07:00	Flubber
09:00	Inside Out
11:00	G-Force
13:00	Mulan
15:00	Wall-E
17:00	Alice In Wonderland
19:00	High School Musical 3: Senior Year
21:00	Mr. Magoo
23:00	Alice In Wonderland
01:00	High School Musical 3: Senior Year



03:00	Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb
05:00	Clockstoppers
07:00	Flubber
09:00	Inside Out
11:00	G-Force
13:00	Mulan
15:00	Wall-E
17:00	Alice In Wonderland
19:00	High School Musical 3: Senior Year
21:00	Mr. Magoo
23:00	Alice In Wonderland
01:00	High School Musical 3: Senior Year



TRANSFORMERS-AGE OF EXTINCTION OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



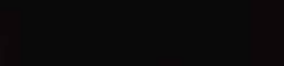
03:00	Second Chance
04:00	Good Morning America
06:00	Once Upon A Time
07:00	Devious Maids
08:00	The Blacklist
09:00	Supergirl
10:00	The Catch
11:00	Devious Maids
12:00	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
13:00	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00	Live Good Morning America
16:00	Second Chance
17:00	The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00	The Blacklist
19:00	The Flash
20:00	The Art Of More
21:00	Mr. Robot
22:00	American Crime
23:00	Second Chance
00:00	Devious Maids
01:00	Mr. Robot
02:00	American Crime



03:00	Banshee
04:00	House Of Saddam
05:00	Earthly Possessions
07:00	Life Support
09:00	Winchell
11:00	Warm Springs
13:00	RKO 281
15:00	For Love Or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story
17:00	Warm Springs
19:00	Bored To Death
19:30	Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons
20:00	Six Feet Under
21:00	True Blood
22:00	The Leftovers
23:00	Carnivale
00:00	Bored To Death
00:30	Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons



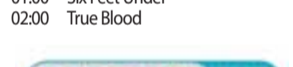
03:15	Age Of Dinosaurs
05:00	Transformers: Age Of Extinction
08:00	The Taking Of Pelham 123
10:00	Crimson Tide
12:00	Sword Of Vengeance
13:30	Transformers: Age Of Extinction
16:30	The Taking Of Pelham 123
18:30	Edge Of Tomorrow
20:30	X-Men Origins: Wolverine
22:30	Child's Play 3
00:15	Legion
02:00	The Borderlands



03:45	The Preacher's Wife
06:00	Father Of The Bride
08:00	Father Of The Bride Part II
10:00	The Preacher's Wife
12:15	At Middleton
14:00	Se Puder... Dirija!
16:00	Father Of The Bride Part II
18:00	The Bounty Hunter
20:00	Wish I Was Here
22:00	Scary Movie 4
00:00	Talladega Nights
02:00	The Bounty Hunter



03:00	Lords Of London
04:45	Memorial Day (2011)
06:45	Mood Indigo
09:00	Changing Hearts
11:00	Memorial Day (2011)
13:00	Sunshine On Leith
15:00	Escobar: Paradise Lost
17:00	Changing Hearts
18:45	Go For Sisters
21:00	Nightcrawler
23:00	Two Mothers
01:00	Changing Hearts
02:45	Go For Sisters



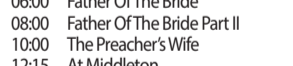
04:00	The Sixth Sense
06:00	Ed Wood
08:30	Second Coming
10:30	Legends Of The Fall
12:45	Ed Wood
15:00	United Passions
17:00	The Doctor
19:00	Les Miserables
22:00	A Walk Among The Tombstones
00:00	Enemy
01:30	Legends Of The Fall



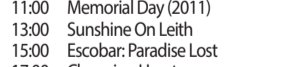
03:00	The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
04:30	Saving Santa
06:00	Echo Planet
07:45	Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
09:30	Looney Tunes Rabbit's Run
11:00	Hook
13:30	The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
15:00	Worms
16:30	Curious George: Back To The Jungle
18:00	Looney Tunes Rabbit's Run
20:00	Yellowbird
22:00	Worms
23:30	Curious George: Back To The Jungle
01:00	Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
02:45	Yellowbird



03:00	The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
04:30	Saving Santa
06:00	Echo Planet
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09:30	Looney Tunes Rabbit's Run
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20:00	Yellowbird
22:00	Worms
23:30	Curious George: Back To The Jungle
01:00	Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
02:45	Yellowbird



04:00	Born To Race: Fast Track
06:00	Special ID
08:00	The Duff
09:45	Anna Karenina
12:00	Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
14:00	Trigger Point
16:00	The Duff
18:00	Pompeii
20:00	The Love Punch
22:00	The Identical
00:45	Gone Girl
02:30	Pompeii



03:15	The Faculty
05:00	Pearl Harbor
08:15	The Entitled
10:00	Breaking And Entering
12:15	Carjacked
14:00	Lay The Favorite
15:45	The Hurricane
18:15	The Faculty
20:00	Venom
21:30	The Village
23:30	Scary Movie 5
00:45	Coyote Ugly
02:30	The Village



03:00	Castle
04:00	Fashion Star
05:00	Fit For Fashion
06:00	The Simpsons
06:30	The Simpsons



04:00	The Sixth Sense
06:00	Ed Wood
08:30	Second Coming
10:30	Legends Of The Fall
12:45	Ed Wood
15:00	United Passions
17:00	The Doctor
19:00	Les Miserables
22:00	A Walk Among The Tombstones
00:	



# CLASSIFIEDS

## 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

## 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, Hemant, holder of Indian Passport No Z1886428, resident of Gali No 3, HNo 2559b, Rampura Mohalla, Hisar, Haryana, India, have changed my name from Hemant to Hemant Mehta. In future, I will be known as Hemant Mehta. (C 5191) 21-7-2016

I, Shaik Madar (old name), Passport No. P0377626, R/o, D.No. 28/83, Bhavani Nagar, Bethal Colony, Rayachoty Town & Mandal, YSR Kadapa Dist., A.P. hereby changed my name as Pathan Haroon Khan S/o PAzeez Khan (new name). (C 5190) 16-7-2016

I, Jayaraman Sekar holder of Indian Passport No. K7934219, residing at D.No. 215 a Middle street, Thevarkan Danallur Village



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Email: [Info@Eigllcoman.Com](mailto:Info@Eigllcoman.Com)

Kulikarai Post Kudavasal Taluk, Tanjore district, hereby changed my name to Jayaraman Ravichandran. (C 5188)

### MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted Immediately  
Toyota Corolla or Camry, models: 2008 to 2012, ready to buy. Please call: 60747748. (C 5192) 21-7-2016

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:30
Shorook	05:01
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:29
Maghrib:	18:47
Isha:	20:16



## NOTICE

Bassam Yusuf Ahmad Alghanim and Waleed Kutayba Alghanim declare, in their personal capacity and behalf of the legal entities each represent that, as of the date of this notice, **Mr.Gori Shanker Khandelwal** of Indian Nationality, Civil ID No. 243110100068 is no longer representing either of them and has no longer any authority or capacity to act for or represent either of them or any of the legal entities legally represented by each of them.

## REQUIRED

### FULL TIME FEMALE HOME CARE NURSE

Urgently required a female homecare nurse to provide nursing care for a diabetic child patient.

Call:  
**65050888**

## إعلان

يعلم كل من/ بسام يوسف احمد الغانم ووليد قتيبة الغانم عن نفسيهما وبالنيابة عن جميع الهيئات الاعتبارية التي يمثلها كل منهما بأن السيد/ جوري شانكار كاندلوال، هندي الجنسية، بطاقة مدنية رقم 243110100068، واعتبارا من تاريخ هذا الاعلان ليس لديه اي علاقة بأي منهما ولا يتمتع بأي سلطة أو صفة لتمثيل أي منهما بتلك الصفتين في تعامله مع الغير.

## شركة ايكاروس المتحدة للخدمات البحرية

### REQUIRED

- 1-Ticketing officers  
Experienced in Kuwait tourism companies
  - 2-Executive secretary (Indian nationality)  
Minimum 3 years' experience prefer in marine companies
  - 3-Marketing and Sales Manager  
Minimum 5 years' experience prefer in marine companies
  - 4-Director of Marine Operations  
Minimum experience 5 years
  - 5-Marine captains  
Holds an A license
  - 6-Sales Executive  
Minimum experience 3 years
  - 7-Seamen
- Submit your CV in Company building, Sharq - Al Shuhada street, behind Kipco tower  
For any information contact number 22022018

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

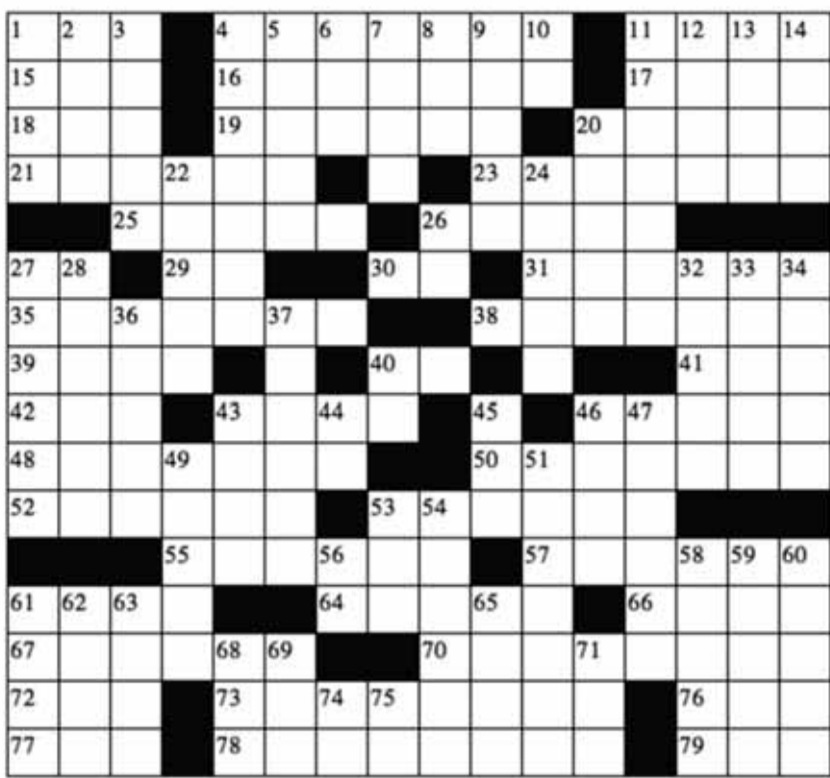
### DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



Arrival Flights on Thursday 21/7/2016				Departure Flights on Thursday 21/7/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:05
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	777	Vienna	02:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	RJA	645	Amman	03:55
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	RBG	552	Alexandria	04:45
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
THY	1414	TXZ	05:05	FEG	934	Sohag	06:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	8511	Doha	05:25	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	240	Amman	06:55
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	QTR	8512	Doha	07:25
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	IRA	672	Ahwaz	08:15
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	173	Munich	08:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	619	Doha	09:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	855	Jeddah	08:25	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	RJA	649	Amman	10:15
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
RJA	648	Amman	09:30	SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:05	SYR	342	Damascus	11:05
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	CCE	342	Alexandria	11:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	FDK	802	Damascus	13:15
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20				
FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55				
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00				
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10				
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15				
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45				
KNE	382	Taif	14:55				
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00				
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05				
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05				
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05				
AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10				
QTR	1079	Doha	15:10				
KAC	617	Doha	15:15				
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50				
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55				
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00				
SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00				
BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05				
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10				
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15				
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20				
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50				
RJA	641	Amman	16:55				
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00				
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00				
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10				
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15				
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25				
KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25				
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40				
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15				
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20				
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20				
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30				
FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40				
KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55				
KAC	563	Amman	19:00				
THY	1283	TXZ	19:05				
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05				
JZR	238	Amman	19:15				
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20				
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30				
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40				
JAV	622	Amman	19:45				
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50				
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50				
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55				
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30				
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35				
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35				
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45				
DLH	634	Doha	20:50				
ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50				
KAC	343	Chennai	20:55				
KAC	353	BLR	20:55				
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00				
KAC	551	Kochi	21:00				
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10				
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15				
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15				
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15				
MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30				
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45				
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50				
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55				
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55				
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20				
KAC	381	Dubai	22:25				
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25				
KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25				
THY	1401	ADB	22:25				
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30				
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00				
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00				
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05				
NIA	152	Cairo	23:10				
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20				
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25				
MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30				



CROSSWORD 1318



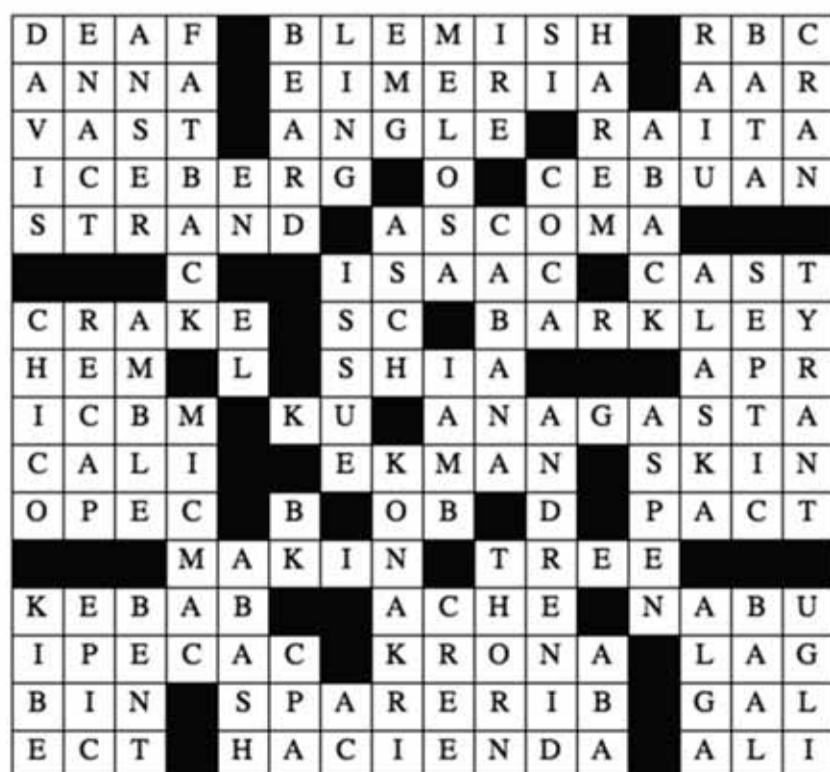
ACROSS

- The compass point that is one point north of due east.
- A toiletry that emits and diffuses a fragrant odor.
- Used of milk and milk products from which the cream has been removed.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- Inflammation of the ileum.
- Prong on a fork or pitchfork.
- An enclosed space.
- The seventh month of the civil year.
- No longer frozen solid.
- Scandinavian liquor usually flavored with caraway seeds.
- Treated with some kind of application.
- A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
- A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- A landlocked principality in the Himalayas northeast of India.
- An artificial language proposed as an auxiliary European language.
- Increasing in quantity or value.
- A musical notation written on a staff indicating the pitch of the notes following it.
- Legal document setting forth rules governing a particular kind of activity.
- The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
- Shockingly repellent.
- Large family of important mostly marine food fishes.
- Any tropical African shrub of the genus Protea having alternate rigid leaves and dense colorful flower heads resembling cones.
- Being four more than eighty.
- A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Ansaid) that is administered only orally.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- A step in walking or running.
- An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- British physicist (born in Austria) who with Lise Meitner recognized that Otto Hahn had produced a new kind of nuclear reaction which they named nuclear fission.
- French writer whose novels were the first to feature psychological analysis of the character (1783-1842).
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A localized swelling filled with blood.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- The seed of the cereal grass.
- Resulting from inflammation.
- Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.

DOWN

- Situated in or facing or moving toward the east.
- Pompous or pretentious talk or writing.
- A rechargeable battery with a nickel cathode and a cadmium anode.
- Fleshy tawny or reddish saprophytic herb resembling the Indian pipe and growing in woodland humus of eastern North America.
- Leave or strike out, as of vowels.
- A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc., except for certain white blood cells.
- Any of various mostly cold-blooded aquatic vertebrates usually having scales and breathing through gills.
- A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
- Tropical Asian starlings.
- A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
- A large dark low cloud.
- Capital and largest city of the Ukraine.
- The basic unit of money in Peru.
- Being precisely fitting and right.
- A genus of Infridiidae.
- The West African language of the Wolof people in Senegal.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- Involving the medulla oblongata.
- Covered or furnished with tiles.
- Squash bugs.
- 100 ngwee equal 1 kwacha.
- Reconnaissance (by shortening).
- A drug (trade names Atarax and Vistaril) used as a tranquilizer to treat anxiety and motion sickness.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- Wild goat of mountain areas of Eurasia and North Africa having large recurved horns.
- The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
- System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
- (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
- Favoring one person or side over another.
- (Greek mythology) A Titan who was forced by Zeus to bear the sky on his shoulders.
- The academic world.
- Nonresinous wood of a fir tree.
- Sacred text of Zoroastrianism.
- The presence of an unwanted signal via an accidental coupling.
- An autonomous area in northeastern Greece that is the site of several Greek Orthodox monasteries founded in the tenth century.
- Complacently or inanely foolish.
- Indigo bush.
- An achromatic color of any lightness between the extremes of black and white.
- Engage or hire for work.
- (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
- The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- Adult female chicken.
- A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
- 300 to 3000 kilohertz.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

If you are not on vacation this week, you should be. This is a most pleasant time to travel. If you have no inclination or opportunity to travel the universe may be pushing you into the direction of change. Give yourself options to drive a different route to a regular destination or plan a weekend visit to a new tourist attraction or new store. Sign up for a continuing education class, one that will tweak your imagination; take a friend. In the working world you may face some challenges with direction or authority. Although you are most persuasive when you want to be, this time it may be more swaying to sit back and let someone discover personally whatever it is you have been saying. You enjoy working hard but now it is time for some fun and relaxation.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

There may be several times today where you could be in a position to guide young people. Perhaps several new young people are helping in the workplace for a few weeks. This could mean taking inventory or rearranging inventory. You have a natural sense for communicating with others, especially those younger than yourself. They just tend to follow you around like the creatures that followed the "pied piper," gathering and exchanging information becomes a more important part of your life these days. There is much interest in new techniques and equipment... A very educational experience. This evening neighbors or siblings have a lot to say about a subject you may wish you had not brought up for discussion-listen anyway.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Outer circumstances are favorable for whatever you want to accomplish. Things may seem almost magical in the way they work out in your favor. You are so grateful for this fine day that you may do a little shopping for someone else during your noon break. This is a great time to organize and get things accomplished. Quick answers, great wit and an excess of insights are available. Continual discovery, persistent search and change keep you on the move and growing. You are able to get to the very heart of any difficulty. This evening you may come across some games you played in the past. If you remember how to play these games you might come up with some fun ideas for a party. You have some cool recipes for a gathering this coming weekend.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You work well with those in authority who are independent and original. There are several opportunities to give some feedback on a new product. Options will be available that open up new ways to advertise and make this new product known without a lot of financial burden. Whether you are in business for yourself or you are working for a small company, the outcome is positive, particularly when more than one product is in the works. Always the leader, if not the center of a group, you seldom fail to exhibit your positive strengths. Now is the time to engineer your schedule in order to allow time for yourself. With the attitude of gratitude, you are warm of heart and your many friends gather to celebrate your special day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

An unexpected career opportunity presents itself today. Money-making ideas come pouring out of your brain. If you find yourself in a professional meeting, you will find yourself taking the lead in the decisions-making area. Obviously, your creative side is on fire. If you are an artist or you are in the advertising business, this is the time to present your ideas. If you are not involved in these professions, now is the time to make yourself known. You will know just the right thing to say or do in order to get what you want. A social setting this afternoon is just the thing to help you relax. You gain as much as you give and the interaction between friends is sweet. A loved one, who would move mountains for you, needs your understanding tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

There is a lot of enthusiasm for disciplined work; you have found a new pathway to gain the results you want quickly and are looking forward to showing off your new ideas. Fun conversations during the noon break may create opportunities to meet away from work to merge ideas and make a great presentation. Later today there is more business to contemplate and if you pace yourself you will be pleased with your progress. You are able to enjoy your own life situation today. Someone visiting in your home this evening may compliment you on your belongings. If there are children visiting you, you may find yourself creating an area where they can play in harmony with each other, each doing some form or art. Supply lots of fun snacks.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Visitors to your company or new avenues for you to explore in your job may find you very appreciative of your background experience, education and practical skills. Memories are present regarding travel and expeditions. You might enjoy solving puzzles and problems, finding solutions, etc. There is a renewed appreciation for your work, which is probably apparent to your superiors-in fact, to everybody. Rewards are possible; certainly you should watch for opportunities of advancement. A business deal needs a last minute nudge and then you will get what you want from it. Someone in your family is facing what he or she thinks might become a difficult situation. You get this person to relax and to talk-a favorable outcome is certain.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Emotional security, a sense of belonging and nurturing are strongly felt now. You can be very commanding. You have great confidence and a "take-charge" sort of manner. You are a great doer-once you make up your mind about your choices. Others accept your decision-making and support you in your decisions. You are a good leader as well as a good team player. You enjoy working hard and you exercise discipline in anything that affects your career and reputation. This is a perfect combination for excellent manager material. You can find support from all sides when it comes to writing, speaking or any other form of communication. There is obviously a lot of mental activity today. You average more accomplishments than most.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A new or alternate lifestyle, and new ways in which to make a living have your interest today. You are economy minded, always able to salvage and redeem anything. You like to tend and care for people and things. You relax by working. It may be difficult for you to lollygag around your living area but it is time you consider the possibility. All work and no play tend to make one a bit dull and eventually you are going to want more friends. Consider belonging to an exercise group and enjoy a swim or work-out on the exercise equipment. You might enjoy a walk or bicycle trip through the neighborhood with a new friend. You are on the right track with your search for professional experience and success-now take care to enjoy new friendships.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are a very feeling person and can sense the drift of a situation without a lot of analysis. You radiate energy and information and you may have to just accept the fact that people like to learn from you. People may gather around you when you are talking about statistics, probabilities and simple insight into what had previously been thought difficult. You have a sense of justice and an innate ability to understand the law, whether natural or artificial. Showing others how to find a way through or beyond problems becomes easy. You sense how to manipulate the opportunities of life through healthy avenues. You are nurturing and able to cultivate and nurture almost any object of your desire. This is a good time to use your imagination and creative abilities-a hobby.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Legal work, not necessarily problems, may come into play. Perhaps there is someone near you who needs your guidance. Your very fine verbal skills and a natural sense of justice make legal work a distinct possibility. If you are not a lawyer, you may have decided to take the dictation in courts. After all, where else would you be able to hear about the mystery before it ever goes to book you also have a great interest in ideas, the truer and more lasting the better. Your love of job and practical skills makes you a fine manager and businessperson. A family member who runs a successful business wants you to play a part in the business-instead, you may want to consider acting as a mediator. You may find yourself entertaining this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your timing should be perfect today; the right words, good choices and spontaneity are easy. There are lots of communication, investigation and research, with probing questions. You are not afraid of saying the truth and you seldom pull any punches. You may find yourself laughingly involved in some sort of work that requires digging, searching, investigating and getting beneath the surface of a situation. You are fascinated by social interchange but should be careful to not let yourself become surface-oriented. No matter who has problems, you seem ready, willing and able to help. You enjoy variety and change. Thinking, writing, researching and sciences are good. Consider taking a creative writing class at a nearby junior college-you have lots to say.

WORD SEARCH

Fantasy 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

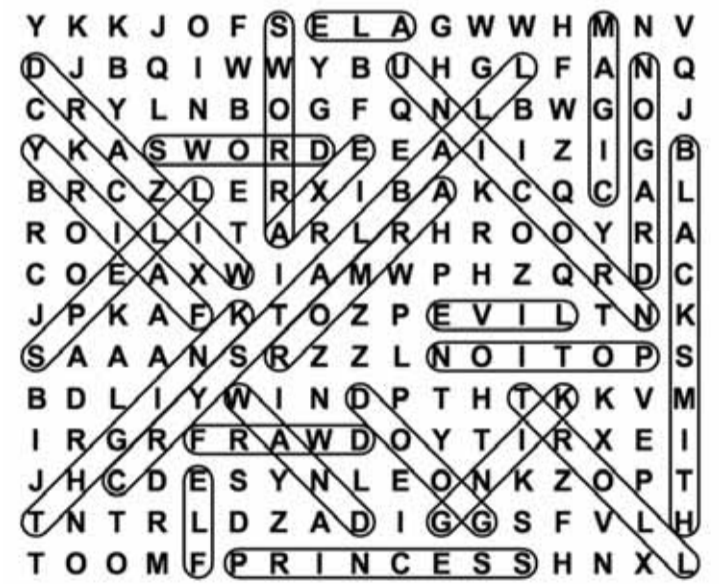


- ARCHERS
- CASTLE
- CENTAUR
- CHALICE
- CROSSBOW
- DAGGER
- DRAWBRIDGE
- DUNGEON
- ELVES
- FOREST
- GNOME
- GOLD
- HERO
- HORSE
- MACE
- MOAT
- OGRE
- POISON
- PRINCE
- QUEST
- WEAPONS
- WINE
- WITCH

Yesterday Solution

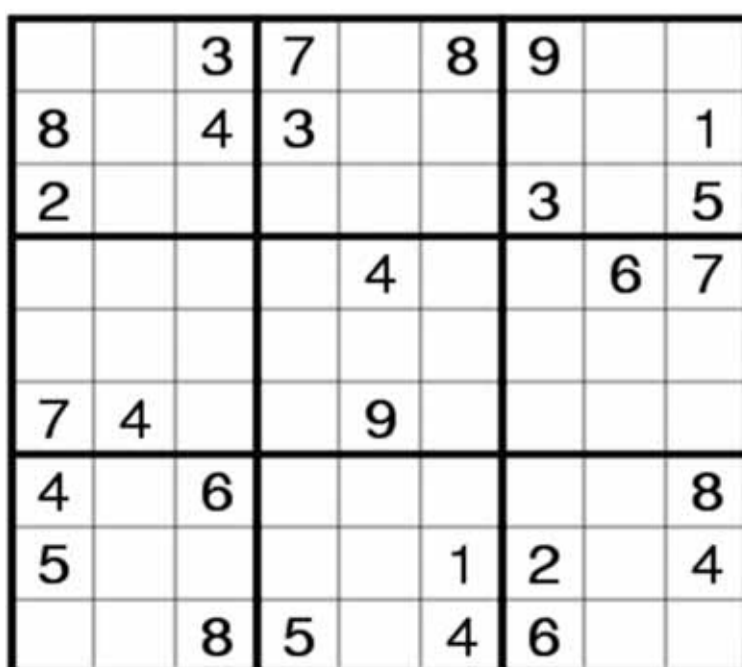
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Fantasy 1 - Solution

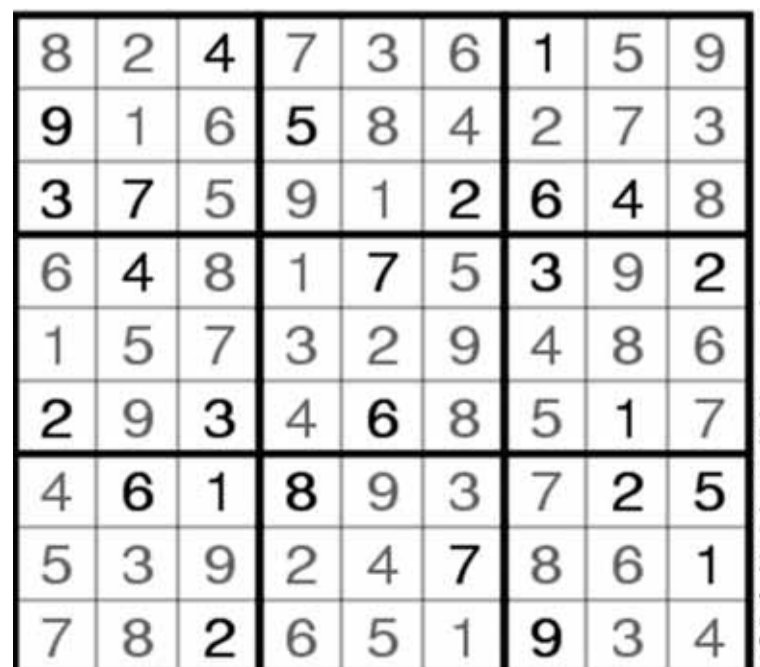


- ALE
- ARMOR
- ARROWS
- AXE
- BLACKSMITH
- CRYSTAL BALL
- DRAGON
- DWARF
- ELF
- EVIL
- FAIRY
- GOOD
- KING
- KNIGHT
- MAGIC
- POTION
- PRINCESS
- SPELL
- SWORD
- TROLL
- UNICORN
- WAND
- WIZARD

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution







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

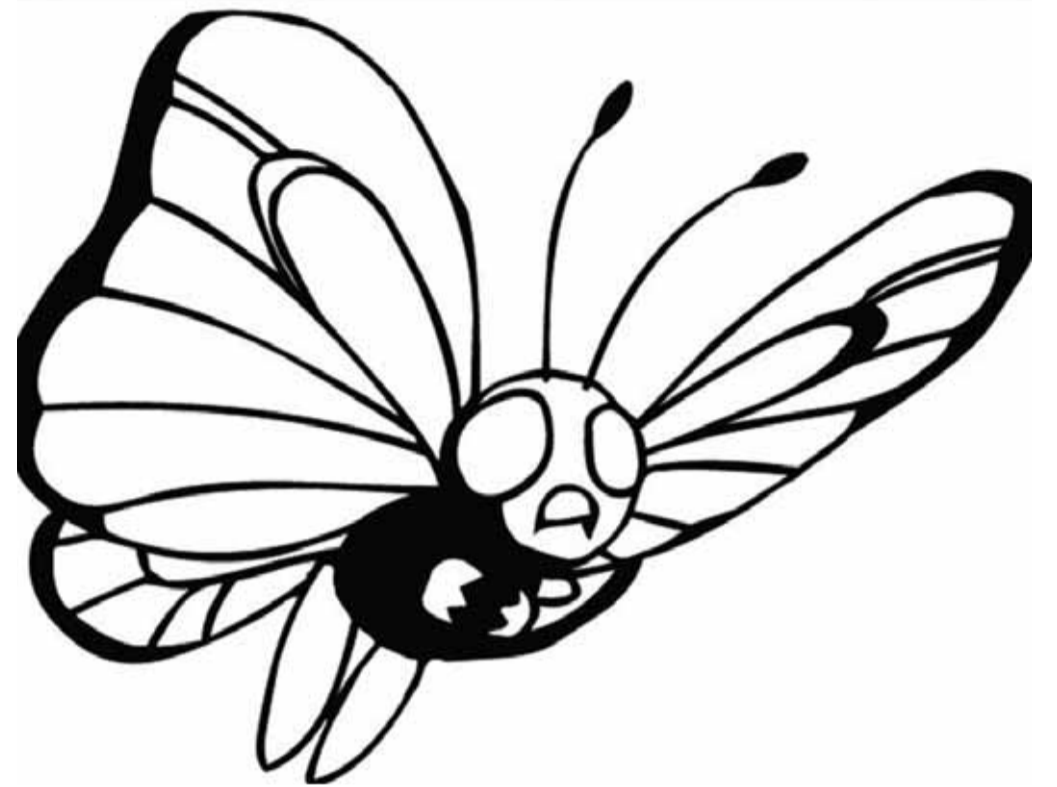
## SUDOKU

Solution

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



Color me!



## Did you know?

- The chemical element Titanium has the symbol Ti and atomic number 22.
- Pure titanium is a transition metal with a lustrous silver-white color.
- Titanium will always be found bonded with another element it does not naturally occur on its own in a pure form.
- British pastor William Gregor discovered titanium in 1791. It was later named by German chemist Martin Heinrich Klaproth who called it titanium after the Titans of Greek mythology. It was not until 1910 that titanium was produced to 99.9% purity by New Zealander Matthew A. Hunter, the method became known as the Hunter Process.
- Titanium has two very useful properties, it is resistant to corrosion (including in sea water and chlorine) and has the highest strength-to-weight ratio of any metal.
- Titanium is as strong as a lot of steels, yet it is 45% lighter. The metal is also 60% denser than aluminum but is over two times as strong.
- Titanium has a melting point of 3,034 °F (1,668 °C) and a boiling point of 5,949 °F (3,287 °C).
- Titanium is non-magnetic and is not very good at conducting heat or electricity.
- Even in large doses titanium remains non-toxic and does not have any natural role inside the human body, usually passing through without being absorbed.
- Titanium is present in most igneous rocks and their sediments, it is the 9th most abundant element in the Earth's crust and the 7th most abundant metal.
- Titanium metal is also used in the production of high-end racing cars and motorcycles where reducing weight but maintaining strength is important.
- Titanium's strength-to-weight superiority has seen the metal used as a component in many other products in recent times including, laptops, firearms, tennis rackets, golf clubs, lacrosse sticks, football helmet grills, bicycles frames, camping cookware and utensils.
- Around 95% of all titanium is used to produce the compound titanium dioxide, which is a very bright and refractive white pigment that is used in paints, plastics, toothpaste, sunscreens, sports equipment and paper.
- The famous Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, is covered in titanium panels.
- The fact that titanium is strong, light, non-toxic and does not react with bodies makes it a valuable medical resource. It's used to make surgical implements and implants, such as hip joint replacements that can stay in place for up to 20 years.
- Titanium is now popular in designer rings and other jewelry due to its durability, its resistance to seawater and chlorine in swimming pools and as it is non-toxic.
- Titanium is present in meteorites, the sun, and other stars.

## ACTIVITY



## Sticky window hearts

### What you need:

- > Sticky hearts mixture:
  - 3 tbsp of white school glue (Elmer's Glue)
  - 2 drops of dishwashing liquid
  - 1 tsp of glitter (or more if you're brave)
  - a few drops of food coloring of your choice

### Tools:

- 1 FREE heart window printable
- 1 plastic sleeve
- paint brush

### Activity

1. Mix together the white school glue, dishwashing liquid, food coloring and glitter.
2. Print out the FREE heart window printable. Place it inside a plastic sleeve.
3. Using the template as a guide, use the gluey mixture to paint a heart shape onto the plastic sleeve. Let it dry overnight.
4. In the morning, check it is fully dry before carefully peeling it off the plastic.
5. Stick it to the window and watch the sunlight shine through.
6. Pretty!

Q: Why didn't the quarter roll down the hill with the nickel?  
A: Because it had more cents.

Q: Why was the math book sad?  
A: Because it had too many problems.

Q: What kind of meals do math teachers eat?  
A: Square meals!

Q: Teacher: Now class, whatever I ask, I want you to all answer at once. How much is six plus 4?  
A: Class: At once!

Q: Why didn't the two 4's want any dinner?  
A: Because they already 8!

Q: What is a math teacher's favorite sum?  
A: Summer!

## JOKES

## RECIPES FOR KIDS



## Cream Cheese Penguins

### Ingredients:

- 1 package cream cheese, softened
- 18 small black olives
- 1 carrot
- 18 jumbo black olives, pitted

### Method

1. Cut a slit from top to bottom, lengthwise, into the side of each jumbo olive. Carefully insert about 1 teaspoon of cream cheese into each olive.
2. Slice the carrot into eighteen 1/4 inch thick

rounds; cut a small notch out of each carrot slice to form feet. Save the cut out piece and press into center of small olive to form the beak. If necessary cut a small slit into each olive before inserting the beak.

3. Set a big olive, large hole side down, onto a carrot slice.
4. Then, set a small olive onto the large olive, adjusting so that the beak, cream cheese chest and notch in the carrot slice line up. Secure with a toothpick.

## DISNEY

### THE QUIZ

1. What is the name of the orangutan in The Jungle Book?
2. What does Ariel in The Little Mermaid give to Ursula so she can have legs?
3. Name the well known Disney pair, Jiminy Cricket and (whom)?
4. Name the lyricist and song-writer of the Lion King songs 'Circle of Life', 'Be Prepared' and 'Can You Feel The Love Tonight'?
5. The villain, Gaston, appears in which 1991 Disney film?
6. Who, in the film Snow White, sings the song 'Some Day My Prince Will Come'?
7. Which Disney film is about a Mum and Daughter who swap places and are forced to live each others lives?
8. Which duet sung by Princess Jasmine and Aladdin appears in the film, Aladdin?
9. What animal swallowed a clock in Peter Pan?
10. Name the rock on which Simba will stand as King in Lion King?



### ANSWERS

1. King Louie
2. Her Voice
3. Pinocchio
4. Tim Rice and Elton John
5. Beauty & The Beast
6. Snow White
7. Freaky Friday
8. A Whole New World
9. A crocodile
10. Pride Rock





In this June 8, 2008 file photo, producer Garry Marshall, center, accepts the legend award on stage at the TV Land Awards in Santa Monica, Calif. — AP photos



In this Feb 8, 2010 file photo, Shirley Maclaine, from left, Emma Roberts, Garry Marshall, and Julia Roberts arrive at the premiere for Valentine's Day, in Los Angeles.

## 'Pretty Woman' filmmaker Garry Marshall dies at age 81

Garry Marshall knew how to tug at moviegoers' heartstrings, whether with unlikely love in "Pretty Woman" or sentimental loss in "Beaches." But it was goofy, crowd-pleasing comedy that endeared the writer and director to generations of TV viewers in hit sitcoms including "Happy Days," "Laverne & Shirley" and "Mork & Mindy." Marshall, who died Tuesday at 81, said in a 1980s interview that humor was his necessary path in life. "In the neighborhood where we grew up in, the Bronx, you only had a few choices. You were either an athlete or a gangster, or you were funny," the New York native said. Marshall also had a memorable on-screen presence, using his hometown accent and gruff delivery in colorful supporting roles that included a practical-minded casino boss untouched by Albert Brooks' disastrous luck in "Lost in America" and a crass network executive in "Soapdish."

He died at a hospital in Burbank, California, of complications from pneumonia following a stroke, his publicist Michelle Bega said in a statement. An outpouring of respect and affection quickly followed. "A great, great guy and the best casino boss in the history of film," actor-filmmaker Brooks posted on Twitter. Richard Gere, who starred opposite Julia Roberts in "Pretty Woman," said in a statement that "everyone loved Garry. He was a mentor and a cheerleader and one of the funniest men who ever lived. He had a heart of the purest gold and a soul full of mischief. He was Garry."

**Larger than life**  
Henry Winkler, who starred as Fonzie on "Happy Days," saluted Marshall in a tweet as "larger than life, funnier than most, wise and the definition of friend." He rejected retirement, serving as a consultant on CBS' 2015 reboot of "The Odd Couple," starring Matthew Perry and Thomas Lennon, and appearing in an episode this year as Oscar's father, Walter. Among his final credits was "Mother's Day," a film released last April starring Jennifer Aniston, Kate Hudson and Roberts. Marshall, the brother of actress-director Penny Marshall, earned a degree in journalism from Northwestern University and worked at the New York Daily News. But he found he was better at writing punchlines.

He began his entertainment career in the 1960s selling jokes to comedians, then moved to writing sketches for "The Tonight Show" with Jack Paar in New York. He caught the eye of comic Joey Bishop, who brought him to Los Angeles to write for "The Joey Bishop Show." Sitcoms quickly proved to be Marshall's forte. He and then-writing partner Jerry Belson turned out scripts for the most popular comedies of the '60s, including "The Lucy Show," "The Danny Thomas Show" and "The Dick Van Dyke Show."

Marshall and Belson detoured into screenwriting in 1967 with "How Sweet It Is," starring Debbie Reynolds, and followed it up with "The Grasshopper" (1970) with Jacqueline Bisset. But

the two men kept their hand in TV. In 1970, they turned Neil Simon's Broadway hit, "The Odd Couple," into a sitcom starring Jack Klugman and Tony Randall and produced by Marshall. It ran for five seasons and proved the beginning of a TV sitcom empire that lives on in unending 21st-century reruns.

In January 1979, Marshall had three of the top five comedies on the air with "Happy Days," which ran from 1974-84; "Laverne & Shirley" (1976-83), which starred Penny Marshall and Cindy Williams, and "Mork & Mindy" (1978-82) with newcomer Robin Williams.

**Targeting society**  
"The New Odd Couple," a reboot with African-American actors Ron Glass and Demond Wilson in the lead roles, aired from 1982-83 but was less successful. Marshall defended his body of TV work, which won more viewers than honors, in his 1995 autobiography, "Wake Me When It's Funny," written with his daughter, Lori Marshall. "Critics have knocked me for targeting society's lowest common denominator," he wrote. "I believe that television was, and still is, the only medium that can truly reach society's lowest common denominator and entertain those people who maybe can't afford a movie or a play. So why not reach them and do it well?" he said.

Penny Marshall told The New York Times in 2001 that her brother "has a life. He's not into the show business glitterati. If

he has a hot movie, that's great. But if he has something that doesn't do great, he's not around those people who won't speak to you or will make you feel terrible." After cranking out what Marshall once estimated to be 1,000 sitcom episodes, he switched his focus to the big screen with 1984's "The Flamingo Kid," a coming-of-age story starring Matt Dillon, which Marshall wrote and directed. He concentrated on directing with his later films, including 1986's "Nothing in Common," with Tom Hanks and Jackie Gleason; "Overboard" (1987) starring Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell; "Beaches" (1988) with Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey; "Pretty Woman" (1990) and "Dear God" (1996) with Greg Kinnear and Laurie Metcalf.

The Gere-Roberts pairing that helped make "Pretty Woman" a smash hit did the same for "Runaway Bride," which reunited them in 1999. "The Princess Diaries" in 2001 was another winner, although Marshall suffered a flop with "Georgia Rule" (2007), starring Jane Fonda and Lindsay Lohan. Marshall is survived by his wife, Barbara, and the couple's three children, Lori, Kathleen and Scott. Funeral services will be private but a memorial is being planned for his birthday on Nov 13, his publicist's statement said. — AP



In this Tuesday, July 12, 2016 file photo, John Cho, from left, Idris Elba, director Justin Lin, Simon Pegg and Lydia Wilson pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film 'Star Trek Beyond' in London. — AP photos



In this image released by Paramount Pictures, from left, Anton Yelchin, Chris Pine and John Cho appear in a scene from, 'Star Trek Beyond.'

## 'Star Trek Beyond' gracefully finds orbit amid tragedy

When the "Star Trek Beyond" cast and filmmakers gathered in Los Angeles last month for Anton Yelchin's funeral, they had a decision to make. Their film, the third in the rebooted series, was coming out in less than a month and a rigorous press tour was imminent. They could either put themselves out there to promote the film in the raw and devastating weeks following the death of their beloved co-star, or they could withdraw. "We came to the conclusion in the end (that) if we withdraw, we're going to risk not helping a film that should be seen, not least because it stars Anton Yelchin," said Simon Pegg. "That's how we found the strength to be here ... It's hard to talk about, but we don't want to not talk about it. If we don't talk about it, it's like we're ignoring it."

But persevering in the face of hardship and loss is in the fabric of "Star Trek," which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with this new tale of hope and unity in the federation. "Star Trek Beyond" was supposed to be business as usual, with a few tweaks behind the scenes. J.J. Abrams, who re-launched the series in 2009 with a new cast and directed the 2013 sequel, had his hands full with "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," and would cede directing responsibilities to Justin Lin - the man who turned the lagging "Fast & Furious" series into an international phenomenon.

**Filming in June**  
Gone, too, were screenwriters Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman. Instead, Pegg, who plays Scotty in the films, was tasked with taking on the additional responsibility of writing the screenplay with Doug Jung. It wasn't going to be easy. No blockbuster

ever is. But the "Beyond" crew had an insanely short window to work with. By the time Pegg, Jung and Lin started on the story, it was the end of January 2015. They had to start filming in June. "Justin was in a situation that no director should ever be in: Prepping a movie that wasn't written yet," Pegg said.

There was already a crew in Vancouver waiting for directions on what to build for the set. "I equate it to us driving a car and building a road at the same time," Lin said. In front of the camera, things mostly looked the same. Chris Pine was back as Captain James Kirk, as was Karl Urban (Bones), Zoe Saldana (Uhura), Zachary Quinto (Spock), Yelchin (Chekov) and John Cho (Sulu), who is revealed to be gay in the latest film. There were a few additions, too, in Idris Elba as the terrifying villain Krall and Sofia Boutella as the scrappy loner Jaylah, who early on in the story process was referred to by the cast as "Hannah Solo."

And then, in late February 2015, Leonard Nimoy - the man who originated Mr. Spock - died of end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at age 83. While Quinto had taken over his character officially, Nimoy had appeared in both new films as Spock Prime and the door was left open for his return. "We knew we were going to make a tribute to Leonard when it happened, but we thought let's make him part of the DNA of the story too," Pegg said. So Pegg and Jung wrote Ambassador Spock's off-screen death into the film, using it to affect Quinto's arc, and also serve as an elegy to the actor.

**'There is no recasting'**  
Of course, no one could have foreseen that they would lose

another before the film came out, and one of their youngest, in Yelchin who was only 27 when he died after being struck by his own car last month. When the accident happened, Yelchin's work on the film was finished, but Lin was still a few weeks away from completion, and so part of his and his post-production crew's mourning involved revisiting all of Yelchin's takes - something Lin was all too familiar with. Paul Walker died while "Furious 7" was still in production. The close-knit cast and crew of "Star Trek" were also able to say goodbye together at the funeral. "It was this incredible bond from the very beginning with all of them. And the reality is that this experience, to be at the funeral with all of them, it was really the only kind of salvation for us," Abrams said. "We all had each other."

The series will live on, of course. On Monday, Paramount Pictures announced that there will be a fourth film, which will see the return of Kirk's deceased father (Chris Hemsworth). As for Chekov, Abrams said they've started thinking about how to deal with his absence in the continuing story, but that it's also "too early to talk about." "There is no recasting," Abrams said. "I know he literally was a re-cast of a prior thing, but ... we have some other thoughts." Everyone is still processing the loss the best they can. "It will never stop being terrible," Pegg said. But he did find some grace and solace in seeing his friend up on the big screen again. "I thought it was going to be really sad. At times it was. But for the most part, it was like 'there he is, he's right there,'" Pegg said. "He's alive and he's happy and he will be there forever." — AP

## Lady Gaga says 'taking break' from relationship

Lady Gaga said Wednesday she was "taking a break" from her relationship with actor Taylor Kinney but still hoped to reconcile with her "soulmate." The pop diva commented after celebrity gossip sites said she and Kinney had broken off their engagement and pointed out she was no longer wearing her ring. "Taylor and I have always believed we are soulmates. Just like all couples we have ups and downs, and we have been taking a break," she wrote on Instagram early yesterday to her nearly 18 million followers. Gaga, who also shared the message with her more than 61 million Twitter followers, did not address marriage plans but indicated that the relationship was not completely over.

"We are both ambitious artists, hoping to work through long-distance and complicated schedules to continue the simple love we have always shared," she wrote. "Please root us on. We're just like everybody else and we really love each other." Gaga had long spoken of her difficulties in keeping partners due to her professional success and brazen sexuality. But the 30-year-old has said that she found the right match in Kinney, 35, who has starred in television series "Chicago Fire" and "The Vampire Diaries" as well as the thriller "Zero Dark Thirty" about the killing of September 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden.

Gaga met Kinney in 2011 when they filmed the video for "You & I" - which features scenes of her being tortured in the open fields of Nebraska. Kinney proposed to Gaga, an Italian American whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, over a Valentine's Day dinner last year at a New York restaurant owned by her family. Gaga, known for her flamboyant outfits, quickly made the engagement public by showing off a simple, heart-shaped ring from Kinney. One of the most successful singers to emerge in the 21st century, Gaga plans an active 2016 after a comparatively quiet spell and has hinted that a new album will come this year. She is scheduled to perform next week for delegates on the sidelines of the Democratic National Convention as they nominate Hillary Clinton for president. — AFP



In this file photo, Taylor Kinney, left, and Lady Gaga arrive at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP



In this file photo, Marc Anthony, winner of the award for best salsa album, speaks on stage at the 15th annual Latin Grammy Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. — AP

## Marc Anthony is Latin Grammy Person of the Year

Salsa star Marc Anthony has been named 2016 Latin Recording Academy Person of the Year. The academy will honor the five-time Latin Grammy and two-time Grammy winner on Nov 16 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, on the eve of the Latin Grammys. "I was ecstatic when I received the news," Anthony said in a press release shared exclusively with The Associated Press on Tuesday in advance of its wide release. "It is an honor and I am humbled to be selected as The Person of Year recipient for my contributions as a music ambassador and my humanitarian efforts."

Marc Anthony has sold more than 12 million albums worldwide. His hits include not only salsa songs in Spanish like "Vali la pena" and "Vivir mi vida," but also pop hits in

English like "I Need to Know" and "You Sang to Me." As a humanitarian, Anthony is co-founder and vice chairman of the Maestro Cares Foundation, which helps rescue and providing critical resources to impoverished children in Latin America. Since its creation in 2012, the foundation has opened orphanages in the Dominican Republic, Colombia and Mexico.

The star-studded gala will feature renditions of the singer's renowned music catalog by an array of notable artists to be announced later. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the charitable work of the Latin Grammy Cultural Foundation, which provides assistance through scholarships, fellowships, grants, and educational programs year-round to music students. "Marc Anthony is syn-

onymous with excellence and commitment to perfection," said Gabriel Abaroa Jr, president and CEO of The Latin Recording Academy, in the press release. "The world knows him as a music king; however, on Nov. 16, the award-winning singer will not only be honored for his musical legacy but also applauded for his relentless humanitarian efforts." Anthony joins a list of past honorees that includes Miguel Bose, Roberto Carlos, Placido Domingo, Gloria Estefan, Carlos Santana, Joan Manuel Serrat, Ricky Martin and Shakira, among others. — AP





Actor Matt Damon attends the Premiere of "Jason Bourne" in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AP/AFP photos



Tommy Lee Jones and wife, Dawn, arrive at the 'Jason Bourne' Las Vegas film premiere.



Alicia Vikander arrives at the 'Jason Bourne' Las Vegas film premiere.



Julia Stiles arrives at the 'Jason Bourne' Las Vegas film premiere.

## Bourne-again Matt Damon returns as spy of few words

In the rarefied world of international espionage, where discretion is considered the better part of valor, no one expects you to be the life and soul of the party. But shadowy former CIA operative "Jason Bourne" is laconic even by a spy's standards, according to US actor Matt Damon, who has revealed his iconic character has just 25 lines in the latest Bourne film. The amnesiac super-spy returns to the big screen next week for the first new installment of the Robert Ludlum-based thriller series since 2012, and the first starring Damon in nine years.

"Jason Bourne," the fifth film in the hit franchise, sees the 45-year-old pitted against Alicia Vikander's Heather Lee, the head of the CIA's Cyber Ops department who is determined to flush out her nemesis. Paul Greengrass, director of "The Bourne Supremacy" (2004) and "The Bourne Ultimatum" (2007) was persuaded to rejoin Damon for the next chapter of the Universal franchise after both men sat out 2012's "The Bourne Legacy." Damon told the London-based Guardian Greengrass called him after looking at the finished movie and told him he only had about 25 lines. "Well, I've done it three times," Damon said of playing the spy of few words, adding that screenwriter Tony Gilroy

made Bourne "a very lonely character" after his girlfriend dies in the second movie. "I remember Tony writing me an email saying, 'You do realize what this means? You do realize you're not going to talk in this movie.' I said, 'No, I love that.'"

### \$1 million per line

Vanity Fair pointed out in an article published on its website on Monday that, given his limited dialogue, Damon was probably earning at least \$1 million a line for "Jason Bourne." Although his fee for being wooed back to the franchise has not been made public, Damon was paid \$26 million for "The Bourne Ultimatum" in 2007, according to Forbes magazine, and earned \$25 million for last year's space thriller "The Martian."

"The thing about making these films is that they're not like a normal film. With a franchise movie, it's got to turn the wheels of the industry and the studio has to have them," Greengrass told the Guardian, explaining Bourne's lack of dialogue. "So you start with a release date. They say we're going to make a new Bourne film and it comes out summer of X. Then they start on a script and invariably the

script is not ready in time." Rather than start filming without a script, Greengrass says that he and his fellow screenwriter Christopher Rouse hurried the writing process, and dialogue was not a priority.

Damon is not the first star to command a stratospheric fee per word in an action blockbuster—Arnold Schwarzenegger reportedly got \$15 million, or \$21,429 per word, for "Terminator 2: Judgment Day." And like the burly Austrian-American, Damon dedicated the energy he might normally have spent on learning his lines into hitting the gym, completing two 90-minute high-intensity sessions every day for 10 weeks.

### US protests

"I trained a lot more than I ever had done before because Paul Greengrass said that when we see Bourne in the first frame of the movie and it looks like he hasn't been living well, then we don't have a movie," Damon told British newspaper The Daily Telegraph. "So he really wanted me to be physically fit and lean, so it was a lot of work for me to get there." When "Jason Bourne" opens, the protagonist is given secret information that could lead him to more

answers about his past, after living in Greece, where he earned pin money as a bare-knuckle boxer.

Tommy Lee Jones plays CIA director Robert Dewey, who leads the government to believe Bourne intends to reveal the names of covert operatives in a mass data dump. The film sees Damon reunite after a gap of nine years with Julia Stiles, who first appeared in 2002's "The Bourne Identity" as CIA analyst Nicky Parsons and has gone rogue. The 35-year-old, who attended the film's glittering US premiere in Las Vegas on Monday alongside Damon and Vikander, told the Telegraph that Greengrass had a knack of setting his movies in a world that was familiar to audiences. "He can keep the political issues and the environment very timely and relevant," she said. "He wrote it a year ago, but it feels shockingly familiar given all the protests and violence that we've experienced in the United States." — AFP

## 'Don't Think Twice' explores the trials of improv

When people look back at the movies and television shows and podcasts and web series of today to see what 20 and 30 somethings were doing in 2016, they would not be misguided in assuming that everyone was in improv. Yes, the trials of the stand-up and improv-classes have been as thoroughly documented as those of New York City prep school students in the '90s. Is there anyone alive who doesn't know the old "yes, and" rule? That doesn't stop "Don't Think Twice" from opening with a long, sentimental explanation of the tenants of the craft. It isn't writer-director-star Mike Birbiglia's fault that suddenly everyone struggling to work in entertainment seems to be writing what they know - stories about struggling to work in entertainment. To be fair, he's also been exploring this terrain for some time. Birbiglia's "Sleepwalk

With Me" took a similarly insider view of the life and anxieties of a touring stand-up comedian.

He's not uncritical of his buddies, either. It's a fascinating little subset of egos and neuroses that may eventually rise to be the kings of popular culture. The terrain just feels a little over chronicled at this point. "Don't Think Twice" mercifully tries to do something different, even if it starts out feeling oh-so-familiar, by looking at what happens when one member of a close-knit improv group gets a big break as a cast member on a "Saturday Night Live"-like show. The lucky guy is Jack (an excellent Keegan-Michael Key), who is the most outwardly ambitious of the group. He's the one who doesn't hesitate to steamroll a skit to allow room for his best impression when they get word that a "Weekend Live" scout is in the audiences.

### 'Weekend Live'

This bugs his fellow troupe members - his girlfriend Samantha (Gillian Jacobs), Allison (Kate Micucci), Lindsay (Tami Sagher), Bill (Chris Gethard), and coach Miles (Birbiglia) - but they treat it as all part of the game. Indeed, everything is a joke or a bit with this group, and any ounce of sincerity expressed is a guarantee that the rest will mock you relentlessly. Most have pay-the-rent service industry day jobs, generally disapproving parents, and tiny, dorm-like apartments. They gather ritualistically around the television set on Saturday nights to dissect "Weekend Live" skits and quietly both resent and envy the good fortune of those supposedly at the top of their game. Miles likes wax poetic about how he was this close to getting in one time.

Everything starts to fall apart when Jack gets the coveted gig. Not only is the group fractured and the improv theater closing, buckling under exorbitant New York City rents, but his sudden success inspires a crisis of conscience in everyone as they all wonder if maybe they should have spent less time looking out for the troupe and more time devoted to their own craft. "Weekend Live" doesn't hire teams, after all. Miles, in particular, starts to really question his choices and whether or not this romantic mess of a life is suited to someone on the upper edges of their 30s.

Comedic moments  
A visit from a more put-together high school classmate helps to poke a hole in the bubble of his little world. Meanwhile, life is lonely for Jack, who continues to try to do right by his friends with often disastrous results as he navigates the precarious world of newfound fame. "Don't Think Twice" is not really a comedy at all. There are comedic moments, sure, most of them born out of awkwardness and not the improv scenes, which fall into the trap of far too many performance films by showing overly delighted audience members too often.

Instead, it's a deeply sincere and literate coming-of-age tale about a group of charming-enough people who should have probably taken care of that by now. "Don't Think Twice," a Film Arcade release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "language and some drug use." Running Time: 92 minutes. Three stars out of four. MPAA Definition of R: Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian. — AP



In this image released by TFA, Tami Sagher, from left, Gillian Jacobs, Keegan-Michael Key, Mike Birbiglia, Chris Gethard and Kate Micucci appear in a scene from, 'Don't Think Twice.'—AP

## Florida project breeds 'Finding Dory' fish in captivity

Researchers at the University of Florida say fish like the animated character Dory may become easier to find for home aquariums. In a statement Tuesday, researchers at the University of Florida Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory said they had successfully bred Pacific blue tangs in captivity for the first time. The blue species is the model for the forgetful fish featured in the films "Finding Nemo" and "Finding Dory."

Researchers say the breakthrough means that one day, home aquariums or marine life exhibits might not have to rely on the capture of blue tangs in the wild. Lab director Craig

Watson says the next step is helping commercial producers replicate the researchers' success with the key marine ornamental species. Rising Tide Conservation, the SeaWorld-Busch Gardens Conservation Fund and the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University also contributed to the project. — AP



This undated file image released by Disney shows the character Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres, in a scene from 'Finding Dory.' — AP



This file photo shows actress Leslie Jones attends the Los Angeles Premiere of 'Ghostbusters' in Hollywood, California. — AFP

## Twitter bans editor after abuse of 'Ghostbusters' star

Twitter has banned an editor at the conservative Breitbart website following a wave of targeted racial slurs that drove "Ghostbusters" star Leslie Jones to abandon the social media platform in disgust. Milo Yiannopoulos, the website's tech editor known for provocative posts, was quoted by Breitbart late Tuesday as calling his suspension "cowardly." "Twitter has confirmed itself as a safe space for Muslim terrorists and Black Lives Matter extremists, but a no-go zone for conservatives." The suspension came a day after Jones, who is African American, said she was leaving Twitter after being bombarded by Internet trolls likening her to an ape and making other racist insults.

"I leave Twitter tonight with tears and a very sad heart. All this cause I did a movie. You can hate the movie but the shit I got today... wrong," the Saturday Night Live comedian and actress said late Monday. "Twitter I understand you got free speech I get it. But there has to be some guidelines when you let spread like that," she said in another tweet. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey responded with a tweet back to Jones saying he was "following" and asking her to contact him directly.

### 'Repeated violations'

Yiannopoulos' Twitter account, which had more than 388,000 followers, was blocked sometime later. "Your account has been permanently suspended for repeated violations of the Twitter rules... specifically our rules prohibiting or participating in or inciting targeted abuse of individuals," the Twitter notification posted by Breitbart said. The torrent of abuse comes after the weekend US release of the movie, which has been lauded by critics but maligned by men who have accused its female stars of being unfunny and of having ruined their childhoods.

One troll wrote: "Don't let #Ghostbusters bombing get you down. You're a shoo-in to star in the Harambe mon picture as the man himself." The slur referred to the death of Harambe the gorilla, who was shot dead in May at Cincinnati Zoo after a three-year-old boy fell into its enclosure.

The fuming 48-year-old Jones responded to the abuse by taking screenshots and retweeting many of the slurs, saying they had made her "numb." "You have to hate yourself to put out that type of hate. I mean on my worst day I can't think of this type of hate to put out," she tweeted. Supporters started a #LoveForLeslieJ hashtag, encouraging Jones to "stay strong" and return to Twitter, while celebrities including actors John Boyega and Jada Pinkett Smith publicly offered their support. "Ghostbusters" director Paul Feig tweeted: "Leslie Jones is one of the greatest people I know. Any personal attacks against her are attacks against us all." Twitter released a statement saying it had "taken action" on many of the accounts reported for abusing Jones. — AFP



TRAVEL



The old city of Florence, Italy, flanking the River Arno as viewed from the Piazzale Michelangelo.



A view of the Ponte Vecchio from the banks of the River Arno in Florence, Italy.



A partial view of the statue of Hercules and the centaur Nessus with the ornate ceiling of the Uffizi Gallery in the background in Florence, Italy.



A lineup of scented bottles sitting on a horseshoe shaped counter in the Santa Maria Novella pharmacy in Florence, Italy.



Photo shows antique pills that promised to cure hysteria-related complaints, at the Santa Maria Novella pharmacy in Florence, Italy. — AP photos

The old city of Florence, Italy, flanking the River Arno as viewed from the Piazzale Michelangelo.



# Galleries to gelato: Best of Florence

The skies were clouding over as I strode briskly across that famous bridge, the Ponte Vecchio, ready for a productive day checking off Florentine must-sees. Slight problem: The first museum on my list was open, but the ticket office was closed. OK, then, on to the Uffizi Gallery. Except this time both ticket office and museum were closed; I had forgotten it was Monday. A fine rain began to fall as I wandered listlessly past the open arches of the building next door, the statue-studded Loggia dei Lanzi. This wasn't going at all as planned.

And then it hit me. Wait. This was the Piazza della Signoria, where novelist E.M. Forster's adorable Lucy Honeychurch witnessed a stabbing moments after complaining about the dullness of life in "A Room With a View." And those had to be THE steps where the brooding George Emerson carried Lucy's fainting form. Sunshine filtered through. I had found Florence. Or rather, it had found me. If you're planning a trip here, you could do worse than wander until you find what you didn't know you were looking for. Here are a few starting points.

**What's new**

The Opera Duomo Museum, devoted to art created for the famous Florence duomo (cathedral), has been given a major makeover and expansion. A highlight is the exhibition hall featuring a replica of the former facade of the cathedral. A 15-euro pass (about \$17) will get you access to the museum as well as the cathedral dome and bell tower, both with steps to the top. Open daily except the first Tuesday of the month, but check website for unexpected closures. Piazza del Duomo 9. The Central Market (Piazza del Mercato Centrale on Via dell'Ariento) has a bright and bustling remodeled second floor, home to food stands, a restaurant, pizzeria, cooking school and more. Open daily, 10 am-midnight.

**Classic attractions**

If there is one must-see in Florence it's Michelangelo's David. Yes, there are lines, crowds and a forest of smartphones waving in front of you, but all that falls away as you round the corner to the long gallery and confront 17 feet of cool, concentrated, confident youth. Galleria dell'Accademia, Via Ricasoli 58/60. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 8:15 am-6:50 pm, about \$14.

The Uffizi Gallery, set in an imposing 16th-century building, is home to outstanding art, including Giotto's altarpiece, the Ognissanti Madonna, which revolutionized painting by portraying the human figure in perspective, not just two dimensions. Piazzale degli Uffizi 6. Tuesday-Sunday, 8:15 am-6:50 pm, around \$10.

You can't miss the Duomo, the Gothic cathedral encrusted in pink, green and white marble that is a striking feature of the city. The inside is



Visitors to the Accademia Gallery in Florence, Italy, pause to admire and take photos of Michelangelo's David.

less impressive but is open most days 10 am-5 pm and free. The Ponte Vecchio isn't the most beautiful bridge in the world, but it is interesting, with its lineup of stores, mostly jewelers and souvenir sellers. It was big news in May when a sinkhole opened up, swallowing a score of cars on a stretch of road between Ponte Vecchio and the bridge immediately east, Ponte Grazie. The mayor of Florence vows to repairs completed by November. Around sunset, head to the Piazzale Michelangelo, on a hill on the south side of the Arno, for terrific views of the city. You can get here by taxi, the No. 12 bus or by walking about 20 minutes from the Uffizi Gallery.

**Getting around**

Florence is a walking city; bring comfy shoes. If you have a car or hire a driver, consider emulating Miss Honeychurch and cousin Charlotte and head for the hills. You're in the middle of Chianti wine country with several estates to visit, including Poggio Casciano, a 14th-century villa that is part of the Ruffino wine company and about a 30-minute drive from the city. The estate produces Modus, a "super Tuscan" red blend of sangiovese, merlot and cabernet sauvignon. By appointment only; reserve tastings and tours. Farther afield is the Romitorio di Serelle, about 24 miles from Florence, where you can rent apartments by the week or have lunch on the property's wide terrace perched above rolling vineyards.

**Tips**

If you're planning on visiting museums, consider buying tickets online; book entrance times to skip long lines. More into shopping than sculpture? Check out the Santa Maria Novella, an apothecary that traces its history back 600 years. Don't miss the displays of antique remedies such as anti-hysteria pills as well as the beautifully packaged perfumes and other products available for modern consumers. Via della Scala 16. For a touch of local night life, the Piazza Santo

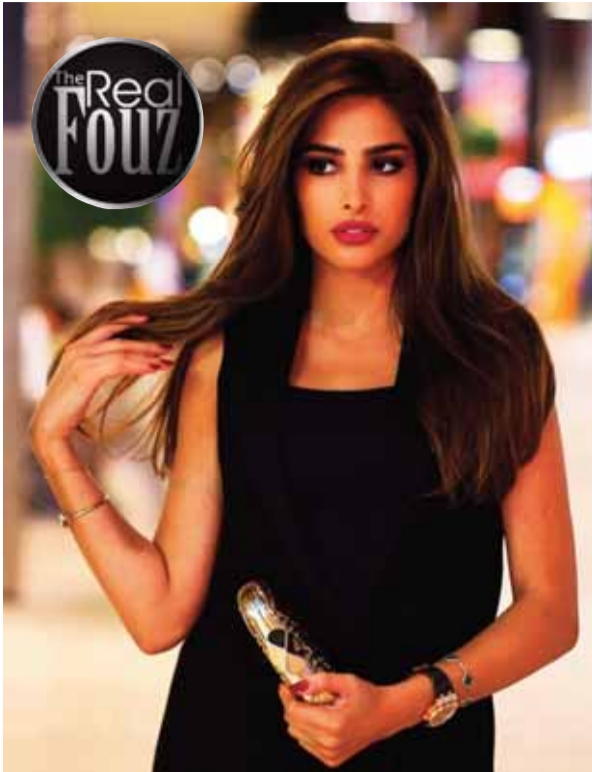
Spirito on the south side of the Arno is lined with cafes and bars.

A hot spot for gelato is La Carraia, Piazza Nazario Sauro 25R. Work up a literary appetite and order something in honor of Miss Honeychurch, who "loved iced coffee and meringues." Enjoy your treats on the nearby Ponte alla Carraia where you'll have more room, and, naturally, a view. —AP



A glass of drink sits on a table on the terrace of the Romitorio di Serelle, a property in the wine country surrounding Florence, Italy, where you can rent apartments or stop for lunch.





## How to get the perfect summer tan!

Summer is here and we're all looking for that perfect summer glow to go with the lighter hair and fun summer dresses! Nothing is better than catching the perfect sun while on vacation, at the same time you should be careful to avoid sunburn, which won't look so good at all. Many of us would travel the world to go to hottest vacation destinations for the cinnamon tan, but completely neglect our skin, which leads to nasty sunburns and flaky, dry skin. First off, I would like to mention that I hate tanning beds, regardless of how safe they try to make it seem, there's just something about an artificial sun that I feel would just not be the same as tanning outdoors.

Since many of us are on vacation I figured why not write an article about how to get the perfect summer tan! I notice many people go overboard with this, and sometimes it is very alarming to watch people bake away without even considering what they are actually doing to themselves other than getting a tan.

**Here are some tips and tricks to do so:**

- Exfoliate your skin before you go tanning to remove the dead skin that will cause you to start flaking which won't allow you to have a long lasting tan.

- Pack on sunscreen instead of sunblock, to shield you from harmful UVA and UVB rays but still give you a lovely tan.
- Use water-resistant sunscreen 15 minutes before swimming to allow the sunscreen to bind to your skin.
- Avoid peak hours, the general rule is to avoid the sun from 10am to 4pm, however from where I'm from, or in the Middle East in general, it is sometimes impossible to lay out for more than 10 minutes in the summer due to the extreme heat.
- Build up your time in the sun by adding on 15-30minutes every time you lay out in the sun, this will help with not getting sunburnt and it will gradually help you build your tan for it to last longer.
- Always use an "After Sun" body lotion to moisturize your skin.
- Drink loads of water to lock in as much moisture in your skin, because being exposed to the sun can cause dehydration as well as dry skin.

- However, if you ever get carried away with tanning and end up sunburned, here are a few quickies to relieve the burn:
- Add cool compress on the area immediately.
  - Add cool milk or yoghurt to the area to create a protein

- film on your skin for comfort.
  - Avoid perfumes and scented soaps to stop dryness and irritation.
  - Add a cup of apple cider vinegar to your bath to balance the pH of sunburned skin so it can start healing.
  - Soak in an oatmeal bath if you ever suffer from an itchy sunburn.
  - Use lotions that contain Aloe Vera to soothe and moisturize the area.
  - Never remove any peeling skin, or play with blisters.
- Keep in mind that as much as we all would love a good tan, there is only so much tanning your skin can take, and we all have that cut-off tan where your skin can no longer get darker. We also need to carefully consider the harm we are causing to our skin which can lead to serious life-threatening illnesses such as skin cancer. Don't overdo it because sometimes being too tanned can come off as too much and that's not a nice look. Being safe should always be your priority in everything you do, especially when it is related to beauty. Do everything moderately. Enjoy your summer vacation!

## Superheroes swoop in to Venezuela in crisis

Superheroes, wizards and Jedi Knights have descended on the Venezuelan capital. And while they may not be able to save the country from its spiraling economic crisis, fans at Caracas Comic-Con are counting on their heroes to at least help them escape their real-world problems for a while. For three weekends, through July 31, fans are paying tribute to the worlds of comic books, video games and sci-fi at the 10th Caracas Comic-Con, the local edition of the international pop culture fest. It comes at a time when a punishing recession, food shortages, hyperinflation and violent crime have left Venezuelans desperate for heroes-or even villains-to come to the rescue.

"It gives us space to breathe in the middle of this political situation," said Jhoan Guzman, a 25-year-old chemist who is today wearing the white face paint and red lipstick of his alter ego: Batman's arch-enemy Joker. "This is an alternative to help us forget the world we're living in, to enjoy ourselves doing something we love." Instead of lining up outside the supermarket for basic necessities, attendees flock to a convention hall in a Caracas mall to pay homage to their favorite pop culture phenomena: The Avengers, Star Wars, Harry Potter, Pokemon and Game of Thrones, among others.

Some even show up in costume, just like at other Comic-Cons worldwide-chief among them the giant gathering each July in San Diego-though here the get-ups are often cobbled together using whatever materials are at hand. Ann Mary Fayard, a 34-year-old fashion designer, was decked out as Harley Quinn, the Joker's sidekick, a costume she made from scraps. "I recycle everything. Whatever cloth is left over, design materials. I save money and tap of my ingenuity," she said. "I like 'cosplay' (costume role-play) because I can let my imagination fly. It's a way to free your mind of so many problems and spend time doing something else."

**Pokemon Go too risky?**

Venezuela is teetering on the brink of collapse, devastated by the global plunge in prices for its main export, oil. President Nicolas Maduro's government is struggling to contain the crisis, fueling



opposition calls for an end to 17 years of leftist rule. The doom and gloom have not kept self-described "geeks" from shelling out 1,800 bolivars (about \$3 at the latest official exchange rate) — more than a week's pay at minimum wage-to attend Caracas Comic-Con. Convention organizer Daniela Paolillo said she expected some 20,000 visitors. One of the top issues they are talking about, said Paolillo, is when they will be able to play Pokemon Go, the wildly popular video game in which players roam the real world hunting for cartoon monsters with their cell phones.

Thyfany Ron, a member of the Pokemon Venezuela fan club, said there is still no local release date for the game. And it is unclear how

safe it would be for players in a country with one of the world's highest rates of violent crime, where smartphone users are frequent targets on the street. But Comic-Con is a time to forget all that, said Maria Pinto, a 19-year-old psychology student dressed up as Star Butterfly from the animated fantasy series "Star vs. the Forces of Evil." "We're living in times of crisis, but we're looking for a way to free ourselves and shed that stress," she said.—AFP



People are disguised during a convention of comics and superheroes in Caracas. — AFP photos





An Indian farmer carries a tray of red chillies as he walks on a roof where others are drying in the village of Sanour on the outskirts of Patiala yesterday. — AFP

## Indonesian toilet cafe serves up stomach-churning food

A toilet-themed cafe where customers dine on meatballs floating in soup-filled latrines may not be everyone's idea of haute cuisine, but Indonesians are flocking to become privy to the latest lavatorial trend. Guests at the 'Jamban Cafe' sit on upright toilets around a table where food is served in squat loos. On a recent visit to the venue, in Semarang on Java island, traditional Indonesian "bakso"—a type of meatball-bobbed in a murky soup in one toilet, while a second contained a brightly-coloured, alcohol-free cocktail.

For those who found the whole experience too nauseating, there was a sick bag hanging by the entrance. Other places, such as Taiwan and Russia, are home to similar themed restaurants, but Indonesia's modest version has a key difference—it aims to educate people about sanitation and encourage the increased use of toilets. "I was disgusted at first, but I eventually ate some of the food out of curiosity," said customer Mukodas, a 27-year-old who, like many Indonesians, goes by one name. "I think the idea is pretty interesting because if you try to have a campaign without a gimmick like this, the information won't stick."

Another customer, 15-year-old Annisa Dhea, conceded she initially found the toilet treats "a bit unappealing" but felt somewhat reassured after "the owner told me that the food was clean and hygienic". The cafe—whose name "Jamban" means toilet in Indonesian—has been open since April and cur-

rently only welcomes small groups who book ahead. Owner Budi Laksono, a public health expert who used to work for the local government, hosts discussions with customers and shows them videos as he seeks to encourage people to use dedicated facilities for their bodily functions.

Millions of Indonesians live below the poverty line and the country has one of the world's highest rates of open defecation—defecating outside and not in a designated toilet—a practice blamed for spreading disease. "This cafe serves as a reminder that many people in Indonesia still do not have toilets," said Laksono, 52. However he admitted that his unusual approach had sparked some controversy in the Muslim-majority country. "Many critics say the cafe is inappropriate and against Islamic law," he said. — AFP



Customers having a meal at the 'Jamban Cafe' in the city of Semarang on Java island, a small eatery where a handful of diners sit on upright toilets around a table where food is served in two squat toilets. — AFP photos



Customers having a meal at the 'Jamban Cafe'.



Customers being served a drink from a squat toilet during a meal at the 'Jamban Cafe'.



Customers being served meatball soup from a squat toilet during a meal at the 'Jamban Cafe'.