

**Paris on alert  
as swollen  
Seine reaches  
peak levels**



**Missing Japanese  
boy found safe  
after forest  
ordeal**



**Serena and  
Muguruza  
set up final  
showdown**



150 Fils

# 117 MIGRANT BODIES WASHED UP IN LIBYA

## SMUGGLING BOAT CARRYING MIGRANTS SINKS



Min 28°  
Max 44°



**ZUWARAH, Libya:** The body of a migrant is seen on a Libyan beach on the coast of the northwestern Libyan port city of Zuwarah. The bodies of more than 117 migrants have washed up on a Libyan beach as a new migrant boat tragedy unfolded in the Mediterranean south of Greece yesterday. — AFP

**ATHENS:** More than 117 bodies were pulled from the sea off Libya's shores yesterday after a smuggling boat carrying mainly African migrants sank into the Mediterranean, and a separate massive search-and-rescue operation in the open sea saved 340 people and recovered nine bodies. The two sinkings were the latest deadly disasters for refugees and migrants hoping to find better lives in Europe, and came in addition to the over 1,000 people who drowned since May 25 while attempting the perilous, lengthy journey across the sea from North Africa to Europe's southern shores.

As traffickers take advantage of the improving weather, officials say it is impossible to know how many unseaworthy boats are being launching daily from Libya to Europe - and how many never reach their target. A host of naval operations in the southern Mediterranean, coordinated by Italy, have been stretched just responding to the disasters they do hear about. In Libya, at least 117 bodies -75 women, six children and 36 men - were pulled out from the waters near the western city of Zuwara, Mohammed Al-Mosrati, a spokesman for Libya's Red Crescent said.

All but a few were from African countries. The death toll was expected to rise. No lifejackets were seen on the bodies. But, as is frequently the case, authorities were uncertain when or how the people died. Libyan coast guards found an empty boat drifting Thursday, Libyan navy Col Ayoub Gassim told the AP, adding it was possible the vessel had capsized a day earlier.

Al-Mosrati of the Red Crescent said the bodies were not "decomposed and therefore have drowned within the past 48 hours." He said the boat that was found might have been the one carrying the victims. But strong winds and currents can push bodies from one place to the other, he said, making it difficult for authorities to determine where the tragedy occurred. Often the first signs of a tragedy are either a mayday call from one of the passengers to European authorities or the macabre discovery of bodies washing up on shores.

Speaking by telephone, Gassim of the Libyan navy blamed Europe for "doing nothing but counting bodies" in efforts to stop the massive illegal migration from Libya. The situation in Libya has been particularly chaotic since the ouster and killing of the country's longtime autocratic ruler Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. The country has been split into rival governments and parliaments where each is supported by a loose set of militias and tribes. Smuggling gangs have taken advantage of the chaos to send waves of overcrowded boats toward Europe.

Aid officials say the last two weeks have been especially deadly because smugglers are using riskier tactics, bigger boats and even less-seaworthy vessels than ever before. Frederico Soda, who heads International Organization for Migration's Mediterranean office in Rome, said the increase in those making the deadly crossing was due "in part, to better weather, and in part to the use of bigger wooden boats that can carry more people than the rubber boats" used last year.

William Spindler, a spokesman for the UN refugee agency, noted new and far riskier tactics being used by traffickers. He said until last week he had never heard of smugglers using an overloaded boat carrying hundreds of people to tow another vessel packed with hundreds more that lacked an engine. The second boat capsized May 26, drowning what his agency estimated was around 550 migrants.

Continued on Page 13

## DOGS FIND A HOME IN OMAN FROM PARIAHS TO PETS

**MUSCAT:** Long seen as unwanted fleabags wandering the streets in search of food, dogs in Oman have become pampered pets thanks to changing attitudes among Muslims towards canine companions. They may be man's best friend to millions around the globe, but in the Islamic world dogs have traditionally been shunned because tradition holds that they are unclean.

In a suburb of Muscat, a 35-room "hotel" with a difference stands as a testament to the turnaround in pooch fortunes in the Gulf sultanate. The two-storey building boasts two small swimming pools, a veterinary clinic, grooming salons, a dressing room and two dog trainers. Three of the bedrooms at the PetCare Veterinary Centre are reserved for canine couples only. While it is by no means the first of its kind in the world, in Oman it is still something of a rarity. Its creator is Adel al-Jamri, who has travelled the globe participating in dog-breeding contests as far afield as Asia and Europe since the 1990s.

Omanis and foreign residents alike bring their dogs to stay for between one night and three months, particularly when they go on holiday. Jamri said he was encouraged by "a change of mentality" in Oman that has seen a growing interest in dogs for companionship, hunting or to enter into competitions and animal shows. "The dog is no longer an unclean animal," he said. And their owners "entrust them to us, especially when they go on vacations". Muslim tradition holds that dogs' saliva is unclean and could spread disease.

Islam "prohibits the ownership of dogs, apart from those used for guarding or hunting," said Sheikh Ahmed Khashba,

the imam of a mosque in the Omani capital. While breeding camels and horses is an ancient tradition in Oman and neighboring Gulf countries, "raising dogs and cats is new for us in the sultanate," said Salem Al-Ghanimi, a customer at a pet store in Muscat. He puts it down to "the tendency of some people to imitate foreigners". However, many families still avoid keeping dogs because they believe it goes against the teachings of Islam, said Ghanimi. Store manager Mohammed Wassim says younger generations are at the forefront of the new trend of keeping pets.

Continued on Page 13



**MUSCAT:** An employee carries a dog at the PetCare Veterinary Centre in the Omani capital Muscat. — AFP





**KUWAIT:** Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi and Russian Ambassador to Kuwait Alexey Solomatin cut the ceremonial cake. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



## AMIR'S VISIT TO RUSSIA LED TO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS: OFFICIAL

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's visit to Russia in November opened up "great horizons for boosting the bilateral relations and ended up with substantial outcome," said a senior official on Thursday.

His Highness the Amir's visit to the Russian nation contributed to elevating the Kuwaiti-Russian relations to higher levels, covering military, cultural, communication, oil, gas, and direct investment sectors, said Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs. Russian exports

to Kuwait have tripled, said Ambassador Khubaizi, who was speaking at a ceremony at the Russian embassy marking the Russian national day. Ambassador Al-Khubaizi also indicated that more Kuwaitis are choosing Russia as a tourist mecca, particularly after opening a Russian tourist promotion office in the country. The Russian office has also been active in encouraging direct investment for entrepreneurs in the real-estate sector and other fields.

Ties with Moscow have become stronger; not only at the

bilateral level; but also with the other GCC member states. Moscow and the Council's states have recently held a meeting for strategic dialogue, addressing regional key issues.

His Highness the Amir paid a two-day visit to Russia in November and held talks with President Vladimir Putin. The Kuwaiti and Russian sides, during the visit, signed six agreements and memoranda of understanding for cooperation at the diplomatic, military, oil, cultural, business and transport levels. — KUNA

## FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S NATIONAL DAY STATEMENT

**F**rench Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle delivered the following speech during a ceremony organized by the French Embassy recently to celebrate France's National Day:

"Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, My dear compatriots,

I am very pleased to be able to celebrate our national day with you tonight in the presence of pupils from the French School of Kuwait, whom I warmly congratulate for their interpretation of the national anthems of our two countries.

Because Ramadan falls in the months of June and July this year, we decided to do as we did last year, and invite our official Kuwaiti guests, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, to a ceremony to celebrate our excellent Franco-Kuwaiti diplomatic relations.

I feel very privileged once again this year to be among you this evening, as Ambassador of France to Kuwait, in a country where, from the moment of my arrival in 2013, I felt like I was in a country that is a friend to France, surrounded by friends, and benefiting from a particularly amicable relationship with many Kuwaitis from diverse backgrounds.

Within the highest levels of the state, at the level of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, to whom we respectfully and warmly pay tribute, His Highness the Crown Prince, His Highness the Prime Minister, whom we also respectfully salute, France has held a privileged status that we can be particularly proud of. We witnessed the visit of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to France last October, which strengthened our relations at all levels.

In the government, in the Parliament, and in other Kuwaiti public institutions, France has been



**KUWAIT:** Assistant Foreign Minister for Europe Affairs Ambassador Waleed Al-Khubaizi and French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle are pictured with students from the French School of Kuwait during the ceremony. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

welcomed with friendship, goodwill, and great interest. In the government, in the Parliament, and in other Kuwaiti public institutions, France has been welcomed with friendship, goodwill, and great interest.

Within the diplomatic corps, and of course at the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have had the privilege of being always well-received: I would like to thank our Kuwaiti diplomatic colleagues and express our appreciation, in particular those working within the Europe Directorate and the Protocol Directorate. Finally, within civil society, the business community, the press, and the media, France is present and awaited.

It is thus a privilege to be at the service of such an exceptional bilateral relation, in a country that is a friend to France, a country that is an ally, as evidenced by the participation of France in the liberation of Kuwait 25 years ago. At this very moment 25 years ago, in 1991, French soldiers were here in Kuwait, helping to de-mine the

country. Kuwaitis here will surely remember. Over the space of a few months, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, traveled to France on several occasions for bilateral or multi-lateral talks. The Minister of Defence, Jean-Yves Le Drian, has traveled to Kuwait twice over the past few months and was received by the highest Kuwaiti authorities.

Our economic relations are important and have undergone continual growth over the past two years. We can do better and we are going to do better in the future. Some large projects are now on track, such as the French Oncology Hospital Gustave Roussy, which should be opening its doors very soon in Kuwait.

Equally important, our successful cultural relations have become a reality. I would like to cite here the initiative that Kuwaiti authorities have taken to introduce French as an optional foreign language in government middle schools. We

support this initiative and are assisting with its implementation with great enthusiasm, in the hopes of seeing more and more Kuwaiti students pursuing post-secondary studies in our country, in France, in the future. That sums up what I wanted to say.

I wish to thank all of you here for your presence at our side on this day of our national celebration, including the dynamic and active team at the Embassy, which has done an outstanding job for the benefit of our bilateral relation.

I also wish to thank our many sponsors, whose names you see posted on the screens behind me and who, like last year, have very generously contributed to making today's ceremony, as well as the ceremony being held on July 14th for the French community, possible. I also want to thank once again the pupils of the French School of Kuwait for their performance of the national anthems during this ceremony. Vive la France and Vive le Koweït!"





Kuwait Times  
ESTABLISHED 1961  
THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

# Ramadan

## *Quiz*

2016

 **Lulu**  
HYPERMARKET

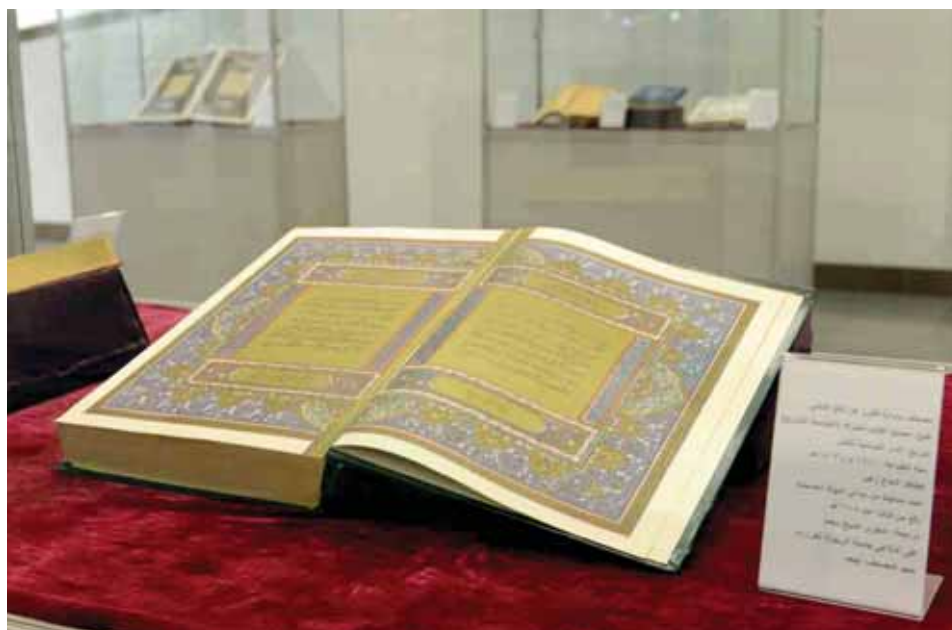
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Tuesday





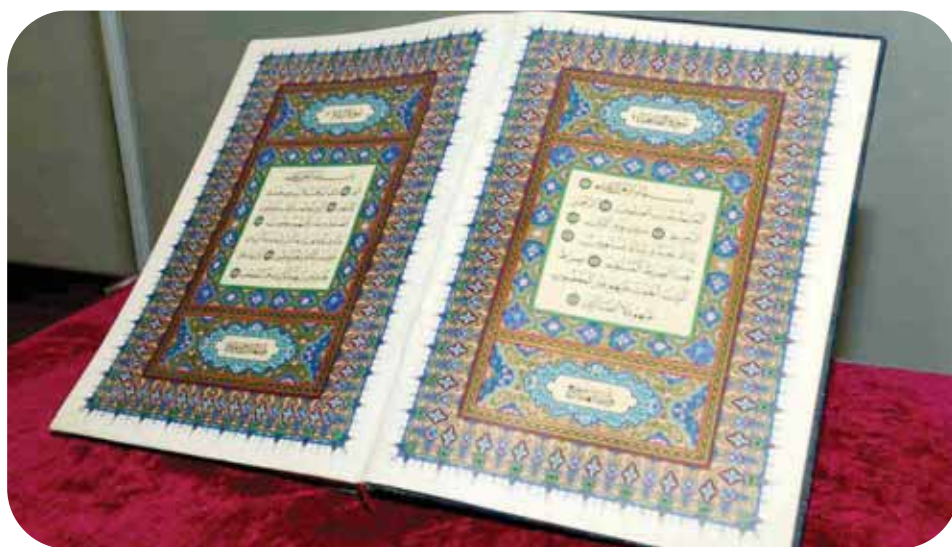
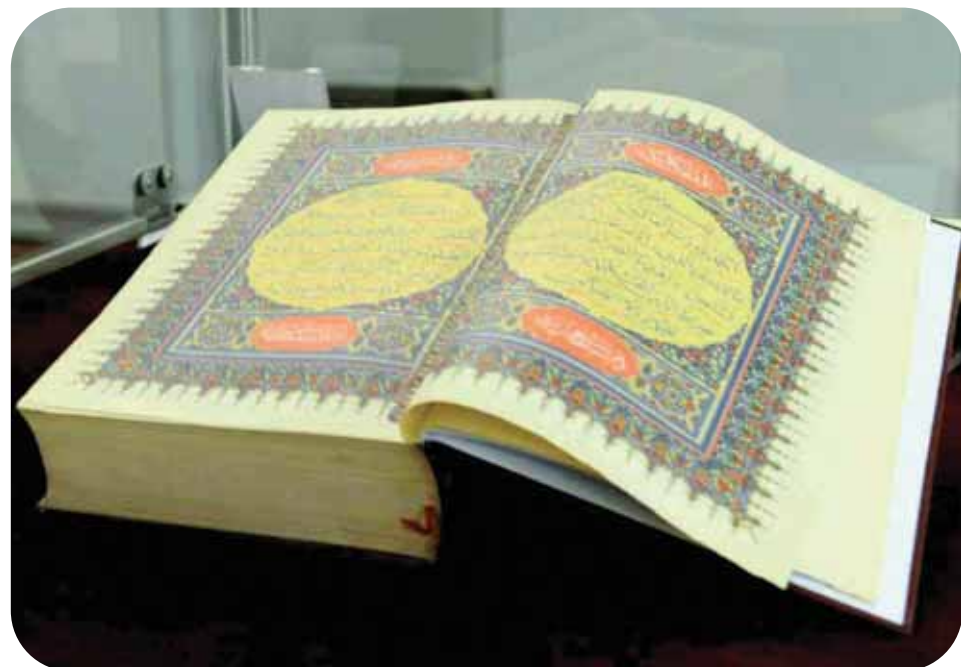
KUWAIT: National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters' officials tour the Islamic Quran Exhibition. — KUNA



# KUWAIT HOLDS QURANIC EXHIBITION

**KUWAIT:** The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters organized late on Thursday the Islamic Quran Exhibition, displaying a large number of

copies of the Holy Book of diverse and distinctive ornamentations and designs. The fair, hosted by Kuwait Museum, is scheduled till June 16th. —KUNA



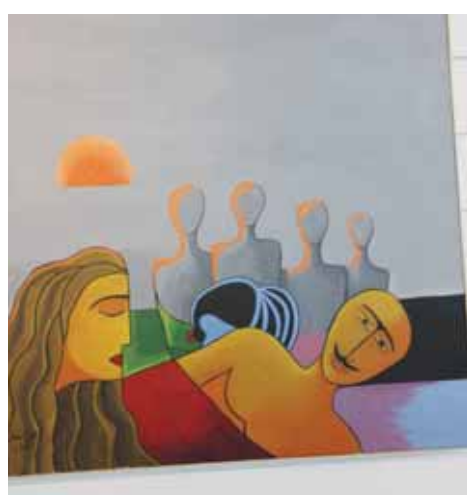




**KUWAIT:** Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Voluntary Work Center Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, organizers and participating artists at the Promenade Culture Center's exhibition. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



## PROMENADE CULTURE CENTRE UNVEILS 'OUR STORY: EXPRESSIONS OF CULTURAL IDENTITY' ART EXHIBITION



**KUWAIT:** With the objective to promote cultural and artistic expression in Kuwait, The Promenade Culture Center opened its doors for the first time in Kuwait, on 2nd June on the second floor of the Promenade. Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Voluntary Work Center Sheikha Amthal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attended the inauguration ceremony. Attended by Kuwait VIP figures, the center's inaugural exhibition, entitled 'Our Story: Expressions of Cultural Identity' will run till 16th June 2016.

Featuring 17 local artists covering a spectrum of over 30 pieces of art, the exhibition is an expression of a range of emotions and experi-

ences, each one telling a personal story of Kuwaiti Heritage and culture through the ages.

"This is the engaging saga of Kuwait portrayed by the artists. Each piece brings with it a personal dimension expressed through fascinating shapes and colors. Individually and collectively it is the voice of a nation which we hope will resonate across all audiences. This is a captivating experience not to be missed," said Noor Al-Sadoun The Promenade Culture Center Manager.

Alyah Al-Jasser, Al-Othman Portfolio Marketing Manager enthusiastically said "The exhibition is a proud moment for the Culture

Centre. It is a true showcase of inspiration, skills and beliefs. Hopefully, this event will act as a catalyst for new talent whilst promoting the collaborative efforts needed to conserve and maintain arts and culture in Kuwait."

The Promenade Culture Centre is a multi-purpose development, created to act as a canvas for artistic expression in Kuwait. Its mission is to actively encourage and host a variety of artistic and cultural activities for the community in Kuwait including film screenings, theatrical performances, art exhibitions, lectures and workshops.

Situated within the mall, the Centre occupies

400 square meters of space featuring the main multi-purpose space, 3 workshop units and the reception area. The lavish space encourages freedom of movement and enjoys a unique view of the entire Kuwait City skyline, stretching all the way to Kuwait Bay.

The workshops will act as private spaces where independent or collaborative activities can take place while existing exhibitions are running. It accommodates up to 400 people at a time. The workshops are thoughtfully designed for smaller interactive activities, each hosting up to 12 people. The Promenade is located on the 3rd Ring Road, opposite Qadisiya.



# BUDGETS COMMITTEE CUTS KD 53 MILLION FOR TWELVE DEPARTMENTS

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Head of the national assembly budgets committee MP Adnan Abdusamad said on Thursday that the panel has completed the revision of 12 government departments for the current fiscal year and made cuts worth KD 53 million in cooperation with the finance ministry. He said that the panel has approved the budgets and final accounts of five departments and sent them to the national assembly for discussions.

The lawmaker said the panel also approved the budgets of four other departments but rejected their final accounts. It however said it was ready to re-discuss them if the government pledges to tackle remarks made by the State Audit Bureau.

The committee also rejected the budgets and final accounts of three departments because the ministers

and officials responsible for them had pledged last year to deal with Audit Bureau remarks and still failed to do so.

Abdusamad said that big remarks have been made against those authorities and so far the panel saw no serious attempts to rectify their problems. It is left to the National Assembly to decide on their budgets, he said.

In the meantime, head of the public funds protection committee MP Abdullah Al-Turaiji said the panel has started its probe into alleged financial violations committed by Kuwait Real Estate Group (Kuwait and Bahrain Projects Company).

Turaiji sent a series of questions about the issue to Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh demanding the names of the board of directors of the company and Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) share in the real estate group and the group's stake in the company.

He also inquired about the legal justification for the chairman of the company to carry out legal changes that led to transferring 99 percent of the Kuwait and Bahrain Projects Company shares into his personal ownership.

Turaiji said the finance ministry formed an investigation committee a year ago to probe the issue. He asked for the results of the investigation and to state the reasons for any delay and if there is any suspected conflict of interest for some of the committee members.

MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan meanwhile asked the minister of electricity and water about reports that the value of a contract at Doha power plant more than doubled from the cost put by the Central Tenders Committee (CTC). He said that the CTC put the cost of the contract at KD 54 million while the final payment made to the contractor was KD 117 million.

# PROSTITUTES CAUGHT IN SALMIYA BROTHEL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Vice police recently arrested four people inside a brothel in Salmiya, said security sources. The suspects, Chinese, include two females and two transsexuals. Case papers indicate that police were tipped off concerning the suspects' activities, and that they were offering prostitution services in return for money. The place was stormed and the suspects were arrested then referred to relevant authorities to be examined for possible infection with any infectious diseases. The suspects will be deported after that.

## Fight leaves man dead

A man died from fatal injuries he sustained during a fight reported in Mina Abdullah yesterday. Police and paramedics arrived to a chalet in the area where the fight was reported. Paramedics pronounced the 30-year-old Pakistani man dead on the scene, and evidence of foul play was detected. Investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances of the incident and arrest the suspect.

## 3-hour campaign

Capital security launched a 3-hour inspection campaign last Thursday, which resulted in arresting 30 people who were not carrying any IDs, filing varied 40 traffic citations and apprehending 13 people in violation of residency laws.

## Food campaigns

Jahra municipality inspectors recently intensified their tours around Jahra food outlets. Their recent crack-downs resulted in filing 45 citations and destroying 98 kilograms of foul food items.

## Man found dead

A man was found dead near a celebrity's chalet in Mina Abdullah, said security sources, noting that initial



investigations on the scene showed that the man had fallen from a height. A case was filed and further investigations are still in progress.

## Passenger arrested

An Asian woman was recently arrested at Kuwait International Airport just before departing with possession of KD 6,000 in cash she hid in her clothes. The woman was referred to relevant authorities for further investigations.

The Interior Ministry's relations and

security media department said that the money crime detectives recently arrested a four-member gang on forgery charges. The suspects, two Kuwaitis and two Egyptians, forged salary certificates for a number of companies and bank clients who had exceeded the 40 percent of salary limit set by the Central Bank so that they could get further bank loans or finance any purchases. That the suspects provided their services in return for a 10 percent of what the clients received, said security sources.

## Crime

Report

### Teen arrested while drunk

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti teenager was recently arrested for drinking, assaulting his own mother, resisting arrest and damaging a police patrol, said security sources. Case papers indicate that police was dispatched to a murder report in Qurain but on arriving to the scene, they found out that no murder took place. Instead, they were informed that a juvenile had assaulted his mother while he was heavily drunk and that the teen's elder brother was beating him for it. The juvenile resisted police and caused some damage to the police patrol before he was controlled and handed over to the juvenile police.

### Family feud

Following up the case in which an Egyptian man stabbed his compatriot in Khaitan to death over a family dispute before he boarded a flight back home, security sources said that official papers had been issued to fly the deceased's body to be buried in Egypt. The sources explained that both the victim and his killer came from the Southern Egyptian governorate of Assiut and that there was a feud going on between their respective families. The sources explained that after attending a family meeting in Egypt twenty days earlier, the suspect returned to Kuwait and prepared for his crime. The suspect attacked the victim and stabbed him several times on the back of his shoulders, killing him instantly as he died before he reached Farwaniya Hospital. A memo was sent to the Egyptian Interpol to locate, arrest and extradite the suspect to Kuwait to face charges.

### Man commits suicide

A middle-aged Kuwaiti man recently committed suicide inside his house in Adan, said security sources. The 55-year-old man's body was found hanging from a rope tied to the ceiling in his room, according to police. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

### Liquor 'factory' busted

Narcotics police recently stormed a Wafra ranch that was used for brewing and selling liquor, said security sources, noting that police arrested two Asian nationals who ran the place. The sources added that 120 barrels of liquor, five cooking gas cylinders, 80 sugar sacks, four distillation barrels and two barrels for evaporation were found on the site.

### Fugitive caught

A citizen wanted for fraud was recently arrested in Hawally, said security sources. The man became nervous when he saw police approaching, which made them inquire about him and discover his criminal record.

### Marijuana 'imported'

Kuwait International Airport custom inspectors recently foiled an attempt to smuggle in one kilogram of marijuana that arrived in a parcel from Canada, said security sources. The parcel was labeled to contain clothes but on checking it, inspectors found the contrabands hidden in an air-vacuumed container, the sources added. Investigations are ongoing in search for the person who imported the parcel.

### Ex-wife assaulted

A 25-year-old citizen was recently arrested for assaulting his ex-wife and leaving her with a ruptured eardrum, said security sources, noting that the woman filed a complaint and provided a medical report about her injury. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

### Physical assault

A Pakistani man was recently injured when a mentally disturbed citizen hit him to the head with a brick. The attacker had claimed that the victim was hiding his wife in his apartment, said security sources. The victim told police that the assailant repeatedly came to his apartment, claimed that his wife was inside and accused him of having an affair with her. The attacker is no married, the sources said. The apartment's owner would let the man into his apartment every time, where he would search around then leave. Except for the last time when he immediately hit him with a brick the moment he opened the door, the sources said. It was discovered that the assailant turned out to have a file at the psychiatric diseases hospital and that he suffered from metal delusional disturbance, the sources added. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



# International

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016

**US judge ponders \$50m****Manhattan bail for Turkish mogul** 8**Brexit flotilla to hit the****Thames after PM bruising** 9**Thailand asks China, rivals****to look beyond border rows** 12

MATHURA, INDIA: Former homes of Indian members of a sect burn following clashes with police during an eviction at the Jawahar Bagh park on Thursday. — AFP

## 24 DEAD IN CLASHES AS SECT EVICTED IN INDIA

### TWO POLICE OFFICERS KILLED

**NEW DELHI:** Clashes between Indian police and followers of a revolutionary sect have left at least 24 dead after an operation to evict thousands of people from parkland erupted into violence, officials said yesterday.

Two police officers were among those killed in the overnight clashes during a move to expel around 3,000 sect followers who had illegally occupied public land in the state of Uttar Pradesh for the last two years.

Police and other officials said they came under fire from members of the sect who were armed with automatic weapons and also hurled crude explosive devices during the violence in the northern city of Mathura. "They were firing at us from tree-tops. Others were hurling stones or assaulting us with sticks and other weapons. Two of our men were wounded and they died in hospital," said Uttar Pradesh police chief Javeed Ahmad.

"Soon after the attack, we got reinforcements and launched a counter-attack on the camp and successfully cleared the area." Speaking to reporters in Mathura, Ahmad said some of the Swadhin Bharat Vidhik Satyagrah sect's followers had set fire to huts which were storing gas cylinders and explosives during the clearance operation.

"Twenty-two of their people have died, out of which 11 have died due to burn injuries. One of the dead is a woman," he added. Police have also recovered several

dozen pistols and rifles along with live ammunition rounds. The operation was launched after authorities won a court order to remove hundreds of tents and makeshift wooden structures from a 270-acre (109-hectare) patch of land the sect had been occupying since late 2014.

#### Huts set alight

Television images and pictures from the scene showed many of the huts where members of the sect had been living on fire, with smoke billowing across the area.

An emergency services worker said the clashes "seemed like a war situation", with ambulance staff aiding the wounded amid gunfire and blasts. "It was the first time I witnessed a medical emergency of this magnitude," Yogendra Bhadauria, who led the fleet of ambulances involved in the rescue operation, told AFP.

In postings on social media, Swadhin Bharat Vidhik Satyagrah's followers describe themselves as political and social revolutionaries. Their demands include the abolition of elections and cheaper fuel for everyone. "Their ideology is similar to the Naxalites," said divisional commissioner Pradeep Bhatnagar, who is the top civilian official for the area. Naxalites are Maoist revolutionaries who have been waging a four-decade long insurgency in parts of eastern and central India. Hundreds of people were detained over

the violence, including 124 who have been formally charged with rioting and murder. "We have identified four leaders of this illegal group. We are looking for them and will arrest them soon," said Ahmad. "We are trying to identify the bodies and it is possible some of them may be the wanted leaders." One of the police officers who was killed was a superintendent, the most senior officer in Mathura, which is around 150 kilometers east of the capital New Delhi. The Swadhin Bharat Vidhik Satyagrah sect is led by a man called Ram Vraksha Yadav, whom police say was at the park when the violence broke out but has so far eluded arrest.

In several videos posted on YouTube, Yadav can be seen pledging allegiance to Indian independence hero Subhash Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Fouj (Indian National Army), a rebel movement founded by Bose to combat British colonial rule.

The group describes itself as the legitimate government of India and is headquartered in the park that was cleared by police. India is home to hundreds of semi-religious sects which are often led by charismatic self-styled "godmen".

In 2014, hundreds of armed supporters from another sect clashed with police in the northern state of Haryana during a raid to arrest their leader who faced murder allegations. At least six people died in the violence. —AFP



## UN TO REQUEST SYRIA APPROVAL TOMORROW FOR AID DROPS

**UNITED NATIONS:** The United Nations will tomorrow present a formal request to the Syrian government to approve airdrops of humanitarian aid to besieged areas where civilians are at risk of starvation, diplomats said. UN aid chief Stephen O'Brien told a closed meeting of the Security Council yesterday that consent from the Damascus regime was needed to carry out the airdrops of food and medicine, diplomats at the meeting told AFP.

The 15-member council was discussing UN plans for airdrops to reach areas under siege where trapped civilians face dire shortages in the five-year war. World pow-

ers decided last month that if aid continued to be blocked, the United Nations would begin airdrops on June 1, although such an operation would require Syrian approval and pose high risks.

"What is at stake here is the necessity to put an end to a humanitarian disaster," French Ambassador Francois Delattre told reporters ahead of the meeting. "The Syrian regime is continuing to systematically starve hundreds of thousands of civilians and use them as weapons of war. These are war crimes," said Delattre, who holds the council presidency this month. Diplomats said they expected the Syrian regime to take some

time to respond to the request and UN officials have said the airdrops are not imminent. Delattre called on Russia, Syria's ally, to ratchet up pressure on Damascus to allow aid to reach civilians by land, which the United Nations has said is the most effective way to deliver aid. "The top priority is to get those who have influence over Damascus, starting with Russia, to strongly increase their pressure on the regime," he said.

France, Britain and the United States are calling on the United Nations to forge ahead with plans for the airdrops, even if the operation presents major security challenges. "There should be airdrops where access is

being denied by land," said British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft.

The United Nations said Thursday that helicopters would have to be used for air bridges to 15 of the 19 besieged areas because they are densely-populated. According to the United Nations, a total of 592,000 people live under siege in Syria—the majority surrounded by regime forces—and another four million live in hard-to-reach areas.

Peace talks to end Syria's five-year war stalled in April after the opposition walked out over escalating fighting on the ground and lack of humanitarian aid.—AFP

## SAUDIS TEAM WITH US UNIVERSITY ON SECURITY DEGREE PROGRAM

**CONNECTICUT:** A university in Connecticut will help shape the instruction of some security officers in Saudi Arabia under an agreement announced yesterday that the school describes as bringing American-style police training to the kingdom. Under the agreement, signed this week at a Riyadh ceremony, faculty from the University of New Haven's Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences will advise the King Fahd Security College on the creation of a new security studies program.

Other American universities have worked with Saudi institutions, but officials at UNH say they believe they are the first to collaborate in the area of criminal justice. The agreement was signed with the Saudi Interior Ministry under a Technical Cooperation Agreement between the two governments that promotes the transfer of security-related knowledge and skills from the US to Saudi Arabia. "We're very pleased to be developing with the ministry an American-style program," said Daniel May, the UNH provost.

May said the idea for the collaboration grew out of work the college has done in the Middle East and around the world to advance modern policing, led by the famed forensic scientist Henry Lee. The school's relationship with the Saudis dates back decades and about 400 Saudi students are currently enrolled at the University of New Haven, more than from any other foreign country. It took eight years for the agreement to be reached as the two sides worked through cultural differences, the time difference and concern about human rights issues, May said.

The latest US State Department report on human rights practices for Saudi Arabia noted concerns including citizens' lack of ability to choose their government, pervasive gender discrimination and reports that some members of the security forces and other officials committed abuses with impunity. Experts from the Lee College will help the college in Riyadh to develop curriculum for a four-year bachelor's degree program with specializations available in criminal justice, homeland security and intelligence studies. Instruction will be in English and under US guidelines for academic freedom, May said. A UNH team will be on site in Riyadh to launch the program, which is expected to enroll about 150 new students each fall.

May said he could not share details of the financial terms. UNH President Steven Kaplan, who signed the agreement in Riyadh, said it will put the school's expertise at the service of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's security professionals.

"This agreement deepens longstanding bilateral educational cooperation between the US and KSA, and we are honored to support the further development of security expertise upon which so many in the region and beyond depend," he said. UNH, a private institution founded in 1920 and based in West Haven, Connecticut, enrolls nearly 1,800 graduate students and more than 5,000 undergraduates.—AP



**ISTANBUL:** Businessman Reza Zarrab (C) surrounded by journalists as he arrives at a police center on December 17, 2013.—AFP

## US JUDGE PONDERES \$50M MANHATTAN BAIL FOR TURKISH MOGUL

FOR CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS ON IRAN

**NEW YORK:** Should a Turkish gold mogul, arrested en route to Disney World with his superstar singer wife and five-year-old daughter, be released on a \$50 million bond with armed security guards in a lavish Manhattan apartment?

That is the question a US federal judge is pondering with respect to 33-year-old Iranian-Turkish businessman Reza Zarrab, charged with conspiring to violate international sanctions on Iran.

Arrested in Miami in March, Zarrab on Thursday stepped into the glare of a New York court to attend a more than two-hour hearing that could determine whether he can swap jail for a fancy New York apartment in the sky.

US prosecutors say that from 2010 to 2015 he conspired to thwart sanctions against Iran by concealing hundreds of millions of dollars in global transactions conducted on behalf of Iran and Iranian outfits. The US government says the evidence is "overwhelming" and opposes

bail, saying that Zarrab poses an "extraordinary flight risk" as a "lavishly wealthy" man with untold financial assets and contacts across the world. Zarrab faces multiple conspiracy charges, of which the most serious—conspiracy to commit bank fraud—could see him jailed for 30 years if convicted. He cut a forlorn figure in court, dressed in navy jail scrubs worn over an olive T-shirt and sporting a dark beard as he huddled with a Turkish interpreter and occasionally cast his eyes backwards to the public gallery. His lawyer, the same prominent criminal defense attorney who represented disgraced IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn for sexual assault, offered a \$50 million bail package, secured by \$10 million in cash.

Defense lawyer Ben Brafman said that a Manhattan apartment on the 15th floor had already been rented, furnished, equipped with sensors on the windows and kitted out with surveil-

lance cameras in readiness for his house arrest. The home was palatial enough to include a meeting room in which his lawyers could work and prepare for trial, Brafman said. Zarrab would be subject to electronic monitoring and guarded around the clock by two armed guards, and could sign a waiver permitting them to shoot him should he try to escape, he added.

### Safety risk

He would be permitted to leave the apartment only in the company of armed guards and a driver to attend court, medical appointments, meet his lawyers and for religious services in the New York area, Brafman added. He declined to put a specific figure on his client's wealth, but described him as "a man of substance" and the 56th top taxpayer in Turkey. US Federal Judge Richard Berman said he expected to reach a decision "over the next week or so."—AFP



## ISRAEL RELEASES FEMALE PALESTINIAN LAWMAKER AFTER 15 MONTHS

**RAMALLAH:** Yesterday Israeli authorities released Palestinian lawmaker Khalida Jarrar after a period of imprisonment lasting 15 months. She had been convicted by an Israeli military court last December on charges of belonging to an illegal organization and incitement against Israel.

Jarrar is a prominent and inspirational leader in Palestinian society. In addition to being a lawmaker, she is a women's rights activist, and a member of the board of directors for the Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association. She was arrested by Israeli forces from her home in the West Bank town of Al-Bireh, on April 2, 2015.

Jarrar, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said at a press conference after arriving in Ramallah today that she left behind in Israeli prisons many female Palestinian prisoners, suffering at the hands of their Israeli jailors.

She further said that the prisoners hoped for more efforts to be exerted to improve prison conditions for them and to have them released as soon as possible.—KUNA

## BAHRAIN REPLACES OIL MINISTER

**DUBAI:** Bahrain's king Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa replaced the oil minister in a minor cabinet reshuffle yesterday that affected two cabinet portfolios, state news agency BNA reported.

The agency said that Mohammed bin Khalifa bin Hamad was appointed energy minister, replacing Abdul-Hussain bin Ali Mirza. Mirza was appointed minister of water and electricity in the kingdom, which is a small oil exporter and not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.—Reuters

## MEXICO'S DOMINANT PRI A CONTENDER EVEN IN STRUGGLING STATES

**COSOLEACAQUE, MEXICO:** It looks like party time in Veracruz. Women in feathered bikinis gyrate to bouncy dance music praising the ruling party. A bused-in crowd of voters mills beneath a tent covering a full city block, waiting to celebrate the man who - if 87 years of history holds true - has a strong shot at becoming the next governor.

The upbeat spectacle is part of efforts to burnish the battered image of the Institutional Revolutionary Party in Veracruz, a state it has never lost despite years of drug cartel violence, looted government coffers and multiple unsolved killings of journalists.

It is depending on loyal voters like Rubiselía Alor Pérez, a single mother from an outlying neighborhood of this city of 23,000. Asked how things had gone in the state, Alor said, "Worse, worse - unemployment, crime, everything." Nevertheless, she's sticking with the party known as the PRI: "I was born with my party," Alor said. "There you stay."—AP



**IXHUACAN, VERACRUZ, MEXICO:** Miguel Angel Yunes Linares, candidate for Governor for the National Action Party, PAN, and the coalition "Unidos para rescatar Veracruz," or "United to rescue Veracruz," greets supporters during a campaign rally on May 17, 2016.—AP



**LONDON:** UK Independence Party (UKIP) party leader Nigel Farage speaks yesterday.—AFP

## BREXIT FLOTILLA TO HIT THE THAMES AFTER PM BRUISING

AFTER A BRUISING TELEVISION DEBATE FOR CAMERON

**LONDON:** UKIP leader Nigel Farage said yesterday that he would lead a flotilla up the Thames to campaign for Brexit, seizing momentum after a bruising television debate for Prime Minister David Cameron.

Farage, who heads the UK Independence Party, said he would board a trawler at the head of a 60-boat procession which will sail to the Houses of Parliament on June 15 in a mass protest organized by campaign group "Fishing for Leave". "It will be big, visual and dramatic, and the demand will be clear—we want our waters back," he told LBC radio, arguing that Britain's fishing industry was in decline because of European Union quotas.

Some recent polls suggest the "Leave" campaign is getting a boost from its call to cut back on the hundreds of thousands of EU workers who move to Britain every year.

Guardian/ICM polls published on May 31 showed the "Leave" vote with 52 percent compared with 48 percent for "Remain" in a surprise result that immediately sent the pound sinking against the euro and dollar. The "poll of polls" average compiled by the independent WhatUKThinks website, however, still puts the "Remain" camp just ahead with 51 percent when undecided voters are excluded.

The flotilla is one of several colorful initiatives planned by Brexit campaigners ahead of the June 23 vote, including a baking contest featuring anti-EU recipes and a pop concert in Birmingham. Former London mayor Boris Johnson attended a livestock auction on Thursday, telling farmers that

Brexit would cut EU red tape and reassuring them that they would continue to receive subsidies.

### PM 'waffling'

Cameron came under strong pressure in a live question and answer session on Sky on Thursday when a 22-year-old student accused him of "scaremongering" and running a "complete shambles" of a campaign.

Soraya Bouazzaoui, whose parents emigrated to Britain from Morocco, at one point interrupted the prime minister, telling him: "I'm an English literature student, I know waffling when I see it." Cameron told the hostile audience that voting "Leave" would be an act of "economic self-harm". "As we go home, as we wake up in the morning, we look at our children and our grandchildren in the eye... let us not roll a dice on their future," he told the audience at the end of the show. "Britain doesn't succeed when we quit, we succeed when we get stuck in, we work to improve these organizations and we safeguard the prosperity and the security of our great country," he said.

### Merciless reviews

But reviews of his performance were ruthless. "Cameron savaged as voters revolt," read a front-page headline in the Daily Telegraph, while the Daily Mirror said he "took far more blows... than he would like" and The Sun described it as a "tense clash".

The British leader took to the airwaves on ITV's Good Morning Britain again on yesterday, arguing that EU reforms he had negotiated on access to welfare for EU workers in Britain would cut immigration numbers.

He also said he was confident he could re-unite his divided Conservative Party following the referendum despite around a third of the MPs breaking ranks with him and campaigning for Brexit. "I think we're a grown-up enough democracy that we can have this passionate debate where the public will decide, not the politicians, then we accept the result... and we come back together again," he said.

Justice Minister Michael Gove, who is one of the cabinet members backing Brexit, is to face the same TV grilling as Cameron on Sky later on yesterday.—AFP

## SAUDI'S JUBEIR SAYS ARAB PEACE PLAN BEST OPTION FOR ISRAEL

**PARIS:** Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said yesterday that the basis for any future peace plan between Israelis and Palestinians remained a 2002 Arab offer, and urged Israel to accept it. "The Arab peace initiative has all the elements for a final set-

tlement," Adel al-Jubeir told reporters after a conference in Paris. "It is on the table and a solid basis for resolving this long-standing dispute ... we hope that wisdom will prevail in Israel and that they accept this initiative."—Reuters



## GREECE: 4 DEAD, 340 PEOPLE RESCUED FROM MIGRANT BOAT

**ATHENS:** Four bodies were recovered and 340 people rescued yesterday after a boat carrying migrants across the Mediterranean Sea sank south of the Greek island of Crete, authorities said. The coast guard said the roughly 25-meter vessel, which resembled a large fishing boat, had been carrying an undetermined number of people when it was located half-sunk about 75 nautical miles south of Crete in international waters, and within Egypt's search and rescue area of operation.

Most survivors were to be transported to Italy, with others to be taken to Egypt, Malta and Turkey, the coast guard said. Greece sent three patrol vessels, a military airplane and three helicopters, while five passing ships were participating in the rescue operation and one more was on its way. The coast guard said the operation was continuing to locate any potentially missing passengers from the migrant boat.

It was not immediately clear where the boat's passengers were from, or where the vessel had set off from or was heading to. "The information we have on the number of people on board the vessel is still unclear - we've heard that there were 400 or 500 people on board, but we cannot confirm that number," Coast Guard spokesman Nikos Lagadianos said.

"There is a huge rescue effort underway." The short crossing from the Turkish coast to Greek islands was the preferred route for migrants heading to Europe until Balkan countries closed their borders and the European Union reached an agreement with Turkey to stem the flow of people.

Under that deal, those arriving on Greek islands from March 20 onwards face deportation back to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in Greece, a financially troubled country few migrants or refugees want to stay in.

The deal has led to a dramatic decrease in the number of people arriving on Greek islands from Turkey. The coast guard said it and European border patrol agency Frontex had rescued 164 people in four separate incidents Thursday off the islands of Lesbos and Chios. Before the EU-Turkey deal, thousands would arrive each day. However, the agreement has led refugees and migrants to seek alternative routes, with many attempting the much longer and more dangerous crossing from north Africa towards Italy. Hundreds have died in the past few weeks when overcrowded boats attempting the crossing sank.—AP

## PROLIFIC UK PEDOPHILE FACES LIFE IN JAIL

**LONDON:** A British pedophile who preyed on impoverished children in a Kuala Lumpur slum and posted pictures of the abuse online faced life in jail yesterday when he is sentenced. Richard Huckle, 30, who has pleaded guilty to 71 counts of child sex offences, including rape, targeted children while posing as a volunteer working with Christian communities in the Malaysian capital. Huckle posted pictures of the abuse on website True Love Zone (TLZ), with the youngest victim believed to have been around six months old. "He's one of the most committed, manipulative, conniving pedophiles I have come across," said Matthew Long, of Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA), adding that he was a "constant groomer". Huckle was snared by an Australian investigation into a pedophile website on the dark web—a hard to access part of the Internet often used for illegal activity. The Old Bailey court in London heard earlier that he targeted poor victims during a nine-year campaign of abuse and was writing a guide to child abuse that he intended to publish for profit. "Impoverished kids are definitely much easier to seduce than middle class Western kids," he said during an online chat. Investigators have identified 23 victims, 22 of whom were Malaysian and one Cambodian. Of the offences Huckle has admitted, 22 carry a discretionary life sentence.

British police arrested Huckle, from Kent in southeast England, at London Gatwick Airport in December 2014 as he returned home from Malaysia to spend Christmas with his parents. He was carrying a heavily encrypted computer and camera that contained over 20,000 images of child sex abuse, many of which showed him committing a series of offences including rape.—AFP



Richard Huckle



PARIS: Staff of the Louvre fix information sheets informing about the closing of the Muse de Louvre due to the unusually high water level of the river Seine yesterday.—AP

## PARIS ON ALERT AS SWOLLEN SEINE REACHES PEAK LEVELS

### LOUVRE SCRAMBLES TO PROTECT ART

**PARIS:** The rain-swollen River Seine in Paris reached its highest level in three decades yesterday, spilling its banks and prompting the Louvre museum to shut its doors and evacuate artworks in its basement. Parisians were urged to avoid the banks of the river which was expected to reach a peak of six meters yesterday, while deadly floods continued to wreak havoc elsewhere in France and Germany.

In France a man on horseback died after he was swept away in a swollen river in Evry-Gregy-sur-Yerre, south-east of Paris, local authorities said on Thursday. And in Germany, a 65-year-old man was found dead in the flood-hit town of Simbach am Inn, bringing the total death toll in the country this week to ten. Days of torrential rain have only added to the gloomy atmosphere in France, also facing a third full day of train strikes after months of protests and political turmoil. French Environment Minister Segolene Royal said she feared more bodies would be found as waters recede in French villages which have seen main streets turned into muddy rivers. Mohamed Amine, a tourist from Venice, watched the rising waters from a Paris bridge with amusement. "I am used to having water up to my knees during the Aqua Alta," when the Italian city floods in winter, he told AFP.

"But people in Paris are not used to it." Some towns in central France have been hit by their worst floods in over a century, with more than 5,000 people evacuated since the weekend and around 19,000 homes without power.

In Paris, officials were erecting emergency flood barriers along the Seine and a suburban train line running alongside the river was closed. The riverbanks are home to both the Louvre—the world's most visited museum—and the Musee d'Orsay, which was also preparing for the worst.

The Musee d'Orsay, a converted railway station which hosts the world's greatest Impressionist collection, closed early Thursday and was to move its most vulnerable works to upper floors. While the river's swelling has so far caused little damage in Paris and is unlikely to submerge the city centre, public information boards urged those living near the Seine to clear out their basements.

Rescuers in the Parisian suburb of Longjumeau were paddling up streets in lifeboats, while in the town of Montargis, only the tops of cars could be seen peeking above the surface. Forecasters in both France and Germany have warned of more downpours over the next 24 hours. French President Francois Hollande said a state of "natural catastrophe" would be declared when the cabinet meets

next Wednesday, a necessary step to trigger compensation payments.

#### German devastation

Several towns in southern Germany have been devastated by flooding. In Simbach am Inn, the force of the water swept away the entire stock of a sawmill, leaving huge stacks of splintered wood blocking roads.

On one street, a car could be seen parked vertically against the wall of a house, pushed there by the floodwaters. Many other vehicles lay flipped over on roads blanketed by mud.

Six people have been killed in the Simbach area, including three women from the same family—a mother, grandmother and daughter—who had been trapped in their house. Two other elderly people were also found dead in their homes. "The (rise in) water was so quick that practically no residents had the time to run away," police spokesman Armin Angloher said.

The deaths bring the toll from the floods in Germany to 10, including four killed earlier this week in the southern region of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Three others are missing, a police spokesman in Bavaria state said. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said her thoughts were with the families "who have been plunged into this devastation".—AFP



## PAKISTANI EX-MINISTER JAILED FOR 16 YEARS OVER HAJJ SCAM

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's state media says a former minister for religious affairs has been given a 16-year prison sentence for taking kickbacks while hiring accommodation for Pakistani pilgrims during the 2009 hajj to Saudi Arabia. State-run Pakistan Television reported yesterday that

the court also sentenced two former government officials, Aftab Alam and Rao Shakeel, to 16 and 40 years in prison for their involvement in the hajj scam. The court ruling comes several years after their arrest.

Nearly 150,000 Pakistani pilgrims perform hajj each

year. Many go on low-cost tours arranged by the Pakistani government, and complain of poor quality accommodation. According to Islam, all able-bodied Muslims are required to perform the hajj once in their lifetime. — AP

## KASHMIR VILLAGERS RISE UP, FOIL REBEL-HUNTING INDIAN TROOPS

**LELHAR, India:** On a crisp morning in February, Indian troops surrounded a sleepy, riverside village in the disputed mountain region of Kashmir. Intelligence had suggested three anti-India rebels were hiding out in homes set among the willows and poplar trees. As the soldiers prepared to lay siege on a cluster of houses, they were surprised by a barrage of rocks, bricks and abuse hurled by hundreds of villagers demanding they go away. The rebels also began firing, drawing the soldiers into a battle on two fronts. Two students and one rebel were killed before the troops eventually retreated and the other militants got away.

The incident marks a recent shift in how local Kashmiris are responding to the hundreds of thousands of Indian soldiers deployed in the Himalayan territory. For decades, local villagers had remained behind locked doors when troops arrived to root out rebels bent on ending Indian control over the region. Not anymore. Frustrated after decades of political stasis and worn out by military operations to root out rebels from their midst, many Kashmiris are rising up at the first sight of troops entering their villages, and protecting the very militants Indian forces are trying to locate.

### Crossing back and forth

"We're all militants now. Our men, women and children are all warriors against Indian rule," said Abdul Rashid, a farmer of Lelhar in his mid-40s. "Stones are now the people's weapons." When the soldiers returned to Lelhar in April, the villagers were ready. Public announcements asking women and men to beat back the troops had already gone out from the minarets of various mosques, and the troops were met by a hail of rocks.

Intense clashes erupted, but this time the soldiers did not fire. And the three hiding militants fled to safety. Both India and Pakistan have claimed Kashmir in its entirety since 1947, fighting two wars over the picturesque mountain region. Each country controls a portion of Kashmir, which is divided by a UN-drawn militarized line of control. On the Indian side, about 68,000 people have died in an armed insurrection and Indian military crackdown since 1989.

Indian military officials estimate there are some 200 militants in the region, staging attacks on Indian law enforcement and crossing back and forth over the de facto border with Pakistan. It's a steep drop from the 20,000 estimated to have waged the insurgency in the early 1990s, but military officials say their job is getting harder as the villages increasingly get involved.

"It's a big problem, a challenge for us to conduct anti-militant operations now," said Lt Gen DS Hooda, India's senior military commander in the region. He noted that armed soldiers had little hope of competing with the militants for public sympathy. Most citizens in the mostly Muslim region have long resented the Indian presence, and support rebel demands that Kashmir be independent or part of Pakistan. — AP

## PAKISTAN INCREASES DEFENSE SPENDING BY 11 PERCENT

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's finance minister has announced an 11 per cent increase in the country's defense budget next year. In his televised speech before parliament yesterday, Ishaq Dar outlined Pakistan's budget for 2016-17. He praised the army for its success in eliminating militant hide-outs in Pakistan's tribal regions, where the Taliban until recently maintained a strong presence, but said the country continued to face a militant threat.

Pakistan's economy has been hard hit by a drop in foreign investment due to the militant violence and poverty rates are high, but defense spending has risen steadily in recent years. — AP



**AFGHANISTAN:** Taliban fighters stand guard as senior leader of a breakaway faction of the Taliban Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi, not pictured, delivers a speech to his fighters, in Shindand district of Herat province. — AP

## WITH NEW TACTICS, TALEBAN GAIN GROUND IN SOUTH AFGHANISTAN

'117,976 PEOPLE FLED THEIR HOMES DUE TO CONFLICT'

**KABUL, Afghanistan:** In the rugged terrain of the Taliban heartland in southern Afghanistan, the fight against the Kabul government has become a war for control of key stretches of main roads and highways as the insurgents use a new tactic to gain ground. First they storm a checkpoint, kill all the policemen, seize their weapons and equipment and effectively cut off the main road to a remote village. They raise the white Taliban flag and plant roadside bombs to prevent cars from coming through the checkpoint. Any vehicle that attempts to pass through is either blown up or attacked, residents and local leaders say.

Then they wait. Faced with shortages of basic food items and price hikes as their supplies dwindle, the villagers are eventually forced to abandon their homes and to move to a place where they can afford to eat and live. Most sneak out on foot or on donkeys through backroads and mountain paths, leaving many of their belongings behind. The new tactic has helped the Taliban gain ground, albeit at a slower pace than a deadly, surprise raid on an entire village. For the insurgents, starving a population out is less costly than forcing them out at gunpoint, and risking armed resistance. The Taliban are seeking to expand their footprint in the war against the state at any cost - even if that means raising their flag over empty villages.

### Training and advising

The Taliban have been waging war against Kabul since 2001, when their regime was overthrown in the US-led invasion. Since the international combat troops pulled out of Afghanistan at the end of 2014, leaving behind only a largely training and advising contingent, the insurgency has intensified as Afghan forces struggle to take the lead in the battle. The Taliban are now refocusing their attention mostly on the southern provinces of Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan, US and Afghan military officials say, although the insurgents have also struck elsewhere, such as the northern Kunduz province where they briefly overran and held the provincial capital for a few days last fall. The results have been daunting - the United Nations says 3,545 Afghan civilians were killed and 7,457 wounded in the war in 2015, most of them by the Taliban.

In the south, one of the worst hit areas is Uruzgan province where the Taliban have been putting pressure in recent weeks on Afghan forces around the provincial capital of Tirin Kot, said the US military spokesman in Kabul, Brig Gen Charles Cleveland. "The Taliban's main focus in the south is now Uruzgan" and US forces have been providing assistance and air support as needed, Cleveland said.

The director of Uruzgan's provincial council, Abdul Hakeem Khadimzai, described the situation there as the "worst in 15 years." In May alone, he said, "around 200 security forces were killed and more than 300 were wounded" in Uruzgan. The figures are an estimate but Khadimzai insisted that if he were to "include civilians, then they would be doubled." The numbers could not be independently verified as the Afghan government does not release military and police casualty figures.

### Dwindling supplies

"Every day our forces are stepping back and every day the Taliban are controlling more and more area," Khadimzai said. "Our security forces are trying their best to control the area but they can't because logistics supplies are not delivered on time." Uruzgan residents and local community leaders say the highway connecting Tirin Kot to the city of Kandahar, the capital of neighboring Kandahar province - 163 kilometers (101 miles) away - has been closed since March. And the road linking Khas Uruzgan district with the rest of the province has been blocked for about a year.

With the Taliban gaining ground, the government-controlled area has shrunk. Khadimzai describes Tirin Kot now as an "island of government control disconnected from the rest of the province." The closures have sent the price of staples more than doubling in some areas, he said. In Khas Uruzgan, Dihrawud and Charchino districts, the cost of wheat is now 3,200 Afghanis (\$47) for a sack of 45 kilograms (99 pounds), compared to 1,900 Afghanis elsewhere in the country. Cooking oil is 540 Afghanis for a container of 3 kilograms (6lb 9oz), compared to the national average of 260 Afghanis. Most fresh produce is grown locally but growers in cut-off areas cannot get to the markets to sell their goods, according to Aminullah Hotaqi, a tribal elder and former Uruzgan council chief. — AP



## THAILAND ASKS CHINA, RIVALS TO LOOK BEYOND BORDER ROWS

**SINGAPORE:** Thailand yesterday urged China and rival claimants to the South China Sea to look beyond border disputes and find ways of cooperating in order to ease tensions in the region.

"Countries in the region should think of sovereignty in less traditional terms in order to support collective security in the long term," Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha said in a speech opening Asia's largest security forum in Singapore.

"If we look at everything from the standpoint of conflict, we will never be able to see a way out," said the Thai leader, a former army chief who seized power two years ago. "If we focus solely on borders, some of which are still in dispute, then again, we'll never find a way out," Prayut told the annual meeting known as the Shangri-La Dialogue.

The three-day gathering is being attended by defense ministers and military officials including Pentagon chief Ashton Carter. Beijing's claim to nearly the entire South China Sea has angered Southeast Asian neighbors and pitted it against the United States, which has conducted patrols near Chinese-held islands

to press for freedom of navigation.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam have competing claims in the area, which encompasses key global shipping lanes and is believed to have significant oil and gas deposits. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague is expected to issue a ruling soon on a Philippine submission challenging China's claims and activities in the region. Beijing says it will not abide by any ruling.

Ahead of the Singapore conference, US Defense Secretary Carter and his Singapore counterpart Ng Eng Hen flew over the busy Strait of Malacca in a demonstration flight of a US P-8 maritime patrol plane stationed in Singapore, a close military partner of Washington. "The American approach is an inclusive one in which everyone participates in the collective defense of our peoples from today's threats," Carter said at a joint news conference after the brief flight. "That's the objective of the US military presence out here, and it's been that way for decades."

### Heated US-China exchanges expected

Carter did not speak out against China,



**SINGAPORE:** Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha delivers the opening keynote address at the 15th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue yesterday. — AFP

but has previously condemned Beijing's island building and last week said it risked creating a "Great Wall of self-isolation". He is scheduled to address the meeting on

Saturday, while China's delegation chief Admiral Sun Jianguo will speak on Sunday. Past editions of the Singapore meeting were marked by heated exchanges between the two sides. Several US lawmakers were attending the summit as part of a Congressional delegation, including Republican Senator John McCain, who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee.

He said in a lecture before the forum that China must decide if it is going to engage in "coercion and intimidation" or follow a "better path". "It could cooperate with its neighbors and manage disputes peacefully, consistent with the same international rules that have benefited China so greatly," he said.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula are another concern to be addressed at the forum organized by the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS). The UN Security Council on Wednesday strongly condemned North Korea's latest attempted missile launches and urged world governments to ramp up efforts to impose sanctions on Pyongyang. — AFP

## JAPAN PRAISES BOY WHO SURVIVED AFTER ABANDONMENT IN FOREST WAS ABLE TO STAY ALIVE FOR A WEEK

**TOKYO:** Nearly a week after he was abandoned in the forest by his parents, the boy did not shed a tear when he was found safe yesterday. The soldier who discovered him by chance in a military hut gave him two rice balls, which 7-year-old Yamato Tanooka ate ravenously. He looked a bit worn out but was "genki," the military said, using a Japanese word describing healthy children.

The boy's safe return was welcomed in a nation riveted by his disappearance and undergoing intense soul-searching about how it raises and disciplines its children.

Yamato's story, as pieced together from comments from the military and police, was admirable in resourcefulness and resilience. His parents, trying to teach him a lesson for misbehaving and throwing rocks, made him get out of the car last Saturday on the northernmost main island of Hokkaido in a forest reputedly ridden with bears. They couldn't find him when they returned several minutes later.

Apparently walking for several kilometers, the boy found the empty hut in a military drill area and entered a door that had been left open. The longhouse-style hut had no heat or power and no food, but Yamato huddled between mattresses on the floor and drank water from the solitary faucet outside the hut for several days, local media reported.

### The manhunt

A massive manhunt, including 180 people and search dogs, had found no trace of him. The soldier who found him had not been part of the frenzied search effort, but soon the boy identified himself as Yamato Tanooka (Tah-noh-oh-kah).

Appearing outside the hospital where the boy was flown in by helicopter, his father apologized, bowing deeply, thanked everyone for the rescue and vowed to do a better job as his dad. "We have raised him



**NANAE, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN:** 7-year-old Yamato Tanooka, who was found safe nearly a week after he was abandoned in the forest by his parents. — AP

with love all along," said the father, Takayuki Tanooka, fighting tears. "I really didn't think it would come to that. We went too far."

Military officials expressed admiration for the boy's perseverance, as the building where he was found was far from where he had disappeared and involved a rigorous uphill climb. The boy was dehydrated and had minor scratches on his arms and feet, but no serious health risks were found, a doctor who examined him said on nationally televised news. Although going without water is dangerous even for a few days, people can survive longer without food, such as people who have fasted or gone on hunger strikes for a few weeks. While experts say a water-only diet for so long must have been painful, they boy apparently stayed at the hut for much of the time. More details on his experience were not

immediately available. Asked what he had told his son after he was found, the father said, "I told him I was so sorry for causing him such pain." The nation welcomed the boy's safe return. Old photos of Yamato, wearing a cowboy hat here, holding up two fingers in a peace sign there, his bangs falling over a proud smile, were flashed across again and again on TV.

Daijiro Hashimoto, a former governor appearing on a talk show on TV Asahi, wondered how the boy had endured the loneliness, especially at night, and suggested that perhaps he had imagined he was on some adventure and was hiding in a secret camp. "He had to keep a very positive attitude," Hashimoto said, reflecting widespread sentiment here. "He is fantastic. He didn't know how long it might take, and when he would ever be saved." — AP

## N KOREA ACCUSES SOUTH OF ABDUCTING MORE RESTAURANT STAFF

**SEOUL:** North Korea has again accused the South of "premeditated" abduction, following the latest defection of North Korean staff working at a Pyongyang-run restaurant in China.

The three North Koreans arrived in Seoul on Wednesday-the second such group defection this year after a dozen employees of another restaurant in China defected to the South in April. "This incident, too, was the organised and premeditated abduction by gangsters of the puppet National Intelligence Service of South Korea," a spokesman for the North Korean Red Cross said in a statement.

The statement, carried by the official KCNA news agency late Thursday, claimed there were "sufficient materials" to prove a well-planned, concerted operation to abduct the workers from the restaurant in Weinan, in the northern Chinese province of Shaanxi.

It said members of the South's spy agency had "lured" the three women who were taken south and spirited across the border with Laos and then into Thailand. "The allurements and abduction clearly proves that the puppet forces of south Korea are the most hideous human rights abusers," the statement said, demanding the immediate return of the three women.

The South Korean government estimates that Pyongyang rakes in around \$10 million every year from about 130 restaurants it operates-with mostly North Korean staff-in 12 countries, including neighboring China.

Tough United Nations sanctions imposed on North Korea after its January nuclear test significantly curtailed the isolated state's ability to earn hard currency, making the restaurants an even more important source of income than before.

There have been reports of staff not being paid, with restaurants pressured into increasing their regular remittances to Pyongyang. Since the first group defection of restaurant workers in April, North Korean state media has repeatedly run emotional interviews with the 12 women's relatives still in North Korea, urging their immediate return. South Korea has rejected the North's "kidnapping" claims and refused Pyongyang's demands to allow the women's parents to travel to Seoul to meet their daughters. Seoul has also ordered its embassies overseas to be extra vigilant to the threat of revenge kidnappings of South Korean citizens living abroad. Nearly 30,000 North Koreans have fled poverty and repression at home to settle in the capitalist South. But group defections are rare, especially by staff who work in the North Korea-themed restaurants overseas and who are handpicked from families considered "loyal" to the regime. — AFP





**MUSCAT:** An employee trains a dog at the PetCare Veterinary Centre in the Omani capital Muscat. Dogs in Oman have gone from being seen as 'unclean' beasts that wander on the streets at night in search of leftovers to pampered pets treated just as well as their masters. In a Muscat suburb, dog-savvy Omanis have even established a high-end care centre dedicated to canines. — AFP

## DOGS FIND A HOME IN OMAN

Continued from Page 1

At the PetCare Veterinary Centre, four-legged guests undergo daily 15-minute exercise sessions. They range from small chihuahuas to German shepherds and golden retrievers. Hotel rules are strict: a dog cannot check in without a veterinary certificate showing it has had the necessary vaccinations. But with an occupancy rate that often exceeds 95 percent, there is no shortage of guests, said its chief administrator Azzan Al-Zadlaji. The cost is eight rials (\$21) a day for full board, or less if the owner provides the food. Smaller puppies qualify for a discount. The parents of 15-year-old student Sultan al-Rawahi brought their son's Dutch shep-

herd for one month to help him to concentrate on his exams.

Sultan Yahia, another Omani, brought his pitbull for training in preparation for competitions. He also has a German shepherd at home. With purebred dogs growing in popularity, the centre has become a meeting point for dog breeders and owners who hope to start Muscat's first canine club. In the meantime they hold a dog show every Friday in an Oman park. And it is not just dogs that are pampered by Oman's growing ranks of animal aficionados. Lamia Al-Bakri spends almost a fifth of her monthly salary on her cat. But she says her furry friend is worth it, "especially these days with animals proving to be more faithful than some humans." — AFP

## 117 MIGRANT BODIES...

Continued from Page 1

Another migrant boat sank elsewhere in the Mediterranean yesterday, with Greek authorities saying 340 people were rescued and nine bodies recovered in a massive search-and-rescue operation involving Greek helicopters, aircraft, patrol boats and passing merchant ships. Greece's coast guard said the roughly 25-meter vessel, which resembled a large fishing boat, had been carrying an undetermined number of people when it was located half-sunk about 75 nautical miles south of Crete in international waters. It was not immediately clear where the boat was from, who it carried, or where it was trying to go.

Most survivors were picked up by the Norwegian-flagged Clipper Hebe tanker and were being transported to the Sicilian port of Augusta in Italy. Others were to be taken to Egypt and Malta. The coast guard said the operation was continuing to search for any potentially missing passengers. "The information we have on the number of people on board the vessel is still unclear - we've heard that there were 400 or 500 people on board, but we cannot confirm that number," Coast Guard spokesman Nikos Lagadianos said. "There is a huge rescue effort underway."

Lagadianos said it would be "very difficult" for divers to reach the wreck anytime soon. "A few hours ago, only the tip of the ship's mast was sticking out of the water. Now it's considered to have sunk," he said. The short Aegean Sea crossing from the Turkish coast to Greek islands was the preferred sea route for migrants heading to Europe until Balkan countries closed their borders in March and the European Union reached an agreement with Turkey to send arriving migrants back.

The deal has led to a dramatic decrease in the number of people landing on Greek islands from Turkey. The Greek coast guard said it and European border patrol agency Frontex had rescued 164 people in four separate incidents Thursday off the Greek islands of Lesbos and Chios. Before the EU Turkey migrant deal, thousands would arrive each day. Many have speculated that the EU migrant deal could prompt Syrians and others to try the more dangerous Libya-to-Italy route, but authorities have seen no signs yet that any big shift is happening. — AP

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## VATICAN SUMMIT OF JUDGES PLEDGES TO FIGHT TRAFFICKING

**VATICAN CITY:** Judges and prosecutors from around the world are pledging to crack down on human trafficking and help victims of modern-day slavery in the latest Vatican initiative to draw attention to the problem and rally resources to fight it.

Pope Francis is expected to sign a declaration yesterday along with participants of a Vatican summit of about 100 judges, prosecutors and other public officials involved in fighting human trafficking and organized crime. According to the draft declaration obtained by The Associated Press, participants call human trafficking, forced labor and prostitution a "crime against humanity" that should be prosecuted as such.

The 10-point declaration pledges increased funding for international cooperation to boost prosecutions of traffickers and consumers of the sex trade, and pledges better support for victims, includ-

ing issuing temporary residence permits. The draft, which may still be amended, says repatriation should never be the default judgment against victims.

Francis, history's first Latin American pontiff, has made the fight against human trafficking a priority of his pontificate as part of his emphasis on looking out for society's most marginalized, including refugees and the poor. In 2014, he and 25 religious leaders signed a declaration pledging to eradicate modern-day slavery by 2020. A year later, he invited mayors from around the world to a summit where they pledged to work to end trafficking and the involuntary repatriation of victims. The 2016 edition focused on judges and prosecutors, with guests including the supreme court judges of Mexico and Argentina, Britain's commissioner against modern slavery, and the US ambassador responsible for trafficking. — AP



**VATICAN:** Priests pray as they attend a Jubilee mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square yesterday. — AP

## TRUMP CLAIMS TRUMP UNIVERSITY JUDGE HAS 'ABSOLUTE CONFLICT' DUE TO HIM BEING OF MEXICAN HERITAGE

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump said yesterday that the federal judge presiding over a lawsuit brought by former Trump University students has an "absolute conflict" in handling the case because he is "of Mexican heritage."

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee told The Wall Street Journal that US District Judge Gonzalo Curiel has "an inherent conflict of interest" because Trump is "building a wall," a reference to Trump's proposal to build a wall along the border between the US and Mexico.

Trump University is the target of two lawsuits in San Diego and one in New York that accuse the business of fleecing students with unfulfilled promises to teach secrets of success in real estate. Trump has maintained that customers were overwhelmingly satisfied with the offerings.

Trump has brought up Curiel's ethnicity several times this year, including last week at a rally in San Diego. Curiel was born in Indiana and served as a federal prosecutor and a judge in the California state judicial system before being nominated to the federal bench by President Barack Obama in 2011.

On Wednesday, Curiel ordered some records that were released in the class action lawsuit against Trump University be yanked from public view. Late Tuesday, Curiel ordered some released documents to be resealed and resubmitted with sections blacked-out. He said some records had "mistakenly" been released last week, when he ordered some documents made public.

Lorella Praeli, director of Latino outreach for Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign, said Friday that Curiel and his family "epitomize the American dream." "The fact that Donald Trump doesn't see Judge Curiel and his family as Americans makes him unfit to be president of this great nation, a nation of immigrants," Praeli said in a statement. — AP



**SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump smiles while speaking during a rally on Thursday. — AP

## JUDGES SAY NYPD JUSTIFIED IN MUSLIM SPYING RECORDS REQUEST

**NEW YORK:** A New York appellate court has ruled the New York Police Department was justified in using a Cold War-era federal legal doctrine to deny releasing records about the possible surveillance of two Muslim men.

In a decision handed down Thursday, the panel of judges in Manhattan said heightened law enforcement concerns warranted the police department invoking the Glomar doctrine to neither confirm

nor deny the existence of certain documents. One of the men was a Rutgers University student and the other a Harlem imam. Their attorney argued the Glomar doctrine was a federal doctrine that shouldn't apply to the state public records law.

A spokesman for the city's Law Department says, "We are all safer because of this ruling." The men's attorney didn't immediately respond to a comment request. — AP

## SUSPECT IN UCLA SHOOTING REMEMBERED AS GOOD STUDENT IN INDIA

**KOLKATA, INDIA:** Residents of an east Indian industrial town were shocked yesterday to recognize the face of a man they remember as a diligent student as the person who allegedly shot a UCLA engineering professor before killing himself in the US state of California.

But they said it's been years since they've heard from Mainak Sarkar, who left Durgapur in the state of West Bengal for a life in the United States. Police say that before he killed UCLA professor William Klug on Wednesday, Sarkar had already killed a woman in Minnesota - his estranged wife, according to relatives, neighbors and public records. The 38-year-old Indian-American engineer had reportedly put both victims on a "kill list" police later found in his Minnesota apartment.

A former classmate at Durgapur's Bidhan Institute - where Sarkar studied for two years after high school before attending the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur - said he was "totally stupefied" by the news of the shooting. "Mainak was a very good student. In school, he looked so innocent and was well-behaved," said Mridul, who like many people in India uses only one name. "We were not in touch after he left for the United States."

A former teacher at the school also remembered Sarkar as a solid student. "His behavior was good and normal," Gautam Biswas said. "This shooting is a shock to us. I can't imagine that Mainak is involved in such a shocking incident."

Sarkar grew up in Durgapur, where his father worked as a clerk in a cement manufacturing company named the Associated Cement Companies Babcock. As a boy, he attended St. Michael's School until his early teens.

"Sarkar's face looked familiar when I saw his picture in the media today," said Sumita Mukherjee, who was secretary to the principal at St. Michael's when Sarkar attended. "This morning I spoke to some teachers of that time. They said he was good in studies and cracked the top-ranking Indian Institute of Technology test. They also say he was well behaved, but a little introverted." — AP



This undated photo shows Ashley Hasti, left, and Mainak Sarkar, who police say carried out a murder-suicide at the University of California, Los Angeles on Wednesday. — AP



# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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VIENNA: Saudi Arabia's minister of energy Khalid Al-Falih (center) attends the 169th meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, at OPEC headquarters. — AFP

## FALIH SLOWLY WINS OPEC FOR SAUDIS 'GENTLE APPROACH', 'NO SHOCKS' AND 'CONSENSUS'

**VIENNA:** Russian oil billionaire Vagit Alekperov isn't easily swayed, but Saudi Arabia's new Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih achieved it this week. Intense diplomacy by the soft-spoken Falih at his first OPEC meeting - with his speech peppered by words such as "gentle approach", "no shocks" and "consensus" - has persuaded Alekperov that OPEC is more alive than dead.

"The fact that OPEC agreed on its new management shows they want to regain their coordinating role. The cartel will perform market management again," Alekperov, chief executive of Russian energy firm Lukoil, said after meeting Falih and Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh separately in Vienna.

On Thursday, OPEC could not agree to set a clear oil-output target as Iran refused to limit its own production. But the meeting was relatively peaceful and free of the usual clashes between political rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran, with Falih promising not to flood the market and to listen to Tehran.

In a rare compromise, OPEC also decided unanimously to appoint Nigeria's Mohammed Barkindo as its new secretary-general after years of friction over the issue. Oil prices stood flat at \$50 a barrel on Friday, up 80 percent from their January lows. Falih, who in April succeeded veteran Ali Al-Naimi, was

the first OPEC minister to arrive in Vienna. He met most fellow colleagues on the sidelines, spent several hours with independent OPEC analysts and held a long news conference with reporters. "If you want to call it (OPEC) a talking shop - I have no problem with that. But I think it's going to do a lot more than talking. We are going to do coordination and cooperation ... to achieve market objectives," Falih said on Thursday.

### Driverless cars

The nature of Thursday's meeting surprised many OPEC watchers, who have grown used to acrimonious gatherings. Falih's ultimate boss, Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, effectively scuppered plans to clinch a global production freeze in the Qatari capital of Doha in April.

Prince Mohammad said Riyadh would not agree to the deal, which would also have involved non-OPEC Russia, if Iran didn't join in despite Tehran insisting it wants to regain market share after the lifting of international sanctions earlier this year. "After Doha, oil markets were beginning to look like a driverless car. That needed to change," said a source familiar with Saudi thinking. A non-Gulf OPEC source said Riyadh realized it

needed OPEC unity because the group's fight for market share against higher-cost producers, such as US shale, was taking longer than expected when formulated in 2014.

"The Saudis trashed OPEC in Doha. But they realized they don't want to throw away decades of OPEC history and decided to be more cooperative," said Gary Ross, founder of US-based Pira consultancy, who came to Vienna together with other OPEC watchers and analysts for meetings. "The Saudis definitely decided to change tack after Doha as they were concerned that people were doubting the viability of OPEC. I think this softer approach will last," said Amrita Sen, who also came to Vienna.

Falih acknowledges that Riyadh realized it needs OPEC. "The markets can ultimately balance themselves but as we have seen, when we rely on markets alone it is extremely painful for everybody," he said on Thursday. "I think managing in the traditional way that we have tried in the past may never come again ... We will not go with setting a price target for OPEC ... But (we should be) coordinating strategies and trying to understand what each of us can and cannot do." — Reuters



## IRAN SAYS AIRBUS DEAL STILL AWAITING US GREEN LIGHT

**TEHRAN:** A \$10 billion deal between Iran and European aircraft manufacturer Airbus for 118 aircraft is still pending authorization from the United States, Deputy Transport Minister Asghar Fakhrieh Kashan told AFP yesterday. Iran has ordered about 200 planes from three Western manufacturers since nuclear-related sanctions were lifted in mid-January.

However, the Airbus deal still needs approval from the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) because more than 10 percent of components in Airbus planes are of American origin. Western manufacturers were barred for nearly two decades from selling aircraft or equipment and spare parts to Iranian aviation firms.

After the lifting of sanctions, Tehran and Airbus

signed a memorandum of understanding for the purchase during a late-January visit to Paris by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. On April 18, French Transport Minister Alain Vidalies announced during a visit to Tehran that US authorization for the deal was imminent.

"We are in a very advanced stage of negotiations since the meetings should be held next week to finalise the decision," Vidalies said. Kashan told AFP yesterday that the MoU with Airbus "is a hire-purchase contract and the money must come from bank financing". "We have had discussions with Airbus and finance channels have been identified," he said. "Some banks are willing to provide the funding, but Airbus has had delays in obtaining US authorization"

to conclude the contract, he said, adding that he hoped this would now be done by the end of June.

Despite the entry into force of the Iran nuclear deal, major international banks, especially in Europe, appear reluctant to do business with the Islamic republic for fear of punitive measures from OFAC. Airbus sales chief John Leahy was recently quoted by the specialized Aviation Daily website as expressing concerns about the Iran deal. "We have to have a reliable international banking system" to ensure that the agreement is not endangered, Leahy said. The issues "need to be sorted out in the next few months, otherwise there will be no deals," he added, stressing that "banks are very shy" of doing business with Iran. — AFP



**MARSEILLE:** A man holds a smoke flare as people take part in a demonstration against the French government's planned labor law reforms. — AFP

## PILOTS' STRIKE THREAT HANGS OVER EURO '16

### UNIONS PRESS ON WITH THE RAIL STOPPAGES

**PARIS:** Strikes by rail workers and flooding disrupted France yesterday, while the new threat of a pilots' strike hung over Euro 2016 a week before the tournament kicks off. Unions pressed on with the rail stoppages for a third full day, but the number of staff taking part fell to just above 10 percent, the SNCF rail operator said.

Services in Paris were hit, but almost all high-speed trains were operating. In the capital and further south, attention has shifted from the lingering strikes to the worst flooding for three decades. Just as the risk to Euro 2016 of an air traffic controllers' strike faded, unions for Air France pilots threatened late Thursday to call a four-day stoppage beginning on June 11, when the championships will be in full swing. Transport Minister Alain Vidalies described the pilots' strike call as "irresponsible". "It would be incomprehensible if flights are halted in France" during the month-long event hosted by France, he said. "Everyone needs to contribute to making Euro 2016 a success."

#### 'Hope for solution'

The minister said the pilots' strike, the latest in a long-running dispute over working conditions at France's national carrier, was just "an attempt to gain headlines". "I hope dialogue will win the day," he said. Household rubbish risked building up in the Paris region and elsewhere in the country in strikes against the government's labor reforms which are at the heart of the wave of industrial unrest.

Three of the four main refuse centers in Paris were blockaded by union activists. A week after blockades and strikes left petrol stations running dry, the situation eased further as workers voted to resume operations at a major refinery at Donges, on the Atlantic coast. The refinery will take between three and five days to return to full production, owners Total said, though others remained paralyzed by strike action.

Concerns about transport during Euro 2016 had eased on Thursday after air traffic controllers called off a walkout that had been expected to ground flights this weekend. Labor Minister Myriam El Khomri said the government was "sorting out each of

the situations one by one." But unions still have plenty of opportunities to cause trouble during the championships which begin when France play Romania in Paris' Stade de France on June 10.

#### Reduce unemployment

The tournament is expected to attract around 1.5 million foreign visitors for the matches at 10 venues around the country, posing a major security challenge following last year's jihadist attacks in Paris. Although each of the strikes has its own motivations, the unions are united in opposition to the labor reforms, which the government says will reduce unemployment by making it easier to hire and fire employees.

The government has refused to withdraw the legislation, which it forced through the lower house of parliament without a vote last month. Unions say the law favors bosses by letting them set their own working conditions for new employees, rather than being bound to industry-wide agreements, allowing companies to cut jobs during hard times and go beyond the 35-hour work week. — AFP

## EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKS CUTTING GROWTH FORECASTS

**BERLIN:** Germany will grow at a slightly slower pace than previously expected, its powerful central bank predicted yesterday, cutting its forecasts for Europe's top economy. The central bank of neighboring France also turned more pessimistic on the growth outlook for the Eurozone's second-biggest economy.

The Bundesbank said the powerhouse German economy would expand by 1.7 percent this year, slowing to 1.4 percent in 2017. This was a downgrade of previous forecasts of 1.8 percent and 1.7 percent respectively. Nevertheless, the bank's head, Jens Weidmann, said the German economy stood on a "relatively firm" footing.

The bank said it expected the economy to grow by 1.8 percent in 2018. Exports, long the bedrock of the German economy, are only providing a "limited" push but "should pick up" in coming years, Weidmann predicted. The latest forecast brings the central bank into line with the German government's 2016 forecast, which is slightly more optimistic than the International Monetary Fund with a 1.5 percent growth estimate and German economics institutes which expect 1.6 percent.

Inflation is expected to remain subdued this year, the Bundesbank said, with consumer prices rising by just 0.2 percent, accelerating to 1.5 percent next year and 1.7 percent in 2018. The Bank of France also reiterated its earlier 1.4-percent French growth forecast for this year, but cut its outlook for 2017 to 1.5 percent from 1.6 percent earlier. Growth of 1.6 percent would now only be achieved in 2018, it said.

The central bank said the international environment had become "less favorable" for French growth, and also cited expectations of higher oil prices as a negative factor for expansion. France's trade deficit, partly explained by a strong euro, was also weighing on gross domestic product (GDP), it said.

Limited growth was expected to lead to an equally limited increase in jobs, with employment levels likely to rise by 0.7 this year and 0.6 percent next year, the Bank of France said. The French unemployment rate, a key focus for President Francois Hollande's government, will ease to 10.1 percent this year from 10.3 percent in 2015, and fall below 10 percent only in 2018, the Bank of France predicted. The bank also called on the government to control its deficits with the aim of cutting debt, which stands at 96 percent of GDP, vastly higher than the Eurozone's 60-percent target.

#### EU soft on France

Hollande's government has promised to reduce the public sector deficit to 3.3 percent this year before bringing it below the Eurozone's three-percent limit in 2017, to 2.7 percent. Meanwhile, Eurogroup chief Jeroen Dijsselbloem criticized the EU Commission for being too lenient on France concerning fiscal rules, in remarks published yesterday.

"If the commission is only strict with smaller countries and unable to be strict on larger countries, that would be devastating for the confidence we have in our cooperation," he said in an interview with several European newspapers, including Britain's The Guardian.

He was referring to reported remarks by commission head Jean-Claude Juncker that France won a two-year reprieve on deficit targets "because it is France", while smaller countries have been under much more pressure. "You have to be a little careful if it is in your advantage that the commission turns a blind eye ... In the end, if we turn a blind eye everywhere, we make a blind monetary union," Dijsselbloem said. — AFP



## US GUARANTEES KEY NEW UKRAINE LOAN

**KIEV:** The United States said on Friday it had signed a major new loan guarantee with Ukraine aimed at helping the war-scarred former Soviet republic stabilize its floundering economy. The \$1-billion (900-million-euro) commitment is the third of its kind issued by Washington since a pro-EU revolution brought down Ukraine's Russia-backed president in February 2014.

The pledge is meant to provide Ukraine with more affordable access to international capital markets and fill its gaping budget hole. "The guarantee sends a strong signal of the United States' continued support for Ukraine as it pursues reforms that fulfill the Ukrainian people's aspirations for a prosperous and democratic future," US Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt said in a statement.

The new US assistance is part of a \$40-billion global rescue package agreed by Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund in March 2015. About \$17.5 billion of that money is a loan from the Fund. The rest includes a restructuring program approved by Ukraine's private Western creditors and assistance from individual governments and international institutions. The IMF had been frustrated by the slow adoption of painful belt-tightening measures that were resisted by populist parties and helped weaken leaders who rose to power after Ukraine's 2014 turn toward the West. Allegations of government corruption led to the resignation of Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and his replacement by pro-Western parliament speaker Volodymyr Groysman in April.

Ukraine has so far only received \$6.7 billion in IMF

disbursements and none since August 2015. But the sides last month reached a staff-level agreement to resume the program after parliament adopted a raft of austerity measures prescribed by the IMF. That progress allowed Kiev's other partners to resume their own lending and help Ukraine shed the dysfunctional economic legacy of its Soviet past. Kiev hopes to receive \$1.6 billion in fresh funds from the IMF by July. Yet some economists warned that the new pro-Western coalition created in parliament during Groysman appointment was fragile and its economic measures under threat of being undermined by nationalist and populist factions. "Substantial risks to a fruitful IMF cooperation remain as the government has a rather thin parliamentary majority," Austria's Raiffeisen Bank said in a research note. — AFP

## US JUDGE PONDERES \$50M BAIL FOR TURKISH MOGUL

**NEW YORK:** Should a Turkish gold mogul, arrested en route to Disney World with his superstar singer wife and five-year-old daughter, be released on a \$50 million bond with armed security guards in a lavish Manhattan apartment? That is the question a US federal judge is pondering with respect to 33-year-old Iranian-Turkish businessman Reza Zarrab, charged with conspiring to violate international sanctions on Iran.

Arrested in Miami in March, Zarrab on Thursday stepped into the glare of a New York court to attend a more than two-hour hearing that could determine whether he can swap jail for a fancy New York apartment in the sky. US prosecutors say that from 2010 to 2015 he conspired to thwart sanctions against Iran by concealing hundreds of millions of dollars in global transactions conducted on behalf of Iran and Iranian outfits.

The US government says the evidence is "overwhelming" and opposes bail, saying that Zarrab poses an "extraordinary flight risk" as a "lavishly wealthy" man with untold financial assets and contacts across the world. Zarrab faces multiple conspiracy charges, of which the most serious-conspiracy to commit bank fraud-could see him jailed for 30 years if convicted.

He cut a forlorn figure in court, dressed in navy jail scrubs worn over an olive T-shirt and sporting a dark beard as he huddled with a Turkish interpreter and occasionally cast his eyes backwards to the public gallery. His lawyer, the same prominent criminal defense attorney who represented disgraced IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn for sexual assault, offered a \$50 million bail package, secured by \$10 million in cash.

Defense lawyer Ben Brafman said that a Manhattan apartment on the 15th floor had already been rented, furnished, equipped with sensors on the windows and kitted out with surveillance cameras in readiness for his house arrest. The home was palatial enough to include a meeting room in which his lawyers could work and prepare for trial, Brafman said. Zarrab would be subject to electronic monitoring and guarded around the clock by two armed guards, and could sign a waiver permitting them to shoot him should he try to escape, he added.

### Safety risk

He would be permitted to leave the apartment only in the company of armed guards and a driver to attend court, medical appointments, meet his lawyers and for religious services in the New York area, Brafman added. He declined to put a specific figure on his client's wealth, but described him as "a man of substance" and the 56th top taxpayer in Turkey.

US Federal Judge Richard Berman said he expected to reach a decision "over the next week or so." New York judges have released other wealthy defendants to home arrest in similar circumstances, including suspects in the FIFA corruption scandal who posted multi-million-dollar bond packages and submitted to electronic tagging.

The government told court there was an "inherent conflict of interest" in jailors being paid by an inmate-an arrangement which allowed the rich to create conditions of confinement more palatable than jail. The prosecution said that using armed guards to monitor him in Manhattan posed "a health and safety risk" to bystanders and neighbors' property.

Brafman said his client was charged with "an unprecedented violation" of Iranian sanctions as a foreigner who had not exported any goods out of the United States nor imported into it, had no American bank account and had acted overseas. — AFP

## MAJOR UBER DEAL SIGNALS MORE AGGRESSIVE SAUDI INVESTMENTS KINGDOM TRYING TO WEAN ITS ECONOMY OFF OIL

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's surprisingly high-profile injection of \$3.5 billion into Uber signals a more aggressive global investment presence by a kingdom trying to wean its economy off oil. San Francisco-based Uber, a smartphone app that connects passengers and drivers around the world, said on Wednesday the funding from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund would help Uber's global expansion.

The PIF acted roughly six weeks after Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced a wide-ranging plan to transform the kingdom's oil-dependent economy. At the heart of the Vision 2030 plan is a revamped PIF. "Like many, I am caught off guard by this massive investment in Uber," said

Michael Maduell, president of the US-based Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute which studies public investment funds. "However, it telegraphs to the world that Saudi Arabia will be a major player when it comes to sovereign wealth fund investing in the future." Vision 2030 aims to turn the PIF into the world's largest state investment fund, with \$2 trillion in assets.

These would include proceeds from the sale of state-owned real estate and other property, as well as roughly \$100 billion from a share offer for less than five percent of state oil firm Saudi Aramco. Profits from the investment fund would help economic diversification and provide an alternative to oil revenues that have fallen by about half since 2014. The collapse has accelerated Saudi efforts to move away from petroleum which still accounts for the bulk of government income.

"The Public Investment Fund will not compete with the private sector, but instead help unlock strategic sectors requiring intensive capital inputs," Vision 2030 says. "This will contribute towards developing entirely new economic sectors and establishing durable national corporations."

The aim is to participate "in large international companies and emerging technologies from around the world", the plan adds. Maduell said that in future moves, he would not rule out PIF's working with US industrial firms to expand manufacturing in the kingdom. It may also seek exposure to venture-backed companies.

### 'PIF on the prowl'

"I see PIF on the prowl for strategic development investments with leading companies to spur job growth, enhance sector diversification and prosperity in the country," he told AFP. The head of the PIF, Yasir Al Rumayyan, said in a statement about the Uber deal that it fits with Vision 2030.

It is an investment which marks a new approach by Riyadh, a European diplomat said. With such a major stake abroad, the government is "following the example of Prince Alwaleed", the diplomat said. He was referring to the kingdom's most high profile businessman, Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, whose Kingdom Holding Co has interests ranging from the Euro Disney theme park and Four Seasons hotels to News Corporation and Citigroup.

Late last year Kingdom Holding became the second-largest shareholder in Twitter, and invested more than \$100 million in

Lyft, a San Francisco-based rival to Uber. Christopher Dembik, an economist at France's Saxo Bank, said the PIF is adapting to the transformations under way in the Saudi economy and pursuing a diversification strategy which is not particularly risky.

Uber is part of the so-called gig economy in which people work flexibly and without labour benefits. Dembik said the business model is proven and still represents significant growth opportunities. Other potential PIF targets in that category could be Airbnb, the online site for accommodation, or US-listed "fintechs", financial start-ups which use computer and Internet technology to develop innovative financial services and applications.

"It's of course a significant strategic choice on the part of Saudi Arabia but one whose scope should not be exaggerated," Dembik told AFP, explaining that the fund will not abandon traditional sectors such as real estate. — AFP



**CARACAS:** View of an empty refrigerator at the house of Liliana Rojas (not seen) in the poor neighborhood of Catia, Caracas. Shortages of basic goods have fueled looting, violent crime and vigilante justice. At least 94 looting sprees broke out in the first four months of the year, according to the Venezuelan Observatory for Social Conflict. — AFP





**BLACKLION:** Hugh Maguire inspects a week-old calf on his Northern Ireland border farm. — AP

## FEARS OF 'BREXIT' STARK ALONG IRELAND'S EU-BLURRED BORDER

### BORDER MAY BECOME A HARD FACT OF LIFE AGAIN

**BLACKLION, Ireland:** Only a gentle stream separates the border villages of Blacklion and Belcoo, where Irish cows graze along one bank, British sheep on the other. Long gone are the armored police checkpoints, the concrete-block barricades on illegal side roads, the customs officers on the prowl for smugglers.

But Ireland's soft border could become a hard fact of life again if the United Kingdom leaves the European Union, the sovereignty-sharing bloc that has done much to blur the 95-year-old boundary. Should a majority of British voters reject continued EU membership in a June 23 referendum,

Northern Ireland's nearly 500-kilometer frontier with the Irish Republic would become the only British land border with the 27 remaining EU nations. The intertwined residents of Belcoo in Northern Ireland and Blacklion barely 200 meters away in the Republic of Ireland would find themselves again in two diverging lands.

While some view that prospect as an opportunity, many more express dread at the thought. "I live right down on the border and I wouldn't want to see my family experience all those problems that arose. It was terrible at times," said farmer Hugh Maguire, 60, who lives in Blacklion but raises sheep, cattle and hens on nearby Northern Ireland soil. "Borders create problems."

#### EU funding

Both communities depend on EU funding. Agriculture is the top employer, and farms receive 329 Euros per hectare (133 Euros, or \$149, per acre) from the EU's subsidy scheme - around 80,000 Euros (\$90,000) annually to Maguire's 241-hectare farm. Few Northern Ireland farmers are confident that the British government, long a critic of EU farm subsidies, would maintain anything close to that support.

"We cannot survive without the subsidies. There's no way in the wide, wide world," said Maguire, who gets two-thirds of his income from subsidies, much of the rest from open market access to livestock marts south of the border, where lamb prices are

stronger. The EU symbol liberally adorns projects big and small in both villages. That reflects double-barreled European funding available for Ireland's borderland, which qualifies both for infrastructure investment on economic deprivation grounds and as a recovering conflict zone following Irish Republican Army cease-fires of the 1990s.

As councilman John Paul Feeley stands near the bridge connecting his native Blacklion with Belcoo, he points in every direction to projects funded by the EU. These include two enterprise centers, still largely empty, to house business startups; footpaths, a riverside walk and park with historical plaques; and a once-crumbling 18th-century market building transformed into a gift shop, social hall, coffee bar and tourist information hub complete with iPad and mini-cinema.

All around the region, road signs highlight a border-straddling tourist attraction branded the Geopark that links natural and archaeological treasures, including caves, castle ruins, dolmen-marked graves and the humble headwaters of Ireland's mighty River Shannon.

#### 'Stunning view'

It's a marketing work in progress. On a blustery midweek visit, there's not a tourist in sight, only a lone worker using a weed-whacker to keep the EU-funded paths open to hilltop Neolithic monuments offering panoramas of the two villages and mountains, forests, lakes and farms. "It's a stunning view, and it's a view opened up by the EU," Feeley said. "We just need to get the people here."

As a resident of the Irish Republic, Feeley can't vote on Brexit. His brother, a mechanic living in Belcoo, can. "I know he'll be voting to stay in the EU. I really haven't found anybody locally making a strong case to get out," Feeley said. But chatting to locals in Jack's Bar, the main Belcoo pub, harvests a wide swathe of opinion, including disenchantment - even disgust - with the EU. Some argue that the UK shouldn't be so open to immigration from the bloc's

eastern members. "The EU does throw a lot of money at the farmers. But they also make it way too easy for foreigners to come here, claim benefits and overcrowd the place," said Jay McGourty, a 25-year-old bricklayer. "I don't want to come across as a racist, but people from other countries see the UK as a gold mine." When asked how many foreigners lived among Belcoo's approximately 500 residents, he paused: "Two, maybe three Poles."

McGourty, who's never voted in a Northern Ireland election but plans to cast a referendum ballot, still isn't sure which way he'll vote, because he works mostly on Irish Republic building sites and wouldn't like to see "the hassle and waste of time" of border checks.

Behind the bar, proprietor Paul Leonard and his son Stephen look likely to cancel each other's votes. The son favors staying in the EU, while the father is eyeing an exit. "I'd love to stay in the EU," said Stephen Leonard. "Wee country villages like this can be dead set against everything, but we need to keep moving forward."

Paul Leonard says he's annoyed by what he considers overblown scare tactics from the pro-EU camp - particularly assertions that the return of an actively policed border with customs checks would stir an IRA revival. The last of eight people slain by the IRA in Belcoo, a policeman at a vehicle checkpoint, was shot outside the pub in 1992. The IRA sniper fired from Blacklion.

Paul Leonard appreciates today's transformed security landscape. His own father, Tom, served 32 years in the Northern Ireland police and survived an IRA assassination bid in Londonderry in 1985. After his father retired from the force, he sought reassurances from local IRA figures that his family could safely return to live in their native Belcoo. A durable truce has allowed Belcoo's bomb-proof police fortress to be razed and replaced with apartments. There's no longer any officers based in the village. Paul Leonard expresses confidence that an EU-free Northern Ireland wouldn't alter this. — AP

## ASIA'S FACTORIES STRUGGLE AGAINST WEAK DEMAND

**BEIJING/TOKYO:** Factory activity in Asia failed to speed up in May as the region's export-driven businesses struggled for new orders in a slow global economy, surveys released on Wednesday showed. Output in China, the world's second largest economy, barely improved from a month earlier, while Japan, the third largest, contracted as production was still recovering from earthquakes that struck in April.

"The picture is pretty muted in Asia, both in terms of exports and factory activity," said Su Sian Lim, Southeast Asia economist at HSBC in Singapore. Though it was the third straight month of improvement, China's official Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was only fractionally above positive at 50.1 in May. The survey also revealed new orders slowed and export orders stalled.

#### Small companies, giant market

The private Caixin/Markit Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' index, focusing on smaller companies, made even sorrier reading for global firms reliant on China's giant market for everything from consumer items, to cars and commodities. It showed conditions deteriorated for a 15th straight month.

China posted economic growth of 6.7 percent in the first quarter - its slowest since 2009, and there are nagging doubts about the authorities' ability to engineer a turnaround without fuelling debt. Whereas speculation has hardened in recent weeks that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at a policy meeting on June 14-15, some Fed policymakers have said they remain concerned about uncertainties in China and a possible British exit from the European Union in a vote later this month.

"Globally growth is still slow, so while the Fed is keeping an eye on inflation in the US we don't believe policy makers will hike rates in June," Lim said. An article in the People's Daily last month sparked speculation that Beijing is shifting to a more cautious policy stance.

"Today's PMI figure rules out the possibility of imminent broad-based monetary policy easing" in China, ANZ economists said in a note to clients. In Japan, factories grappling to recover from the earthquakes in the southern manufacturing hub of Kumamoto were also knocked by a sharp contraction in external demand. That showed up in the Markit/Nikkei Japan PMI, which fell to 47.7 in May on a seasonally adjusted basis - the fastest contraction in three years - from 48.2 in April.

The yen's recovery to an 18-month high against the dollar last month has also clouded the outlook for Japan's exporters. And the fragility of domestic demand is expected to force Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to announce later on Wednesday a delay a planned sales tax increase. — Reuters

## FINLAND'S ECONOMY THAWS AT LAST AFTER FROZEN YEARS

**HELSINKI:** Finland's economy seems to be regaining strength after four difficult years, with Statistics Finland revealing yesterday the best quarterly growth figure since 2011. In the first three months of the year, the troubled Eurozone country's gross domestic product grew at 0.6 percent from the previous quarter and at 1.6 percent compared to the previous year, the national statistics institute said. "Three causes of joy: strongest growth since 2011, still potential for growth in exports and Eurozone (growth figure) overtaken," economist Juhana Brotherus, of Hypo bank, tweeted, comparing Finland's year-on-year growth at 1.58 percent to the Eurozone average at 1.53 percent.

Finland emerged from a three-year recession in 2015, with tepid growth of 0.5 percent, a situation blamed on its falling competitiveness, ageing population and the economic problems of its major trading partners, Russia and the European Union. Not all difficulties have been overcome. Finland's exports continued to decline by 1.1 percent in the first three months of this year and 2.6 percent over a year.

"Construction and services are creating growth, while industrial production does not grow or contract," Brotherus explained on Twitter. The encouraging economic thaw comes as Finland's centre-right government has spent its first year in office struggling to get the country's powerful labor unions to agree to a deal cutting the cost of labor in Finland by adding to everyone three working days a year without increasing salaries. — AFP





## ETIHAD AIRWAYS STARTS LUXURY DREAMLINER FLIGHTS TO PERTH

**ABU DHABI:** A state-of-the-art Etihad Airways Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner will touch down in Perth after its inaugural flight from Abu Dhabi. Etihad Airways flight EY486 took off from Abu Dhabi at 10.30pm yesterday and is scheduled to arrive in the Western Australian capital at 1.50pm today where it will be welcomed by a water cannon salute. The return flight EY487 will depart Perth this evening at 5pm and arrive in Abu Dhabi at 12.25am on 3 June. The B787-9 Dreamliner features Etihad Airways' next-generation Business and Economy Class cabins. With 299 seats, it delivers 14 per cent more capacity than the Airbus A330-200 it replaces. In the high-demand Business Class cabin, it offers 27 per cent more seats. Etihad Airways Senior Vice President of Marketing, Shane O'Hare, said the decision to upgrade to the Dreamliner reflected the importance of Western Australia to Etihad Airways. "Since launching flights between Perth and Abu Dhabi two years ago we have enjoyed strong two-way demand from business and leisure travellers on the route. "The Dreamliner, which adds 518 weekly seats to the route, gives us the extra capacity needed to meet this ever-increasing demand. "It also enables our guests to experience the luxury, comfort and hospitality for which Etihad Airways is world-renowned. "Our Dreamliners, with ground-breaking innovations in all cabins, have raised the passenger experience bar, setting the benchmark in world aviation for superior comfort, entertainment, inflight connectivity, and service."

### Inbound tourism

Mr O'Hare also commented on the contribution the new Dreamliner services would make to inbound tourism to Western Australia. "The additional weekly seats to Perth will bolster Etihad Airways' existing support for Western Australia's tourism industry by bringing more international visitors from across our global network to experience the delights of a Western Australian holiday. "Together with our partner airlines, we offer travellers from Europe, the Middle East and east coast USA, the comfort and convenience of one-stop flights to Perth with seamless transfers at the Abu Dhabi hub."

The Etihad Airways B787-9 Dreamliner features the airline's highly acclaimed next-generation interiors with 28 Business Studios and 271 Economy Smart Seats. The onboard décor and lighting have been inspired by contemporary modern Arabian design, complementing the airline's eye-catching 'Facets of Abu Dhabi' livery.

The 28 Business Studios all offer direct aisle access, a fully flat bed of up to 80.5 inches long, and an increase of 20 per cent in personal space. Upholstered in the finest Poltrona Frau leather, the Business Studio is equipped with an in-seat massage and pneumatic cushion control system which enables guests to adjust the firmness and comfort of their seat. Each Business Studio has

an 18-inch personal touch-screen TV with noise-cancelling headsets. The 271 Economy Smart Seats provide enhanced comfort with a unique 'fixed wing' headrest on each seat, adjustable lumbar support, a seat width of approximately 19 inches, and an 11.1" personal TV monitor. The Dreamliner fleet features the latest Panasonic eX3 entertainment system which provides more than 750 hours of on-demand entertainment including seven live TV channels, improved gaming and high definition screens across all cabins. The aircraft has full mobile and Wi-Fi service, with USB and power points at every seat.

### World-renowned hospitality

The airline's world-renowned hospitality offering includes innovative services such as Flying Nannies and onboard Food and Beverage Managers. A Flying Nanny, trained by the world-famous Norland College in the UK, is on board every B787-9 Dreamliner flight to provide assistance to families travelling with young children.

Food and Beverage Managers, handpicked from the world's top hotels and restaurants, guide guests in Business Class through the extensive a la carte and dine anytime options and provide recommendations on the optimal food and wine pairing. Etihad Airways uniquely offers travellers from Western Australia the convenience of US Customs and Border Protection at Abu Dhabi Airport. This facility, exclusive to Etihad Airways in the Gulf region, allows guests to complete immigration, customs and security clearance procedures for the USA while in transit at Abu Dhabi - avoiding lengthy queues upon arrival at US airports. Etihad Airways launched daily two-class Airbus A330-200 services to Perth in July 2014. Beyond Perth, Etihad Airways offers connections to eight towns and cities in Western Australia in conjunction with codeshare partner Virgin Australia. The partnership enables guests to seamlessly connect to Etihad Airways' global network from Broome, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Kununurra, Karratha, Paraburdoo, Port

Hedland and Newman. In addition to the WA capital, Etihad Airways serves Sydney with double daily flights, in conjunction with Virgin Australia; double daily flights to Melbourne; and daily services to Brisbane.

Perth is the second Australian city to be served by Etihad Airways' B787-9 Dreamliner aircraft; Brisbane was the first in June 2015. The Dreamliner is also deployed to Singapore, Washington DC, Zurich and Düsseldorf. Services will commence to Istanbul, Johannesburg and Shanghai throughout the remainder of 2016. With a further 64 Boeing 787 Dreamliners scheduled for delivery over the next few years, the aircraft will become the mainstay of Etihad Airways' long-haul fleet. Guests on the Dreamliner enjoy the industry's largest windows; air that is cleaner, more humid and at a higher pressure for better comfort; large overhead stowage bins, soothing LED lighting; and technology to sense and counter turbulence for a smoother ride.

## FORD ANNOUNCES SENIOR LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

**DUBAI:** Ford Motor Company yesterday is announcing leadership changes in the Middle East and Africa as it continues to deliver the company's One Ford plan for profitable growth. Jim Benintende, currently president, Ford Middle East and Africa, is appointed director, US Sales Support, reporting to Mark LaNeve, vice president US Marketing Sales and Service. In this role, Jim will assist Mark and the US team on priority sales initiatives including field organizational support, dealer effectiveness and online

selling. His new role is effective Aug 1, 2016.

Jacques Brent, 46, currently vice president, Marketing, Asia Pacific, is appointed president, Ford Middle East and Africa, effective July 1, 2016. He will be based in Dubai. Benintende, 60, joined Ford 40 years ago as an assembly line worker in Mahwah, NJ. He progressed through a series of marketing and sales positions from 1984-93 before joining Ford Export and Growth as national sales manager for Saudi Arabia and Egypt in 1993, a position he held until 1997. He also served as Middle East marketing manager from 1996-97 and as the sales manager for the Middle East and North Africa from 1997-2000, becoming managing director, Ford Middle East, in 2000.

Benintende was named president, Ford Middle East and Africa in September, 2013. Under his leadership, Ford established its MEA headquarters in Dubai, developed a long term regional expansion strategy, grew its retail footprint, started an assembly operation in Nigeria, opened sales and purchasing offices in North Africa and localized the Everest SUV in South Africa.

"Establishing Ford's fifth business unit and working with the team to develop our long-term strategy for this exciting region is one of the most fulfilling things I've done in my career," Benintende said. "I'll miss the team and the dealers in MEA, and I'm looking forward to serving with Mark to support

sales initiatives in the US."

Brent has worked at Ford for 19 years, beginning his career at Ford of Southern Africa. His career has spanned three continents and multiple Ford-owned brands over the years. He has worked in leadership roles within markets and the various brands with cross functional experience in finance, marketing, sales and general management.

"This is a great opportunity in Ford's newest region and I look forward to continuing the growth and momentum we have established in these diverse markets," Brent said. "Jim and the team have done great job establishing the region and it is an honor for me to be able to lead this region as we embark on the next exciting phase of our development," added Brent. "I am also very excited to once again be working with South Africa, and to get to know the employees and dealers in the other regions."

From April, 2014, Jacques led marketing for Ford Asia Pacific, covering the 12 major markets and many smaller ones. Jacques current role in Asia Pacific includes regional responsibility for consumer, product and retail marketing in addition to market research and marketing strategy. Brent's father worked for Ford for 38 years, beginning in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, from where his family hails. Brent is married to Tracy Brent and has three daughters, Tamryn, Nicola and Alexia.







LA HABRA: In this May 9, 2013 file photo, a worker pushes shopping carts in front of a Wal-Mart store. — AP

## IS WAL-MART'S MULTI-FRONT FIGHT ENOUGH? SHAREHOLDERS MEET FAST-CHANGING CONSUMER ENVIRONMENT IN SPOTLIGHT

**FAYETTEVILLE, Arkansan:** Wal-Mart's sway with customers and efforts by the world's largest retailer to grow more nimble in a fast-changing consumer environment will take center stage during its annual shareholders'.

Wal-Mart finds itself at a crossroads. Its long-held dominance in pricing has been chipped away both by Amazon.com and by dollar stores. But it's fighting back on multiple fronts, growing more aggressive with its prices and it's going after Amazon, both online and on the doorstep, by expanding delivery services.

At the same time its spending money on its stores and its staff. It's now in the second year of a \$2.7 billion investment in workers through training and higher wages, all with the hope of making Wal-Mart a place where people want to be. Changes have been painful at times. It announced this year that it would shutter 269 stores worldwide, about half of them in the US. While only a tiny fraction of its locations worldwide, it was a rare pruning for Wal-Mart, particularly on its home turf.

Yet those maneuvers appear to have begun to pay off. The company, based in Bentonville, Arkansas, just posted its seventh consecutive quarter of rising comparable-store sales at Wal-Mart locations in the US, which account for 62 percent of annual revenue. It expects sales to grow again this quarter.

Amid a disastrous quarter for retailers as a whole, Wal-Mart excelled. But red flags have appeared as Wal-Mart digs in to fend off Amazon.com.

The company's e-commerce growth has slowed dramatically even as it escalates investment there. Global e-commerce sales slowed to 7 percent during the first quarter, a notable downturn from the nearly 30 percent growth it enjoyed two years ago.

"Domestically, Wal-Mart's challenge remains unchanged as it attempts to adapt to a changing retail environment in which stores are only 'part' of the environment and not 'only' the environment," wrote Michael Exstein, analyst at Credit Suisse. Still, Wall Street appears optimistic about the changes that have been made. Wal-Mart shares are up 16 percent this year, while the Standard & Poor's index for multiline retail is up only 2.5 percent. Here are some of the steps that Wal-Mart is taking

**REASSERTING ITS LOW PRICE LEADERSHIP:** Wal-Mart is lowering prices on a broad array of products over the next few years, though it's not releasing specifics. Executives said this week that in the past few years, it hadn't been on aggressive on prices as it should have been. Also, looking back in search of formulas that worked, it's bringing back the recognizable smiley face in its stores and on TV ads after a decade in the shadows. The company said that nearly 70 percent of customers still equate the image with savings.

**EXPANDING ONLINE:** Wal-Mart is expanding online options, including groceries. Starting this week, it added 14 new markets for online grocery pickup for a total of 54 markets at

about 200 stores. Wal-Mart also said this week that in Denver and Phoenix, it's going to test grocery deliveries using online ride-hailing companies Uber and Lyft. That experiment, occurring in the next two weeks, is in addition to a pilot program that started quietly in March, making the online delivery service Deliv available to Sam's Club customers in Miami.

Wal-Mart trimmed the delivery time for its free-shipping pilot program to two days from three, and it's cutting a dollar off the membership price. Membership is now \$49 per year. Amazon membership costs \$99 a year, but it comes with a bewildering array of perks, including product subscriptions, one- and two-hour Prime Now delivery, streaming music and video, photo storage and more.

**MAKING DISTRIBUTION CENTERS MORE EFFICIENT:** Wal-Mart ships goods directly to customers from 80 of its stores and it uses 4,500 stores as pickup points. But it's also trying to fulfill orders more quickly at distribution centers, where it is testing drones. Reporters got a sneak peek at a drone Wal-Mart is testing in a distribution center in Bentonville. That technology could be rolled out in the next six to nine months. The drone skitters around the massive center, capturing images in real time and flagging misplaced items. The drone takes 30 pictures per second. Wal-Mart says drones allow it to confirm inventory in about a day or less, rather than the month required by traditional means. — AP

## JAGUAR LAND ROVER SUES CHINESE AUTOMAKER OVER COPYCAT VEHICLE

**BEIJING:** Jaguar Land Rover is suing Chinese automaker Jiangling Motor for allegedly copying the British firm's Range Rover Evoque, a person with direct knowledge of the matter said - a rare move by a foreign automaker to fight copycats in the world's biggest autos market.

A spokesman for JLR, owned by India's Tata Motors, said in brief emailed comments to Reuters that a court in Beijing's eastern Chaoyang district "served Jiangling with newly filed actions surrounding copyright and unfair competition." He declined to elaborate.

The suit relates to Jiangling's Landwind X7 sport utility vehicle copying the design of the Evoque, JLR's first China-made model that went on sale last year, said the person with knowledge of the legal proceedings, who is not authorized to talk to the media and didn't want to be named. A spokesman for Landwind declined to comment.

Despite widespread and often blatant copying, global automakers generally don't take legal action in China as they feel the odds of winning against local firms are low. Also, a lawsuit can be bad for branding if the Chinese public think a foreign company is bullying domestic competitors. If JLR wins its case, it could prompt other automakers to also take legal action, said Chen Jihong, a Beijing-based lawyer at Zhong Lun Law Firm, speeding up a shift to stronger enforcement of intellectual property rights.

### Close resemblance

Landwind unveiled a new version of its X7 SUV in November 2014, drawing criticism for its striking likeness to the Evoque, an imported version of which was already on sale in China. The two SUVs have a similar shape, with the roof and windows tapering from front to back, and near identical tail lights and character lines on the side paneling. The X7's front grille is slightly more rounded than the hard edges of the Evoque.

The slight differences between the two cars can be virtually eliminated using widely available kits that allow a Range Rover grille, logo and Land Rover badges to be put on an X7. Kits on Alibaba's Taobao shopping website cost around 128 Yuan (\$19.43). The X7 costs around a third of the price of an Evoque, and is some way behind in technology and performance, said Yale Zhang, managing director of Automotive Foresight. JLR and Jiangling have agreed that Landwind will not sell the X7 in Brazil, the source said, where it recently appointed an importer. The two automakers are also discussing what Landwind can and can't do in any X7 design update, the person said.

JLR sales fell by a fifth in China in January-March of last year - when it launched its China-made Evoque - after rising 36 percent in the same 2014 period. In the same period this year, JLR's China sales rose 19 percent. A lawsuit could be a long and grueling process. — Reuters

## SOUTH AFRICAN MINING FIRMS TO APPEAL SILICOSIS RULING

**JOHANNESBURG:** South African gold mining firms plan to appeal against a High Court ruling that allowed class action suits seeking damages for up to half a million miners who contracted the fatal lung disease silicosis and tuberculosis, they said yesterday. A High Court decision last month set the stage for protracted proceedings covering cases dating back decades in the largest class action suits yet in Africa's most industrialized country.

Anglo American, Africa's top gold producer AngloGold Ashanti, Gold Fields, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Gold and African Rainbow Minerals, have formed the Occupational Lung Disease (OLD) group to deal with such issues. The group confirmed that the companies had filed individual applications to appeal the class certification judgment handed down on May 13, adding that the firms have been seeking a settlement with the affected workers.

"Whilst the companies deny liability for the claims, it is nonetheless the working group's view that a fair and sustainable settlement is preferable to long and protracted litigation," the OLD said in a statement, adding that the discussions have been going for more than a year. Charles Abrahams, an attorney who acted on behalf of the miners, had told Reuters in Cape Town that the companies planned to appeal the court ruling.

Silicosis is an incurable disease caused by inhaling silica dust from gold-bearing rocks. It causes shortness of breath, a persistent cough and chest pains, and also makes people highly susceptible to tuberculosis. The court had estimated that more than half a million claimants could be involved in the cases against the firms. "Assuming a conservative claim of \$6,500 per claimant, this approximates claims in the total amount of \$3.25 billion," said Max Ebrahim, an insurance partner at law firm Clyde & Co. — Reuters



# Kuwait Times Weekender

www.kuwaittimes.net

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016

## Pop power couple Swift, Harris break up

SEE PAGE 23



Baker Magadma, a member of Palestinian sports group Bar Palestine, performs on the street in Gaza City, yesterday. Street workout, which is still new in Gaza, is a growing sport across the world with annual competitions and events. —AFP





Chef Justin Carlisle stands in the kitchen of his restaurant, Ardent, in Milwaukee. — AP photos



Chef Justin Carlisle stands in the dining room of his restaurant, Ardent, in Milwaukee.

## Not just brats: Milwaukee chefs earn foodie honors

Milwaukee may be known for brats, but a dozen local chefs and eateries have been honored for their skill and creativity with all kinds of ingredients, and they have helped turn the city into a foodie destination. Since 2002, 12 Milwaukee restaurants or chefs have made it to the final rounds or won honors in the prestigious James Beard Awards - considered the Oscars of the culinary world. These chefs are helping to change the way residents and visitors look at the city and its dining scene.

### Justin Carlisle's ardent

Justin Carlisle made it to the final round of the Beard Awards this year with his 23-seat Ardent, in the basement of an east side Milwaukee building. He was also a semifinalist in the best new restaurant category in 2014 and made it to the finals in 2015. "It gets a little surreal after a while you know," he said. The nominations have been good for business, leading to an increase in reservations. And those making reservations are generally pretty adventurous. There's no sign on the door - just the letter "A" - and no menus on the tables.

Instead, Carlisle or another chef asks what customers like or if they have allergies. Most diners opt for a tasting menu - small portions of several dishes of the chef's choosing - and the chefs create a meal for them. There is a regular menu available, but most diners opt for the tasting menu. As if 23 seats in the restaurant wasn't intimate enough, Carlisle says he may remove another four seats to further personalize service. "Happier customers are better business and happier employees are better business," he said.

### Seasonal menus, local ingredients

Restaurant owners and chefs Thomas Hauck of c 1880 and Dave Swanson of Braise were also named Beard semifinalists this year. Inside c 1880, the decor includes old photos of Milwaukee and old-fashioned light bulbs, intended to evoke the years around 1880 when the building was built.

The menu is seasonal, but Hauck also likes to preserve fresh produce like pickling tomatoes, ramps and asparagus for use other times of year. "We want to show you the same thing in as many ways as possible, raw or dehydrated or fried or sauteed," said Hauck, who has cooked for President Barack Obama and the first lady. The menu has an international flair with dishes like duck cassoulet, rabbit spaetzle and lamb baba ganoush. Earlier this year, Hauck bought one of the city's oldest restaurants, Karl Ratzsch, which is also one of the city's last German restaurants. Karl Ratzsch has been remodeled and is serving dishes like crackling pork shank, goose shank, schnitzel and sausage.

A block away from c. 1880 over at Braise, chef Dave Swanson also offers a seasonal menu, which this spring features ramps in dishes like roasted ramp soup and a ramp cracker with chorizo and chimichurri. Open since 2011, Braise also supports community agriculture through a program that offers weekly home deliv-

ery of seasonal vegetables, fruits, dairy, meats and dry goods. As part of the program, restaurants also collaborate to source food locally and have more buying power. For instance, Swanson buys whole animals from local farms, butchers them and sells the meat to other restaurants. Depending on what's left over, Braise's menu will be changed to use up cuts of meat. The restaurant also has a culinary school. Swanson also made the Beard semifinals in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

### Other award winners

According to the James Beard Foundation, there have been five chef or restaurant winners in Milwaukee since 1996. One of them is Justin Aprahamian, chef and owner at Sanford Restaurant. He won in 2014 for best chef in the Midwest and was either a semifinalist or finalist for various categories four years before that. He worked under former owner Sandy D'Amato, who was the first chef in Milwaukee to win the award in 1996. Aprahamian bought the restaurant when D'Amato retired in 2012.

He cooks modern ethnic dishes with local ingredients and

plans to open a brewery and restaurant to include things like charcuterie, cheese and sandwiches in June. His Like Minds Brewing business is already producing beer in Chicago. Other winners include Watts Tea Shop, which won the Beard Award's American classic category in 2011.

The Serbian restaurant of Three Brothers, which has been around since the mid-1950s, won a James Beard Award in the American classic category in 2002. The fifth winner is Adam Siegel, who won in 2008 in the best chef Midwest category while at Lake Park Bistro, where he's still executive chef. He was also nominated in 2007.

### Food tourism

The buzz around Milwaukee's food scene is drawing visitors. Last year, food and beverage tourism here hit \$1 billion, up from \$985 million in 2014. Kristin Settle, spokeswoman for VISIT Milwaukee, the local tourism agency, says requests for restaurant information range from brats and cheese to fine dining and farm-to-table meals. "Fortunately for the greater Milwaukee area, our culinary scene is strong and continues to surprise," she said. — AP



South Korean group Superjunior greets South Korea's president Park Geun-Hye (unseen) during the KCON 2016, at the Bercy Arena, in Paris yesterday. — AFP



## Morricone marks 60 years as Hollywood's go-to music man

Oscar-winning composer Ennio Morricone is back on his feet after canceling a string of concerts because of two collapsed vertebrae that raised questions about the continued prodigious output of the 87-year-old music legend. Morricone, whose memorable scores to "The Mission," "Cinema Paradiso" and other films have made him one of Hollywood's most sought-after composers, says he's doing fine now and is ready to get back on tour to mark his 60 years in the industry.

In an interview at his home in an elegant Rome palazzo, Morricone says even after all his years, he still gets the jitters before going on stage to conduct. "I get very nervous, because sometimes despite the good will, accidents can happen," he said from his art-filled living room. "Even small accidents can bother me, things that the audience doesn't even notice."

"I rather prefer to write music, but obviously it is natural that I direct the music I wrote," he adds. Morricone is still basking in his second Oscar win earlier this year, for scoring Quentin Tarantino's "The Hateful Eight." He previously won a lifetime achievement Academy Award in 2007. "It is a nice satisfaction," he said, a copy of his Hollywood Star on the coffee table. "But what is important is not to think about it." Morricone does put a lot of thought into what eventually goes down on paper, however.

"I used to bring some paper and leave it on the bedside table, both sheets with pentagram or blank, to write down an idea that could arise during the night," he said. "Ideas can come by chance too, sometimes while you're in the car. An idea arrives and that's it." What's critical, he said, is having a relationship with the director. Morricone's most famous collaboration was with Italian director Sergio Leone, whose "Dollars" trilogy starring Clint Eastwood and "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"



Three-time best sound-track Oscar winner Ennio Morricone answers questions during an interview with The Associated Press in Rome. — AP

enabled Morricone to reinvent the music for Westerns.

Of his art, he says his role is to essentially fill in the gaps. "I don't describe images with my music," he said. "When there is an important movie, it's key that the music tell what isn't said and what you cannot see." A new album commemorating Morricone's six-decade career and sampling some of his 600 works, "Morricone 60," is being released by Decca Records in October. It contains new recordings of some Morricone's greatest hits, performed by the Czech National Symphony Orchestra. — AP



Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris

## Pop power couple Swift, Harris break up

Two of the biggest names in music, Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris, have called it quits-and are trying to be amicable. A day after gossip sites reported their breakup, Harris tweeted Thursday: "The only truth here is that a relationship came to an end & what remains is a huge amount of love and respect." In the social media version of confirmation, Swift-who with nearly 78 million followers is the third most followed person on Twitter-retweeted Harris.

Swift, 26, a country prodigy who has transformed herself into one of the most successful pop singers in recent years, was first seen on dates with the 32-year-old Harris in early 2015. Swift was spotted in the crowd dancing approvingly as Harris, a Scottish DJ behind a string of hit singles, played a headlining set in April at the Coachella festival in California. Both stars have repeatedly seen their personal lives make headlines. Swift has been linked to pop stars including Joe Jonas and John Mayer as well as the actor Jake Gyllenhaal. Harris previously dated the Kosovo-born British singer Rita Ora. Swift has voiced exasperation at the interest in her love life. She joked about the attention in the song "Shake It Off," the first single off her blockbuster last album "1989." — AFP



Tamar Braxton

## Braxton gets new talk show deal from Steve Harvey

Tamar Braxton has a deal for a new talk show just days after exiting as a co-host of "The Real." Comedian and talk show host Steve Harvey announced during an interview with Braxton on his radio show Thursday that he has signed a deal to produce a new TV talk show for Braxton. The 39-year-old younger sister of singer Toni Braxton calls it an "AMAZING opportunity" in an Instagram post, but offered no other details on the program.

Braxton tells Harvey that her firing from "The Real" came "out of the blue" and no one has told her why she was let go following the show's second season. Braxton was part of a five-person group on the syndicated chat show that also airs on BET. — AP

## PETA offers pro-vegan Prince song as free download

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is celebrating Prince's birthday with a free download of his pro-vegan song, "Animal Kingdom." PETA said yesterday the song will be available through Prince's June 7 birthday to highlight the late singer's longtime support of animal rights. Prince donated the song to PETA for its 20th anniversary in 1999.

The song includes the lyrics, "We're all members of the animal kingdom. Leave your brothers and sisters in the sea." Autopsy results released Thursday show Prince's death in April at age 57 was from an accidental overdose of the prescription painkiller fentanyl. Prince's ex-wife Mayte Garcia is working with PETA to encourage Prince fans to celebrate his birthday by "go(ing) vegan to see how much better they feel and to honor his kind legacy." — AP



In this May 19, 2013 file photo, Prince performs at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. — AP

## Salling to surrender in child porn case



In this file photo, Mark Salling arrives at the 32nd Annual Paleyfest "Glee" held at The Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. — AP

An actor who starred on the musical dramedy "Glee" is scheduled to turn himself in to federal authorities yesterday in a child pornography case. Mark Salling, who played bad-boy Noah "Puck" Puckerman on the series, is scheduled to be arraigned on two charges of receiving and possessing child pornography. The 33-year-old actor was indicted by a grand jury last week. In December, Los Angeles police and federal agents seized a laptop, hard drive and flash drive they say contained images and videos depicting child pornography.

He was charged with one count of using the Internet to obtain a pornographic still image and video of young girls and a second count of possessing two other porn videos that also featured underage girls. Salling's publicist did not return an email seeking comment. — AP



## US-made woven bedspreads, blankets are modern-day heirlooms



This undated photo shows the "Harding" woven wool and cotton blanket bed collection by family-owned Portland, Ore, based company Pendleton.



This circa early 1900s photo shows the finishing department of Pendleton Woolen Mills, the birthplace of family-owned Portland, Ore, based woven blanket and clothing company Pendleton.

When I was a kid, I would weave warm and fuzzy miniature blankets for my Barbie dolls using a tiny loom. Maybe it's no wonder, then, that years later my husband and I covet decorative, traditionally woven bedspreads, including the one now on our bed - a Bates blue-and-white-fringed cotton "Spirit of America" by family-owned Maine Heritage Weavers. For decades, family-owned businesses across the country have produced bedspreads and coverlets created with mechanical looms at their own mills. Made out of natural cotton or wool, in muted hues, these bedspreads and blankets are modern-day heirlooms passed down over generations. "It takes three to four weeks to make a bedspread, from getting the yarn, to weaving, finishing and washing," said Bianca Cloutier, 29, vice president of sales and marketing for Maine Heritage Weavers. "We get emails to this day from couples who've had their Bates bedspread since the '50s, when they got married. A woman told me, 'My bedspread lasted longer than my marriage.'"

First established in 1850, Bates Manufacturing Company



This undated photo shows the Art Deco, New York City and Native American inspired black and white "Skywalkers" woven wool and cotton blanket bed collection by family-owned Portland, Ore, based company Pendleton.

became one of the largest textile manufacturers in New England. After the company closed in 2000, Cloutier's grandfather - former Bates Manufacturing president Fred Lebel - and her mother, Linda Cloutier, founded Maine Heritage Weavers in 2002, which obtained the Bates trademark and carries on that company's tradition.

### Weaving communities

The company's \$100 to \$180 woven bedspreads and coverlets have old-school names such as "Cape Cod," featuring a '70s coastal shell theme, and "Martha Washington's Choice," in colors including maroon and sage green. That popular intricate design - with loops of chenille cotton pulled upward from the fabric to make raised flower patterns - is based on a 1940s Bates design recreated from a bedspread that George Washington chose for his wife when they married.

"The history behind the Martha Washington's Choice is a big contributor to its quality and the uniqueness of the bedspread," said Bianca Cloutier, who grew up using yarn cones from the looms for art projects and collages. Those wanting to learn how to weave a blanket or bedspread might connect with the Handweavers Guild of America, an organization of weavers, spinners, dyers, basket makers and other artists, Cloutier suggested.

Also, search for online weaving communities and classes, and invest in a small and simple hand loom. "We also welcome people coming in and seeing the factories themselves," observing the company's mechanical looms, she said. "While a loom is a machine, it takes a craftsman to use it," added Bob Christnacht, vice president of global sales for the 153-year-old Portland, Oregon-based Pendleton, a blanket, bedding and clothing company that boasts six generations of family ownership. Pendleton, with woolen weaving mills in Oregon and Washington, offers classes on how to make blankets, and the company's mill store in Portland sells more than 500 different types of Pendleton fabrics, plus blanket binding and trim, said Christnacht. "Weaving is very visceral and emotional, and part of our human heritage," Christnacht said. "Your bed, too, is a very personal place, and there's an emotional and personal obligation to it." Known for geometrically patterned wool "top of the bed" blankets, Pendleton mainly draws inspiration from

nature and Native American culture. As Pendleton Woolen Mills, the company wove traditional blankets and robes for Native Americans in the early 1900s. To this day, in many Native American communities, Pendleton blankets are given as ceremonial gifts.

### Water bug motifs

One of the company's oldest designs, the silver, white and rust patterned "Harding" blanket, has been around since 1923. That was the year President Warren G. Harding and his wife, Florence, attended a dedication ceremony for part of the old Oregon Trail, according to Pendleton. There, Native American chiefs presented the first lady with a Pendleton shawl.

The Harding blanket ranges in price from \$249 for a twin size to \$399 for a king size. The "Silver Bark" blanket collection - also an early design - features arrow, star, diamond and water bug motifs, and muted blue, white and silver colors inspired by aspen trees and sky. "People think a wool blanket will be warm, but it breathes more than a down comforter and regulates temperature," said Christnacht.



This undated historical photo shows businessmen standing on the dock of Pendleton Woolen Mills, the birthplace of family-owned Portland, Ore., based woven blanket and clothing company Pendleton.





Photo provided by Russell Brammer, groom Marley Jay gets hoisted by, from left, Mark Fairchilds, Guy Anglade, Adam Wishneusky, Jesse Bowline, Nathaniel Poor, after the wedding, in Stone Ridge, NY.



Photo shows the ringed hands of Marlow and her husband, Marley Jay, after their wedding, in Stone Ridge, NY.—AP photos

# Unplugged wedding: Here comes the bride, down go the phones

In a phone-toting, social media-mad age, you might think trying to keep your wedding offline would be crazy. Yet we did just that. We asked our guests to stay off their phones during our ceremony and other key moments. In doing so, we were hoping to make the celebration more enjoyable for everyone. As fun as smartphones, Facebook and Instagram are, they've turned us into part-time documentarians. We think about how to photograph something as soon as we see it. And we distance ourselves from the feelings that go along with these moments. "Everyone is kind of watching your entire big moment in life through a little 5-inch screen," says Lizzie Post, a great-great-granddaughter of etiquette expert Emily Post and president of the Emily Post Institute. "We're not really in the moment. We're recording the moment."

That's why my then-fiancee Amber Marlow knew what she wanted: an unplugged wedding, in which you ask guests to put away their phones for all or part of the festivities. She's a wedding photographer, and she's been recommending that clients go unplugged for years. The fact that "put your phones away" is a style of wedding instead of an obvious point shows how much mobile phones have altered even the most emotional moments of our lives.

## Good photos

And as we worked to spread the word and plan our wedding, we learned even more about our relationship with technology - 'til death or logging out do us part. Smartphones have become an all-or-nothing phenomenon: When one person at the table pulls out a phone, everyone else takes it as permission to do the same. Sometimes people start giving advice and tech support. The next thing you know, everyone is checking texts and social media.

Not to mention those horrible photos we regret the next morning. It's incredibly easy to take photos with your phone, which means it's incredibly easy to shoot subjects looking terrible, utterly intoxicated or twice their actual age. And because of Amber's professional experience, we both knew what we didn't want to see in our wedding photos: guests glued to their screens as we walked down the aisle or holding up iPads to record the first dance. Phones can take good photos, but with their distracting glow, they don't make for good photos.

Not that we're pining for a simpler, low-tech way of life. Amber and I met on a dating website, and we used our smartphones to navigate to our venue. Because we didn't want to annoy or inconvenience guests, we nixed phones only for our 15-minute ceremony, first dance and cake-cutting. We allowed phones during cocktail hour and the rest of the reception, and we told our guests they could take all the selfies they wanted. But we asked them not to post any photos of us online. We did hire a professional photographer to capture the evening for

us, including the ceremony. We wanted to make sure her photos were full of smiling faces, not screens.

We made our request gently, but often. Maybe a little more often than we needed to. We mentioned the unplugged-ness of our wedding in our invitations and explained it on our wedding website. But we were careful not to make threats or demands, and we never thought about asking people to hand over their phones. A funny pattern emerged: Our 20- and 30-something friends, the supposedly tech-addicted millennials, thought ditching phones was a great idea.

## Ringed hands

"I don't like them controlling my life," says our friend Katie Morse, a social media professional. It was a tougher sell for my mom and my aunt, both in their 60s and relatively new to technology. They just wanted to show us off on Facebook. It's the same generational dynamic that can make social media exasperating to people who have older relatives as Facebook friends. People who've spent a lot of their lives online have internalized a certain kind of etiquette, a sense of when it's proper to contact someone or share a photo. An older relative without that sensibility might appear ... a little overenthusiastic. We sympathized with my mom. Some of her best friends couldn't attend, and she wanted to include them. But if we let one person start taking and posting photos of us, everyone would do it. Dorian D'Angelo, who works in marketing for a financial firm in New York, had a different reason for banning smartphones at her wedding in 2010: She and her husband weren't able to invite all their friends and didn't want anyone to feel hurt when they see party photos on social media. "They would wonder 'Why were they invited and I wasn't?'" she says.

Figuring that our guests wouldn't feel the need to take selfies if they had a chance to take better pictures, we set up a photo booth with a beautiful backdrop. It was busy all night. There's a photo of some of my friends carrying me sideways. While D'Angelo had to confront one guest who ignored the ban, but agreed to delete the posted photo, our guests honored our requests.

A lot of them even abandoned phones for the entire party, even when they didn't have to. Later, they thanked us and said that made the day more enjoyable. Freed of the urge to reflexively document everything they did, they soaked up the event itself and appreciated the work we had put into it. The dance floor was packed for most of the night. Back in our room, I marveled at the fact that I was married - and that I hadn't touched my phone for about eight hours and hadn't missed it. My wife marked the occasion by picking up her phone to take a photo of our ringed hands. She posted the photo, and we put our phones back down.—AP

## Some tips for keeping weddings smartphone-free

Once you decide on an "unplugged wedding," you have to get the word out. Banning smartphones and cameras for all or part of a wedding is a relatively new concept, so you'll need to remind your guests gently, but often. Lizzie Post, an etiquette adviser for the Emily Post Institute, recommends using several channels, including an announcement from the officiant, spreading the word to phone-addict friends, and posting a sign or a few words in the ceremony program. "If your request can be made gently and it seems really reasonable, you should have no problem," she says.

**Question:** What if someone ignores your request?

**Answer:** Well, there's not much a couple can do beyond reminding the guest of the request.

**Question:** "If you take someone's phone away, that's too far," she says.

**Answer:** "We always try to say 'two etiquette negatives don't make an etiquette positive.'"

A few other recommendations:

1- Give your guests something else to do, such as setting up a photo booth where they can record the moment without distracting themselves with selfies.

2- Target your requests. Instead of asking your guests to stay off their phone for hours, think of a few key moments where you'd like to go phone-free.

3- If you want to keep wedding photos off social media, consider setting up your own site.

4- Collect guest photos and share them there.

If forbidding phones is going too far, compromise by announcing that you'll take a moment to pose for photos. That will let your guests get it out of their systems all at once.—AP





A Quechua woman waits for a religious procession to file past so she can cross the road, during the second day of the syncretic festival Qoyllur Rit'i.



Ukukus', representing mythical creatures of half-man, half-bear, watch a group of dancers perform outside the Sanctuary of the Lord of the Qoyllur Rit'i.

## Thousands of Peruvian pilgrims attend Snow Star Festival

**T**ens of thousands of pilgrims crowd an Andean valley, with dancers in multi-layered skirts and musicians with drums and flutes performing non-stop over three days. The native melodies resound throughout a snow-capped mountain range long adored by the Quechua people. Known as the Snow Star festival, the gathering is held every year shortly before the Christian feast of Corpus Christi and draws as many as 100,000 people to the Quispicanchis province in Peru's Cuzco region. It also coincides with the reappearance of the star cluster Pleiades in the Southern Hemisphere, signaling the abundance of the harvest season.

Inscribed on UNESCO'S Intangible Cultural Heritage list, the festival features a pilgrimage by local people to the sanctuary where a boulder features an image of Jesus Christ known as the Lord of Qoyllur Rit'i (pronounced KOL-yer REE-chee), or Snow Star in the Quechua language. The sanctuary is in the Sinakara Valley at the base of the Qullqip'unqu mountain in the Andes. Parish churches in the area provide food for the pilgrims, who camp out in the valley.

The celebration mixing Roman Catholic and indigenous beliefs honors Jesus as well as the area's glacier, which is considered sacred among some indigenous people. While the native celebration is far older, the Christian part of the ritual stretches back to the 1700s, when Jesus is said to have appeared to a young shepherd in the form of another boy. On the last night of the festival, men known as "ukukus" climb more than 4,500 meters (about 14,765 feet) in freezing temperatures up to the Qullqip'unqu mountain's glacier. They dress as half-bear, half-man creatures and carry crosses up the slope to spend the night at the top. They descend with their crosses as first rays of the morning sun spread across the mountain range and are met by groups of women and children.

The ukukus are organized into militaristic groups with strict rules overseen by a "corporal." When new recruits reach the glacier, each kneels before a cross and places their hands on the ice. In recent years, the pilgrims have noted a decline in the size of the glacier because of warming trends. In hopes of preventing additional melting, the ukukus no longer use the large candles that were once common in the ritual. The ukukus also used to cut away ice cubes to bring down, but no longer do so.

Jose Luis Mamani, president of the Paucartambo, one of numerous "nations" making the pilgrimage, said members of his group "are very worried about the state of this sacred place." Still, after praying to the Lord of Qoyllur Rit'i for health, peace and prosperity, the pilgrims head home with their hope intact and the expectation they will perform the ritual again next year.—AP



Children mount a horse after breaking camp at the base of the Qullqip'unqu mountain.



A pilgrim carrying his son on his back, plays a traditional Andean flute known as a quena, as he walks the five miles to the Sanctuary.



Pilgrims wait for the start of a procession to the Sanctuary of the Lord of the Qoyllur Rit'i.



Pilgrims wait for the start of a procession to the Sanctuary of the Lord of the Qoyllur Rit'i, as part of the syncretic festival of the same name, translated from the Quechua language as Snow Star, in the Sinakara Valley, in Peru's Cusco region.





A young boy descends the Qullqip'unqu mountain. —AP photos



Men dressed as 'Ukukus', mythical half-man, half-bear creatures, huddle together to keep warm, as they take a break from their spiritual trek to the top of the Qullqip'unqu mountain.



'Ukukus', men dressed as mythical half-man, half-bear creatures, light candles on the glacier of the Qullqip'unqu mountain.



Pilgrims dressed as 'Ukukus', mythical half-man, half-bear creatures, eat soup gifted by parishioners at a parish in the city of Occongate.





## Just a few miles from busy Myrtle Beach, a quiet kayak trip

This undated photo provided by Black River Outdoors Center shows kayakers entering a cypress swamp on the Waccamaw River in South Carolina.—AP photos

Condo towers with ocean views. King Kong hanging off a mini-Empire State Building. A zipline, escape room and helicopter rides. Myrtle Beach is all of this and more. But just a few miles from the city's busy boardwalk and roadside attractions, a different type of thrill awaits. Here, the Waccamaw River meanders through a cypress swamp in a wildlife refuge. Spanish moss drapes the trees, turtles sun themselves on stones and spider lily plants bloom with bright white flowers.

Spend a few hours kayaking the calm waters and who knows what you might encounter. A dragonfly could land on your arm. A water snake could slither by. A bright yellow bird might pierce the quiet with a loud call as it flits from tree to tree, but good luck pronouncing its name: prothonotary warbler. Duck your head if a low-hanging branch comes up too fast to paddle around, and move to the side if the modern world intrudes: Motorboats turn up on the waterway too.

I did a two-hour kayak trip here with a group of friends, booking through the Black River Outdoors Center. Our guide, Mandy Johnson, was brilliant at spotting wildlife and generous with her knowledge. And her love of the natural world was infectious: We smiled as she picked a flailing white moth out of the water and let it cling to her hat until its wings dried. The kayak outing was one of many excursions I took on a five-day getaway to the Myrtle Beach area. But while I enjoyed the destination's other pleasures - including brunch at the Tupelo Honey restaurant and a visit to Fat Harold's, a North Myrtle Beach club famous for the swing dance known as the Carolina shag - the kayak trip stands apart. See, exciting activities are easy to come by in a place like Myrtle Beach - not to mention restaurants, bars, fireworks and shopping. What's harder to find is tranquility. But there it was, in a kayak.—AP



A snake as seen in a cypress swamp along the Waccamaw River in South Carolina.



Kayakers entering a cypress swamp on the Waccamaw River in South Carolina.



A dragonfly landing on the hand of a kayaker in the Waccamaw River in South Carolina.





Pakistani father Sardar Haji Jan Mohammad Khilji plays with some of his children at his residence in Quetta.—AFP photos



Pakistani father Sardar Haji Jan Mohammad Khilji plays with some of his children at his residence.

## Pakistani father of 35 aims for 100 children

**A** Pakistani father of 35 is now searching for a fourth wife as he romps towards his goal of 100 children, a dubious ambition in the conservative Muslim country where polygamy is rare but still practiced. Sardar Jan Mohammad Khilji, 46, says he believes it is his religious duty to have as many children as possible. Insisting it is "very rare" that he mixes up his children's names, the medical technician said he juggles their affections by taking turns to attend family events with them and their mothers, such as weddings.

His three current wives support his procreational and matrimonial goals, he said, adding that they all live in harmony together-though he would not allow AFP to speak with them. Rights activists warn it is women and children who suffer most in polygamous marriages. Pakistani men are permitted to take up to four wives under Islam, though to do so they must seek permission from their first wife and an arbitration council. It remains rare for men to take multiple wives in the country, but when polygamy does take place, studies have shown it can result in "depression and despair" among wives, while children often struggle to know their father, said Rafia Zakaria, a women's rights activist.

The Quran, she told AFP, dictates that multiple wives may be taken only when a husband can do "perfect justice" among them. "Well, perfect justice is impossible, and for this reason polygamy is never a good situation," said Zakaria, who campaigns against the practice. "Someone always suffers and almost always it is the women and children," she added. Family lawyer Mohammed Bilal Kasi, who deals with polygamy cases in Quetta agreed.

"We lawyers are well aware of social problems surrounding polygamy," he said. "Women and children undergo mental agony due to these affairs." The tension can lead to serious legal disputes over property and rights after the father's death, he said.

### A case of mangoes

Denied his permission to speak, Jan's wives could not describe what life is like for his sprawling dynasty, who all live together in a five-bedroom mud hut in the outskirts of Quetta in restive Balochistan province. At least two of his children appear to support his goals, however, including his eldest child Shagufta Nasreen. "A large family is like Allah bestowing a case of mangoes," the 15-year-old explained, adding that she hopes to go into medicine like her father.

Jan's eldest son, 13-year-old Mohammed Esa, also wanted to emulate the patriarch-but he has set his sights even higher, resolving that he will have more

than 100 children. Jan, who claims he is a qualified medical technician, runs an unregulated clinic where he treats people for minor ailments such as headaches, adding that as he is "serving humanity" he charges just 250 rupees (\$2.30) per patient while providing his services to the poor for free. He also runs a seminary funded by donations where nearly 400 students-including four of his sons-are studying the Quran, and says he pays for 20 of his 35 children to attend private school.

The household expenditures of his growing empire, however, can reach up to 120,000 rupees per month-more than ten times Pakistan's average-in a neighborhood that lacks basic amenities such as tap water and sewage, he said. He insisted he has never faced any financial problems trying to care for his brood, but did not explain how he could cover all the expenses with just pay for his medical work.

Jan conceded that his needs may increase as his children grow and so is calling on the government to allocate funds for the food, education, and health-care of his family-a request that is unlikely to be fulfilled. But Jan has faith. If the government does not listen, he said, he trusts in God to provide.

### Facebook proposals

Pakistan has the highest birth rate in South Asia-around three children per woman according to World Bank and government figures-though an accurate census has not been conducted in more than 30 years. Jan put his fertility down to daily doses of fresh and dry fruits, milk and meat; as well as reciting the Holy Quran and praying five times a day. While his eldest child is 15, his youngest is just a few weeks old. At the beginning of March he was still a father of merely 33, but that month two more daughters were born within six days of one another, he says. His marriages were all arranged by his parents. "I married the first one...when I was 26 years old, and the next year wedded the other two within a gap of five months," he told AFP.

His next wedding, however, could be arranged via Facebook: since his story aired in Pakistani media, he says, he has had a slew of marriage offers via the social network. A large poster on the wall at Jan's house carries the symbol he used when he ran for provincial office in 2013: a double bed, which, he told AFP, "denotes special pleasure and meaning in my life". That time at least, his ambition fell short: he garnered 980 votes, not nearly enough to win.—AFP



Sardar Haji Jan Mohammad Khilji poses with some of his children.



Sardar Haji Jan Mohammad Khilji plays with some of his children.



Sardar Haji Jan Mohammad Khilji speaks with AFP during an interview.





This image released by Electronic Arts shows the new diverse characters that will be available on "The Sims 4" the latest edition of "The Sims" video game. — AP

## 'THE SIMS' REMOVES GENDER RESTRICTIONS IN VIDEO GAME

### CUSTOMIZATION OPTIONS NOW INTERCHANGEABLE

**LOS ANGELES:** The creators of "The Sims" are opening up gender customization options for the first time in the long-running history of the popular life simulation video game. "The Sims" publisher Electronic Arts and developer Maxis said a free update available yesterday for "The Sims 4" will remove gender boundaries and allow players to create virtual townsfolk - or Sims, as they're known - with any type of

physique, walk style or voice they choose. "The Sims 4" and earlier installments of the 16-year-old series previously restricted specific clothing, hair styles and other aesthetic options to either male or female characters. EA and Maxis said over 700 pieces of content previously available to only male or female Sims will now be accessible regardless of gender in "The Sims 4" and its various expansion packs.

The studio said in a statement it wanted to "make sure players can create characters they can identify with or relate to through powerful tools that give them influence over a Sims' gender, age, ethnicity, body type and more." While previous editions of "The Sims" have featured character customization restrictions based on gender, users have unofficially modified the PC game over the years to remove such barriers.

#### Men with heels

"The Sims 4" executive producer Rachel Franklin said in an email to The Associated Press that the developers have been working for over a year on the update. She noted that "female Sims can wear sharp men's suits like Ellen (DeGeneres), and male Sims can wear heels like Prince."

Franklin also noted players can now change their Sims' gender at any time and specify whether they can reproduce with other characters. She said Maxis worked with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy group GLAAD on the update, including following a suggestion to remove gender symbols associated with characters in the game's gallery.

"Creating the possibility for greater gender diversity within the world of 'The Sims' is an exciting development," said Nick Adams, director of GLAAD's transgender media program. "It was a pleasure working with developers who were committed to updating the game so that all players can create a Sims world that more accurately reflects the world in which we live today."

The move brings "The Sims" in line with its depiction of gay, lesbian and bisexual characters. The franchise has included same-sex relationship options since its 2000 debut, although gamers who desired virtual nuptials for their Sims of the same sex had to wait until the release of "The Sims 3" in 2009. "The Sims 4" was originally released in 2014. — AP

## TECH MOGULS DECLARE ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

#### RANCHO PALOS VERDES, California:

Artificial intelligence and machine learning will create computers so sophisticated and godlike that humans will need to implant "neural laces" in their brains to keep up, Tesla Motors and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk told a crowd of tech leaders this week.

While Musk's description of an injectable human-computer link may sound like science fiction, top tech executives repeatedly said that artificial intelligence (AI) was on the verge of changing everyday life, during discussion at a conference by online publication Recode this week. It is no secret that tech companies are diving into AI analytics research, an industry that will grow to \$70 billion by 2020 from just \$8.2 billion in 2013, according to a Bank of America report citing IDC research.

AI, which combs through large troves of raw data to predict outcomes and recognize patterns, is already used in web search systems, marketing recommendation functions and security and financial trading programs. The technology will spread to driverless cars and service robots in the future, the Bank of America report said.

#### 'Huge opportunity'

Sundar Pichai, chief executive of Alphabet Inc's Google, said he sees a "huge opportunity" in AI. Google first started applying the technology through "deep neural networks" to voice recognition software about three to four years ago and is ahead of rivals such as Amazon.com Inc, Apple Inc and Microsoft Corp in machine learning, Pichai said.

But he and others acknowledged that the work of building machines that teach themselves is still in its infancy. Microsoft, for instance, apologized and went back to the lab after an AI chatbot talking on Twitter "learned" to make racist comments. Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos predicted a profound impact on society over the next 20 years. "It's really early but I think we're on the edge of a golden era. It's going to be so exciting to see what happens," he said. Amazon has been working on artificial intelligence for at least four years and now has 1,000 employees working on Alexa, the company's voice-based smart assistant software system, he said. Big tech companies including Amazon have an edge at present because they have access to large amounts of data but hundreds of AI startups will hatch in the next few years, he said. — Reuters

## GOOGLING YOURSELF NOW LEADS TO PERSONAL PRIVACY CONTROLS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Soon, all you'll need to do is Google yourself if you're wondering how deeply Google has been digging into your digital life. In coming weeks, 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.

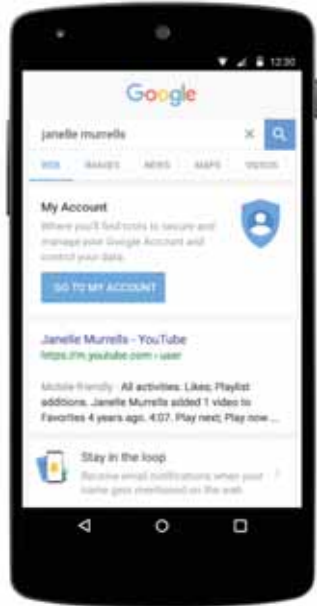
The feature is part of an update to the "My Account" hub that Google introduced a year ago to make it easier for people to manage the privacy and security controls on the internet company's services. While Google isn't making any additional information available, it is making it easier to find. The link 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. — AP



This image provided by Google shows a demonstration of Google's "My Account" mobile search. — AP

## EX-ORACLE STAFF ACCUSED OF ACCOUNTING CHICANERY

**SAN FRANCISCO:** A former employee in Oracle's finance department is accusing the business software maker of trying to pressure her into cooking the books in an effort to boost the company's stock price. Svetlana Blackburn, a former senior finance manager at Oracle, made the allegations in a lawsuit filed Wednesday in federal court. The complaint seeks damages for wrongful termination and violations of laws protecting workers blowing the whistle on misconduct by their employers.

Oracle Corp stood behind its accounting practices in a company statement Thursday that derided Blackburn's lawsuit as "malicious prosecution." The Redwood Shores, California, company said it fired Blackburn for poor performance. Blackburn painted a much different picture in her lawsuit, alleging Oracle tried to force her "to fit square data into round holes" to inflate its financial results.

Oracle wanted Blackburn to report results that couldn't be documented in a division that leases software applications accessed over the Internet, according to her lawsuit. The performance of Oracle's "cloud services" division has become increasingly important to investors as more companies and government agencies have decided to lease their software stored in remote data centers instead of buying the licensing rights to applications that are installed on the hard drives of individual computers.

Investor concerns about Oracle's ability to adapt to the cloud computing phenomenon have contributed to a sub-par performance by the company's stock price, which has declined by about 11 percent during the past year while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has been flat. Oracle's shares shed \$1.60, or 4 percent, to close Thursday at \$38.66. In a Thursday research note, Citi analyst Walter Pritchard predicted the allegations of accounting chicanery will "keep some level of uncertainty" hanging over Oracle's stock until more information comes out in the case. — AP



## SMARTPHONE GROWTH SLOWS TO A TRICKLE IN 2016: SURVEY

**WASHINGTON:** The global smartphone market is sputtering in 2016, with Apple likely to see its first “down” year for the iPhone, a research report said Wednesday. Research firm IDC said worldwide smartphone sales will likely increase just 3.1 percent to 1.48 billion units, after 10.5 percent growth last year.

IDC said it expects “low single digit growth” in the United States, Western Europe, and China while Japan and Canada are expected to contract by 6.4 percent and 6.9 percent, respectively. The slowdown comes with the large markets generally saturated, and con-

sumers keeping their handsets longer, because they are paying the full price without a subsidy from carriers.

“Consumers everywhere are getting savvy about how and where they buy their smartphones,” said IDC’s Ryan Reith. This means that instead of getting devices from carriers, consumers are going directly to manufacturers or buying in online marketplaces. “Consumers are having more say over which brands they want and at the same time able to bargain shop,” Reith said.

IDC said Android’s global dominance is likely to

continue this year, with the Google-powered operating system in 84 percent of smartphones sold in 2016, up from 81 percent a year ago. Apple is likely to see its first sales decline ever for the iPhone in 2016 a two percent drop to 227 million units, IDC predicted. But IDC said Apple can bring iPhone back to growth in 2017 with its trade-in program as well as the lower cost iPhone SE. IDC said the Windows Phone platform will see further declines as Microsoft shifts its focus. The report said Windows will account for just 0.8 percent of the market this year. — AFP

## SAMSUNG CHALLENGES FITBIT WITH \$180 FITNESS TRACKER WITH GPS

**NEW YORK:** Just in time for summer, Samsung is unveiling a new fitness tracker that aims to undercut gadgets from market leader Fitbit. Beyond offering all-day step counting and automatic sleep tracking, the \$180 Gear Fit2 comes with GPS sensors for more accurate measuring of distance and pacing for runners and cyclists.

GPS is typically limited to higher-end devices, such as the Fitbit Surge and the Microsoft Band 2, both of which go for \$250. The Fit2 is also cheaper than the new \$200 Fitbit Blaze, which doesn’t have GPS. The main drawback: The Fit2 won’t sync with iPhones, as Fitbits do. An Android phone not necessary Samsung’s is required for syncing music and workout data.

While Samsung is the world’s fifth-largest maker of wearable devices, according to technology market research firm IDC, most of those are Gear smartwatches, where fitness is an afterthought. By contrast, fitness is front and center with the Fit2. Yet it will also have some smartwatch capabilities, including the ability to reply to messages from the device. Rival trackers at most tend to show you messages; replies are typically limited to smartwatches such as Apple Watch and Samsung’s Gear S2.

Advance orders on the Fit2 will begin Friday in the US, with shipments a week later. Later this year, Samsung will release its \$200 Gear IconX earbuds that, in addition to playing music, will track exercise and heart rate. They’re designed as a stand-alone tracker, rather than a companion to the Fit2.

### Built-in sensors

Under Armour’s upcoming heart-rate-tracking headphones are expected to cost \$250. Samsung’s IconX goes further with built-in sensors to measure distance and pacing, though with less accuracy than GPS devices. There’s no screen, so you get audio readouts every mile or whatever interval you set. With Thursday’s announcements, Samsung is trying to tap growing interest in health and fitness as sales of smartphones slow down.

In the first three months of this year, Fitbit shipped 4.8 million devices, or 25 percent more than a year earlier. That accounts about a quarter of all wearable devices worldwide. Samsung, by contrast, shipped about 700,000, an increase of less than 5 percent, according to IDC. Samsung’s devices require an Android phone, while Fitbits work with iPhones and Windows phones as well.

Samsung is taking a cue from Fitbit in creating leaderboards and challenges for family and friends to motivate each other. This has been one of Fitbit’s strongest areas, and Fitbit has an advantage as the market leader: Someone you’re trying to challenge √ç→Ä→î or taunt √ç→Ä→î will more likely have a Fitbit than another device. Samsung’s version works through its S Health phone app, meaning Android phone users will be able to participate without a dedicated tracker. But it could be tougher to motivate someone who hasn’t made a commitment to fitness by buying a tracker. — AP



**NEW YORK:** In this Monday, May 23, 2016, photo, features on the Fit2 are demonstrated. — AP



**BUSAN:** In this Wednesday, April 6, 2016 photo provided by Busan Metropolitan City, a woman sits on special priority seats next to a metal bar attached with a “pink light” wireless sensor in a subway train. — AP

## SOUTH KOREA USES TECHNOLOGY TO HELP PREGNANT WOMEN GET SEATS TESTING A SMALL, ROUND DEVICE CALLED A BEACON

**BUSAN:** Before they show a baby bump, what some pregnant women in South Korea can expect when expecting is accusing glares when they take subway seats meant for pregnant, disabled or elderly passengers. One South Korean city is testing a wireless technology it hopes can alleviate such problems and perhaps help address one of the biggest challenges facing the Asian country: a stubbornly low birthrate.

In April, the southeastern port of Busan, South Korea’s second-largest city, began testing a small, round device called a beacon. Equipped with a wireless sensor, it activates a pink light attached to another sensor installed on a metal bar next to special priority seats, usually at the end of subway cars. The idea is to alert all nearby that the person carrying the beacon has a baby on the way.

The “Pink Light Campaign” can help non-pregnant passengers who might be occupying a seat designated for riders who are expecting to yield the spot without having to guess, is she or isn’t she? In theory, pregnant women also can claim a

seat without having to ask. “It is hard to tell if a woman is pregnant, and give up a seat, when she doesn’t have a baby bump,” said Lee Gyeong-eon, a 23-year-old college student who frequently travels by subway.

### Friendlier transport

Other South Korean cities also are trying to make travel by public transportation friendlier to pregnant women. Seoul, the capital, has installed bright pink seats designated for women who are expecting. With one of the lowest birthrates in the world, South Korea is eager to encourage larger families. South Korean women had 1.21 children on average in 2014. The average for the wealthy nations belonging to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development was 1.68.

The Busan experiment is part of the trend toward the “Internet of Things,” which uses wireless technology in products not usually associated with internet connectivity, such as toothbrushes or socks. “I have felt a bit uncomfortable

about getting a seat or claiming a seat reserved for pregnant women,” said Ock Si-yoon, a 33-year-old who is expecting a baby. “Early on, there is a risk of miscarriage, so I’m a bit uneasy about using public transportation, since subways or busses shake a lot and it is difficult to get someone to yield a seat for me.”

“These days, people are usually looking at their phones and they are not really aware that a seat is reserved for pregnant women,” she said. “But now, with the ‘Pink Light Campaign,’ it is easy for people to notice when the sensor blinks.”

For now, Busan’s trial of the technology is limited to a few sections of the city’s transit system. But the city plans to expand it to more subway lines and to buses. “Consideration for pregnant women should prevail and they should be able to use public transportation more easily and conveniently with this policy,” said Suh Byung-soo, Busan’s mayor. “Women should be able to use city facilities easily even when they are expecting,” he said. — AP





04:25 The Wilby Conspiracy  
06:10 Duplex  
07:40 Of Mice And Men  
09:30 The People That Time Forgot  
11:00 The Bed Sitting Room  
12:30 Cannon For Cordoba  
14:15 Captain Jack  
15:55 Charge Of The Light Brigade  
18:00 Clifford  
19:30 Empire Of The Ants  
21:00 Who Is Cletis Tout?  
22:30 Breaking Bad  
23:30 Joseph Andrews  
01:10 Everybody's Fine  
02:50 Stand By Me



03:25 Lion Man: One World African  
Safari  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Treehouse Masters  
05:49 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)  
06:36 Call Of The Wildman  
07:25 Treehouse Masters  
11:00 Dog TV  
11:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George  
12:50 Gangland Killers  
13:45 Natural World  
15:35 Animal Cops South Africa  
16:30 Lion Man: One World African  
Safari

17:25 Gangland Killers  
18:20 Rugged Justice  
19:15 Giant Pandas Go Wild  
20:10 Village Vets  
20:40 Village Vets  
21:05 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
22:00 Rugged Justice  
22:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George  
23:50 Gator Boys  
01:40 Gangland Killers



03:40 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 Fast N' Loud  
10:10 Gold Rush (Season 6 Specials)  
11:00 Rebel Gold  
11:50 Outback Truckers  
12:40 Storage Wars Canada  
14:45 Property Wars  
16:50 Edge Of Alaska  
17:40 Ice Lake Rebels  
18:30 You Have Been Warned  
19:20 The Pop Illusionist  
20:10 What Happened Next?  
21:00 Alaskan Bush People  
21:50 The Last Alaskans  
22:40 Hell Roads  
23:30 What Happened Next?  
00:45 For The Love Of Cars



03:00 Untamed & Uncut  
03:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:30 Through The Wormhole With

Morgan Freeman  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Doki  
07:50 Kids vs Film  
08:40 Bad Dog  
12:50 Strangest Weather On Earth  
17:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown  
18:40 Wildest Africa  
19:30 Troy  
20:20 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse  
21:10 NASA's Greatest Missions  
22:00 Untamed & Uncut  
00:30 Strangest Weather On Earth  
02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



03:00 Evil Stepmothers  
03:48 Surviving Evil  
04:36 Blood Relatives  
05:24 California Investigator  
06:12 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad  
07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner  
07:50 Blood Relatives  
12:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
12:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
17:00 California Investigator  
17:50 Southern Fried Homicide  
18:40 Murder Comes To Town  
19:30 Swamp Murders  
20:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall  
21:10 Suspicion  
22:00 I'd Kill For You  
22:50 Paranormal Lockdown  
23:40 The Haunted  
00:30 Surviving Evil



03:05 How It's Made  
03:29 Mythbusters  
04:16 How It's Made  
04:39 How It's Made  
05:03 Man v The Universe  
05:50 Prototype This  
06:37 How Do They Do It?  
07:00 How It's Made  
11:08 How Do They Do It?  
11:53 Food Factory  
14:10 Food Factory USA  
14:57 Mythbusters  
18:05 The World's Strangest UFO Stories  
20:25 Alien Encounters  
22:00 How Do They Do It?  
22:45 How It's Made  
01:08 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



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 Lolirock  
06:25 Sofia The First  
06:50 Gravity Falls  
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
07:40 Hank Zipzer  
08:05 Shake It Up  
08:55 Hannah Montana  
09:45 Wizards Of Waverly Place  
10:35 Toy Story  
12:00 The 7D  
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
12:20 Jessie  
12:45 Girl Meets World  
13:10 Best Friends Whenever  
13:35 Jessie  
14:25 Descendants Wicked World  
14:30 Jessie  
17:50 The 7D  
18:00 Teen Beach 2  
19:45 The 7D  
19:55 Evermoor Chronicles  
20:20 Best Friends Whenever  
20:45 Good Luck Charlie  
21:35 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



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 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
09:35 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:30 Goldie & Bear  
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
11:25 The Lion Guard  
14:05 Goldie & Bear  
14:15 Miles From Tomorrow  
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  
22:50 Zou  
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:20 Calimero  
23:35 Zou  
23:50 Loopdidoo  
00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:30 Art Attack  
02:05 Calimero  
02:20 Zou  
02:30 Loopdidoo  
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 Booster  
06:10 Super Matrak  
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
07:25 K.C. Undercover  
07:50 Supa Strikas  
08:40 Lab Rats  
09:10 Kirby Buckets  
09:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
10:00 Supa Strikas  
13:00 Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior  
14:30 Phineas And Ferb  
14:45 Kickin' It  
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
15:15 Rocket Monkeys  
15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
16:05 Mighty Med  
16:30 Star Wars Rebels  
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  
19:10 Annedroids  
19:35 Star Wars Rebels  
20:00 Mighty Med  
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
20:55 K.C. Undercover  
21:20 Supa Strikas  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Mighty Med  
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am



03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
04:00 Man Fire Food  
05:00 Chopped  
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 Siba's Table  
11:30 Siba's Table  
12:00 The Pioneer Woman  
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Chopped  
16:00 Man Fire Food  
17:00 Guy's Big Bite  
18:00 Siba's Table  
19:00 Private Chef  
20:00 Chopped  
21:00 All Star Academy  
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
23:00 Private Chef  
00:00 Chopped



03:40 Swamp People  
04:30 American Restoration  
05:00 Battle 360

06:00 Banger Boys  
06:50 Alaska Off-Road Warriors  
07:40 Duck Dynasty  
08:05 Duck Dynasty  
08:30 Counting Cars  
08:55 Swamp People  
09:45 Fifth Gear  
10:35 Ultimate Wheels  
11:25 Banger Boys  
12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island  
13:05 American Pickers  
13:55 Duck Dynasty  
14:20 Duck Dynasty  
14:45 Lost Worlds  
15:35 American Restoration  
16:00 Banger Boys  
16:50 Fifth Gear  
17:40 Shipping Wars  
18:05 Shipping Wars  
18:30 Pawn Stars  
18:55 Pawn Stars South Africa  
19:20 Storage Wars Miami  
19:45 Storage Wars  
20:10 American Restoration  
21:00 Hunting Hitler  
21:50 Forged In Fire  
22:40 Lost Worlds  
23:30 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us  
00:20 Forged In Fire  
01:10 Hunting Hitler  
02:00 Banger Boys  
02:50 American Restoration



03:05 Maverick Chef  
03:30 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
03:55 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
04:20 Carnival Eats  
04:45 Eat Street  
05:10 Tales From The Bush Larder  
05:35 Tales From The Bush Larder  
06:00 Cruise Ship Diaries  
06:50 Charlie Luxton's Homes By The Sea  
07:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
08:30 American Food Battle  
08:55 Places We Go  
09:20 Dream Cruises  
10:10 City Chase Marrakech  
11:00 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
11:25 Top Tables, Top Cities  
11:50 David Rocco's Dolce India  
12:15 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia  
12:40 Glamour Puds  
13:05 Home Strange Home  
14:00 Meat v Veg  
14:30 American Food Battle  
14:55 Maverick Chef  
15:25 Eat Street  
15:50 Eat Street  
16:20 Poh & Co.  
16:45 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen  
17:15 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
17:40 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
18:10 Cruise Ship Diaries  
19:05 Maverick Chef  
19:30 Eat Street  
20:00 Eat Street  
20:25 Poh & Co.  
20:50 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen  
21:15 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
21:40 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure  
22:05 Cruise Ship Diaries  
22:55 Glamour Puds  
23:20 Home Strange Home  
00:10 Meat v Veg  
00:35 American Food Battle  
01:00 A Marriage Of Flavours  
01:25 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
01:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
02:15 Meat v Veg  
02:40 American Food Battle



03:15 Walking With The Great Apes  
03:45 Wild Colombia  
04:40 Big Baboon House  
05:35 Going Wild  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Alaska Fish Wars  
08:20 How Human Are You?  
09:15 Is Your Dog A Genius?  
10:10 Animal Superpowers  
11:05 Fish Tank Kings



NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM- SECRET OF THE TOMB ON OSN MOVIES HD



12:00 Shark Kill Zone  
12:55 Dangerous Encounters  
13:50 Super Predators  
14:45 Revenge Of The Lioness  
15:40 Super Squirrel  
16:35 World's Deadliest Animals  
17:30 China's Golden Monkeys  
18:25 1000 Days For The Planet  
19:20 Revenge Of The Lioness  
20:10 Super Squirrel  
21:00 World's Deadliest Animals  
21:50 China's Golden Monkeys  
22:40 1000 Days For The Planet  
23:30 Shark Kill Zone  
00:20 Dangerous Encounters  
01:10 Super Predators  
02:00 Animals Gone Wild  
02:50 Touching The Dragon



03:50 Nazi Underworld  
04:45 Cameramen Who Dare  
05:40 Wicked Tuna  
06:35 Dirty Rotten Survival  
07:30 Mine Kings  
08:25 Cesar To The Rescue  
09:20 Cesar To The Rescue  
10:15 Desperate Hours  
10:40 Desperate Hours  
11:10 Seconds From Disaster  
12:05 I Wouldn't Go In There  
13:00 The Witch Doctor Will See You Now  
14:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman  
15:00 Explorer  
16:00 Megastructures  
17:00 X: The Generation That Changed The World  
18:00 Desperate Hours  
18:30 Desperate Hours  
19:00 Explorer  
20:00 Megastructures  
20:50 Man V. Viral  
21:40 Desperate Hours  
22:05 Desperate Hours  
22:30 Explorer  
23:20 Megastructures  
00:10 Megastructures  
01:00 I Wouldn't Go In There  
02:00 Science Of Stupid  
02:25 Science Of Stupid  
02:55 Man V. Viral



03:00 Game Of Thrones  
04:15 After The Thrones  
04:45 Curb Your Enthusiasm  
05:15 If These Walls Could Talk  
07:00 The Pee-Wee Herman Show On Broadway  
08:30 Flight Of The Conchords  
09:00 Veep  
09:30 Taking Chance  
11:00 Winchell  
13:00 San Francisco 2.0  
14:00 On Freddie Roach  
14:30 Flight Of The Conchords  
15:00 Veep  
15:30 Hello Ladies: The Movie  
17:00 Winchell  
19:00 Secrets And Lies  
20:00 The Sopranos  
21:00 True Detective  
22:00 Ballers  
22:30 Funny Or Die Presents  
23:00 The Wire  
00:00 Secrets And Lies  
01:00 The Sopranos  
02:00 True Detective



03:15 Sleepy Hollow  
04:05 Good Morning America  
06:00 The Fosters  
07:00 Chicago Fire  
08:00 Prison Break  
09:00 Royal Pains  
10:00 Shark Tank  
11:00 Chicago Fire  
12:00 Prison Break  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 Shark Tank  
15:00 Live Good Morning America  
16:00 The Night Shift  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 Prison Break  
18:50 Downton Abbey  
20:05 Unforgettable  
21:00 Criminal Minds  
22:00 Graceland



THE SINGLE MOMS CLUB ON OSN MOVIES HD



04:00 Krippendorfs Tribe  
06:00 Cas & Dylan  
08:00 Bubble Boy  
10:00 The Sopranos  
11:45 Cas & Dylan  
13:30 Hook  
16:00 Bubble Boy  
18:00 Mr. Destiny  
20:00 Without A Paddle  
22:00 Julie And Julia  
00:00 Bubble Boy  
01:45 Without A Paddle



03:15 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl  
05:45 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl  
08:15 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame  
09:45 Toy Story  
11:15 Up  
13:00 Brave  
15:00 Enchanted  
17:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie  
19:00 Sky High  
21:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year  
23:00 Enchanted  
01:00 Sky High



03:00 Inside Llewyn Davis  
04:45 Little Man Tate  
06:45 Les Miserables  
09:30 Blackfish  
11:00 Little Man Tate  
13:00 Two Men In Town  
15:00 Legends Of The Fall  
17:30 Blackfish  
19:00 The Color Of Money  
21:00 The Silent Storm  
22:45 Roger Waters The Wall  
01:00 Blackfish  
02:30 The Color Of Money



03:00 McFarland, USA  
05:15 The Last 5 Years  
07:00 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb  
09:00 Cuban Fury  
11:00 Hotel Transylvania 2  
13:00 Believe  
15:00 The Single Moms Club  
17:00 The Rewrite  
19:00 The Longest Ride  
21:15 Jupiter Ascending  
23:30 Tammy  
01:15 Kristy



04:30 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble

06:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United  
08:00 Goat Story 2  
10:00 The Boxcar Children  
11:30 The Flintstones & WWE: Stone Age Smackdown  
13:00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie  
14:30 Christmas Is Here Again  
16:00 The Unbeatables  
18:00 The Boxcar Children  
20:00 Snow Queen  
22:00 Christmas Is Here Again  
23:30 The Unbeatables  
01:15 Goat Story 2



04:00 Special ID  
06:00 A Gift Of Miracles  
08:00 One Chance  
10:00 Some Girls  
12:00 Metallica: Through The Never  
14:00 Left Behind  
16:00 One Chance  
18:00 The Cobbler  
20:00 Words And Pictures  
22:00 Project Almanac  
00:00 Left Behind  
02:00 One Chance



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  
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
13:00 The Loud House  
13:24 The Loud House  
13:48 The Loud House  
14:12 The Loud House  
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  
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School  
19:24 Game Shakers  
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:24 Breadwinners  
21:48 Breadwinners  
22:12 Sanjay And Craig  
22:36 Sanjay And Craig  
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:48 Henry Danger  
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
00:36 Max & Shred  
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways  
01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



04:15 Picture Bride  
05:50 Mr. Invisible  
06:10 Discovering: Queen  
07:00 Rich Hill  
08:35 The Horse Boy  
10:10 The Lebanese Rocket Society  
11:45 Tangerines  
13:10 Adela  
14:35 Rich Hill  
16:10 Dear Lemon Lima  
17:35 Tangerines  
19:00 This Is Martin Bonner  
20:25 The Lebanese Rocket Society  
22:00 Emma  
00:00 Proof  
01:40 Dollhouse



03:30 Two In A Million: Boys On Fire  
04:20 Randy's Wedding Rescue  
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids  
06:25 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids  
06:50 Cake Boss  
07:13 Cake Boss  
07:36 Love At First Swipe  
08:00 Love At First Swipe  
08:22 Bakery Boss  
09:10 The Undateables  
09:57 Two In A Million: Boys On Fire  
10:45 Fat Chance  
11:35 Something Borrowed, Something New  
13:35 Our Little Family  
14:25 Ask Oprah's All Stars  
15:15 Cake Boss  
17:17 Two In A Million: Boys On Fire  
18:05 Oprah's Lifeclass  
18:55 Cake Boss  
19:20 Fat Chance  
20:10 Something Borrowed, Something New  
20:35 Something Borrowed, Something New  
21:00 Ask Oprah's All Stars  
21:50 Belief

22:40 Monsters Inside Me  
23:30 What Have I Got  
23:55 What Have I Got  
00:20 My Extreme Excess Skin



03:40 Swamp People  
04:30 American Restoration  
05:00 Battle 360  
06:00 Banger Boys  
06:50 Alaska Off-Road Warriors  
07:40 Duck Dynasty  
08:05 Duck Dynasty  
08:30 Counting Cars  
08:55 Swamp People  
09:45 Fifth Gear  
10:35 Ultimate Wheels  
11:25 Banger Boys  
12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island  
13:05 American Pickers  
13:55 Duck Dynasty  
14:20 Duck Dynasty  
14:45 Lost Worlds  
15:35 American Restoration  
16:00 Banger Boys  
16:50 Fifth Gear  
17:40 Shipping Wars  
18:05 Shipping Wars  
18:30 Pawn Stars  
18:55 Pawn Stars South Africa  
19:20 Storage Wars Miami  
19:45 Storage Wars  
20:10 American Restoration  
21:00 Hunting Hitler  
21:50 Forged In Fire  
22:40 Lost Worlds  
23:30 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us  
00:20 Forged In Fire  
01:10 Hunting Hitler  
02:00 Banger Boys  
02:50 American Restoration

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
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01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants





The early years children at Kuwait National English School recently celebrated Queen Elizabeth II of England's 90th birthday.





# INDIAN AMBASSADOR MEETS SOCIETY EXECUTIVES

Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain met President of Indo-Kuwait Friendship Society Dr Ghalib Al-Mashoor and his team along with newly nominated IKFS Patron and India's leading Ornithologist Dr Zubair Medammal, the Asst. Professor of Zoology, Calicut University (India).

Dr Mashoor briefed with IKFS activities and introduced Dr Zubair an Indian academic passionate about falconry and an enthusiastic falconologist from Kerala, has not only established himself in the vocation and done research which has carved a niche for himself in Kuwait.

Dr Zubair explained to Sunil that Falcons enjoy a proud place in Arab national heritage and has shot a documentary on the rare species of bird in the Gulf. He said that last week he was able to meet Sheikh Faisal Al-Hamoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah, the Governor of Farwaniya Governorate and happily released the falcon documentary in Kuwait while handing over an extra copy of the Documentary to submit to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Amir of State of Kuwait. Dr Zubair added that he is proud to know that State of Kuwait is the leading Centre for breeding more than 2,000 Falcons with different species and the best among the Arabian nations who preserve the national heritage. He added that Falcon has always been regarded as a very uncommon and shy bird, and it is very rarely observed by amateur bird watchers. Falcons usually prey on small birds such as Houbara, Pigeon, and Quail. Apart from hunting purposes, that Falcons could be used to drive away crows and other birds that disturb traffic as well as birds that pose a threat to passenger planes. He urged the authorities in Kuwait and other Gulf states to take extra care while feeding falcons as many birds in countries in the region have died as a result of feeding on bird flu affected food and preying on infected birds. "About one-third of falcons die due to preying on birds exposed to pesticides".

Sunil Jain welcomed IKFS executives Engineer Bader Al-Otaibi, IKFS Patron and Director General of Kuwait



(From left) Talib Ba-wazir, Amit Kohli, AKS Abdul Nazar, Sunil Jain, Engineer Bader Al-Otaibi, Dr Zubair Medammal and Dr Ghalib Al-Mashoor Thangal.

Municipality, (Hawalli Governorate - Govt. of Kuwait), AKS Abdul Nazer, IKFS General Secretary, Patron Talib Ba-wazir (Businessman), and Amit Kohli (IKFS Executive Member), and said that he is pleased to learn about Dr Zubair's 2 decades of hard work in the field of Falcon research and appreciated

while saying that it seems that India now is having another Ornithologist after the great Indian Ornithologist Dr Salim Ali whose name was embarked with the establishment of The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) in Chennai - India.

# AMAZING KIDS ACADEMY HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY



It was a glamorous event as the Amazing Kids Academy celebrated its K2 graduation ceremony. The event attracted lots of dignitaries, parents and guardians. The amazing kids mesmerized the audience with their outstanding performances.





## HEROIN PAINKILLER OVERDOSE ANTIDOTE GETTING EASIER TO BUY

**NEW YORK:** It is becoming easier for friends and family of heroin users or patients taking strong painkillers to buy an antidote that can reverse the effect of an overdose, as policymakers look for ways to fight a growing epidemic. Naloxone, which is known by the brand-name Narcan, can quickly revive someone who has stopped breathing after overdosing on so-called opioids, highly addictive drugs that include prescription painkillers like Vicodin as well as illegal narcotics like heroin. In the past, naloxone has been available mostly through clinics, hospitals or first responders like paramedics.

Now, nearly every state has passed laws that allow people to buy naloxone without requiring

a prescription from their doctor, and drugstores and other retailers around the country are making it easier to buy the drug. "This saves lives, doesn't seem to have any negative impact that we can identify, therefore it should be available," said Dr Corey Waller of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Walgreens, CVS, Rite Aid, Target and Wal-Mart have joined independent drugstores in either relaxing access to naloxone through their pharmacies in dozens of states, or are making plans to do so. The grocer Kroger is also selling it without requiring a prescription in a few states.

Deaths linked to opioids soared to more than 28,000 in 2014, the highest number on

record. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 78 American die every day from an opioid overdose. Autopsy results released Thursday show that the musician Prince died in April from an accidental overdose of fentanyl, an opioid painkiller that is up to 50 times more potent than heroin. Prince, 57, died less than a week after his plane made an emergency stop for medical treatment as he was returning from an Atlanta concert, where first responders gave him a shot of naloxone. Naloxone can restore a person's breathing after it is injected or sprayed in the nostrils, bringing overdose victims back from near-death inside a few minutes. — Reuters



**IOWA:** In this June 19, 2015, file photo, eggs wait to be cooked at a cafe in Des Moines, Iowa.—AP

## HALTED IN BIRD FLU OUTBREAK, FEDERAL EGG INSPECTIONS RESUME

**DES MOINES, Iowa:** The US Food and Drug Administration has resumed inspections of egg-handling facilities in 21 states more than a year after they were suspended due to the nation's worst bird flu outbreak. State veterinarians were concerned about further possible spread of the deadly H5N2 virus by people and vehicles during federal on-site inspections at processors with 3,000 or more birds, FDA spokeswoman Lauren Sucher said. Smaller facilities are inspected by state agencies.

The inspections stopped last May, because the FDA believed the risks of spreading the bird flu outweighed the risks. But the inspections, which are done mainly to prevent the spread of salmonella, resumed Wednesday, Sucher said. The bird flu outbreak led to the deaths of 49 million turkeys and chickens in 15 states, including more than 24 million egg layers in Iowa, the nation's leading egg producer.

Sucher said there have been no egg-related salmonella outbreaks or recalls since last summer indicating continuing

industry compliance. "We do not believe that the egg industry, which the agency has found to be largely in compliance with the rules requirements thus far, would simply stop complying with the rule because of a temporary hiatus in inspections," she said.

The federal inspections ensure proper biosecurity, including limiting visitors to barns and disinfection of equipment and clothing to prevent cross contamination. They also ensure appropriate safeguards against rodents, flies and pests in barns. The inspectors also make sure federal egg-storage regulations - storing and transporting at or below 45 degrees - are followed.

The federal "egg rule" was designed primarily to prevent salmonella contamination in eggs and emerged from a widespread salmonella outbreak in the egg industry in 2010 that led to nearly 2,000 reported cases of illness and an unprecedented recall of 550 million eggs. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said there were likely as many as 60,000 unreported cases

of sickened consumers.

The concern over the spread of bird flu is understandable, but inspections are an important part of food safety, said Seattle attorney Bill Marler, who represented some of those who came down with salmonella in 2010. "Getting back to normalized inspections is the right thing to do," he said. "You always need to have a check and a balance and that is public servants taking a look at egg production or food production to give the public some sense that the fox isn't guarding the hen house," he said.

Some states have already resumed inspections, and Iowa restarted Wednesday, according to the state Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship spokesman Dustin Vande Hoef. Ohio, the second largest egg producer, never stopped inspecting small egg farms and shell-egg processing facilities, agriculture department spokeswoman Erica Hawkins said. The FDA-contracted egg facility inspections in the state will resume later this month, she said. — AP

## DITCHING THE TAMPON: SOME WOMEN SEEKING REUSABLE PERIOD CARE

**WASHINGTON:** The more things change, the more they stay the same. About 70 years after the invention of disposable tampons and sanitary pads, some women - primarily millennials - are choosing environmentally friendly forms of feminine products. There's Thinx, a reusable "period-proof" underwear line splashed across subway ads in New York after the company launched a year ago. In addition, some women are opting for cloth pads or bell-shaped menstrual cups worn inside the vagina. Morgan Battista of Douglassville, Pennsylvania, made the switch to reusable cups in March after hearing about them online. The 29-year-old said she wanted a more natural product that created less waste. "I definitely would never go back to tampons," she said. "It's a game-changer." While such products have yet to put a major dent in the more than \$3 billion in US sales for disposable pads and tampons last year, they have shifted the conversation about menstruation.

"When I first started talking about these issues about a decade ago, my students had never heard of alternative products. They'd never even considered a cloth pad or a sponge, and the underwear wasn't even on the market," said Chris Bobel, an associate professor of women's studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Since launching in May 2015, Thinx CEO and founder Miki Agrawal said the company has sold about 500,000 pairs of the period panties at a price of \$24 to \$38 each. They're constructed of four ultra-thin absorbent layers and are billed as completely antimicrobial, moisture-wicking and leak-resistant.

"If you ask any woman in your life, 'Have you ever experienced a leak, a stain, an accident in your period?' every single woman will say, 'Obviously.' And so it's a no-brainer idea," Agrawal said. Diva International Inc., which makes silicone menstrual cups, sold about 350,000 reusable cups in the US last year, with millions more across brands purchased around the globe, said Daniela Masaro, a Diva Cup spokeswoman. The company launched in 2002 and has experienced growth in the double digits over the last three years, Masaro said. Other companies would not disclose actual numbers in dollars or units. Driven by social media buzz, "these products are becoming more available in online retail as well as third-party retailers," said Svetlana Uduslivaia of Euromonitor International, a London-based global research firm. She, too, points to a recent bump in US sales among reusable products. "The mindset might be a little bit more open to experimenting with different products and not just what mom uses. So this is where the opportunities are really for alternative product manufacturers to really build that relationship," Uduslivaia said. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** Photo shows Diva Cups at Whole Foods in Washington. — AP



## AS ABORTION BARRIERS GROW, US SUPREME COURT RULING LOOMS

**WASHINGTON:** Abortion may be legal in America, but US states are throwing up more and more barriers to the practice. So an upcoming decision from the Supreme Court is hotly awaited. By the end of this month, the nation's highest court is expected to hand down a ruling on an issue that is highly divisive for Americans. It will concern the state of Texas, specifically, but could reshape how abortion is carried out in the rest of the United States. As states put up more and more restrictions, the eight members of the court one of nine seats on the bench is vacant—will either halt this trend or issue a decision that encourages it.

A narrow majority of 56 percent of Americans believe that abortion should be allowed in most or all instances, according to recent study by the Pew Research Center. Around 41 percent feel the opposite way, with higher numbers among conservative Republicans (68 percent) and white evangelical Christians (69 percent). The historic 1973 Supreme Court decision known as "Roe v Wade" that legalized abortion has been the target of repeated attacks by these groups. But according to the Guttmacher Institute, which is pro-choice, the past five years have accounted for 27 percent of the more than 1,000 restrictions placed on abortion in America in the past four decades. The pro-choice camp—which advocates letting women choose contraception or elect to end an unwanted pregnancy—is squared off against the so-called pro-life camp which opposes abortion.

### 'Pro-life' camp strengthened

Since 2010, the latter has been boosted as Republicans scored electoral victories in many US states. Conservatives who want to overturn "Roe v Wade" go so far as to say the United States has become pro-life. The restrictions take many forms: bans on the most commonly used medical techniques, long waiting times imposed on women who want abortions, administrative red tape for doctors who perform them, and the granting of legal status to fetuses from the moment of conception. In many places anti-



**WASHINGTON, District of Columbia:** This file photo taken on March 2, 2016 shows supporters of legal access to abortion, as well as anti-abortion activists, as they rally outside the Supreme Court in Washington, DC. — AFP

abortion activists have set up fake clinics—billed as crisis pregnancy centers—that lure in women seeking an abortion, and put them under psychological pressure to forego the procedure.

The bottom line is that at least 57 percent of women of child-bearing age now live in a state considered to be hostile to abortion, says the Guttmacher Institute. "Since 2011, anti-abortion advocates have pushed for the passage of state-level restrictions on abortion. More recently, they have also begun to propose anti-abortion bills at the state-level that purport to promote

women's rights," said Sital Kalantry, a professor at Cornell Law School. Such is the case in Texas. There, a law passed in 2013 obliges clinics offering abortions to have surgical facilities on par with those of hospitals. The law, which is said to aim to protect women's health, also obliges doctors who perform abortions to have admitting rights at a local hospital.

### 'Abortion desert'

These restrictions—which are being weighed by the Supreme Court—have prompted more

than half of the abortion clinics in Texas to shut down, advocacy groups say. "It appears that the current principal political strategy of the anti-abortion activists is to impose such significant burdens on abortion providers that most, if not all of them, have to close their doors," said Michael Dell, a specialist lawyer. US media have begun to speak of an "abortion desert" in the South, from Florida to New Mexico, and in the Midwest, based on the accounts of hundreds of women forced to travel hundreds of miles to get an abortion. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



**KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY UPTO 1st DAY OF RAMADAN  
(02/06/2016 UPTO 1st DAY OF RAMADAN)**

<b>SHARQIA-1</b> GO WITH ME 11:45 AM THE JUNGLE BOOK 1:45 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:00 PM HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) 6:15 PM GO WITH ME 9:00 PM GO WITH ME 11:00 PM GO WITH ME 1:00 AM	<b>SHARQIA-2</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 11:30 AM CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 1:30 PM CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 4:30 PM WARCRAFT 7:30 PM WARCRAFT 10:00 PM WARCRAFT 12:30 AM	<b>SHARQIA-3</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:15 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2:45 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 5:00 PM Hepta 7:15 PM Hepta 9:45 PM Hepta 12:15 AM	<b>MUHALAB-1</b> DON'T GROW UP 11:45 AM DON'T GROW UP 1:30 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3:30 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 5:45 PM Hepta 8:00 PM Hepta 10:30 PM DON'T GROW UP 1:00 AM	<b>MUHALAB-2</b> GO WITH ME 12:45 PM HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) 2:45 PM HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) 5:45 PM GO WITH ME 8:45 PM GO WITH ME 10:45 PM GO WITH ME 12:45 AM A Aa (Telugu) 2:45 PM A Aa (Telugu) 5:45 PM A Aa (Telugu) 10:45 PM	<b>MUHALAB-3</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:15 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:30 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:45 PM WARCRAFT 7:00 PM WARCRAFT 9:30 PM WARCRAFT 12:05 AM	<b>FANAR-1</b> X-MEN: Apocalypse 1:15 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 4:15 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 6:30 PM X-MEN: Apocalypse 8:45 PM X-MEN: Apocalypse 11:45 PM	<b>FANAR-2</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK 11:45 AM Hepta 2:15 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:45 PM Hepta 7:00 PM Hepta 9:30 PM Hepta 12:05 AM	<b>FANAR-3</b> THE CODE OF CAIN 12:00 PM DON'T GROW UP 2:00 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 3:45 PM DON'T GROW UP 6:00 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 7:45 PM DON'T GROW UP 10:00 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 11:45 PM	<b>FANAR-4</b> WARCRAFT 12:00 PM	WARCRAFT 2:30 PM WARCRAFT 5:00 PM WARCRAFT 7:30 PM WARCRAFT 10:00 PM WARCRAFT 12:30 AM	<b>FANAR-5</b> HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) 12:30 PM GO WITH ME 1:30 PM GO WITH ME 3:30 PM HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) 5:30 PM GO WITH ME 8:15 PM GO WITH ME 10:15 PM GO WITH ME 12:15 AM	<b>MARINA-1</b> GO WITH ME 12:45 PM GO WITH ME 2:45 PM GO WITH ME 4:45 PM GO WITH ME 6:45 PM MONEY MONSTER 8:45 PM GO WITH ME 10:45 PM GO WITH ME 12:45 AM	<b>MARINA-2</b> WARCRAFT 11:30 AM WARCRAFT 2:00 PM WARCRAFT 4:30 PM WARCRAFT 7:00 PM WARCRAFT 9:30 PM WARCRAFT 12:05 AM	<b>MARINA-3</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK 12:30 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 5:15 PM Hepta 7:30 PM Hepta 10:00 PM X-MEN: Apocalypse 12:30 AM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> THE CODE OF CAIN 11:30 AM THE CODE OF CAIN 1:30 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 3:45 PM PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND 6:00 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 8:15 PM PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND 10:30 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 12:45 AM	<b>AVENUES-3</b> GO WITH ME 12:45 PM GO WITH ME 3:00 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 5:15 PM GO WITH ME 7:30 PM GO WITH ME 9:45 PM GO WITH ME 12:05 AM	<b>AVENUES-4</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 1:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 4:00 PM "THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE" 4:00 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 6:15 PM "MONEY MONSTERS" 6:15 PM "MONEY MONSTERS" 6:15 PM GO WITH ME 8:30 PM GO WITH ME 10:45 PM GO WITH ME 1:00 AM	<b>AVENUES-5</b> WARCRAFT 12:00 PM WARCRAFT 2:45 PM WARCRAFT 5:30 PM WARCRAFT 8:15 PM WARCRAFT 11:00 PM	<b>AVENUES-6</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:15 PM X-MEN: Apocalypse 3:15 PM CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 6:15 PM X-MEN: Apocalypse 9:15 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 12:15 AM	<b>AVENUES-7</b> HIGH STRUNG 12:30 PM HIGH STRUNG 2:45 PM HIGH STRUNG 5:00 PM THE NICE GUYS 7:15 PM HIGH STRUNG 9:30 PM THE NICE GUYS 11:45 PM	<b>AVENUES-8</b> HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) 11:30 AM MONEY MONSTER 2:30 PM HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi) 4:45 PM HASAN WA BOQLOZ 7:45 PM MONEY MONSTER 9:45 PM MONEY MONSTER 12:05 AM	<b>AVENUES-9</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 11:45 AM THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 4:15 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 6:30 PM DON'T GROW UP 8:45 PM DON'T GROW UP 10:30 PM DON'T GROW UP 12:15 AM	<b>AVENUES-10</b> Hepta 12:00 PM Hepta 2:30 PM Ely Ekhtashou Matou 5:00 PM Hepta 7:30 PM Hepta 10:00 PM Hepta 12:30 AM	<b>AVENUES-11</b> WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) 12:30 PM WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) 3:15 PM WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) 6:00 PM WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) 8:45 PM WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D) 11:30 PM	<b>360°- 1</b> GO WITH ME 11:45 AM GO WITH ME 2:00 PM GO WITH ME 4:15 PM GO WITH ME 6:30 PM GO WITH ME 8:45 PM GO WITH ME 11:00 PM GO WITH ME 1:15 AM	<b>360°- 2</b> THE CODE OF CAIN 12:15 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 2:30 PM PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND 4:45 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 7:00 PM PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND 9:15 PM THE CODE OF CAIN 11:30 PM	<b>360°- 3</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 12:30 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2:45 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE (Arabic) 5:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 7:15 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 9:30 PM HASAN WA BOQLOZ 11:45 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.1</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR 11:30 AM THE JUNGLE BOOK 2:30 PM THE JUNGLE BOOK 4:45 PM WARCRAFT 7:00 PM WARCRAFT 9:30 PM WARCRAFT 12:05 AM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b> GO WITH ME 12:00 PM GO WITH ME 2:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 4:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 6:00 PM
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## Flight Schedule

## DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

### Arrival Flights on Saturday 4/6/2016

Arrival Flights on Saturday 4/6/2016				Arrival Flights on Saturday 4/6/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	501	Alexandria	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	JZR	528	Asyut	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KLM	413	Amsterdam	00:55
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	MSC	502	Alexandria	01:05
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	125	Bahrain	01:40	JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:50	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
QTR	8301	Doha	04:10	JZR	358	Mashhad	05:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	QTR	8302	Doha	06:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	529	Asyut	06:55	JZR	240	Amman	06:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SYR	341	Damascus	10:30				
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40				
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40				
JZR	359	Mashhad	10:50				
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10				
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20				
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30				
IRC	6511	ABD	11:40				
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50				
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55				
NIA	151	Cairo	12:20				
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25				
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30				
JZR	241	Amman	12:30				
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35				
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00				
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10				
FDB	8053	Dubai	13:25				
IRC	526	Mashhad	13:35				
TBM	6313	Mashhad	13:45				
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:50				
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55				
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00				
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00				
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05				
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15				
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20				
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20				
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25				
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30				
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50				
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00				
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05				
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05				
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10				
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10				
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35				
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45				
RJA	640	Amman	16:00				
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10				
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15				
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25				
KAC	118	New York	16:30				
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35				
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45				
NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50				
KAC	562	Amman	16:55				
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55				
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10				
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15				
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30				
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30				
KAC	792	Madinah	17:45				
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50				



## Word Search Puzzles

## 70's Songs 1 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

K M I Q O G X X D S Z I G E A S N  
U O Y S S I M R E K O J E H T I I  
S V T M U U Z L S H T O S T C G A  
M I F Y M M C L A S T D A N C E R  
N N L L W A M I T B C H W Y U E D  
I O E Y R A V E B Q T T C B V D N  
G N O I T I T S R E P U S A C E A  
H N M K G E G E B N S Z E O O L E  
T A N A G N N D R E I W U I N T R  
M I N E G G A N N L M G F H V A I  
O H B R L A Y L A A O P H O O D F  
V R Y F M D V O E X L O L T Y A P  
E F R E E B I R D A O S J E S W O  
S K T L O W D O W N L R I S H N A

ANGIE  
BETH  
CONVOY  
DELTA DAWN  
DREAM WEAVER  
FIRE AND RAIN  
FREE BIRD  
HELP ME

ISLAND GIRL  
LAST DANCE  
LAYLA  
LE FREAK  
LOWDOWN  
MIRACLES  
MISS YOU  
NIGHT MOVES

OHIO  
RHIANNON  
ROXANNE  
SUMMER NIGHTS  
SUPERSTITION  
THE JOKER  
WATERLOO

## Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles  
Beatles Songs 3 - Solution

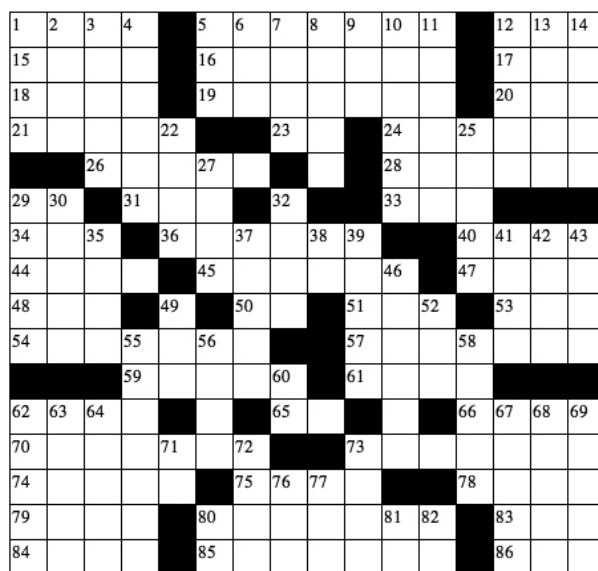
U A L L M Y L O V I N G Z S D E F  
R Y W B G S O M E T H I N G L G I  
E L E A Y Y H W E M K S A O C E Y  
H C T R I M C Y I Y R N H M I Y R  
E B N D B T I M A U O A I F T B C  
Y L B E G L E C L W G G E X H D Y  
B A J H D M U L H N Y E R S E O B  
U C U X I U E E I E L A E O E O A  
L K N N S F R X S F L I J O N G B  
L B E A I E I P I W G L E E D O Y  
D I Q F M F M N R G E H E W U L R  
O R I A M X E C I A L R I G R L C  
G D N S Z P A P K B E C A U S E B  
G N O S E O G T A H W D I G D H F

ALL MY LOVING  
ASK ME WHY  
BECAUSE  
BLACKBIRD  
BLUE JAY WAY  
CRY BABY CRY  
DEAR PRUDENCE  
FIXING A HOLE  
GIRL

HELLO GOODBYE  
HEY BULLDOG  
I FEEL FINE  
I ME MINE  
IF I FELL  
MICHELLE  
NOWHERE MAN  
PIGGIES

SOMETHING  
TAXMAN  
THE END  
WAIT  
WHAT GOES ON  
YER BLUES

## CROSSWORD 1274



## ACROSS

1. A city in northern India.
5. Genus of American of east Asian perennial herbs with yellow to orange or red flower rays.
12. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
15. Period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6.
16. Of or pertaining to the adrenal glands or their secretions.
17. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
18. Consideration in dealing with others and avoiding giving offence.
19. A Bantu language sometimes considered a dialect of Zulu.
20. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
21. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
23. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
24. Examination of conscience (as done daily by Jesuits).
26. Pepsi Cola is a trademarked cola.
28. United States financier (born in France) who helped finance the War of 1812 (1750-1831).
29. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
31. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
33. An ugly evil-looking old woman.
34. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
36. Conqueror of Gaul and master of Italy (100-44 BC).
40. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
44. A flat float (usually made of logs or planks) that can be used for transport or as a platform for swimmers.
45. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
47. A Tibetan or Mongolian priest of Lamaism.
48. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
50. A physician who is not a specialist but treats all illnesses.
51. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
53. A rapid escape (as by criminals).
54. Of deserts of northern Africa and southern Asia.
57. Pacific newts.
59. Indigo bush.
61. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
62. The median ridge on the breastbone of birds that fly.
65. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
66. An impudent or insolent rejoinder.
70. (Judaism) An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem.

## DOWN

1. (prefix) Opposite or opposing or neutralizing.
2. A pointed instrument used to prod into motion.
3. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
4. Any of various plants of the genus *Althaea*.
5. Cooking utensil consisting of a wide metal vessel.
6. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
7. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
8. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
9. The compass point midway between northeast and east.
10. English courtier (a favorite of Elizabeth I) who tried to colonize Virginia.
11. Inability to perceive written words.
12. Tropical tree of Central America and West Indies and Puerto Rico having spikes of white flowers.
13. American author of inspirational adventure stories for boys.
14. Lacking either stimulating or irritating characteristics.
22. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
25. Wild sheep of semidesert regions in central Asia.
27. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
30. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
32. A program under which employees regularly accumulate shares and may ultimately assume control of the company.
35. (old-fashioned) At or from or to a great distance.
37. Any of various large keen-sighted diurnal birds of prey noted for their broad wings and strong soaring flight.
38. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
39. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
41. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
42. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
43. Avatar of Vishnu.
46. The Creator.
49. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
52. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
55. 1 species.
56. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
58. Realistic Norwegian author who wrote plays on social and political themes (1828-1906).
60. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
63. Having or showing keen interest or intense desire or impatient expectancy.
64. Related on the mother's side.
67. An edible seaweed with a mild flavor.
68. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
69. (botany) A covering that resembles scales or bran that covers some plant parts.
71. Unknown god.
72. The (prehensile) extremity of the superior limb.
73. The general activity of selling.
76. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
77. Canadian hockey player (born 1948).
80. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
81. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
82. An honorary degree in science.

## Daily SuDoku

				1	9			
2		8				5		
	4							6
	3	9	4	7		6		
	7			5			1	
		5		3	1	4	2	
8								6
		4				9		5
			8	6				

medium

## Yesterday's Solution

8	7	5	3	1	9	2	6	4
6	1	4	2	7	8	9	3	5
9	3	2	4	6	5	1	8	7
1	6	8	9	4	2	5	7	3
3	2	7	8	5	6	4	1	9
5	4	9	1	3	7	6	2	8
7	9	6	5	8	1	3	4	2
2	8	3	6	9	4	7	5	1
4	5	1	7	2	3	8	9	6

very hard

## Yesterday's Solution

M	A	N		G	R	A	N	D	A	D		S	C	O	T
A	R	A		R	A	V	I	O	L	I		P	U	P	A
R	A	G	T	A	G		N	W		S	T	A	R	E	R
A	B	A		I	B	S	E	N		A	R	N	I	C	A
			F	L	A	I	R		A	B	I	D	E		
A	S	I	A		G			S	A	L	P	A		C	D
B	U	S	H	Y		C	E	A	S	E		U	N	I	O
A	P	A	D	A	N	A		B		D	D		I	C	U
C	I	A		L		B	R	A	G			S	C	A	B
U	N	C	L	E			A	H	A	B		M	A	L	L
S	E		I		A	D	D		G	A	D	I	D	A	E
		C	I	S	C	O		C	A	B	A	L			
S	E	R	I	P	H	U	S			A	N	A	L	O	G
O	L	A			A	E	R	I	A	L		A	X	I	L
D	A	K			S	T	A	M	P	E	D	E		S	E
A	N	E			M	A	H	A	R	A	J	A		P	A



# CUBS OVERCOME DODGERS 7-2

## CHAPMAN, YANKEES HOLD OFF TIGERS

**CHICAGO:** Kyle Hendricks dominated over eight innings and the Chicago Cubs backed him with four home runs, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-2 Thursday for their eighth win in nine games. Javier Baez, Jason Heyward and Kris Bryant connected against 19-year-old Julio Urias (0-1). Anthony Rizzo hit a leadoff homer against JP Howell in the eighth as the MLB-leading Cubs took three of four from the Dodgers. Hendricks (4-4) allowed two runs and three hits, struck out six and walked one. He pitched a complete game in his previous outing to beat Philadelphia. Urias was simply overpowered in his second career start. The top prospect gave up six runs and eight hits in five innings.

### MARINERS 16, PADRES 13

Kyle Seager, Dae-Ho Lee and the Seattle Mariners scored 14 times in two innings to erase a 10-run deficit and stun San Diego, the latest prat-fall for a Padres team that was ripped in a radio interview by its executive chairman a day earlier. Trailing 12-2 after five, the Mariners benefited from a bullpen meltdown by the Padres and rallied for the biggest comeback in franchise history. Seager hit a two-run single in the sixth to chase starter Colin Rea, followed by Lee's pinch-hit, three-run homer off Brad Hand. The Mariners then sent 13 batters to the plate in their nine-run seventh, getting seven straight hits with two outs. Seager had a two-run single followed by an RBI single from Lee. Pinch-hitter Stefen Romero singled in the tying run, and Shawn O'Malley's RBI single gave the Mariners a 13-12 lead. Hand and fellow relievers Ryan Buchter, Brandon Maurer (0-2) and Matt Thornton combined to allow 10 runs on nine hits in 1 2/3 innings. Cody Martin (1-0), just called up from Triple-A, got the win. Steve Cishek earned his 13th save. Jon Jay had his first career five-hit game for San Diego, one night after going 4 for 6.

### GIANTS 6, BRAVES 0

Madson Bumgarner won his sixth straight decision to match a career best and hit a two-run homer in a six-run fifth inning that led San Francisco past Atlanta. Bumgarner (7-2) allowed four hits in 7 2/3 innings, struck out 11 and walked two, lowering his ERA to 1.91. The NL West-leading Giants have won 17 of their last 21 games and are unbeaten in Bumgarner's last eight starts. Bumgarner hit his second homer this season and 13th of his career, a 411-foot drive into the left-field seats. He reached double digits in strikeouts for the 28th time during the regular season, including three this year. Joe Panik and Buster Posey also hit two-run homers in the fifth inning off Aaron Blair (0-4). Bumgarner and Panik connected following walks and Posey after Matt Duffy was hit by a pitch.

### DIAMONDBACKS 3, ASTROS 0

Zack Greinke struck out a season-high 11, and Arizona used a three-run seventh inning to beat Houston and Dallas Keuchel in a matchup of AL Cy Young Award winners. Greinke (7-3), the 2009 winner with Kansas City, allowed a season-low four hits - all singles - over seven innings and walked none. He won his fourth straight start and stopped Arizona's three-game skid. Keuchel (3-7), last year's Cy Young winner, gave up three runs and six hits in six-plus innings. He has lost six of seven decisions. Daniel Hudson struck out two in a perfect eighth. Brad Ziegler allowed one hit in the ninth and got his franchise-record 38th straight save, his 10th this season. He has the longest active saves streak among big league relievers.

### YANKEES 5, TIGERS 4

Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman pitched out of his own bases-loaded, no out jam in the ninth inning, helped by a slick double play and New York



**MINNEAPOLIS:** Brian Dozier #2 of the Minnesota Twins is out at second base as Taylor Motter #38 of the Tampa Bay Rays turns a double play during the sixth inning of the game on June 2, 2016. — AFP

held off Detroit. After scoring against relievers Dellin Betances (2-2) and Andrew Miller, Detroit was down 5-3 going into the ninth. The Tigers quickly loaded the bases against Chapman on a single, a walk and a bunt single. Shortstop Didi Gregorius then scampered up the middle to field a hard grounder by JD Martinez and made a glove flip to second baseman Starlin Castro, who caught the ball with his bare hand and let go a strong, off-balance relay. A run scored on the play, with the potential tying run moving to third. Chapman then got Tigers star Miguel Cabrera on a routine grounder for his eighth save. Matt Boyd (0-1) took a no-hit bid into the sixth for Detroit. He allowed four runs and six hits with a walk in 6 1/3 innings.

### ORIOLES 12, RED SOX 7

Mark Trumbo and Adam Jones each homered twice, Manny Machado delivered a tiebreaking drive in the seventh inning and Baltimore hit a season-high seven long balls in a win over Boston. Pedro Alvarez and Francisco Pena also connected for the Orioles, who earned a split of the four-game series between the top two teams in the AL East. Boston's Xander Bogaerts extended his career-high hitting streak to 26 games with a two-run double and David Ortiz hit his 16th homer to give the Red Sox a temporary 5-4 lead in the sixth. In the seventh, Robbie Ross (0-1) walked Ryan Flaherty and gave up a single to Pena before retiring the next two batters. Junichi Tazawa came on to face Machado, who drove the

right-hander's second pitch deep into the left-field seats. The Orioles added four runs in the eighth. Mychal Givens (4-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the Orioles, who moved back within a game of first-place Boston.

### INDIANS 5, ROYALS 4

Mike Napoli's sacrifice fly scored Francisco Lindor with the winning run to cap a two-run ninth inning and lift Cleveland. The Indians rallied against Joakim Soria (2-2), filling in as closer for Wade Davis, who had pitched three of the last four days. Lindor's triple tied the game before Napoli scored the game winner. The loss ended Kansas City's six-game winning streak. Carlos Santana led off the Cleveland ninth with a single and made it to second on right fielder Paulo Orlando's fielding error. After Jason Kipnis' sacrifice, Lindor hit a line drive to right. Orlando attempted a diving catch but the ball rolled to the wall. Pinch-runner Michael Martinez scored and Lindor slid headfirst into third with a triple. Napoli's fly ball to left was deep enough to score Lindor, who dove into home plate to give Cleveland its second straight walkoff win. Tommy Hunter (2-1) pitched 1 2/3 innings.

### BREWERS 4, PHILLIES 1

Chris Carter and Jonathan Villar homered, Chase Anderson pitched effectively into the sixth inning and Milwaukee beat reeling Philadelphia. Anderson (3-6) allowed one run and three hits,

striking out six in 5 2/3 innings to help the Brewers win their eighth straight game in Philadelphia. Maikel Franco homered for the Phillies, who have lost seven in a row. Jerad Eickhoff (2-8) gave up two runs and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings. The right-hander left after a hard one-hopper back to the mound bounced off his foot. Phillies reliever Hector Neris pitched out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the eighth. He struck out Carter, retired pinch-hitter Alex Presley on a second-to-home fielder's choice and fanned Aaron Hill to end the inning.

### TWINS 6, RAYS 4

Eduardo Nunez led off the game for Minnesota with an inside-the-park home run, Max Kepler picked up his first two major league RBIs and four Twins relievers combined for five scoreless innings in a win over Tampa Bay. Byung Ho Park went a career-best 3 for 3 for the Twins, who had a season-most 15 hits and recovered smoothly from a rocky start by Phil Hughes that ended with a two-run homer by Evan Longoria in the fifth that put the Rays up 4-3. Taylor Rogers (1-0) struck out two over two perfect innings for his first major league victory. Ryan Pressly and Brandon Kintzler followed with scoreless frames, and former Rays right-hander Kevin Jepsen worked the ninth for his seventh save in 10 tries. Matt Moore misfired in his chance to win consecutive starts for the first time this year, but reliever Erasmo Ramirez (6-4) took the loss after hitting Brian Dozier on the elbow with a bases-loaded pitch in the sixth inning.

### MARLINS 4, PIRATES 3, 12 INNINGS

Christian Yelich hit a game-winning double in the bottom of the 12th inning and Miami beat Pittsburgh to take the four-game series. Yelich doubled to deep right-center off AJ Schugel (1-2) with two outs to score Martin Prado from first base without a throw. Nick Wittgren (1-0) pitched three scoreless innings in relief and struck out three to earn his first career victory. Yelich's hit was the first for the Marlins since the fourth inning. Ichiro Suzuki had two hits, scored a run, stole a base and made two impressive defensive plays in center field for the Marlins. He has 2,965 hits, moving into sole possession of 31st place on the career list. Four players left the game with injuries for the Pirates, including Andrew McCutchen. Francisco Cervelli, David Freese and Jordy Mercer exited after getting hit by pitches. John Jaso hit a tying single for Pittsburgh with two outs in the ninth on a full-count pitch from Kyle Barraclough. Marlins starter Wei-Yen Chen didn't allow a hit until Jung Ho Kang doubled leading off the seventh inning.

### REDS 11, ROCKIES 4

Eugenio Suarez homered twice in a game for the first time in his career and Alfredo Simon pitched seven strong innings for his first win in nearly a month to lead Cincinnati over Colorado. Zack Cozart and Adam Duvall also homered for the Reds, who almost doubled their total of road wins this season (now seven) by taking three of four in the series. Jay Bruce tripled and doubled to drive in a pair of runs for Cincinnati. Nolan Arenado, Carlos Gonzalez and Trevor Story homered for the Rockies, who finished a 2-5 homestand. Suarez triggered the Reds' six-run fifth with a three-run shot on the first pitch from Chad Qualls, who relieved Eddie Butler (2-3). Suarez added a solo drive off Gonzalez German in the sixth for his fourth RBI, tying a career best. Simon (2-5) allowed four runs and five hits, withstanding back-to-back homers by Gonzalez and Arenado to earn his first win since beating Milwaukee on May 5. Gonzalez has homered in six of his last eight games and Arenado connected for his 17th of the season, tops in the National League. — AP



CRICKET

# TAHIR SAYS RAMADAN WON'T PUT HIM IN A SPIN

**NEW DELHI:** When Ramadan starts, Imran Tahir will begin juggling the demands of observing his Muslim faith and playing a full day of international cricket for a team sponsored by a beer company. "I don't think it is difficult to balance professional sports with practicing your faith," insisted the South Africa legspinner, in an interview with AFP. "It is very easy if you follow the right path." One of the world's top spinners, Pakistan-born Tahir has played more than 100 times for the Proteas since making his international debut in 2011, after becoming a South African citizen through marriage.

In his native Pakistan, the team regularly prays together on the field during internationals and the lunch break is extended on Fridays, so players and fans can attend the weekly services at the nearest mosque. And in Bangladesh, the only other Muslim-majority Test-playing nation, facilities have been set aside to enable fans to pray at the ground. Tahir is one of five Muslims to have been selected for the South African squad taking part in the tri-nation ODI series with the West Indies in Australia in the Caribbean that begins on Friday and runs until June 26.

## Lager logo

They include former skipper Hashim Amla, who along with Tahir has been given special dispensation not to sport the logo of Castle lager, the team's major sponsor, as Muslims are forbidden from drinking alcohol. Muslims are normally expected to fast from dawn to dusk during the month of Ramadan, which begins in different parts of the world this coming Sunday or Monday.

But they are allowed to refrain from fasting if they are away from home, as in the case of Tahir while he is in the West Indies. Tahir said that even if he did not observe a fast on a particular match day, he would still make it up at a later stage. "I am thankful to Allah that he drove me closer to him," Tahir said, during the just-finished Indian Premier League. "I try not to miss my prayers and the 30 fasts in Ramadan but even if I do miss them due to my cricket, I make up for them later on."

The Lahore-born Tahir has plied his trade around the world, including stints in England's county championship and the IPL, where he played for the Delhi Daredevils. Speaking to AFP in the Indian capital, Tahir said that many in the cricketing fraternity helped him observe his faith. "I have come through all the different cultures of the world while playing cricket and I have had no difficulty whatsoever while following my path," he said,



**NEW DELHI:** South African cricketer Imran Tahir tosses the ball at a practice session during the World T20 cricket tournament at The Feroz Shah Kotla Cricket Ground in New Delhi. — AFP

glancing at the clock to ensure he wouldn't be late for Friday prayers. "Rather they (players, coaches and support staff) give more respect. Some have even offered me their room to offer my Namaz (prayers)."

## Late starter

Since making his international debut at the late age of 32, Tahir has become a mainstay of a South African team that had long lacked a top-class spinner. He has particularly excelled in

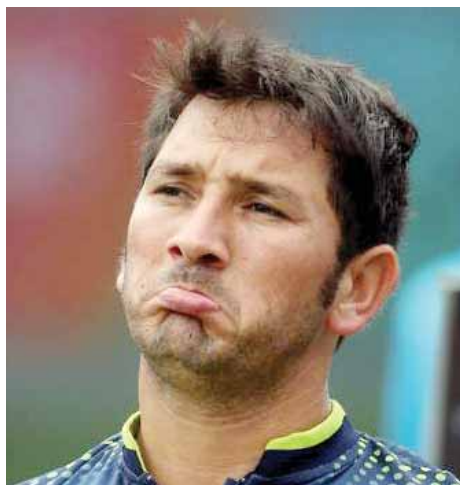
the shorter formats and is now the world's number two bowler in Twenty20 internationals behind the West Indian spinner Samuel Badree, and number six in the ODI chart. His animated celebrations and appeals have made him something of a pantomime villain among some fans, but Tahir says it shows his passion. "I think people know that the celebration is instinctive and not fake," he said. "Looking back at the hard patches of my life, I feel good that I have come thus far. If I get a wicket I just want to show people that how big that is for me." — AFP

# ICC CONDUCTS DOPE TESTS ON PAKISTAN'S SHAH AND MISBAH

**LAHORE:** Cricket's world governing body is conducting dope tests on four Pakistani players, including leg-spinner Yasir Shah, suspended for three months earlier this year, team manager Intikhab Alam confirmed yesterday. Pakistan Test captain Misbah-ul-Haq was also tested by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The team can ill afford any positive results, which could have a significant impact on their upcoming tour in England, during which the results are expected to be confirmed. The ICC, which has been a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) since 2006, routinely conducts such tests in and out of competition. Shah was provisionally suspended in December last year after he tested positive for chlortalidone, a masking agent under the WADA list of banned substances. He was barred for three months after he pleaded guilty and told the ICC that he had inadvertently taken his wife's blood pressure medication. His ban was lifted in late March, making him eligible for the England tour.

Alam said Shah's test could come under the spotlight. "Besides Shah, Test captain Misbah-ul-Haq, one-day skipper Azhar Ali and fast bowler Junaid Khan were also tested but Shah's test could be targeted," he said. Shah is seen as Pakistan's main wicket-taker for the four-match Test series in



Yasir Shah

England, which starts at Lord's from July 14. Pakistan will also play five one-days and a Twenty20 international on the tour. Their last tour to England in 2010 was marred by a spot-fixing case which resulted in five-year bans on then Test captain Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir. Amir returned to the national team in January this year and is expected to be named for all three formats for the tour. — AFP

CRICKET

# ICC CALLS FOR CLAMPDOWN ON BAT SIZE

**LONDON:** India's Anil Kumble and several other former Test players on an International Cricket Council committee have urged the sport's law-makers to bring in new restrictions on the size of bats amid concerns over a glut of run-scoring. Following a two-day meeting at Lord's, the headquarters of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the ICC cricket committee chaired by Kumble issued a statement saying it wanted MCC, which still has overall global responsibility for cricket's Laws or rules, to instigate a clampdown.

While there are limitations on bat length (when the lower portion of the handle is inserted it shall not be more than 38in/96.5cm) and width (4.25in/10.8cm at its widest part), none currently exist on depth. Modern manufacturers have become increasingly skilled at making bats with larger 'sweet spots' that do not feel as heavy to pick-up as the blades that were once only the preserve of 1980s power-hitters such as West Indies great Clive Lloyd and England hero Ian Botham.

The balance between bat and ball has become especially loaded against bowlers in limited overs games where the innovations brought in by Twenty20 cricket, allied to increasingly short boundaries, have led to an orgy of run-scoring. Last year's 50-over World Cup in Australia and New Zealand witnessed 38

hundreds, nearly one every game, and 463 sixes, an average of one every nine overs. West Indies' Chris Gayle struck 16 sixes in racing to the fastest one-day international double hundred during a World Cup match against Zimbabwe at Canberra's Manuka Oval, while New Zealand's Martin Guptill hit a six measured at 110 metres in the course of his 237 against the West Indies at Wellington.

Thursday's statement from the ICC cricket committee, whose members include several former Test batsmen in England's Andrew Strauss, India's Rahul Dravid and Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene, said: "MCC sought the committee's guidance on the desirability of making changes in order to redress the balance between bat and ball. "The committee received a research paper from MCC citing a wealth of scientific and statistical evidence showing bats have become more powerful in recent years, primarily due to having larger 'sweet-spots'." It added: "The committee's view was that MCC should strongly consider limiting the dimensions of cricket bats to help achieve a better balance between bat and ball." South Africa batting great Barry Richards, speaking during last year's World Cup, said restrictions were urgently needed to bring modern-day bats into line with the kind of relatively slim models he used in his 1970s heyday. — AFP



# US VOLLEYBALL FINDS - A RISK PAYS OFF WITH PEER REVIEWS

**LINCOLN:** The experiment might have backfired with any other group: A decorated former player-turned-coach asked a team of world-class athletes to share candid feedback about each other through peer reviews. US women's volleyball coach Karch Kiraly would have considered scrapping the idea altogether had his players said no way. Instead, they embraced it, and discovered their teammates' words made them better as individuals and as a whole. Now, the Americans are heading into this summer's Rio Olympics in search of that elusive gold medal with a stronger sense of what makes each one of them so valuable.

Rachael Adams hadn't known her teammates so respected her competitive fire and energy. Megan Easy learned, to her surprise, just how much her teammates admire the way she is handling the balance of her volleyball career and caring for toddler son, Easton. Setter Alisha Glass accepted some constructive criticism that she could be even more vocal as a leader, and went right to work on it. "Some people would be, 'Wow, you guys evaluate each other on some very personal things,'" captain Christa Dietzen said. "We evaluate each other on a number of different things - respect, our ability to compete every day, bring it every day, some really intense things."

Kiraly and his assistants asked players to review the coaching staff last year, then brought up the idea with the national team in late December of also having the players conduct evaluations. A source of annual apprehension in workplaces, it's a rare practice on sports teams. The Americans went for it with open minds. "I guarantee to you not a lot of teams could," said Natalie Hagglund, the libero, or back-row specialist. "It's difficult to hear the things you can improve on because you want to hear, 'You're so good, you're so good.' It's really difficult but it's one of the most important things ever, especially on a 14-person roster or a 16-person training roster where we're so close."

We can affect how each and every one of the people on our team plays just by saying a few things, so that was huge." They will never know who said what. It was all anonymous. Still, there was anxiety. Some players feared it might be just as hard to give critical feedback as it would be to receive it. "People were a little nervous," Easy said. "We have a lot of different personalities and some people might not be comfortable saying anything about someone else or some people might be really quick to say, 'You're this way and you need to change this,'" Easy said.

"We all have each other's best interests in



**ANAHEIM:** In this photo taken with a fisheye lens, members of the US national women's volleyball team gather after practice in Anaheim, Calif. — AP

mind and sometimes it's hard to hear things that maybe you even know you need to change about yourself. But hearing it from someone else just gives you that confirmation that it is a thing to work on." The evaluation forms were mailed out before the Americans reconvened from their club teams in Southern California on Dec 26 ahead of a January Olympic qualifier in Nebraska, where the US secured its Rio berth after missing an opportunity last year with a pair of World Cup defeats in Japan. It was the group's lone tournament loss in the last seven.

Once back together training, the women discussed the reviews during team meetings. They also have worked with sports psychologist Michael Gervais. Kiraly, who won gold as an Olympian in beach and indoor volleyball, was an assistant coach for the women under Hugh McCutcheon at the London Olympics four years ago, and he had hoped to do the

peer evaluations earlier. Yet the timing wound up being ideal ahead of the qualifier.

"People call that kind of a 360 review. We created our own, rudimentary version," Kiraly said. "The neat thing was, lots of players were really excited - and a little apprehensive, understandably - but excited to learn. Our big job is to grow, so this is an opportunity to learn why we can be a little better." Many times, team dynamics are tough. Egos might run rampant. Personalities vary. Feelings can get hurt. "Especially women, too," Adams said. "Women take things a whole lot differently than men and of course we know there's probably a comment in everyone's where like, 'I feel misunderstood on that one,' but it's all coming from a good place and we all want to make each other better."

Having gone through the process, players realize they are in an environment where taking chances is not only accepted but unitedly

encouraged. "It gives you a little more freedom to try something new and maybe try something that's not in your comfort zone. When you know that your teammates want that from you, you know you're in good company and that you can make those risks and try to do different things," Glass said. "They're saying, 'No, go ahead, you have the freedom to grow and expand.'"

The Americans got out of the project just what Kiraly hoped - and he believes it could lead to a special summer ahead. The US women have never won Olympic gold in volleyball after believing they should have brought home a victory from London in 2012 before settling for a second straight silver medal at the hands of Brazil. "If they were not open to it I would have been far more loathe to go ahead with it," Kiraly said. "It's a special group. I've told lots of people, it's an incredible group to work with. I'm very fortunate." — AP

## RUGBYU: GEORGIA ON WELSH MINDS AS ALL BLACKS LOOM

**WELLINGTON:** Wales coach Warren Gatland revealed yesterday his players were drawing inspiration from an unlikely source for their upcoming series against New Zealand-the modestly rated Georgia national team. While Georgia are far removed from the top rugby nations, Gatland was impressed with the way they stood up to the All Blacks at last year's Rugby World Cup.

"We've said to our players go and have a look at the Georgia game in the World Cup-there were a lot of mistakes that the All Blacks made," Gatland told reporters in Auckland. "They were obviously ring-rusty as a team and they got better as the tournament went along." Georgia were eventually overwhelmed 43-10 in the pool match at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium and New Zealand went on to win the tourna-

ment and claim back-to-back titles. But Georgia rattled their more fancied opponents with bone-jarring tackles and a strong scrum, giving a possible clue to Gatland's tactics for the upcoming three-Test series in New Zealand.

Written off as 14-1 outsiders by Kiwi bookies, Gatland said Wales hoped the All Blacks would struggle as New Zealand begin a new era without superstars such as Richie McCaw and Dan Carter. "It's going to be tough but we're not here just to make up the numbers and we're not here to start the rebuilding phase of New Zealand rugby either," said the New Zealander, himself a former All Black. Wales have not defeated the All Blacks since 1953 and have never won a Test on New Zealand soil in seven attempts. The first Test is in Auckland on June 11. — AFP

## RIO GAMES REFUGEE TEAM WILL HAVE 10 ATHLETES: IOC

**LAUSANNE:** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday unveiled its first ever team of refugees which will have 10 members and 12 officials and will compete at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games under the Olympic flag. On what IOC President Thomas Bach called a "historic day", the team includes five athletes from South Sudan, two from Syria, two from Democratic Republic of Congo and one from Ethiopia. "These refugee athletes have no home, no team, no flag, no national anthem," Bach said. "The invention of this refugee team is to give them a home in the Olympic village together with all the athletes around the world."

The athletes, six men and four women, will compete in the sports of swimming, judo and athletics. "The Olympic anthem will be played in their honor, the Olympic flag will lead them into the stadium," Bach said. "It can send a symbol of hope for all refugees in the world and can send a signal to the international community that refugees are our fellow human beings and are an enrichment to society." The team will be housed in the athletes' village along with all other national teams and will enter the stadium as the penultimate team at the opening ceremony, ahead of the host nation. The IOC had said it wanted to draw the world's attention to the plight of refugees. — Reuters



## SERENA AND MUGURUZA SET UP FINAL SHOWDOWN

**PARIS:** It was not just Serena Williams who looked like she did not want to be at Roland Garros yesterday. The American seemed listless, bored and completely out of sorts as she finally clipped the wings of flying Dutchwoman Kiki Bertens 7-6(7) 6-4 to reach her 27th grand slam final. There the world number one will meet Spanish fourth seed Garbine Muguruza, who ended the run of 2010 runner-up Samantha Stosur with a no-nonsense 6-2 6-4 win in the other semi-final that had to be staged on the secondary Court Suzanne Lenglen after a week of rain derailed the tournament's usual schedule. "I feel like you have to be still mentally alive, and obviously you need to be physically alive and ready for everything," said Williams, who on Saturday will meet the rival who holds the distinction of being the last woman to have beaten the American on Paris clay.

While Williams could be forgiven for feeling rather fed up at having to play a match for the third day running yesterday, since day 13 of the claycourt major is traditionally a rest day for the women finalists, global TV viewers were left wondering "Where the hell are all the fans?" Twitter went into overdrive with comments such as: "It's an absolute disgrace to see a women's semi-final at a grand slam tournament take place in front of so few people" or "women's semi-final played out in half empty stadium. Should move it to Spain!" Organizers pointed out that the severe weather conditions in the region, with some parts experiencing flooding after one of the wettest weeks on record, have played a part in keeping fans away.

However, according to the official Roland Garros website, tickets for yesterday, usually reserved for the two men's semi-finals, were sold out weeks ago. Those who did bother to turn up yesterday were left wondering if the "real Serena Williams" would turn up as she appeared to move in super-slow motion between the points, surrendered her opening service games in both sets and sprayed 31 unforced errors long and wide. "Sometimes Serena doesn't look like she wants to be out there. I think today is one of those days.... You're tired and sore and you have a grand slam semi-final," former French Open champion Mary Pierce said while commenting on the match.

It was not vintage Williams but then again she did not need to produce her best to beat a woman who was ranked 58th in the world and was making her debut appearance in a grand slam semi-final. Bertens, covered from neck to toe in a long-sleeved white shirt, a blue skirt and skin-tight black leggings on yet another chilly day, had two set points in the first set but missed both with forehand errors. While Williams grimaced, groaned and growled louder and louder with each passing minute of the contest, Bertens looked like she was having plenty of fun despite failing to win the points that mattered. A forehand error ended Bertens's day out on Philippe Chatrier Court, leaving Williams one win away from a 22nd grand slam singles title.—Reuters



**PARIS:** US player Serena Williams gestures during her women's semi-final match against Netherlands' Kiki Bertens yesterday. — AFP



**PARIS:** Serbia's Novak Djokovic eyes the ball as he plays Austria's Dominic Thiem during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament yesterday. — AP

## DJOKOVIC BOOKS 4TH FRENCH OPEN FINAL

**PARIS:** Novak Djokovic reached his fourth French Open final with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 demolition of Austria's Dominic Thiem yesterday to move one match closer to a career Grand Slam. The world number one will tackle either second seed Andy Murray or defending champion Stan Wawrinka in Sunday's title match in what will be the Serb's 20th Grand Slam final. It will be the 29-year-old's sixth successive Grand Slam championship match as he looks to add a first Roland Garros crown to his collection of 11 majors.

Victory on Sunday will also make him just the eighth man to complete the career Grand Slam. "The atmosphere was fantastic. It's the first time I have played a semi-final on the Suzanne Lenglen court," said the top seed, moved out to the secondary arena as organizers played catch-up in a rain-ruined schedule. "I played the best tennis of the tournament so far. I am now in the situation where I always dream of being each season, in the final of Roland Garros."

Djokovic sprinted out to a 3-0 lead in the opener on the back of a break in the second game against 13th-seeded Thiem. A double fault by the young Austrian opened the door for Djokovic to take the first set in the eighth game. Thiem, who possesses a picture-perfect one-handed backhand, was undone by 20 unforced errors to just five by the world number one. Djokovic was just as untouchable in the second set despite playing for a fourth successive day as the slightly faster conditions played into his hands. Breaks for the Serb came in the fourth and sixth games and the set was wrapped up in just 25 minutes. Thiem, playing in his first Grand Slam semi-final, had taken just nine points off

the Djokovic serve at that stage.

However, the form which had taken Thiem to a season-leading 25 match wins on clay this season, suddenly appeared as he broke and held for a 3-0 lead in the third set. It had taken him 77 minutes to achieve his first break of the contest, much to the delight of a crowd getting value for money for their \$22 ticket investment. But Djokovic roared

back, sweeping the next five games for 5-3 before 22-year-old Thiem stopped the bleeding at 4-5. The Austrian had one last chance to prolong his afternoon with a break point in the 10th game as Djokovic served for the match. But the world number one was not to be denied as he went to match point and converted the opportunity when Thiem slipped a backhand wide.—AFP

## KYRGIOS PULLS OUT OF RIO GAMES, BLASTS THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

**SYDNEY:** Australia's number one tennis player Nick Kyrgios has blamed "unfair and unjust treatment" at the hands of his country's Olympic Committee for his decision not to take part in the Rio Summer Games. The world number 19 joined Bernard Tomic in withdrawing his name from consideration yesterday, a month after Australia's chef de mission Kitty Chiller said the pair were among a number of athletes whose behavior was being monitored. Tomic, ranked 22nd in the world, ruled himself out in mid-May because of his busy playing schedule but Kyrgios laid the blame squarely at the door of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

"It is with a heavy heart that I have had to make a decision not to compete at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro," Kyrgios said in a statement yesterday. "Representing Australia at the Olympic Games has been a dream of mine since I was a kid ... Unfortunately, while I have expressed every intention of trying to win a medal for my country in Rio, it's very clear to me that the Australian Olympic Committee has other

plans." Kyrgios said the AOC's treatment of him over the past month had been "unfair and unjust" and they had made it "crystal clear" their opposition to his being part of the team.

Tennis Australia will nominate the players to take part in the Aug. 5-21 Games on June 30 but they must then be ratified by Chiller and the AOC. "The AOC has chosen to publicly and privately disparage me," the player's statement continued. "The AOC's unwarranted attacks on me demonstrate the organization's inability to understand the circumstances surrounding highly competitive sports." Kyrgios said he did not want the row with the AOC to distract the Australian team from their preparations for Rio and hoped to represent his country at a future Olympics. The 21-year-old has become a divisive figure in Australia, particularly after a string of unsavory incidents over the past 12 months. He was given a suspended ban by the ATP last year for an off-color comment directed at Stan Wawrinka and was booed by the crowd at the Australian Open after a running battle with an umpire.—Reuters



## PSG COACH BLANC'S FUTURE IN JEOPARDY

**PARIS:** Coach Laurent Blanc's future at Ligue 1 champions Paris St Germain looked in jeopardy when club president Nasser Al-Khelaifi described their season as a failure. PSG achieved their second successive domestic treble by winning Ligue 1, the French Cup and the League Cup, but Champions League progress stagnated as they lost in the quarter-finals for the fourth successive season. "Honestly, I think we failed this season despite winning domestic trophies," Al-Khelaifi, in charge since Qatar Sports Investments took over in 2011 and spent vast sums of money on new players, told daily Le Parisien. "We did not reach our goal so this is a bad season. I have been here for five years and it is the first time that we have this feeling of failure."

Al-Khelaifi pin-pointed the Champions League defeat by Manchester City as his worst moment since he became president. PSG had been favorites but lost 3-2 on aggregate. "It's not just the fact that we lost in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, it's the way it happened," he said. "I am very disappointed. I did not feel there was pressure before the City games. This elimination is the worst moment since I have been in Paris. Two hours before the return leg I knew we were going to lose. I did not feel the players were ready... Whose fault is this?"

Al-Khelaifi promised "big changes will come." Asked if he still trusted Blanc, who took over from Carlo Ancelotti in 2013, Al-Khelaifi: "I have supported him for three years. Now we have to think about what we are going to do next season to build a group that will be stronger at European level. "I will not discuss individual cases. Big changes will come, a new cycle will start." With talisman Zlatan Ibrahimovic gone, Al-Khelaifi hinted at a change in the club's recruitment policy. "We're going to recruit players who will bring more to the team, he said. "At the beginning we needed players to develop our image. Now we need players who are ready to die for the club and for that shirt." - Reuters



Laurent Blanc



Striker Apostolos Giannou

## 'MIXED EMOTIONS' AS STRIKER GIANNOU FACES EX-COUNTRY

**SYDNEY:** Striker Apostolos Giannou said he expects "mixed emotions" if he plays for Australia in today's friendly against Greece-six months after briefly representing the Greek national team. China-based Giannou, who was born in Greece but grew up in Australia, played for the former European champions in November but was allowed to switch to the Socceroos because his appearance was in a friendly.

Giannou represented both Greece and Australia at youth level but he was persuaded to commit his future to the Asian title-holders by a visit from Greek-born Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou. "I guess, it's mixed emotions for me," the 26-year-old Guangzhou R&F forward told Australian

broadcaster ABC. "When Ange came to Greece to talk to me about playing for Australia he didn't want to force me to do anything. "I have a few friends in the Greek national team that's for sure. It will be fun."

Giannou made his Australia debut in March but his lone appearance for Greece, a 0-0 draw with Turkey, was shrouded in controversy. The Greek FA was later fined and forfeited the match 3-0 for not submitting the required paperwork for Giannou, who made his Australia debut in the 7-0 win over Tajikistan in March. Greece captain Andreas Samaris, a former national youth team-mate of Giannou, said he rated the striker highly from his days in Greek domestic football. "I

really like him as a player. He's strong, he's tall, he's fast. I believe he was one of the best strikers in the Greek league and (now) for China," Samaris said yesterday.

Giannou's emergence comes at a time when Australia are searching for a successor for their record goal-scorer Tim Cahill, who is in the twilight of his career at 36. Postecoglou has forwards Cahill, Nathan Burns, Matthew Leckie and Giannou available after they missed the 2-1 loss to England in Sunderland last month. Greece, who failed to qualify for Euro 2016, have no injury concerns but coach Michael Skibbe left Benfica striker Kostas Mitroglou out of his squad. The two sides will also meet in Melbourne on Tuesday.— AFP

## PROSECUTORS WANT MESSI TO BE 'ABSOLVED' IN TRIAL

**BARCELONA:** Spanish prosecutors called yesterday for Lionel Messi to be absolved and his father found guilty on the final day of the pair's high-profile tax fraud trial in Barcelona. The Argentina star and his father Jorge Horacio Messi have been accused of using companies in Belize and Uruguay to avoid paying taxes on 4.16 million euros (\$4.6 million) of Messi's income earned from his image rights from 2007-09. Barcelona forward Messi's defense lawyers want both the five-time World Player of the Year and his father to be absolved.

But the state attorney—who in Spain intervenes in trials in parallel with prosecutors when the interests of a public organization have been impacted, in this case the tax authorities—wants both sentenced. "Lionel Andres Messi must be absolved," Prosecutor Raquel Amado said in her

closing argument, a day after the footballer took the stand and said he trusted his father with his finances and "knew nothing" about how his wealth was managed. "There is no evidence that anyone explained anything to him." But she maintained her accusation against his father, for whom she asked for a jail sentence of one-and-a-half years.

Any such sentence would likely be suspended as is common in Spain for first offences carrying a sentence of less than two years. "It's because Jorge Messi accepted it that this happened," she said. The income related to Messi's image rights that was allegedly hidden includes endorsement deals with Banco Sabadell, Danone, Adidas, Pepsi-Cola, Procter & Gamble and the Kuwait Food Company. "These contracts are in English, most certainly bulky," Amado argued. "For a

layperson, if they see so many lawyers signing it, they must believe that it's fine."

The companies in Uruguay—which much of the probe centers on—were created and managed by a Barcelona law firm with whom Messi's dad communicated. "Mr Jorge Messi cannot dodge his responsibility by accusing his advisors," she said. "Fraud takes place because there is a decision in that direction." Messi and his father did not attend the fourth and final day of the trial, in which defense lawyers and the state attorney have yet to make their closing arguments. The player had been due to jet off to the United States after his Thursday court appearance for the Copa America where Argentina take on defending champions Chile on Monday. No date has been set for when the court will issue its ruling.— AFP



# RELIC OF PUSKAS GLORY DAYS BULLDOZED IN HUNGARY

**BUDAPEST:** As Hungary count down to Euro 2016 and face Germany in a friendly today, a relic of their glory days as a world-beating side has just been demolished in Budapest: the communist-era Ferenc Puskas stadium. It was here, watched by almost 100,000 spectators, that the legendary 'Magical Magyars' were kings, famously thrashing England 7-1 in 1954, still the Three Lions' heaviest ever defeat. Originally called the 'Nepstadion' (Peoples' Stadium) it was built by volunteer labour "for the people by the people" between 1948 and 1953, the heyday of Puskas's all-conquering 'Golden Team'. "It was more than a stadium, it was where Hungary ruled the world," Zoltan Molnar, a groundsman at the stadium for 28 years said.

## Stalinist baroque

The dictator Matyas Rakosi, nicknamed 'Stalin's best pupil', imagined it as a symbol of Communism's superiority over the West, Gergely Csoti, a sports historian said. Even national hero Puskas, seen smiling awkwardly in a propaganda photograph during the works, lent a hand. "Its style was 'Stalinist baroque': vast with lots of reinforced concrete, a state-of-the-art technology at that time," Csoti said.

In 1957 French sports daily L'Equipe called it a model of "sporting and architectural perfection" which put the "crumbling" Colombes stadium in Paris to shame. The interiors were finished with marble tiling replete with Socialist-Realist-style sporting motifs, complementing statues of sportsmen posing on plinths outside the stadium. Fearful of attack by the West, Rakosi also had an air-raid bunker built in, as well as a VIP box with hotlines to Communist Party henchmen. He then ordered its opening despite it missing half its top tier, after a Radio Free Europe broadcast suggested the construction had run into trouble. "Prestige was at stake," Csoti said.

## Like a Palace

Also designed as an Olympic Stadium, the ground was a centrepiece of Hungary's bid for the 1960 Games. Rakosi appeared, however, to snub International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Avery Brundage on its grand opening. On a hot August day he reportedly said: "I don't want to sit beside an Imperialist", and assigned the American a seat outside the air-conditioned VIP area. Whether the dictator's attitude influenced the IOC's decision to award the Games to Rome is not on record. "It's more likely that Moscow (which hosted the Games in 1980) did not want the event to be awarded to an Eastern Bloc country before it," said Csoti.

In April 1954, shortly before a World Cup that the 'Magical Magyars' were favorites to win, Hungary routed England 7-1 at the Nepstadion, a return game after the famous 6-3 mauling in London the previous year. The English players, used to the 1920s-era Wembley stadium, marveled at the facilities. The whole team could soak in the bath after the game, while the dressing rooms were "like a palace", the English goalkeeper Gil Merrick said. Hungary lost the World Cup final though to West Germany, a shock defeat which led to riots in Budapest, a precursor to the failed anti-Soviet uprising in 1956, and the defection of Puskas and the break-up of the Golden Team soon after.

## Another one bites the dust

Football's use as a propaganda tool now gone, the communist regime withdrew backing from the sport and the Nepstadion, its top tier never to be completed, opened up to other functions. Some 80,000 watched Louis Armstrong play there in 1965, an attendance record at the time for a jazz concert, while British rock group Queen were allowed to stage one of the first rock concerts behind the Iron Curtain in 1986.

The band's management charged 140,000 dollars in cash upfront, a struggle to find in near-bankrupt Hungary, Molnar said. In 2002 football-mad Prime Minister Viktor Orban renamed the by-then decrepit stadium in honor of Puskas's 75th birthday. After he died in 2006, Puskas's body lay in state at the stadium where thousands filed past to pay their respects. "Michel Platini remarked he'd never seen such an occasion for a footballer," Molnar told AFP.

The planned 68,000-seater rebuild as one of 13 host venues for Euro 2020 — held in 12 countries-is part of a nationwide stadium-building drive by Orban in a bid to restore Hungary's footballing fortunes. Euro 2016 is the first time since 1986 that Hungary has qualified for a major tournament. For the 61-year-old Molnar, who lived in lodgings inside the stadium and whose children grew up there, the reconstruction is painful to watch. "I switch off the TV if a report on it comes on," he said. "During communism, sport was all we had, there wasn't much else to enjoy, a lot of people had good times there." — AFP



**BUDAPEST:** Construction workers demolish the old communist-era Ferenc Puskas stadium in Budapest. Originally called the 'Nepstadion' (Peoples' Stadium), it was built by volunteer labor "for the people by the people" between 1948 and 1953, the heyday of Puskas's all-conquering 'Golden Team'. —AFP

# ENGLAND TEAM - A WORK IN PROGRESS, KANE SAYS

**LONDON:** Harry Kane admits England's spluttering attack still has plenty of room for improvement ahead of their Euro 2016 opener. Roy Hodgson's side wrapped up their preparations for the tournament in France with a 1-0 win over Portugal at Wembley on Thursday and the main talking point of a drab display was the lack of cohesion between England's three forwards. Hodgson opted for a diamond formation that saw Wayne Rooney deployed just behind a front two of Kane and Jamie Vardy.

But it was the first time they had all played together and, with England lacking any penetration on the flanks, Tottenham striker Kane and Leicester forward Vardy found themselves forced to drift wide to the right and left respectively. Kane finished as the Premier League's top scorer with 25 goals, and Vardy netted 24 times as Leicester won the title, but they rarely had the chance to combine in dangerous areas, with Vardy touching the ball only nine times.

And Kane confessed England would

need to spend time fine-tuning the formation before their first match at the Euros against Russia on June 11. "Of course we would probably want a few more chances and a few more shots on goal, but it's something we are working on," Kane said. "We are still working on stuff. That's what we have these three friendlies for, to prepare for the tournament. "Whether it's tactics or set pieces or anything else. We are learning to see what works and what doesn't. "We can use that in the tournament. Of course we will debrief the game after our few days off and see what works best. "It's one game. It isn't just going to happen overnight. We have been asked to play together and we won the game."

## Perennial problem

A perennial problem for England is the failure of their supposed star players to replicate their club form on the international stage. With so little time to prepare before each match and long breaks between internationals, Kane admitted

it can be tricky to strike up an instant rapport on the pitch. "Of course it is always difficult when you come away with England. You haven't got a lot of time to prepare like you do for your clubs," he said. "But we are England internationals. You have to be able to cope with that. "I don't think you can judge it from one performance. It's always difficult when a team goes down to 10 men so early. You have to be patient. "Portugal just dropped off and made it very difficult for us to get through the middle of the pitch."

"The tempo is probably something we could have done better. We could have been a bit quicker in the final third but it is a learning curve." Although England are still a work in progress, Kane is confident the attacking options available to Hodgson, which also include Daniel Sturridge and Marcus Rashford, will make his team a formidable force in France. "Of course there are things we can work on but we are in a positive way and we take that into the Russia game," he said. "It's great. You want everyone on top of their game, especially strikers, and we've got that. "We've got a lot of competition for places, which is good." Kane was fortunate to leave Wembley in one piece after being caught on the head by a crazy and potentially dangerous, studs-up, tackle from Portugal's Bruno Alves. Alves was sent off for the first half moment of madness, but Kane escaped with only a few marks on his head and shoulder, although he never received an apology from the Portugal star. "I've got a few scratches but obviously I got away with one there. I'm happy I'm still here!" Kane said. "I'm lucky I didn't have a few stitches in the head. He didn't apologize. He was down in the tunnel." — AFP



Harry Kane



## FIFA OFFICES RAIDED, INFANTINO NOT BEING INVESTIGATED

**ZURICH:** FIFA President Gianni Infantino is not under investigation after the headquarters of soccer's governing body was searched as part of an ongoing investigation, Swiss authorities said yesterday. The Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG) said documents and electronic data had been seized the previous day. It said the investigation concerned people named in previous statements and also unknown suspects in the corruption probe that has engulfed FIFA over the past year.

"As part of the ongoing criminal investigations in the FIFA affair, the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland (OAG) carried out a search of FIFA's headquarters on 2 June 2016 with the aim of confirming existing findings and obtaining further information," the OAG said in a statement. FIFA was not immediately available for comment. This week FIFA's ethics committee said there were no formal proceedings against Infantino, the recently-elected president of soccer's global body, after a German newspaper reported that he was facing a provisional ban for unethical conduct.

The committee would not confirm or deny whether preliminary investigations had taken place. German newspaper Die Welt said on Thursday that Infantino, elected in February, was facing investigation over possible ethics breaches. "We are not in a position to indicate if we have or have not preliminary investigatory proceedings against an individual," said the ethics committee's investigatory chamber in a statement to Reuters. "We would, however, like to point out that there are no formal proceedings going on against Mr. Infantino."

Die Welt said it had seen emails suggesting that Infantino had ordered senior FIFA officials to delete recordings of a controversial meeting of the FIFA Council, formerly the executive committee, before last month's Mexico City Congress. FIFA was swept into new controversy when the Congress in Mexico passed a resolution giving the FIFA Council the power to appoint or dismiss members of its independent watchdog. This effectively gave the Council, headed by Infantino, the right to fire ethics judge Hans-Joachim Eckert and ethics investigator Cornel Borbely and the head of the audit and compliance committee, Domenico Scala. Scala, who had overseen the FIFA reforms, resigned in protest the following day.

Former UEFA general secretary Infantino replaced Sepp Blatter in February promising to clean up an organization tainted by years of corruption and scandal. Criminal investigations in the United States and Switzerland have resulted in the indictment of dozens of soccer officials and other entities for corruption, many of them serving or former presidents of national or continental associations. FIFA has also been forced to investigate controversies surrounding the awarding of its showpiece, the World Cup finals, especially the decision to grant the 2018 tournament to Russia and the 2022 finals to Qatar. Swiss authorities are reviewing more than 150 reports of suspicious financial activity linked to those awards.—Reuters

## LEICESTER AND GERMAN KEEPER ZIELER INK DEAL

**LONDON:** Leicester City have signed Germany goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler on a four-year deal from Bundesliga side Hannover 96 for an undisclosed fee, the English Premier League champions said yesterday. Zieler, 27, one of two back-up keepers to Manuel Neuer in the Germany squad that won the 2014 World Cup, will compete for a place in Leicester's starting side with current Foxes number one Kasper Schmeichel. "It feels great coming to Leicester and joining the club after they've had such a great season—it's really nice to be part of the club now," Zieler told Foxes Player HD after signing a contract set to keep him at the King Power Stadium until 2020. Zieler is the first addition to Leicester's squad since the one-time 5,000/1 outsiders were crowned champions of England.

"I've been shown around the training ground and it looks very good and I've been to the stadium—I heard about the great atmosphere and the great fans, so my first impression is very good," added Zieler, who already knows several of Leicester's squad, having played in the same Manchester United academy side as Danny Simpson, Danny Drinkwater, Ritchie De Laet and Matty James. Zieler will add experience as Leicester begin both the defense of their Premier League title and take part in the club's first Champions League campaign in 2016/17. A veteran of more than 200 domestic and European appearances with Hannover, Zieler has also won six Germany caps since making his debut in 2011.—AFP



**ZURICH:** File shows former FIFA president Sepp Blatter looking on as fake dollar notes fly around him, thrown by a British comedian during a press conference at the FIFA world-body headquarters in Zurich. Former FIFA President Sepp Blatter and two deputies 'enriched themselves' with \$80 million, the FIFA announced yesterday. —AFP

## DI MATTEO NAMED AS NEW VILLA'S MANAGER

**LONDON:** Roberto Di Matteo has been handed the task of restoring Aston Villa's fortunes after the seven-times

English champions announced the Italian as their new manager yesterday. The 46-year-old, who won the

Champions League during a short spell in charge of Chelsea in 2012, takes over weeks after the club were relegated from the Premier League. "It's a wonderful honour for me to become manager of this great football club, and I'm looking forward to the challenge of taking Aston Villa back to its rightful place," Di Matteo said.

Former Chelsea team mate and coach Steve Clarke has also been appointed as Di Matteo's assistant. Di Matteo has previously worked as a manager in the second-tier Championship, gaining promotion with West Bromwich Albion in 2009-10. Villa will be hoping he can have a similar impact after a dreadful season in which they finished bottom with only three wins and sacked two managers, Tim Sherwood in October and his replacement Remi Garde in March. Swiss-born former Italy midfielder Di Matteo played for Lazio and Chelsea and once scored after 42 seconds in the 1997 FA Cup final against Middlesbrough. He won two FA Cups, a League Cup and a UEFA Cup Winners' Cup while at Stamford Bridge and returned to Chelsea as assistant manager to Andre Villas-Boas in 2011, stepping up as interim manager when the Portuguese was sacked in March 2012. Against all expectations, he guided Chelsea to a Champions League semi-final defeat of Barcelona and then beat Bayern Munich on penalties in the final in their own stadium. Di Matteo was rewarded by being appointed manager on a permanent basis but by November, he had fallen out of favour and was sacked after a Champions League defeat by Juventus. Since then, he managed Schalke 04 in the Bundesliga but resigned in May 2015.—Reuters



**Roberto Di Matteo**



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# Sports



FIFA offices raided  
but Infantino not  
being investigated

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**CALIFORNIA:** Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green (center) struggles to keep the ball from Cleveland Cavaliers forward Richard Jefferson (left) and forward LeBron James (right) during the second quarter of game 1 of the NBA Finals on June 2, 2016. — AFP

## IGUODALA STILL MYSTIFIES CAVS IN FINALS

### BENCH LIFT WARRIORS TO FIRST BLOOD IN FINALS SERIES

**OAKLAND:** Golden State's Andre Iguodala earned the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award last year for coming off the bench and playing smothering defense on LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. One year later, the Warriors are again facing Cleveland for the league crown and the Cavaliers still appear to have no answer for the disruptive force of the 32-year-old US swingman. Iguodala scored 12 points, grabbed seven rebounds, passed out six assists, made a steal and blocked a shot while playing 35 minutes off the bench for Golden State in a 104-89 victory over Cleveland in the first game of the NBA Finals.

"He's an incredible two-way player," said teammate Klay Thompson. "His numbers might not jump off the page, but you know how important he is to our team. He was finals MVP for a reason last year. His defense is second to none. He's a great competitor. I get better just learning from him every day." The Warriors' bench outscored Cleveland's reserves 45-10 and Golden State forced 17 Cavaliers turnovers that produced 25 points. And when Iguodala was on the court, the Warriors outscored Cleveland by 21 points, a game high for any player.

"He's amazing," said Golden State's Stephen Curry, the two-

time regular season NBA Most Valuable Player. "Me and Draymond (Green) talk about it all the time. When we're on the bench, we watch it. It's unbelievable. "He has great timing, great eye-hand coordination, and obviously his wingspan works to his advantage to be able to close that space up. But it's really uncanny the way that he can do it without fouling." Iguodala is also the mellowing influence for a club that won an NBA record 73 games this season but can sometimes push the pace too fast, too long for its own good.

"I normally try to keep an even coolness about myself. Not just for me, but for the team as well," Iguodala said. "We can kind of get giddy out there and lose it a little bit, so I try to get us back to that even balance. That's pretty much my role on this team." That calm was tested when Cleveland guard Matthew Dellavedova struck him in the crotch while attempting a steal. Iguodala stared down the Australian but was not critical after the games.

"I'm not going to judge or say anything negative about him," Iguodala said. "He's out there competing. There are a lot of emotions going on out there. I respect a lot of guys' hustle in this league." But Iguodala also said he was fired up by the inci-

dent, and the 3-pointer he made the next time he touched the ball. "The situation that happened kind of got me fired up," Iguodala said. "Sometimes you need it. Maybe it was meant for that to happen."

#### Small details matter

Iguodala and Green kept four-time NBA MVP James to 2-of-9 shooting when they were guarding him, part of a 9-for-21 night by the standout in his sixth consecutive NBA Finals. "Everyone who came off the bench treated every possession like it could be their last. When you treat the game like that and respect it, good things tend to happen," Iguodala said. "You're in a situation right now where it seems like everything is do or die. Every small detail matters. Guys were locked in and we'll have to continue to do that to have more success." Warriors coach Steve Kerr called Iguodala a "brilliant" player who "doesn't get enough credit." "Defensively Andre did a phenomenal job fighting," Kerr said. "Andre is not only a phenomenal athlete with long arms and great quickness and strength, but he's one of the smartest players I've ever been around at both ends of the floor." — AFP