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## KUWAIT REMOVED FROM LIST OF LABOR RIGHTS VIOLATORS

### SUBAIH URGES WORLD TO PROTECT WORKERS' RIGHTS



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09:01 &amp; 22:03

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02:48 &amp; 15:48

## OPEC UPBEAT, KUWAIT WANTS FAIR OIL PRICE

**VIENNA:** OPEC ministers were cautiously confident yesterday that the oil market is finally on the mend, cementing expectations that the cartel will keep crude gushing at a meeting in Vienna. "The market is improving," Iraq's Deputy Oil Minister Fayyad Al-Nima said a day before the biannual gathering of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. "The market will become better in the second half of the year," he predicted, in comments echoed by other delegates from the 13-nation group. The most powerful though, Saudi Arabia's new oil minister Khaled Al-Falih - newly appointed by the dynamic young Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman - was tight-lipped.

Kuwait is keen on maintaining dialogue between OPEC and non-OPEC members to help achieve greater balance in the oil market and wants to see a "fair" price for producers and consumers, the state's acting oil minister told state news agency KUNA. Anas Al-Saleh also said an understanding was expected among OPEC oil ministers meeting in Vienna on a candidate for a new secretary general of the organization, KUNA said in a report overnight on Tuesday.

Traditionally OPEC, which pumps around a third of the world's crude, has collectively cut back or increased output in an attempt to manage the volatile price of oil.

**Continued on Page 13**

## AMIR OPENS COURT COMPLEXES



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) is seen with Minister of Justice and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane during the opening ceremony of the Farwaniya and Jahra court complexes yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 3)

**GENEVA:** Kuwait has been removed from a list of countries that the International Labor Organization (ILO) considers violating labor rights, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday. The removal of Kuwait's name was a result of great efforts by national authorities to address all shortcomings related to labor issues, Subaih, also Minister of State for Planning and Development, said in a statement to KUNA.

She underlined that Kuwait worked hard to address all remarks raised by ILO regarding labor issues. She said she met with Ruba Jaradat, regional director of the ILO's Arab Office, describing the discussion as "constructive". Subaih said they discussed the development of the manpower authority and cooperation between Kuwait and the countries exporting workers to Kuwait. She said they also discussed the unions' law.

Kuwait also called on the international community to apply the human rights laws to provide better living conditions for all people, including development and social equality. "It is an international responsibility to end the suffering of citizens in Palestine and other occupied Arab lands, who are deprived of their simplest rights as humans and are denied of having decent jobs," Subaih said during the 105th session of the International Labor Conference yesterday.

"Kuwait is keen to cooperate with the world to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030," she added. In this context, she said that Kuwait is executing many projects aiming to develop the country on all levels and provide people with a better life. Subaih noted that the country has issued several laws that allow those in charge of applying these legislations to further protect the rights of people.

**Continued on Page 13**



**DUBAI:** Two women pass by on Tuesday what the United Arab Emirates says is the world's first functional office building made using three-dimensional printer technology. — AP

## DUBAI OFFICE SHOWCASES 3-D PRINTING'S POTENTIAL

**DUBAI:** There are office printers that spit out documents and others that always seem to jam. And then there those that make the office itself. A small group of employees in Dubai is starting to move into a new workspace that the emirate says is the world's first functional office building made using three-dimensional printer technology. Dubai's ruler quietly inaugurated the white-washed buildings last week, not far from the site of a planned "Museum of the Future" that is due to open in 2018.

Looking like a mash-up of a "Jetsons" abode and an Apple Store, the compact office was printed out layer by layer over 17 days at a cost of \$140,000, said Saif Al-Aleeli, the CEO of a government initiative called the Dubai Future Foundation that is behind the project. Features include a tree-shaded outdoor garden deck and LED lights that automatically adjust to the brightness outside.

"Why 3-D printing? Because it makes sense in terms of cost, in terms of time-saving, in terms of efficiency," the 29-year-old Aleeli said. "We really believe that this technology will revolutionize the construction, the development sector as well as other sectors, (including) the medical sector (and) consumable products." Products made using 3-D printing are first designed on a computer and then printed out using a variety of materials, including metal, plastic and concrete.

Developers are finding a growing number of uses for the technology as it evolves. European aeronautics giant Airbus just unveiled a lightweight electric printed motorcycle made from aluminum alloy par-

ticles, while a Wisconsin schoolteacher recently fashioned prosthetic feet for a duck who lost his due to frostbite. The technology has been used in other construction projects too, including a Dutch canal house being raised in Amsterdam. But the foundation says its Dubai office is the first "fully functional 3-D printed building," constructed with full services and meant for daily use.

The Chinese company WinSun Global used a 20-foot tall printer squirting out cement and other materials to produce the 17 building modules for the new Dubai office, according to the foundation. The pieces were then shipped from China to the Gulf port city, where it took workers two days to piece them together. Further work, including the installment of the interiors and landscaping, took another three months. Designers left open part of the finishing in the foyer so visitors can see how the 3-D printed layers came together, row after squiggly row.

The building occupies prime real-estate between the city's iconic twin Emirates Towers and the Dubai International Financial Center, which is a stand-in for a futuristic city in the forthcoming "Star Trek Beyond" film. The site will serve as the temporary offices for between 12 and 20 foundation staff members for now. Dubai hopes it will kick-start its plans to transform the sheikhdom into an incubator for emerging technologies. It has an ambitious goal of using 3-D printing in a quarter of all buildings by 2030. "The future will be 3-D printed," Aleeli predicted. "I won't be surprised if in 20 years down the road whole cities will be 3-D printed." — AP

## WORLD'S LONGEST TUNNEL OPENS

### News

in brief

#### Mol grants amnesty to detained police

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior (Moi) has granted an amnesty to all detained police officers on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan. The decision has been made by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on humanitarian grounds to mark the advent of the holy month, a statement by the ministry noted.

#### Saudi Arabia sentences 14 to death for terrorism

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia sentenced 14 people to death for terrorism yesterday after they were convicted of attacks on police in Qatif in the Eastern Province, scene of past anti-government protests, their lawyer said. Another nine people were given jail sentences of three to 15 years and one was acquitted, their defense lawyer, who asked to remain anonymous, told Reuters. Arabiya TV said the charges had included opening fire on security forces and civilians, causing several deaths and destruction of property. They were also accused of peddling drugs and armed robbery against shops and cars.

#### US woman jailed for insulting UAE freed

**DUBAI:** The government-owned The National newspaper in the United Arab Emirates reported Tuesday that an American woman has been acquitted of charges that she insulted the country after more than three months imprisonment. It said a psychological evaluation showed she was mentally ill. The 25-year old woman was facing misdemeanor charges for allegedly insulting the UAE in public after being approached by two men at Abu Dhabi International Airport.

**POLLEGIO, Switzerland:** The world's longest tunnel officially opened yesterday, with the trailblazing rail passage under the Swiss Alps aiming to ease transit through the heart of Europe. With Europe's political unity shaken by a massive migrant crisis and the looming threat of Britain's EU exit, Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann said the tunnel would "join the people and the economies" of Europe. He spoke as the first train made a ceremonial run through the 57-km Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT) beneath the region's spectacular mountain peaks, with European leaders on board.

The tunnel took 17 years to build, at a

cost of over 12 billion Swiss francs (\$12 billion), with 125 laborers rotating in three shifts to lay the tunnel's slab track in 43,800 hours of non-stop work, according to the Swiss rail service. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi were among the passengers on the first train yesterday. The trio sat together in a first-class carriage, along with Schneider-Ammann, and chatted over glasses of water through the 20-minute journey from Erstfeld in the central canton of Uri southward to Ticino canton.

**Continued on Page 13**



**ERSTFELD, Switzerland:** Swiss Federal President Johann Schneider-Ammann listens to German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the opening day of the Gotthard rail tunnel yesterday. — AP

## SIGNALS DETECTED FROM EGYPTAIR BLACK BOX

**CAIRO:** A French navy vessel using deep-water listening devices has detected signals from one of the black boxes that could explain why the EgyptAir plane crashed into the Mediterranean, investigators said yesterday. It is expected to be at least another week before an underwater robot can recover the two flight recorders of the Airbus A320 that went down with 66 people aboard en route from Paris to Cairo on May 19. A digital flight data recorder gathers information about the speed, altitude and direction of the plane, while a cockpit voice recorder keeps track of conversations and other sounds in the pilots' cabin.

The signals were picked up by French survey ship Laplace which is using acoustic

detection systems to listen for the "pings" emitted by the flight recorders, said France's aviation safety agency BEA. "The detection of this signal is a first step," said BEA official Remi Jouty. Egypt's civil aviation ministry had announced the potential breakthrough earlier, saying the signals were "assumed to be from one of the data recorders".

The French navy, in a statement, said the flight recorders still had to be precisely located at a estimated depth of 3,000 m. Some of the wreckage has already been pulled from the Mediterranean along with belongings of passengers on board the jet, which crashed between the Greek island of Crete and the Egyptian coast. No survivors have been found

from flight MS804. Another vessel sent by Deep Ocean Search (DOS), a private company hired to help find the black boxes, is on its way to the area carrying a ship with a robot capable of diving up to 3,000 m to retrieve the recorders.

The ship is due to arrive at the site within a week, the Egyptian ministry said. "Extensive search efforts are being carried out to locate the two data recorders in preparation for their retrieval," it said. The black boxes have enough battery power to emit signals for four or five weeks. The search area is located around 290 km north of the Egyptian coast, according to a source close to the investigation.

**Continued on Page 13**



# MOMS AND DADS OF KUWAIT, JOHNSON’S® BABY POWDER IS SAFE TO USE. HERE ARE THE FACTS.

We would like to take this opportunity to share few facts about the safety of JOHNSON’S® baby powder made with cosmetic talc.

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The safety of talc is supported by decades of research by independent researchers, scientific review boards and global authorities. Our products meet government’s standards in every country where they are sold. This includes compliance with local legislation in Kuwait and across GCC, as well as meeting strict U.S. and European Union cosmetic ingredient safety guidelines. In fact, we ‘ve conducted more than 8,000 clinical trials – covering over 12,000 ingredients with 550,000 volunteers- and every JOHNSON’S® baby product is developed based on insights from medical professionals, scientists and parents from all around the world. Our safety and quality standards are some of the most rigorous in the industry.

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Your assurance and peace of mind is our highest priority which is why if you have any further questions, please call Johnson & Johnson on **+97144297377** or visit any of the following sites for more information.

[www.safetyandcarecommitment.com/ingredient-info/other/talc](http://www.safetyandcarecommitment.com/ingredient-info/other/talc)

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## PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR HOLLANDE'S VISIT: DIPLOMAT

**KUWAIT:** Preparations are currently underway for the upcoming visit of French President Francois Hollande to Kuwait, a Kuwaiti diplomat said Tuesday. President Hollande's visit to the country will be 'historic' and 'pivotal' in boosting the Kuwaiti-French ties, Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs, stated to reporters on the sidelines of attending the French embassy's National Day celebration.

The two sides are also working round-the-clock to prepare files and documents that will be discussed and eventually signed during Hollande's visit to the country, Khubaizi said. This year, Kuwait and

France will celebrate the 52nd anniversary of their diplomatic ties, he noted, pointing out the number of 'significant deals' signed between the two countries during His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Paris.

Among the signed deals, an agreement to boost the military cooperation between the two countries, under which the Kuwaiti army acquires French arms and purchase H225M helicopters to bolster its air force fleet, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. He said a French cancer treatment hospital would open a branch in Kuwait soon, the first in the Middle East. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is presented with a gift to mark the occasion. — Amiri Diwan photos



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is pictured with top judges.



**KUWAIT:** Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi and French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle cut the ceremony's cake. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Diplomats and other dignitaries attend the event.

## AMIR PATRONIZES OPENING OF NEW COURT COMPLEXES

**KUWAIT:** Under the auspices and attendance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the opening ceremony of the Al-Farwaniya and Al-Jahra court complexes was held yesterday. Upon arrival, His Highness the Amir was welcomed by Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council Youssef Jassem Al-Muttawa, Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane, Chairman of Financial and Administrative Affairs at the Amiri Diwan Abdulaziz Ishaq and other judicial officials.

Moreover, the ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, senior Sheikhs, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Acting Deputy Parliament Speaker Mubarak Salem Al-Harees, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and other state officials. A brief film on the new court complexes was screened and His Highness the Amir was presented with a gift to mark the occasion before leaving the venue. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and top state officials rise for the National Anthem.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane are pictured with Justice Ministry officials.

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KUWAIT: A policeman is rewarded during a ceremony to honor participants at a cleaning campaign of the Al-Khowaisat beach.

— Photo by Joseph Shagra

## AL-KHOWAISAT BEACH CAMPAIGN ORGANIZERS HONOR PARTICIPANTS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Organizers of a cleaning campaign at Al-Khowaisat beach held a special ceremony at Bidaa Movenpick hotel Tuesday night to honor participants. The ceremony was attended by representatives of various participating ministries and private companies. The Ministry of Interior's Assistant Undersecretary for Special Security Affairs Major General Mahmoud Al-Doussari stressed that the campaign was very fruitful and thanked all participants. He also called for raising awareness of individuals and companies regarding the significance of such campaigns in cleaning beaches from waste, adding that a 15-meter-long oil pipe was removed during the recent campaign.

Doussary called for fining violators, adding that a Chinese company had provided the campaign with special machinery to remove the wastes. "Al-Khowaisat beach is a fish sanctuary and the campaign aims at preserving fish resources," he underlined. The campaign's media official Fatima Al-Enezi said that the campaign removed huge amounts of waste from the beach over the past three months, including 16

burnt vehicles, 25 boats, the oil pipe, plastic pipes, tons of lumber and used tires.

### Mullet fishing

Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources' (PAAAFR) Chairman and Director Faisal Al-Hasawi yesterday issued a decision allowing mullet fishing in Kuwaiti territorial waters, except in Kuwait Bay and three-mile distances from the coast of the mainland and around islands, from June 1 until Aug 30. Hasawi added that those fishing mullet would continue to follow PAAAFR conditions and have seasonal fishing permits to avoid withdrawal of their fishing licenses. Hasawi explained that the fishing time would be from 6:00 am till 6:00 pm. Fishermen would be given in/out permissions from the east Mirqab center, where they should provide the needed information.

### Labor support

The Supreme Planning and Development Council's Secretary General Khaled Mahdi yesterday presided a meeting to follow up the project of the Manpower Public Authority's support to laborers. Mahdi explained that the project was the result of cooperation between the govern-

ment and UNDP, ILO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with the ultimate goal of supporting the Kuwait labor market. Mahdi added that 29 percent of the project has been completed since its inception in December, including assessing the expat labor center.

### Political pressure

MP Ali Al-Khamees yesterday warned Education Minister and the chairman of Kuwait University's Supreme Council, Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa of yielding to political pressure and nominating a certain professor for the deanship of the Sharia and Islamic Studies College, as that particular professor had been interviewed and rejected by a special committee comprising of experienced professors.

### Bridge open

Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering Affairs Engineer Ahmad Al-Hossan announced opening a bridge connecting the Sixth Ring Road with Farwaniya Hospital at dawn today. Hossan said the new bridge was part of the ministry's plan to improve the road grid and ensure smooth traffic flows.

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH SETS UP BUREAUS FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health announced yesterday the establishment of Bureaus for Children's Rights interspersed all across the country manned by professionals seeking the protection of the welfare of all children experiencing untoward circumstances such as abuse or neglect by adult guardians.

President of the National Bureau for Children's Rights Dr Mona Al-Khawari said that teams of professionals will receive calls regarding any cases of abuse or neglect to children from primary health care clinics, hospital emergency rooms, schools, or police stations,

to name a few. These professionals will prepare thorough accounts of the abuse or neglect cases, substantiated by medical or psychological data, and turn them over to authorities for possible legal action, said Dr Khawari.

In documenting such cases, the National Bureau works closely with the Ministry of Interior to determine the extent of the abuse and neglect, she said, stressing that the Ministry of Health cares deeply about children who might be exposed to bodily or emotional harm at the hands of abusive or neglectful adult guardians. — KUNA

## KUWAIT, SOUTH KOREAN COOPERATE TO SOLVE HOUSING PROBLEM: OFFICIAL

**KUWAIT:** The housing cooperation agreement that was signed between Kuwait and South Korea is part of the Kuwaiti Government's effort to find a swift solution to the long pending housing problem, Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Bader Al-Wugayyan.

Wugayyan made this remark to the press after meeting with CEO of Korea Land and Housing Corporation, who is visiting the country for three days. Wugayyan pointed out that actual steps have been made toward

establishing a Kuwaiti-South Korean corporation to build a smart city in south of Saad Al-Abdullah city.

The smart city will be the first of its kind to be built in Kuwait. It is an urban development which will use multiple information and communication technology solutions to manage a city's assets. Kuwait and South Korea signed a housing-related Memorandum of Understanding in May during a visit by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to East Asian country. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Qatari Director General of Public Security Staff Major General Saad Bin Jassim Al Khulaifi. — KUNA

## KUWAIT, QATAR DISCUSS SECURITY COORDINATION

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stressed the importance of security coordination and exchanging information among the GCC countries under the current regional security developments. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled made this remark during a meeting with the visiting Qatari Director General of Public Security Staff Major General Saad Bin Jassim Al Khulaifi.

The meeting discussed bilateral ties, means of promoting cooperation and the

recent regional and international development. It also shed light on the importance of enhancing the performance of security apparatuses in the GCC countries and exchanging expertise in this field.

Meanwhile, the Qatari official expressed his appreciation to Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled for an excellent security cooperation between Kuwait and Qatar, stressing that his visit is a good opportunity to get a closer look on how security, whether technically or on ground, is being managed in Kuwait. — KUNA

## KPC SIGNS ACCORD WITH SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) signed an agreement yesterday with Egypt's Suez Canal Authority for boosting bilateral cooperation and increasing the number of Kuwaiti tankers using the vital waterway. Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority Vice Admiral Mohab Mamish signed the agreement with KPC International Marketing Managing Director Nabil Bourseli. The Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atef attended the signing ceremony, together with officials from both sides.

Talking to reporters, Mamish said that he was visiting Kuwait on directives from President Abdelfattah, seeking to increase the Kuwaiti tankers that go through the Canal. He commended the deep-rooted bilateral relations, highly appreciating His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's stances in support of

Egypt. His Highness the Amir attended the opening of the new Suez Canal in August 2015, he said.

According to Mamish, the authority had embarked on a new marketing scheme in order to enhance the number of vessels crossing the Canal, whose income constitutes the major source of foreign currency for Egypt amid the decline of tourist revenues and remittances from Egyptian expats.

Meanwhile, Bourseli said the Kuwaiti leadership is keen on bolstering ties with Egypt, to be reflected commercially. Next week, a delegation from the KPC International Marketing Managing department will visit the Canal Authority, he said. The agreement follows the rise of Kuwait's oil exports to the Europe, in addition to the doubling the storage of Kuwaiti crude oil Egypt's SUMED company, Bourseli added. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority Vice Admiral Mohab Mamish signs the agreement with KPC International Marketing Managing Director Nabil Bourseli. — KUNA

## JUDICIAL LAWS TO BE PUSHED TO NEXT TERM

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Judicial laws that the government is currently preparing to be discussed and passed by the parliament will be deferred until the next parliamentary term, informed sources said. The 'State Council' project includes the public prosecution, courts and the Fatwa and Legislation Department is still subject to study, the sources said, adding that it was also expected to be submitted to the parliament in the next term.

The sources added that the parliament's legislation committee is still studying the judiciary independence bill, especially

since the government has made some new amendments. "The bill will probably be voted on by mid-June unless more studies are needed," stressed the sources, noting that this might delay the bill until the next parliamentary term.

The sources explained that the government's amendments to the judiciary independence law were approved by the Supreme Judiciary Council, adding that some points still needed amendments, because the law still gives the justice minister some financial and administrative powers. "MPs' disagreement on this point might postpone discussing the law until the next parliamentary term," said the sources.

## News

in brief

### KJA condemns Yemeni journalists' abduction

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) yesterday condemned the arrest, abduction and torture of Yemeni journalists while performing their duties, as well as attacks on press establishments in Yemen. Journalists are covering the events going on in Yemen, KJA remarked in a statement in which it expressed consolidation with the abducted journalists "regardless of political bargains." KJA also urged relevant authorities to declare the fate of ten journalists who were removed from Habra prison to an unknown destination after they went on hunger strike. Furthermore, KJA urged UN's Envoy to Yemen to interfere and allow international human right organizations to visit the prisoners.

### 'Terrorist cell' case adjourned to July 21

**KUWAIT:** The court of appeals yesterday delayed looking into the 'terrorist cell' case Number 302/2016, in which 26 defendants are involved, to July 21th for further questioning of the accused. The court listened to a number of defendants at its hearing yesterday. On January 12, 2016, the criminal court sentenced two of the defendants, the first and the 23rd one on the list of defendants in the terrorist cell, to death, while one of the accused in the 26 member cell was given a sentence of life imprisonment. — KUNA

### Initiative provides books for prisons' libraries

**KUWAIT:** Local groups have launched an initiative aimed at providing libraries of prisons with books. People wishing to donate books can do so at Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah's Yarmouk's office starting from yesterday. This is the first phase of the initiative which aimed at providing books for libraries of prisons, said Sheikhha Bibi Al-Sabah, coordinator of the Raf (meaning Shelf in Arabic) Initiative, on Tuesday. The initiative, she added in a press statement, also aimed at providing books for all libraries nationwide, social care centers, hospitals and schools. — KUNA

## UN YEMEN ENVOY MEETS GCC CHIEF

**KUWAIT:** The UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed met yesterday with GCC Secretary-General Abdullatif Al-Zayani on ongoing Yemeni peace negotiations in Kuwait. During the meeting, they discussed the current situation in Yemen and Arab, regional and international efforts to restore security and stability in this violence-hit Arab country. They stressed that it is imperative for all the Yemeni parties to reach a comprehensive peace agreement based on relevant international resolutions, primarily UNSC Resolution No. 2216, Gulf Initiative and National Dialogue Output.

The GCC chief is visiting Kuwait just one day after the consultative meeting of the GCC leaders in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, during which they highly appreciated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's efforts to ensure the success of UN-facilitated peace talks in Kuwait. On Tuesday, the UN envoy for Yemen had called on the three Yemeni negotiating teams to offer mutual concessions in order to reach a peaceful settlement to the conflict in their country. — KUNA



KUWAIT: This handout photo shows a number of people arrested during a raid at a health club yesterday.

## MAN KILLS COMPATRIOT, FLEES COUNTRY

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A memo is being prepared to extradite an Egyptian man who killed his compatriot in Khaitan, then immediately fled the country. A security source said the crime's circumstances are not clear, adding that the killing happened after a fight between the victim, who was 31, and the suspect.

### Children drowned

Three Egyptian children drowned in a Nuzha swimming pool. A security source said the three children, two brothers and a relative, were in the pool without supervision, and they drowned when they entered the deep part of the pool. The fire department was asked not to go there as the coroner had recovered the bodies.

### Cross-dressers arrested

Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said the follow up and coordination directorate of residency detectives has intensified its investigations to arrest all those who interacted with five people infected with AIDS, and who were arrested for involvement in vice practices. Eight new suspects were arrested, and detectives also identified the owner of the company which brought them to Kuwait.

Residency detectives arrested four Egyptians who were infected by the main suspect Mohammad Al-Dabe Mahmoud;

who was arrested and found infected with AIDS. He had come to Kuwait on a visit visa from a company, whose owner was identified as Saad Rashid Saad. Dabe said he went to a health club to have sex with some of its workers for money. They said that police raided the club, where four people escaped and four Filipino cross-dressers were arrested.

### Fugitive turns himself in

A security source said a citizen went to Adan police station and told them he owed a person KD 1.5 million, adding that he was sentenced to five months in jail for being unable to pay back his debt. The citizen gave himself up voluntarily, telling them "I want to relax."

### Food safety

Kuwait Municipality carried out an inspection campaign against food supply companies in various governorates, which resulted in confiscating 15 buckets of Jordanian pickles and eight buckets of olive oil that did not have any information, besides closing down a restaurant administratively. Six citations were issued for dealing with food material without a health certificate. Separately, Assistant Director General for Jahra and Farwaniya Governorate Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Ahmad Al-Hazeem said the process of removing all obstacles in the way of Mutlaa residential city was underway.





**HONG KONG: The Kuwaiti Consul General in Hong Kong and Macau Khalid Al-Mutairi meets Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan accompanied by a Kuwaiti press delegation.**

## KUWAITI CONSUL GENERAL IN HONG KONG MEETS ZAIN, KUWAITI PRESS DELEGATION

**HONG KONG:** The Kuwaiti Consul General in Hong Kong and Macau, Khalid Al-Mutairi, received Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan accompanied by a Kuwaiti press delegation. The reception ceremony and gala dinner came as part of a visit by Zain and Kuwaiti media to Shenzhen and Hong Kong to attend the special ceremony hosted by Chinese technology giant Huawei on the occasion of 10 years of successful partnership between the two companies.

The Consul General welcomed the delegation's visit, expressing his pride in the bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and Hong Kong. Mutairi also showcased the relations



**Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer Eaman Al-Roudhan presents a memento to Kuwaiti Consul General in Hong Kong and Macau Khalid Al-Mutairi.**

between Kuwait and Hong Kong, which witnessed noticeable progress during the past few years on both the governmental and private sector levels.

The Consul General explained that a plethora of investment opportunities are available to further strengthen collaborations between the two sides, especially after the signing of many effective agreements recently, including the encouragement and protection of trade agreement and the cultural and economic cooperation agreement.

Mutairi also added that Hong Kong can play a vital role as a link between the Kuwaiti private sector and Chinese companies, and that the Kuwaiti Consul will continue to bring the two closer. "We have always aspired for and encouraged such visits from Kuwaiti companies, as our main responsibility is to strengthen joint collaborations that serve the Kuwaiti private sector" he added.

## Great efforts

Meanwhile, Roudhan expressed her gratitude towards Mutairi for the reception on behalf of Zain and the media: "our meeting with the Consul was fruitful, and we noticed his utmost keenness on strengthening the trade ties between Kuwait, Hong Kong, and Chinese companies".

Roudhan also valued the great efforts exerted by the Kuwaiti Consul in Hong Kong and Macau, which aims at creating investment and trade opportunities for the local private sector, as well as facilitating the necessary processes between the two sides. She added: "through our visit to a true technology partner, we have once again affirmed our commitment towards our valued customers. We were keen on discussing with the Chinese company the ways we can introduce multiple innovative services and solutions that meet our customers' needs and aspirations".

It is worth noting that Huawei recently hosted Zain Kuwait and a Kuwaiti press delegation in a special ceremony in its main headquarters in Shenzhen, China on the occasion of 10 years of successful partnership between Zain and Huawei, a partnership that aimed at bringing excellence in the quality of telecom services to meet the needs and aspirations of Zain's customers.

Through this visit, Zain aspired for more collaborations with the Chinese technology giant to enrich its strategic vision, through which the company aims to strengthen the presence of digital services that will lead to new outlooks and business opportunities in the near future.

A vibrant pink and yellow poster for a 'Grand Bazaar' sale. The text 'GRAND BAZAAR' is at the top in white on a blue background. Below it, 'This Weekend Only' is written in a script font, followed by the 'Royal OUTLET' logo. The central focus is 'BIG SALE' in large, bold, yellow letters. Surrounding this are categories: 'Womenswear', 'Menswear', 'Kids', 'Accessories', 'Footwear', 'Homegoods', and 'Sports'. At the bottom left, it says 'TOP BRANDS LOWEST PRICE' in blue. A yellow circle on the bottom right contains the text 'Starting From o.250 Fils'. The bottom of the poster features the event details: 'Starting Today Until 4/6/2016 for 3 Days Only at Hawali Park From 10:00AM - 10:00PM' and the location 'Hawali Park - Exhibition Hall- Tunis Street - Opposite Hawalli Coop.' The entire poster is decorated with yellow and blue geometric shapes like triangles and chevrons.

**GRAND BAZAAR**

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OUTLET**

**BIG  
SALE**

Womenswear Homegoods  
Menswear Sports  
Kids  
Accessories Footwear

**TOP BRANDS  
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Starting From  
**o.250 Fils**

Starting Today Until 4/6/2016 for 3 Days Only  
at Hawali Park From 10:00AM - 10:00PM

Hawali Park - Exhibition Hall- Tunis Street - Opposite Hawalli Coop.

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light pink top and traditional Indian jewelry including a large necklace and earrings, is shown from the chest up, looking towards the right.

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Crime

Report

DUMP TRUCK OPERATOR SAYS ACCIDENTLY KILLED COWORKER

**KUWAIT:** Detectives solved the mystery of a case pertaining to the disappearance of a Bangladeshi man, as they discovered that he died during a work accident. Investigations revealed that one of the man's compatriots who operates a dump truck unknowingly emptied a load of solid garbage on him at Mina Abdullah landfill a month ago. A security source said that the truck driver told one of his colleagues about what happened, and they both thought the matter will not be discovered. But the deceased's brother went to Mina Abdullah police station and told them about the disappearance of his brother. He told them that the man worked at the landfill, and gave them the identity of the person he worked with. When detectives questioned the deceased's friend, he confessed to what happened, adding that he attempted to save him but failed.

Smuggling foiled

Drugs Control General Department (DGCD) men arrested an Egyptian truck driver who attempted to smuggle 17 kg of hashish through the Abdaly border outlet. He hid the drugs in a spare tire and wrapped it with carbon and coffee to prevent it from being discovered by x-ray. DCGD received information about the driver smuggling drugs in his truck, and when he returned to Kuwait, his truck was searched and the 17 kg of hashish were found.

Deliveryman jailed

An Indian driver failed to escape after entering a Qairawan house to have sex after being caught in the maid's room. The suspect worked as a driver at a restaurant, and developed a relationship with the maid when he delivered a meal to the house, according to investigations. He then began an illegal relationship with the maid. The suspect told the maid's sponsor he wanted to marry her, but failed to convince him. Both he and the maid were jailed.

Thief at large

A thief entered a Syrian man's apartment in Maidan Hawally and stole money and jewelry. It was discovered that he entered the apartment using a copy of the front door's key. The tenant told police that the jewelry is worth KD 4,000. Detectives are investigating.— Al-Rai

News

in brief

Alliance sets candidates

**KUWAIT:** The National Islamic Alliance has determined its candidates in four out of Kuwait's five electoral constituencies, which include MP Adnan Abdulsamad in the first constituency, MP Ahmad Lari in the second, MP Dr Khailil Abdullah in the third and Hani Shams in the fifth, Lari told Al-Qabas daily. The group is yet to determine whether to nominate a member to run in the fourth constituency or not, Lari said. —Al-Qabas

No budget increase

**KUWAIT:** The Finance Ministry rejected the Ministry of Public Works' (MPW) request to increase its annual budget which was previously set at around KD 550 million. MPW sources criticized the Finance Ministry's position, saying that they are ignoring the financial requirements necessary for mega projects that are nearing completion or will soon begin construction. —Al-Qabas

DNA tests

**KUWAIT:** The DNA testing law went into effect as of yesterday after the Interior Ministry finished preparing three centers to welcome Kuwaiti citizens in two weeks who wish to issue electronic passports after undergoing DNA tests. Three teams from the ministry's laboratories and automated cognition and DNA sectors were assigned to the centers in order to take saliva samples for DNA tests - a new measure required for every citizen to issue an electronic passport. A one-year period will be given before the regular passports are discontinued, sources said, adding that this system has previously been applied to bedoons (stateless) successfully in cooperation with the Central Apparatus of Illegal Residents. —Al-Rai

Economic reform

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's economic reform plans that includes budget cuts will not be effected by the recovery of oil prices, high ranking government sources said. The government's decisions in this regard will not change even if oil prices reach \$70 or \$80 per barrel, the sources said, explaining that the plan aims at economic reform and is not linked to the fluctuation of oil prices. —Al-Rai

Killer's children

**KUWAIT:** Director of the nursery department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor Yahya Al-Dakhil said "there is correspondence between the nursery administration and the health ministry to receive the children of a citizen who killed his daughter a few days ago." He added the "children will be received by us when medical examinations are completed". He said the tests are done as a health precaution and to ensure the children do not have communicable diseases." Dakhil said the department is keen on "presenting the best care and protection for our children." —Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa

MOUTHS AND CITIZENSHIPS

By Saad Al-Motesh

There is hardly a country worldwide that does not suffer from problems, but the difference is that some have the courage to declare such problems and some cannot even whisper about them. If you ask somebody who really fears Allah and says nothing but the truth about the problems Kuwait suffers from compared to those in most other countries including more civilized and advanced ones, he would only find one major issue - bedoons.

Though bedoons or stateless people exist in most countries with different names, thanks to the Almighty, we do not suffer from poverty, injustice and oppression like many other countries. More thanks to the Almighty that this chronic problem is on its way to be solved as stated by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, who emphasized that the government is serious in solving the problem by granting Kuwaiti citizenship to those who deserve it.

However, we have to draw the minister's attention to fears of interference of some people to profit from this issue and thus waste the right of those who deserve citizenship and give to others who do not. If you care to inquire about the stories of those who deserve the citizenship, one would hear very strange stories, such as the existence of a fourth generation that is still suffering and paying the price for mistakes made by the great grandfathers.

So, my advice to anybody who plans to file some fake documents to get Kuwaiti citizenship and to those who will support them, is to learn the lesson from the daily news stories about arresting citizenship forgers who unlawfully got Kuwaiti citizenship. I also advise forgers to shut their mouths before they have them shut by other means!

*We have to draw the minister's attention to fears of interference of some people to profit from this issue*

—Translated by Kuwait Times



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait National Guard's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hesham Al-Refaie met separately with military delegations from Egypt and Jordan at his office yesterday.



Al-Anbaa

INFINITE OIL

By Salah Al-Sayer

Arabia's unique location has always had considerable effects on its history because it lies amidst other nations and surrounding water passages from Basra to Aqaba, which turned its islands and coasts into targets for invaders and conquerors since prehistoric ages. I can sum this up by ancient occupations by armies of Alexander The Great of Macedonia, the Sassanids, the Romans, the Abyssinian invasion of Yemen, Portuguese colonization and British influence.

Ancient human migrations have gone through Arabia. Ships from East and West sailed through its waters. Its ports imported various good and re-exported them. Various cultures met and intermixed at its conventions and temples. Learning about the history of ancient monarchies, one would easily realize that Arabia was the cradle of

*Learning about the history of ancient monarchies, one would easily realize that Arabia was the cradle of civilizations*

civilizations and that many ancient civilizations could be traced in its trade, irrigation systems, arts, post, architecture, politics and economy.

In a TV interview with Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to talk about the country's Vision 2030, the young prince talked about culture and knowledge. He made a deep thoughtful comparison of history in his country that stresses that Islamic history is the most important base, and that it has a huge historic depth that intersects with many civilizations. We have very important defunct civilizations that go back thousands of years.

To conclude, while Arabia (GCC states) is located on top of humongous natural resources it ought to wisely use, it is also located on top of glorious history. If this historical treasure is wisely taken care of, kept up and scientifically and professionally promoted, it would make more financial revenues than those made by oil. GCC cities could also turn into knowledge centers annually attracting thousands of tourists from East and West.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

EXPATS HEALTH FEES TO BE INCREASED 15-20%: SAHLAWI

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Health (MoH) is expected to increase the fees collected for health services provided to expats by 15-20 percent and impose health insurance on visitors before the end of the year, Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi said. A company was last year founded to build three hospitals that will provide medical services for expatriates in the private sector. After the hospitals are completed - tentatively by 2019 - public health services provided by the ministry would only be restricted to citizens and expats working for the public sector, Sahlawi added.



**Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi**

Speaking after attending a meeting with the parliament's budgets and final statements committee, Sahlawi explained that the ministry had formed a committee presided by him to study the fees collected from expats for radiology, nuclear and lab tests and compare them to those collected by the private sector. "The committee found a huge difference despite the ministry's operational costs being much higher," he said, pointing out that the committee submitted the study results to Minister Ali Al-Obaidi and expected that the new fees would be in effect soon.

Sahlawi explained that a company was established according to the public-private-partnership (PPP) system in which citizens would own some shares to build three private hospitals and 15 medical centers for expatriates working for the private sector, whose numbers range between 1.75-2 million. —Al-Rai

POLITICIANS NOT FIT FOR JUDICIARY: MERSHED

**KUWAIT:** Former chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council Chancellor Faisal Al-Mershed, rejected politicians' participation in the formation of the constitutional court as part of a government project that calls for separating the constitutional court from the council. Mershed said his rejection was due to article 173 of the constitution that clearly states the 'establishment of a special judicial body to review constitutional disputes,' and explained that the constitution did not use the term 'mixed body' or a 'political judicial body'.

"This means it must be purely judicial, because politicians are often affected by certain ideas that might affect their non-biased judgment," he underlined, pointing out that the essence of judicial work is consultation amongst judges that might go on for months, and stressed that revealing judicial secrets costs the judiciary its neutrality and causes lots of confusion. "Politicians are not as discreet as judges in keeping the secrets of judicial consultations," Mershed reiterated. Notably, the government's bill suggests separating the constitutional court from the Supreme Judiciary Council to be become independent and include two politicians - one selected by the government and the other by the parliament. —Al-Qabas



**Chancellor Faisal Al-Mershed**

EVIDENCE PROVES VIOLATIONS AT PAAAFR

**KUWAIT:** A parliamentary source spoke about scandalous information that officials will be confronted with at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) during the meeting of the parliamentary public funds protection committee on Sunday, while the government sent the committee's report on the Dow deal to the public prosecution. The source said the committee received documents that "may embarrass

officials at PAAAFR because they detail evidence that proves violations at the authority, and there will be confrontation between committee members and the officials". The source said the funds protection committee report on the Dow deal revealed suspicions that warrant criminal investigations. The report said the deal burdened the general treasury of the state with losses that reached \$2.218 billion, which is a

felony that requires investigation. The committee argued that the evidence is that the Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) did not learn from its failed previous experience with Dow chemical, and what resulted in burdening public funds with a KD 90 million, in addition that the Kuwaiti side accepted partnership with Dow chemical, though it was suffering from continued drop in its profits since 2005, and which became worse

in 2008 due to the global financial crises at the time. Meanwhile, the parliamentary priorities committee rapporteur Ahmad Lari said the report the Social Affairs Minister and State Minister for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih promised to submit about nonperforming officials on the implementation of the development plan was not presented, because the minister is abroad. —Al-Rai





# US-BACKED FORCES OPEN MAJOR FRONT IN SYRIA WAR

## US-LED COALITION AIR STRIKES PLANNED

**WASHINGTON/BEIRUT:** Thousands of US-backed fighters opened a major new front in Syria's war, launching an offensive to drive Islamic State out of a swathe of northern Syria it uses as a logistics base, and were reported on yesterday to be making rapid progress. The operation, which began on Tuesday after weeks of quiet preparations, aims to choke off the group's access to Syrian land along the Turkish border that the militants have long used to move foreign fighters back and forth to Europe. "It's significant in that it's their last remaining funnel" to Europe, a US military official told Reuters.

A small number of US special operations forces will support the push on the ground, acting as advisers and staying some distance back from the front lines, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss military planning. "They'll be as close as they need to be for the (Syrian fighters) to complete the operation. But they will not engage in direct combat," the official said. The operation will also count on support from US-led coalition air strikes as well as from ground-based firing positions across the border in Turkey.

### Assault

Driving Islamic State from its last remaining foothold at the Turkish border has been a top priority of the US-led campaign against the group. The group controls around 80 km (50 miles) of the frontier stretching west from Jarablus.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said US-led air strikes in support of the ground operation killed 15 civilians including three children near Manbij in the last 24 hours. The Observatory's reporting is based on an activist network in Syria.

It said the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance, the force that is conducting the assault to capture the tract of land known as the Manbij pocket, had taken 16 villages and were at a distance of 15 km (9 miles) from Manbij town itself.



**Iraqi children who fled with their family the northern province of Nineveh following the advance of jihadists of the Islamic State (IS) group, are seen in a refugee camp in al-Hawl located some 14 kilometers from the Iraqi border in Syria's northeastern Hassakeh province on Tuesday. — AFP**

The US officials said the operation would be overwhelmingly comprised of Syrian Arabs instead of forces with the Kurdish YPG militia, who will only represent about a fifth or a sixth of the overall force.

This is seen as important to NATO member Turkey, which has opposed any further expansion of Syrian Kurdish sway at the frontier. Ankara sees the Syrian Kurdish YPG fighters—who already control an uninterrupted 400 km stretch of the border — to be terrorists and has been enraged by US backing for the militia in its battle with Islamic State in Syria.

However, the Observatory said the Kurdish YPG militia made up the majority of the fighters taking part in the SDF assault. A US official said Turkey supported the offensive. SDF and YPG officials could not immediately be reached for comment. The US officials told Reuters the YPG would only fight to help clear Islamic State from the area around Manbij.

Syrian Arab fighters would be the ones to stabilize and secure it once Islamic State is gone, according to the operational plans.

**Agreement**

"After they take Manbij, the agreement is the YPG will not be staying ... So you'll have Syrian Arabs occupying traditional Syrian Arab land," the official said.

In Ankara, a Turkish military source said Turkey was not contributing to the operation. Ankara had been told by Washington about the push but could not back it because of the involvement of Kurdish YPG fighters and because it was beyond the range of artillery stationed in Turkey, the source said.

The operation is happening ahead of an eventual push by the US-backed Syrian forces toward the city of Raqqa, the Islamic State's defacto capital in Syria and the prime objective in Syria for US military planners.

The US military official said depriving Islamic State of the Manbij pocket would help further isolate the militants and further undermine their ability to funnel supplies to Raqqa. US President Barack Obama has authorized about 300 US special operations forces to operate on the ground from secret locations inside Syria to help coordinate with local forces to battle Islamic State there. In a reminder of the risks, one US service member was injured north of Raqqa over the weekend, the Pentagon said. Syrian Kurdish groups have established their own government in northeastern Syria since 2011. Capturing the last remaining Islamic State foothold at the Turkish border would help them to link up with the area of Afrin, which is controlled by the same Kurdish groups in northwestern Syria.

The YPG has been the most effective ally on the ground for US-led air strikes against IS, and last year captured large areas from it in Hasaka province. The SDF alliance, including some Arab militias, was formed in October, since when it has led the campaign against IS with US support. — Reuters

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## UN SOUNDS ALARM ABOUT FALLUJAH CHILDREN, FOOD SUPPLY

**BAGHDAD:** Thousands of children are facing extreme violence in Fallujah, which the Iraqi army is trying to retake from Islamic State, and food stocks in the besieged city are dwindling, the United Nations warned yesterday.

At least 20,000 children remain inside the Islamic State's stronghold near Baghdad and face the risk of forced recruitment into fighting and separation from their families, the

United Nations' children's agency UNICEF said.

The World Food Program, in a separate statement, said the humanitarian situation was worsening as family food stocks were running down, pushing up prices to a level few can afford. "We are concerned over the protection of children in the face of extreme violence," UNICEF Representative in Iraq Peter Hawkins said in a statement.

"Children face the risk of forced recruitment into the fighting" inside the besieged city, and "separation from their families" if they manage to leave, he added. Backed by Shi'ite militias and air strikes from the US-led coalition, the Iraqi armed forces launched an offensive on May 23 to recapture the city, 50 kms west of Baghdad.

The assault on Fallujah, the first Iraqi city to fall under control of the ultra-

hardline Sunni militants in January 2014, is expected to be one of the biggest battles fought against Islamic State.

About 50,000 civilians remain there, according to the UN. Iraqi security forces operating in Fallujah systematically separate men and boys over 12 from their families to check possible links with Islamic State. "UNICEF calls on all parties to protect children inside

Falluja, provide safe passage to those wishing to leave the city and grant safe and secure environment to civilians who fled Fallujah," Hawkins said.

The WFP statement said the city was inaccessible for assistance and market distribution systems remained offline. "The only food available does not come from the markets, but from the stocks that some families still have in their homes," it added. —Reuters

## IRAQ'S FALLUJAH OP SLOWED BY CIVILIANS, IS RESISTANCE OVER CONCERNS FOR THOSE TRAPPED

**NEAR FALLUJAH:** Iraqi forces stalled at the fringes of Fallujah, slowed in their advance yesterday by concerns over the fate of trapped civilians and resistance from the Islamic State group.

Fighting also raged hundreds of kilometers further up the Euphrates Valley in Syria, as US-backed Kurdish and Arab fighters opened a new front against the jihadists in the strategic Manbij pocket on the Turkish border.

After a week of shaping operations aimed at sealing the siege of Fallujah, which lies just 50 kilometers west of Baghdad, elite forces launched a new, more aggressive phase on Monday morning.

But they have so far been unable to reach the city centre and battle IS fighters in the streets of one of their historical strongholds. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said concern for the estimated 50,000 civilians the United Nations has said IS was using as human shields was slowing progress. "It would've been possible to end the battle quickly if protecting civilians wasn't one of the foundations of our plan," he told commanders in comments broadcast by state television.

Inside Fallujah, trapped residents were under increasing pressure from worsening shortages and nervous IS fighters preparing for a desperate holdout.

The United Nations Children's Fund said at least 20,000 of them were thought to be children, most vulnerable to dire living conditions and to forced recruitment as fighters. "Children who are recruited see their lives and futures jeopardised as they are forced to carry and use arms, fighting in an adult war," the agency's Iraq representative Peter Hawkins said.

Heavy toll

No aid has reached Fallujah since September last year and residents have been living on dates, dirty water from the Euphrates and animal feed.

Commanders said another factor slowing the operation is the resistance they are meeting from jihadists fighters. "Our forces are

still pushing to break into the city centre but there is tough resistance from Daesh," said Lieutenant General Abdelwahab al-Saadi, the overall commander of the operation, using an Arab acronym for IS.

A police colonel on the outskirts of Fallujah said "every time our forces try to push in, they encounter really tough defence systems set up by Daesh". The closest Iraqi forces have come to moving into the centre is from the south, where they entered a suburb of Fallujah but were pinned back by a massive counterattack

on Tuesday. Iraqi commanders claim they have killed dozens of IS fighters since the start of the operation on May 22-23 but have been coy about releasing their own casualty figures. Yet the number of coffins being sent back to some of Iraq's southern provinces and of burials reported in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Najaf suggest that the anti-IS camp is also paying a heavy price.

"Since the start of the operation, we have received about 70 martyrs, probably a bit more," said a member of the security forces

posted outside Najaf's Valley of Peace, the world's largest cemetery, where many from Iraq's Shiite majority bury their dead.

Officials in Basra said the southern province had lost 26 fighters from the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force alone. An official in Najaf province, who did not want his name to be published, confirmed 12 deaths from the province.

Medics also reported many wounded from the battle for Fallujah. Since Monday, just two of the capital's hospitals received 97.

### Syria offensive

Many Iraqi officers expect IS to put up more of a fight for Fallujah than some of the other cities they have lost in Iraq, such as Tikrit and Ramadi.

Fallujah is one of only two major cities they still control in the country the other being Mosul and it looms large in modern jihadist mythology. IS has been on the back foot in Iraq, losing much of the territory it seized in 2014.

But it has also come under growing pressure in the Syrian part of the "caliphate" it proclaimed two years ago. A US-backed alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters launched an offensive against IS-held territory along the Turkish border that is seen as a main entry point for foreign fighters.

The advance brought the Syrian Democratic Forces to within 18 kilometers of Manbij, a strategic town held by IS since 2014 which was hit by intensive US-led coalition air strikes, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The Pentagon has deployed more than 200 special forces alongside the SDF, a Kurdish-led alliance in which it has been trying to boost the Arab element. "Over the past 24 hours, the SDF have seized control of nine villages... west of the Euphrates," the Observatory said.

The US-led coalition against IS supports the operations in Fallujah and in Manbij, where it said its aircraft carried out 18 air strikes in the past 24 hours. —AFP



**NEAR FALLUJAH:** Smoke billows during fighting between Iraqi government forces and jihadists of the Islamic State (IS) group as seen from area on the southern outskirts of Fallujah yesterday. —AFP



**AMMAN:** Jordanian King Abdullah II (L) shaking hands with members of Jordan's new government at a swearing in ceremony yesterday. —AFP

## JORDAN KING SWEARS IN NEW GOVT TO PREPARE FOR ELECTIONS

**AMMAN:** Jordanian King Abdullah swore in a new government led by a business-friendly politician on yesterday, charging him with preparing for parliamentary elections by September and pushing legislation to spur sluggish growth.

Hani Mulki, 64, who has held a string of senior diplomatic and ministerial posts, is a former chief commissioner of Jordan's economic zone in the Red Sea port city of Aqaba. He was appointed by the king on Sunday to replace Abdullah Ensour shortly after the monarch dissolved parliament as it neared the end of its four-year term. Elections must be held within four months under the constitution.

Official sources said the government is expected to maintain traditional support for US policies in the region and continue with International Monetary Fund-guided reforms. Long-serving Foreign Minister Nasser Joudeh and Finance Minister Omar Malhas, who is negotiating a new program with the IMF, kept their posts in a 28-member cabinet dominated by a mix of technocrats and conservative politicians who held sway in previous governments.

Mulki will be overseeing preparations for elections that have long been marred by accusations of meddling by the authorities and the powerful security forces. Jordan's main political opposition comes from the Muslim Brotherhood movement but it faces increasing legal curbs on its activities, leaving mostly pro-monarchy parties and some independent Islamists and politicians to compete in these elec-

tions, political analysts say.

The Brotherhood, wants sweeping political reforms but stops short of demanding the overthrow of the monarchy in Jordan. Analysts say it could be difficult for the Brotherhood, which has operated legally in Jordan for decades, to participate in the election after the authorities closed many of its offices and encouraged a splinter group to legally challenge the main movement's license to operate.

Western diplomats and independent politicians say the absence of the group, which has strong grassroots support in urban centers, could undermine the legitimacy of the election.

Western donors have pushed Jordan's authorities to widen political representation to stem radicalization among alienated and unemployed young people in poor overcrowded areas. Hundreds of them have already joined jihadists in Syria and Iraq.

The monarch also charged Mulki in a letter of appointment to help spur investment, especially from main Gulf oil producer Saudi Arabia, which has shown interest in investing in the debt-laden kingdom that official sources say is tied to Amman becoming more supportive of Riyadh's regional policies.

Jordan's finances have been hit by a drop in Gulf aid which traditionally tops up its coffers and worsened investor confidence hit by regional uncertainty. The economy has also been strained by a flood of refugees from the five-year-old civil war in neighboring Syria. —Reuters

## IN MOZAMBIQUE, A RETURN TO THE HORRORS OF CIVIL WAR

**GORONGOSA, MOZAMBIQUE:** Decomposing corpses in the bush, destroyed villages, abductions in the central Mozambican district of Gorongosa clashes between the army and rebels have revived the spectre of a civil war that ended 20 years ago.

"It has been two months since I have found these bodies and no one has come to remove them," Donca Sabir, a local farmer, told AFP as he contemplated remains barely hidden among shrubs on his land. Wearing scraps of civilian clothes, their trousers often pulled down, and their jaws open in macabre expressions of pain, the skeletal corpses lie just 100 meters from Mozambique's main north-south road.

From the roadside, the smell is strong from the bodies of at least nine men and women. A little further down the road, under a small bridge, local authorities said they recently buried 11 other corpses. But no proper autopsy was conducted, and four skulls and some bones are still visible in the sand.

The discovery of bodies in the area last month shocked many in Mozambique and alerted international human rights groups. Local villagers had also earlier reported an unconfirmed mass grave that could contain more than 100 corpses. But in Zone 76, the alleged location of the mass grave, everyone is too scared to speak about it, and the government has dismissed the reports.

"The Mozambican government must tell us who are these people, how they died and who left their bodies there," Zenaida Machado, Mozambique researcher for Human Rights Watch, told AFP. "I find it difficult to understand how any investigation can be made without performing an autopsy on the bodies. It is extremely worrying that instead of taking these reports (of graves) seriously, the first action of the authorities is to deny them."

### Old enemies

Ivone Soares, head of the Renamo party in parliament, alleges that Frelimo, the ruling party in power since 1975, has implemented a campaign to eliminate all opposition. "Death squads terrorize those who criticize the regime... People are abducted and murdered in their homes," she told AFP.

The "death squads" are said to patrol in white trucks and target supporters of Renamo-a movement that operates as both an armed insurgent group and an elected

opposition party. Frelimo and Renamo fought a bloody civil war between 1976 and 1992 that claimed one million lives. Since 2013, tensions have risen and Renamo fighters have again taken up arms in a battle that it says is against a Frelimo elite that has enriched itself at the expense of the country.

Starting with a low-intensity insurgency, attacks intensified from late last year, forcing thousands of refugees to flee to neighboring Malawi. In Gorongosa, a local government official insisted that the situation was calm across the region, but declined to go into further details. About 30 kilometers east of Gorongosa, on the small dirt track, 10 armoured army trucks patrol outside the deserted village of Vunduzi, a Renamo stronghold surrounded by corn fields.

In the distance stand the lush mountains where Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama is hiding after escaping several assassination attempts. On the side of the road, Joaquim Assais is visibly upset as he contemplates the fate of his village. "My father was sitting there when the army arrived. They tied him, beat him up and burned down the houses," said Assais, who now sleeps with 12 other members of his family under a tree in the bush.

At the end of the dirt track, Vunduzi is a ghost town. A few military men patrol the small main square, their Kalashnikov rifles by their sides. Everything is closed, and there is little activity except for one or two banana sellers. In the abandoned village school, a blackboard suggests that the last maths lesson was given on March 16.

### 'Both sides kill innocent people'

"It's war here," Siwageros Campira said, pointing to his general store which is riddled with bullets. "When it gets dark, we pack our belongings up and hide in the bush. In recent months, there has been a lot of shooting and many people were captured and killed by soldiers." Villagers say that just to have relatives who are accused of links to Renamo can mean kidnapping and death. In retaliation, Renamo has conducted 18 attacks in the past two weeks on the main road of the country, killing seven people and leaving more than 30 wounded, according to police. "Both sides are killing innocent people, both violate human rights," said Daviz Simango, the mayor of Beira, the main city in the central region. —AFP

## FOUR UN MALI MISSION STAFF KILLED IN ATTACK

**BAMAKO:** Chinese peacekeeper and three civilians working for the UN's Mali mission have become the latest casualties of the troubled outfit, the UN and China's foreign ministry said yesterday.

The last month alone has seen three attacks on members of the mission, known as MINUSMA,

fuelling concern over its future with 65 killed in under three years. It is the deadliest active deployment for UN peacekeepers. Al-Qaeda's North African affiliate AQIM claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attacks, the US monitoring SITE said.

The MINUSMA camp was targeted in a mortar or rocket attack on Tuesday night, a statement

from the mission said, during which "a peacekeeper was killed and three peacekeepers seriously wounded." A second armed attack on a UN de-mining unit killed "two security guards and an international expert," said the same statement said, without giving the nationality of the foreigner killed. —AFP

## LONE VOICES SPEAK OUT IN ZIMBABWE AS MUGABE CLINGS ON

**HARARE:** Dissent is seldom aired publicly in Zimbabwe after Robert Mugabe's 35 years of authoritarian rule but, against all the odds, individual voices are taking a stand and tapping into anger bubbling below the surface.

President Mugabe, now aged 92, oversees a moribund economy, a food shortage crisis and a listless political scene with opposition parties weakened by rigged elections and constant intimidation.

Amid such gloom, pastor Evan Mawarire has emerged as a national hero in recent weeks after starting his "ThisFlag" campaign that rapidly became an unlikely outlet for many Zimbabweans' frustration.

Two days after Mugabe recited a list of his achievements at a rally in April, Mawarire posted a video of himself on Facebook venting against state corruption and the government's failure to provide basic services.

The video, in which Mawarire was wearing a Zimbabwean flag, became a huge hit-viewed more than 100,000 times and spawned a wave of Internet activism in a country where any expression of protest can be dangerous.

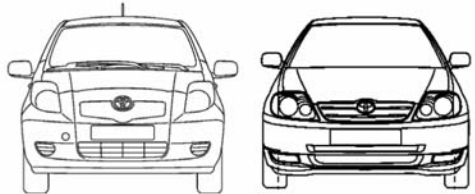
"This is how political reform is going to happen," Mawarire told AFP. "I asked as many Zimbabweans as possible to carry our national flag as a way of saying to our government 'enough is enough.' 'Citizens are aware, they are watching the government when it comes to issues where we feel there is mismanagement of resources or an injustice.'"

### 'A regular guy'


The campaign has unnerved the government due to its non-political stance and its choice of the national flag as its symbol-making it a difficult target for official criticism. Two cabinet ministers have instead sought to focus on Mawarire himself, alleging that he is linked to western powers supposedly plotting to oust Mugabe, who has ruled since 1980. —AFP



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# TESTY TRUMP TAKES HIS WAR WITH THE PRESS TO A NEW LEVEL

‘THE PRESS SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF THEMSELVES’

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump's heated war with the media reached new heights as he turned the brag-worthy feat of raising \$5.6 million for veterans' charities into a sparring match with reporters pressing him on the issue. "The press should be ashamed of themselves," a defensive Trump railed during a Tuesday news conference at Trump Tower, called to announce a list of 41 charities that received a cut of the money he raised during a highly publicized January fundraiser.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee had previously declined to disclose which charities had received the \$6 million he'd claimed to have raised, and his campaign had

signature rallies, the taunts Tuesday were intense, even for him. The billionaire mogul interrupted his recitation of the list of groups receiving portions of the money to complain about the way reporters had called up charities to try to verify his contributions. He called the political press "disgusting" and dismissed one ABC News reporter as "a sleaze."

## Refusing to disclose

While Trump's fundraiser, held opposite a Fox News debate he chose to boycott, should have been a positive story for Trump, his campaign's refusal to disclose details about the money raised

largest, a \$1 million check dated May 24 and drawn from Trump's personal account, was addressed to the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation, a small Tuckahoe, New York, group that provides scholarships to the children of fallen Marines. The foundation had presented Trump with an award at its 2015 gala held at a ritzy New York hotel.

Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, had originally told the Post that the Iowa event had raised about \$4.5 million - less than the \$6 million originally announced by Trump - because some who'd pledged contributions had backed out.

## Clinton's opinion

Appearing Tuesday on CNN, Democratic presidential front runner Hillary Clinton said she was glad Trump had finally given out the promised money. "The problem here is the difference between what Donald Trump says and what Donald Trump does," Clinton said. "He's bragged for months about raising \$6 million for vets and donating \$1 million himself, but it took a reporter to shame him into actually making the contribution."

Trump repeatedly insisted during the news conference that he didn't want "credit" for the contributions. However, he hadn't appeared shy about giving away poster-size checks at campaign events in the weeks after the fundraiser.

On Jan. 30, just before the Iowa caucuses, he gave a \$100,000 check to the Puppy Jake Foundation, which provides service dogs to wounded veterans. Representatives from the foundation, accompanied by several service dogs, accepted the check at the Adler Theater in Davenport, Iowa, where Trump was being interviewed on stage.

The next day, in Council Bluffs, Trump presented another check, also for \$100,000, to Partners for Patriots, which also provides service dogs to disabled veterans. The public check presentations trickled off within days, though some of the groups contacted by the AP did report receiving checks in February, March and April.

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks denied Tuesday that timing had anything to do with questions from the media. "Mr. Trump's team worked very hard to complete this lengthy process prior to Memorial Day Weekend," she said. The campaign also said it had taken months to carefully vet each of the groups receiving money.

Trump, who has refused calls to moderate his tone and temperament, also said he has no plans to change his tone with the press if he's elected to the White House. "Yeah, it is going to be like this," he said of potential future news conferences led by a President Trump. —AP



**NEW YORK:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump answers questions during a news conference on Tuesday. —AP

gone back and forth about how much pledged money had come through. The Washington Post had pressed for an accounting of the donations, and several charities said they received checks just last week.

Throughout Tuesday's 40-minute question-and-answer session, Trump accused the media of being "unbelievably dishonest" in their treatment of him. "I sent people checks of a lot of money. ... And instead of being like, 'Thank you very much, Mr. Trump,' or 'Trump did a good job,' everyone's saying:

"Who got (the money)? Who got it? Who got it? And you make me look very bad," he complained. "I have never received such bad publicity for doing such a good job."

While Trump has frequently made the media a punching bag, calling out reporters during his

## BRAZIL EASES VISA RULES

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazil is lifting visa requirements for tourists from Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States starting yesterday to encourage travel to the Rio Olympics, the government said.

The tourism ministry said Tuesday that it was throwing the doors open to tourists from the four countries because they are already a good market, have strong interest in the Olympics and pose a low security risk.

"These tourists will boost the country's economy by spending in hotels, restaurants, car hire, travel agencies and many other sectors," Tourism Minister Henrique Eduardo Alves said in a statement. "In this period, our attractions will be on global view. If we do our part, many of these tourists will return after the Olympics bringing friends and relatives," he said. The Olympics, the first to be held in South America, start August 5. —AFP

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MOSCOW: Pavel Dmitrichenko stands inside a barred enclosure at a courtroom on December 3, 2013. — AP

## BALLET DANCER IN RUSSIA ACID ATTACK RELEASED ON PAROLE

**MOSCOW:** A Bolshoi dancer convicted in 2013 for his role in an acid attack that scarred the face and eyes of the famed Russian ballet's artistic director has been paroled, his lawyer said yesterday.

Russian news agencies quoted the dancer's lawyer Sergei Kadyrov saying that Pavel Dmitrichenko was released Tuesday after a parole commission upheld his request for an early release. Dmitrichenko was found guilty of asking an ex-convict to attack Sergei Filin, who ended up losing much of his sight after acid was tossed onto his face outside his Moscow home. Dmitrichenko was sentenced to 5-1/2 years in prison in 2013.

Filin's lawyer, Tatyana Stukalova, told Rossiya-24 television that she would appeal the ruling because she says Dmitrichenko poses a danger to her client. The January 2013 attack and the ensuing trial revealed deep divisions at Russia's most renowned theater. Some Bolshoi dancers sided with Dmitrichenko, who insisted that he never contracted to have the attack done, only complained about Filin.

Much of the trial centered less on Dmitrichenko's role in the attack than on whether or not Filin's management of the ballet company could have driven him to the crime. As part of his defense,

the dancer cited several incidents in which troupe members were driven to tears by the artistic director.

Six months after the attack, the Russian culture ministry that oversees the Bolshoi Theatre replaced the long-serving director general who was embroiled in a war of words with Filin's opponents.

Filin stayed on as the ballet's artistic director while undergoing treatment and rehabilitation until the Bolshoi last year refused to sign a new contract with him. It hired Makhar Vaziev, who left La Scala in Milan for the job in Moscow. — AP

## FRESH PROBE INTO UK'S 1974 BIRMINGHAM BOMBINGS

ONE OF BRITAIN'S WORST TERROR ATTACK EVER

**LONDON:** A coroner yesterday ordered a re-examination of the deaths of 21 people in the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings, one of Britain's worst ever terror attacks, after claims that police failed to act on two warnings.

Coroner Louise Hunt ordered new inquests for the victims killed in the twin attacks, which were widely blamed on the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) paramilitary group, although it never formally claimed responsibility.

She said there was evidence that police missed two warnings about the November 21, 1974 attack, which left 182 people injured—one 11 days before, and another on the day of the bombings itself. The attack on two pubs in Britain's second biggest city came at the height of the IRA's bloody campaign to end British rule in the province of Northern Ireland. "I have serious concerns that advanced notice of the bombs may have been available to the police and that they failed to take the necessary steps to protect life," Hunt said.

She cited the two potential warnings, saying that "it is only in respect of that issue that I consider there is sufficient reason to resume an inquest to investigate the circumstances of these deaths."

Some relatives have claimed police were protecting an informant within the IRA, but Hunt said this was unfounded.

She also said the emergency services' response was not a contributing factor towards the deaths. Julie Hambleton, whose 18-year-old sister Maxine died in the attacks, welcomed the decision to resume the inquests. "All we want is to be heard so we can get the truth, justice and accountability," she told reporters outside the coroners' court.

She also urged the "cowards" responsible to give themselves up, saying: "If you have any level of humanity, any moral compass, then by rights you should come forward."

### Miscarriage of justice

The original inquests-judicial fact-finding investigations that do not apportion blame—were halted by a police probe that led to six men being wrongly jailed for the bombings in 1975.

The conviction of the so-called Birmingham Six was ruled unsafe by the Court of Appeal in 1991 and they were freed, after what is seen as one of Britain's greatest miscarriages of justice. No one has since been convicted, but the police investigation remains open. One of the Birmingham Six, Paddy Hill, said the new inquests were "the first step" but said he was "very skeptical" that the whole truth would emerge.

Dave Thompson, chief constable of West Midlands Police, said the failure to catch the bombers and the wrongful conviction of the Birmingham Six was "the most serious failing in this force's history". "I hope the new inquest provides answers to families," he said, adding that the police force would "assist the process now under way".

However, he warned against any hopes of imminent prosecutions in the case. "Since 2012 and directly as a result of the campaign by families of those who died we have carefully reassessed the opportunities to bring the people responsible to justice," he said. "Despite an intense scrutiny we have not been able to see, at this time, a prospect of doing this."

An estimated 3,500 people, the vast majority of them in Northern Ireland, were killed during three decades of violence on both sides that was largely ended by the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement. — AFP



IDOMENI: Two picture combo, top shows clearing tents and other debris used by migrants from the former makeshift camp on May 26, 2016. — AP

## IDOMENI MIGRANT CAMP, BEFORE AND AFTER BULLDOZERS

**IDOMENI:** Once home to more than 14,000 refugees and migrants, the makeshift camp at Greece's border village of Idomeni has now been evacuated and its former occupants transferred to other, supposedly better organized camps.

Bulldozers have removed the detritus and the railway line linking Greece to neighboring Macedonia and other countries to the north - which had been blocked by protesting refugees at great financial cost to the railway - is back in operation.

The Greek government has pointed out that the evacuation was carried out with no use of force but reports of "sub-standard conditions" in the new camps

abound. The United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, says some evacuees were taken to "derelict warehouses and factories" with "insufficient" supplies of food, water, toilets, showers and electricity. It has called on the Greek government to find "better alternatives quickly".

Initially a transit point on the busiest migrant route into central and northern Europe, the Idomeni camp had slowly turned into a place of shattered hopes after Macedonia and the Balkan countries to its north started blocking migrants from coming in. Refugees' attempts to break through the border fence into Macedonia resulted in brief but violent clashes with Macedonian police. — AP

## HABRE TRIAL BRINGS MOMENTUM FOR AFRICAN JUSTICE ON CONTINENT

**DAKAR:** The successful prosecution of Chadian dictator Hissene Habre has galvanized the movement for a permanent forum for justice in Africa, but several legal roadblocks stand in the way, according to experts.

A special African Union-backed court in Senegal sentenced Habre to life in jail Monday for war crimes, crimes against humanity, rape, and sexual slavery, an unprecedented conviction that comes more than a quarter century after he left office.

The case also set a global precedent as the first time a country has prosecuted a former leader of another nation for rights abuses. The verdict was "a vivid demonstration that the AU does not condone impunity and human rights violations," said African Union Commission chief Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

She said the judgment further "reinforces the AU's principle of African solutions to African prob-

lems." Until Senegal's President Macky Sall was elected in 2012 and announced Habre would be tried there, the ex-Chadian leader had lived in an up market Dakar suburb with his wife and children for more than 20 years. The court that delivered the verdict—the African Extraordinary Chambers (CAE in its French acronym) — is to be dissolved after the case wraps up, and African rights groups would like to see a similar body set up with lasting jurisdiction over the continent.

"We want a permanent, continent-wide system for justice in Africa," Aboubacry Mbodj, secretary-general of Dakar-based African rights group RAD-DHO, told AFP. "That's why after the African Chambers close—we will continue to demand from the African Union a permanent mechanism so that heads of state are not above the law."

Senegalese Justice Minister Sidiki Kaba told jour-

nalists Tuesday that "foreign hands were not behind" the verdict, reinforcing the notion of the Habre trial being an all-African affair. The AU has also "dragged its feet", RADDHO's Mbodj said, citing the adoption of the Malabo protocol in 2014, which envisaged an international criminal law section for the yet to be established African Court of Justice and Human Rights. The protocol grants immunity to serving heads of state but also to "senior state officials", a vaguely worded element that Amnesty International has said "essentially promotes and strengthens the culture of impunity that is already entrenched in most African countries."

### ICC role

Habre's prosecution is cited as an example of African best practice after years of criticism that the International Criminal Court (ICC), based in The Hague, has tried African leaders who critics say should be judged on the continent.

The AU, led in particular by Kenya, has accused the court of unfairly targeting Africans for prosecution as the majority of its cases come from Africa. This included failed efforts to try Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, and his deputy William Ruto, for allegedly masterminding deadly post-election violence in 2007-2008 in which some 1,200 people died. As some African states threaten to resign their membership of the ICC, its supporters on the continent say it still has an important and permanent role to play.

Ali Ouattara, president of the Ivorian branch of the Coalition for the ICC, which works to strengthen international co-operation between ICC member states, said the international court should act as a complement, given Africa's past weaknesses in bringing its own despots to book. "We hope that Africa can judge Africans in a permanent way and we hope that the ICC will always be there, as a buttress," he said. African failures to pursue their own criminal leaders meant the ICC was needed to act as a "policeman" on occasion, according to Ouattara. "Just as any African citizen is a potential victim of our leaders, equally any head of state, any powerful person, is a potential target of the ICC or African jurisdictions," he said. — AFP



DAKAR: Activists of Peace Mobilisation and African Justice Consolidation association (Mobilisation pour la paix et la consolidation de la justice africaine) hold placards reading "Africa's youth asks for a African Criminal Court" outside DAKAR Courthouse ahead of the sentencing of former Chadian dictator Hissene Habre on Monday. — AP

## ROMANIAN TEACHERS PROTEST IN BUCHAREST, DEMAND HIGHER WAGES

**BUCHAREST:** Thousands of Romanian teachers demonstrated yesterday to demand higher salaries, rallying outside the government's main offices in

Bucharest then marching through the capital. Dressed in yellow T-shirts and red caps, the teachers whistled and booed, and carried banners saying



BUCHAREST: Aurel Selaru, a Romanian teachers union leader, blows a horn during a march yesterday. — AP

"Leave education to the teachers!" and "If you can read this, thank your teacher."

The government this week offered teachers a 5 percent pay rise. Trade union leader Simion Hancescu said teachers were seeking a 10 percent raise.

Currently, teachers earn a base monthly salary of between 1,100 lei (\$275) and 5,000 lei (\$1,250). Adrian Nicolie, a teacher in southern Romania, complained about the working conditions. "We can't teach on a salary of 1,100 lei a month. We can't teach when many colleagues aren't paid for commuting and we can't teach with 35 students in a classroom or even 40 in kindergarten," he said. Teachers later marched toward the presidential Cotroceni Palace in west Bucharest. President Klaus Iohannis is himself a former physics professor. Labor Minister Dragos Pislaru suggested the protest was politically motivated ahead of the June 5 local elections. — AP

## EU FINDS POLAND AMISS ON RULE OF LAW

**WARSAW:** The European Union has found that Poland's government is amiss on the rule of law and has taken a step toward sanctions, a senior EU official said yesterday.

The European Commission has sent a critical opinion to Poland's conservative government about its actions relating to the Constitutional Tribunal which have paralyzed the key court, EU Commissioner Frans Timmermans said. "We've not been able to find a solution to the issues at stake," Timmermans said in Brussels. In January, the commission opened a multi-step procedure checking whether Poland respects the rule of law. It could potentially lead to stripping Poland of its EU voting rights. Yesterday's move means that EU leaders have found months of negotiations with Warsaw unsatisfactory and it brings the standoff closer to punishment for Warsaw, which would be the first ever sanctions for any EU member under the new "rule of law" procedure.

"We hope (the opinion) will help focus our dialogue with the government of Poland on issues that we believe need to be solved to get out of the conflict surrounding the Constitutional Tribunal," Timmermans said. Timmermans tried to soften the situation by saying he is still in talks with Poland's government and doesn't believe any further censoring steps will be needed. But he stressed that the European Commission is obliged to make sure that all member states follow the EU



BRUSSELS: European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans speaks during a media conference at EU headquarters yesterday. — AP

rules. Poland has two weeks to respond to the opinion, which hasn't been published. The government said it wants to work with the 28-nation bloc to resolve the issues. — AP

## DENMARK AND SWEDEN EXTEND BORDER CHECKS UNTIL NOVEMBER

**COPENHAGEN:** Denmark and Sweden yesterday extended their border controls until November to curb the tide of migrants into their nations, saying the European Union still lacked security at its external borders.

Denmark received more than 21,000 asylum applications in 2015, a 44 percent jump from 2014 but significantly less than its northern neighbor Sweden, which registered 163,000 applications in the same year. "In the current situation, where there still isn't a sustainable solution for securing Europe's external borders," Danish Integration Minister Inger Støjberg said in a statement. "I am glad that we now have the possibility to maintain border controls until at least November 12," she added.

Swedish Interior Minister Anders Ygeman said in a separate statement that his nation would do the same until

November 11. Sweden introduced border controls in the south of the country in November last year amid a record influx of migrants.

Denmark followed suit with random ID checks on its German border on January 4, just hours after Sweden began requiring rail, bus and ferry companies to verify the identities of people travelling from Denmark.

In May the EU approved a six-month extension of border controls in the passport-free Schengen zone after nations, including Denmark and Sweden, wrote to complain the border situation remained "extremely volatile" and asked to be allowed to keep frontier checks. EU rules say countries in exceptional circumstances may reintroduce border controls for up to two years, for periods of up to six months at a time. — AFP



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## PAKISTANI TEACHER HELD OVER 'BASELESS' BLASPHEMY CLAIM

**MUZAFFARGARH, PAKISTAN:** A Muslim teacher in Pakistan could face the death penalty after being accused of blasphemy, sparking anger from school officials and activists who said the law is being abused to carry out personal vendettas.

Arabic teacher Gibreel Ahmed was arrested at a government school in southern Punjab province on May 14 after allegedly beating two brothers in the sixth grade for not coming to class on time.

The students' parents complained to

the Government High School Gurmani in Muzaffargarh district, whose head told AFP the 40-year-old teacher had been suspended after an inquiry.

But four days after the original complaint, the parents went to police to accuse Ahmed of blasphemy, according to local authorities. The school said no mention of blasphemy had been made before the police complaint.

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in conservative Muslim Pakistan, where even unproven allegations can stir beatings and mob violence. Rights groups

have said the laws are routinely abused to seek vengeance. Multan-based lawyer Shahbaz Ali Gurmani, who said he has spoken with the father of the accused, said this was one of those cases.

"The case of this Arabic teacher seems fake and lodged to take revenge from him," he told AFP this week. "This is happening across Pakistan now, unfortunately, that wherever a blasphemy case is lodged there appears personal, social or political motive behind it in the most cases."

The school's headmaster agreed, say-

ing that the initial complaint from the parents had made no mention of blasphemy. The teacher did beat the students and was suspended for it, said Qazi Muhammad Ajmal. But the blasphemy allegation was "baseless", he said, adding that the majority of the school's 16 teachers agreed.

Prominent human rights activist Hina Jilani said police at times act on such complaints as they are afraid of a backlash if they do not. "In Pakistan, these laws are used to take revenge, for vested interests, unfortunately," she said.

Muhammad Bilal, the father who complained, told AFP that Ahmed would often beat students. "My son told me on May 10 that the teacher beat them for not carrying out a blasphemous act," he said. "We were angry and we took up the issue."

The teacher is being held in jail as an investigation is carried out, said local police official Javed Akhtar. Ahmed's father Fazlur Rehman told AFP that police had refused to take his statement or clarify where they were keeping his son. — AFP

## OUTRAGE AFTER DUTERTE JUSTIFIES PHILIPPINE JOURNALISTS' MURDERS

### WORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS NATION FOR REPORTERS?

**MANILA:** Media groups expressed outrage yesterday at Philippine president-elect Rodrigo Duterte's endorsement of killing corrupt journalists, warning his comments could incite more murders in a nation already one of the world's most dangerous for reporters.

Duterte, who won last month's elections in a landslide after pledging to kill tens of thousands of criminals, told

described the comments as "appalling". It conceded there were corruption problems in the industry but said these did not justify murdering reporters. "He has also, in effect, declared open season to silence the media, both individual journalists and the institution, on the mere perception of corruption," the NUJP said in a statement.

The Philippines is one of the

done something. You won't be killed if you don't do anything wrong," said Duterte, who will be sworn into office on June 30.

#### Journalist 'deserved to die'

Duterte also raised the case of Jun Pala, a journalist and politician who was murdered in Davao in 2003. Gunmen on a motorcycle shot dead Pala, who was a vocal critic of Duterte. His murder

based Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, described Duterte's comments as "distressing" and said they sent a signal to would-be killers that it was okay to murder in certain circumstances.

"When you say corrupt journalists can be killed, that is a very clear message," Teodoro told AFP. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists also condemned Duterte's remarks. "What he has done with these irresponsible comments is give security officials the right to kill for acts that they consider defamation," CPJ's Southeast Asian representative, Shawn Crispin, told AFP from Bangkok.

And Reporters Without Borders called for journalists in the Philippines to boycott Duterte's press conferences until he apologized. Adding to the public relations nightmare for Duterte, the distraught widow of the Manila journalist killed last week appeared in front of reporters asking how Duterte could imply her husband was corrupt. "He had only 200 pesos (\$4) in his wallet when he was killed," a sobbing Florabel Balcoza told reporters.

Duterte's spokesman Salvador Panelo insisted Duterte's comments had been taken out of context, and urged reporters to look at the president-elect's body language to understand his comments. "He is against all illegal killings. He will pursue the criminals to the ends of the Earth in accordance with the law and in accordance with the constitution," Panelo said.

One of the world's deadliest attacks against journalists took place in the Philippines in 2009, when 32 journalists were among 58 people killed by a warlord clan intent on stopping a rival's election challenge.

More than 100 people are on trial for the massacre, including many members of the Ampatuan family accused of orchestrating it. Panelo was the Ampatuans' defence lawyer until last year. — AFP



**DAVAO, PHILIPPINES:** Philippines' president-elect Rodrigo Duterte (C) meets his National Security officials yesterday. —AFP

reporters on Tuesday there was justification for killing journalists who took bribes or engaged in other corrupt activities. "Just because you're a journalist you are not exempted from assassination, if you're a son of a bitch," Duterte said when asked how he would address the problem of media killings in the Philippines after a reporter was shot dead in Manila last week.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines

most dangerous nations in the world for journalists, with 176 murdered since a chaotic and corruption-plagued democracy replaced the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos three decades ago.

Speaking at a press conference in his southern hometown of Davao to introduce his cabinet on Tuesday night, Duterte suggested the majority of those victims were partly to blame. "Most of those killed, to be frank, have

has never been solved. "If you are an upright journalist, nothing will happen to you," said Duterte, who has ruled Davao as mayor for most of the past two decades and is accused of links to vigilante death squads.

"The example here is Pala. I do not want to diminish his memory but he was a rotten son of a bitch. He deserved it."

Duterte added he knew who the killer was. Luis Teodoro, deputy director of the Manila-



**BEIJING:** North Korean performers entertain customers at the Okryugwan restaurant. —AP

## ESCAPED N KOREAN RESTAURANT WORKERS ARRIVE IN SOUTH

**SEOUL:** A group of North Koreans who escaped from a Pyongyang-run restaurant overseas where they had been working have arrived in South Korea, the South's government said yesterday.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with matters related to the North, provided no other details. Earlier in the day, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that three North Korean women who had been working at a restaurant in China arrived in the South on Tuesday afternoon or early Wednesday by flight from Thailand, where they had traveled to after escaping.

It's the second known group defection by North Korean restaurant workers dispatched abroad in recent weeks. Pyongyang has accused Seoul of kidnapping the 13 North Koreans who worked at a North Korea-run restaurant in eastern China before escaping and defecting to South Korea in April, and has repeatedly demanded their return. South Korea has denied the accusation and said the

workers chose to resettle on their own.

South Korean officials believe overseas North Korean restaurants have been suffering economically since stronger international sanctions were applied against North Korea over its nuclear test and long-range rocket launch earlier this year. The workers who defected to the South in April have said that their restaurant was struggling to meet demands from North Korean authorities at home for foreign currency, according to South Korean officials.

South Korea's spy service said earlier this year that North Korea was running about 130 restaurants overseas, mostly in China. Overall, North Korea has about 50,000-60,000 workers abroad, mostly in Russia and China, with a mission to bring in foreign currency, according to the National Intelligence Service. More than 29,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, according to the South Korean government. —AP

## CHINESE PRESIDENT STRESSES 'FRIENDLY' TIES TO N KOREA ENVOY

**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the importance of "friendly relations" to a visiting North Korean official yesterday, after the envoy reportedly told Chinese officials Pyongyang would continue its internationally condemned nuclear program.

Xi told top North Korean party official Ri Su-Yong in Beijing that "China places great value on the friendly cooperative relationship" with its isolated neighbor, an official report said.

China is North Korea's largest trading partner and has been its key diplomatic protector for decades. But relations have soured over Pyongyang's nuclear tests and long-range missile launches, with Beijing supporting UN sanctions.

Ri told Chinese officials on Tuesday that Pyongyang would stick to its policy of "simultaneously pushing forward economic construction and the building of nuclear force", according to the North's official KCNA news agency.

The report of the meeting between Ri-a former foreign minister-and Xi, which was posted on the website of the Chinese Communist Party's international department, made no mention of the nuclear issue. It cited Xi as saying he hoped "all sides could remain calm, increase communication and dialogue and protect regional peace and stability".

The report said Ri updated Xi on the North's once-in-a-generation party congress last month, which cemented Kim Jong-Un's leadership and formally



**BEIJING:** Chinese President Xi Jinping waving after a press conference on Monday. —AFP

endorsed his policy of nuclear expansion. The lack of any official Chinese representation at the congress was seen as a sign of friction between the two traditional allies.

Kim has not visited China since coming to power in December 2011 and Xi has not visited Pyongyang.

The North Korean leader watched the local Sobaeksu basketball team beat China's Olympic squad in three matches on Monday, KCNA reported. But China's Sina Sports portal on Tuesday interviewed a Chinese Olympian who attributed the results to biased refereeing. "At times we stood still and were accused of running, and we basically couldn't make any physical contact at all in defense," the unnamed player said. He added: "As soon as we made contact, we were accused of a foul." —AFP

## EVACUEES TRICKLE BACK INTO CANADIAN CITY HIT BY WILDFIRE

**FORT MCMURRAY, ALBERTA:** Thousands of who fled a massive wildfire in the Canadian oil city of Fort McMurray began to trickle back to their homes yesterday, though the water was still not safe to drink and other services were limited.

More than 90,000 residents fled the remote northern Alberta city as the fire hit four weeks ago, burning entire neighborhoods. Officials expect 14,000 to 15,000 to return yesterday as a two week staged re-entry gets underway.

Downtown Fort McMurray, untouched by fire, was quiet but not empty early on Wednesday morning. Some stores were already open, and there was still some smoke in the air. John Smith, 77, and his wife, Joyce, were bracing for heavy traffic on the main highway leading into the city, as well as what may lie ahead. "We didn't even have time to empty the garbage," he said. "I'm going in first with a flashlight and wearing a mask, and one of us will open the doors and windows and flush the

house out." The blaze was a devastating blow to a community already reeling from a two-year slump in global crude prices. It shuttered more than a million barrels per day of crude production, though some facilities have since resumed operations.

Early in the morning, police began removing the barricades that had kept residents out of the city. Authorities told those returning to bring two weeks' worth of food, water and prescription medication. The area is under a boil water advisory and the local hospital's capabilities are limited.

Some 2,000 residents who had expected to return this week were told on Monday that they should not go back because of risks posed by debris and contaminants, including caustic ash. Among them were Elsie Knister, 63, and her neighbor Mary Lindsey McNutt, 33. "I have panic attacks, there's water damage, there are toxins in my furniture and my cupboards, and under the floor," Knister said. "I am scared of everything right now, and I am going to have to deal with it one day at a time."

The pair had been staying in Edmonton and moved north to the Wandering River evacuee camp over the weekend in preparation for their return. They said they were not sure where to go next. "I feel they are bringing people back in here way too quickly," McNutt said. "My family in Nova Scotia are saying why don't you come home for the summer? If we are displaced until August or September I will probably get on a plane."

Deteriorating air quality could force officials to change re-entry plans yet again. About 10 percent of the city's homes were destroyed by the blaze, which has blackened more than 580,000 hectares (2,239 square miles). —Reuters



**EDMONTON:** Evacuees from the wildfires in and around Fort McMurray exit a bus at the evacuation center at the Edmonton Expo Centre on May 4, 2016. —AP

## MALAYSIA FIRES IMMIGRATION STAFF FOR AIDING CRIMINALS

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia has sacked 15 immigration department officers and suspended 14 others after an investigation found staff had colluded with criminal syndicates to manipulate systems that track entry and exit, the government has said.

The subterfuge was centred at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) and had begun in 2010, the department's director-general, Sakib Kusmi, said in a statement released Tuesday.

Around two dozen other department staff have faced administrative action or were under observation, 63 have been transferred, and criminal charges could be forthcoming, he said. "The syndicates hacked or breached our system with the help of the involved immigration officers," he said. Sakib added that the activity allowed the criminal networks—which he said included foreign elements—to manipulate information on who entered or left the

country. No further details on the syndicates, or other specifics of the nature or scope of the sabotage, were given. Deputy Prime Minister Zahid Hamidi said last week that about 100 people, including both immigration officers and criminal syndicate members, were under investigation by authorities over the security breaches. The punishments were meted out beginning in February. Sakib said the immigration department also would implement a large-scale transfer of personnel at KLIA to guard against a recurrence.

No mention was made of any terrorist or extremist involvement in the affair, and Sakib said no high-level immigration officials were implicated. Muslim-majority Malaysia has said that scores of its citizens had gone to join the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq, and authorities have been on heightened alert against extremists returning to carry out attacks at home. —AFP





Two Palestinian boys play on a donkey cart next to a wall of graffiti in the Deir el-Balah refugee camp in central Gaza Strip yesterday. — AP

## OPEC UPBEAT, KUWAIT WANTS FAIR OIL PRICE

Continued from Page 1

But in the most recent drop, which has seen oil tumble from over \$100 in 2014 to close to \$25 in January, OPEC - driven by kingpin Saudi Arabia - has changed tack. Instead of reducing output, it has kept the oil flowing in order, experts say, to keep hold of market share by squeezing competitors - particularly US shale oil producers.

Although it has taken some time, straining even Saudi Arabia's finances, the strategy appears to be bearing fruit, with non-OPEC output on course this year to fall sharply. The price per barrel, meanwhile, last week touched \$50 for the first time in six months, making OPEC - riven by rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran - breathe easier. Suhail Al-Mazrouei, United Arab Emirates oil minister, said late Tuesday that he expected 2016 to be "the year of correc-

tion". "The rules of the market, which is the supply and demand, are working," he told reporters in Vienna.

Angola's Jose Maria Botelho de Vasconcelos, oil minister, said that the price "tendency is a little bit positive". However, Vasconcelos also said that Angola needed the price to rise further, while Venezuela's oil minister expressed worries that the recent recovery might peter out. Venezuelan Energy Minister Eulogio del Pino, whose economy has been pushed to the brink by the weak oil price, said the recent rise was due to exceptional factors that have reduced global output. These included strikes in Kuwait, wildfires in Canada, disruption in Nigeria and lower output in Colombia, he said. "It's not the situation of the market, it's some circumstances," he said. "When those circumstances are removed, what is going to happen?" — Agencies

## SIGNALS DETECTED FROM EGYPTAIR BLACK BOX

Continued from Page 1

The French navy surveillance vessel Laplace which detected the signals is equipped with three devices capable of picking up the "pings" from the black boxes from a distance of up to five kilometres. Investigators have said it is too soon to determine what caused the disaster although a terror attack has not been ruled out. France's aviation safety agency has said the aircraft transmitted automated messages indicating smoke in the cabin and a fault in the flight control unit minutes before disappearing from radar screens.

Investigators were able to narrow down the search site thanks to an emergency signal sent via satellite by the plane's locator transmitter when it hit the Mediterranean last week. Two BEA investigators are on board the Laplace while three others are in Cairo along with an Airbus expert to help the probe, according to

the French government. The passengers were 30 Egyptians, 15 French citizens, two Iraqis, two Canadians, and citizens from Algeria, Belgium, Britain, Chad, Portugal, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. They included a boy and two babies. Seven crew and three security personnel were also on board.

The crash comes after the bombing of a Russian airliner over Egypt's restive Sinai Peninsula last October that killed all 224 people on board. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for that attack within hours, but there has been no such claim linked to the EgyptAir crash. IS has been waging a deadly insurgency against Egyptian security forces and has claimed attacks in both France and Egypt. In October, foreign governments issued travel warnings for Egypt and demanded a review of security at its airports after IS said it downed the Russian airliner over Sinai with a bomb concealed in a soda can that had been smuggled on the plane. — AFP

## KUWAIT REMOVED FROM LIST OF LABOR RIGHTS...

Continued from Page 1

She added that Kuwait also established the Public Authority for Manpower and a center for sheltering foreign workers with a capacity to receive 500 people. The center provides health, mental and legal services to ex-

triate, she noted.

Meanwhile, Subaih said a meeting of GCC ministers of social affairs, held on the sidelines of the ILO conference, was very fruitful and they discussed labor legislations. They also finalized an MoU for vocational safety and labor regulations. — KUNA

## WORLD'S LONGEST TUNNEL OPENS

Continued from Page 1

Speaking at ceremony in the town Pollegio after the inaugural trip, Hollande urged British voters to recall their closeness to Europe on the June 23 Brexit vote. "We are as united as we have ever been," Hollande said, drawing a parallel between the GBT and the 1994 opening of the Channel Tunnel, which connected Paris and London by high-speed rail and fostered fresh ties between the two capitals. "I hope that the British will remember (that closeness) when the day comes" to cast their vote, he said.

Merkel told Swiss broadcaster ATS the network it was "marvelous" to think about taking a journey with 2,000 m of mountain rock above her head. The tunnel was entirely funded by non-EU member Switzerland, but leaders from the bloc have hailed it for improving connectivity from Rotterdam to the Adriatic at a time when the continent's divisions have dominated headlines. Travel through the picturesque Alpine region, by rail or by road, requires taking a zigzag and undulating route.

The Gotthard Base Tunnel was designed to offer a better option for both private travellers and commercial freights. When the full service opens in December, the tunnel will shave the train journey from Zurich to Milan in northern Italy down to two hours and 40 minutes, roughly an hour less than it currently takes. It should also make

rail freight more efficient - partly by supporting heavier cargo, reducing the number of smoke-spewing lorries on the roads and in turn improving traffic and curbing pollution. The number of daily rail passengers is expected to increase from the current rate of 9,000 people to 15,000 by 2020, according to the Swiss federal railway service.

The rough design for a rail tunnel under the Gotthard Pass was first sketched by Swiss engineer Carl Eduard Gruner in 1947. But bureaucratic delays, concerns over the cost and other hurdles pushed back the start of construction until 1999. Yesterday's inauguration featured a ceremony with at times abstract choreography and elaborately costumed dancers, including an angel-type figure floating above orange-clad workers.

The Gotthard Tunnel was largely made possible by technical advances in tunnel-boring machines, which replaced the costly and dangerous blast-and-drill method. The primary machine used to make the Gotthard tunnel was roughly 410-metres long and functioned like a mobile factory. It cuts through rock and throws the debris backwards while simultaneously placing the pre-formed segments of concrete that form the shape of the tunnel. A separate system grouts the pieces together. With its official opening, the GBT has surpassed Japan's 53.9-km Seikan tunnel as the world's longest train tunnel. The 50.5-km Channel Tunnel has been bumped into third place. — AFP

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## Issues

SOMALILAND DREAMS  
PORT WILL BOOST  
INDEPENDENCE

By Karim Lebour

**C**reaking wooden fishing dhows bob alongside each other in the sparkling blue waters of the port of Berbera, a key trade point along one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. But big changes could be coming. While container ships are rare here in the main transport hub of the self-declared republic of Somaliland in northern Somalia, a contract just signed with Dubai's giant global port company DP World will see the port developed.

For Somaliland, unrecognized as a country despite 25 years of de facto independence from the war-torn rest of the Horn of Africa nation, the planned port development symbolizes hopes of being taken more seriously as a nation. For now, the port mainly exports sheep and camels to Gulf nations, and the some 40,000 containers it handles each year are but a tiny fraction of the 900,000 containers shipped through the far larger neighboring port of Djibouti. The Dubai port investment is not only a financial windfall of hundreds of millions of dollars, but is also seen as a vote of confidence in the stability of this small self-proclaimed state.

## Strategic Position

"We're going to make Berbera one of the world's busiest ports, and become a gateway for the Horn of Africa," said port director Ali Mohamed. While exact details of the agreement with DP World have yet to be finalized, Somaliland says it will include a doubling of the port's capacity. "In a year, we will be able to process 200,000 containers," Mohamed said. "Berbera is as strategic as Djibouti."

On the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden, Berbera offers an African base sitting at the entrance to the Red Sea and the gateway to the Suez canal, at the crossroads for cargo traffic between the Arabian Peninsula, Asia and Europe. Somaliland itself is far from being a major international trading partner, but offers another route into neighboring, landlocked Ethiopia, with a growing market of 96 million inhabitants.

## 'Try the Economic Way'

Expanding the port could help bypass the congested port of Djibouti. An agreement signed in March with Ethiopia forecasts that almost a third of the country's cargo traffic might be funnelled through Berbera. Plans to boost the port have long been in the works: France's Bolloré Africa Logistics had hoped to win the contract, but Dubai clinched the deal amid wider investment and expanding influence in Somaliland by Gulf nations. Kuwait has already financed the renovation of the airport in the capital Hargeisa, as well as construction of religious schools, while Emirates is one of the few airlines providing daily flights.

"The DP World bid was the best," said port chief Mohamed, adding that Bolloré may have "a second chance" as Berbera will undoubtedly need further development if the port is a success. The most pressing challenge will be building a road able to handle the lorries carrying containers to Ethiopia. For Somaliland, with a population of some four million, the port offers a chance of taking a bigger role in the region.

Without legal recognition Somaliland is in limbo. The government has a budget of \$250 million and its own currency, but cannot directly access the World Bank or IMF loans needed to develop infrastructure. The government in Hargeisa hopes that the port might offer economic independence, even if political recognition remains a distant dream. "We did all that was possible politically, and it did not work," said Hanad Hashi, a councillor in Hargeisa. "We have to try the economic way. We need investors." —AFP

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## COULD A MILLIONAIRE SAVE IRAQ'S SUNNIS?

By Ned Parker

**F**or at least a decade, Iraqi business mogul Khamis Khanjar has bankrolled Sunni politicians and fighters alike. Now, he wants to use his multimillion-dollar fortune to create an autonomous region for Iraq's Sunnis. Khanjar's emergence from backroom deal-maker to would-be Sunni champion is just one sign of Iraq's continued political drift.

Efforts by Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi to reconcile Iraq's Sunni and Shiites have mostly foundered, despite increased US engagement in Iraq. Shiite parties and militias are often more focused on their own internal power struggles than brokering a political compromise with Sunnis. Sunni tribes tell security officials and politicians they are at the mercy of both Sunni extremist group Islamic State and Shiite militias.

Dubai-based Khanjar says he offers an alternative: a federation in which Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds could all run their own parts of the country without formally breaking it up. A Sunni federal region would win billions in investments from Gulf Arab states and Turkey, Khanjar and partners in his alliance said.

Last week, Khanjar, a native of the embattled Sunni city of Fallujah, announced in a televised address that he was forming a delegation to investigate "extrajudicial killing," the "demolishing and looting of property" and other alleged human rights violations by Shiite militia there. "The Iraqi government is granting a political cover to militias and consistently denies the systematic violations of human rights" Khanjar said.

The government has consistently denied any involvement by state forces in killings or abductions and said it actively works to arrest criminal gangs behind such actions. Over the past year, the six-foot-tall tycoon, flanked by a gaggle of aides and British private security contractors, has made a series of trips to northern Iraq. He limits himself to Kurdistan, because, he says, his life is in danger from Islamic State and Iranian-backed forces in other parts of the country. He is also paying \$65,000 a month to a Washington, DC-based lobbying firm run by former Clinton White House officials to promote his cause in the United States.

Iraq's ruling Shiite leaders deride him as a destabilizing opportunist. Jabbar Al-Abadi, a

member of parliament from the Prime Minister's Dawa party, described Khanjar's push for Sunni autonomy as "an invitation to tear Iraq apart." Sunni rivals of Khanjar describe him as a self-promoter and accuse him of putting his desire for power above Iraq's stability. Khanjar's advantage is his checkbook, which has helped bankroll political coalitions, finance tribal uprisings and fuel nationwide protests. Sunni and Shiite politicians alike have tried to woo him at one time or another, including some who despise him.

Former US diplomats say that Khanjar's sizeable fortune and close ties with Gulf States and Turkey allow him to be a secret and enduring force in Iraq's politics. "Khanjar will play any side so as to gain advantage for himself," one former US official said. "Question is: does he really want to influence his country for the best, or is he just protecting and expanding his business networks? Or is it all just a game for a guy who is a billionaire?" That matters because over the past decade, assassinations by Islamic State and Shiite militias, and political infighting have severely winnowed the pool of budding Sunni politicians. Ex-US diplomat Ali Khedery, who worked in Baghdad from 2003 to 2010, said "Khanjar is one of the very few Sunni figures with vision, intellect, and money, who is left standing, although he is far from perfect in a country wracked by violence, sectarianism and corruption."

Khanjar's history is controversial. Former Sunni guerrillas in Iraq say he helped fund the anti-US insurgency that began soon after the 2003 US-led invasion. Later, they say, he backed the 2006 pro-American Sunni tribal uprising that helped destroy Islamic State's original incarnation, Al-Qaeda in Iraq. In 2010, Khanjar says he helped found one of the two main political lists in Iraq's national elections. Three years later, he helped finance nationwide Sunni protests against Baghdad.

Ezzat Shabandar, a Shiite politician, who negotiated with Khanjar during the 2010 Iraqi government formation process, described the tycoon as the man the Shiite parties had to talk with earlier this decade. "He had power and wealth," Shabandar said, though cautioned that the emergence of Islamic State meant it would be harder for Khanjar to be an

unrivaled "strongman" for Sunnis today. Khanjar's net worth is estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars. His assets include manufacturing, banking, financial services and commercial and residential real estate across the Middle East, Europe and North Africa. Detractors - from former insurgents to Iraqi intelligence officers - say his family built its fortune by setting up front companies for members of Saddam Hussein's regime in the 1990s. They accuse Khanjar of seizing his partners' assets for himself after the 2003 invasion, accusations he denies. Asked his worth, Khanjar laughed and answered: "God has been very good to me."

## Pandora's Box?

Earlier this year, Khanjar flew into Iraqi Kurdistan to inspect some of the 14 schools and three clinics he funds for the one million Sunnis who have settled there after being displaced from their homes across Iraq. Dressed elegantly in a dark suit, he was greeted by dozens of Sunni children in matching blue and white uniforms. The children dutifully recited poems praising him as their rescuer from Iraq's sectarian conflict. Khanjar smiled, folded his hands and addressed them. Iraq's Sunnis must fight both Islamic State terrorists and Iraqi government-backed Shiite militias, he said.

"We are heading towards a borderless, bloody Sunnistan if there is no immediate action by the Iraqi government to address Sunni rights," he told Reuters later. "Once we cross the threshold, no wise men - myself or any other - can close Pandora's box." Khanjar argues that a federal region modeled on Iraq's nearly independent Kurdish territory will grant Sunnis rights and help them to fight Islamic State. The Iraqi constitution allows the country's provinces to create a federal region. Sunni provinces have attempted to do so twice but were rebuffed by former Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki. Abadi, who took over two years ago, has endorsed the principle of greater local governance. But he has been reluctant to address the campaign for a broader Sunni region.

To push his case, Khanjar has recruited powerful Sunni political allies, including the former governor of Mosul, Atheel Al-Nujaifi, and ex-finance minister Rafaa Al-Issawi. US officials

viewed Issawi as a leading Sunni moderate before former Prime Minister Maliki issued a controversial arrest warrant against him for terrorism in Dec 2012. But Khanjar and his allies complain that they have been frozen out by the Obama administration. They say US officials do not believe their complaints that the Iraqi government is failing to reconcile with Sunnis or to address abuses carried out by the Shiite militia forces. They say the US government has refused to issue visas for Issawi and Nujaifi to travel to the United States after the two visited Washington last spring and criticized the Iraqi government. US ambassador to Iraq, Stuart Jones, denied that there was a deliberate policy to keep the men out but declined to elaborate on why their visas had been refused. Jones said it was against policy to speak about individual visa cases. "The US embassy has no interest in silencing Iraqi voices in Washington DC or anywhere else," Jones said. "Nor do we have that capacity." US officials declined to speak publicly about Khanjar.

Seeking to address the impasse with the United States, Khanjar has deployed his wealth in Washington. In Sept 2015, he hired the Glover Park Group, a lobbying firm run by former Clinton White House and Democrat campaign officials. This winter, he opened an office in Washington. And his current media point man is the former spokesman of US ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power. "We have great relations with Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey," Khanjar said, while emphasizing he was an Iraqi patriot. "We want to leverage these relationships."

Nujaifi, the former Mosul governor, says he is focused on securing the support of Turkey for the Sunni federal project. The pair are also building their own paramilitary forces to fight Islamic State. Nujaifi says his force now includes 4,000 men from Nineveh province who have been trained by Turkey. Khanjar says he has funded 2,400 men now fighting Islamic State just outside Fallujah. He claims to have another 4,000 recruits who are ready for training. Khanjar insists he is trying to save his country for its sake, not his. "Anyone would like to see his country stable and secure," he said. "If it was stable and secure, I would never have thought of going into politics." —Reuters

## INDIAN CENTRAL BANK CHIEF WINS OVER MODI

By Rajesh Kumar Singh

**I**n late 2014, the knives were out for India's central bank governor Raghuram Rajan. Finance ministry officials were frustrated by his reluctance to cut interest rates to stimulate growth, and moves were afoot to ease him out of the job. Some were airing their reservations about Rajan's hawkish stance in the media. Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a meeting of senior finance ministry staff that December to hear their complaints, said a person who was present. At the end, the leader delivered a stern message: Do not indulge in a public spat with the central bank.

The moment marked a turning point in ties between the heads of the newly installed government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Since then, Modi and Rajan have developed a close working rapport, government officials and people close to the governor say, and that could be crucial to the \$2 trillion economy. With Modi's patronage, it is more likely the government will reappoint Rajan, whose three-year term expires in September, should he wish to stay on, the sources said.

That would allow him to try to revive India's banking sector that has been smothered by distressed debt, which, in turn, is choking off economic recovery. "Rajan will get another term and he will accept it," said Arvind Mayaram, India's former finance secretary who Rajan worked with closely first as the government's chief economic adviser and then as RBI governor. "He is well entrenched in India's political economy." A top government official said the decision rests with Modi and the leader has not yet said what he wants to do. Modi recently told The Wall Street Journal that Rajan's reappointment would come up only in September. The official, speaking anonymously because he was not authorised to discuss the matter with the press, added that the prime minister was "proud" of the RBI governor and that a campaign against Rajan would not affect Modi's decision. The prime minister's office and finance ministry did not respond to

requests for comment. Rajan, former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, has not disclosed his plans, and did not respond to requests for comment for this article.

## Modi's Support is Key

Modi's support would be important if the 53-year-old RBI chief is to get the big state banking sector to complete a cleanup of massive debts and force defaulters to pay up. Banks making provisions for bad debt are reluctant to issue new loans, leading to criticism within the sector and complaints from smaller businesses and politicians. Patronage from above will also help shield Rajan from lingering opposition within the ruling nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to a man known for his straight talking and willingness to question government policy and achievements.

As the personal understanding between Rajan and Modi appears to grow, some officials still resent him. The fact that Rajan was appointed by the previous Congress government did not help him win friends in Modi's BJP, and the former University of Chicago professor has been viewed by some with suspicion as a product of the West, not India. BJP parliamentarian and economist Subramanian Swamy, one of those leading a campaign to remove Rajan, recently accused him of "wilfully and deliberately wrecking the Indian economy."

## Bonhomie

The governor's penchant for blunt commentary raises hackles. Rajan's appeal for tolerance late last year was perceived to be a veiled criticism of the government for appealing to the Hindu majority at the expense of minority communities, prompting Swamy to rebuke him for speaking like a "grandfather." Rajan recently compared India's fast-growing economy to a "one-eyed king in the land of the blind." Trade Minister Nirmala Sitharaman publicly censured his comments.

The first signs of growing bonhomie between Modi and Rajan

came early last year, when Modi called Rajan the "best teacher" for explaining complex economic issues to him. Days later, the governor returned the compliment, saying the teaching went both ways. The prime minister backed Rajan in the monetary policy panel's composition and blocking moves to strip the RBI's authority to regulate government bonds and manage public debt.

Modi's office also directed the finance ministry to pursue only those policies where there was agreement with the central bank, a former finance ministry official said. The governor frequently visits New Delhi to meet Modi, a government official with direct knowledge said. But their meetings are mostly kept away from the public gaze. Modi's office declined a request to disclose the number and details of the meetings, saying the information relates to "economic interest of the state."

Rajan had help from junior finance minister Jayant Sinha, a college friend and one of the more influential economic voices in the Modi government. At the December meeting, Sinha told the attendees that the clashes were undermining the government's credibility, the person present said. A government source said that Sinha also facilitated meetings between Rajan and Modi to broker a compromise on thorny issues such as the composition of the new monetary panel. Sinha did not respond to a request for comment.

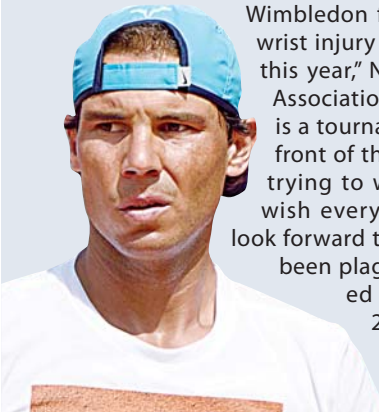
## Learning on the Job

Rajan may prove a more effective governor second time around if he gets the chance, say some RBI insiders and economists. Although he fended off a market attack on the rupee early in his tenure, bankers, economists and his former colleagues said he was relatively slow to grasp how liquidity flows through the economy and how to fine tune it to meet his primary policy goal of taming inflation. Under Rajan, the RBI forced banks to source limited short-term funds from cash-for-bond auctions rather than getting unlimited funds from the central bank at a fixed rate. —Reuters



NADAL PULLS OUT OF THE AEGON CHAMPIONSHIPS DUE TO INJURY

**LONDON:** Rafael Nadal has pulled out of the Aegon championships at Queen's Club, the traditional Wimbledon warm-up event, due to the wrist injury that forced the Spaniard to leave the French Open last week. The 14-times grand slam champion said then that he could tear a tendon if he did not rest and hoped to recover in time for Wimbledon, which he has won twice. The grass court Aegon championships start on June 13, with Wimbledon following on June 27. "I am very sad that my wrist injury means that I cannot play at The Queen's Club this year," Nadal said in a statement on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) website yesterday. (www.lta.org.uk) "It is a tournament and a club that I love, I enjoy playing in front of the British people, and I was looking forward to trying to win the title for a second time," he added. "I wish everyone at the tournament a great week, and I look forward to returning in future years." Nadal's career has been plagued by injury. Tendinitis in his knees prevented him from defending his Wimbledon title in 2009 and the 2008 Beijing Olympics gold medalist also missed the 2012 London Games because of injury. —Reuters

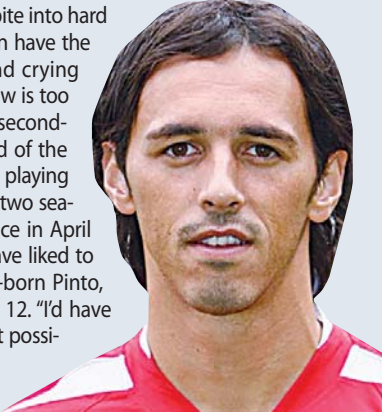


KEANE INCLUDED IN IRELAND EURO 2016 SQUAD

**CORK:** The Republic of Ireland's record goalscorer Robbie Keane made the final 23-man squad for the Euro 2016 named by manager Martin O'Neill on Tuesday after the team's 2-1 friendly defeat to Belarus in Cork. The LA Galaxy striker's place appeared to be under threat after suffering a calf problem, but he was named alongside fellow forwards Shane Long and Daryl Murphy. O'Neill and his assistant Roy Keane also decided to pick Sheffield Wednesday's Keiren Westwood as the third-choice goalkeeper ahead of Millwall stopper David Forde, who started Ireland's qualifying campaign as number one. Westwood is the only keeper in the squad who plays regular first-team football at club level, as Darren Randolph and 40-year-old Shay Given were both back-ups last season at West Ham United and Stoke City respectively. Bournemouth midfielder Harry Arter impressed in a 1-1 friendly draw with the Netherlands on Friday, but misses out after picking up a thigh injury in training on Monday. His club teammate Eunan O'Kane, Everton midfielder Darron Gibson, Oxford United youngster Callum O'Dowda and striker David McGoldrick were the others to be cut from the 29-strong provisional squad. —AFP

'CAN'T CHEW', FRACTURED JAW ENDS PINTO'S CAREER

**BERLIN:** Portuguese former Bundesliga star Sergio Pinto has announced his retirement from football, because he can no longer chew properly after fracturing his jaw twice in the space of six months. Having broken his jaw in October 2014 and then again in April 2015, on what proved to be his last appearance, Pinto has called time on his career as he can no longer eat properly. "Eating normal food is no longer possible," the 35-year-old winger, who made 211 Bundesliga appearances, scoring 21 goals for Schalke 04, Hanover 96 and Alemannia Aachen, told German daily Bild. "I can't bite into hard foods, like an apple, any more. "Sometimes, I don't even have the strength to chew, but there is no point going around crying about it." Pinto has decided an operation to repair his jaw is too risky and has not sought a renewal of his contract at second-division Fortuna Duesseeldorf, which expired at the end of the season. Having spent the 2013-14 season with Levante playing in Spain, Pinto returned to Germany and spent the last two seasons at Fortuna, for whom he made his last appearance in April 2015, when he broke his jaw for a second time. "I'd have liked to have decided for myself when to stop," said Portugal-born Pinto, who moved to Germany with his family when he was 12. "I'd have liked to have said goodbye on the pitch, but that wasn't possible anymore, which one has to accept," he added. —AFP



RED SOX CRUISE PAST ORIOLES 6-2

**BALTIMORE:** Mookie Betts hit a career-high three homers and drove in five runs, and the Boston Red Sox cruised past the Baltimore Orioles 6-2 on Tuesday night to open a three-game lead in the AL East. Betts led off the game with a shot to center and added a three-run drive to left in the second inning. After lining out to second base in the fourth, Betts hit a bases-empty homer to right in the seventh. Batting in the ninth inning with a chance to tie the major league record of four homers in a game, Betts grounded out to second against rookie Ashur Tolliver. Still, he's the first Boston player to hit three homers in a game since Will Middlebrooks against Toronto on April 7, 2013. Betts' 12 home runs rank second on the team behind David Ortiz, who has 14. Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts stretched his career-best hitting streak to 24 games with a single in the seventh inning.

DODGERS 5, CUBS 0

Scott Kazmir and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, matching zeros with Chicago ace Jake Arrieta before Los Angeles got to the Cubs' bullpen for a victory. Arrieta went seven scoreless innings but was denied his 21st consecutive victory. The Cubs had won in Arrieta's last 23 starts. Cubs left-hander Clayton Richard (0-1) gave up three straight singles to lefties in the eighth, the last Adrian Gonzalez's liner to left that scored Chase Utley and ended the Dodgers' 16-inning scoreless streak. Corey Seager hit a three-run homer off Trevor Cahill in the ninth. Joe Blanton (3-2) struck out three in two perfect innings as the Dodgers snapped the Cubs' six-game winning streak.

WHITE SOX 6, METS 4

Tyler Saladino hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and Chicago rallied from an early four-run deficit, stopping a seven-game losing streak with a victory over New York. Todd Frazier's two-run drive was his 16th homer this season, giving him the major league lead, and the White Sox got four innings of scoreless relief from their beleaguered bullpen to win for only the fifth time in 20 games. The Mets led 4-0 after three innings, but rookie Steven Matz, trying to win his eighth consecutive start, suddenly faded in the sixth and gave up three quick runs. Melky Cabrera drew a leadoff walk in the eighth from Hansel Robles (0-3). One out later, Saladino sent a 2-2 fastball to left field for his third home run, putting Chicago in front 5-4.

ANGELS 11, TIGERS 9

CJ Cron ended the game with his second homer, and Los Angeles blew a seven-run lead before rallying for a victory over Detroit. Cron's two-run shot to left against Mark Lowe (1-3) was the ninth homer of the game in a park that isn't known for power hitting, particularly at night. Cron also homered in the first inning of the Angels' 17-hit performance during their ninth consecutive home victory over the Tigers. Ian Kinsler hit a grand slam in the seventh before Victor Martinez's solo shot



ANAHEIM: Jett Bandy #47 tosses sports drink on CJ Cron #24 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim after Cron hit a two-run walk off home run during the ninth inning of a game against the Detroit Tigers on May 31, 2016. —AFP

tied it in the eighth for the Tigers, who rallied from a 9-2 deficit in the sixth inning. Mike Trout hit a three-run homer and Cron drove in five runs for the Angels.

NATIONALS 5, PHILLIES 1

Daniel Murphy hit one of four Washington home runs, Joe Ross allowed three hits in seven innings and the Nationals beat Philadelphia for their third straight win. NL MVP Bryce Harper missed the game, a day after he bruised his right knee when hit by a pitch. Philadelphia lost its season-high fifth straight game and has scored just nine runs during the skid. At 26-26, the Phillies are at .500 for the first time since a 10-10 start. Murphy broke a 1-1 tie in the sixth with a two-out solo homer off Aaron Nola (4-4) and added an infield single in the eighth. He hit .416 in May (47 for 113) with seven homers and 23 RBIs, tying the franchise record for hits in a month, shared by Al Oliver (August 1982) and Marquis Grissom (June 1994) of the Montreal Expos. He finished the month with a 10-game hitting streak.

ROYALS 10, RAYS 5

Lorenzo Cain homered and drove in four runs as Kansas City beat Tampa Bay, extending its winning streak to a season-best five games. The Royals, who have won six straight series, took a two-game lead in the AL Central after being seven games out and in fourth place on May 10. Cain hit a two-run homer in the first and a two-run single during a five-run fifth when the Royals batted around. Kendrys Morales homered - a two-run shot in the sixth - and drove in three runs for the Royals while Eric Hosmer had three hits and drove in two runs. Hosmer is 13 for 30 with 13 RBIs on this homestand. Royals right-hander Dillon Gee (2-2) labored through five innings to pick up the victory.

ROCKIES 17, REDS 4

Nolan Arenado and Charlie Blackmon each hit two of Colorado's team record-tying seven homers, powering the Rockies to a win over Cincinnati. Blackmon became the first player in Rockies history to hit leadoff homers in back-to-back games and added his first career grand slam in the seventh. Carlos Gonzalez homered for a fourth straight game, while DJ LeMahieu and Gerardo Parra also went deep. It was the first time Colorado hit seven homers at Coors Field. The team also had seven on April 5, 1997, in Montreal.

GIANTS 4, BRAVES 0

Jake Peavy faced the minimum 21 batters through seven innings, Denard Span drove in two runs with three hits and San Francisco beat Atlanta. Four relievers finished the combined one-hitter. Peavy (2-5) allowed one hit with no walks and three strikeouts. He was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the Giants' three-run eighth inning after throwing only 77 pitches - 57 for strikes. The seven innings matched Peavy's longest outing of the season. The 35-year-old right-hander lowered his ERA from 7.26 to 6.34. Peavy retired the first 12 Atlanta hitters before giving up Tyler Flowers' single to left to open the fifth. Kelly Johnson hit into a double play to end the inning.

RANGERS 7, INDIANS 3

Colby Lewis allowed two hits over six

shutout innings, leading Texas over Cleveland and improving to 5-0 for the first time in his major league career. Bryan Holaday and Jurickson Profar homered off Corey Kluber (4-6), and the AL West-leading Rangers won for the ninth time in their last 11 games. Sam Dyson got two outs for his sixth save.

BLUE JAYS 4, YANKEES 1

Kevin Pillar singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and made a highlight-reel diving catch in center field to help Toronto give New York its fifth loss in seven games. Justin Smoak homered and Darwin Barney hit a two-run single as the Blue Jays won for the 12th time in 16 meetings with the Yankees. Joe Biagini (3-1) worked one inning for the win, Toronto's sixth victory in seven games. Roberto Osuna finished for his 12th save. With the score tied 1-all, Edwin Encarnacion doubled to begin the seventh, chasing CC Sabathia (3-4) after 80 pitches and bringing Dellin Betances out of the bullpen. Pillar later singled in Encarnacion with a grounder to the right side. Pillar ended the fourth with a diving grab on Austin Romine's liner to right-center.

MARLINS 3, PIRATES 1

Jose Fernandez pitched seven scoreless innings to help Miami beat Gerrit Cole and Pittsburgh. Christian Yelich had a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh, JT Realmuto had three hits for the Marlins and AJ Ramos pitched a shaky ninth for his 16th save. Miami's Ichiro Suzuki had two hits to tie Sam Crawford for 31st on MLB's all-time hit list with 2,963. Fernandez (8-2) struck out six and gave up three hits while throwing 62 of 88 pitches for strikes. He improved to 22-1 at home and lowered his season ERA to 2.53. Cole (5-4) allowed three runs and nine hits in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out four and walked two.

CARDINALS 10, BREWERS 3

Matt Carpenter tied his season high with four hits for the second straight game, scored four times and drove in two runs to lead St. Louis over Milwaukee. Jedd Gyorko hit a three-run homer, and Mike Leake (4-4) allowed five

hits, walked one and struck out four over six innings for his fourth win in the last five starts. His only mistakes were Jonathan Lucroy's home run leading off the second and Ryan Braun's RBI double in the sixth. Carpenter and Matt Holliday - 2 for 4 with two RBIs - continued their torrid hitting against the Brewers, this time against Wily Peralta (3-6).

ASTROS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 5

George Springer finished a triple shy of the cycle and had four RBIs to spark Houston in a victory over Arizona. Springer doubled on the first pitch of the game, hit a three-run homer off Patrick Corbin (2-5) in the second inning and added a run-scoring single off the left-hander in the fourth. Springer scored twice and Luis Valbuena homered for the Astros, who had 12 hits to win for the seventh time in eight games. Lance McCullers (2-1) had control issues at times, but limited the damage in five innings. Luke Gregerson struck out the side in the ninth for his 13th save.

MARINERS 16, PADRES 4

Seth Smith hit two of Seattle's five home runs and finished with four RBIs, Adam Lind and Kyle Seager both hit three-run homers and the Mariners pummeled San Diego. The Mariners battered starter James Shields (2-7), didn't let up against reliever Luis Perdomo and had their biggest run output since scoring 21 against Texas in 2012. Seattle starter Hisashi Iwakuma (4-4) didn't allow a baserunner until Yangervis Solarte led off the fifth with a single.

ATHLETICS 7, TWINS 4

Danny Valencia homered and drove in three runs, Stephen Vogt had three hits and drove in two and Oakland won its fourth straight by beating Minnesota. Ryan Dull (1-0) ended a scoring threat in the fifth and finished with 1 1/3 scoreless innings for the win. Twins outfielder Miguel Sano left the game after straining his left hamstring running to first base in the third. Tyler Duffey (2-4) gave up at least five runs for a third consecutive start after giving up eight - five earned - through his first four starts combined. —AP

MLB results/standings

Houston 8, Arizona 5; Seattle 16, San Diego 4; Texas 7, Cleveland 3; Boston 6, Baltimore 2; Washington 5, Philadelphia 1; Toronto 4, NY Yankees 1; Chicago White Sox 6, NY Mets 4; Miami 3, Pittsburgh 1; San Francisco 4, Atlanta 0; LA Dodgers 5, Chicago Cubs 0; St. Louis 10, Milwaukee 3; Kansas City 10, Tampa Bay 5; Colorado 17, Cincinnati 4; LA Angels 11, Detroit 9; Oakland 7, Minnesota 4.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Boston	32	20	.615	-	Washington	32	21	.604	-
Baltimore	28	22	.560	3	NY Mets	29	22	.569	2
Toronto	28	26	.519	5	Miami	27	25	.519	4.5
NY Yankees	24	27	.471	7.5	Philadelphia	26	26	.500	5.5
Tampa Bay	22	28	.440	9	Atlanta	15	36	.294	16
Central Division					Central Division				
Kansas City	29	22	.569	-	Chicago Cubs	35	15	.700	-
Chicago White Sox	28	25	.528	2	Pittsburgh	29	22	.569	6.5
Cleveland	26	24	.520	2.5	St. Louis	28	25	.528	8.5
Detroit	24	27	.471	5	Milwaukee	23	29	.442	13
Minnesota	15	36	.294	14	Cincinnati	17	35	.327	19
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	31	21	.596	-	San Francisco	33	21	.611	-
Seattle	30	21	.588	0.5	LA Dodgers	28	25	.528	4.5
LA Angels	24	28	.462	7	Colorado	24	27	.471	7.5
Houston	24	29	.453	7.5	Arizona	23	31	.426	10
Oakland	24	29	.453	7.5	San Diego	20	33	.377	12.5



# MALI'S ARM WRESTLERS GRAPPLE FOR RECOGNITION

**BAMAKO:** A group of young men with muscles to rival Popeye are hoping to make explosive arm wrestling bouts a national pastime in Mali after showcasing their skills in the first international tournament the country has hosted. Sibri "Superman" Traore and Mamadou "the German" Sylla fought it out with arms seemingly cut from rock at last week's championship. A hip-high table painted in the colors of the Malian flag stood between them, with a referee on either side, one of whom shouted "Go" to set them off.

As they grappled, crowds in the stadium shouted encouragement and filmed the action on their smart-

phones. The game was a matter of seconds, biceps straining and trembling until-slam! - Traore released his grip from Sylla's planted hand before basking in the crowd's adulation. It was only one of Traore's victories that day. He was later crowned "champion of champions," punching the air with delight, his waistband poking out above his jeans. The Malian Arm Wrestling Federation (FMBS) organised a competition boasting two weight categories and overseen by Willy Deneumostier, secretary general of the sport's global body, formed in 1977. "I came to get an update on the invitation of Mali's first lady," said Deneumostier, a Belgian. The

president's wife Keita Aminata Maiga is the honorary president of the group.

### Must be 'explosive'

Many in Mali are new to the idea of the sport as something other than a way of solving childish disputes. But arm wrestling has its own techniques to master, said Frenchman Hadji Ibrahim, who travelled to Bamako for the competition. "A match takes one or two seconds. It's all about momentum, it has to be explosive, so we have to be concentrated on that 'go'," Ibrahim said. "There are lots of technical movements to do, there is a lot of training at the table to learn the tech-

niques, positions, starting points," he added. For superfan Boubacar Sidiki, 17, arm wrestling is a way of life that he wants to see become as popular as football or basketball, Mali's national sports. "We have to encourage Malians to practice it just as they do other sports. One day, I hope to be one of the competitors," said Boubacar. Also watching curiously from the sidelines was Mariam Sidibe, 18, who hopes a women's competition will be next to emerge in Mali. "I know for now it's just guys, but everyone could do it," she said.

The Malian arm wrestling association has existed since 2001. Its claimed membership of 250 shows the sport

may have some way to go before threatening football for spectators. Competitor Hadji says it is a matter of organization that African nations must resolve if they are to rival the likes of Russia, whose contestants dominate the world of arm wrestling. "When the Russians come to world championships, they bring 50 or so competitors," rather than just three or four representing African nations. The sport's visibility in Africa remains low-but South Africa did host the 2004 world championships. "There are federations which are starting up-but they are in their infancy and aren't very experienced," said Hadji. —AFP



Group photo of the Ice Hockey Team

# A TRIUMPHANT RETURN FOR KUWAIT ICE HOCKEY TEAM



PAS representative receives Fuhaid Al-Ajmi

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's National Ice Hockey Team returned home on Tuesday night after winning the Bahrain Open Tournament Cup. Kuwait defeated Qatar 3-2 in the final match during the five-day tournament. The president of the Winter Games Club Fuhaid Al-Ajmi said the victory is a good achievement. Al-Ajmi who headed Kuwait's delegation to the tournament, lauded the players, performance in all matches. He said the club is keen on having its players participate in such activities thus enhancing their technical level. "The team held a short training camp in Bahrain to prepare for the tournament, and this played an important role in winning the cup," Al-Ajmi said as he appreciated the support of Sports Public Authority for the club.

Meanwhile, a team member Abdelrazzaq Al-Dae said his teammates are happy with the tournament in which Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait participated. He thanked club officials for their unlimited support. Al-Dae said players were able to win the final match after coming back from two goals down to win by the score of 3-2. Kuwait's team began the tournament by defeating Qatar 10-1, then Bahrain 5-3, Oman 2-1, then won the final match against Qatar. The team was received by representative of Public Authority for Sports Bashar Al-Kandary.



### RUGBY-SUPER PREVIEW

## CASTLEFORD'S DORN STILL DREAMING BIG

**LONDON:** Luke Dorn insists Castleford still dreaming big as the Super League club look to bounce back from their defeat against Wigan. Losing to Wigan snapped a three-game winning streak for Castleford and dropped them to seventh in the Super League table. But, ahead of their clash with Yorkshire rivals Huddersfield tomorrow, former Sydney Rooster Dorn is confident Castleford can still crack the top four. To do that they will need to close a seven-point gap on fourth placed Wigan, while top of the table Hull FC are only two points further clear.

After a stunning win over Warrington earlier this month at Magic Weekend, Dorn and company have proved they can beat anyone on their day. And the 33-year-old Australian, who has announced he is retiring at the end of the season after an 11-year spell in England, is still aiming to go out on top. "From the first day I got here to now our game has evolved year on year, and even from month to month at times," Dorn said. "I don't think we're the finished article, but I think any team would say that."

We've got a lot more improvement to make and we can do a lot more developing to become a really good side. There's no reason why we can't finish top. We've got to win a lot of our games to finish first, but there are still a lot of games to go. "It's not really about finishing top I guess, we've just got to get in that top four, get to that Grand Final and anything can happen. "That's the minimum require-

ment - top four. They're the only people who are playing for the silverware, we've got to be in there, and also have a good cup run to Wembley."

### Fracas

Also tomorrow, St Helens face Warrington, with Saints second row Atelea Vea admitting they must get back on track after losing three of their last four in the league. "We just can't put a finger on it," he said. "It's disappointing when you're losing, everyone goes through those emotions. We need to do better as a team. "But we can definitely still win the title, with the boys we've got. There's a lot to take out of the games, we'll see what happens at the end of the season."

Elsewhere tomorrow, Salford host Wigan, who have been disrupted this week by a police investigation into an alleged fracas involving two of their players. Greater Manchester Police confirmed it was called to an incident in Wigan town centre last Friday night and that damage was caused to a gym. No arrests have been made and no players have been identified but the Super League club say they are conducting their own inquiries. Wigan marketing director Simon Collinson on Tuesday said: "We are carrying out an internal investigation and I would ask that no questions are put to Shaun (Wane) that might compromise or prejudice those investigations. As soon as the investigations are complete, we will then issue a full statement." —AFP



LeBron James

## HEALTHY SUPPORTING CAST COULD BOOST LEBRON IN FINALS REMATCH

**OKLAND:** LeBron James, in his sixth consecutive NBA Finals, leads the Cleveland Cavaliers in a rematch with defending champion Golden State starting today, but this time the superstar has a healthy supporting cast. Two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry sparks the Warriors' quest for a title repeat against four-time MVP "King" James, who is trying to bring Cleveland a major sports crown for the first time since the 1964 NFL Browns.

"Our city deserves it. Our fans deserve it," James said. "But that gives us no sense of entitlement. We've still got to go out and do it, be as great as we can every night. We look forward to the challenge." Last year, Cavaliers forward Kevin Love missed nearly all of the playoffs and injury-nagged guard Kyrie Irving broke a kneecap in the championship series opener. A superstar effort by James-the first man to lead the Finals in all three major statistics with averages of 35.8 points, 13.3 rebounds and 8.8 assists-couldn't keep the Warriors from taking the best-of-seven series in six games. "It's definitely a different feeling," James said. "I didn't appreciate last year, what we were able to accomplish. Knowing Kev was out and Ky was dealing with injuries from the first round. I just didn't appreciate getting to the Finals. "Having our team at full strength, and the way I feel personally, I appreciate this moment, to be a part of it once again." James and reserve teammate James Jones are the first players to reach six straight NBA Finals since legendary Bill Russell and the Boston Celtics ended a run of eight consecutive titles half a century ago. "In this day and age, to see LeBron do something like that where it hasn't been done in 50 years, that's crazy," said Cavs forward Richard Jefferson.

### 'Don't want to lose again'

James and the Cavs were swept by San Antonio in the 2007 finals and three years later he departed for Miami. The Heat lost the 2011 and 2014 finals and won the 2012 and 2013 NBA titles before James returned home vowing to make the Cavs a champion, barely missing on his first try. "I know what it feels like to win it. I know what it feels like to lose," James said. "And I

don't want to lose it again." In an 11-2 playoff run, James has averaged 24.6 points, 8.6 rebounds, 7.0 assists and 2.2 steals a game with Irving contributing 24.3 points, 5.1 assists, 2.5 rebounds and 1.5 steals a game and Love adding 17.3 points, 9.6 rebounds and 2.4 assists a game. "Thinking about just the steps it took to get back to where we are now, I really have a true appreciation of the journey," Irving said. "We're still not satisfied. There's still a goal at hand we have to accomplish." Blocking that path are Curry, 3-point sharpshooter Klay Thompson, Draymond Green and Andre Iguodala, last year's NBA Finals MVP after the Warriors won the last three games when he started. "They've been playing well the whole playoff run," Curry said. "We're ready for anything. Knowing how important taking care of your home court is, that will be a high priority going into game one." But this year, the Warriors have battled playoff injuries-Curry missing two games with an ankle sprain and two weeks with a right knee sprain-and enter the finals after three must-win triumphs over Oklahoma City with only two days off. "Guys have been playing hurt all year," Thompson said. "But I think no matter what they're going through, we've got too many competitors on this team to let that hold them back."

### 'Never lost confidence'

"We never lost confidence that we could get back to The Finals," Curry said. "It was just a roller coaster from the time I got hurt to coming back. Now we're four wins away from our goal. We've got to just refresh and get our bodies ready." The Warriors produced the best record in the NBA's 70-season history at 73-9, Curry leading the league with 30.1 points and 2.14 steals a game. Golden State led the NBA in scoring, assists and shooting percentage overall and from 3-point range. But they needed 3-point heroics from Thompson and Curry to escape a semi-final ouster. "Everybody will look at 73 wins and say this team never hit any adversity," Green said. "When everything is on the line, that makes it 10 times worse. It took a tremendous effort to overcome." —AFP





**INDIANAPOLIS:** Alexander Rossi of the United States, driver of the #98 Andretti Herta Autosport Honda Dallara, poses during a photoshoot after winning the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis Motorspeedway on May 30, 2016. — AFP

#### MOTOR RACING

## ROSSI ON TOP OF WORLD AFTER SLOWING TO AN INDY 500 WIN

**NEW YORK:** Indianapolis 500 winner Alexander Rossi literally coasted to victory at the Brickyard in the 100th running of the race on Sunday but his triumph was anything but worry free. IndyCar series rookie Rossi won the fabled race after a bold tactical move to forgo refueling to save time and in this individualist sport relied on help from his Andretti Autosport team mates to make it to the finish. Rossi says he ran out of gas at Turn Four of the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval with about 440 yards left. "I was just praying that there was nobody coming up behind me," the 24-year-old Californian told Reuters on Tuesday. "It was the longest trip from Turn Four to the start/finish line."

He had petered down to 130 miles per hour (209 km per hour) by the time he got the chequered flag, almost 100 mph (161 kph) slower than he should have been, but still crossed the line with more than four seconds to spare. "I kept looking at the Yard of Bricks (marking the finish), looking at my rearview mirror, saying 'Please, may nobody come and pass me.' When I finally got my car over the finishing line I looked to my right and it was 'Yeah, we did it. Thank god,'" Rossi said from the Empire State Building Observation Deck on the 86th floor about the moment that he felt on top of the world.

Standing next to the giant silver Borg-Warner Trophy whose Art-Deco design looked at home in the iconic Manhattan skyscraper, Rossi praised his fellow Andretti team drivers. "One of the ways we found most efficient to

saving fuel was being in the draft of others," said Rossi. "So Townsend (Bell) helped me out quite a bit by towing me around for probably about 12 laps and Ryan (Hunter-Reay, the 2014 Indy 500 winner) helped me at the end by towing me for four laps. "It was a huge team effort from Andretti Autosport."

Team mate Carlos Munoz finished second as Rossi's No 98 Honda finally came to rest short of the pit entrance. Rossi, who joined the Andretti team after driving on the Formula One circuit, said pulling together as a team was not unusual for them. "The four team mates and the fifth added for the 500 are an incredibly close knit group and after every day we sit down in a circle and discuss our individual day and what worked and what didn't work," said Rossi after only his second race on an oval. "That's how as a unit, as a team, we move forward." Since winning the Indy 500, time has been a blur for Rossi, who lost count of how many interviews he had done with media during a whirlwind day in New York. "It's been insane," said Rossi, breaking into a laugh when asked if he was in danger of running out of gas. "I'll be honest, I'm a little bit on the limit. "But it's an amazing city, to be able to come to New York, and a great opportunity and this place gives you energy." Along with all the attention came a first prize of \$2.5 million. "I'll get through it, I'm young enough. It's been crazy. I had no idea from when I got out of the car on Sunday afternoon what was going to come. It's been an amazing experience. I'll remember these days for the rest of my life." — Reuters

## INDIA'S MARY KOM SEEKS OLYMPIC WILDCARD ENTRY

**NEW DELHI:** India's boxing star Mary Kom is seeking a wildcard entry to the Olympics after a loss last month during qualifying saw her dreams of competing in Rio shattered, an official said yesterday. Kom, a former five-time world champion and a household name in India, was left devastated after losing a crucial bout at the Women's World Boxing Championships in Kazakhstan. Kom needed to reach the semifinals to book an Olympic spot but lost in the second round to Germany's Aziz Nisani, triggering reports the 33-year-old was mulling retirement.

India's boxing committee has now lodged a request with the sport's world association for a wildcard spot for Kom, the senior boxing official said on condition of anonymity. "We... have this responsibility of trying to see whether Mary with all her accomplishments over the last 15 years can represent India at the Olympics," the official said. "We first took

her consent and once she said yes, we decided to go ahead with our efforts." But Kom, an 2012 Olympic bronze medalist in the 51 kilogram category, faces an uphill battle to secure a spot. Only one wildcard entry is on offer in Rio in August in each of the three women's boxing categories, the official said. Wildcard entries are announced at the end of all boxing qualifying events, which wrap up at the end of this month with men's events in Azerbaijan. Kom, a mother of three and one of the country's most successful sports stars, has kept a low profile since losing the bout. Hailing from a poor family in the long-neglected and remote state of Manipur, her life inspired a Bollywood biopic in 2014 called "Mary Kom". The International Boxing Association suspended India's federation in 2012 due to election malpractices, but has approved a provisional committee to run the sport in India. — AFP



Mary Kom

HERBALIFE

#### CRICKET

## INDIA TO START TROPHY DEFENSE AGAINST ARCH-RIVALS PAKISTAN

**LONDON:** India will begin the defense of its Champions Trophy title against arch-rivals Pakistan at next year's tournament in England and Wales, the International Cricket Council announced yesterday. The June 4 2017 clash between the sub-continental giants will take place at the Edgbaston ground in Birmingham—a city with one of the largest Asian populations in England.

India-Pakistan is arguably the biggest fixture in international cricket, drawing huge worldwide television audiences, which in turn help attract major sponsors. As a result, it's no surprise when ICC events, such as last year's World Cup and this year's World Twenty20, see the two countries in the same group, with officials reluctant to miss out on an India-Pakistan game by having one or other side bow out before the knockout phase.

And with government interference often scuppering bilateral India-Pakistan fixtures, next year's Champions Trophy clash will be eagerly awaited by millions of fans around the world. "No doubt we want to try and pit India versus Pakistan in our event," said ICC chief executive David Richardson at the tournament launch at The Oval yesterday—exactly a year before the 2017 Champions Trophy starts. Former South Africa wicket-keeper Richardson added: "It's massive around the world, and it's probably no coincidence the two keep ending up in the same group."

#### 'Intense event'

India beat England by five runs at Edgbaston in a rain-reduced final to win the Champions Trophy, a tournament for the world's top eight 50-over one-day international (ODI) nations, at the last edition in 2013. "Having won the event in 2013, we know how intense this event can be and we are

under no illusion that it will be any different next year," said India captain MS Dhoni in an ICC statement. The 2017 opener at The Oval, Surrey's headquarters in south London, on June 1 sees England up against Bangladesh, who knocked them out of last year's 50-over World Cup with a stunning win in Adelaide.

World champions Australia will start their bid to win a third Champions Trophy against New Zealand at Edgbaston on June 2, 2017 in a repeat of the 2015 World Cup final. The 2017 Champions Trophy will run from June 1-18, with the three venues—The Oval, Edgbaston and Cardiff—the same grounds that were used for the 2013 edition. The top eight sides in the 50-over world rankings as at September 30 2015 have qualified for the tournament and that meant there was no place for World Twenty20 champions the West Indies, beaten to eighth spot by Pakistan. World champions Australia are in a Group A also featuring New Zealand, England and Bangladesh, back in the tournament for the first time since 2006. Group B comprises India, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The top two teams in each group will go forward to semifinals at Cardiff, the capital of Wales, and Edgbaston on June 14 and 15 respectively, with The Oval, staging the final. Unlike 2013, there will be a reserve day in place for next year's final. England and Wales Cricket Board director - events, Steve Elworthy said: "The ICC Champions Trophy was a huge success in 2013, with packed grounds and thrilling cricket, so we look forward to welcoming it back to England and Wales this time next year." The former South Africa paceman added: "It will start three years of global events in England and Wales, with the ICC Women's World Cup following shortly after and then the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2019. "It is without doubt an exciting time for cricket in this country." — AFP

# PROFESSIONAL BOXERS TO COMPETE AT RIO OLYMPICS

VOTE PASSED WITH 95 PERCENT IN FAVOR

**LAUSANNE:** Professional boxers will compete at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics after the international boxing association AIBA approved a constitutional change yesterday, its president said. AIBA boss Ching-Kuo Wu said the change of the AIBA constitution was approved with 95 percent in favor - 84 of 88 voting members-paving the way for professionals to fight for medals for the first time at the Olympics starting on Aug 5. "We approved it and now they can compete," he said. Some 26 Olympic spots will be up for grabs when fighters compete at a qualifying tournament in Venezuela next month, with a total of 286 boxers - 236 men and 50 women set to compete in Rio's boxing events. AIBA spokesman Nicolas Jomard said there would be no wild cards, with the age limit at 40 for the athletes.

The move has drawn considerable criticism as many argue it would be unfair to amateur boxers who have trained for the Games for years

and may now have to make way for the professionals. Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson, who as an amateur won gold at the 1981 and 1982 Junior Olympic Games, has branded the move "ridiculous." "It's ridiculous, it's foolish, and some of the pro fighters are going to get beat by the amateurs. It's just going to happen, I really believe that," the 49-year-old told Reuters last week. He said the three rounds in the Olympics would work in favor of the amateurs, with professionals used to fighting as many as 12 rounds.

Northern Ireland's Carl Frampton, a former amateur who has won WBA and IBF world title belts at super-bantamweight, was also against allowing professionals into the Olympics. "They're two different sports. It's like a badminton player playing tennis," he said on Twitter. Jomard rejected claims of a disparity. "There has been a lot of talk about disparity of level,"

Jomard said. "But it is not true." He said professionals would just need to adapt to a different set of rules that was Olympic boxing. "Olympic boxing has existed for decades and it is for them (professionals) to adapt and not the other way around. Why should we adapt for a minority?" "We are acting for the Olympic legacy of boxing. This is not just a one-off thing."

Under Wu's leadership, AIBA set up the semi-professional World Series Boxing (WSB) in 2011 in which fighters earned money competing for city-based teams. He also introduced women's boxing at the Olympics in London in 2012. Some of those WSB boxers have already secured places at the Rio Games. Amateur boxing has had its share of Olympic champions who have gone on to become top professionals, among them Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Lennox Lewis, Oscar De La Hoya and Vladimir Klitschko. — Reuters



**OREGON:** Justin Gatlin of the United States wins the 100 meter dash at Hayward Field on May 28, 2016 in Eugene, Oregon. — AFP

#### ATHLETICS

## GATLIN IN THE SHADE OF KENYAN STEEPLECHASERS

**ROME:** American sprint star Justin Gatlin might be used to hogging the limelight, but there's a strong chance he'll be overshadowed at today's Diamond League meet in Rome by one of the strongest ever Kenyan steeplechase line-ups. With no less than 50 Olympic, world or European medalists or Diamond League winners at the Golden Gala Pietro Mennea, the fifth leg of the 2016 IAAF Diamond League at Rome's Stadio Olimpico will be another stage for fine-tuning ahead of the Rio Olympics in August. Gatlin has form in the Italian capital, last year tying Maurice Greene's record of four wins at the Golden Gala and breaking Usain Bolt's meeting record with 9.75sec.

Gatlin, the 2004 Olympic champion who was banned for doping between 2006 and 2010, clocked a wind-assisted 9.88 seconds at Eugene last week. The world number one took the tape ahead of Jamaican Asafa Powell and American Tyson Gay and will doubtless seek to extend that form heading into the Rio Games. The 100m line-up also features Asian record holder Femi Ogunode, European record holder Jimmy

Vicaut and South African record holder Akani Simbine. But the blue riband event could well be eclipsed by the men's 3000m steeplechase, which promises to be an electric race.

All three podium finishers from the 2015 Beijing world championships will be in Rome: four-time world champion and reigning Olympic champion Ezekiel Kemboi, Brimin Kipruto and Consensus Kipruto. To that trio are added two more Kenyans in the shape of Golden Gala record holder Paul Kipsiele Koech and Jairus Birech, winner of the two last editions of the Diamond Race who has announced he would this season target the world record set by Kenyan-born Qatari Saif Saeed Shaheen (7:53.63) in 2004.

Other stand-out events include the men's high jump in which Italian all-comers record-holder Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar (2.41m) will come up against home hero and World Indoor champion Gianmarco Tamberi. Also in the field are Ukraine's Bohdan Bondarenko, world champion in Moscow 2013 and European champion in Zurich 2014, and world silver medallists

Zhang Guowei and Robbie Grabarz, who won at the Olympic Stadium in 2012. South African sprinting sensation Wayde Van Niekerk has risen to fame as the only male athlete to have run the 100m sub-10sec, the 200m sub-20sec and the 400m sub-44sec. And the world 400m champion will face Qatar's world indoor silver medallist Abdelalelah Haroun, Botswana's Isaac Makwala and Grenada's Bralon Taplin over one lap.

The men's 200m features American hopeful Trayvon Bromell, world indoor champion in the 60m and world bronze in the 100m, out to break the 20-sec barrier. In-form South African Caster Semenya will race the women's 800m having dominated her rivals in the Diamond League meets in Doha and Rabat. In Rome she will be up against the Beijing worlds podium in Marina Arzamasova, Melissa Bishop and Eunice Sum, the top-two of the World Indoor Championships in Portland Francine Nyonsaba and Ajee Wilson and European champions Linsey Sharp and Selina Buchel. Ethiopia's world 5000m champion Almaz Ayana will try to better the Rome record of 14:23.46 set by compatriot Tirunesh Dibaba. — AFP



**LAHORE:** Pakistan's chief cricket selector Inzamam-ul-Haq (top) supervises a skill camp at Gadaffi stadium in Lahore. — AP





## FRENCH ESTABLISHMENT DECRY BENZEMA RACISM CLAIMS

**PARIS:** Karim Benzema's claims that racism played a part in his non-selection for France's Euro 2016 squad sparked a wave of indignation yesterday as politicians spoke out against the Real Madrid striker's comments. Under investigation over an alleged sex-tape blackmail case, Benzema told Spanish daily Marca that France coach Didier Deschamps had "bowed to pressure from a racist French party" in his selection process. Patrick Kanner the French Sports Minister sympathized with Benzema's predicament but rejected any attack on the national coach with just nine days to go before the start of the France hosted Euro 2016.

"I can understand Mr Benzema's disappointment but under no circumstances are his statements acceptable regarding what he said about Mr Deschamps' sporting decisions nor his personality," Kanner said. "I call for calm, I would like us to concentrate on the competition and would ask everyone to get behind 'the Blues' (the French team) which is what the 23 squad members will be expecting of us. So let's stop this non-debate," he insisted. Socialist Party parliamentarian

Benoit Hamon told France's Europe 1 radio station yesterday that Benzema was: "right to say we are in a country where racism is on the rise." But he insisted there was no evidence of Deschamps being a racist. Fran ois Fillon who was Prime Minister for five years between 2007-2012 and who is hoping to run in the next presidential election rejected Benzema's position out of hand. "I can't stand for that!" "Forever bringing the nation's problems down to questions of race, religion and ethnic communities, it's unhealthy," he said.

### World class striker

Benzema's comments as reported in Marca echo similar accusations from the often controversial former French footballer Eric Cantona, who last week said Deschamps had excluded Benzema and Hatem Ben Arfa because of their North African heritage-drawing a threat of legal action from the coach's lawyer. Benzema, a world class striker with five seasons at Real Madrid, was suspended from international duty in December over a legal investigation into an alleged attempt by one of his friends to blackmail

France international Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape. He faces up to five years in jail over accusations he encouraged Valbuena to pay the blackmailers. "They said I cannot be selected, fine. But on a sporting level, I don't understand why," he said. "At a legal level, I am still innocent until proven guilty. They should wait until the justice system has made its decision." His path to the French Euro 2016 squad was at one time cleared when legal restrictions stopping him playing were lifted and it seemed he would make the squad after all. But then tough-talking French Prime Minister Manuel Valls and other politicians began to oppose any rehabilitation while the sex-tape inquiry goes on.

"The only person who knows what happened in this affair, who knows the truth, is Valbuena," Benzema told Marca. "He played a role, he has not told the truth. I wanted to help him, nothing more, and the whole thing blew up in my face." The exclusion of Ben Arfa and Benzema from the national squad has caused waves in France, which is struggling with racial tensions after two deadly terrorist attacks in Paris. — AFP



**MADRID:** Real Madrid's French Coach Zinedine Zidane (left) and Real Madrid's French forward Karim Benzema celebrate the team's victory on Plaza Cibeles in Madrid after the UEFA Champions League final football match between Real Madrid CF, Club Atletico de Madrid held in Milan. — AFP



**BELGRADE:** In this Saturday, April 16, 2016 file photo, Serbian riot police officers clash with Red Star soccer fans during a Serbian National soccer league match between Red Star and Partizan, in Belgrade. Hooliganism is making a comeback, and the timing could be bad with four high-risk matches in the first week of the European Championship in a country where the police force is already under huge strain. —AP

## HOOLIGANISM STILL A THREAT HEADING INTO EURO 2016

**PARIS:** Hooliganism is making a comeback, and the timing could be bad with four high risk matches in the first week of the European Championship in a country where the police force is already under huge strain. Should one or more of these matches - England vs Russia in Marseille on June 11; Turkey vs Croatia the next day; and England vs Wales and Germany vs Poland both on June 16 - descend into violence, the football itself could quickly become overshadowed.

Police forces in France have been stretched since last November's deadly terror attacks that killed 130 people. The last thing French authorities need is thugs causing mayhem. However, in the last two months alone there has been an increase in soccer violence around Europe. At the French Cup final, fans managed to sneak flares and objects into the Stade de France, despite a two-meter high security wall and triple security checks, while others tried to invade the pitch, raising serious concern ahead of Euro 2016, where the opening match between France and Romania takes place on June 10.

In Germany, too, several hundred fans from Dynamo Dresden were held back by riot police to stop them attacking bitter rivals Madgeberg in a third-division match in April, and mass arrests were made in May during the troublesome local derby between Frankfurt and Darmstadt. In Sunday's League One playoff final at London's Wembley, fights broke out among supporters; Rangers and Hibernian fans poured onto the field to do battle at Hampden Park in the Scottish Cup final - a worrying throwback to the mid-1980s when hooliganism blighted Britain - Liverpool and Sevilla fans traded punches in the Europa League final in Switzerland; FC Zurich thugs charged down the tunnel last Wednesday to try to attack their own players following relegation from the Swiss Super League, and then battled riot police outside.

Although centered on inter-club rivalries, these troubles highlight how hooliganism has been creeping back after several years of good behavior. In November, 2014, 43-year-old Deportivo fan Francisco Javier Romero Taboada died in hospital after emergency services had rescued him from a river where he was dumped after being heavily beaten during a fight against rival hooligans from Atletico Madrid. This season, the Europa League has been hit with football violence.

Heavy fighting at night between Italian side Napoli and Polish club Legia Warsaw, street battles between Spanish side Athletic Bilbao and Marseille; city center riots in Amsterdam between Ajax played Turkish club Fenerbahce. Other trouble involving, Lech Poznan from Poland; Belgian side Anderlecht, and Moscow based sides CSKA, Lokomotiv and Dinamo. A further 10 matches at Euro 2016 are identified as risky - including

Germany vs Ukraine; Slovakia vs England, and Russia vs Wales - and there will be increased border controls and tighter security at train stations and airports, in addition to eight police spotters from each country to identify potential hooligans.

"All of those who are subject to a banning order will be prevented from leaving their country by their local police in so far as their legislation allows," said Antoine Boutonnet, the head of French police's anti-hooliganism division. "Furthermore, we have gathered information on potential risks and will continue to do so during the tournament." But hooligans show determination and ingenuity to avoid police detection.

### 5 high-risk games

#### England vs Russia

The match is being held in the sunny seaport of Marseille and the fact that English and Russian football fans are likely to be drinking in the sun adds to the risk. As well as potential for violence between English and Russians, there is history between the English and the local Arab population of Marseille stemming from the 1998 World Cup, where Marseille's old port and nearby beach were turned into battle zones in two days of fighting around the England-Tunisia game.

"That is a considerable time ago and the behavior of England fans has improved markedly since," assistant chief constable Mark Roberts, who leads soccer policing in Britain, told The Associated Press. "(But) we need to be careful not to assume." The risk of confrontation with Russian groups could be higher because their traditional inter-club rivalries will have been put aside, with a new hooligan's charter explaining how they should stick together. One bulletin point reads: "During Russian national team matches, all groups must be united, without fighting each other. This is cease-fire."

#### Turkey vs Croatia

This match also carries risk, on a historical and geo-political level. "When Turkey played Croatia in the Euro 2008 quarterfinals in Vienna (Austria), there were incidents in Mostar (Bosnia) where the Bosnians were supporting Turkey," Loic Tregoures, a lecturer in world politics at Lille university and a specialist in Balkans football, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. The Croats have a few virulent groups, notably Dinamo Zagreb's BBB (Bad Blue Boys) and Hajduk Split's Torcida.

Another potential problem could arise from PSG hooligans, who were among the most active in Europe in the past 20 years until a massive clamp-down five years ago. Banned from their own Parc des Princes stadium, PSG hooligans have targeted Champions League fixtures, clashing violently with

Zagreb's BBB in the Bastille area of Paris the night before a Champions League game in Dec 2012. As well as the potential for clashes between PSG's hooligans and BBB - another dark threat exists. "There are Serbs among the former PSG hooligans, so you can imagine what could happen," Tregoures said. "This kind of tournament is the opportunity to measure oneself."

#### England vs Wales

Among the more prominent hooligan elements in Britain are Chelsea's "Headhunters" and Cardiff's "Soul Crew" - and hundreds fought on the Kings Road in London before an FA Cup match between the sides in 2010. Such inter-club rivalries may potentially resurface on the international scene, where hooligan groups have followed the national team. This means potential scope for trouble between thugs from Wales and other English hooligan groups should they come across each other; and also Welsh in-fighting between sworn enemies Cardiff and Swansea. The location of Lens, in northern France, makes it easy and quick to reach from Paris. "Given the proximity to France there is the potential for people to make multiple trips out there," Roberts told The AP. "If we identify someone who causes problems we will seek a banning order immediately to prevent them traveling again to France."

#### Germany vs Poland

Polish and German hooligans seeking to clash at the 2006 World Cup were foiled when police intercepted Polish hooligans trying to enter Germany. The hooligan culture in both countries tends more toward pre-arranged meets - "Fights" - often in forests or deserted areas. There has been a revival in hooliganism in Germany, especially in the east with teams from Dresden and Leipzig, while Poland has some of Europe's most violent hooligan groups (Lech Poznan, GKS Katowice, Legia Warsaw, Cracovia and Wisla Krakow). The main threat here would be a confrontation of a pre-arranged type, rather than a sporadic outbreak of violence. "(Polish hooligans) will try and make contact, offer to arrange meetings - but whether anyone accepts is a different matter," Tregoures says.

#### Ukraine vs Poland

While football violence in Ukraine is prominent at club level among hooligans from Dynamo Kiev, Shakhtar Donetsk, Meltalist and Dnipro, Ukrainian hooligan groups don't usually travel to national team games. However, they have put aside club feuds and have extra incentive to come to France. "This is the first tournament since the war, and the Russian presence may increase their motivation to travel," Tregoures said. — AP

## ‘LEWANGOALSKI’ EMERGES FROM POLAND’S DUST

**WARSAW:** Out of a thick cloud of dust, it is just possible to make out a scrum of boys fighting for a football. The photo is old, taken years before Robert Lewandowski shot to stardom. "The smallest one in the middle, that's Robert," said Krzysztof Sikorski, who coached the Bayern Munich striker and star of Poland's team at the European Championship finals when he was just starting out. The 27-year-old, who is known as "Lewangoalski", scored his very first goals at the Varsovia youth club in the Polish capital Warsaw. Sikorski, who heads the small club, was full of pride as he showed off a photo album of Lewandowski's first team in 1997.

"We had just launched a class for boys born in 1988. Robert's dad was a fan of Polonia Warsaw, our rivals from across the street, but that year they didn't take kids born in 1988, so he reached out to us for his son's first training," Sikorski said. "Robert was small and scrawny, the tiniest in the group, but with the biggest heart and the most talent. The smartest of them all. You could see it from the get-go," added Sikorski, who coached Lewandowski until he was 17.

### ‘Tragic’ pitch

Varsovia was a small schoolboy club formed in the late 1950s, and had only rudimentary facilities. "The pitch, it was all dirt and sand. In the spring and fall, it was tragic. You had to constantly flatten it," Sikorski said. "When it was hot, we watered it to limit the dust but as soon as it dried in the sun, it went back up in clouds. After every match, the guys were all black." The club does not have space for winter training, which means the boys play in the snow or at facilities leased from other Warsaw clubs.

The dirt ground has been replaced with

synthetic turf but Varsovia can still not afford to cover the pitch for the winter. "At first, we thought it would just be a training class," Sikorski said of Lewandowski's first team. "But we quickly saw that it was a good team, so we signed them up to compete. It was a masterstroke! They always brought back medals." In 2002, the team went to a tournament in Germany. Lewandowski saw his future Bayern Munich stadium for the first time. "The guys couldn't get over seeing the beautiful pitch, the changing rooms, the equipment... a dream stadium," said the coach. Since he was little, Lewandowski said he would play for the national team, that he would be the best. At 17, Lewandowski joined the Legia Warsaw reserve team, but was dropped. "They cut ties with him, saying he was too weak, too gentle," Sikorski said. "Robert almost fell into a depression, but they must regret it to this day."

Lewandowski's career took off when he arrived at Lech Poznan in 2008, before leaving for Germany, where he became the best striker in the Bundesliga while playing for Borussia Dortmund and now Bayern Munich. He made history at the start of this season by coming off the bench to score five goals in nine minutes in a 5-1 rout of Wolfsburg. A Bundesliga record. At 12, Tomasz Dabrowski already has six years under his belt at Varsovia. The football addict and Lewandowski fan is among 700 youths enrolled in the club. "To be like Lewandowski, you have to work hard during training, concentrate before every match and then play as well as possible," he said. Or, as Sikorski put it: "Love the ball like Lewandowski, and the ball will love you too." — AFP



**WATFORD:** England's manager Roy Hodgson (right) and England's striker Wayne Rooney attend a press conference following a team training session in Watford yesterday. — AFP

## WELL-BALANCED ENGLAND SQUAD HAS CONFIDENCE SET IN STONES

**LONDON:** England's squad for this month's European Championship in France has the ideal blend of youth and experience to succeed at the tournament, Everton defender John Stones has said. The 22-year-old was named in England's confirmed squad for the tournament on Tuesday, on a list that includes Ross Barkley, Marcus Rashford, Harry Kane, Eric Dier, Raheem Sterling and Dele Alli, who are all under the age of 23. "People obviously talk about the likes of Ross, Dele and Harry coming through, and it's exciting," Stones, who has made eight appearances for England, told his club's website (www.evertonfc.com). "But there's also a lot of experience in the squad as well, players like Wayne (Rooney), Gary Cahill,

Joe Hart, who have been to tournaments before. "We did really well in the qualifying games and we're heading to France quietly confident we can do well. It's a young squad but it's good because we're all good friends and I think that makes it easy for us to gel." The 18-year-old Rashford, who plays for Manchester United, became the youngest player to score on his England debut in Friday's 2-1 friendly win against Australia in Sunderland. England, who have been drawn in Group B for the 24-team tournament, face Portugal in a final warm-up game at Wembley on Thursday before opening their Euro 2016 campaign against Russia on June 11. Wales and Slovakia are the other teams in the group. — Reuters



## REDEMPTION AT HAND FOR EGYPT AFTER QUALIFYING TROUBLES

**CAPE TOWN:** Egypt are within a point of finally qualifying for the African Nations Cup again after a lengthy absence for the tournament's most successful team. A draw away to Tanzania in Dar-es-Salaam on Saturday will ensure Egypt finish top of Group G and qualify for the finals in Gabon next January. It will be their first appearance since they won the last of three back-to-back Nations Cups in 2010. Since then they have suffered calamitous qualifying setbacks and surprisingly missed out on the 2012, 2013 and 2015 finals despite having won Africa's top prize a record seven times.

The top team in each of the 13 qualifying groups plus the two best runners-up join hosts Gabon at the finals. Algeria, Ghana and Senegal are also all one point away from securing a place at the finals as the penultimate round of qualifying is hosted from Thursday through Sunday. Algeria play the tiny Seychelles away on Thursday without Riyad Mahrez, Yacine Brahimi and suspended striker Islam Slimani but are still expected to have far too much firepower for their island hosts and secure top place in Group J.

Ghana, who have Andre Ayew and his younger

brother Jordan in their squad, will win Group H if they avoid defeat in Mauritius on Sunday. Senegal have a 100 percent record in Group K and a draw away to Burundi on Saturday would ensure their progress. Cheikhou Kouyate captained the team last Saturday when they beat Rwanda 2-0 in a warm-up match with Sadio Mane leading the attack. In Benin, the squad have been preparing since the start of the week for their key Group C qualifier at home to Equatorial Guinea, which is scheduled for Sunday but likely to be cancelled.

Benin were suspended by FIFA last month after a

court ruling in the country blocked upcoming football federation elections. Unless the vote is allowed to proceed the ban stays in place and Benin will effectively be disqualified from the qualifiers, handing leaders Mali the chance to go through from Group C. "We are training as we would normally as if nothing has happened and the game is going ahead," Benin coach Oumar Tchomogo told local reporters. Morocco are the only team so far through to the finals and the majority of places in the 16-team finals will be decided when the last round of qualification is hosted in September. — Reuters



Mexico's forward Alan Pulido

## SOCCER PLAYER'S RELATIVE ORDERED HIS KIDNAPPING

**MEXICO CITY:** Mexican authorities arrested on Tuesday a man married to a cousin of football star Alan Pulido, accusing the suspect of ordering the player's high-profile kidnapping over the weekend. Osvaldo Velazquez Garcia, 29, was wounded and detained in a house in the northeastern city of Ciudad Victoria after a shootout with federal police, said Tamaulipas state prosecutor Ismael Quintanilla. Velazquez started shooting after he was surrounded, Quintanilla said. He was hit in the right shoulder and lightly wounded in the neck, but he is out of danger.

He was identified as the alleged mastermind of the kidnapping by a 38-year-old accomplice who was arrested late Sunday after Pulido managed to punch one captor and call the police. "He's the husband of a cousin" of Pulido's, Quintanilla said, adding a twist to a case that has shocked the country. The prosecutor said Velazquez was a member of a criminal organization linked to drug trafficking, kidnappings and extortion. He did not identify the group, but the Zetas drug cartel is a force in one of the most dangerous regions in Mexico, plagued with homicides, kidnappings and thousands of disappearances.

### \$325,000 ransom

Velazquez was present at a party that Pulido, a striker with Greek club Olympiakos, attended before he was kidnapped on Saturday, Quintanilla told a news conference. The suspect communicated with the other kidnappers to

tell them that the player had left the event and the type of car he was driving, the prosecutor said. Pulido, who was part of Mexico's 2014 World Cup team, had left the party with his girlfriend when they were intercepted by four gunmen, who let the woman go.

Authorities say Pulido was freed after he was left alone with one kidnapper in a two-story home and seized on the opportunity to beat up the suspect, take his phone away and call an emergency number. Police found Pulido within minutes, barely 24 hours after he was kidnapped. Pulido's brother, Armando, who plays for Greek second division team Kissamikos, told Radio Imagen that there were about 40 people at the party. The brothers sat at a table with a dozen friends and siblings of friends. Alan Pulido left with his girlfriend before his brother, and he was kidnapped minutes later.

He said the brothers do not hire security when they visit their hometown "because the people of Ciudad Victoria have always been very affectionate with us." "We never thought that something of this magnitude could happen," he said. The first contact with the kidnappers took place on Sunday around 2:00 pm when they called a relative, he said. Armando Pulido handled the negotiations with the kidnappers, who demanded six million pesos (\$325,000) in ransom. When he told them that he could not get so much cash on a Sunday and that they give him until Monday, the man on the phone responded: "You'll find him dead in the morning." — AFP

## SCANDAL-HIT INDONESIA CHIEF DEPORTED FROM SINGAPORE

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's football chief was due to face questioning over a corruption scandal yesterday after he was deported from Singapore, ending more than two months on the run. La Nyalla Mattalitti, who was also at the centre of a row last year that led to FIFA banning Indonesia from international football, arrived back in his home country on Tuesday. Authorities accuse Mattalitti of misusing a grant of 5.3 billion rupiah (\$390,000) received from a chamber of commerce in East Java province to buy shares in a local bank.

He left Indonesia in March after prosecutors said he was a suspect in the case, heading first to Malaysia and later Singapore. After weeks of legal wrangling, the city-state sent Mattalitti back to Indonesia on Tuesday after finding he had broken immigration laws. "Mr La Nyalla Mattalitti, an Indonesian national, had overstayed his social visit pass and committed an immigration offence in Singapore," said Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs in a statement.

Indonesia and Singapore do not have an extradition treaty, meaning the city-state has to resort to other methods—such as using immigration laws—when trying to meet Jakarta's requests to return criminal suspects. Mattalitti arrived in Jakarta late Tuesday and will be sent to East Java for questioning, Indonesia's justice ministry said. Under Mattalitti's leadership, the football association, known as the PSSI, became locked in a row with the government last year over which clubs should participate in the country's top league.

The government froze the activities of the PSSI, which has long been dogged by allegations of mismanagement and corruption, and football in the country ground to a halt. The dispute led to world governing body FIFA, which sternly disapproves of government interference in football associations, suspending Indonesia. FIFA lifted the suspension in May after the Indonesian government ended its row with the PSSI. Mattalitti officially remains the PSSI chairman, although he has not been active since he was accused in the graft case, and is likely to be replaced soon. — AFP



**SURABAYA:** In this file photo, Indonesian Football Association (PSSI) chief La Nyalla Mattalitti greets supporters following a vote in Surabaya in eastern Java. Indonesia's football chief was due to face questioning over a corruption scandal after he was deported from Singapore, ending more than two months on the run. — AFP

## CHINA'S SUNING LEADS RACE FOR SOCCER 'SUPER AGENT' STELLAR

**SHANGHAI:** China's Suning Commerce Group is leading a race to buy UK-based Stellar Group, one of the world's leading soccer agencies, a person with knowledge of the talks said, even as the retail giant is set to also invest in Italian club Inter Milan. Reuters reported last month that at least four Chinese investor groups, including model car maker Rastar, were interested in buying Stellar, which has masterminded some of soccer's biggest transfers including Wales international Gareth Bale's record 86 million pound (\$126 million) move to Real Madrid. Other Chinese suitors for Stellar, which could fetch around 900 million yuan (\$136.6 million), include property developer Evergrande Group and private investors, according to the person and documents reviewed by Reuters.

Headed by entrepreneur Zhang Jindong, Suning is one of China's biggest private firms, with annual revenue topping \$20 billion. It owns local club Jiangsu Suning and is closing in on a deal to buy into Inter Milan, one of Italy's top clubs, several sources have said. A deal could be

announced as early as this weekend, one source said. Inter is now majority-owned by a group led by Indonesia's Erick Thohir. Another Chinese consortium is in talks with former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi about buying a majority stake in Inter's rivals AC Milan. Suning declined to comment. Calls to Evergrande went unanswered. Rastar had no immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.

A successful bid for Stellar would be another sign of intent by China to expand in global soccer, with interests ranging from overseas clubs to sports media rights and sponsorship. Stellar founder Jonathan Barnett, one of the sport's leading power brokers, was recently in China meeting potential suitors, said the person, who did not want to be named as the negotiations have not been made public. Stellar did not immediately respond to requests for comment. A final deal is likely to see a strategic investor such as Suning taking a majority stake in Stellar backed by banks and private investors, the person added.

### Big spenders

An acquisition would give a Chinese buyer access to some of the most connected soccer agents and a list of high-profile players just as China ploughs money into soccer, including big money signings of top players to the Chinese Super League. China's premier division, still way behind European leagues in terms of quality and prestige, spent around 340 million euro (\$382 million) in the latest winter transfer window, more even than the cash-flush English market.

China's President Xi Jinping is a keen soccer fan and wants China to one day host, and win, the World Cup. He has set out an ambitious plan to create a sports industry worth \$850 billion by 2025. Barnett is one of football's so-called "super agents", who broker multi-million dollar deals to trade players between clubs. Stellar Group represents hundreds of athletes, including footballers Bale and current England international Joe Hart, Luke Shaw, Phil Jagielka and Danny Drinkwater, according to transfermarkt.com. — Reuters

## UEFA'S FINAL LOSER PARTEY HOPES TO BECOME WINNER

**JOHANNESBURG:** UEFA Champions League final loser Thomas Parthey of Atletico Madrid hopes to become a winner this week and help Ghana qualify for the 2017 Africa Cup of Nations. Parthey came off the bench in Milan last Saturday, but could not prevent Madrid neighbors Real winning the European club football showpiece on penalties after a 1-1 draw. However, his first national squad call-up should end happily as Ghana visit Mauritius, an island state they trounced 7-1 last June when qualifying for Gabon began.

Parthey arrived in Accra Tuesday boosted by recent praise from hard-to-please Atletico coach and former Argentina star Diego Simeone. "Thomas is on his way to becoming a top footballer and I hope to help him achieve that goal," Simeone said of the 22-year-old central midfielder. "He is developing as a footballer all the time and, although young, has strength, movement and can play between the lines." In the hyper-competitive Spanish La Liga, Parthey made 13 appearances last season for third-place Atletico, including three starts.

An astute distributor of the ball, the Ghanaian lists Manchester City star and Ivory Coast captain Yaya Toure among the midfielders who have inspired him. The Black Stars welcome back Swansea midfielder Andre 'Dede' Ayew, who will lead the team in the absence of injured captain and striker Asamoah Gyan. Ghana are among 10 nations who could secure places at the 2017 finals after four days of qualifying, which start Thursday in the Seychelles. The Black Stars have destiny in their own hands, as do Algeria, Cameroon, record seven-time Cup of Nations winners Egypt and Senegal. Victories will place Cameroon and Ghana in unassailable positions while Algeria, Egypt and Senegal need draws to move beyond the reach of rivals.

Cameroon, who took Euro 2016 hosts France to the wire Monday before losing a friendly 3-2 in Nantes, have dropped captain Stephane Mbia for an away clash with Mauritania. Algeria play Seychelles without injured midfield stars Riyad Mahrez, a key figure in the sensational English Premier League title triumph of Leicester City, and Yacine Brahimi. School examinations prevented teenage Egypt star Ramadan Sobhy being called up for the trip to Tanzania in a group



Madrid's Ghanaian midfielder Thomas Parthey

where three-time champions Nigeria are out of contention. The Super Eagles are idle this weekend as planned opponents Chad withdrew halfway through the qualifiers due to a lack of funds.

Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali and Zimbabwe could also secure qualification if they win and get some help from rivals. Minnows Guinea-Bissau can book a first appearance at the biennial African football show-

piece if they win at home against Zambia and Congo Brazzaville lose in Kenya. Zimbabwe can return to the big time after a 10-year absence provided they defeat visiting Malawi and regular Cup of Nations qualifiers Guinea do not win in Swaziland. Among those set to start for Zimbabwe will be midfielder Khama Billiat, who was voted South African Footballer of the Season this week after helping Mamelodi Sundowns become champions. — AFP

## BAYERN'S NEW BOSS ANCELOTTI TO LEARN FROM PEP GUARDIOLA

**BERLIN:** Under the mantra 'never change a winning team', Bayern Munich's new coach Carlo Ancelotti wants to build on his predecessor's work and plans talks with Pep Guardiola before taking charge. Guardiola walked away last month having steered Bayern to three German league titles in three years and will coach Manchester City next season. In his final season, the Bavarian giants became the first team to win four back-to-back Bundesliga titles, a run started by the Spaniard's predecessor Jupp Heynckes in the 2012-13 season. Ancelotti, who wants to copy Guardiola by giving his first press conference in German and is busy learning the language, will take over when Bayern's pre-season training starts on July 11.

The 56-year-old has a better record in Europe than Guardiola, having won the Champions League three times with two different clubs, in 2003 and 2007 with AC Milan then 2014 with Real Madrid, but plans to ease himself into the Munich job. "Pep did a great job in Munich. I do not want to change too much, but to build on his work," Ancelotti told magazine Sport Bild. "I've had a very good relationship with Pep Guardiola for a long time. I met him in Paris during his sabbatical (in the 2012-13 season after four years at Barcelona) and I think we will be talking to each other before the start of the season."

One issue Ancelotti must resolve is what to do with Mario Goetze, currently on Euro 2016 duty with Germany. The World Cup winner has endured three unhappy years in Munich, having been kept mainly on Bayern's bench by Guardiola after failing to secure a regular starting berth. Despite reports of a return to his ex-club Borussia Dortmund or a move to



Carlo Ancelotti

Liverpool to work again with Jurgen Klopp, Goetze has said he is looking forward to the new season and Bayern has ruled out selling the 23-year-old. "I have spoken with Mario Goetze, he knows my opinion," was all Ancelotti said on the matter with a year left on Goetze's contract. — AFP



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PARIS: Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka slams a forehand to Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, yesterday. Wawrinka won 6-2, 6-1, 7-6. (Inset) Great Britain's Andy Murray reacts after winning a point during his men's quarter-final match against France's Richard Gasquet. — AP

## MURRAY, WAWRINKA SET UP SEMI-FINAL DUEL DJOKOVIC ENTERS \$100 MILLION DOLLAR CLUB

PARIS: Andy Murray and defending champion Stan Wawrinka set up a mouthwatering French Open semi-final duel yesterday as Novak Djokovic became the first player to smash the \$100 million prize money barrier. Second seed Murray reached the semi-finals in Paris for a fourth time by battling back to defeat the last home hope Richard Gasquet 5-7, 7-6 (7/3), 6-0, 6-2.

Wawrinka, the 31-year-old third seed, became the oldest man since 1985 to reach the semi-finals with a 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 (9/7) win over Spain's Albert Ramos-Vinolas. Gasquet, bidding to end France's 33-year wait for a French champion, reeled off five straight games to recover from 5-2 down and claim the opening set in front of a raucous Philippe Chatrier Court crowd. But former US Open and Wimbledon champion Murray won a second set tie-break before claiming 12 of the next 14 games.

Murray leads his head-to-head 8-7 with Wawrinka but the Swiss star has won their last three meetings as well as their only two matches on clay. "Stan's played

great tennis here the past couple years. It's going to be extremely tough, hopefully I can play my best tennis and try and reach my first final here," said Murray after a third win in Paris over Gasquet. Wawrinka is the oldest semi-finalist in Paris since 32-year-old Jimmy Connors in 1985. He was in complete control against world number 55 Ramos-Vinolas, playing in his first quarter-finals at the majors, firing an impressive 49 winners. "Overall, I played a good match with an incredible level in the first two sets," said Wawrinka.

"I had to dig deep to finish the match. To win in three sets, it's ideal." Wawrinka, who beat Djokovic in last year's final, will be playing in only his second Roland Garros semi-final. Top seed Djokovic reached the quarter-finals for the 10th time by defeating 14th seeded Roberto Bautista Agut 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 7-5. It was a tie which started the previous afternoon after rain disruptions had washed out Monday and allowed just two hours of play Tuesday. The 29-year-old Serb will today

take on Czech seventh seed Tomas Berdych, who beat Spanish 11th seed David Ferrer 6-3, 7-5, 6-3.

**Stranglehold**

Djokovic has a 23-2 career stranglehold on Berdych who will be playing in his third Roland Garros quarter-final. It will be the top seed's 28th consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final and 36th in all. Djokovic also crossed the \$100 million prize money barrier yesterday. He started the tournament with \$99,673,404 and the 294,000 euros (\$328,303) he earned by beating Bautista Agut took him past the landmark figure. Djokovic, seeking a first French Open title to complete a career Grand Slam, was 4-1 ahead of Bautista Agut in the third set Tuesday when play was halted.

But the Serb quickly wrapped up the next two games yesterday and despite falling a break down to trail 2-4 in the fourth, he stormed back to claim victory on a second match point. "With my coaching team, we had some tough

talks on Tuesday night," said Djokovic, who had struggled in the heavy conditions when he had uncharacteristically dropped serve five times. "But I came back with more intensity even though it was a tough mental and physical battle." Austria's Dominic Thiem advanced to his maiden Grand Slam quarter-final with a 6-2, 6-7 (2/7), 6-1, 6-4 win over Spain's Marcel Granollers.

Granollers had made the last 16 without hitting a ball when nine-time champion Rafael Nadal withdrew with a wrist injury last week. Rain halted play at one set apiece on Tuesday, but 13th seed Thiem quickly found his groove yesterday to race through the third set before nailing down a place in the last eight. The 22-year-old will next meet Belgian 12th seed David Goffin who saw off Latvia's Ernests Gulbis 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 in another match held over from Tuesday. "We practice a lot together and he's also a very nice guy," said Thiem, who trails Goffin 4-2 including a loss at the Australian Open this year. Goffin is only the second Belgian man to reach the last eight in Paris.— AFP

## SERENA CRUISES INTO OPEN QUARTERS AS VENUS EXITS

PARIS: It would be unfair to blame Elina Svitolina, for so few have what it takes to bring the best out of Serena Williams. Never mind that this was a grand slam fourth round match, or that Svitolina was the 18th seed. Once again, the champion swept past an opponent while barely breaking sweat. The American's 6-1 6-1 scoreline to reach the French Open quarter-finals yesterday tells its own story; and it was a tale deserving a better stage than a sparsely populated Roland Garros centre court.

A certain type of genius had been on show. Not the sort of shot-playing, mesmerizing genius conjured when two superstars of the sport lock horns; but genius nonetheless. The type that allows a player to out-think, out-manoeuvre and out-gun their opponent-all with the minimum of fuss. Year, after year, after year. Not for nothing is Williams ranked number one in the world. While few had expected Svitolina to see off Williams, many might have expected a better fight, if only by virtue of her top-20 ranking.

Svitolina soon learned, though, the more you throw at Williams, the more you get back. That is how she has amassed 21 grand slam singles crowns, and four Olympic golds. Each time Svitolina thumped a ball harder, Williams slid into place and clattered it with timing and a power her opponent could only dream of. The stands slowly filled, and Williams slowly turned the screw. "I didn't play my best in the third round and I really wanted to come out and do a lot better," Williams said, by way of some explanation.

Empty green seats outnumbered raincoat-clad fans by around five to one on the Parisian show-court, and heavy slow balls offered little artistry to entice greater numbers. But those willing to brave the chilly, sodden conditions were treated to a display of utter dominance. She spluttered from time to time, but always did enough to neuter her scurrying opponent, and will play Yulia Putintseva for a spot in the semis. The bare statistics tell their own story. Both players made a similar number of unforced errors-this was never a display of perfection or sublime shot-making-but Svitolina made far more forced errors, highlighting the pressure throughout.

Serena's serves were consistently faster, both first and second. She won the lions' share of break points on offer, and almost all the points when venturing to the net. In total, Williams won almost twice as many points as her opponent, 64 to Svitolina's 35. Was she twice as good? She was-and the rest. "I feel it was a better match for me. She's a really good player. She gets a lot of balls back. So it was really good for me to play that." As it happened, Svitolina didn't get nearly enough balls back, and Williams finished her off in a smidgeon over an hour.

As big sister Venus headed for the exit, having lost to Timea Bacsinszky, Serena returned to the changing room, another challenger looming, another practice session ahead, another round to play. Her tired smile as she exited the court perhaps suggesting even she may one day tire of



PARIS: US' Serena Williams serves the ball to Ukraine's Elina Svitolina during their women's fourth round match at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open yesterday. — AFP

## MESSI TARGETS DROUGHT AS COPA CENTENARIO KICKS OFF

LOS ANGELES: Lionel Messi and Argentina will be targeting the country's 23-year title drought when the Copa America Centenario kicks off tomorrow after a troubled build-up marred by corruption allegations which threatened to derail the event. One hundred years after Uruguay clinched the inaugural four-team South American championship in Argentina, 16 teams from across the Americas are gathered in the United States for a special one-off edition of the tournament.

The three-week festival of football gets under way at the Levi's Stadium in California tomorrow, when the United States face Colombia at the home of the San Francisco 49ers American football team. The tournament will conclude with a final at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford on June 26, drawing a line under what is arguably the biggest tournament held in the United States since the 1994 World Cup.

Billed as a celebration of football across the Americas, 10 South American teams and six teams from the CONCACAF (North America, Central America and the Caribbean) region make up the field. For organizers, the mere fact that the tournament is taking place at all is something of a triumph. For several months last year the Copa faced an uncertain future after the arrest and indictment for corruption of

several officials from South America and CONCACAF responsible for dreaming up the tournament.

When plans for the tournament were launched at a glitzy event in Miami in 2014, CONCACAF President Jeffrey Webb stood proudly alongside South American federation (CONMEBOL) chief Eugenio Figueredo. "The American continent may have been discovered in 1492, but I can't imagine a better way to unite this continent than with football," Webb said. Yet if prosecutors have their way, both men may soon be united behind bars.

Webb and Figueredo were among several officials arrested in Switzerland in May 2015 as part of the US-led corruption investigation which ultimately led to the sensational downfall of FIFA President Sepp Blatter. With impeccable timing, Webb is due to appear in a New York courtroom tomorrow-the day of the opening match-to face sentencing for his role in the scandal. Figueredo, 84, was extradited to Uruguay from Switzerland last December and also faces criminal prosecution. Both Figueredo and Webb-as well as former CONMEBOL chief Nicolas Leoz-are accused of pocketing millions of dollars in bribes linked to the award of media rights for the tournament, part of a scam dubbed a "World Cup of Fraud".— AFP





JAPAN PM DELAYS TAX HIKE IN BLOW FOR ‘ABENOMICS’



MUMBAI: Indian workers offload steel pipes at an industrial area. — AFP

BRITISH STEEL RETURNS AS TATA SELLS ASSETS  
NO BUYER FOUND FOR THE REST OF THE BUSINESS

**LONDON:** India's Tata Steel yesterday completed the part-sale of its European assets, safeguarding 4,800 jobs, but thousands more are threatened with no buyer found for the rest of the business. Tata Steel UK announced completion of the sale of its European piping business to Greybull Capital, a British-based family investment firm for an undisclosed sum. The deal, hailed by Tata, the British government and unions, means the return of the British Steel brand for the first time since 1999.

"From today the Long Products Europe business... will trade under the name of British Steel," Tata Steel UK said in a statement. "All together the business employs 4,800 people — 4,400 in the UK and 400 in France. The sale follows an accelerated process of negotiations between Tata Steel UK and Greybull Capital."

Britain's government has been racing to find a buyer for Tata's UK assets and save around 16,000 jobs after the com-

pany's shock announcement in March that it was selling because of a global oversupply of steel, cheap imports into Europe, high costs and currency volatility.

Tata Steel in April said it had agreed to sell its Long Products Europe (LPE) division, whose chief asset is the Scunthorpe works in northern England, to Greybull Capital. Long products are items such as steel pipes that are sold by length. Tata is still looking for a buyer for the rest of its British assets, including the Port Talbot steelworks on the south Wales coast, Britain's biggest steel plant, which employs 4,000 workers. "The sales process for the wider UK business is continuing," Tata told AFP in an emailed statement yesterday.

"Although we have been clear that the process needs to be time bound to avoid uncertainty for employees and customers—we have not set a deadline on when it needs to conclude," Tata Steel last month said it had selected seven

bidders as potential buyers of its remaining loss-making UK activities. Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative government has meanwhile said it would contribute hundreds of millions of pounds to any potential deal and take a 25 percent stake in the assets.

**'Long and proud history'**

Tata yesterday said it would "not be commenting on the agreed price with Greybull". It had been widely reported that LPE was sold for a nominal £1 (\$1.40, 1.3 Euros), while Greybull said it would arrange a £400-million investment and financing package as part of the deal. The UK assets formerly belonged to Anglo-Dutch steelmaker Corus, which Tata bought for \$13 billion in 2007 — at the height of Chinese steel demand and before the global financial crisis. Corus had been formed through the merger of British Steel and Koninklijke Hoogovens in 1999.

"The name British Steel has a long and proud history and... (the Greybull deal) underlines the government's belief that there really is a viable, sustainable future for world-class steelmaking in this country," Britain's Business Secretary Sajid Javid said in a statement yesterday.

Len McCluskey, general secretary of Britain's biggest union Unite, said the "first day of trading for British Steel is testament to the skills of the workforce and their union representatives who have worked hard to secure the future of Tata Steel's former long products division".

From a rich beginning, Britain's steel industry has dwindled after losing foreign and domestic share to cheaper rivals. It accounted for 40 percent of the world's steel production in 1875 thanks to huge factory output in England's northern city Sheffield. Since the mid-20th century, Britain's steel industry has been nationalized and privatized on various occasions. — AFP

NEW WAVE OF GREEK AUSTERITY  
MEASURES TAP CAFE CULTURE

**ATHENS:** Greeks have woken up to a new wave of price hikes that have been demanded in return for more international bailout loans, with the highest increases targeting the main ingredients of the country's cafe culture: Coffee and beer.

Starting today, Greece's main sales tax rate, or value added tax, went up from 23 to 24 percent. Taxes were also raised on services used heavily by Greeks forced to cut back on leisure activities due to the financial crisis. Charges increased on internet, fixed telephone and pay TV subscriptions.

The measures were approved by parliament before Greece's partners in the 19-country eurozone agreed to unfreeze 10.3 billion Euros (\$11.5 billion) in bailout funds and begin discussions on easing Athens' debt repayments.

Greece's left-wing government also overhauled pensions and signed up to ambitious budget targets. Business owners have criticized the latest tax hike, saying it will hit consumption when the country is already reeling from six years of a financial crisis that has seen the economy shrink by a quarter and unemployment swell - the jobless rate is currently around 24 percent.

"The sixth VAT increase in six years and the second in the last 10 months means that our lives from June 1 get more expensive by 437 million Euros per year, while each increase acts as a cut to consumption, turnover and state income," said Vasilis Korkidis, head of the Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and Entrepreneurship.



ATHENS: Tourists eat at a restaurant- cafe bar in front of the ancient Acropolis hill. — AP

Coffee shop owner Katerina Vagena noted that this was the second hike in consumer tax on coffee in the space of a year. Last year, it was raised a whopping 10 percentage points to 23 percent as part of the country's third international bailout deal.

"The price was already quite high. It's a country where many people are having difficulty paying 3-3.5 euros. So it's become a problem and people have stopped coming for coffee," said Vagena, whose coffee shop in Athens employs five people. "All we do is

pay taxes. They think they get more out of small businesses. But so many businesses were opened by people who were unemployed," she said. "I think a lot of us will go. And we'll join the ranks of the unemployed."

The tax changes will also increase fuel prices. "The consequences will be negative for the consumer and for us because (people) will surely reduce the amount of gas they use and this will produce a chain reaction," said gas station owner Antonis Stellas. — AP

QATAR FINANCIAL CENTRE SEES  
LAW ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT

**DUBAI:** A law governing the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), aimed at simplifying procedures for foreign investors, will hopefully be introduced by year end, an official said yesterday. The QFC has its own legal, regulatory, tax and business infrastructure, which allows for 100 percent foreign ownership and full repatriation of profits in a country where local law demands Qatari retain at least a majority holding.

The draft QFC law aims to streamline different aspects of existing regulation, including how companies registered in the zone access financial products and services. "The law is being debated with the Council of Ministers. We don't have a timeline but, hopefully, it'll be some time this year," Kamal Nagi, chief strategic and business development officer at the QFC, told Reuters in an interview.

It had been hoped the law would be ready for the first quarter of 2016, QFC's chief executive said in November. The passage of legislation in Gulf countries is often slow due to the region's bureaucratic inefficiencies. However, steps are being taken to try remove some of these obstacles to

boost foreign investment and aid the diversification of national economies away from hydrocarbons, something which has gained greater prominence given lower oil prices.

Nagi, who started in the role last month after a stint at Qatar's central bank, said the centre was continuing to grow in spite of low oil prices, licensing 24 firms so far in 2016, compared with 68 in the whole of 2015. Most of these are non-regulated entities, such as business support firms and technology companies, although Italian Bank Intesa Sanpaolo was registered in April, according to the QFC website.

"Asset management is something that we see growth coming from in the future, but we're also focusing on the business services sector as well," said Nagi, noting around three-quarters of firms registered in the QFC are now entities which wouldn't be regulated.

QFC houses the Qatari offices of international banks including Citibank, Deutsche Bank and UBS, although most choose to base their regional headquarters in Dubai's more established financial free zone. — Reuters



# GCC MONTHLY MARKET REPORTS

**KUWAIT:** GCC equity markets were back in the red after three consecutive months of sustained rally that was largely led by improving oil prices. Although oil prices broadly continued on its upward trend reaching almost USD 50/b during May-16, markets took a breather on the back of profit booking on key stocks ahead of Ramadan and summer vacations. Performance remained largely negative for most of the month, for almost all of the equity markets in the GCC with Saudi Arabia registering a decline of 5.3% by the end of the month, behind Abu Dhabi (-6.5%) and Qatar (-6.4%) exchanges. Trading activity in the region also witnessed a steep decline, led by UAE and Qatar resulting in a decline of almost USD 3 Bn in total value traded during May-16.

Internationally, equity markets remained largely stable with the MSCI World Index almost flat month-on-month. Equity markets in Asia and Emerging Markets declined, whereas US and European markets strengthened, partially offsetting the broad decline. In a key development, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said that a near term hike in US Fed rate is possible, highlighting improving economic conditions in the US. The rate hike, that could happen in months, as per the comment, would be driven by expectations of continued improvement in the job market and the overall economy. The comment led to a surge in the USD, pushing it close to a 2-month high against a basket of currencies. It is pertinent to note that a strengthening USD has an opposite impact on the oil market which in turn affects GCC markets. This coupled with the outcome of the OPEC meeting on 2-June-16 in which oversupply concerns and production curbs (or a possible freeze) would take center stage, would determine the direction of the market in the near term, although trading activity is expected to remain subdued due to the onset of Ramadan.

### Kuwait Stock Exchange

KSE indices declined during May-16 in line with the rest of the GCC markets, however, the decline was smaller than most of the other major markets. The KSE Weighted Index declined by 2.4% during the month, whereas the KSE Price index recorded a positive return of 0.2%. Investors primarily sold large cap blue-chip stocks that saw positive returns during the recent months. This was also reflected in the 4.3% decline in the KSE 15 Index. In terms of trading activity, total volume traded during the month declined by almost 25% to 2.9 Bn shares as compared to 3.9 Bn shares during April-16. Total value traded also declined, but at a much lower rate of 11.1% to KWD 246.0 Mn as compared to KWD 276.7 Mn during the previous month.

In terms of sector performance, almost all of the major sectoral indices ended in the red zone led by the Financial Services index that sank 6.5%, whereas the Banking index declined by 3.1%. All the listed Kuwaiti banks recorded negative returns during the month with NBK recording the highest decline of 6%, followed by Burgan Bank and Gulf Bank with a monthly decline of 5.8% each. The Telecom Index declined by 1.3% as positive returns for Ooredoo and Hits Telecom were more than offset by 1.4% fall in Zain and an 8.8% fall in shares of Viva Kuwait.

The monthly gainers chart was topped by Danah Alsafat Foodstuff with a return of 63.6% after the company reported profits of KWD 2 Mn for Q1-16 as compared to KWD 0.03 Mn during Q1-15. Human Soft Holding and Kuwait National Cinema followed on the gainers chart with returns of 48.4% and

41.4%, respectively. In terms of value traded, NBK topped the monthly chart with KWD 29.4 Mn worth of shares traded during the month, followed by Agility and KFH with KWD 16.4 Mn and KWD 16.1 Mn worth of shares traded during the month.

Earnings announcements for Q1-16 concluded during the month with a net profit decline of 4.3% to KWD 496.2 Mn, as compared to a total net profit of KWD 519.8 Mn during Q1-15. Major sectors that witnessed a drop in corporate profitability included Financial Services, Real Estate, Bank and Insurance, whereas Healthcare, Telecom and Oil & Gas sectors saw increase in earnings. The decline in Banking sector profitability was primarily on the back of a fall in Q1-16 earnings for NBK, due to a one time gain during Q1-15.

On the economic front, central bank data showed that the country is stepping up debt issuances in order to finance budget deficit caused by the decline in oil revenues. By mid-May, the government had issued almost KWD 600 Mn of bonds and Islamic tawarruq in almost equal proportion since the start of the new fiscal year from 1-April-16. As a comparison, the government had issued KWD 350 Mn during the first calendar quarter of 2016. During the month, the government also announced its intention to continue investing in key projects with an estimated outlay of KWD 34.5 Bn in the next five years. The primary aim is to increase the country's oil production capacity to 4 mb/d as compared to the current 3 mb/d.

### Saudi Arabia

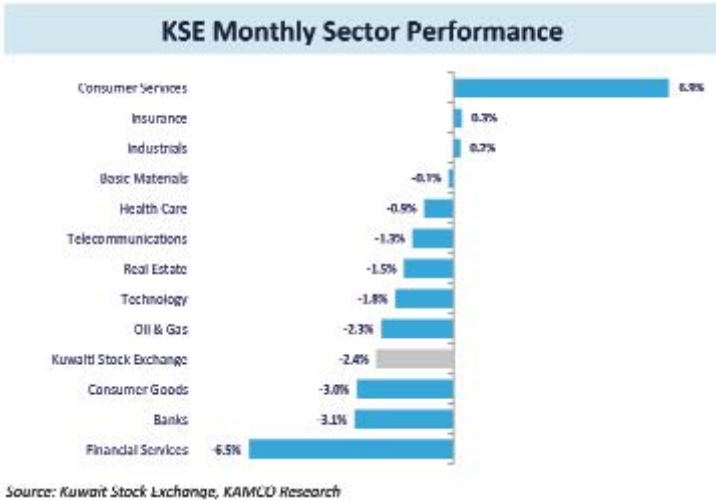
After three consecutive months of positive returns and being the best performing market in April-16, the Tadawul stock exchange witnessed one of the steepest declines in the GCC during May-16, with the TASI declining by 5.3% during the month. The index broke the 6,400 level on 30-May-16 but bounced back on the last trading day of the month to close at 6,448.4 points. The May-16 decline

## KAMCO RESEARCH

during the month followed by the Real Estate Index with a 10% decline which also saw steep declines in individual stocks.

The Banking index plunged -7.4% with all the banks reporting negative returns for the month as banks continued to reel under margin pressure amid declining liquidity and economic slowdown. In a related development, the Saudi Central Bank denied any intention of altering its exchange rate policy and said that the currency was under pressure due to market speculation. The Petrochemicals index witnessed a relatively smaller decline of 2.7% as the decline in SABIC (-3.9%) and a majority of the other stocks in the sector was partially offset by positive returns in five stocks. Shares of YANSAB got a late month boost after the company announced increase in quarterly dividends. Shares of Sahara Petrochemical was also up by 5.7% after SIPCHEM (-1.54%) announced plans to revive its aborted merger plan with Sahara.

In terms of trading activity, Saudi Arabia was amongst the two top markets that recorded positive growth in value traded during the month primarily due to the three extra trading days as compared to April-16. Monthly value traded increased marginally by 0.3% to SAR 118 Bn although average daily value traded declined to SAR 5.1 Bn as compared to SAR 5.9 Bn during April-16. Alinma Bank (-8.7%) topped the monthly value traded chart with SAR 1.1 Trillion worth of shares traded during the month followed by Saudi Kayan and Dar Al Arkan Real Estate with SAR 363 Mn and SAR 296 Mn worth of shares traded during the month. The monthly volume of shares traded declined by 8.9% to 6.1 Bn shares as compared to 6.7 Bn shares during the previous month. The monthly gainers chart was topped by Fawaz Abdulaziz Al-Hokhair (+20.6%) whereas the newly listed Al Yamamah Steel Industries stood third on the list with a return of 11.9%.



further pushed YTD-16 declines to 6.7% just ahead of Qatar and Bahrain markets. In fact, an oil price of USD 50/b also failed to lift investor sentiments in Saudi Arabia as investors continued to book profits after short term rallies within the month.

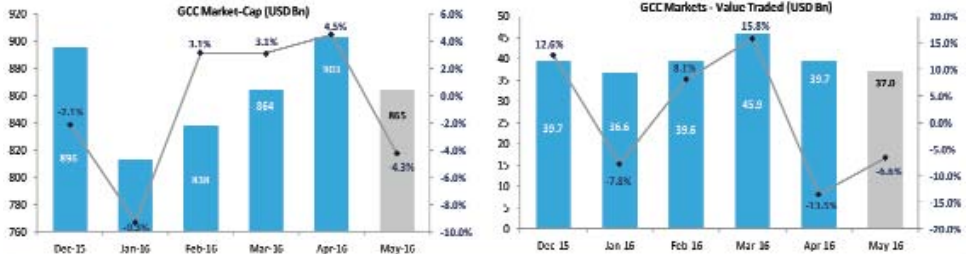
Sector performance also reflected the market weakness with almost all of the sectoral indices witnessing monthly declines (Media and Energy indices were the only positive performing sectors albeit with marginal monthly returns of 1.95% and 1.3%, respectively). The sectoral index monthly decline was led by Hotels & Tourism Index that declined by 11.7% with all the four stocks in the index declining

The decliners list was dominated by Insurance stocks with Salama (-25.4%) topping the chart followed by Saudi Re (-20.3%) and UCA (-19%).

### Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

After remaining in the green on YTD basis up until April-16, ADX General Index gave up its gains in May -16. The index receded the most during the month in the GCC losing 6.5% to end the month at 4250.20 points. Banks and Financials, followed by Telecoms, Energy and Real Estate were the sectoral indices, which contributed most to the drop in the ADX index. Banks and Financials plunged by over 7.7% for the month of May -16, followed by Energy and

GCC Equity Markets	Index Closing	MTD Chg%	YTD Chg%	M-Cap (USD Bn)	Monthly Value Traded (USD Mn)	P/E (x) TTM	P/B (x) TTM	Div. Yield
Kuwait - Weighted Index	357.4	(2.4%)	(6.4%)	82.3	814.3	15.6	1.1	4.2%
Kuwait - 15 Index	826.2	(4.3%)	(8.2%)					
Kuwait - Price Index	5,400.3	0.2%	(3.8%)					
Saudi Arabia	6,448.4	(5.3%)	(6.7%)	297.1	31,450.2	12.8	1.5	3.7%
Abu Dhabi	4,250.2	(6.5%)	(1.3%)	118.0	893.8	10.4	1.4	5.4%
Dubai	3,313.7	(9.1%)	5.2%	88.4	2,114.7	8.9	1.2	4.0%
Qatar	9,538.8	(6.4%)	(8.5%)	142.0	1,501.3	12.3	1.5	4.1%
Bahrain	1,111.6	0.1%	(8.6%)	17.4	12.8	9.2	0.8	5.8%
Oman	5,811.0	(2.2%)	7.5%	19.3	249.8	10.5	1.2	5.1%
Total GCC				864.5	37,036.9	11.8	1.4	4.2%



Telecoms which declined by over 6.3% and 5.5% respectively. National Bank of Abu Dhabi was the worst performing large cap bank declining by over 12% for the month, followed by ADCB, which went down by 9.7%, while FGB lost significant ground as well, declining by 8.5% for the month of May-16. Eshraq Properties was the worst performing amongst real estate players declining by 8.1%, while Aldar also moved down by 3.3% for the month. Insurance remained the only sector which

decline of 24.2%, followed by Sudan Telecom and Al Khazna Insurance Co. with declines of 16.7% and 16.3% respectively.

### Qatar Exchange

The QE 20 index remained in the red for the second consecutive month in May-16, declining by over 6.3% m-o-m, and ending the month at 9538.77 points. Post the decline the index is amongst the worst performing indices YTD declining by 8.5%. The Qatar All share index declined by a lower 5.89% for the month, closing at 2673.73 points. All sectoral indices lost ground during the month, as the declines were led by the Telecom and Real Estate indices.

The Telecom index witnessed declines of over 10.4% for the month of May-16, followed by Real Estate which receded by over 8.4% m-o-m. Both telecom names in the index, Ooredoo (-10.6%) & Vodafone (-10%) registered double-digit declines and contributed to the fall in the index. Barwa Real Estate was the key laggard, which pulled down the Real Estate index, as the stock plunged by over 10.3% as compared to the previous month, while large cap Ezdan fell by 8.1% m-o-m. The financials pack consisting of Banking & Finance and Insurance also witnessed significant declines for the month of May-16, as the Banks & Financials Services index receded by 5.3%, while the Insurance index declined by a higher 7.7% m-o-m.

In terms of top gainers for the month, Medicare Group gained the most during May-16, as its share price witnessed a jump of 10%. GISS followed with gains of 8.5% m-o-m followed by Al Ahli United Bank, which witnessed an increase of 5% m-o-m. The laggards for the month were led by Ooredoo which posted double-digit declines for the month, declining by 10.6%. Barwa Real Estate followed, and along with Qatari Investors Group, Widam, and Qatar Cinema registered m-o-m declines of over 10%.

In ratings sovereign ratings action, Moody's confirmed the Government of Qatar's long-term issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings at Aa2 and assigned a negative outlook. Moodys mentioned that despite the negative effect from a protracted period of low oil prices on the country's economy, government finances and external strength, the sovereign's overall credit profile remains consistent with the rating assigned. In corporate ratings action, Fitch Ratings has affirmed Ooredoo's Long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'A+' with a Stable Outlook.

The rating affirmation is reportedly ascribed to the continued strength of Ooredoo's links with the State of Qatar, which directly and indirectly owns 69% of Ooredoo. The implied state support reportedly underpins the rating and offsets risks associated with diversification into weaker rated emerging markets, slowing sector growth and M&A.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.754
Indian Rupees	4.513
Pakistani Rupees	2.891
Srilankan Rupees	2.052
Nepali Rupees	2.825
Singapore Dollar	220.560
Hongkong Dollar	39.008
Bangladesh Taka	3.864
Philippine Peso	6.492
Thai Baht	8.506

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.560
Qatari Riyal	83.290
ani Riyal	787.552
Bahraini Dinar	805.230
UAE Dirham	82.552

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.600
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.519
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	143.290
Jordanian Dinar	427.160
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.020
Syrian Lira	21.161
Morocco Dirham	31.568

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.050
Euro	338.200
Sterling Pound	440.480

Canadian dollar	232.940
Turkish lira	103.340
Swiss Franc	306.270
Australian Dollar	221.680
US Dollar Buying	301.850

#### GOLD

20 Gram	246.450
10 Gram	126.150
5 Gram	63.920

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.300
Canadian Dollar	233.050
Sterling Pound	444.115
Euro	338.010
Swiss Frank	302.715
Bahrain Dinar	802.390
UAE Dirhams	82.820
Qatari Riyals	84.035
Saudi Riyals	81.560
Jordanian Dinar	427.255
Egyptian Pound	34.058
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.066
Indian Rupees	4.518
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippines Peso	6.492
Cyprus pound	577.690
Japanese Yen	3.745
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.820

Malaysian Ringgit	74.915
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.515
Thai Bhat	9.460
Turkish Lira	102.630

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.432045	0.441045
Czech Korune	0.004473	0.016473
Danish Krone	0.041278	0.046278
Euro	0.0331274	0.0339274
Norwegian Krone	0.032213	0.037413
Romanian Leu	0.086932	0.086932
Slovakia	0.009037	0.019037
Swedish Krona	0.032305	0.037305
Swiss Franc	0.297808	0.308008
Turkish Lira	0.097745	0.108045
Australasian Dollar	0.212050	0.223550
New Zealand Dollar	0.199235	0.208735
Canada Dollar	0.226438	0.234938
US Dollars	0.298950	0.303450
US Dollars Mint	0.299450	0.303450
Bangladesh Taka	0.003415	0.003989
Chinese Yuan	0.044520	0.048020
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037000	0.039750

Indian Rupee	0.004190	0.004580
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002658	0.002838
Kenyan Shilling	0.003117	0.003117
Korean Won	0.000244	0.000259
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069744	0.075744
Nepalese Rupee	0.002888	0.003058
Pakistan Rupee	0.002695	0.002975
Philippine Peso	0.006338	0.006618
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.216731	0.222731
South African Rand	0.013297	0.021797
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001675	0.002255
Taiwan	0.009189	0.009369
Thai Baht	0.008157	0.008707

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.797277	0.805277
Egyptian Pound	0.028016	0.033134
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423430	0.430930
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020864	0.044864
Nigerian Naira	0.001250	0.001885
Omani Riyal	0.780723	0.786403
Qatar Riyal	0.082529	0.083742
Saudi Riyal	0.079927	0.080877
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.140711	0.148711
Turkish Lira	0.097745	0.108045
UAE Dirhams	0.081584	0.082733
Yemeni Riyal	0.001370	0.001450



## NYC SCRUTINIZES TRUMP'S USE OF TRUMP TOWER ATRIUM



NEW YORK: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves as he leaves a news conference. — AP

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump's frequent campaign events in Trump Tower are attracting scrutiny from New York City officials who want to know whether he is abiding by rules requiring the building's atrium to be open to the public.

The landmark tower's grand marble lobby is supposed to be open to visitors from 8 am to 10 pm daily under an agreement that Trump struck with the city back in the late 1970s in return for the right to make the tower bigger. City inspectors are examining whether people were barred from the space Tuesday for a Trump news conference, one of many campaign events the Republican has held in the atrium since announcing his campaign for the presidency there last June.

"We'll investigate whether the space was closed," said Buildings Department spokesman Joe Soldevere. An executive and lawyer for the Trump Organization, Michael Cohen, insisted the atrium remained open. "The property was never closed and I dispute any reports from anybody stating otherwise," he said.

An Associated Press reporter observed only credentialled media and building employees permitted to enter after being screened by US Secret Service agents Tuesday as onlookers peered into the building from Fifth Avenue. Trump has marked several of the biggest

moments of his campaign in Trump Tower. He held celebratory news conferences in the skyscraper's atrium following his victories in the New York primary on April 19, multistate primaries on April 26 and the Indiana primary on May 3. As one of a handful of privately owned public spaces in the city, the Trump Tower atrium can only be closed by the building owners for private events four times a year, city officials said, and only with the city's permission. The city's planning and buildings departments told The Associated Press they could find no record in the past two years of Trump Organization officials seeking prior authorization to use the space for a private event.

Cohen wouldn't address previous use of the atrium for campaign events. This isn't the first time city officials have confronted Trump over use of the public atrium. He was fined \$4,000 in 2015 and \$2,500 in 2006 for installing kiosks selling merchandise in the space. Tourist David Miller, 38, of Columbus, Ohio, said he was disappointed he wasn't able to make it in to hear the presumptive Republican presidential nominee address his charitable giving to veterans' groups in a contentious news conference. "I had really hoped to get inside and take a look and I may not be able to now," Miller said. — AP

## HOW TO GROW FOOD IN DROUGHT-HIT ZIMBABWE? TRY ADDING IRRIGATION

**CHIPINGE:** Several rivers pass from Zimbabwe's lush Eastern highlands through the lowlands of drought-hit Chipinge, Mutare and Chimanimani districts. But while river water is plentiful, hard-up farmers have no way to get enough of it to their fields.

"We did not harvest anything in the past two seasons," said Amon Vhumbu, the traditional leader of a small, isolated village in Chipinge district, where many fields have been left barren by drought, despite a river flowing nearby. "As you can see, without irrigation our hopes of a good crop yield have now become unrealistic," he said. But a project to build dams and irrigation systems to bring water to parched fields is set to help - and could protect at least some families against the more frequent droughts climate change is bringing in southern Africa.

The Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise (ENSURE) program, a \$55 million effort led by charity World Vision and funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), aims to address some of the causes underlying chronic food security and malnutrition in Zimbabwe's Manicaland and Masvingo provinces, where stunting rates among children are 34 and 31 per cent respectively.

In Birirano, in Chipinge district, ENSURE has built a new dam and irrigation system that is expected to start functioning in June, in time for planting of winter crops. The system uses pipes to carry water from the dam to the fields.

With this and 10 similar projects already running in Chimanimani, Chipinge and Buhera districts, the program plans to irrigate more than 100 hectares of farmland. Forty hectares are already receiving water. Ultimately, the program aims to bring 154 hectares of farmland under irrigation by 2018, according to Richard Ndou, the deputy chief of party for World

Vision Zimbabwe. Turning to irrigation is crucial as rain-fed agriculture becomes increasingly unreliable, said Freeman Mavhiza, the Chipinge assistant district administrator. "The irrigation projects are community driven and for years to come many people will benefit from these projects," he said.

### Tapping the potential

Zimbabwe's current El Nino-induced drought is one of the most devastating in recent history, leaving up to 4.5 million in need of food aid, officials say. And the country still hasn't recovered from a previous serious drought that hit the 2014-15 farming season.

Some of the worst-affected districts are in Manicaland province where, according to provincial administrator Fungai Mbetsa, up to 85,000 households are receiving government food assistance. And that figure, he said, is far below the actual number of food insecure households in the province. Government efforts to put more people on the food assistance program are hamstrung by lack of financial resources. "What we are giving people is not enough," Mbetsa said.

But many of these districts lie along the Save River valley, an area with lots of potential for irrigation. Building dams and irrigation systems is helping villagers tap into that potential, said Thabisani Moyo, a food security specialist with USAID. The ENSURE program shows them how to build and fix dams and irrigation schemes, and provides materials and technical support, he said.

Villagers who work on constructing the systems get 50 kg (110 lb) of sorghum every month for their labor. So far 2,334 people have received such payments. "Because of these irrigation schemes we are going to see a reduction in the number of people needing aid," Moyo said. — Reuters

## NIGERIAN TECHNOCRAT EMERGES AS FRONTRUNNER FOR OPEC BOSS

**VIENNA:** A Nigerian oil technocrat has emerged as frontrunner to take the top job at OPEC, with members seeing Mohammed Barkindo as what would be a rare compromise candidate to lead the group amid rising tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Barkindo has been a key face of the Nigerian oil industry for the past decade, during which various governments tried and effectively failed to reform national oil company NNPC.

Nigeria has alongside Venezuela become one of the main victims of oil's price collapse, with the country's output declining sharply due to militant attacks on pipelines and infrastructure. OPEC is likely to choose Barkindo, a former head of NNPC, as the next secretary-general of the producer group, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries has since 2012 been looking for a replacement for Libya's Abdullah Al-Badri, who was elected acting secretary-general in December until the end of July after serving full terms. However, Barkindo's appointment was by no means certain and Badri's tenure could yet be extended by

another six months, some sources said.

Rivalries between OPEC heavyweights Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq have so far prevented the group from choosing candidates proposed by those countries. OPEC oil ministers meet today in Vienna. The consensus of all members - which in the past has sometimes been elusive - is required for the appointment of a new secretary-general.

Barkindo led the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation from 2009 to 2010 and served as acting secretary-general of OPEC in 2006 after the original Nigerian nominee, junior oil minister Edmund Daukouro, took over the rotating OPEC presidency. Barkindo also served on OPEC's economic commission and held various high-ranking positions during a career at NNPC that spanned over two decades.

He was deputy managing director of the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Company, a joint venture between NNPC, Shell Gas BV, Total and Eni. He was also head of NNPC's London office, managing director of NNPC's oil and gas trading division, and an NNPC group executive director. — Reuters



LYON: A man wearing a mask of French Prime Minister Manuel Valls and another striking employee of the French state-owned rail operator SNCF install rails in front of the MEDEF's (French employers' association) branch. — AFP

## TRAINS GRIND TO A HALT AS STRIKES GRIP FRANCE

### THE LATEST SALVO OF BATTLE BETWEEN GOVT AND UNIONS

**PARIS:** Transport chaos hit France again yesterday, just nine days ahead of Euro 2016, as railway workers went on strike in the latest salvo of a months-long battle between the government and unions.

Between a third and half of France's trains were expected to grind to a halt, as workers from railway operator SNCF launched their eighth strike in three months, this time saying it will continue until demands for better pay and conditions are met. The action has piled further pressure on the already deeply unpopular Socialist government, which has been besieged by months of protests and work stoppages over a controversial labor reform bill.

Metro workers in the capital were planning to walk off the job from today and Air France pilots have threatened a lengthy strike in the coming weeks, when the Euro 2016 football tournament is in full swing. "This week will see the strongest mobilization in three months" of strikes, the head of the powerful CGT union Philippe Martinez said on Tuesday evening.

Since March, hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in demonstrations that have frequently turned violent, while petrol pumps ran dry last week due to blockades of refineries and depots by CGT union activists.

Workers at an oil terminal in the northern

port of Le Havre-which supplies kerosene to Paris's two main airports-voted to extend their blockade to yesterday. Despite the disruption caused to their daily lives, 46 percent of French people still support the unions' calls, a poll in the Journal du Dimanche showed Sunday. Jean, a pensioner from the southern city of Marseille, said he "wholeheartedly supported" the strikes despite delays to his train journey.

### Trains cancelled

But the protests have cast a shadow over the European football championships, which begin on June 10 and are expected to attract millions of foreign visitors during a month of matches. Yesterday's strikes were expected to see some 60 percent of France's high-speed TGV services cut, along with 30-40 percent of regional trains, SNCF said. International services to Britain and Germany were not due to be affected, but the majority of trains to Spain and Italy were likely to be cancelled.

France is not alone, with neighboring Belgium also facing anti-austerity protests that left train services badly hit and uncollected rubbish piling up in Brussels. The French government says its new labor law, named after Labor Minister Myriam El Khomri, is aimed at reducing stubbornly high unemployment and making the struggling economy more business friendly.

The legislation would let companies set their own working conditions for new employees, rather than being bound to industry-wide agreements. Managers would be allowed to cut jobs during hard times and go beyond the 35-hour work week introduced in 2000. Unions are also furious that the government rammed the reforms through the lower house of parliament without a vote, and have called for another national day of strikes in two weeks when the law goes before the Senate.

Despite often violent demonstrations, President Francois Hollande has refused to scrap the legislation and has criticized the unions for tarnishing France's image ahead of the Euro 2016. "The image of a paralyzed country conforms to the worst French-bashing clichés," a Socialist party spokesman said.

But leader of the opposition Nicolas Sarkozy has slammed the government's handling of the crisis, describing it as a "shambles" and warning of "anarchy" on the streets of France. "Weakness, cowardice, a total loss of authority: this is the spectacle we are witnessing," the former president told magazine Valeurs Actuelles in comments due to be published on Thursday. "The bill is far too weak to solve the problems, but stinging enough to arouse the passions of the left. The government has proven its weakness faced with the protests." — AFP

## AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMY POWERS AHEAD ON NET EXPORTS, HOUSEHOLD SPENDING

**SYDNEY:** Australia's economy defied market forecasts with stronger-than-predicted expansion in January-March, driven by net exports and household spending, strengthening expectations interest rates will remain on hold for some months. Economic growth expanded by 1.1 percent in the first quarter for an annual year-on-year reading of 3.1 percent, the highest in recent years and far above economists' estimates of 0.8 percent and 2.9 percent.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics data makes the Australian economy one of the best-performing among developed nations and comes just a month before national elections, which are expected to be tightly contested. "(This) confirms the Australian economy is continuing to grow, outstripping the world's most advanced economies, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Eurozone," Treasurer Scott Morrison told reporters in Brisbane.

With the mining-dependent economy shifting away from an unprecedented boom in resources investment and the Reserve Bank of Australia slashing interest rates to a new record-low last month amid weak consumer prices, the ruling conservative government has been campaigning on a platform of jobs and growth.

The Australian dollar, which jumped by half a cent following strong exports data on

Tuesday, rose again by another half a cent from 72.38 US cents before the data to 72.90 US cents. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said there were "strong signs" about growth in the figures but warned the global economic situation remained uncertain. "There is plenty of risk out there on the horizon. We are in an uncertain economic environment globally. Many opportunities, great opportunities but great challenges," he said. JP Morgan economist Tom Kennedy told AFP the mix of growth matched analysts' expectations, with "net exports delivering the bulk of the growth, if not all".

### Interest rates on hold

The data showed exports contributed 1.0 percentage points to the March quarter growth, driven by strong resources exports, particularly on the back of a ramp-up in liquefied natural gas production from new projects, National Australia Bank senior economist David de Garis said. "That (exports) story has a lot further to run, but (there's) also evidence that the demand side from tourism has increased, and perhaps signs that Chinese demand for resources may have increased so far this year," he told AFP.

Household spending added 0.4 percentage points to the GDP data. The Australian economy has been charting a rocky growth path as it

exits the mining investment boom that has helped it avoid a recession for a quarter of a century. Despite the healthy headline numbers, the figures also showed the income side of the economy stayed weak.

The terms of trade-a ratio that measures export prices to import prices fell 1.9 percent for the quarter. Real net national disposable income, a measure of the nation's earnings which factors in the terms of trade, edged up 0.2 percent for the three months for an annual reading of -1.3 percent. The Reserve Bank, an inflation-targeting central bank, cut the cash rate to a historic low of 1.75 percent in May in response to soft consumer prices and to boost growth.

The latest figures were likely to keep the RBA on the sidelines at least until the next quarterly consumer prices reading due in late July, analysts said. "To the extent that growth and labor market influences inflation forecasts, it adds a bit of comfort to the Reserve Bank and a little bit more confidence that they will get back to the 2.0-3.0 inflation target," De Garis said.

Capital Economics' chief economist for Australia Paul Dales said the RBA "won't be in a rush to cut interest rates again", but he tipped a cut, possibly in August, if growth slows for the rest of the year and inflation remains low. — AFP



SYDNEY: A ship sails on Sydney Harbor. — AFP



## ASIA STOCKS TENTATIVE AS OIL DOWN, YEN SURGES

**HONG KONG:** Asian stocks moved cautiously yesterday following losses on Wall Street and in Europe, while Tokyo dropped sharply as the yen strengthened on news of a delayed tax rise. Traders were generally wary even though official data showed activity in Chinese factories expanded in May for the third straight month.

Global equity markets pulled back overnight as investors awaited a May US jobs report and the outcome of a European Central Bank meeting. Investors also weighed a batch of mostly encouraging US data for further hints of when to expect an interest rate rise, after Fed Chair Janet Yellen said last week an increase could be

justified "in the coming months". In Asia, Sydney ended more than one percent lower despite data showing stronger than predicted GDP expansion of 1.1 percent in the first quarter, driven by exports and household spending. Energy and mining stocks took a hit as oil prices fell ahead of an OPEC meeting in Vienna Thursday, with Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton dipping two and 3.1 percent respectively.

In oil markets US benchmark West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for delivery in July was down 46 cents at \$48.64 a barrel in afternoon trade. Brent North Sea crude for August, a new contract, was down 52 cents at \$49.37. Tokyo

stocks dropped 1.6 percent, snapping a five-day winning streak, as the yen surged on news that Japan's prime minister would delay a sales tax rise that threatened the nation's fragile economy.

Shinzo Abe said the rise to 10 percent from eight percent, planned for 2017, would now be pushed back by more than two years to late 2019. The dollar dived to 109.77 yen from 110.73 Tuesday in New York. But mobile carrier SoftBank bucked the downtrend, climbing 0.38 percent to 6,252 yen on news that it will sell at least \$7.9 billion of its stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba. SoftBank said it would

reduce its 32.2 percent holding in the Chinese company to about 28 percent, and use the proceeds to pay down its huge debt load.

**China data 'underwhelming'**

Chinese stocks were lacklustre as the nation released official manufacturing data for May. The official Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI), which tracks activities in factories and workshops, came in at 50.1. Any reading above 50 signals expanding activity, while anything below indicates shrinkage, but Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said readings for May were "underwhelming".

"Although they suggest that activity

held up reasonably well last month, they also offer few signs of improvement," he said. Shanghai closed down 0.1 percent after surging on Tuesday while Hong Kong had lost 0.4 percent in the afternoon.

China's economy, the world's second-largest, is a vital driver of global expansion, and investors watch the PMI figure closely as the first available indicator each month of how well the economy is doing. The key manufacturing sector has been struggling for months in the face of sagging global demand for Chinese products. In early European trade, London retreated 0.7 percent, while Frankfurt and Paris eased 0.5 percent. —AFP

## Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 01 June 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -25.86	5,374.47	5,400.33	5,407.03	5,367.68
Weighted Index	▼ -2.41	354.99	357.40	357.83	354.72
KSX 15	▼ -5.30	820.88	826.18	827.49	819.59

Global

Volume	158,035,140
Value (KWD)	12,428,920
Number of Trades	3,199

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	— 0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.0	— 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	— 0.0
NAPESCO	710	700	1,620,582	1,134,492	11	700	— 0.0
FNFRGYH	50	45.5	448,576	20,473	49	45.5	▼ -2.5
GPI	43.5	43.0	2,390,978	103,920	49	43.5	▼ -0.5
ABAR	88	88	3,000	264	2	88	▼ -5.0
Oil & Gas			4,463,136	1,259,148	111	757.92	▼ -6.41

KFOUC	176	176	26,309	4,630	2	176	▼ -2.0
BPCC	520	510	14,680	7,633	6	520	▼ -10.0
ALKOUT	560	550	6,960	3,830	5	550	▼ -50.0
ALQURAIN	212	206	38,071	8,007	14	210	▼ -2.0
Basic Materials			86,020	24,101	27	926.03	▼ -31.44

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	— 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0.0
CABLE	425	400	64,389	26,461	11	405	▼ -10.0
SHIP	160	160	10,000	1,600	1	160	▼ -6.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	990	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	— 0.0
ACICO	295	295	10,641	3,139	10	295	— 0.0
GSME	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	— 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0
NICBM	210	200	3,887	809	4	210	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	68	65	4,577,888	301,112	81	65	▼ -3.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	— 0.0
GYSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	80	77	204,000	15,780	13	77	▼ -2.0
AGLTY	470	465	338,887	157,607	16	470	— 0.0
EDU	190	190	10	2	1	190	▼ -10.0
CLEANING	40.5	40.0	223,000	8,960	14	40.5	▼ -0.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	— 0.0
KGIL	49.5	48.0	269,735	12,998	21	49.0	▼ -0.5
KOPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	— 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,320	1,320	9,400	12,408	5	1,320	▼ -60.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	— 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	— 0.0
GFC	35.0	32.5	33,355	1,086	6	34.5	▼ -0.5
MAYADEEN	25.0	24.0	5,011,939	121,594	56	24.5	▼ -0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	— 0.0
MTCC	72	69	1,241,032	87,072	38	70	▲ 1.0
UPAC	690	690	5,000	3,450	2	690	▲ 10.0
ALAFCO	198	198	15,000	2,970	1	198	— 0.0
MUBARRAD	64	63	471,624	29,785	14	63	▼ -1.0
LOGISTICS	89	85	2,097,050	176,570	65	87	▼ -2.0
SCEM	80	80	500	40	1	80	▲ 2.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	74	— 0.0
QIC	72	72	150,000	10,800	3	72	— 0.0
FCME	75	74	241,000	17,835	4	75	— 0.0
RKWC	94	94	8,370	787	2	94	— 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	— 0.0
Industrials			14,947,207	992,864	369	1054.91	▼ -11.34

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
PAPCO	106	106	300	32	1	106	— 0.0
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	— 0.0
DANAH	128	118	11,673,074	1,436,125	267	126	— 0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	— 0.0
FOOD	2,240	2,240	1	2	1	2,240	▼ -100.0
Consumer Goods			11,673,375	1,436,159	269	1124.85	▼ -12.63

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	— 0
Health Care			0	0	0	990.98	— 0.00

KCIN	1,480	1,480	121	179	1	1,480	▲ 80
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	— 0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	— 0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0
OUAFUEL	112	108	73,576	8,091	17	112	▲ 4
MUNTAAZHAT	89	86	3,921,860	345,230	92	89	▲ 5
JAZERA	910	900	325,238	293,914	12	900	— 0
SOOR	112	110	31,198	3,466	10	110	— 0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	— 0
ALRAI	138	136	8,100	1,102	2	138	▼ -2
SIAMAH	43.0	42.5	233,000	9,915	10	42.5	— 0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	— 0
Mozzan	1,020	1,020	160,150	163,353	6	1,020	▼ -20
Consumer Services			4,753,243	825,250	150	978.21	▲ 13.37

ZAIN	345	340	817,302	281,457	25	345	— 0
OOREDOO	1,100	1,100	1,047	1,152	1	1,100	▼ -100
HITSTELEC	40.5	39.5	21,265,706	853,377	221	40.5	▲ 1
VIVA	940	920	283,516	263,434	56	930	— 0
Telecommunications			22,367,571	1,399,439	303	605.71	▼ -6.76

NBK	630	620	1,965,668	1,237,380	63	620	▼ -10
GBK	226	220	24,200	5,391	7	220	▼ -6
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	430	— 0
ABK	330	330	158,074	52,164	2	330	— 0
ALMUTAHED	410	410	13,000	5,330	1	410	▼ -5
KIB	194	194	2,414,720	468,457	38	194	— 0
BURG	325	320	46,886	15,000	9	320	▼ -5
KFIN	470	460	1,429,708	605,299	79	470	▲ 5
BOUBYAN	400	400	31,823	12,729	12	400	— 0
AUB	190	190	1,379,909	262,183	19	190	▲ 2
ITHMR	39.5	38.5	798,500	31,126	24	39.0	— 0
WARBANK	174	172	2,435,115	422,951	83	172	▼ -2
Banks			10,727,412	3,178,011	327	809.45	▼ -2.71

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0
GINIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	— 0.0
AINS	465	465	289	134	1	465	— 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	— 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0.0
FTI	50	50	979	49	1	50	— 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.5	— 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
Insurance			1,268	183	2	1016.54	— 0.00

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KL)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	36.5	36.5	315000	11,498	6	36.5	▼ -0.5
KRE	58	56	2,645,510	150,997	49	56	▼ -2.0
URC	94	94	1,000	94	1	94	▲ 1.0
NRC	90	89	407,500	36,269	13	90	— 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	— 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	— 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	— 0.0





## BOUBYAN BANK CELEBRATES LISTING OF \$250M TIER I SUKUK ON NASDAQ DUBAI

**DUBAI:** Adel Abdulwahab AlMajed, Vice Chairman and CEO of Kuwait-based Boubyan Bank, rang the market-opening bell today to celebrate the listing on Nasdaq Dubai of the bank's first ever Sukuk issuance, valued at \$250 million. The issuance, which was more than five times oversubscribed, marks the first Sukuk out of Kuwait since 2007, first Kuwaiti bank Sukuk and the first Basel III compliant Tier I Sukuk worldwide. It is also the first Tier I Sukuk out of the region in 2016.

The listing by a prominent GCC financial institution underlines Dubai's status as the global leader for Sukuk listings, with a total nominal value of \$44.06 billion from issuers in the Middle East and beyond.

The bell-ringing ceremony took place in the presence of His Excellency Essa Kazim, Governor of Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), Secretary General of Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre (DIEDC), and Chairman of Dubai Financial Market (DFM); and Hamed Ali, Chief Executive of Nasdaq Dubai.

HE Essa Kazim, Governor of DIFC, Secretary General of DIEDC and Chairman of DFM, said: "This listing by a major Kuwait entity further

advances cooperation between GCC states in the capital markets sector, as well as the growth of Dubai as the global Capital of the Islamic Economy under the initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai. Dubai looks forward to welcoming further listings from GCC and other issuers that will facilitate their success and enhance mutually beneficial economic development."

AlMajed of Boubyan Bank said: "Boubyan continues to be one of the fastest growing banks in Kuwait and the listing of our Sukuk on the region's international exchange enhances our global profile and strengthens our links to a wide range of Islamic and other investors around the world. Nasdaq Dubai provides our inaugural Islamic bond with high visibility in a respected listing environment regulated to international standards."

Boubyan Bank's \$250 million Sukuk listed on Nasdaq Dubai on May 17. It was the 8th Sukuk listing on the exchange so far in 2016.

With Sukuk issuance taking a growing share

of the debt markets in the GCC and many other countries, Dubai's role as a centre of excellence for listing Islamic instruments is poised for further expansion.

Total new Sukuk issuance with a maturity of more than 18 months in the GCC, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Singapore and Pakistan reached \$11.1 billion in the first quarter of 2016, according to Fitch Ratings. This amounted to 39% of total bond and Sukuk issuance in those countries in the quarter, which was the highest proportion for eight years.

Mr. Saleh Al Ateeqi, Chief Executive Officer of Boubyan Capital Investment Company, said: "Boubyan Capital ensured that the first Sukuk issuance to be managed by the company was the Boubyan Bank issuance, because this is a very unique event, being the first issuance of Sukuk in the world for the enhancement of Tier 1 Capital in compliance with the requirements of Basel III. Despite the circumstances surrounding the international economy, the company managed, thanks to God, with its young national cadres and expertise, to market the Sukuk within a record time and succeeded in managing the issuance."



**BEIJING:** Ma Wenyi, center holds a photo of his father who was forced to work during World War II at a mine for Mitsubishi Mining Corp., cries as he talks to journalists outside a hotel where a press conference was held. — AP

## MITSUBISHI MATERIALS AND CHINESE WWII SLAVE WORKERS REACH DEAL

**TOKYO:** Mitsubishi Materials Corp, one of dozens of Japanese companies that used Chinese forced laborers during World War II, reached a settlement covering thousands of victims yesterday that includes compensation and an apology. The deal was signed in Beijing with three former workers representing the company's more than 3,000 Chinese victims of forced labor, Mitsubishi Materials said in a statement.

The victims were among about 40,000 Chinese brought to Japan in the early 1940s as forced laborers to make up for a domestic labor shortage. Many died due to violence and malnutrition amid harsh treatment by the Japanese.

Under the settlement, Mitsubishi Materials will pay 100,000 Yuan (\$15,000) to each of the Chinese victims and their families. The victims were forced to work at 10 coal mines operated by Mitsubishi Mining Corp, as Mitsubishi Materials was known at the time. Mitsubishi Materials said it would try to locate all of the victims. The company's payments would total 370 million Yuan (\$56 million) if all of them come forward.

### Big victory

Most hailed the settlement as a victory for their cause. "World War II ended 70 years ago. Our forced labor case today has finally come to a resolution. We have won this case. This is a big victory that merits a celebration," One of the victims, Yan Yucheng, 87, told reporters.

Representatives of other ex-laborers, however, said they weren't convinced Mitsubishi Materials' apology was sincere, citing a desire by Japanese firms to ease widespread anti-Japan sentiment among Chinese, many of whom feel the country has yet to show true contrition for its invasion and wartime atrocities.

"The company did it not for reconciliation, but to try to relieve the pressure on the Japanese government," said Kang Jian, a lawyer representing 60 former workers who filed a case against Mitsubishi Materials in a Chinese court. Responding to the settlement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Beijing would pay close attention to how Japan

deals with such matters. "China urges Japan to adopt a responsible attitude and properly handle the relevant issue of history," Hua said at a daily briefing.

### 'Sincere apologies'

At the signing ceremony, held at a downtown Beijing hotel, Mitsubishi Materials "expressed its sincere apologies regarding its historical responsibility to the former laborers and the apologies were accepted by the three former laborers," the company's statement said. It promised to "continue to seek a comprehensive and permanent solution with all of its former laborers and their families."

Mitsubishi Materials also said it would construct memorials at the sites where the company's mines were located and organize memorial ceremonies. The settlement comes two years after several groups representing the victims and their families filed a compensation lawsuit against Mitsubishi Materials. The sides negotiated a deal, though one of the groups, representing 37 plaintiffs, rejected the settlement that was finally reached, according to Japan's Kyodo News agency.

Japan's government has long insisted that all wartime compensation issues were settled under the postwar peace treaties, and that China waived its right to pursue compensation under the 1972 treaty with Japan that established diplomatic relations between Beijing and Tokyo. Lawsuits filed in Japan by Chinese and Korean victims of Japanese wartime aggression, including former forced laborers and sex slaves, had previously been rejected.

Japan's Foreign Ministry acknowledged the country's wartime use of Chinese forced laborers after wartime documents were found in the early 1990s. The settlement announced yesterday is the first ever that Mitsubishi Materials has reached with former forced laborers. At least two other Japanese construction companies - Kajima Corp. and Nishimatsu Co. - have taken similar steps to compensate smaller groups of victims. Last year, Mitsubishi Materials apologized for its harsh treatment of former US prisoners of war, who were also used by the company as forced laborers. — AP

## SOFTBANK TO SELL PART OF STAKE IN CHINA'S ALIBABA FOR \$7.9 BN

**TOKYO:** SoftBank said yesterday it will sell at least \$7.9 billion worth of its stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, as the Japanese firm looks to pay down a whopping debt load. The mobile carrier, led by colorful billionaire Masayoshi Son, first invested in Alibaba in 2000, which has since ballooned into what is now considered to be the world's biggest online retailer.

In recent years, SoftBank launched an acquisition streak that saw it pick up an assortment of firms, including its \$16 billion purchase of US-based mobile giant Sprint. But the buying spree has put pressure on SoftBank's finances. Its total debt stood at an eye-watering 11.92 trillion yen (\$106 billion) at the end of March, nearly tripling from just three years earlier, according to Bloomberg News.

The firm also announced earlier this year it would buy back more than 14 percent of its stock at a cost of about 500 billion yen. SoftBank, which is Alibaba's biggest shareholder, said yesterday it had "approved of a series of capital raising transactions, which involve monetizing a portion of the shares of Alibaba."

It called the investment "phenomenally successful" and said the two firms would continue to work together. The sale will reduce SoftBank's 32.2 percent holding in Alibaba to about 28 percent, it said, adding that proceeds would be earmarked for debt payments. SoftBank's move, however, was unexpected because Son-one of Japan's richest men-had previously been cool to the idea of selling down the Alibaba stake, analysts said. "It was surprising to me that they were selling the Alibaba stake," regardless of the large amount of proceeds, said Jun Tanabe, a Tokyo-based equity analyst at JPMorgan. "But the move itself is positive."

### Record \$25 billion IPO

Son and Alibaba's executive chairman Jack Ma will remain on the board of each other's firms. "As SoftBank looks to strengthen its own balance sheet, Alibaba determined that it was the best use of our capital to re-invest in our own business through an efficient buyback of a large number of shares in our own company" to benefit shareholders, the Chinese company said. Alibaba is buying back at least \$2.0 billion worth of the shares that SoftBank is selling, while \$500 million would be sold to an unnamed "major sovereign wealth fund", the Japanese company said.

Another \$400 million would be sold to the Alibaba Partnership, an investment structured to let SoftBank get cash for its Alibaba shares while maintaining an interest in the stock, it said. SoftBank has seen its profits boosted thanks to Alibaba's record \$25 billion market debut in this month.

Meanwhile, Alibaba said this year. Revenue surged 39 percent in the first quarter, defying both China's economic slowdown and increasing competition in the world's biggest e-commerce market. Alibaba is China's dominant player in online commerce with its Taobao platform estimated to hold more than 90 percent of the consumer-to-consumer market, and its Tmall platform is believed to have over half of business-to-consumer transactions.

There has been speculation that company founder Ma, China's second richest person, plans to buy Italian football club AC Milan, though he has joked about the reports. Yesterday's announcement came after the Chinese online giant disclosed last week that US securities regulators were probing its accounting for possible violations of US securities laws. SoftBank shares jumped more than 2.5 percent in late morning trading in Tokyo yesterday. Alibaba's US-listed shares declined 3.1 percent Tuesday after the announcement of SoftBank's planned share sale. — AFP

## AHLI UNITED BANK SPONSORS RETIREMENT PROFESSIONALS TALENT INVESTMENT FORUM

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank - Kuwait-announced today that it has sponsored the first national retirement experiences investment conference, which took place on May 30th at the JW Marriott Hotel. The event, which was patronized by His Excellency Marzouq Ali Al Ghanim, Speaker of the Kuwait National Assembly, was organized by the National Project for Retirements, and attended by a number of government leaders and representatives from various authorities operating in retirement.

The Bank's sponsorship reflects its keen interest in honoring professionals who have retired and who have contributed to Kuwait

over many years. Retired professionals have a wealth of knowledge and expertise that must be invested for the collective benefit of the nation.

Ahli United Bank's social responsibility role and commitment towards retired professionals is of paramount importance, and one which reflects its continued dedication towards providing the retirees with tailored services that accommodate their banking needs. The Bank's participation in this and similar events is part of its continued social program that mirrors its commitment to all segments of the local society in the provision of Sharia'a compliant financial services solutions.



## WARBA BANK LAUNCHES THE 'SUPER SAVINGS ACCOUNT'

**KUWAIT:** Warba Bank, the fastest growing bank in Kuwait offering a wide spectrum of banking and investment services compatible with the Islamic Shariah on local and international levels, is keen to invent intelligent banking solutions that would add value to customers transaction; keeping that in mind, Warba Bank announced the launch of its new masterpiece service: Super Savings Account, which has been designed according to high standards of quality and innovation for the prime aim to meet the progress in the banking fields as well to diversify its products.

The new account offers a range of privilege; money deposited in the account are invested. The minimum opening balance for the account should be KD 1000 or equivalent in Dollars, this will enable the customer to obtain a debit card and a credit card (Visa and MasterCard); he can as well transfer his salary to it. This Super Savings Account from Warba Bank allows individuals under 18 years old to get on their own after the approval of their parents

Regarding the new account, Warba stated that its portfolio of accounts receive a positive echo in their midst, for example, Al

Sunbula account which gives an added value to other services and products through the 6 cash prizes it offers on a monthly basis, what gives the customer greater opportunities to achieve his dreams considering that he would be able to double his chances of to enter the monthly draw by maintaining the balance above the minimum amount required and without carrying out the withdrawal or transfer within the period required

The bank is so careful to promote the principle of savings among customers what incites it to constantly develop saving solutions that cater to customers' expectations and at the same time educate them about saving strategy. It's been noted that Warba Bank is characterized by quality banking solutions; the bank is keen to provide its customers with topnotch solutions that would increase the value of their banking transactions. These solutions are marked with extreme flexibility, easiness and are time consuming. Warba Bank continues to enrich the Islamic banking sector in Kuwait by offering unprecedented products and services which meet customer diversity requirements.

## JAPAN PM DELAYS TAX HIKE IN BLOW FOR 'ABENOMICS'

### HIKE THREATENS TO DERAIL FRAGILE ECONOMY

**TOKYO:** Japan's prime minister yesterday said he would delay a sales tax hike that threatened to derail the fragile economy, but analysts said it highlighted the failure of his years-long efforts to spark growth.

The decision by Shinzo Abe also drew a warning from credit rating agency Fitch, which said it would "undermine the credibility" of Japan's commitment to paying down one of the world's biggest national debts. Abe had repeatedly said he would follow through on the levy hike, planned for 2017, after it was already delayed once.

But yesterday he said raising the tariff to 10 percent from eight percent would be pushed back by more than two years to late 2019, when he is likely no longer in office. That means the tough job of raising taxes will be pushed onto his successor.

Abe insisted that delaying the tax hike would give Tokyo breathing room to take his faltering Abenomics growth plan "one step further". "We will do our utmost to create an environment conducive to raising the tax from October 2019," he said. The Japanese leader-who swept to power in late 2012 on a pledge to kick-start growth with his Abenomics policy blitz-is expected to announce a fresh spending package within several months.

The top-selling Yomiuri newspaper earlier said the stimulus could reach 10 trillion yen (\$90 billion). Japan's economy remains weak and there were widespread fears that another sales tax hike would hammer the world's number three economy by taking a bite out of consumer spending. "It's hard to say that 'Abenomics' has been successful if (Abe) has to postpone a tax hike," said Masamichi Adachi, senior economist at JPMorgan in Tokyo.

Japan's last sales tax rise in April 2014 was blamed for pushing Japan into a brief recession. But critics say it is crucial to shrink a debt mountain that is more than twice the size of the economy, as social welfare costs balloon in the ageing nation.

### 'Clear risks'

Much of Japan's debt is held domestically at low interest rates which have allowed the country to avoid a Greek-style cash crunch. But a loss of confidence in Tokyo's ability to pay its debts could send interest rates soaring and increase the risk of a bankruptcy. Ratings agencies have previously cut Japan's credit standing over its debt. Fitch yesterday warned of a possible move, but said it would await more details on



**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a press conference at his official residence. — AP

Tokyo's fiscal plans "before drawing conclusions for Japan's ratings". By contrast, Standard & Poor's said its would not change its rating, noting that there were "clear risks" to Japan's economy if the tax was raised next year, citing weak overseas and a strong yen.

Last week at a G7 summit, Abe hinted at the delay as he warned over a global economic "crisis". Abe compared it to the situation before the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008, which set off the global financial crisis. That claim was rejected by some of his rich nation counterparts, and many saw it as a bid to justify delaying the tax hike.

Previously, Abe said his government would only push back the long-planned tax hike in the event of "a grave situation"-on the scale of the collapse of Lehman Brothers or a major earthquake. Abe's blueprint for igniting the once-powerhouse economy consisted of a mix of massive central bank monetary easing, government spending and efforts to slash red tape.

The plan appeared to work at first as it sharply weakened the yen, a plus for Japan's exporters, and which set off a stock market rally. But that initial optimism has given way to growing doubts as the economy struggles to gain traction over three years later. Japan holds upper house parliamentary elections in July and Abe's time in office ends in September 2018 unless his party approves an exceptional measure to extend his leadership. — AFP





## ZAIN WINS FIVE PRIZES AT GLOBAL TELECOMS BUSINESS INNOVATION AWARDS

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces the unprecedented award of five prizes at the prestigious 2016 Global Telecoms Business (GTB) Innovation Awards held in London last week.

Zain Group Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer (CSBDO), Emre Gurkan was on hand to accept several of the awards, having earlier being a key-note speaker at GTB Innovation Summit where he outlined Zain Group's innovation strategy to a distinguished audience of telecom executives from across the globe.

Zain's first prize of the night was for Customer Service Innovation and Offerings based on Disruptive Technological Platforms due to its cooperation with UBER, which it announced in September 2015 and is based on a partnership to offer Zain customers discounted and preferential services when using the UBER platform locally and abroad. The collaboration went on to be recognized by research house Ovum as its "most innovative service for November 2015 and it is not often that we find a strategic partnership that can bring so many key benefits for operators". Ovum identified that for Zain, UBER's continual growth across the region is a bonus having the potential to create incremental revenues, attract

new customers, and increase customer loyalty, all factors which captivated the judging panel of GTB.

Thanking the judging panel on the numerous wins at this year's GTB Innovation Awards, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "The breadth and depth of the prizes we have won this year across several of our operations signifies that we are not just innovating for innovation's sake, but that the services and initiatives we are developing are really impacting people's lives positively. I would like to thank all Zain staff members for their dedication and focus, which allows us to be recognized in such a fashion."

Zain Jordan and Zain Iraq were both recognized at the GTB Innovation Awards 2016 for their efforts to expand access to financial services, aimed at providing a mobile wallet to millions of unbanked people across the two countries. Earlier this year, Zain re-launched its mobile banking services under the brand "Zain Cash", with a broader scope, richer portfolio, and a more integrated ecosystem featuring more secure and convenient transactions with a comprehensive network. The life-enhancing mobile service was launched in partnership with eServGlobal.

Zain's operation in Jordan received further accolades as it was recognized for the launch of its "Al-Basmah" prepaid line

tailored specially for the deaf. The line was launched in collaboration with the Higher Council for Special Needs and the Public Security Directorate. The "Al-Basmah" line, a name meaning "smile" in Arabic, includes several features that assist deaf people, providing them a bundle of on-network video calls, voice calls, SMS and internet access on its 4G network.

Touch the mobile operation managed by Zain in Lebanon, was drawn out for special mention in two categories, the first being in recognition of its strategy to penetrate the digital world having developed and introduced the touch app on Apple watch. Created by FOO, a mobile solutions entity that Zain recently made a strategic stake in, the distinctive app allows customers to check their line balance, credit and validity, in addition to bundles (voice, SMS and/or data) consumption, on-the-go and in real-time. The application is one of only a few of its kind in the region, and it has received one of the highest rankings for self-care apps on Android. The application builds on touch's strong app positioning (over 850,000 downloads).

The second award for the Lebanon based operator saw Touch recognized for introducing an augmented reality feature to engage customers using a unique popular mobile app, again created by FOO Solutions that saw over 800,000 down-

loads during the holiday seasons. Having been customized to reflect the festive period, various themed animations were triggered by snapping the touch logo through the camera interface of the mobile app. Customers shared these animations along with selfies and photos creating creative augmented reality art. Customers also mentioned #touchgreetings in their posts and won valuable prizes

Emre Gurkan, Zain Group CSBDO concluded, "The complexity of the telecommunications sector is ever changing and in order to stay abreast of it and remain successful, it is necessary to review and adapt our innovation strategy on a regular basis, in order to move Zain Group successfully to a digital future."

Gurkan added, "We established the Zain Digital Frontier and Innovation (ZDFI) business unit to thrust Zain into the digital space by identifying new business areas, value-adding strategic partnerships, accretive acquisition opportunities and synergistic corporate venturing investments. Collectively, these activities look to create new revenue streams to maximize the group's high-speed 4G-LTE broadband networks, customer assets, network intelligence and payment and billing frameworks. ZDFI focuses on the areas of innovation; digital services; corporate venturing; and smart cities."

## AWATEF HUSSAIN WINS KD 125,000 IN NBK'S AL JAWHARA MONTHLY DRAW

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announces the winner for May's KD 125,000 Al Jawhara monthly prize, Awatef Hussain Al Baghli. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The winner's name was announced live on Marina FM.

NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them one entry into the draw, thus more

money in an account means more chances into each draw. This new added feature enables Al Jawhara Account holders to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing.

Al Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw. Al Jawhara account is available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's numerous branches around Kuwait, or safely and easily through NBK's website for existing customers.

## CHINA SMARTPHONE MAKER BUYS MICROSOFT PATENTS

**SHANGHAI:** Upstart smartphone maker Xiaomi has bought nearly 1,500 patents from US technology giant Microsoft, the companies and reports said, as part of a "global partnership" that will help the Chinese firm expand outside its home market. The patents cover wireless communications, video, cloud and multimedia technologies, Bloomberg News quoted a Xiaomi spokeswoman as saying.

"This will help ease of operation in new markets," spokeswoman Kaylene Hong said. Besides the patent transfers, Xiaomi will pre-install Microsoft Office and Skype on its Android smartphones and tablets, Microsoft said in a statement. Xiaomi sold more than 70 million handsets last year. In May, Microsoft announced the sale of its phone business for \$350 million to a new Finnish company HMD Global and its Taiwanese partner, FIH Mobile of

FoxConn Technology Group. Microsoft bought the unprofitable handset unit of Finland's Nokia in 2014, but is now seeking to shut it down as it largely exits production. "Microsoft is using its IP (intellectual property) arsenal as leverage to lure and lock-in vulnerable players such as Xiaomi," Neil Shah, research director at Counterpoint Research, told Bloomberg. "So possibly it's a win-win for both parties as Xiaomi gets IP-protected and Microsoft grows its roster of partners."

Founded in 2010, Beijing-based Xiaomi was the world's fifth biggest smartphone vendor at the end of last year, shipping 18.2 million phones in the fourth quarter of 2015, according to International Data Corp (IDC). However, despite its efforts in India and Brazil, Xiaomi still depends heavily on the domestic market, which accounted for 90 percent of its sales volume last year, IDC said. — AP

## JOYALUKKAS ACHIEVES SUPERBRAND STATUS FOR 7TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**UAE:** Three decades in operations, Joyalukkas has seen more than its share of accolades and honors, but every award is still celebrated like it's their first. "We are 'super' thrilled to have been recognized as a Superbrand for the seventh consecutive year.

It is indeed a privilege to receive Superbrand status, but to get this recognition this many times in a row is a remarkable feat we have only our customers to thank for, without their loyalty and support, we would not have the drive to work harder and innovate more so they continue to enjoy the highest level of service and the best choice of quality products. We thank the Superbrands Council and our patrons for giving us this honor once again," said John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group.

Superbrands is one of the world's most respected independent brand excellence

authorities, strengthening a brand's image and reassuring consumers and suppliers that they are dealing with the best in a specific category. In the jewelry industry, Joyalukkas has the distinction of being the only brand to have received this honor seven times in a row.

With a presence across the UK, USA, Singapore, UAE, Malaysia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and India at over 120 world-class jewelry showrooms, Joyalukkas has become a household name for variety, quality and value. With unique offerings like the world's first and only Diamond Cave, a dedicated wedding planning service and the comprehensive Joyalukkas Golden Rewards loyalty program, Joyalukkas is not only recognized as one of the world's best brands in the industry but also as the world's favorite jeweler.



Mazin Al-Nahedh receiving the award from Forbes and the Minister

## KFH WINS 'TOP COMPANY IN THE ARAB WORLD 2016' AWARD FROM 'FORBES MIDDLE EAST'

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won "Top Company in the Arab World 2016" award from "Forbes Middle East" magazine in the 4th Top Companies in the Arab World 2016 event convened at Jumeirah Hotel Kuwait to celebrate and recognize the most successful, prosperous and innovative Arab companies in the region.

KFH Group Chief Executive Officer, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh received the award at a VIP gala dinner and ceremony for Forbes Middle East in presence of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and a number of dignitaries and businessmen from various sectors in Kuwait and the region.

While handing out the award, Forbes Middle East Magazine applauded KFH's performance and prestigious status, indicating that it is the first Islamic bank established in Kuwait in 1977, not to mention operates in different countries in the world.

"Forbes" added that that the award recognizes KFH's robust financial position and its contributions in the economic development. It reflects the bank's capa-

bilities to encounter crisis and efficiently manage risk thanks to its investment diversification and geographical expansions locally, regionally and globally.

Meanwhile, KFH- Group CEO, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh takes pride in receiving the award, indicating that it reflects the international recognition of the bank while represents a new impetus for further achievements and leadership in the banking industry.

It is worth noting that "the 4th Top Companies in the Arab World 2016" gala dinner and award ceremony affirms that the companies in Middle East region have great capabilities to confront crises. It acknowledged Kuwait's success and applauded the country's contribution in development of the region.

Kuwait list of honorees included many categories: top companies in the Arab world, top companies listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange; the privately-held companies making an impact in Kuwait; and the most powerful Kuwaiti business women. The ranking of the top companies is measured based on four metrics: sales, net profits, assets and market value as of April 2016.

## FORBES MIDDLE EAST NAMES KIPCO AMONG 'TOP COMPANIES IN THE ARAB WORLD 2016'

**KUWAIT CITY:** KIPCO - the Kuwait Projects Company - was recognized by Forbes Middle East as a 'Top Arab Company in the Arab World 2016' for the third consecutive year.

KIPCO's award was announced during a gala dinner held at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa in Kuwait. The event recognizes publicly listed companies that, through dynamic and strong leadership, are shaping the future of Arab economies and making an impact on a global scale. Companies were ranked according to their total revenue, net profit, total assets and market capitalization.

The awards were presented by the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and the President of Arab Publisher House and Publisher of Forbes Middle East, Dr Nasser Bin Aqeel

Al Tayyar. Samer Khanachet, KIPCO's Group Chief Operating Officer, received the award on behalf of the company.

Faisal Al Ayyar, KIPCO's Vice Chairman (Executive) said: "Receiving this important recognition from Forbes Middle East for the third consecutive year brings us great pleasure. As we at KIPCO continue to enhance our businesses in diverse sectors across the MENA region, we are also helping develop and grow the communities we are present in and we are shaping the economies in which we operate. Such prestigious recognitions and awards reinforce the success of our strategies and our efforts to achieve business excellence." This year's event included a broad representation of industries such as banking and financial services, retail, food and beverage, telecommunications, education, real estate and construction.



Samer Khanachet (center) receiving the award from Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak (right) and Dr Nasser Al Tayyar.



## GOOGLING YOURSELF NOW LEADS TO PERSONAL PRIVACY CONTROLS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Now all you need to do is Google yourself if you're wondering how deeply Google has been digging into your digital life. From yesterday, a shortcut to personal account information will appear at the top of Google's search results whenever logged-in users enter their own names in the query box. The feature is part of an update to the "My Account" hub that Google introduced a year ago to make it easier for people to manage the privacy and security controls on the internet company's services.

While Google isn't making any additional information available, it is making it easier to find. The

link to personal accounts will appear at the top right of the listings for searches done on personal computers and at the top of requests entered on smartphones. Google is making the change because it learned that many users doing a "vanity search" under their name wanted a quicker way to find out what the company knew about them, as well as to see how they are depicted on various sites across the internet, said Guemmy Kim, a Google product manager.

A new feature on Google's mobile app will also quickly take users to their account information with a spoken request. All that will be required are the

words: "OK Google, show me my Google account." This option initially will only be available in English. People have become more interested in managing their digital profiles as a confluence of search engines, smartphones and online social networks makes it easier to track where they are, what they're doing and what they're thinking. Revelations about government agencies' online surveillance programs also has heightened interest in privacy protection.

Google uses the data collected by its search engine, Gmail and other services to analyze people's interests and habits to show them ads about

products most likely to appeal to them. Those ads generated \$67 billion in revenue last year, providing most of the money that fuels Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc. In addition to providing quicker ways to get to personal account information, Google also is introducing a "Find Your Phone" tool that's designed to protect data stored on a device, as well as help locate it if it's lost or stolen. The tool will work on Apple's iPhone, as well as devices running on Google's Android software. It's meant to supplement the device-tracking and security features already built into the iPhone and the Android operating system. — AP

## KUWAIT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MICROSOFT EMPOWER TEACHERS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ministry of Education (MoE) and Microsoft Kuwait have conducted training sessions to train 650 teachers on technology that is essential to the modern classroom, with a view to driving learning transformation across MoE schools in the country. The first training session spanned across six weeks introducing teachers to various productivity tools such as Office 365, Expert Educator Network, Office Mix and more. The teachers attended a three-hour workshop over five consecutive days, which gave them the required skills to act as technology ambassadors in their schools and transfer knowledge to their students as well.

With the Ministry's agreement with Microsoft, teachers will have access to the latest version of suites such as Office 365 and applications such as OneNote and Office Mix, through which educators can transform the learning experience with technology, tools, and resources, ultimately inspiring students to reach their highest potential. Additional benefits that the teachers experienced included updates on innovative teaching practices, access to technology that can aid the education experience, and tips on how they can support students acquire up-to-date skills.

Dr Haytham Al-Athari, Undersecretary Ministry of Education, said: "Technology is a critical component of our everyday lives, and is therefore a necessary addition to our classrooms. In partnership with Microsoft, we are providing our teachers and students alike with the tools needed to propel the education system into the 21st century, allowing us to ensure that students receive the best possible

education and skills they need to succeed in today's world." Charles Nahas, General Manager at Microsoft Kuwait, said: "Microsoft is committed to provide latest technologies to educators on their journey to improve student learning experiences, by bridging the gap between technology and teaching. Students and teachers are our number one priority and by engaging with the Ministry of Education, we are empowering teachers and students with the latest technology directions that will enhance their academic experience, which will be augmented by improved tech-savviness on the part of the teachers."

"Our mission is to keep our education system upgraded to cater to the changes our society witnesses and to activate its role in building the future abilities of our students" said Eng Huda Al-Mutairi, IT director, Ministry of Education (MoE) "We understand the importance and value of technology in education and together with Microsoft improve both the access to and the use of technology for the support of the teaching and learning process as well as for empowering every student with skills." Microsoft Public Sector lead, Alaeddine Alaeddine said: "While great technology can never replace great teaching, it is essential that teachers have access to the right tools to help drive the most effective learning. We believe that technology applied in new ways can shift behavior and motivation. The goal is to encourage students learn through doing via earning skills set such as practical application by solving problems, progressing and having fun, with real time feedback from educators."



## 'BIONICS LEADER' AWARDED SPAIN'S TOP SCIENCE PRIZE

**MADRID:** Hugh Herr, an MIT professor who has devoted his life to creating bionic limbs since he had both his legs amputated after a climbing accident, was awarded Spain's top science prize Wednesday. Dubbed the "Leader of the Bionic Age" by Time magazine, the 51-year-old was given the Princess of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research for his work in marrying human physiology with electro-mechanics to create "the world's most sophisticated artificial limbs." "Herr has opened new paths of investigation, giving rise to... a type of 'intelligent' prosthesis that have accelerated the fusion of the body and the machine," the prize organizers said in a statement. "His achievements have had a significant impact on people with physical disabilities."

An experienced climber, Herr was only 17 when he got stuck on a mountain in a violent blizzard. Suffering from severe frostbite, doctors had no other option but to amputate both his lower legs. The artificial limbs available at the time were not hugely advanced, so he set about designing his own. "At the time I didn't view my body as broken, I reasoned that a

human being can never be broken, technology is broken, technology is inadequate," he said in a 2014 TED Talk. Before long, he was back in the mountains—pictures at the time showing him climbing tall, sheer cliffs with artificial limbs that provided him with great mobility.

"I was actually able to climb at a more advanced level with artificial limbs than I'd achieved before my accident," he said in a video on Time's website. "This was very motivating for me and it set me on a life-long mission to advance technology not only for myself but for many people." He got a Bachelor's degree in physics at the Millersville University of Pennsylvania, a Masters in mechanical engineering from MIT and a PhD in biophysics from Harvard.

Herr is now head of the biomechanics research group at the MIT Media Lab which specializes in disruptive technologies and has also founded a company called BionX. Among other things, he has created a robotic ankle-foot prosthesis that mimics the action of a biological ankle, and the world's first bionic foot and calf system. — AFP



**BEIJING:** A group of elderly women rest on their wheelchairs at a residential compound in Beijing. When people over 80 in Beijing take a bus, see a doctor or spend money, their activities are digitally tracked by the government, as part of an effort to improve services for the country's rapidly growing elderly population. — AP

## MICROSOFT WANTS WINDOWS TO OPEN INTO MIXED REALITY

### HOLOLENS SHOWCASES THE TECHNOLOGY POTENTIAL

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Microsoft is out to use Windows software to do for altered reality what it did for personal computers: Make them commonplace. The US technology giant yesterday announced that Windows software already powering a wide range of devices including HoloLens augmented reality headgear is being opened to partners interested in building devices for "mixed reality" experiences. Devices built on the Windows platform will be interoperable, meaning that someone wearing HTC Vive virtual reality gear would be able to virtually visit and collaborate with someone using HoloLens virtual reality goggles, Microsoft executives said.

The list of partners already working with Microsoft included HTC, Lenovo, Asus, and HP. Microsoft said it built HoloLens to showcase the potential for the technology, which is based on the same Windows operating system that powers computers, smartphones, Xbox consoles and more. Sharing the Windows platform will mean that augmented or virtual reality gear from various manufacturers will be able to work with one another, the same way Windows computers do. "We are bringing the software that lights up HoloLens to the entire ecosystem of mixed reality devices and inviting partners to join us in this platform," Microsoft spokesman Greg Sullivan said.

#### Walk on Mars

While virtual reality devices such as those from Facebook-owned Oculus and Sony's PlayStation unit immerse users in fantasy worlds, HoloLens "augments" reality by overlaying holograms on the real world in view. HoloLens lets users interact with virtual objects using hand gestures. Microsoft would not disclose details regarding how it will make money from the move. But it is expected to pursue the kinds of licensing deals it negotiates with companies that make Windows-powered computers. Creating a common platform for a wide range of

companies to create and market mixed reality gear promises to bring down prices for altered reality gear while enriching variety in the marketplace. Microsoft in March began its first shipments of its HoloLens to application developers, staking its place in what is expected to be an emerging computing platform.

At a recent Microsoft Build developers' conference, the company showed some of the possibilities for HoloLens—such as giving users a view of Mars that up to now could only be seen by space vehicles, and an inside view of the brain by medical specialists aiming to deal with

a cerebral tumor. Aiming to encourage new applications for the device, Microsoft noted that developers can create "new mixed reality" with holograms to enable users to see and experience things in new ways. The holographic capabilities in the Microsoft gear can open doors for developers to augment tasks from complex surgery to motorcycle design, according to the company. Marketers predict virtual headsets will soon top wish lists for kids and young adults from Silicon Valley to Hong Kong. But some analysts say virtual reality will be eclipsed by augmented reality within a few years. — AFP

## CHINA SMARTPHONE MAKER BUYS MICROSOFT PATENTS

**SHANGHAI:** Upstart smartphone maker Xiaomi has bought nearly 1,500 patents from US technology giant Microsoft, the companies and reports said, as part of a "global partnership" that will help the Chinese firm expand outside its home market. The patents cover wireless communications, video, cloud and multi-media technologies, Bloomberg News quoted a Xiaomi spokeswoman as saying. "This will help ease of operation in new markets," spokeswoman Kaylene Hong said. Besides the patent transfers, Xiaomi will pre-install Microsoft Office and Skype on its Android smartphones and tablets, Microsoft said in a statement. Xiaomi sold more than 70 million handsets last year. In May, Microsoft announced the sale of its phone business for \$350 million to a new Finnish company HMD Global and its Taiwanese partner, FIH Mobile of FoxConn Technology Group.

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## POKEMON FANS OFFENDED BY PIKACHU'S NEW CHINESE NAME

**HONG KONG:** Gaming fans in Hong Kong have called a decision "absurd" by Japan's Nintendo to rename the popular Pokemon character Pikachu using the official language of mainland China instead of local language Cantonese. Their fury taps in to concerns in the semi-autonomous city that its Cantonese culture is being eroded as Beijing's influence grows. Hong Kong fans said they were insulted when Nintendo—which makes the Pokemon franchise—decided to unify all local translations of many Pokemon characters into Mandarin for the Chinese market, prompting a small protest at the Japanese consulate this week.

Previously different Chinese markets had their own names for characters. Mandarin is the main language of mainland China, but in Hong Kong, Cantonese is predominant. Pikachu, a yellow creature with pointed ears and lightning bolt-shaped tail, used to be called 'Bei-Ka-Chiu' by Hong Kongers, but the new official name has become Pikaqiu which would

sound 'Bei-Ka-Jau' in Cantonese. More than 6,000 fans in Hong Kong have signed a petition which has been sent to Nintendo management in Japan. "The absurd replacement... will be like changing 'Pikachu' to 'Pikayau' in English - who is willing to pay for something they don't recognize at all? If this is to happen, the sales of the series in Hong Kong are likely to suffer," the letter said.

One campaign group member who did not want to be named said he felt the decision did not respect local culture and that his childhood memories had been ruined. "It's hard to believe it will be changed... we just want our local name back," he said. There is also now a question mark over an upcoming video game contest based on the cartoon, to be held in Hong Kong. Nintendo's Hong Kong branch said on Facebook late Tuesday that it is "reviewing" the arrangements for the city's leg of the international Pokemon World Championships, to take place later this month, and that it could be cancelled. It did not give a

specific reason, saying there were "a range of factors".

Language has become an increasingly sensitive issue as concern grows that Beijing is trying to stamp out

local culture. In February, 10,000 people made complaints to the authorities after an evening news program given in Mandarin began to use simplified Chinese as subtitles. — AFP



**HONG KONG:** Wii U gaming console game 'Pokken Tournament' (left), with the Pikachu character from Nintendo's Pokemon franchise on the cover, is displayed in a counter of a computer games mall in Hong Kong yesterday. Gaming fans in Hong Kong have called a decision 'absurd' by Japan's Nintendo to rename the popular Pokemon character Pikachu using the official language of mainland China instead of local language Cantonese. — AFP

## APPLE PLANS TO SELL \$1 BILLION OF 30-YEAR BONDS IN TAIWAN

**TAIPEI:** Apple Inc plans to issue bonds in Taiwan for the first time with the aim of raising \$1 billion, sources familiar with the matter said, joining a queue of big global names that have sold billions of dollars on the island's busy debt market. The US dollar bonds will have a tenor of 30 years, the sources said yesterday, speaking on condition of anonymity. Apple declined to comment when asked about the plan. Liquidity in the Taiwanese bond market is flush, with long-term buyers of debt, primarily life insurance firms, seeking creditworthy names and chasing higher yields.

Blue-chip multinationals regularly issue dollar bonds of such size on the island, home to Apple's supply chain. In December, US chipmaker Intel Corp sold \$915 million of 30-year bonds with yields of 4.7 percent. A month later, Global brewer Anheuser Busch InBev SA issued a \$1.47 billion bond of the same maturity at 4.915 percent, according to

Taiwan Over-The-Counter Exchange data. So far this year, upwards of \$16 billion in new US dollar bonds have been issued, already more than half of the \$29 billion in US dollar bonds sold for all of 2015, OTC exchange data shows.

Taiwan's over-the-counter exchange, where corporate bonds can trade in the secondary market, said it was not aware of any plan by Apple to issue bonds. In Taiwan, bond issuers only need three days or less to notify the exchange before being listed. Market participants have been looking at initial yields of around 4.2 percent to 4.3 percent on the planned Apple bonds, two of the sources said. The island's 30-year government bond, which is less liquid in the secondary market, was last quoted around 1.6475 percent. The planned Apple bonds will not be redeemable for the first two years, two of the sources said, citing market participants that had made enquiries. — Reuters



## MORE THAN 2,000 INDIANS CONTRACT HIV AFTER TRANSFUSIONS

**NEW DELHI:** More than 2,000 Indians contracted HIV over a 17-month period after receiving blood transfusions, data from the national AIDS body showed yesterday. In response to a Right to Information request filed by Mumbai-based activist Chetan Kothari, the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) said 2,234 people had been infected between October 2014 and March 2016. The reply, which was shared with AFP yesterday, was sent to Kothari last month after he asked for data for that particular time period. "I wanted to know what is the government doing to ensure people have access to safe blood," Kothari told AFP. "The data shows blood is not being screened for HIV despite so much awareness."

Access to safe blood is limited, especially in rural areas, because of a lack of proper screening devices, according to NACO's website. The northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous, topped the list with 361 patients found infected with HIV due to contaminated blood in hospitals, followed by western states of Gujarat and Maharashtra with 292 and 276

respectively. A total of 264 cases were recorded in the capital New Delhi. The government estimates that about 2.5 million Indians are living with HIV/AIDS out of a population of 1.25 billion. A NACO official Yesterday said the data collected was "not scientific" as it was based on subjective responses from patients and reflected less than one percent of total HIV-positive cases. "There are several occasions when patients do not declare the exact reason or means of transmission because of societal pressure or even lack of awareness and sometimes ignorance," the Times of India newspaper quoted the unnamed official as saying. "Therefore, the data cannot be considered 100 percent accurate."

In a posting on its website, NACO-which falls under the health ministry said the government was in the process of improving blood safety screenings and introducing technology to ensure zero HIV transmission. Under Indian law, hospitals must screen donors and their donated blood for any kind of infections including HIV, Hepatitis B and C as well as malaria. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** An Indian medical assistant arranges packs of donated blood at a blood transfusion clinic in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

# GABON'S MENTALLY ILL 'TREATED LIKE ANIMALS'

'PEOPLE ARE LEFT TO ROT'

**MELÉN:** The buildings are decrepit, the lawns unkempt, the patients left to shuffle alone and unwatched among weeds-welcome to Gabon's sole psychiatric hospital. Built in 1982 on the outskirts of the capital Libreville, the facility was supposed to serve as a model for a continent where modern psychiatric treatment is in its infancy. Now it seems more like a horror museum than a hospital. "National Centre for Mental Health in Melén (CNSM)" reads a sign at the yawning gates of the facility. Nobody watches over the premises or the several dozen patients-24 of them veteran "residents"-who wander at will between their wards and the shops and school of a largely abandoned district. Patients at the dilapidated CNSM have been left by families who could no longer cope or were picked up on the streets in a country that has just four qualified psychiatrists for a population of some 1.8 million.

They help in the public sector but earn their living largely in private practice, like colleagues elsewhere in Africa. The CNSM still boasts a handful of administrative staff and three cooks are employed to cater for patients-but they pass food from the kitchen between solid iron bars. "Since they no longer get their medication, we're frightened of being attacked," a cook told AFP. Rubbish piles up in filthy corridors and medical records lie where they were dropped along with other paperwork in buildings left to decay. "We're treated like animals," said an unshaven man in rags before shuffling back into a bedroom.

### 'People are left to rot'

Mental illness attracts stigma widely in Africa, according to a 2013 report by Mary Amuyunzu-Nyamongo, executive director of the African Institute for Health and Development (AIHD) based in Kenya. "A study conducted in Uganda revealed that the term 'depression' is not culturally acceptable amongst the population, while another study conducted in Nigeria found that people responded with fear, avoidance and anger to those who were observed to have a mental illness," the report said. In much of Africa, particularly con-



**MELÉN, Gabon:** A woman patient tries to cover her chest as she sits on a bed in a ravaged room in Gabon's sole psychiatric hospital, the National Centre for Mental Health in Melén (CNSM). — AFP photos

lict zones where trauma symptoms are severe, the authorities lock up the mentally disturbed, sometimes keeping them in chains for years, ostensibly for their own safety. Beyond a door left ajar, a half-naked old woman lay prone on an iron bed staring wide-eyed at the wall. Her scalp was plastered with sores and the floor covered with urine and excrement in an appalling stench. Asked how she felt, she moaned. "People are left to rot," protested Gael Koumba Ayouné, who heads the Rally of Young Gabonese Patriots, a movement formed last year to represent youth from poor districts ahead of 2016 elections.

### 'He died in front of us'

In April a patient died in agony on the floor with nobody coming to his aid, although the psychiatric facility is officially part of the region's general hospital, with a full complement of medical services. "He died in front of us," Ayouné said, adding that he had filed a negligence suit against the state. "The state no longer meets the most basic needs of the population... Since he is presumed to be insane or elderly, a patient is no longer considered to be a human being," added the activist, whose association is extending the geriatric wing, opposite the psychiatric hospital. The lack of resources is evident even in death. "There's no refrigerated morgue," Ayouné said. "When an elderly person dies, the body may lie for 24 hours in the dormitory with the others until the undertakers come."

### 'Cash flow problems'

Such difficulties are nothing new at the CNSM, whose staff have been on strike for more than two years to press for better working conditions. According to the UN World Health Organization, less than one percent of Gabon's national health budget is allocated to mental care. Yet mental disorders account for five percent of illness in sub-Saharan Africa, WHO figures show. In a vicious circle, poverty renders those who could never hope to consult a specialist vulnerable to mental illness, while people already sick face further impoverishment because of their inability to function normally. Serges Mikala, the secretary general of the National Union of Health Personnel (SYNAPS), said the Melén complex had been badly run and that he suspected that money intended to fund it had been "given over to other things". — AFP



**MELÉN, Gabon:** Patients sit outside their room in Gabon's sole psychiatric hospital, the National Centre for Mental Health in Melén (CNSM).

## ALREADY HURTING FOR DOCTORS, LOUISIANA COULD LOSE EVEN MORE

**BATON ROUGE, Louisiana:** Bahnsen Miller understands the challenges - and the damages - of Louisiana's budget woes firsthand. You can't ignore them if you've been in one of the state's doctor training programs, constantly at risk of calamity. The 31-year-old internal medicine doctor ran into questions about financial stability and watched Louisiana lose top talent to its neighbors as he recruited people to train at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in the state's capital. The general surgery program lost applicants who went out of state because of the uncertainty, he said.

### Chronic shortages

'Most residents stay in the state where they train, so if we lose a student, say, to Mississippi or Alabama for residency, there's a good chance they're not going to come back to Louisiana,' said Miller, one of the hospital's chief residents last year. Louisiana's deep, persistent budget troubles are endangering the future of medical training programs. Proposed cuts to hospitals could damage the stream of new doctors for a generation, in a state that has chronic shortages of health care workers and some of the worst health care outcomes in the nation.

And just the chatter about the financial threats is already having ripple effects, with other states' doctor-training programs cherry-picking some of Louisiana's top talent. 'The dean of the School of Medicine tells me almost daily he's getting calls from students saying, 'Is this really where I need to train? Should I stay here or should I go someplace else?'' Larry Hollier, chancellor of the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, told state senators. At Our Lady of the Lake, doctors-in-training make rounds as usual, checking patients, diagnosing ailments and selecting treatments.

They ignore the question marks about their future as much as they can, trying to disregard the legislative haggling that threatens their programs. 'It does kind of make you think about where you should go, whether staying is worth it or not,' said Kevin Francioni, 24, a third-year LSU medical student training there. In the final days of their regular legislative session, Louisiana's lawmakers are grappling with a \$600 million budget shortfall and trying to determine where to levy the cuts. Not only are the LSU health sciences centers in New Orleans and Shreveport threatened with direct reductions, but perhaps more critically, the safety net

hospitals that care for Louisiana's poor and uninsured patients - and in which medical students train - also are on the chopping block.

### Charity hospital system

At risk, according to Hollier, the New Orleans health sciences center chancellor, is nothing less than the decimation of health care in the state. For new doctors who will spend three to seven years training in residency programs, choosing Louisiana can be a gamble. 'Some people are saying, 'Are we going to make it?'' said Carine Nzodom, 31, in her second year of a four-year psychiatry residence program at Our Lady of the Lake. Only a few years ago, LSU ran a statewide charity hospital system that primarily took care of the poor and uninsured patients around Louisiana.

That provided the bulk of training sites for medical students. Former Governor Bobby Jindal began privatizing that system in 2013, handing the facilities over to private managers, shuttering some hospitals and moving safety net services to other private hospitals. Our Lady of the Lake took over most of those safety net services in one such deal, and LSU's charity hospital in Baton Rouge shut down. Few dispute the system has improved, with expanded services, shorter wait times and a broader mix of patients with which medical students train. But that comes with rising costs. Amid budget gaps, lawmakers question the spending.

### Cancer, obesity and diabetes

Hospital managers say without enough money, they could walk away from their contracts, leaving not only patients but also the doctors who train with them in the lurch. Gov John Bel Edwards is trying to renegotiate the deals. If a safety net hospital deal craters and some of the training programs shut down, Louisiana could feel effects for decades. 'I think the legislative body doesn't have the appreciation of how close we are to total dismantling of the educational programs of future physicians,' said Scott Wester, CEO of Our Lady of the Lake, where 192 residents train. If Louisiana has fewer residency slots, doctors go elsewhere. Once a state loses the federally-allocated slots, other states scoop them up, making it almost impossible to recapture them. Health and Hospitals Secretary Rebekah Gee, a medical doctor, outlined the risks to lawmakers: If the state loses some of its 1,900-plus residency positions, 'we permanently lose capacity to train doctors in the state.' — AP



**BATON ROUGE, Louisiana:** LSU medical student Felicia Venable, left, examines a patient as fellow students and medical residents observe during daily rounds at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge. — AP

# WHY AREN'T YOU SHOPPING FOR LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES?

**WASHINGTON:** Most people don't shop for lower prescription drug prices. They should, especially now that there are easier ways to do so. More than a dozen websites and apps are vying to help US consumers find the lowest prices for prescription drugs by comparing prices and searching for deals, similar to the way Expedia looks for cheap airfare or Bankrate.com looks for low mortgage rates. "Patients want to see a pharmacy that says 'every-day low prices,' but most pharmacies can't achieve that because the way prices are configured is pure mayhem" said Professor Darius Lakdawalla, a health economist at the University of Southern California. "That's why consumers need to know: 'Where can I get my beta blocker for the best price?'"

Recent studies show that more than one in five prescriptions in the US go unfilled, in part due to financial hardship. Yet only 17 percent of US consumers are willing to check multiple pharmacies for lower drug prices, according to a survey by Consumer Reports.

### Q: What do these services do?

Websites and apps like GoodRx and WeRx are doing two basic things: searching local pharmacy prices and then applying various discounts and coupons available to customers. The search results will show, for example, that a 30-day supply of a common cholesterol drug is \$11 at Wal-Mart and \$13 at a Kroger pharmacy. In both cases the price is linked to a coupon which the app downloads so the customer can give it to the pharmacist. The services are exploiting the complex, nearly-

constant negotiations between pharmacies, drugmakers and pharmacy benefit managers that result in wide price disparities for commonly-used medications to find the best deals available that day.

"We're trying to give you a baseline of information so that you can make the right decision," says Doug Hirsch, founder and CEO of GoodRx, the largest and oldest of the services. GoodRx, founded in 2011, offers 25 million users access to discounts from pharmacies, drugmakers and pharmacy benefit managers. Newer services include BlinkHealth, which says it negotiates lower drug prices by pooling its users with customers of pharmacy benefit managers. Each of the companies claims to have the lowest prices available, so consumers may want to shop around.

### Q: Who stands to benefit most from these services?

Patients who are taking several generic drugs and have no insurance or high co-pays. Most of the largest savings to be had are for generic drugs, where competition between multiple manufacturers and pharmacies leads to a wide range of prices. Discounts on newer, branded drugs are harder to find, since they are typically produced by one company that doesn't have to cut prices to compete. Still, services like GoodRx can link to drugmaker coupons that bring down the price of even high-end drugs like Humira, an injectable treatment for psoriasis. These coupons irk insurers because they entice patients to opt for the branded drug by making the

out-of-pocket cost to the patient comparable to that of a generic - but they don't reduce the higher cost the insurer has to pay for the medication. Still, it helps patients reduce the amount of money leaving their wallets. Some of the priciest drugs won't appear on pharmacy apps at all. Specialty cancer drugs like Avastin, for example, must be administered at a doctor's office and aren't available at the pharmacy.



**EDMOND, Oklahoma:** In this Aug 5, 2010, file photo, a pharmacy tech poses for a picture with prescription medication at a pharmacy in Edmond. — AP

### Q: How do these discounts work with my health insurance?

They don't. The prices quoted by apps need to be paid by the consumer and can't be used to lower your co-pay. However, the services' cash prices are often less than patients' co-pays, especially for those in high-deductible health plans. For example, it may be cheaper to fill a \$4 prescription for a generic drug at Wal-Mart or Target than to use your insurance and pay a \$12 co-pay. In these cases, pharmacy apps simply direct customer traffic to long-standing offers at big-box stores. In other cases, the services provide a streamlined way of obtaining coupons and discounts that consumers would otherwise have to juggle on their own.

### Q: So where do these discounts come from?

In some ways, pharmacy apps are just updating a decades-old business. Many of the offers found on GoodRx and similar services come from discount programs offered by prescription benefit managers like MedImpact and OptumRx. Those companies are best known for negotiating lower drug prices on behalf of large employers and insurers, but they also have separate businesses offering discount pharmacy cards to consumers who pay cash. The cards have been distributed through the mail, newspapers and magazines for more than 20 years. Pharmacies like the programs because they ensure a steady stream of cash-paying customers. And the card programs pocket a small percent of each transaction, a sort-of finder's fee. This is also one of the ways that the new services make money. — AP



## US TO ESTABLISH LAB NETWORK FOR COMBATING ‘SUPERBUGS’

**WASHINGTON:** US authorities said Tuesday they are establishing a network of labs that can respond quickly to antibiotic-resistant ‘superbugs,’ following America’s first human case of a dangerous strain of E coli. The announcement by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention came as authorities try to identify people who had contact with a 49-year-old woman in the eastern state of Pennsylvania whose urinary tract infection tested positive for E coli bacteria carrying the antibiotic-resistant mcr-1 gene. Starting in the fall, the CDC will provide infrastructure and lab capacity for seven to eight regional labs, and labs in all states and seven major cities/territories, to detect and respond to resistant organisms recovered from human samples, the agency said in a statement.

State labs will be able to detect changes in antibiotic resistance and report the findings to federal authorities, leading to faster and more effective inves-

tigations and ‘stronger infection control among patients to prevent and combat future resistance threats.’ The Pennsylvania woman had not traveled abroad recently and officials do not know how she contracted the bacteria with the antibiotic-resistant gene previously found in China and Europe. The mcr-1 gene makes bacteria resistant to the drug colistin, which is used as an antibiotic of last resort. Colistin has been available since 1959 to treat infections but was abandoned for human use in the 1980s due to high kidney toxicity. It is widely used in livestock farming, especially in China. However, colistin has been brought back as a treatment of last resort in hospitals and clinics as bacteria have started developing resistance to other, more modern drugs.

### ‘Bacteria could develop’

The CDC said an investigation has determined that

the Pennsylvania patient did not have a type of bacteria known as carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and it was not resistant to all antibiotics. ‘The presence of the mcr-1 gene, however, and its ability to share its colistin resistance with other bacteria such as CRE raise the risk that pan-resistant bacteria could develop,’ the CDC said. US health authorities have been looking for the mcr-1 gene in the US since it emerged in China in 2015. Its discovery in the United States for the first time ‘heralds the emergence of truly pan-drug resistant bacteria,’ said a Defense Department report on the finding published last week in Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, a journal of the American Society for Microbiology. The Defense Department is among several agencies working to identify people who came in contact with the Pennsylvania woman.

‘We risk being in a post-antibiotic world,’ CDC chief

Thomas Frieden said in announcing the discovery of the mcr-1 gene in the United States. The patient herself is doing ‘fine,’ the Tribune-Review newspaper in Pennsylvania reported, citing CDC official Beth Bell. At least 30 percent of antibiotics prescribed in the United States are unnecessary, according to a study published this month by the Journal of the American Medical Association. Each year, at least two million people in the United States are infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria, and at least 23,000 die as a direct result of the infections, according to CDC data.

The Department of Defense noted on its official science blog that so far, the mcr-1 gene appears to be rare, with no cases found among more than 53,000 bacteria samples. However, authorities say consumers should protect themselves from potential infection by properly cooking all meat to kill food borne germs. — AFP



**JAKARTA:** Indonesians waiting in the corridor of a public hospital in Jakarta, to get health care. — AFP

## INDONESIA’S BATTLE TO BRING HEALTHCARE TO THE MASSES

**JAKARTA:** When Heni Karmila sought to find a doctor for her ailing mother using Indonesia’s new healthcare system, she faced a nine-hour wait in a line outside a crowded public hospital in Jakarta. ‘The queue at the hospital is always very long, packed with young and old people, pregnant women, people who have had accidents, those in need of operations and even tiny babies,’ the small business owner, 43, told AFP. The case illustrates the challenges for Indonesia as it seeks to roll out one of the world’s biggest universal healthcare systems. The scheme aims to make healthcare accessible to the country’s entire population of 255 million by 2019, part of the government’s efforts to direct some of the benefits of strong economic growth into improved welfare.

Joining is compulsory, with most members paying a small premium. Civil servants are automatically enrolled, private companies must sign up staff while the self-employed and those working in the informal sector are required to join themselves. The poorest get care for free under the system, known as the JKN. A total of 160 million people are so far members of the program in the world’s fourth most populous nation, and it has been credited with helping many since its 2014 launch.

### ‘Numerous challenges’

But it faces numerous challenges, from underfunding, to slow and patchy implementation, to cases like Karmila’s, where the system has become a victim of its own success in densely populated areas, leading to long queues. Karmila, whose 72-year-old mother suffers from multiple ailments, said she also suspected that one public hospital was turning ordinary people away and instead reserving places for privately-insured patients, who bring bigger profits. In the remote and poor east of the country, the problems are different—people may theoretically have access to healthcare under the JKN, but often there are not enough hospitals and doctors to provide

it. The most pressing challenge in recent months has been underfunding as patients flocked to use the system, prompting the agency that runs the JKN to warn it could run out of money as its funds may not cover claims from medical providers.

Despite resistance from lawmakers and the public, the government in April increased the premiums paid by some users. Monthly premiums now range from 80,000 rupiah (around six US dollars) in the top category of the JKN—which provides better services, such as private rooms in hospital as opposed to wards—to 25,000 rupiah (around two US dollars) in the bottom category. In the past, most Indonesians relied on private insurance of some sort while those deemed living in poverty got free public health care—but this left millions stuck in the middle, too poor to afford care but not poor enough to qualify for government assistance. Under the JKN, all citizens should get access to health services provided by public facilities as well as those from a few private providers who have joined the system, although wealthier Indonesians are still likely to opt for private insurance.

### ‘Many have benefited’

There are currently no punishments for people who fail to sign up, but when the system is fully rolled out, they will face small fines. Irfan Humaidi-a spokesman for the healthcare and social security agency, which runs the scheme—admitted there were teething problems but insisted that overall the JKN was working well. ‘There are so many people who have been benefited from the system,’ he said. One such person is Ramot Siagian who recently had a heart attack while visiting his daughter in Jakarta from western Sumatra island. ‘We took him straight to hospital and he got treated using the JKN,’ said his daughter Lia Siagian. An overhaul of Indonesia’s healthcare system was long overdue, as it lagged behind many others in the region. — AFP

## RARE ‘BABY DRAGON’ HATCHES IN SLOVENIA

‘DRAGONS DO EXIST’

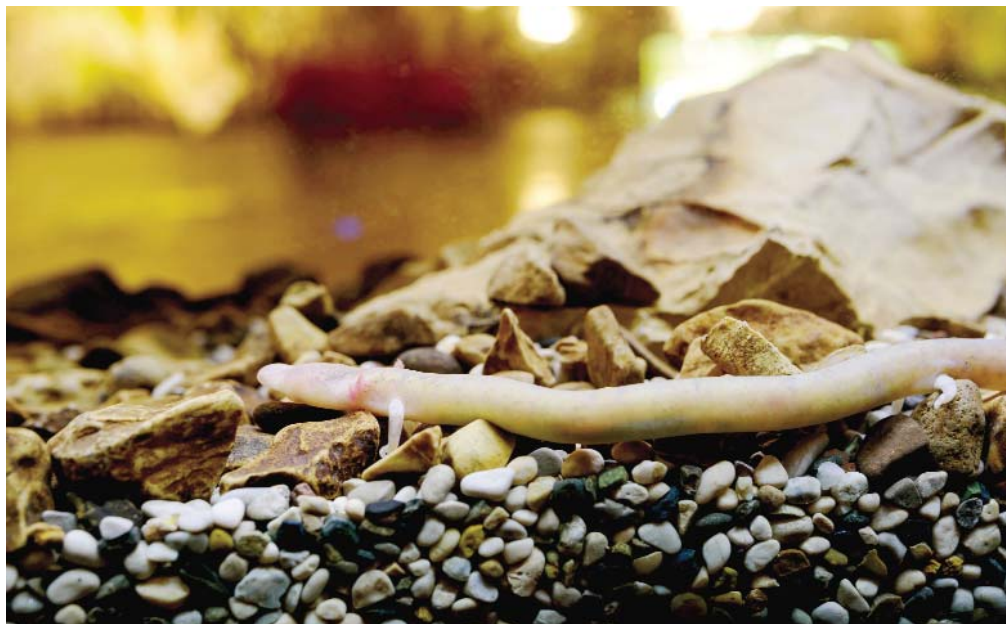
**POSTOJNA, Slovenia:** The strange, slithering creatures inside Slovenia’s Postojna cave were once considered living proof that dragons existed, prompting locals to give it a wide berth. Now, large crowds from all over the world have been queuing up to witness the extremely rare hatching of the mysterious olms—ancient underwater predators that can live up to 100 years and only breed once in a decade. Their treat came Tuesday when the translucent larva broke through the delicate egg envelope after four months of nervously monitored gestation the birth, caught on live camera, is nothing short of ‘a miracle,’ cave spokesmen said. ‘A mere two baby olms successfully hatch from 500 eggs in nature,’ they said in a jubilant statement.

Found primarily in Balkan cave rivers, the protected eel-like species has been living in the world-famous Postojna cave, 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of the capital Ljubljana, for what researchers say is millions of years. This week, the tourist attraction became one of the first ever human-controlled environments to successfully breed a baby olm. ‘Although both science and researchers’ previous experience gave us almost zero chance that the drama unfolding in the cave aquarium before our very eyes would have a happy ending... we had faith it would happen,’ the cave statement said. The good news doesn’t end there: the new arrival could soon be joined by several siblings, with more eggs set to hatch at any moment.

### ‘No food for 10 years’

Inside a giant hall, the mother and her precious spawn are kept in complete darkness in a covered tank under the continuous watch of a night-vision camera. On a nearby television screen, visitors can see the miniature eggs spread over a rock. From time to time, one of the embryos stirs ever so lightly. ‘It’s one of those moments where you are happy to be alive now and experience such a unique event,’ said Saso Weldt, a biologist working at Postojna, one of Europe’s largest caves that draws 700,000 visitors a year. Weldt and his team hope the new arrivals will help to shed fresh light on the enigmatic olm, which has become a national symbol and even featured on Slovenia’s currency before the euro was introduced. While locals now fondly talk of their ‘baby dragons,’ people for centuries were too afraid to even go near the cave.

During winter, heavy rains would wash out the wriggly creatures from the grotto as it lay surrounded by a sea of thick fog, according to 17th century folk tales. Slovenians believed them to be the offspring of fire-breathing ‘dragons’ living inside the dangerous cave,’ explained Weldt. Reaching a maximum length of 35 centimeters (13.5 inches), the blind animal with its four tiny limbs is a far cry from the scary monsters conjured up in national folklore.



**POSTOJNA, Slovenia:** An olm, an ancient underwater predator, which can live up to 100 years and only breed once in a decade is seen in Postojna cave. — AFP photos

Sometimes also referred to as ‘human fish,’ the slim vertebrate sports has pink three feathery gills on each side of its elongated snout. The body’s sheer pink skin makes it easy to spot the internal organs.

### ‘Flagship species’

But its cave-dwelling existence has also equipped the olm with some extremely powerful skills. In place

of sight, it has developed acute sensory receptors for smell and movement, helping it to hunt for prey like crabs and snails in the dark, or snap at intruders. Even more impressively, the small predator can go without food for up to a decade. Breeding olms is a difficult and often fatal affair. A previous try in 2013 failed to produce any fertilized eggs at Postojna. But the latest attempt looks more promising. — AFP



**POSTOJNA, Slovenia:** A picture shows Postojna Cave, in Postojna.

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## JUMEIRAH MESSILAH CREATES MEMORABLE MOMENTS TO SHARE THIS RAMADAN



Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa is yet again setting the scene for an unforgettable experience this Holy month of Ramadan. Badriah, the largest ballroom in Kuwait, is re-imagined to embody the spirit of Ramadan with true Middle Eastern hospitality and a wide selection of dishes that cater to every taste.

After the call for prayer, families and friends are invited to enjoy one of the country's largest Iftar buffet featuring live cooking stations with delectable Arabic and international favorites. This is followed by mouth-watering Arabic sweets and traditional Ramadan drinks including Jalab, Tamer Hindi, Irk Sous and Laban. Accompanied by live traditional music entertainment, this exceptional Iftar buffet experience is priced at KWD 19 per person.

Football fans can also follow the European Championship 2016 games airing live at the beautifully decorated outdoor Al-Sadu terrace, serving as the ideal venue for private and group Ghabka bookings. Once inside, guests will

delight in an authentic Arabian experience which captivates the true aura of Ramadan and savor the special set menu for this occasion priced at KWD 10 per person. In addition, guests can extend their evenings by relaxing at the Tea Lounge or the newly refreshed Arabesque Café with chilled tunes watching the Football European Championship Cup 2016.

Nothing is more satisfying than ending the day of fasting with a lavish meal at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa. Every Ramadan, the luxurious landmark goes out of its way to enrich guests' moments with special treats combining traditional and contemporary Arabian dishes. Award-winning chefs at the idyllic resort craft tempting menus so that all guests can indulge in abundance in the luxurious atmosphere of Kuwait's leading beach resort. The Hotel's other restaurants Mint, Salt, Pepper and Olio are closed during the Holy month of Ramadan and will reopen on the first day of the Eid holidays.



## ACK WINS THE ASSE GCC HSE EXCELLENCE 2016 GOLD AWARD

The Australian College of Kuwait's (ACK) "Smoking Awareness Initiative" won a Gold Award at the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) GCC Excellence Award 2016 ceremony under the special award category 'Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility'. ACK was the only educational institution to receive an award during the prestigious ceremony.

Representatives of ACK's Smoking Awareness Committee and student volunteers received the award from the dignitaries. The Committee also participated in the exhibition at the event to showcase the importance of raising awareness on the effects of smoking on human health

and the environment.

The American Society of Safety Engineers is a voluntary, non-profit Health, Safety and Environmental organization which strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the industrial and social sectors in the region. The annual awards ceremony organized by the society includes special recognition to outstanding organizations for their leadership and excellence in relation to health, safety and environment.

The ACK "Smoking Awareness initiative" has also received other commendations for its achievements including the 2015 KNPC Annual CEO HSE Award and the 2016 KOC CEO HSSE Award.

## AUK'S COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS ANNOUNCES NEW ADVISORY BOARD



Since its establishment in 2009, the American University of Kuwait's College of Business and Economics Advisory Board (CBE - AB) has been working closely with the College Dean to support initiatives that advance the College. The Advisory Board is comprised of business leaders who are interested in quality education and are committed to serving and advocating for the College and offer practical insight to the academic curriculum.

In May 2016, Sara Akbar, Chief Executive Officer of the Kuwait Energy Company, was appointed as Chairperson of the Advisory Board, following the departure of the former Chairman, Robert Drolet, former Senior Vice President of Technology and Media at KIPCO. Drolet has served as Chair of the CBE Advisory Board since its inception in 2009.

Dean of the College of Business and Economics, Dr Jin Wang thanked Drolet for his services and dedication to the advancement of the College and welcomed Akbar as the new chair saying "Akbar brings with her 30 years of experience in areas such as strategy development, portfolio management and strategic relationships, which are essential to further developing new plans for the future and earning accreditations".

Wang explained that it is critical for the College to have the Advisory Board, as its members can be supporters of the College and serve as public ambassadors to reach the larger community. "I am enthusiastically looking forward to working with Sara Akbar and the Board members to develop a new plan for the future, focusing on our AACSB accreditation. The Board's support, guidance, and leadership contribute greatly to our commitment to relevant programs, outstanding opportunities for students, and ethical and impactful graduates. The board members also provide a role

model for students," Wang said.

"It is a great privilege to serve on the advisory board of the college of business and economic. Together with the other members of the board we will work very closely with Dean Jin Wang to achieve the vision of the school and deliver the best in class business education to the students of AUK," said Akbar. Key responsibilities of the Advisory Board include assisting in securing internship and employment opportunities for CBE students, fostering the research efforts of CBE faculty, and generating financial support to implement programs that enhance the overall quality of CBE's students and programs.

Current members of the Advisory Board are Dr Jin Wang, Dean of the College of Business and Economics at AUK; Rami Wadie, Partner Enterprise Risk Services at Deloitte and Touche; Bader Alabduljader, Managing Partner at Bader Al-Abduljader and Partners; Henadi Al-Saleh, Chairman of Agility; Basil Al-Salem, Chairman and Managing Director at Kuwait Food Concepts KSC; Abdul Aziz Al-Yaqout, Senior Partner in Meysan Partners; and Faisal M Sarkhou, Acting CEO of KAMCO.

The advisory board members are in the process of creating a list of topics they would offer to classes, providing valuable and high quality internship opportunities for our students, and have donated money to support student entrepreneurship competitions.

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw)

## TSC ADDS PROMENADE ICE SKATING RINK TO ITS REWARD CARD PROGRAM

Driven by its deep commitment to enhance its Rewards Card Program offerings to their customer, The Sultan Center recently added The Promenade Ice Skating rink to its Rewards Card program. The new partnership caters to customers who want to beat the heat during summer months and spend a refreshing time at Kuwait's premier ice skating destination located at The Promenade mall, 3rd Ring Road, opposite Qadsia.

According to TSC Rewards Program Manager, Mohammed Jalloul, "TSC is pleased to add The Promenade Ice Skating rink to our rewards card program, providing our customers with a range of options which can be redeemed into points and exchanged into exciting rewards. Presently, TSC has 17 partners within its program catering to customer preferences". He added: "TSC's Rewards Program has been initiated to acknowledge our customers' loyalty and we strive to continue satisfying and meeting their expectations with endless choices. Jalloul confirmed that the partners' list is growing with more partners being added to enhance the program offering while exceeding customer expectations.

The Promenade Ice Skating Rink is the perfect destination for families and children of all ages. Whether you're shopping for groceries at The Sultan Center, enjoying light snacks and refreshments in one of the cafes, or dining in one of the many restaurants or simply looking for the latest trends in fashion apparel and accessories, The Promenade mall has it all.

With the new addition to TSC Rewards Card partner program, customers can choose from a full range of rewards that grant them leisure, fun and entertaining lifestyle.



## CANADIAN BUSINESS COUNCIL HOLDS AGM 2016

Canadian Business Council of Kuwait - CBC held its Annual General Meeting 2016 at the official residence of Ambassador of Canada Her Excellency Martine Moreau. CBC President Ishtiaq Malik presented a detailed report covering activities in the year 2015/2016. CBC's mission is to facilitate business to business networking and enhance trade between Canada and Kuwait. Canadian Business Council (CBC) conducts presentations and networking events on monthly basis.

In addition to CBC's Monthly General Meetings, there were 3 special events: International Ramadan Business Night, Seminar on Taxation of Canadian Expatriates in Kuwait and Christmas Celebration. Malik emphasized and appreciated the members' continuous support and patronage and stated CBC will continue to bring variety of speakers and subjects which will be enriching on both on professional and personal level. On completing the one year term as the President of CBC, Ishtiaq Malik extended a warm gratitude to the members of the Executive Committee.



## TIES SCHEDULE

**Wednesday Breakfasts (iftar)**  
The TIES Center will be hosting Ramadan iftars, providing appetizers, the main course and drinks. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share with friends and family. Pre-registration appreciated. Wednesdays @ 6:30pm, Villa No 67, Street 413, Block 4, Shuhada Area, Kuwait - Phone: +(965) 25231015.

**Ramadan Fasting Challenge**  
Non-Muslims are invited to fast for one day to experience the spirit of Ramadan firsthand. Upon registration, guests will get valuable tips and incentives to fast. You will get a chance to share your experience as you wait to breakfast on a sumptuous buffet dinner. Participants who complete the challenge will get a certificate of achievement. Friday, June 10 @ 6 - 9pm - Call to register, Villa No 67, Street 413, Block 4, Shuhada Area, Kuwait.





# MARRIOTT HOTELS CELEBRATES THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN



**M**arriott Hotels in Kuwait welcome the Holy Month of Ramadan with a wide array of exceptional experiences. The JW Marriott Kuwait invites guests to enjoy the perfect Ramadan experience at the breathtaking "Al-Thuraya Tent". The tent offers traditional settings complemented by live cooking stations, scrumptious seasonal specials and breathtaking ambience. "Al-Thuraya" embodies the special occasion, accompanied by stunning Ramadan decoration and soothing live loud music, all combining together to create the ultimate invitation into the homely setting. It is the ideal spot for friends or family to come and enjoy shisha following Iftar and Ghabka offerings.

Guests will also stand the chance to win valuable prizes every



week, including free airline tickets to Europe, free hotel stays, free gift vouchers and a lot more. Moreover, the Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait has recently launched a new culinary adventure called "The Market". The new culinary concept allows guests to enjoy a dining extravaganza from around the globe.

"The Market" offers a wide array of stations with ready-to-eat food from the most popular cuisines in

the World, including Indian, Asian, Mediterranean and a lot more. Throughout the month of Ramadan, "The Market" will offer a generous Arabian feasts featuring delicious Ramadan dishes, live cooking stations, live entertainment and a wide range of shisha flavors. In addition, the stunning oriental decoration and tent-like surroundings as well as the weekly raffle draw to win valuable prizes,

will make "The Market" the perfect Ramadan venue to enjoy unforgettable time with friends and family.

"The Market" will leave guests captivated, not only by the lavish buffets but by the warm and inviting atmosphere. Furthermore, guests can celebrate Ramadan in style at the "Blendz" restaurant at Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait. "Blendz" offers sumptuous Iftar and Ghabka buffets featuring a variety of oriental and international dishes. Adding to the magical atmosphere, guests can enjoy a wide selection of shisha flavors at the restaurant's outdoor terrace and stand a chance to win weekly prizes such as airline tickets, hotel accommodation and much more.

"Araya" Ballroom also offers a wide range of buffets for Iftar and Ghabka perfect for corporate events. George Aoun, Cluster General Manager at Marriott Hotels in Kuwait, said "on behalf of Marriott Hotels Kuwait management and associates, I would like to wish Kuwait's nationals and residents Ramadan Mubarak." Aoun added "Marriott Hotels in Kuwait always try to offer their guests exceptional Ramadan experiences, including rich Iftar and Ghabka buffets, live entertainment and valuable prizes at competitive prices."

It is also worth mentioning that Marriott Hotels in Kuwait have recently launched a great value for money deal on rooms during Ramadan and summer. Guests can enjoy three nights at JW Marriott Kuwait, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait or Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait for the price of two. In addition to huge discounts of up to 50% on food and beverage.

## MILLENNIUM HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTRE WELCOMES RAMADAN 2016 WITH TEMPTING IFTAR AND SUHOOR OFFERINGS



**I**n-line with spirit of Ramadan, Millennium Hotel and Convention Centre Kuwait is offering extraordinary guest experience at its restaurant and café outlets to families, friends and corporate clients.

This year's Ramadan is set to include a lavish Iftar buffet at LAMAR International Restaurant where guests can experience an authentic Oriental and International cuisine. The extraordinary buffet features a great selection of traditional Ramadan dishes along with Ramadan special drinks and sweets. For those who like privacy, LAMAR Restaurant offers a private dining room that can accommodate groups of up to 25 people.

Separately, Library Café will operate a bespoke Ramadan Counter offering its guests an exceptional Suhour at a very unique and sophisticated ambience. The set menu includes an eclectic mix of salads, substantial main dishes, sweets and special Ramadan drinks from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am.

"We are pleased to announce this year's distinguished Ramadan offering that combines delicious ethnic cuisine, a friendly and elegant atmosphere and year-round Millennium hospitality," said Dani Saleh, Area General Manager of Millennium and Copthorne Hotels Kuwait. Saleh added that corporate and private group Iftar events may be arranged with the support of the hotel's well-appointed banquets team.



### GULF BANK ANNOUNCES RAMADAN TIMINGS

**O**n the blessed occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Gulf Bank would like to convey its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; HH the Crown Prince, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; HH the Prime Minister, Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah; and to the people of Kuwait.

Gulf Bank would also like to advise its customers of working hours during the Holy Month of Ramadan; its network of 56 branches will be operating from 10:00 am until 1:30 pm, as per the approved guidelines set by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). During these Ramadan timings, the Bank and its branch network will be conducting all banking transactions. The Head Office and the supporting administrative departments working hours will be from 9:30am until 2:30pm.

Gulf Bank's dedicated Contact Center that will be operating round-the-clock, and is reachable by dialing 1805805. For self serve transactions please see [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com) or use our new mobile banking app, which is available for download from the Apple App store or the Android Play store. The Bank will resume its regular working hours on the first business day following the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.



amc

03:45 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course  
05:15 Nobody's Fool  
07:00 The Norseman  
08:30 What Did You Do In The War Daddy?  
10:25 Brannigan  
12:15 The Secret Of Santa Vittoria  
14:30 Big Screen  
14:45 The Adventures Of Gerard  
16:20 Crimes And Misdemeanors  
18:05 The Bridge In The Jungle  
19:30 Dr. Goldfoot And The Bikini Machine  
21:00 Breaking Bad  
22:00 Remo Williams: The Adventure Begins...  
00:00 The White Buffalo  
01:35 A Small Town In Texas

ANIMAL  
PLANET HD

03:25 Natural World  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Treehouse Masters  
05:49 Village Vets  
06:13 Village Vets  
06:36 Call Of The Wildman  
07:00 Call Of The Wildman  
07:25 Bad Dog  
08:15 Village Vets  
08:45 Village Vets  
09:10 Treehouse Masters  
10:00 Tanked  
11:00 Bad Dog  
11:55 Bondi Vet  
12:50 Village Vets  
13:20 Village Vets  
13:45 Gator Boys  
14:40 Treehouse Masters  
15:35 Tanked  
16:30 Natural World  
17:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)  
18:20 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
19:15 Tanked  
20:10 Animal Cops South Africa  
21:05 Treehouse Masters  
22:00 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
22:55 Gator Boys  
23:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)  
00:45 Monsters Inside Me  
01:40 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
02:35 Tanked

Discovery  
CHANNEL  
HD

03:15 What Happened Next?  
03:40 Lost And Sold  
04:05 Storage Wars Canada  
04:30 Property Wars  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:30 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Yukon Men  
06:50 Wheelers Dealers  
07:40 Fast N Loud  
08:30 Lost And Sold  
08:55 Storage Wars Canada  
09:20 Property Wars  
09:45 How Do They Do It?  
10:10 How Do They Do It?  
10:35 You Have Been Warned  
11:25 The Pop Illusionist  
12:15 What Happened Next?  
12:40 What Happened Next?  
13:05 Dukes Of Hazzard  
13:30 Storage Wars Canada  
13:55 Property Wars  
14:20 Yukon Men  
15:10 Wheelers Dealers  
16:00 Fast N Loud  
16:50 How Do They Do It?  
17:15 How Do They Do It?  
17:40 Free Ride  
18:30 For The Love Of Cars  
19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls: Women  
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 Wheelers Dealers  
01:10 Free Ride  
02:00 For The Love Of Cars  
02:50 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville

Discovery  
Family

03:00 Untamed & Uncut  
03:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
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  
07:25 Doki  
07:50 Bad Dog  
08:40 You Have Been Warned  
09:30 How It's Made  
09:55 How It's Made  
10:20 Mythbusters  
11:10 Bondi Vet  
12:00 Bad Dog  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:15 How It's Made  
13:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
14:30 Dirty Jobs  
15:20 Mythbusters  
16:10 Kids vs Film  
16:35 Doki  
17:00 NASA's Greatest Missions  
17:50 Man v The Universe  
18:40 You Have Been Warned  
19:30 Mythbusters  
20:20 How It's Made  
20:45 How It's Made  
21:10 NASA's Greatest Missions  
22:00 Man v The Universe  
22:50 Untamed & Uncut  
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
00:30 Mythbusters  
01:20 NASA's Greatest Missions  
02:10 Man v The Universe

I.D.  
INVESTIGATION  
DISCOVERY

03:00 Double Cross  
03:48 Surviving Evil  
04:36 Blood Relatives  
05:24 California Investigator  
05:49 California Investigator  
06:12 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
06:37 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
07:00 Blood Relatives  
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
08:40 California Investigator  
09:05 California Investigator  
09:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
10:20 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
10:45 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
11:10 California Investigator  
11:35 California Investigator  
12:00 Blood Relatives  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:40 California Investigator  
14:05 California Investigator  
14:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
15:20 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
15:45 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
16:10 Southern Fried Homicide  
17:00 Blood Relatives  
17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
18:40 California Investigator

19:05 California Investigator  
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It  
20:20 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
20:45 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
21:10 Murder Comes To Town  
22:00 Web Of Lies  
22:50 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen  
23:40 Murder Among Friends  
00:30 Surviving Evil  
01:20 Web Of Lies  
02:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen

SC  
discovery  
science

03:05 How It's Made  
03:29 Mythbusters  
04:16 Strangest Weather On Earth  
05:03 The World's Strangest UFO Stories  
05:50 Prototype This  
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 Prototype This  
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
10:23 Secret Space Escapes  
11:08 The World's Strangest UFO Stories  
11:53 Prototype This  
12:38 Mythbusters  
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
14:10 How It's Made  
14:33 How It's Made  
14:57 Food Factory USA  
15:20 Food Factory USA  
15:44 The World's Strangest UFO Stories  
16:31 Prototype This  
17:18 How It's Made  
17:41 How It's Made  
18:05 Mythbusters  
18:50 Uncovering Aliens  
19:40 Alien Encounters  
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
21:15 How It's Made  
21:37 How It's Made  
22:00 Uncovering Aliens  
22:45 Alien Encounters  
23:35 Mythbusters  
00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
01:08 Uncovering Aliens  
01:55 Alien Encounters  
02:42 How It's Made

Disney  
CHANNEL  
HD

03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Hank Zipzer  
04:35 Binny And The Ghost  
05:00 Violetta  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 Mouk  
06:00 Lolo Rock  
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  
08:55 Hannah Montana  
09:45 H2O: Just Add Water  
10:35 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  
13:40 Liv And Maddie  
14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:30 Liv And Maddie  
14:55 Dog With A Blog  
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
16:10 Violetta  
17:00 Backstage  
17:25 Austin & Ally  
18:15 Best Friends Whenever  
18:40 Girl Meets World  
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles  
19:30 Liv And Maddie  
20:20 Backstage  
20:45 Good Luck Charlie  
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water  
22:00 Binny And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Hank Zipzer  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost  
00:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Violetta

Disney  
XD

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimero  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopdidoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:35 Calimero  
04:50 Zou  
05:00 Loopdidoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimero  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopdidoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
07:10 Zou  
07:25 Loopdidoo  
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
08:05 Sofia The First  
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
08:45 PJ Masks  
09:10 The Lion Guard  
09:35 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:25 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
10:30 Goldie & Bear  
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
11:25 The Lion Guard  
11:50 Doc McStuffins  
12:15 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
12:45 The Hive  
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
13:00 Sofia The First  
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow  
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
14:15 The Lion Guard  
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
15:10 Doc McStuffins  
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
16:00 Sofia The First  
16:25 Jungle Cubs  
16:50 Aladdin  
17:15 The Lion Guard  
17:40 Goldie & Bear  
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
18:30 Sofia The First  
19:00 PJ Masks  
19:30 The Lion Guard  
20:00 Goldie & Bear  
20:30 Sofia The First  
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
21:25 PJ Masks  
21:50 Jungle Cubs  
22:20 Aladdin  
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
23:00 Zou  
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:20 Calimero  
23:35 Zou  
23:50 Loopdidoo

00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopdidoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
02:05 Calimero  
02:20 Zou  
02:30 Loopdidoo

food  
network

03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
04:00 Man Fire Food  
05:00 Chopped  
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
07:00 Man Fire Food  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 Anna Olson: Fresh  
11:30 Anna Olson: Fresh  
12:00 Chopped  
13:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook  
14:00 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 Kitchen Casino  
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:00 Private Chef  
01:30 Private Chef  
02:00 Valerie's Home Cooking  
02:30 Valerie's Home Cooking

OSN FIRST  
MORE

03:00 Strike Back  
04:00 Rome  
05:00 When Trumpets Fade  
07:00 A Number  
08:30 Path To War  
11:15 Sugar  
13:15 Undefeated  
15:00 Bernard And Doris  
17:00 Sugar  
19:00 Allegiance  
20:00 The Sopranos  
21:00 True Blood  
22:00 The Casual Vacancy  
23:00 Carnivale  
00:00 Allegiance  
01:00 The Sopranos  
02:00 True Blood

OSN FIRST HD

03:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
04:00 Good Morning America  
06:00 Once Upon A Time  
07:00 CSI  
08:00 Prison Break  
09:00 Royal Pains  
10:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
11:00 CSI  
12:00 Prison Break  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 Live Good Morning America  
16:00 The Night Shift  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 Prison Break  
19:00 Royal Pains  
20:00 Rush Hour  
21:00 The Night Shift  
22:00 American Crime  
23:00 Odyssey  
00:00 CSI  
01:00 The Night Shift  
02:00 American Crime

OSN MOVIES HD  
COMEDY

03:45 The Preacher's Wife  
06:00 Bringing Down The House  
08:00 Raising Helen  
10:00 The Preacher's Wife  
12:15 Bringing Down The House  
14:15 Father Hood  
16:00 Raising Helen  
18:00 Pitch Perfect  
20:00 I Love You Beth Cooper  
22:00 Save Your Legs!  
00:00 Raising Helen  
02:00 I Love You Beth Cooper

OSN MOVIES HD  
FAMILY

03:00 Mighty Joe Young  
05:00 Ratatouille  
07:00 The Princess And The Frog  
09:00 101 Dalmatians  
11:00 A Bug's Life  
13:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods

15:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire  
17:00 Inspector Gadget  
19:00 The Parent Trap  
21:15 Mr. Magoo  
23:15 Atlantis: The Lost Empire  
01:15 The Parent Trap

OSN MOVIES HD  
FESTIVAL

04:30 Little White Lies  
07:15 Walking On Sunshine  
09:00 Upside Down  
11:00 God Help The Girl  
13:00 The Horse Whisperer  
15:45 Veronica Guerin  
17:30 Upside Down  
19:30 About Time  
21:30 The Brass Teapot  
23:30 Masan  
01:15 Upside Down

OSN MOVIES HD

04:30 Cinderella  
06:15 Interstellar  
09:00 Penguins Of Madagascar  
10:45 4 Minute Mile  
12:45 The Boxtrolls  
14:30 Step Up All In  
16:30 Transcendence  
18:30 The Judge  
21:00 The Lazarus Effect  
23:00 Blackhat  
01:15 The Trials Of Cate McCall

OSN MOVIES HD

KIDS

04:30 Bolts And Blip  
06:00 Saving Santa  
08:00 Ghatotkachh - Master Of Magic  
10:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure  
11:30 Blackie And Kanuto  
13:00 Egon And Donci  
14:30 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas  
16:00 Mamma Moo And Crow  
18:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure  
20:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rana  
22:00 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas  
23:30 Mamma Moo And Crow  
01:00 Ghatotkachh - Master Of Magic

OSN MOVIES HD

PREMIERE

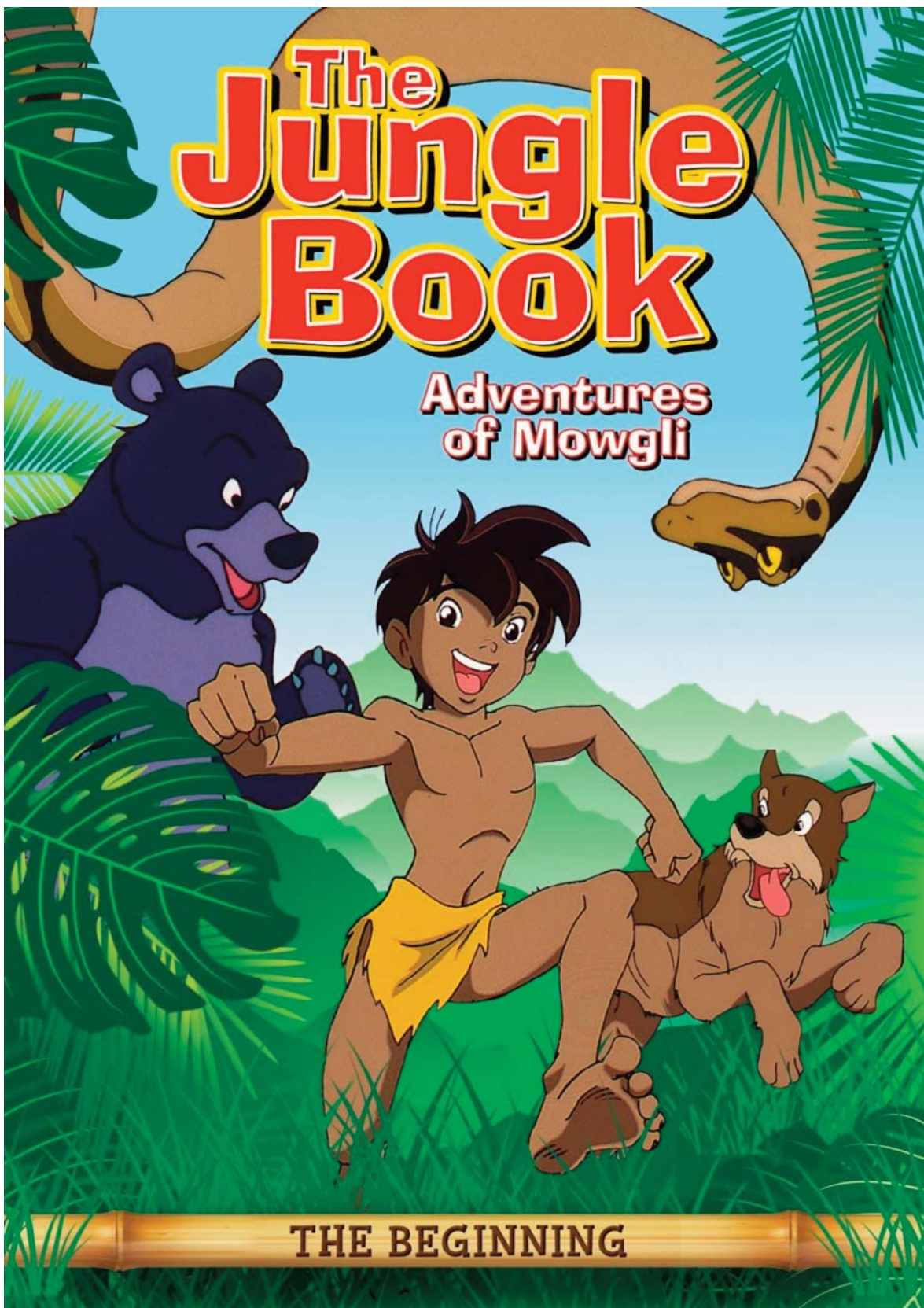
04:00 The Song  
06:00 Son Of Batman  
08:00 50 To 1  
10:00 Step Up Revolution  
12:00 Betrayed  
14:00 Ana Maria In Novela Land  
16:00 50 To 1  
18:00 The Prince  
20:00 A Royal Night Out  
22:00 The Drop  
00:00 Stalked By My Neighbour  
02:00 50 To 1

STAR  
MOVIES HD

03:45 The Duchess  
06:00 Ballistic  
08:00 Seabiscuit  
10:30 A Lot Like Love  
12:30 The Eagle  
14:30 Under The Tuscan Sun  
16:30 The Black Dahlia  
18:30 Meskada  
20:00 Chicago  
22:40 Dedication  
23:45 All Good Things  
01:30 Finding Neverland

STAR  
WORLD HD

03:00 Castle  
04:00 Fashion Star  
05:00 How I Met Your Mother  
05:30 How I Met Your Mother  
06:00 The Simpsons  
06:30 The Simpsons  
07:00 Switched At Birth  
08:00 Lost  
09:00 Making Mr.Right  
10:00 Castle  
11:00 Fashion Star  
12:00 How I Met Your Mother  
13:00 How I Met Your Mother  
14:00 The Simpsons  
14:30 The Simpsons  
15:00 Switched At Birth  
16:00 Lost  
17:00 Lost  
18:00 Private Practice  
19:00 Private Practice  
20:00 Da Vinci's Demons  
21:00 Happy Endings  
21:30 Happy Endings  
22:00 The Simpsons  
23:00 Switched At Birth  
00:00 Lost  
01:00 Lost  
02:00 Private Practice



## JUNGLE BOOK: MOWGLI'S ADVENTURE ON OSN MOVIES KIDS HD

TLC  
HD

03:30 World's Worst Mum  
04:20 Little People, Big World: Battle For The Farm  
05:10 Cake Boss  
05:35 Something Borrowed, Something New  
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress  
06:25 The Undateables  
07:10 Toddlers & Tiaras  
07:57 Cake Boss  
08:22 Cake Boss  
08:45 Love At First Swipe  
09:32 Little People, Big World: Battle For The Farm  
10:20 Secret Eaters  
11:10 Cake Boss  
11:35 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
12:25 The Undateables  
13:12 Two In A Million: Girls Made Of Glass  
14:00 7 Little Johnstons  
14:25 7 Little Johnstons  
14:50 Little People, Big World: Amy's 50th  
15:40 Toddlers & Tiaras  
16:30 Secret Eaters  
17:17 Cake Boss  
17:40 Something Borrowed, Something New  
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress  
18:30 World's Worst Mum  
19:20 Belief  
20:10 The Undateables  
21:25 Say Yes To The Dress, Æ Bridesmaids  
21:25 Say Yes To The Dress, Æ Bridesmaids  
21:50 Single Dad Seeking...

NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC  
CHANNEL HD

03:50 X: The Generation That Changed The World  
04:45 24 Hours In A&E  
05:40 Lucky Muckers  
06:35 1000 Days For The Planet  
07:30 Man V. Viral  
08:25 Building Wild  
09:20 24 Hours In A&E  
10:15 Nazi Megastructures  
11:10 Nazi Underworld  
12:05 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
13:00 Building Wild  
14:00 Man V. Viral  
15:00 I Wouldn't Go In There  
16:00 Nazi Megastructures  
17:00 Nazi Underworld  
18:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
19:00 I Wouldn't Go In There  
20:00 Nazi Megastructures  
20:50 Nazi Underworld  
21:40 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
22:30 I Wouldn't Go In There  
23:20 Lucky Muckers  
00:10 Nazi Megastructures  
01:00 Nazi Underworld  
02:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
02:55 I Wouldn't Go In There

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:48 Henry Danger  
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
05:00 Max & Shred  
05:24 Henry Danger  
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:48 Winx Club  
08:12 Winx Club  
08:36 Get Blake  
09:00 Get Blake  
09:24 Rabbids Invasion  
09:48 Henry Danger  
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
11:00 Winx Club  
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
13:00 Harvey Beaks  
13:24 The Loud House  
13:48 Get Blake  
14:12 Rabbids Invasion  
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School  
15:00 Game Shakers  
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
17:00 Get Blake  
17:24 Harvey Beaks  
17:48 The Loud House  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn

Disney  
XD

06:00 Booster  
06:10 Super Matrak  
06:35 Super Matrak  
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
07:25 K.C. Undercover  
07:50 Supa Strikas  
08:15 Supa Strikas  
08:40 Lab Rats  
09:10 Kirby Buckets  
09:35 Pokemon Series Xy: Kalos Quest  
10:00 Rocket Monkeys  
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister  
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  
13:00 Lab Rats  
13:30 Phineas And Ferb  
13:55 Phineas And Ferb  
14:20 Kickin' It  
14:45 Kickin' It  
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
15:15 Supa Strikas  
15:40 Supa Strikas  
16:05 Mighty Med  
16:30 Kirby Buckets  
16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
17:25 K.C. Undercover  
17:50 Supa Strikas  
18:15 Lab Rats  
18:40 K.C. Undercover  
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse  
19:30 Annedroids  
19:35 Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister  
20:00 Mighty Med  
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
20:55 K.C. Undercover  
21:20 Pickle And Peanut  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Mighty Med  
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



## PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY UPTO 1st DAY OF RAMADAN (02/06/2016 UP TO 1st DAY OF RAMADAN)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b> GO WITH ME THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) GO WITH ME GO WITH ME GO WITH ME	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE X-MEN: Apocalypse X-MEN: Apocalypse	4:15 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 11:45 PM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM	<b>FANAR-2</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK Hepta THE JUNGLE BOOK Hepta Hepta Hepta	11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE Hepta Hepta Hepta	12:15 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	<b>FANAR-3</b> THE CODE OF CAIN DON'T GROW UP THE CODE OF CAIN DON'T GROW UP THE CODE OF CAIN DON'T GROW UP THE CODE OF CAIN	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 11:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b> DON'T GROW UP DON'T GROW UP THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE Hepta Hepta DON'T GROW UP	11:45 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:30 PM 1:00 AM	<b>FANAR-4</b> WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b> GO WITH ME HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) NO FRI+MON GO WITH ME GO WITH ME GO WITH ME A Aa (Telugu) A Aa (Telugu) A Aa (Telugu)	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 5:45 PM  8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM 2:45 AM 5:45 PM 10:45 PM	<b>MARINA-1</b> GO WITH ME GO WITH ME GO WITH ME GO WITH ME MONEY MONSTER GO WITH ME GO WITH ME	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 8:45 PM 10:45 PM 12:45 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	<b>MARINA-2</b> WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT WARCRAFT	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b> X-MEN: Apocalypse THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	1:15 PM 2:00 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> THE CODE OF CAIN	11:30 AM

## WANTED WORKERS

For a bakery & sweets store. Any experience with baking and sweet preparation is eligible.

Call: **96944466**

## REQUIRED FOR A 4 STARS HOTEL

In Benid Al Qar area

- Housekeeping supervisor
- Housekeeping staff
- Laundry Attendant

Experience in Kuwait hotels industries

Please send C.V to:

**sh\_huss@hotmail.com**

## EMERGENCY



Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is **1889988**

## 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>20:14</b>



## EMBASSY OF INDIA KUWAIT

### Contract for supplying 3 Local Security Guards on 8 hour shift 24x7 at Embassy of India premises

1. The Embassy of India, Kuwait invites bids by 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 for awarding contract for hiring 3 local security guards on -8hour shift 24x7 basis to guard Embassy premises.

#### 2. Scope of work:

(i) **Hours:** Seven days a week, each LSG will work on an -8hour shift.

(ii) **Conditions:** The security agency should have proper license for providing security authorities and found fit to be employed as security guards. Agencies should have more than 5 years' experience in the field, preferably providing security guards to foreign diplomatic missions or Kuwait government offices. The agency will provide replacements as and when required by the Embassy. The security guards should be familiar with CCTV camera system. A log book will be maintained which will be signed by each security guard at the time of start/end of his shift. The Embassy will have the right to do a quarterly review of the services and cancel the contract in case of the services are found lacking quality.

(iii) **Payment:** Payment will be made on monthly basis and in one sum to the security company and not to individual security guards. Security agency will send on the first day of every following month their invoice for the preceding month, which will be settled by Embassy and payment made through cheque.

3. The Embassy will be open for inspection and discussion can be held with **Mr. Sanjeev Saklani, Attaché (Admn) (Tel: 22513498) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.**

4. All offers should be in a sealed cover marked **"Offer for contract for hiring local security guards by Indian Embassy - To be opened by Addressee only"** and addressed to the "Head of Chancery", Embassy of India, Daeya, Diplomatic Enclave, Arabian Gulf Street, Safat 13015, Kuwait. The offer must be delivered at the Embassy on or **before 1200 hrs on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2016.**

**Head of Chancery**  
Embassy of India, Kuwait  
30<sup>th</sup> May, 2016

**FOR RENT**  
**VILLA**  
*IN SOUTH SURA (ZAHRA)*  
Super Deluxe 2 Floors  
With full Basement  
Garden and Parking  
(From Owner)  
**Rent: 2400 KD**  
**99038919**

**REQUIRED**  
**INDIAN COOK**  
Muslim or Christian for Kuwaiti family.  
Good salary, experience required.  
**Tel: 97554010**

**EIG**  
Ethical Investment Group  
**BUSINESS IN OMAN**  
**We Are Providing**  
**Visas, Registration, Local Sponsor, Business Partner, Decoument Clearing.**  
**Contact Us: 00968-98457638**  
**Email: Info@Eiglcoman.Com**



## 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 Thursday 2/6/2016					Departure Flights on Thursday 2/6/2016				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time		Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	MSR	611
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25	THY	767
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	KAC	500	Jeddah	14:30	PAL	669
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	KNE	382
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	KAC	773
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	SYR	341	Damascus	15:00	KAC	673
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	GFA	222
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	FDB	058
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	AXB	394
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	QTR	1079
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	KAC	617
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	JZR	188
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	KNE	530
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	SVR	342
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	SWA	505
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	257	Beirut	16:25	KAC	613
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KNE	118	New York	16:30	OMA	646
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	JZR	787	Jeddah	16:35	ABY	128
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	NIA	251	Alexandria	16:45	ETD	304
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	KAC	562	Amman	16:50	RJA	641
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	SVR	510	Riyadh	16:55	KAC	675
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:10	FDB	052
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	CCE	345	Sohag	17:30	JZR	266
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	FDB	8053	Abu Dhabi	17:35	JZR	512
KAC	418	Manila	04:40	JZR	177	Jeddah	17:45	QTR	1073
KAC	931	Alexandria	05:00	JZR	777	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50	KNE	532
QTR	8511	Doha	05:05	KAC	678	Geneva/Frankfurt	17:50	UAE	858
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	176	Istanbul	18:20	NIA	252
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	483	Beirut	18:20	SVR	511
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	502	Jeddah	18:35	JZR	184
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	786	Riyadh	18:35	GFA	216
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	774	Amman	18:35	JZR	538
JZR	1541	Cairo	06:55	JAV	621	Doha	18:45	CCE	342
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	FDB	8054
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	KAC	563
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	104	London	19:00	JZR	238
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	JZR	124
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	285
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	JAV	622
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:15	GFA	218
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	FDB	064
KAC	512	Riyadh	07:50	MSR	620	Cairo	19:20	ABY	124
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	MSR	621
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	FDB	060
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45	UAE	876
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	JAI	571
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	KAC	331
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	DLH	634
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10	ABY	122
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	KAC	343
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	353
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	KAC	541
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	KAC	351
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KNE	232
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	5053	Dubai	21:05	JZR	554
MSR	507	Beirut	10:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:15	MEA	403
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	OMA	648
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	MSR	619
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:25	QTR	1089
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	DLH	171
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	FDB	5054
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	ETD	308
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	ALK	230
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	381
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	UAE	860
FEJ	933	Sohag	12:55	AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25	KLM	417
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30	KAC	301
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	THY	764	Istanbul	22:55	KAC	205
THY	766	Istanbul	13:20	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	GFA	220
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10	ETD	310
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	NIA	152
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	QTR	1083
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:35	KAC	411
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	FDB	071	Lahore	23:40	MSC	502
				JAD	205	Amman	23:45		

**DIAL161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



CROSSWORD 1272

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
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79				80									81		

ACROSS

1. An African grass economically important as a cereal grass (yielding white flower of good quality) as well as for forage and hay.  
5. An early French settler in the Maritimes.  
12. An alliance made up of states that had been Soviet Socialist Republics in the Soviet Union prior to its dissolution in Dec 1991.  
15. A barrier consisting of a horizontal bar and supports.  
16. Small creatures resembling pieces of fuzzy rope.  
17. Group insurance that entitles members to services of participating hospitals and clinics and physicians.  
18. A city in northern India.  
19. Italian violin maker in Cremona.  
20. A small bottle that contains a drug (especially a sealed sterile container for injection by needle).  
22. Land and buildings together considered as a place of business.  
24. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.  
26. Projectiles to be fired from a gun.  
27. Yellow-fever mosquitos.  
28. Shrubby lichens of the family Usneaceae having a flattened thallus.  
30. A metric unit of length equal to one billionth of a meter.  
31. (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.  
32. No longer having or seeming to have or expecting to have life.  
35. Hormone released by the hypothalamus that controls the release of thyroid-stimulating hormone from the anterior pituitary.  
40. With eagerness.  
42. Lasting through a week.  
45. (Babylonian) A demigod or first man.  
46. In truth (often tends to intensify).  
47. Like or containing small stick lumps.  
51. A state in the Rocky Mountains.  
52. A motley assortment of things.  
53. (Norse mythology) Goddess of old age who defeated Thor in a wrestling match.  
56. A lawyer who pleads cases in court.  
58. The French-speaking capital of the province of Quebec.  
60. Inability to urinate.  
62. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.  
68. A rare chronic progressive encephalitis caused by the measles virus and occurring primarily in children and young adults.  
71. An official engaged in international negotiations.  
72. A colorless explosive liquid that is volatile and poisonous and foul-smelling.  
73. (Greek mythology) The Titaness who was mother of Helios and Selene and Eos in ancient mythology.  
74. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).  
75. Deep-rooted coarse-textured plant native to the Mediterranean region having blue flowers and pinnately compound leaves.  
78. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.  
79. The month following February and preceding April.  
80. One who quakes and trembles with (or as with) fear.  
81. A doctor's degree in preventive medicine.

DOWN

1. Small genus of Eurasian aquatic perennial herbs.  
2. A high wave (often dangerous) caused by tidal flow (as by colliding tidal currents or in a narrow estuary).  
3. Having lost your job.  
4. A priest who served a particular deity in ancient Rome.  
5. Type genus of the Anatidae.  
6. A republic on the western coast of central Africa.  
7. Squash bugs.  
8. A very small circular shape.  
9. Reproduce someone's behavior or looks.  
10. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.  
11. A period of time spent sleeping.  
12. (Greek mythology) Fire-breathing she-monster with a lion's head and a goat's body and a serpent's tail.  
13. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.  
14. (music) Composed or performed by a single voice or instrument.  
21. Having or involving the use of hands.  
23. A belief (or system of beliefs) accepted as authoritative by some group or school.  
25. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.  
29. A polyvalent metallic element that resembles chromium and tungsten in its properties.  
33. Relating to or characteristic of alps.  
34. Of or relating to a dyad or based on two.  
36. Of or relating to the kidneys.  
37. A fence formed by a row of closely planted shrubs or bushes.  
38. An elaborate or deceitful scheme contrived to deceive or evade.  
39. Look at with amorous intentions.  
41. Bright and pleasant.  
43. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.  
44. A soft heavy toxic malleable metallic element.  
48. Relating to or near the ulna.  
49. A metric unit of volume equal to one thousandth of a liter.  
50. A tart spiciness.  
54. (slang) The act of stealing.  
55. Feeling or caused to feel uneasy and self-conscious.  
57. Lace again.  
59. An ancient city of Sumer located on a former channel of the Euphrates River.  
63. Port city that is the capital and largest city of Latvia.  
64. South American armadillo with three bands of bony plates.  
65. Periodic shedding of the cuticle in arthropods or the outer skin in reptiles.  
66. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).  
67. (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.  
69. The short weak cry of a young bird.  
70. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.  
76. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.  
77. A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are a heavy-duty thinker and serious student; always ready to work an idea through, reducing it to what is essential. You enjoy mental efforts, discipline and may work long and hard at whatever you put your mind to accomplish. If you are a student, you will be pleased to know there is help to further your education. You could present or teach religious and philosophical ideas, anything where substance and content are at issue. Perhaps there are lectures lined up for today-at least some issues for which you have given much thought. Some may find you especially witty tonight.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is not the best time for lighthearted activities around the workplace. You may be feeling that it is time to complete some unfinished work. If you are a detective, you may discover a missing person's whereabouts or find a missing treasure. Natural and lively conversations bring out your own self-expression of your particular ideas and thoughts this afternoon. You are very gifted, having great magnetism and warmth and also, a keen and powerful mind. A club or group meeting after work this afternoon is a place where you are good at relaxing and visiting with people that have the same friendliness as you. A sense of support and harmony makes this a happy time at work, in the club and at home.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is one of those days when you find the answers to the work issues-first. Sometimes other people have the first solution, but it is today that you can do the happy dance. Perhaps you just sold the most expensive property or achieved success at getting someone approved for whatever that person has been working to accomplish. You and a friend may be shopping after work today-everything has a particular appeal. You could be looking for a particular item and you could find the best quality item with the lowest price tag. Some people find it hard to maintain a positive outlook. They sometimes wish the world were as you say it is.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You could find that you are appreciated and valued for your feelings and your ability to act and get things done. You can always find the resources you require are available. You have an inner vision, coupled with the ability to see the whole picture of a situation. This often finds you working as a go-between with others. You could have a special gift for spanning the generation gap, bringing older and younger spirits together. Your wisdom is shared with others as you find yourself settling a dispute. You have a love of animals, children, older people and the needy and downtrodden and may look for ways to volunteer or be helpful in political issues.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could receive a lot of attention today. You may find that you enjoy your responsibilities more than usual. You are at home in the world of concepts and ideas and are able to grasp the whole picture when given just a few facts. If you are not working in a place of business, you could find yourself learning a new technique or studying new ideas to use in your future choice of business. Perhaps you are attending or conducting a lecture, conference or exhibit. Your innate sensitivity to others makes you custom-made for any of the service occupations where you can diagnose or interpret what others are unable to express.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a great time to be with lots of people. Everything points to your taking the initiative with regard to family activities. Reflective and tactful, you are able to please others. Above all, you are forever charming and gracious, fascinating and mysterious. You could be in charge of coordinating groups or representing groups; perhaps to volunteer. You have a knack for putting the feelings of a group into words and may serve as a teacher or spokesperson. Communication is one area where you can always get support and backing from your associates, friends and family. Historical ideas interest you very much. Sometime soon, there will be time for a visit to a museum or an exhibit of pictures and items from a favorite era you have studied.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

There is much to accomplish at this time. You have already planned the repair work or the catch-up work so now all is left is the pep talk to move forward. One good thing is that the faster you get started, the faster you will be finished to have the rest of the day for whatever you feel is needed. Remember, if you push yourself too hard, and move too quickly, much energy can be wasted. The afternoon will sort itself out ... You do not need to solve all the problems. This afternoon a young person will teach you about some new technology. It seems the energies lean toward cooking what you have grown. This new technology will keep the extreme heat, cold and the four-footed animal away from the beautiful growth of soon to be summertime specials.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

There is a good opportunity to get many things done this morning. The activities the remainder of this day are to set up opportunities of expression. Good conversations are possible all during the day. Someone previously emotionally cold to you is beginning to warm. Continue to learn and grow through it or let it go. Show your appreciation to a colleague this afternoon. A family member may enjoy your company at the ice cream store later today. Interactions with friends are encouraged; you seem to have forgotten the intellectually stimulating conversations of long ago. There are new inventions that activate your imagination. This evening you enjoy engaging in an intellectually stimulating conversation with a loved one.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Spend some time out-of-doors today, running, cycling or just being with friends-perhaps you could pull a few weeds before the trip into work. This will help you focus and boost your energies as well. You may be required to put in some overtime work today, or you may find that, later this evening, some personal business needs your attention. Whatever the case, circumstances seem to bend to your will and things have a way of working out smoothly. Here are real opportunities to complete and work out difficulties and projects that require both long-term effort and a high degree of discipline. Continued success on the career level may point to your delay of some special dream for personal achievement. You will have your dreams soon.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Good news may be pouring in all at once today. Life's problems seem to have easy solutions just now. You may benefit from a senior co-worker or one in authority. Life could assume a dreamlike stance. Your home environment, friends and surroundings receive encouragement. You could gain from young people during this time. You may be moved to discover and appreciate the beauty in your own life and in those around you. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now because everything new or interesting is just almost too irresistible. You might consider going to a movie instead of attending a concert.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is a yearning to broaden your horizons-perhaps plans for travel are in the making. The energies this day lean toward travel in business affairs. New ideas and plans for small group meetings from time to time are also quite successful. This could work out as a teaching or lecture opportunity, or educational possibilities. Let's suppose you have plenty of foreign visitors, and guest speakers from several different countries would encourage travel sales or packing for travel, etc. Your small group could present demonstrations on how to live two in a small dorm room and still have plenty of room for studies and repose. Friends and plain old lucky circumstances offer encouragement and backing for your ideas. Good things will come to you.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

During the process of signing up, signing in or qualifying for some program, the transfer of information takes on a special priority. Writing, studying and communicating rules the day. You may be most interested in helping the public with resume preparation. Today you may find someone that thinks very much like you think. In coming to know the other person, forging ties that bind two people, you come to a better understanding of yourself. It's easy in theory, but it's only in practice that it comes to mean anything real-practice until you get it right! A period of thinking through a few ideas and expressing yourself with a flair comes to mean more to you.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

Beatles Songs 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

COME TOGETHER  
DIG IT  
DOCTOR ROBERT  
DRIVE MY CAR  
FOR NO ONE  
FOR YOU BLUE  
GIRL  
GLASS ONION  
GOOD NIGHT

HELP  
HER MAJESTY  
I NEED YOU  
IM A LOSER  
IM SO TIRED  
LET IT BE  
LOVE ME DO  
MAGGIE MAE  
NO REPLY

PENNY LANE  
POLYTHENE PAM  
REVOLUTION  
SHE LOVES YOU  
TELL ME WHY

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Beatles Songs 1 - Solution

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	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	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

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

Daily SuDoku

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

hard

Yesterday's Solution

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

medium





Color me!



## The Burj Al Arab

The Burj Al is a hotel located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It is the third tallest hotel in the world; however, 39% of its total height is made up of non-occupiable space. Burj Al Arab stands on an artificial island 280 meters from Jumeirah beach and is connected to the mainland by a private curving bridge. The shape of the structure is designed to mimic the sail of a ship. It has a helipad near the roof at a height of 210 meters above ground. The beachfront area where Burj Al Arab and Jumeirah Beach Hotel are located was previously called Chicago Beach. The hotel is located on an island of reclaimed land 280 meters offshore of the beach of the former Chicago Beach Hotel. The locale's name had its origins in the Chicago Bridge & Iron Company which at one time welded giant floating oil storage tanks, known locally as Kazzans on the site.

The old name persisted after the old Hotel was demolished in 1997. Dubai Chicago Beach Hotel remained as the Public Project Name for the construction phase of Burj Al Arab Hotel until Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum announced the new name.

### Features

Several features of the hotel required complex engineering feats to achieve. The hotel rests on an artificial island constructed 280 m (920 ft) offshore. To secure a foundation, the builders drove 230 forty-meter-long (130 ft) concrete piles into the sand.

Engineers created a ground/surface layer of large rocks, which is circled with a concrete honeycomb pattern, which serves to protect the foundation from erosion. It took three years to reclaim the land from the sea, while it took fewer than three years to construct the building itself. The building contains over 70,000 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and 9,000 tons of steel.

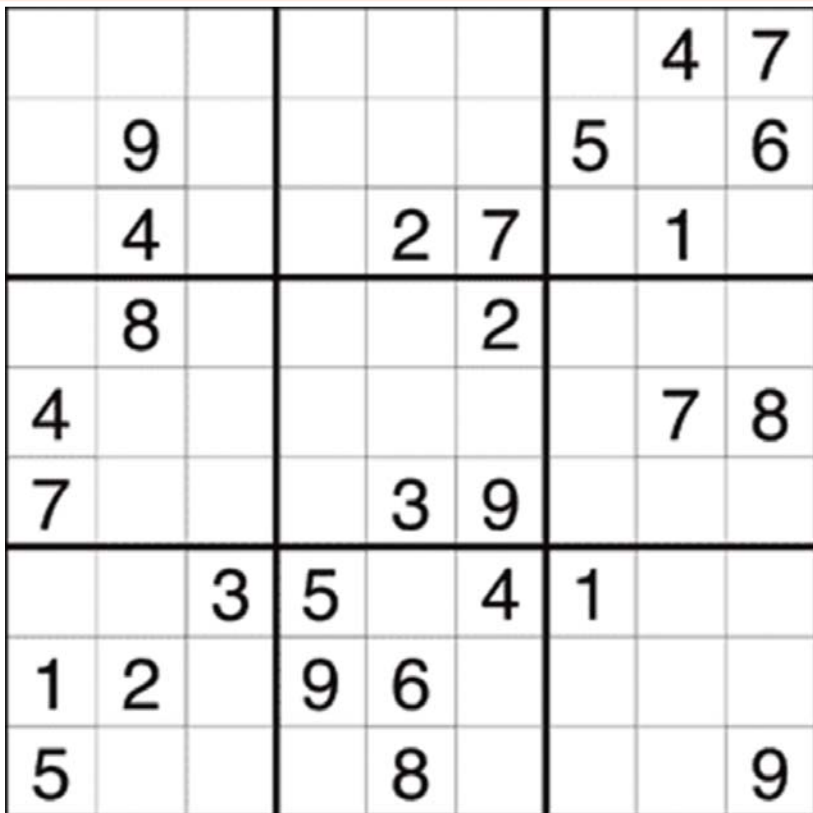
Inside the building, the atrium is 180 meters tall.

Burj Al Arab is the world's third tallest hotel (not including buildings with mixed use). The structure of the Rose Rayhaan, also in Dubai, is 11 meters taller than Burj Al Arab.

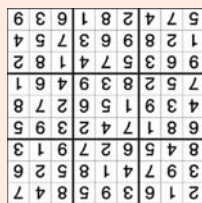


## Did you know..?

- 1 The French language has seventeen different words for 'surrender'.
- 2 Nearly three percent of the ice in Antarctic glaciers is penguin urine.
- 3 Bob Dylan's real name is Robert Zimmerman.
- 4 A crocodile can't poke its tongue out :p
- 5 Sea otters hold hands when they sleep so they don't drift away from each other.
- 6 A small child could swim through the veins of a blue whale.
- 7 Bin Laden's death was announced on 1st May 2011. Hitler's death was announced on 1st May 1945.
- 8 J.K. Rowling chose the unusual name 'Hermione' so young girls wouldn't be teased for being nerdy!
- 9 Hewlett-Packard's name was decided in a coin toss.
- 10 About 8,000 Americans are injured by musical instruments each year



## SUDOKU



## Cool Fridge Magnets

### What You Need

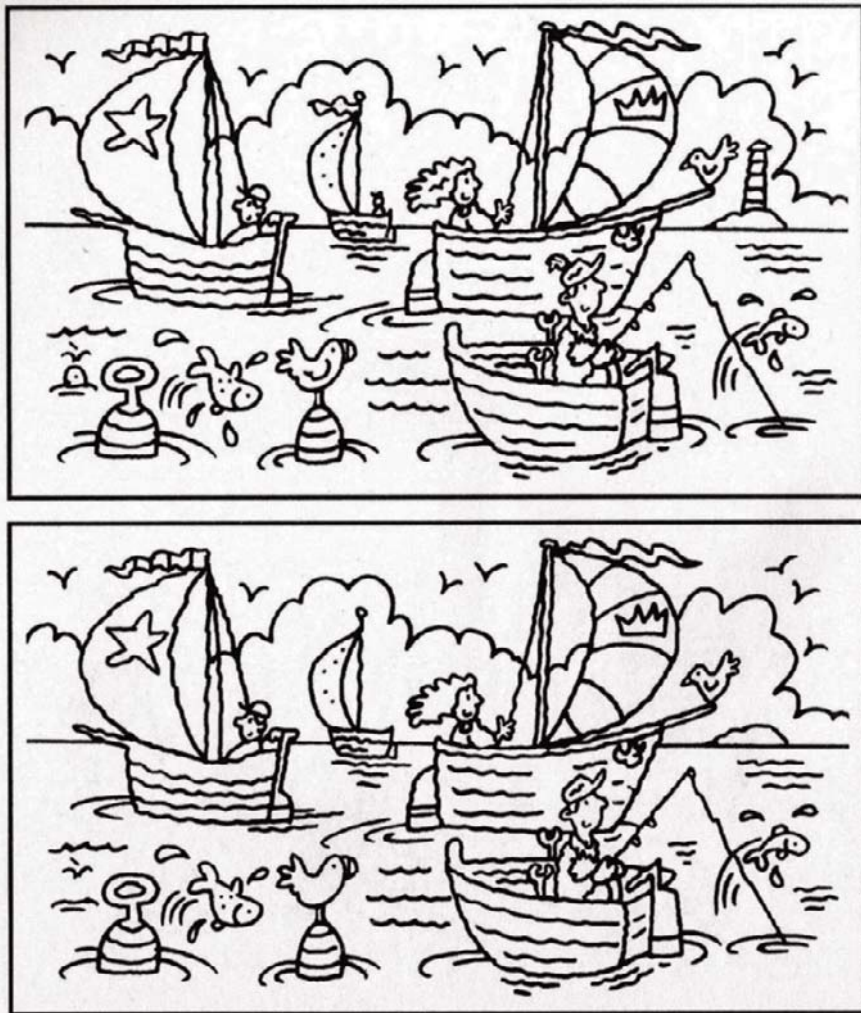
- o Old magnets
- o Thin cardboard or paper
- o Pencils/crayons
- o Glue

### Instructions

1. Cut a shape out of your cardboard or paper. This can be an animal, star, person etc.
2. Color and decorate the shape anyway you'd like.
3. Glue your shape onto the top of the old magnet.
4. Wait until everything is dry- your personalized magnet is now ready to put on the fridge!



Can you spot the 10 differences between these two pictures?



## Sea Creatures

Find and circle all of the sea creatures that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

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

CRAB  
DOLPHIN  
JELLYFISH  
LAMPREY  
LOBSTER  
MOLLUSKS  
OCTOPUS

OTTER  
PENGUIN  
SEA TURTLE  
SEAL  
SHARK  
SHRIMP

SPONGE  
SQUID  
STARFISH  
STINGRAY  
WHALE

## RECIPES FOR KIDS



## Garden Chicken Salad

### You'll Need

- \* 1/2 cup plain, nonfat Greek-style yogurt
- \* 1/4 cup low-fat mayonnaise
- \* 1/2 teaspoon salt
- \* 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- \* 1 large celery stalk, finely chopped
- \* 1/4 cup red onion, finely chopped
- \* 1/3 cup grapes, cut in half
- \* 2 cups leftover roasted chicken, chopped into 1/2-inch pieces
- \* 4 cups romaine lettuce, coarsely chopped

### Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine yogurt, mayonnaise, salt, pepper, celery, red onion, grapes, and chicken.
2. Mix gently until everything is well coated in dressing.
3. Divide lettuce between four bowls.
4. Top each bowl with some chicken salad. Serve cold.

## Blow It Up

### What You Need

- o Empty soda or water bottle
- o Balloon
- o Baking soda
- o Vinegar
- o Paper towel

### Instructions

1. Tear the paper towel in half. Take one half and tear it in half again. You will use one of these smaller squares as your wrapper.
2. Place about a tablespoon of baking soda on your wrapper. Fold it up and twist the ends closed so that the baking soda is neatly inside.
3. Pour about 1/4 cup of vinegar into your bottle, and add the wrapper of baking soda.
4. Quickly place the balloon securely over the top of the bottle and watch the balloon blow up by itself!

### Note

You can swirl the liquid in the bottle to help the two chemicals react once the balloon is fastened to the top.

This experiment works because the vinegar and baking soda mixed together produce a gas which fills the bottle and the balloon. The paper towel is used to protect the baking soda for a short period of time while the balloon gets placed on the bottle.





# Axl Rose extends AC/DC career with US dates

Hard rock greats AC/DC yesterday extended their new incarnation with singer Axl Rose, announcing 10 shows in the United States. The Guns N' Roses frontman joined the Australian rockers on an ongoing European tour that started last month after Brian Johnson, the band's singer since 1980, was told by doctors he risked permanent hearing damage if he kept performing.

AC/DC rescheduled 10 US concerts that had initially been planned for earlier in the year before being abruptly halted due to Johnson's diagnosis.

The US shows will now end on September 20 in Philadelphia, which the veteran band said would be the last date of its marathon "Rock or Bust" tour that began at the Coachella festival in California in April 2015. Rose, 54,

who has largely been embraced by AC/DC fans, has left open whether he has become a permanent member of AC/DC or if he is just filling in.

But it is unclear when AC/DC would return after the tour. Johnson's condition was only the latest woe for the band whose guitarist Malcolm Young-brother of lead guitarist and band leader Angus Young-retired due to dementia. Rose, acclaimed for his unique voice that can glide through a soaring range, will have little break in coming months as he will tour with Guns N' Roses in between the European and US stints with AC/DC. In a long-anticipated and lucrative reunion, Guns N' Roses is playing across North America with Rose and guitarist Slash who until April had not played together in 23 years.

AC/DC, which is honoring previously purchased tickets, will resume its US leg on August 27 in Greensboro, North Carolina. The concert was initially scheduled for March. Since then, prominent artists including Bruce Springsteen, Pearl Jam and Maroon 5 have called off shows in the southern state over a law that restricts the rights of transgender people. — AFP

Australian guitarist Angus Young of Australian hard rock band AC/DC, right, and substitute lead singer Axl Rose, left, perform on stage during the Rock or Bust world tour concert. — AP



## District upset Fetty Wap got OK to shoot rap video at school

A New Jersey school district is investigating how rapper Fetty Wap was allowed to record a music video that included drug references and a pole dancer in his old high school. The Paterson native released the video for "Wake Up" last week. Paterson school district spokeswoman Terry Corallo tells NJ.com the district is investigating whether procedures were followed in allowing parts of the video to be recorded at Eastside High School. Fetty Wap dropped out of the school.

Corallo says the district doesn't endorse the content of the video. She says it was shot during non-instructional hours and didn't include students. A spokeswoman for Fetty Wap didn't immediately return an email seeking comment. Fetty Wap performed a free show for city high school students in August. — AP



In this file photo, Fetty Wap performs at the 2016 Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP

## US comic finds humor in abyss of mental illness

What on earth could be funny about contemplating suicide? Or suffering from bipolar disorder or OCD? Lots, says American comedian Maria Bamford, who's been there, is still fighting and draws on her ordeal to make people laugh. Part of her mission is to break taboos and test limits as she pokes fun at her experience with problems normally discussed in whispers if at all. Bamford, a petite 45-year-old blond with a high-pitched, squeaky voice, also wants to show that even in the nadir of a person's life there's humor in there, somewhere.

She's no household name but has developed a cult following in America, both among standup comedy fans and fellow comedians. In 2014, she was named America's best club comic. For Bamford, nothing is off limits: thinking about killing herself, life lived on meds, her family's well-meaning but sometimes clumsy efforts to understand and help her, the times she's suffered meltdowns and ended up in a psych ward.



This photo shows Maria Bamford in Los Angeles, California on January 13, 2009. — AFP

"Go in and the chairs are broken and the puzzles are only half there. You know, half the puzzle pieces are lost," Bamford said of her experience, in a recent conference call with news outlets. Bamford spoke to discuss a new Netflix series, "Lady Dynamite," in which she stars and plays herself-a medially successful Los Angeles comic trying to get back on her feet after suffering a breakdown and spending six months living with her parents in Minnesota.

The pace of the show is frantic, with rapid fire, chirpy dialogue suggestive of a mind running on overdrive. The scenes are rendered in bright, in-your-face colors. It sometimes turns surreal. In one of the early episodes, Bamford is on a blind date with a bisexual man who is recovering from a meth addiction, misses getting high and is puzzled by his longing. "That's not weird at all. I miss the energy of mania. I may have been contemplating suicide 18 hours a day, but my baseboards were spotless," Bamford's character says. "It's funny because I get in trouble if I don't take my meds, but you get in trouble if you do!" she adds with a toothy smile.

### 'Mad scientist'

Comedians harvesting their foibles or woes for material or stretching the limits of comedy are nothing new. Bamford, however, wins praise for doing it with a bracing,

naked intimacy. The late Richard Pryor used to make jokes about how he grew up in a brothel wend by his grandmother and where his mother worked as a prostitute. Louis CK, one of the top US comics these days, did a riff on "Saturday Night Live" last year about child molesters. He got a big, albeit nervous, laugh, but also drew criticism.

That comedians now see fit to shock people by toying with dead-serious things is a reflection of a society in which everybody shares pretty much everything on social media anyway, said Gil Greengross, an evolutionary psychologist who specializes in humor. And the link between creativity-in comedians, writers, painters and other artists-and mental disorders has been the subject of much study and forms part of our cultural lore. Consider the image of the "mad scientist," or ranting brainiac, he said.

One theory suggests the link is largely about genes, said Greengross, who teaches at Aberystwyth University in Wales. People have a certain gene or genes that help them be creative, but it depends how the genes express themselves. "Sometimes if they express themselves in just the right way, you can be a genius or very smart," Greengross said in an interview. But if you get a bad mutation of that gene or it expresses itself wrong, the result can be mental illness.

"These two are actually much more connected than people realize in a lot of cases. And you can sometimes have both of them in the same person," Greengross said.

### 'Suicide chunk' -

Bamford, seemingly agreeing, put it this way: "I do feel genuinely that, you know, your greatest weakness can be your greatest gift." She reckons people laugh at her stuff because the shattering of a taboo provides a release. "It creates laughter because you go, 'I can't believe someone is saying this.'" Her brand of comedy is not for everyone. Bamford once did a half-hour set on suicide for a conference of therapists in Washington.

"I bombed so terribly with my suicide chunk," she said. "It did not go well with the therapy crowd."

But her show "Lady Dynamite" is getting very good reviews. "What makes Maria Bamford stand out is that she deals with her real-life struggles with bipolar disorder by forcing you to experience the world from inside her troubled mind," Entertainment Weekly TV critic Melissa Maerz said. "With its bright colors, rat-a-tat dialogue, and relentless cheeriness, Lady Dynamite is mania brought to life," she added.

Bamford said another goal of hers is to create the feeling that people who are somehow suffering are not alone, that everybody at some time has been broken down on some level. In one segment of a low-budget, much-acclaimed Web series called "The Maria Bamford Show," released in 2009, Bamford sings about depression and anxiety in a soft, almost girlish voice to the cheerful sound of a banjo. "Don't be afraid of the dark. Reach out your hand, you'll hit someone like you. Everyone's here in the dark. You might not see me, but I'm out here, too." — AP

## First Japanese animated movie 'Momotaro' gets US release

Funimation Entertainment has acquired North American rights to the restored edition of Mitsuyo Seo's pioneering "Momotaro, Sacred Sailors" - the first feature-length animated film produced in Japan. "Momotaro, Sacred Sailors" was a propaganda film produced in 1944 by Shochiku Co Ltd and released in 1945 during the final months of World War II. With support of Funimation and others, Shochiku has restored the 74-minute, black-and-white film prior to its premiere in the Cannes Classics program.



As part of its agreement with Shochiku, Funimation has secured exclusive rights to the theatrical, digital and home video distribution of the film in the US and Canada. "Mitsuyo Seo was a key figure in the development of Japan's anime industry and were honored to have been part of the restoration of 'Momotaro, Sacred Sailors' - one of his most famous works," said Gen Fukunaga, CEO and founder of Funimation. "This wonderful black and white film was created using almost 50,000 cels and offers superb animation, music and entertainment that is on par with any classic Disney film of the same era."

Seo based the film's story on the Japanese fairy tale of a boy named Momotaro, who was born from a peach and defeats monsters with the help of his animal friends. In the movie, Momotaro and his friends are now Japanese naval paratroopers and the monsters represent the Allied Powers. On the eve of a parachute mission during the war in the Pacific, a group of navy paratroopers-a monkey, a dog, a pheasant, and a bear-go home for a brief visit before heading off with their squadron to their base in the South Pacific. Led by boy warrior Momotaro, the paratroopers quickly overpower the horned, white devils, who then surrender to Momotaro unconditionally as peace returns to the South Pacific. "Momotaro, Sacred Sailors" was backed by Japan's Ministry of the Navy and produced with a crew of 70 that included Japanese animation pioneer Kenzo Masaoka as director of shadowgraph. Few saw the movie in theaters when it was released as most of Japan was fighting a war that would be lost months later. — Reuters



In this file photo, Emily Blunt arrives at the LA Premiere of 'The Huntsman: Winter's War' in Los Angeles. — AP

## Paul Simon: Still adventurous after all these years

Look at the liner notes on Paul Simon's new disc, "Stranger to Stranger," and it seems like a laboratory of exotic instruments. Musicians use a mbira, a bamboo marimba, cloud chamber bowls, a chromelodeon, a zoomoozophone - and a cheap clock. It's an album as notable for its sound as its songs, without the feel of an academic exercise. Simon, at 74, is more adventurous musically at an age many peers are content to ride on their reputations.

"There's no point in resting on laurels," said Simon, whose Manhattan office displays both of his Rock and Roll Hall of Fame trophies side by side. "You're either interested in an idea, in which case you pursue it, or you have no ideas or aren't interested in pursuing ideas. ... Rest is indicated by a sign on a staff." Busting beyond his folk-rock roots is not new for Simon, an impulse that has become more pronounced in the past few decades following his work with African musicians on "Graceland" and Brazilians in "The Rhythm of the Saints." It hasn't always been smooth; the success of "Graceland" opened a debate about cultural appropriation.

### Flamenco music

"It's not like I set out to explore," he explained. "There's a connection that I'm following that pushes me toward some pleasing sound that I can barely imagine, so I go looking for it." For the percussive "Stranger to Stranger," which is being released Friday, Simon was initially intrigued with flamenco music and the use of hand-claps. Through his son, Simon met and collaborated with Italian producer Digi G'Alessio, who records under the name Clap! Clap! Old recordings of the vocal group the Golden Gate Quartet are used to ghostly effect. But Simon's most intriguing journey took him to Montclair State University in New Jersey.

At the time Montclair housed a collection of instruments created by the late Harry Partch, a composer who worked with instruments that had smaller tuning differences than is typical. Simon brought a portable studio in to record instruments like the cloud chamber bowls - glass-shaped bowls that hang from a wooden frame and produce a haunting sound, said Robert Cart, director of Montclair's John J Cali School of Music. "I wasn't surprised that if there were a pop musician who was interested in the instruments, that it would be Paul Simon," he said.



File photo shows Paul Simon participates in the Country Music Hall of Fame benefit concert in New York. — AP

## Lin-Manuel Miranda, Blunt board 'Mary Poppins' sequel

Move over, Julie Andrews, there's a new Mary Poppins in town. Walt Disney Studios announced Tuesday that "Into the Woods" star Emily Blunt would be taking over the part of the PL Travers-created nanny in a sequel to the 1964 classic, with "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda joining as a new character, Jack, the street lamplighter.

The film, entitled "Mary Poppins Returns," will center on a now-grown Michael Banks and his three children in the aftermath of a tragedy and the help they get from Mary Poppins and Jack in Depression-era London. Rob Marshall is set to direct off of a script from "Finding Neverland" writer David Magee. The film is scheduled to hit theaters on Dec 25, 2018. — AP





Models present creations on a catwalk during the spring/summer 2017 Christian Dior Cruise fashion show at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, near Oxford, central England. — AFP photos



# Dior takes Parisian style to Britain's countryside

Dior staged a catwalk show of its "Cruise collection" at the majestic Blenheim Palace in the Oxfordshire countryside Tuesday, in a lavish event reflecting the growing importance of between-seasons collections. The fashion event at the 18th century stately home, the birthplace of Britain's wartime prime minister Winston Churchill, was a nod to the past for the French design house, which held events there twice in the 1950s.

The brand's Swiss creative duo of designers, Lucie Meier and Serge Ruffieux, mixed references to classic Dior designs and eccentric English influences. Models including new face of Dior, beauty Bella Hadid, strutted between the rows of gathered fashionistas in a pillared hall dressed in florals and demure jackets. The styles mixed the modern and the conservative-one print represented a foxhunt-with a muted palette of beige, black and pastels.

Bags with complex pockets and straps were worn tossed over the shoulder or carried in the right hand, while models sported ankle boots

with chunky metallic heels. "We were thinking of a Dior Parisienne who goes to London and becomes more eccentric," Ruffieux told AFP, describing the designs as a natural evolution from the duo's last two collections since they stepped in after Raf Simons left in October.

No expense was spared as hundreds of clients and journalists were brought to the palace on a luxury train the "Dior Express". The brand has just opened a new flagship store in London, one of the largest in Europe. It is keen to promote its cruise collection-a holiday or resort collection produced between the traditional spring/summer and autumn/winter shows. Dior chief executive Sidney Toledano said customers wanted "novelty". "These cruise collections have grown in importance in the public eye, and are as creative as the other collections," he said.

Major fashion houses have been competing to hold the shows in ever more exotic locations. Chanel recently staged a catwalk show in Havana, Louis Vuitton in Rio de Janeiro, while Gucci will present its cruise collection in London's Westminster Abbey tomorrow. Dior is due to present an

haute couture collection in Paris in July, as it seeks an official successor to take over from Simons who resigned three years after the house took him on in 2012.

His successor will be appointed "soon" according to Toledano. "The stakes are extremely important, it will have a bearing on what creative direction will be taken in the coming years," he added. Coming only weeks before Britain votes on whether to remain in the European Union in a June 23 referendum, some wondered if there was a political dimension to the show-but Toledano refused to be drawn on the subject. "I love England, it is a model of openness," he said. "I see enterprising men and women. I'm sure they will make the right decision!" — AFP



## 'Guys' fails Australian workplace test

The word "guys" should be avoided in the office, a new Australian campaign has said, arguing that such terms exclude minority groups. The Diversity Council of Australia campaign launched yesterday asks people to be open to changing phrases they have always thought "normal". One such word is "guys", which is commonly used in Australia to refer to a group including men and women. A campaign video shows a group of women cringing at being referred to as "girls", and a worker in a wheelchair questioning the use of the expression "walk the talk".

Former chief of the Australian Army, David Morrison, who is spearheading the #WordsAtWork campaign, said the use of inclusive language should be promoted. "For some time I have been advocating that everyone in our society, from all genders, races, creeds, ages, disabilities, religions or sexual orientations, be given a chance to achieve their potential," he said in a statement. "Unfortunately, in many workplaces, this isn't always the case. People use language to denigrate others and to take away their self-respect. Sometimes it happens unconsciously, but the effect is the same."

The new campaign was not about creating a "language police" but simply about encouraging people to use terms at work that were respectful, accurate, and relevant to everyone, he said. "All the campaign is doing is saying, 'Look, it's a proven fact that more inclusive, more diverse workforces create real diversity of thinking and are more productive,'" he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

"And one of the ways... that you can engender that type of environment is (by) being careful about how you speak to other people, talking to them with respect and listening to their views with respect." Morrison admitted that "guys" was a word he had previously used. "I have now removed that from my lexicon as best I can, I think it's important," he said. But the idea of dropping the word "guys" provoked a storm on Twitter, with some questioning whether it would also lead to the loss of the traditional favorite "mate". But others praised the idea of removing gender-specific language, coming up with alternatives to "guys" including "folks", "riff raff" and "mortals". — AFP

## A dazzling Ramadan with New Look

Ramadan 2016 for New Look is all about elegant nights and outfits to match. The Ramadan collection is full of halter neck maxi dresses, sophisticated jumpsuits and long sleeve wrap tops based on a colour palette of pastel pinks, deep blacks and lush creams. Faux fur layers and shrugs add extra glamour, while black and gold accessories add look effortlessly stylish.

Ladylike lace dresses and necklace collar tops are on trend yet classic, while textured separates and dresses are perfect for a more fashion forward look. Bandeau jumpsuits are also key to the collection, wear them cinched at the waist with a gold belt and finish with a sequin clutch.

Key pieces for daytime include wrap blouses, ruffled dresses and flouncy midi skirts. Pastel pink and pale blue are key colours, while leopard print and crochet inserts add interest. Daytime accessories are more understated, with monochrome pieces, a chic way to finish any outfit.

As the Holy month progresses towards Eid, styling gets more extravagant. Prepare to embrace opulence in show-stopping dresses made with dazzling sequins and gold based leopard print. Or, for a more subtle look, pair a coordinated set or jumpsuit with statement animal print or sequined accessories.

For a relaxed evening look, silver details complement

icy tones in the collection, like blue, white and black. Pair metallic pumps or heels with a midi dress or evening top to give your look a SS16 twist.

The trend continues in New Look's Label Lounge with heavily embellished sequin and beaded dresses and plenty of pops of gold, bright blue and turquoise. The Ramadan collection is available in New Look stores throughout Kuwait at The Avenues, Al-Bairaq Mall, Al-Salam Mall and Promenade Mall.







# You are definitely going to nail this one!

Summer has just arrived and we're all going for that lighter hair, tanned skin and looking for the colors of the season. Nail polish is something we love playing around with. A great looking manicure isn't just about looking for the perfect nail polish nor a good nail technician, it's all about having healthy nails and cuticles, whether you were going for the color of the season or a bare nail, just like your makeup, it won't look good if you don't have healthy skin. Looks aside, dried up nails and cuticles are painful! With my job, I almost always have nail polish on, whether I was on a shoot or attending events and travelling having coloured nails isn't helpful for someone who's trying to have them healthier and stronger.

Dry cuticles are something I personally suffer from, it gets worse during the summer and even when I'm travelling my hands and skin tend to get really dry. Drinking water is also something essential when it comes to hydrating your skin as a whole, not just your hands or face.

So, I came up with a couple of home recipes that I've read about and tried a few times. Sometimes we go really hard on all our mani's and pedi's however, constantly removing/pushing down our cuticles will have our nails becoming drier and weaker. A good organic recipe every once in

a while will really help you get healthy nails and healthy cuticles.

### Apricot Oil and Honey

Apricot Oil is actually one of the best things I've used on my nails, the go-to apricot oil product for me is the Essie Apricot Cuticle Oil. You can also mix honey with the apricot oil, as it not only smoothes your cuticles but honey has antibacterial properties which allows it to kill the bacteria in that area.

### Coconut and lavender balm

We all know how coconut oil works wonders with our skin and hair so it's no secret that it also soothes and heals your cuticles if they're dry and painful. To make this super easy balm, use a very simple cuticle balm, add lavender oil drops to the balm, as well as a few coconut oil drops too!

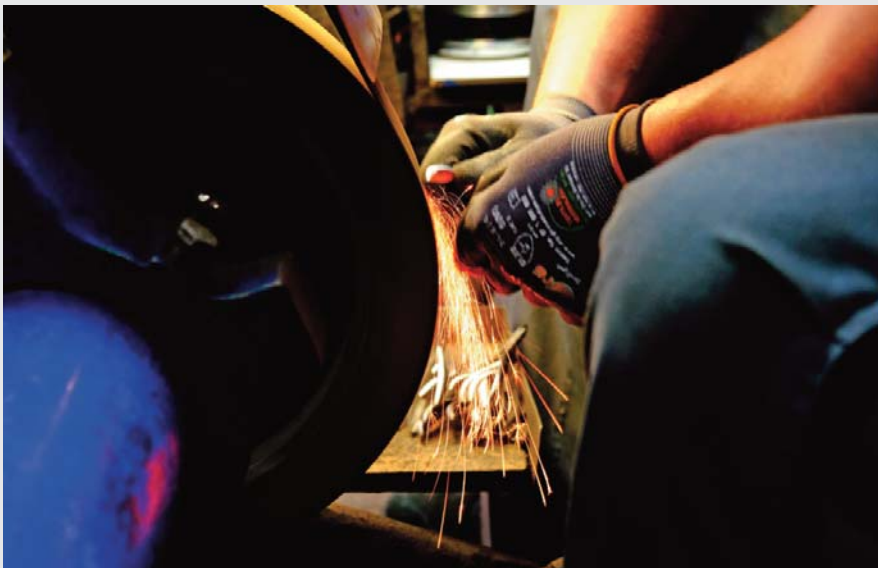
### Aloe Vera and Coconut Oil

Aloe Vera is very healthy for your skin, even when you're suffering from severe sunburn it soothes and heals your skin almost immediately. Mix Aloe Vera gel along with a few drops of coconut oil and rub in your cuticles either every time you get a mani and pedi or every night before you go to bed.

### Lemon Olive Oil

Add a few lemon essential oil drops to petroleum jelly along with olive oil. The petroleum jelly will protect your cuticles and the olive oil will penetrate your skin to lock down the moisture.

Keep in mind ladies, that taking care of your cuticles will always help with having stronger and faster growing nails. It's very attractive and feminine to have strong nails along with healthy skin and cuticles. We tend to always focus on getting facials, massages and go for high end commercial products, but we should really focus on the foundation and base of everything, such as eating healthy, drinking more water to have healthy and hydrated skin, before aiming for good makeup aim for good skin, before choosing your nail polish make sure you have healthy nails and so on. All of these are small steps that you can take with you as a package when you grow older, so that it can be easier for you to have healthier skin than starting too late because that will only make things more difficult and sometimes it's too late to fix something.



An employee grinds at a grinding machine, a razor blade in the factory of sizzle and razorblade manufacturer 'DOVO'.



Managing director Ulrich Wiethoff poses with a razor in the factory of sizzle and razorblade manufacturer 'DOVO'.

## German 'blade city' has edge in straight razor revival

A German craftsman forges a small blade in a workshop where sparks are flying, water is gushing and business is good, thanks to a worldwide revival of the straight or cut-throat razor shave. "At our place, most work is done by hand," says a proud Ulrich Wiethoff, director of the Dovo factory, as he wanders past workers who polish, sharpen, varnish and package the razors. The small enterprise was established as Dovo Steelware in 1906 in Solingen, Germany's 'blade capital', whose craftsmen made swords and daggers in the Middle Ages and are now better known for knives and cutlery.

Dovo-its company symbol a small knight with sword and hammer-now has some 70 employees. It also produces hairdressers' scissors and manicure sets but owes its fame to its straight razors, of which it is one of the world's leading manufacturers. With its elongated handle and long folding blade, this type of razor almost vanished in the second half of the 20th century, with the advent of disposable and electric shavers. But "in the past 10 years, there has been a renaissance of traditional shaving with the male public and a very strong recovery in demand," says Wiethoff, presenting a showcase of elegant razors bound for shipment around the world.

### Gentleman's accessory

The cut-throat razor has made a comeback as an essential gentleman's accessory, a

stainless steel blade that typically slips into a wooden or imitation tortoiseshell, ivory or mother-of-pearl handle. Since early 2000, Dovo has boosted its production of razors from a few thousand to tens of thousands a year. Twenty employees now work exclusively on the shavers, against just three in 2000. It's the same story at knife maker Boeker, also in Solingen, which said that demand had about doubled annually in recent years as cut-throat razors have become especially popular in Europe and the United States. "Men take more care of themselves ... and it almost inevitably leads to the rediscovery of the old method of classic shaving," said Chris Kurbjuhn, author of the German blog Nassrasur (Wet Shave).

"Running a shaving brush with foam across the beard, gliding the blade across your skin in peace and quiet, it's like a ritual, it reflects a return to a certain style of manhood," said the passionate fan. Open razors are now discussed on blogs, websites and online videos, while barber shops and Internet retailers are making a brisk trade with shaving paraphernalia, from badger hair brushes and shaving soap to cowhide strops for sharpening. The razor's retro appeal has been boosted in popular culture. In the 2012 James Bond film "Skyfall", Daniel Craig shaves with a straight razor, while a decade earlier, in "Die Another Day", Pierce Brosnan had opted for the electric variety.

### 'Vintage trend'

"Today people are sick and tired of consumerism and brands," said Geoffrey Bruyere, co-founder of Bonne Gueule, a French-language male fashion blog. "We are witnessing a vintage trend, a return to authentic things. It's a very anti-consumerist and a very hedonistic approach" that, given the price tag, is likely to stay limited to a small number of men, he said. Moreover, when it comes to learning the art of the straight razor shave, "you can't just do this overnight," said Kurbjuhn. "You have to learn the right steps... This kind of shave takes a little more time and is not very suitable for men in a hurry."

And even if "a well-kept straight razor lasts a lifetime," he added, the around 150 euro (\$170) starting price, plus the cost of the accompanying materials, are a barrier for many. The Solingen craftsman seem to like it this way. "We do not want to make a mass-market product," said Carsten Felix-Dalichow, director of Boeker. "We want to keep alive the spirit of craftsmanship and of the workshop."—AFP



Raw razorblades are pictured ahead of being sharpened by employees at the factory of sizzle and razorblade manufacturer "DOVO" on May 18, 2016 in Solingen, western Germany. — AFP photos



An employee polishes assembled razorknives in the factory of sizzle and razorblade manufacturer iDOVOi.



Raw parts of sizzles are pictured in the factory of sizzle and razorblade manufacturer 'DOVO'.



# Tattoo lands Iranian actress in feminism controversy

A popular Iranian actress has found herself at the center of a dispute over feminism in the Islamic republic after cameras appeared to capture a "women power" symbol tattooed on her arm. Taraneh Alidoosti's tattoo was seen sneaking from under her sleeve this week as she addressed reporters after returning from the Cannes Film Festival, where her latest film "The Salesman" won two awards. The images sparked intrigue and intense debate on Iran's colourful social media scene.

Some media claimed the pictures were fake while some online commentators accused her of advocating feminism—which is viewed negatively among hardline conservatives in Iran. Others said she was promoting the right for women to have abortions, which are illegal in the Islamic republic. Alidoosti, 32, explained on Twitter the meaning of the "Feminist Fist" symbol, reminding fans in another update that she had previously explained that

she viewed feminism as being about "showing unity and fairness".

"Keep calm and YES I'm a feminist," she said in a series of tweets on Tuesday night. "Feminist: a person who believes in the social, political, and economical equality of the sexes." One follower @RaminRamroodi replied "Keep calm and You will be in Evin Prison Tomorrow"—referencing the notorious Tehran jail-to which Alidoosti replied with several smiley faces. Tattoos were traditionally common among Iranian men, but modern ink designs are more frowned upon in the Islamic republic as signs of immorality and Westernisation.

Several famous football players have been summoned to Iran's sports morality committee for showing their tattoos. Alidoosti's Instagram is one of the most popular Iranian accounts on the photo-sharing app, with 2.6 million followers. Last year she responded to a spam message for vacuum cleaners that said the products were "only for women". "Those who think of a vacuum cleaner as designed only for women... insult not only women but all the men... who don't see their own kind as their waitresses," she posted on her account.

The tattoo controversy comes after frenzied coverage of the way Alidoosti was dressed on the red carpet in France. In a rare move, Iranian media published pictures of her different outfits at Cannes, drawing tens of thousands of responses from social media users weighing in on beauty, fashion and adherence to Islamic dress codes for women. Alidoosti is married and has a young daughter. — AFP



**Iranian actress Taraneh Alidoosti (left), Iranian director Asghar Farhadi (center) and Iranian actor Shahab Hosseini are seen during press conference in Tehran. — AFP**

# Palestinian embroidery exhibition



**A woman poses in front of dresses during an exhibit of Palestinian embroidery in the Lebanese capital Beirut. — AFP photos**



**A woman looks at dresses during an exhibit of Palestinian embroidery in the Lebanese capital Beirut.**



**A woman takes a picture of textiles.**



**People look at dresses during an exhibit of Palestinian embroidery.**



**People look at dresses during an exhibit.**



**British Rachel Dedman, the exhibit commissioner, poses with a dress.**



**Woman displays a dress during an exhibit.**



**People look at dresses during an exhibit.**



**People look at dresses during an exhibit.**



**Palestinian embroider Malak Hussein poses during an exhibit of Palestinian embroidery.**



**A woman displays a dress.**



**A woman looks at dresses during an exhibit.**





Sydney's central business district is lit up during the Vivid Sydney festival yesterday. Vivid Sydney, an annual festival of light, music and ideas, runs from May 27 to June 18. — AFP



A mural adorns a wall in the art and design zone OCT Loft. — AP photos



Bicycle wheels form part of an artwork in front of a cafe in the OCT Loft district of Shenzhen, China.



People stand in front of an ivy-clad building in the art and design zone OCT Loft in Shenzhen, China

## Bleisure in Shenzhen: Art district oasis in Chinese megacity

With its anonymous sprawl of skyscrapers and factories linked by busy highways, the southern Chinese manufacturing megacity of Shenzhen might not appear at first to be the best place to do some sightseeing during a business trip. Yes, the city is a magnet for foreign business travelers, many of whom come expressly to visit factories and meet suppliers, but it's still far off the beaten tourist path. And that makes any effort to discover local attractions more rewarding than prowling the cliched and overpriced nightspots of neighboring Hong Kong or jostling with the crowds at the shopping malls and historical sites of Beijing and Shanghai.

On a recent trip to Shenzhen from my base in Hong Kong, I discovered the tranquil charm of OCT Loft, a cluster of old factory buildings that's been converted into an art and design zone. A visit to OCT Loft, located in the Nanshan neighborhood, was a welcome antidote to Shenzhen's hyper-urban intensity. I took a cab from downtown and 20 minutes later, as we left the wide main road,

high-rise tower blocks gave way to narrow streets lined with leafy trees and bicycle paths.

The district's low-rise buildings are filled with design studios, architects' offices, art galleries, bars and restaurants. There's a Starbucks, but thankfully that was the only multinational franchise around. Finding your way around is easy thanks to metal maps set into the walkways. Buildings are helpfully denoted by simple combinations of letters and numbers: A4, B3.

Disused pieces of factory equipment painted bright red were set up on the pathways as a reminder of the area's recent industrial past. An oversized machine press stood on a walkway paved with skinny red bricks. Nearby were two rustic cafes, their outdoor seats hidden by an array of potted plants and shaded by mature trees, and I stopped at one of them for a glass of iced lemon tea.

The district is also a great place to see contemporary art. Murals adorn walls and the sides of buildings; paintings and sculptures are on display

at galleries; and big exhibitions are held at OCT Contemporary Art Terminal, or OCAT. (The current show, "Digging a Hole in China," runs until June 26 and features video and other multimedia works by 12 Chinese artists on the concept of land.)

It was almost time to head back to Hong Kong. But first, I treated myself to a slice of a slice of cheesecake (20 yuan; \$3) at SE Artspace, a minimalist space in white and gray, where a lounge version of "Every Breath You Take" by The Police playing in the background. Art and photo books lined shelves on the wall and were piled on top of a Chinese cabinet by the front door. OCT Loft itself is part of a wider tourist district that includes theme parks and hotels known as Overseas Chinese Town. The state-owned company that runs it also operates an ecotourism resort called OCT East on the other side of the city. There's also a shopping district called OCT Bay. — AP



A mural adorns the side of a building in the art and design zone OCT Loft.



Disused factory equipment such as an industrial press are repurposed as pieces of public art in the OCT Loft as a reminder of the area's industrial past.

## Hermes hit by ostrich farm cruelty claims

Hermes was thrown onto the defensive on Tuesday over claims of cruelty at a farm that allegedly supplies skins used in its luxury handbags, the second such allegations in a year. A spokeswoman for animal rights group PETA used the French fashion house's AGM in Paris to grill Hermes CEO Axel Dumas about a video showing ostriches being slaughtered at a farm in South Africa.

PETA France spokeswoman Isabelle Goetz, who bought a share in Hermes to secure a seat at the AGM, condemned the suffering of ostriches at the farm which she called an "exclusive Hermes supplier". "Will Hermes someday stop using exotic skins?" she asked Dumas and other members of the group's board, in front of hundreds of shareholders.

Dumas insisted that Hermes had "no exclusive ostrich supplier" and said the company "fully meets its responsibilities in its partnerships with farms with which we work".

"We ask all our partners to not only respect international laws but also Hermes' rules, which are much stricter," he said. The PETA video, which was published online in February, shows an ostrich being rammed into a pen to be stunned and then having its throat slit in front of other birds. A worker at the farm told PETA the facility supplied skins used by Prada as well as Hermes. In a statement at the time, Hermes said it sourced its ostrich leather from tanneries, which were regularly vetted by the company, and not directly from farms.

Hermes was thrust into the spotlight last year by a PETA film exposing maltreatment of crocodiles and alligators at farms in Texas and Zimbabwe. In the wake of that expose, British singer Jane Birkin asked Hermes to remove her name from its iconic crocodile-skin Birkin bag. Hermes said it was "shocked" by the images and promised to investigate the allegations. — AFP

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

