

Firemen control  
Shuwaikh  
carpentry  
workshop blaze



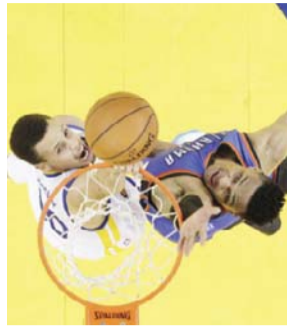
Ex-Miss Turkey  
gets suspended  
sentence for  
insulting Erdogan



Nearly 46 m  
trapped in  
modern  
slavery



Warriors beat  
Thunder to book  
title showdown  
with Cavs



## NEW GULF BODY TO TIGHTEN ECONOMIC BONDS IN REGION

### GCC LEADERS LAUD AMIR'S EFFORTS ON YEMEN



Min 28°  
Max 42°  
High Tide  
08:10 & 20:37  
Low Tide  
01:40 & 14:35



JEDDAH: (From left) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Abdullah Al-Zayani, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Al-Thani, Saudi Defense Minister and Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Omani Deputy Prime Minister Sayed Fahd Al-Said, HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz, Bahrain's King Hamad Al-Khalifa, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum and Saudi Crown Prince and Interior Minister Mohammed bin Nayef pose for a family photo during a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in this Saudi Red Sea yesterday. — AFP

JEDDAH: Gulf Arab states grappling with lower oil revenues yesterday formed a new agency to tighten economic cooperation in the region. The Economic and Development Affairs Authority "will boost coherence, integration and coordination between member states in all economic and development sectors", the Gulf Cooperation Council said in a statement after a summit in Jeddah. The GCC was founded in 1981 to more deeply integrate the Gulf countries, but analysts say progress has been slow.

The collapse of global oil prices has forced the Gulf monarchies to make unprecedented fuel and energy subsidy cuts and plan to introduce indirect taxation. They have also scaled back spending on large projects. Oil prices have fallen from more than \$100 a barrel in early 2014 to around half that level. The newly formed body "will look into matters such as completing the customs union and the common market of the GCC states," Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir told a news conference after the summit. He said the authority "can solve these issues urgently and effectively" to promote cooperation. Meanwhile, GCC leaders commended efforts exerted by HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah aiming to render the success of the current peace talks among the Yemeni warring parties in Kuwait, said GCC Secretary General Abdullah Al-Zayani. Zayani made the statement during the joint news conference with Jubeir. Jubeir said the Yemeni peace negotiations are currently held in accordance with the implementation of outcomes of national dialogue, the UN Security Council resolutions, the Gulf initiative, the ceasefire, handover of weapons and the restoration of legitimacy.

He hoped that the talks would make further progress to restore peace, stability and security to Yemen. He pointed out that his country reached an understanding on stopping military operations on the southern borders to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian and medical aid to Yemen. Jubeir regretted, at the same time, that there are some breaches of the ceasefire. The kingdom has stressed the need to reach a political solution to the crisis in Yemen, he said, pointing out that the countries tasked with Yemen are working to reach a peaceful solution as soon as possible. — Agencies

## CAPITAL SPENDING RISES TO KD 2.7BN IN BUDGET

### PRIORITY FOR GOVT JOBS TWEAKED

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Head of the National Assembly budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said yesterday that capital spending in the 2016/2017 budget will reach KD 2.7 billion, a rise of KD 560 million from the past year. He said the arrangement of the new budget has been changed, and accordingly, the distribution of expenditures has also been modified. Abdulsamad however said that the committee still contradicts the government in its insistence that the projects in the development plan are reflected in the budget.

He said the panel points out that some financial allocations for the development plan projects are being exploited for other projects not listed in the development plan. The lawmaker said the committee also pointed out that the government should determine that it has the capacity to implement the projects before listing them in the five-year development plan. The committee has asked ministries and government

departments to restructure their procedures of reviewing, awarding and implementing contracts in a bid to cut expenditures. MP Yousef Al-Zalzalah called for dismissing senior officials who failed to perform their duties with regards to the development plan.

Meanwhile, head of the women's affairs committee in the Assembly MP Saleh Ashour said yesterday that a law will be issued soon giving priority for government jobs to children of Kuwaiti women married to expatriates immediately after citizens. He said that this priority is currently given to Arab residents in the country after Kuwaitis.

The Assembly's priorities committee said yesterday that the forthcoming session of the Assembly will approve a set of laws including those on the municipality, pharmacy and a law to stiffen penalties against violations of the laws in the private sector. It will also discuss the tenders law and amendments to the internal charter of the Assembly, among a host of issues. Sessions during the holy month of Ramadan will start from noon.

## ZAIN, HUAWEI MARK 10 YEARS OF TIES

SHENZHEN: Ten years have passed since the establishment of one of the most successful strategic partnerships between Middle East's telecom innovator Zain Kuwait and Chinese technology giant Huawei.

This relatively short period of time was enough to witness the emergence of both

partners as technology leaders in Kuwait and across the Middle East. While the over-

See Pages 22 & 23

all telecommunications technology roadmap has undergone extreme changes and opened up new roads in the past

decade, telecommunication companies required experienced technology partners to follow suit along the same lines.

During this boom period, Zain found a true partner for a series of successful agreements and projects culminating in the successful testing of the Middle East's first 4.5G mobile broadband network.



SHENZHEN: Eaman Al-Roudhan, Zain Kuwait Chief Executive Officer, and Joy Tan, President of Corporate Communications at Huawei, are seen with a delegation of Zain Kuwait executives, members of Kuwaiti media including Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (standing, sixth left) and analysts during a special ceremony marking Zain's 10 years of partnership with Huawei at its main headquarters.

## EXPATS TRAPPED BY DEBTS AMID SLOWDOWN IN GULF

DOHA: The economic slowdown gripping countries across the Arabian Gulf can be seen in layoffs, slowed construction projects and government cutbacks. For the millions of foreign workers drawn by brighter job prospects, it can have a far-darker side if they find themselves deep in debt. Gulf countries largely don't have bankruptcy laws, leaving laid-off workers on the hook for huge outstanding sums while often banned from traveling outside of the country. That leaves many unemployed begging friends and family for help while frantically selling off all their belongings. Others have killed themselves out of desperation.

"It was kind of scary for a while there," said Robert Foster, an American from Beaufort, South Carolina, who found himself trapped for months in Qatar. "We sold everything we had." The Middle East has weathered several boom-and-bust cycles over the last decades, both

buoyed and beaten by the global price of crude oil, as well as the recent recession. In 2009, the financial meltdown in Dubai saw dusty luxury cars parked and abandoned at its international airport and across the city as foreigners fled their debts.

This recent financial collapse began with oil prices falling from over \$100 a barrel in the summer of 2014 to bottom out this January to under \$30, a 12-year low. In the time since, oil has clawed back to \$50 on supply disruptions and lowered reserves, but the damage already had been done in the Mideast. Among those hard hit was Qatar, a small oil-and-gas-rich country on the Arabian Peninsula where construction accelerated with the announcement it would host the 2022 FIFA World Cup. As oil and gas prices sank, so too did Qatar's coffers, leading to layoffs across both private and public companies.

Continued on Page 13

## STOWAWAY FOUND ABOARD FLIGHT FROM CHINA TO DUBAI

DUBAI: A teenage boy sneaked into the cargo hold of an Emirates passenger plane in China and made it all the way to Dubai before being apprehended, the airline and Chinese media said yesterday. The Dubai-based airline, the Middle East's biggest, said the stowaway was found in the cargo hold of Flight EK303 from Shanghai on Friday, May 27. "We are cooperating fully with authorities in Dubai and as this is a police matter we are unable to comment further at this time," the airline said in an emailed statement.

It did not give any details on the identity or condition of the stowaway, though China's official Xinhua News Agency said he was a 16-year-old boy identified only by his surname, Xu. He tried to make the risky journey because he had heard that beggars in Dubai could earn hundreds of thousands of yuan annually, the news

agency reported. Dubai police and the Chinese consulate in the Mideast commercial hub did not immediately respond to requests for comment from AP.

Xinhua reported that the consulate has sent staffers to the airport to learn more about the situation. A translator appointed by prosecutors said the teen jumped over a fence at the Shanghai airport and climbed into the cargo hold while a security guard looked away, the agency said. Dubai is home to the world's busiest airport for international travel and is a major destination for job-seekers from around the world. Emirates operates numerous flights between its Dubai hub and China, including two round-trip flights daily to Shanghai. The flight in question is usually served by its largest aircraft, the double-decker Airbus A380, and lasts well over eight hours. — AP



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah welcomes His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah upon his return to Kuwait. — Amiri Diwan photos



**JEDDAH:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (center), Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (left) and Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani attend the 16th consultative meeting of the GCC leaders.

## AMIR RETURNS HOME AFTER ATTENDING GCC MEETING

**KUWAIT/JEDDAH:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and his accompanying delegation arrived back to Kuwait yesterday evening after leading the country's delegation to the 16th consultative meeting of the GCC leaders in Jeddah. His Highness the Amir was received at the airport by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, senior sheikhs, Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guards Sheikh Mishaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-

Sabah, Acting National Assembly Speaker Mubarak Salem Al-Harees, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah and senior officials.

The accompanying delegation included First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, director of the office of His Highness the Amir Ahmad Fahad Al-Fahad, head of the Amiri protocols Sheikh Khaled Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah Al-

Nasser Al-Sabah, chief of media and cultural affairs at the Amiri Diwan Youssef Al-Roumi, chief of political and economic affairs Sheikh Fawaz Saud Nasser Saud Al-Sabah, and senior officials at the Amiri Diwan and Foreign Ministry.

His Highness the Amir was seen off at the King Abdulaziz International Airport by Saudi Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdurrahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadli, Kuwait's Ambassador to the Kingdom Sheikh Thamer Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait's Consul General in Jeddah and Permanent Delegate to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

(OIC) Saleh Ali Al-Saq'abi.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud thanking him for warm reception and hospitality during the meeting. In the cable, His Highness the Amir lauded the results of the meeting aiming to enhance the bonds of historical and cordial relations among the GCC member states. His Highness the Amir said this would be in favor of meeting the aspirations of Gulf nations towards further prosperity and stability. His Highness the Amir wished King Salman good health and the Kingdom further progress and prosperity under his wise leadership.

During their meeting presided by King Salman, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states discussed GCC integration and cooperation and ways of developing them in all fields as well as the current regional and international developments. His Highness the Amir was received upon arrival to Jeddah by King Salman and senior Saudi officials, in addition to GCC Secretary General Abdulattif Al-Zayani and Ambassador to the Kingdom Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah. Later, His Highness the Amir attended a luncheon banquet held by King Salman in honor of the GCC leaders. —KUNA

### KUWAIT'S HOSTING OF YEMENI PEACE TALKS DRAWS MORE WORLD ACCLAMATION

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's hosting of Yemeni peace talks continues to draw international and Arab acclamation as a great effort to restore the stability of Yemen and end the suffering of its people. After a meeting with the UN Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, visiting UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond expressed his appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts in the Yemen peace talks, stressing that "without his intervention they would have lasted long." He viewed that the UN-brokered Yemeni peace talks is "making progress" even though there was a cautious optimism prevailing over the discussions. Hammond said that all parties involved should be "cautiously optimistic". Even though the talks were moving slowly, "progress is being made," he added. He said that all sides should understand there should be a political solution to the crisis because Yemen is getting dangerously close to an economic collapse. He said that there were many details that were still being disputed, yet "a broad settlement of framework is being emerged." He urged to keep the talks going and "keep everybody at the table" and not allow the posturing of any side to derail the talks.



**The UN Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed**

Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts and ensuring success to the Yemeni peace talks. Khurainej expressed hopes that the dialogue would be successful and achieve the aspiration of the Yemeni people. Meanwhile, at the conclusion of the session, Arab Parliament and Kuwait Member of Parliament (MP) Dr Mohammad Al-Huwaila hailed the exceptional and huge role played by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah in hosting Yemeni peace talks and attempting to unify the Yemen people and find a political solution to the crisis. Huwaila made his statement after the Arab Parliament session conclusion, asserting that the Arab Parliament completely support Kuwait and its leadership in hosting the Yemeni talks. Al-Huwaila added that the Arab Parliament support efforts exerted by Kuwait in ensuring success to the Yemeni peace talks and negotiations to find a political solution to the crisis that would end the bloodshed.

#### Security issues

In the meantime, the UN Envoy to Yemen Cheikh Ahmed continued his bilateral meetings with Yemeni negotiating teams in Kuwait. Following the meeting, he noted that security issues have dominated the discussions in the Yemeni peace talks today. He pointed out that the delegation of Ansarullah and the General People's Congress (GPC) noted the challenges continuing to face Yemen. The Government of Yemen delegation presented a paper on security mechanisms including details relating to formation of security committees. Cheikh Ahmed, however, expressed concerns about violations of cessation of hostilities by some parties in Yemen. "Stabilizing the situation is a fundamental demand of the Yemeni people. Violations to the Cessation of Hostilities are unacceptable and security has an impact on all," Cheikh Ahmed stressed in a press statement. He underlined that political bickering would complicate the situation and urged Yemeni parties to do more to reach the aspired peaceful solution to the Yemeni crisis. "Economic decline, water and electricity shortages should motivate the parties to re-double their efforts towards reaching a comprehensive and peaceful solution," he said. "Political bickering will only complicate issues. Only a political solution will help resolve them." —KUNA

#### Wise diplomacy

Meanwhile, President of Arab Parliament (AP) Ahmad Al-Jarwan commended Kuwait's hosting of Yemeni peace talks and the wise diplomacy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah aiming to support Yemen's dialogue. Addressing the fifth session of the first legislative term of AP, Jarwan expressed his hope that the current peace negotiations among Yemeni warring parties "would support Yemenis' will, and achieve security and stability and protect freedoms". Moreover, member of Arab Parliament and Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Mubarak Al-Khurainej stressed Monday the importance of adopting a political dialogue in ending disputes, in reference to Yemeni peace talks hosted by Kuwait, and sponsored by UN. Khurainej made his remarks on the sideline of the fifth session of the first legislative term of Arab Parliament.

The lawmaker said the report by the political, foreign, and security affairs committee of the parliament praised His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad

## GHANEM REASSERTS KUWAITI-SAUDI TIES

**CAIRO:** Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem underscored yesterday 'the distinguished and historic' relations binding Kuwait and Saudi Arabia under the wise leaderships of both countries. He made that affirmation after meeting with his Saudi counterpart President of the Shura Council Abdullah Al Sheikh, on the sideline of their participation in the 3rd Conference of the Arab Parliament, dealing this time with issues regarding childhood in the Arab world.

Speaker Ghanem said that work between the two countries on vital bilateral issues have been ongoing admirably and will continue in that manner in the future. Asked if the meeting with his Saudi counterpart dealt with condemning Iran for trying to politicize the Hajj pilgrimage this year, Ghanem said "this issue and other bilateral ones were discussed between us." He added that "what affects Saudi Arabia affects Kuwait as well as all the Gulf countries; this is totally axiomatic."

Meanwhile President of the Shura Council Abdullah Al Sheikh praised in a statement after meeting with his Kuwaiti counterpart the energy and enthusiasm Speaker Al-Ghanem exudes in parliamentary meetings and at official occasions. Al Sheikh noted that Ghanem's energy, enthusiasm, and hard work "are of benefit to our faith, our nations and all world countries that seek peace and amity for the human race, including GCC and Arab countries."

#### Protecting childhood

The Arab League has called for concerted efforts so as to enact legislations and laws aiming at the protection of childhood in the region. Deputy Secretary General of the Arab League Ahmed Bin Heli made the statement during the inauguration of the third conference of Arab



**CAIRO:** Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem meets with his Saudi counterpart President of the Shura Council Abdullah Al Sheikh. — KUNA

parliamentarians on childhood co-organized by the league, Arab Parliamentary and Egypt's National Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

He spoke about life-risking situations of childhood in countries, like Syria, Libya and Yemen, facing crises and conflicts, in addition to Palestine which has been suffering from Israeli aggressions. He warned against the growing rate of illiteracy in some Arab countries, calling for finding solutions to address this crisis which doubles suffering of children. Bin Heli stressed the league's keenness on addressing situations

of childhood in Arab countries and preparing the 2015-2030 investment agenda on this file.

Meanwhile, President of Arab Parliament (AP) Ahmad Al-Jarwan affirmed in a similar speech the importance of sharing expertise among Arab legislatures regarding enacting laws in this regard. He said the AP is eager to make Arab generations more aware and positive towards "our societies and nations." He added that the AP has launched, through the commission on social, cultural, women, youth and child affairs, an initiative to discuss means of protecting Arab children and maintaining their interests. — KUNA

### KUWAITI ELECTED DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF UNESCO'S CULTURAL HERITAGE BODY

**PARIS:** Members of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage have elected Dr Waleed Al-Seif as a deputy chairman of the general assembly. Kuwait's delegate to UNESCO Ambassador Meshaal Hayat said that Al-Seif was unanimously elected by GA members in their meeting held Monday.

He noted that Al-Seif, an advisor at the technical bureau of the Secretary General of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), was nominated as a representative of the Arab member states. "This is an appreciation from the member states to Kuwait's effective cultural role and its great contributions to the

UNESCO," Ambassador Hayat stated. He pointed out that Kuwait has joined the convention in 2015. Meanwhile, Seif expressed his pleasure for the election to this important cultural post. "This is a significant achievement for Kuwait and an evidence on its remarkable efforts to safeguard world intangible cultural heritage," he said. The General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention is the sovereign body of the Convention and meets in ordinary session every two years. The General Assembly gives strategic orientations for the implementation of the Convention and elects the 24 members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. — KUNA



**WASHINGTON:** Kuwait Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends a Memorial Day ceremony in Washington, DC Monday. — KUNA

## KUWAIT TAKES PART IN US MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

**WASHINGTON:** Kuwait joined the US late Monday in celebrating the country's Memorial Day, which marks past wars, including the 1991 Kuwait liberation war. Kuwait took part in the annual rally marking the Memorial Day in

Washington DC, an event covered live by TV channels across the nation, to express gratitude for the US for leading an international coalition in Operation 'Desert Storm' that led to the liberation of Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation. Kuwait

Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed the embassy's keenness on participating in the event, which remembers victims of wars fought by the US, as well as veterans who fought in Desert Storm. — KUNA



KUWAIT: (From left) Mohammad Al-Humaidi, Athraa Al-Rifaie, Fouzia Al-Hajji and Shaikha Al-Julaibi attend the seminar. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

## HUMAN RIGHTS SOCIETY HOSTS SEMINAR ON 'OPPRESSED WOMEN'

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Human Rights Society organized a seminar titled 'Oppressed Women,' moderated by attorney Athraa Al-Rifaie, the head of the complaints committee at the society. Three speakers spoke about the meaning of oppression, providing shelter for those who face social cruelty, and legal and human aspects of oppression. Fouzia Al-Hajji, the adviser of the undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf, spoke about her journey of creating a 'Markaz Al-Ta'ebat,' which means repentant center, that hosts former drug addicts with and without their children. "The ministry provides educational and psychological rehabilitation programs for them and their children in order to educate

them to become effective members of the society and helping them to achieve financial independence," she added. The center, however, has kept a low profile for over 10 years because it does not want to risk the lives of the residents.

Mohammad Al-Humaidi, head of the Kuwait Human Rights Society, talked about legal complexities and threats that confront women in Kuwait, including domestic violence, sexual and verbal abuse, paternity proof by DNA tests and rights of children from non-nationals. He also addressed cases of women admitted to the psychiatric hospital to usurp their money and those who have been fraudulently sent to jail.

At the end of the seminar, attorney Shaikha Al-Julaibi presented a case of a

woman who has been suffering from domestic violence and has nowhere to go, and how her life has turned to hell because she's not allowed to rent a place and live independently in Kuwait. "She can't even stay in a hotel if she does not have a marriage contract with her. Some women in Kuwait commit a crime sometimes just to live in prison, because they have no place to go!" she said.

Julaibi mentioned that there are shelters for vulnerable women in all GCC countries except Kuwait. All the speakers agreed that laws and regulations have to change to achieve justice and ensure security and social stability for women in Kuwait. The Kuwait Human Rights Society was established in 1988.



KUWAIT: The Pakistani Naval Ship Zulfiquar docked at Shuwaikh Port Monday. —Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



Captain Faisal Javeed Sheikh, Commanding Officer of Zulfiquar speaks at the press conference.

## PAKISTANI NAVY FRIGATE IN KUWAIT ON GOODWILL VISIT

**KUWAIT:** Pakistani Naval frigate, PNS Zulfiquar, docked at Shuwaikh Port Monday on a four-day goodwill visit to the country aimed at boosting bilateral ties with Kuwait. "Pakistan Navy (PN) enjoys close and cordial relation with Kuwaiti naval forces. I'm very confident that Zulfiquar's visit to Kuwait will further strengthening the brotherly ties between the two navies," Captain Faisal Javeed Sheikh, Commanding Officer of Zulfiquar, said in a press conference on board the ship. "PN ships regularly undertakes port calls at Kuwait every year to assure Pakistan's commitment and friendship to this peaceful and hospitable nation," Sheikh said, pointing out Kuwait's significance to Islamabad as "one of the most important countries in the region."

"Today, I met with the chief of Kuwait Naval forces and he was very gracious to give us audience, and we discussed ways to improve and enhance the already existing cooperation between the two nations," the Pakistani naval officer said in another statement.

Naval forces play a vital role in bolstering friendship ties among countries through goodwill visits, he noted, reiterating PN's strive for further cooperation and relations with countries in the region through exchanging cross trainings and naval exercises. The F-22P Zulfiquar, also known as Sword-class frigate, was built by Pakistan and China manufactures for Pakistan Navy, Sheikh noted, adding that the 170-crew member ship was inducted to PN fleet in Karachi, Pakistan on September 19, 2009.

With a length of 123.2m (404 feet) Zulfiquar has a helicopter deck and can carry up to 3,144 tons, he said, adding that it is also equipped with guns, missiles, torpedoes, and anti-submarine rockets, and travels in a maximum speed of



29 knots (54 km/h). PN has been part of the Coalition Maritime Campaign Plan (CMCP) since April 2004, which is a US-led maritime counter-terrorism operation aimed at preventing unlawful maritime practices such as piracy, transportation of counterfeit goods, and human-trafficking. "PNS Zulfiquar is one of two ships deployed in the Arabia Sea and Gulf of Aden for undertaking maritime security and counter piracy operations," said the Pakistani naval officer.

Pakistan is also part of the Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150), a multinational coalition naval task force working under the 25-nation coalition of Combined Maritime Forces (CMF),

which is based in Bahrain. CTF-150's main responsibility is to monitor, inspect, and carry out operations against illegal maritime practices the Gulf of Oman, the North Arabia Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa. "Our significant contributions over the last several years depict Pakistan Navy's will and commitment to play its role for the insurance and security of sea lines of communication in this region," said Sheikh. The Pakistani officer expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti authorities, and Kuwait Navy for hosting PNS Zulfiquar in Kuwait. — KUNA



GENEVA: Minister of Social and Labour Affairs and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih meets with Director-General of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder. — KUNA

## ILO CHIEF LAUDS KUWAIT FOR PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

**GENEVA:** Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Guy Ryder lauded Kuwait's efforts in protecting the rights of workers through the implementation of labor international standards. This remark was made by Ryder during a meeting with Kuwaiti Minister of Social and Labor Affairs and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih, on the fringes of the 105th session of ILC yesterday.

During the meeting, Ryder bolstered Kuwait's support to Palestinian laborers who face economic siege imposed by the Israelis. The meeting with Ryder shed light on how Kuwait is protecting non-Kuwaiti workers by providing them with housing units, allowing them to voluntarily go back to their countries,

imposing occupational safety measures, and securing their regular payment of wages, Subaih pointed out.

The meeting also discussed future projects that will be set up which would provide a solution to unemployment, she added. The Kuwaiti minister reiterated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's directives to protect the rights of all workers in the country. The 105th ILO meeting kicked off yesterday until June 10.

At the meeting, employers' and workers' representatives from 187 member States will discuss a series of world of work issues including global supply chains; decent work for peace, security and disaster resilience, as well as the impact of the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. — KUNA

## MINISTRY GETS ADVANCED REMOTE BROADCAST VANS

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Information is keen on streamlining the process of news coverage, having just acquired four state-of-the-art mobile remote broadcast television studio vans to cover TV and Radio events at their live locations, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday.

Besides the four vans there will be ten mobile TV production units for speedy cov-

erage of events not requiring the much larger and more complex vans, the minister said in a statement, marking the inaugural use of the vans and the units. He stressed that the new equipment will immeasurably enhance the ministry's delivery of live news coverage of various events, political, social, or athletic in nature. He urged those working in the ministry to double their efforts at fostering the best ways to communicate the state's views and policies to the public. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah is seen during the inauguration ceremony. — KUNA



## News

In Brief

Home owner removes  
floor built illegally

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Capital and Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality branches found 100 houses in violation of the construction law. Assistant Director General for Capital and Mubarak Al-Kabeer Affairs Faisal Al-Jumaah said the owner of a house under construction had built more than three floors, and a warning was issued to remove the violations. He said the house's owner obliged.



**KUWAIT:** These photos provided by Kuwait Municipality show houses where construction violations were detected during crackdowns.

## Traffic campaigns

The Interior Ministry's General Traffic Department carried out a campaign in all governorates from May 22 to May 28. The campaign resulted in issuing 42,583 violations, 1,710 cars and 13 motorcycles were impounded, 47 persons were jailed and five expats were sent for deportation for driving without licenses. The traffic department, in cooperation with the Public Works Ministry, also said the right lane of Al-Ghous street in Mishref will be closed near the water pump heading towards Sixth Ring Road for one month for maintenance.



**A Kuwait Municipality inspector checks the quality of meat inside a butcher shop during a campaign yesterday**

## Food safety

Kuwait Municipality's public relations department announced the start of its inspection campaigns at Ahmadi branch, which was launched under the slogan 'your health is our concern,' as part of preparations for the holy month of Ramadan. The raids included Fahaheel, and resulted in closing a butcher shop and a food store. Branch Director Fahad Al-Tshili said emergency teams will carry out daily campaigns according to the plan. Meanwhile, the Ahmadi emergency team inspected food and meat stores in addition to spice shops, that resulted in closing two stores and issuing seven citations.

## Driver arrested

Traffic detectives arrested a driver who had a decal of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein on his car, images of which went viral on social media. The car was found in Um Al-Haiman, and was registered in the name of a citizen. But the driver was a Saudi, who had already removed the sticker. Traffic officers issued a citation and he was sent to the state security department for legal action.

MUNICIPALITY TO FIGHT  
UNAUTHORIZED STREET ADS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality plans to crack down on advertising agencies that have been placing signs and commercial ads on different occasions on various streets and public facilities, informed sources said. The sources added that the municipality will launch a wide-scale campaign in various governorates within a few days to take legal action against such agencies. Notably, some agencies have been damaging signs at various

traffic lights and roundabouts, in addition to lampposts.

## Housing units

Municipal Council Chairman Muhalhel Al-Khaled said that the council has allocated enough land to build 260,000 housing units over the past years, and blamed the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) for the delay. "The total number of applications to get houses is 106,000," he underlined, noting that this was much less than the land given, and thus no more land should be allo-

cated for housing. "The municipal council has done its part," he added, noting that the housing authority sometimes relinquishes lands like what it did in 1977 when it gave away 100 sq km in Salmi to the ministry of commerce and industry. Khaled added that the Subbiya city due to be built in 2018 once Jaber Bridge opens would include 55,000 housing units.

## Small projects

Chairman of the National Fund for Small and Medium Enterprise Development

Mohammed Al-Zuhair said projects approved until the end of the fiscal year 2015-2016 totaled 59 so far and that 21 projects were only approved last week. Zuhair added that the fund approved eight new projects yesterday. Responding to a question about executing small and medium projects' transactions electronically, Zuhair said applications could be filed online, but entrepreneurs would later have to visit the fund to discuss their projects and feasibility studies in person. The final decision will be sent by email.

## RAMADAN TO START MONDAY: ASTRONOMER

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Astronomer Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi said the first day of Ramadan would fall on Monday, June 6. The fasting period will be 15 hours and 37 minutes long, and the non-fasting period would be 8 hours and 23 minutes long. Ojairi added that the Ramadan crescent would appear at 10:59 am and will still be visible for 17 minutes after sunset on Sunday, June 5. He also predicted that this year's Ramadan would be 30 days long and that the longest day would be Wednesday, June 22.

## Construction violations

Municipal Council's Deputy Chairman Meshaal Al-Juwaisri stressed that everybody approves of equality in law enforcement concerning construction violations, but stressed that the municipality should enforce the law equally without any 'wasta'

(connections) or turning blind eyes to violations committed by influential people. Juwaisri also urged the municipality to check construction violations in investment (apartments) and commercial (shops) areas first before private areas (houses).

He also urged the municipality to warn violators before disconnecting the power. "Many citizens have gone to court and the court ordered reconnecting their power supply, so why is the municipality carrying on with actions that might cost it considerable amounts of money to pay in compensation after losing those cases?" he wondered, defending the construction violations committed by citizens over the government's failure in solving the housing problem.

## Barayah city

The Municipal Council's technical committee yesterday held a workshop presided by member Fahd Al-Sane to discuss the

Barayah city project. The workshop was also attended by representatives from the Ministry of Public Works (MPW), Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and the initiatives apparatus, who all took part in discussing the benefits of building the new city. Sane explained that the city would be built over an area of 35 million sq m in southern Kuwait and opposite Sabah Al-Ahmad City.

He added that according to plans, 45 percent of the city would be allocated for private residences (in 13 residential blocks), 7 percent for investment residences in five blocks and 3 percent for a central park, while the remaining area would be used for commercial uses, public facilities, a university (to be built over an area of one million



**Dr Saleh Al-Ojairi**

square meters) and an alternative power research center.

Sane explained that the city would be self-sufficient in terms of labor and job opportunities. He added that it would accommodate 85,000 people and that once construction commences, the project would be completed in three years. "The city will include 17,000 housing units and houses will be built over an area of 400 square meters," he explained.

The name Barayah is the plural of Baraha (open yard in Arabic), and that he was inspired by the way old Kuwait was built. The city will be highly dependent on modern technology, namely in generating over 85 percent of the power it would need. An artificial lake will be dug to hold processed recycled water that would be used for irrigation.

FIREMEN CONTROL SHUWAIKH  
INDUSTRIAL AREA BLAZE

**KUWAIT:** Seven fire brigades joined forces and succeeded to control a fire that broke out at carpentry in Al-Shuwaikh industrial area, Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) said yesterday, adding that no casualties were reported. The

fire covered an area of almost 2,000 square meters, Deputy Director at KFSD Brigadier Khaled Al-Mikrad said.

Only martial damage was reported and investigation is underway to determine cause of the blaze, he noted.

Fire engines from the departments of Al-Shuwaikh Industrial Area, Al-Shuhada, Al-Salmiya, Sabahn, Al-Qurain and Al-Ardhiyah took part in controlling the fire that broke out on Monday. — KUNA

## ZAKAT HOUSE, KRCS DISTRIBUTE FOOD PACKAGES IN IRBIL

**IRBIL:** Kuwait's Zakat House has handed out about 3,500 food baskets to Syrian refugees staying at camps in Irbil governorate in Iraq's Kurdistan region. In a statement yesterday, Kuwait's Consul General in Irbil Omar Al-Kandari said "we are racing against time to deliver humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees in the region before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, which falls in June."

"We are now at the refugee camp of the Dar Shukran, northwest of Irbil, to distribute more than 2,400 food baskets to the refugees," he said. Kuwait has been providing humanitarian aid to needy people and those who are in distress, he stressed. Kandari noted that the consulate helped Zakat House and all Kuwaiti charities hand out aid to

needy people on the occasion of Ramadan. Meanwhile, Salman Al-Kandari, a senior official of Zakat House, said that "we continue providing, for the third day in a row, humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees in this area."

He added that about 1,100 food baskets were handed out on Monday to those staying at a refugee camp in western Irbil. He stressed that the campaign's plan aims to distribute up to 7,000 food baskets to meet needs of all Syrian refugees in Irbil.

Separately, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed 1,800 food parcels to Iraqi families displaced in Irbil and Dohuk in Kurdistan region, Iraq. Director of Disasters and Emergency at KRCS Youssef Al-Meraj said that the Society continues this campaign,

which began this year, working to alleviate the sufferings of the displaced Iraqis. A large number of food parcels were distributed to families in Irbil and Dohuk during the past two days, he said.

Meanwhile, 1,200 food parcels were distributed to Yazidi families displaced from Sinjar to Shekhan district located in Dohuk governorate, he added. KRCS also distributed 600 parcels on newly displaced families in Makhmur district western Irbil, a region adjacent to Iraqi lands under the control of the so-called Islamic State (IS), he said. KRCS commenced distributing humanitarian aid to displaced Iraqi since last year, as it distributed 40,000 food parcels in all of Kurdistan region governorates. — KUNA





## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES MONTHLY DRAWS' WINNERS

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

Metieb Metni Taefeeq Metni was the lucky winner of the Salary Account draw and Esra Emad Jasem Al-Qattan won the Red Account draw prize for this month, each of the two winners received a cash draw prize of KD 1,000.

The new 2016 Kuwaiti Salary offer provides customers upon transferring their salary, a guaranteed cash gift of up to KD 200 or up to 60,000 Gulf Reward Points upon their first salary transfer or a Gulf Bank Signature Credit card free for life.

Furthermore the second quarterly car draw will take place on the 30th of June 2016, with the chance to win a new 2016

Cadillac. The new 2016 red(tm) account is designed for high school, college and university students aged 15 to 25 years old. Amongst the benefits is a monthly cash draw prizes up to KD 1,000 and in addition a quarterly car draw will be for one lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new 2016 Cadillac. All Red card holders can enjoy a movie ticket for KD 2 only at Cinescape movie theatres (KNCC) cinemas seven days a week instead of the usual KD 3.5. Account holders receive an ATM card and there is no minimum deposit required to open the account or a minimum balance charge.

For further information about the Salary, Red accounts and prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, or call Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center on 1805805. General information about Gulf Bank's products and services can also be found at the Bank's website.



NBK Ramadan Tent last year

## NBK REVEALS SOCIAL PROGRAM FOR RAMADAN

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) revealed its annual 'Doing Good Deeds' program during the holy month of Ramadan. For more than 20 years, the program comprises a series of activities and events aimed at encouraging community engagement and solidarity and charity in Kuwait.

NBK Ramadan Social Program includes hosting fast-breaking banquets that will be held near Souq Sharq. Fast-breaking meals will also be offered at Naif Palace for the first time this year. NBK team will be offering iftar banquets for fasters at various mosques and other locations throughout Kuwait. Manal Al-Mattar, NBK Public Relations Executive Manager said "NBK will ramp up its charitable activities, as a good corporate citizen of Kuwait. NBK hopes to



Manal Al-Mattar, NBK Public Relations Executive Manager

encourage a greater sense of community and charity during Ramadan and encourages its customers and staff to participate by 'doing good deeds' all month long.

"It is a well rooted tradition that has been carried out by NBK each year in its efforts to continuously have an active role in the Kuwait society. NBK believes in the power of doing good," added Mattar.

NBK staff volunteers have already finalized all necessary arrangements for Ramadan's tent to receive fasting people on the eve of the first day of Ramadan. NBK staff volunteers will manage and supervise the fast-breaking banquets. The NBK Ramadan Social Program will also include several visits by volunteers to NBK Children's Hospital and other social institutions.

# GULF BANK FIRST IN REGION TO USE BIOMETRICS FOR DIGITAL BANKING

**KUWAIT:** Daon and Gulf Bank announced yesterday their partnership in providing biometric authentication within the Bank's new mobile banking application. Daon's IdentityX(r) Platform enables Gulf Bank's customers to seamlessly authenticate using their face and fingerprint to quickly and easily assert their identity online across multiple channels.

Cesar Gonzalez-Bueno, Gulf Bank's Chief Executive Officer said, "Digital banking is important to our customers and we wanted to make it convenient and simple for them to conduct their banking transactions with our new mobile banking app. By working with Daon, we were able to leverage cutting-edge technology with global best practices to provide our customers with an enhanced mobile banking experience. Our customers can now login with biometrics using their fingerprint touch id and 'Blinking to Bank' facial recognition, from anywhere in the world, and perform a wide array of banking transactions efficiently and securely."

Daon's IdentityX Platform provides fingerprint, face and voice recognition, along with other authentication factors, which will provide convenient, fast, secure authentication for Gulf Bank's customers. IdentityX was designed with an eye toward the future, allowing Daon customers to easily add new biometrics as they become commercially available. This innovative



solution will be the first deployment in the Middle East and illustrates Gulf Bank's commitment to their customers.

Tom Grissen, Daon's Chief Executive Officer said, "We are seeing tremendous opportunity for banks to leverage the power of biometrics to improve their customer experience.

Convenient and secure authentication has become critical in today's digital economy and we are very happy supporting Gulf Bank on their

journey to a mobile first, customer first strategy. Their customers can now login on to the Gulf Bank mobile app in a few seconds, putting speed and ease of use first.

Our experience with banking customers like Gulf Bank allows us to help our valued customers understand the actual benefits from using biometrics and how to achieve successful large scale implementations quickly and efficiently."

## KFH LAUNCHES RAMADAN PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) is launching a comprehensive Ramadan public relations program that aims to strengthen KFH's social role, while reiterating its Islamic identity and reinforcing ties with various segments of society.

Executive Manager Group Public Relations at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh said that KFH's Ramadan program includes various social and human events and activities. KFH employees will be present at malls to meet the public directly and distribute Ramadan presents and confectionaries (Qerqean).



Yousef Al-Ruwaieh

KFH will organize a number of tours to health centers and hospitals to visit patients and distribute presents. He indicated that KFH will distribute breakfast meals and organize breakfast feasts in recognition of the efforts exerted by workers and those who are on duties during iftar time. With regards to voluntary activities, Ruwaieh explained that KFH will grant its employees the opportunity to provide voluntary services to the public and will assist civil defense and security men and distribute food and beverages to worshippers. As part of its social and human role, KFH is keen on reinforcing the human values among society individuals, spread love and brotherhood and strengthen the traditions which Kuwait society has honored and cherished for generations during the holy month of Ramadan.

Furthermore, the Quran application KFH had launched on Android and App Store contributes in spreading Quran to all smart phone users worldwide. This reflects the bank's identity as the global leading Islamic financial institution.



**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) sponsored an activities organized by the New Mowasat Hospital at Marina Hotel to celebrate the International Nurses Day.

## ABK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF FIFTH 'DOUBLE YOUR SALARY' WEEKLY DRAWS

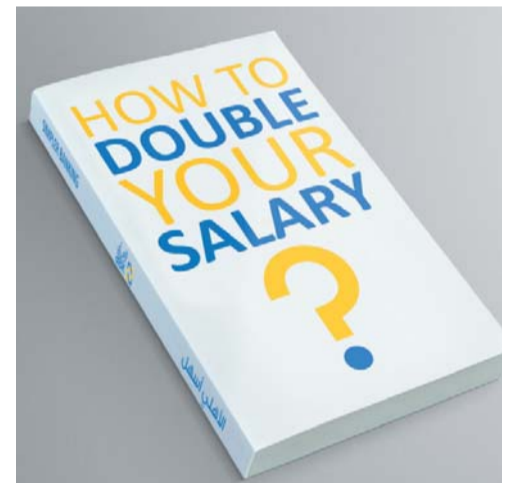
**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its fifth 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw on 31 May, 2016 at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The new promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and will run from 1 May to 30 September, 2016.

The winners this week were:

- 1) Mushtak Karim Ghare, Shuwaikh Branch.
- 2) Hasni Sainudeen Kunju, Fahaheel Branch.

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK will receive KD 100 and automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK will be entered into a separate draw.

The Bank's next draw will be held on 7 June, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced subsequently. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the



winners' names. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit [www.eahli.com](http://www.eahli.com) or contact an ABK a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

# EMGRAND **GT** LEADING GEELY VEHICLES

**GEELY**

Model 2017

K.D  
**4699**

**5 Years Warranty / 150000 km**

Engine 2.4 L, 4 CC, 170 HP	Leather Seats • Cruise Control	ABS & ESP
Available 3.5 L, 6 CC, 270 HP	Front & Side Airbags	A/C Rear A/C

الشركة الكويتية لاستيراد السيارات ذ.م.م.  
Kuwait Automotive Imports Co. W.L.L.

**Working Hours**  
From Saturday - Thursday  
From: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

**98789222 - 97390909**  
**69011429 - 66884163**

**HOT LINE** الخط الساخن  
**1820 888**

[GEELYkwt](#) [www.kaico.net](#)  
[info@kaico.net](#) [fleet@kaico.net](#)

Al-Anbaa

# WHEN HISTORY GIGGLES

By Sami Al-Nisf

History is currently recording the incidents going on in our region and giggling so loudly, that it will almost fall back with laughter at our tragic situations. History also seems to be wondering with tears falling on its pages about how Arabs can believe what they hear about the world rejecting the civil wars going on in their countries or being against brutal terrorist organizations, while they see with their own eyes the modern weapons, machinery, vehicles, funding and endless fortunes these organizations have, though we so far do not know who actually leads them!

If the world is against wars and against those extremist organizations, then who is providing them with weapons and ammunition, when everybody knows that neither they nor their allies are capable of manufacturing even one bullet?! History scribes will also laugh their hearts out at those who believe that IS is defending Sunni Arabs, while it was actually created to kill them, destroy the future of their children, displace them and give away their lands after it created severe states of antagonism between them and their neighbors.

IS paved the way for the Raqqa battle by destroying the Kurdish city of Kobani without any due cause, then withdrew from it, leaving the Kurdish people and militias to retaliate against the people of Raqqa and take over their lands to include them in the Kurdish state they have been

*History scribes will also laugh their hearts out at those who believe that IS is defending Sunni Arabs, while it was actually created to kill them*

promised. IS also prepared for the Fallujah battle with a series of explosions in poor Shiite neighborhoods in eastern Baghdad to create a sense of retaliation against the Popular Army. The people of Fallujah are still suffering from IS' practices including food deprivation and snipers shooting innocent people who try to flee the city.

Kuwait recently arrested an expat called Mahmoud Al-Harabawi for collecting fortunes from both Sunnis and Shiites by fraud. This man changed his appearances several times and dressed in various sects' garb to collect donations. Well, this guy should have been thanked instead of being punished, because he unintentionally helped expose the basic reasons of all doctrinal wars.

The moment he grew a beard, put on special attire and started using religious words and statements, everybody, including Sunnis and Shiites, believed him without even asking him about his qualifications. Who knows that war, sect, and doctrinal lords fighting on Arab soil are not like this Harabawi with only one difference - they are not making thousands like him, but millions or billions by obliterating their countries and selling them to regional and international slave markets!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



## AUTHORITY PREPARES LABOR TESTS

**KUWAIT:** Acting Director of the Manpower Public Authority (MPA) Ahmad Al-Mousa said the authority's organizational structure was modified by creating a fourth sector for planning and evaluating professional skills, to join the three current sectors - recruitment and employment, manpower protection and human resources.

Mousa said that following the Cabinet's decision to move the center of approving skill levels from the Cabinet to MPA, the new sector was created. He said this sector activates the role of approving foreign skill levels in the countries that send workers, so that "we will be able to bring skilled technical workers that will help the marketplace and not be a burden on it". He said with regards to activating the center's roles, "we are in the stage of preparing the standards and test questions of professions. The start will be with three countries as a trial - India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka." — Al-Jarida

## KUWAITI FACES CHARGES IN US

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti national Fuad Ismail Dashti will appear in a US court today, charged with compromising national security. Informed sources said Dashti was arrested last week on arrival at San Francisco airport, and was charged with compromising national security for selling aircraft spare parts to Iran. Sources said Dashti's family asked a lawyer to follow his case, which the court will consider in its first session. US laws impose strict punishments on foreign companies or individuals that deal with Iran to provide it with any technology related to producing weapons of mass destruction. — Al-Rai

## News

in brief

### Six working hours at KOC

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) announced that working hours during Ramadan will be six - from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on weekdays. The Civil Service Commission had previously set Ramadan working hours in the public sector at four and a half hours - from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. — Al-Anbaa

### Govt mismanagement

**KUWAIT:** Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) member Mohammad Al-Dallal responded to calls asking them to apologize after ending their boycott to parliamentary elections, saying that the government should instead make an apology for mismanagement throughout the past few years. He added that ICM took a decision to return "after sensing the public's frustration from the current mismanagement," adding that the decision was not unanimous but was taken with support of a majority within the bloc. — Al-Jarida

### Single vote system

**KUWAIT:** Early indications for voters' registration in 2016 point out to a 'systematic targeting' of the second constituency in order to achieve changes there, as statistics show an 'abnormal growth' of registered voters who so far reached 4,426. Sources said that this change could be attributed to the fact that the single vote system has dropped the number of votes required to win a parliamentary seat from 4,643 during the last time elections were held as per the four-votes-per-voter system in February 2012, to 1,504 during the last elections. — Al-Qabas

### Billboards

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality rejected offers made by eight companies for an auction to put ads on highways' billboards, because these offers failed to make the KD 12 million minimum investment limit. — Al-Qabas

## Crime

Report

### Five-member theft gang busted

**KUWAIT:** Public funds forgery departments busted a five-member international gang who stole from companies through financial transfers that were forged professionally, then left the country as soon as they completed the transactions. Security sources said the five, all Indians, entered Kuwait on May 1 for a few hours and went to several local banks with forged documents signed by major companies in Kuwait to transfer millions in funds. The sources said the gang members are highly professional in the field of international theft, and know how to get into the country and disguise their movements, selecting their residences and ways to avoid inspection by bank employees. They also do not use any equipment. They monitor to find if they are being monitored and are trained about the places they plan to visit. They have all documents in their possession including forged civil IDs, driving licenses and passports. The sources said when all the suspects left the country, a bank discovered, after learning from a company in whose name the transfer was made, that it did not authorize such a transfer, so the company complained and banks stopped all transfers. Sources added that a team was formed and was able to identify the suspects, who all work for technology companies and reside in Gulf countries. They said the team was able to trace the movements of the gang members using cameras at the airport, banks, hotels and the cafe where they met, and their real identities were discovered in cooperation with criminal detectives in Gulf countries where they reside, who were very cooperative. The sources said follow-up and coordination resulted in the arrest of the main suspect who resides in Qatar, and he was extradited to Kuwait on Sunday within hours after the request. He confirmed all information the investigating team had found. Two suspects are in the UAE and are being arrested, one in Bahrain who was arrested and one is in India and is being sought by Interpol.

### Suicides

A bedoon (stateless) man hanged himself to death inside a building that belongs to the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources. A security source said the man's body was found near the shooting range near Sixth Ring Road. The body was sent to the coroner and the case was handed to detectives. Preliminary information revealed that the deceased was studying medicine in Cairo, lives in Sulabiya and was suffering from mental illness. He was 22 years old. Separately, an Indian man hanged himself to death at his residence in Mahboula. His body was sent to the medical examiner, and the case is being investigated.

### Fugitive caught

A Kuwaiti ex-convict failed in his attempt to escape from an inspection point in Ardhiya. The suspect has four arrest warrants against him, all for felony cases. He was sent to criminal detectives for further action.

### Physical assault

A citizen in his thirties accused one of his cousins of entering his house with an intention to commit a crime and beating him, after he stormed his diwaniya. The citizen went to Ali Sabah Al-Salem police station with a medical report stating he suffered broken teeth and bruises, accusing his cousin of causing it.

### Harasser at large

A female citizen accused a young man of harassing her in a Shuwaikh market, then following her all the way to her residence in Qairawan. She said that she returned to Shuwaikh to avoid any of her family members see the harasser, which may cause a big problem. She gave police the plate number of the suspect's car and lodged a complaint. — Al-Rai

## Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Bait Al-Arab: Kuwait's Arabian horses center.— KUNA photo



**Leaked recording claims second Brazil minister**

# IS HALTS IRAQI ARMY AT FALLUJAH GATES

UN WARNS HUMAN CATASTROPHE UNFOLDING

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi forces faced tough resistance from the Islamic State group yesterday as they attempted to enter the center of Fallujah, where there were mounting fears for thousands of trapped civilians. A day after announcing a push into the jihadist stronghold, forces led by Iraq's elite counter-terrorism service had some way to go before retaking the city. After thrusting toward Fallujah from three directions on Monday, their biggest advance was from the south, where they pushed into the suburb of Naimiyah.

Lieutenant General Abdelwahab Al-Saadi, the overall commander of the Fallujah operation, said IS fighters mounted a fierce counter-attack on the area early yesterday. "There were around 100 fighters involved, they came at us heavily armed but did not use car bombs or suicide bombers," he told AFP. Saadi said Iraqi forces in the area, which also include police and army units, were eventually able to repel the attack, killing 75 jihadists. He did not give a figure for losses on the pro-government side.

Officers said US-led coalition and Iraqi air support was instrumental in repelling the attack and added that ground forces had now resumed their advance. Fallujah, which lies on the Euphrates River west of Baghdad, was lost from government control months before IS swept across large parts of Iraq in June 2014 and is an emblematic bastion for the jihadist group. Iraqi forces have been sealing off Fallujah for months and those still in city - IS fighters and civilians alike - have nowhere to go.

**Families Used as 'Shields'**

Anbar capital Ramadi was almost levelled when Iraqi forces retook it a few months ago but many more civilians - most estimates say around 50,000 - are trapped inside Fallujah. The UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) spoke of "reports of several hundred families being used as human shields by ISIL (IS) in the centre of Fallujah". A Fallujah resident contacted by AFP by telephone said many civilians were now eager to see the security forces recapture the city but that there was fear of what the jihadists might do as defeat loomed.

"There is some discontent among the people because we haven't seen the Iraqi forces enter the center yet," said the resident, who gave his name as Abu Mohammed Al-Dulaimi. "Their treatment of the people is getting worse and worse every day. There is a feeling of panic among them it seems. 'Daesh is angry because they don't feel supported and they have been seen insulting people on the streets, shouting things like: 'Cowards, you are not with us,'" he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS.

"Yesterday, they were rounding up young men from several parts of the city - we think maybe around 100 of them - and taking them to an unknown location," he said. Officers in the Iraqi forces say IS has been forcibly recruiting men and ever younger boys to man its defense of Fallujah. A 40-year-old woman reached by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) inside Fallujah painted a dire picture of the conditions. "The stocks in the hospitals are



**FALLUJAH:** Smoke rises as Iraqi counterterrorism forces face off with Islamic State militants on the southern edge of Fallujah yesterday, a day after launching an operation of the militant-held city with the help of US-led coalition airstrikes. — AP

running low. There is no medicine for ordinary people. The doctor is affiliated with IS and he refuses to help ordinary people," the aid group quoted her as saying. "Instead of providing adequate treatment, doctors often simply amputate a patient's arms or legs if they are in pain. There are no anaesthetics left in the hospitals."

**'Need for Safe Exits'**

Thousands of civilians have escaped IS-controlled areas since the start of the operation to retake the city on May 22-23 but nearly all of them were from outlying areas. The 50,000 civilians still believed trapped in the city center would have to dodge IS booby-traps and incoming shelling from pro-government forces to reach safety. "Civilians are trapped inside the city of Fallujah as fighting intensifies. With every moment that passes, their need for safe exits becomes more critical," said Nasr Mufahi, the NRC's Iraq director.

IS has come under mounting pressure on the battlefield in recent weeks, with Kurdish forces also gaining ground in the north in a two-day operation that wound up on Monday east of Mosul, the jihadists' other urban bastion in Iraq. On the back foot in Iraq, IS has tried to retain the initiative in neighboring Syria with an offensive against non-jihadist rebels in the north of Aleppo province along the Turkish border. That fighting, which the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said intensified on Tuesday, has also trapped tens of thousands of civilians. "The situation is absolutely unsustainable and unacceptable for this population," said Pablo Marco, regional head of Doctors Without Borders (MSF). — AFP

## SAUDI INTERCEPTS, DESTROYS MISSILE FIRED FROM YEMEN

**DUBAI:** Saudi Arabia has intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile fired from Yemen and a Saudi-led military coalition said late on Monday it may be forced to reconsider a truce that has been in place since April. Saudi state news agency SPA quoted the statement as saying that the missile, the second such strike this month, was destroyed in mid-air without causing any casualties. The air force also destroyed the platform from which the missile was fired, it said.

Saudi Arabia, leading a coalition of Arab states, intervened in Yemen in March last year mainly with air strikes to try to restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. Houthis, backed by forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, had advanced on Hadi's temporary headquarters in the southern city of Aden, forcing him to flee the country. The war has killed more than 6,200 people and displaced more than 2.5 million people. The Houthis describe their capture of the capital, Sanaa, in 2014 and their advance on Aden as part of a revolution against corruption and to end attacks by al Qaeda. They have accused the Saudi-led coalition of violating the truce with air strikes.

The Houthis and Yemen's Saudi-backed exiled government are currently engaged in peace talks in Kuwait aimed at ending the 14-

month-old war and easing a humanitarian crisis in the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country. The UN-sponsored talks have so far yielded few results. Saudi Foreign Minister, Adel al-Jubeir, played down the prospects of a breakdown of the truce and said the kingdom hopes the talks would advance and produce a peace agreement.

"The kingdom had reached an understanding to calm the situation on the border ... From time to time, violations of the truce or the period of calm happen but we must look forward and focus on achieving a political settlement," he told a news conference at the end of a Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Saudi Arabia yesterday. SPA gave no details on the target or the type of missile used. However, the agency said the Saudi-led coalition warned it would not sit idle against any further violations of the truce, which began on April 10.

"The coalition command, through this statement, assert that violating the truce by the Houthi militia and its supporters and the targeting of the kingdom's lands ... would force the coalition to reconsider the feasibility of this policy (of self-restraint)," SPA said. Saudi Arabia said on May 9 it had also intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile fired from Yemen before it reached its target. — Reuters

Share the iPhone 6 experience on the best Ramadan offer from Shamel  
 Additional internet SIM can be added to your bundle for extra cost. To get this offer, visit any Ooredoo branch or authorized dealer.



**KD 9 /month**

iPhone 6

Unlimited Ooredoo minutes / SMS

100 Local minutes

4G+ 5GB Internet

Extra internet SIM 100 GB for KD3



GAZA: A Palestinian vendor hangs corn on the cob at his stand along the Mediterranean Sea in Gaza City's fishing harbor yesterday. The harbor is one of the few open public spaces in this densely populated city. — AP

## HAMAS EXECUTES 3 IN GAZA, DRAWING UN CONDEMNATION

EXECUTIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY ABBAS

GAZA CITY: Hamas authorities in the Gaza Strip executed three Palestinian men for murder yesterday, the attorney general said, drawing condemnation from the United Nations. The three, who were not named and whose cases were unrelated, were put to death by firing squad behind closed doors, security sources said. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR) said, however, that two of them were hanged and the third was shot.

"To achieve public deterrence and curb crime, the competent authorities carried out at dawn on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 execution rulings against three of those convicted of shocking murders," a statement from the attorney general said. Rupert Colville, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, condemned the executions which he said occurred "despite serious and widespread concerns that international fair trial standards were not respected".

The European Union, Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International all also condemned the killings. In theory, all execution orders in the Palestinian territories must be approved by president Mahmoud Abbas, who is based in the occupied West Bank. But Hamas, the militant Islamist group that

runs Gaza, no longer recognizes his legitimacy, and Gaza attorney general Ismail Jaber recently announced that the authorities there would carry out the executions without Abbas' backing.

Hamas and Abbas' Palestinian Authority agreed a unity deal in April 2014 which was supposed to lead to a joint technocratic government, but the accord was never fully implemented and they remain at loggerheads. The UN statement said that the failure to get Abbas' backing for the executions was a breach of Palestinian law. Sari Bashi, Israel and Palestine director at HRW, said Hamas authorities had been under pressure to act because of perceptions of increased crime in Gaza, including a number of grisly murders of civilians.

"This is an attempt by the government to show they are doing something," she told AFP, "but killing criminals is not going to decrease crime." "These people were convicted in a judicial system where torture and coercion are common," she added. The attorney general said the three had been given a fair trial.

### 'Example to Others'

Jaber had initially said he wanted executions to be carried out in public, and it was unclear if this would

happen in the future. At the time of the attorney general's announcement last week, 13 men, most convicted of murder connected to robberies, were awaiting execution. The last public executions in Gaza were during the 2014 war with Israel when a firing squad from Hamas' armed wing shot dead six alleged collaborators with Israel. They were executed in front of Gaza City's main mosque following prayers.

Mkhaimar Abusada, professor of political science at Gaza's Al-Azhar University, said the reintroduction of the death penalty would be popular in the Palestinian enclave. "Gaza is very much a tribal society, meaning people believe in revenge for tribal or familial reasons," he told AFP. "In order to avoid people taking the law into their own hands the best (route) is through government or the judicial system."

On the streets of Gaza, which has been blockaded by Israel for 10 years and has an unemployment rate of almost 45 percent, opinion about the executions was mixed. "Whoever kills people should be killed as an example to others," said Nahed Al-Luh, in his 60s. But Amin Abed, 25, called the executions "illegal" because "Hamas didn't deal with the Palestinian Authority and the president didn't ratify the verdicts". — AFP

## EX-MISS TURKEY GUILTY OF INSULTING ERDOGAN

ANKARA: A court yesterday found a former Miss Turkey beauty queen guilty of insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on social media, handing her a suspended sentence of over one year in jail. The Istanbul court sentenced model Merve Buyuksarac, 27, to one year and two months for "publicly insulting" Erdogan in a satirical poem she posted on her Instagram account, the Dogan news agency reported. The punishment has been suspended, it added, without giving further details.

The "Master's Poem" - which was shared by the model while Erdogan was serving as prime minister - criticizes the Turkish strongman with verses adapted from the national anthem. Erdogan, who was elected president in August 2014 after serving as prime minister for more than a decade, is often called "Buyuk Usta" (the Big Master). Hatice Ozay, Erdogan's lawyer, told the court that the model's post could not be considered criticism of the president - which would be legal - but rather an insult, or an "attack against my client's personal rights".

The state-run Anatolia news agency said Buyuksarac was not present at the hearing. Her lawyer, Ali Deniz Ceylan, told the court the beauty queen's comments should be interpreted as legitimate political criticism. "We believe that the expressions shared by my client should be considered politically. Therefore, we are demanding that she is acquitted."

### 'Guys! I'm Not in Jail!'

Buyuksarac won the Miss Turkey competition in 2006 and has since worked as a model as well as appearing on reality TV shows. After being briefly detained in Jan 2015, she admitted to sharing the poem which had been printed in a Turkish satirical magazine, but said she did not want to insult the president. Seeking to play down panic among fans that she was about to actually spend time behind bars, Buyuksarac sought to reassure her supporters. "Guys! I am not in jail, no panic :) The execution of the conviction has been suspended. I am writing for the benefit of those who only read the headlines of the news," she wrote on Twitter to her fretful fan base.

A string of journalists as well as ordinary citizens have ended up in court for insulting or slandering Erdogan, who is accused by critics of being increasingly authoritarian. The number of cases has swelled after Erdogan moved to the presidency. The offence of insulting a state official has long existed, but his predecessors rarely made use of it. Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said

in March that almost 2,000 people in Turkey have been prosecuted for insulting Erdogan since he became president.

With just a handful of exceptions, almost all cases where a conviction was handed out have ended in suspended sentences. Critics accuse Erdogan of being excessively sensitive to criticism and Ankara has also pressured Berlin to prosecute a German comedian who recited a poem satirizing Erdogan in vulgar language. But the Turkish authorities reject claims they are clamping down on free speech, saying there is a line between fair criticism and slander. Ironically, Erdogan was himself sent to jail in 1999 for reciting, while mayor of Istanbul, a nationalist and Islamist-tinged poem that the authorities of the time said incited religious hatred. — AFP



Merve Buyuksarac

## RUSSIA RAIDS ON SYRIA CITY KILL 23 CIVILIANS

BEIRUT: Russian air strikes pounded an Al-Qaeda-held city in northwestern Syria overnight, killing 23 civilians, a monitoring group said yesterday, but Moscow denied it was responsible. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said dozens of civilians were also wounded in the raids on Idlib, a provincial capital held by Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front and its allies since March last year. But the Russian defense ministry denied its aircraft had carried out any strikes on the city. "Russian aviation did not carry out any military operations, still less air strikes, in Idlib province," military spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

Al-Nusra is not party to a Russian and US-brokered ceasefire that went into force on Feb 27 between Moscow-backed government forces and Washington-backed non-jihadist rebels. "The air strikes are the most intensive on Idlib since the beginning of the truce," Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman told AFP. "Even though Idlib is not covered by the truce, it had been relatively calm with only intermittent raids," he added.

The Observatory said five children were among those killed in the strikes, which hit several residential areas and near a hospital and a public garden. It says it determines whether strikes were carried out by Syrian, Russian or US-led



IDLIB, Syria: Syrian Civil Defense members evacuate a toddler from the rubble of buildings destroyed following Russian air strikes a day earlier on this northwestern city yesterday. — AFP

coalition aircraft based on the location of the raids, flight patterns and the types of planes and munitions involved. Footage posted on social media by the civil defense group known as the White Helmets showed rescuers holding the limp, dust-covered body of a small boy who was among the dead. An AFP photographer saw medical staff helping crying children at a nearby clinic.

Moscow has been carrying out an

air campaign in support of its Damascus ally since September last year. It has been criticized for targeting non-jihadist rebels as well as Al-Qaeda and its rival the Islamic State group. Moscow has called for other rebel groups to withdraw from areas controlled by Al-Nusra and break ranks with the jihadists. More than 280,000 people have been killed in Syria since the civil war erupted in 2011. — AFP

## POLISARIO CHIEF DIES

ALGIERS: The Polisario Front which demands the Western Sahara's independence from Morocco said Tuesday that its secretary general Mohamed Abdelaziz has died "after a long illness", Algeria's APS news agency reported. Abdelaziz, 69, had been leader of the Algeria-backed Polisario since 1976 after the group was founded three years previously to struggle for independence for the former Spanish colony. Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on Tuesday decreed eight days' national mourning, state television reported.

It added that the president had opened a meeting of the cabinet by observing a minute's silence in tribute to the independence leader. "This is a great loss for the Sahrawi people", Polisario official Mohammed Keddad told AFP. "He sacrificed his life for the liberation of Western Sahara. He embodied the wisdom and a sincere



Mohamed Abdelaziz

and firm commitment to its liberation", he added. The United Nations has been trying to broker a Western Sahara settlement since 1991 after a ceasefire was reached to end a war that broke

out when Morocco deployed its military in the territory in 1975.

Local Sahrawi people are campaigning for the right to self-determination, but Morocco considers the territory as part of the kingdom and insists its sovereignty cannot be challenged. In March this year, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon met Abdelaziz and also said he would spare no effort in trying to find a political solution in the Western Sahara. When he met Ban at a refugee camp in Tindouf in Algeria, Abdelaziz appeared to be in poor health.

Repeated bids by UN mediators to hold a referendum on self-determination for the Sahrawis in the vast territory have since failed. Since 2007, Morocco has proposed a plan for autonomy under its sovereignty, but this is rejected by the Polisario Front which demands a referendum on self-determination. — AFP

# HCA

International Hospitals

THE HARLEYS STREET CLINIC

THE LISTER HOSPITAL

London Bridge Hospital

The Portland Hospital  
for Women and Children

THE PRINCESS GRACE  
HOSPITAL

The Wellington Hospital

HCA NHS ventures

LOC  
Leaders in Oncology Care

SCRI  
Sarah Cannon Research Institute  
United Kingdom

HCA is an  
American  
company  
providing  
world-class  
private  
hospital care  
in London

Tel: +44 (0)20 7034 8564

Internationalreferrals@hcahealthcare.co.uk

www.hcainternational.com

HCA Hospitals

World-Class Healthcare



# LEAKED RECORDING CLAIMS SECOND BRAZIL MINISTER

## TRANSPETRO PRESIDENT TAPED CONVERSATION

**BRASILIA:** The government of Brazil's acting president Michel Temer took a fresh hit on Monday as the anti-corruption minister resigned after a recording revealed him criticizing a probe into graft at state oil giant Petrobras, officials said. Fabiano Silveira was the second minister to exit in the span of a week from Temer's government, which has only been in power for 18 days following the suspension of Dilma Rousseff for an impeachment trial.

In audio released by Globo television on Sunday night, Silveira was heard talking to Senate President Renan Calheiros and Sergio Machado, the president of Petrobras subsidiary Transpetro, both of whom are being investigated in the embezzlement probe. In the recording, Silveira was heard saying that the prosecution in the case was "lost" and gave advice to Machado on how to protect himself from the investigation. The recording was made in March when Silveira was serving on the National Council of Justice.

Brazilian media said Machado recorded the conversation, trading the information for leniency from prosecution. The presidential palace's media office confirmed Silveira's resignation. In his resignation letter, excerpts of which were published by Brazilian media, Silveira defended himself and said his remarks were "generic comments and simple opinion, amplified by the climate of political exasperation to which we all bear witness." On Monday, officials from the Transparency Ministry, created by Temer to fight rampant corruption in Brazil, staged protests to call for Silveira's ouster. Corruption watchdog Transparency International also called for Silveira to step down.

### Leaked Recording

His exit comes about one week after a main Temer ally, Romero Juca, was fired from his planning minister post after another leaked recording in which he apparently said impeaching Rousseff could be a way to derail the Petrobras probe. The probe, codenamed Operation Car Wash, has seen investigations and prosecutions opened against dozens of politicians and executives - a who's who of the business and political elite in Brazil - including Juca.

Temer, who was vice president and took over from Rousseff after her suspension for an impeachment trial on May 12, is trying to push through economic reforms to pull Brazil out of deep recession. It was Machado who was also speaking in the tape that led to the firing of



**BRASILIA:** Brazilian suspended President Dilma Rousseff poses with the authors of the book "The Resistance to the Coup of 2016" during its launch at the University of Brasilia on Monday. — AFP

Juca. Machado is cooperating with prosecutors now and his testimony could snare other members of Temer's centrist PMDB party.

After Juca was fired last week, Temer said the probe into Petrobras would not only continue but that he himself plans to press for it to be even tougher. Machado's appearance on the scene is also bad news for the Senate president Calheiros. It is in the Senate where in a few months Rousseff will stand trial on charges of cooking government books to make her budget look better in 2014 as she sought re-election.

In another conversation leaked last week, Calheiros is heard calling for changes in the law that lets people who confess to being part of the Petrobras scandal receive lighter sentences in exchange for details of the scheme. These plea bargains were key to breaking open

the scandal, in which bribes and kickbacks are estimated to have cost the company some \$2 billion over the course of a decade.

The scandal fueled an atmosphere of grass-roots fury over corruption and economic decay in a country that was the poster child for emerging economies just a few years ago, and helped lead to the collapse of support for Rousseff and her government. Temer's replacing Rousseff has been messy. He triggered complaints immediately by appointing a cabinet made up exclusively of conservative white men, including three under investigation for the Petrobras scandal. Temer, as part of his economic reforms, also tried to eliminate the cultural ministry but had to drop the plan amid a backlash from singers and artists that stretched as far as the Cannes film festival. — AFP



**NEW YORK:** US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a press conference at the Trump Tower yesterday. — AFP

## COMBATIVE TRUMP DETAILS MILLIONS IN VETERANS' AID

**NEW YORK:** US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump yesterday detailed \$5.6 million in contributions he raised for military veterans, and sharply criticized the news media for questioning him for months about what happened to the money. At a combative news conference at Trump Tower in Manhattan, the billionaire accused the media of failing to give him credit for raising the funds at an event in January in Iowa. Trump said the money was benefiting 41 groups. He was withering in his criticism. "The press should be ashamed of themselves," Trump told reporters gathered before him. "You make me look very bad. I've never received such bad publicity for doing a good job."

He called an ABC News reporter at the event, Tom Llamas, "sleazy" and said Jim Acosta of CNN was "a real beauty". Trump's criticism flew in the face of the hopes of some Republican leaders who want Trump to tone down his rhetoric and become more magnanimous now that he has sealed the Republican presidential nomination for the Nov 8 election. Trump, whose belligerent rhetoric has been a trademark of an insurgent candidacy that has upended the Republican Party, has shown no signs of doing so.

Last week, he attacked some of his former rivals for the Republican presidential nomination and a popular Latina Republican governor, Susana Martinez of New Mexico. Trump said the coverage of his

veterans group donations had been close to libelous. Asked whether he would keep his adversarial stance with reporters if elected president, Trump said: "Yeah, it's going to be like this." The New York real estate mogul also bristled at the possibility that Republicans opposed to him might run a third-party candidate as an alternative to Trump or the expected Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton.

He said a leader of that effort, Bill Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard magazine, "looks like such a fool". "Let me tell you these people are losers," said Trump, adding that a third-party candidacy would guarantee Clinton wins the White House and deny Republicans the chance to put conservatives on the Supreme Court. "What you're going to do is lose the election for the Republicans and therefore you lose the Supreme Court," he said.

Trump read out a list of veterans' organizations that had received money from the January event, which he attended instead of participating in a Fox News-sponsored candidates' debate. He said the total of money raised for veterans could climb higher as more comes in. He turned the microphone over briefly to Al Baldasaro, a Trump supporter and a veteran from New Hampshire who also skewered the news media, saying reporters should "get your head out of your butt and focus on the real issues". — Reuters

## SEPT 11 SUSPECTS' TREATMENT A FOCUS IN GUANTANAMO HEARING

**FORT MEADE, Maryland:** A pre-trial hearing for five Sept 11 suspects began on Monday at Guantanamo Bay, with prisoners' treatment expected to be a focus of the US military court sessions. Forty-two motions are scheduled for the week-long hearing at the Navy base in Cuba. They include multiple requests by defense lawyers for evidence of how the five suspects were treated at secret Central Intelligence Agency prisons.

James Connell, a defense lawyer, told Judge Army Colonel James Pohl that medical records provided by the prosecution had been insufficient, lacking personal identifying information and a chronology of patient care.

"This is not the way that discovery is supposed to work ... the medical records are actually extremely important," said Connell, who represents Kuwaiti inmate Ammar al Baluchi, an alleged al Qaeda money mover.

He is among five men suspected of conspiring to help hijackers slam airliners into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001. Almost 3,000 people died in the attacks. Two Guantanamo prisoners unrelated to the Sept. 11 case could testify to corroborate statements made in February by Yemeni defendant Ramzi bin al Shibh. He has accused guards of using noises and vibrations to torment him for years.

Bin al Shibh's lawyer, James Harrington, told AP last week that Abu Zubaydah, a Palestinian not seen since his CIA capture in 2002, has been called to testify about Bin al Shibh's allegations. A Somali inmate, Guleed Hassan Ahmed, also has been called as a witness. Bin al Shibh is charged with wiring money from al-Qaeda leaders to the hijackers. Prison staff have denied Bin al Shibh's abuse allegations. The case against the five suspects has been plagued by repeated delays and is likely years from going to trial. The hearing is being held at Guantanamo Bay. It was monitored over closed-circuit television at a press room at Fort Meade, outside Washington. — Reuters

## HAITI WOMEN ALLOWED A RARE FAMILY VISIT DAY

**PORT-AU-PRINCE:** Inmates at Haiti's only women's prison recently received a special gift: The chance to see their children for a few hours. "One year, 10 months and seven days," Berline Solon repeated over and over, stroking the cheek of her daughter Slovensia. That's how long it's been since she's seen the girl. "She's beautiful but she has lost weight," Solon said, her eyes fixed on the 14-year-old. "And she doesn't go to school anymore because I'm not there to pay for it. My sister who looks after her doesn't have the means."

Tears mingled with laughter on Sunday for the women, who are at the mercy of a justice system so slow that inmates can wait for years for court dates. More than three-quarters of the 306 women at the prison have yet to appear in court, exacerbating overcrowding in the dilapidated facility that should hold a maximum of 100. "I'm proud to be there for her but if only she could leave with me today, I would be so happy," whispered 15-year-old Sherlo, wiping away his tears.

His mother Sherley Sanon has been imprisoned, waiting for a court date, for more than four years. She took the opportunity of the rare meeting to impart some serious life lessons to her son. "I have

many things to tell him, to continue to go to school, and tell him how to deal with life's challenges so that he doesn't become a truant, and to continue to work hard at school," Sanon said.

### Beds, Toilets, Water

The 27-year-old mother didn't want to gloss over the tough conditions of her imprisonment, thinking the truth might help keep her son on the right side of the law. "There are 11 of us in one cell. We need more beds, clean toilets and drinking water," she said. Sanon also reminded her teenage son to shower twice a day. Embarrassed, the boy looked over his shoulder to see if anyone heard her. But no one in the room was listening to their conversation, with families trying to make the most of their limited time together on the special Mother's Day visitation arranged by prison officials with the assistance of the United Nations and several NGOs.

Lack of money kept some families from having a reunion. Claudette Morisseau said she was seeing her daughter for the first time since 2009, but her two sons weren't able to come. The three have no father and survive on the generosity of neighbors, and it wasn't possible to scrape together the money for all of

them to make the trip across town. "They cannot let me sit in prison for seven years without telling me that my three children are left to fend for themselves," said Morisseau, who like the others was also waiting to make a court appearance.

The 30-year-old woman could not hold back her tears when her 17-year-old daughter explained that she had to borrow clothes from a neighbor for the visit. "I'm afraid that will be driven to become thieves," she said. Outside in the courtyard, Benita Duchene had different worries on her mind as she waited in the rain for her release papers. After serving 11 years of her 12-year sentence, the woman was looking forward to spending Mother's Day with her children who are 24, 26 and 28 years old.

They live in Cap-Haitien, Haiti's second-largest city which is about 200 km from the capital Port-au-Prince, and the cost of the trip - which can take an entire day - was too high for her family. "I've had a few telephone calls with my children but no one has come to see me since 2010," she said. "I am so happy about seeing them." "They need to give me a minute of phone credit because I don't know if my son has arrived yet. I hear there are always traffic jams in this city when it rains," she said. — AFP

## The Lister Hospital

HCA  
International Hospitals

Medical excellence and world-class healthcare

The Lister Hospital has established an international reputation for providing high quality private healthcare services.

Part of the HCA International, a leading provider in private healthcare, The Lister Hospital offers a wide range of specialities including women's health, breast care, gynaecology, orthopaedic surgery, fertility treatment, dermatology, gastroenterology and urology, and attracts the foremost consultants from many of London's top teaching hospitals.

The Lister Fertility Clinic is one of the key services available at The Lister Hospital. The service is provided by our highly experienced team, widely recognised as one of the leading fertility centres in the UK with a long history of proven success. The Lister Fertility Clinic treats over 2,000 couples annually. Our dedicated team understand the needs of couples considering fertility treatment and endeavour to provide a supportive and professional service delivered in a confidential and private manner.

The latest addition to The Lister Hospital services is the £3 million state-of-the-art Critical Care Unit Level 2 and Level 3 and the Chelsea Outpatient Centre, our modern, contemporary, diagnostic and treatment facility based at 280 Kings Road. This facility is equipped with the latest MRI digital mammography, X-ray and ultrasound. The centre assists our consultants in making accurate and efficient diagnoses, ensuring patients can be treated without delay.



www.thelisterhospital.com

HCA - London's No.1 private hospital group

## EU'S TOP LAWYER BACKS 'WORK HEADSCARF' BAN

**BRUSSELS:** The most senior lawyer at the EU's top court said yesterday that companies may ban Muslim headscarves if they are enforcing a general prohibition on religious symbols in the workplace. The case concerns a woman, Samira Achbita, who was fired by Belgian security firm G4S Secure Solutions after she insisted on being allowed to go to work while wearing a headscarf for religious reasons. The opinion expressed by the advocate general to the

European Court of Justice is only an initial view and not a binding ruling, but usually the court follows the senior lawyer's advice when eventually giving its judgment.

"A ban on wearing headscarves in companies may be admissible," Juliane Kokott's ruling said. "If the ban is based on a general company rule which prohibits political, philosophical and religious symbols from being worn visibly in the workplace, such a ban may be justified if it

enables the employer to pursue the legitimate policy of ensuring religious and ideological neutrality." Achbita had been working for three years for G4S in Belgium when she insisted on being allowed to wear a headscarf and was dismissed as the firm prohibits the wearing of any visible religious, political and philosophical symbols.

She took legal action backed by a Belgian racial equality organization but the case was dismissed by two lower courts. Belgium's court

of cassation then referred the case to the EU's top court to seek clarification on discrimination laws. The wearing of headscarves or full-face veils has been an increasingly contentious debate in Europe between the forces of secularism and sections of the continent's Muslim minority. France brought in a ban on full-face veils in 2010, despite claims that the ban was discriminatory and violates freedom of expression and religion. — AFP



REGGIO CALABRIA, Italy: The body of a migrant is evacuated from Italian Navy ship 'Vega' which transports more than 600 migrants rescued at sea and the bodies of 45 people in the port of Reggio Calabria, southern Italy. — AFP

## MIGRANT DEATHS RISE

880 KILLED IN MEDITERRANEAN SHIPWRECKS OVER LAST WEEK

**GENEVA:** More than 2,500 people have died trying to make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean to Europe so far in 2016, the UN said yesterday, a sharp jump from the same period last year. At the same time some 204,000 migrants and refugees have crossed the Mediterranean to the continent since January, a figure that has also climbed acutely. In the past week alone, at least 880 people have died in a series of shipwrecks, the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said, citing information from survivors who made it to Italy. "I emphasize that that figure is a conservative estimate," UNHCR spokesman William Spindler told reporters.

A number of small children reportedly drowned in the series of boat accidents over the past week, as thousands continue to attempt the sea crossing to Europe in rickety vessels from the Middle East and Africa. UNHCR described desperate situations at the weekend, with 47 people still missing after one incident where a raft carrying 125 people from Libya deflated. Spindler warned that "2016 is proving to be particularly deadly," saying that during the first five months of 2015, the death toll stood at 1,855, while the

number during the same period in 2014 was 57.

The number of arrivals is more than double the nearly 92,000 who landed on the continent's shores during the first five months of 2015, according to the International Organization for Migration, although more than one million made the trip by the end of last year. Three quarters of those who have arrived in Europe so far in 2016 landed in Greece before the end of March - most of them refugees fleeing conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan. But arrivals to Greece have fallen sharply since the EU entered a controversial deal on March 20 with key transit country Turkey to stem the flow of migrants.

### Deadly route

Meanwhile, 46,714 people have arrived in Italy since the beginning of the year, around the same number as during the first five months of 2015, UNHCR said. Nearly all of those travelling on this route are from sub-Saharan Africa, especially Nigeria and Gambia, as well as Somalia and Eritrea. Counting all routes across the Mediterranean, Spindler said the odds of dying while trying to cross to Europe was now one in 81.

The route between Libya and Italy, which is far longer than the one between Turkey and Greece, has proven particularly deadly, with 2,119 of all deaths registered this year along that route. Spindler warned that the risk of dying on that route was now one in 23. The boats taking this route tend to be far more crowded, he explained, often carrying 600 or more passengers and sometimes being towed by larger fishing boats, which Spindler said was "very dangerous." "Smugglers are getting more ruthless," he warned.

He said there was suspicion that the recent increase in numbers attempting to cross the Mediterranean could be linked to "efforts by smugglers to maximize income before the start of the holy month of Ramadan," which begins next week. Also yesterday Italian prosecutors announced the arrest of 16 alleged traffickers who are accused of helping nearly 900 migrants make the journey from Libya to Italy. The suspects - 11 of whom were Moroccan - were on board a boat that arrived Saturday in Sicily after being rescued two days earlier off the coast of Libya. — AFP

## I COAST'S EX-FIRST LADY ON TRIAL FOR POLL BLOODBATH

**ABIDJAN:** Ivory Coast's feisty former first lady Simone Gbagbo went on trial yesterday for crimes against humanity in what many see as a litmus case for justice in the west African country. The hearings into the 66-year-old's role in post-election carnage in 2010 is expected to last a month with 32 witnesses testifying. Security was tight with the entrance to the court sealed off and Kalashnikov-wielding officers guarding the complex as she was led in and seated in a red chair opposite the bench.

Nicknamed the "Iron Lady," Gbagbo is accused of planning and organizing rights abuses against supporters of her husband's presidential rival in a bid to maintain Laurent Gbagbo in power at all costs. He was finally defeated at the polls however and is currently also facing trial at the International Criminal Court in The Hague. More than 3,000 people died in the nation in bloody post-poll violence which petered out only after the arrest of the Gbagbo couple in 2011 when troops stormed the bunker where they had taken refuge in the nation's main city, Abidjan.

Simone Gbagbo faces allegations of crimes against prisoners of war, crimes against the civilian population and crimes against humanity. This is her second trial in Ivory Coast where she is being held behind bars in Abidjan after a 20-year conviction for "attacking state security". Witnesses have accused her of personally distributing arms to death squads that operated in Abidjan during the five-month conflict but she has repeatedly denies this.

### 'Moment for justice'

Human Rights Watch said the trial "could be a pivotal moment for justice" in the world's top cocoa producer, a beacon of stability in restive west Africa until a 1999 coup that was shortly followed by years of low-level civil war. The decade of strife and last wrenching months of violence between pro- and anti-Gbagbo supporters have left deep divisions and grievances that still need to be reconciled. The trial

opens just five days after the Supreme Court rejected her final appeal against the 20-year sentence she was handed last year.

"Simone Gbagbo's trial - the first in Ivory Coast for crimes against humanity - should be an opportunity for victims of pro-Gbagbo forces to learn the truth about her alleged role in abuses," Jim Wormington, west Africa researcher at Human Rights Watch said. "But unless the trial is credible and fair, the hopes of victims will be short-lived." One of her lawyers, Mathurin Dirabou, has described the charges against her as "fanciful". "These accusations have been created to please certain parts of the international community. It's a pity. Enough is enough," he added.

The ICC in The Hague had issued a warrant for Simone Gbagbo's arrest, but Ivorian authorities refused to hand her over saying she would face a fair trial at home. The decision was seen as a snub to the ICC, with President Alassane Ouattara saying he would "not send any more Ivorians" to The Hague as his country has an "operational justice system". But Ouattara has faced accusations his government only intends to prosecute crimes by pro-Gbagbo forces in the 2010-2011 conflict, charges he rejects. "For the trial to be meaningful to victims, it must be credible, fair, and followed by other trials that target high-level rights abusers from both sides of the 2010-2011 post-election crisis," Human Rights Watch said.

But on Monday, three rights groups representing nearly 250 victims of the violence, pulled out of the trial because of doubts over its "credibility". "Our lawyers have not had access to all stages of the procedures-how can they defend their case?" the head of one of the groups, the Ivorian League of Human Rights said. Pierre Kouame Adjoumani said the trial lacked "relevance", adding that Simone Gbagbo "is accused of crimes against humanity, something she could have only done through an organised group-so why is only she being judged?" — AFP



ABIDJAN: Ivory Coast's former First Lady Simone Gbagbo arrives for her trial at the Abidjan Justice Court yesterday. — AFP

## 4 KILLED IN RIOTS IN NIGERIA OVER 'ALLEGED BLASPHEMY'

**KANO:** At least four people were killed in central Nigeria in two days of violence over an alleged blasphemy by a Christian trader against Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), residents said yesterday. Abdullahi Sallau said a Muslim mob killed one person on Sunday and three on Monday in the town of Pandogari in Niger state "following blasphemous remarks by a Christian against the Prophet". One of those killed was Methodus Chimaije Emmanuel, the 24-year-old who posted comments on his Facebook page, said Sallau, who lives in the town.

### His account was supported by another local

Emmanuel, whose parents were from Nigeria's mainly Christian south but who was born and raised in Pandogari, had gone into hiding following the post but was found. "The crowd took the law into their hands and mobbed him to death despite the revulsion expressed by his parents over the online comments," said Misbahu Malami, who lives locally.

Soldiers and police have made arrests and imposed an overnight curfew to restore calm after crowds went on the rampage, looting shops, burning a church and demanding the suspects' release. Sallau said soldiers opened fire and killed three while three others were injured. The military said one of the dead was a member of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps. Army spokesman Major NC Agwu confirmed

that Emmanuel was killed by a mob "on (the) allegation of posting a blasphemous statement about Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) on the social media".

Soldiers "quickly intervened and restored law and order while a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in the town" but the mob on Monday took over a major road, prompting further deployments, he said. "Regrettably, one church, one house and a shop were burnt while 25 other shops were looted following the violence," added Agwu. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is the most revered figure in Islam and blasphemy against him is punishable with death under Islamic law. Previous allegations of blasphemy against the Prophet have seen deadly sectarian clashes before in Nigeria, which is almost evenly split between Muslims in the north and Christians in the south.

In 2002 riots broke out in the northern city of Kaduna between Muslim and Christian residents over a planned Miss World pageant to which many Muslims were opposed. The riots were fuelled by comments in a Nigerian newspaper article. Days of violence left more than 200 people dead. In 1987, hundreds were killed in the town of Kafanchan, also in Kaduna, following an alleged blasphemy by a Christian evangelist. In January this year, an Islamic court in the northern city of Kano sentenced a Muslim cleric to death for blasphemy after comments he made last year sparked violent protests. — AFP

## DROWNED MIGRANT BABY - A PHOTO WAKE-UP CALL FOR EU

**BERLIN:** A photo of a dead migrant baby pulled from the Mediterranean was published by a charity hoping to force European leaders to grant migrants safe passage, after hundreds were presumed to have died at sea last week. The baby in the photograph was not identified, but the German non-governmental organization Sea-Watch said the infant was found in the water last week after a wooden boat carrying

350 migrants capsized off the Libyan coast.

The photo shows the baby, its eyes closed with blue-tinged lips, in the arms of a rescuer. Many of the migrants had already drowned when the rescue boat arrived, the humanitarian group said, without giving a specific number. Sea-Watch said urgent action was required from European Union leaders to prevent more migrant deaths, as Europe faces its worst

migrant crisis since World War II. "If we do not want to see such pictures we have to stop producing them," Sea-Watch said in a statement released with the photo on Monday. "In the wake of these disastrous events it becomes obvious that the calls by EU politicians to avoid further death at sea, sum up to nothing more than lip service." The image was released after a deadly week in the Mediterranean, with 700 feared dead and several small children reportedly drowned in a series of boat accidents as thousands continue to attempt the deadly sea crossing to Europe in rickety vessels from the Middle East and Africa.

Many of those who have died at sea trying to reach European shores were children. The image of a drowned three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed ashore on a Turkish beach last year stunned the world. "These accidents will not stop... a policy forcing people on the boats will always lead to such pictures. We think that solely the establishment of new systems ensuring legal and safe entries to EU can finally lead to an ending of this humanitarian tragedy," added the statement.

Sea-Watch justified the publication of the photograph saying that such images "have to be acknowledged by the European society as the tragedies are the consequence of EU foreign policy". Over one million migrants, many refugees escaping conflict in Syria and other states, arrived in Europe in 2015, with almost 200,000 arriving so far this year by land and sea routes. The influx has caused concern in some conservative EU societies, boosting right-wing parties and prompting the bloc to negotiate a controversial deal with key transit country Turkey to stem the flow of migrants. — AFP



AT SEA: A Sea-Watch crew member holds a drowned baby as dead bodies were recovered after a wooden boat transporting migrants had capsized off the Libyan coast. — AFP

## GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX

# ALMOST 46 MILLION PEOPLE TRAPPED IN SLAVERY

## NORTH KOREA AND INDIA ARE THE KEY OFFENDERS

**LONDON:** Almost 46 million people are living as slaves globally with the greatest number in India but the highest prevalence of slavery in North Korea, according to the third Global Slavery Index released yesterday. The index, by Australia-based human rights group Walk Free Foundation, increased its estimate of people born into servitude, trafficked for sex work, or trapped in debt bondage or forced labor to 45.8 million from 35.8 million in 2014.

Andrew Forrest, founder of Walk Free, said the rise of nearly 30 percent was due to better data collection, although he feared the situation was getting worse with global displacement and migration increasing vulnerability to all forms of slavery. Incidences of slavery were found in all 167 countries in the index, with India home to the largest total number with an estimated 18.4 million slaves among its 1.3 billion population.

But North Korea ranked as worst in terms of concentration with one in every 20 people - or 4.4 percent of its 25 million population - in slavery and its government doing the least to end this with reports of state-sanctioned forced labor. "We need to make it clear we're not going to tolerate slavery and when

there is slavery in a regime we should not trade with them," Forrest, an Australian mining billionaire and philanthropist, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "If North Korea objects - and I am sure they will - then I am happy to go there and survey the country and very happy to change the number if we are proved to be wrong."

### Numbers criticized

Forrest acknowledged the latest data was likely to attract criticism with some researchers accusing the index of flawed methodology by extrapolating on-the-ground surveys in some countries to estimate numbers for other nations. The 2016 index was based on interviews with about 42,000 people by pollster Gallup in 53 languages in 25 countries.

The data for North Korea, for example, that found there were 1.1 million people there in slavery, was compiled through extrapolation, testimony from North Korean refugees and information gathered during three country visits by Walk Free. But Forrest said a lack of hard data on slavery in the past had held back efforts to tackle this hidden crime and it was impor-

tant to draw a "sand in the line" measurement to drive action. He challenged critics to produce an alternative. The United Nations International Labor Organization estimates 21 million people globally are victims of forced labor but this does not take into account all forms of slavery.

"Without measurement you don't have effective management and there's no way to lead the world away from slavery," he said. "We want this index to be a call to action. I have not yet seen the government or the business reaction that we need to drive down slavery although it is on its way," said Forrest, adding he had made efforts to ensure the supply chain of his mining company Fortescue Metals Group was slave free. Forrest said the Global Slavery Index aims to measure the prevalence of slavery in the 167 most populous countries as well as the level of vulnerability of people to enslavement and strength of government efforts to combat this.

The 2016 index again found Asia, which provides low-skilled labor in global supply chains producing clothing, food and technology, accounted for two-thirds of the people in slavery. About 58 percent of

people living in slavery are in five countries - India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan. However the countries with the highest proportion of their population enslaved were North Korea, Uzbekistan, Cambodia, India and Qatar. The governments taking the least action to tackle slavery were listed as North Korea, Iran, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Hong Kong. By contrast the governments taking most action were the Netherlands, the United States, Britain, Sweden and Australia.

While Europe has the lowest regional prevalence of slavery, Walk Free said it was a source and destination for forced labor and sexual exploitation. The impact of a mass influx of migrants and refugees fleeing conflicts and poverty has yet to be seen. Forrest said India, while it had the highest number of slaves, deserved credit for starting to address this although surveys suggested domestic work, construction, farming, manual labor and the sex industry were still sectors of concern. Forrest called on governments and companies to take action. "This is not AIDS or malaria. We have caused slavery and because it's a human condition we can fix it," he said. — Reuters

# INDIA UNVEILS DRAFT LAW ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**NEW DELHI:** India's minister for women and children unveiled a draft of the country's first-ever comprehensive anti-human trafficking law, which would treat survivors as victims in need of assistance and protection rather than as criminals. South Asia, with India at its centre, is the fastest-growing and second-largest region for human trafficking in the world, after East Asia, says the UN Office for Drugs and Crime. There are no accurate figures on the number of people trafficked within South Asia, but activists say thousands of mostly women and children are trafficked within India as well as from its poorer neighbors Nepal and Bangladesh. Many are sold into forced marriage or bonded labour to work in middle class homes as domestic servants, in small shops and hotels or confined to brothels where they are repeatedly raped.

Women's Minister Maneka Gandhi said the draft bill aims to unify existing anti-trafficking laws, prioritize survivors' needs, and prevent victims such as those found in brothel raids from being arrested and jailed like traffickers. "The bill shows far more compassion and makes a very clear distinction between the trafficked and the trafficker, which is a nuance that should have been made 60 years ago," Gandhi said on Monday as she unveiled the draft Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2016.

The draft legislation provides for special courts to expedite trafficking cases, more shelters and a rehabilitation fund to help victims rebuild their lives. It also provides for anti-trafficking committees - at district, state and central levels - that will oversee prevention, protection and victim rehabilitation. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, there were 5,466 human trafficking cases registered in 2014, an increase of 90 percent over the past five years, though activists say this is a gross underestimate.

Thousands of Indians - largely poor, rural women and children - are lured to big cities each year by traffickers who promise good jobs but sell them into domestic or sex work or to industries such as textile workshops. In many cases, they are unpaid or held in debt bondage. Some go missing, and their families cannot trace them. Gandhi said the draft bill would strengthen prosecutions and boost the number of convictions by setting up a special investigative agency to coordinate work between states and collect intelligence on trafficking offences. There is also a provision for the recovery of fines from the convicted in the draft bill, officials said, and victims who are not paid wages while in servitude will be reimbursed. The draft bill makes providing narcotic drugs or alcohol for the purpose of trafficking, and using chemical substances or hormones for purposes of exploitation offences. Gandhi said her ministry would be accepting suggestions until June 30 on how to further improve the proposed bill. It would then go to all the ministries for their feedback. — Reuters



**NEW DELHI:** File photo shows an Indian bonded child laborer crying during a raid and rescue operation conducted by the Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement) in New Delhi. — AFP

## THE KEY FIGURES

**LONDON:** Nearly 46 million people around the world are living as slaves, forced to work in factories, mines and farms, sold for sex, trapped in debt bondage or born into servitude, according to the third Global Slavery Index released yesterday. The survey by Walk Free Foundation, the Australia-based human rights group, increased the estimated number of people in modern slavery to 45.8 million from 35.8 million in 2014. Here are some key figures from the index:

### India - the greatest

Asia is home to an estimated two-thirds of the total number of people living in modern slavery. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for about 15 percent of the world's slaves while India is the country with the greatest number of people living in some form of modern slavery, estimated at 18.3 million. China came second with an estimated 3.4 million slaves and Pakistan third with an estimated 2.1 million slaves.

### The top 10

Rounding out the top 10 were Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, North Korea, Russia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia. North Korea is the country with the highest estimated proportion of modern slavery with nearly one in every 20 North Koreans, or 4.37 percent of a 25 million population, living in slavery. In terms of concentration, second was Uzbekistan with 3.97 percent of its population in slavery amid reports of forced labor in its cotton industry, then Cambodia with 1.6 percent, India with 1.4 percent and Qatar with 1.36 percent

### Combating slavery

Governments taking the most steps to combat modern slavery were the Netherlands, the United States, Britain, Sweden, Australia, Portugal, Croatia, Spain, Belgium and Norway. The least action was being taken by the governments of North Korea, Iran, Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, Hong Kong, Central African Republic, Papua New Guinea, Guinea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. — Reuters

## DEBT BONDAGE, EXPLOITATION SPOIL INDIA'S MANGO HARVEST

**KRISHNAGIRI:** It is noon and Dilbar Ali is racing against time. The first truckloads of mangoes from the orchards of Krishnagiri-Dharmapuri region in southern India's Tamil Nadu state have arrived. The fruit needs to be unloaded, sorted, graded and packed - all before dawn. So lunch will have to wait. The mangoes need to get to the export houses and food processing factories immediately, to keep up with demand for both the fruit and its pulp, which is used in drinks that fly off supermarket shelves in summer. "It will be like last night - non-stop work, with a breather only tomorrow morning," said Ali, heaving another sack of mangoes onto a weighing scale.

India's mango pulp market caters to some of the world's biggest food and beverage players including PepsiCo, Coca Cola and Unilever. In 2014/2015, it exported almost 155,000 tons of pulp worth 8.4 billion rupees (\$126 million) with Yemen, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait among the top destinations. But workers' rights campaigners say the industry in Tamil Nadu flourishes on the back of overworked and underpaid seasonal, migrant laborers like Ali, who comes from the northeastern state of Assam.

A lack of rain, global competition and fluctuating prices are squeezing profit margins of many growers in the region. "The sector is very labor intensive," Mathew Joji of the non-profit International Justice Mission told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Besides low wages, to ensure there is no manpower is lost, there are restrictions on their movements, which is a clear violation of the workers' rights and a method of bondage."

India is home to more than 18 million people living in some form of modern slavery, the greatest number of any country, according to the third Global Slavery Index released yesterday by the Australia-based Walk Free Foundation. In India, modern slavery occurs in industries ranging from construction to textile manufacturing and agriculture to domestic servitude - with bonded labor featuring heavily.

### Bittersweet harvest

On May 10, revenue officials rescued a family of three, including a child tasked with clearing weeds from the fields, on a mango farm not far from where Ali toils. In a complaint filed with the police, Parthiban, one of the victims, said he was working to pay off a 20,000 rupee (\$300) loan. "The owner does not pay us any wages. We borrow from the owner for petty amounts whenever we have to buy groceries and other basic needs," he said in the complaint. "The owner added these amounts to our advance. The owner says now we have to pay 45,000 rupees (\$676) principal amount and an equal amount of interest." Up to 40,000 people are hired on a temporary basis during mango picking season from February to June when temperatures hover around 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit).

Almost all of them are migrants, mainly from the northern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam states. Hired through contractors, laborers can expect to work up to 15 hours a day for a daily rate of 300 rupees (\$5). Many take advantage of the offer of an advance on their wages and arrive on mango farms already indebted. "In the farms and factory, the exploitation is quite systematic," said K. Krishnan, head of the National Adivasi Solidarity Council, a network of grassroots organizations. "Big orchard owners and food processing units are circumventing all norms, including giving minimum wages particularly in the case of women who are paid just 150 rupees (\$2)," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

### Mango mania

From a side gate of a factory run by food processing company Capricorn Food Products India Limited, a stream of men make their way to the far end of the premises. Hidden from view, this area houses the 1,000-plus migrant laborers who unload trucks of fruit and put them on to conveyor belts that enter the factory. "Hiring local

labor is tiresome and most of them don't want to do hard work. Besides, they demand more pay, take more (days) offs and don't do overtime," said a Capricorn Foods official, who requested anonymity.

"So we link up with contractors who bring laborers every season. And we provide them rooms in the factory to stay." No one can leave the premises without prior permission. "Once a week, we are given a slip that permits us to go out to buy basics. The rest of the time, we either work or wait in our rooms," said Azim Shah, sitting in a tea stall across the factory during his weekly outing. "If there is a medical emergency or problem, our supervisor deals with it. In most cases, it means wages are cut," he said. Capricorn Food Products managers did not respond to telephone calls or emails requesting an official comment.

### Orchard economics

E Madhavan is general secretary of the Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Fruit and Vegetable Processors' Federation. He denies there is labor exploitation in the region, saying that wages were fair and paid on time. M Vijay disagrees. The laborer practically lives on the four acre mango orchard where he is employed. He gently plucks the fruit, constantly wiping off the sticky sap from his palms.

To get paid, he must fill blue crates with 150 mangoes each and then carry them to a trailer parked at one end of the farm. He does not keep count of how many crates he fills. But Ali, who unloads them at the wholesalers AR Mango Mandi, keeps track. "It's back breaking. I count so that I know how much I am pushing myself," he said. The owner, AR Ahmad Basha, one of the biggest dealers in the region, sells up to 250,000 tons of fruit in two months. "The boys stay on the premises and work whenever required. I provide them three meals and pay them on time. What more is required?" he said, before turning to haggle over quality and prices with a farmer. — Reuters

## FROM SEX TRAFFICKING TO FORCED LABOR, WHAT'S MODERN SLAVERY?

**LONDON:** Modern slavery has become a catch-all term to describe human trafficking, forced labor, debt bondage, sex trafficking, forced marriage and other slave-like exploitation. Nearly 46 million people are enslaved around the world, according to the 2016 Global Slavery Index published yesterday. While there is no globally agreed definition of modern slavery, some of the key elements are defined below. Many forms of slavery involve more than one of these elements.

### Bonded labor

People become bonded laborers after falling into debt and being forced to work for free to repay the lender. Many will never pay off their loans, and debt can be passed down through the generations. Bonded labor has existed for hundreds of years and flourishes in South Asia in agriculture, brick kilns, mills and factories.

### Descent-based slavery

When people are born into slavery because their families belong to a class or caste of "slaves" in countries that have strict hierarchical social structures.

### Forced labor

When people are forced to work, usually for no or inadequate payment, as a result of violence or intimidation. Many find themselves trapped, often in a foreign country, with their passports confiscated by employers, and unable to leave.

### Early and forced marriage

When children, usually girls, under 18 years old are married without their consent and forced into sexual and domestic servitude.

### Human trafficking

This happens when men, women and children are exploited through the use of violence, deception or coercion and forced to work against their will. A key difference from people smuggling is that trafficking is done for the purpose of exploitation. People can be trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labor, forced begging, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage and forced organ removal. — Reuters

## PRESSURE GROWS ON INDIA OVER MARITAL RAPE

**NEW DELHI:** Almost immediately after Deepti's wedding at a traditional ceremony in the Indian capital, the horrific abuse began-behind closed doors at the hands of her new husband. "He was brutal. He forcefully had sex with me even when I was admitted sick to hospital," she said, shuddering at the memory of the assaults which she endured for months before running away.

Deepti has spent three years since then fighting for justice, but she doubts her husband will ever be punished in a deeply patriarchal country that does not consider marital rape a crime. "I want to ask is there no justice for victims like me? Just because he married me, did it give him a right over my body?" said Deepti, whose identity, like those of other victims interviewed, has not been revealed for legal reasons.

India has long suffered from high levels of sexual violence including in the home, but governments have shunned making marital rape a crime. Women and children's minister Maneka Gandhi told parliament recently that a lack of education along with poverty, religious beliefs and societal norms, among other reasons, make such a law out of the question. The comments sparked outrage among women's groups,



**KOLKATA:** Indian police arrest activists from the Social Unity Centre of India (SUCI) organization as they block a road during a protest against a gang rape in Kolkata yesterday. — AFP

and baffled many after the outspoken minister had earlier indicated her support for moving on the issue.

But as the torrent of criticism grew,

Gandhi reversed her position, saying it was now under consideration. "This is one of the most complicated places to intervene because you are intervening in the bed-

room," she explained to reporters this month. "How to do it with grace and with firmness is something we need to negotiate." The law states "sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape".

### Tougher laws

Husbands can be charged with a relatively minor offence of cruelty, which carries a maximum three years in jail or a fine. Women can also seek restraining orders and other protections under domestic violence legislation. But victims and activists say criminalizing marital rape would act as a powerful deterrent and go a long way to protecting women in their own homes. "You can't have two yardsticks for rape. You can't discriminate just because a woman is married," said a mother-of-two, Roma, at a counseling session for marital rape in a Delhi neighborhood. "I am sure if this law is put in place, husbands will think twice before raping their wives." The government toughened laws in 2013 following the fatal gang-rape of a Delhi student which unleashed seething public anger about abuse against women. Rapists can now even get the death penalty in extreme cases.

A former chief justice of India, appoint-

ed by the government at the time to investigate the laws, recommended including marital rape-but his suggestion was disregarded. A parliamentary panel looking into the issue in 2013 also rejected the idea, saying it would place the "Indian family system" under "great stress". Karuna Nundy, a lawyer who helped overhaul the laws in 2013, dismissed such arguments, along with those that warn of wives misusing such laws to settle personal scores with their husbands. "Any law can be misused," Nundy said, adding that marital rape was rarely reported to authorities, in part because of the shame attached to it.

### Keep quiet

Over half of women in India surveyed two years ago said they had experienced some form of sexual violence by a partner. And 60 percent of men questioned in the same survey admitted to perpetrating sexual abuse against a partner, according to the study conducted by the International Center for Research on Women and the United Nations Population Fund. Marital-rape counselor and lawyer Monica blamed India's deeply entrenched patriarchal culture and a lack of awareness of women's rights for the figures. — AFP

## JAPAN ERUPTS IN ANGER OVER A BOY ABANDONED IN FOREST

### PUNISHMENT FOR BEING NAUGHTY?

**TOKYO:** Searchers combed a forest in Japan yesterday for a missing seven-year-old boy with no clues about his fate as social media erupted in anger towards his parents who said they abandoned him by a road as punishment for being naughty. Police on horseback were among 130 rescuers scouring a mountainous area of the northernmost island of Hokkaido from dawn for Yamato Tanooka, who went missing on Saturday.

His parents first said he had disappeared while the family foraged for edible plants. They later told police they had left him by the road to

discipline him after he threw stones at people and cars. They said they drove about 500 meters down the road but when they went back a few minutes later he had disappeared. The area is so remote that residents of the region say they rarely go through it. "We have done an unforgivable thing to our child, and we have caused a lot of trouble for everyone," Yamato's father, Takayuki Tanooka, told television reporters. "I just hope he is safe."

Thousands of people took to social media, some to pray for Yamato's safety in an area where the temperature at night falls to 7 Celsius

(45 Fahrenheit). Heavy rain is forecast for Tuesday night and the boy was wearing only a T-shirt and jeans. "When I think of him being alone in the woods like that, my heart aches," said one person posting on social media. But most people on social media rebuked the parents as neglectful. "If he was actually throwing stones at cars, that shows there wasn't a lot of discipline anyway - and probably not enough love either," said one person. "Whatever the result, this is parental neglect. It's cold in the Hokkaido mountains, and I hear there are bears, too," said another person. — Reuters



**SEOUL:** A man watches a TV news program reporting a missile launch of North Korea, at the Seoul Train Station in Seoul yesterday. — AP

## ATTEMPTED N KOREA MISSILE LAUNCH FAILS

**SEOUL:** North Korea attempted to fire a missile from its east coast yesterday but the launch appears to have failed, South Korean officials said, in what would be the latest in a string of unsuccessful ballistic missile tests by the isolated country. The launch attempt took place at around 5:20 am Seoul time (2020 GMT), said the officials, who asked not to be identified. They did not elaborate. Tension in Northeast Asia has been high since North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and followed that with a satellite launch and test launches of various missiles.

Japan put its military alert on Monday for a possible North Korean missile launch. "North Korea shows no sign of abandoning the development of nuclear missiles and so we will continue to work closely with the US and South Korea in response and maintain a close watch," Japanese Minister of Defence Gen Nakatani told a media briefing. North Korea appeared to have attempted to launch an intermediate-range Musudan missile, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said. North Korea attempted three test launches of the Musudan in April, all of which failed, US and South Korean officials have said.

Yonhap quoted a South Korean government source as saying the missile was likely to have exploded at about the time it lifted off from a mobile launcher. China, North Korea's only major ally, called for the cessation of any action that would exacerbate tension. "The situation on the peninsula remains complex and sensitive," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a briefing when asked about the launch. "We think that all sides should avoid any actions that further worsen tensions." China has been angered by North Korea's nuclear and missile tests and signed up to tough UN sanctions against its reclusive neighbor in March. North Korean state media did not mention any missile launch.

### In a rush?

The North's flurry of weapons technology tests this year came in the run-up to the first congress in 36 years of its ruling Workers' Party early this month, where young leader Kim Jong Un consolidated his control. Yesterday's launch appears to have been its first missile test since then, and experts said it was unusual to test-fire a missile so soon after a failure. The South Korean military said the successive tests could stem from Kim's order in March for further tests of nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. "They must've been in a rush. Maybe Kim Jong Un was very upset about the failures," said Lee Choon-geun, senior research fellow at South Korea's state-run Science and Technology Policy Institute.

North Korea has never carried out a successful launch of the Musudan missile, which theoretically has the range to reach any part of Japan and the US territory of Guam. The North is believed to have up to 30 Musudan missiles, according to South Korean media, which officials said were first deployed in around 2007. "It could have cracks and something wrong with the welding," Lee said of possible causes for the latest failure. "But deployment before test-firing tests to complete development seems unusual." The attempted launch took place near the east coast city of Wonsan, one of the South Korean officials said, the same area where previous Musudan tests had taken place. Separately, the international department of China's Communist Party said diplomat Ri Su Yong, one of North Korea's highest-profile officials, visited China yesterday, meeting the department's head, Song Tao. The two expressed a desire to increase cooperation between their parties and work hard to promote regional peace and stability, the department said in a brief statement. There was no indication of any link between the missile launch and Ri's visit. Ri was foreign minister until he was named a member of the politburo during the recent Workers' Party congress. — Reuters

## TALEBAN KILLS 16 BUS PASSENGERS

### '1.2 MILLION' AFGHANS INTERNALLY DISPLACED

**KUNDUZ:** The Taliban killed at least 16 people and kidnapped dozens of others yesterday after pulling them from buses in northern Afghanistan, officials said, in the latest assault since the insurgents named a new leader last week. The Taliban have so far not commented on the incident in Aliabad district in the volatile province of Kunduz, where the insurgents briefly overran the provincial capital in a stunning military victory last year.

"The Taliban shot dead 16 passengers and they are still holding more than 30 others," said Sayed Mahmood Danish, spokesman for the governor of Kunduz. Police commander Shir Aziz Kamawal gave a death toll of 17. Around 200 passengers were travelling in the buses when they were stopped by the Taliban. "They (Taliban) have released some passengers but are holding many others. None of the passengers were wearing military uniform, but some may have been former police," he said.

Residents of insurgency-prone Aliabad said

that the militants were holding an informal court in a local mosque, scrutinizing the ID documents of the passengers and interrogating them for any government links. Highways around Afghanistan passing through insurgency prone areas have become exceedingly dangerous, with the Taliban and other armed groups frequently kidnapping and killing travelers.

Civilians are increasingly caught in the cross hairs of Afghanistan's worsening conflict as the Taliban step up their annual spring offensive, launched last month against the Western-backed Kabul government. The Afghan Taliban last Wednesday announced Haibatullah Akhundzada as their new leader, elevating a low-profile religious figure in a swift power transition after officially confirming the death of Mullah Mansour in a US drone strike. The drone attack, the first known American assault on a top Afghan Taliban leader on Pakistani soil, sent shock waves through the insurgent movement,

which had seen a resurgence under Mansour. He was killed just nine months after being formally appointed leader following a bitter power struggle upon confirmation of founder Mullah Omar's death. US President Barack Obama, who authorized the drone strikes, said Mansour had rejected efforts "to seriously engage in peace talks", asserting that direct negotiations with the Afghan government were the only way to end the attritional conflict. The US killing of Mansour showed that Washington has at least for now abandoned hopes of reviving the direct peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban, which broke down last summer.

### Internally displaced

Amnesty International said yesterday that more than 1.2 million Afghans have been forced to flee their homes due to violence in the past three years and urged the Kabul government and the international community to tackle the country's growing crisis of refugees internally displaced by war. Those numbers are growing as the war, now in its 15th year, intensifies, the rights group said in a report released in Kabul, adding that many of the internally displaced "live in horrific conditions on the brink of survival."

The Taliban have been waging war on the Afghan government since their regime was toppled in the 2001 US invasion. With the withdrawal of most international combat troops in 2014, the insurgency has stepped up - the United Nations says that in 2015 alone, 11,002 civilians were killed or wounded, most of them by insurgents. The report quotes Farzana, a mother of seven who has lived in a Kabul camp for internally displaced people for more than a decade, after fleeing her home in Parwan province.

Since her husband left a few years ago, she has been the family's sole breadwinner. "When you can't put food on the table for your children, it is worse than being hit with a gun," said Farzana, who was identified only by one name. The Afghan government is failing the displaced, even in areas where the international community is involved, Amnesty said. Pilot programs in three conflict-torn provinces - western Herat, northern Balkh and Nangarhar on the eastern border - have stalled, it said. — Agencies



**KUNDUZ:** Afghan relatives stand over the body of the victim of a Taliban attack, in a hospital at the Aliabad district of Kunduz province yesterday. — AFP

## BANGLADESH SENTENCES SIX TO DEATH FOR BANK ROBBERY

### SURGE OF ISLAMIST VIOLENCE HAS KILLED SCORES

**DHAKA:** A court in Bangladesh yesterday sentenced six Islamist militants to hang for a bank robbery in April that killed eight people, lawyers said, but the defense vowed to appeal against the verdict. Militants in the majority-Muslim nation have targeted liberal bloggers, academics and members of religious minorities in a surge of Islamist violence, killing at least 27 people since early last year.

Police blamed the bank robbery on members of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, a banned militant group that has laid low since six of its leaders were hanged in 2007. The gang set off crude bombs as it fled a branch of state-run Bangladesh Commerce Bank on the outskirts of Dhaka, the capital, with takings of 700,000 taka (\$8,900), after killing the manager to get the key to the vault. Customers and bystanders gave chase and beat one robber to death. A total of eight men were killed during the incident. The militants received the death sentence in view of the gravity of their crime, public prosecutor Khandaker Abdul Mannan told reporters outside the court after the verdict. "They committed a heinous crime.

They killed innocent people," he said, adding that one of them was still on the run. The court also sentenced another man to life imprisonment and two others to three years in jail. Two other suspects were acquitted. Defense lawyer Faruq Ahmed said his clients would appeal to a higher court as they had been denied justice. "The video footage of the robbery was not produced before the court," he added.

Members of Islamic State and al Qaeda have claimed responsibility for most of the recent attacks. The government has denied that either group has a presence in Bangladesh, however, blaming home-grown Islamists instead. Dozens of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen members have been arrested and at least five, including the mastermind of the robbery, have been killed in shootouts since November, as security forces cracked down on militants fighting to impose strict Islamic law on the moderate Muslim nation of 160 million. In 2005, the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen set off nearly 500 bombs almost simultaneously on a single day, some in Dhaka. Subsequent suicide attacks on courts killed 25 people and injured hundreds. — Reuters

## BIG CATS REMOVED FROM INFAMOUS TIGER TEMPLE

### THAI WILDLIFE AUTHORITIES RAID TEMPLE, REMOVE 40 TIGERS

**KANCHANABURI:** Wildlife authorities in Thailand have raided a Buddhist temple where tigers are kept, taking away 40 of the animals yesterday and vowing to confiscate scores more in response to global pressure over wildlife trafficking. The Buddhist temple in Kanchanaburi province west of Bangkok had more than 130 tigers and had become a tourist destination where visitors took selfies with tigers and bottle-fed cubs. The temple promoted itself as a wildlife sanctuary, but in recent years it had been investigated for suspected links to wildlife trafficking and animal abuse. Wildlife activists have accused the temple's monks of illegally breeding tigers, while some visitors have said the animals can appear drugged. The temple denies the accusations.

The raid, which began on Monday, was the latest move by authorities in a tug-of-war since 2001 to bring the tigers under state control. Adisorn Nuchdamrong, deputy director-general of the Department of National Parks, said his team was able to confiscate the tigers thanks to a warrant obtained a few hours before the operation began. "We have a court warrant this

time, unlike previous times, when we only asked for the temple's cooperation, which did not work," Adisorn said. "International pressure concerning illegal wildlife trafficking is also part of why we're acting now."

Officials moved seven tigers from the temple on Monday and 33 yesterday, leaving 97 still there. Adisorn said the department planned to remove all of the tigers and send them to state-owned sanctuaries. Officials also found six hornbills, which are protected birds, at a monk's residence, he said. Monks at the temple were not available for comment. Previous attempts to inspect the tigers were largely blocked by the temple's abbots but in January and February wildlife officials removed 10 tigers. Thailand has long been a hub for the illicit trafficking of wildlife and forest products, including ivory. Exotic birds, mammals and reptiles, some of them endangered species, can often be found on sale in markets. The government introduced new animal welfare laws in 2015 aimed at curbing animal abuse, but activists accuse authorities of not enforcing the legislation. — Reuters



Schoolchildren exercise in a park in Frankfurt yesterday. — AP

## EXPATS TRAPPED BY DEBTS AMID SLOWDOWN IN GULF

Continued from Page 1

The state-run Qatar Petroleum fired at least 1,500 foreign workers in recent restructuring, said Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada, Qatar's energy and industry minister. "We did not start with the idea of laying off people for the sake of laying off people," he recently told AP. "Nationals were not affected whatsoever, and that was part of our solid policy."

Maersk Oil said in October it would cut as much as 12 percent of its staff in Qatar. Vodafone's Qatar subsidiary announced on May 17 it would cut about 10 percent of its workforce, while mobile phone competitor Ooredoo also made layoffs this year. Al-Jazeera, the peninsula nation's satellite news broadcaster, also shut down its American channel in April.

Foster, 50, a former senior operation manager for the

state-linked Hamad Medical Corp's ambulance services, began work in March 2014 on a three-year contract, hoping to stay for at least six years to make enough to buy a house in the United States. However, he said he didn't receive his first paycheck until three months into his job, which forced him to get a loan of 300,000 Qatari riyals (\$82,000) to cover his living expenses, debts and child support payments in the US.

"A lot of us had to get loans to catch up," Foster said. "And that's where it started, right there." In January, Foster said his boss called him into his office and laid him off, along with other staffers. Four days later, Qatar National Bank closed his account, putting all he had toward his remaining loan, he said. "There was no notification. It was just a text that said: 'You're now overdrawn,'" Foster said.

Under Qatari law, foreign workers must apply for an exit permit through their employer to leave the country. When

Foster couldn't leave for a cruise he planned before with his wife, he realized he was trapped. Foster said he put his wife, Pepper, on a flight out, then sold all of his belongings, sleeping at night on the floor of his company-provided villa and hiding his remaining cash in the freezer, fearful he could be arrested as a debtor. He dodged phone calls and knocks at the door while trying to pull together the cash needed to pay off his debt. "I had to give them my retirement and my dad's retirement to leave," he said.

Hamad Medical Corp, Qatar's main health care provider, and Qatari officials did not respond to requests for comment. But Foster said he knew others in far worse shape, including one colleague who even purchased a rope at one point to hang himself. Others have taken their own lives. A British coroner investigating the suspected suicide of an engineer from Gloucestershire found hanging in his Doha home in Feb 2015 ruled this

March that "financial worries" may have played a part. The case remains open as Qatari authorities provided only "limited information," according to the inquest report obtained by the AP.

Suicides also affect those coming to Gulf countries for work as laborers, taxi drivers and other low-paying jobs. They often pay recruiters back home in Asia or Africa huge sums that take several years to pay off. India, one of the main countries supplying low-paid workers to the Gulf, saw at least 541 of its citizens kill themselves in the United Arab Emirates in the last three years, according to government statistics offered to parliament in December. At least 337 Indians died in suspected suicides in Saudi Arabia during the same period, while other Gulf countries saw annual suicide numbers in the double digits. In Qatar, 21 Indians alone killed themselves in 2015. The deaths continue into this year. — AP

## INDIAN ARMY DEPOT FIRE KILLS 16

**MUMBAI:** A massive fire that erupted at one of India's largest military ammunition depots yesterday killed at least 16 soldiers and firefighters, reigniting safety concerns about military equipment and installations. The blaze broke out in the early hours at the high-security facility which stores bombs, grenades and other ordnance outside the central city of Pulgaon. Flames lit up the night sky. Thousands of families were evacuated from nearby towns and villages in the western state of Maharashtra for fear of secondary explosions at the huge depot.

India's director general of military operations, Ranbir Singh, said two army officers, one soldier and 13 firefighters were killed in the blaze, updating earlier reports quoting officials of 17 soldiers dead. "Two officers and 15 personnel ... were also injured" and taken to hospital, Lieutenant General Singh told reporters in New Delhi. A probe has been ordered into the cause of the blaze, which started at 1:00 am and was confined to one of the numerous sheds storing "highly sensitive ammunition", an army statement said.

Firefighters using 10 engines worked through the night to contain the blaze which was finally brought under control just over five hours later, Ramesh Barde, a fire officer from the nearby city of Nagpur, told AFP. India's armed forces have a history of fires and other accidents which are sometimes blamed on lax safety standards. Tuesday's was the worst incident since a submarine fire killed 18 sailors three years ago.

Colonel Danveer Singh, an associate editor at Indian Defence Review magazine, said ammunition was often stored out in the open at depots, making it susceptible to fire during hot summer months. "We aren't short of ammu-

munition or production capabilities but lack space to safely store them," he told AFP. The facility, spread over 2,800 hectares, is one of the largest in India and provides ammunition for the army, navy and air force. Trains transport stockpiles on kilometres of railways lines around its grounds, according to an expert.

Manoj Joshi, a security expert at the Observer Research Foundation think-tank, told AFP the government should undertake a "fresh audit" of all ammunition depots following the disaster. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said yesterday's fire had caused a "great loss of lives and property" while Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on Twitter that his "thoughts are with the bereaved families".

The Press Trust of India news agency had earlier reported that two officers and 15 members of India's Defence Security Corps, whose personnel keep a close watch at defense sites across the country, had died, citing an army officer. A fire on the submarine INS Sindhurakshak in Mumbai in 2013 sank the vessel and left 18 sailors dead. In Feb 2014 a fire aboard a nuclear submarine killed two officers off the Mumbai coast.

In 2007, in the northern region of Indian Kashmir, a fire wrecked an ammunition dump, setting off artillery shells and mortar rounds which rained down on surrounding villages. At least 17 people were killed and two dozen injured. A fire ripped through one of the army's largest ammunition depots in 2010 in Kolkata, destroying 150 tonnes of explosives and ammunition. No one was killed in that accident. Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar and army chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag were to visit the accident site, around 700 km east of Mumbai, later yesterday. — AFP



WARDHA, India: A person injured in a fire at Pulgaon ammunitions depot is brought in for treatment at a hospital yesterday.— AP

# Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:  
**+965 248 35 616 / 617**  
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
 ads@kuwaittimes.net  
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

---

### Great Offers for SUMMER

**EPSON**  
EP-C11CE54402DA  
**L365**

PRINT ULTRA LOW COST PHOTOS WIRELESSLY

Original Ink  
T6641 Black  
T6642 Cyan  
T6643 Magenta  
T6644 Yellow

69

Price  
ك.د.  
000

**EPSON**  
L805 EP-C11CE86402DA

PRINT ULTRA LOW COST PHOTOS WIRELESSLY

Original Ink  
T6731 Black  
T6732 Cyan  
T6733 Magenta  
T6734 Yellow  
T6735 Light Cyan  
T6736 Light Magenta

99

Price  
ك.د.  
900

**EPSON**  
EP-C11CE31403DA  
**L850**

Ultra Low Cost Printing

PRINT COPY SCAN

Original Ink  
T6731 Black  
T6732 Cyan  
T6733 Magenta  
T6734 Yellow  
T6735 Light Cyan  
T6736 Light Magenta

138

Price  
ك.د.  
000

Shop Online [www.best.com.kw](http://www.best.com.kw) Free Delivery

1809 809

بست  
AL-YOUSIFI

Credit: Start from 8KD • Up to 48 month • Interest approved

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 ( Bin Khalid str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road)  
 • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya ( Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra ( Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

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

Founder and Publisher  
**YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN**

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

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432  
 ADVERTISING : 24835616/7  
 FAX : 24835620/1  
 CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163  
 ACCOUNTS : 24835619  
 COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
 E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

Washington Watch

**FRENCH JEWS FLEEING PARIS SUBURBS OVER RISING ANTI-SEMITISM**

By Pauline Froissart and Benoit Fauchet

When Alain Benhamou walked into his apartment near Paris in July 2015 and saw the words "dirty Jew" scrawled on the wall, he knew it was time to leave. It was his second such break-in in less than three months and the 71-year-old no longer felt welcome in Bondy, a Parisian suburb he had called home for more than 40 years. "Until the years 2000-2005, the town was nice and quiet, with 250 to 300 Jewish families and synagogues full on the Sabbath," Benhamou says. "Now, only about a hundred Jewish families remain."

Benhamou is part of a growing number of French Jews who have effectively become internal refugees, fleeing insecurity and seeking protection in numbers in an atmosphere they say is increasingly hostile, and often expressed in relation to conflict in the Middle East. He moved a few miles south to Villemomble, where there is a larger and more established Jewish community.

But others have fled France altogether. A record 8,000 or so French Jews moved to Israel in 2015 alone, according to Israeli figures, in the year that a jihadist gunman linked to the Charlie Hebdo newspaper attackers killed four Jews in a kosher supermarket. France has the largest Jewish population in Europe, estimated at 500,000 to 600,000 people. Half of them live in the Paris region but their numbers have declined steadily over the past 15 years, researchers say.

Jerome Fourquet of polling firm IFOP says the change started around 2000 following a fresh surge of violence between Israel and the Palestinians, known as the second intifada. With France also home to Europe's largest Muslim community, which counts around five million members, the bloodshed in the Middle East unleashed a wave of unrest, particularly in the Paris region which saw a surge in anti-Semitic acts and threats, he says.

**A Disappearing Community**

Benhamou still lives within the sprawling Seine-Saint-Denis department that sits northeast of the capital and combines run-down immigrant ghettos with trendy new gentrified business districts. In the last 15 years, it has gone from being one of France's most densely-populated Jewish areas to what the community now considers "one of the lost territories of the Republic." "The Jewish community is expected to disappear from here," Benhamou says.

In nearby Raincy, Rabbi Moshe Lewin shares Benhamou's pessimism, fearing he could be one of the last Jewish leaders in Seine-Saint-Denis. "What upsets me is that in some areas of France, Jews can no longer live peacefully, and that just five minutes from my home, some are forced to hide their kippas (skullcaps) or their Star of David," he admits. Even areas with a strong Jewish population, such as Sarcelles to the north, still have major problems.

Francois Pupponi, the Socialist mayor of Sarcelles, says many Jewish residents come to him for help with stories of being assaulted or having swastikas daubed on walls outside their homes. Some have been caught in "extremely violent situations" that in some cases required families to be "urgently rehoused," says Pupponi. He became aware of "a phenomenon of internal migration" about five or six years ago, which he says "is getting worse."

**'Little Jerusalem'**

Nonetheless, Jews from elsewhere still see Sarcelles as a relative haven. New arrivals now find "a much stronger police and institutional presence" than before and "they can live out their Judaism here in safety," says Pupponi. Among the newcomers is Eva Sandler, the widow of Rabbi Jonathan Sandler who was killed in an Islamist shooting attack on a Jewish school in Toulouse in 2012. Other areas have also seen an influx of new arrivals.

Many say the heart of the Jewish community is no longer Sarcelles but in Paris' western 17th district which has now taken over the moniker of "Little Jerusalem". Now in his 60s, Robert moved there a decade ago with the northwestern neighborhood's Jewish population reflected in the wealth of eateries selling kosher foods, from specialized sweet shops to sushi bars. "Because anti-Semitism is growing, we try and stick together to avoid it," admits Robert, who did not want to give his surname. Community group the Consistoire Israelite has taken note of the shift in center of gravity and is currently building a Centre for European Judaism in the neighborhood which is slated to open next year.

**'Becoming Less Visible'**

But across the city in the eastern neighborhood of Saint-Mande, the wind appears to have changed. Formerly known for its large Jewish community with two synagogues and a community day care center, the district has been badly hit by the deadly hostage-taking at the kosher supermarket in January 2015. "There were about 12 or 13 Sainte-Mande residents among (the hostages)," recalls local mayor Patrick Beaudouin. "It had a huge psychological impact." — AFP



**NATIVE AMERICANS BATTLE OVER VOTING RIGHTS**

By Mica Rosenberg

Elvis Norquay, a member of the Chippewa Indian tribe, has lived most of his 58 years on North Dakota's remote Turtle Mountain reservation and says he's never had a problem voting. That was before 2014, when he hitched a ride with a friend to cast a ballot in local and congressional elections and was turned away. Embarrassed, he asked why he couldn't vote. He was told he lacked proper ID under new state requirements. He has no phone, no current driver's license and his tribal ID lacks a street address. "When we left, my friend said, 'that's not right,'" said Norquay, who has lived on disability since 2002 in a rural county near the Canadian border.

Norquay is among a growing number of Native Americans embroiled in court battles over changes to voting laws that could influence the outcome of some tight races in the November 2016 presidential and congressional elections. While the Native American population is small nationally, lawsuits involving tribes over voting problems have proliferated since the Supreme Court struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, a signature legislative achievement of the 1960s civil rights movement.

North Dakota is one of 17 states that have new voting restrictions in place since the last presidential contest, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. Many of these changes have sparked lawsuits and accusations that black, Hispanic and other minority voters could be disenfranchised. Five federal lawsuits involving

Native Americans have been filed since the Supreme Court decision, including three this year alone. Suits in North Dakota, Utah, South Dakota and Arizona claim new voting rules passed in majority Republican states are discriminatory and could reduce voting by tribal members, who tend to back Democrats. A suit in Alaska, for example, claimed the state violated federal rules by failing to translate voting materials for tribal voters. The tribes say changes to voting rules in those states disproportionately affect Native Americans, an allegation the states and counties deny.

The Native American vote is not big enough to flip a safe Republican state such as North Dakota into the Democrat column in this year's presidential election, but Native Americans are a growing proportion of the population and a majority in some counties where increased voter turnout in recent years has tipped the balance in some congressional races. In many states, the number of Native Americans is growing faster than the population as a whole. Between 2000 and 2010, the Native American population rose by 26.7 percent to 1.1 million, compared to 9.7 percent growth in America's overall population, census data showed.

Recent changes to voting laws, such as North Dakota's new voter ID law, are part of "a much broader, deliberate, and concerted effort by Republicans to reduce turnout among particular groups of voters on election day," said Pratt Wiley, head of voter protection issues at the Democratic Party in Washington. "Those voters are more vulnerable today than they were before the Supreme Court invalidated a key provision of the Voting Rights Act in 2013,"

he said of Native Americans. Republicans deny that voting law changes passed by Republican-dominated legislatures are discriminatory and say they are intended to reduce fraudulent votes. "These are popular common sense laws to protect elections from fraud," said Lindsay Walters, national spokeswoman at the Republican National Committee.

**Tribal ID Cards**

At issue in North Dakota are revisions pushed largely by Republican state legislators in 2013 and 2015 to a 2003 state elections law that eliminated a provision that had allowed people without proper identification such as Norquay to vote if they were recognized by a poll worker or if they signed an affidavit swearing to their identity. Norquay and six other members of his tribe sued the secretary of state in January in U.S. District Court in North Dakota. They said they were refused the right to vote in November 2014 because many old tribal IDs such as Norquay's don't list a current residential address.

It says some tribal members can't afford a new tribal ID or struggle to obtain proper identification because there are no state offices that provide driver's licenses on the reservations. Richard McCloud, chairman of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, said widespread unemployment and poverty among tribal members meant that some struggle to afford the \$10 needed to obtain a new tribal card. "Ten dollars is three pounds of hamburger and some macaroni for a family," said McCloud at the tribe's headquarters on the reservation of about 4,274 people a few miles south of the Canadian bor-

der. "Maybe it's no big deal if you work, but it's a big deal to people that don't have access to \$10," he said. North Dakota's secretary of state, Al Jaeger, the only defendant in the suit, said in an interview that the law is not discriminatory and simplifies the voting process in the only state in the country that does not require voters to register ahead of an election. He said his office has spent heavily on ad campaigns to educate voters about what IDs are accepted. Jaeger's deputy, Jim Silrum, said the ID requirements are not a barrier for the 97 percent of state residents with driver's licenses, an accepted form of ID, so the number of people affected by the changes is minuscule. Those with no driver's license, can get a non-driver state ID allowed at the polls from the motor vehicle department for free. Jaeger and Silrum said they could not respond directly to an assertion in the lawsuit that residents on reservations have to travel long distances to obtain a state ID.

**Little Evidence of Fraud**

Republican state Representative Jim Kasper from Fargo repeated his party's argument that the changes were aimed at reducing the risk of voter fraud, but Silrum said there was little evidence of such irregularities. In the 2012 presidential election, there were only nine cases of people voting twice, but that was because they used the same ID rather than a lack of proper identification, he said. State Representative Kylie Oversen, a Democrat from Grand Forks, said the changes could alter tight elections in favor of Republicans. She said Republicans pushed for the bill after Heidi Heitkamp, a Democrat, was elected to the US Senate in 2012 by less than 3,000 votes. — Reuters

**IN TAJIKISTAN, A PERSONALITY CULT BLOSSOMS**

By Christopher Ricketton

Along the road passing through an impoverished district of ex-Soviet Tajikistan near the capital Dushanbe, strongman President Emomali Rakhmon's presence is ubiquitous. Propaganda posters flank the highway in Gissar, one showing the 63-year-old autocrat - emboldened by constitutional changes passed in a May referendum - in a pensive mood, crouched in a field of red poppies. In another the former collective farm boss, who led the Central Asian country out of a five-year civil war that began in 1992, is seen reaching joyfully into a heaving bough of grapes.

"Thanks to you Gissar region is prospering," the poster boasts, as banners bearing similarly grateful messages form a line behind it. When Rakhmon visited the area in February to open an orchard named after him, state media reported that sections of a 200-m-long velvet carpet he walked upon were distributed to local pensioners. "This process is being driven by the president's advisors," Rustam Kodir, a prominent Tajik writer and rare critical voice in the country of eight million people, told AFP. "They only honor him and tell him good things. We are moving along the path of Turkmenistan and North Korea," said Kodir.

The strongman's burgeoning personality cult troubles many in the secular republic as religious conservatism rises and the economy toils under the weight of the Russian crisis. The collapse of the ruble in 2014 forced shut many businesses in Russia that once employed Tajik workers who ended up being sent home. Tajikistan's currency the somoni fell by over a quarter against the dollar in 2015 and has continued to fall this year.

**'Star of Happiness'**

Rakhmon's emerging cult appears set to intensify following a May 22 referendum enabling him to rule for life while opening the door to a possible succession by his son Rustam, now 28. According to the central

electoral commission, 94.5 percent of voters endorsed relieving Rakhmon of term limit restrictions, banning religious parties and lowering the minimum age for presidential candidates to 30. In the build-up to the plebiscite, the country was awash with initiatives bolstering Rakhmon, whom parliament anointed "Leader of the Nation" last year, a status ensuring life-long immunity from prosecution for him and his family.

They included a new holiday created in his honor and a contest for the best essays by schoolchildren in praise of his "heroic" rule. Last year Rakhmon was called by one political ally "the sun" and a "star of happiness" in a newspaper article, while another supporter said his achievements should be recognized with a statue. "The mass media - especially

state television - is the main instrument for the propagation of this cult," Shokir Hakimov, deputy head of the opposition Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan, told AFP. "There is no space for academic or public discussion about the direction the country is going in, only affirmation," said Hakimov, whose party has never won seats in Tajikistan's parliament.

**'Good Tajik Islam'**

But experts argue that Rakhmon faces a challenge securing a regime accused of entrenched corruption as religious observance grows. Rakhmon last year appealed for Tajik women not to wear black - read Islamic - clothes, and wear colorful traditional clothing instead. In 2015 the government banned as

extremist a faith-based opposition party following an apparent mutiny the government claims left more than two dozen dead. The subsequent detention and trial of key leaders of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan - widely viewed as a moderate political force - drew concern from the United States, the EU and the UN. In a country where minors are prohibited from attending mosques and police reportedly shave believers' beards, some fear the party's closure will force religious groups underground, into the arms of extremists. "The IRPT was a symbol of peace after the civil war," said Kodir, referring to the conflict that cost tens of thousands of lives. "We were the only country in the region to have a party like this... Somehow we have shed ourselves of this achievement." — AFP



This file photo taken on Nov 3, 2013 shows people waving Tajik flags in front of a giant hoarding depicting Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmon during a rally in support of Rakhmon in Dushanbe. — AFP

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.

### AZERBAIJAN JAILS FOOTBALLER OVER JOURNALIST'S MURDER

**BAKU:** Azerbaijan yesterday sentenced a prominent footballer to four years in prison over concealing the murder by his relatives of a journalist who criticized him on Facebook, his lawyer said. "A judge sentenced (former captain of the Azeri Gabala football team) Javid Huseynov to four years in jail," the lawyer, Adam Mamedov said. Huseynov was found guilty of "concealing the circumstances of the murder of journalist Rasim Aliyev," the lawyer added. Aliyev, a 30-year-old photo and video journalist for a number of online publications, died in hospital in August last year after being beaten by Huseynov's relatives over his Facebook post about a heated football match between teams from Cyprus and Azerbaijan. Aliyev had criticized the behaviour of Gabala's striker Huseynov who waved a Turkish flag after the match with Cypriot team Apollon Limassol and allegedly made an offensive gesture at a journalist. In April, an Azerbaijani court sentenced five men—all of them friends and relatives of the footballer—to prison terms ranging from nine to 13 years for beating Aliyev to death. Aliyev told the Turan news agency before his death that he had received insulting comments about his Facebook post.—AFP



### UCI: HENAO CLEARED AFTER BIOLOGICAL DATA CONCERNS

**PARIS:** Colombian rider Sergio Henao has been cleared of any wrongdoing after his biological data were analyzed by experts, the International Cycling Union (UCI) said yesterday. Henao was withdrawn from racing by Team Sky last month after concerns re-surfaced about his biological data. He had been contacted by the UCI and the Cycling Anti-Doping Foundation (CADF) with regards to his Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) data between August 2011 and June 2015. "On 20 April 2016, in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) Operating Guidelines, the independent experts of the Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) in Lausanne, Switzerland, requested further information from Sergio Henao about his ABP values," the UCI said in a statement. "As per the applicable ABP regulations, the rider's explanations were sent to the same experts for review. After examination, the independent experts came to the conclusion that there was no basis to proceed further."—Reuters

### HENRIKH MICKI REJECTS DORTMUND EXTENSION

**BERLIN:** Borussia Dortmund could be set to lose another star for next season amidst reports Chelsea and Arsenal target Henrikh Mkhitaryan has turned down a contract extension with the German giants. "Why should we extend now? Micki (Mkhitaryan) still has a contract until 2017 and we'll continue thinking about his future after that," Mkhitaryan's agent Mino Raiola told German daily Bild. With Dortmund's captain Mats Hummels having already signed for rivals Bayern Munich next season, Dortmund have been trying to tie down top midfielders Mkhitaryan and Ilkay Gundogan, who is tipped to join Manchester City, on long-term deals. Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke refused to comment on the situation with Mkhitaryan. The Armenian international has had a stellar season at Dortmund, scoring 23 goals and creating another 32 in all competitions, as Borussia finished second only to Bayern in Germany's top flight. The 27-year-old netted a hat-trick for Armenia on Sunday in their 7-1 victory over Guatemala, and had a hand in six of their goals, with their next international on Thursday against El Salvador.—AFP



### MLB results/standings

NY Mets 1, Chicago White Sox 0; Atlanta 5, San Francisco 3; Boston 7, Baltimore 2; St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 0; Oakland 3, Minnesota 2; Cincinnati 11, Colorado 8; Houston 8, Arizona 3; Seattle 9, San Diego 3; Chicago Cubs 2, LA Dodgers 0; Texas 9, Cleveland 2; Washington 4, Philadelphia 3; Toronto 4, NY Yankees 2; Pittsburgh 10, Miami 0; Kansas City 6, Tampa Bay 2; LA Angels 5, Detroit 1.

American League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	31	20	.608	-
Baltimore	28	21	.571	2
Toronto	27	26	.509	5
NY Yankees	24	26	.480	6.5
Tampa Bay	22	27	.449	8
Central Division				
Kansas City	28	22	.560	-
Cleveland	26	23	.531	1.5
Chicago White Sox	27	25	.519	2
Detroit	24	26	.480	4
Minnesota	15	35	.300	13
Western Division				
Texas	30	21	.588	-
Seattle	29	21	.580	0.5
LA Angels	23	28	.451	7
Houston	23	29	.442	7.5
Oakland	23	29	.442	7.5
National League				
Eastern Division				
Washington	31	21	.596	-
NY Mets	29	21	.580	1
Miami	26	25	.510	4.5
Philadelphia	26	25	.510	4.5
Atlanta	15	35	.300	15
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	35	14	.714	-
Pittsburgh	29	21	.580	6.5
St. Louis	27	25	.519	9.5
Milwaukee	23	28	.451	13
Cincinnati	17	34	.333	19
Western Division				
San Francisco	32	21	.604	-
LA Dodgers	27	25	.519	4.5
Colorado	23	27	.460	7.5
Arizona	23	30	.434	9
San Diego	20	32	.385	11.5



TORONTO: Kevin Pillar #11 of the Toronto Blue Jays slides safely into second base with a double in the seventh inning as Didi Gregorius of the New York Yankees looks on during the MLB game action May 30, 2016. — AFP

# METS WORSEN WHITE SOX'S MISERY

## MAZARA, DESMOND HOMER AS RANGERS ROUT INDIANS 9-2

**NEW YORK:** Matt Harvey rediscovered his form with seven dominant innings of two-hit ball, Neil Walker homered off Jose Quintana, and the New York Mets beat Chicago 1-0 Monday to send the reeling White Sox to their seventh straight loss. Harvey (4-7) has been one of baseball's biggest puzzles, transforming from a premier pitcher to baffled ballplayer. With both teams wearing special Memorial Day uniforms with camouflage lettering and trim, Harvey struck out six and walked two to win for the first time since May 8. His fastball velocity was up markedly, and he threw 61 of 87 pitches for strikes. Addison Reed struck out two in a perfect eighth. After wasting a four-run lead in the Mets' win over Los Angeles on Friday and giving up a pair of ninth-inning runs in Sunday's loss to the Dodgers, Jeury Familia got three straight outs to remain perfect in 17 save chances. He has converted 33 consecutive save opportunities dating to last season. Quintana (5-5) was almost as good but has lost four straight starts for the first time in his big league career. He allowed four singles before Walker led off the Mets' seventh with his 12th homer, a drive over the 370-foot sign in left.

**RED SOX 7, ORIOLOS 2**  
Xander Bogaerts extended his hitting streak to 23 games and drove in two runs, Jackie Bradley put Boston ahead for good with a sixth-inning homer and the Red Sox beat Baltimore in a matchup of the top two teams in the AL East. David Ortiz and rookie Marco Hernandez also homered for the Red Sox, who stretched their division lead to two games. Both drives came in a four-run eighth. Knuckleballer Steven Wright (5-4) pitched a four-hitter, striking out seven and walking five in his third straight complete game. Mookie Betts scored twice on RBIs by Bogaerts before Bradley connected off Tyler Wilson (2-4) leading off the sixth. Bradley's 29-game hitting streak, which ended last week, is the only one this season longer than Bogaerts' career-best run.

**CUBS 2, DODGERS 0**  
Travis Wood and three other relievers combined for seven perfect innings after starter Jason Hammel left with cramps, and Chicago held Los Angeles to one hit in a victory. Hammel exited after his right hamstring cramped while warming up for the third inning. Wood (3-0) pitched four perfect innings in his longest stint of the season. Justin Grimm, Pedro Strop and Hector Rondon pitched one inning each for the Cubs, with Rondon getting his ninth save. He has converted 20 straight save opportunities dating back to Aug 14. Ben Zobrist extended his hitting streak to a career-

high-tying 16 games. He singled leading off the fifth and reached third when right fielder Yasiel Puig misplayed the ball. He scored on Jason Heyward's infield single. Dodgers starting pitcher Alex Wood (1-4) gave up two runs and seven hits in five innings.

**ANGELS 5, TIGERS 1**  
Jhoulys Chacin threw a four-hitter to win a scintillating duel with Justin Verlander, and Cliff Pennington's tiebreaking RBI single during a five-run eighth inning propelled Los Angeles over Detroit. Chacin (1-1) and Verlander (4-5) combined to retire the first 27 batters at Angel Stadium before CJ Cron's single leading off the fifth for Los Angeles. Chacin lost his own perfect game bid on Andrew Romine's two-out single in the sixth. The pitchers traded zeros until the Angels led off the eighth with three straight singles against Verlander, who gave up one hit in the first seven innings of Detroit's fourth loss in five games. Chacin threw his third career complete game in his fourth start for Los Angeles.

**NATIONALS 4, PHILLIES 3**  
Daniel Murphy hit a solo homer and tiebreaking two-run single, Tanner Roark threw seven sharp innings and Washington held on for a win over Philadelphia. Bryce Harper left the game shortly after taking a fastball off the outside part of his right knee in the seventh. The reigning NL MVP went to first base, got doubled off on Murphy's fly out to left and was replaced by Chris Heisey in right field in the bottom half. Roark (4-4) gave up two runs and four hits. Felipe Rivero pitched the eighth and Jonathan Papelbon escaped trouble in the ninth for his 14th save in 16 tries. Maikel Franco and Ryan Howard hit consecutive doubles off their former teammate to start bottom of the ninth and get the Phillies within one run. But Papelbon struck out pinch-hitter Tommy Joseph and Cesar Hernandez and retired Tyler Goeddel on a liner to second. Jeremy Hellickson threw seven impressive innings for the Phillies before the Nationals rallied off Hector Neris (1-2).

**BLUE JAYS 4, YANKEES 2**  
Marco Estrada pitched eight scoreless innings, Ryan Goins homered and Toronto beat New York for its fifth win in six games. Estrada (3-2) allowed three hits and won back-to-back starts for the first time this season. He beat the Yankees in New York last week. Estrada's start came at a perfect time for the Blue Jays bullpen, which was worn down following Sunday's 11-inning loss to Boston. Four Toronto relievers, including closer Roberto

Osuna, were unavailable against New York. After Aaron Loup gave up a two-run home run to Brian McCann in the ninth, Drew Storen came on and got the final two outs for his third save. Ivan Nova (3-3) allowed four runs and eight hits in six-plus innings, losing to Toronto for the second straight start.

**CARDINALS 6, BREWERS 0**  
Matt Carpenter had four hits and scored three times, Carlos Martinez pitched eight innings and St. Louis beat Milwaukee. Martinez (5-5) allowed five singles, walked one and struck out eight, rebounding nicely after having allowed at least four runs in each of his three previous starts. Carpenter sparked the offense from the leadoff spot. He even scored from second in the seventh after catcher Jonathan Lucroy lost track of a wild pitch by Jhan Marinez that trickled to the backstop. St. Louis also took advantage of shaky defense to score three runs in the third off Junior Guerra (3-1), who allowed eight hits and three earned runs in 6 1/3 innings.

**ATHLETICS 3, TWINS 2**  
Coco Crisp homered leading off the game, Kris Davis hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the sixth inning and Oakland beat Minnesota. Jed Lowrie added two hits and scored the game-winning run for Oakland while first baseman Yonder Alonso singled, scored and made a diving catch to end a threat in the seventh and strand the potential tying and go-ahead runs in scoring position. Kendall Graveman (2-6) pitched six uneven innings to win for the first time in more than a month for the A's. Oakland has won three straight since dropping the opener of this six-game homestand. All of the A's runs came off Twins starter Erwin Santana, who had only lost twice in 12 previous career starts at the Coliseum. Santana (1-4) gave up seven hits in seven innings with five strikeouts.

**REDS 11, ROCKIES 8**  
Adam Duvall had his first career two-homer game, Joey Votto hit his 200th homer and Eugenio Suarez - who came in mired in a 0-for-28 skid - also went deep in Cincinnati's victory over Colorado. Zack Cozart also homered for the light-hitting Reds, who collected a season-best 17 hits. The Rockies gave up five homers after entering the game having allowed a major league-low 15 in the month of May. Dan Straily (3-2) overcame a slow start and an early 5-1 deficit to pick up the win. He helped himself by drawing a walk and scoring a run in Cincinnati's five-run fourth inning rally that turned things around. Votto led off the seventh with his eighth homer, a no-doubt

shot off Jason Motte over the scoreboard in right that made him the seventh Reds player to have 200 homers among his 1,000-plus career hits. Straily surrendered Daniel Descalso's bases-clearing double and gave up an RBI single to Gerardo Parra in the third when swirling winds wreaked havoc on fly balls. Straily drew a walk from Chad Bettis (4-4) in the fourth, when the Reds rebounded for five runs and seven hits to chase Bettis, who failed to hold a 5-1 lead.

**ASTROS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 3**  
Collin McHugh struck out eight in his first career complete game, Jason Castro had three RBIs and Houston continued its recent surge with a win over Arizona. The Astros jumped on Edwin Escobar (0-1) in his first big league start, scoring eight runs off the left-hander in 3 1/3 innings. Castro hit a two-run double off Escobar in the third inning and Houston had 13 hits overall to win for the sixth time in seven games. Astros leadoff hitter George Springer added three hits, two runs and an RBI. McHugh (5-4) gave up a solo homer to Paul Goldschmidt in the first inning, but retired 21 of the next 22 batters in the five-hitter.

**MARINERS 9, PADRES 3**  
Kyle Seager's two-run homer in the sixth inning snapped a 2-all tie and Dae Ho Lee's three-run shot capped a five-run eighth inning to give Seattle a victory over San Diego. Seager's ninth homer of the season broke a 2-all tie and capped a four-run sixth inning for the Mariners. The two-run shot bounced off the top of the wall in right-center field and barely eluded the glove of San Diego's Matt Kemp. The Padres lost for the seventh time in eight games as retired Andrew Cashner (2-5) pitching a season-high 6 1/3 innings. Seattle did very little the first two times through the batting order against Cashner, but was given a chance to rally thanks to a solid outing from Nathan Karns (5-1), who won his fifth straight decision.

**BRAVES 5, GIANTS 3**  
Mallex Smith hit a three-run triple in the second inning, Mike Foltyniewicz continued his recent upswing by allowing only three hits and one run in six-plus innings and Atlanta beat Jeff Samardzija and San Francisco Giants. The Braves survived San Francisco's two-run, ninth-inning rally. Brandon Crawford's run-scoring single in the ninth was the Giants' third straight hit off Aroldis Vizcaino. The closer struck out Jarrett Parker before second baseman Kelly Johnson bobbled pinch-hitter Buster Posey's grounder, allowing another run to score. Kolby Tomlinson's grounder to third base ended the

game. Foltyniewicz (2-2) gave up a leadoff homer to Brandon Belt in the second inning but allowed only one other runner to advance to second. He was lifted after allowing a leadoff single to Hunter Pence in the seventh, only his third hit allowed. He had two walks and four strikeouts and lowered his ERA to 3.51. Samardzija (7-3) was looking for his fourth straight win as a starter for the first time in his career. The right-hander allowed five runs, four earned, and six hits and two walks in five innings - his shortest start of the season.

**RANGERS 9, INDIANS 2**  
Nomar Mazara hit a three-run homer, Ian Desmond had a two-run shot and Texas beat Cleveland. Derek Holland (4-4) pitched six innings and gave up one run - a solo homer by Mike Napoli - to win for the first time since April 30. Josh Tomlin (7-1) lasted 3 2/3 innings and lost for the first time since Sept. 15. The right-hander was 12-0 in 13 starts following a Cleveland loss dating back to last season.

**PIRATES 10, MARLINS 0**  
Jeff Locke tossed a three-hitter and Pittsburgh beat Miami. Gregory Polanco's grand slam, Sean Rodriguez's two-run homer, and David Freese's four hits helped power the offense for the Pirates, who won the first of a four-game series in Miami. The first two games were originally scheduled to be played in Puerto Rico, but were moved due to concerns of the Zika virus. Locke (4-3) struck out one and did not walk a batter while throwing 67 of 105 pitches for strikes. It was his first complete game in 101 career starts. Locke retired 19 straight at one point and needed just six pitches to get through the seventh inning. The announced crowd of 10,856 was a season-low for the Marlins, who entered the day averaging just under 20,000. Marlins starter Justin Nicolino (2-3) allowed three runs and six hits in five innings.

**ROYALS 6, RAYS 2**  
Eric Hosmer hit a three-run homer after Lorenzo Cain drove in the go-ahead run in a four-run eighth inning and Kansas City defeated Tampa Bay. The Royals have won four straight, matching their season best streak, and have scored 19 runs after the sixth innings in those victories. Cain's single scored Alcides Escobar with the first run of the inning before Hosmer took a pitch from Erasmo Ramirez (6-3) deep to right-center for his 10th home run. Kelvin Herrera (1-1) blew the save, allowing a run in the eighth, but he picked up the victory. Steve Pearce scored from second on an infield single by Steven Souza Jr. to tie it at 2.—AP

## AFTER PLAYOFF COLLAPSE, DURANT FUTURE IS THUNDER'S QUESTION

**OAKLAND:** As Stephen Curry dribbled out the clock in a raucous Oracle Arena, Kevin Durant could only stand and watch. The Golden State Warriors are heading back to the NBA Finals, while Durant's future in Oklahoma City is much less certain. Two nights after blowing an opportunity to close out the defending champion Warriors at home, the Thunder got sent home for the summer when they lost Game 7 of the Western Conference finals 96-88 on Monday night. "We wanted to win the whole thing," Durant said. "There's no moral victories in our locker room after the game. We were all upset. We wanted to get a chance to play for a championship in the finals, so that hurts."

Instead of becoming known as the team that knocked off the Warriors after their record-setting 73-win regular season, the Thunder will be remembered for a playoff collapse. They became just the 10th NBA team to lose a playoff series after taking a 3-1 lead and now head into an uncertain offseason with Durant eligible to become an unrestricted free agent. Durant said it was too soon to even think about what will happen in July. "It hurts losing, but everybody fought hard every single moment, left their soul out on the court," Durant said. "We have no regrets."

If he does leave the only franchise he has played for in his nine-year

career, he will do it having failed to deliver the championship to Oklahoma City. The closest the Thunder have gotten in Durant's tenure was when they lost the NBA Finals in five games to LeBron James and the Miami Heat in 2012. They then lost in the second round the next season, in the conference finals in 2014 to San Antonio before missing the playoffs entirely because of an injury to Durant last year. But under first-year coach Billy Donovan, Oklahoma City earned the third seed in the top-heavy Western Conference this season and then upset 67-win San Antonio in the second round. The Thunder followed that by winning three of the first four games against the Warriors, with a pair of lopsided wins at home.

But after losing Game 5 on the road, the Thunder blew an opportunity to eliminate the Warriors at home on Saturday night. Oklahoma City led by seven points with less than five minutes remaining but made only one basket and committed six turnovers down the stretch of a 108-101 loss that could haunt the franchise for years. The Thunder responded on the road in Game 7 by taking a 13-point lead in the second quarter. But once Curry and Klay Thompson started hitting Oklahoma City with a flurry of 3-pointers, the

Thunder had no answer. The Splash Brothers combined for 13 3-pointers as Golden State outscored Oklahoma City by 30 points from behind the line. "There was an opportunity for us to close the series out in 5 and 6 and 7 and we came up a little short," Donovan said. "But I don't know if that tells the story of the full seven games if you look at the entirety." Oklahoma City's stars were no match. Russell Westbrook missed 14 of 21 from the field and shot just 36.8 percent in the three potential clinchers. Durant finished with 27 points but took only 10 shots in the first three quarters.

Durant did score seven straight points to cut an 11-point deficit to four with 1:40 remaining. But Serge Ibaka then fouled Curry on a 3-pointer with the shot clock running down, allowing Golden State to build the lead back to seven. "That was the dagger for us," Durant said. "That kind of hurt us." Durant then missed two shots and could only stare blankly when Curry ended Oklahoma City's season with a 3-pointer with 26.8 seconds left. Now the Thunder can only hope it doesn't end Durant's tenure in Oklahoma City as well. "We just lost like 30 minutes ago," Durant said. "I haven't even thought about it. I'm just embracing my teammates and reflecting on the season." —AP



**OAKLAND:** Kevin Durant #35 of the Oklahoma City Thunder stands on the court in Game Seven of the Western Conference Finals against the Golden State Warriors during the 2016 NBA Playoffs at Oracle Arena on May 30, 2016. —AFP

## BAYLISS BACKS COOK TO TOP TENDULKAR'S TOTAL

**CHESTER-LE-STREET:** England coach Trevor Bayliss believes Alastair Cook has it in him to surpass India great Sachin Tendulkar as Test cricket's all-time leading run-scorer. Cook became just the 12th player in history to score 10,000 Test runs during the course of his unbeaten 47 as England beat Sri Lanka by nine wickets in the second Test at the Riverside in Chester-le-Street on Monday. The England captain was also the first Englishman to achieve the feat and, at 31 years and 157 days, the youngest to get to the landmark, breaking Tendulkar's record by more than five months. Cook is unlikely ever to play white ball international cricket again having been dropped from the one-day side prior to last year's 50-over World Cup. But even without that burden, Tendulkar's aggregate tally of 15,921 Test runs is still some way off for left-handed opener Cook, who now has 10,042 to his credit. However, given Cook has scored at a rate of around 1,000 runs a year for the past decade, only a career-ending injury or a sharp decline in form could deny him the chance to surpass Tendulkar's haul. "It will be about how long he wants to keep doing it," said Bayliss. "But certainly there is time on his side, so there is no reason he couldn't if his heart is still in it and his will to do it is still there," the Australian added.

Former Sri Lanka coach Bayliss is no

doubt of Cook's quality. "He is right up there with any of the best international players. He has these powers of concentration," he said. "He is not the biggest stroke-player of all time - (but) he knows his game very well, he is very patient and he sticks to it. "To be able to do that over the period of time he has played and score as many runs as he has is a fantastic effort." Victory at the Riverside, the headquarters of north-east county Durham, saw England take an unassailable 2-0 lead in their three-Test series with Sri Lanka. England quickly announced an unchanged 12-man squad for next week's third Test at Lord's.

That means they still have the option of giving a debut to Nottinghamshire seamer Jake Ball. Fast bowler Steven Finn, who plays at Lord's for Middlesex, could be vulnerable if England want to assess Ball in international match conditions ahead of their upcoming home Test series against Pakistan. But Bayliss indicated Finn and struggling number three batsman Nick Compton, another Middlesex man, would get a fair run to prove their worth. "There have been discussions over the last month or so, but we have been about giving guys the opportunity to show us what they have got," said Bayliss. "The team has been a winning one, so there is no reason to change it just at the moment!" —AFP

## ONE-ARMED WILDCARD STUNS WOMEN'S BEST

**SUVA:** One-armed American surfer Bethany Hamilton sealed third place in the Fiji Women's Pro yesterday after beating some of the world's best to make the semi-finals. Hamilton, whose left arm was bitten off in a shark attack in 2003, entered the event at Tavarua as a wildcard rated little chance of making an impact. But the 26-year-old from Hawaii reached the final four with an incredible giant-killing run. She defeated Australia's world number one Tyler Wright in the second round, then beat six-time world champion Stephanie Gilmore in the third. Another Aussie, the highly rated Nikki Van Dijk, succumbed in the quarter-finals before Hamilton finally fell to the competition's eventual winner, France's Johanne Defay, in the semis. "Beyond stoked to finish 3rd... as the wildcard! LOVED competing & looking forward to more adventures," she tweeted after the event.

It is the sixth time Hamilton, who had a child last year, has competed on the elite tour, with her previous best a ninth place in 2010. But the simple fact she is competing

has already inspired a Hollywood movie, 2011's "Soul Surfer" featuring Dennis Quaid and Helen Hunt. Hamilton was a promising junior aged 13 when a huge tiger shark mauled her, losing 60 percent of her blood after it ripped off her arm. But she refused to give up her dream of becoming a pro surfer and was back on a board less than a month after the near-fatal attack.

She embarked on intensive physical therapy and strengthening exercises to adjust her balance and movements to compensate for the missing arm. The only concession made to her handicap is a handle on the surfboard, which allows her to duck-diver under approaching waves when she paddles out. She spoke after making the quarter-finals in Fiji about what it meant for her to compete among the best. "I know I'm in a unique position to hopefully encourage young girls... to chase their dreams," she said. "Even after losing my arm I'm still doing everything I hoped I could do. I'm a reminder for young girls that you can do it if you set your mind to it." —AFP



**TAVARUA:** Bethany Hamilton of the US pictured before her semi-final at the Fiji Women's Pro at Tavarua. —AFP



**PITTSBURGH:** Brian Dumoulin #8 of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Tomas Hertl #48 of the San Jose Sharks fall on the ice during the second period in Game One of the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Final on May 30, 2016. —AFP

## PENGUINS EDGE SHARKS

LATE BONINO GOAL LIFT PENS IN STANLEY CUP OPENER

**WASHINGTON:** Nick Bonino scored the game winner in the waning minutes Monday as the Penguins edged the San Jose Sharks 3-2 in Pittsburgh in the first game of the NHL Stanley Cup finals. The Penguins, seeking their first NHL championship since 2009, will try to stretch their lead in the best-of-seven series when they host game two on Wednesday, before the series shifts to San Jose. The Penguins let a 2-0 lead in the contest get away from them, as San Jose, playing in the championship series for the first time, scored twice in the second period.

But Bonino scored from the inner edge of the left circle, after a feed from defenseman Kris Letang, firing past San Jose goaltender Martin Jones to make it 3-2 at 17:27 of the third. "He put it right on my stick-it was a great play by Tanager and it wasn't the hardest shot I've had, but I was able to flip it over (Jones)," Bonino said. Bryan Rust, who later left the contest with an undisclosed injury, and fellow rookie Conor Sheary scored little more than a minute apart in the first period for the Penguins, who had 24 saves from rookie goalie Matt Murray. Tomas Hertl and Patrick Marleau responded with goals for the Sharks in the second, but after Bonino's goal Murray made the lead stand up even as the Sharks played most of the last two minutes on the power play. "He made a couple of big saves on (Sharks center) Joe Thornton coming down the wing at the end," Penguins left winger Chris Kunitz said of Murray. "He's always rising to the occasion for the team." Jones was under pressure in the Sharks net throughout the first and third periods, finishing with 38 saves. "They played their game for longer stretches than we did," said Sharks coach Peter DeBoer, who noted that in the face of the Penguins' vaunted speed his players at times "stood around and watched."

"They're a fast team and they dictated play," DeBoer said. "They were better than us, and we've got to fix that." But Penguins center Matt Cullen said Pittsburgh can't afford to be complacent. "We can't pat ourselves on the back, because game two comes in a hurry," Cullen said. "We've got to come out with the same urgency." Rust got the ball rolling for the Penguins at 12:46 of the first, batting in the rebound of a shot by Justin Schultz that deflected off Sharks defenseman Marc-Edouard Vlasic directly to Rust. "They came out flying," Sharks center Logan Couture said. "The games are too big to have a start like that."

**Fast and fearless**

Rust departed the game after a blindside hit to the head by Marleau, and Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said he is day-to-day with an upper body

injury. "I'm sure the league will look at it," Sullivan said of the Marleau hit, which promoted a two-minute penalty. Sheary made it 2-0 only 1:02 later. Penguins star Sidney Crosby gained control of the puck along the half-wall and made a pinpoint pass to Sheary in the right circle for a shot under the crossbar. The Sharks cut the deficit to 2-1 when Hertl beat Murray from a long the goal line at 3:02

of the second. Marleau tied it late in the second when he beat Murray with a backhand. Although Crosby didn't find the net for Pittsburgh, in addition to setting up Sheary's goal he looked like the fastest player on the ice for much of the contest. "We want to play fast and fearless," Sullivan said. "We're at our best when we're on our toes and skate." —AFP

## VERSTAPPEN: MONACO TAUGHT ME TO STAY AWAY FROM WALL

**LONDON:** Dutch teenager Max Verstappen says he has learned from his Monaco Grand Prix crash, with the first lesson being to stay away from walls and barriers. The 18-year-old Red Bull driver, who two weeks earlier in Spain had become Formula One's youngest race winner, crashed in both Saturday's first qualifying and Sunday's race around the metal-fenced street circuit.

The first accident, when he broke his car's suspension on a kerb and hit the wall at the exit to the swimming pool complex, left him at the back of the field for a race which started behind the safety car due to wet conditions. Verstappen battled back into the top 10 before hitting the barriers at Massenet, on the climb to Casino Square, and retiring. "It started off quite OK but then after we had the crash in qualifying it went a bit downhill," he said in a

Red Bull video interview. "The beginning of the race was very good, we showed great pace-sometimes the fastest lap around-and I think it was all coming very well together...then unfortunately, when we fitted the soft tyres, I made a mistake and hit the wall." Verstappen said the team had deserved more after rebuilding the car following the first crash. "I learned a lot of things - of course to stay out of the wall first of all," he added. "Now, it (the task) is just to analyse how and what went wrong and why we got into this situation. It is all part of the learning curve and getting more experience."

Verstappen made his Formula One debut with Red Bull-owned Toro Rosso last year as the youngest ever driver. The Spanish Grand Prix was his first for the energy drink manufacturer's senior team after trading places with Russian Daniil Kvyat. — Reuters



**MONACO:** Infiniti Red Bull racing's Belgian-Dutch driver Max Verstappen sits in his car at the Monaco street circuit in Monaco, ahead of the Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix. —AFP



## SPANISH BOXING COACH, 84, VOWS TO KEEP GOING



MADRID: Boxing coach Manolo del Rio talks to his young pupil Mario Andres Cioabanu, 8, during a training session at El Rayo boxing gym in Madrid, Spain. — AP

MADRID: At 84, Manolo del Rio is something of a legend in Spanish boxing, having spent more than 65 years training some of the country's best fighters and still pledging to keep on until he drops. Del Rio spends 12-14 hours a day in the gym in Madrid's working class Vallecas neighborhood. At weekends, he accompanies boxers to their fights. He got a warning note to slow down last week when he was admitted to a Madrid hospital suffering from exhaustion. His past pupils include Pedro Carrasco, European champion in 1967 and world lightweight champion in 1971, and Jose Manuel Urtain, European heavyweight champion in 1970 and 1971.

Most recently, he trained Gabriel

Campillo, the 2009 world light heavyweight and European Union super middleweight champion. Del Rio is surprisingly agile and swift with both his feet and fists as he teaches pupils that could be his grandchildren, or great grandchildren. He laments the wane in popularity of boxing in Spain and attributes it to the unchallengeable attraction of soccer and the fact that boxing has almost vanished from the mainstream media. "Nowadays in Spain there are no boxing idols who are able to move crowds," he says. "There are more distractions for young people nowadays."

But del Rio admits modern technology has helped boxing too. "Every boxer can watch on the internet how their

idols perform. ... They can see old and modern fights, study them, learn and copy techniques," he says. "In the old days, we sometimes only saw how our opponent was when we got inside the ring." A one-time amateur boxer himself, he gave up competing after he had to face his brother in a regional tournament, choosing to become his coach instead. These days, he believes technique more than punch strength is paramount. "Although boxing is a violent sport it is also an art in itself," he says. "You have to learn how to move. ... A clever movement can avert you being punched, so you can strike and move away without being hurt. This is technique!" — AP

## FICTION BECOMES A REALITY FOR 'REAL-LIFE ROCKY' BELLEW

LONDON: Observers of British boxer Tony Bellew's WBC world cruiserweight triumph over Ilunga Makabu last weekend could have been forgiven for getting a nagging sense of déjà vu. The 33-year-old Liverpool survivor survived an early knock-down to win via third-round knockout at Goodison Park, the home of his beloved home-town football team, Everton. Last year's Hollywood film 'Creed' culminated in a fight scene starring Bellew set at the very same stadium, so victory over Makabu saw film fiction become sporting reality. "If someone wrote my story and my life, the director would probably say, 'Take it away, it's nonsense, it couldn't happen,'" Bellew told Sky Sports. "But it has happened and this is far beyond movies. The movie, 'Creed,' was amazing, but this far exceeds my wildest dreams."

In 'Creed,' the seventh film in the 'Rocky' franchise, Bellew plays 'Pretty' Ricky Conlan, a tough-talking light heavyweight who faces off against Adonis Creed in the movie's climactic scene. He had been plucked from relative obscurity to appear in the film by 69-year-old Sylvester Stallone, the franchise's father and original star. Crowd scenes were filmed at half-time of a Premier League match between Everton and West Bromwich Albion in January 2015, with the fight action between Bellew and lead actor Michael B Jordan digitally super-imposed in the edit suite. Stallone, whose reprisal of his role as Rocky Balboa in 'Creed' earned him an Oscar nomination, had previously attended a game between Everton and Reading in 2007. In the film's finale, Bellew's character Conlan is felled by a punch from Creed with seconds remaining in the 12th round, only to scramble to his feet and claim victory by split decision.

Bellew found himself on his backside after being caught by a stinging left from Makabu in Sunday's fight for the vacant WBC crown, but recovered to claim victory

with a brutal flurry of punches in round three. Congolese fighter Makabu, 28, had not been beaten since his professional debut in June 2008 and was the pre-fight favorite with British bookmakers.

### Haye in crosshairs

In beating Makabu, Bellew emulated fellow professional boxers Antonio Tarver and the late Tommy Morrison, both of whom appeared in 'Rocky' films and claimed world titles during their careers. Bellew, who shared a post-fight embrace with Everton chairman Bill Kenwright, had overcome damaged hands and a fractured rib in a training camp that he described as "the worst camp I've ever had". It was a case of third time lucky for the cocksure Scouser (the name given to Liverpool residents), who had lost two world title fights at light heavyweight before dropping down to cruiserweight in 2014. He now intends to unify the cruiserweight division, which would emulate a feat previously achieved by fellow Briton David Haye in 2008. Haye, 35, is now fighting at heavyweight, having returned to action sporting a bulkier physique this year following a hiatus of nearly four years.

Citing the similarities in height between the pair, Bellew has also set his sights on fighting the outspoken Haye. "You've gone long enough fighting those clowns," Bellew said, referring to Haye's comfortable comeback wins over unheralded fighters Mark de Mori and Arnold Gjergjaj. "Come and fight me and I'll smash through you." Haye met Bellew's challenge on the front foot, telling him in an Instagram video message: "After I've knocked out (next opponent) Shannon Briggs, I'm knocking out all people talking too much. "So get on the list mate. You're going to get smashed to bits." Whoever Bellew fights next, it seems certain that the Goodison Park floodlights-if not the Hollywood limelight-will be waiting. — AFP



INNSBRUCK: Germany's prosthetic-legged long jumper Markus Rehm competes during the Golden Roof Challenge. — AFP

## PARALYMPIC JUMPER REHM MAINTAINS OLYMPICS HOPES DESPITE QUESTIONS

COLOGNE: Paralympic long jump champion Markus Rehm is still hoping to compete at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro despite a scientific study's inconclusive findings on whether his carbon-fiber prosthesis gives him an unfair advantage over able-bodied athletes. Wolfgang Potthast of the German Sport University in Cologne said Monday that it was "difficult if not impossible" to determine whether the 27-year-old Rehm gets an advantage or not.

The study conducted by the German Sport University along with the University of Colorado and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Tokyo found that athletes with a running-specific prosthesis have an impaired ability in the run up but a better technique for the long jump, leaving open the question of whether a prosthesis helps or hinders the athlete.

"The study could not identify any advantage

through the prosthesis, and I think that for me is a good result," said Rehm, who is hoping to compete both at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in August and at the following Paralympics. "I want to bring the Paralympic and Olympic sport closer together. To give both sides the chance to profit from this," Rehm is aiming to be the second athlete with a carbon-fiber prosthesis to compete at the Olympics and Paralympics after South African runner Oscar Pistorius in 2012.

To become eligible under a new rule introduced last year by the IAAF, Rehm has to prove that his prosthesis gives him no advantage over athletes with a similar disability or non-amputee long jumpers. "I've taken the first step with the study, so now I await a step in return from the world body," said Rehm, who lost his lower right leg in a wakeboarding accident when he was 14. Rehm won the gold medal at 2012 London Paralympics and holds the world record in his

competition class at 8.40 meters. Rehm also won the German national title in 2014 over non-amputee athletes, drawing a mixed reaction.

He was then prevented from competing for the German team at the European Championships, with track and field officials saying the prosthesis could give him an unfair catapult effect. "Since the German championship in 2014 it has been an ordeal. It's difficult for me to hear these charges (of having an advantage). I don't want to have any advantage. On the other hand, you feel you have to apologize to other athletes," Rehm said. "There were times when I asked myself if it was worth it." Under current rules, Rehm is not eligible for the German team. "There is no finding that has found an advantage," Friedhelm Julius Beucher, president of the German National Paralympic Committee, said reacting to the study. "It's not a question of fairness but a case of discrimination." — AP

## OLYMPICS - BAKI TAKES AIM AT BANGLADESH MEDAL DROUGHT

DHAKA: An Olympics triumph can make you a hero in any country but legendary status awaits Abdullah Hel Baki if he can finally rid Bangladesh of an unwanted distinction: the biggest nation never to win a medal. Despite being home to nearly 160 million people, nobody from Bangladesh has ever even qualified for an Olympics-their competitors have all been wildcard entries-let alone reached the podium.

Athletes and administrators admit they face huge obstacles to win medals, including a lack of facilities and funding, along with an overriding obsession with the non-Olympic sport of cricket. But after becoming the first Bangladeshi to gain a berth at Rio, Baki-a shooter who won 10 meter air rifle silver at the 2014 Commonwealth Games-hopes to finally give his compatriots something to shout about.

"Every athlete dreams of taking part and doing well in the Olympics and that's my aim as well," he told AFP during a break in training at the national shooting federation. "If I can perform the way I'm doing in training, I hope to reach the finals and then I'll definitely be in the hunt for a medal." Baki just missed out on automatic qualification but his performance at the recent world cup in Munich, where he was on the leaderboard for much of the tournament before tailing off at the end, secured him an early wildcard.

### 'National legend'

Even if he is a long shot for a medal in Brazil, his Danish coach Klavs Christensen says the future looks bright for Baki and Bangladeshi shooting. "There's huge talent here," said Christensen, describing Baki's biggest challenge as replicating his impressive performances on the practice range at big events. He also detailed how a lack of

facilities, including an indoor 50-metre range to complement an existing 10-metre range, was holding his shooters back.

"There's a lot of things we can improve on... but I'm pretty sure that in the next four years, at the Olympics in Tokyo in 2020, there could be a very strong Bangladeshi team." Determined to end the medal drought, Bangladesh's Olympic association is dangling major incentives for its Games squad which is also expected to include swimmers, athletes and archers. "Anyone who wins gold will get 10 million taka (around \$125,000), silver five million and bronze 2.5 million," the association's director general Fakhruddin Haider said. "Whoever wins the first medal will definitely become a national legend."

Haider is particularly excited about the prospect of golfer Siddikur Rahman becoming the first Bangladeshi to qualify for an Olympics by right. Rahman nearly secured a spot at a recent tournament in Mauritius, before blowing his lead by double-bogeying two of the last three holes. If he can cling on to his place in the top 60 of an Olympics rankings list, he will join the likes of Australia's Jason Day and the American Jordan Spieth on the Rio fairways. But as a professional, Rahman is an exception to the norm in Bangladesh as for him, funding is not really an issue. "Professionalism hasn't really come to Bangladesh," said Haider. "If I'm a sportsman then I can't feed my family. It's only in cricket where sportsmen can really earn money."

Nazmun Nahar Beauty, who represented Bangladesh in the women's 100 meters at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, outlined the problems amateurs such as herself faced. "There are only two astro-turf running tracks here which we don't have easy access to and we can't practice year-round as there are no indoor facilities," she said. — AFP

## RIO PROBLEMS, DOPING ISSUES AND REFUGEE ATHLETES ON IOC AGENDA

LAUSANNE: With the opening ceremony in Rio de Janeiro just over two months away, Olympic leaders have plenty of troubling issues to deal with this week. The Zika virus, unfinished venues and political chaos in Brazil. A flood of positive drug tests from the past two Summer Games. Fresh accusations of state-sponsored doping in Russia. Vote-buying allegations involving Tokyo's winning 2020 bid.

All these challenges and more will be on the table when the International Olympic Committee executive board holds a three-day meeting starting Wednesday in Lausanne. It's the last meeting before the IOC gathers in Rio on the eve of South America's first Olympics. The policy-making board will also name the team of Olympic refugee athletes for Rio, consider the proposed five additional sports for the Tokyo Games, review the bidding for the 2024 Olympics and nominate several new IOC members. "I can't recall an executive board meeting with so many issues on the agenda," IOC vice president Craig Reedie told The Associated Press. "There is a whole range of difficult issues facing the Olympic movement, led by Rio." A look at what's keeping the IOC busy:

### Rio: ready or not?

Rio organizing committee president Carlos Nuzman will give his latest update Thursday on preparations for the games, which open on Aug 5. The buildup has been dogged by political, economic and public health crises. Last week, a group of 150 scientists suggested the Olympics should be postponed or moved because of the outbreak of Zika, which has been linked to severe birth defects. But the World Health Organization said there was "no public health justification" for scrapping the games, and Olympic officials have repeatedly said they will go ahead.

Some leading athletes have expressed concerns about going to Rio. Spanish NBA star Pau Gasol said Monday he may skip the games because of the Zika threat and that other Spanish athletes were also considering staying away. Meanwhile, Dilma Rousseff has been suspended as Brazil's president pending a Senate impeachment trial, with Michel Temer taking over as acting president. A final vote on removing Rousseff could come on Aug 2 - three days before the opening of the games. Brazil is dealing with its worst economic

recession since the 1930s, leading to the slashing of Olympic budgets.

Some sports venues are behind schedule. UCI President Brian Cookson said he remains "very, very concerned" about delays to the velodrome, and the city said Monday it is changing contractors to take over the construction. ITF President David Haggerty said "an awful lot of work" is needed to get the tennis venue ready for the games. Water pollution remains a concern for Olympic sailing, rowing and open water swimming events. Crime is a worry: Three Spanish sailors were recently robbed at gunpoint in broad daylight while training in Rio.

### Doping, doping, doping

Reedie, president of the World Anti-Doping Agency, will deliver a report that will include an update on the agency's independent probe into allegations by Moscow's former drug-testing lab director, Grigory Rodchenkov, that he operated a state-backed doping scheme for Russian athletes that involved switching tainted urine samples for clean ones during the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi. Russia's track and field athletes remain suspended

from global competition, with the IAAF to decide on June 17 whether to keep or lift the ban for the Rio Games. The IOC has recorded 55 positive results in retests of Olympic doping samples - 32 from the 2008 Beijing Games and 23 from the 2012 London Games. The tests were designed to catch cheats who might compete in Rio. More positives are expected. The Russian Olympic Committee said 14 of its athletes from Beijing and eight from London tested positive. The IOC is retesting the "B" samples before announcing sanctions and medal reallocations.

### New sports

The IOC board will examine the proposed addition of baseball-softball, surfing, skateboarding, karate and sports climbing for the Tokyo Games. The sports, which would add 18 events and 474 athletes, were recommended for inclusion last year by Tokyo organizers. While some officials have expressed concern over whether skateboarding has a unified governing body, the board is likely to recommend the five sports for inclusion as a package, which will go to a vote of the full IOC at its session in Rio before the games. — AP



DHAKA Bangladeshi shooter Abdullah Hel Baki prepares for his practice at a shooting complex in Dhaka. — AFP



MOSCOW: Young girls attend a training session in MGFSO Olympic reserve school in Moscow. — AFP



## MARTIAL THE NEWCOMER OFF FRANCE'S FOOTBALL ASSEMBLY LINE

**LES ULIS:** Les Ulis is not a chic suburb of Paris but it deserves a monument as a nursery of French football talent, after producing Thierry Henry, Patrice Evra now Anthony Martial. It could have been different for the Manchester United star however as he prepares for the European Championship finals. A sign at the entrance to the Janvier tower, the public housing block where the Martial family lived, declares: "Ball games forbidden."

Now the district is a draw for football pilgrims. "That's where Anthony Martial lived," said Gaye Niakate, a neighbor who told of the regular visits. "Once it was three English journalists. I had to pass the phone to my wife who speaks English," he laughed. Martial has only been an international star for a few months. "But we have been talking about 'Toto' for a long time," added Niakate, using the teenager's childhood nickname. Niakate's brother, Mahamadou, is deputy sporting director of the Club Omnisport des Ulis. "He was always way above the others," the club official said of Martial's rise. And CO Les Ulis should know.

Before Martial brought the spotlight on the club, it produced French football legend Henry and Evra, who left Manchester before Martial's minimum 50 million euro (\$55 million) transfer from Monaco last year. Martial, 20, played at Les Ulis from 2001 to 2009 before signing with Lyon, then Monaco and now Manchester. "I'm not going to say that I expected him to go so quickly to such a club, but I am not so surprised," said Mahamadou Niakate, sat in Les Ulis club house amid jerseys worn by some of the most famous past players.

Martial is a "source of great pride for Les Ulis, an example of success for the young," said the town's mayor Francoise Marhuenda. The footballer has kept strong links to the town, just 30 kilometers (19 miles) southwest of Paris. He returned to Les Ulis to coach the new generation before its annual gala on May 23. Patrice Evra—who will also be at Euro 2016 — was also present and was the star draw. "Martial is young and has a long career ahead of him," said Niakate.

### Football El Dorado

But even the club's assistant sporting director cannot explain how it produced as many stars with standing of Henry, Evra and Martial. Yaya Sanogo, another product off the Les Ulis conveyor belt, is at Charlton Athletic in England. Sega Keita is at Troyes in Ligue 1. "That is the big question," he said of the club's success. "There are football pitches everywhere in Les Ulis. But then there is the quality of the coaches and the club's family side. Everyone contributes and everyone knows everyone: the coaches, the players and the parents."

But they all knew that Henry, Martial and Evra were special. "The honest relations that we have with the parents means there is a climate of trust and they don't go looking elsewhere." Lyon made an accord with Martial so that he would not negotiate with other teams, said the Ligue 1 side's recruitment chief, Gerard Bonneau. "He was young so we let him stay at Les Ulis another year with special training, especially for school."

Bonneau said Martial was surrounded by "an extraordinary family atmosphere" with parents who were more worried about the youth "than his future career." Martial is the youngest child in a family of footballers. One brother Johan is a defender for Troyes. Dorian, is captain of the Les Ulis team in the regional league. "When he was smaller he had a special character, there was a lot of fuss," said Dorian Martial. "But our parents were behind us with their strict discipline. We know that he is sensible and anyway, my father and I are there to remind him about things." —AFP

## FROM GOALKEEPER TO GOAL POACHER, KANE STANDS OUT

**LONDON:** As the young Harry Kane dominated the penalty area with a dazzling display, the future spearhead of England's attack presented his coach with a welcome thought: "fantastic I've got a goalkeeper." Hot on the heels of another brilliant season with Tottenham Hotspur, Kane heads to Euro 2016 established as one of the Premier League's most feared forwards and a key figure for his country. But the 22-year-old, who has scored 59 goals for Tottenham over the last two years, appeared set for great things in a completely different position when he took one of the first significant steps at Ridgeway Rovers, the junior club that helped David Beckham on the road to stardom.

Kane was born close to Ridgeway's base in Chingford, a modest commuter town located just beyond the urban sprawl of east London. So when Kane and his parents saw an advert taken out by Ridgeway in a local paper, he immediately set off to emulate Manchester United and England legend Beckham. But as Dave Bricknell, who was then Ridgeway's chairman and coach, recalls, it was not as a striker that Kane first caught his eye. "We had a trial when he was six or seven," Bricknell said. "We were doing a shooting exercise and I said does anyone play in goal and he put his hand up."

"I didn't know him so I said ok. He was making some unbelievable saves, to the right, to the left, punching the ball over the top, everything. I thought 'fantastic I've got a goalkeeper', because little kids never want to go in goal. "Then one of the parents came up to me and went 'he's not a goalkeeper, he plays outfield'. So he went outfield and he was scoring for fun."

Undeterred by dusty changing rooms that had not had a coat of paint since 1991 and pitches that often flooded due to lack of drainage, Kane emerged as a rough diamond amid the muck. And once Bricknell, who now works as a scout for Tottenham, got a prolonged glimpse of Kane in his preferred position, it became clear he had a unique talent on his hands. "You could tell straightaway even though he was young. He could strike a ball really well," Bricknell said. "I've been doing it for over 20 years and there's probably only a couple that stood out like that." — AFP



Harry Kane



VINCENNES: (From left) France's forward Anthony Martial, France's goalkeeper Benoit Costil and France's midfielder Morgan Schneiderlin walk at Vincennes racetrack in Vincennes. — AFP

## UNLUCKY REUS LEFT OUT OF THE GERMAN SQUAD

SCHWEINSTEIGER, HUMMELS TO BE FIT FOR EURO

**ASCONA:** Winger Marco Reus was left out of Germany's final Euro 2016 squad on his 27th birthday yesterday over injury concerns, missing out on his second consecutive major tournament. Coach Joachim Loew also cut 20-year-old midfielder Julian Brandt along with his Bayer Leverkusen team mate Karim Bellarabi and defensive midfielder Sebastian Rudy. Borussia Dortmund's Reus, who was ruled out of the 2014 World Cup after sustaining an injury in the final warmup game, would struggle to get through a one-month tournament due to long-standing fitness problems, Loew said.

The 27-year-old, considered among the most talented German players of his generation, had another injury-plagued season with Dortmund and went into the German training camp nursing an adductor muscle injury. "The medical staff could not give a clear prognosis for Marco," Loew told reporters. "He has massive injury problems and the medical staff was very skeptical about his ability to last through the coming weeks and such a gruelling tournament. "It is a bitter decision and bitter for Marco," he said. Reus struggled throughout the season with muscle problems as well as a toe injury among other issues. "He can barely run straight at the moment and you have to be fully fit if you play in a European championship," team mate Sami Khedira said. "It is very bitter but I am confident he will get his chance on the big stage. "He was very calm and composed in accepting

the decision," Khedira added. The Germans, eyeing their fourth continental title and first since 1996, have been drawn in Group C along with Poland, Ukraine and Northern Ireland for the tournament in France starting on June 10. Loew kept faith with youngsters Leroy Sane, Julian Weigl and Joshua Kimmich and included captain Bastian Schweinsteiger and defender Mats Hummels even though both are nursing injuries. "Both will be ready for the Euro," Loew said. Germany lost 3-1 to Slovakia in a friendly last weekend and play Hungary on Sunday in their final warm-up game.

### Full squad

Goalkeepers- Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich), Bernd Leno (Bayer Leverkusen), Marc-Andre ter Stegen (Barcelona); Defenders- Jerome Boateng (Bayern Munich), Emre Can (Liverpool), Jonas Hector (Cologne), Benedikt Hoewedes (Schalke 04), Mats Hummels (Borussia Dortmund), Shkodran Mustafi (Valencia), Antonio Rudiger (Roma); Midfielders- Julian Draxler (VfL Wolfsburg), Sami Khedira (Juventus), Joshua Kimmich (Bayern Munich), Toni Kroos (Real Madrid), Thomas Mueller (Bayern Munich), Mesut Ozil (Arsenal), Lukas Podolski (Galatasaray), Andre Schuerrle (VfL Wolfsburg), Bastian Schweinsteiger (Manchester United), Julian Weigl (Borussia Dortmund); Forwards - Mario Gomez (Besiktas), Mario Goetze (Bayern Munich), Leroy Sane (Schalke 04). —Reuters



ASCONA, Switzerland: Germany's midfielder Marco Reus arrives by bike to a training session as part of the team's preparation for the upcoming Euro 2016 European football championships. — AFP

## MADRID AND ATLETICO PLAYERS VIE FOR FINAL EURO 2016 SPOTS

**MADRID:** Three players from Real Madrid and three from Atletico Madrid will compete for the final four spots in Spain's squad for the European Championship. Spain coach Vicente del Bosque yesterday announced a list with 19 players who will make it to France, leaving the final four spots available to the players who participated in Saturday's Champions League final between Madrid and Atletico.

Seven players from the Madrid clubs had been included in the preliminary list released two weeks ago, but Real Madrid defender Dani Carvajal was ruled out of the tournament because of a muscle injury sustained in the final in Milan. The six players vying for the final four spots are Madrid's Sergio Ramos, Isco Alarcon and Lucas Vazquez, as well as Atletico's Juanfran, Jorge "Koke" Resurreccion and Saul Niguez. Juanfran and Ramos, who scored Madrid's goal in the Champions League final, are set to make the team. There are some doubts about Koke's fitness following Saturday's final, but he is also expected to be included in the squad.

The 21-year-old Niguez is likely to one of the players dropped, and the final spot would be filled by either Isco or Vazquez. Niguez was a surprise addition to the initial list released by Del Bosque, who left out veteran strikers such as Diego Costa and Fernando Torres. Spain, the winner of the last two European Championships, defeated Bosnia 2-1 on Sunday in the first of its three warm-up matches before traveling to training camp in France. It will still play South Korea in Austria on Wednesday and Georgia on June 7 in Getafe. Spain's first game at Euro 2016 is against the Czech Republic on June 13 in Toulouse. Its other Group D matches are against Turkey on June 17 in Nice and Croatia on June 21 in Bordeaux. — AP

## BELLERIN IN SPAIN'S EURO 2016 SQUAD

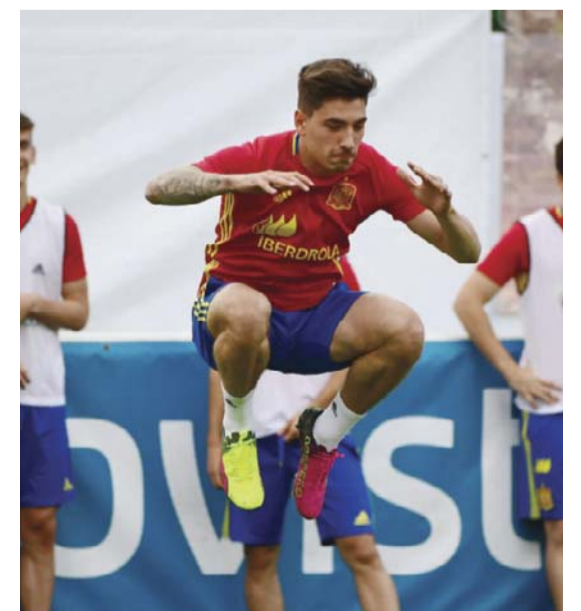
**MADRID:** Arsenal right back Hector Bellerin will be in Spain's Euro 2016 squad, the country's football federation said yesterday. The 21-year-old Bellerin and the other 18 players named to face South Korea in a friendly in Wals-Siezenheim, Austria today have been guaranteed spots in the European Championship squad. Bellerin was included after Real Madrid right back Dani Carvajal sustained a leg muscle injury in Saturday's Champions League final victory over Atletico Madrid. The Real Madrid and Atletico players in the squad will be named later on Tuesday when Spain coach Vicente del Bosque announces his final list.

"Del Bosque has confirmed that the 19 players from Wals-Siezenheim will be included on the final list," the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) said in a statement. Bellerin made his senior Spain debut in Sunday's 3-1 friendly win over Bosnia and enjoyed a strong season with his club Arsenal. Named in the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) team of the year, Bellerin made 45 starts in all competitions and helped his side finish runners-up to Leicester City in the Premier League. Spain, winners of the last two European Championships, play their first game against the Czech Republic on June 13 in Toulouse.

### Spain squad

Goalkeepers - Iker Casillas (FC Porto), David de Gea (Manchester United), Sergio Rico (Sevilla); Defenders - Marc Bartra (Barcelona), Jordi Alba (Barcelona), Gerard Pique (Barcelona), Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea), Hector Bellerin (Arsenal); Midfielders - Sergio Busquets (Barcelona), Mikel San Jose (Athletic Bilbao), Cesc Fabregas (Chelsea), David Silva (Manchester City),

Thiago Alcantara (Bayern Munich), Bruno Soriano (Villarreal), Andres Iniesta (Barcelona); Forwards - Pedro Rodriguez (Chelsea), Alvaro Morata (Juventus), Aritz Aduriz (Athletic Bilbao), Manuel "Nolito" Agudo (Celta Vigo). — Reuters



SCHRUNS, Austria: Spain's forward Hector Bellerin jumps during a training session in Schruns, Austria. — AFP

## MESSI ABSENT AS TAX FRAUD TRIAL OPENS IN SPAIN

**BARCELONA:** The trial of Argentina star Lionel Messi on tax fraud charges opened yesterday in Spain in his absence just days before Argentina's first match in the Copa America against Chile. Messi, 28, and his father, Jorge Horacio Messi, are accused of using a chain of fake companies in Belize and Uruguay to avoid paying taxes on 4.16 million euros (\$4.7 million) of Messi's income earned through the sale of his image rights from 2007-09.

They have been charged with three counts of tax fraud. The Barcelona court hearing the case adjourned the trial at around noon local time (1000 GMT) after considering preliminary legal questions because of the absence of witnesses who had been due to appear, including Messi's mother Celia Cucitini. The trial will resume today at 10am (0800 GMT) with testimony from the witnesses and experts. Messi had planned to be in Barcelona for the start of the trial but a lower back injury he suffered during a friendly against Honduras last week prevented him from doing so, defense lawyer Javier Sanchez-Verá said.

The Argentina captain was resting in his hometown of Rosario, located 300 kilometers north of Buenos Aires on

Monday. Messi and his father are due to take the stand on Thursday on the last day of the trial. Under Spanish law, a defendant is not obliged to attend the full trial if prosecutors seek a jail sentence of less than two years. Spanish prosecutors are seeking a jail sentence of 22-and-a-half months for Messi and his father if they are found guilty, plus fines equivalent to the amount that was allegedly defrauded. But any such sentence would likely be suspended as is common in Spain for first offences carrying a sentence of less than two years.

### 'Dad handled the cash'

The Barcelona forward and his defense team have argued that the player's father handled his finances without reporting to him, and that the striker was not aware of any wrongdoing. "My dad handled the cash," Messi said in September 2013 when he was questioned by a judge investigating the case at a court in Gaviá, a town on the outskirts of Barcelona where the footballer lives.

He reportedly told the judge at that hearing that he never looks at the contracts he signs. "I signed things, but I never look at the contracts. I don't know what I sign," Messi said according to the daily El Periodico, which got

access to his September 2013 statement to the judge. According to the alleged statement published by the Barcelona daily, the judge showed him several sponsorship contracts that he signed, but he did not remember them. "This is something that my dad manages. And I trust him. I devote myself to playing football," he reportedly said. "I do what he tells me to do."

### Panama Papers

The income related to Messi's image rights that was allegedly hidden includes endorsement deals with Banco Sabadell, Danone, Adidas, Pepsi-Cola, Procter & Gamble and the Kuwait Food Company. Questions over the player's finances increased after Messi and his father were among those named in April in reports by international media who received a vast trove of data and documents leaked from a law firm based in Panama.

The two men opened a company in Panama in June 2013, just after the allegations of tax fraud broke, to continue to hide income earned from image rights from Spanish tax authorities, Spanish news site El Espanol reported. The Messi family acknowledged the existence of the company



**GAVIA:** File photo shows Barcelona football star Lionel Messi arriving to the courthouse in the coastal town of Gaviá near Barcelona to face judges on tax evasion charges. — AFP

but they said it was "totally inactive" and never had any funds. After winning a league and Cup double with Barcelona, the five-time World Player of the Year is due to join his Argentina

teammates for the Copa America in the United States. Argentina take on defending champions Chile in their first game of the tournament in California on Sunday, June 6. — AFP



Alvaro Morata

## MORATA EYES REAL RETURN

**MADRID:** Juventus striker Alvaro Morata will only return to Real Madrid if he is guaranteed a starting role, he said yesterday. The 23-year-old Morata, named in Spain's Euro 2016 squad, is under contract with Juve until June 2020 but Real can exercise a buy-back clause to re-sign him in July. "My wish is to succeed at Real Madrid, that is clearly what I would like the most," Morata told AS newspaper. "But Real have great players and what I want is to play and feel important. Next season, I will play in the team which gives me the most opportunities to do so." Morata has also attracted interest from Premier League clubs. "There are offers from England which are tempting, not just

because of the contract," Morata said.

"I believe because of my characteristics, the Premier League could also be a great destination. I'm not saying that I want to leave Juventus, because it's a team that I can only say good things about. But going to the Premier League would not be a step back, on the contrary," Morata, who helped Juve reach the 2015 Champions League final in his first year in Turin, has won two successive domestic doubles with the Italian club. "I've won everything that you can win in Italy, several times," he said. "I've grown as a player and as a person. I think I'm now a different player to the one that left Real Madrid. I believe I've proved that I can play in a big team." — Reuters

## FOOTBALLER PULIDO FREED AFTER FIGHTING KIDNAPPER

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexican football player Alan Pulido was rescued after he untied himself, punched one of his kidnapers and took away his phone to call police hours after his abduction, authorities said Monday. Pulido, 25, cut his right wrist when he punched a glass pane on a door as he tried to flee before police found him at a home in his northeastern hometown of Ciudad Victoria late Sunday, Tamaulipas state prosecutor Ismael Quintanilla said.

Pulido, who plays for Greek giants Olympiakos and was part of Mexico's 2014 World Cup squad, was kidnapped late Saturday by four armed men as he returned from a party with his girlfriend in the crime-plagued region. The woman was allowed to leave, while Pulido was taken to a two-story house, where he eventually unbound his hands and found himself alone with one of his abductors on the first floor, Quintanilla said. "They traded blows. (The phone) belonged to the criminal. He takes it and calls (emergency number) 066," Quintanilla told Imagen radio. "It all happened very quickly."

The police swooped in within minutes and detained one suspect. When officers heard the glass break, "they thought it was gunshots or something, and he thought that it was the other (kidnappers) who were coming back," the prosecutor said. Pulido had a bandage around his right hand when he appeared briefly at a news conference in the early hours of Monday. Wearing a multicolor sleeveless shirt and shorts as he stood alongside Governor Egidio Torre Cantu, Pulido told reporters that he was "very well, very well, thank God." Officials said the injury was not serious. Pulido later took to Twitter to thank the authorities for their help and to people for their prayers, which "helped us a lot during this terrible experience in our lives which we don't wish upon anyone."

### Thousands missing

The abduction put a spotlight on the murders and kidnappings afflicting the state, where thousands of people have disappeared and drug car-



Alan Pulido

tels have fought brutal turf wars for years. The suspect who was arrested was from the neighboring state of Veracruz and was a member of one of the gangs operating in Ciudad Victoria, Quintanilla said. The kidnapers had called Pulido's family twice to demand a six million peso (\$325,000) ransom. Federal police chief Enrique Galindo told Radio Formula that there was no violence during the rescue and that no ransom was paid to kidnapers who thought they could have made a "nice profit."

The dramatic rescue is a major success for the authorities in a state where the population is regularly terrorized by kidnappings and gunfights in the streets of large cities. Some Tamaulipas roads are so dangerous that the federal police sometimes escort travelers in protective convoys. More than 5,500 people have disappeared in Tamaulipas, out of a total of around 28,000 reported missing across Mexico.

### Olympiakos thankful

Pulido's kidnapping shocked his current and former clubs. "We thank each and everyone of you for your concern and prayers in these difficult times," Olympiakos said on Twitter after Pulido was rescued. The striker played in the Greek Cup final on May 17 - his team lost to AEK, 2-1 - before leaving for Ciudad Victoria. He signed a four-year contract with Olympiakos last season, and scored four goals in six matches this season. Pulido previously played for Mexican club Tigres of Monterrey. He did not see any playing time in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, and was not called up for the Copa America Centenario tournament, which starts this week. His abduction brought back memories of the kidnapping of Argentine manager Ruben Omar Romano in Mexico City in 2005. Romano, who was coaching local club Cruz Azul at the time, was rescued after 65 days of captivity. — AFP

## UEFA LOOKS TO DEC DECISIONS TO SHAPE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**GENEVA:** UEFA is set to decide in December on changing the Champions League as Europe's top clubs chase a new format and bigger share of the competition's billion-dollar annual income. Closed-door meetings of European soccer leaders in Milan around Saturday's Champions League final made slow progress shaping the competition for the three seasons from 2018, The Associated Press was told. Talk of a breakaway Super League was fueled in January by some wealthy members of the European Club Association (ECA) who saw uncertainty over UEFA's leadership during the FIFA presidential election.

Though an American-style closed league is thought unrealistic, one aim is making the current 32-team group stage more attractive to the biggest clubs and global TV viewers. Many fans, however, sense a grab for power and money by clubs like Real Madrid and Juventus that are already rich and influential. UEFA's election on Sept. 14, to finally replace its banned president Michel Platini, is a key step for Europe's governing body to focus fully on its biggest asset.

The new president will lead a meeting of the policy-making executive committee on Sept 15, but Champions League decisions are foreseen for a December session in Nyon, Switzerland. "We need a format by the end of the year," UEFA's director of competitions, Giorgio Marchetti, told the AP in Milan. "We are consulting and we are listening." The July 20 entry deadline for UEFA election contenders will also speed the debate, with the Champions League format offering a campaign test for the next president.

Options include more guaranteed entries for the strongest leagues, protected places for the biggest clubs, and playing matches on Saturdays rather than midweek to appeal to Asian and American audiences. Change is possible only every three years. It must be agreed before UEFA's retained agency, TEAM Marketing, can start selling Champions League and Europa League rights to broadcasters and sponsors for the next commercial cycle. In the last round of talks, for the 2015-18 cycle, the Europa League was boosted by rewarding

the title-winner with entry to the Champions League.

There are concerns that a too-predictable group stage turns off viewers, and that income - UEFA sales and top clubs' share of it - is not keeping pace with expectations. The 32 group-stage clubs will share almost 1.3 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) in prize money from UEFA each season through 2018. Still, Juventus president Andrea Agnelli has noted that the 32-franchise NFL gets much more TV revenue, despite a smaller core fan base and little broad appeal outside the United States. The Champions League final typically draws a global average TV audience of around 170 million, compared to 110 million in the U.S. for a Super Bowl.

Some clubs also look enviously at England's Premier League which is watched avidly worldwide. Last-placed Aston Villa's share of TV rights - almost \$100 million - will outstrip Champions League winner Real Madrid's income from UEFA. Agnelli and Real Madrid official Pedro Lopez are members of both key groups which met at Milan's opulent Principe di Savoia hotel in recent days: UEFA's club competitions committee and the ECA executive board. Madrid president Florentino Perez declined to comment in Milan.

The UEFA club panel, including presidential contender Michael van Praag of the Netherlands, will advise the UEFA executive committee. Agnelli and influential ECA chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of Bayern Munich also have seats at UEFA's top table and should take part in the December decision. The potentially divisive Champions League debate played out in Milan after the two city clubs, AC and Inter, plus Manchester United - all winners in the past 10 years - again missed out on qualifying. However, English clubs seem happier with the present format and cash distribution by UEFA. Man United's executive vice chairman Ed Woodward also declined to speak with reporters after attending Saturday's ECA board meeting.

The last match of the current Champions League commercial contracts - the final in May 2018 still does not have a venue. — AP

## PAYET'S SUPERB FREE KICK LIFTS 'EURO HOSTS'

**NANTES:** West Ham's Dimitri Payet scored a last-gasp wonder free-kick to help Euro 2016 hosts France snatch a dramatic 3-2 victory over Cameroon on Monday. The attacking midfielder stepped up on the stroke of regulation time to curl a magnificent free-kick past Cameroon goalkeeper Fabrice Ondoa. France opened the scoring through Paris Saint-Germain's Blaise Matuidi before Cameroon immediately drew level thanks to Porto striker Vincent Aboubakar. Arsenal striker Olivier Giroud handed the home side the lead again just before half-time, Eric Choupo Moting equalising before Payet's cherry on the cake. "There are things we can improve but it was our first match after a long period without competition for some players," said France coach Didier Deschamps.

"It's the first game that Adil Rami and Laurent Koscielny have played together in a long time and we were up against a quality team." Cameroon played in a new system with power and speed in midfield and up front," said Deschamps, adding: "I wasn't expecting perfection, but the spirit is there." Cameroon coach Hugo Broos said: "For me the score is 2-2 because we were only beaten by a magnificent free kick by Dimitri Payet, a real talent. "The players can be proud of their performance. I hope we keep this same spirit against Mauritania (African Cup of Nations qualifier)."

The first real chance of the game played at Nantes' Beaujoire stadium came the way of Cameroon's Karl Toko Ekambi. Afforded far too much space, Toko Ekambi cut back in midfield from the left wing and stroked a shot to the right of the goal. Hugo Lloris, captaining France for the 50th time, with only current coach Didier Deschamps having notched up more games with the skipper's armband (54), just turned the shot around his post with a fine full-length save. Aboubakar then went close with a powerful header that went just over the crossbar.

It was left to Matuidi to open the scoring in the 21st minute, twisting to connect with Kingsley Coman's cross and firing home a great first-time volley. Cameroon hit straight back, however, Aboubakar producing a great finish off

a pinpoint cross from Allan Nyom after some slack defence from the restart. Paul Pogba saw a header go just wide as France pressed a lively Cameroon side. Nyom's sliding tackle deflected a dangerous-looking opportunity for Matuidi, but the pressure finally told when Giroud pounced on a Pogba cross, side-footing it past the wrong-footed 'keeper Fabrice Ondoa.

Cameroon's Aurelien Chedjou was given too much space down the right flank early in the second period, the Galatasaray defender's hard cross-goal shot cleared by a covering Giroud. Ondoa was on hand to keep Giroud out as play shot back up the other end of the pitch after a defensive, retreating blunder by Chedjou. N'Golo Nante, one of Leicester City's stand-out performers as they marched to a shock English

Premier League title, fired in a shot that went just wide of the Cameroon post after Ondoa had produced another goal-saving lunge at a close-range Pogba effort.

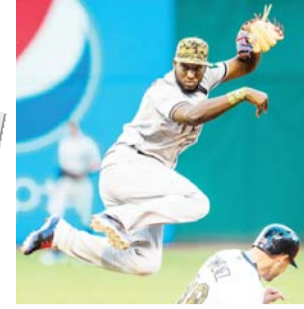
Andre-Pierre Gignac blasted high and wide after pivoting smartly on the edge of the area. And Ondoa was left to showcase his fine form with an outstanding save. His resulting goalkick beat everyone before being grounded by Mohammed Djetei and centred for the unmarked Choupo Moting, who made no mistake past Lloris. But the game was not over, Payet stepping up to curl in a magnificent free-kick past Ondoa. France, who play Scotland in Metz on June 4 in their final warm-up match, open their Euro campaign against Romania on June 10. — AFP



**NANTES:** France's midfielder N'Golo Kante (left) fights for the ball with Cameroon's midfielder Sebastien Siani during the international friendly football match between France and Cameroon at the Beaujoire stadium, in Nantes on May 30, 2016. — AFP

# Sports

Mazara, Desmond  
homer as Rangers  
rout Indians 9-2



Unlucky Reus  
left out of the  
German squad



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016

MESSI ABSENT AS TAX FRAUD TRIAL OPENS IN SPAIN Page 19



OAKLAND: Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson (center) shoots between Oklahoma City Thunder forward Serge Ibaka (left) and guard Andre Roberson (21) during the first half of Game 7 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals in Oakland on Monday, May 30, 2016. — AP

## WARRIORS SILENCE THUNDER 96-88

CURRY AND RECORD-SETTING WARRIORS HEAD BACK TO NBA FINALS

**LOS ANGELES:** Stephen Curry scored 36 points to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 96-88 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday and into an NBA title rematch with the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Warriors, trying to cap a sensational season that included a record 73 regular-season victories with a second straight title, sealed the 4-3 series victory in the Western Conference finals on their home floor in Oakland, California-clawing back after trailing 3-1 in the series.

The Warriors, who became the 10th team to rally from a 3-1 deficit to win a playoff series, host LeBron James and the Cavaliers in game one of the finals tomorrow. "You've got to be appreciative of this accomplishment - and look forward to getting four more wins," Curry said. The Cavaliers won the Eastern Conference title, defeating the Toronto Raptors in six games to book a return trip to the finals, where they will try to avenge their six-game loss to the Warriors in last year's championship series.

The Warriors will be trying to become the league's first repeat winners since the Miami Heat-then featuring James-in 2012 and 2013. Golden State had to dig deep to get the chance. After twice fending off elimination the Warriors trailed by as many as 13 in the first half on Monday and by eight early in the third quarter. Curry, who earned Most Valuable Player honors for the second straight season, hit five of the Warriors' 10 second-half three-pointers as the reigning champions rallied again to oust the third-seeded Thunder. "I knew we were ready for the moment," Curry said. "We were a mature basketball team that tried our best not to listen to the noise when we were down 3-1. ... In that locker room, the talk was positive."

### Moving on

Down by six points at halftime, the Warriors outscored the Thunder 29-12 in the third quarter to power into the lead Back-to-back three-pointers by Klay

Thompson and Draymond Green gave the Warriors an 88-77 lead with 4:44 to play in the contest. The Thunder wouldn't go quietly, with a scoring drive from Russell Westbrook and seven straight points from Kevin Durant pulling the Thunder within 90-86 with 1:40 remaining. "We survived by the skin of our teeth," Golden State coach Steve Kerr said. "We were able to pull it out, and we're moving on." Curry, fouled on a three-point attempt, made all three free-throws, then produced a three-pointer that put the Warriors up by 10 with 26.8 seconds to play. Thompson's six three-pointers made up most of his 21 points. Green finished with 11 points and a team-high nine rebounds for Golden State.

"No one had any doubts that we could get this done," Green said. "It took a great, tremendous effort and fight to overcome (the 3-1 deficit)." Curry, who has dealt with ankle, knee and elbow injuries in the post-season, echoed his team-mate. "We never lost confidence, and every game just played with fearlessness

and that confidence we could get back to the finals however we had to get it done," he said. Durant admitted that surrendering that 3-1 series lead was painful. "You've got to give credit to them," said Durant, who led the Thunder with 27 points and pulled down seven rebounds. "They came out and played well the last three games of the series and won three in a row."

Westbrook had 19 points and 13 assists, but connected on just seven of 21 shots from the field. Overall the Thunder shot just 38.2 percent from the field-which helped doomed their bid to become the first team in NBA history to beat two 65-win teams in the same post-season. The Thunder had eliminated Western Conference second seeds San Antonio in the second round. "This could have played out entirely differently," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said. "There was opportunity for us to close the series out in (games) five and six and seven, and we came up a little short." — AFP

## ANGRY RADWANSKA, HALEP IRKED BY SOGGY PARIS EXITS

**PARIS:** Second seed Agnieszka Radwanska lashed out at French Open officials while former finalist Simona Halep questioned the decision to play in more wet conditions after both crashed out in the last 16 yesterday. Radwanska appeared to be cruising into the quarter-finals as she led world number 102 Tsvetana Pironkova 6-2, 3-0 before play was suspended on Sunday, with the tournament then suffering its first washout in 16 years on Monday.

And rain continued to fall yesterday when the Pole, who was hampered by a right hand injury, dropped 10 straight games either side of another weather delay before exiting to the Bulgarian. "I'm just so surprised and angry, that, you know, we have to play in the rain," fumed Radwanska.

"I mean, it's not a 10,000 tournament. It's a Grand Slam. How can you allow players to play in the rain? I cannot play in those conditions. I don't know who allows us to play in those kind of conditions. I mean, I don't think they really care what we think. I think they care about other things, I guess. So, well, I'm just pissed. I just cannot play in those conditions. I mean, I'm not healthy enough.

"We shouldn't play in that kind of rain. Why? We still have couple of days of tournament. What's the point?" Former Wimbledon semi-finalist Pironkova extended her best run in Paris and will face Samantha Stosur for a place in the last four. "It was very difficult with all the rain, we waited almost three days to finish the match. But I can't complain, it turned out great for me," said Pironkova.

Australian Stosur trailed 2014 French Open runner-up Simona Halep 5-3 when their contest was halted on Sunday, but the 21st seed broke the Romanian as she tried to serve out the first set yesterday before racing through the tie-break. Stosur, who reached the 2010 final at Roland Garros, again broke the sixth-seeded Halep to begin the second set before moving on to the last eight courtesy of a second break. "Heavy, wet conditions like this don't typically help me too much, but I think today I was able to use them better to my tennis than (Simona) was and I was able to put her under more pressure," said Stosur.

"I felt like each time we went back out on court I was ready and I was focused and knew exactly what I wanted to do." Halep, like Radwanska, was critical of tournament organizers, but praised Stosur for handling the "impossible" conditions better. "It was impossible to play, in my opinion. And to play tennis matches during the rain I think it's a bit too much," said Halep. "But everyone was in the same situation, and who was stronger won today. No one cares about the players in my opinion. I don't care that I lost the match today, but I was close to getting injured with my back, so that's-that's a big problem. But like I said, no one cares. We have just to go and play.

"I was frustrated about waiting three days and about playing in the rain. That was the biggest problem for me. I didn't feel sure on court, safe on court." Halep also queried the wisdom of scheduling dou-



PARIS: Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska stretches to return the ball to Bulgaria's Tsvetana Pironkova during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament yesterday. — AP

bles matches before theirs after the tie was originally moved to Court One on Sunday. "When I went to ask to play on Court 1 - doesn't matter which court, just to play, because we know that it's going to rain and it's going to be late, but they took the decisions to put doubles and then us. Here we were." — AFP

## EURO 2016 'POSSIBLE TERROR TARGET': US

**WASHINGTON:** The United States warned its citizens yesterday that this summer's Euro 2016 soccer tournament and related events across France and Europe will present "potential targets for terrorists." The month-long European Championship finals start in Paris on June 10, drawing the best international teams from the continent and hundreds of thousands of fans. "Euro Cup stadiums, fan zones, and unaffiliated entertainment venues broadcasting the tournaments in France and across Europe represent potential targets for terrorists," the State Department said.

The warning was contained in an update to its long-standing warning to US travelers to beware extremist attacks on transport and public gatherings in Europe. "We are alerting US citizens to the risk of potential terrorist attacks throughout Europe, targeting major events, tourist sites, restaurants, commercial centers and transportation," it said. "The large number of tourists visiting Europe in the summer months will present greater targets for terrorists planning attacks in public locations, especially at large events." The French government has ruled out cancelling the prestigious tournament, which is expected to draw two million fans to cities across the country.

To strengthen security at Euro 2016, France has extended a state of emergency put in place after attacks last November on a concert hall, cafes, police and a football crowd. Last month, French domestic intelligence chief Patrick Calvar told lawmakers that France is "clearly targeted" by the Islamic State group. France feared a "new form of attack" in which terrorists would place bombs in areas where big crowds gather, he warned. The updated State Department travel warning also noted that huge crowds and extra security should be expected in Krakow, Poland, during the Catholic Church's World Youth Day event between July 26 and 31. — AFP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2016

India's economic growth surges in March quarter

Page 25

Bahrah Trading Company wins TMHI president award

Page 26

SHARES SET FOR MONTHLY GAINS, DOLLAR RALLY STALLS

Page 24



Zain, Huawei celebrate 10 years of excellence and leadership

Pages 22-23



YANGON: Myanmar workers load containers of oil onto a ship at the Yangon jetty yesterday. Myanmar's growth rate, once one of the world's most impressive, has dipped following heavy floods and an investment slowdown sparked by uncertainty over its political transition, the World Bank said yesterday. — AFP

## GLOBAL GLUT TO TEMPER OIL PRICE GAINS

BRENT SEEN AVERAGING \$56.40 IN 2017 AND \$64.30 IN 2018

**DUBAI:** Global oversupply in crude oil is likely to limit price gains this year despite a series of unplanned outages and shrinking US shale production, a Reuters poll showed yesterday. Wildfires in Canada, political unrest in Venezuela and supply disruptions in Nigeria and Libya have wiped out nearly 4 million barrels of daily production. That has soothed some of the concern about oversupply and helped push oil prices close to \$50 a barrel for the first time in seven months.

But analysts do not expect annual prices to average much more than that before next year. In the latest monthly Reuters poll, the 33 analysts surveyed forecast a 2016 Brent crude average price of \$43.60 per barrel, up \$1.30 from a forecast of \$42.30 a month earlier. That marked a third consecutive monthly rise in forecasts for Brent prices, which have averaged about \$39 so far this year.

But record-high global oil inventories were expected to curb any major gains for some

time. Brent futures were expected to average \$56.40 per barrel in 2017 and rise to \$64.30 in 2018, the poll showed. "The output disruptions are a key factor supporting prices at the minute. We don't think prices will go much further from here," Capital Economics commodities analyst Thomas Pugh said.

"In fact, we think prices are vulnerable to a downturn in the short term if some of the disrupted supply returns, or there is evidence that higher prices are stimulating more production."

The analysts polled by Reuters forecast US crude futures would average \$42 per barrel in 2016, up \$1.50 from last month's poll. US futures have averaged nearly \$38 per barrel so far this year. Analysts were unanimous in expecting no significant decisions from this week's meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. However, some analysts expressed concern over the uncertainty surrounding Saudi Arabia's strategy as it battles Iran for market share and after

the appointment of new energy minister Khalid Al-Falih. "We do not expect much from the next OPEC (meeting), given the state of disarray in producer relations after the Doha meeting. What people will be scrutinizing is Saudi Arabia's position and intent, with newly appointed Energy Minister Khalid Al Falih," BNP Paribas analyst Harry Tchilinguirian said.

Analysts also expressed surprise at the pace at which Iran has increased production and forecast a return to its pre-sanctions level of output by the third quarter of this year at the latest. "The oil market is already oversupplied by about 1-1.5 million bpd. With Iran likely to increase output by at least 500,000 to 1 million bpd in the near term, and despite the fall in US shale production of 600,000-800,000 bpd, the overall market will continue to remain oversupplied as demand growth is expected to remain weak," said Rahul Prithiani, director at CRISIL Research. Most analysts expect supply to match demand next year, but agreed that it

could take much longer for the market's overhang of unused inventories to clear.

### Oil prices wobble

World oil prices diverged yesterday but held below the key level of \$50 per barrel, as traders eyed this week's crucial OPEC oil meeting and key Chinese data. Around 1200 GMT, US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for delivery in July rose 26 cents to \$49.59 per barrel. Brent North Sea crude for July fell 18 cents to \$49.58 a barrel compared with Monday's close. Trading volumes were still thin after British and US financial markets were shut for a public holiday on Monday. "With OPEC also meeting later this week ... there is little expectation that oil ministers are likely to come to any agreement on production quotas or freezes," said CMC Markets analyst Michael Hewson.

"However that scarcely matters, given the current direction of travel for oil which currently looks well supported just below the \$50 a

barrel level." The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) convenes tomorrow in the Austrian capital of Vienna, for its first meeting with the powerful Saudi crown prince's new oil minister. The recent recovery in prices has eased pressure on OPEC to turn down the taps at this week's scheduled output gathering, analysts say. OPEC, which pumps around a third of the world's oil or some 30 million barrels every day, has historically responded to a fall in prices by cutting production. But in the current cycle, which saw prices collapse from over \$100 in 2014 to close to \$25 this January, producers led by kingpin Saudi Arabia have changed strategy, maintaining output even with lower prices in order to pressure US shale producers.

"Although the market expects the OPEC meeting to end without reaching any agreement on production targets or production caps, oil prices have been faring well of late thanks to the high unscheduled supply outages," said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch. — Agencies

## BOURSE INDEXES DIVERGE, END THE MONTH AT A LOSS

**DUBAI:** Share market indexes in the Middle East diverged yesterday, with Saudi Arabia's index outperforming peers as some positive news lifted shares, but all markets ended with losses for the month. Riyadh's index rebounded 1.4 percent, ending three sessions of declines, although volumes were the lowest since last October. The index was down 5.3 percent in May, its worst monthly performance since the start of the year. Market heavyweight Yanbu National Petrochemicals (Yansab), jumped 6.5 percent after the company announced late on Monday that its proposed interim dividend was increased to 1.5 riyals per share, a 50 percent increase on the same period last year.

"We expect the company to pay a dividend of 2.5 riyals per share in 2016, and based on this the dividend yield is expected to be 6.3 percent," NCB Capital said in a note.

Total dividends in 2015 and 2014 were two and three riyals respectively. Meanwhile Saudi Basic Industries climbed 2.5 percent, after the company said on Monday it had signed an agreement with Shenhua Ningxia Coal Industry Group to build a petrochemical complex in China. "The markets were caught in a lull for the past several sessions and although activity remains quiet markets were driven today by some positive news about SABIC's new deal in China and the ability of companies to continue paying out dividends despite negative pressure on the bottom line," said a Riyadh-based portfolio manager. Yamamah Steel, which was listed on the exchange this month, surged 6.6 per-

cent after the company said it will pay a cash dividend of 1.5 riyals per share. This prompted investors to buy shares in other shares, such as Saudi Cable, which climbed 4.5 percent. Dubai's index managed to recover earlier losses and edged up 0.2 percent, but closed down 5.1 percent for the month, its first monthly loss since January. Air Arabia, the only listed airliner in the Gulf, climbed 3.1 percent while Emaar Properties, the largest listed real estate developer, rose 0.2 percent.

In Cairo, the main index gained 0.4 percent in this week's highest trading volumes, with both local and regional traders buying Egyptian shares, bourse data showed.

Oriental Weavers Carpet rose 1.1 percent despite the company posting a 38 percent drop in profits to 94.167 million Egyptian pounds (\$10.60 million).

### ABU DHABI, QATAR

Abu Dhabi's index slid 0.2 percent in thin trade, taking its monthly losses to 6.5 percent. Banking shares, the largest sector by market value, were a mixed bag. The largest lender by market cap, First Gulf Bank lost 1.3 percent while the second largest, National Bank of Abu Dhabi gained 2.5 percent.

Etisalat, the largest stock by market value and a constituent of the MSCI emerging market index, added 0.6 percent. Fellow MSCI emerging market index constituent Qatar Gas Transport also gained, adding 3 percent. But Doha's index slid 0.1 percent. — Reuters

## US CONSUMER CONFIDENCE SLIPS

**WASHINGTON:** US consumer confidence fell for the second straight month in May amid apparent caution over the economic situation, the Conference Board said yesterday.

The monthly consumer confidence index fell to 92.6 from 94.7 in April. The index was at the low end of the range for the last year, and well beneath the high of 102.6 in September. The main reason for the fall in the overall index was a decline in favorable views of the current situation in the economy. But survey details suggested very mixed conditions around the country. The survey shows slight rises in both the number of respondents who saw current business conditions improving and those who see a deterioration. Still, 52.5 percent said things were normal, though that was down from 57.6 percent a month ago.

A similar increase in both negative and positive views came on the outlook for six months, while more than 73 percent held an unchanged view for the outlook. Just over half of consumers said jobs remained "not so plentiful" in the current situation and about 69 percent expect little change in the employment picture over the next half-year. "Consumers remain cautious about the outlook for business and labor market conditions. Thus, they continue to expect little change in economic activity in the months ahead," said Lynn Franco, director of economic indicators at The Conference Board.

### Home prices climb

Meanwhile, US home prices kept climbing in March as the spring home buying season began, but so far the higher costs haven't thwarted sales. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city



ARCADIA: A property for sale sign in Arcadia, California. Steady buying and tight supplies pushed US home prices solidly higher in March, with the gains largest in the West, according to fresh data yesterday. — AFP

home price index increased 5.4 percent in March compared with a year earlier, according to a report released Tuesday. That is the same annual gain as in February.

Solid job growth, modest increases in wages and salaries, and low mortgage rates are fueling Americans' willingness to buy homes. Yet there is also a limited supply of homes on the market, which pushes up prices. David Blitzer, chairman of the S&P index committee, said the number of homes on the market is equal to less than 2 percent US households, the lowest percentage since the mid-1980s. The number of available homes fell 3.6

percent in April, according to the National Association of Realtors. "It remains a tough home buying season for buyers, with little inventory available among lower-priced homes," Svenja Gudell, chief economist at real estate data firm Zillow. "The competition is locking out some first-time buyers, who instead are paying record-high rents."

Even so, sales of existing homes rose 1.7 percent in April, the second straight increase, to an annual rate of 5.45 million. Portland, Seattle and Denver saw the highest yearly gains. Prices rose 12.3 percent in Portland, 10.8 percent in Seattle, and 10 percent in Denver. — Agencies

# Zain and Huawei celebrate



SHENZHEN: Eaman Al-Roudhan, Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer and Joy Tan, President of Corporate Communications at Huawei with a delegation of Zain Kuwait executives, Kuwaiti press and analysts during a special ceremony marking Zain's 10 years of partnership with Huawei at its main headquarters in Shenzhen.

**A shared vision**

Only service providers that embrace innovation will survive in competitive markets

— Eaman Al-Roudhan

Huawei partnership with Zain is based on a shared vision for ongoing innovation that enriches people's lives

— Joy Tan

**SHENZHEN:** A period of 10 years passed on the establishment of one of the most successful strategic partnerships between the Middle East telecom innovator, Zain Kuwait, and the Chinese technology giant, Huawei. This relatively short period of time was enough to witness the emergence of both partners as technology leaders in Kuwait and across the Middle East.

While the overall telecommunications technology roadmap has undergone extreme changes and opened up new roads in the past decade, telecommunication companies required experienced technology partners to follow suit along the same lines. During this boom period, Zain has found a true partner for a series of successful agreements and projects culminating in the successful testing of the Middle East's first 4.5G mobile broadband network.

**10 Years of Leadership**

During a special ceremony hosted by Huawei at its main headquarters in Shenzhen, China on the occasion of 10 years of successful partnership between Zain and Huawei, Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan said: "This visit is particularly significant given the tremendous work and achievements we have recorded during our period of close cooperation with Huawei." Al-Roudhan - who headed a delegation of Zain Kuwait executives accompanied by Kuwaiti press and analysts - described Zain's period of partnership with Huawei as "10 years of excellence and leadership."

Al-Roudhan stressed that this partnership enriched the user experience of Zain's customers, with the main aim of bringing excellence in the quality of telecom services to meet the needs and aspirations of Zain's customers. She went on to explain that today's special ceremony was not just to celebrate the passing of 10 years of successful partnership, but also to celebrate the advances achieved by the telecom sector in Kuwait.

Al-Roudhan highlighted the role Huawei has played in advancing tele-

## Excellence and innovation drive partnership between Mideast telecom innovator, and Chinese technology giant

com technologies by saying: "Huawei is a global leader, which is one of the main suppliers of ICT systems and solutions." The Zain Kuwait CEO also stressed that such a meeting will further enrich the successful partnership that binds the two companies. "This visit will open up a world of opportunities for more joint cooperation between Zain and Huawei. The discussions we are set to hold during this occasion will

provide us with a chance to learn more about the latest challenges and advancements that face the telecom and IT industry in the region as well as globally, which will ultimately serve Zain's strategic vision to transform into a leading digital lifestyle provider.

"Today we aspire for even more collaborations to enrich our strategic vision, through which we aim to strengthen the presence of digital serv-

ices that will lead to new outlooks and business opportunities in the near future," Al-Roudhan stressed.

Al-Roudhan also pointed out that Zain's joint projects and collaborations with Huawei were not limited to just business agreements and achievements, but also extended to Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility related projects and achievements, one of which is the Joint Innovation Center

launched in 2013, the first of its kind in the Middle East.

**Rich history**

Al-Roudhan considers the telecom sector as one of the most important industries, acting as the backbone of any economy, and she pointed to the fact that Zain has succeeded in making a leading country with respect to telecom technology innovation. "Because our strategic vision is geared towards becoming the most trusted and innovative service provider, and because enriching our customers' lives has always been our main motivation, we were keen on becoming the "definitive telecommunications destination," Al-Roudhan commented.



SHENZHEN: Zain Kuwait CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan speaking about the future vision of the company during a press conference with President of Corporate Communications at Huawei Joy Tan and CEO of networks in Zain Nabil Mohammad.



SHENZHEN: (From right to left): Zain CEO Eaman Al-Roudhan, Al-Anbaa Editor-in-Chief Yousuf Khalid Al-Marzouq, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and Al-Qabas Deputy Editor-in-Chief Abdallah Al-Mudhaf during a tour of Huawei's premises in Shenzhen.



SHENZHEN: Advanced live broadcast of the meeting.

# 10 years of historic partnership



SHENZHEN: Eaman Al-Roudhan and Joy Tan with a delegation of Zain Kuwait executives, Kuwaiti press and analysts during '2016 Zain-Huawei Cooperation Ceremony' in Shenzhen.

Al-Roudhan highlighted: "This partnership's significance manifested when Zain launched Kuwait's first 4G LTE services commercially, making Kuwait one of the first to offer this superior technology. Another milestone was the recent successful testing of the Middle East's first 4.5G mobile broadband technology."

Zain Kuwait's CEO said: "Offering integrated solutions and innovative solutions to our enterprise and individual customers is an important part of our strategic direction in creating a smarter world. Offering smart and innovative solutions to the corporate seg-

ment is a priority to our operations to achieve plans related to growing revenues that were affected with the injustice in the local market's competition as well as OTT services suppliers.

She continued: "The recent launch of Zain's Colocation Data Center (CDC) also comes under our vision to enrich the bundle of solutions and services we offer to corporate and enterprise customers, which reflects Zain's strategic aspirations of delivering on a compelling digital lifestyle to its customers, both consumer and corporate. Zain's CDC helps customers optimize the performance of

their content and applications as well as protect their vital digital access."

Al-Roudhan explained that Zain is continuing to grow its offerings by looking for new ways to make use of its broad infrastructure that it invested in during the past three decades: "The growing interest in Zain's capabilities in offering innovative digital services in the public sector is real and palatable," she added.

Al-Roudhan continued: "It is true that some neighboring countries outran us in this direction, but what keeps us motivated is the governing bodies that handle planning have recently expressed their understanding of the importance of telecom and IT in developing the economy further and the need of services proposed and managed by Zain and not as direct investment. We still lack a compre-

hensive plan in this direction to achieve the desired results, but, as a first step, there is awareness and there is demand for technological innovations within the public sector."

ment is at the core of our solutions development, and our innovation pipeline has led Huawei to enjoy the global leadership position it does today," Joy added.

long term cooperation with Zain to build the top network in the region.

Considered to be one of the main phases of the Zain-Huawei journey, in 2012 the companies successfully launched the first commercial LTE 1800 MHz network that covers all of Kuwait, making the market one of the first to introduce this revolutionary technology in the region.

In 2013 Zain Kuwait and Huawei signed the first-of-its-kind Joint Innovation Center MoU. The center, inaugurated in 2014, serves as a research hub from which Zain is able to further advance its mobile broadband network, services, and applications offered to customers in Kuwait and across the region. The center also functions as a vital and dynamic link between Zain and Huawei's Research and development teams, through the use of several virtual conferencing technologies. In addition, it serves as a pioneering research hub to build the latest innovative solutions and technologies to help Zain tap into new markets and provide a superior telecom customer experience.

In March 2015, Zain Kuwait and Huawei signed the world's first 4.5G MoU to deepen bilateral cooperation, and in May of the same year, the partners held the Strategy Summit, which aimed to consolidate leadership in ICT transformation. In an unprecedented step during December 2015, Zain Kuwait and Huawei showcased and tested the Middle East's first 4.5G mobile broadband technology on Zain's advanced network. The test saw the network reach peak speeds of 1 gigabyte per second (1 Gbps).

Going forward, Zain is also planning to provide voice-over-LTE (VoLTE), M2M services, and enterprise services in Kuwait. In addition, the company is also planning IoT solutions and other services that will benefit from the high speeds offered by 4.5G technology.

In early 2016 Zain and Huawei signed a new strategic MoU to explore offering B2B digital services to the enterprise sector, with the aim of introducing competitive offerings to local businesses.

## Al-Khashti: Zain continues its social responsibility with larger commitment

Answering a question about the strong presence of Zain in the field of social responsibility in Kuwait through ideas, exceptional activities and significant sponsorships, the Executive Director of Relations and Communications at Zain Kuwait Waleed Al-Khashti said Zain remains committed in this field in a bigger form without interruptions. Al-Khashti thanked Kuwait's media and lauded their effective role as partners of Zain in projecting what it did and is doing for the society.

### The Media: Partners in Success

During her speech on this occasion, Al-Roudhan thanked the Kuwaiti press for accepting the invitation and attending this ceremony with the company, saying: "We are proud of the important role the Kuwaiti media plays in many political, economic, and local fields that are of interest to the public."

Al-Roudhan added: "The Kuwaiti press has always played its role as a progres-



SHENZHEN: Director of Corporate Communications and Relations at Zain Kuwait Waleed Al-Khashti with Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan.



SHENZHEN: Joy Tan presents a memento to Al-Anbaa Editor-in-Chief Yousuf Khalid Al-Marzouq as Al-Roudhan looks on.



SHENZHEN: Al-Roudhan presents a memento to Joy Tan on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Zain's partnership with Huawei.



## A new era

■ Zain-Huawei partnership offers customers a choice of innovative services

■ Zain-Huawei journey started with E-Go...has grown and evolved to testing 4.5G technology

■ Zain carries a rich history and aims at being a leading digital lifestyle enabler

■ Joint Innovation Center opened a new era of technological partnership between Zain and Huawei



SHARES SET FOR MONTHLY GAINS, DOLLAR RALLY STALLS

LONDON: Global shares steadied at one-month highs yesterday, on track for a third straight month of gain, while the dollar's recent rally to two-month peaks on expectations the U.S. interest rates could rise next month took a breather.

hit peaks in early trade. The broader MSCI world equity index, was up a tad at 1,676.96 points, its highest since late April. US stock futures pointed to a firm start on Wall Street where trading will resume after the Memorial Day holiday.

on Monday, but still on track for a 2.6 percent gain for the month-its best in six months. The dollar has risen recently on expectations of higher U.S. rates. Fed Chair Janet Yellen said on Friday that the central bank should hike rates "in the coming months" if economic growth picks up and the labor market continues to improve.

Juckes, macro strategist at Societe Generale. Investors are awaiting key data this week before taking fresh positions. May's US private-sector ISM manufacturing data, due on Wednesday, and non-farm payrolls report on Friday will be scrutinized and solid readings could further heighten expectations for a move as soon as the Federal Reserve's next policy meeting on June 14-15.

Mainland Chinese shares closed up more than three percent, while Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul also rallied, although volumes were low after Wall Street and London were closed for public holidays.

The greenback was boosted by remarks from Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen that the US could raise interest rates "in the coming months" if data from the world's top economy continues to improve.

Traders saw this as a vote of confidence in the US economy, which has remained resilient even after the Fed raised rates for the first time in almost a decade in December. "US policy normalization and its likely impact has remained a key theme for markets," Mark Smith, a senior economist with ANZ Bank New Zealand, told Bloomberg News.

CHINESE YUAN EYED

Investors were also keeping an eye on the weakening Chinese yuan with worries about growth in the world's second-largest economy creeping back. The yuan was on track for its second largest monthly fall on record after the central bank softened its midpoint to a 5-year low.

"In an environment of dollar strength, the People's Bank of China may well be forced to further depreciate the renminbi, risking the possibility of a one-off currency intervention."

Asian stocks rose yesterday, led by a surge in Shanghai, while the dollar edged higher as traders weighed the fallout from a likely US interest rate rise this summer.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Tuesday 31 May 2016. Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low. Includes sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, and Commodities.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. Includes a line chart showing market trends and detailed tables for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, and Commodities.



## LEGRAND HIGHLIGHTS ITS INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS WIRING DEVICES AND CABLE MANAGEMENT IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Legrand Group, the global specialist in electrical and digital building infrastructures, in cooperation with its longstanding partner in Kuwait, Al Mulla Group hosted an event last 30th May 2016 that brought together the country's construction community. Attendees had the opportunity to dis-



**Mostafa Swify, Legrand, Area Manager — Kuwait, Qatar & Iraq.**

cover its latest innovation and dynamic offers in wiring devices and cable management.

Legrand offers the largest choice of functions, finishes in all electrical standards, from standard to luxury projects. Adding up to their wide range of wiring devices, Legrand unveiled its upgraded version of Synergy. Now with four new

series: Authentic, Sleek Design, White and Metlaclad, Synergy renews its quality promise, enhances its features and elevates its functions and developed to suit any space, application and budget. What's new in this range is the availability of hotel and office functions, USB charger sockets, fingerprint-proof finish, blue LED indicator and matching metal rockers and are manufactured in UK.

Also, highlight of event includes the complete range of cable management solutions by Legrand and group brands, Electrak and SEICO. With the new offer of integrated office solutions, Legrand provides users with functionality, ergonomics, comfort and speed of installation for various office building areas. Pop-up boxes, power and data desk grommets integrate harmoniously in all types of furniture for meeting rooms, individual or open space offices. Electrak, a group brand of Legrand, offers powertrack and underfloor busbar that is perfect for cavity floor installations. With minimal parts, push-fit assembly and a complementary range of floor boxes and grommets, this flexible, easy to install system can be reconfigured as office layouts evolve. Legrand also launch during the event the new earthing and lightning protection system by Saudi Electric Industries Company (SEICO), a group brand of Legrand. SEICO has joined the Legrand



**KUWAIT:** Legrand Group in cooperation with Al Mulla Group hosted an event bringing together the country's construction community. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Group in 2013 with its three manufacturing plants in Saudi Arabia and is the leading manufacturer and supplier of cable management systems and accessories for the oil and gas and industrial sectors across KSA and the Gulf Region. The function of earthing and lightning protection system is to intercept and disperse the lightning strike that prevents damages of buildings, loss of services and data, equipment, security systems and preserves resources and human lives.

The event was also meant to perfectly highlight the strengthening of the successful cooperation between Legrand and its local distributor Al Mulla Group.

Legrand Group offers a comprehensive range of solutions and services tailored to residential, commercial and industrial markets. From control and connection interfaces to cable management, power distribution and voice-data-image (VDI) systems distribution, Legrand provides a host of solutions designed to

manage lighting, energy, networks and building access.

The origin of the company dates back to 1865 in France and has continuously strengthened its international presence. Its representative office for the Gulf region was established in Dubai, UAE in 1996 and today, with offices and dedicated teams everywhere in GCC, Near and Middle East, Legrand affirms its support to local markets and international projects.

Legrand is the global specialist in electrical and digital building infrastructures. Its comprehensive offering of solutions for commercial, industrial and residential markets makes it a benchmark for customers worldwide. Drawing on a nearly 10-year CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) approach that involves all employees, Legrand is pursuing its strategy of profitable and sustainable growth driven by innovation, with a steady flow of new offerings-including Eliot connected products that enhance value in use and acquisitions. Legrand reported sales of more than A4.8 billion in 2015. The company is listed on Euronext Paris and is a component stock of indexes including the CAC40, FTSE4Good, MSCI World, Corporate Oekom Rating, DJSI, Vigeo Euronext Eurozone 120 and Europe 120 and Ethibel Sustainability Index Excellence. (ISIN code FR0010307819)

## JAPAN ECONOMY WEAK BUT IMPROVED IN APRIL

**TOKYO:** Japan's factory output fell 3.5 percent in April from the same month a year earlier, while consumer spending also edged lower, though both improved from the month before, the government said yesterday. Earlier, the government reported that the consumer price index fell 0.3 percent in April for the second straight month of deflation. However, excluding both energy and volatile fresh foods, it rose 0.7 percent.

tax hike due next year, out of concern the recovery is too weak to endure a fresh hit to consumer spending.

In April, consumer spending fell 0.4 percent in April from a year earlier, though incomes rose 0.7 percent. Unemployment was flat at 3.2 percent. Industrial output rose 0.3 percent from the month before, stronger than expected, in one sign the latest dip in growth may be moderating, said Marcel Thieliand of Capital Economics.

But he noted that private investment remains weak. At a summit of the Group of Seven rich nations last week in central Japan, fellow leaders balked at Abe's call for a joint recognition that the world economy is on the brink of crisis. But US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, at meetings leading up to the summit, did express concern over the potential impact of a sales tax hike on Japan's recovery.

Abe has cited the G7's backing for using all policy tools the countries can as a justification for pushing back the sales tax hike, reportedly until October 2019 from April 2017.

"The government probably wants to avoid delivering a hammer blow to a fragile economy without seeing solid improvement at the fundamental level," Margaret Yang of CMC Markets, said in a commentary. The last time Japan raised its sales tax, to 8 percent from 5 percent in April 2014, the economy fell back into recession. Growth has faltered since then, and Abe opted to postpone a tax hike, to 10 percent, set for October 2015 to April 2017.

Abe's deputy prime minister and finance minister, Taro Aso, has objected to the latest plan for a postponement. But it's unclear whether his objection reflects an actual schism within the party or is just a show of support for the ministry he represents. Opposition parties were expected to raise a no-confidence vote against Abe in parliament yesterday. But the Liberal Democrats' strong majority means they lack the votes to get it passed. — AP



**SHIMA:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks at a press conference at the G-7 summit in Shima, central Japan. Parliament was due to vote later yesterday on a no-confidence motion against Abe put forward by opposition parties. — AP

The world's third-largest economy has been stuck in the doldrums despite massive monetary easing aimed at vanquishing deflation, which tends to discourage corporate investment and consumer spending. Though the latest data present a mixed picture and are better than some economists' forecasts, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is seeking backing from his Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the Komeito, for a postponement of a sales

## VOLKSWAGEN MAKES PROFIT DESPITE SCANDAL

**FRANKFURT:** German automaker Volkswagen saw its net profit fall 19 percent in the first three months of the year - but showed it can still make money even as it grapples with a costly scandal over cars rigged to cheat on diesel emissions tests. The company called it a "respectable" result considering the tough conditions and said it had the financial resources to weather the scandal.

The flagship Volkswagen brand, the one most associated with the scandal and with the most rigged cars, barely broke even. The company made most of its profits at its luxury brands Audi and Porsche and the financial services branch. Profits in the January-March period fell to 2.37 billion euros (\$2.63 billion) from 2.93 billion euros a year earlier, the company said yesterday. The figure fell short of the 2.44 billion euros expected by analysts surveyed by financial information provider FactSet. Revenue fell 3.4 percent to 50.96 billion euros due in part to shifts in currency exchange rates.

Still, the company reported it had bulked up on its cash reserves and said it was well-funded to deal with the effects of the scandal, which include costs for recalls, fines and lawsuits. The automotive division was sitting on 26 billion euros in net liquidity, up 5 billion from a year ago. Yesterday's earnings release contained no new estimate of the overall cost of the scandal; the company set aside 16.2 billion euros from earnings last year, when it lost 1.4 billion euros.

CEO Matthias Mueller said in a statement that the company "managed to limit the economic effects of the diesel issue and achieve respectable results under difficult conditions." The company's ordinary shares traded down 1.7 percent at 135.65 euros in afternoon

trading in Europe. Christian Stadler, a professor of strategic management at the Warwick Business School in Britain, said in an email that a fall in profit was to be expected, "but the real story is that the company still makes profits."

"What becomes more and more obvious is that the emissions scandal is costly, but far from life-threatening for Volkswagen."

The effects of the scandal were seen most strongly at the Volkswagen brand, which made only 73 million euros in the quarter, down from 514 million euros a year earlier. That left a bare operating margin of only 0.3 percent. Earnings and profit margins were supported by luxury brand Audi, typically a pillar of the company's profits. Operating profit there fell slightly to 1.3 billion euros from 1.4 billion euros a year earlier. Audi was the biggest single contributor to company operating profit. But it saw its profit margin, a key indicator for investors, fall to 9.0 percent from 9.7 percent in the first quarter of 2015. Things went better at the Porsche brand. Operating profits, which exclude financial items such as interest and taxes, rose 14 percent to 895 million euros. The sports car and luxury SUV division turned in a fat profit margin of 16.6 percent, up from 15.1 percent.

The company also faced plummeting sales in Russia and Brazil due to those countries' troubled economies. Sales fell 35 percent in Russia, which has seen its currency dive along with the price of oil, and 17 percent in Brazil, which is in a deep recession.

Volkswagen, based in Wolfsburg, Germany, faces heavy costs recalling and fixing cars that are equipped with engine-control software that could detect when a car was on a test stand and turned off the emissions controls during everyday driving. — AP



**NEW DELHI:** Laborers work at a construction site in the Noida suburb of New Delhi yesterday. — AP

## INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH SURGES IN MARCH QUARTER REBOUND IN FARM OUTPUT DRIVES UP OVERALL GROWTH

**NEW DELHI:** India gathered momentum in the March quarter to extend its lead as the world's fastest growing large economy, helping Prime Minister Narendra Modi craft an impressive sales pitch for meetings with investors in the United States next week.

Modi is due to travel to Washington on June 7-8 where he will meet heads of top US companies. Having swept to power two years ago promising to revitalise Asia's third-largest economy, Modi has boosted spending on defence and infrastructure, while consumer demand has risen thanks to lower interest rates. Those pro-growth policies helped gross domestic product grow 7.9 percent year-on-year in the March quarter, faster than the December quarter's 7.2 percent.

A Reuters survey of economists had forecast growth of 7.5 in the March quarter. The strong headline number masks subdued private

investment and shrinking exports, which continue to hold India back. Still, India's growth has overtaken that of fellow Asian giant China, which grew 6.7 percent in the March quarter - the slowest in the world's second largest economy in seven years.

The figures from India's Statistics office also showed GDP grew 7.6 percent in the 2015/16 fiscal year that ended in March, in line with an earlier official estimate. Growth was 7.2 percent in 2014/15. Success in bringing down inflation has given the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) room to cut its policy repo rate by 150 basis points since January 2015, reducing it to 6.50 percent - the lowest level in more than five years.

The GDP data reinforced expectations that the RBI would keep its policy rate on hold at a review next Tuesday. "Momentum is building up faster than anticipated and there is a demand

pick-up on the horizon," said Shubhda Rao, chief economist at Yes Bank.

"This definitely spells out a positive story that there will soon be a recovery in private sector capex." Growth in the March quarter was driven by a rebound in farm output, an improvement in mining and a sharp pickup in electricity production.

The farm sector grew by 2.3 percent from a year ago compared with a 1.0 percent contraction in the December quarter. With good rain forecast, after two successive years of drought, farm sector output should improve in coming months and lift depressed demand in the countryside where two-thirds of Indians live. Mining grew 8.6 percent in the March quarter, up from 7.1 percent in the previous quarter. Electricity, water and gas production growth jumped to 9.3 percent from 5.6 percent in the December quarter. — Reuters

## EUROZONE INFLATION STILL NEGATIVE

**BRUSSELS:** Eurozone inflation remained in negative territory in May, data showed yesterday, providing further evidence that the European Central Bank's unprecedented stimulus efforts are slow to work.

Consumer prices fell 0.1 percent in May after slipping 0.2 in April, the Eurostat statistics agency said in a first estimate. The figures were in line with forecasts compiled by data provider Factset, but some analysts still wondered why rising oil prices had not made more of an impact. The figures are "weaker than we had expected given the rise in oil prices," said Jonathan Loynes at Capital Economics. Energy prices were the main downward drag on headline inflation, falling by 8.1 percent after a 8.7-percent April drop. Core inflation, which excludes products with the most volatile price movements, meanwhile edged up. Once energy, food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco were stripped out, inflation came in at 0.8 percent in May, up from 0.7 a month earlier.

Loynes predicted that higher oil prices would eventually push headline inflation up, but core inflation was likely to remain "subdued" because of weak wage growth. He cited eurozone unemployment figures, also released Tuesday, as evidence that upward pressure on wages was still some way off. Eurostat said eurozone unemployment remained at 10.2 percent in April, its lowest level since August 2011. But the headline figure hides vast disparities across the euro area, with star performer Germany at 4.2 percent and Greece, suffering from the zone's highest joblessness, at 24.2 percent, according to Eurostat's model.

"The figures do nothing to challenge our view that the ECB has more work to do to return eurozone inflation to target on a sustained basis," Loynes said. — AFP

## STRIKING PORTS WORKERS MARCH TO PROTEST GREEK PORTS SALES

**ATHENS:** Greek port workers went on strike for a sixth day yesterday and marched through central Athens to protest the state-sanctioned selloff of the country's two largest ports, Piraeus and Thessaloniki. Privatisations have been a pillar of a succession of international bailouts for Greece since 2010, but political resistance and bureaucracy has stymied the task. From an initial target of 50 billion in revenue from asset sales, Greece has barely managed to scrape together 3 billion euros.

Fearing layoffs, port workers have been on 48-hour rolling strikes since last week and have said they will not return to work unless their requests are addressed.

"Everything, taxes, bills, the living cost, is going up. Daily food has become more expensive. And myself, I don't know if I have job tomorrow," said port worker Antonis Peristerakis, 49, father of two children. "I need security. I want to have food for my children. I don't want to look for a job at the age of 49."

Greece sealed last month the sale of a 67 percent stake in Piraeus Port to shipping giant China COSCO for 368.5 million euros.

### CARGO OPERATIONS DISRUPTED

Piraeus Port's shareholders met on Tuesday to approve the 36-year concession between Piraeus Port and the government and the election of new board members. But discussion on the issues was post-

poned until June 10 after 200 port workers gathered outside the hotel building hosting the meeting to protest the sale, said an official with Greece's privatization agency, which is the main shareholder of Piraeus Port and manages the sale. The workers want COSCO to safeguard jobs for a minimum number of people, along with their current labour contracts, as part of the concession agreement. Piraeus port employs 1,100 people.

The strike is mainly disrupting cargo operations but Greece's cruise ship-owners union has said that the walkout could also affect cruise ships docking in Piraeus.

Under the privatization scheme, Athens is also selling a 67 percent stake in Thessaloniki Port. Sources close to the process have said the binding bids are expected at the end of September.

Denmark's container terminal operator APM Terminals, Philippines-based International Container Terminal Services ICTS and Dubai-based P&O Steam Navigation Company (DP World) were strongly interested in the Thessaloniki port, the head of the privatization agency said last month.

Greece aims at raising more than 2 billion euros from divesting state assets this year to meet a bailout target of about 6 billion euros from asset sales by 2018. The country has said it will use the proceeds to reduce its mountainous debt and boost growth through public investments. — Reuters

## OIL-RICH VENEZUELA SCRABBLES FOR DOLLARS

CARACAS: Julio Ribas suffers from high blood pressure. If only Venezuela's currency were as high, he might be able to afford some medicine for it. Venezuela is short of drugs, and to buy some from abroad, Ribas needs dollars-but those are in desperately short supply too. Ribas is just one of the countless casual victims of the economic crisis in Venezuela, where inflation and anger are rising as the currency falls. "I put in a request a month ago for \$300," the 55-year-old shopkeeper told AFP. "I want to send them to my daughter who is working in Panama. I need her to buy me my blood-pressure medicine there." But in the meantime, the value of his bolivars to the dollar has fallen by more than a third. At the exchange bureau, employee Manuel Guevara tells Ribas he will have to wait up to two months more. No one knows how much the dollar will be worth then.

The weaker the bolivar gets, the more people want to get hold of the stronger US currency because they can buy more with it. That growing demand drives up the price of dollars and weakens the bolivar even more. It makes Venezuela's scarce food and goods even more expensive. "They've had this inflation-depreciation spiral now for more than three years," said US economist Mark Weisbrot. It has been aggravated by a shortage of dollars and the fall in the price of Venezuela's oil exports, said Weisbrot, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington.

### Black market dollars

In February, Maduro reformed the state-controlled currency system, loosening state controls on the bolivar. He maintained the strong fixed rate for essential imports but allowed the rate for other goods to float. He hoped that would close the gap between that official dollar rate and the black market rate.

But since dollars are so scarce, the black market remains king. That rate is much higher-at about 1,000 bolivars to the dollar, it is currently about twice the official floating rate.

But it is the only way Venezuelan citizens and businesses can even hope to get hold of the dollars they need. Trade Minister Miguel Perez Abad said the bolivar was undergoing a devaluation that would help it "adjust to the economic reality of the country." For citizens waiting in line to buy rations of basic food and goods, it has driven up prices.

The government last year reported an official inflation rate of 180 percent for 2015. Economists at the International Monetary Fund forecast the rate will hit 700 percent this year.

### Opaque forex dealings

Venezuelan economist Luis Vicente Leon says February's reforms can correct the imbalances caused by an artificial over-valuing of the bolivar. But "the problem is that in reality there is no supply" of dollars, said Leon. "There is an artificial shifting of currency by the central bank, which has set itself a target to devalue the currency." Economists estimate the bolivar has weakened by 60 percent against the dollar since the February reforms. The way the exchange rates are being managed is a mystery to some analysts. "The mechanism, like those before it, is very opaque," Anabella Abadi of the consultancy group ODH told AFP.

"There is no information about how exchange rate decisions are being taken." The official floating rate is gradually edging closer to the black market rate. "That is good for the market," Abadi said. "But it is rising for no apparent reason and is applied to a limited range of currencies. That makes it a marginal system."



## BAHRAH TRADING COMPANY WINS TMHI PRESIDENT AWARD

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE DURING 2015

KUWAIT: Toyota Material Handling International (TMHI) has bestowed Bahrah Trading Company (BTC) with the coveted President's award 4th consecutive year, in recognition of the excellent performance in 2015 that resulted in enhanced market share of Toyota forklift trucks.

Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding along with Hamza Melakandy General Manager BTC received the award from the President of TMHI during the Distributor Conference, in the presence of Toyota Top Management officials and senior management representative from distributors across the globe at a grand ceremony organized recently in Nagoya, Japan.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding "BTC is grateful for the continued support extended by Toyota Material Handling Group which is always the catalyst to exceed the expectations. The award signifies an important milestone given the fact BTC has won the award 4th time in a row and an eloquent testimony that recognize our commitment to excel in the sales and service of Toyota forklift trucks along with Toyota associate brands BT Sweden & Raymond USA, notable names in warehouse material handling equipment."

Hamza Melakandy General Manager BTC said "It's notable that Toyota Forklift trucks (in the counter balance segment) hold more than 50 percent

share in Kuwait market and is a trusted partner for most businesses. Superior quality products from TMHI and strong commitment of BTC combine in making "LIFT Beyond TOGETHER" a success in all respects. Interestingly, 2016 coincides with 60th anniversary of Toyota Industries Equipment, 70th anniversary of BT whereas, Raymond take pride of its rich heritage spanning more than 90 years."

Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO, congratulated BTC team on this achievement and appreciated their consistent efforts led by Hamza Melakandy, towards receiving this prestigious award. With world renowned brands and industry leading equipment, BTC continues to reinforce its presence in Kuwait as a market leader.

## CHEVROLET CAMARO RANKS HIGHEST IN ITS SEGMENT

JD POWER VEHICLE DEPENDABILITY STUDY

KUWAIT: For the fourth year running, the Chevrolet Camaro ranked highest in the Midsize Sporty Car Segment in the J D Power Vehicle Dependability Study. This accolade joins other awards the Camaro has garnered this year, including being named 2016 Best Motor Car of the Year, Car & Driver 10 Best and KBB.com Best Resale Value.

"Receiving this recognition from J D Power for the fourth year in a row for the Camaro is a testament to Chevrolet's commitment to being a brand Middle East customers can count on," said Abdallah Madhoun, Regional Sales & Marketing Manager -Chevrolet Middle East. "This award highlights how the Camaro is delivery great performance, design, technology and value."

Loaded with performance technology, the all-new Camaro is designed to provide a faster, more nimble driving experience thanks to an all-new, lighter architecture and a broader powertrain range. An all-new 3.6L V-6 and the 6.2L V-8, which is SAE-certified at 455 horsepower (339 kW) and 455 lb-ft of torque (617 Nm) - for the most powerful Camaro SS ever. Each engine is available with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

Chevrolet ranked above industry average ranking sixth respectively. The 2016 US Vehicle Dependability Study is based on responses from 33,560 original owners of 2013

model-year vehicles after three years of ownership. The study was fielded from October through December 2015.

The study, now in its 27th year, examines problems experienced during the past 12 months by original owners of 2013 model-year vehicles. Overall dependability is determined by the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100), with a lower score reflecting higher quality. The study covers 177 specific problem symptoms grouped into eight major vehicle categories.

### Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Alghanim will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24/7 roadside assistance. Customers who want to purchase a new vehicle or upgrade their existing vehicle can visit our showrooms in Safat Alghanim Al-Rai, Sharq, Fahaheel, Al-Ahmadi, and Shuwaikh and obtain the car of their dreams.



## AHLI UNITED BANK SPONSORS 2ND INTERNAL MEDICINE CONFERENCE

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) recently sponsored the 2nd Internal Medicine Conference, which was organized by the Kuwaiti Board of Internal Medicine Residents' Committee at the Kuwait Regency Hotel from the 12-14 and 19-21 of May. The Bank's sponsorship, in line with its strategic approach of supporting the healthcare sector, reflects its commitment to communicate with its wide customer base with an objective of briefing and keeping them up to date with its latest financial products and services.

With AUB's booth at the event, representatives of the Bank were able to interact with medical professionals and updated them with the bank's latest banking products and services that are tailored to accommodate their varied needs. These include exclusive services for MasterCard Platinum holders. The card, which is accepted worldwide is free for the first year, and offers a range of instant discounts across 100 retail stores in Kuwait, while also providing strong saving plans that are in line with Islamic Sharia. AUB's renowned Hassad program represents a robust opportunity to win prizes that reach a value of KD 3.4 mil-

lion per annum. The Bank also provides one-stop-shop loan solutions for healthcare professionals, such as the Qard Hasan loan up to KD 8,000 with 0% interest, along with special benefits on loans up to KD 70,000 with competitive prices. Moreover, the Bank also provides flexible real estate loans. Renowned for its personal relationship manager service, AUB prides itself with providing exclusive services aiming to assist customers and update them with the latest information, a key feature that places AUB as the ideal banking partner for medical professionals who need to save on time and effort to manage their financial solutions.

AUB's sponsorship to this event, which aims at providing strong training skills to attending Kuwaiti doctors, is in line with the Bank's commitment to integrating its operations across the local community, specifically the healthcare sector, a priority for the bank. The Bank offers the best available financial products and services, a commitment that has resonated across its strategy to communicate and connect with all segments of the society.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.747
Indian Rupees	4.515
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.070
Nepali Rupees	2.814
Singapore Dollar	220.990
Hongkong Dollar	38.984
Bangladesh Taka	3.860
Philippine Peso	6.490
Thai Baht	8.510

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.776
Qatari Riyal	83.207
ani Riyal	786.772
Bahraini Dinar	804.440
UAE Dirham	82.471

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.484
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	145.900
Jordanian Dinar	426.740
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	2.159
Morocco Dirham	31.536

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.750
Euro	340.590

Sterling Pound	445.040
Canadian dollar	234.420
Turkish lira	103.330
Swiss Franc	307.670
Australian Dollar	220.400
US Dollar Buying	301.550

#### GOLD

20 Gram	245.630
10 Gram	125.740
5 Gram	63.710

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	232.835
Sterling Pound	443.675
Euro	337.825
Swiss Frank	302.415
Bahraini Dinar	801.595
UAE Dirhams	82.735
Qatari Riyals	83.950
Saudi Riyals	81.480
Jordanian Dinar	426.835
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.063
Indian Rupees	4.514
Pakistani Rupees	2.886
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.486
Cyprus pound	577.120
Japanese Yen	3.740
Syrian Pound	2.375

Nepalese Rupees	3.820
Malaysian Ringgit	74.840
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.470
Thai Bhat	9.450
Turkish Lira	102.530

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.437176	0.446176
Czech Korune	0.004535	0.016535
Danish Krone	0.041522	0.046522
Euro	0.0332255	0.0340255
Norwegian Krone	0.032605	0.037805
Romanian Leu	0.086889	0.086889
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030
Slovedish Krona	0.032549	0.037549
Swiss Franc	0.297658	0.307858
Turkish Lira	0.097693	0.107993
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.209735	0.221235
New Zealand Dollar	0.197230	0.206730
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.227551	0.236051
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303300
US Dollars Mint	0.299300	0.303300
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003444	0.004018
Chinese Yuan	0.044673	0.048173

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036981	0.039731
Indian Rupee	0.004188	0.004578
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002681	0.002861
Kenyan Shilling	0.003115	0.003115
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070434	0.076434
Nepalese Rupee	0.002886	0.003056
Pakistan Rupee	0.002694	0.002974
Philippine Peso	0.006343	0.006623
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217343	0.223343
South African Rand	0.013506	0.022006
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001698	0.002278
Taiwan	0.009184	0.009364
Thai Baht	0.008145	0.008695

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796879	0.804879
Egyptian Pound	0.028001	0.033119
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423217	0.430717
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020848	0.044848
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.082488	0.083701
Saudi Riyal	0.079887	0.080837
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.142415	0.150415
Turkish Lira	0.097693	0.107993
UAE Dirhams	0.081543	0.082692
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449



# China Car of the Year 2016

## The all-new Geely Emgrand GT now in Kuwait

### Dawn of a new generation

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Automotive Imports Co WLL (Al Shaya & Al Sagar), exclusive distributor of Geely cars since 2004, on its 80th anniversary, proudly launched the new Geely Emgrand GT. The car was launched in an astonishing ceremony in the exclusive Geely Showroom yesterday in the presence of KAICO management team, leading journalists and many other guests.

On the contrary, it was based on an extensive research made on the Chinese passenger vehicle manufacturing market and since 2004 we are witnessing a great success of this brand in Kuwait. We are here today to celebrate also 11 years of fruitful cooperation between Kaico and Geely Holding," he added. Geely cars are known for their up to date technology, great performance and superb

ideal option for our clients who wish to own a highly sophisticated car at a reasonable price," he concluded.

#### Remarkable influence of VOLVO

Geely International Corporation acquired VOLVO Cars in 2010 and the Emgrand GT is an obvious example of how the company expertise has increased since this partnership. In 2012 Volvo and Geely signed Technology transfer agreement. The GT was designed by the Volvo designer Peter Hurbory, who headed up design at Volvo in the 1990s and oversaw it for Volvo, Jaguar, Aston Martin and Ford's other brands from 2002, is now in charge of Geely's new wave of world class product. Design and Power these are the Key words that explain the new Emgrand Success. With technical support from European partners and excellent designers, the Geely is now producing increasingly competitive and award-winning cars.

#### Stylish and Artistic Exterior:

The Emgrand GT is a four-door 'fastback' sedan, sports coupe style, with an aggressive profile, giving an elegant and solid stance. The distinctive side shoulder line arches over the front wheel and then sweeps cleanly around the vehicle's length, combining a sense of speed with character and elegance. To mention a few that adds allure to the car are Water drop ripple type front grille, LED crystal head lamps, Panoramic Sunroof and Integrated wide space rear view mirror. The wide shoulder surface gives a strong and confident feel.

#### Modern and Graceful Interior

The graceful and modern interior design of the Emgrand GT reflects a mix of technology and quality. The three-spoke leather multifunction steering wheel, TFT full-color 3D combination instrument, extended instrument panel and warm orange LED soft atmosphere light have an elegant appearance. The central console arches from the front to the rear passenger area. The seats are well-designed, floating

on bridge-like supports and dressed in the style of Chinese clothing. Traditional patterns and ambient lighting works together to enhance the interior quality.

#### Superior Technology

Acquirer of the Swedish Volvo brand of Cars, Australian DSI transmission and Manganese Bronze Holdings - the manufac-

ture of the London Black Taxi, Geely range is known for its global class appeal, outstanding technology, performance and high-end active and passive safety elements. From the design concept to the manufacturing, all Geely models have been developed in accordance with European standards and by using global technological resources.

#### Safety Features

The new Emgrand GT is packed with safety technology that includes ABS, EBD, ESP, Traction Control, EBA, Blind Spot Monitor, Autohold, Visual Parking System etc. It will brake automatically if you get too close to obstacles or traffic in



The Geely's flagship brand the all new Emgrand GT has recently won the "2016 China car of the Year Award" after a tough competition judged by automotive experts, automotive journalists, CEOs and Chairmen of major automotive companies and this is the first time that a domestic car has received this Title and the Jury were fascinated by the Emgrand GT's modern design and advanced technology.

The launch of Geely's flagship Emgrand GT sedan in GCC and Kuwait particularly will take the brand into a completely new dimension, it will be the start of a great success.

Yousef Al Ashaya, CEO, KAICO stated that this quality product represents a new era and a departure in the Geely Brand. The new generation of products Geely is launching globally and in the Middle East is a great indication of customer satisfaction, success and growth. We assure all Geely customers in Kuwait to offer best products, services and parts at all times through dedicated Geely facilities and team.

Ashish Tandon, General Manager, KAICO inaugurated by welcoming the guests and he mentioned that Kaico is very excited to launch the new Geely Emgrand GT in Kuwait after receiving a wide recognition from media and consumers internationally and in GCC too, we received a great feedback from our neighbors in Oman, KSA and Bahrain. The exciting part is that we are already receiving enquiries & bookings for Emgrand GT before we have even launched it. We are very confident about the Emgrand GT and looking forward for record breaking sales.

"The secret behind the Success of KAICO for 80 years is a simple philosophy: Customer is number 1 and Customer for life. This is why our commitment toward customers is to serve with speed and best quality at all times with our highly skilled and professional manpower using the best equipment available in the industry," said Tandon.

"Our partnership with Geely wasn't coinci-

dentally developed with accordance with European standards.

Geely International Corporation acquired VOLVO Cars in 2010 and the Emgrand GT is an obvious example of how the company expertise has increased since this partnership. In 2012 Volvo and Geely signed Technology transfer agreement.

"The GT was designed by the Volvo designer Peter Hurbory, who headed up design at Volvo in the 1990s and oversaw it for Volvo, Jaguar, Aston Martin and Ford's other brands from 2002, is now in charge of Geely's new wave of world class product," stressed Tandon.

"The all-new Emgrand GT will represent a benchmark in its category, and will form an



## OOREDOO RANKED IN TOP TEN OF REGION'S MOST VALUABLE BRANDS

**DOHA:** Ooredoo has been ranked in the top ten most valuable brands in the MENA region for the first time according to a new study, following a successful year that has seen the company raise its profile around the world.

In securing its position, Ooredoo is one of three leading Qatari brands in the top ten, and among the strongest communications brands ranked in the rating.

The "Brand Finance Middle East 50" report is created by leading intangible asset valuation consultancy Brand Finance, which ranks the most valuable Middle Eastern brands every year.

According to the report, Ooredoo's brand value has consistently increased since the company began its global brand roll-out in February 2013. During these three years, Ooredoo has seen a 169 percent increase in its estimated brand value, which the report calculates at US\$ 2.1 billion in 2016.

The report also notes that, with its AA+ brand

rating, Ooredoo is the strongest telecoms brand in the region. The report states that the company is one of the most valuable communications brands in the Middle East today, and could rank higher in the future as Ooredoo continues to build its customer base and reinforce its brand. Ooredoo's global customer base reached 118 million by the end of March 2016.

Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Group CEO, Ooredoo, said: "Ooredoo has grown to become an internationally-recognised brand that was born in Qatar. This report underlines the strength of our brand as a key asset for our company, and also demonstrates how far we have progressed in our ambition to be a leading international communications company."

Since Ooredoo began its brand launch in February 2013, the company has overseen a major modernisation process which has included network investment, customer service revamps and digital content boosts across markets in the Middle East,

North Africa and Southeast Asia.

Beginning with its home market Qatar, the Ooredoo brand rolled-out across the company's international operations in Kuwait, Oman, Algeria, Tunisia, the Maldives, Myanmar and Indonesia, in one of the most comprehensive and far-reaching transformation exercises ever undertaken by a leading communications company.

In recent years, Ooredoo has focused heavily on its products and network, which are designed to enrich customers' digital lifestyles and support business growth and development.

Highlights in recent years include the introduction of the 4G+ and nationwide fibre networks in Qatar; the introduction of 4G services in Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Indonesia and Tunisia that made Ooredoo one of the region's leading 4G companies; the operational launch in Myanmar that brought mobile broadband to millions of people for the first time; and surpassing the 100 million customer milestone in 2015.



Ooredoo Group CEO  
Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani.



**NEW ZEALAND:** New Zealand Associate Health Minister Sam Lotu-iga (left) and Wellington City councillor Paul Eagle hold the mock-up of the new plain cigarette packaging during an announcement in Wellington yesterday. — AFP



**CHINA:** This photo shows students wearing masks with no smoking signs to support World No Tobacco Day at a primary school in Handan, northern China's Hebei province. — AFP photos

## NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY BACK PLAIN PACKETS FOR CIGARETTES

'EACH OF THESE DEATHS IS PREVENTABLE'

**OSLO:** New Zealand and Norway became the latest countries to announce they will remove branding from cigarette packets, in a move hailed by the WHO as an effective way to cut smoking rates. The announcements, which coincide with World No Tobacco Day, mean cigarettes must be sold in drab boxes plastered with health warnings and gruesome pictures of smoking-related diseases. "Plans by New Zealand and Norway to introduce plain packaging to reduce demand for tobacco send a powerful signal that this initiative works," Oleg Chestnov, the World Health Organization Assistant Director-General for non-communicable diseases told AFP in an email. Plain packaging, which removes what is seen as a powerful tool used to get young people hooked on tobacco, "will save lives," he insisted.

According to WHO, one person dies from tobacco-caused disease every six seconds,

amounting to nearly six million people each year—a number expected to rise to more than eight million by 2030. In New Zealand, associate Health Minister Sam Lotu-iga pointed out that "12 New Zealanders die prematurely every day from smoking-related illnesses. "Each of these deaths is preventable," he stressed. In a new report, the WHO said data from Australia, the first country to introduce so-called plain packaging four years ago, showed the measure had a clear impact on the number of habitual smokers in the country.

### 'Going global'

With similar laws taking effect earlier this month in Britain and France, and a range of other countries discussing following suit, WHO voiced hope the push to remove logos and distinctive colors from cigarette packs is "going global", despite strong opposition from the tobacco industry. "Plain packaging reduces

the attractiveness of tobacco products," WHO chief Margaret Chan said in a statement. Imposing neutral cigarette packs, she said, "kills the glamour, which is appropriate for a product that kills people." Smoking in Australia has been steadily declining for years, but WHO said 0.55 points out of a total 2.0-percentage point drop in the three years after the law was introduced in December 2012 could be directly attributed to the neutral packaging.

That equates to more than 108,000 people quitting, not relapsing or not starting to smoke during the period, said the report, citing Australian statistics. WHO said it hoped the data would help inspire more countries to climb aboard. The new packs sold in Australia, and being phased in Britain and France are intentionally ugly, covered with graphic health warnings, with no promotional information allowed and brand and product names displayed in standard color and font size. Plain

packaging is only one of many tactics called for in WHO's 2005 Framework Convention for Tobacco Control aimed at reducing tobacco consumption, alongside protecting people from exposure to tobacco smoke, banning tobacco advertising and sales to minors, and requiring health warnings on all products.

### Plain packaging

The tobacco industry fought particularly hard to block the introduction of plain packets, and has mounted numerous legal challenges against countries seeking to impose them. New Zealand first proposed plain packaging in 2013, but it was put on hold pending the outcome of tobacco giant Philip Morris' legal action against the Australian government's introduction of the packets a year earlier. That lawsuit failed last December, and tobacco giants Philip Morris International, British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco

and Japan Tobacco International (JTI) also failed earlier this month to block the British legislation.

New Zealand Prime Minister John Key admitted yesterday the fact that so many countries were adopting the packaging had emboldened his government to ignore the threat of legal action from Big Tobacco. "They may well take a case against the government, but the advice we have been getting over time now has been that the risks of them being successful... is reducing," he told reporters. "The industry fights hardest against the measures that are most effective," Douglas Bettcher, who heads WHO's non-communicable disease prevention unit, told reporters in Geneva ahead of the report launch. Plain packaging, he said, was so effective because it "very clearly labels tobacco for what it is: the only legally available product worldwide that when used as intended, kills up to half of its users," he said. — AFP



## SISTERS DIAGNOSED WEEKS APART FIGHT BREAST CANCER TOGETHER

**SALT LAKE CITY:** Two Utah sisters grew up in the same bedroom, went to the same college, worked for almost a decade at the same company and have visited over 50 countries side by side. Now every three weeks, they sit together in matching chairs and chat as their bodies are pumped full of chemotherapy drugs. Sharee Page, 34, and Annette Page, 36, were recently diagnosed with breast cancer within about two weeks of each other, a coincidence that doctors say is extremely rare. But that coincidence has meant they can face the disease like they have nearly every other aspect of their lives— as a team. Wow, talk

BRCA2 mutation and whose sibling develops breast cancer," he said. "But doing it within two weeks is certainly very uncommon."

In late March, after discovering a large lump in her left breast, Annette Page was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. The news prompted Sharee Page to get herself checked, and the same doctor soon diagnosed her with Stage 2 breast cancer. "Had she not been diagnosed, I don't think I would have caught mine for six months to a year," Sharee Page said. Every few weeks, the sisters meet at their mother's house so that she can drive them to their chemotherapy appointment at Davis Hospital. After the six-hour session, they experience a myriad of matching chemo side effects, including nausea, bloody noses, neuropathy and headaches.

### Preventative treatment

Their bodies react to the medicine in a nearly synchronized fashion. Both are unable to eat food for almost two weeks. Exactly 10 days after treatment, they break out in a rash. "It's nice to know that someone knows exactly what you're going through," Sharee Page said. The women, who are part of a devout Mormon family, have four other siblings. One of their sisters also recently tested positive for the BRCA2 gene. But she does not have cancer, so she plans to get a double-mastectomy. Cohen said that course of preventative treatment is sometimes recommended for someone who has the mutation and is cancer free. Actress Angelina Jolie, for instance, had a double mastectomy and her ovaries removed after testing showed she carried a similar mutation.

The family has a long history with breast cancer, as the sisters' grandmother and great-grandmother both died of the disease. The siblings' mother, Susan Page, is a survivor of throat and mouth cancer who also has the BRCA2 gene. She said she cried for days after she found out that two of her children had cancer. "You spend your whole life, even before they're born, trying to protect them and make sure they're safe and try to keep them healthy," she said. "And then something like this happens." The sisters now go to the same doctor for joint appointments, and they help each other get through the especially difficult days. When Sharee Page's hair started falling out soon after she started chemo, Annette Page shaved it all off for her. But their nearly identical treatment plans may soon deviate. Annette Page's cancer has spread to her lymph nodes, so unlike her sister, she will have to undergo radiation therapy next. — AP



**UTAH:** Photos show Sharee Page, left, and her sister Annette Page, pose for a photograph at Sharee's home during an interview, in Farmington. — AP photos

about a huge blessing," said Annette Page, who lives five minutes from her sister in northern Utah. "Who gets to go through something so hard with their best friend, their sister?"

### Higher risk

The "Page Sisters," as some of their friends like to call them, found out soon after their diagnosis that they have the BRCA2 gene, a mutation that puts a woman at a much greater risk for breast and ovarian cancers. BRCA mutations, which stands for breast cancer susceptibility gene, are most commonly found in women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent, although some northern European populations also have a higher risk of inheriting one of the mutated genes. Adam Cohen, a doctor at the University of Utah's Huntsman Cancer Institute, said the gene can increase the risk of breast cancer tenfold. But Cohen said he has never seen two siblings diagnosed within weeks of one another. "It's not uncommon to have somebody with breast cancer and

## BRAIN SCANS REVEAL HIDDEN CONSCIOUSNESS IN PATIENTS

**NEW YORK:** A standard brain scanning technique is showing promise for helping doctors distinguish between patients in a vegetative state and those with hidden signs of consciousness. A study released Thursday is the latest to investigate using technology to help meet the challenge of making that distinction, which now is generally based on a doctor's bedside exam. Patients in a vegetative state have open eyes and show periods of sleep and wakefulness, but they are unaware of themselves or others and unable to think, respond or do anything on purpose. Patients in a minimally conscious state show only intermittent and minimal signs of awareness of themselves or their environment.

Distinguishing between those two conditions is important because patients with even minimal awareness can be treated to help them communicate and to prevent suffering. They respond much better to stimulation from medication or sounds, touch, music and odors. In the new research, released by the journal *Current Biology*, researchers from Denmark, Belgium and Yale University investigated using so-called FDG-PET scans to measure the brain's consumption of blood sugar, which brain cells use as fuel. They sought to establish a specific level of consumption that could distinguish between the two groups of patients.

They studied 49 vegetative patients and 65 minimally conscious ones, diagnosed by standard bedside procedures. They found that using a particular cutoff for PET scan



**ST. LOUIS:** Associate professor of neurology at Washington University School of Medicine Beau Ances (right) and Matthew Brier, an MD/PhD student at the university, examine PET (positron emission tomography) scans of Alzheimer's disease patients. — AP

results, they could correctly identify patient status 88 percent of the time. The researchers checked the patient status again a year later. They found that 8 of the 11 vegetative patients who had scored above the cutoff, which had been associated with minimal consciousness, had in fact recovered consciousness. The other three had died.

Three minimally conscious patients had

scored below the cutoff. Of the two patients the researchers could find a record for, one showed no change and the other had died. Dr. Nicholas Schiff, a professor of neurology and neuroscience at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, who didn't participate in the work, called the work "very important." Such tests could encourage early diagnosis and promote proper care, he said. — AP

## HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRM 11 CASES OF MEASLES IN ARIZONA

**ELOY:** An outbreak of measles that began with an inmate at a federal detention center for immigrants in central Arizona has now grown to 11 confirmed cases, officials said Monday. Seven of those infected are inmates at the Eloy Detention Center, and four are workers at the facility, Pinal County Health Services spokesman Joe Pyritz said. The privately-run facility has stopped accepting new detainees or releasing those currently held there. State and county health officials said they're working to stop new transmissions by isolating patients, vaccinating people detained in the privately-run facility and trying to identify people who were at locations the four infected workers visited. The outbreak began when an infected inmate was brought to the facility and spread the disease to a worker, who had been vaccinated but caught the disease anyway.

Health officials put out the first warning of the initial two cases last Thursday. Health officials have identified 14 locations in Pinal and Maricopa counties where the infected workers may have exposed other people, including stores, restaurants and a tribal casino.

The Arizona Department of Health Services is working with county officials to try to identify people exposed outside the facility. They're also urging people who may have visited any of the identified locations to come forward and be alert to measles symptoms, which include fever, red, watery eyes, cough and runny nose and is followed by a rash that is red, raised, and blotchy. The rash begins on the face at the hairline and moves down the body and may last five to six days. "People who have a rash and fever must call their health care provider or emergency department before going to let

them know they may have measles," Dr. Cara Christ, director of the state health department, said in a statement. "It is vital to help stop the further spread of the disease." Measles is a highly contagious, vaccine-preventable viral illness and symptoms can appear up to 21 days after exposure. Vaccination prevents about 95 percent of cases, Pyritz said, and the low numbers currently seen in a facility that can house

more than 1,500 detainees shows that it is effective. The first worker who was sickened was vaccinated, Pyritz said. "There are a lot of people who have been exposed, and then we've had a few breakdowns" in immunity, Pyritz said. "Not many, but a few." A woman in Washington state died from measles last spring in the first measles death in the US since 2003. — AP

## STEMCELLS TERMINATES MID-STAGE STUDY; TO WIND DOWN OPS

**NEW YORK:** StemCells Inc said yesterday it had terminated a mid-stage trial testing its therapy in spinal cord injury and that its board had decided to wind down the company. The company's shares plummeted 75 percent to 75 cents in premarket trading. The magnitude of the treatment's effect did not justify continuing the study given the financial resources available, StemCells said.

The Newark, California-based biotech had cash and cash equivalents of about \$5.5 million as of May 31.

The decision to end the trial followed an in-depth review of data from the study and after obtaining concurrence of the study's Interim Analysis Data Monitoring Committee, the company said.

In November, StemCells said its therapy

for spinal cord injury showed promising results, according to interim data from a study. The treatment, which was developed from tissues, improved the functioning and strength of limbs in patients with spinal cord injuries.

In 2011, erstwhile leader Geron Corp said it would pull the plug on its stemcell research and focus on its experimental cancer treatments. StemCells said yesterday it will look to monetize its intellectual property, including data collected in its studies, as well as the transfer of its proprietary HuCNS-SC cells and other assets through a potential sale. Up to Friday's close, StemCells shares had fallen about 40 percent this year. The company had a market value of about \$35.5 million. — Reuters

## PUERTO RICO'S TOURIST INDUSTRY FEELS ECONOMIC STING OF ZIKA

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico:** It was the wedding of one of her best friends, and Natalie Kao was going to be a bridesmaid in a fun, tropical setting on a small island just off the east coast of Puerto Rico. But the prevalence of the Zika virus across the US territory gave her pause. Kao, pregnant with twins, knew the mosquito-borne Zika virus has been linked to a rare birth defect in a tiny percentage of cases. But even a small risk was too great. "You don't know the impact, which is very scary," the San Francisco woman said.

She sent her regrets, as did several dozen other members of the wedding party. Puerto Rico has been hit harder by Zika than any other part of the US, with more than 1,170 confirmed cases, one death and the first microcephaly case acquired on US soil. Now, worries about the virus are starting to affect the tourism industry, which had been one of the few bright spots in an otherwise dismal economy.

### Financial effects

The full number of people who have canceled plans to visit or chose another destination is unknowable. But people have cited Zika in the cancellation of at least 42,000 hotel room reservations through 2018, which translates to about \$28 million in lost revenue for the lodging, restaurant and tour industry, said Ingrid Rivera, executive director of Puerto Rico's Tourism Company.

People who work in the industry say they have been seeing the financial effects of Zika for months, and it appears to be getting worse. "Cancellations left and right and up and down," said Luis Alvarez Perez, owner of a luxury travel planning and relocation company in San Juan. "People just stopped coming." Zika is named for a forest in Uganda where the virus was first discovered in 1947 and there have been many outbreaks over the years. Global health officials issued an alert after detecting it in Brazil in May 2015 and it has been spreading rapidly through the Western Hemisphere, carried by the common *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

It had not been considered a particularly dangerous disease compared to dengue and chikungunya, which are carried by the same mosquito. Zika can cause headaches, fever, rash and reddened eyes. But it has now been linked to microcephaly, a rare defect in which babies are born with abnormally small heads and brain damage as well as to the unusual paralyzing condition known as Guillain-Barre syndrome.

### Crying people

But even rare complications can be scary. Kao said she was told that Zika caused a great deal of anxiety at the February wed-

ding of a friend when some guests were inevitably bitten by mosquitoes. "Some people cried," she said. "They were upset and went back to their room." In the ensuing months, cancellations have started to mount. Major League Baseball scrapped a two-game Puerto Rico series between the Miami Marlins and the Pittsburgh Pirates scheduled for late May that will now be played in Miami. Tourism officials say that move cost the island \$4.5 million in lost revenue. USA Swimming dropped plans to hold a training camp here in July. Other large groups also have canceled, including the California-based Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. Dozens of people have withdrawn from an international boxing event scheduled for October. "We're starting to see a larger impact with the groups," Rivera said.

"Clearly it's a trend that we want to make sure that we stop." Tourism represents only about 7 percent of Puerto Rico's economy, but money generated by visitors has been growing in recent years while other sectors have shrunk during a 10-year recession and the struggle of the territory's government to handle a spiraling public debt. Some Puerto Rican officials have criticized the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for what they consider overly alarming warnings. The CDC has projected that more than 20 percent of Puerto Rico's 3.5 million people could be infected with Zika in an outbreak expected to peak by this summer.

### Available science

"They've exaggerated the numbers," Puerto Rico's Health Secretary Ana Rius told The Associated Press. "We're never going to reach those numbers." The CDC told the AP that it recognizes Puerto Rico is in distress and said US legislators are working to address the island's crisis. But it also said education is key to preventing the spread of Zika. "One of our responsibilities is to provide the best available science to people, and the more we learn about Zika, the more serious we think this virus is," the agency said in a statement.

More bad news came Tuesday from the World Health Organization. It said there is growing evidence of sexual transmission of Zika and updated advice to couples and women who have visited areas hit by the virus, strongly recommending they wait at least eight weeks before trying to conceive. Kao said she loves Puerto Rico and has visited the island multiple times, but noted that her pregnancy is her priority, like some of the other wedding guests who canceled. "When the news kept getting worse ... we said: 'That's it. We're not going,'" she recalled. "None of us wanted to put ourselves at risk." — AP



## AL-SAYER LIFE CARE EYES EXPANSION WITH GRAND OPENING OF 2ND OUTLET AT HAWALLY

**KUWAIT:** Al-Sayer Medical Company, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies held a grand inauguration ceremony for Al-Sayer LifeCare's second healthcare retail outlet located at Kuwait Disabled Sports Club (KDSC) in Hawally.

The opening ceremony was held on 30th May 2016 under the patronage and presence of Sheikha Sheikha Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah. The honorary president of the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club, was attended by Chairman of the KDSC Shafi Al-Hajeri, Director General of Kuwait's Public Authority for the Disabled Dr Tareq Al-Shatti, Sayer Bader Al-Sayer Al-Sayer's Group Holding Executive Vice Chairman, Bader Musaed Al-Sayer Business Director, General Manager of Al-Sayer Medical Company Dr Hossam Afify, Sales Manager Dr Maha Magdy and dignitaries from Kuwait medical sector and distinguished members from the press and media.

According to Executive Vice Chairman Al-Sayer Group Holding Sayer Bader Al-Sayer, "I take this opportunity to thank Sheikha Sheikha Al-Khalifa Al-Sabah, the honorary president of the Kuwait disabled Sports Club and Shafi Al-Hajeri; Chairman of the KDSC for their valuable partnership and support. The opening of our second outlet at KDSC brings us closer to the community of people with special needs, to enhance their convenience as well as to safeguard their interests. Through LifeCare, Al-Sayer Medical Company will renew its commitment and support towards customers to meet their medical needs to ensure improved self-sufficiency and healthy lifestyle to maintain an independent lifestyle for productive community. Our mission is to provide world class and high quality solutions that focus on innovation, functionality and value to incorporate a healthy lifestyle to improve the quality of life."

General Manager Al-Sayer Medical Company Dr Hossam Afify said, "About a year ago we held the opening of the biggest and most prestigious medical showroom in Kuwait "Al-Sayer LifeCare" in Dajeej, Farwaniya. By coming to Kuwait Disabled Sports Club at Hawally we aim to meet different requirements of people with special needs by providing them with the best quality products supported by unique Pre and after sales services we consider this as part of our Al-Sayer Group Holding Social Corporate responsibility; we want them to feel at home.

The new LifeCare outlet will also feature wide range of choices from world class products to prevent, cure and treat in addition to patient benefits such as expert consultation, reliable after sales service, prompt delivery and assembly special orders team. We proudly become the benchmark of medical showrooms in Kuwait.

### World class solutions:

At the LifeCare showroom customers will find effective solutions to meet the medical needs through products that taking care of the person since birth and to make sure growing healthy through several products from globally renowned brands.

### Expert consultation:

Al-Sayer LifeCare adopts the policy of meeting client requirements based on consultation.



Their team is highly qualified in all technical product requirements of physically challenged. Also customers looking for medical equipment that require personal instructions for effective and safe usage will be well served at Al-Sayer LifeCare showroom. Our professional staff at Al-Sayer LifeCare showroom will:

1. Guide you to the best medical equipment and supplies to meet your needs.
2. Stay by your side and help you complete your purchase.
3. Schedule delivery and assembly of your purchase at your convenience.

### Trustworthy after sales support:

After sales service - At Al-Sayer LifeCare you can expect to receive not only high quality medical equipment's, but also compassionate support from our experienced staff as well. Al-Sayer LifeCare offers you to assemble and repair serv-

ice by qualified and trained team of service technicians to assure the implementation of the best levels of service and maintenance for your home medical equipment.

Delivery and assembly - Most of our products are available for home delivery by our trained service technicians, who will deliver and set up the equipment in a timely and professional manner. Al-Sayer LifeCare technicians will conduct an assessment to make sure each product is well-suited for the patient. The staff will also instruct and train the patient or the user to use the equipment with utmost safety and care.

### Working hours:

Al-Sayer LifeCare is located at Kuwait Disabled Sports Club at Hawally. Working hours for the new outlet is from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, Saturday to Thursday (Friday the Showroom will be closed).



**BRAZIL:** An *Aedes aegypti* mosquito sits inside a glass tube at the Fiocruz institute where they have been screening for mosquitos naturally infected with the Zika virus in Rio de Janeiro. — AP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

**Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem**  
ر. 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



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (JOKOWI) inaugurates and tours the first Lulu Hypermarket in Cakung-Jakarta along with Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Indonesian Trade Minister, Yusuffali MA Chairman Lulu Group and other top officials and dignitaries.

## LULU OPENS ITS FIRST HYPERMARKET IN INDONESIA

UAE based retail major, Lulu Group marked its first retail push in the Far East by opening its much awaited first Hypermarket in the capital city of Jakarta, Indonesia. The group has already announced its plans to invest \$ 500 as part of its expansion and intends set up 10 hypermarkets in the next three years in the country. The first hypermarket of the country was officially inaugurated by Joko Widodo, the President of Indonesia in the presence of Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, Governor of Jakarta, Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Indonesian Trade Minister, Ahmed Abdullah Al-Mussali Al-Awadi, UAE Ambassador to Indonesia, Husin Bagis, Indonesian Ambassador to UAE and other ministers, Government officials, members of Business Community and a large gathering of residents.

The hypermarket is expected to be one of

its kind in the region and will attract large segment of population in the capital city of Jakarta. Located in the Cakung sub district of East Jakarta with an area of over 200,000 sq. ft., the new hypermarket is designed with customer convenience and provides a one-stop shopping destination for the residents of the city.

"With an initial investment of \$300 million in the first phase, we plan to open 10 hypermarkets by end-2017 and a central logistics and warehousing facility in Jakarta. These projects are likely to generate more than 5,000 job opportunities for Indonesians," said Yusuf Ali MA, Chairman, Lulu Group while commenting about the first Lulu hypermarket in the country. "We also plan to set up contract farming to ensure continuous supply of high quality products and to support the Indonesian agriculture sector," he added.

During the official visit to UAE last year, President Jokowi had visited Lulu hypermarket in Abu Dhabi and expressed keen desire to have Lulu in Indonesia. He was especially impressed by the high standards of operations, quality of products & service and also the wide variety of products available in LULU. The Lulu Group currently operates 125 stores across the GCC, Egypt and India and employees more than 38,000 people from different nationalities and is also the one of the largest retail chain in the Middle East.

PHOTO CAPTION: Indonesian President Joko Widodo (JOKOWI) inaugurating and touring the first LULU Hypermarket in Cakung-Jakarta along with Thomas Trikasih Lembong, Indonesian Trade Minister, Yusuffali MA Chairman Lulu Group and other top officials and dignitaries.



### INN & GO LAUNCH IN KUWAIT

INN & GO Hotels and Resorts, the most dynamic and unique hotel group in Kuwait, proudly announces its launch from the State of Kuwait. INN & GO Hotels will be introduced for the first time in the hospitality sector of Kuwait and the management is confident that this is going to set a milestone for many more successful ventures.

This contemporary hotel chain is all set to cater to Kuwait's fast growing business travel and family leisure market. INN & GO Hotels understands the modern day challenges of living in the 21st century, and strongly believes that every individual is unique and has different sets of requirements. Therefore this dynamic chain of hotels delivers services tailored exclusively for its guests; whether they are time bound business travellers, aspiring entrepreneurs, newlyweds or "one big family". The management is enthusiastic about the promising future of the expected hotels; established with a strong compliance of the highest quality standards for hotel and resort management and services, with talented qualified staff to deliver tailored services and a plethora of international and local cuisine and experience - INN & GO Hotels will enter the region and undoubtedly become one of the most distinguished hotel chain in Kuwait, the Arab region and worldwide.

Furthermore, the management of INN & GO Hotels and Resorts is envisioning a future for 2021 - with numerous hotel boutiques distributed throughout Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, the Philippines and the Maldives. The hotel facilities shall have a unique style in delivering tailored services to the guest whether it is to provide constant support to the business traveler, or providing a relaxing atmosphere to a leisure traveler, or offering an entertaining and unforgettable trip to families without "breaking their budget". The local markets welcome this initiative, which constitutes of a contemporary and elegant outlook for hospitality, in addition to delivering value, quality services and state-of-the-art facilities. The management of INN & GO Hotel and Resorts is looking forward to its management of the first hotel in Kuwait before the end of 2016.



## KKMA CHOOSES SOCIAL PROJECTS FOR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Kuwait Kerala Muslim Association (KKMA), the largest social welfare organization of Indians in Kuwait is celebrating the organizations 15-year anniversary by initiating several social change projects for the community. The launch event of celebrations was held at Community Hall in Abbasiya on Friday in attendance of a large number of members and invited guests. Shubashis Glodar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India inaugurated the event. Patron of KKMA Sageer Trikarpu presided over the function. Mishari Al Ghazali an eminent lawyer and founder of Humanitarian Foundation for Legal Aid and Kholoud Al Feeli, corporate communication leader at EQUATE graced the occasion as guest of honors.

Social projects: The social initiatives of the organization to support deserving community members such as low cost housing, drinking water well construction, educational scholarship, self-employment assistance program and free kidney dialysis program were declared on the occasion.

KKMA also announced the opening of first of its kind early detection center for heart and lifestyle diseases in the city of Kannur during the 2nd half of July. Prominent members of the community Malayil Moosakoya, Rajan Rawther, Mohammad Hilal and BP Nasser inaugurated release of various charitable program initiatives. In commemoration of the occasion, a documentary briefing history and activities of KKMA was released by Akbar Siddique, chairman of KKMA.

#### New Initiatives

KKMA also utilized the occasion to launch two new initiatives - a public portal for Indian blood donors in Kuwait to help patients in hospitals who required blood. The portal named as Kuwait Indian Blood Donors will be accessed through www.kibdf.org. KKMA also announced the launch of KKMA Family Club for supporting and providing social assistance to the family of members back home.

KKMA utilized the occasion to felicitate Hamza Payyanur (working president) on

receiving Garshom Yuva Pravasi Award for his contribution and support to well-being of the Indian community in Kuwait. The organization also bid farewell to SM Basheer (vice president) as he was relocating to UAE for employment purposes.

Vice Chairman NA Muneer welcomed the packed audience. KKMA leaders Abdul Fatah Thayyil (vice chairman),

Mohammadali Matara (CFO), Sayed Rafeek (controller), Ibrahim Kunnil (president), K Basheer (general secretary), AP Abdul Salam, K.C. Rafeeqe and BM Iqbal (working presidents) gave brief account on each projects. SM Basheer ably compered the event and H Alikutty proposed vote of thanks.





Shiekha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah

## IBTIKAR HOSTS 'GRAISH DAY' AT FARAH CENTER FOR GERIATRIC CARE

In collaboration with Farah Specialized Center for Geriatric Care and Rehabilitation, Ibtikar Al-Kuwait

Initiative recently organized a Graish Day Ceremony at Farah's headquarters in Suliabikhat.

The ceremony was attended by Shiekha Fadia Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Ibtikar's Director Dr Fatima Al-

Hashim, Ibtikar's Executive Manager at Farah center Hessa Al-Ali and Farah Center's Director Amal Al-Tabtebae. They

all distributed special gifts to senior citizens living in the center.

## LOYAC SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH BABSON COLLEGE

LOYAC announced yesterday their agreement of cooperation to implement the social entrepreneurship project which falls under the youth initiatives program, reinforcing the sense of social responsibility in youth, as well as finding and devising solutions for important social issues. The program runs for six weeks, from 17th July 2016 until 27th August 2016, for youth aged 12 to 16 years. It will encourage them to take initiative and be creative in finding solutions for social challenges by turning them into investment opportunities. This will serve to benefit both the young entrepreneur and the society.

LOYAC's aim in this program is to spread the concept that everyone is a winner, since businesses today must focus on benefiting the society as a whole instead of only aiming to make quick profit. Such initiatives teach youth social responsibility at an early age and that profit should be based on social justice and benefit for all.

"Babson College is one of, if not the most important colleges in the field of entrepreneurial initiatives," LOYAC said in a statement. "Since we wanted to develop our programs in this field, which we started in 2013, and aimed to adopt an internationally recognized academic methodology, we found that Babson is the best college to cooperate with."

The agreement stated that from Babson will evaluate the needs of the Kuwaiti youth and develop LOYAC's program, providing a full curriculum in cooperation with LOYAC's management that targets this particular age group, according to the statement. Afterwards, Babson's academics will train the instructors and consultants at LOYAC and monitor their performance, following up on and participating in the evaluation of the students' projects. "Signing this agreement with such a renowned and established academic institution is certainly a great honor to us, marking the beginning of our cooperation," LOYAC said.



CIK newly elected Board with Tammy Ames



CIK celebrated a birthday during the event

## CANADIANS IN KUWAIT HOLD AGM

Canadians in Kuwait (CIK) had its Annual General Meeting - 2016 on Friday, 20th May 2016 at Safir Hotel - Fintas. CIK is a social, membership-based organization supported by Canadian volunteers. CIK shares Canadian culture with Kuwaitis' and Canadian and Non-Canadian expats living in Kuwait, utilizing the talents and efforts of members. CIK and its members actively participate in various activities like - Social, Community based, National events of Canada and Kuwait by organizing or participating in various events.

Large number of members attended the Annual General Meeting - 2016. Tammy Ames from Embassy of Canada presided over the meeting with a welcome note. Ishtiaq Malik - CIK President presented the Annual report. New Board is elected for the term of next two years. Ishtiaq Malik elected President congratulated the newly elected Board Members: Christophe Holdrinet, Mohammad Al Shemmari, Moly Hinh, Zeinab Taha, Jola Kowiec and Reza Mehrabi. CIK appreciated outgoing CIK Secretary Keith Edwards.



Tammy Ames from the Embassy of Canada



Ishtiaq Malik - CIK President



The AGM in progress

amc

- 04:20 The Aviator
05:55 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium
07:35 Big Screen
07:50 The Garbage Pail Kids Movie
09:25 Puckoon
10:50 The Raven
12:15 Captain Jack
13:55 Impromptu
15:40 Geronimo: An American Legend
17:35 Race For The Yankee
Zephyr
19:25 The Aviator
21:00 Breaking Bad
22:00 A Dangerous Woman
23:45 Requiem For A Dream
01:25 Hair

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Trehouse Masters
05:49 Village Vets
06:13 Village Vets
06:36 Call Of The Wildman
07:00 Call Of The Wildman
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 Village Vets
08:45 Village Vets
09:10 Trehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:25 Village Vets
13:20 Village Vets
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Trehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Africa's Trees Of Life
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Animal Cops South Africa
21:05 Trehouse Masters
22:00 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 I'm Alive
01:40 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
02:35 Tanked

BBC FIRST

- 03:40 Orphan Black
04:35 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:00 Death In Paradise
08:55 37 Days
09:50 Doctor Who
10:40 Doctors
11:10 Eastenders
11:40 Death In Paradise
12:35 37 Days
13:30 Doctor Who
14:20 Doctors
14:50 Eastenders
15:25 Death In Paradise
16:20 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Holly City
21:00 Stella
21:55 Unforgotten
22:45 Orphan Black
23:35 Doctors
00:10 Eastenders
00:45 Holly City
01:40 Stella

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 03:00 South Park

- 22:30 South Park
23:00 South Park
00:00 Owen Benjamin: High Five
01:15 South Park
02:05 Owen Benjamin: High Five
03:00 South Park

crime & investigation network

- 03:00 The Haunting Of...
04:00 The Haunting Of...
05:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
06:00 The FBI Files
07:00 Beyond Scared Straight
08:00 The FBI Files
09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
12:00 Private Crimes
13:00 Private Crimes
13:00 Homicide Hunter
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Beyond Scared Straight
16:00 The FBI Files
17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
19:00 Homicide Hunter
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
21:00 Ms. Homicide
22:00 Married, Single, Dead
23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
00:00 Crime Stories
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
02:00 Ms. Homicide

Discovery CHANNEL HD

- 03:15 Superhuman Science
03:40 Game Of Pawns
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Property Wars
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 South Beach Classics
06:00 Yukon Men
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Game Of Pawns
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Property Wars
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 South Beach Classics
10:35 You Have Been Warned
11:25 The Pop Illusionist
12:15 Superhuman Science
12:40 Superhuman Science
13:05 Game Of Pawns
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Property Wars
14:20 Yukon Men
15:10 Wheeler Dealers
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 South Beach Classics
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Salvage Hunters
18:30 For The Love Of Cars
19:20 The Weapon Hunter
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Property Wars
21:00 Free Ride
21:50 For The Love Of Cars
22:40 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:10 Free Ride
02:00 For The Love Of Cars
02:50 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville

Discovery Family

- 03:00 Destroyed In Seconds
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Kids vs Film

- 04:36 Blood Relatives
05:24 Nowhere To Hide
06:12 I Was Murdered
06:37 I Was Murdered
07:00 Blood Relatives
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 Nowhere To Hide
09:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
10:20 I Was Murdered
10:45 I Was Murdered
11:10 California Investigator
11:35 California Investigator
12:00 Blood Relatives
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
15:20 I Was Murdered
15:45 I Was Murdered
16:10 Southern Fried Homicide
17:00 Blood Relatives
17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
18:40 Nowhere To Hide
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 I Was Murdered
20:45 I Was Murdered
21:10 Murder Comes To Town
22:00 Web Of Lies
22:50 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
23:40 Your Worst Nightmare
00:30 Evil Kin
01:20 Web Of Lies
02:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen

Discovery SCIENCE

- 03:05 How It's Made
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Invent It Rich
05:03 How The Universe Works
05:50 Kings Of Construction
06:37 How Do They Do It?
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 How It's Made
08:30 How It's Made
08:53 Kings Of Construction
09:38 Through The Wormhole
10:23 Invent It Rich
11:08 How The Universe Works
11:53 Kings Of Construction
12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole
14:10 How It's Made
14:33 How It's Made
14:57 Food Factory USA
15:20 Food Factory USA
15:44 How The Universe Works
16:31 Kings Of Construction
17:18 How It's Made
17:41 How It's Made
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 Secret Space Escapes
19:40 How The Universe Works
20:25 Through The Wormhole
21:15 How It's Made
21:37 How It's Made
22:00 Secret Space Escapes
22:45 How The Universe Works
23:35 Mythbusters
00:20 Through The Wormhole
01:08 Secret Space Escapes
01:55 How The Universe Works
02:42 How It's Made

Disney Channel

- 03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mook
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Hank Zipzer
08:05 Shake It Up

- 08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 H2O: Just Add Water
10:10 H2O: Just Add Water
10:35 I Didn't Do It
11:00 I Didn't Do It
11:25 Jessie
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Alex And Co
17:50 Jessie
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Girl Meets World
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Liv And Maddie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 The Next Step
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

- 03:25 Tattoo Disasters
03:50 Hungry Investors
04:40 Workaholics
05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:55 Tosh.0
06:20 Tosh.0
06:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
07:40 Workaholics
08:05 Workaholics
08:30 Key And Peele
08:55 Key And Peele
09:20 Tosh.0
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Nathan For You
10:35 Nathan For You
11:00 Lip Sync Battle
11:50 Lip Sync Battle
11:50 Workaholics
12:15 Workaholics
12:40 Key And Peele
13:05 Key And Peele
13:30 Tosh.0
13:55 Tosh.0
14:20 Nathan For You
14:45 Nathan For You
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Lip Sync Battle
16:00 Workaholics
16:30 Workaholics
16:55 Key And Peele
17:25 Key And Peele
17:50 Tosh.0
18:15 Tosh.0
18:40 Nathan For You
19:05 Nathan For You
19:30 Hungry Investors
20:15 Lip Sync Battle
20:38 Lip Sync Battle
21:30 Owen Benjamin: High Five
01:25 Till It Hurts

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Discovery ID
09:00 Discovery ID
15:00 Discovery ID
21:00 Discovery ID
Discovery ID Xtra
03:00 Murder Comes To Town
03:48 Evil Kin



IDENTITY THIEF ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta

Disney JUNIOR

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo

EHD

- 03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up
04:10 Christina Milian Turned Up
05:05 Christina Milian Turned Up
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
07:20 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
08:20 El News
09:15 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 El News
14:05 Bolched
15:00 Fashion Bloggers
15:30 Bolched: Post Op
16:00 WAGS
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 El News
20:00 Dash Dolls
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
22:00 Bolched
23:00 El News
00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
01:50 Bolched
02:20 El News

- 03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
09:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Anna Olson: Fresh
11:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
12:00 Chopped
13:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:30 The Pioneer Woman
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Anna Olson: Fresh
18:30 Anna Olson: Fresh
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 Private Chef
21:30 Private Chef
22:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
22:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
23:00 Iron Chef America

XD

- 06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Super Matrak
08:15 Super Matrak
08:40 Lab Rats
09:10 Kirby Buckets
09:35 Pokemon Series Xy: Kalos Quest
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors
10:50 Marvel Avengers Assemble
11:20 Guardians Of The Galaxy
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats

- 00:20 Pawn Stars
00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
01:10 Down East Dickering
02:00 Ice Road Truckers
02:50 Ax Men

itv CHOICE

- 03:25 Midsomer Murders
05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
06:10 Coach Trip
06:35 Catchphrase
07:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
07:30 Midsomer Murders
09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!
11:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild
11:35 Catchphrase
12:05 Coach Trip
12:30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Coach Trip
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
15:35 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
16:55 Royal Stories
17:25 Raised By Wolves
17:55 Raised By Wolves
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coach Trip
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
20:55 Royal Stories
21:25 Raised By Wolves
21:55 Raised By Wolves
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
00:10 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

NAT GEO people HD

- 03:05 Glamour Puds
03:30 Glamour Puds
03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries
04:45 Maximum Foodie
05:10 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
05:35 Rustic Adventures Italy
06:00 Rustic Adventures Italy
06:25 Carnival Eats
06:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
07:40 Billionaire's Paradise
08:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight
08:55 Glamour Puds
09:20 Glamour Puds
09:45 Cruise Ship Diaries
10:35 Maximum Foodie
11:00 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
11:25 Rustic Adventures Italy
11:50 Rustic Adventures Italy
12:15 Carnival Eats
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
13:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
14:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
14:30 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries
16:20 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
17:15 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
17:40 Rustic Adventures Italy
18:10 Rustic Adventures Italy
18:35 Carnival Eats
19:05 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela
20:00 Cruise Ship Diaries
20:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
21:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
21:40 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia
22:05 Rustic Adventures Italy
22:30 Rustic Adventures Italy
22:55 Carnival Eats
23:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces
00:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
00:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 04:00 The Package
06:00 Safe House
08:00 12 Rounds
10:00 Abandoned Mine
12:00 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
14:00 Safe House
16:00 12 Rounds
18:00 Biker Boyz
20:00 I, Robot
22:00 The Mark: Redemption
00:00 Hammer Of The Gods
02:00 Abandoned Mine

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 04:00 Three Men And A Baby
06:00 Father Of The Bride
08:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
10:00 Three Men And A Baby
12:00 The Bounty Hunter
14:00 Bad Parents
16:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
18:00 At Middleton
20:00 Identity Thief
22:00 Superbad
00:00 Good Luck Chuck
02:00 At Middleton

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

- 03:15 Mighty Joe Young
05:15 Race To Witch Mountain
07:15 Pocahontas
09:00 Bedtime Stories
11:00 Postman Pat: The Movie
13:00 Three Wishes
15:00 Eragon
17:00 The Boxtrolls
19:00 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets
21:00 Homeland Bound: The Incredible Journey
23:00 The Boxtrolls
01:00 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

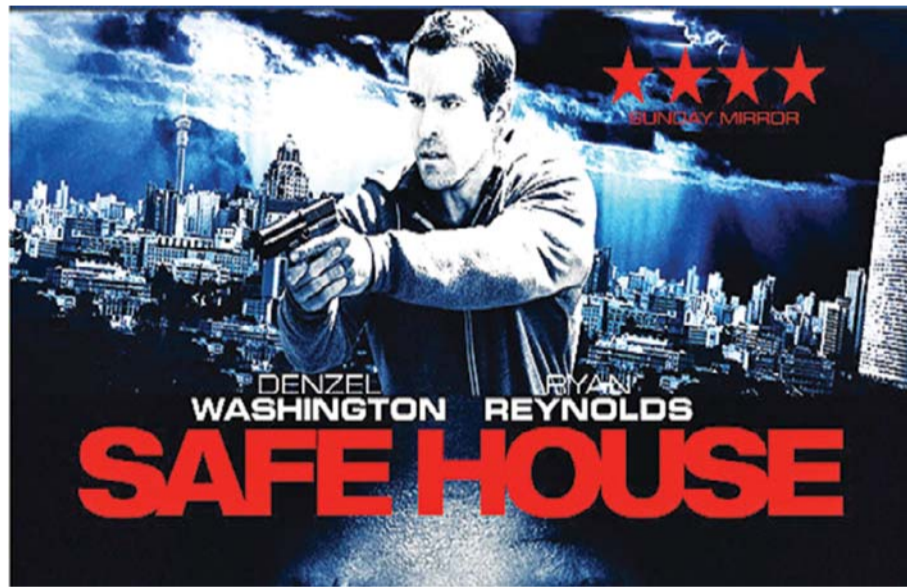
- 04:00 Powder
06:00 Les Miserables
09:00 Legends Of The Fall
11:30 Happiness
13:30 Les Miserables
16:30 Mood Indigo
19:00 Gattaca
21:00 Blue Sky
23:00 Starred Up
01:00 Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded

OSN MOVIES HD

- 03:30 The Love Punch
05:15 Trigger Point
07:00 Accidental Love
09:00 Pixels
11:00 Fast & Furious 7
13:30 Batman: Assault On Arkham
15:00 Streeldance: All Stars
17:00 Seventh Son
18:45 Tomorrowland
21:00 Kidnapping Mr. Heineken
23:00 The November Man
01:00 Whiplash

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 04:15 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
06:00 Zafra
08:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
10:00 Yellowbird
11:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
13:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
14:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
16:00 Worms
18:00 Yellowbird
20:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
22:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
23:30 Worms
01:00 Columbus In The Last Journey



SAFE HOUSE ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 03:25 Tattoo Disasters
03:50 Hungry Investors
04:40 Workaholics
05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
05:55 Tosh.0
06:20 Tosh.0
06:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
07:40 Workaholics
08:05 Workaholics
08:30 Key And Peele
08:55 Key And Peele
09:20 Tosh.0
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Nathan For You
10:35 Nathan For You
11:00 Lip Sync Battle
11:50 Lip Sync Battle
11:50 Workaholics
12:15 Workaholics
12:40 Key And Peele
13:05 Key And Peele
13:30 Tosh.0
13:55 Tosh.0
14:20 Nathan For You
14:45 Nathan For You
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Lip Sync Battle
16:00 Workaholics
16:30 Workaholics
16:55 Key And Peele
17:25 Key And Peele
17:50 Tosh.0
18:15 Tosh.0
18:40 Nathan For You
19:05 Nathan For You
19:30 Hungry Investors
20:15 Lip Sync Battle
20:38 Lip Sync Battle
21:30 Owen Benjamin: High Five
01:25 Till It Hurts



THE LOVE PUNCH ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS



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



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (26/05/2016 TO 01/06/2016)

Time	Program	Channel
11:30 AM	MONEY MONSTER	SHARQIA-1
1:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	SHARQIA-1
3:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER	SHARQIA-1
5:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	SHARQIA-1
8:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	SHARQIA-1
10:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	SHARQIA-1
12:15 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	SHARQIA-1
11:45 AM	WARCRAFT	SHARQIA-2
2:15 PM	WARCRAFT	SHARQIA-2
4:45 PM	WARCRAFT	SHARQIA-2
7:15 PM	WARCRAFT	SHARQIA-2
9:45 PM	WARCRAFT	SHARQIA-2
12:30 AM	WARCRAFT	SHARQIA-2
12:00 PM	Hepta	SHARQIA-3
2:30 PM	Hepta	SHARQIA-3
5:00 PM	Hepta	SHARQIA-3
7:30 PM	Hepta	SHARQIA-3
10:00 PM	Hepta	SHARQIA-3
12:45 AM	Hepta	SHARQIA-3
11:45 AM	Hepta	MUHALAB-1
2:15 PM	Hepta	MUHALAB-1
4:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	MUHALAB-1
6:45 PM	Hepta	MUHALAB-1
9:15 PM	Hepta	MUHALAB-1
11:45 PM	Hepta	MUHALAB-1
12:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	MUHALAB-2
3:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	MUHALAB-2
5:00 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	MUHALAB-2
5:15 PM	SARBJIT (Hindi)	MUHALAB-2
8:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	MUHALAB-2
10:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	MUHALAB-2
12:15 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	MUHALAB-2
11:30 AM	WARCRAFT	MUHALAB-3
2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	MUHALAB-3
4:30 PM	WARCRAFT	MUHALAB-3
7:00 PM	WARCRAFT	MUHALAB-3
9:30 PM	WARCRAFT	MUHALAB-3
12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	MUHALAB-3
1:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	FANAR-1
1:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	FANAR-1
3:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	FANAR-1
5:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	FANAR-1
7:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER	FANAR-1
9:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	FANAR-2
11:30 AM	Hepta	FANAR-2
2:00 PM	Hepta	FANAR-2
4:30 PM	Hepta	FANAR-2
7:00 PM	Hepta	FANAR-2
9:30 PM	Hepta	FANAR-2
12:05 AM	Hepta	FANAR-2
11:30 AM	THE NICE GUYS	FANAR-3
1:45 PM	CABIN FEVER	FANAR-3
4:00 PM	THE NICE GUYS	FANAR-3
6:15 PM	CABIN FEVER	FANAR-3
8:15 PM	THE NICE GUYS	FANAR-3
10:30 PM	THE NICE GUYS	FANAR-3
12:45 AM	CABIN FEVER	FANAR-3
12:00 PM	WARCRAFT 3D	FANAR-4
2:30 PM	WARCRAFT	FANAR-4
5:00 PM	WARCRAFT 3D	FANAR-4
7:30 PM	WARCRAFT	FANAR-4
10:00 PM	WARCRAFT	FANAR-4
12:30 AM	WARCRAFT	FANAR-4
1:15 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	FANAR-5
2:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	FANAR-5
4:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	FANAR-5
6:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	FANAR-5
8:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	FANAR-5
11:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	FANAR-5
11:30 AM	MONEY MONSTER	MARINA-1
1:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	MARINA-1
3:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	MARINA-1
5:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	MARINA-1
8:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	MARINA-1
10:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	MARINA-1
12:30 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	MARINA-1
11:30 AM	WARCRAFT	MARINA-2
2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	MARINA-2
4:30 PM	WARCRAFT	MARINA-2
7:00 PM	WARCRAFT	MARINA-2
9:30 PM	WARCRAFT	MARINA-2
12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	MARINA-2
12:45 PM	Hepta	MARINA-3
3:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	MARINA-3
9:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	360°-1
12:15 AM	Hepta	360°-1
11:30 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	360°-2
1:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	360°-2
4:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	360°-2
6:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	360°-2
8:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	360°-2
10:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	360°-2
12:45 AM	Hepta	360°-2
12:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	360°-3
2:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3D	360°-3
5:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE (Arabic)	360°-3
7:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	360°-3
9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	360°-3
11:45 PM	Hepta	360°-3
11:30 AM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.1
2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.1
4:30 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.1
7:00 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.1
9:30 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.1
12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.1
11:30 AM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.2
2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.2
4:30 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.2
7:00 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.2
9:30 PM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.2
12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	AL-KOUT.2
1:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	AL-KOUT.2

### WANTED

**A Female Receptionist for a Catering Company**  
 Presentable, Fluent in English, Arabic will be an added advantage  
 Well versed with Word & Excel and related computer knowledge  
 Email your detailed CV with qualifications previous experience & photograph

CV TO BE SENT BY EMAIL:  
[diningdoctor@gmail.com](mailto:diningdoctor@gmail.com)

### REQUIRED

**INDIAN COOK**  
 Muslim or Christian for Kuwaiti family.  
 Good salary, experience required.

Tel: 97554010

### CHANGE OF NAME

This is to certify that Ms. Vivian Aquino Villancio and Ms. Vivian Villancio Mowrey a Filipino national, of legal age, and holder of Philippine Passport No. EC7537682 issued on 27 Apr 2016 at the Phil Embassy Kuwait refers to one and the same person.  
 Phil address: Purok 14

### REQUIRED

**MERCHANDISER**  
 For foodstuff company in supermarkets with good salary + commission, should have good experience + car + transferable visa.

Tel: 98002301

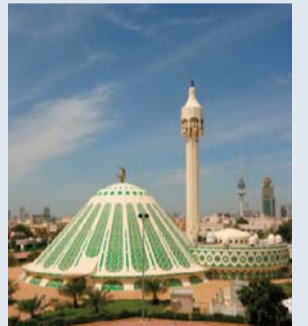
Poblacion Magsaysay DVO  
 Del Sur. (C 5173)

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation available for couple, bachelors, or working ladies in Salmiya, Amman street, C-AC flat new building with all facilities. Contact: 98760182. (C 5174)  
 30-5-2016

### PRAYER TIMINGS

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>03:15</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>04:49</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:46</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>15:20</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>18:43</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>20:13</b>



## Flight Schedule

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 1/6/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 1/6/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAD	302	Amman	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	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:25	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	FEF	954	Asyut	06:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	BAW	156	London	08:25
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:40	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	791	Madinah	08:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	117	New York	09:00
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:05
FEF	953	Asyut	12:55	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:35	IRM	1189	Mashhad	10:55
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	11:15
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	KAC	787	Jeddah	11:30
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05	KAC	103	London	12:10
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
				KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
				JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
				FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
				FEF	932	Alexandria	13:55
				MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
				ETD	9819	BRU	14:10
				IRC	6512	ABD	14:25
				CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

### CROSSWORD 1271

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15			16									17	
18			19			20						21	
22				23	24				25	26			
	27		28			29	30	31					
32	33						34				35	36	37
38			39				40				41		
42		43			44			45					
46			47		48						49		
50							51	52			53		
54				55	56	57		58	59				
			60				61	62	63				
64	65	66				67				68	69	70	71
72				73	74				75				
76				77					78	79			
80				81							82		

#### ACROSS

- A light touch or stroke.
- An almond-shaped neural structure in the anterior part of the temporal lobe of the cerebrum.
- A belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by some group or school.
- A benevolent aspect of Devi.
- Sorrowful through loss or deprivation.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- In the Arabian Nights a hero who tells of the fantastic adventures he had in his voyages.
- 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
- The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.
- A United Nations agency created to assist developing nations by loans guaranteed by member governments.
- Mild cream-colored Dutch cheese shaped in balls.
- Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
- Horned vipers.
- Any heathlike evergreen shrub of the genus Epacris grown for their showy and crowded spikes of small bell-shaped or tubular flowers.
- Furnished with people.
- A toxic nonmetallic element related to sulfur and tellurium.
- The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
- Ice crystals forming a white deposit (especially on objects outside).
- A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
- A bowling pin of the type used in ninepins (or in England) skittles).
- A pilgrimage to Mecca.
- United States baseball player (born 1925).
- (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.
- A boy or man.
- A strong emotion.
- A submerged ridge of rock or coral near the surface of the water.
- A knockout declared by the referee who judges one boxer unable to continue.
- An ornamental plant suitable for planting in a flowerbed.
- A person who is not a serf or a slave.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Avatar of Vishnu.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Having a specified kind of border or edge.
- The 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A region of central Europe rich in deposits of coal and iron ore.
- A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
- Headdress that protects the head from bad weather.
- A woman poet.
- A condition requiring relief.

#### DOWN

- Fine powdery material such as dry earth or pollen that can be blown about in the air.
- Type genus of the Amiidae.
- Giant shipworms.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Aristocratic Italian family of powerful merchants and bankers who ruled Florence in the 15th century.
- A period of time containing 365 (or 366) days.
- A toothed wheel that engages another toothed mechanism in order to change the speed or direction of transmitted motion.
- (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
- 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
- (Irish) The sea personified.
- (of tempo) Leisurely n.
- An Eskimo hut.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- Wild and domestic cattle.
- Large harmless hawk found worldwide that feeds on fish and builds a bulky nest often occupied by years.
- Lacking sufficient water or rainfall.
- Of or relating to the spine or spinal cord.
- A tricycle (usually propelled by pedaling).
- Growth of hair or wool or fur covering the body of an animal.
- Any oily organic compound insoluble in water but soluble in organic solvents.
- Someone who leaves one country to settle in another.
- One who denies.
- A federation of North American labor unions that merged with the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1955.
- Not in action or at work.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- A port in western Israel on the Mediterranean.
- Moderate or restrain.
- A young woman making her debut into society.
- German chemist remembered for his discovery of the ring structure of benzene (1829-1896).
- Beaten eggs or an egg mixture cooked until just set.
- A native of ancient Troy.
- Lower in esteem.
- Any of the openings to the nasal cavities that allow air to flow through the cavities to the pharynx.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Anything that serves as an enticement.
- A fit of shivering.
- Being nothing more than specified.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- Of southern Europe.
- A federation of North American industrial unions that merged with the American Federation of Labor in 1955.
- A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.

### Yesterday's Solution

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

### STAR TRACK



#### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Needing to feel secure in your business is very important to you. There is nothing better than to know you are useful and needed in the profession that you have chosen. If you have been looking for a good job or a job advance, this just might be your lucky day. Your power is expressive and emotive and you are concerned with awareness and a sense of pride and ownership. Being in the spotlight is common now and it would be good to take a humble attitude and see where your work or talents can best help others. There is always a sense of confidence from which your strong expressive ideas originate. You can feel free to exert your charm this evening as you will find many opportunities to be around animals and children, and perhaps enjoy sports with friends.



#### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You spend a great deal of time helping others. You will be in a position to communicate to your co-workers and people apart from work as well. You will flourish by pursuing your own standards and your deepest dreams of what you want in your life. Don't be afraid to plan and make those dreams real. Ideas of group cooperation could further your career. You excel at professions that allow you to be in contact with many different people and to travel to new and exciting locations. If your job does not do this, think about how you can make changes that would point you in that direction. Your sensitivity may be a bit off at this time so be aware of the probability that you could be easily misled. Romance is possible tonight.



#### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a shrewd eye for a bargain and if you are a buyer for a department store or find yourself in a position to purchase a product, you will be the one that finds the best buys. Sometimes you can get crazy with your purchasing and you may want to be wise in limiting the quantity of purchases. Moneymaking for a business should be easy at this time. The cash flow should be markedly improved in the future. Good news in your personal finances comes from your loved one as well as from yourself. You may have a slow start when it comes to hard work these days, but you will outlast anyone when it comes to seeing things through to the end. Today you will likely meet many pleasant people and attend an enjoyable social function.



#### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are at your best concerning practical matters and work-related affairs. Events may create opportunities to place you in a power-oriented position. If you have a point to make, people will be listening. A promotion or recognition for accomplishments could be imminent. You could find that co-workers appreciate your ability to respond to your work in positive, upbeat ways and to accomplish much. This is possibly a time in your career that may require some careful thought and good judgment on your part; an upgrade or new position is in the making. The current flow of events indicates your best talents and abilities are respected. Never sell yourself short; your professional goals are within reach. Old projects will come to a positive end.



#### Leo (July 23-August 22)

If you give your best efforts at work now, great strides can be taken. This is a positive result sort of day and good for working in groups. You may be sought after as just the person to be added to a team or to head your own team. Your intuition is sharp and you may have insights about the future stability of your company. Welcome the trials of a new financial venture. You have the mental insight to chase down an unusual opportunity. While out with your friends this afternoon-be slow to criticize. There is one who may grind on your nerves. Romance is available in the workplace- however, it would be a good idea to practice diplomacy. This evening is a great time to enjoy a new book, neighbor or friend.



#### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Career decisions are uncomplicated at this time. You make your way though ideas, concepts and you can communicate and express them to others. Group projects in the workplace and community concerns in the neighborhood could play a key role that influences your professional and perhaps political progress. Altruism and humanitarian efforts can affect your work and life-path. This is a time of good fortune when possibilities open up in a very natural way. Situations are almost tailor-made and it is easy to see which path is the one to take. You may find yourself able to do most anything. Taking chances can bring big rewards. You are unusually affectionate this evening and you will likely have your affections reciprocated.



#### Libra (September 23-October 22)

Work moves along smoothly and you have a talent for finding and working through problems. March and April had you busy trying to balance finances, emotions and responsibilities. This month has made the way easier for better progress toward your future goals; there are fewer restrictions-you may enjoy getting home at a decent hour for a change. You can use the time between daylight and dark to your advantage by working a little in the yard or with some potted plants. You might enjoy experimenting with some herbs this summer. The healing properties in the herbs and the good smells will give you many days of enjoyment. Working with nature always gives a unique satisfaction. Read about alfalfa for help with allergies.



#### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

New discoveries will provide that wonderful feeling of enthusiasm at this time. These could be scientific discoveries or new combinations of products. This will be very stimulating, but do not count on the day working out as you had planned. If you are not flexible, this could be a very nerve-wracking time. Your concentration may be shot this afternoon; steady. Show your appreciation to a colleague by picking up a little something like flowers or perhaps those sports tickets that you know would be appreciated. Some form of art or a little exercise will help you to relax after the workday is over. Consider taking the family or a friend out to a nice dinner. Don't take your important home relationships for granted. Continue to learn and grow.



#### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

A co-worker or customer may cause you to stop your own work in order to help another. You may be asking too many questions. By asking many questions, the person in question may go another direction. Perhaps you will understand whatever answers you need by just sitting back and listening. Education, late nights, changing residence and many stressful tests make you stop and appreciate just how much you have accomplished in the last few years. A creative ability that you alone possess comes in handy as you solve a problem at work. Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to succeed. You have a friend that has had a lucky break today and you may find yourself invited to the celebration. Take a listening ear.



#### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You work hard and have a very strict schedule. Today is one of those days when you may find yourself huffing and puffing, either between classes, appointments or some business transactions. Others have a difficult time keeping up with you. You may be thinking about an upcoming professional goal most of this day-preparing. This afternoon you may decide to bring your work home. Work at planning a time budget that will leave you with more opportunities to relax and enjoy each day. What you achieve and what you gain in monetary possessions is nothing compared to what you gain with regular attention to relationships or your physical well-being. Enjoy the feeling of laughter with a friend or loved one this evening.



#### Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you. This is a perfect time to be assertive and to move forward in your career decisions. You have all the determination and desire to achieve that which will get you where you want to go. It should be easy to channel your mind and focus. You will find the path is clear. This is a time when you can expect a little boost with some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others and friendships are strong. The support you need is available. You may find yourself helping friends this afternoon. You will enjoy the company of a loved one today. You and your loved one will enjoy a walk after the evening meal.



#### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This may not be the best time for career or vocational decisions and practical advice to others. It is a good time for clearing away whatever is left unfinished. At last, you see a reward in the making. Your commitment in the workplace now will show the most positive of results. You realize that making a commitment and sticking with it is worthwhile. You could have trouble holding onto money, through bad investments, unpaid debts, which may surface now, or through a loan or giving to charities that solicit your aid. You must be cautious and try to discriminate between those who truly need help financially and those engaged in rip-offs. Take a walk with your loved one after the evening meal-enjoy the wonderful, fragrant smells of the season.

### Wordsearch Puzzle

#### Beatles Songs 1 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- ANOTHER GIRL
- BIRTHDAY
- DAY TRIPPER
- DIG A PONY
- ELEANOR RIGBY
- FLYING
- GET BACK
- HEY JUDE

- HONEY PIE
- I WILL
- IN MY LIFE
- JULIA
- LADY MADONNA
- LOVELY RITA
- NO REPLY
- OH DARLING

- SUN KING
- TAXMAN
- TELL ME WHY
- TICKET TO RIDE
- TWO OF US
- WAIT
- YESTERDAY

### Yesterday's Solution

#### Large Print Word Search Puzzles

##### 60's Songs 2 - Solution

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

- BLUE MOON
- BUS STOP
- CHAIN GANG
- CRAZY
- DIZZY
- EL PASO
- FINGERTIPS
- GALVESTON

- HAIR
- HEY JUDE
- LAST KISS
- MY GIRL
- PEOPLE
- RESPECT
- SHERRY
- SPOOKY

- SURF CITY
- THE BOXER
- THESE EYES
- VOLARE
- WILD THING
- WIPEOUT
- WORDS

### Daily SuDoku

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

### Yesterday's Solution

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



### Bran Castle



**B**ran situated near Bran and in the immediate vicinity of Brasov, is a national monument and landmark in Romania. The fortress is situated on the border between Transylvania and Wallachia, commonly known as "Dracula's Castle", it is the home of the titular character in Bram Stoker's Dracula. There is, however, no evidence that Stoker knew anything about this castle. As discovered by the Dutch author Hans Corneel de Roos, the location Bram Stoker actually had in mind for Castle Dracula while writing his novel was an empty mountain top, Mount Izvorul Calimanului, 2,033 meters high, located in the Transylvanian Calimani Alps near the former border with Moldavia.

The castle is now a museum open to tourists, displaying art and furniture collected by Queen Marie. Tourists can see the interior individually or by a guided tour. At the bottom of the hill is a small open-air museum park exhibiting traditional Romanian peasant structures (cottages, barns, etc.) from across the country.

#### History

In 1212, Teutonic Knights built the wooden castle of Dietrichstein as a fortified position in the Burzenland at the entrance to a mountain pass through which traders had travelled for more than a millennium, but in 1242 it was destroyed by the Mongols. The first documented mentioning of Bran Castle is the act issued by Louis I of Hungary on 19 November 1377, giving the Saxons of Kronstadt (Brasov) the privilege to build the stone castle on

their own expense and labor force; the settlement of Bran began to develop nearby. In 1438-1442, the castle was used in defense against the Ottoman Empire. It is believed the castle was briefly held by Mircea the Elder of Wallachia during whose period the customs point was established. Bran Castle belonged to the Hungarian Kings but due to the failure of King Vladislas II to repay loans, the city of Brasov regained possession of the fortress in 1533. Bran played a militarily strategic role up to the mid-18th century.

In 1920, the castle became a royal residence within the Kingdom of Romania. It became the favorite home and retreat of Queen Marie. The castle was inherited by her daughter Princess Ileana who ran a hospital there in World War II: it was later seized by the communist regime with the expulsion of the royal family.

In 2005, the Romanian government passed a special law allowing restitution claims on properties illegally expropriated, such as Bran, and thus a year later the castle was given to the Dominic von Habsburg, the son and heir of Princess Ileana.

On 18 May 2009, the Bran Castle administration was transferred from the government to the administration of Archduke Dominic and his sisters Maria-Magdalena Holzhausen and Elisabeth Sandhofer. In 2009, the Habsburgs opened the refurbished castle to the public as the first private museum of the country and disclosed with Bran Village a joint strategic concept to maintain their domination in the Romanian tourist circuit and to safeguard the economic base in the region.

### WORD SEARCH

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

- |               |              |        |
|---------------|--------------|--------|
| ALADDIN       | MARLIN       | SHANG  |
| BAMBI         | MICKEYMOUSE  | SIMBA  |
| BEAST         | MRINCREDIBLE | STITCH |
| BUZZLIGHTYEAR | PETERPAN     | SULLEY |
| DONALDDUCK    | PONGO        | TARZAN |
| HERCULES      | PRINCEPHILIP | TRAMP  |
| JIMHAWKINS    | QUASIMODO    | WOODY  |
| JOHNSMITH     | ROBINHOOD    |        |

### Apple Race cars



Make your food fun edible toys!

#### You'll Need:

- 4 Jazz apples
- 16 green grapes, cut in half
- You will also need: 16 toothpicks

#### Directions:

- Gather all ingredients. Cut two full cheeks from each apple.
- Slice out the centre third so you have a wedge.
- Slip 2 toothpicks into each apple wedge to become the car axles.
- Place grape halves on each side of the toothpick for wheels. Vroom vroom!

### Oil Spill! Clean It Up!

#### What You Need:

- Large plastic cup
- Sand
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- "Tools" (spoons, paper towel, sponges, etc.)

#### Instructions:

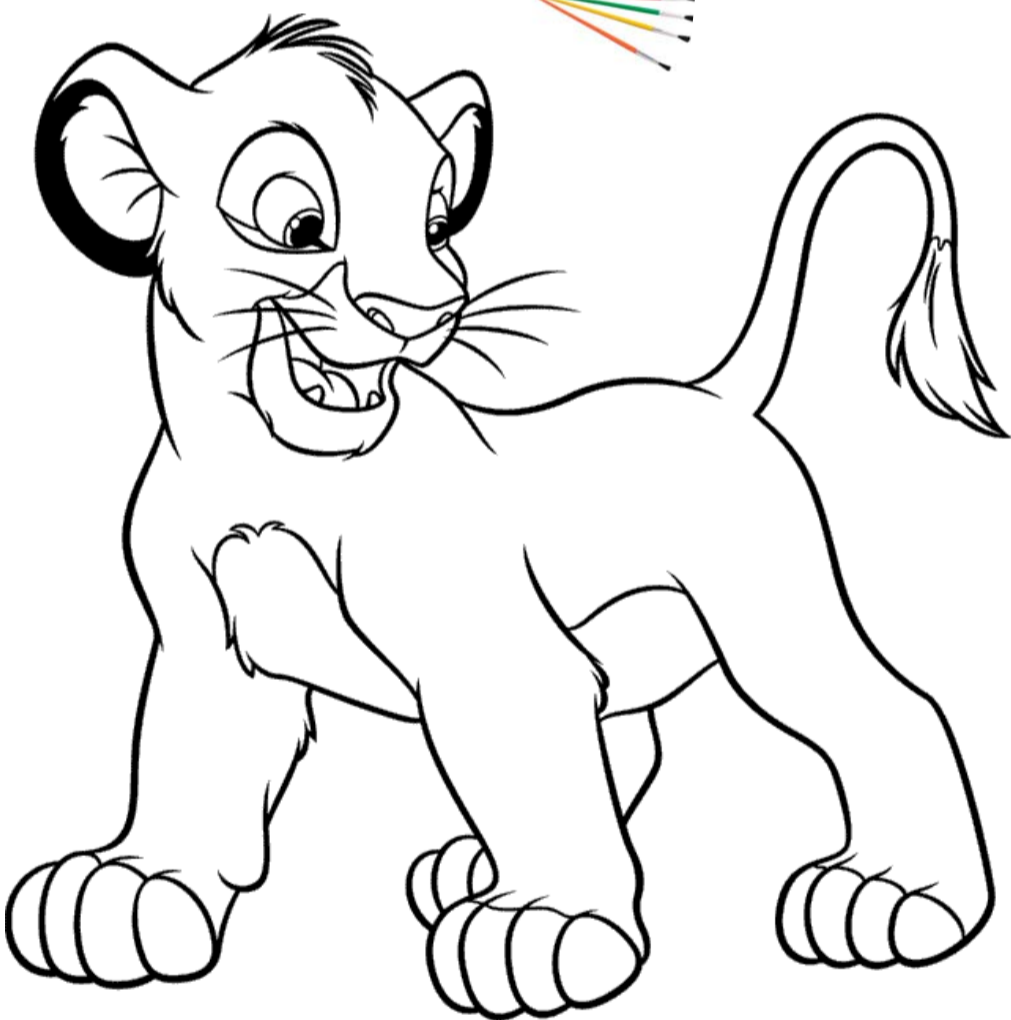
When oil tankers accidentally spill their cargo of oil into the ocean, they cause a huge environmental danger. Oil is extremely hard to remove from the water and the beaches, and the environment is damaged. In this experiment, you can see how hard it is

to remove oil from sand.

(This experiment can be messy, so you might want to do it outdoors.)

1. Fill a plastic cup with sand and oil and mix it well.
  2. Pick some "tools" to work with. You could use a spoon, a straw, paper towel, an old toothbrush, a sponge-anything! You could also try to use soap and water to get the oil off the sand.
  3. Use your tools to try and clean the oil off of the sand.
- Use any idea that comes to your head and help save the environment!

### Color me!



### DID YOU KNOW?

- A toaster uses almost half as much energy as a full-sized oven.
- A baby spider is called a spiderling.
- You cannot snore and dream at the same time.
- The following can be read forward and backwards: Do geese see God?
- A baby octopus is about the size of a flea when it is born.
- A sheep, a duck and a rooster were the first passengers in a hot air balloon.
- In Uganda, 50% of the population is under 15 years of age.
- Hitler's mother considered abortion but the doctor persuaded her to keep the baby.
- Arab women can initiate a divorce if their husbands don't pour coffee for them.
- Recycling one glass jar saves enough energy to watch TV for 3 hours.
- Smearing a small amount of dog feces on an insect bite will relieve the itching and swelling.
- Catfish are the only animals that naturally have an odd number of whiskers.
- Facebook, Skype and Twitter are all banned in China.
- 95% of people text things they could never say in person.

### MAZE



### SUDOKU

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

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

### Make a Mobile



#### What You Need:

- Popsicle sticks
- Fishing line
- Seashells

#### Instructions:

1. Collect 6-10 lightweight objects that are about the same weight as one another. We used seashells.
2. Tie fishing line to each object, and leave about 6 inches of string left over.
3. Start at the bottom level of your mobile, and tie one of your objects to each end of a popsicle stick.
4. Tie a piece of fishing line to the middle of the

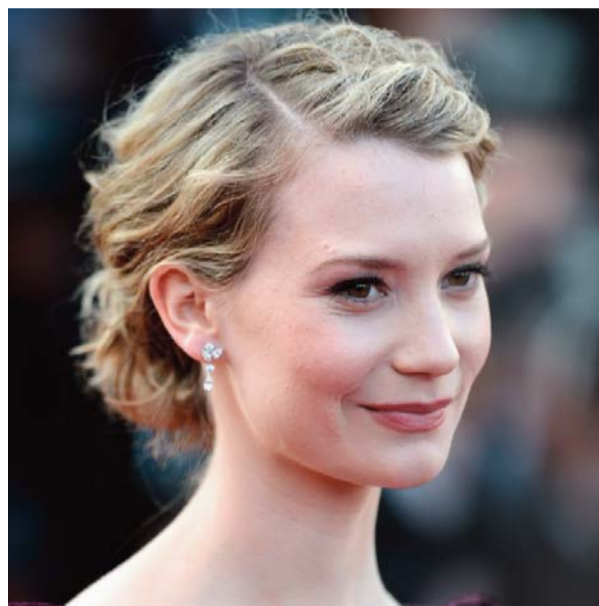
popsicle stick that has the objects tied to it. Find the center of balance by holding the string up and letting the popsicle stick hang. Move the string around the center of the popsicle stick until the string is balanced. Connect the loose string to the middle of another popsicle stick. Add objects to the ends of this second stick and repeat step 4. Keep working your way up the mobile until you think it's finished. Now, all you need to do is hang it up and watch it turn in the breeze.



## Ronnie Wood's wife gives birth to twin girls

Ronnie Wood's wife has given birth to twin girls. The Rolling Stones rocker and his wife Sally Humphreys, 38, welcomed the two bundles of joy into the world on Monday evening in London. If the babies hadn't arrived by later in the week, the couple were already making plans to induce the birth, The Sun newspaper reports. Meanwhile, Ronnie - who also has Jesse, 39, with his late ex-wife Krissy Findlay and Leah, 37, Tyrone, 32, with his former spouse Jo Wood and her son Jamie, 41, who he adopted - previously revealed he is keen for his Rolling Stones bandmate Sir Mick Jagger to "sing lullabies" to his daughters. He told BANG Showbiz: "Mick told me he's a good nanny after one year so he can come and sing lullabies to them ... "It's going to be great fun in June, I'm expecting two baby girls, Sally and I are really excited and I can't wait

to be rocking them to sleep and changing their nappies and going through it all again." The 68-year-old musician's four other kids are as excited about the babies, with Tyrone adding: "I can't wait to meet my little sisters, I'm ecstatic about it. I've already got them Jellycat rabbits, they're little soft lovely rabbits for babies." And Ronnie claims it was Rod Stewart - who is a father of eight - who inspired him to have more children at his age. He said: "Yes, the person who incited this riot is Rod. As soon as I met Sally, he was on at me to propose. Then, as soon as we got married, he started telling us we had to have babies. He and Penny [Lancaster; Rod's wife] have been complete mother hens since we first told them."



## Mia Wasikowska feels grounded in Australia

Mia Wasikowska says living in Australia helps her stay grounded. The 'Alice Through the Looking Glass' star shares an apartment with her brother in Sydney and is glad it is so far away from Hollywood as it makes it easier to separate her career and her personal life. When asked if she deliberately avoids the spotlight, she said: "Yeah, definitely. And I think it sort of helps to live in Sydney and feel like there's a certain amount of distance between the film world and my home and base, so that definitely helps. "I guess, having my home - I share an apartment with my brother - and having really great, lovely friends [keeps me grounded]. And just knowing that at the end of a press tour like this I can go home and be completely normal and feel really comfortable and happy in that world. It helps me feel grounded." And the 26-year-old

actress also opened up about her own role models and spoke of the importance of strong powerful female characters in Hollywood. She said: "I think it's very important [to have strong female characters]. Obviously we've come a long way, but there's quite a far way to go in terms of portraying women in a sophisticated and complex way. But I think the more common it is, the better." When asked about her role models, she added to ElleUK.com: "My Nanna, my Mum and my sister. In films, I think Julianne Moore is wonderful. I've worked with her a few times and I just think she's got a really great balance of having a home life and then also being really good at what she does and enjoying her job."

## Bella Hadid is the new face of Dior beauty

The 19-year-old model - who signed to IMG Models in 2014 - has been announced as the ambassador for the luxury designer brand's make-up line on Monday. The fashion house will celebrate the partnership with a string of beauty videos with Bella and the creative and image director of Dior cosmetics Peter Philip called Dior Make-up Live with Bella Hadid, which will launch on June 6. Speaking to Vogue magazine about the upcoming clips, Peter said: "[Bella is] sharing her favourite items as she takes part in a fun and quirky make-up experience." And the brunette beauty - who won the Daily Front Row's Model of the Year Award this year - is set to star in her first catwalk for Dior today as she graces the runway to showcase their Cruise 2017 collection, which will take place at Blenheim Palace in Oxford. Meanwhile, Bella - who is currently dating singer songwriter The Weeknd, real name Ab? 1 Makkonen Tesfaye - has revealed her busy schedule has been "non-stop" over the past few weeks. Speaking previously, she said: "I've been travelling a lot more. I've been really working non-stop. I was in Paris for a job when the [Elle magazine] issue came out; I was in New York; I was home [in Los Angeles] for like a second ... [And] I was just in Cannes." Although there are no signs Bella's modeling career will be slowing down any time soon, she has admitted she would like to venture into acting, but only if her involvement in the fashion industry was to come to an end. Speaking previously about a change in career path, she said: "I want to give 100 per cent to modeling for as long as it takes, and then when I feel that it's time to move on, I'd very much like to try acting. And I think I would like to be an actress/or at least I'd like to see if I'm any good."



## Cameron Diaz: I wouldn't 'judge' anyone for having botox

Cameron Diaz wouldn't "judge" someone who opts for botox. The 'What Happens In Vegas' star understands that people choose to undergo the treatment to "feel better about themselves". She said: "I have absolutely no judgment on what makes people feel good about themselves. [Those procedures] are there to help people feel a little bit better about themselves. "If they do feel better about themselves, then those procedures have worked. I have no problem with that. And [in] a lot of instances, it does make you look like you've taken a nap ... or that you might be a little younger than you looked maybe the day before." However, the 43-year-old actress also had some words of warning for those wanting to undergo the procedure, insisting it won't turn back time. Speaking on the Oprah Winfrey Network show, she added: "The places that the Botox doesn't reach are still ageing. So, it's very, very important to know what happens to your cells [and], if you really want to age well, how you can manage that ageing on a cellular level through the five pillars of well-being." Meanwhile, Cameron previously insisted she won't "accept" age shaming. She shared: "If I'm relying on everybody buying me as a 25-year-old, then I'm screwed. I'm not going to keep trying to keep up with an image of my 25-year-old self. If I try to keep that up then I'm just making it painful for myself. "It's up to me as an actress, as a human, as a woman, to say that's not acceptable for me anymore, and you can't demand that of me. I will go and do the things that speak to me, the things that are relevant to me now. Women, we can go and do that."



## Salma Hayek: Marriage is my biggest accomplishment

The 'Everly' star tied the knot with businessman Frannois-Henri Pinault in 2009 and is thrilled her marriage is "full of love". She said: "A good marriage, full of love, is my biggest accomplishment. Home is where my husband is. He is home. Everything outside of the family nucleus is an adventure that you're living together [as a couple]." And the 49-year-old actress - who has eight-year-old daughter Valentina with Frannois-Henri - criticized parents for keeping their children entertained with screens. She told the July issue of Red magazine: "You have to drag children into participating in life. It takes a lot of work and mummies are very tired because most of us work and life is exhausting, especially if you are an older mum like me, but you have to make the effort. "Now it's so easy to just entertain them [with a screen], and you don't have to go through the complaining for an hour about dragging them places. Drag them, and make them a part of your life. It's about the human connection, and the things they can learn from participating in life. Otherwise, isolation starts to happen." Meanwhile, Salma previously spoke of the importance of encouraging girls to feel "unique." She said: "I think the most important thing to tell for the new generations is to have the courage to be unique, to be curious about who they are, instead of trying to blend in. "The most important thing to say to the girls is to not try to be like the other girls. Not to try to fit in, but to try to really be profound thinkers that are excited about their differences and explore what they are and who they are and what can come out of the new."

## Jeff Daniels recalls relapse at 50



Jeff Daniels has opened up about suffering a three-month relapse when he turned 50. The 'Dumb and Dumber' star has recalled the moment he picked up a drink for the first time during his relapse but stopped after three months. He said: "I had just turned 50, which is a speed bump, and at 80 miles per hour. And I hadn't drank for 14 years, cold. Just cold turkey. Just quit ... "I was two months into 50 and I was checking into a hotel room in some city. I'm throwing the suitcase on the bed and I hear a voice behind me. And it's me, clear as day say, 'Don't you think you've punished yourself enough?' And I stopped. I said, 'Yeah, yeah I have.' Mini bar, here we go. Three months later I was done." And the 61-year-old actor says he didn't hesitate but to get help from a professional. He added: "One was trying to do it on my own and the second time was, you can't do this on your own. You need help, you need some people who know a hell of a lot more about this than you do, Mr Smart Guy. It's in my family, which I came to learn." Now, Jeff feels much more connected to his family - his wife of 37 years, Kathleen Treado, and their children, Ben, Lucas and Nellie. Speaking on WNYC radio show's Death, Sex & Money, he added: "I just wasn't asleep on the floor at 7:30 at night and the kids are running round and she needs help. It didn't need to be part of my life."

## Sophie Ellis-Bextor's style is inspired by the 1960s



The 37-year-old singer, who has recreated trends from the last five decades to celebrate Appletiser as the official soft drink of Ascot, has admitted she discovered her love of fashion as a teenager but counts the iconic sixties era as her "favorite" period because it is "playful" and enables her to experiment with bold prints. Speaking about the year which has largely influenced her personal style, she said: "I was a teenager in the 1990s and this is when I first became aware of fashion. [But] the 1960s is my favorite decade. I have lots of vintage 60s clothes. It's a playful era, full of bold and daring prints. There's a real sense of adventure - put it on and off you go! "An iconic look to me is one that looks stylish and very of the moment; effortless and not too premeditated." The 'Murder on the Dancefloor' hitmaker's latest

campaign sees her travel through time to emulate similar ensembles worn at the annual horse racing event over 50 years, which see's her adorn garments designed by Olwen Bourke. Speaking about the venture, she said: "I've loved looking back at the Ascot fashions of the last five decades with Appletiser. I didn't realize the style of each decade was so distinctive, but once the hair and make-up was added, I felt like I was transported back in time." However, the mother of four - who has sons Sonny, 12, Kit, seven, Ray, four and six-month-old Jesse with husband Richard Jones - is not afraid to embrace more daring and eccentric items rather than playing it safe with her wardrobe choices. She explained: "When it comes to clothes, I always think it's better to have tried and failed, then to play it safe."

# Tony Tripoli: I hoped Kim would bring Rivers out of her coma

Tony Tripoli tried to wake Joan Rivers from her coma by showing her pictures of Kim Kardashian West. The head writer on 'Fashion Police' - who was also a close friend of Joan's - even shared a joke with her daughter Melissa about how the 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star's outfit choices used to always rile her up. He said: "Kim had been photographed wearing an especially distasteful garment the night before. I said to Joan, 'You have to see this dress.'" Melissa and I joked that if anything could wake Joan from a coma it was Kim Kardashian wearing yet another dress that was too small for her." Sadly, Joan

passed away in September 2014 just days after she went in for a routine endoscopy at a clinic in New York but Tony was pleased to see such an outpouring of love for Joan in her last days. He added to The Daily Beast: "Joan called Rihanna every week, and Katy Perry, who she trashed - all these people tweeted their thoughts for Joan. Katy Perry wrote that what was the point of dressing up in 'dumb outfits' if Joan wasn't there to trash it. '[I told her,] 'Can you believe all these girls we've been so rough on this whole time 'got it'? That part of being famous was being made fun of by Joan Rivers.' That was the very last conversation I

had with Joan, reading these tweets that really revealed that these celebrities had been in on the joke all the time, and it was fine." Meanwhile, Melissa previously admitted she is still not "in the healing phase" following the death of her mother. She said: "I'm not quite in the healing phase. I think it's coming. I think I can see the light at the end of the tunnel but I am not quite there yet."



## Peter Andre's son want him to have a baby girl

The 'Mysterious Girl' hitmaker - who is expecting his second child with his wife Emily MacDonagh - has revealed his son Junior, 10, who he has with ex-wife Katie Price, has set some "terms and conditions" in place as the couple prepare to have their second child. He said: "They've always put pressure on me! They were always asking when I was going to marry her. So I'm like, 'Now you've got the wedding, you're asking me for something else. Junior says we have to make sure it's a girl because he wants to be the only boy in the house. So now I've got terms and conditions as well.'" And Junior will have to wait to find out if his "terms and conditions" have been met, as Emily has revealed the pair don't plan on finding out the gender until the baby is born. She shared: "Last time we found out the sex but kept it really quiet, as my mum didn't want to know. This time we've decided we're not going to find out. Pete has found out with all of his kids so it's nice to do something different." Meanwhile, the 43-year-old singer - who also has two-year-old Amelia with Emily and Princess, eight, with Katie - is disappointed he didn't start having children when he was younger as he will miss the chance to go travelling with them. He added to OK! magazine: "I know I'm not a young dad in the sense I'm in my twenties, but I'm a young dad and I love being with them, because you almost become a kid again. "[If I'd become a dad sooner], they'd all be grown up now and we could travel and backpack together. Being a parent is great and I just wish I started sooner. But I'm obviously so grateful - particularly when the little ones still want pancakes on a Saturday!"



## Lorraine Kelly wants the Bikini Promise to empower women

Lorraine Kelly wanted to "empower" women with the Bikini Promise + One. The 56-year-old Scottish presenter is set to bring back the fitness campaign to her ITV Breakfast show for the second year running, and has admitted the reboot was created to help females feel positive about their body shape and encourage them to "enjoy" exercising. Speaking to The Sun newspaper about the re-launch, the brunette beauty said: "I can't believe it's been a year since I wore a bikini on national TV. "I'm aiming to empower women to feel good about their bodies and find a fitness regime they enjoy." The Bikini Promise + One will see Lorraine join forces with Doctor Hilary Jones, nutritionist Sally Bee and fitness professional Maxine Jones over a six week period to advise her audience on a healthier way of living, including meal plans and fitness routines for the upcoming summer months. Speaking about the plan, she said: "This year we're encouraging people to partner - up, too, so there is always someone to fall back on if you're struggling." However, the mother of one - who has daugh-

ter Rosie, 22, with her husband Steve Smith - has revealed she was never enthusiastic about dieting or exercising until her friend Joyce Woodrow encouraged her to work out, and Lorraine has confessed she has never felt healthier. She explained: "It took me until I was in my fifties to get healthy. I am still the same size I was last year and that's because the Bikini Promise is a healthy eating plan for life. "My best friend Joyce Woodrow was the one who inspired me to get fit. I went on holiday to Spain to visit her and she dragged me kicking and screaming to a Zumba class. After she got me away from the tapas and prised my hands off my glass of Rioja, I absolutely loved it. "When I came back I found there was a class opposite my flat in London - that was Maxine's class. Now I go twice a week. There are women of all shapes and sizes." The Bikini Promise + One will launch on ITV's 'Lorraine' next Monday.

## Bieber serious about Peltz

Justin Bieber wants to get serious with Nicola Peltz. The 22-year-old singer met the 'Transformers: Age of Extinction' actress at Los Angeles hotspot The Nice Guy and invited her on a miniature golfing date and friends say Justin is smitten. A source told Entertainment Tonight: "Justin wants something serious with a girl again. He doesn't want to fool around anymore. It was a real date with her." Justin and Nicola, 21, were also spotted enjoying a dinner date at Maestro's Steakhouse in Beverly Hills. Along with 'Transformers', the blonde beauty has also appeared in the A&E mystery drama 'Bates Motel', in which she played the love interest for the young Norman Bates. Justin was previously linked to model Hailey Baldwin, 19, but she admitted dating a celebrity was difficult. She said: "I don't want attention out of dating somebody. Texts started coming through, crazy phone calls ... it's

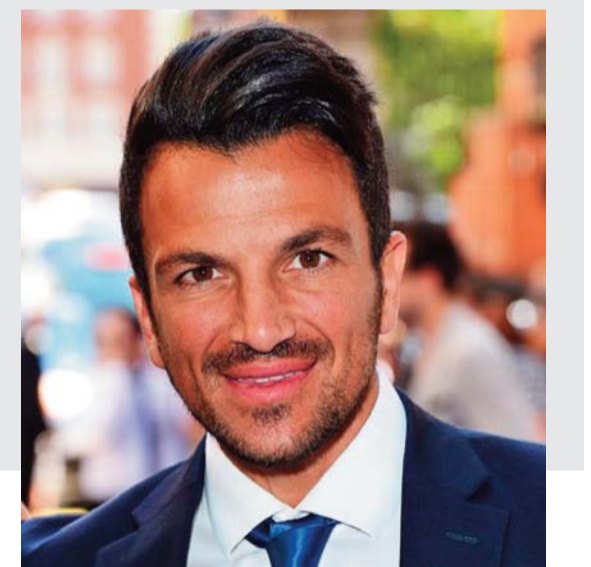
hard to date somebody in this industry. "You have to have really thick skin and be very strong. You have to focus on the person and nothing else. And you have to, as best you can, block out all the extra noise." Meanwhile recently revealed his biggest dream is to have a family. The young superstar wants to be "settled down" with a wife and children by the time he turns 30 in eight years' time. Asked what his dreams are, he said "To have a family of my own. I'd love to be settled down by the age of 30." Justin has also revealed what he is looking for in a relationship, saying: "I need healthy relationships with people I can feel safe with. People I can say whatever to, and I'm not going to be judged. In a girl, I want someone who's confident in herself and honest. I have to find her very attractive and as someone I can see myself with for the rest of my life."



## Topher Grace and Ashley Hinshaw are married

Topher Grace and Ashley Hinshaw have got married. The couple - who got engaged in January 2015 after a year of dating - tied the knot in a romantic ceremony at a luxurious estate in Montecito, California, on Sunday (29.05.16). While details of the wedding have been kept under wraps, a source confirmed to Us Weekly magazine that the couple had exchanged vows "in front of close family and friends." It was previously revealed the 'True Blood' actress was stunned when Topher, 37, popped the question. A source previously said: "She was totally in shock and so happy." The 26-year-old beauty first showed off her stunning diamond engagement ring at the Art of Elysium's Heaven Gala days after the 'Interstellar' star popped the question and the happy couple couldn't keep the news to themselves. An onlooker said at the time the couple's friends were very excited by the news, with one pal shouting: "Topher's engaged!"

Another friend asked to see Ashley's ring and told her new fiance he "did good" with his selection. While the low-key couple are both regular users of the photo-sharing website, they don't have any pictures together on their accounts and are not often seen in public together. Topher shot to fame starring in 'That '70s Show' alongside Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis and recently admitted he thinks the fact the pair went on to marry and have daughter Wyatt, 19 months, together is the "greatest thing" to ever happen. He gushed: "It's the greatest thing that ever happened. It's like two of your great friends from high school got together after high school and had a baby. And they're such a lovely couple. "They're the greatest. I love those guys. It's great to know they're together. You want to all stay together when you're on a show like that. They get to stay together forever."



## Mariah Carey's modest wedding

Mariah Carey has hinted that her wedding will be an intimate affair. The 46-year-old singer is currently planning her nuptials to billionaire businessman James Packer but despite their massive combined wealth, Mariah isn't planning a lavish celebration. Speaking on 'Live! with Kelly', she said: "I can't really talk about it right now because everything is still being figured out but I never said it was gonna be a big wedding." Meanwhile, it was recently claimed that Mariah will air her wedding to James on her new E! reality TV series 'Mariah's World'. The 'Hero' hitmaker - who got engaged to the billionaire 48-year-old businessman in January - has been keeping details of their upcoming nuptials secret, but the producers of the show are keen for them to include their ceremony on the eight-part docuseries. A source said: "Her team wants it on the show. Her manager is a reality TV producer and got her the deal." Mariah - who has five-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe with her ex-husband Nick Cannon - is known for her diva personality and according to the insider her fiancé has no choice but to "go along with" the public-viewing of their special day. The source added: "He does what Mariah wants." While it was previously claimed James didn't want to be included in 'Mariah's World', the singer insists he wasn't bothered with being filmed whilst he visited Mariah in Denmark for her 'Sweet Sweet Fantasy' world tour. She said: "My fiancé James Packer came to visit me in Denmark. And he had no problem being on camera for the show with me...and we had a great time." -Bang Showbiz



## Liam and Chris Hemsworth didn't always get on

Although the actor siblings couldn't be closer these days, Liam, 26, has admitted that their relationship wasn't always as good as it is now because he and Chris, 32, are both extremely stubborn. He told American Airlines' American Way magazine: "Chris and I have similar personalities; we are both very stubborn. It wasn't until I started high school that we stopped arguing and fighting. But I always looked up to him. He was my best friend." And speaking about rivalry with Chris, who beat him to the role of Thor in the Marvel franchise, Liam explained: "I know there was a competitive nature between us, but it was always a supportive one. I think it was initially just to not be stuck on our parents' couch years down the track. We successfully got off of that due to the support of one another." However, Chris never had the same issues with his oldest brother Luke, 35, because of their age difference. He explained: "He was so much older than me I just

wouldn't mess with him." Meanwhile, Liam recently said his split from Miley Cyrus "needed to happen" and he couldn't be happier that they have now reconciled. He said: "Of course it was hard, man. But at the time we were going in different directions and it's just what needed to happen. We were both super young and it was a good decision at the time - we both needed that." And speaking about their relationship now, he added: "People will figure it out, they already have... They're not dumb. "I guess when I feel something, then I just feel it and I go for it. I make my decisions about what's going to make me happy, what I think is right and what I want to do - and I don't worry too much outside of that."

# The happily ever after trap

By Hassan Al-Mousawi

Here you are, in the perfect relationship. He seems like a knight in shining armor, here to rescue you, to complete you. Your happily ever after is just around the corner, where every call makes you fall deeper and deeper in love. Is he that perfect? He seems to know just what to say. He comes to meet your family and, they love him! You set the date, the day you've been waiting for all your life is getting closer. All your friends are so excited for you. Calling you 'their beautiful bride' for weeks. Each and every one of them ready to serve you and help you prepare for your biggest moment.

You are so elated nothing can ever go wrong... correction Correction, you won't allow anything to go wrong. He seems to get even more and more perfect everyday. He looks like a king and finally he has his queen. Yes, you are the queen!

For weeks to come everyone chants and congratulates the both of you wherever you go, complimenting you endlessly. "You two are perfect for each other" and "MashaAllah a true prince and princess" "You better take care of our girl" where he wraps his arm around you and says "Don't worry she is in good hands". . . . . didn't you just die! How sweet!!!

The day finally comes where you two sit on a stage and everyone you know and love is there to celebrate you, taking pictures, dancing for you. It , doesn't get any more royal than that, does it? The honeymoon arrives, it's the perfect vacation. The time for you to compliment what you couldn't before. "I love the way you sleep", "You snore but it's so cute." That's right you are still high from the wedding. He seems to have a few inconvenient habits that on a normal day will frustrate you. But you will never let anything get in the way of your happily ever after.

Upon your return you still have a few weeks of people complimenting the newlyweds. What then? The honeymoon period is over. No one seems to care about the royal couple any more. Could it be? Are you old news now? That's when your true married life begins. All of a sudden without the magic, things get different change. Frustration begins to build up,



and more and more it seems like hard work. Things are no longer as effortless as they seemed before. Let's look at this scenario which many couples go through. They equate the beginning to the time after the fairytale.

Before you two lived together you only talked for a few hours a day. This means that there was much longing for each other and you would have the rest of the day to build the energy for one another. After that marriage, there are no off times, naturally the energy is lower and your ability to ignore

the little things soon fades away. This simple comparison between how things were, and how they are now is what many of us trip over. The reality is, of course, life it will be different. Those first whole few months of celebration were are nowhere near reality and nothing should be compared to your honeymoon period. A cousin of mine once said to me, never listen to what anyone advises you, every relationship is different. Although I believe that, I will also add this; it is much harder than it looks, and just like anything in life, in order to

sustain it, a lot of effort is needed.

So what should we do? Here are a few points to avoid.

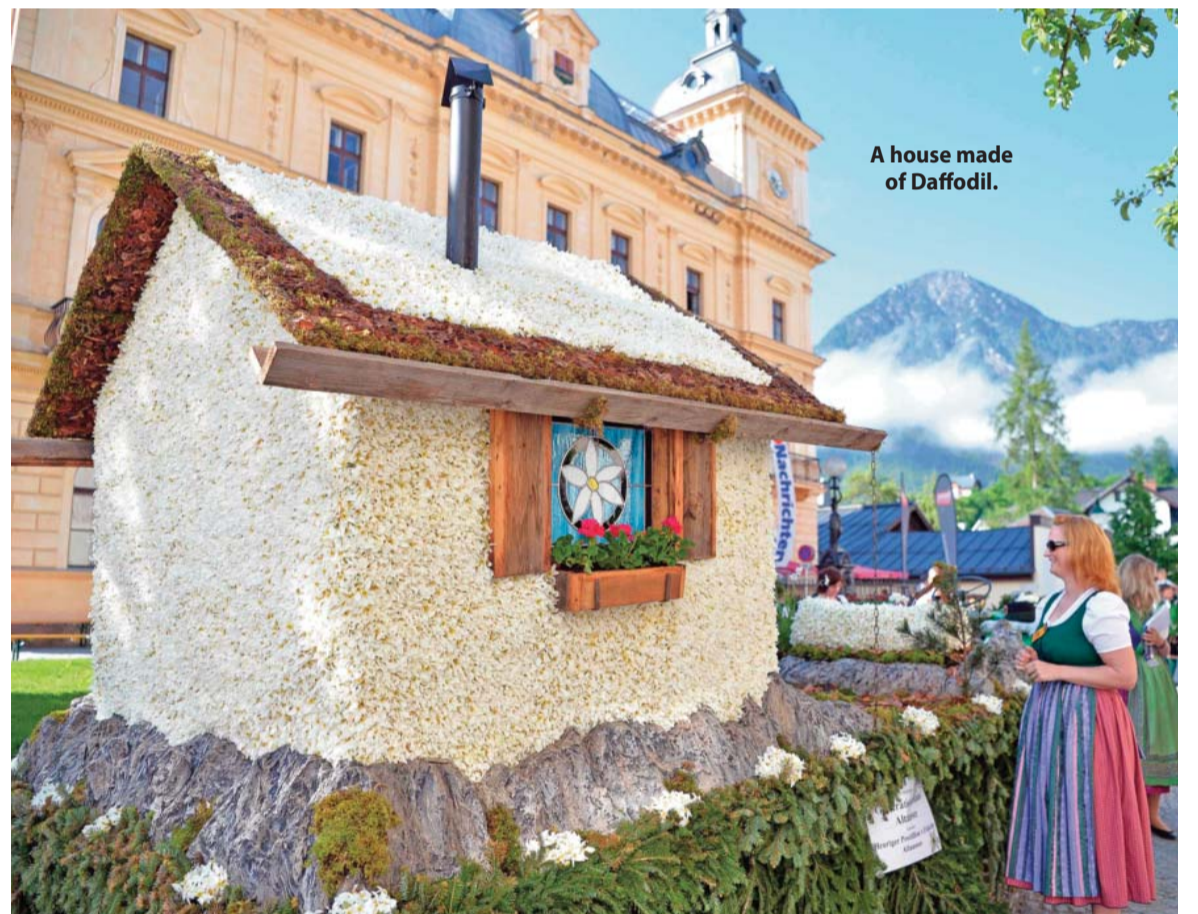
1. For starters never compare life before with life after. Two completely different states of minds and almost opposite dynamics.
2. Don't rely on love. Although it is important, it can easily be forgotten. Can you love anything when you are in a bad state? Imagine feeling so frustrated and then being asked to love a puppy, you would probably want to kick it.
3. Don't make it a one person show, you two are a team. Even if you have intentions not to be negative and tell him how you feel in fear of harming the marriage, it's important to go through everything together. Trying to fix things one sided will never have a positive outcome and you will end up compromising all your life
4. Never compare your relationship with that of others. Yes they may seem happy, but you have no clue what's going on behind the scenes. People show you what they choose for you to see.
5. Don't take any fight seriously. A fight is merely frustration as you both wish to have a better marriage. Look at fights as an indicator that there is an area of improvement. Get too sensitive about fighting and trust me you won't last long.

Ok fine, Hassan we understand that there are traps to avoid. What pro-active steps can we take to not only sustain a marriage, but make it an great one? In this article I just wanted to highlight the biggest illusion, which delivers the highest first shock in any marriage. The truth is there are many things that have saved my marriage again and again. I learned them the hard way, but I am fortunate enough to have been through that, where I may now confidently stand by what I recommend. In the coming weeks I will take you through many processes which have helped me. Till then I wish you the best in health and love.

## The 57<sup>th</sup> Daffodil Festival



A Figure made of daffodils is presented at the boat parade in Bad Aussee at Ausseeerland, Austria, as part of the 57th Daffodil Festival in Bad Aussee and Altausee. — AFP photos



A house made of Daffodil.



A cow figure made of Daffodil.



A clown figure made of Daffodil.



A rabbit with Austrian traditional cloth made of Daffodil.



## Grand Cinemas launches first 4D theatre in Kuwait

Grand Cinemas, under the management of Selim Ramia & Co, announced today the beginning of a new era in the movie-going experience with the introduction of the first 4D cinema in Kuwait. The world's foremost 4D cinema technology, MX4D(r) will debut exclusively at Grand Al-Hamra Luxury Center, marking yet another innovation 'first' for the region's fastest growing cinema chain.

### What is MX4D Cinema?

MX4D is MediaMation's uniquely branded "4D" motion and special effects system. 4D refers to a new level in total immersion technology, which brings the cinema alive by allowing movie-goers to experience big Hollywood titles on moving seats augmented with environment special effects.

These include air blasts and water spray, fog, scents, strobe lighting, leg and neck ticklers, back pokers, seat rumbler and other special effects that emanate from specially designed theatre seats, or from inside the theatre itself. The multiple EFX are programmed to both sync with and enhance the action on the screen and sounds in the theatre for a more exciting and realistic movie-going experience.

Grand Cinemas will launch the MX4D experience at Al-Hamra Luxury Center in July, in a state-of-the-art theater housing 90 specially-equipped motion EFX seats surrounded by the thrilling atmospheric effects systems that will allow film fans to touch, smell, feel and live every moment of their chosen movie attraction. The MX4D movie line-up will kick off with Independence Day,

Ghostbusters 3D and Ice Age 3D.

"Grand Cinemas has been consistent in its commitment to raising the cinema experience in Kuwait," said Jean Ramia, Grand Cinemas. "Movie-goers want the newest and the best, and we take pride in setting the pace for groundbreaking technologies. We are very pleased to announce the launch of Kuwait's first MX4D theater - the next trend in the world of entertainment." Introduced into Kuwait in 2012, the Grand Cinemas brand has for over 16 years been a pioneering force for cinema innovation throughout the Middle East, and continues to deliver on its promise to movie-goers across the region: Always Entertaining.

# Poland makes new bid to extradite **Polanski** to US

Poland launched a fresh bid yesterday to extradite Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski to the United States to face sentencing over a 1977 case of statutory rape. Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro announced he has appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn an October ruling that Polanski should not face extradition, saying no-one should be above the law. "He is accused of a terrible crime against a child, the rape of a child."

Ziobro, who is also prosecutor general, told Polish public radio. "Were he a teacher, a doctor, a plumber or a painter, I'm sure any country would have extradited him to the United States long ago."

The announcement appears to be part of what the right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government, which took office after October elections, touts as a moral revolution in strongly Catholic Poland. Polanski is still wanted by the United States for sentencing over the 1977 statutory rape of Samantha Gailey after a photo shoot in Los Angeles. He was arrested after Gailey, now Geimer, accused him of forcing her to have sex after drugging her. She was 13 at the time. Polanski was 43. He pleaded guilty to unlawful sex with a minor, or statutory rape, avoiding a trial, but then fled the country fearing a hefty sentence.

### 'No surprise'

Jerzy Stachowicz, a lawyer for the 82-year French-Polish director, told AFP that Ziobro's decision was not a surprise. "We were expecting this. Ziobro had previously announced he was going to do this," he said. He also confirmed that "Polanski is currently not in Poland", without disclosing his current whereabouts. Ziobro's move is an attempt to reverse an October ruling by a court in the southern city of Krakow which ruled that Polanski should not be sent to the United States, a decision prosecutors agreed was "justified".

"Had Poland accepted the US extradition request, it would have violated the rights of Mr Polanski and at the same time the European Convention on Human Rights," judge Dariusz Mazur said at the time. The Krakow court was fiercely critical of the original US investigation into the film-maker's case, saying the US judges and prosecutors had flouted "the rules of a fair trial". And one of his lawyers at the time said the decision "ends the legal proceedings" against Polanski. The Polish Supreme Court can either uphold the decision not to extradite Polanski or send the case back to a lower court.

### 'Avoid double standards'

Fearing arrest, Polanski declined to travel to Hollywood in 2003 to receive an Oscar for best director for his harrowing Holocaust-drama, "The Pianist"—one of his eight Academy Awards. He currently lives in France with his wife, actress Emmanuelle Seigner, but often visits Poland where his family has roots. Ziobro said he wanted to "avoid double standards" that would afford the director special treatment. "Everyone is equal before the law," he said, accusing "social elites and part of the liberal media" of supporting Polanski.

"Does this mean that an eminent artist is free to rape or commit other vile crimes, while a simple Kowalski (the Polish equivalent of Smith) must be severely punished?" Born in Paris in 1933 to Polish Jewish parents, Polanski's family was torn apart by the Holocaust after returning to live in Poland before World War II. He was eight when the Nazis arrested his parents in Krakow's Jewish ghetto sending them to concentration camps from which his mother never returned and forcing him into years of wandering with other children.

He survived and went on to win acclaim in Hollywood for his 1962 feature debut in Poland, "Knife in the Water", an erotic thriller about a couple inviting a switchblade-toting hitchhiker onto their yacht. He arrived in Hollywood in 1968 to shoot his



In this file photo filmmaker Roman Polanski, center, with his lawyers, arrives at the regional court in his childhood city of Krakow, Poland, Wednesday, February 25, 2015. — AP

first big international hit, "Rosemary's Baby". Tragedy shattered Polanski's life again the following year when his heavily-pregnant wife, the model and actress Sharon Tate, and four friends were brutally slaughtered in the director's mansion by cult leader Charles Manson and his followers. — AFP



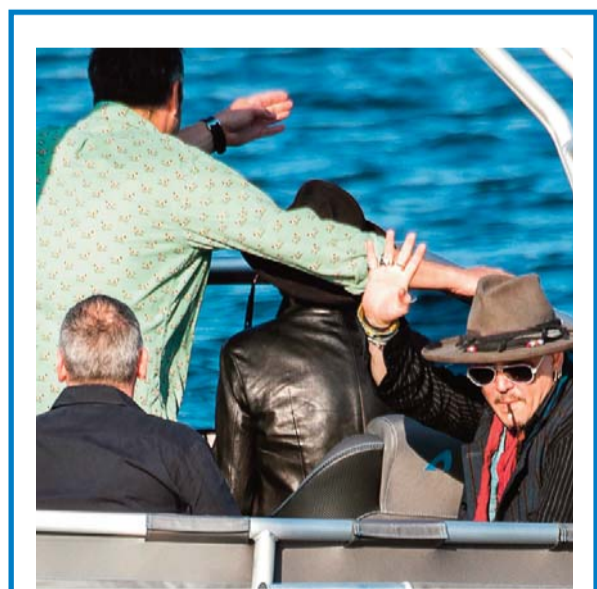
A file photo shows US director Jodie Foster posing during a photocall for the film 'Money Monster' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

## Foster focuses on directing after 50 years in spotlight

Hollywood star Jodie Foster is setting her sights on directing more movies as she marks half a century in the spotlight, although has no plans to completely quit acting. The 53-year-old, in Sydney to promote her latest directorial effort "Money Monster" starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts, made her debut behind the camera in her 20s with "Little Man Tate" but has only directed a handful of films since.

"It's crazy. I started (directing) when I was 27 and I've only made four movies," she told The Australian newspaper yesterday, adding that bringing up two children and difficulties in getting films "off the ground" had hindered her. Foster, a former child star, said it was "kind of an amazing thing" that she had been acting for 50 years, but added that her life was now more focused on directing. The two-time Academy Award winner has built on her directorial experience by helming episodes for critically-acclaimed Netflix series "Orange Is the New Black" and "House of Cards".

"I really am focusing on directing now. This is a new step in my life. Sometimes when you embrace something new, it means saying goodbye to things that are safe," she told The Sydney Morning Herald. "Really my mind has always worked as a director when I was acting. It's what's made my movies kind of different, it's what's made my work kind of different as an actor. It's a full expression of yourself. "That being said, I can't imagine I'll ever quit acting completely. So it's just about evolving as an artist," she added. — AFP



US actor Johnny Depp waves from a boat on his way to the concert with his band Hollywood Vampires at the Grona Lund amusement park in Stockholm. — AFP

## Indian superstar musician **AR Rahman** claims Fukuoka Prize

India's multi-Oscar-winning musician and composer AR Rahman has been named as grand prize winner of the prestigious Fukuoka Prize. The Fukuoka Prize was established in 1990 to honor the outstanding work of individuals and organizations to preserve and promote the unique and diverse cultures of Asia. Previous winners include Muhammad Yunus, from Bangladesh, who went on to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, Mo Yan, from China, subsequent winner of the Nobel Literature Prize and another Indian music giant Ravi Shankar.

Prolific and multi-talented, Rahman has music credits for major Indian films including "Raavan", "Yuvraaj", "Rockstar" and "Rang de Basanti," as well as Western and Hollywood titles including "Elizabeth: The Golden Age," "127 Hours" and

"Slumdog Millionaire." Fukuoka Prize organizers said: "By his world-famous music, Mr A R Rahman has opened up a new arena for film music, and has become a driving-force of this field to gain it a new recognition... (he has a) bold fusion of traditional South Asian, classical Western and popular contemporary American hip-hop and other music." Winners of this year's other prizes are Dr Ambeth R Ocampo (Philippines/History) for the academic prize and Yasmeen Lari (Pakistan/Architecture), winner of the Arts and Culture Prize. Laureates will receive their awards in Fukuoka, Japan in September. — Reuters



AR Rahman

## Depp's 'Alice' bombs, 'X-Men: Apocalypse' on top with \$65M

Johnny Depp's "Alice Through the Looking Glass" bombed over the Memorial Day weekend with just \$28.1 million through Sunday in North American theaters, while "X-Men: Apocalypse" debuted on top with an estimated \$65 million. The anticipated showdown of the two big-budget films turned out to be little contest for 20th Century Fox's latest "X-Men" installment. Both films were lambasted by critics, and neither drew the audience many expected over the holiday weekend. Disney's "Alice Through the Looking Glass" had more than bad reviews to deal with. On Friday, as the film was hitting theaters, Amber Heard, Depp's wife, was granted a restraining order after alleging the actor previously assaulted her. She appeared in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday with a bruise on her right cheek. Some fans called for a boycott of "Alice Through the Looking Glass."

### Disappointing result

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore, said it was difficult to quantify how much the fortunes of Disney's "Alice Through the Looking Glass" turned Friday afternoon when news of Heard's allegations spread. "I think the reviews had more to do with the film's performance than any personal drama for Depp," Dergarabedian said. Before Heard's court appearance on Friday, Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" sequel had been expected to open above \$60 million. Disney estimates that the film, which cost \$170 million to produce, will gross \$35.6 million over the four-day weekend.

It's a staggering fall for a sequel that returned Depp - one

of Hollywood's biggest stars, albeit with a recently checkered box-office history - as the Mad Hatter. "Alice in Wonderland," featuring then-novel 3-D, made more than \$1 billion worldwide in 2010 after opening with \$116 million domestically. "It's a disappointing result," said Dave Hollis, distribution chief for Disney. "We have embarked on a branded tent-pole strategy that makes big bets. But when you make big bets, there are times when you have results that are disappointing."

Hollis declined to speculate on the impact the allegations against Depp had on the film's opening. It's a rare blip for Disney, which is already crossing \$4 billion in ticket sales in 2016 - a record pace buoyed by hits like "Zootopia," "The Jungle Book" and "Captain America: Civil War." The flop of "Alice" made "X-Men: Apocalypse" look comparatively steady. But the seventh "X-Men" installment opened well below the \$90.8 million debut of 2014's "X-Men: Days of Future Past" or the \$132.4 million bow of February's "X-Men" spinoff "Deadpool."

### Video-game adaptation

Still, the film, made for \$178 million, has already made \$185.8 million internationally. Fox had looked to keep expectations in check for the film, directed by Bryan Singer. It stars "X-Men" regulars Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence and others, but it introduces a number of newcomers, including Oscar Isaac, Tye Sheridan and Olivia Munn. Chris Aronson, distribution head for Fox, called it not a reboot but "a readjustment" to pave the way for future installments featuring the new performers. "I'm very pleased," Aronson said. "It's right on

track with what our expectations were going in." Overall business over the weekend, according to comScore, was up about 5 percent from Memorial Day last year when Disney's "Tomorrowland" bombed with \$33 million. Boosting ticket sales were a handful of holdovers.

The family-friendly video-game adaptation "The Angry Birds Movie" grossed \$18.7 million in its second weekend, good enough for third place. "Captain America: Civil War" followed with \$15.1 million in its fourth weekend. (It has passed \$1.1 billion globally.) And the R-rated comedy "Neighbors: Sorority Rising" came in fifth with \$9.1 million in its second week. Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. "X-Men: Apocalypse," \$65 million
2. "Alice Through the Looking Glass," \$28.1 million
3. "The Angry Birds Movie," \$18.7 million
4. "Captain America: Civil War," \$15.1 million
5. "Neighbors: Sorority Rising," \$9.1 million
6. "The Jungle Book," \$7 million
7. "The Nice Guys," \$6.4 million
8. "Money Monster," \$4.3 million
9. "Love & Friendship," \$2.5 million
10. "Zootopia," \$831,000. — AP



In this image released by Disney, Johnny Depp, left, and Mia Wasikowska appear in a scene from 'Alice Through the Looking Glass.' — AP photos



In this image released by Twentieth Century Fox, Magneto, portrayed by Michael Fassbender, appears in a scene from 'X-Men: Apocalypse.'

## E-music pioneers **Kraftwerk** lose copyright case

Germany's highest court yesterday struck down a challenge by electronic music pioneers Kraftwerk against a hip-hop artist's two-second sample of their tune, in a dispute that erupted almost two decades ago. The constitutional court ruled that if the impact on the usage rights of the intellectual property owner is "negligible, then artistic freedom overrides the interest of the owner of the copyright." At the heart of the dispute is a short drum sequence looped repeatedly in the song "Nur mir" (Only Me) by Sabrina Setlur, also famous for her past relationship with German former tennis star Boris Becker.

The sequence originally came from Kraftwerk's 1977 release "Metall auf Metall" (Metal on Metal). Since the release of "Nur mir" in 1997, Kraftwerk's lead singer Ralf Huetter has been bat-

tingling over the rights of the sequence against the producer Moses Pelham. The electronic music veterans had already won German court backing for damages and an injunction over the song, but Pelham and Setlur appealed and brought the case to the country's highest court claiming it infringed artistic freedom.

At the court hearing in Karlsruhe in November, Huetter insisted that the commandment "thou shalt not steal" applied also to music. But Pelham argued that sampling is common practice in the hip hop genre. He said he works from a set of interesting music sequences and was not aware then that the sample in question stemmed from Kraftwerk's work. Germany's constitutional court acknowledged this common practice in hip

hop in overturning the previous court verdict that was in favour of Kraftwerk.

It noted that imposing royalties on composers could be crippling as copyright owners can demand any amount, or they can simply reject the request for usage. Composers should be allowed to create works without any financial risks or suffer any restrictions in the creative process, argued the court. Sampling is therefore permitted if it is part of a new composition that does not stand in direct competition to the sampled work, and does not hurt the music patent owners financially, the German court found.

Hip hop artists are particularly vulnerable to such copyright rows, as sampling is an integral part of their music although

they are usually required to seek permission to use elements of recordings. In May, Kanye West became the target of lawsuit filed by a Hungarian artist Gabor Presser, who said the rap superstar sampled his music without permission or royalties. Presser was seeking at least \$2.5 million in damages plus legal expenses over Kanye West's track "New Slaves". Another Hungarian, folk singer Monika Juhasz Miczura, has filed a separate lawsuit against Beyonce for allegedly sampling her music without seeking permission for "Drunk in Love," her hit with rapper husband Jay-Z. — AFP



In this photograph taken late May 30, 2016, an Afghan street vendor prepares watermelons for customers at his roadside stall in Jalalabad. — AFP

## The waiter's a thief: Dining at S African prison restaurant

Cape Town is known for the diversity of its restaurants, but the strangest has to be at Pollsmoor Maximum Security Prison, once home to South Africa's liberation icon Nelson Mandela. The Pollsmoor Restaurant-slogan: Ildanathi ("Eat with us") — is open to the public, the waiters are prisoners, and so are most of the kitchen staff. It is not a tourist attraction like Robben Island, where Mandela spent most of his 27 years in jail and which is now a museum.

It's just a restaurant in one of toughest prisons in the country where anyone can go for a meal-unless they would prefer the exclusive wine estate directly across the road. Pollsmoor, set among the upmarket suburbs of Constantia Valley, is notorious not only for Mandela's stay there from 1982 to 1988 but for the violent gangs that rule its unsanitary and overcrowded cells.

In contrast, the restaurant was spotlessly clean and almost deserted when AFP visited for lunch, apart from a scattering of burly warders in brown uniforms and one couple from the world outside. "The service is nice, the food is good and is very cheap," said Arnold Daniels, a 57-year-old businessman, explaining why he and his wife Merina are regulars at the restaurant. Did they not find it a bit odd to eat a leisurely lunch while

thousands of prisoners were cooped up in nearby cells? "It doesn't bother us," said Daniels. "It's not really strange. It's very safe and we don't feel threatened at all."

### Worthy of Masterchef

The decor of the restaurant, which can seat around 30 people, is, perhaps fittingly, spartan. The metal chairs have red plastic seats, the walls are bare and the floor is scrubbed tile. But the impenetrable security gates across the French windows are partly hidden by drapes in red and brown with gold piping. And the table mats boast a colorful African mask design. Fans turn lethargically on the ceiling and pop music is piped continuously into the restaurant. Wearing prison orange trousers under his apron, the waiter greets guests cheerfully and recommends the steak. The menu is extensive, ranging from "traditional tripe" and ox head to chicken schnitzel, beef cordon bleu and a seafood platter-which, at 60 rand (\$3.80) is the most expensive dish.

The waiter said he was given four years in jail for shoplifting. He had seven months left to serve and hoped to get a job in hospitality when he was released. The prison would help with a reference, he said. The food is good, and the presentation worthy of a "Masterchef" contestant, with herbs and sauces drizzled around the plate. After the meal, one of the cooks, also in orange prison gear under his apron, stepped into an enclosed courtyard alongside the restaurant for a cigarette. He was serving five years for car theft, although he insisted he didn't steal the car himself, simply bought it off someone else.



Inmates after voting at a polling station in Pollsmoor Prison, Cape Town. — AFP

in a report by a judge last year as "deeply disturbing" and "inhumane and appalling". Tuberculosis is rife-Mandela contracted TB there-and at least one inmate died last year of leptospirosis, a disease spread by rats. The restaurant closes at 2:00 pm. Diners head for their cars and the gates, while the waiters and cooks are taken back to their cells and locked up until the breakfast service begins.

Across the road is another high-security, electrified fence, marking the borders of the Steenberg wine and golf estate, but this fence is designed to keep people out, not in. Traditional Cape Dutch-style gabled white buildings with thatched roofs cluster among expansive green lawns and vineyards against a mountain backdrop. At Catherina's award winning restaurant, under umbrellas on the patio, the lunch crowd is dominated by tourists from Europe and the United States. The menu boasts "sustainable" fish for its ecologically concerned up-market diners. The fish turned out to be hake-the same as that offered at the Pollsmoor prison restaurant, at four times the price. — AFP

### Overcrowded cells

"But I'm lucky to only get five years, because car theft is a very serious offence," he mused. He described working in the restaurant as "one of the best jobs in the prison", but wouldn't be drawn on life in the cells. "It's prison," was all he would say. Pollsmoor has about 8,000 inmates-twice its capacity-living in conditions described

## Diamond-encrusted Hermes handbag sold for record \$300,000



This file photo shows Eunis Chan modelling a Matte White Himalaya Niloticus Crocodile Diamond Birkin with 18K gold and diamond hardware-one of the most valuable handbags in the world-during a preview at Christie's in Hong Kong. — AFP

A diamond-encrusted crocodile-skin Hermes handbag with white gold details has broken the record for the world's most expensive ever sold at auction, fetching nearly \$300,000 at a Hong Kong sale. The rare Himalaya Niloticus Crocodile Diamond Birkin 30 went to an unknown phone bidder late Monday for HK\$2.32 million (\$298,655), beating a pre-sale estimate of \$2 million, the auction house Christie's said. "It was the world record price for any handbag sold at auction," Bingle Lee, a Hong Kong-based spokesman for Christie's, told AFP.

Designer handbags are increasingly seen as investment opportunities and are the latest craze for collectors, taking global auction houses by storm and scoring record prices. The new record beat one set last year, also in Hong Kong, when a fuchsia-coloured Hermes bag sold for \$222,912. The hand-made bag-described by the London-based auctioneers as the "rarest, most sought-after"-is encrusted with diamonds, while the buckle and trademark mini Hermes padlock are made of 18 carat white gold.

"It is believed that only one or two of the Diamond Himalayas are produced each year, globally, making it one of the lowest production runs for handbags," Christie's said in a statement issued before the sale. The bag was made in 2008 and is from Hermes' iconic "Birkin" series named after actress and singer Jane Birkin, who was born in Britain and lives in France. A smaller Himalaya Niloticus Crocodile Diamond Birkin 25 handbag will go under the hammer on Wednesday with an estimate price of HK\$1.3 million to HK\$1.5 million. The auction was part of the firm's 30th anniversary sales to mark its presence in Asia, with a range of luxury goods on offer, including Chinese paintings, watches and wine. — AFP



A young girl plays with a kite during the 'speckled sky' festival in Moscow. — AFP