

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



ESTABLISHED 1961

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016

RAMADAN 1, 1437 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

Kuwait Times  
RAMADAN  
KAREEM



Ramadan Timings	
Emsak:	03:04
Fajer:	03:14
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:47
Asr:	15:21
Maghreb:	18:45
Eshaa:	20:16



150 FILS  
NO: 16896  
40 PAGES

## ONLY KD 238M BUDGETED FOR FUEL AND GAS SUBSIDIES

### ALLOCATION FOR TREATMENT ABROAD ALSO SLASHED



Min 28°  
Max 43°  
High Tide 09:01 & 22:03  
Low Tide 02:48 & 15:48

### ALI REMEMBERED IN MUSLIM WORLD AS VOICE OF CHANGE

**CAIRO:** Of all Muhammad Ali's travels, his 1964 trip to Egypt was perhaps the most symbolic, bringing him face to face with President Gamal Abdel Nasser, who had punched above his own weight as a champion of Third World struggles. Nasser was viewed with suspicion by the United States, but revered across much of Africa and Asia for confronting European colonial powers. For the newly crowned heavyweight champion, being received by one of America's chief enemies announced his arrival on the global stage as a powerful voice of change.

The boxing genius and revolutionary political views of Ali, who died Friday at age 74, emerged when America's civil rights movement was in full swing and the Vietnam war raged on, sharply dividing Americans. The Muslim world was also gripped by upheaval, stemming from the withdrawal of the colonial powers and the onset of the Cold War. Nasser, a popular Arab nationalist and Soviet ally, had emerged as a leading opponent of American "imperialism," and his fiery speeches touched on themes that would later be embraced by Ali.

Ali's conversion to Islam won him the support of many across the region.

Continued on Page 13



**BEIRUT:** A general view shows a large lantern decorating the street in front of the Mohammad Al-Amin Mosque in downtown Beirut yesterday as Muslims prepare for the holy fasting month of Ramadan. The Moon Sighting Authority of Kuwait's Ministry of Justice yesterday announced that today, Monday June 6, is the first day of Ramadan for the Hijri year 1437. — AFP

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Head of the National Assembly's budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said yesterday the budget for the 2016/2017 fiscal year includes KD 238 million for subsidies for petroleum and gas products. The amount is far less than the "billions of dinars" that used to be allocated in fuel subsidies in previous years, when the oil price was well over \$100 a barrel. The new announcement comes amid reports that the government plans to partially lift subsidies on petrol next month after the Assembly starts its summer recess.

Press reports said yesterday the government plans to raise prices of various grades of petrol by between 40 percent and 80 percent to considerably reduce the amount of subsidies it pays for fuel. Last year, Kuwait completely lifted subsidies on diesel, kerosene and aviation fuel. Abdulsamad said the budget also includes KD 310 million for ration card subsidies offered to Kuwaitis. The amount covers subsidies for food items and construction materials. The committee however urged the ministry of commerce and industry, which oversees ration card subsidies, to review the cost of food items offered to citizens in light of the sharp drop in oil prices and transportation costs.

The new budget also allocates KD 266 million for aid to friendly and sister countries, said Abdulsamad, adding that the committee called on the finance ministry to monitor that aid is spent in areas specified by the decisions. Other subsidies in the budget include KD 300 million in social aid to 42,000 recipients, including divorced women or those married to stateless people and others.

Continued on Page 13



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See Page 4

Lulu  
HYPERMARKET

الاتحاد  
ETIHAD  
AIRWAYS  
ABU DHABI

Ruby  
Tuesday



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Dr Nasser Jassem Al-Sane, Mohammad Abdullah Al-Elaim, Dr Bader Ahmad Al-Nashi, and Mohammad Hussein Al-Dalal.



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Saleh Mohammad Al-Mosawi, Dr Fadel Safar Ali Safar, lawmaker Ahmad Lari and Mubarak Saleh Al-Nejada.— Amiri Diwan photos**

# AMIR RECEIVES HOST OF FIGURES

## AMIR RECEIVES RAMADAN GREETINGS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received a host of figures at Bayan Palace yesterday afternoon. His Highness the Amir's audience included Dr Nasser Jassem Al-Sane, Mohammad Abdullah Al-Elaim, Dr Bader Ahmad Al-Nashi, and Mohammad Hussein Al-Dalal. His Highness the Amir also received Saleh Mohammad Al-Mosawi, Dr Fadel Safar Ali Safar, lawmaker Ahmad Lari and Mubarak Saleh Al-Nejada.

His Highness the Amir meanwhile received Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Iraqi Defense Minister Khaled Al-Obaidi. During the meeting, the Iraqi Defense Minister delivered a written letter to His Highness the Amir from the Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. The letter touched on issues of common interests and the latest regional and international developments. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

Earlier yesterday, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well as First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah and Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also received Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

In other news, His Highness the Amir received cables of congratula-

tions and warm wishes on the holy month of Ramadan by a host of top state officials and figures. His Highness the Amir received cables from His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Deputy National Guard Chief Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammed Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled.

In their cables, the state top officials wished His Highness the Amir the best of health and the homeland, the Arab and Muslim world prosperity. His Highness the Amir sent reply cables in which he expressed gratitude for the warm sentiments and prayed God Almighty bless Kuwait with prosperity, stability and security and also bless all peoples of the world with peace. Furthermore, His Highness the Amir exchanged greet-



**His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah reads a letter from Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi, delivered by Iraqi Defense Minister Khaled Al-Obaidi.**

Islamic nations on advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan. His Highness expressed good wishes for the Arab and Islamic nations on the blessed occasion. His Highness the Crown Prince also exchanged Ramadan greetings with top state officials

including Ghanem, National Guard Chief His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah and Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, in addition to cabinet ministers, governors, state officials, diplomats, citizens and expatriates. Separately, His

Highness the Prime Minister will be receiving the well-wishers on the advent of Ramadan during the fourth day of the Holy Month at the late Sheikh Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Diwan located in Al-Shaahb seaside area.— KUNA

# CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, management and staff convey their

deepest condolences to

## Wa'el Deeb

General Manager of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi Best Co

on the sad demise of his father

## Haj Mohammad Hasan Deeb

May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on him

## KUWAIT, FRANCE DISCUSS TIES

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad stressed the 'strong' bilateral ties with France, which he described as 'excellent' in all domains. Fahad made this remark during a meeting with the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhla, Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior said in a press statement yesterday.

The statement added that the meeting shed light on promoting bilateral ties and discussed security coordination between the two countries that has seen great progress lately. The French envoy meanwhile praised this security cooperation, expressing aspiration to make more progress through exchange of expertise. — KUNA

## KUWAITI, SINGAPOREAN MEETING DISCUSSES LATEST DEVELOPMENT

**SINGAPORE:** Chief of the National Security Bureau (NSB) Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, who is currently on a visit to Singapore, discussed yesterday with Singaporean Minister of Defense and Foreign Affairs Ng Eng Hen the latest developments on the regional and international arenas.

The bureau said in a statement that Sheikh Thamer met Hen, on the sideline of the Asia Summit 2015, and discussed with him means of enhancing bilateral relations. The statement also added that Sheikh Thamer conveyed greetings from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah to Hen. — KUNA

## MINISTER LAUNCHES CENTRAL PART OF JAHRA ROAD

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omair opened yesterday the central part of Al-Jahra Road. During a groundbreaking ceremony, the minister said in a press statement that the road, once completed, would be a very vital part of Kuwait's highway network. He appreciated the efforts of the ministry, the contractor and the advisory body in the completion of the project, hoping that the remaining parts of the highway would be finished in the near future.



Minister Ali Al-Omair

The minister vowed that Al-Jahra Road and other construction projects would be completed as scheduled. Meanwhile, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Public Works Engineer Awatef Al-Ghuneim said the central part of Al-Jahra Road consists of three bridges and the project completion rate hit 92 percent. She pointed out that the remaining part of the highway would be launched by September 2016. — KUNA

### Local Spotlight

## KOREA, THE FUTURE - PART II



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

One of the scenarios that may work for the unification is South Korea absorbing the North without a bloody war, because a unified Korea would face three strategic choices: Continuing the alliance with the United States, becoming an independent regional power, or tilting toward China. Clearly the issue of reunification has been very divisive in the South Korean society between progressives and conservatives. I think it will take longer than expected. A unified Korea could become a balanced power and an intermediary between the great powers of China and Russia.

Unification will offer North Koreans a golden opportunity to engage with the outside world and upgrade their living standards, infrastructure and industry. For this reason, policy decision makers need to continue to discuss on how a unified Korea will behave and the shape of the US-South Korea alliance, plus US-China ties. Answers to these questions are speculative and difficult to conceptualize in this short column.

I was also a guest speaker at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. I made a presentation about women's rights and the role of journalism in the Middle East. It was an open discussion with young Koreans. I told them that this meeting is an opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience about the future of Korea between its young people and a Kuwaiti and other Arab women from the Middle East. One of the key topics of discussion was the rights of working mothers, and I was amazed with the mutual concerns between Korea and the Middle East.

As for food and Korean eating habits, it was really a great experience to try Korean food and learn more about Koreans' passion for healthy food and lifestyle. They are very careful about the quality and quantity of the food consumed, and I know for sure that obesity is not an issue there. Smoking is forbidden nearly everywhere except for a few open places. They are keen on healthy living. I conclude this article with few significant remarks made by the UN Secretary-General to the Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity on May 26, 2016. He said that many factors today drive crises, from governance failures to human rights violations, and climate change remains a major concern. He added that the UN will continue to support democratic reforms across Asia. The UN Secretary-General concluded his speech by calling everyone to join forces to enable this continent to create a better future and a better future for all the people around the world. The visit to Korea had a full agenda, but the rich topics and new places we visited, as well as the officials and people we met, made it worth the time and efforts we all put in. I made many new friends including members of the delegation that came from various countries. Thank you Korea Foundation. You have a great nation.

Legalese

## WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU'RE FIRED BY TELEPHONE?

By Fajer Ahmed

I write often about employment issues because the point of my articles is not only to create awareness, but more importantly to assist as many people as possible. I am very grateful for this opportunity to make a difference and I am grateful to my readers who continue to email me and trust me with their legal concerns. Thank you!

And since I write in English and not Arabic (fortunately and unfortunately), a good number of the questions that I get are by expats who may have difficulty understanding the law. So please allow me to write the topics that I think will be the most beneficial to my readers, even if it means repeating parts of the information provided.

Recently, I got a case of a young Western man who was hired to complete a job - let us use the term 'freelancer' to make it easier. So this man has a talent and he was hired to complete an 'artistic' job. Now the contracts for such jobs are different than your regular employment contract - for starters, they have a set time and require a set of skills.

### Fired by phone

**Question:** I was at the office finalizing my project. I had a few days left until the submission of the project, but I was told that my work was not up to standard, without any explanation. Later that day, I got a phone call from the project manager saying I was no longer needed and that I should not show up to work. What should I do?

**Fajer:** Rule number one for any job - freelance or not, for any job position, no matter what the reason is - you should always get an 'official' termination letter. You cannot be terminated by a phone call. You are terminated by an official letter, an email, a correspondence. If your boss decides to tell you that you are terminated via a phone call or at the office, your response to them should be "Can I have it in writing?" Always ask for things in writing, especially something as serious as a termination letter.

If your boss refuses to give you your termination in writing, then please continue to go to work. Continue to go to work until you have an 'official' termination letter. I know it sounds silly - why would I go to work if I was told not to? Well as a lawyer, I want to protect my client. If my client does not show up to work without an 'official' termination, then my client can be accused of absconding or can be terminated later for not showing up to work for seven days in a row in accordance with the Kuwait labor law. Therefore, it is better to be safe than sorry.

Also, as I said earlier, freelancers have different clauses in their contracts than what is contained in a regular employment contract. It usually comes with a clause that states that if the 'freelancer' does not show up to work or does not complete the work on time, or does not complete the work to a certain standard, then the relationship is terminated. This can cause some issues, as sometimes it is not clear whether a certain photo or video is up to a certain standard, so I highly suggest that such specifications should be written clearly in the contract. Be as specific as you can (if this does not have a negative effect on your work).

### Calling security

**Question:** You advised me to go to work since my termination is not official yet. But since I was clearly told not to go to work, I am afraid to go to the office. What if they call security and kick me out?

**Fajer:** I do not know how your management or colleagues think, and although I can predict a few actions from my humble experience, I can't always know what will happen. It may well be that when you do show up to work, security is called in, and they move you out. But I am worried about my client having an absconding case filed against him, so I would rather have proof (witnesses, security cameras and so on that he was not allowed to go to work).

There are other things that should be of concern to freelancers when they enter work contracts and I shall be writing about them in the near future. But for now, I wanted to share with you one of the cases that I received this week, in the hope that these mistakes will not occur again and that employers and employees are both aware of the situations that can happen and how to avoid them and be fair to both parties.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

## LONGEST DAYTIME ON 17 RAMADAN

**KUWAIT:** The 17th day of the Holy Month of Ramadan, coinciding with June 22nd, is the longest day of the year with 14 hours and two minutes of daytime, Kuwait Civil Aviation meteorologist Essa Ramadan said yesterday. The Kuwaiti meteorologist said that the daytime average of the fasting month will be at around 14 hours, adding that Ramadan this year coincided with the summer solstice. Temperature in Kuwait will soar, partly due to the solstice phenomena, said Ramadan, adding that the heat will be felt especially during the noon time. Temperatures will gradually lower by September, said the official. — KUNA



Meteorologist Essa Ramadan



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chaired the High Petroleum Commission's (HPC) 111th meeting at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING SHOULD BE DEALT WITH THROUGH NATIONAL STRATEGY: MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** Human trafficking and migrants smuggling in all of its manifestations should be dealt with through setting up a national strategy, Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yagoub Al-Sane stressed yesterday. Human trafficking is a direct violation to human rights, the minister said in a press conference on the matter.

He added that the Kuwaiti constitution protects the rights of people regardless of their race and nationalities, hence comes the importance of setting up a national strategy to counter human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This national strategy, once approved by the Cabinet, will prevent,

protect and build various levels of partnerships, he said. Meanwhile, Director General of Public Authority of Civil Information (PACI) Musaad Al-Asousi said a data base on statistics and demography of all nationalities will be available to help the strategy to achieve its goal.

In the meantime, Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Criminal Security Major General Abdulhamid Al-Awadhi said that a human trafficking department was established and 8 persons were arrested. He noted that there is an existing cooperation with international organizations and the U.S. embassy to combat this phenomenon. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yagoub Al-Sane speaks during the press conference. — KUNA

## EDUCATION MINISTER CONVEYS AMIR'S CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHOOL GRADUATES

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Al-Essa conveyed yesterday congratulations of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to high school graduates. Speaking at a news conference following the announcement of high school diplomas' recipients, the minister said about 100 seats at Kuwait University are allocated to non-Kuwaiti students, who have a GPA of 90 percent and more. He congratulated both male and female students, wishing them further success dur-

ing their study in university.

He, meanwhile, denied what has been posted on social media that male and female students will share same University's classrooms in the upcoming year, upon the fact that a legislation was announced by constitutional court to separate male and female students in classrooms. He noted that this matter would be considered later. Undersecretary of Education's Ministry Haitham Al-Athari also congratulated all students on their success. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Al-Essa speaks during a press conference to announce the results of high school finals in public and Arabic private schools. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

## DASMAN INSTITUTE LAUNCHES DIABETES AWARENESS PROGRAMS IN RAMADAN

**KUWAIT:** The Dasman Diabetes Institute is eager to launch comprehensive training and awareness programs on the disease during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan. All through the year, the Institute already organizes awareness workshops on the health of diabetic patients, to help them to cope with the disease, in line with the international recommendations and criteria, said Director General Dr Qais Saleh Al-Duwairi in a press statement.

In addition, the institution pays great attention to scientific research in order to reach the most effective methods for diabetes prevention, and treatment. Part of this, several researchers are being carried out in Kuwait, focusing on diabetes and consequences of the disease, Duwairi said. Up to 8,189 patients are recorded at the Dasman Diabetes Institute, while up to 136,948 others visited it to receive treatment since it was opened in June 2006. — KUNA

## KUWAIT'S PAHW, HILL INTERNATIONAL SIGN \$78 M SOUTH MUTLAA CONTRACT

**KUWAIT:** The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and the US Hill International, the global leader in managing construction risk, have concluded a five-year contract to provide program management consultancy services during development of South Al-Mutlaa City.

Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul said in a press statement on the sidelines of the signing ceremony held at the PAHW headquarters that the contract is part of the PAHW's fresh approach of housing projects in Kuwait.

He said the new approach is based on the execution of such housing projects and cities, provided that timetables, quality, contract preparation and coordination and finance be committed by renowned world companies. Kuwaiti Ambassador in Kuwait Douglas Silliman hailed in a press statement cooperation between the PAHW and the US Hill International, pointing to historical relations between the US and Kuwait in the housing field. He added that several American companies had previously designed cities and houses in Kuwait, hailing the Hill International as a highly-reputed company. Meanwhile, PAHW Director-

General Bader Al-Wugayyan said the five-year contract has an estimated value to Hill of approximately KD 23.5 million (\$78.7 million). He expected that the perspective winning contractor would sign the housing city infrastructure contract by the end of June. He elaborated that the contract with the US company allows it to provide program management consultancy services during the project, noting that South Al-Mutlaa City is a new Kuwaiti city development on a site of 102,64 square kilometers (nearly 40 square miles). South Al-Mutlaa project consists of 12 suburbs including roughly 28,363 houses, covering 400 square meters each. It is located 40 km northwest of Al-Jahra City. It has a total of 30,000 housing units.

Hill International provides program management, project management, construction management, construction claims and other consulting services primarily to the buildings, transportation, environmental, energy and industrial markets. Engineering News-Record magazine recently ranked Hill as the seventh largest construction management firm in the United States. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul looks on as the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and the US Hill International sign the agreement. — KUNA

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# Ramadan

*Quiz*  
2016



الإتجاه  
**ETIHAD**  
AIRWAYS  
ABU DHABI

**LULU**  
HYPERMARKET

**Ruby**  
Tuesday

## Answer & Win

Fabulous Prizes

Kuwait Times annual Ramadan Competition returns with one YES or NO question published every day throughout the holy month of Ramadan. All thirty coupons with the correct answers must be sent to the newspaper to be eligible for the raffle draw. All coupons must be submitted by Friday, 8th July, 2016 at Kuwait Times Office.

**1st Prize** Two Business Class tickets Kuwait – London – Kuwait on Etihad Airways Not including taxes.

**2nd Prize** One Economy Class ticket Kuwait – Madrid – Kuwait on Etihad Airways Not including taxes  
Orden men's watch | Orden women's watch | Gift vouchers Ruby Tuesday 40KD | Gift voucher from Lulu Hypermarket 50KD

**3rd Prize** One Economy Class ticket Kuwait – Abu Dhabi – Kuwait on Etihad Airways  
Orden men's watch | Orden women's watch | Gift vouchers from Ruby Tuesday lunch or dinner 20KD |  
Gift voucher from Lulu Hypermarket 50KD

**4th Prize** Smart Viora mobile  
Orden men's watch | Orden women's watch | Gift vouchers from Ruby Tuesday lunch or dinner 40KD  
Gift voucher from Lulu Hypermarket 50KD

**5th Prize** Canon camera 113  
Orden men's watch | Alessy women's watch | Gift vouchers from Ruby Tuesday lunch or dinner 20KD  
Gift voucher from Lulu Hypermarket 50KD

**6th Prize to 10th Prize** Tap lot 4.2.2.duel Skim  
Fls353 Men's watch | Fls327 Women's watch | Two vouchers from Ruby Tuesday for lunch or dinner 20KD |  
Gift Voucher from Alsanabel Althabya 25KD | Gift voucher from Lulu Hypermarket 25KD

**Espresso**

**Ramadan Kareem**

Baby  
**seba med**



Sports cars are impounded following a crackdown in South Surra.



Firefighters tackle a blaze in a vehicle at King Fahad Road.

## SPORTS CARS IMPOUNDED AT MALL'S PARKING LOT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry's traffic department noticed an unlicensed gathering of sports cars at night on an almost daily basis in the parking lot of 360 Mall in South Surra, which could cause traffic chaos and disturb residents, which constitutes a violation of the law. He said as soon as the cars were noticed, traffic department patrols went to the area, closed entrances and exits of the parking lots, and impounded 54 vehicles, while two juveniles were arrested for driving without a driving license. Sixty traffic citations were issued. Separately, thirteen vehicles were impounded and a man was sent to jail during a campaign on Second Ring Road, while 16 traffic citations were issued for driving recklessly, in addition to other violations.

### Car catches fire on King Fahad Road

Fire broke out in a car on King Fahd Road near Jabriya. Mishref fire center responded and put out the fire. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a fire was reported in an

industrial Jahra transformer. Occupational Jahra fire center responded and the fire was put out. No injuries were reported.

### Food campaigns

Kuwait Municipality continued its inspection campaigns on various restaurants, cooperatives, markets, stores and foodstuff companies. The inspection and municipality services at the municipality branch of Hawally governorate launched a major campaign in Salmiya that included stores, butcher shops, markets and co-ops. The campaign resulted in issuing seven general hygiene citations, and eight undertakings.

### Service centers' timings

The Interior Ministry's service centers department announced working hours during Ramadan as follows: Centers working during the morning hours will operate from 10 am to 2:30 pm. Centers working in the afternoon will operate from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and those open on weekends will operate from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

# BEDOONS ISSUE NOT DISCUSSED DURING COMOROS VISIT: MP

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Saud Al-Hurajji warned the government of taking any steps towards deporting bedoons (stateless) to any country, especially to the Comoros. Hurajji also criticized what he described as rumors claiming that a parliamentary delegation visited the Comoros earlier this year to discuss sending bedoons there. "It was only a protocol visit," he stressed.



MP Saud Al-Hurajji

### Courts' roundup

The court of appeal yesterday rejected a first instance ruling returning former Kuwait Airways' Chairman Sami Al-Nisf to his post and dismissed the case. The court explained that Minister of Communication Essa Al-Kandari's decision to dismiss Nisf from office was legally correct as he had referred him to retirement after he decided to purchase five used Airbus planes from an Indian company for KAC. Meanwhile, the court of cassation yesterday postponed hearing former MP Abdullah Barghash's request to change the judge hearing his citizenship withdrawal case till June 12. Separately, the criminal court yesterday released five defendants accused of forging their citizenships on KD 1,000 bail each.

### Ad producer prosecuted

Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali yesterday referred both the producer of a commercial ad and the store advertised to the public prosecution. Notably, the ad by the private company selling protein products and food supplements used in body building and sports in general showed girls in swimsuits and young men dressed in national outfits with the Kuwait Towers and popular malls in the background.

### Ramadan donations

Director of the charities department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) Munira Al-Kandari warned all charities involved in the Ramadan charity collection project against violating any charity work rules and stressed that penalties would go as far as closing down the violating charity. Kandari explained that MSAL had formed three field inspection teams - one team for every two governorates that would cooperate with the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the municipality and the manpower authority to follow up all donation collection operations.

Kandari added that individuals caught illegally collecting donations would be referred for investigations, have the funds raised confiscated and have their bank accounts closed, in addition to deporting expatriate offenders. Kandari explained that 16 out of the 22 charities operating in Kuwait got MSAL approval to collect dona-

tions in mosques, while the remaining were only allowed to collect donations at their headquarters. "The Awqaf ministry made a list of the mosques allocated to each charity," she explained, pointing out that no cash donations would be made and that all donations would be done through K-Net, bank deductions, e-payment devices and online payment. She also urged all donors to verify the identities of donation collectors before donating.

### Emergency lanes

The Ministry of Interior's (MoI) security media and relations department director Brigadier Adel Ahmad Al-Hashash stressed that in view of the heavy traffic during Ramadan, the timings of allowing motorists to drive on the left emergency lanes would be adjusted to be from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Hashash explained that this would be allowed on King Abdul Aziz Highway from the sixth to the third ring roads, King Fahd Highway from the sixth to the first ring roads, Fifth Ring Road until Andalus and King Faisal Road from the sixth to the fourth ring roads, on condition that all motorists observe the maximum speed of 45 km per hour on these lanes.

Hashash said that trucks would be allowed on streets from 8:00 am to 10:30 am and from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. He also noted that all traffic light timings would be rescheduled to match the new rush hours from 9:30 am till 3:30 pm.

## GCC COMMITTEE APPROVES FOOD SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

**RIYADH:** Concluding its meeting yesterday, the GCC Ministerial Committee for Food Safety approved a number of recommendations which aim to achieve the goals of food safety. Essa Al-Kandari, head of Public Authority for Food and Nutrition, said that the executive regulations of GCC unified law on food and the organizational structure were endorsed as part of these recommendations. Among topics discussed in the meeting was an approval of organizing a Gulf day on food safety on April 15 every year and amendments of the GCC guide for control on imported food, he added. Kandari expressed his gratitude to Saudi Arabia, GCC secretariat and officials for the warm reception and hospitality, and better organization.

Earlier, Dr Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Meshal, CEO of Saudi Food and Drug Authority, referred, in a speech, to challenges facing GCC member states in terms of food safety as they depend greatly on imported food. He stressed that GCC states work on building a system of unified legislations and mechanisms for ensuring safe food for citizens in member states. —KUNA

## MP WANTS COURT RULING ON ROAD ALLOWANCE ENFORCED

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** MP Dr Abdullah Al-Turajji yesterday urged Anas Al-Saleh, Deputy Prime



MP Dr Abdullah Al-Turajji

Minister, Finance Minister and acting Oil Minister to interfere and mandate Kuwait Gulf Oil Company to execute a court order issued in favor of some of its marine drilling employees in Khafji. Turajji noted that all court orders issued in His Highness the Amir's name should take effect immediately. Turajji explained that the concerned employees work for the company and the court entitled them to

'road allowance' but the company had been stalling.

### New building codes

Minister of Communication and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Essa Al-Kandari yesterday issued a ministerial decision amending the conditions of construction in private and ideal residential areas. According to the new conditions, owners are allowed to build a maximum area of 100 square meters on the roofs of the second floors of their houses provided the built area does not overlook the main street.

The new conditions also allow the building an elevator for the disabled and annexing one to already standing buildings provided the neighbors approve it and a certificate attested by the disabled authority proves that a disabled person lives in the house.

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## BROTHERHOOD TURBAN

By Salah Al-Sayer

The story of the shemagh or keffiyeh was brought back to light when a Lebanese designer designed women's shoes inspired by the shemagh and its two popular colors - red and black, which annoyed some Arabs, who missed the fact that are different stories about the origin of the shemagh. The stories include that the shemagh was originally Turkish, known as 'yeshmek' which means a hijab (veil). It was also said that its origin goes back to the yeshmaagh, which was a priest's outfit during Sumerian times and the word originally comes from 'yesh makh' (head cover).

Ancient images about Arab men show that they used to wear headdresses of one-colored cloth. Another story suggests that the shemagh's origins go back to a popular type of British fabric that was used as a tablecloth, and when the Arab army was formed, Arab soldiers refused to fight without their headdresses, and thus they were allowed to wear these red tablecloths and fix them on their heads with pegs to differentiate them from civilians.

Peoples' fashion migrates from time to time and

### Ancient images about Arab men show that they used to wear headdresses of one-colored cloth

many people believe that GCC societies borrowed the popular Indian outfit known as the 'lungi' and called it 'wizar' in Arabic, to become a GCC traditional outfit. Well, the truth is that the 'wizar/wizar' had been known in Arabia long before Islam, and it seems that it was taken by Muslims to India. It was described in many Greek historian references on Arab outfits as 'zeira', that is izar.

Years ago, I met a respectable man from the Mutair tribe who exclaimed why I was wearing trousers. "How dare you lose contact with your folks' outfits," he said referring to traditional Kuwaiti garb. "I am not the only one who did so, uncle. You did the same," I spontaneously told him. "How?" he asked in shock. "Well, you are wearing an egal, while your folks used to wear turbans", I told him, of course referring to the Muslim Brotherhood turban. The man smiled in surprise and passionately hugged me!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



## FUEL PRICES MIGHT BE INCREASED NEXT MONTH

KUWAIT: The government could issue a decision to increase fuel prices next month; that is during the parliamentary summer break after, informed sources said. It was earlier expected that the decision, which does not require to be passed in the parliament, would be put into practice last month.

The sources added that according to technical committees studying the new fees, price increases would vary between 14 and 83 percent, which would save around 66.6 percent of the KD 400 million in subsidies.

The sources explained that the new prices would be 85 fils per liter for the 91 octane gas (premium) that is currently sold for 60 fils, 105 fils per liter for the 95 octane gas (super) that is currently sold for 65 fils and 165 fils

per liter for the 98 octane gas (ultra) that is currently sold for 90 fils. Further, the sources indicated that the new

prices would be periodically reviewed in accordance to international oil price developments. — Al-Qabas



## MAN LIVED IN KUWAIT AS BEDOON FOR THREE DECADES

KUWAIT: Three decades earlier, a man entered the country with his Yemeni passport as a cook, before becoming a soldier under the sponsorship of a citizen, and then became a

'bedoon' (stateless). The man continued to live this way until he was discovered by the investigation department of the central apparatus for the remedy of the situation of illegal residents and was referred to concerned authorities.

An informed source said on the instructions of the head of the department Saleh Al-Fadhlah, the investigation department discovered a unique case of the Yemeni who claimed to be a bedoon for 33 years, following the central department's adoption of the most modern technologies linking various state departments to compare and prove that he had a nationality. The source said the Yemeni came to Kuwait in 1983 with his original passport as a cook, but a year later, he was able to enroll in the army as a 'bedoon'. In 1986, he was able to obtain an exit visa and went to Saudi Arabia, then to Yemen where he got married. He then authenticated the marriage contract claiming she was also a bedoon, and had 11 children with his wife.

The source said in 2006, the Yemeni-bedoon visited Yemen again, where he remarried and returned to Kuwait with a Yemeni passport with a different name. One of his sons received an Article 17 passport and went to Yemen to study, and remained there for two years. The source said following this information and linking information from various departments, the details became known, and he was sent to concerned authorities for further legal action.

## 18,000 CONTESTS PENDING AT CASSATION COURT

KUWAIT: Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council and President of the Constitutional Court Chancellor Yousuf Al-Mutawa said 18,000 contests are still pending to be heard by the court of cassation, including some filed since 2009. Mutawa added that the court of cassation's general assembly decided to take measures to reduce these numbers, including allocating a special panel including judges specialized in civil, commercial, criminal, administrative and family laws to be loaned to Kuwait soon, especially to review these cases. He added that the new panel was expected to start its work by October and review 13,000 contests filed between 2009-2014 to decide whether to approve or reject them. Mutawa said that 21 district attorneys would be appointed as judges at the comprehensive court in September, in addition to 'borrowing' around 100 Egyptian chancellors - 30 of them for the comprehensive court, 30 to the court of appeal and 30 to the cassation court. — Al-Jarida

## BANKS' UNION WARNS AGAINST BITCOINS

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Banks' Union asked local banks to warn their customers against the use of Bitcoins, informed sources said. This came after noting that this cryptocurrency is spreading in a way that raises risks for its users. The union asked banks to increase their efforts to protect customers from the spread of this currency, especially since the Bitcoin is vertical and cannot be traced, and does not have a tangible existence, the sources added. They said it is just a digital currency, and its benefit is for making instant transfers to any person at any place through the Internet. Although Bitcoin nearly disappeared in 2010, it returned again and has spread. Banks agree with the idea that the main problem of using Bitcoin is that it is used for exchange without the existence of a central authority, and transactions are made and money is issued collectively through the Internet, which means that it is free from any supervision authority through which customer's rights can be protected.

The union asked banks to explain the risks of this currency, especially that it lacks any international regulations that safeguard the rights of its users, making dealing with it a high risk and threatens the rights of its users. The warning letter did not include a number of the volume of Bitcoin dealings in Kuwait, but it said that it is widespread around the world. — Al-Rai

## Crime

Report

### Man admits beating wife, defends actions

KUWAIT: A woman complained to police that her husband beat her, but the husband, an Iranian, said, "It is up to me - she is my wife and I can beat her." A security source said the Iranian woman went to Salwa police station and sought help as her husband beat her for leaving the house without telling him. He was detained at the police station for further legal action.

### Wife threatened

In another case, a female citizen complained to police against her husband, who threatened to hurt her, then he along with another man drove off in her car. The citizen said the car is registered in her name and gave police details of the suspect.

### Officer injured

Policemen arrested a bedoon (stateless) man for running over a policeman at an inspection point in Salwa and injuring him. The bedoon was in an abnormal condition and had illicit substances with him. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD). The policeman's injuries were light.

### Police impound celebrator's car

A citizen in his twenties was driving recklessly in Sabahiya until he was stopped by police. He said his friend had got married and he was celebrating. The car was impounded and several citations were issued to him.

### Car stolen

A former MP was surprised when his car was stolen after he parked it in front of a pharmacy in Salmiya. A security source said the former MP complained to Salmiya police about the theft and gave them its details. Detectives are searching.

### Bootleggers arrested

A fight between two Indian men in Jleeb Al-Shuyiukh revealed 72 bottles of liquor. They had differences over the profits from the sale of the alcoholic drinks. When police responded to the fight, the two escaped and left their car behind, but policemen arrested them and returned to the car, where police found the 72 locally made liquor bottles in it. The two were sent to the DCGD. — Al-Rai

## News

in brief

### No iftar tents this year

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality stopped issuing licenses to set up tents to host iftar feasts during Ramadan, sources said. This came following an Interior Ministry decision which banned setting up tents outside mosques for prayers for security reasons. Several charity organizations, companies and individuals often hosted iftar feasts for the public during Ramadan in recent years. — Al-Qabas

### Budget saving

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih managed to save nearly 50 percent of the budget allocated for the ministry's official foreign missions. According to statistics, the ministry saved more than KD 300,000 out of KD 600,000 allocated in the 2014/15 budget for official missions, as only KD 280,000 were spent on 89 trips, including only eight for the minister. Meanwhile, the ministry spent only KD 166,000 out of KD 290,000 allocated for official missions in 2015/16. — Al-Rai

### Free trade zones

KUWAIT: The cabinet approved a Ministry of Commerce and Industry request to provide exemption from the Ministry of Public Works' supervision on a project to develop free trade zones south of the country. The public works' ministry reportedly has no issues with allowing the commerce ministry to go ahead with the 12 million-square-meter project without its supervision, sources said. — Al-Rai

### Housing projects

A report recently made by the Public Authority for Housing Affairs about its financial status for the year ending on December 31, 2015 showed that it spent over 53.7 percent of its budget on rent allowances for citizens still awaiting to get their houses. This issue has been negatively affecting funding the authority's project, the report indicates. The report explained that the total cost of funding the construction of 14 residential cities was KD 325 million, of which only 29 percent was spent so far. Moreover, the report showed that salaries of 1,812 citizens and 614 expatriates working for the authority and compensations for unused leaves of retirees also consumed considerable portions of the budget. — Al-Qabas

### FIVE CASES IN TRANSFERS FROM DISPUTE OFFICES CANNOT BE MADE

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Manpower issued a circular to specify cases that labor relations departments and their units are not allowed to approve visa transfer requests that come through labor disputes' offices. These cases are:

- In case the contract has a set period and is still valid, and there was no evidence on a violation by the employer.
- Teachers on special contracts with private schools during the school year.
- In case three years did not elapse on laborers brought in with work permits, not provided that a worker had not committed a violation and the employer insists that the laborer continues working for him.
- Laborers on government contracts.
- In case the laborer violated the labor law. — Al-Anbaa

**Ramadan Quiz 2016**

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**Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win**

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7 verses

YES  NO

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Espresso Ramadan Kareem sebamed



MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2016

## CLINTON HOPES TO STRIKE GOLD IN PIVOTAL VOTE SANDERS' PROMISES MIGHT COST CLINTON

**WASHINGTON/LONG BEACH:** If Hillary Clinton ends up losing California to Bernie Sanders, it will be because of voters like Nallely Perez.

Perez personifies what a Clinton supporter was supposed to look like: a 24-year-old Latina who grew up idolizing the former first lady as a groundbreaking woman in politics. But when she votes in California's Democratic presidential nominating contest on Tuesday, Perez will be supporting Sanders.

"Everything that I would stand for, he has said it," said Perez, a student at California State University, Long Beach, who said she likes Sanders' promises of tuition-free college and universal healthcare. "We found our voice in him."

California is the final big contest in the long, bitter fight for the Democratic nomination. Opinion polls show the Democratic race there tightening in recent weeks. Where Clinton, a former secretary of state, once held a big lead over Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, the two now are nearly tied.

A University of Southern California/Los Angeles Times poll released on Friday showed Sanders with a one-percentage-point lead over Clinton in the state, 44 to 43 percent, a swing from March when Clinton held a nine-point edge.

On the Republican side, Donald Trump has earned the nomination for the Nov. 8 election, and Clinton is close to capturing the number of delegates she needs to head the Democratic ticket. Her campaign expects that a win in New Jersey earlier on Tuesday will secure the nomination. But a loss in a populous Democratic stronghold like California could lend credence to Trump's claim that she is a weakened candidate.

"Clinton would like to go to the nominating convention with the wind at her back and tamp down the perception that she doesn't excite Democrats," said Rodell Mollineau, a Democratic strategist in Washington.

A Sanders victory will not clear the way to his nomination unless it triggers a defection by scores of superdelegates - party office-holders and officials - from Clinton's camp, an unlikely outcome.

Sanders has vowed to use California as a springboard to the party convention in Philadelphia in July. A win, especially a big one, would validate the self-described democratic socialist's decision to stay in the race to the end and give him leverage to influence Clinton's policies and cabinet picks. "The

game he is playing is to be able to draw as many concessions as he can out of the party and the Clinton campaign," Mollineau said.

### A Sanders surge?

The area around Long Beach, part of the 47th congressional district in California, has emerged as a key battleground. Sanders campaigned there a week ago; Clinton was in the area on Friday and may return again before Tuesday's vote.

The district's congressman, Representative Alan Lowenthal, remains one of the few uncommitted Democratic members of the House of Representatives to either Clinton or Sanders. His district once leaned Republican, but is becoming increasingly liberal thanks to an influx of Latino and Asian-American voters who comprise the majority of residents. The large minority population might be expected to translate into an advantage for Clinton, who has consistently shown strength with such groups. But a Reuters reporter who toured the area observed an abundance of Sanders supporters.

In the Belmont Shore neighborhood of Long Beach, Sanders volunteers Gordon Winiemko and Jon Fellman manned a table on the sidewalk outside a coffeehouse.

They had a long discussion with Shawn Coleman, a 24-year-old film student, who told them he preferred Sanders to Clinton because "I think I'm a little bit more for what Bernie has in mind for the future, I think he's right, and Hillary doesn't really seem on it."

Lia Roldan, a 42-year-old set decorator in the film industry who lives in Long Beach, said she was voting for Sanders because "he has a lot of experience in standing up for causes that benefit the working class." Roldan said she would reluctantly support Clinton in a contest against Trump. "I'll vote for her only because I don't want a Republican to win, but I don't really feel in my heart that I would vote for her otherwise," she said.

Stopping Trump was on the minds of those who said they would vote for Clinton on Tuesday. "I love Bernie," said Sami Reed, 42, the CEO of a corporate wellness business, interviewed in a thrift shop, "but I'll probably vote for Hillary just because I don't want Trump to win."

A second-term congressman, Lowenthal told Reuters he has come under a "tremendous amount of grief and pressure from Sanders people" to support him, but he would not say for whom he would vote. — Reuters



FRESNO, CALIFORNIA: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at a Rally on Saturday. —AP

## IRAQI FORCES FIND MASS GRAVE NEAR FALLUJAH

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi forces involved in operations to retake the city of Fallujah yesterday found a mass grave believed to contain 400 bodies, a provincial official and a senior officer said.

A colonel in the police of Anbar, where Fallujah is located, said the mass burial site was discovered in the town of Saqlawiya, northwest of Fallujah in the Euphrates Valley. "The security forces of the federal police, the army and the Hashed al-Shaabi found a mass grave in the Shuhada neighborhood during a mine clearing operation," he said.

"The mass grave contains about 400 bodies of members of the military. There are also some civilians," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the press.

The colonel said most of the victims appeared to have been shot in the head. "The security forces have opened the mass grave and started transferring the bodies for identification," he said. The bodies are believed to belong mostly to Iraqi soldiers who were massacred by the Islamic State group in a series of devastating attacks on army bases in the area.

"The organization (IS) executed many members of the military, as well as civilians, in this area in late 2014 and early 2015," he said. Rajeh Barakat, a member of the Anbar provincial council, confirmed the discovery. "The mass grave also includes civilians executed by Daesh (IS) on various charges such as spying or breaking the organization's rules," he said.

Iraqi forces launched an operation to retake Fallujah-one of the jihadists' most emblematic bastions-two weeks ago. The offensive included operations to seal the siege of Fallujah by retaking the smaller town of Saqlawiya and its surroundings, a phase which has nearly been completed. —AFP

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**KOBANE, SYRIA:** Syrian Kurds march during the funeral of fighters, who died during an assault launched by Arab and Kurdish forces against Islamic State (IS) group fighters in the town of Manbij yesterday. —AFP

## US-BACKED SYRIAN FIGHTERS ADVANCE ON IS BASTION

PROGRESSED TO WITHIN FIVE KMS OF THE JIHADIST BASTION

**BEIRUT:** US-backed Syrian fighters advancing on the Islamic State group in the strategic northern town of Manbij have progressed to within five kilometers (three miles) of the jihadist bastion, a monitor said yesterday.

Supported by air strikes by the US-led coalition battling IS in Syria and Iraq, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias launched an assault last week on Manbij. "The Syrian Democratic Forces are now within about five kilometers of the strategic city of Manbij," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitoring group.

Manbij is located along a route connecting Raqa—the IS group's de facto capital in Syria—to the Turkish border, a vital conduit for supplies and foreign fighters. At least 74

people have died in the fighting since the start of the offensive last Monday, including 32 civilians mainly killed as a result of coalition air strikes, said the Observatory, which relies on a network of medics and activists to monitor the conflict.

Thirty jihadists were also killed, it said, along with 12 SDF fighters. After taking the village of Khirbet al-Rus, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) southeast of Manbij, the SDF rescued a group of Yazidis—six women and 16 children—who were being held captive by IS, the Observatory said.

The women and children were among hundreds of Yazidis taken captive in mid-2014 as IS carried out a brutal campaign of massacres, enslavement and rape against members of the Yazidi minority. US Central Command spokesman Colonel Patrick Ryder

said on Saturday that SDF fighters had seized more than 100 square kilometers (40 square miles) of territory during the advance.

More than 55 air strikes have been carried out since the offensive began, he said, adding that the goal was to hamper IS's ability "to move fighters, weapons, finances (and) supplies into and out of Syria and Iraq."

Some 3,000 Arab fighters were taking part in the offensive, backed by around 500 Kurdish militia members, he said, adding that US special forces were working "at the command and control level" in the operation.

Russian-backed Syrian troops are also advancing against IS in Raqa and on Saturday pushed into the province from the southwest, moving to within 40 kilometers (25 miles) of the Euphrates Valley town of Tabqa, site of the country's biggest dam. —AFP

## TURKISH JETS TARGET KURDISH MILITANTS, AT LEAST 27 KILLED

**DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY:** Turkish warplanes struck Kurdish militant targets in northern Iraq and southeast Turkey and the army killed 27 fighters near its borders with Iraq and Iran, the armed forces said yesterday.

Conflict in Turkey's largely Kurdish southeast has been at its most intense level in two decades since a two-year-old ceasefire by the militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) collapsed last July.

Air strikes on Saturday destroyed gun positions and shelters and caves used by PKK fighters in the Gara area of northern Iraq and the countryside of Lice district in Diyarbakir province, the military statement said. It did not give a death toll but state-run Anadolu Agency cited security sources as saying small groups of PKK militants were killed in those strikes.

Seven PKK militants were killed in a clash in Semdinli near the Iraqi and Iranian borders on Saturday, while air strikes in Semdinli on Friday killed 20 PKK fighters, the army said. PKK guerrillas also launched an attack on a military outpost in Sirnack province overnight and in the ensuing clash one PKK fighter was killed along with

a member of the state's 'village guard' militia, security sources said.

In northeast Turkey's Gumushane province, not usually an area of conflict, two soldiers were wounded when their military vehicle came under fire in a gun attack, local authorities said. Media reports said one of the soldiers subsequently died. It was not clear if the attack was related to the Kurdish conflict.

The air strikes in Lice were conducted after the Diyarbakir governor's office declared a curfew there on Saturday. It said the curfew was lifted on Sunday morning after the completion of military operations there.

Turkish security forces on Friday concluded operations targeting PKK fighters in the town of Nusaybin near the Syrian border and in Sirnack near the border with Iraq.

More than 1,000 people, mostly PKK fighters, were killed in three months of clashes in those areas, security sources say. The PKK, designated a terrorist group by Turkey and its Western allies, launched its insurgency in 1984 and more than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict. —Reuters

## IRAQ WILL INVESTIGATE ABUSES IN FALLUJAH OP

**BAGHDAD:** The Iraqi government will investigate allegations of abuses by the security forces in the course of the operation to retake the jihadist-held city of Fallujah, a spokesman said yesterday.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has ordered the creation of a human rights committee to examine "any violation of the instructions on the protection of civilians", Saad al-Hadithi said in a televised briefing.

He said Abadi had issued "strict orders" for prosecutions to take place in the event of any abuses. Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the most revered Shiite cleric in Iraq, has issued guidelines intended as a form of code of conduct for forces fighting the Islamic State group and aimed at curbing abuses.

Officials including Parliament Speaker Salim al-Juburi have expressed concern over reports of abuses committed by the forces involved in the operation to recapture Fallujah.

Juburi spoke on Thursday of "information indicating that some violations were carried out by some members of the federal

police and some volunteers against civilians". The statement did not provide details on the alleged abuses, but urged Abadi to "look into these acts and deal with them in a strict and expeditious way".

Fallujah is a Sunni city that lies only 50 kilometers west of Baghdad and is one of IS's most emblematic bastions. The Hashed al-Shaabi taking part in the Fallujah operation is an umbrella organization that includes Sunni tribal fighters but is dominated by powerful Tehran-backed Shiite militias.

It is nominally under Abadi's authority but some of its most powerful groups answer directly to Iran. Those groups have been repeatedly accused of fuelling sectarianism and their involvement in the Fallujah battle was seen as potentially explosive.

Hadithi reiterated Abadi's stance that the fate of the estimated 50,000 civilians still believed trapped inside the besieged city was given utmost priority. "The operation to liberate Fallujah could have been completed in days but we put the safety of civilians first," the spokesman said. —AFP

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## 'JIHAD UNITS' FUELLING SUDAN CAMPUS UNREST

**KHARTOUM:** Sitting behind a table in his downtown Khartoum office, Sudanese businessman Ammar Sajjad talks in a hushed tone about his son's detention at his college campus last year.

For hours the 19-year-old electronics student was repeatedly beaten in a small room by a group of fellow pupils, who Sajjad said were members of a "jihad unit" that was active at the college. "Nobody had access to this room, not even the police or professors," said Sajjad.

Scores of these units were set up years ago in universities across Sudan to recruit students to fight in the country's brutal north-south civil war. Activists, rights groups and opposition leaders now want these paramilitary units to be dismantled, accusing them of fuelling violence on campuses. "These jihad units must be shut. They are responsible for unrest in universities," Hassan al-Hussein, a senior leader of the opposition Popular Congress Party said at a meeting this week.

Several student leaders AFP spoke to said these units were now recruiting students to crush dissent on campuses. "The civil war has ended but these pro-regime jihad units still recruit students to attack opposition students," said one from Omdurman Ahlia University, asking not to be identified for fear of being arrested by the powerful National Intelligence and Security Service.

"The jihad units support President Omar al-Bashir's National Congress Party, store weapons and detain opposition students on campuses," another student leader from the University of Khartoum said on condition of anonymity.

### Risk for universities

Hundreds of students have regularly protested against various government policies, including the handling of conflicts in areas such as Darfur, and to demand the release of fellow demonstrators arrested during previous rallies.

In recent weeks, clashes between students and security forces have rocked several universities, including in Khartoum and Omdurman.

Two students were killed and scores injured during demonstrations, with the violence forcing the

suspension of some classes. While activists accuse jihad units and security forces for the death of the two protesters, officials blame supporters of rebel movements who are fighting Bashir's government.

"Reports that armed pro-government student groups are helping government security forces to break up protests, including with live ammunition, are of particular concern," Human Rights Watch said last month. "There is cooperation between the two. It's difficult to identify who's who," said Khalid Tigani, editor of Elaff newspaper.



**KHARTOUM:** This file photo taken on December 09, 2012 shows Sudanese students demonstrating in front of Nilien University during a rally in support of four dead students originally from the conflict-plagued Darfur region. Scores of "jihad unit" were set up years ago in universities across Sudan to recruit students to fight in the country's brutal north-south civil war. —AFP

"The presence of these units on campuses complicates the security inside universities." Experts said the jihad units were set up after Bashir came to power in a 1989 coup that ushered in an Islamist regime in Sudan, which had even hosted Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden between 1992 to 1996.

Several students from these groups were killed fighting in the civil war, said Mohamed Eljack, professor at University of Khartoum.

"They are now revered as martyrs." About two million people were killed in the war that finally ended with South Sudan splitting from Sudan in 2011. The war ended but these jihad units brought the battle-

fields to universities," said Tigani, himself a former student activist.

### Regime defenders

Over the years the role of these recruits has changed, experts said. "Now they act as backup forces to regular security forces," said Tigani. "They are not big in numbers, but they are well organised and they defend the regime."

These groups have reportedly even fought rebels in conflict zones like Darfur, where tens of thousands of people have been killed since 2003. Pro-regime student leaders denied

any role in violence on campuses. "The jihad units are run by the university administrations, and are formed for special purposes," said Musab Mohamed Osman, head of pro-regime Sudan's National Students Union.

"Their main role is to gather students for jihad. They are not involved in university politics." As long as the regime benefitted from these units they would be nurtured, said activists. "It was jihad during the civil war," said businessman Sajjad, who fought against south Sudan in the 1990s. "But now there is no jihad, so we don't need these units... but some institutions of the regime must be benefitting by keeping them." —AFP



# MEMPHIS OFFICER STRUCK, KILLED AFTER 3 SHOT IN MEMPHIS

**MEMPHIS:** A Memphis police officer who was struck by the fleeing vehicle of a man suspected in a downtown shooting that left three other people injured died Saturday night, police said.

Officer Verdell Smith, 46, was pronounced dead from his injuries at 10:43 p.m. Saturday, Memphis Police Department Director Mike Rallings said during a news conference.

Police said two people were taken to the hospital in critical condition after being shot by the suspect on North Main about 10 pm

Saturday. They say the suspect then ran to Bass Pro Pyramid and shot a male employee. The condition of that victim was not immediately available.

Police said the suspect then fled in a vehicle and later struck Smith, who had been working with other officers to clear the area. The unidentified suspect then fled briefly on foot but was apprehended by police, taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and is expected to face charges.

An investigation is ongoing. Rallings

said Smith was an 18-year police veteran who is survived by a father, fiance, son and two daughters. "He's a man's man and he was an officer's officer. He was definitely a great father," Rallings said. "Like I said, he loved his son always talked about him, always had him with him. I think his son is taking it really, really hard. He had two daughters as well." Rallings said the department mourned the loss not just of Smith but of other officers killed in the line of duty, including Officers Sean Bolton in

2015 and Martoiya Lang in 2012.

"Each one of them have their own characteristics that they bring to this job. When called to do the job that they've been asked to do - each and every one of these individuals has done that."

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland posted a message of remorse and anger on his on his Facebook page. "My family joins all of Memphis in mourning the loss of Officer Verdell Smith, who gave his life in service to our city," Strickland's post read. "I call on

every Memphian to remember Officer Smith's family in prayer and reflection today and in the coming days - and to be grateful for the dangerous, important work our men and women of MPD perform every day.

"I am angry this morning - angry at the senseless loss of a dedicated public servant, and angry at the absolutely unacceptable level of violence in our city. We must not accept this as our norm. I most certainly will not, and I will continue to act to make our city safer." —AP

## BRUSHFIRE FORCES THOUSANDS FROM HOMES

**CALABASAS:** A car crash that dived power lines turned the hills northwest of Los Angeles into torches, forcing thousands from their homes and putting entire neighborhoods at risk in this prosperous semi-rural enclave.

Fifty-foot-high flames erupted on the ridges and embers turned trees into candles Saturday afternoon. And while the flames eased overnight, firefighters continued Sunday to battle the blaze. Some 3,000 homes were threatened and about 5,000 residents were evacuated, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said.

The fire flared as Southern California sweltered under temperatures that hit the mid-90s in many places. Sunday's high in Calabasas was expected to be around 86.

At its height, the flames put about 3,000 homes at risk, although not under imminent threat, fire officials said. "We're dealing with a fire that's moving in every direction simultaneously...we can't get to everybody," Battalion Chief Dennis Cross told KNBC-TV.

Three homes were damaged but the extent of the damage wasn't clear, Los Angeles County fire Capt. Keith Mora said. Some other buildings, including some at a city park, also were damaged.

The fire started as three blazes that erupted after a car hit a power pole and knocked down electrical lines, authorities said. One fire in the West Hills area of Los Angeles was quickly doused but other blazes in Calabasas joined and raced through drought-dry brush in hills surrounded by developments.

The blaze grew to 200 acres in a matter of hours. Embers ignited trees and clumps of brush within yards of million-dollar homes.

The smoke could be seen for miles. Some horse-owners in the area put the animals in trailers and hauled them away. Authorities set up an evacuation center for people with large animals at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. Around 200 firefighters, aided by bulldozers and water-dropping helicopters, had the blaze 15 percent contained by late Saturday night. —AP

## SANDERS PREDICTS CONVENTION WILL BE CONTESTED

**LOS ANGELES:** Nearing the end of the primary season, a defiant Bernie Sanders predicted Saturday that the Democratic presidential process would lead to a contested summer convention against Hillary Clinton, pushing back against the likelihood that the former secretary of state will soon declare victory.

Speaking to reporters three days before the California primary, Sanders showed few signs of surrender, vowing to take his bid to the Philadelphia convention in July. He urged news organizations not to anoint Clinton as the presumptive nominee through a combination of pledged delegates and super delegates.

"It is extremely unlikely that Secretary Clinton will have the requisite number of pledged delegates to claim victory on Tuesday night," Sanders said. "Now I have heard reports that Secretary Clinton has said it's all going to be over on Tuesday night. I have reports that the media, after the New Jersey results come in, are going to declare that it is all over. That simply is not accurate."

By nightfall, Sanders was rallying supporters outside the entrance of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, where he pointed to his differences with Clinton on super PACs, the federal minimum wage and the Iraq War. —AP

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# ROME THE TOP PRIZE AS ITALIANS VOTE IN TEST FOR RENZI

## FIVE STAR IS HEADING THE RACE FOR MAYOR'S SEAT

**ROME:** Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's party was locked in battle yesterday for control of Rome and other cities in municipal elections seen as a test for the ruling party and the country's divided right.

The focus is on the major cities of Bologna, Milan, Naples, Turin and especially the capital Rome, where the populist anti-establishment Five Star is heading the race for the mayor's seat.

More than 13 million people are eligible to choose members of 1,300 municipal councils in a two-round ballot to be completed on June 19. By midday, turnout stood at almost 18 percent, the interior ministry said. Despite the possibility his centre-left Democratic Party (PD) could lose control of both Rome and Milan, Renzi has played down the significance of the vote.

Yesterday, as if to demonstrate his insouciance, the 41-year-old prime minister visited the training camp of the Italian football squad, to wish them luck in the Euro 2016 championships starting in France next week. "The municipals are about mayors, the people whose job it is to repair the streets, not the government of the country," Renzi said recently. Rome has been without an elected leader since last October, when Ignazio Marino, a member of Renzi's PD, was forced to quit over an expenses scandal. Voting in the Trastevere district of the capital, Rolando Antonucci, 78, told AFP he hoped for greater civic-mindedness "among citizens and lawmakers alike".

**Populists poised for gains**  
Rome is saddled with a debt of more than 13 billion Euros (\$15 billion), which is twice its annual budget. The expenses scandal and a much bigger unrelated scandal over organized crime's infiltration of Rome's City Hall have bolstered Five Star's Virginia Raggi. The 37-year-old went into Sunday's vote with polls indicating she could secure around 30 percent of first-round votes. The PD's Roberto Giachetti was trailing on around 24 percent. Losing Rome would not augur well for Renzi four months before a referendum on constitutional reforms designed to end decades of gridlock in parliament.

Renzi has vowed to resign if voters reject the reforms. In Milan, the PD candidate is locked in a tight race with the candidate of the right. Five Star meanwhile is hoping that success in Rome will give it



**ROME:** The candidate of the 5-Star Movement for Mayor of Rome, Virginia Raggi, arrives at the Italian National Olympic Committee headquarters for a private meeting with the President Giovanni Malago on May 9, 2016. — AP

the platform it needs to transform itself into Italy's main opposition in the run-up to national elections due by June 2018 at the latest.

Perhaps concerned about the impact on his reform program of losing both Rome and Milan, Renzi has played down the significance of the local elections. "The municipals are about mayors, the people whose job it is to repair the streets, not the government of the country," he said recently. With former premier Silvio Berlusconi now a fading figure on the national stage, Italy's right is being reshaped and the battle for its leadership is being played out in the capital.

Giorgia Meloni, a candidate put up by one of several small groups that emerged from Italy's neo-fascist movement, is being backed by the anti-immigrant Northern League, whose leader Matteo Salvini wants to unite all the right behind himself. But Berlusconi has backed another candidate Alfio Marchini, having told the pregnant Meloni that the role of mayor was not compatible with motherhood.

There are concerns turnout could be low, with millions of Italians enjoying a long holiday weekend as a result of Republic Day falling on Thursday. In a referendum in April on offshore oil platforms, the turnout was a meagre 32 percent. — AFP



**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, center, attends a special cabinet meeting to mark Jerusalem Day in Ein Lavan yesterday. — AP

## NETANYAHU SET FOR THIRD RUSSIA VISIT IN RECENT MONTHS

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will travel to Moscow today to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin, the premier's office said, with the two having held talks in recent months over the conflict in Syria. Netanyahu's two-day trip is his third to Russia since September and also comes as the two nations mark 25 years since the reestablishment of diplomatic relations.

The Israeli premier's office did not provide details on the talks, but Syria is likely to play a prominent part. With both Israel and Russia having carried out military operations in war-torn Syria, the two countries have sought to coordinate their actions to avoid accidental clashes. Russian forces have backed Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime in the conflict. Israel opposes Assad but has sought to avoid being dragged into the war. It fears however that the chaos in the neighboring country could help strengthen its arch-enemy Hezbollah.

Netanyahu admitted publicly for the

first time in April that Israel had attacked dozens of convoys in Syria which were transporting weapons to the Lebanese Shiite militia, which fights alongside Assad's forces.

In September, Netanyahu and Putin agreed to set up a "hotline" to avoid accidental clashes. In a further sign of cooperation, the prime minister's office said recently that Moscow had agreed to return an Israeli tank taken by Syrian forces in the 1982 Lebanon war and later handed over to Russia, where it has been kept in a museum.

Israel had sought the return of the tank in part to console the families of soldiers missing in action since the battle in which it was taken. "To the families of MIAs Zechariah Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz, there has been nothing to remember the boys by and no grave to visit for 34 years now," Netanyahu said last week. "The tank is the only evidence of the battle and now it is coming back to Israel thanks to President Putin's response to my request." — AFP

## FORMER UK PM MAJOR ACCUSES BREXIT CAMPAIGN OF 'DECEIT'

**LONDON:** Yesterday Former prime minister John Major accused the campaign for Britain to leave the European Union of fatuous and squalid claims on immigration and the cost of membership to dupe the public into voting out at this month's referendum.

Exposing the deep rifts caused by the vote, Major urged Britons to question the facts coming from the "court jester" Boris Johnson, a champion of the Out campaign and himself a possible future leader of Major's Conservative party.

"What they have done ... is feed out to the British people a whole galaxy of inaccurate and frankly untrue information," he told the BBC, less than three weeks the vote on June 23. "I think their campaign is verging on the squalid."

Major was the last Conservative prime minister before current incumbent David Cameron, who wants Britain to remain in the EU. His 1990-1997 premiership was plagued by disputes within his party over Europe, including Britain's ignominious withdrawal from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, the predecessor to the single currency, in 1992.

He said Leave campaigners were misleading voters by saying Britain paid 350 million pounds (\$510

million) a week to Brussels, when two thirds of that came back in subsidies and a rebate. Johnson dismissed his comments.

Out supporters have said the money could be better spent on schools and hospitals in Britain, but Major said "these promises of expenditure on the National Health Service or elsewhere are frankly fatuous". "If they can't be straightforward and honest on a clear cut matter of fact like that upon what else can we trust them," he said, in his most outspoken intervention on the campaign. "I think this is a deceitful campaign and in terms of what they're saying about immigration, a really depressing and awful campaign, they are misleading people to an extraordinary extent."

Johnson, appearing on the same program, said Brexit would enable Britain "to take back control" over money it sent to Brussels, its borders and other parts of its economic future. "It's a question of democracy," he said. "I would like a situation where the government can fulfil its pledges to the people."

Johnson said 350 million pounds was a "reasonable" figure to cite, arguing that although some of it was returned by the EU, it was not money Britain controlled. — Reuters

## GUNFIRE HITS CZECH TOURIST BUS IN FRANCE, 6 INJURED

**PARIS:** Two rounds of gunfire have hit a bus carrying Czech tourists through southeastern France, injuring six passengers. The prosecutor of Valence, Alex Perrin, says the bus was hit Friday night as it traveled along the A7 highway on its way home from a trip to Spain.

Six of the passengers, which included school children, were slightly

injured after being hit by flying glass and one person was seriously hurt. Perrin told BFM-TV that a first shot hit the front window and a second hit the rear window, shattering both.

There have been no arrests, claims of responsibility or even conjectures about the motive. Perrin said "one could think that this bus ... was no more a target than any other." — AP

## POPE PROCLAIMS 2 SAINTS IN CANONIZATION MASS

**VATICAN CITY:** Pope Francis proclaimed two new saints yesterday: A Lutheran convert who hid Jews during World War II and the Polish founder of the first men's religious order dedicated to the immaculate conception. Francis called Swedish-born Elizabeth Hesselblad and Stanislaus Papczynski "exemplary witnesses to this mystery of resurrection" during the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square. Poland's President Andrzej Duda and first lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda attended the ceremony.

Hesselblad saved the lives of 12 Jewish members of the Piperno-Sed families by hiding them in the convent in Rome where she was superior from December 1943 until the capital's liberation on June 4, 1944. Israel's Holocaust center Yad Vashem bestowed on her the title "Righteous Among the Nations." It said Hesselblad never tried to convert those she saved but, "rather insisting that they say their Hebrew prayers and fulfill other obligations of their religion."

Hesselblad, who was baptized in the



**VATICAN:** Faithful fill St. Peter's Square during a canonization ceremony led by Pope Francis. — AP

Reform Church, migrated to the United States where she worked as a nurse and converted to Catholicism. She later moved to Rome, where she became a nun and dedicated her life to her reli-

gious order. She died of natural causes in 1957 and was beatified in 2000. She is Sweden's second saint in 625 years, following Saint Bridget, who was canonized in 1391. — AP

## ROMANIANS VOTE FOR MAYORS IN BALLOT OVERSHADOWED BY GRAFT

**BUCHAREST:** Romanians began voting yesterday for local officials in administrations that are plagued with corruption. In Bucharest, the former city mayor and five out of six district mayors elected in 2012 have been convicted or are being

investigated on graft charges. Two are running to win their districts again this year.

Bucharest, a city of more than 2 million, had the largest local budget this year of 4.1 billion Romanian lei (\$1.01 billion). Polls opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and will close at 9 p.m. (1800 GMT). Romania has launched a major drive against corruption in the last few years and its anti-corruption agency successfully prosecuted 1,250 cases, including a former prime minister and five former ministers, its best performance ever.

However, people who have been indicted of corruption but haven't been convicted are not excluded from running for office. Some 51 of 109 mayors of Romania's major cities have been convicted or investigated for corruption or have been declared unfit for office according to the penali.ro anti-corruption site.

According to Romania's anti-corruption prosecutors' office, more than 100 mayors, deputy mayors, county council presidents and vice presidents were indicted for corruption in 2015. Ion Gavrilă, a security officer guarding an ornate white office building in downtown Bucharest, said he was disillusioned with the candidates running for office.

"There are five out of six who are suspected of corruption in Bucharest, who should vote for? The problem is that once people get into office, they steal," he said. — AP



**BUCHAREST:** A woman carries a baby while casting her vote yesterday. — AP

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#### SARAH CANNON RESEARCH INSTITUTE (SCRI)

Sarah Cannon Research Institute (SCRI), in partnership with HCA Inc., is a global strategic research organization, based in the USA and now in the UK, focusing on advancing therapies and accelerating drug development. It is one of the largest clinical research programs, conducting community-based clinical trials in oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology and other therapeutic areas through affiliations with a network of more than 700 physicians in the United States and United Kingdom. Additionally, SCRI offers management, regulatory and other research support services to drug development sponsors and strategic investigator sites.

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## SEVEN KILLED AS TALEBAN GUNMEN RAID AFGHAN COURTHOUSE

**PULI ALAM, Afghanistan:** Taliban gunmen stormed a court complex in a city south of Kabul yesterday, killing at least seven people in the insurgents' third so-called "revenge" attack for last month's execution of Taliban-linked prisoners.

The attack in Puli-i-Alam, capital of volatile Logar province, also left 23 prosecutors wounded as they were meeting to decide the fate of six newly arrested Taliban militants. The head of the court Mohammad Akram Nejat was among those killed in the attack, which comes as the Taliban step up their annual spring offensive after naming a new leader late last month.

"Three gunmen wearing police uniform entered the court building and started shooting people," the provincial governor Mohammad Halim Fedayee told AFP. "Unfortunately seven people were killed including Mohammad Akram Nejat, the newly appointed head of the court."

Hasib Stanakzai, a member of Logar's provincial council, confirmed the death toll. The Taliban said the attack was in retaliation for the execution of six Taliban-linked inmates in early May, part of President Ashraf Ghani's new hard-line policy against the insurgents.

"The martyrdom attack was carried out in revenge for the execution of our mujahideen," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Twitter. The violence underscores Afghanistan's

fragile security situation as the militants intensify attacks against the Western-backed government.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) condemned the attack. In a statement the head of the mission, Nicholas Haysom, urged Afghan authorities "to do everything in their power to ensure adequate protection of judicial officials and other civilians seeking access to judicial institutions." "Judicial officials and other civilians can never be considered combatants and thus should not be targeted," he said.

On June 1 Taliban suicide bombers wearing police uniforms raided a courthouse in the eastern city of Ghazni, killing six people. And on May 25, 11 people were killed in a Taliban suicide bombing that targeted court employees near Kabul.

The Taliban on the same day announced Haibatullah Akhundzada as their new leader, elevating a low-profile religious figure in a swift power transition after officially confirming the death of Mullah Mansour in a US drone strike.

The drone attack was the first known American assault on a top Afghan Taliban leader on Pakistani soil. Observers say Akhundzada, who is seen as more of a spiritual figurehead than a military commander, will emulate Mansour in shunning peace talks and intensifying attacks against the Afghan government. — AFP



**LOGAR, AFGHANISTAN:** The body of a Taliban fighter lies on the ground as security officials collect evidence at a courthouse. — AP

## NIGERIA'S TOP ISLAMIC BODY CONDEMNNS MOB KILLING OF CHRISTIAN WOMAN

**KANO, NIGERIA:** The umbrella body for Nigerian Muslim groups yesterday condemned the mob killing of an elderly Christian woman in northern city of Kano last week, describing the perpetrators as "miscreants and criminals."

Bridget Agbahime, 74, the wife of a pastor, was killed last Thursday in the Wambai area of Kano, the region's largest city. The act is "criminal and un-Islamic, perpetrated by miscreants and criminals," Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) said in a statement. The Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar, who is the supreme head of all Muslims in Nigeria, is the JNI president.

"It is hardly believable that such dastardly acts could happen in the name of religion," JNI said. The body commiserated with Agbahime's widower and said the Sultan appealed to all to remain calm and avoid actions that could breach law and order.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari

on Saturday called the killing "utterly condemnable" and urged tolerance. He vowed that the perpetrators would be brought to justice and urged people not to take matters into their own hands.

Kano state governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and prominent community and leaders on Friday held a meeting over the incident and issued a joint statement condemning the killing.

Abahime, an ethnic Igbo trader was "mobbed and extra-judicially murdered" at a market, according to a police statement. Two suspects have been arrested, according to Nigeria's police chief Solomon Arase. Kano has been blighted by religious violence in the past. In one notorious case in 1996 an Igbo Christian trader, Gideon Akaluka, was beheaded by suspected Muslims youths who accused him of desecrating the Koran. His severed head was then hoisted on a spike and paraded around the city. — AFP

## CHRISTIAN HACKED TO DEATH IN LATEST BANGLADESH ATTACK

### WIFE OF ANTI-TERRORISM POLICEMAN SHOT DEAD

**DHAKA:** A Christian was hacked to death yesterday after prayers near a church in northwest Bangladesh in an attack—the latest in a series on religious minorities—claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group.

Police said unidentified attackers murdered the 65-year-old in the village of Bonpara, home to one of the oldest Christian communities in Muslim-majority Bangladesh. "Sunil Gomes was hacked to death at his grocery store just near a church at Bonpara village," Shafiqul Islam, deputy police chief of Natore district that includes Bonpara, told AFP.

IS claimed responsibility for the murder through its Amaq news agency, according to the SITE monitoring group, saying it was "part of a series of operations" in Bangladesh. The killing came just hours after the wife of a top anti-terrorism officer was brutally murdered in the southeastern city of Chittagong by suspected members of a banned local extremist group.

Bangladesh is reeling from a wave of murders of secular and liberal activists and religious minorities that have left more than 40 people dead in the last three years. Authorities have blamed homegrown Islamists for the attacks, which have spiked in recent weeks, rejecting claims of responsibility from IS and a South Asia branch of Al-Qaeda.

Bangladesh's secular government accuses political rivals including the largest Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami of trying to destabilise the country. Experts say a government crackdown on opponents, including a ban on Jamaat following a protracted political crisis, has pushed many towards extremism.

An investigating officer, Inspector Abdur Razzak, said the motive for the latest killing was unclear, but it was similar to those of Hindus and members of other religious minorities in recent months.

### 'Innocent man'

Father Bikash Hubert Rebeiro, from the Bonpara Catholic church, told AFP that Gomes, whose brother is a priest, used to work as a gardener at the church and was "known for his humility." "He attended Sunday prayers at my church and then went to his grocery store. The next thing we know he was hacked to death. I can't imagine how anyone can kill such an innocent man," Rebeiro said. Hours before Gomes was killed, three unidentified men stabbed and then shot Mahmuda Begum in the head as she walked her son to a school bus stop near her home, said Chittagong deputy police commissioner Moktar Hossain.

Begum was the wife of Babul Akter, who led

several high-profile operations against the banned Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) militant group in Chittagong in recent months. "We suspect JMB or local Islamist extremists for the attack. Akter led successful anti-militant raids in Chittagong in which several JMB men were arrested," Hossain said.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the attack was revenge for Akter's role in tracking down militants. "Babul Akter is a skilled and honest officer who played vital roles in combating militants. That's why they killed his wife as they could not find him," Khan told AFP.

A Hindu trader was hacked to death last week, days after a homeopathic doctor was slaughtered along with a Buddhist monk. IS yesterday also claimed responsibility for the monk's murder, with Amaq saying its fighters slaughtered him at a Buddhist temple in the remote southeast.

The group had previously claimed responsibility for the murder of the Hindu trader. At least 10 people have been killed by suspected Islamist militants in the last ten weeks alone. An Italian-born Catholic priest was shot and critically injured in the north last year—an attack later claimed by IS. Unknown attackers also tried to slit the throat of a pastor in another northwestern town. — AFP

## 1 DEAD IN BUILDING COLLAPSE AT THAI ISLAND RESORT

**BANGKOK:** A woman who was one of six Thai tourists at a beach resort in eastern Thailand was killed when the building in which they were staying collapsed, police said.

The other five people in the woman's party, all Thai, were rescued several hours after the collapse of the two-storey building Saturday at the Siam Beach Resort on the island of Koh Chang, said police Lt. Col. Arwat Piboonsawat. A 3-year-old boy was one of those recovered from the rubble after a rescue effort of several hours to remove the debris.

The survivors were hospitalized in good condition. The cause of the building's collapse was under investigation, but

it occurred after a heavy rainstorm. Local media reported that officials speculated the rain might have undermined the building's foundation.

Thailand's huge tourist industry hosts almost 30 million visitors a year, but there have been increasing concerns about safety, though usually involving accidents at sea or on the roads. In the latest such incident, a speedboat carrying about 30 passengers crashed into another boat late Saturday night as it was taking people back to the eastern Thailand mainland from a concert held on the island of Koh Samet. Thai media said the passengers were taken to hospitals, but no serious injuries were reported. — AP

## OBAMA ADMINISTRATION RUSHING TO SHRINK RANKS AT GUANTANAMO

**WASHINGTON:** The Obama administration is scrambling to release as many prisoners as possible from the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba and considering novel legal strategies to do it.

The options being considered include allowing some men to strike plea deals by video-conference and sending others to foreign countries to be prosecuted. The administration also has sped up its parole-like hearings for detainees who

aren't facing charges and may be eligible for transfer overseas.

The push comes as President Barack Obama appears to be nearly out of time to make good on his promise to close the 14-year-old detention center. Congress is on track to renew a ban on moving detainees to US soil. The administration hopes that whittling down the ranks will help persuade lawmakers to change course. — AP



**GUANTANAMO BAY:** A detainee cell in Camp 6 is seen inside the US detention center. — AP

## SPEEDING BUS CRASHES INTO 2 CARS, KILLING 17 IN WEST INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** A speeding bus struck two cars on a highway in a crash early yesterday that killed at least 17 people and injured 35 others in western India, police said. The bus struck the cars while they were parked on the side of the Navi Mumbai highway to fix a flat tire. All three vehicles fell into a ditch with the impact of the crash, said police constable Sanjay Shetge.

Villagers and police climbed into the ditch and helped rescue the injured and

ferry them to nearby hospitals. Shetge said the death toll was expected to rise as many of the injured were in critical condition. The driver of the bus was among those killed. Navi Mumbai is about 30 kilometers (20 miles) east of Mumbai, India's financial hub.

Police figures show India has the world's highest road death toll, with more than 110,000 people dying each year in accidents commonly caused by speeding, and poor vehicle and road maintenance. — AP



**DHAKA:** Bangladeshi followers stand near a portrait of Sufi leader Hazrat Dewanbagi during his annual congregation on Friday. — AFP

## BANGLADESH SUFIS DEFY ATTACKS TO HOLD MASS GATHERING

**DHAKA:** Tens of thousands of Sufis descended on the Bangladeshi capital Friday in a defiant show of unity, following a spate of targeted killings of members of the Muslim minority by suspected Islamist militants.

Braving a scorching sun, the followers of a top Sufi leader gathered in the streets near Dhaka's main commercial district as speakers exhorted tolerance for other Muslims and members of different faiths.

Sufism is an offshoot of mainstream Islam whose followers are often denounced as "infidels" in Bangladesh for their mystical traditions, including worshipping at shrines. "If anyone does good work and has faith in the God, he'll be blessed by Him. It does not matter whether he's a Muslim, Jew or a Christian," Mohiuddin Khan Faruqi, one of the speakers said.

Many followers had travelled from remote

parts of the country to join the gathering, with police saying about 30,000 people took part and organizers putting attendance at a couple of hundred thousand. Security was tight as police vans patrolled the streets and organizers set up nearly a dozen check-posts to search people who entered the venue.

Fourteen Sufis have been murdered since December 2013 in religiously motivated attacks. "I've heard militants have killed Sufi leaders. But I am not afraid," said Azizul Haq, 55, a farmer, who travelled from a town located 150 kilometers north of Dhaka.

"By following Sufism, I've become a good human being. Sufism is the rightful path," he said. The Sufi leader, Hazrat Dewanbagi, was scheduled to address and lead the congregation after the Friday prayers from his home, which was to be shown on a giant screen as

part of stepped-up security measures.

Abul Kalam Azad, a spokesman for the Sufi congregation, told AFP that the extra security was due to "the recent attacks" on minorities by Islamist extremists. Islamists have claimed responsibility for around 40 killings in the last three years of foreigners, secular bloggers, gay activists, Hindus and Christians and Sufis. Many have been slaughtered with machetes.

Most have been claimed by the likes of homegrown Jamayetul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) or international jihadists such as the Islamic State organization or Al-Qaeda's South Asia wing. Police have blamed the JMB, a banned militant group founded by Afghan-trained Islamists, for most of the attacks, but rejected the assertion that IS or the Al Qaeda have any presence in Bangladesh. — AFP

## SILENCED CHINA TYCOON MAKES QUIET RETURN TO LIMELIGHT

**BEIJING:** An outspoken former property tycoon disciplined by China's ruling Communist Party for questioning its media controls made a rare public appearance on yesterday, months after authorities shut down his hugely popular microblog.

The government-ordered closure in February of Ren Zhiqiang's Sina Weibo account, which had some 37 million fol-

lowers, was seen as a sign of ever-tighter restrictions on freedom of speech under President Xi Jinping.

Ren, nicknamed "The Cannon" for his outspoken opinions, did not mention the incident in a speech at a forum on environmentalism delivered to dozens of media and entrepreneurs. "We should say no to firms which pollute the environment during the production process," Ren

said in a speech lasting some 20 minutes and broadcast online.

Asked by an AFP reporter if he could discuss his microblog's closure, he replied gruffly: "I can't." The Cyberspace Administration of China ordered the closure of Ren's blog after he questioned Xi's policy of tighter party control over state media. "When did the people's government change into the party's

government?" he wrote "Is their money the party's? ... Don't use taxpayers' money for things that don't provide them with services."

The party, of which Ren is a member, later announced he would be suspended for a year over the posts. Ren stepped down as president of property firm Beijing Huayuan Group in 2011. One report estimated his net worth in

2009 at around \$22 million.

Ren last week gave his first online interview since the microblog's closure, in which he called on the government to deepen market reforms and obliquely referred to his own punishment. "There are some activities the upper ranks won't let me take part in," he said. "But when I take part in philanthropic activities, they will allow it." —AFP



**ULAN BATOR:** US Secretary of State John Kerry (C) demonstrates his use of a bow and arrow alongside Mongolian Foreign Minister Lundeg Purevsuren (R) and an archer during a Naadam ceremony, a competition which traditionally includes horse racing, Mongolian wrestling and archery yesterday. —AFP

## KERRY PRAISES MONGOLIA AS 'OASIS OF DEMOCRACY'

AS PART OF THE US PIVOT TO ASIA

**ULAN BATOR:** Pungent cheese curds and near-naked wrestlers greeted US Secretary of State John Kerry during his flying visit to Mongolia yesterday, with the envoy hailing it as an "oasis of democracy" sandwiched between China and Russia.

Kerry was following in the footsteps of his predecessor and presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden as part of the US pivot to Asia. He spent several hours in the homeland of the legendary and brutal conqueror Genghis Khan, taking in the delights of Mongolian culture in the capital Ulan Bator.

Under clear blue skies and on rugged plains Kerry enjoyed a festival featuring traditional nomadic pursuits. He even tried his hand at archery but missed his target. America's top diplomat praised the country's decision to embrace democracy a little more than a quarter of a century ago.

"The bottom line is very simple: Mongolia has made remarkable progress for a young democracy even as it strives to strengthen its institutions and to keep up with the hopes of its people," he said. "You got China on one side

of you and Russia on the other side of you, and there are always a lot of pressures. And here you are in this oasis of democracy, fighting for your own identity even as you hold on to great traditions."

Kerry was also treated to musical performances native to Mongolia, enjoying a break from crisscrossing the globe as a peacemaker in international hotspots.

### Mineral wealth

The former communist nation of about three million people, once a close ally of the Soviet Union, was "reaching out in a significant way" in its relationships with other countries including Afghanistan, Burma and Myanmar, he said.

Kerry added: "I understand with your geography you have automatically significant relationships with both China and Russia. But you've chosen actively to be a democracy and you're pursuing that with vigour." Mongolia, which says the US is its "most important third neighbour", depends on China for more than 60 percent of its trade.

China receives around 90 percent of

Mongolia's exports, also supplying it with more than one-third of its imports. Mongolia also relies on Russia for 90 percent of its energy supplies, according to US State Department information. It possesses enormous mineral resources including deposits of gold, copper and uranium, still largely untapped.

Its mineral resources saw the country achieve over 17 percent growth in 2011, but that has since drastically fallen to under three percent last year along with plummeting metal prices and capital flight.

Anglo-Australian mining giant Rio Tinto, one of the country's key investors, has been hit by rising nationalist sentiment among Mongolians concerned about the growth of foreign firms as well as environmental damage from mining. In 2012 the country passed a strict law on investment in "strategic" sectors and foreign direct investment collapsed. Parliament has since cancelled the controversial law.

In May Rio Tinto announced it would start work on an expansion of its giant gold and copper Oyu Tolgoi mine after years of gridlock, a huge project requiring a \$5.3 billion investment. —AFP

## CHINA SAYS IT DOESN'T FEAR 'TROUBLE' IN S CHINA SEA

**SINGAPORE:** An Asian security summit ended in discord yesterday after China denounced US "provocations" in the South China Sea and declared it does not fear trouble in the contested waters. "The South China Sea issue has become overheated because of the provocations of certain countries for their own selfish interests," Admiral Sun Jianguo told an annual forum in Singapore.

Sun, who stressed China's desire for a peaceful solution, spoke one day after US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said any Chinese construction on an islet near the Philippines would prompt unspecified "actions" by the United States and other nations. China claims nearly all of the sea despite competing claims by several Southeast Asian neighbors, and has pressed its claims by rapidly building artificial islands suitable for military use.

Washington has responded by sending warships close to Chinese-claimed reefs, angering Beijing. Rhetoric has escalated ahead of a decision at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on a case brought by the Philippines, a longtime US ally and former colony, against China, which says it will not recognize any ruling.

The Chinese admiral said US naval and air patrols in the sea were a display of "military muscles" and China was being forced to "accept and honor" the tribunal's ruling. "China firmly opposes such behaviour. We do not make trouble but we have no fear of trouble," Sun, the leader of the Chinese delegation in Singapore, said in prepared remarks. Carter had left Singapore by the time Sun made his speech. Sun also took exception to Carter's statement on Saturday that Beijing risks building a "Great Wall of self-isolation" with its military expansion.

### China 'not isolated'

"We were not isolated in the past. We're not isolated, and we will not be isolated in the future. Actually I am worried some people and countries are still looking at China with a Cold War mentality and prejudice," the Chinese admiral said in response to questions from other delegates. —AFP

## SHARK KILLS AUSTRALIAN DIVER IN SECOND DEADLY ATTACK IN DAYS

**PERTH, Australia:** A diver was killed by a large shark off the west Australian coast on yesterday in the country's second fatal attack in less than a week, police said. The 60-year-old woman was diving with a man at a popular dive spot in the northern Perth suburb of Mindarie when the shark attacked, Western Australia state Police Inspector Danny Mulligan said.

"The man said that he felt something go past him and he turned around," Mulligan told reporters. "He didn't see the shark at that stage, but he felt it better to surface."

When the man reached the surface, he noticed commotion in the water, Mulligan said. Another boat arrived and the fishermen on board pulled him out of the water. They then spotted the woman and saw that she had suffered severe injuries.

The man was able to get back into

his own boat and pull the woman from the water, but her wounds proved fatal, Mulligan said. The fishermen said the shark was larger than their 5.3-meter (17-foot) boat, Mulligan said. Beaches in the area were closed and the state fisheries department was trying to find and trap the shark.

The woman was the second person killed by a shark in Western Australia in less than a week. On Tuesday, a surfer's leg was bitten off by a shark about 100 kilometers south of where Sunday's attack occurred. Ben Gerring, 29, died from his injuries on Friday.

An inspection of Gerring's damaged surfboard showed a white shark was responsible. The fisheries department trapped and killed a large shark on Wednesday, but don't know if it was the same shark that attacked Gerring. —AP

## FIRE BREAKS OUT AT SRI LANKAN ARMY CAMP, CAUSING EXPLOSIONS

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's military says a fire has broken out at an army camp near the capital, causing explosions at the camp. Military spokesman Brig. Jayanath Jayaweera says the fire broke out at the Salawa army camp in Kosgama yesterday evening. The fire spread to the ammunition dump, causing explosions.

Jayaweera says it is not yet known whether there are any casualties. Local television channel Sirasa says that officials are evacuating residents living close to the camp, and that a main road near the camp has been closed to traffic. Kosgama is about 35 kilometers east of Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital. —AP

## PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT-ELECT URGES PUBLIC TO KILL DRUG DEALERS

**MANILA:** The Philippine president-elect has encouraged the public to help him in his war against crime, urging citizens with guns to shoot and kill drug dealers who resist arrest and fight back in their neighborhoods.

In a nationally televised speech late Saturday, Rodrigo Duterte told a huge crowd in the southern city of Davao celebrating last month's presidential victory that Filipinos who help him battle crime will be rewarded. "Please feel free to call us, the police, or do it yourself if you have the gun - you have my support," Duterte said, warning of an extensive illegal drug trade that involves even the country's police.

If a drug dealer resists arrest or refuses to be brought to a police station and threatens a citizen with a gun or a knife, "you can kill him," Duterte said. "Shoot him and I'll give you a medal." The 71-year-old Duterte won the May 9 presidential election on a bold promise to end crime and corruption within six months of his presidency. That vow resonated among crime-weary Filipinos, though police officials considered it campaign rhetoric that was impossible to accomplish.

Human rights watchdogs have expressed alarm that his anti-crime drive may lead to widespread rights violations. Duterte has been suspected of playing a role in many killings of suspected criminals in his city by motorcycle-riding assassins known as the "Davao death squads," but human rights watchdogs say he has not been criminally charged because nobody has dared to testify against him in court.

In his speech on Saturday, Duterte also asked three police generals based in the

main national police camp in the capital to resign for involvement in crimes that he did not specify. He threatened to humiliate them in public if they did not quit and said he would order a review of dismissed criminal cases of active policemen, suggesting some may have bribed their way back onto the force.

"They go back again crucifying the Filipino," he said. "I won't agree to that." "If you're still into drugs, I will kill you, don't take this as a joke. I'm not trying to make you laugh, son of a bitch, I will really kill you," he said to loud jeers and applause.

The foul-mouthed longtime Davao mayor and former government prosecutor said crimes were committed by law enforcers because of "extreme greed and extreme need." He said that he would provide a small amount to an officer who was tempted because his wife has cancer or a mother died, but that those who would break the law because of extreme greed "will also be dealt with by me. I'll have you killed."

Duterte, who starts his six-year presidential term on June 30, repeated a plan to offer huge bounties to those who can turn in drug lords, dead or alive. While it remains to be seen what will happen to his threats when he takes office, some policemen have heeded his call for a tougher anti-crime approach.

In suburban Las Pinas city in the Manila metropolis, police have apprehended more than 100 minors who defied a night curfew, and men who were either having drinking sprees in public or roaming around shirtless in violation of a local ordinance. The crackdown was dubbed "Oplan Rody" - after Duterte's nickname - or "Rid the Streets of Drinkers and Youth." —AP



**MANILA:** President-elect Rodrigo Duterte answers questions from the media. —AP

## US SAILOR ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF DRUNKEN DRIVING IN JAPAN

**TOKYO:** An American sailor was arrested yesterday on suspicion of drunken driving causing an accident in Japan's southern island of Okinawa, where public anger has run high over crimes by US military personnel.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Aimee Mejia, 21, assigned to Kadena base in Okinawa, was arrested after driving the wrong way on a freeway and smashing head-on into two vehicles late Saturday, said police spokesman Takashi Shirado. Mejia was not hurt, but two people in the other cars were injured, one in the arm and the other in the chest, he said.

The US military said it was cooperating fully with the Japanese investigation. "We deeply regret this incident and express our heartfelt sympathies for the accident victims and their families. We wish them a fast recovery," Lt. Gen. John Dolan, the commander of US Forces in Japan, said in a statement.

Dolan spoke with US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and US Pacific Command Commander Adm. Harry Harris, and held an emergency meeting with commanders of the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines, the statement said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida also spoke with Kennedy, and asked the US to do more to prevent a recurrence of the incident, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Kennedy offered her regrets to the families of those injured, the ministry said.

Okinawa is home to more than half of about 50,000 American troops based in Japan. Protests are common on the island, where residents feel they are being forced with an unfair burden of housing the US troops under a bilateral security agreement.

American military personnel are under a midnight curfew and off-base drinking is banned through later this month in Okinawa



**OKINAWA, SINGAPORE:** Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani answers a reporter's question about the arrest of an American sailor on suspicion of drunken driving causing an accident in Japan's southern island yesterday. —AP

after a former US Marine who worked on an American military base was arrested after he led police to a woman's body. He is being held on suspicion of abandoning the body, while police investigate.

The suspected murder of the woman was such a critical issue it came up during President Barack Obama's recent visit to Japan. Obama offered his condolences and promised that the US would fully cooperate to have the man prosecuted under Japanese law. —AP



Visitors pose for souvenir photographs with the Petronas Twin Towers in the background from an observatory sky box at the Kuala Lumpur Tower in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. The Petronas Twin Towers is one of the major landmarks in Kuala Lumpur city center alongside Kuala Lumpur Tower. — AP

## MODI HAILS 'NEW ERA' BETWEEN INDIA, QATAR

**DOHA:** India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday claimed a "new era of friendship" between his country and Qatar on a two-day trip to the emirate. He was writing on Twitter after officials from gas-rich Qatar and India signed seven agreements covering areas such as investment, financial intelligence and education. "My visit to Qatar has witnessed comprehensive and fruitful discussions that will usher in a new era of friendship between India and Qatar," Modi said.

Included was a memorandum of understanding to open up the Indian market to Qatar's sovereign wealth fund, the estimated \$300 billion Qatar Investment Authority. The memorandum said it aimed to facilitate the "participation of Qatari institutional investors in infrastructure projects in India". The Indian community is the largest ethnic group in Qatar, numbering some 700,000 in a total population of just over 2.5 million. Modi met Indian laborers, telling them he is aware of the conditions they face in Qatar. Modi, who is active on Twitter, posted pho-



**DOHA:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) shakes hands with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani yesterday. — AP

tos of himself dining and chatting with the workers. "If you have some issues on changing some rules and regulations, I will work with you all to bring about these changes," Modi told the workers.

Qatar is already India's largest supplier of liquefied natural gas, and

bilateral trade is thought to stand at around \$10 billion. Earlier yesterday, Modi met the Qatari emir, Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, on his visit, part of a five-nation tour that has already taken him to Afghanistan. He will also visit Switzerland, Mexico and the United States. — Agencies

## ALI REMEMBERED IN MUSLIM WORLD AS VOICE...

Continued from Page 1

Three years later, his refusal to serve in the US Army in Vietnam - "I ain't got no quarrel with them Vietcong" - and his subsequent loss of the world title resonated with Muslims, many of whom saw that conflict as the epitome of America's global tyranny. "Muslims wanted a hero to represent them, and Clay was the only Muslim champion... No other Muslim athlete managed to achieve what Clay did ... Thus, he was a symbol for Muslims," said Mohammed Omari, an Islamic law professor in northern Jordan's Al al-Bayt University.

In a Muslim world with a seemingly infinite number of people called "Mohammed Ali," the Louisville, Kentucky, native was mostly referred to as Muhammad Ali Clay - ironically retaining one of the "slave" names that he argued so hard and long for people to drop after he became a Muslim. It was the diversity of the causes embraced by Ali during his lifetime - from the civil rights movement and anti-war activism to global charity work and dealing with Parkinson's disease - that has won him a large following among a wide range of admirers in the Muslim world.

"The uplifting exuberance of Muhammad Ali will endure long after his passing," Dubai's Gulf News, a widely read daily in the United Arab Emirates, said in an editorial, hailing the "lasting political achievements of one of the 20th Century's greatest sports superstars." Jordan's King Abdullah II wrote that Ali "fought hard, not only in the ring, but in life for his fellow citizens and civil rights." "The world has lost today a great unifying champion whose punches transcended borders and nations," Abdullah wrote on his Twitter account. Accompanying his tweet was a photo of Ali, King Hussein, Abdullah's late father, and US President Gerald Ford - all in tuxedos.

Mohammed Assem Faheem, a three-time youth heavyweight champion in Egypt, mainly saw Ali as a boxing role model. "When I watched tapes of his fights, I focused on two things: His footwork and defense tactics. I could not copy them, they were too good for me," said Faheem, 26 and better known by his nickname, Konga. To Nashaat Nashed, a 55-year-old boxing coach who is also a member of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority, Ali was an inspiration. "God created him to box, not for anything else. I owe it to him that I took up boxing and that I fell in love with the sport."

Nizam Zayed, 48, a Palestinian handyman at a gym in the West Bank city of Ramallah, recalls watching Ali's matches on television. "My generation liked Muhammad Ali because he was very good at boxing and because his name was Muhammad Ali and he was a

Muslim." Pakistan's cricket legend-turned-politician Imran Khan, writing a series of tweets mourning Ali's death, described the boxer as the "greatest sportsman of all time" and a man of strong convictions. "Sportsmen have a limited career life span in which they can earn and Ali sacrificed it for his beliefs with courage and conviction."

In Iraq, which Ali visited in 1990 to secure the release of 15 Americans who had been taken hostage by Saddam Hussein in the wake of his invasion of Kuwait, retired heavyweight boxer Ismail Khalil mourned the "greatest." "Today marks the death of a great champion. It is a sad day for the world of boxing. This champion does not represent America only, but the entire Islamic world too." — AP



**CAIRO:** In this Oct 4, 1986 photo, world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali holds a painted papyrus with his portrait and the testament of the Islamic faith in Arabic that was presented to him by an art student at the Marriott Hotel. — AP

## ONLY KD 238M BUDGETED FOR FUEL AND GAS...

Continued from Page 1

It also includes KD 125 million for sending patients for medical treatment abroad, far less than over KD 300 million spent in the previous budget.

Abdulsamad said the committee urged the government to carry out a courageous revision of the role of many independent government and semi-government bodies and departments which depend on state funding of more than KD 4.6 billion, which is the main source of the budget deficit estimated at over KD 11 billion in the fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the legal and legislative committee yesterday agreed to lift the parliamentary immunity of lawmaker Abdulhameed Dashti to face interrogation in two new cases, one for violating the electronic crimes law and the second a state security case. Dashti's immunity has been lifted several times for similar cases, but the public prosecution could not take action against him because he has been living outside the country for several months. The public prosecution has already issued arrest warrants against him over a number of lawsuits, mainly for criticizing Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

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## Issues

CIRCUS SON THRIVES  
AS OIL TRAFFIC COP

By Jarrett Renshaw

The rows of traders who line the massive trading floor at Mercuria Energy Group's Houston headquarters rely on a string of modern conveniences to execute deals across the globe. But when they're under the gun to deliver oil fast, they call one person: Tim Holan. That's because Holan, the head of logistics for the trading firm, cut his teeth on moving an even heavier cargo: Elephants. They, along with lions, clowns and other performers were part of the mile-long moving city that Holan spent nearly two decades shuttling around the country as logistics manager for the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Unruly animals, however well-trained, have a way of making the shipping of thousands of barrels of crude oil every day seem a bit less hectic. "Crude oil is easier," Holan said. "There is a specific infrastructure built for oil with the idea that there would be repeat business. With the circus, there's always one-off moves and unpredictability." Holan's own journey, which includes stints removing radioactive dirt from nuclear facilities and coordinating helicopters for airlifts after Hurricane Katrina, began in 1977, when at the age of 14 he ran away from his Pittsburgh-area home. He got a job sweeping out the trains at Ringling Bros in California, lying about his age on his application to secure work. "It was a different era," said Holan, who is now 53. "Everyone knew I lied about my age, and that would never happen now. Looking at it now, I mean, what was I thinking, but at 14 it just seemed like a big adventure." Holan's father, Rich, who once worked in the administration of US President Ronald Reagan, said it was painful to see his son run away from home. "It was a bad thing, but it all worked out," he said in a phone interview. "He made some bad decisions at a young age, and he made some great ones."

## 'A Model Of Efficiency'

Ringling Bros is considered the world's largest private train operator, running two separate trains of 60 rail cars, each stretching more than a mile. Holan thrived in the circus's apprentice-style culture, working his way up to trainmaster and then general manager, where he was put in charge of coordinating the journeys. He never missed a show during his time there. During long hauls, such as trips from Dallas to Philadelphia, Holan would have to stop the train to make sure the animals were fed and bathed.

"Whether it was a field in Iowa or a parking lot in Chattanooga, Tennessee, we had to find a spot to unload all the animals from the train," Holan said. "The train operators would often know in advance where we were going, and they would bring their families to get a glimpse of the show." New York was the most challenging destination, as Holan had to park the cars in Queens, with a short window in the middle of the night to parade the animals through the Queens Midtown Tunnel on the way to Madison Square Garden. "It was always funny to watch the face of someone who walked out of a club in the morning to see an elephant walking the streets," Holan said.

For much of his career with the circus, Holan's secret weapon for dealing with the unexpected was a roll of quarters. In the case of a snag on the rails, Holan would scramble to locate a pay phone to contact his roster of contacts when problems arose, using the information gained to chart a different route. After shows, the equipment had to be meticulously reloaded into the cars, with little margin of error and under deadlines laid out a year in advance. "Everything was measured within a half inch so it would fit in the cars. The circus is a model of efficiency," Holan said.

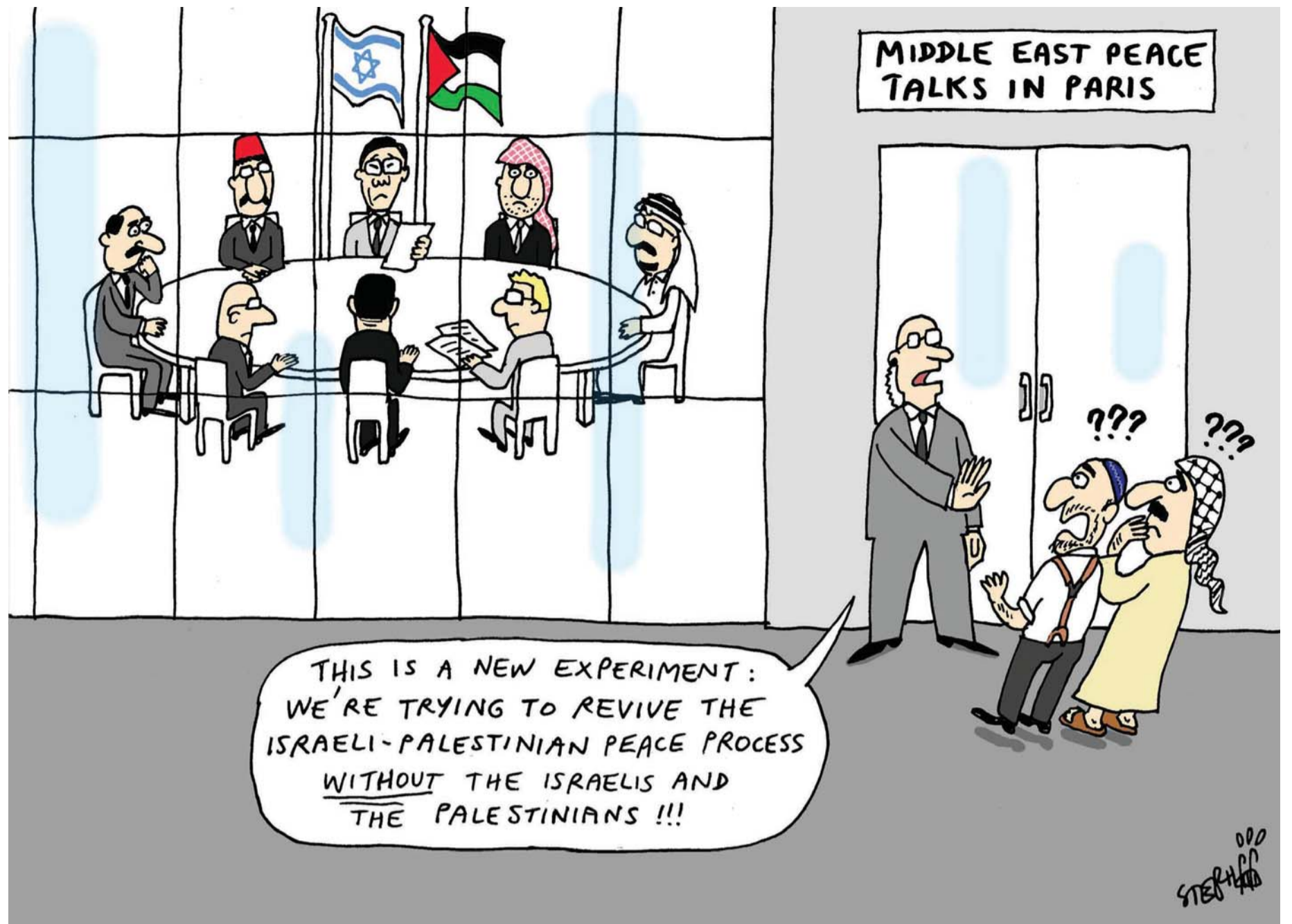
## Contacts from Circus Days

The biggest challenge he has faced during his days at the Swiss trading giant was during the oil rail boom during 2014 and early 2015, when space on rails was scarce. He said rail profit margins are slim, and delays can quickly put a trade in the red. "The rail operators put too many cars on the lines. That was the problem. They could have moved more volumes, with less cars because speeds would have been higher," Holan said.

How did he navigate this stretch? By way of his contacts on the rails during his time in the circus, which gave him insight into alternative routes and a network of sources who could provide unique details about unexpected problems. The quarters are gone, though; Holan relies on email and text messages to uncover problems. Crude rail volumes have dropped significantly in the past year as the economics have favored waterborne imports, leaving a trail of unused tank cars and plenty of uncertainty about the future of the business.

"I think it's probably fair to say that crude by rail has hit its high-water mark, but I don't think it's gone forever," Holan said. The power of rail, he added, is that it can quickly be called back into action when market conditions change, for example during supply disruptions. That kind of juggling suits a guy who spent his years keeping balls in the air to get circus clowns to their shows on time. Unlike the circus, which only had the train, oil at least has the option of pipeline, rail, ship or truck. "For a logistics guy, options are a best friend," he said. —Reuters

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## OIL PRICE PLASTERS OVER OPEC RIFTS - FOR NOW

By Simon Sturdee

OPEC looks to be in a happier place with oil prices recovering, but its inability to agree an output ceiling to restrain the flow of crude betrays lingering divisions that could spell trouble ahead, analysts warn. Meeting in Vienna on Thursday, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries expressed confidence that the crisis of the past two years that saw prices plunge and splits emerge was now over. It said that since December, "crude oil prices have risen by more than 80 percent, supply and demand (has been) converging and oil and producer stock levels in the OECD have recently shown moderation."

According to Helima Croft at RBC Capital Markets, the mood at the bi-annual gathering was a "lot more upbeat" than the acrimonious last meeting in December. Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khaled Al-Falih, newly appointed by the kingdom's dynamic Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, went on a "charm offensive" to "mend fences", Croft said. This was helped by the fact that OPEC's Riyadh-driven strategy of keeping pumping oil at high levels in order to maintain market share and squeeze competitors despite low prices appears, at last, to be working.

With dozens of US shale oil producers going bankrupt, non-OPEC output is forecast to fall and prices have recovered to around \$50, a six-month high, having tumbled from over \$100 in 2014 to almost \$25 in January. At the same time, the International Energy Agency predicts the stubborn global supply glut - which sparked the vicious price collapse - would "shrink dramatically" this year. Demand also looks healthy. This recovery is coming just in time, too, with years of low prices having hit investment in new wells and technologies, creating concerns about possible supply problems in the future. "You have to have stronger oil prices. Investment is so low now, it has been shrinking for two years. This has never happened before," Bill Farren-Price of Petroleum Policy Intelligence (PPI) told AFP.

## No Dogfight

The meeting also saw regional rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran - which is ramping up output after nuclear sanctions were lifted this year and adding to pressure on the price - appearing to bury the hatchet, in Vienna at least. Saudi Arabia "made it very clear that they have no intention of swamping the market with oil as a means of hurting Iran economically through a lower oil price", said Bjarne Schieldrop at SEB Markets. This signalled that there is no "internal dogfight", Schieldrop said. "I believe that this time there was a very good unity between OPEC members," Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said, with no signs that any members would "do something against each other to destabilize the market."

This better mood allowed OPEC to finally name a new secretary general. Nigeria's Mohammed Barkindo will replace long-serving Abdullah El-Badri of Libya, who soldiered on in the job for years as OPEC members could not concur on a successor. However, the 13-nation cartel - 14 from July 1 with Gabon joining - didn't manage to agree a new collective output ceiling, having scrapped its previous one at the December meeting. Experts said that the Saudis proposed reinstating one but that the Iranians balked. Zanganeh said that setting a collective OPEC ceiling "means nothing" without agreeing production quotas for members.

## OPEC 'Adrift'

But for RBC's Croft, a ceiling would be "a positive sign that down the road at some point they will be involved in more active market management. Right now we have had 18 months of essentially OPEC being adrift." Jason Schenker, president of Prestige Economics, agreed, telling AFP that the lack of ceiling "throws into question their efficacy to operate regarding physical production levels". Ole Hansen at Saxo Bank said that OPEC's "struggle to agree on much apart from (the) status quo" means that prices could "once again turn towards the downside". "With key technical levels currently being tested there is a raised risk of a deeper correction," Hansen said. And this in turn, could reignite divisions within the group. —AFP

HUMANITARIAN AIR DROPS:  
A COMPLEX, RISKY TASK

By Valerie Leroux

The United Nations yesterday asked the Syrian government to allow airdrops of humanitarian aid - an operation that military experts say is complex, risky and not always that effective.

## Security risks

The UN wants Damascus to allow airdrops of food and medicine to civilians trapped in besieged areas which aid convoys cannot reach. At least 592,000 people live under siege in Syria - the majority surrounded by regime forces - and another four million live in hard-to-reach areas, according to the UN. The planes sending the aid need to be able to fly in a secure airspace, either with the agreement of warring parties, or by flying at very high altitude to escape missile fire.

"One can imagine that the Syrian army would get orders from President Bashar al-Assad to prevent the drops, but this would be very bad for him on a political level," said Jean-Claude Allard, an expert in military aeronautics at Paris's Institute of International and Strategic Relations. He said this would look bad for Assad because he was trying to position himself as a key player in the fight against the Islamic State group. "Islamist rebels could also try to stop the air drops because taking the population hostage is part of their strategy," Allard added.

However these groups are not known to have high altitude surface-to-air missile capability. If Syria does give the green light to the UN, tight coordination would be required between the Russians and Americans who are both active in Syrian skies.

## Technical Complexity

If the planes do not have security guarantees, they will have to parachute aid packages from a very high altitude, reducing the precision of the drop. "Depending on the

nature of the threat and the weather, we determine from what height we can ensure a certain radius of dispersal," said a military specialist in the field, speaking on condition of anonymity. He explained that by analyzing wind flows, experts calculate a point from which to make the drop with the parachutes.

However at high altitude, icy temperatures can block the opening of parachutes and if winds are too strong the mission would have to be cancelled. If security is ensured, the plane can descend to a low altitude of about 50 m above ground and throw out packages without using parachutes. "It is cargo like flour and rice... not very fragile... that is dropped without a parachute," added the military expert. Using a parachute, items can be dropped from up to 8,000 m.

However airdrops are very complicated in urban areas. "We typically aim for uninhabited areas, far from major highways. In an urban zone we need to find open spaces. An airport for example can do the trick," said the military specialist. Allard said the alternative was using a helicopter which can land on the equivalent of half a football field or make a drop from a few dozen metres. However this is high-risk. "It would be exposed to snipers as it slows to descend... and takes off again," said Allard.

## Limited Results

The load that a plane can carry is a lot less than the amount that can be taken by trucks in a road convoy. Allard said there was also always a risk that cargo from an airdrop did not fall into the hands of those who needed the help. And there was also a risk that falling packages hit and injure inhabitants. In addition, finding those willing to send their planes into Syria to carry out the drops could be a challenge. "I can't see many countries sending military aircraft over there," said Allard. —AFP

## CHINA'S SILK ROAD AMBITIONS FACE OBSTACLES

By Brenda Goh and Simon Webb

For the southwestern city of Kunming, China's plan to extend a high-speed rail link 3,000 km south to Singapore is already a boon: Pristine expressways, a gleaming station and something of a real estate boom, as young buyers crowd property showrooms. In Laos, work has yet to start on what should be the first overseas leg of a rail line stretching throughout Southeast Asia. The country, one of the region's poorest, could struggle to finance even part of the \$7 billion cost and has yet to agree financial terms with China.

From Laos, the railway would enter Thailand. But Beijing's negotiations have soured there as well, in part over financing, adding to a growing headache for China and highlighting the sort of problems Beijing may face as it develops its economic highways beyond Southeast Asia and across Asia under its "One Belt, One Road" project. The ambitious plan to build land, sea and air routes reaching across the continent and beyond was announced by President Xi Jinping in 2013 with the aim of boosting trade by \$2.5 trillion in the next decade. As China's economic growth slows, Beijing is encouraging its companies to win new markets overseas.

But across the Southeast Asia border, China is facing the most complex and possibly most significant obstacles to its ambitions, as its neighbors protest what they say are excessive Chinese demands and unfavorable financing conditions. They have resisted Chinese demands for the rights to develop the land either side of the railway. Beijing says turning a profit on land development would make the rest of the project more commercially viable and allow it to make a greater

upfront financial commitment. Myanmar, in addition, had environmental concerns and cancelled its part of the project in 2014.

For China, Southeast Asia's concerns are "going to be the first significant hurdle as they implement One Belt, One Road," said Peter Cai, a research fellow at Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney. China's foreign ministry and the Export-Import Bank of China did not respond to requests for comment.

## Land-Linked

In 2013, all signs pointed to fast completion of the Laos leg. Leaders from both countries agreed to speed up construction - China offered to loan most of the project funds. In November, construction on the line's terminus in Kunming began. The 2.1 billion yuan (\$325 million) high-speed rail station in Kunming is now months from opening. Yet, there is no action in Vientiane despite an elaborate groundbreaking ceremony in December.

Without significant help from China, Laos lacks the financial muscle for the project, diplomats said. It is unclear why China, which has been vying with Vietnam for influence in Laos, could not offer terms acceptable to Vientiane. Both countries are invested politically in the scheme. China aims to increase its reach and influence in Southeast Asia and Laos says it wants to turn its country into one that is land-linked, rather than land-locked. "There were very high-ranking dignitaries from both sides at the signing," said a Western diplomat in Vientiane. "Most people believe it will cost more than \$7 billion, and Laos is struggling to even finance \$2 billion of that."

The Laos government did not respond to a request for

comment for this story. Diplomats though say the inaction reflected an internal Communist Party rift over how the negotiations with China were handled. They said a shock decision in January by the politburo to exclude Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad from the top decision-making body in part indicated concern at senior levels that the deal's terms were too favorable for China.

Somsavat had led negotiations on China-related projects and had faced internal criticism for being too pro-Chinese. "The terms were good for Laos," Somsavat told Reuters. Construction was delayed because Laos was still "researching some details" and because of local opposition of land issues. Holding the ground-breaking ceremony on Dec 2 also raised eyebrows in the leadership because the date clashed with celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Laos People's Democratic Republic, diplomats said. With Somsavat out of the government "moves internally by the Laos government have been to renegotiate the terms of this rail agreement," a diplomat said.

## Unrealistic

China has offered at least \$30 billion in loans and credit lines for projects. Zhao Jian, transportation professor at the Beijing Jiaotong University, said China offers concessionary loans of between 2 percent and 7 percent, so any country pushing for cheaper loans was being "unrealistic". Still, infrastructure projects like these need to be subsidized, said Kamalkant Agarwal, the head of commercial banking at Thailand's Siam Commercial Bank. "You can build these projects if you have a government or Santa Claus to pay for it," he said. "But otherwise, making these projects profitable is a huge challenge." —Reuters

### PHELPS STUMBLES AGAIN AHEAD OF OLYMPIC TRIALS

LOS ANGELES: Michael Phelps, aiming to add to his tally of 18 Olympic gold medals at the Rio de Janeiro Games, was beaten again on Saturday at an invitational swimming meeting in Austin, Texas. The 30-year-old US superstar came straight from hard training into the tuneup meet for the Olympic trials in Omaha this month. He finished fourth in the 200m freestyle won by Townley Haas in 1min 47.86sec, with Phelps, clocking 1min 48.73. The setback came a day after Phelps won the 100m free and finished second to Singapore's Joseph Schooling in the 100m butterfly. The meeting is one of three elite events this weekend where US swimmers are warming up for the demands of trials, and overseas competitors are prepping for the Rio Games themselves. In other Austin action, American Chase Kalisz posted the third-fastest time in the world this year in the 400m individual medley, winning in 4:11.51. Allison Schmitt defeated Missy Franklin for the second straight night, triumphing in the 200m free in 1:56.87 to Franklin's 1:57.78. Franklin won the 200m backstroke in 2:09.45. At the Indianapolis Pro Swim, American David Plummer notched the fastest time in the world this year in the 100m backstroke, winning in a sizzling 52.40sec.—AFP



### FRENCH PREZ TO GIVE EURO SQUAD PEP TALK

PARIS: Francois Hollande is to visit France's football squad yesterday with the president hoping to give 'Les Bleus' a boost ahead of Friday's Euro 2016 curtain raiser against Romania. The nation plays host to the month long football extravaganza with 1.5 million visitors expected amid a dreary backdrop of floods, fears of terror attacks, transport strikes and street demonstrations. "I'm going there to tell them I trust them, I trust their coach Didier Deschamps, and the football federation," said Hollande, himself a keen football fan who will be at the Stade de France on Friday for the opening match. "They have to play their best football but they also have to remember that they represent France," he told Sunday newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche evoking the "Benzema affair". France brushed aside Scotland 3-0 on Saturday in their final warm up game and the win helped distance the team from the recent row after ousted striker Benzema claimed he was a victim of racism.—AFP

### VARDY WANTS TO JOIN ARSENAL, SAYS GIROUD

LONDON: France and Arsenal forward Olivier Giroud has fuelled speculation that Jamie Vardy is on his way to the Gunners by saying he has heard the Leicester City striker is keen to move. "I have been told that Jamie wants to join us and it's very good news for us," the striker told Sky Sports after scoring twice in France's 3-0 friendly win against Scotland on Saturday. British media reported on Friday that Arsenal, runners-up to champions Leicester last season, had triggered a buy-out clause in Vardy's contract with a bid of around 20 million pounds (\$29.04 million). There was no immediate comment from Thai-owned Leicester, although Italy's Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper quoted manager Claudio Ranieri confirming Arsenal had made a bid. ESPN quoted a source close to Arsenal as saying Vardy was due to undergo a medical yesterday. "I am happy with competition. We have always had fantastic strikers at Arsenal and I want the best for this club. Hopefully he is going to help us win this title," said Giroud. "The boss (Arsene Wenger) wanted to sign at least one or two strikers, so I expected a top striker and I think it will benefit the club and hopefully he is going to score a lot of goals like he did at Leicester."—Reuters



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Indians' Lonnie Chisenhall slides into home to score as Kansas City Royals' Salvador Perez applies a tag in the sixth inning of a baseball game. — AP

# LINDOR HOMERS, LEADS INDIANS PAST ROYALS 7-1

CLEVELAND: Francisco Lindor hit one of Cleveland's three home runs, leading the Indians into first place in the AL Central with a win over the Kansas City Royals. Lindor, whose two-run homer came in the seventh inning, became the first Indians player to record three extra-base hits in a game this season. He also started an outstanding defensive play in the ninth. Playing in a shift near second base, he made a backhand stop of Kendrys Morales' hard-hit grounder and flipped to third baseman Jose Ramirez, who was playing behind second. Ramirez threw to first for the out. Tyler Naquin hit a two-run homer in the sixth. Mike Napoli started the four-run inning with a solo homer. Josh Tomlin (8-1) bounced back from his first loss of the season and allowed one run in 6 1/3 innings. Ian Kennedy (4-4) gave up five runs in six innings.

pitched a perfect ninth to earn his 10th save for the Cubs, who have won four straight and 10 of 11. Arizona went up 2-0 on Jake Lamb's 10th homer in the first following a walk. But Hammel (7-1) settled down and allowed only one more walk, retiring his last 13 batters. The D-backs walked David Ross intentionally to load the bases in the fourth. Hammel responded with a grounder up the middle that got by Edwin Escobar (0-2), hit second base and darted into right field to cap a three-run inning.

win. George Springer started Houston's 12th with a double off Ryan Madson (2-2) and advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by Jose Altuve. Correa then shot a single down the right-field line to give Houston its seventh win in eight games. Scott Feldman (3-3) plunked Kris Davis with two outs in the 12th before a single by Yonder Alonso. But Feldman retired Marcus Semien to end the inning.

Will Smith (1-0) tossed a perfect seventh to earn the win. Tyler Thornburg had a 1-2-3 eighth and Jeremy Jeffress finished for his 15th save in 16 tries. Tommy Joseph and Cesar Hernandez each hit homers for the Phillies, who have lost eight of nine and 12 of 15.

seventh. Andrew Miller entered in the seventh and worked two perfect innings. After Rodriguez hit an RBI single in the ninth, Aroldis Chapman got three outs for his ninth save in nine tries. New York finished with 16 hits, one short of its season high. Ivan Nova (4-3) took a three-hit shutout into the seventh, but didn't get another out. Tyler Wilson (2-5) lasted four innings, giving up five runs and seven hits for Baltimore.

### REDS 6, NATIONALS 3

Stephen Strasburg gave up Joey Votto's two-run homer and limped off the field a few

MIAMI: Michael Conforto ended an 0-for-20 skid with an RBI single in the eighth and scored the tiebreaking run on pinch hitter Matt Reynolds' two-out single later in the

### PIRATES 8, ANGELS 7

Gregory Polanco and Matt Joyce hit home runs during a five-run seventh inning. Jeff Locke got his career-best fourth straight win and the Pittsburgh Pirates held off the Los Angeles Angels. Polanco made it 4-3 by leading off the seventh with a 461-foot drive to right field, his ninth, off Fernando Salas (2-2). Joyce pinch hit for Locke and capped the rally with a three-run shot to center field off Greg Mahle that made it 8-3. Locke (5-3) gave up three runs and seven hits in seven innings. He had two strikeouts and no walks. Mark Melancon pitched a perfect ninth for his 17th save in 18 opportunities.

### GIANTS 5, CARDINALS 1

ST LOUIS: Johnny Cueto worked around a season-worst five walks to post his ninth win, tying for the major league lead, as the San Francisco Giants beat the St. Louis Cardinals. Cueto (9-1) allowed a run on four hits in six innings with one strikeout. He hadn't walked more than two in any of his first 11 starts for his new team. Cueto is among four nine-game winners, joining Stephen Strasburg, Jake Arrieta and Chris Sale. Six of Cueto's victories have come on the road. Five Giants relievers combined to give up just one hit. Adam Wainwright (5-4) allowed two runs in seven innings. The Cardinals were held to one run for the second straight game.

### RANGERS 10, MARINERS 4

Elvis Andrus homered, Rowned Odor scored twice in his return from a seven-game suspension for punching Jose Bautista and the Texas Rangers beat the Seattle Mariners. Odor got a standing ovation when introduced before his first at-bat. He was reinstated before the game after serving Major League Baseball's penalty for slugging Toronto's right fielder in the testy home game May 15. It was the fourth game in a row the Mariners trailed by three runs after the first inning. Their only victory in that span was the biggest comeback in franchise history, overcoming a 10-run deficit after five innings Thursday to win 16-13 at San Diego. Rangers lefty Martin Perez (4-4) allowed three runs over six innings. Nathan Karns (5-2) was gone after the first two batters in the fifth reached, and eventually scored.

### PADRES 4, ROCKIES 3

Wil Myers homered, singled and doubled, missing the cycle by a triple for the second time in four games, and Derek Norris hit a two-run homer to lead the San Diego Padres past the Colorado Rockies. Earlier in the day, the Padres sent right-hander James Shields and \$29 million to the Chicago White Sox for two prospects, capping one of the more miserable weeks in team history. The deal came three days after Padres executive chairman Ron Fowler criticized the last-place team's recent performances as being "embarrassing" and "pathetic," and called out Shields for his poor start Tuesday at Seattle. Andrew Cashner (3-5) snapped a personal three-game losing streak. Chad Bettis (4-5) allowed four runs and 10 hits in five innings, struck out three and walked one.—AP

## MLB Results/Standings

Chicago Cubs 5, Arizona 3; Milwaukee 6, Philadelphia 3; Pittsburgh 8, LA Angels 7; Boston 6, Toronto 4; Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 4; NY Mets 6, Miami 4; Houston 6, Oakland 5 (12 innings); Cincinnati 6, Washington 3; Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 4; Cleveland 7, Kansas City 1; NY Yankees 8, Baltimore 6; St. Louis 7, San Francisco 4; Texas 10, Seattle 4; LA Dodgers 4, Atlanta 0; San Diego 4, Colorado 3.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB	
Boston	33	23	.589	-	Washington	33	23	.589	-
Baltimore	31	23	.574	1	NY Mets	31	23	.574	1
Toronto	30	27	.526	3.5	Miami	29	27	.518	4
NY Yankees	26	29	.473	6.5	Philadelphia	27	29	.482	6
Tampa Bay	24	30	.444	8	Atlanta	16	39	.291	16.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	30	24	.556	-	Chicago Cubs	39	15	.722	-
Kansas City	30	25	.545	0.5	Pittsburgh	30	25	.545	9.5
Chicago White Sox	29	27	.518	2	St. Louis	29	27	.518	11
Detroit	27	28	.491	3.5	Milwaukee	26	30	.464	14
Minnesota	16	39	.291	14.5	Cincinnati	21	35	.375	19
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	33	22	.600	-	San Francisco	35	23	.603	-
Seattle	31	24	.564	2	LA Dodgers	30	27	.526	4.5
Houston	27	30	.474	7	Colorado	24	31	.436	9.5
LA Angels	25	30	.455	8	Arizona	24	34	.414	11
Oakland	25	31	.446	8.5	San Diego	23	34	.404	11.5

pitched later, and the Cincinnati Reds overcame a pair of rain delays while rallying to beat the Washington Nationals for their fourth straight win. Adam Duval hit Shawn Kelley's fourth pitch for a tiebreaking three-run homer following a 64-minute rain delay in the bottom of the eighth, extending Cincinnati's best winning streak of the season. Strasburg walked Zack Cozart to start the bottom of the sixth inning, gave up Votto's homer, and grabbed his right calf on a pitch to Brandon Phillips. He left a few pitches later, limping slightly. Jay Bruce also homered off Strasburg, who fanned 10 and became the first Nationals pitcher to strike out 1,000 in his career. Ross Ohlendorf (4-4) got the win, while Felipe Rivero (0-2) took the loss.

inning to help the New York Mets rally past the Miami Marlins. Conforto also hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth. The left fielder was a last-minute addition to the lineup when slugger Yoenis Cespedes was scratched because of a sore right hip, the latest in a wave of injuries for the Mets. Jim Henderson (1-2) retired the only batter he faced in the seventh. Addison Reed pitched around a single in the eighth to extend his scoreless streak to 13 1/3 innings. Jeury's Familia gave up a two-out RBI single to Christian Yelich in the ninth before earning his 34th consecutive save, including 18 this year. David Phelps (4-4) took the loss.

### BREWERS 6, PHILLIES 3

Domingo Santana hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth inning. Jonathan Villar went deep for the third straight game and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Philadelphia Phillies. Santana connected off Hector Neris (1-3) leading off the eighth for his fourth homer and first since returning from the disabled list on Friday. Villar had three hits and two RBIs.

### DODGERS 4, BRAVES 0

Clayton Kershaw held Atlanta to three hits over six innings and Los Angeles' bullpen closed things out to help the Dodgers beat the Braves. Kershaw (8-1) struck out four and walked one in his shortest outing of the season. Joe Blanton, Pedro Baez and Kenley Jansen pitched an inning each. Atlanta starter Bud Norris (1-7) held the Dodgers to a run on three hits over five innings. He struck out two and walked four. Kershaw scored the game's first run after beating out an infield hit in the third. He went to second on a walk, and then scored on Justin Turner's two-out single.

### CUBS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Jason Hammel allowed one hit over seven innings and snapped a tie with a two-run single to lead the sizzling Chicago Cubs past the Arizona Diamondbacks. Dexter Fowler added his 17th career leadoff home run, Anthony Rizzo hit his 13th homer and Hector Rondon

### ASTROS 6, ATHLETICS 5, 12 INNINGS

Carlos Correa had three hits and his RBI single with one out in the 12th lifted the Houston Astros over the Oakland Athletics. After Jed Lowrie hit a tying home run with two outs in the ninth for Oakland, the Astros came back to

## ALI CASTS LONG SHADOW OVER BLAND HEAVYWEIGHT RANKS

**LOS ANGELES:** The death of Muhammad Ali was a sharp reminder of a glittering era of heavyweight boxing that contrasts starkly with the anemic state of the sport's marquee division today. Ali, who died of septic shock on Friday at the age of 74 after decades of battling Parkinson's disease, was the cornerstone of a heavyweight triumvirate that also included Joe Frazier and George Foreman, whose flair and ferocity kept boxing at the forefront of the cultural conversation.

They were themselves the heirs of Joe Louis and Max Baer, Rocky Marciano and Sonny Liston. And amid the social turmoil of their age they made the heavyweight world crown relevant worldwide. Even the names of the bouts still resonate: Ali-Frazier 1, known as "The Fight of the Century" pitted the two undefeated heavyweight champions in famed Madison Square Garden with seemingly the whole world watching and taking sides.

Frazier absorbed tremendous punishment but relentlessly out-worked Ali and dropped him in the 15th round to win by unanimous decision and launch an epic trilogy capped by the "Thrilla in Manila." In between there was the "Rumble in the Jungle" in Kinshasa, where underdog Ali's now famous "rope a dope" strategy saw Foreman punch out his energy and Ali pounce for an eighth-round knockout of his previously unbeaten foe.

It would be a decade before another heavyweight erupted on the scene with such force, but the chaos surrounding Mike Tyson extended beyond the ring and eventually doomed a reign that mattered less and less to the general populace as a confusing array of sanctioning bodies proliferated and niche-marketed pay-per-view became the norm.

Tyson's meetings with Evander Holyfield came too late, and the emergence of

Britain's Lennox Lewis foreshadowed a European grasp on the division guaranteed to dull interest in America. Certainly the erudite approach of Vitaly and Wladimir Klitschko never set the hearts of US fight fans racing, and Britain's Tyson Fury, who out-pointed Wladimir Klitschko in November to seize the Ukrainian's titles has alienated fans with sexist, anti-semitic and homophobic remarks.

### '#underwhelmed'

In recent years it's been left to the little guys to add luster to the sport. Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao can lay claim to boxing's most recent "Fight of the Century." But their 2015 bout in Las Vegas failed to pack the visceral punch fans expected from two fighters long considered the best pound-for-pound performers of their generation. The Hollywood celebrities and sports stars jetted in, but left unsatisfied. "We waited five years for that ... #underwhelmed," "Iron" Mike Tyson tweeted, after a fight that will go down in history not for what happened inside the ropes but for the colossal amount of cash it generated.

Mayweather and Pacquiao have both since retired, Pacquiao pursuing his political career in the Philippines as Mayweather appears to mull a match with Conor McGregor, a star of the mixed martial arts stage that is taking bites out of boxing's fan base. It would be a social media circus worthy of fabled boxing promoter Don King and a far cry from the dazzling destruction promulgated by Ali and his greatest rivals. But then Angelo Dundee, who trained Ali for two decades, noted that "Muhammad ruined us for everybody." "He was great outside (the ring); he was great inside," Dundee said before his death in 2012. "We got so accustomed to it, we thought we deserved it." — AFP



LOUISVILLE: A small memorial sits in front of the boyhood home of Muhammad Ali. — AP

## FOR FINAL FAREWELL, ALI WILL DRAW WORLD TO HOMETOWN

**LOUISVILLE:** Muhammad Ali crafted the plan for his final tribute years ago, long before he died. On Friday, his family will honor him just like he planned, with a global celebration in his hometown. A procession will carry his body down an avenue in Louisville that bears his name, through his boyhood neighborhood and down Broadway, the scene of the parade that honored the brash young man - then known as Cassius Clay - for his gold medal at the 1960 Olympics.

A day after Ali died at age 74 from complications of Parkinson's disease, a family spokesman outlined plans for Ali's funeral as people from Manila to Louisville to his adopted home of Arizona mourned the boxing great's passing. The family "certainly believes that Muhammad was a citizen of the world ... and they know that the world grieves with him," spokesman Bob Gunnell said at a news conference in Scottsdale, not far from Ali's home in his final years. Family members will accompany Ali's remains to Louisville within the next two days. A private funeral will be held Thursday.

took it, Fischer said. The officer told him he'd have to learn how to box first.

Daniel Wilson Sr. was one year behind Ali at Central High School and remembered he was so committed to his conditioning that he didn't get on the school bus like everybody else. Instead, he ran along beside it, three miles all the way to school each morning. "The kids on the bus would be laughing and Ali would be laughing too," he recalled at the Grand Avenue home.

Ruby Hyde arrived at the memorial holding an old black-and-white framed photo of a young Ali. As a teenager, she'd been a water girl at his amateur bouts and seen even then that there was something special, something cerebral, about the way he fought. Years later, he came back to the old neighborhood as a heavyweight champ, driving a Cadillac with the top down.

"All the kids jumped in and he rode them around the block," she remembered. He never

forgot where he came from, she said. Liston's voice trembled as she recounted running into him at a baseball game a few years ago. "I got to tell him how much I cared about him. He put that big ol' paw out and just shook my hand," she said. "He just had time for everybody." The mayor ordered the city's flags at half-staff.

Outside Metro Hall, Fischer pointed west, toward Ali's childhood home, about three miles away in one of the city's poorest zip codes. "There can only be one Muhammad Ali, but his journey from Grand Avenue to global icon serves as a reminder that there are young people with the potential for greatness in the houses and neighborhoods all over our city, our nation, our world," he said. Fischer told mourners to teach all children Ali's legacy: that a kid from Kentucky can grow up to be "The Greatest." "That's how we become champions," he said. "Muhammad Ali has shown us the way." — AP

## ALI BECAME A WORLD CITIZEN BUT NEVER FORGOT HIS ROOTS

**LOUISVILLE:** Muhammad Ali traveled the world as a fighter and humanitarian, but he always came home to Louisville. His Kentucky hometown was where Ali, as a gangly teenager, began to develop his boxing skills - the dazzling footwork and rapid-fire punching prowess. The three-time world heavyweight boxing champion never forgot his roots, returning to his old West End neighborhood and visiting high school classmates even after becoming one of the world's most recognizable men.

Now the focus shifts back to Ali's hometown as the world says goodbye to the man who emerged from humble beginnings to rub elbows with heads of state. Ali, slowed for years by Parkinson's disease, died Friday at age 74 in an Arizona hospital. His funeral is scheduled for Friday afternoon in Louisville.

Ali chose his hometown as the place for one of his lasting legacies: the Muhammad Ali Center, which promotes his humanitarian ideals and showcases his remarkable career. Ali and his wife, Lonnie, had multiple residences around the US, but always maintained a Louisville home. The city embraced its favorite son right back. A downtown street bears his name. A banner showcasing his face - and proclaiming him "Louisville's Ali" - towers over motorists near the city's riverfront.

### 'Only health changed him'

Lifelong friend Victor Bender knew Ali ever since they were boyhood sparring partners. Bender remembered Ali - then known as Cassius Clay - as a dedicated athlete who worked tirelessly to hone his boxing skills. He also remembered Ali's human touch - his willingness to reach out to others. "Only health changed him," Bender said in a September 2014 interview. "When he was healthy enough, he could talk with anybody. He loved children. He'd reach out and touch anybody, because he loved people." "Sometimes his handlers would say, 'Look, we've got to go. We've got to meet the schedule.' And he'd say, 'The schedule will have to wait.'"

Ruby Hyde remembered the heavyweight champ cruising into her neighborhood in a Cadillac with the top down. "All the kids jumped in and he rode them around the block," she remembered. Ali's boyhood home - a small, single-story frame house - still stands in the working-class neighborhood where he grew up. The bright pink home on Grand Avenue was renovated by its current owners and opened for Ali's fans to get a glimpse into his life before the world came to know him.

Ali's storybook boxing career - highlighted by epic bouts with Joe Frazier, George Foreman and Sonny Liston - began with a theft. His bicycle was stolen when he was 12. Wanting to report the crime, the shaken boy was introduced to Joe Martin, a police officer who doubled as a boxing coach at a local gym. Ali told Martin he wanted to whip the culprit. The thief was never found, nor was the bike, but soon the feisty Ali was a regular in Martin's gym.

"He always had a good left-hand punch," Bender recalled. "He could follow up. The fundamentals were always there." Ali developed into a top amateur boxer. His early workouts included racing a school bus along the streets of Louisville, said Shirlee Smith, his classmate at Louisville Central High School. "Every time the bus would stop to pick up kids, he would pass us up," she recalled. "Then we'd pass him up. Everybody on the bus would be laughing and teasing him. He was training at that time, and we were just having fun. But he was focused on what he wanted."

### 'Louisville Lip'

Ali's boyhood neighbor, Lawrence Montgomery Sr., said he saw early glimpses of the bravado that earned Ali the "Louisville Lip" nickname. "He told me then that he was going to be the heavyweight champion of the world, and I didn't believe him," Montgomery said. "I told him, 'Man, you better get that out of your mind.' But he succeeded. He followed through."

Not long after graduating from high school, Ali won a gold medal at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. Smith remembered Ali as a happy-go-lucky classmate who wasn't changed by fame. She recalled the class reunion when Ali performed magic tricks. "He never had any airs or any pretense," she said. "He was just Muhammad Ali."

Ali announced his conversion to the Muslim faith soon after upsetting Liston in 1964 to win the heavyweight crown for the first time. Ali moved away in the early 1960s but never lost contact with Louisville. The Ali Center includes exhibits recalling the turbulent 1960s that Ali came to personify. Ali was refused service at a Louisville restaurant after he returned home as an Olympic gold medal winner. Other exhibits recall Ali's role as a civil rights supporter and opponent of the Vietnam War. Louisvilleans embraced him as their own again as they mourned his passing. They flocked to the Ali Center and to his boyhood home along with out-of-town visitors paying their respects.—AP

### 'People's champion'

After the Friday procession, a memorial service open to the public will be held at the KFC YUM! Center. Eulogists will include former President Bill Clinton, comedian Billy Crystal - who has done a masterful impression of Ali - and sports television host Bryant Gumbel. The ceremony will be led by an imam in the Muslim tradition but include representatives of other faiths. Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch will represent Mormons.

"Muhammad Ali was clearly the people's champion," Gunnell said, "and the celebration will reflect his devotion to people of all races, religions and backgrounds." The spokesman said Ali died in Arizona at 9:10 p.m. Friday local time of "septic shock due to unspecified natural causes," three decades after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. It is not clear what specifically caused the septic shock. However, difficulty swallowing is among complications of Parkinson's disease and it can worsen at the end of life. It makes eating and drinking difficult and patients are at risk for aspirating food or liquids into their lungs, leading to pneumonia and a chest infection that in weakened patients can lead to sepsis - a bloodstream infection that can in turn cause organ failure and death.

Ali was mourned around the globe Saturday, and in his hometown, not even pouring rain could stop the tributes for "The Greatest." In the three-time heavyweight champion's old neighborhood, brother Rahman Ali stood in a small house on Grand Avenue and dabbed his eyes as he shook hand after hand. The visitors had come from as far away as Georgia and as near as down the street. "God bless you all," the 72-year-old Rahman said to each.

Ali's death held special meaning in Louisville, where he was the city's favorite son. "He was one of the most honorable, kindest men to live on this planet," his brother said while greeting mourners at their childhood home, recently renovated and turned into a museum. Cars lined both sides of the street. Visitors piled flowers and boxing gloves around the marker designating it a historical site. They were young and old, black and white, friends and fans.

### 'Ali belongs to the world'

Another memorial grew outside the Muhammad Ali Center downtown, a museum built in tribute to Ali's core values: respect, confidence, conviction, dedication, charity, spirituality. By mid-afternoon, nearly 3,000 people had come through the doors, said Donald Lassere, the center's president and CEO. The center would typically draw about 500 visitors on a rainy Saturday, he said.

"Muhammad Ali belongs to the world," Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said at a memorial service outside Metro Hall. "But he only has one hometown." Rahman recalled what Ali was like as a boy named Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., long before he became the most famous man in the world, celebrated as much for his grace and his words as his lightning-fast feet and knockout punch.

In their little pink house in Louisville's west end, the brothers liked to wrestle and play cards and shoot hoops. "He was a really sweet, kind, loving, giving, affectionate, wonderful person," Rahman said, wearing a cap that read "Ali," the last letter formed by the silhouette of a boxer ready to pounce. When he was 12, Ali had a bicycle that was stolen and he told a police officer he wanted to "whoop" whoever

## HERO, LEGEND, VILLAIN? ALI'S UGLY FEUD WITH JOE FRAZIER

**LOS ANGELES:** A beloved icon. A fighter who transcended his sport. A symbol of heroism, courage and defiance. Muhammad Ali was all of these things and more to countless millions of admirers around the world during his remarkable life and times. Yet for Joe Frazier, the overwhelming adoration given to Ali during and after his career would always be hard to stomach.

Frazier, who died in 2011, was to be Ali's greatest rival in the ring, the two men fighting three blood-curdling battles that culminated with their epic 1975 collision in Manila. But the noble nature of Frazier and Ali's rivalry inside the ropes masked an ugly feud, stoked by Ali, that was to leave Frazier nursing a grudge for decades after the two men finally hung up their gloves, a far cry from the time in the 1960s when they had been friends.

During Ali's exile from boxing following his refusal to fight in Vietnam, when he was stripped of his title and widely ostracized in mainstream America, Frazier lent Ali money and lobbied then president Richard Nixon to allow him to box. The friendship soured when Ali returned to boxing, and his "Fight of the Century" against Frazier was set for March 8, 1971 in Madison Square Garden. Ali, a hero of the black civil rights movement, relentlessly portrayed Frazier in offensive terms, painting him as an "Uncle Tom", a passive, inarticulate pawn of the "White Establishment."

### Verbal salvos

"Joe Frazier is an Uncle Tom. He works for the enemy," Ali taunted. Whether an early example of promotional trash-talk or genuinely held sentiment, Ali's words stung Frazier-the son of Alabama sharecroppers who had been subjected to racism in his youth-to the core. In his 1996 autobiography, Frazier described Ali's verbal salvos as a "cynical attempt to make me feel isolated from my own people."

"He thought that would weaken me when it came time to face him in that ring. Well, he was wrong. It didn't weaken me, it awakened

me to what a cheap-shot son of a bitch he was," Frazier wrote. Frazier exacted a measure of revenge by flooring Ali in the 15th round of their first fight before going on to take a unanimous decision victory. The animosity of that first fight came to define Ali and Frazier's relationship thereafter.

Following a second bout won by Ali in 1974, the invective took an uglier turn in the build-up to the "Thrilla in Manila" the following year, with Ali zeroing in on Frazier's physical appearance, repeatedly referring to him as a "gorilla." "Joe Frazier should give his face to The Wildlife Fund! He's so ugly, blind men go the other way. He not only looks bad, you can smell him in another country. What will the people in Manila think? That black brothers are animals. Ignorant. Stupid. Ugly and smelly," Ali told reporters.

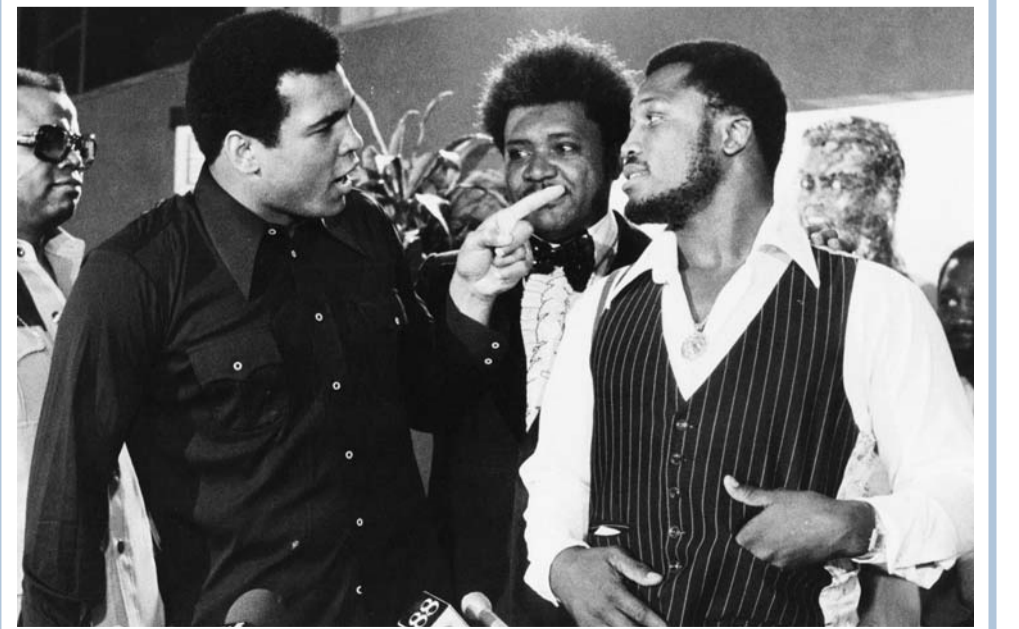
### 'He is a man'

Frazier responded by stating that he wanted to "take Ali's heart out" and in metaphorical terms over the course of the fight that followed, he nearly did. Ali eventually triumphed after 14 grueling rounds when Frazier, eyes swollen to near-blindness, retired before the 15th round.

"Don't let me ever again hear anybody put Joe Frazier down," the shattered Ali said. "He is the toughest man in the world. If I'd taken the punches he took in there, I'd have quit long before he did. He is a man." Ali's paeon to Frazier's bravery did little to heal the rift however. In his autobiography two decades later, Frazier laid bare his resentment, suggesting that Ali's Parkinson's disease was divine retribution. "People ask me if I feel sorry for him. Nope. Fact is, I don't give a damn. They want me to love him, but I'll open up the graveyard and bury his ass when the Lord chooses to take him," he wrote. In 2001, though, Ali apologized during a New York Times interview. "In a way, Joe's right. I said a lot of things in the heat of the moment that I shouldn't have said," Ali reflected. "I apologize for that. I'm sorry." — AFP



BALTIMORE: Members of the Baltimore Orioles stand on the field during a moment of silence for boxer Muhammad Ali before a baseball game against the New York Yankees. — AP



NEW YORK: In this July 17, 1975, file photo, sports promoter Don King stands between Muhammad Ali, left, the heavyweight champion, and Joe Frazier. — AP



## SPOT-FIXING CONVICT AMIR RETURNS FOR ENGLAND TESTS

**LAHORE:** Fast bowler Mohammad Amir has been named in Pakistan's Test squad to face England in a four-match series starting next month, six years after he received a spot-fixing ban against the same opponents. The 24-year-old, who also served a custodial sentence for the offence, is expected to receive his British visa in the next couple of days following a special request for leniency from the Pakistan Cricket Board.

Amir along with then-Pakistan captain Salman Butt and new-ball partner Mohammad Asif, were found guilty of

arranging deliberate no-balls in return for money during the Lord's Test against England in August 2010. In addition to receiving custodial sentences, all three players were banned for five years. Since returning from his suspension last September Amir has been a regular feature in Pakistan's one-day and Twenty20 sides but has yet to make his return to Tests.

His good form makes him an automatic choice for the team. Barring any visa problem or injury he is set to open the bowling for Pakistan when they take the field for the first Test on July 14 at

Lord's—the same venue where he committed his offence six years earlier. Chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq said Amir would receive a visa. "Amir is expected to get visa in the next couple of days and (Mohammad) Hafeez is also cleared by medical staff so we have included him," Inzamam told a press conference.

The Test squad will be led by Misbah-ul-Haq, who took on the captaincy in October 2010, a few months after the spot-fixing scandal. Opener Hafeez was selected subject to his full recovery from a knee injury sustained two months ago,

with selectors deciding to include him after team medics said he would regain fitness in the next few days.

Regular opener Ahmed Shehzad was not selected over disciplinary problems, leaving the opening positions to the inexperienced left-handed pair of Shan Masood, who has played seven Tests, and Sami Aslam, who has played one. Aslam, 20, however, starred against England during a Pakistan junior team tour in 2013, when he hit three centuries.

Pakistan's batting will also be tested but the experienced Younis Khan—who

toured England in 2001 and 2006 — will be their mainstay. Besides Younis, Azhar Ali and Hafeez are the only two who have played previously played Tests in England before. Wahab Riaz, Rahat Ali, Sohail Khan and Imran Khan will round out the pace attack while leg spinner Yasir Shah and left-arter Zulfikar Babar are the two spinners. The team are likely to leave for the tour on June 18 and hold a training camp in Hampshire before their first match against Somerset starting on July 5 and another against Sussex from July 8.—AFP

## OLYMPICS' REFUGEE TEAM TO BE 'SYMBOL OF HOPE' IN RIO

**LAUSANNE:** Ten refugee athletes from Africa and the Middle East were selected Friday to compete under the Olympic flag at the Rio de Janeiro Games in what the IOC said represents a "symbol of hope" for migrants and refugees around the world.

The members of the first ever Olympic refugee team include athletes from South Sudan, Syria, Congo and Ethiopia who will compete in track and field, swimming and judo. The team of six men and four women will march together behind the Olympic flag in the opening ceremony in Rio's Maracana stadium on Aug. 5.

"We're convinced this refugee Olympic team can send a symbol of hope to all refugees in the world," IOC President Thomas Bach said at the close of a three-day IOC executive board meeting in Lausanne. "It is also a signal to the international community that refugees are our fellow human beings and are an enrichment to society."

The team, selected from an initial pool of 43 candidates, will be overseen by Kenya's Tegla Loroupe, the former women's marathon world record-holder. Five coaches and five other team officials were also named by the IOC. Officially called the Refugee Olympic Team (ROT), the athletes will walk into the opening ceremony just ahead of the huge team from Brazil, the host nation that marches last in the parade of athletes from more than 200 countries.

### No home, no team, no flag

"These refugees have no home, no team, no flag, no national anthem," Bach said. "We will offer them a home in the Olympic Village together with all the athletes of the world. ... These refugee athletes will show the world that despite the unimaginable tragedies that they have faced, anyone can contribute to society through their talent, skills and strength of the human spirit."

The plan was first announced by the IOC at the United Nations last October amid the influx of migrants and refugees from armed conflicts in Syria, Africa, South Asia and other regions. "Having had their sporting

careers interrupted, these high-level refugee athletes will finally have the chance to pursue their dreams," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said. "Their participation in the Olympics is a tribute to the courage and perseverance of all refugees in overcoming adversity and building a better future for themselves and their families."

The team includes Syrian swimmers Yusra Mardini, now based in Germany, and Rami Anis, living in Belgium; South Sudanese runners Yiech Pur Biel (800 meters), James Nyang Chiengjiek (400), Anjelina Nada Lohalith (1,500), Rose Nathike Lokonyen (800) and Paulo Amotun Lokoro (1,500);

Congolese judo athletes Yolande Bukasa Mabika (70-kilogram category) and Popole Misenga (90 kgs), both living and training in Brazil; and Ethiopian marathon runner Yonas Kinde, now based in Luxembourg. The South Sudanese runners had been staying at the sprawling Kakuma refugee camp in northwestern Kenya when they were selected as potential Olympic athletes. They were then taken to a training camp near Nairobi run by Loroupe.

Mardini, the teenage Syrian swimmer, has generated heavy media attention. She and her sister, Sarah, were on a flimsy inflatable boat with other refugees making the perilous trip from Turkey to Greece when the dinghy started taking on water. While most of the refugees couldn't swim, the Mardini sisters jumped into the water and helped guide the boat to the Greek island of Lesbos. The sisters eventually made it to Germany, where they began training at a swimming pool in Berlin near their refugee center.

### New members

Also Friday, the IOC nominated eight new members — including a South Africa film producer, Colombia's former ambassador to the US and the female founder of an Indian charitable foundation. Formal ratification of the four men and four women will come at the full IOC session in Rio de Janeiro in August on the eve of the games. —AP

## ROSSI WINS GRAND PRIX OF CATALONIA

**BARCELONA:** Valentino Rossi gave his MotoGP world title prospects a massive boost with success in the Grand Prix of Catalonia yesterday at a sombre Montmelo circuit reeling from the tragic death of Luis Salom. Rossi got the better of a gripping dogfight in the closing laps with pole sitter Marc Marquez, who crossed in second to take the championship lead.

Jorge Lorenzo lined up leading the MotoGP standings but came away pointless after being wiped out by Andrea Iannone. Marquez leads the championship after this seventh leg of the season on 125 points from Lorenzo on 115 points and Rossi now in third on 103 points.

Salom suffered fatal injuries in a crash in practice for the Moto2 Grand Prix won earlier yesterday by Johann Zarco, who like Rossi and Moto3 winner Jorge Navarro dedicated his win to Salom. Salom was honoured by a minute's silence before racing. The stricken Spaniard was only eight years old when Rossi notched up his first world championship win in 2000.

### 114th career win

Sixteen years later the 37-year-old Italian veteran posted his 114th career win and 88th in the top division after employing all his skill, nerve and experience to shake off a determined Marquez. Given the difficult circumstances, there was a touching moment when the riders dismounted

as Rossi and Marquez shook hands, drawing a line under their bitter rivalry from 2015. "This is a great, great victory, one of the best of my career. It is for Salom and for his family," said the Yamaha star.

By lap five Rossi had fought his way up to second from fifth on the grid, and he then pushed past teammate Lorenzo, who slipped back to fourth. Lorenzo's hopes of a third straight win after Le Mans and Italy disappeared when an impetuous Iannone tried an ill-fated and dangerous overtaking move with nine laps left. Lorenzo was clearly furious at the Ducati rider's antics.

As the defending world champion trudged back to the stands, Marquez was in hot pursuit of his arch rival Rossi. He nudged his Honda up the inside of Rossi's bike to take a look with five laps remaining, only for Rossi to close the door. Two laps later Marquez muscled his way past, and it was nip and tuck between the pair until Rossi regained the lead to pull away and take the win by over two and a half seconds.

"I knew it would be hard, I was worried because when I was in front I was pushing a lot, but not enough to escape from Marc," said Rossi. Marquez said: "Of course this battle is for Salom." Rossi won his seventh race here and first since 2009. He will be encouraged by the fact that 15 of the last 19 Catalonia winners have gone on to clinch the title. —AFP



**ESTONIA:** In this photo taken on Thursday, June 2, 2016, Estonian athletes sisters Lily Luik, left, Liina Luik, center, and Leila Luik attend a training session after an interview with The Associated Press at a track. —AP

## THE TRIO FOR RIO: TRIPLETS PLAN TO RUN MARATHON

**TALLINN, Estonia:** Fans at the Rio Olympics will be seeing not just double, but triple in the women's marathon when identical triplets race together for the first time. Calling themselves the "Trio to Rio" and sporting identical uniforms and blonde ponytails, Estonians Leila, Lily and Liina Luik are used to spectators and officials mixing them up when they're competing. "They don't know who is who," Lily said. "Commentators see one of us is coming, and the other is a little bit later, and then comes the third one. It's like: 'So fast, you are already here.'"

The triplets joked among themselves and finished sentences during an interview with The Associated Press at a track in Estonia's capital. Asked how they decided to turn pro and try for the Olympics, Liina and Lily answered in unison "together." Twins are not uncommon in the history of the Olympics, which has many tales of sporting families. But triplets are a first,

according to Olympic historian Bill Mallon, who keeps a database of athletes.

The 30-year-old sisters are from the medieval city of Tartu, and they only turned pro at the relatively late age of 24. They don't come from an athletic family. Keen to play outside from a young age, they took up distance running because "we feel the nature vibe," Liina said. Lily said jokingly that the marathon is an "easier" way to travel than hiking.

### Family solidarity

Whether training or racing, the triplets have a relentless competitive drive and family solidarity. They want to break each other's personal best (currently held by Liina) but also race tactically, taking turns at the tiring task of leading the pack and facing greater wind resistance. "When its hard conditions and someone is little bit behind or weaker, we all push each other

"Go, go on, come on, don't stop," said Leila, the oldest. "Together we are like a dream team."

"If one of us has a bad competition or something, everyone feels that," Lily said. "Injuries (are) also very bad for us because if one of us couldn't compete somewhere it's ... not a complete team." The sisters are favored to take Estonia's three qualifying spots for the marathon, but they're not likely to win a medal since Leila's best time of 2 hours 37 minutes 11 seconds is almost 15 minutes slower than the Olympic record. There's a strong tradition of Nordic distance running, especially in Estonia's neighbor Finland, but African countries are the undisputed leaders of the modern marathon. Still, spirits are high for the "Trio to Rio." "The nervousness hasn't come to us," Lily said. "Definitely, it would be great to finish all together. It would be difficult, but we try it." —AP

## 'PROUD BRITISH FIGHTER' KHAN WANTS SUCCESS FOR PAKISTAN

**ISLAMABAD:** Boxer Amir Khan has denied betraying his British upbringing after being criticized for saying he would represent Pakistan at the Rio Games, insisting he only wanted to boost the sport in his parents' country of birth.

But the Bolton-born fighter also admitted he would not be willing to face an accompanying two-year ban from the World Boxing Council (WBC) that would jeopardize his professional career, making an Olympic appearance unlikely.

Speaking to AFP in an exclusive interview in Islamabad, where he launched his first boxing academy on Saturday, Khan said he was a "proud British fighter" who had represented his country at the Athens Olympics and would therefore not want to deprive fellow Britons of a ticket to Rio De Janeiro.

"I'm not doing it because I'm not happy being British. I'm a proud British fighter, but it's the way people took it out of context and calling me a traitor-I meant it in a way that I'd rather give someone else an opportunity instead because Pakistan has no boxers," he said. "But, you know, at the moment we are just waiting and seeing. I don't think I'll be allowed to do that anyway because obviously, the WBC, they won't allow it."

WBC president Mauricio Sulaiman has denounced a rule change by the International Boxing Association (IBA) allowing professionals to compete in the Olympics where they would face amateurs, calling the move dangerous. He vowed to impose a two-year ban on any professional fighter who chose to go amateur for the Games.

Amir's announcement was also met with consternation by some fans on social media and his former promoter Frank Warren, who wrote on boxingscene.com he was "a little disappointed" in Khan for seeking to represent Pakistan, given that it was his 2004 Olympic silver for Great Britain that launched his career.

### Stinging loss

The 29-year-old stands at a critical juncture in his career following a stinging loss to Saul "Canelo" Alvarez last month, that took his

career record to 31 wins and four losses. Khan, a two-time former welterweight world champion, stepped up two divisions to fight his brawny middleweight opponent after he was denied a coveted matchup with Floyd Mayweather, who retired last year.

He got off to a lightning start, but after dominating the early rounds was caught with a powerful overhand right that put him on the canvas in the sixth. Looking more trim than he appeared during the Nevada bout, Khan was sanguine about his loss and insisted he was looking forward to his next world title shot against WBC welterweight champion Danny Garcia. "I feel great. I feel young, fresh. I mean, the Alvarez fight, everything was going fine until I got caught with the big shot and that's boxing for you sometimes. One punch can change the fight. You can be winning the fight quite comfortably and I've seen it happen to the best of us. "So, I'm gonna go back to the drawing board and not make those mistakes. I know that my offence was amazing in that fight. But maybe tighten up a few little areas."

No longer the brash youngster who was

known for his fast cars and flashy lifestyle and who regularly made headlines for his speeding tickets, Khan now speaks passionately about the need to give back to those less fortunate—a trait he says he learned from his idol, the late Muhammad Ali. Last year, he travelled to the Greek island of Lesbos to lead a charitable drive for Syrian refugees, while his current trip to Pakistan has seen him raise money and pledge wells for the residents of Thar, a drought-ridden southern district home to some of the country's most destitute people.

Ali, he says, was "not just a champion but a people's champion and that's how I want to be." His academy in Islamabad modeled after the one he founded in Bolton, northwest England will seek out talent in a country which only boasts sporadic success in cricket. He said: "I really believe in the country. I really believe in the talent we have here, just like I did in the UK. I believed in talent in the UK and I produced amateur world champions and European champions and gold medalists and national champions. I want to do the same for Pakistan." —AFP



**RAWALPINDI:** British boxer Amir Khan (2nd right) poses for photographs with fans. —AFP



**MONTMELO:** MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi of Italy celebrates on the podium after winning the Catalunya Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack. —AP

## UKRAINE'S YARMOLENKO MUST STAY COOL IN EURO 2016 HEAT

**KIEV:** Ukraine forward Andriy Yarmolenko is one of a host of players hoping to use Euro 2016 to get a ticket out of his crisis-hit country to England's Premier League but may have to calm his temper. Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton and Stoke City are among clubs linked to a 32 million euro bid to sign the 26-year-old playmaker.

Everton failed to sign Yarmolenko who has 13 goals in 23 games for Dynamo Kiev after negotiations unravelled last year. They may try again. But the Ukrainian flag club's president, Igor Surkis, has said he would only consider an offer for Yarmolenko from a "top club". "My position is that we should not let Yarmolenko go to clubs like Everton

and Stoke City," Surkis told Ukrainian television, adding that transfer negotiations would begin after the European Championship finals. He has also turned down big money offers from China.

"We are playing in the Champions League and Stoke City is fighting for survival." If he signs with a big foreign club, Yarmolenko would join Sevilla's Yevhen Konoplyanka leading Ukraine's foreign legion. Yarmolenko helped Dynamo reach the Champions League's round of 16 this year for the first time in more than 15 years. Since joining the national team in 2009, Yarmolenko has earned 57 caps and scored 23 goals, trailing only retired striker Andriy Shevchenko in the national team's goalscoring rankings.

### Fiery temper

Yarmolenko started with Ukraine's FC Desna Chernihiv in 2006 after spending one year as a junior with Dynamo Kiev where he struggled with the training regimen. But Dynamo kept an eye on the forward, offering him a five-year contract in December 2016 after solid appearances with Chernihiv.

Early in his career Yarmolenko was compared to Shevchenko, who had an illustrious career with Dynamo Kiev, Milan and Chelsea and won the 2004 Ballon d'Or. Yarmolenko's international career has occasionally delivered striking moments, including a cross that led to a headed goal by Shevchenko in Ukraine's 2-1 win against Sweden at Euro 2012.

Yarmolenko will have to cool his fiery temper to ensure success on the international stage after a mass brawl against Shakhtar Donetsk on May 1 soured relations with Ukraine teammate Taras Stepanenko.

During the scuffle, Yarmolenko kicked Stepanenko after the Shakhtar Donetsk midfielder celebrated a goal during his team's 3-0 win against Dynamo. Yarmolenko was suspended for three matches and fined 50,000-hryvnia (\$2,000) over the incident. Stepanenko told Ukrainian television his "friendship is over" with Yarmolenko but would try to forget the incident for the sake of the national team. "The incident was intentional and he could have broken my

knee," Stepanenko said. "On the field, we are a team and I give it my all. But off the field, I'm not required to associate and have friendly relations with a given person." Ukraine manager Mykhalylo Fomenko has the uneasy task of ensuring rows involving Yarmolenko do not seep into the team's play.

Fomenko's squad failed to reach the 2014 World Cup finals as fighting raged between pro-Russian separatists and government troops in east Ukraine. Ukraine also struggled in the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign, finishing third in their group. The team beat Slovenia 3-1 in a playoff to qualify for the tournament, breaking its losing streak in the qualifying play-offs. —AFP

## LOEW WAITS ON SCHWEINSTEIGER, HUMMELS FOR OPENING MATCH

**GELSENKIRCHEN:** Germany Coach Joachim Loew says his priority is getting captain Bastian Schweinsteiger and key defender Mats Hummels fit for Euro 2016, following Saturday's 2-0 confidence-boosting friendly win over Hungary. Schweinsteiger played the last 23 minutes in Gelsenkirchen after three months sidelined by a torn medial knee ligament, while Hummels is out with a calf tear.

Manchester United star Schweinsteiger admits he is unlikely to play the full 90 minutes of Germany's opening Group C game at Euro 2016 against Ukraine in Lille on June 12 before facing Poland four days later, then Northern Ireland on June 21. Hummels has said he does not expect to be fit until at least their second game against Poland in Paris on June 16.

"He hasn't got any playing rhythm at the moment, so we'll have to see," said Loew when asked if Schweinsteiger will play in the world champions opening game. "We have to see how Hummels gets on." But Loew is confident both Sami Khedira and Jerome Boateng, who had to be treated on the pitch in Gelsenkirchen, will be fit to face Ukraine. "We took Sami Khedira off at the start of the second half as a precaution, Boateng had a pressed nerve, but was able to play on," added Loew. Germany's head coach was pleased to leave Gelsenkirchen with no significant injuries. Just as he did for the 2014 World Cup, Loew had to strike off winger Marco Reus from his final squad last Tuesday, this time with a groin injury after torn ankle ligaments ruled the Borussia Dortmund winger out of Brazil.

### Big boost

This was the first time Germany had kept a clean sheet in the last year and Loew was grateful for the win after an experimental side was humbled 3-1 by Slovakia in Augsburg last Sunday. "It was important to keep them down to nil, the win gives us a bit of stability and a good feeling for next week," added Loew.

A first-half own-goal by Hungary

defender Adam Lang and a second from Thomas Mueller sealed the Germans' win, but the biggest boost was seeing Schweinsteiger play his first football since injury in March. "It was good to get the first 25-odd minutes under my belt, but I don't honestly think I can play the 90 minutes of our first game," admitted Schweinsteiger.

"That said, I could do much before this Euro than I could two years ago before the World Cup," he added, having carried an ankle injury before Brazil 2014, but went on to produce a commanding performance for Germany the Rio de Janeiro final. Having toyed with playing a three-man defence, Loew reverted to the 4-2-3-1 which won Germany the title in Brazil.

He started with Cologne's Jonas Hector at right-back for the first-half, then Liverpool's Emre Can for the second, in the only defensive position still to be decided before the Euro starts. This was no more than a satisfactory performance from the world champions, who have a habit of raising their game for major tournaments.

"We started well and let the ball run for us, perhaps a bit too much," said Germany defender Boateng, whose superbly floated cross led to their second goal by Mueller. "After the break, we gave the ball away too much, but all in all it was a good performance. I believe we can be happy, we played better than in our previous game."

Hungary play Austria in their first Group F match on June 14 in Bordeaux, before also facing Portugal and Iceland, and their German coach Bernd Storck was pleased, despite the defeat. "We had a few good attempts to play from the back, but of course it's very difficult against such a good opponent," said Storck.

"It was obvious that we would be under pressure, but we did our best and gave a good account of ourselves. Our strength is how compact we are in defence and that is just how we'll be against Austria. We picked up some good insights ahead of the Euro and that will help for our first group game." —AFP



PASADENA: Brazil's Dani Alves heads the ball during their Copa America Centenario football tournament match, at the Rose Bowl stadium. — AFP

## ECUADOR HOLDS BRAZIL TO 0-0 TIE IN COPA AMERICA OPENER

**PASADENA:** Neymar showed up at the Rose Bowl for Brazil's Copa America opener against Ecuador, but was unable to influence his teammates from his luxury suite. Playing without its star attacker, Brazil was held to a scoreless draw with Ecuador on Saturday night in the Copa America opener for both teams at the Rose Bowl. "We have to get better but watching the game we were only missing the score," Brazil coach Dunga said. "The way we played, being our first game and playing against a good team, was well." Neymar skipped the tournament because he didn't have permission from Barcelona to play in both Copa America as well as the Olympics in Rio in August.

Ecuador came the closest to scoring in front of the crowd of 53,158, but an apparent goal was waved off as the ball was ruled to have gone out of bounds before the shot. Ecuador coach Gustavo Quinteros was convinced that the goal should have counted.

### Controversial call

On the play, Ecuador's Miller Bolanos chased down a ball near the goal line on the right side of the penalty area. Bolanos slipped a ball to the front of the goal, and Brazil's Alisson mishandled the ball and watched it bounce off his hands and into the goal. However, referee Julio Bascunan ruled that the ball crossed the goal line before Bolanos' shot and awarded Brazil a goal kick.

"I saw it 25 times on video replay," Quinteros said. "The entire ball did not go out. About 75-80 percent of it went out." Dunga meanwhile said he trusted his players' account. "I couldn't see anything," Dunga said. "It was tough to view. The players who were close to the play said the ball went out." With the result, Peru finished the day atop Group B after a 1-0 victory over Haiti 1-0 in Seattle earlier Saturday. Group B play resumes Wednesday as Brazil plays Haiti in Orlando while Ecuador will meet Peru in Glendale, Arizona.

Managing the roster has proven to be a challenge for Dunga as he was without several name players aside from Neymar. Bayern Munich's Douglas Costa and Orlando City's Kaka, a former FIFA Player of the Year were among the players ruled out due to injury. With many of the players having played nearly non-stop for the better part of a year, Dunga said it is no mystery why the roster was limited. "This is a problem that we need to find a solution for," he said. "It's the end of the season for the players. They are very tired from their trips and there were a lot of injuries because of that. But players that are here are very motivated. We definitely believe in these players." The draw maintained Brazil's dominance over Ecuador in Copa America. Brazil is 12-0-2 against Ecuador in the tournament.

### Even Stevens

Ecuador came out on the attack and held the ball for most of the first five minutes and threatened the Brazilian goal in the fifth minute, when Enner Valencia sent a shot wide. Brazil won more of the possession after that early spell. Ecuador goalkeeper Esteban Dreer turned away Brazil's first dangerous opportunity, stopping Philippe Coutinho's shot from six yards out.

Determined and finding space, Brazil continued to pressure Ecuador but could not get the ball into any positions of danger. Jonas' header

tripped Valencia after the Ecuadorian fouled him. Fouls dominated the early moments of the second half. Ecuador's Arturo Mina picked up Ecuador's first yellow card of the match two minutes after the intermission after fouling Coutinho. Ecuador picked up two more yellow cards in the second half, with Valencia and Jaime Ayovi earning cautions for reckless fouls.

Brazil's Dani Alves donned the captain's armband, replacing club teammate Neymar with the captaincy. Even without Neymar or Douglas Costa, Brazil's lineup was still formidable. Seven of the starters play in Europe, with the likes of Coutinho (Liverpool), Willian (Chelsea) and Casemiro (Real Madrid) on the field. — AP

## RECORD BREAKER GUERRERO SINKS HAITI IN 1-0 VICTORY

**SEATTLE:** Peru striker Paolo Guerrero overtook Teofilo Cubillas as his country's top goal scorer here Saturday, scoring a diving header to sink Haiti 1-0 in their Copa America Centenario clash. Guerrero, a talismanic figure for the Peruvians who was tournament top scorer in both the 2011 and 2015 editions of the Copa America, pounced on 61 minutes to break Haiti's resistance.

The 32-year-old striker, who now plays for Flamengo in Brazil, powered home a header Edison Flores' cross as Peru opened their Group B campaign with a win at Seattle's CenturyLink Field, home of the Seattle Seahawks NFL team. The win was just about deserved for Peru, who created the better chances but struggled to break down a well-organized Haiti defense. After a slow start, Peru could have taken the lead on the stroke of half-time when Guerrero headed into the

path of Flores. Flores burst onto the ball and unleashed a fierce shot which cannoned back off the foot of the upright as Haiti escaped.

Peru increased the tempo in the second half and only a fine block by Haiti goalkeeper and captain Johny Placide denied Renzo Revoredo in the 59th minute. That chance should have served as a warning for Haiti, but two minutes later Peru took the lead with Guerrero's goal when Flores found space down the left and curled in an inviting cross for the former Bayern Munich player to head home.

Peru looked to be cruising to three points but had a scare in the dying seconds when Haiti's Kervens Belfort somehow headed wide from close range with the goal at his mercy. Haiti face Brazil in their next game on Wednesday while Peru take on South American rivals Ecuador.



SEATTLE: Peru's Paolo Guerrero (L) celebrates next to Peru's Alejandro Hohberg after scoring against Haiti during the Copa America Centenario football tournament. — AFP



GELSENKIRCHEN: Germany's Bastian Schweinsteiger claps hands to supporters after winning the international friendly soccer match between Germany and Hungary. — AP

## FRENCH TEAM HAS ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR EURO

**METZ:** Despite a troubled build-up to Euro 2016 off the field, France showed that they are ready on it by brushing aside Scotland 3-0 in Metz in their last pre-tournament friendly on Saturday. A brace from Olivier Giroud and a header from his Arsenal colleague Laurent Koscielny, all in the first half, separated the teams at the Stade Saint-Symphorien, and France could have won by a far greater margin.

If the country itself has been marred by social strife and miserable weather and weighed down by terrorism fears, Didier Deschamps' team have had a difficult build-up due to the Karim Benzema affair and injuries to key players in defence. However, the reality is that France merit their tag as one of the pre-tournament favourites to win the European Championship.

"We will be ready. We have been preparing for two years," said Deschamps, whose side kick off their Euro bid against Romania at the Stade de France on Friday. "This was good for confidence. We showed we are capable of scoring goals and we didn't concede any. We could have scored more in the second half. It is positive but we are not getting carried away and neither are the players." The difficulty will come on Friday against Romania but this was our last preparation game and it is

always good to end on a high note."

Despite the absence of Real Madrid star Benzema, sidelined due to his implication in the Mathieu Valbuena sextape blackmail scandal, this is a team bristling with attacking potential. Against Scotland, France may only have won by three but they could easily have won by double that margin, and they have now netted 13 times in four matches in 2016. Les Bleus have also won nine of 10 games going back to September, the sole exception being the 2-0 defeat to England at Wembley, played in a difficult context just days after the November Paris terror attacks.

### Giroud answers critics

Watching from the stand in Metz, Romania assistant coach Viorel Moldovan can only have admired France's attacking strength, as the maligned Giroud followed up his goal in last Monday's 3-2 defeat of Cameroon in Nantes with a brace. "He already answered (the critics) in Nantes. He scored and scored again, and the other players are behind him," said Deschamps of a player who has seven goals in France's last seven outings. "When a player is in difficulty they are all with him. He was not so much in difficulty but he was being heckled from outside. I have confidence in him and so do his team-mates." —AFP

## COSTA RICA SEE RED IN DRAW WITH PARAGUAY

**ORLANDO:** Two-times South American champions Paraguay were held to a goalless draw by Costa Rica in sultry conditions at the Citrus Bowl on Saturday in Copa America Centenario Group A. Costa Rica ended the game with 10 men after defender Kendall Waston was sent off in injury time for a wild challenge on Nelson Valdez.

The result leaves Colombia who beat the United States in Friday's opener, alone at the top of the group with three points. Waston will be suspended for Costa Rica's game on Tuesday in Chicago against the United States. The intense heat and humidity, with the temperature at kick-off around 92 degrees Fahrenheit (33 degrees Celsius) was blamed by both teams for what was, in the end, a disappointing spectacle in front of a disappointingly small crowd of 14,334.

Paraguay coach Ramon Diaz said it was "crazy" to have scheduled the match to be played at 5pm local (Eastern) time. "The needs of players need to be taken into account they are the ones who put on the spectacle," he told reporters. Costa Rica forward Bryan Ruiz agreed saying: "The heat definitely effected the game, it could have been a much better game in different conditions."

Given those conditions, both sides were wary over over-exerting themselves but it was Paraguay who got an early grip on possession. Striker Jorge Benitez, who plays his club football in Mexico for Cruz Azul, showed some excellent footwork to create space inside the box in the ninth and his low cross was almost turned into his own net by Costa Rica defender Celso Borges.

### Old-fashioned style winger

Paraguay went close again when Paulo Da Silva flashed a header wide after a well-timed run to meet a corner from Oscar

Romero. Romero, an old-fashioned style winger, entertained the crowd with some delightful touches, clever dribbling and intelligent passing, but Paraguay were unable to turn their possession and creativity into real chances.

Costa Rica, quarter-finalists in the World Cup two years ago, played a more direct style, looking to find forwards Joel Campbell and Ruiz quickly, but they were unable to find much in the way of fluidity to their play. Ruiz was a threat with a flashing header but it went straight into the arms of Paraguay's veteran goalkeeper Justo Villar.

At the other end, Benitez won possession inside the Costa Rica half and showed great pace as he burst goalwards, but his right foot shot flashed wide of the post. After the break, the two sides struggled to pick up their rhythm again and it was not until the 71st minute that there was a real threat on goal when Paraguay defender Gustavo Gomez had a header from a Derlis Gonzalez corner well saved by Costa Rica keeper Patrick Pemberton.

With three minutes left, Costa Rica substitute Christian Bolanos caused Villar problems with a low shot from over 25 years out which bounced awkwardly in front of the 38-year-old keeper who pushed it wide.

"We struggled in the first 20 minutes when they really controlled the game," said Costa Rica coach Oscar Ramirez. "But I thought that after the break we were able to dominate them in the way they had dominated us and in the end we had the chances to win the game. It feels like two points lost rather than a point gained," he said. Argentine Diaz disagreed: "If I analyze the whole game, I think we were the ones who could have won it. I was pleased with the way the boys played." — AFP

## INFANTINO WEIGHS COMPLAINT OF 'THEFT' OF FIFA RECORDING

**GENEVA:** FIFA President Gianni Infantino claims he could make a criminal complaint over an unauthorized recording of a meeting that revealed comments damaging his reputation. Infantino told Sunday's edition of Swiss daily Le Matin he had "a good idea" how details of a FIFA Council meeting in Mexico City last month had leaked.

"I reserve the right to make a complaint about theft of sensitive data," said Infantino, whose three-month-old presidency has exposed rifts at FIFA where Sepp Blatter's 17-year reign ended mired in scandal. Leaks to German-language newspapers in recent days showed Infantino describe a \$2 million salary offer as "insulting" and detailed Council talks about getting FIFA audit and compensation panels chairman Domenico Scala to leave.

"My enemies want to make me look greedy, it's stupid," said Infantino, who insists he is negotiating a salary of less than \$2 million. On Friday, FIFA revealed that Blatter and recently fired top officials Jerome Valcke and Markus Kattner awarded themselves contracts paying a total of \$80 million in five years. That long-awaited release of top pay deals at FIFA was made as news emerged that Swiss police had raided FIFA headquarters on Thursday. The latest seizure of evidence seemed provoked by Kattner's firing for an ongoing investigation of suspected criminal mismanagement, including the award of World Cup broadcasting rights.

### 'Further persons unknown'

Police searched the office of former finance director Kattner but not his own, Infantino noted. FIFA fired Kattner on May 23 for breach of trust, and suggested possible illegal clauses in his employment contract. Ten days later, Swiss police came to FIFA to seize documents and electronic

data for its case against Blatter, former secretary general Valcke - who already have criminal proceedings opened against them - and "further persons unknown."

Within 24 hours, FIFA outlined the pay raises, World Cup bonuses and other financial incentives that Blatter, Valcke and Kattner received in recent years. FIFA suggested some clauses guaranteeing Valcke and Kattner termination pay and indemnification for future legal costs could breach Swiss law. Kattner's already-lengthy contract was extended in May last year through 2023 just four days after a sprawling American indictment of FIFA and marketing officials was revealed.

Switzerland's federal prosecution office confirmed Friday that FIFA has not yet filed criminal complaints over the contracts. FIFA has said documents that justified firing Kattner were found only in mid-May as part of an ongoing year-long internal inquiry by its retained US law firm, Quinn Emanuel.

"With all that is going on right now, we can expect anything (to emerge)," Infantino was quoted saying in the Swiss interview, his first since the latest police intervention. In a difficult period of high-profile officials leaving and leaks to media, Infantino is reportedly the subject of a complaint to FIFA ethics prosecutors for ordering the unauthorized copy of the audio file to be deleted.

"If there is a destruction operation, it is directed against me," the FIFA head said in yesterday's interview, dismissing "carefully orchestrated hysteria" in the media to undermine him. Infantino also aimed a barb at Scala, whose resignation from FIFA in protest against the president was announced as officials left Mexico City three weeks ago. Scala's criticism was "childish behavior worthy of a playground," his fellow Swiss-Italian Infantino said. — AP



PARIS: Spain's Garbine Muguruza receives the trophy after winning the final of the French Open tennis tournament against Serena Williams of the US, rear, in two sets 7-5, 6-4, at the Roland Garros stadium. — AP

## CHAMP MUGURUZA GREW UP ADMIRING WILLIAMS, NOW TAKES TITLE FROM HER

**PARIS:** Garbine Muguruza grew up watching the Williams sisters win Grand Slam titles and transform the way women's tennis was played. Muguruza admired them. She loved the way the American siblings played. The way they competed. The way they carried themselves. "I really like that they were very ambitious," Muguruza said. "Every time they were playing, those girls, they really (wanted) to win. They're very powerful. They intimidate the other people."

Now, at age 22, Muguruza is a major champion herself, taking the French Open title away from Serena Williams with a 7-5, 6-4 victory in the final Saturday to do it. And Muguruza made clear afterward that she wants to continue to collect her sport's most important trophies. "Of course I'm very happy, but I'd like to have more," Muguruza said. "My dream is to continue and win more tournaments, similar tournaments, and to dominate."

That's what the younger Williams has done for years. She owns 21 Grand Slam championships, one shy of Steffi Graf's Open-era record, but has been having a hard time getting No 2. For a stretch of four major tournaments, up through a victory over Muguruza in the Wimbledon final last year, Williams went unbeaten, taking every title. Since then, though,

Williams lost to Roberta Vinci in the semifinals of the US Open, where Flavia Pennetta wound up with her first major championship (and last, because she then announced her retirement); to Angelique Kerber in the Australian Open final, and now to Muguruza.

It is the first time since 2011-12 that three consecutive major trophies went to a first-time women's champion. "I thought about it. I thought about it yesterday. I'm like, 'Come on ... You can do it,'" Muguruza said. "When you see people that are winning, and there's new faces, (it) makes you think, like, 'I can be one of those faces.'" There is no doubt that she is.

### Climbing the ranks

When the new WTA rankings come out today, Muguruza will move up from No 4 to a career-best No 2, with only Williams ahead of her. The Spaniard demonstrates the same sort of determination on a court that she observed in Williams and her sibling, hitting hard groundstrokes, aiming for lines, taking risks that bring real rewards.

"She likes to go for her shots. And in moments where, you know, you could be tense, and some other players would be tense, she goes for it," said Conchita Martinez, the only

Spanish woman to win Wimbledon, in 1994, and now the captain of the country's Davis Cup and Fed Cup teams. "Serena does that, too."

Martinez had this to add about Muguruza: "I'm sure she is going to win more Grand Slams." Few would argue, especially when hearing Muguruza talk about how she knows there are parts of her game that she wants to improve, starting with her serve. As for Williams, it's never a good idea to write her off, even if she is 34 and already the oldest woman to be No 1, along with the oldest to win a Grand Slam title in the Open era.

Graf's mark is still out there, still something to chase, still within reach. "It's not easy to match records," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "We'll get there. It will take the time that it takes. As long as we're in Grand Slam finals and semifinals, we'll have many opportunities to do it." He continued: "If she did this with ease, she wouldn't be human."

Muguruza's coach, Sam Sumyk, was asked whether this was the end of the Williams era. "No, no, no, no, no, no, no. You're jumping the gun there. No, no, no, no, no. She is still here," Sumyk replied. "She will be around for a long time, I hope. She is a fantastic player, and we need her." — AP

## MINNOWS GUINEA-BISSAU REACH FIRST CAN FINALS

**JOHANNESBURG:** Guinea-Bissau secured a place at the Africa Cup of Nations for the first time yesterday after closest rivals Congo Brazzaville lost 2-1 in Kenya. Congo, needing at least a draw to keep alive their hopes of winning Group E, suffered a surprise defeat despite taking the lead through a controversially awarded penalty. Guinea-Bissau, who beat Zambia 3-2 on Saturday with a goal from Brito six minutes into stoppage time, have an unassailable four-point lead with one round left.

The team from the tiny former Portuguese colony in West Africa were considered no-hopers by pundits when qualifying kicked off last June. But solitary-goal home and away victories over Kenya three months ago lifted them to the top of the table while Congo and Zambia drew twice. Ranked 31st in Africa and 115th in the world, Guinea-Bissau never previously came close to reaching the biennial African football showcase.

Many of the team coached by local Baciro Cande play in Portugal and favor Brazilian-style football names. The real name of Brito, who is with top-flight outfit Sporting Clube de Braga, is Piqueti Djassi Brito Silva. Prince Oniangue converted the penalty for Congo only for Ayub Timbe to equalize soon after and Erick Johana scored the second-half Kenyan winner.

Captain Andre 'Dede' Ayew opened the scoring as Ghana triumphed 2-0 in Mauritius to also qualify. The Swansea City midfielder and son of former Ghana superstar Abedi 'Pele' Ayew struck from close range after 71 minutes in Belle Vue on the Indian Ocean island. Two Mauritians failed to cut off a cross and Ayew controlled the ball before firing a left-foot shot past outstanding goalkeeper Kevin Jean-Louis.

### Ghanaian raids

Dominant Ghana sealed victory three minutes later through Chelsea midfielder Christian Atsu, who was voted the outstanding footballer of the 2015 Cup of Nations. Mauritius were battling to contain Ghanaian raids on the left flank and from one the ball was cut back for Atsu to score with a hard, low shot. Although they never threatened to breach the Black Stars defence, Mauritius were a much improved team from that humiliated 7-1 in Ghana last June. Ghana have 13 points in Group H, Rwanda and Mauritius six each and Mozambique four with one matchday to come in September.

Zimbabwe were another country to book a place in the finals after whipping Malawi 3-0 in Harare while Group L rivals Guinea fell 1-0 in Swaziland. Knowledge Musona was fouled inside the box and converted the penalty on 16 minutes to set up the convincing home victory. Recently crowned South African Footballer of the Year Khama Billiat doubled the lead on 36 minutes, firing a cut-back into the net from close range.

Roared on by a 40,000 crowd at the national stadium, Zimbabwe struck again a minute from time through a Cuthbert Malajila header. Morocco, Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt and Senegal have also qualified for the January 21-February 12 tournament while Gabon are automatic participants as hosts. — AFP



NAIROBI: Prince Oniangue (R) celebrates with teammate Clevid Dikamona after scoring during the CAN 2017 qualifying football match at the Moi International Sports center Kasarani. — AFP



SANTA CLARA, California: FIFA President Gianni Infantino, center, watches the opening ceremony of the Copa America Centenario at Levi's Stadium. — AP

## MOURINHO TO DELIVER UNITED TITLE GLORY IN TWO YEARS SAYS CARVALHO

**LONDON:** New Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho will deliver the Premier League title within two years, predicted defender Ricardo Carvalho yesterday. "Jose will have something to prove after what happened at Chelsea," the Portuguese international who was coached by Mourinho at Chelsea, Porto and Real Madrid and now plays for Monaco, wrote in The Sun newspaper. "I think he will make Manchester United better and in the next two years they will be champions."

Carvalho's comments come on a day when Mourinho could make his first appearance at Old Trafford since being named as Louis van Gaal's successor in yesterday's prestigious Soccer Aid charity match. Just nine days after the official confirmation of Mourinho's appointment, the 53-year-old will be in Manchester to give his support to UNICEF, who use the friendly fixture to raise money for children in danger.

The former Chelsea boss had agreed to

manage an 'England' team consisting of former internationals, musicians, actors and other celebrities, against a Rest of the World team coached by Leicester chief Claudio Ranieri and featuring a host of retired legends. But, following his move to United, Mourinho could instead decide to save his first game on the home bench for the Premier League club's clash with Everton in Wayne Rooney's testimonial on August 3.

Carvalho believes Mourinho, who has won the Premier League title three times, has something to prove after his tricky time at Chelsea. "He is a great coach and now he is in a great club - United are one of the biggest in the world. I have no doubt that he can bring trophies back to United again and that he will make them champions. I don't know if it will be in the first year, the second year or the third, but Mourinho will win the title again. My prediction is that it will be in the second year." — AFP

# Sports

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up admiring  
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PARIS: Serbia's Novak Djokovic falls as he defeats Britain's Andy Murray during their final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium. — AP

## DJOKOVIC WINS 1ST FRENCH OPEN TITLE

### MURRAY OVERWHELMED AFTER DREAM START

**PARIS:** Novak Djokovic captured a first French Open at the 12th time of asking yesterday, becoming just the third man in history to hold all four Grand Slam titles at the same time. The world number one downed old rival Andy Murray 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to claim a 12th career major and join Don Budge in 1938 and Rod Laver, in 1962 and 1969, as the only players to simultaneously possess the French Open, Australian Open, US Open and Wimbledon trophies.

Djokovic, 29, also put himself halfway to the calendar Grand Slam, last achieved by Laver 47 years ago. But he did it the hard way as the final reached its conclusion, being broken in the eighth game of the fourth set as he served for the title and then squandering two championship points in the 10th before he sealed victory when Murray netted a backhand.

"It's a very special moment, the biggest of my career," said Djokovic, one of only eight men to complete the career Grand Slam and who had lost his previous three finals in Paris. "I felt today something that I never felt before at Roland Garros, I felt the love of the crowd."

Djokovic imitated former three-time champion Gustavo Kuerten by drawing a giant heart in the Paris clay before collapsing inside it. "I drew the heart on the court, like Guga who gave me permission to do. My heart will always be with you on this court." Playing in his 20th final at the majors and sixth in succession, the Serb superstar is the first man since Jim Courier in 1992 to win the Australian and French Opens back-to-back.

Victory also allowed Djokovic to stretch his winning record over 29-year-old Murray to 24-10 overall and 8-2 in Grand Slams. Murray, the world number two and the first British

man in the final in Paris since Bunny Austin in 1937, remains with two Grand Slam titles as he failed to become the first winner of the French Open since Fred Perry 81 years ago. Before a ball was hit, spectators stood to applaud Muhammad Ali after an image of the boxing legend, who died Friday, appeared on the giant video screen high up on the Philippe Chatrier court.

Djokovic admitted to a pre-match TV interviewer that it was certain to be an emotional afternoon although he was quickly into his stride, breaking Murray to love in the first game and shrugging off having to play five days in the last six. The British star broke back to level before reeling off the next four games for a 4-1 lead as Djokovic's game quickly and unexpectedly unravelled. Murray remained in charge, finding time to loudly berate a French television interview-

er for climbing uninvited into his player's box overlooking the court.

Djokovic then argued with umpire Damien Dumosis for refusing to have a point replayed at 15-0 as Murray served for the first set. But the Serb was horribly out of sorts even before that spat with his 13 unforced errors proving fatal. The world number one had to shake off a break point in the opening game of the second set before Murray obligingly imploded, dropping serve to fall 2-0 behind.

Djokovic misread the geometry on a dropshot which would have given him a double break in the fourth game but he was soon 4-1 to the good. The top seed remained ruthlessly dialled-in, broke again for 5-1 and levelled the final when Murray dumped a service return into the net. Djokovic, with the Paris crowd loudly on his

side for the first time in four final appearances, broke for 2-1 in the third set which became 4-1 off a sublime running, backhand, cross-court drop-shot.

The Serb saved four break points to go to 5-1 before securing the set against a weary-looking Murray who had spent five hours longer on court than Djokovic and played two five-setters in the opening rounds to get to his first French Open final. Djokovic kept his foot on Murray's throat, breaking in the first game of the fourth set as the second seed carried on a running argument with the umpire over the positioning of the overhead camera. The Serb broke to love for 5-2 and history was just moments away. However, there was still time for a twist as he cracked when serving for the title before finally sealing the triumph after three hours on court. — AFP

## IBRAHIMOVIC HELPS TO DEEPEN WALES GLOOM AHEAD OF EURO

**STOCKHOLM:** Zlatan Ibrahimovic out-shone Gareth Bale as Sweden eased to a 3-0 victory over fellow European Championship qualifiers Wales in Stockholm yesterday. Ibrahimovic set up the opener for Emil Forsberg at the Friends Arena before Mikael Lustig and John Guidetti scored second-half goals. It was a convincing display for Sweden ahead of Euro 2016 but Wales manager Chris Coleman has plenty to worry about with just one victory in seven games ahead of their first appearance at a major tournament since the 1958 World Cup.

Bale had missed the previous three friendlies, none of which Wales won, since the successful qualification campaign but started on the substitutes bench just eight days after winning the Champions League with Real Madrid. Crystal Palace's Jonny Williams partnered Aaron Ramsey and made a lively start behind sole striker Burnley's Sam Vokes, in for the injured Hal Robson-Kanu.

Coleman handed Premier League winner Andy King and Nottingham Forest's David Vaughan a chance to impress in the absence of midfield duo Joe Allen and Joe Ledley. With Bale on the bench, it was left to Sweden's talisman Ibrahimovic to take centre stage and he created an early chance for Martin Olsson that he blazed over the bar inside a minute.

Lustig followed with a similar effort before Marcus Berg saw his shot blocked by Ashley Williams from Forsberg's pass. Ibrahimovic was finding space in front of Wales' trio of centre-backs and steadily became a bigger influence on the game. He was allowed time to strike a firm shot from the edge of the box and then a free-kick after Vaughan's foul on Forsberg, though neither were on target. However it was his break and pass that set up the opening goal five minutes before half-time.

The goal followed a rare Welsh attack that broke down when Ramsey felt he was pulled back off the ball. Ibrahimovic led the counter-attack, beating Ashley Williams to the ball before laying a pass into the path of the on-rushing Forsberg, who placed his shot under the leg of Vaughan and to the left of goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey.

The Crystal Palace goalkeeper made way for Danny Ward at half-time and the Liverpool rookie swiftly had his defenders to thank. Ward was beaten by Berg's delicate chip just three minutes into the second half but James Chester slid to clear the ball off the line. Davies then blocked a powerful strike by Lustig but the Celtic defender made sure with Sweden's second just three minutes later.

Lustig rose highest at a corner but Ward saved from close-range. Neil Taylor then blocked Erik Johansson's follow-up but neither defender nor keeper could prevent Lustig's second attempt squeezing through on 57 minutes. With his side 2-0 ahead, Sweden coach Erik Hamren decided Ibrahimovic had done enough and substituted him on the hour.

Wales then suffered an injury scare when Ashley Williams was in pain after seeming to fall awkwardly, though the captain was able to play on after treatment. Bale was given little under half-an-hour of action as a 63rd minute replacement for King as Coleman also rang the changes. The Real Madrid star dusted himself off after a heavy foul by Jimmy Durmaz late on. From the resulting free-kick, which he took and struck the wall, Sweden scored their third. Guidetti latched onto Lustig's long pass, headed past Williams before finishing right-footed past a helpless Ward to complete a comprehensive win in the 87th minute. — AFP



SOLNA: Sweden's forward and team captain Zlatan Ibrahimovic controls the ball during the friendly football match between Sweden and Wales at Friends Arena. — AFP

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BERN: Ueli Maurer, Swiss Federal Councillor and finance minister, Doris Leuthard, Swiss Federal Councillor and transport minister, and Simonetta Sommaruga, Swiss Federal Councillor and justice minister, from left to right, speak during a press conference of the Swiss government on the results of today's ballots, in Bern, Switzerland, Sunday, June 5 2016. Swiss Voters yesterday voted on five issues: A basic income for all; public service reforms; a law on prenatal genetic screening; a plan to speed up asylum procedures and a proposal to boost road finance.—AP

## SWISS SAY 'NO THANKS' TO BASIC INCOME FOR ALL

GENEVA: The Swiss yesterday flatly rejected a radical proposal to provide the entire population with a basic income.

Final results in the referendum showed 76.9 percent of voters opposed the initiative to provide an unconditional, basic income (UBI) to each Swiss national, along with foreigners who have been legal residents for at least five years. Supporters had argued that such an income would help fight poverty and inequality in a world where good jobs with steady salaries are increasingly hard to come by. The group behind the initiative had suggested paying 2,500 Swiss francs (\$2,500/2,300 euros) a month to each adult and 625 francs for each child. Such a sum, however, would hardly cover basic living costs in Switzerland, which is one of the world's priciest nations where the mean income is above 6,000 francs a month.

The idea, which stirred up debate both in Switzerland and abroad, was embraced in a few cantons in the cantons of Jura and Vaud, while several neighbourhoods of Geneva and Zurich voted in favour.

But overall, the response from the 46 percent of eligible voters who cast their ballots was a resounding "no", in line with the recommendation from the government and nearly all political parties. The scheme to dish out an income to people whether they work or not was controversial from the start in Switzerland—a country where craftsmanship and work ethic are highly valued.

### 'MARXIST DREAM'

Andreas Ladner, a political scientist at Lausanne University, told RTS the Swiss were "realistic" in their assessment of the UBI plan.

Accepting that people can "be paid without having to work would have been a very big step" for the industrious Swiss, he said.

Critics condemned the initiative as "a Marxist dream", warning of sky-high costs and people quitting their jobs in droves, causing economic chaos.

Authorities have estimated an additional 25 billion francs would be needed annually to cover the costs, requiring deep spending cuts or steep tax hikes.

That argument likely hit home with

the Swiss who have previously turned up their nose at initiatives that would have ushered in a minimum wage and increased paid holidays from a minimum four to six weeks, fearing they would hurt competitiveness.

But supporters of the UBI initiative were not cowed by the resounding defeat, insisting that their main objective had been to get people talking about the idea.

"We are very happy," Ralph Kundig, one of the lead campaigners, told the ATS news agency. Supporters threw a party in Lausanne to celebrate the 23 percent of votes they had garnered. "One out of five people voted for the unconditional basic income, so that is a success in itself," Sergio Rossi, an economics professor and backer of the initiative, told ATS.

### EUROPE-WIDE DEBATE

The idea of a basic income has been bouncing around in more radical circles for centuries, but it has recently entered mainstream thinking. Projects to introduce some variation of the UBI, albeit at a lower level than the Swiss proposal, are underway in a range of countries, including in Finland and the Dutch city of Utrecht. Yesterday's referendum came after reformers mustered more than the 100,000 signatures required to hold a popular vote, a feature of the Swiss system of direct democracy. While the UBI initiative was clobbered, several other contentious issues put to the vote Sunday sailed through.

A full 66.8 percent of voters and all 26 cantons embraced a government push to speed up the country's asylum process, despite harsh opposition from the populist rightwing Swiss People's Party.

The aim is for most cases to be handled within 140 days or less, compared to an average of around 400 days at the moment. And 62.4 percent of voters and all but three half-cantons supported a call to allow genetic testing of embryos before they are inserted in cases of in vitro fertilisation where either parent carries a serious hereditary disease. No screening would be permitted for elements like gender, hair and eye colours, but that has not stopped opponents from dubbing the initiative the "eugenics law". —AFP

## US HIRING GRINDS TO A NEAR-HALT, MANY STOP LOOKING FOR WORK

WASHINGTON: US hiring slowed to a near-standstill in May, sowing doubts about the economy's health and complicating the Federal Reserve's efforts to raise interest rates. While unemployment slid from 5 percent to 4.7 percent, the lowest since November 2007, the rate fell for a troubling reason: Nearly a half-million jobless Americans stopped looking for work and so were no longer counted as unemployed.

Employers added just 38,000 jobs in May, the fewest in over five years. Less-educated workers bore the brunt of the hiring slump, with a quarter-million high school dropouts losing their jobs in May. That has perpetuated a long-term trend toward a two-tiered job market, with college-educated adults more likely to be employed and earning steady raises. "The shockingly low payrolls gain in May provides further evidence that the economy is showing clear signs of slowing," said Laura Rosner, an economist at BNP Paribas.

The much-weaker-than-expected figure raised doubts that the Federal Reserve will increase short-term interest rates at its next meeting in mid-June or perhaps even at its subsequent meeting in July. Many analysts had expected an increase by July.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial aver-

age closed down 32 points, for a loss of 0.2 percent. The disappointing report spilled into the presidential race, with Donald Trump referring to it on Twitter as a "terrible jobs report" and a "bombshell." The figures come just days after President Barack Obama touted his economic record in Elkhart, Indiana.

Americans particularly worried about the economy have been more likely to support outsider candidates such as Trump and Democratic Sen. Bernie Sanders. Trump's support has also come disproportionately from adults without college degrees, and Friday's report served as a stark reminder that less-educated Americans have continued to lose economic ground even as overall hiring and growth have picked up since the Great Recession. Essentially all of the 7 million jobs added over the past decade belong to workers with at least some college experience. The number of high school graduates with jobs is 3 million lower than 10 years ago.

### NOT COMING BACK

"The high school jobs are gone and they're not coming back," said Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce. "It's driven by a funda-

mental shift from an industrial economy to a post-industrial economy."

Craig Lloyd, 27, has mostly worked part-time jobs in restaurants in Wichita, Kansas, since graduating from high school 10 years ago. Some paid as little as minimum wage, while his most recent position as a sous-chef paid \$12 an hour.

Three months ago, he started his own business selling burritos out of a friend's food truck on weekends. His wife is returning to school to get her degree, but he doesn't plan to do so himself. "I've really put off getting a higher education, because of the debt that you can incur," Lloyd said. The hiring stall could be temporary, economists noted. There have been hiring lulls before in the seven-year recovery. But job gains in March and April were also revised downward on Friday, leaving average monthly hiring at a pace of just 116,000 in the past three months. That's sharply below last year's average of nearly 230,000. The share of Americans who are working or searching for jobs - a figure known as the labor force participation rate - fell in May to 62.6 percent, near a four-decade low.

Separately, Lael Brainard, a Fed board member and ally of Chair Janet Yellen, signaled Friday that the Fed should be in no hurry to act, especially after the bleak jobs report.

### FED TO MEET

The Fed meets next on June 14-15. Economists now see little chance of a rate increase at that time. The Fed raised the short-term rate last December after holding it at nearly zero for seven years. Fed officials may not keep investors guessing for long: Yellen will speak Monday in a closely watched address that may show how she has interpreted Friday's report. The May job gain was lowered by the Verizon workers' strike, which depressed hiring in the telecom sector by 37,000. In addition, manufacturers, construction companies and temporary help agencies all shed jobs. Retailers, hotels and restaurants added jobs, but at a slower pace than in recent months.

Employers probably cut back on hiring after the economy grew at just a 0.8 percent annual rate in the January-March quarter. Yet Friday's dismal jobs report was a surprise in part because most recent economic reports have been encouraging: Consumer spending surged in April. Home sales and construction have also increased. Sales of new homes reached an eight-year high in April. Most economists expect growth will rebound in the April-June quarter to about a 2.5 percent annual pace. — AP



WASHINGTON: This file photo taken on May 24, 2016 shows commuters as they get off a Metro train in Washington, DC. The US economy generated a paltry 38,000 net new jobs in May, a quarter of that expected, in a shock report that could sway the Federal Reserve to refrain from raising interest rates. The Labor Department's May jobs report said job creation fell to the lowest monthly level since September 2010, the last time the jobs market actually contracted. — AFP

KBA ANNOUNCES RULES FOR KUWAIT ELECTRONIC CHEQUE CLEARING SYSTEM

KUWAIT: Kuwait Banking Association (KBA) would like to draw the attention of all local banks' clients as well as clients of other banks operating in Kuwait, that in the near future, all banks will no longer accept processing cheques, issued in Kuwaiti Dinars, that do not conform with the standards and security features as prescribed by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

Accordingly, KBA would like to urge banks' clients who print their cheques directly through press companies and not through their bank; to print their cheques at the earliest only through authorized entities and by taking into consideration that they need to refer back to their bank to provide them with the mandated standards and security

features before printing these cheques. It is important to note that in addition to the cheques conforming to the standards and security features, the following instructions are followed by all clients to facilitate the clearing of their cheques through the new Kuwait Electronic Cheque Clearing System (KECCS), in which the clearing cycle of cheques has been reduced from 3 days to the same day for certain cases or to

the next working day in other cases. They need to ensure that the MICR line that is printed at the bottom of the cheque. Avoid writing or signing over the MICR line at the bottom of the cheque. Keep the cheques in a good condition by avoiding folding, damaging, stapling or tearing cheques. Avoid storing cheques in places that are warm or under direct sunlight (e.g. car) as it can damage the cheques and will not

be accepted for processing. Ensure the availability of sufficient funds in the account before issuing the cheques (Cheques returned due to insufficient funds may lead to criminal persecutions). Adherence to the above mentioned by all Banks' clients are strongly recommended to ensure the acceptance and processing of the cheques under KECCS and to highly benefit from the new system.



CHENNAI: A fisherman collects baskets of fish from a boat at a harbour in Chennai yesterday, as fishermen return with their catch after a 45-day fishing ban on the east coast of India. Authorities in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu had imposed a 45-day ban on fishing by mechanised vessels to protect marine life, with only 'country boats' operating within five nautical miles off the coast. —AFP

IMF RELEASES BAILOUT CASH FOR SRI LANKA

COLOMBO: The IMF on Saturday released the first tranche of a \$1.5 billion bailout for Sri Lanka, which is reeling after a government spending spree and facing a balance of payments crisis. The International Monetary Fund said the formal approval of a 36-month loan under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) will also help Sri Lanka secure another \$650 million in other multilateral and bilateral loans. President Maithripala Sirisena's administration sought an IMF bailout immediately after taking power in January last year, but the fund turned down the request, saying the country's reserves were at a comfortable level then. However, the government faced a balance of payments crisis after it implemented its election pledges of higher public sector salaries and lower fuel and utility prices. The first instalment of \$168 million out of the \$1.5 billion will be made immediately, the IMF said. It noted that Sri Lanka's economy was beginning to show signs of strain from an increasingly difficult external environment and said Colombo must increase tax collection and ensure exchange rate stability. "Tougher external conditions in the

wake of China rebalancing and unwinding of unconventional monetary policies were not outside Sri Lanka's past experience. "However, spillovers were magnified by domestic imbalances, as evidenced by higher volatility around the two elections (in 2015)," the IMF said referring to the government increasing salaries and reducing prices as part of election pledges. The IMF said the bailout also provides for reform. "The new government's economic agenda, supported by the EFF, provides an important opportunity to re-set macroeconomic policies, address key vulnerabilities, boost reserves, and support stability and resilience," the IMF said. Sri Lanka enjoyed a blistering economic growth rates averaging more than 8.0 percent for two years after a prolonged civil war ended in 2009. But the pace of expansion has since slowed, falling to 4.8 percent in 2015, down from 4.9 in the previous year, according to official data. In 2009, Sri Lanka received \$2.6 billion from the IMF to boost its financial reserves, which dropped below \$1 billion at the height of fighting between Tamil Tiger rebels and troops. —AFP

SAUDI CENTRAL BANK BANS USE OF OPTIONS AGAINST RIYAL

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's central bank has told banks it is banning the use of options and other derivatives to speculate against the riyal, in a new effort to reduce pressure on its currency peg, a senior executive at a Saudi bank told Reuters yesterday. The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency "wants to make sure that there is no snowball effect against the riyal in the forwards markets", the executive said, declining to be named because of commercial sensitivities. "So now banks in the country are banned from accepting any options against the riyal." Non-speculative trade in the riyal forwards market is not forbidden, the executive added. The central bank did not respond to a telephone call to its headquarters seeking comment. Its order is a renewed attempt to prevent low oil prices, which have saddled Saudi Arabia with big state budget and external deficits,

from pressuring the riyal's three-decade-old peg of 3.75 to the U.S. dollar. In January, commercial bankers in Saudi Arabia said the central bank had contacted them privately and urged them not to conduct derivatives trades against the riyal. The central bank has also been asking banks for information on their trades. Since January, the riyal has rebounded in the onshore forwards market. But it has remained near multi-year lows in the offshore forwards market, which is not under the direct control of the central bank, and the cost of insuring Saudi sovereign debt against default has stayed high. Today, the government is expected to announce details of a reform plan designed to reduce the economy's reliance on oil. A general announcement of the plan's goals in April won praise from foreign economists for its ambition, but was also criticised for lacking detail, which made it difficult to gauge whether the plan was feasible.

Meanwhile, Saudi Real Estate Co has agreed with US firm Starwood Hotels and Resorts to build two hotels next to a district of Riyadh which the government plans to develop into an international business zone. Starwood will manage a five-star hotel under its Element brand and a four-star hotel under its Element brand, Saudi Real Estate, which owns the land, said on Sunday without giving details of construction plans. The project will be adjacent to the multi-billion-dollar King Abdullah Financial District, the company said. The district was launched in 2006 to house banks and the financial regulator but has struggled to attract tenants. The government said in April that it would rescue the financial district by transforming it into a special business zone with competitive regulations, visa exemptions for foreigners working there, and direct connections to Riyadh's international airport. —Reuters

MASSIVE US SERVICES SECTOR COOLS IN MAY

WASHINGTON: The massive US services sector slowed to the weakest growth in a year in May, the Institute for Supply Management said, fresh evidence of a tepid economy. The ISM purchasing managers index for non-manufacturing activity fell to 52.9 from 55.7 in April. It followed two months of increases that had been seen as signaling the economy was

recovering from its first-quarter slump. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the services sector, which accounts for about 80 percent of US economic activity. "Overall, the report reflects a cooling-off and slowing in momentum from the previous months of growth for the non-manufacturing sector," ISM said. Of the 18 industries surveyed, 14

reported growth, led by health care and accommodation and food services. Mining, depressed by low energy prices, led the four industries in contraction. There were sharp falls in business activity and new orders in May. Prices paid for materials and services increased for the second month running, while the backlog of orders, an

indicator of future growth, was flat after registering a slight increase in April. Employment contracted in May after two straight months of growth, to 49.7 from 53.0 in April. "Company continues to ramp-down full-time employees," one survey respondent said. "Some people left and were not back-filled. Attrition," another commented. —AFP



AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr. Abdulaziz Al Ashkanani.

AlNajma account Daily draw to win KD 7000 Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000. 1ST QUARTER KD 100,000; 2ND QUARTER KD 150,000; 3RD QUARTER KD 200,000; 4TH QUARTER KD 250,000. With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes. Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw. Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are:

- Hafez Mohammed Asaad Al Omari KD 7000/-
Saud Awadh Al Rasheedi KD 7000/-
Ibrahim Hussain Easa Sadeq KD 7000/-
Ammar Ahmad Al Sarraf KD 7000/-
Ahmad Hassan Abdulnabi Taheer KD 7000/-

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000. The new prizes scheme for

Additional features
ATM card
Issue a credit card against your account
Obtain all CBK banking services
You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with columns for CURRENCY, BUY, ASIAN COUNTRIES, and SELL. Includes rows for Japanese Yen, Indian Rupees, Saudi Riyal, etc.

Table with columns for Rate for Transfer and Selling Rate. Includes rows for Canadian Dollar, US Dollar, etc.

Table with columns for CURRENCY, BUY, EUROPE, AUSTRALASIA, AMERICA, and ASIA. Includes rows for British Pound, Czech Koruna, etc.

Table with columns for Indonesian Rupiah, Japanese Yen, Kenyan Shilling, etc. Includes rows for Nigerian Naira, Omani Riyal, etc.

## EGYPT NON-OIL BUSINESS ACTIVITY SLOWS FOR EIGHTH STRAIGHT MONTH IN MAY

**CAIRO:** Business activity in Egypt shrank for the eighth straight month in May but at a lesser extent than previous three months, a survey showed yesterday.

The Emirates NBD Egypt Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) for the non-oil private sector recorded 47.6 points in May after 46.9 points in April, remaining below the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction. Egypt has been struggling to revive its economy since a popular uprising in

2011 and subsequent political upheaval that has driven both investors and tourists away, depriving it of the foreign currency it needs to import raw materials. "It's definitely encouraging to see signs that the downturn has started to ease, as tentative as those indications may be," said Jean-Paul Pigat, Senior Economist at Emirates NBD.

"The survey also continues to point to fundamentally weak demand conditions across the economy, which in light of the ongoing FX shortage, is likely to

persist as we head into the start of FY2016/17," he added.

The new orders subindex improved from the previous month but remained below the crucial 50 point. It reached 46.9 points in May from 45.5 points the previous month.

"New business fell at approximately one-fifth of survey participants, with high prices linked to currency depreciation mentioned as a key contributing factor," Markit, which compiled the data, said in a report.

The rate of decline also eased in the output subindex, which reached 46.5 points in May from 45.5 points in April. Egypt has been wrestling with a currency crisis that economists blame on an over-valued pound. The central bank had devalued the pound to 8.85 per dollar from 7.73 in March and announced it would pursue a more flexible exchange rate. It later firmed up the pound to 8.78 per dollar. Economists say it is still over-valued. The survey showed declines in employment contin-

ued in May, although at the slowest pace since February, with the related subindex rising to 46.3 points in May from 45.5 points the month before.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has pledged to reduce the jobless rate to 10 percent over the next five years. It stood at 12.8 percent in December, according to the government, but analysts believe it may be much higher.

The economy grew around 4.2 percent in 2014/15 and is expected to grow around 5 percent in 2015/16. —Reuters

## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES NEW CHEQUE CLEARING SYSTEM

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank would like to draw the attention of its client that the bank will no longer accept processing cheques, issued in Kuwaiti Dinars that do not conform to the standards and security features as prescribed by the Central Bank of Kuwait.

In addition to the cheques conforming to the standards and security features, Burgan Bank advises its clients to follow The Central Bank of Kuwait instructions to facilitate the clearing of their cheques through the new Kuwait Electronic Cheque Clearing System (KECCS), in which the clearing cycle of cheques has been reduced from 3 days to the same day for certain cases or to be the next working day in other cases.

To ensure the acceptance and processing of the cheques under KECCS, customers need to have the MICR line printed on the cheques, avoid writing or signing over the MICR line, keep the cheques in a good condition by avoiding folding, damaging, stapling or tearing cheques



and also ensure the availability of sufficient funds in the account before issuing the cheques. To find out more about Burgan Bank's new cheques guide lines, customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch or contact the call center on 1804080. For more information, customers can visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.

## EX-PM JOHN MAJOR CONDEMNS 'DECEITFUL' BREXIT CAMPAIGN

**LONDON:** Former British prime minister John Major launched a blistering attack yesterday on fellow Conservatives campaigning for a Brexit, as rivals traded economic claims in an increasingly tight race for the June 23 vote.

Major condemned the "deceitful" campaign by Vote Leave, the Conservative-led group pressing for Britain to leave the European Union, saying it was making "fundamentally dishonest" claims about the potential economic consequences. His intervention followed an accusation by Boris Johnson, the former Conservative mayor of London, that voters "cannot trust" government promises that Britain would not be forced to contribute to any future eurozone bailouts.

There are less than three weeks left in a race that opinion polls show is on a knife edge, raising the prospect of Britain becoming the first country to leave the 28-nation bloc.

The average of the last six polls calculated by the What UK Thinks research project on Sunday put both sides at 50 percent, excluding undecided voters. The "Remain" camp previously had a slight lead.

Major, who was prime minister from 1990 to 1997, also condemned the focus on limiting the numbers of European citizens coming to Britain to work, saying it was "verging on the squalid".

Johnson and other senior figures in Vote Leave hit back with an open letter to Cameron, warning that staying in the EU risked trying "tying ourselves to a broken eurozone economy". Britain is not a member of the single currency. "The public cannot trust EU or government promises that we won't be paying for eurozone bailouts given the history and how we can be outvoted," said the letter, published on the Sunday Telegraph newspaper's website.

It said the EU has become "an engine for job destruction" and warned that Britain would have to continue accepting "unlimited migration of people trying to escape that broken economy" unless it votes to leave.

Sunday is the anniversary of Britain's last referendum on Europe, in 1975, when 67 percent of voters backed continued membership in what was then the Common Market.

Johnson said the bloc had "changed out of all recognition" since then, telling BBC television:



**SOLIHULL:** In a file picture taken on April 21, 2015 former Conservative British Prime Minister Sir John Major addresses delegates in Solihull in central England. Former British prime minister John Major launched a blistering attack yesterday on fellow Conservatives campaigning for a Brexit, as rivals traded economic claims in an increasingly tight race for the June 23 vote. — AFP

"There are fundamental ways now in which we cannot control our lives."

The Conservative MP is widely believed to have ambitions to succeed Cameron as Conservative leader. Major dismissed Johnson's chances, saying he was a "charming court jester" but would be unlikely to command the loyalty of party lawmakers. —AFP

## WAL-MART SEEKS SUCCESS BY GOING NATIVE IN CHINA

**SHENZHEN:** Zhong Guoyan sifted through piles of fish at a Wal-Mart in Shenzhen, one of China's largest cities. She studied the fins, to make sure they were bright red and firm. She peered at the eyeballs - were they bulging? "When I come here, I have a look," she said. "If it's good, then I will buy it. If it's only cheap, I won't buy it."

In American Wal-Marts, customers don't get to fondle their fish. But America is not China, as the world's biggest retailer has learned. If the Arkansas-based company wants to win over foreign consumers, it has to shed some of its American ways, and cater to very different customs and conventions that are fast changing.

Zhong eventually tossed a couple of fish into a plastic bag - a small victory in Wal-Mart's struggle to build an international empire. The stakes are high: The company can't count on much growth in the U.S. - it's facing challenges at home with intense competition from Amazon.com and dollar stores - so the retailer is depending more on its operations overseas.

China is the ultimate prize. The Chinese grocery market, already the world's largest at \$1.1 trillion a year, is expected to grow to \$1.5 trillion in sales in just the next four years, says IGD, a global consumer products research firm. "China remains a strategic market for our future," Doug McMillon, CEO of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. recently told investors. Getting the food business right is critical for Wal-Mart. Shoppers buy groceries more often than anything else. If Wal-Mart can get them in the door to buy food regularly, perhaps they will visit more frequently for items like pajamas and coffee makers - and eventually become loyal online customers, too. The company has taken some lumps trying to cross borders in food retailing. Overall international sales growth dropped 9.4 percent last year largely because of the strong dollar. And while Wal-Mart's overseas business had a strong start to this year, it faces long-term challenges. Wal-Mart gave up in Germany and South Korea in 2006. It's closing stores in Brazil. Overseas, Wal-Mart lacks the scale to squeeze local suppliers on price as it does in the U.S. It also faces nimble competitors. And it has struggled to duplicate its bedrock strategy of constant bargains.

But Wal-Mart has learned over the years from its missteps, discovering that it needs to adapt to local ways and that patience pays off. In Mexico, Canada and Japan, it's won shoppers over time. In Chile, it launched a corporate culture campaign and worked closely with suppliers to coax them into its way of doing business.

"Wal-Mart," says Bryan Roberts of the London retail consultancy TCC Global, "is a very determined organization."

### WINNING OVER PICKY CONSUMERS

In the unruly Chinese market, some competitors cut corners, mislabeling products or even selling tainted foods. The risks have made Chinese consumers unusually wary. Sean Clarke, CEO of Wal-Mart China, based in Shenzhen, previously worked in Britain, Japan, Germany, and Canada. China, he says, "is easily the most challenging market to operate ... There is a huge level of distrust." Wal-Mart had a difficult time promoting "everyday low prices" - promising the lowest prices on a basket of goods every time consumers shop.

Some rivals poached the "everyday low price" message, confusing customers. Wal-Mart scrambled to find the right slogan. In 2012, it introduced "Worry Free" - implying quality and reassuring shoppers who worry that deals will expire before they get to the store. The company's message: Efficiency

and good management, not cutting corners, make everyday low prices possible.

The message has sometimes been muddled. When Wal-Mart came to China, it was slow to tailor its offerings to local tastes. Realizing its mistake, Wal-Mart gave local managers more leeway to run their businesses. But that approach backfired, leading to a series of food-safety violations. In one particularly embarrassing episode, Wal-Mart had to recall donkey meat - a delicacy in China - after DNA testing showed it contained traces of fox meat.

In response, Wal-Mart slashed nearly two-thirds of its 20,000 suppliers. Now, Wal-Mart knows exactly where each product comes from. Wal-Mart also took back some of the responsibilities from local managers and increased its investment in food safety. It introduced mobile testing labs that check for pesticides on vegetables and fruit and employed handheld devices to check temperatures of meat products.

### GAINING CONTROL OVER SUPPLIERS, COSTS

In America, Wal-Mart has the clout - 25 percent of the US grocery business - to force suppliers to do things the Wal-Mart way. That means cutting costs to the bone. In return, the suppliers enjoy steady demand from Wal-Mart, so they don't have to spend so much on advertising or worry about paying extra costs to staff their factories to meet unexpected peaks in demand.

In China, things are tougher. Wal-Mart accounts for just 2.3 percent of the grocery market. Ninety-five percent of all products Wal-Mart sells in China are supplied by local companies. The Chinese supply chain is also notoriously inefficient. For years, Wal-Mart and other foreign companies didn't deal directly with their suppliers, working mostly instead through a labyrinth of middlemen. Three years ago, Wal-Mart decided to cut out the middlemen and route as many goods as possible through 20 of its own distribution centers.

By eliminating the go-betweens, Wal-Mart could negotiate directly with suppliers and knock down costs - often by 10 percent or more. The change also gives Wal-Mart more control over the quality of the food being sent to its stores and the efficiency with which it gets to them. Before the switch, only about 75 percent of orders would actually reach Wal-Mart stores; now 95 percent do.

### FIGHTING COMPETITORS

Wal-Mart landed in China in 1996, a year behind Carrefour, opening two stores in Shenzhen - a Wal-Mart supercenter and a Sam's Club. They were the first foreign retailers to offer the big-box shopping experience, which offers everything from clothing to food. After investing in a Taiwanese-owned retail chain in 2007, Wal-Mart became China's biggest super-sized store chain and expanded its lead for the next two years. But local and regional competitors quickly closed the gap, sometimes undercutting Wal-Mart prices because they have closer ties to local suppliers and can negotiate better deals. Wal-Mart insists its market share for the big-store sector has increased over the past three years. But Euromonitor says Wal-Mart's market share has fallen to 9.6 percent (No. 3 in the market) after peaking at 11.6 percent in 2009.

Wal-Mart last year announced plans to add 115 stores in China by 2017, bringing the store count to 530. It's concentrating in markets where it's already established, including its stronghold in the south. And it has given up on about 30 lackluster stores. —AP



**ISLAMABAD:** Security officials carry a bag containing budget documents to the parliament where Pakistani Finance Minister Ishaq Dar presented the national budget for the fiscal year 2016-17 in Islamabad. — AFP

## N KOREA SLAMS US FOR MONEY LAUNDERER LABEL

**SEOUL:** North Korea hit back at the United States yesterday for labelling it a money-laundering state, describing it as a "nonsensical" effort that only revealed the flaws of existing sanctions pushed by Washington.

The US on Wednesday branded Pyongyang a "global money laundering concern", aiming to lock the impoverished by nuclear-armed country out of the world financial system.

The move would prevent both direct and indirect North Korean financial activities within the US banking network, ensuring that any third-party deals involving significant sums of US dollar or other currencies cannot transit the US. But the North's National Coordination Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism slammed the US action as "another illegal act of infringing upon the sovereignty and vital rights" of the

country. "The US is loudly calling on the neighbouring countries to increase pressure upon the DPRK... but the DPRK dismisses this as a nonsensical talk," it said in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), using the country's official name of Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It claimed Pyongyang had a "well-regulated" system to combat money laundering and was "not frightened in the least" by the latest label.

Washington's move comes after the UN Security Council slapped the harshest-ever sanctions on the North in March for its widely-condemned nuclear test and a long-range missile launch. The North staged its fourth atomic test in January and a long-range rocket test a month later-widely seen as a ballistic missile test, banned under existing UN resolutions.

Washington led the drive for new sanctions

applied in March, which urged unprecedented inspections of all cargo to and from the North, and called for UN members to sever banking ties with Pyongyang.

The money laundering designation however was proof that the US found it "hard to achieve its objective (to punish the North) through the unreasonable UN... sanctions," said KCNA statement. "The US is sadly mistaken if it calculates it can attain its sinister political goal through the action," it added.

The North has recently faced growing pressure from the international community, although questions remain on whether China-its economic lifeline - would join the push.

US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew is set to urge China to crack down harder on the North during a planned visit to Beijing from today, according to senior US officials. — AFP

AL-NAHEDH: DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS MAJOR ATTRIBUTE FOR KFH

ISLAMIC BANKS ACCOUNT FOR 40% OF KUWAIT'S BANKING ASSETS

KUWAIT: "Local banks head for increasing their capital in compliance with the requirements of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) in relation to Basel III accord that requires larger capital, especially in light of the intention to exclude the real estate collateral from Basel III. By 2018, Real estate collateral will be entirely excluded when calculating capital adequacy, which therefore results in higher capital demands for banks," said Group Chief Executive Officer at Kuwait Finance House

(KFH), Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh. He added in an interview with Sky News TV conducted at KFH headquarters, that capital adequacy ratio (CAR) for Kuwaiti banks is 13%, indicating that this ratio is higher in some banks such as KFH for its size and reaches 15%. KFH's CAR reaches 17% as of end Q1 2016. Al-Nahedh illustrated that KFH had taken several measures to improve capital among of which exiting some capital-consuming assets, such as reducing its stake in ALAFCO

which resulted in saving 1% of KFH capital. KFH is moving forward toward optimally using the capital. The government started the process of sovereign debt issuance which contributes in absorbing the liquidity surplus for the banks, noting that there are other attributes for investment such as financing the mega projects which is a major attribute for KFH to make use of excess liquidity. He said that Islamic banks account for

40% to 45% of Kuwait's banking assets. The Islamic banks are growing faster than the conventional ones and witnessing increasing demands. He indicated that the number of Islamic banks in Kuwait reached 5 and the Islamic finance industry is witnessing considerable improvement especially in terms of service quality and innovation in products and services. Al-Nahedh foresaw the provisions for the second quarter to be the same of that of the first quarter. This is attributed to the bank's endeavors to improve asset quality and lower the NPLs to less than 2% in collaboration with the CBK. Moreover, Al-Nahedh reiterated that KFH focuses on reinforcing its market share in the markets it operates spanning Turkey, Bahrain, Malaysia and Saudi. This can be achieved by rendering high end products and services. KFH pursues investment policy of diversifying portfolios and mitigating risk. He stressed KFH's expansion efforts in Europe through KT Bank AG, clarifying the growth potentials in the German market as it encompasses 4



CEO Mazin Al-Nahedh speaking to Sky News TV

million Muslims, of whom 3 million are Turks, which are potential customers for KFH-Turkey.

He said that KFH-Turkey is achieving outstanding results thanks to the economy diversification that allows the banks to have wider financing options to encompass sectors of construction, textiles, food and other sectors that incarnate the genuine economy.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Sunday 05 June 2016. Table containing market indices (Price Index, Weighted Index, KSX 15), trades, and security listings with columns for High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, and Change.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.



# DISAPPOINTING US JOBS REPORT FUELS UNCERTAINTY

## NBK'S WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** The week ended with both the ECB and the OPEC meeting, but neither in the mood for a radical action. With oil prices hovering close to the fifty levels, there was clearly no need to a policy agreement, while the ECB press conference saw President Draghi maintain his usual very dovish tone, however with not much material movement in the currency market.

This week also saw the end of the G7 finance ministers two-day meeting in Sendai Japan, without an agreement on any economic policy issues, including those surrounding the recent sharp appreciation of the Japanese Yen. The unwillingness of policymakers to address Japan's continuous appeals for exchange rate intervention will potentially expedite the introduction of a new Abenomics program.

The latest data out of the US surprised markets as the Non-Farm Payrolls added the fewest number of workers in almost six years with declines in payrolls in construction, manufacturing and mining. March and April were revised down by a combined 59,000, while the three-month average in payrolls is now just 116,000, the weakest since July 2012, at the bottom end of the range that most Fed officials think will keep the unemployment rate steady. The broad cutbacks may raise concern about US growth and prompt Federal Reserve policy makers to put off an increase in interest rates.

Despite the weak US manufacturing data and the potential message they portray over the second half of the year, Fed officials have initially succeeded in getting markets to re-price the chances of a rate hike this summer without triggering either volatility or asset price weakness. However, with the disappointing payrolls, markets may be plunged back into uncertainty with investors giving up once again. In summary, with the disappointing job report released this week, we remain in a fragile risk on mode while markets remain in a wait and see mode for the Fed meeting in June as well as July.

On the currency front, the Euro remained subdued against the US dollar as the divergence in policy between the Fed and the ECB continues to dictate the movement in the pair. The Euro opened the week at 1.1114, while the ECB meeting was a non-event for the currency. The currency ended on a strong note following the job report at 1.1367.

When investors thought "Brexit" risks were long gone, the latest polls this week started to indicate gains registered by the exit camp. Immediately, the Pound reacted by losing ground against the US Dollar. The currency opened the week at 1.4623 dropping throughout the week however ended the week slightly higher after the dismal US job report.

The Japanese Yen remains extremely volatile against the greenback last week. Initially the US Dollar gained some grounds against the Yen following the G7 meetings. After reaching a high of 111.45 amid positive US data and hopes of new Japanese stimulus, investors closed their positions while waiting for the new Abe proposal, making the Yen gain over 2%. The pair closed the week very strong at 106.53.

On the commodities side, Brent ended the week at \$50 a barrel. The third drop in US crude inventories in four weeks tempered the impact of OPEC's decision to stick to a policy of free production, turning down a proposal to adopt a new ceiling on output. The latest US crude inventory data showed stockpiles dropped by 1.4 million barrels last week.

### Fed speakers remain cautiously optimistic

The week started trading Yellen's speech of late last week, reaffirming her colleagues speeches in recent weeks in that a rate hike 'in the coming months' is likely to be appropriate. St Louis Fed President Bullard added that in his view "markets are well prepared for a possible rate increase globally". Bullard also added that that he doesn't think that a change in the White House either way will affect the Fed's policy and monetary policy did not need to address labor participation and participation rate moves independently of rate policy.

Adding on this, Robert Kaplan, Dallas Fed president, said that he is expecting 'solid job growth' in the employment report and that he would advocate for tightening in the 'near future' without offering more specific timing. On the subject of the Brexit vote, he said that the Fed needs to 'be prepared' although a more cautious view on that was given by the Fed's Tarullo. Indeed, member of the Fed Board of Governors, Daniel Tarullo said that the Brexit vote is bringing a lot of uncertainty and is a factor that he would consider in his policy outlook. He went on to say that 'in the short term it is more a question on the immediate impact on markets'. Tarullo also spoke on the subject on banking regulation and said that he expects stress tests for the bigger US banks to get stricter in the near term.

### Manufacturing: Weak and confusing numbers

This week, manufacturing data was out with the overall outcome being one which made for a fairly mixed assessment of the economy. The ISM manufacturing release for May rose unexpectedly to 51.3 from 50.8 after expectations were for a 0.5 point decline. The details were a bit more mixed with new orders coming at -0.1 point to 55.7 down, employment 49.2 unchanged and orders at -3.5 points to 50.5 sharply down. This number was offset by an increase in prices paid moving up by 4.5 points to 63.5, the highest level since 2011 and new export orders remaining unchanged at 52.5. The manufacturing PMI data was also out revised up 0.2 points to 50.7, however construction spending was weak in April dropping 1.8% over the month.

Nominal personal consumption expenditure increased 1.0% in April, the largest monthly gain since August 2009. The April level of PCE was up nearly 3% annualized from its Q1 average. However, motor vehicles and parts accounted for nearly 30% of last month's real PCE increase.

Chicago PMI was also out this week, slipping -1.1 points to 49.3 in May. The details of the Chicago report were weak. The ISM Chicago declined four points to 48.0, adding to the weakness in the NY Empire and Philadelphia Fed manufacturing indices.

### US construction still positive while payrolls disappoint

Construction spending in April fell by 1.8%, the most since January 2011 but the market ignored the data due to the strong upward revisions to the prior two months. Over the last three months, construction spending increased at a 4.3% annualized rate. In details, private residential construction is up a much stronger 18.5%, showing a further improvement in the housing sector. The year-over-year growth rate remains at an 8% level.

The latest change in nonfarm payrolls showed that the US economy added only 38,000 jobs in May missing expectations for

a 159K increase. The report marked the fewest number of employees added in six years with declines in payrolls in construction, manufacturing and mining. March and April were revised down by a combined 59,000, while the three-month average in payrolls is now just 116,000, the weakest since July 2012, at the bottom end of the range that most Fed officials think will keep the unemployment rate steady.

### Europe & UK Main points from the latest ECB meeting

This week's ECB meeting ended with not much news. The focus of the meeting was on implementing the broad package of measures that have been agreed in recent months. But the ECB's revised forecasts for growth and inflation remained largely unchanged, despite

addition, money supply growth was weaker than expected, down from 5% year-on-year in March to 4.6% in April.

On different front, the Euro zone business growth improved more than expected in May but remained modest. Final composite Purchasing Managers' Index for the whole Eurozone came at 53.1 in May, beating estimates of 52.9 and April's 53.0. According to the survey, data are signaling a GDP rise of 0.3% in the second quarter of 2016 after expanding 0.5% in the first quarter. Spain composite PMI beat expectations coming at 54.8 compared to forecasts of 54.2 while France disappointed on the back of the work strikes taking effect at the moment.

### UK Suffering on the "Brexit" Uncertainty

The latest news out of the UK is majorly dominated by the fear of Brexit. Wednesday



the earlier announcement of a wide range of stimulus measures. In particular, core inflation forecasts were lowered, raising the question of whether more easing will be needed.

In summary, the overall tone of meeting was one of confidence and patience about the new policies being implemented before any real conclusions are drawn. Draghi noted that the council was waiting for three main events before assessing the success or failure of the current policies. Draghi's comment on the UK referendum suggesting that the euro area could suffer from a UK decision to leave the EU. Additionally, Draghi mentioned the corporate sector purchase programme will start on June 8th while the second tranche of the ECB long term financing auction will be allocated on June 23rd. Finally, Draghi touched on the exchange rate saying the Council continues to expect the exchange rate to weaken thanks to divergent monetary policy cycles.

### Eurozone Economic activity slows

The Euro area unemployment rate was 10.2% in April, stable compared with March 2016, and down from 11.0% in April 2015, and the lowest rate recorded in the Euro area since August 2011.

Euro area annual inflation also was out at -0.1 percent for May. The inflation figure was in line with expectations and slightly higher than the -0.2% reading seen in April. However, the latest number is still far from the 2% inflation target set by the ECB. In

addition, various polls suggesting the referendum was going to be a tight race. This, along with the general risk-off theme, saw a potential 30% probability of a rate cut before the end of the year in the UK.

On the data side, the May construction PMI came slightly weaker than expected at 51.2 while expectations were for 52 in May, its weakest for almost three years and incoming new work declining for the first time since April 2013. May signaled the worst month for commercial building since June 2013 and indicated that survey respondents said the June 23 referendum had disrupted new order flows and the timing of client decision making.

Manufacturing PMI was also out at 50.1, up from 49.4 in April. While new manufacturing business improved a little domestically, new export business dropped for the fifth month in a row on the back of a slowing global economy and the upcoming EU referendum. Over a third surveyed by the report

said that uncertainty over a possible Brexit on June 23 was having a "detrimental" effect on their business, with 8% saying the impact was "strongly detrimental".

### Asia

#### China's services PMI falls to 51.2

China's service economy decelerated in May easing to a three-month low of 51.2, from 51.8 in April. According to the report, slow business orders, marginal job creation and lower production among manufacturers were key factors that underpinned May's performance. The services sector, whose biggest components include real-estate and financial services, account for the bulk of gross domestic product and is the pillar of the country's new economic program.

On a different front, China's manufacturing PMI dropped to 49.2 in May from 49.4 in April, the 15th straight month that index has remained in contraction territory. The latest data suggest that despite being weak, Beijing's monetary and fiscal stimulus early this year should make it easier for China to reach its 2016 growth target of at least 6.5% this year.

#### Abe testing markets patience

This week, Japan PM Shinzo Abe formally announced that the consumption tax hike to 10% scheduled for April 2017 would be postponed by two and a half years until October 2019. He said the reason for this was the risk of an economic slowdown and the need to mobilize policy to prepare for such risk. He said the Upper House election on 10 July would provide voters an opportunity to pass judgment on the decision. Abe however did not reveal the size or details of additional economic stimulus plans, which the market is interested in.

#### Australia's GDP defies expectations

Business activity in Australia has been strong over the past month, suggesting the RBA has time on its side to deal with the issues presented by a structurally lower inflation outlook. This week, Australia's data came on the strong side with the economy growing 1.1% in the first quarter, and 3.1% over the past year, its fastest quarterly growth since March 2012. In details, growth was driven largely by a surge in export volumes, which contributed 1% out of the 1.1% quarterly growth. Household consumption also added to the better-than-expected economic expansion, contributing 0.4%. The negative point in the report was from growth in business investment in engineering construction and new buildings, which dropped 2.2%. By industry, production growth was mainly down to mining, up 6.2% over the quarter.

*Kuwait Dinar at 0.30110  
The USD-KWD opened at 0.30110 on yesterday morning.*

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1114	1.1098	1.1374	1.1367	1.1094	1.1615	1.1380
GBP	1.4623	1.4386	1.4725	1.4518	1.4330	1.4740	1.4529
JPY	110.31	106.51	111.45	106.53	104.40	109.80	106.30
CHF	0.9947	0.9754	0.9956	0.9759	0.9580	0.9870	0.9730



**BOADILLA DEL MONTE:** A man smiles as he leaves the Santander Bank's Financial City in Boadilla del Monte near Madrid. — AFP

## US TREASURY SECRETARY LEW SAYS EXCESS CAPACITY 'CORROSIVE' FOR CHINA GROWTH

**BEIJING:** China's excess industrial capacity will have a "corrosive" impact on its future growth and efficiency unless it is reduced, US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said yesterday, adding that it was also causing distortions in global markets.

Lew, speaking to students in Beijing, said he hoped to make progress on the excess capacity issue in bilateral meetings with senior Chinese officials starting today in Beijing. He noted that past discussions had eased currency tensions between the world's two largest economies.

"Excess capacity is not just a domestic issue in China," Lew said at Tsinghua University. "The question of excess capacity is one that literally has an enormous effect on global markets for things like steel and aluminum, and we're seeing distortions in global markets because of excess capacity."

A flood of Chinese steel into the United States has prompted the US Commerce Department to

impose anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on a wide-range of Chinese steel products, while US business groups have complained about new Chinese regulations they say favour local firms.

China, which now produces more than half of the world's steel, has criticised US anti-dumping duties targeting Chinese steelmakers as irrational and harmful to diplomatic ties. Beijing has said it needs time to address its excess capacity problem.

Lew said excess Chinese steel capacity was causing problems for steel-producing economies worldwide, and government subsidies were at the root of the problem by encouraging overbuilding.

"Excess capacity ultimately is corrosive of an economy's efficiency," Lew said. "It means you have misallocation of resources, it means that ultimately, the only way to clear the market is to sell things at a price that is below what the world market price would otherwise be." Lew credited

past sessions of the annual US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue talks with helping to reach understandings that have made currency less of an irritant for the two countries. The Treasury did not designate China as a currency manipulator in its recent currency report because it found that China's recent interventions were not problematic, he said.

China's latest interventions have been aimed at supporting the yuan's value, not pushing it down. "It's fundamentally in China's interest not to have an undervalued exchange rate," Lew said, adding that a market-driven yuan would benefit Chinese consumers' purchasing power. "Having a strong consumer in China is central to the future of China's growth," Lew added. Lew also said he hoped to make progress on market access, including efforts to open China's financial services and health care markets. — Reuters

## SHELL PROBING NEW CLAIM OF NIGERIA PIPELINE ATTACK

**YENAGOA:** Shell's Nigerian subsidiary said it was investigating a claim by the Niger Delta Avengers that it had struck another pipeline in the restive oil-producing south.

"We are investigating reports of an attack on our pipeline in the western Niger delta," Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) spokesman Precious Okolobo told AFP, without elaborating.

The Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), blamed for a wave of bombings on Nigeria's oil infrastructure since the beginning of the year, earlier claimed responsibility for the attack.

"At 3:00 am today, @NDAvengers blow up the SPDC Forcados 48" export line," it said on its Twitter account. The attack was carried out because Shell had refused to heed earlier warnings not to repair the pipeline, which was damaged in February, it added.

The NDA, which says it is seeking a fairer share of Nigeria's oil wealth for the Niger delta people and has asked oil majors to leave the region, also said it had struck Agip facilities.

"At about 3:30 am today, strike team blow up the Brass to Tebidaba crude oil line in Bayelsa (state)," it said on Twitter. Desmond Agu, commander of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in the state, confirmed the second attack and said the pipeline had been shut down.

"We have dispatched our men and we have intensified patrols in the area. We are working round the clock to protect critical infrastructure in Bayelsa," he added.

There was no immediate word

from Agip's parent company, Eni of Italy, when contacted by email.

### OUTPUT CUT

The NDA has been attacking facilities operated by subsidiaries of Shell, Eni, US firm Chevron, and the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The army said on Thursday that six people, including two soldiers, were killed when militants attacked a boat belonging to the NNPC in the region, but the NDA denied involvement. The deadly attack happened at about 5:50 pm (1650 GMT) on Wednesday in the Warri area of Delta state, which has seen a spate of attacks recently.

That followed two claimed NDA attacks on two supply pipelines in Bayelsa state on Wednesday and a warning it would bring oil production to a standstill in Nigeria unless its demands were met.

The upsurge in violence has seen Nigeria's oil production fall to 1.4 million barrels per day-well below the budgeted for 2.2 million bpd.

The Avengers are believed to have sympathy for a former oil rebel leader who commanded militants in the region in the 2000s and who is now wanted on money laundering and corruption charges.

The Nigerian military, which has slammed the NDA as "economic terrorists", has deployed gunboats and fighter jets to the creeks and swamps of the delta in search of the militants. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari last week ordered enhanced security in the delta, adding: "We have to be very serious with the situation... because if threatens the national economy." — AFP

## SHARP WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY UNDER SHARP BRAND NAME

**KUWAIT:** Subsequent to a definitive agreement signed between Foxconn Technology Group and Sharp Corporation on 02-Apr-2016, allotment will be made to Foxconn Technology Group for a majority stake of 66% in Sharp Corporation with capital injection of approx.

US\$ 3.5 billion. Sharp Middle East FZE (SMEF) is a 100% sales subsidiary owned by Sharp Corporation, and manages the Middle East, Africa & CIS markets.

As per the agreement, SHARP will continue to operate independently under the SHARP

brand name. This significant strategic alliance will create synergy and allow SMEF swift utilization of strengths, EMS expertise, technology and know-how in expanding future business in the region. We are confident of having enormous gain with this alliance going forward.

The current business model of SMEF and its relationship with the existing business partners would remain unchanged and therefore, SMEF would like to reassure its partners and customers in the region of continuous commitment, services and relationship.

## COMPLIMENTARY BRAKE CHECK-UP SERVICE FOR MERCEDES-BENZ CUSTOMERS IN KUWAIT

KEEPING VALUED CUSTOMERS SAFE THIS RAMADAN



**KUWAIT:** Keeping valued customers safe this Ramadan, A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Company, the Authorized General Distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait, is offering complimentary brake inspections and a discount on all necessary replacement components. Valid from 6 June until 6 July 2016, the special offer applies across the full range of Mercedes-Benz coupes, SUVs, cabriolets, roadsters and sedans.

Available at all of the Mercedes-Benz authorized service centres in Shuwaikh, Al Rai and Ahmadi, vehicles receive optimum appraisal from a team of qualified technicians using up to the minute tools and diagnostic equipment.

Highlighting the importance and safety of a well maintained and fine-tuned vehicle all year around, customers can enjoy discounts of up to 30 percent on related components, with pre bookings enabling priority handling.

"Regular after sales check-ups enhance the lifespan of a vehicle and add to the privilege of owning a Mercedes-Benz. As part of our service to our customers, we offer regular exclusive offers on repair and spare parts to make it even easier. Book your appointment today to ensure peace of mind and maximum driving enjoyment this Ramadan," said Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Company.

Mercedes-Benz owners can book their complimentary vehicle check-up by calling 1833111, Ext-200/254 for appointments at Shuwaikh; 1833111, Ext-832 for appointments at Al-Rai and 23982111 for appointments at Ahmadi service centre. Customers can also browse through the latest collection of car and lifestyle accessories, and enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi at the service centres while waiting.

**Ramadan timings for A.R. Albisher & Z. Alkazemi's service centres are as follows:**

Shuwaikh Service Centre / Express Service (08:00am to 02:00pm); Shuwaikh Quick Lube Centre (08:00am to 02:00pm and 08:30pm to 11:30pm); Ahmadi Service Centre / Express Service (08:00am to 02:00pm); Al-Rai Service Centre (08:00am to 02:00pm); Al-Rai Express Service (08:00am to 02:00pm and 08:30pm to 11:30pm).

## البنك الأهلي المتحد ahli united bank

### AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS IN ITS WEEKLY DRAW IN 'AL HASSAD ISLAMIC SAVING'

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank (AUB) held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on June 1, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million per year. This program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: Samiha Nasser Al Misalam.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Osama Abdulrahman Al Duaij, Ahmad Goulom Mulla, Abdul Walli Haji Md, Najma Yousef Al Qalaf, Mohammed Ahmad Al Amer, Mohd Marzoq Al Otibi, Fatema Haidar Hamza, Ali Saad Eid Al

Azmi, Yaqoub Kh Y Al Khedry, Yaqoub Abdullah Al Qattan, Ali A A Alawadh, Ibrahim Ali Al Kandari, Ayman S A Al Mutairi, Eid Abdullah Al Otaibi, Nahlah Mohyi Almadad, Khalid Abbas Hasan, Khushal Mohammed, Farzana Ismaeel Abdali, Tariq Al Hussaini, Jaafar Ali Ahmed, Fauzi Masqood, John Joseph Newbert, Hamdi Hasan Mohamed, Wafa Ahmed Abulla, Nazha Jassim Hasan.

The prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

For further information about "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch, or call: "Hayakom" service at Tel: 181 2000.

## GREENLAND WILL SEEK MINERALS UNTIL 'LAST STONE' TURNED: PM

**NUUK:** Greenland will work to develop its mineral wealth until the "last stone" is turned, despite low prices for everything from oil to iron ore that have discouraged some foreign investors, Prime Minister Kim Kielsen said.

Fisheries will remain the mainstay of the North Atlantic island's economy for many years, he told Reuters in his office in the capital, Nuuk. Shrimp, halibut and other species account for almost 90 percent of exports.

"Changes will not happen overnight," Kielsen said of government efforts to promote mining, tourism and industry for the island's 56,000 people to diversify from fisheries.

"As yet we're not aware of the mineral potential, how extensive it is. We will not find this out until we have turned the last stone," he said, vowing to keep up exploration and to send experts abroad to explain investment opportunities. Kielsen, who is 49, heads Greenland's biggest political party, Siumut. He predicted that existing policies to encourage investment would work in the long term, twinned with efforts to improve infrastructure along remote coasts.

Greenland, whose capital Nuuk is closer to New York than Copenhagen, became a Danish colony in the early 19th century but has been gaining its own powers since World War Two, introducing a parliament in 1979 and self-governance in 2009.

It still relies heavily on funding by Denmark and needs a stronger economic base to realise

a long-term goal of full independence.

Oil companies including Norway's Statoil and Denmark's DONG Energy have returned exploration licences because of low oil prices, now around \$50 a barrel. Britain's Cairn Energy was the biggest explorer in Greenland but a \$1.2 billion campaign in 2010 and 2011 yielded no commercial finds. And hopes that General Nice, one of China's top coal and iron ore importers, would develop iron ore in Greenland have been put on hold by low prices. Officials say no Chinese mining delegation has visited Kielsen since he took office in 2014.

Kielsen dismissed suggestions that Greenland had suffered setbacks, saying swings in prices were inevitable and that exploration was always risky.

"Out of 100 possibilities three become a reality," he said. "There's still interest in projects... I think things are going as planned."

Among new projects, the Aappaluttoq ruby and pink sapphire mine, majority owned by Canada's True North Gems, plans to start production this year about 250 km (150 miles) south of the capital Nuuk.

Among others, Greenland is also looking at the long-term possibility of mining rare earths and uranium in the south. A ranking by the Canadian Fraser Institute of the attractiveness of more than 100 nations or territories worldwide placed Greenland 25th in 2015, up from 28th the year before. — Reuters

## CHEVROLET'S STRONGEST OFFER OF THE YEAR THIS RAMADAN

**KUWAIT:** Yusuf Ahmad Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet in Kuwait, has launched its Ramadan promotion starting June 1. It is considered the strongest offer of the year given the special prices and valuable gifts offered to all new Chevrolet owners. The Ramadan promotion that was launched last year was well received due to the valuable gifts and special prices that were offered; Alghanim Chevrolet is committed to continuing and broadening its Ramadan promotion this year by offering the absolute strongest offer.

Paralleling people's festive moments during the start of the holy month, Alghanim Chevrolet offers everyone in Kuwait the chance to benefit from its limited-time offer during the highly-celebrated time of Ramadan.

The new offer provides everyone a chance to own brand new cars at never-seen-before value including the challenge-worthy Tahoe that starts at KD 13,995. Another car included in the offer is the stunning Impala that can now be owned starting at KD 8,495 as well as the sporty Malibu at a new special price of KD 4,995. Lastly, anyone can now drive home a brand-new Cruze that is available at a starting price of KD 4,095.

Alghanim Chevrolet is also offering customers guaranteed cash gifts whereby they draw one or two coupons based on the purchased car model, for a chance to win cash prizes from KD 300 to KD 1,200.

To go beyond customers' expectations, the KD 300 coupons will be offered at the same amount of the KD 600 coupons, giving customers a fair chance to win big. In addition, customers will also enjoy valuable complimentary gifts that include a service contract for three years or every 60,000 km, window tinting at KromOzone, the most popular place for quality vehicle accessories and finally, free third-party insurance and registration. All these free perks and outstanding benefits make purchasing a brand-new car during Ramadan the best decision made for the whole year.

Alghanim Chevrolet opens its doors this Ramadan to everyone who is looking to own a brand-new Chevrolet that comes with a price tag that no one can pass up including free gifts and exclusive benefits. Make yourself at home at the closest Alghanim Chevrolet showroom that is open during Ramadan from 9:30 AM until 1:00 PM and from 8:00 PM until 12:00 AM, Saturday to Thursday. While the Chevrolet showroom in Al-Rai will open also on Fridays from 8:00 PM to 12:00 AM.

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care Program, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance for 4 years.

Celebrate the Month of Giving

**Chevrolet's Strongest Offer of the Year**

**FREE** guaranteed cash gift up to **KD 1200\***

**+ FREE** service contract for 3 years or 60,000 km

**+ FREE** window tinting from KromOzone

**+ FREE** third-party insurance and registration

CRUZE 2016 MALIBU 2016 IMPALA 2016 TAHOE 2016

CHEVROLET

**FIND NEW ROADS™**

Purchase any Chevrolet® vehicle and instantly receive all these gifts for free with this special offer.

\*This offer is valid on all cars except the Chevrolet Bolt, Camaro, Corolla, Cruze and Traverse.

## CHINESE RETAIL GIANT SUNING EYES SOCCER EMPIRE

**SHANGHAI:** Chinese retail giant Suning Commerce Group Co Ltd, set to tie up a deal for Italian soccer club Inter Milan, is already eyeing bigger ambitions: controlling a global sports empire stretching from soccer clubs to online broadcasting.

Suning and Inter Milan are due to make an announcement in the eastern Chinese city of Nanjing today, widely expected to confirm that Suning will buy a majority stake in the Italian soccer club. Amid a wider push by China to increase its standing in the game, Suning's deal for the 2010 European champions is just the start. The Chinese electronics retailer is seeking deals to help create a global sporting "ecosystem", according to a Suning Sports Group document seen by Reuters. This network would include club ownership, sports media rights, player agencies, training institutions, broadcast platforms, content production and sports-related e-commerce, the document shows.

"Suning Sports aims, through strategic expansion and acquisitions, to establish a sporting ecosystem along the whole supply chain," it said in a roughly 20-page presentation outlining its ambitions for the sports business. A majority stake in Inter Milan would be a big step towards this. It would be a watershed moment for China's investment in the game, making Suning the first mainland Chinese business to con-

trol a major European soccer power. Suning will also look to become a leader globally in sports media and online, including "creating high-quality sports content" and "establishing a professional broadcast platform", it said in the presentation. Suning declined to comment.

### NATIONAL CHAMPION

Suning, which has annual revenues topping \$20 billion, already has some blocks in place: it owns local club Jiangsu Suning and has splashed millions of dollars on players such as Brazil's Alex Teixeira and former Chelsea midfielder Ramires. It also has ties with Spanish champions FC Barcelona, England's Liverpool FC and a stake in Chinese online content platform PPTV, with sporting content including the Chinese Super League as well as Euro 2016 starting later this month. The drive tallies with Chinese President Xi Jinping's own goals, which includes ambitious plan to create a domestic sports industry worth \$850 billion by 2025. Xi is a keen soccer fan and wants China to one day host, and win, the World Cup. "Suning is definitely now seen as a bit of a national champion, on par with the likes of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd and Dalian Wanda," said Mark Dreyer, Beijing-based founder of sports information website China Sports Insider. — Reuters

# AIRBUS PRESENTS 3D-PRINTED MINI AIRCRAFT

**BERLIN:** Dwarfed by huge jets all around, the mini-plane Thor was nonetheless an eye-catcher at the Berlin air show this week - the small Airbus marvel is the world's first 3D-printed aircraft. Windowless, weighing in at just 21 kilos (46 pounds) and less than four metres (13 feet) long, the drone Thor - short for "Test of High-tech Objectives in Reality" - resembles a large, white model airplane. Yet to the European aerospace giant Airbus, the small pilotless propeller aircraft is a pioneer that offers a taste of things to come - an aviation future when 3D printing technology promises to save time, fuel and money.

"This is a test of what's possible with 3D printing technology," said Detlev Konigorski, who was in charge of developing Thor for Airbus, speaking at the International Aerospace Exhibition and Air Show at Berlin's southern Schoenefeld airport. "We want to see if we can speed up the development process by using 3D printing not just for individual parts but for an entire system."

In Thor, the only parts that are not printed from a substance called polyamide are the electrical elements. The little plane "flies beautifully, it is very stable," said its chief engineer Gunnar Haase, who conducted Thor's inaugural flight last November near the northern German city of Hamburg.

## Lighter, Faster, Cheaper

Airbus and its US rival Boeing are already using 3D printing, notably to make parts for their huge passenger jets the A350 and B787 Dreamliner. "The printed pieces



**BERLIN:** Photos show the prototype of the 3D printed plane THOR aircraft pictured at the booth of Airbus at the International Aerospace Exhibition (ILA) in Schoenefeld. — AFP

have the advantage of requiring no tools and that they can be made very quickly," said Jens Henzler of Bavaria-based Hofmann Innovation Group, which specializes in the new technology. The metal parts produced can also be 30-50 percent lighter than in the past, and there is almost zero manufacturing waste, added Henzler, who is managing director for Hofmann industrial prototyping.

The sky is not the limit for the technology - engineers also plan to use it in space. The future Ariane 6 rocket of European space agency ESA, set to blast off from 2020, is set to feature many printed pieces. "It brings big cost reductions on parts manufacturing," said Alain Charneau, head of Airbus Safran Launchers. Partially as a



result of this, the Ariane 6 may have half the price tag of its predecessor Ariane 5.

## 'Radical Innovations'

The new 3D printers can make pieces up to 40 cm (15 inches) long and is of most use in particularly complex designs. Charneau said Airbus is testing how to print an injection assembly for an engine that is now assembled from 270 individual pieces. "With 3D printing, it has just three parts," he told AFP. Aside from the costs savings, 3D printing also promises ecological benefits as lighter jets use less fuel and spew out fewer pollutants.

To reducing carbon emissions in aviation - with air

traffic expected to double in the next 20 years - "the decisive issue is radical technical innovation in a relatively short time," said Ralf Fuecks, head of the Heinrich Boell foundation think tank of the German Green Party. 3D printing is certain to play a major role in this, he said at a conference at the ILA event with Airbus president Tom Enders. The air travel industry is already convinced of the benefits, according to a survey of some 102 aviation sector players by German high-tech federation Bitkom. Some 70 percent of respondents believed that by 2030 aircraft spare parts will be printed directly at airports, and 51 percent expect that entire planes will be then manufactured by 3D printing. — AFP

## ASIAN SECURITY SUMMIT WORKS ON CYBERSECURITY

**SINGAPORE:** The South China Sea dispute and worries about North Korea dominated an Asian security summit at the weekend, but cybersecurity was also in focus as regional officials sought to improve coordination amid a rise in high-profile hacks. Alarmed by the theft of \$81 million from Bangladesh's central bank in February, one of the world's biggest ever cyber heists, cybersecurity was among the top concerns discussed at Singapore's annual Shangri-La Dialogue. For the first time, the conference allotted one of its six special sessions to cybersecurity.

"It was indicative that cyber has converted from being a logical threat to a physical threat," said William Saito, special adviser to the Japanese cabinet on IT strategy. For Japan, safeguarding critical infrastructure was imperative, especially since it is the host for the 2020 Olympics, and cybersecurity was a large part of that effort, he said. "Cyber, because it is so cross-cutting, will just make existing threats worse," Saito said.

Cybercriminals, whether from criminal gangs or rogue nations, usually operated beyond borders, the meeting was told. "Where restrictions differ, they exploit these differences in order to take advantage of our national systems," said David Koh, chief executive of the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore. "We cannot defend or view cyber threats or issues within any national borders or within a regional border."

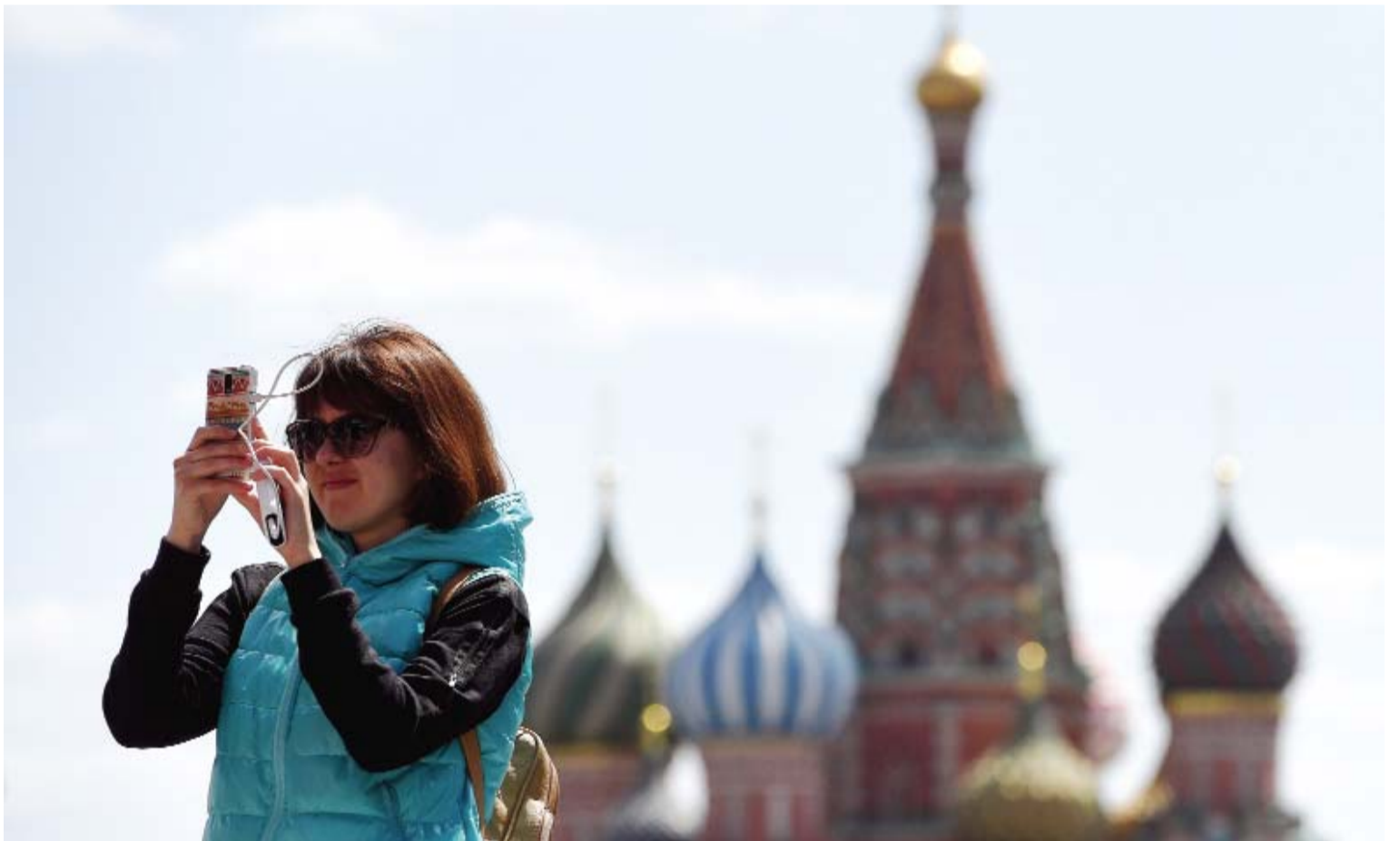
In the February heist, hackers stole money from Bangladesh Bank's account at the New York Federal Reserve. One transfer to a Sri Lankan entity was reversed, but four transfers for \$81 million went to the Philippines and wound up with casinos and casino agents

there. Most of the money remains missing and the identity of the hackers is unknown. India, with nearly 500 million Internet users, is preparing to set up an army of 500,000 cyber-sleuths within five years, a delegate from New Delhi said at the conference. "That can provide a bulwark for global cybersecurity efforts," said Santosh Jha, joint secretary for cyber issues at the Indian external affairs ministry.

## Trust Factor

Building a transnational cybersecurity defense system is hampered by differences between countries and a lack of trust, delegates said. For instance, Western nations were focused on safeguarding the infrastructure of cyberspace while China and Russia were concerned about content. Also, rival nations use cyber techniques for espionage and potentially for sabotage. After years of acrimony and allegations of cyber-spying, senior US and China cyber officials held their first meeting last month since the two countries struck an anti-hacking agreement in September.

"You have permanent members of the UN Security Council coming to the table with fundamentally different objectives, it probably isn't a surprise that the accomplishments to date have been modest," said Sean Kanuck, a former US National Intelligence Officer for Cyber Issues. What was needed, he said, was to "find low hanging fruit, common interests that we all absolutely share, and build on those premises". No country can achieve cybersecurity on its own, Singapore's Koh said. "We need to recognize the urgency of the issue and start working together to take action, based on our common security interests." — Reuters



**MOSCOW:** A woman takes pictures with her smartphone at Red Square on June 1, 2016. — AFP

# RUSSIAN HI-TECH SPY DEVICES UNDER ATTACK

FEARS ABOUT PRIVACY, DATA MONITORING

**MOSCOW:** New Russian technologies, including phone call interception and a facial recognition app, have stirred a fierce debate about privacy and data monitoring. Infowatch, a Moscow-based IT security company managed by businesswoman Natalya Kasperskaya, found itself in hot water last month after it revealed it had invented a system that companies can use to intercept employees' mobile phone conversations.

Companies outside Russia have also devised call interception software, and Infowatch already markets products that monitor employees' e-mails, USB keys and printers. But Kasperskaya says she was taken aback by the storm that surrounded the mobile phone innovation. "We weren't expecting this. For us it was only another channel of communication," Kasperskaya told AFP in an interview.

The Russian authorities and members of the public lashed the invention as a breach of law or infringement of privacy. Infowatch traces its origins back to 1997, when Kasperskaya and her then-husband, now divorced, Eugene Kaspersky co-founded the Kaspersky Lab security software company, which has gone on to global success. The goal behind phone call interception, Kasperskaya said, is to provide large businesses with a tool to prevent information leaks, including companies whose success depends on protecting corporate secrets.

Communications minister Nikolai Nikiforov said a court ruling was needed to get permission to tap phones. The speaker of Russia's lower house of parliament, Sergei Naryshkin, said he feared such technologies could be used to malicious ends. Facing objections from the authorities, the company has refrained from designing a voice recognition system, even though there is demand from sensitive sectors including banking, the oil industry and large public companies. Monitoring of communications by private corporations touches a nerve in a country where the shadowy KGB security service once monitored dissidents and where the state is keen to retain its grip on citizens' personal data. The KGB's post-Soviet successor, the FSB, has long used a sophisticated system called SORM to carry out surveillance communications by telephone or on the Internet. The revelations of whistleblower Edward Snowden showed that the US National Security Agency also carries out surveillance on a mass scale.

Human rights advocacy group Agora has said that nine million Russians, including opposition figures and political activists, have come under state surveillance since 2007. Their mobiles have been tapped, their emails read and their movements tracked by what Agora calls a "political policing instrument". Infowatch has tried to assuage concerns, insisting its new system is still at a preliminary stage.

The company said that only a restricted number of telephone lines will be targeted and monitored with

the employee's consent. The monitoring is done by software that picks out key words from the phone conversations, it said. "We have to prove that our system does not constitute phone tapping. We would by no means release on the market a system that does not respect the law," Kasperskaya said. In any case, Kasperskaya observed, new technologies are nudging us toward a world where there are "no secrets."

## Finding Faces

Another debate has been stirred by a new Russian smartphone app known as FindFace. It allows users to photograph strangers on the street and identify their pages on social network site VK, Russia's equivalent of Facebook, which hosts 350 million accounts. The app has had staggering success, with a million downloads since it was made available in February. In half a second, the app can peruse a database of 300 million pictures and match one to a stranger's photograph, said one of the creators, 26-year-old Artyom Kukhareenko, who co-founded Moscow's NTechLab.

But in its first few weeks, the app has already brewed controversy. Some users used it to identify the VK page of a porn actress and bombarded her with threatening messages. On the other hand, police caught arsonists who set fire to a Saint Petersburg construction site after identifying their images on security camera footage using FindFace. "This is a demonstration of our technology," Kukhareenko told AFP, adding that his app had garnered interest from companies throughout the globe. "The real use of the algorithm will be for security services, banks, distributors and for leisure activities," as well as for dating services and those who wish to meet strangers they saw on the street or even someone who just looks similar, he said. IT security specialist Mikhail Yemelyannikov told AFP that FindFace does not violate any existing legislation because the social media pages it trawls contain pictures with unrestricted access. "The problems start later: What will the result be used for?" he said. "Legislation will never evolve as fast as technology." — AFP

## STREETCARS IN VOGUE, STUDY URGES USE BEYOND TOURISTS

**LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas:** As Oklahoma City prepares to break ground on its first streetcar line in seven decades, and as other cities adjust to having them again, authors of a federally backed study suggest their routes move people with a purpose - not just target the tourist trade. In a recent analysis covering five cities, researchers at the Mineta Transportation Institute in San Jose, California, found streetcar systems fare best when used to haul people from Point A to Point B. Routes in Little Rock and Tampa, Florida, which cater to tourists, fared worse in key areas than lines in Memphis, Tennessee; Portland, Oregon, and Seattle.

"They're not really going into this thinking of transportation as the primary objective," said Jeffery Brown, a co-author of the study who directs the master's program at Florida State University's Urban and Regional Planning Department. "The streetcar is playing a role for something else, like nostalgia." Streetcars were a common sight decades ago, but the automobile age led most communities to scrap their lines, as Oklahoma City did after World War II. Of the five cities studied, the researchers found that all wanted to boost economic development, with Little Rock and Tampa also desiring streetcars for tourism.

But those two systems are practically impractical for commuters: The study found that Tampa's "TECO" line passes through high-density areas but doesn't operate during the morning rush hour, and Little Rock's 12-year-old streetcar system operates on two tight loops in Little Rock and North Little Rock, with a spur to the Clinton Library, but doesn't run to where many people live. Oklahoma City intends to break ground this fall on a system that will also operate on two loops - one covering the central business district and the other in the Bricktown entertainment area. In between is the Chesapeake Arena, home to the NBA's Thunder. "It's a lot like Little Rock's," Brown said. "Now you really have to start asking, 'Who would really ride this thing?'"

Nathaniel Harding, who chaired an Oklahoma City subcommittee that studied potential streetcar use, says the panel believes the system will appeal to downtown workers and out-of-towners. "You can go to lunch in midtown, or go to Bricktown or to a Thunder game and not have to find a place

to park again," he said. Ridership for the Little Rock and Tampa systems dropped by about a third from 2005-2012, according to data from the Federal Transit Administration. While the economic downturn can be blamed for part of the drop, Brown said, the study panel noted both aren't important parts of an overall transportation system.

## Novelty

In Little Rock on Saturday, visitors to the city's annual Riverfest noted the streetcar line is mainly a novelty. Mike Hinshaw of Cabot and his family traveled by streetcar for the first time since a holiday-themed ride two years ago. "I think it would make more sense if it went more places," he said, suggesting a line tying in entertainment areas available only by foot, bus or car. Jake Allison didn't consider the streetcar at all as he and three friends walked toward the festival. Plus, because of high pedestrian traffic, the Little Rock loop was closed all weekend, so he couldn't have used it anyway.

"It's confined," said Allison, who added that he hadn't been on the streetcar since a school field trip several years ago. "It can't take you from many Point As to Bs." The manager of the Little Rock system said the lines were built to link entertainment venues, restaurants, museums and parks as a "public service venue" rather than being a "major rail commuter line". "We are currently a vintage line running at low speeds and strive to provide the best experience possible for visitors, tourists, and locals alike," Virginia Johnson said.

Since the study was published last year, Kansas City, Missouri, and Washington, DC, have opened streetcar lines, while Cincinnati plans to do so in September. Detroit has a line opening this year, while Providence, Rhode Island, this year scrapped its plans, saying improved bus service was more cost-effective. In the places where streetcars are used more broadly, Portland and Seattle have fared better in ridership and revenues, the study found. "The objective is to carry riders and do it as cost-effectively as possible," Brown said. Memphis was also one of the successful cities, but their streetcars haven't run since two vintage cars caught fire in 2013 and 2014; the city is refurbishing the lines. Oklahoma City's downtown is already vibrant without a streetcar, but is considerably spread out. — AP

## A MICROSOFT STAR SEEKS TO RUN NORTH DAKOTA

**BISMARCK, North Dakota:** A decade ago, then-Microsoft executive Doug Burgum stood before a cheering crowd at a technology conference in Dallas and introduced his boss, company co-founder Bill Gates, by describing what makes entrepreneurs successful. "Innovators are people who go against the grain" by taking risks and chasing dreams, said Burgum, who'd become a tech star in his own right after selling his North Dakota software company to Microsoft for more than \$1 billion. "They've got the ability to think in a counterintuitive way."

Now Burgum is pursuing his most unlikely venture yet: becoming governor of North Dakota in his first shot at elected office and against his party's wishes. It's not unusual anymore for wealthy business people to try to leap from the boardroom to the governor's office. Rick Snyder and Bruce Rauner did it in Michigan and Illinois, respectively, in recent years. But Burgum's quest might be the biggest stretch yet: A player in a glitzy, fast-paced industry becoming leader of a state where the cattle outnumber people, only about a dozen towns have a population bigger than 6,000 and many families make their livelihood in agriculture and oil.

Though Burgum is a big name in tech hubs like Silicon Valley and Seattle, he isn't well known in North Dakota outside of Fargo, the state's

largest city, where he lives. His opponent in the June 14 GOP primary election is a more typical fit for the job: low-key, longtime state legislator and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, who's patiently climbed the political ladder and has the party's endorsement.

"I've been involved in the Legislature for 24 years and I've never seen anything like this," said House Speaker Al Carlson, one of many Republicans lined up against the technology titan who wants to run the nation's 47th-largest state. He said Burgum "is a smart guy" but doesn't really understand how North Dakota works. Burgum has infuriated the GOP-controlled Legislature with television ads that claim lawmakers squandered the state's oil bounty before the bust hit two years ago. He claims he's a proven job-creator who's uniquely qualified to help diversify the state economy. Gauging the race is difficult because there's no independent polling. Mark Jendrysik, a political science professor at the University of North Dakota, said most believe Stenehjem will win but Burgum's wealth and fundraising clout - Gates kicked in \$100,000 for his campaign - have made him a viable candidate. In recent weeks, Burgum has been crisscrossing North Dakota to talk to mayors, farmers, ranchers and energy producers, hoping to convince voters they need someone with his background and big ideas. — AP

## UNDP, KUWAIT CELEBRATE WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY, FOCUS ON WILDLIFE PROTECTION

**KUWAIT:** The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Kuwait's General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD) held a discussion panel to mark the World Environment Day yesterday. The UNDP and the Council, together with Kuwait Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA) held the panel with a focus on sustainable development and protection of wildlife. The discussion served as a communications' outreach activity to inform the Kuwaiti public about the serious issues and as an advocacy event to promote KEPA and Kuwait's leadership role in the region.

It also saw the participation of Sheikh Mubarak Fahad Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as a civil society advocate, which underscored the importance of a full society approach to achieving the Sustainable

Development Agenda, the UNDP said in a statement. In his input, Sheikh Mubarak clarified why wildlife protection was a cause that should be supported by the Kuwaiti public and explained the role played by civil society to support national efforts to implement wildlife protections.

On her part, panelist UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, during her input, focused on the theme "Zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife" and how having a collaborative approach would facilitate and strengthen determinations to combat illegal trade of wildlife and preserve the environment. Meanwhile, Dr Khaled Mahdi, Secretary General of the GSSCPD, discussed the importance of environmental sustainability in the National Development Plan, noting some achievements of Kuwait in the

protection of biodiversity through shedding the light on legislations and policies recently passed.

He also noted that Kuwait was in the process of analyzing the alignment between its Plan and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to identify priorities for the country's national development; indicating the next steps towards the collaboration with UNDP to support the implementation of the plan. On his part, Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Director General and CEO of KEPA and Head of Kuwait's delegation to the second session of UN Environment Assembly (UNEA 2), discussed the outcomes of UNEA 2 and Kuwait's leadership role in protecting wildlife in Kuwait and abroad through strategic collaborations with key government entities.

International advocacy was reiterated through

the Ambassador of Kenya Ali Abbas Ali referred to his country's environmental and cultural heritage; the importance of protecting the rich natural resource for future generations; and outlining why it was important for Kenya to host UNEA 2. Nairobi hosted the Assembly on May 23-27.

Meanwhile, South Africa's Ambassador MP Bona focused on the importance of wildlife tourism to the country's economy as a major contributor to job creations and income generation. The Panel discussion concluded with Dima Al-Khatib, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP in Kuwait, who linked the local agenda of wildlife protection in Kuwait by framing wildlife protection in the context of Agenda 2030 and highlighting UNDP's commitments to support the State of Kuwait in this regard. — KUNA



**GWALIOR, MADHYA PRADESH, India :** In this photograph newly born babies lie in a maternity ward at a government hospital in Gwalior. — AFP

## UNWED INDIAN WOMEN TARGETED IN 'BLACK-MARKET BABY SCAM'

### 'MOTHERS WERE WILLINGLY ABANDONING THEIR BABIES'

**GWALIOR, India:** In an intensive care unit, a nurse soothes a crying baby rescued in a raid on a private Indian hospital that police suspect was selling abandoned newborns on the black market. 'She is too weak and needs special care,' the nurse said, patting the girl born underweight and premature and receiving treatment at another hospital, run by the government. 'I pray a nice couple adopts her and raises her like their own,' the nurse said in the central city of Gwalior. Police fear staff at the private Palash Hospital were selling babies for as little as 100,000 rupees (\$1,500), with agents convincing unmarried mothers to give birth at the facility and then abandon them. 'Their agents meticulously went about searching for pregnant woman who wanted to abort but instead were convinced to give birth,' police superintendent Kumar Prateek who led last month's raid and investigating the case told AFP.

'They were unwed woman, vulnerable. And the hospital exploited them, offering them secrecy in return for the newborns,' he said of the stigma attached to unmarried mothers in socially conservative India. Police say they have traced five babies born at the now-shuttered Palash-located just across the road from the government hospital in Gwalior and sold illegally to couples in different cities. However investigators fear the total number could be much higher, with hospital records showing more than 700 babies were delivered there in recent years.

Experts say stealing and selling babies to couples is not uncommon in India, even directly from hospitals where doctors and nurses are sometimes involved in handing them over to criminal syndi-

cates. But investigators say this was unusual in that agents targeted pregnant women who agreed to check into the facility and go through with the scam. 'Unlike female foeticide and illegal abortions, which are major problems for us, the live births happening at the hospital never raised any suspicion,' Anoop Kamthan, Gwalior's chief medical officer, told AFP. 'Mothers were willingly abandoning their babies,' he said. Police were tipped off by a former disgruntled worker, leading to the raid and arrest of two senior hospital officials.

#### 'Well-oiled networks'

Taposh Gupta, hospital director and one of those accused, insists he is innocent of any wrongdoing, pointing the finger at his staff. 'I don't have any knowledge about it. My manager was in control of the administration and I am now hearing some eight to nine months ago they sold one or two babies,' Gupta told AFP, while in police custody. Gupta and another face initial charges including of slavery, as police try to piece together details of the racket. Gupta says he too adopted one of the babies born at the hospital, but stressed that he went through proper legal channels. Activists say black-market adoptions are common in a country with high levels of trafficking of women and children, although there are no official figures.

'We have examples of newborns being fraudulently declared dead and later sold for adoption. These are well-oiled networks spread across the country,' said Anjali Pawar who works for international NGO Against Child Trafficking. Some parents turn to the black market because of the lengthy and

frustrating process of legal adoption that has long involved endless red tape, according to experts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has overhauled the process since coming to power in 2014 in a bid to make it easier and faster, and boost traditionally low official adoption levels. Some 3,000 legal adoptions took place in 2015, according to government figures.

#### 'With love and care'

Investigations so far have discovered that the hospital was getting about 100,000 rupees from childless working and middle class families who were desperate to start a family. One couple say they are devastated after discovering from police that their adopted baby is one of those involved in the hospital scandal. They refused to give details of how they adopted the newborn, but insisted they thought they were acting legally.

'We followed all the procedures and adopted the newborn. They took some money on pretext of documentation and it all looked clean,' the father said on condition of anonymity. 'We were raising the child with love and care. Just like we would have raised our own,' he said, adding that they opted for adoption after five years of trying to conceive. The couple are in danger of losing custody as police attempt to track down the baby's birth mother and null sending the infant to an orphanage. Back at the intensive care unit in Gwalior, nurses are closely monitoring the one-month-old after another baby, a boy, from the raided hospital, died of unknown causes. Once strong enough, she too will be sent to an orphanage. — AFP

## KANSAS FOOD PANTRY HELPS LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH ALLERGIES

**KANSAS CITY:** The Kansas City area is home to a new food pantry that aims to help lower-income people with food allergies deal with the costs of specialty foods they can safely eat. The Renewed Health Food Pantry opened in Overland Park, Kansas, about a year ago, the brainchild of Emily Brown and a friend; they also started a nonprofit to help low-income residents with food allergies. Brown believes it was the first such pantry in the US, and a similar one has since opened near Philadelphia. Brown also plans to help open another allergen-free pantry later this year in Missouri.

For Brown, it was personal. Her young daughter is allergic to milk, eggs, wheat, soy and peanuts, and the specialty food she could eat - a \$6.99 loaf of gluten-free bread, for example - pushed the family's budget 'through the roof' and eventually contributed to their decision to seek federal food assistance, the former preschool teacher said. But the allergen-free food options in the federal Women, Infants and Children assistance program (corn tortillas instead of bread, and rice instead of pasta) were less than ideal.

#### Food allergies

'I was really just kind of disappointed to discover that the assistance that I needed wasn't there either,' Brown said. Her daughter is among about 15 million people in the US that the national advocacy group Food Allergy Research and Education estimates have food allergies. That includes about one in every 13 children, according to FARE. Low-income families with children with allergies spend more than twice as much on visits to emergency rooms and hospitals than mid-to-high-income families, recent research from Northwestern University found.

And about 40 percent of those children surveyed also reported experiencing life-threatening reactions to food, such as trouble breathing and a drop in blood pressure. 'The fact that they were able to open up a food pantry for kids who can't afford the special foods for food allergies - incredible,' said Dr Ruchi Gupta, an associate professor of pediatrics who led the Northwestern study, which was published in April. Until there are treatments for food allergies beyond prevention,

Gupta said 'the bottom line is we have to do everything we can to help keep these kids safe. And it's not asking a lot.'

#### 'Allergy-free adjustments'

Food allergies have helped spur the multi-billion-dollar allergen-free food industry, but Gupta would like to see regular grocery stores with one aisle of lower-priced allergen-free foods. The Renewed Health Food Pantry, which opens once a week by appointment in an Overland Park, Kansas, church, has so far provided more than 12,000 pounds of allergen-free food free of charge to about 20 families. Provisions, which include gluten-free breads and alternatives to dairy, egg and peanut products, are largely provided from manufacturer donations, food drives and other contributions. Clients must have a doctor's order saying the allergen-free foods are medically necessary and show their income is at or below 250 percent of the poverty level, Brown said. Brown, who recently addressed the annual conference of the nonprofit National WIC Association, has been advocating for the agency to make some allergy-free adjustments. 'I always say we could not have existed 10 years ago because the market wasn't there,' Brown said. 'The free-from food market I think is like a \$23-billion industry. ... Now is the time to kind of look and think about the least among us.' The US Department of Agriculture, which oversees the WIC program, said WIC serves a large population and has about 8 million participants each month, including 49 percent of all infants in the US. The USDA also said it doesn't know how many WIC participants have food allergies, nor does it require state or local agencies that administer WIC to provide allergen-free alternatives.

But if a WIC participant has food allergies, local agencies may help devise a food package that could include alternatives like dried beans as a substitute for peanut butter or a soy beverage to replace milk, the USDA said. WIC also has special infant formulas and medical foods for infants who require them. Jan DeMoure, a nursing student from Liberty who has three children with food allergies, has been a client of the ReNewed pantry since October 2015. She estimates she gets about \$100 worth of food each month. 'Without the pantry, we would probably be a little hungry,' she said. — AP



**Kansas:** Jan DeMoure, right, looks at a checklist while shopping at the Food Equality Initiative with the assistance of food bank manager, Karen Miller, at the New Haven Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Overland Park, Kansas. — AP

## LARGE GUARDANT HEALTH STUDY BACKS USE OF 'LIQUID BIOPSIES'

**CHICAGO:** A large study sponsored by privately held Guardant Health Inc of California showed that its Guardant360 liquid biopsy test, which looks at bits of tumor DNA in blood samples, closely mirrored the cancer genes taken from traditional tissue biopsies. The findings, presented on Saturday at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting in Chicago, suggest that blood tests might be a suitable alternative in some cases to tissue biopsies for guiding treatment decisions.

Doctors increasingly have been using tissue biopsies - tiny bits of tumors removed surgically from patients - to determine which genes are driving the growth of cancers. They use this information to select targeted treatments that attack those genetic drivers. But in some cases, tissue biopsies are difficult to obtain, or there is not enough tissue present for genomic testing.

#### Invasive surgery

Several companies have been racing to develop so-called liquid biopsies, which can identify tiny genetic material, shed by tumors, that circulates in the blood, without the need for invasive surgery to remove pieces of the tumor. But so far, there have been few large studies looking at how well the tests compare with traditional tissue biopsies. The Guardant-backed study included sam-

ples from 15,191 patients with advanced lung cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancer and other tumors. Each provided one or more blood samples for analysis.

The researchers did various tests to see how liquid biopsies compared with tissue biopsies. In one test, the team compared tumor genes found in blood samples to the results of genetic testing of tumor samples in 398 patients. When the liquid biopsy tests identified key genes known to drive cancer growth, such as BRAF, KRAS, EGFR, ALK, RET and ROS1, those same mutations were also present in 94 percent to 100 percent of the tissue samples from these same patients. The team also compared liquid biopsies to data from published results of cancer patients and showed the tests identified the same cancer genes frequently associated with those cancers.

Overall, liquid biopsies matched the results of tissue samples 87 percent of the time. When blood and tumor samples were done no more than six months apart, the accuracy went up to 98 percent. Dr Edward Kim, an oncologist at the Carolinas HealthCare Systems' Levine Cancer Institute said the findings add to the growing body of evidence showing a correlation between liquid biopsies and tissue biopsies. 'They show correlations with the tissue about where you would expect them,' he said. — Reuters

## ACTIVIST ASKS BRAZIL'S INTERIM PRESIDENT TO PAY FOR CLEANUP

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** A leading Brazilian biologist who has fought for the cleanup of Rio de Janeiro's polluted waterways called Saturday on interim President Michael Temer to release emergency funds to pay for the dredging of toxic lagoons hugging the Olympic Park. Around 650 million Brazilian reais (\$184 million) were earmarked for the project years ago but it was held up and has yet to begin. Biologist Mario Moscatelli made the call during a seaside protest

attended by surfers, sailors, rowers and other Rio residents. Moscatelli is the most visible face of the fight to clean up the Olympic city's waterways, which are polluted by human sewage. He also asked for a 10-minute meeting to discuss the release of the funds with Temer, who he says is the last hope for making good on long-postponed promises to clean up Rio's waters before the Summer Olympics in August.

Rio is among the states hardest hit by the recession that's slamming Brazil, and the funds for the project have dried up, Moscatelli said. 'It's one more Olympic project that looks like it won't become reality,' said Moscatelli, speaking in front on aerial photos showing massive brown sewage stains on Barra Beach. 'If this project doesn't happen before the games, it will never happen.' Water pollution has become a hot-button issue in the lead up to Rio's Aug. 5-21 Olympics. A massive cleanup was billed as one of the major legacy projects of the games, but an ongoing study commissioned by The Associated Press has shown the waterways where the Olympic rowers and sailors will compete are filled with illness-causing viruses and bacteria.

#### 'National shame'

Rio's mayor recently blasted the state for its failure to make good on the promises, calling it a 'national shame.' David Zee, an oceanography professor at Rio's state university who attended Saturday's protest, said the failure to dredge the Jacarepagua and Barra lagoons around the Olympic Park could prove catastrophic during the Games. The high sewage levels fill the lagoons with sulfuric gas that is released during windy, agitated conditions, enveloping the area in a noxious smell that can harm people's health. Zee said winds and big waves are common in August. Moscatelli said that 'whether we are embarrassed on a global scale will depend exclusively on Mother Nature.' 'If it's windy and there are big waves, prepare your gas masks,' he said as demonstrators joined hands in a symbolic group hug along the canal where the lagoon's brown waters empty into the Atlantic. — AP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Rowers protest the pollution of Marapendi lagoon where the lagoons brown waters empty into the Atlantic, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AP

## ROCHE THERAPY HELPS 24 PERCENT OF UNTREATED BLADDER CANCER PATIENTS

**NEW YORK:** A newly approved immunotherapy from Roche Holding proved effective as an initial treatment for some patients with advanced bladder cancer, according to data presented yesterday. Results of the mid-stage trial could help make the case that the drug, Tecentriq, should become the initial therapy of choice for patients with metastatic bladder cancer, according to a researcher leading the study. Known chemically as atezolizumab, Tecentriq last month won US approval for bladder cancer that had progressed following chemotherapy, becoming the first new drug for the disease in 30 years.

The latest study tested the Roche drug, given by injection every three weeks, in 119 patients deemed

ineligible for standard cisplatin chemotherapy. Nearly a quarter of the patients experienced at least 30 percent tumor shrinkage with no new lesions, including 7 percent who had no sign of cancer.

Dr Arjun Balar of New York University Langone Medical Center, the study's lead investigator, said he did not expect to see complete responses in these patients, most of whom had seen their cancer spread to the lungs, liver or bones. "In my opinion it absolutely needs to be considered as a potential new first-line standard of care," said Balar, who was presenting the data at the American Society of Clinical Oncology scientific meeting in Chicago. Tecentriq belongs to a new class of biotechnology drugs called PD-L1 inhibitors that help the immune

system fight cancer by blocking a mechanism tumors use to evade detection. They are similar to PD-1 inhibitors from Merck & Co and Bristol-Myers Squibb that have extended survival in advanced melanoma and lung cancer patients.

At a list price of \$12,500 per month, Tecentriq costs roughly the same as Keytruda and Bristol's rival Opdivo. After an average follow-up of 14.4 months into treatment, 75 percent of the responders had not experienced disease progression. Researchers estimate the median overall survival will be 14.8 months. The typical survival prognosis for advanced bladder cancer patients who cannot receive cisplatin is 9 to 10 months, researchers said.

Dan Chen, head of cancer immunotherapy

development for Roche's Genentech unit, said the data was even stronger than what was seen in the study of patients who had previously received chemotherapy that led to Tecentriq's approval. The overall response rate in that study was 16 percent versus the 24 percent who benefited among previously untreated patients. The drug is far less toxic than chemotherapy, researchers said, with 6 percent of patients discontinuing therapy due to side effects. Far more patients typically discontinue chemotherapy, and many refuse it altogether. An estimated 77,000 people in the United States will be diagnosed with bladder cancer this year, making it the fifth most common cancer in adults. — Reuters

## PUERTO RICO AUTHORITIES ON ALERT FOR STRANDED WHALES

**SAN JUAN:** A 12-foot pilot whale was washed ashore in northwestern Puerto Rico and put authorities on alert for the possibility of more stranded whales. Biologist Grisél Rodríguez of the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources says that the agency consulted with federal authorities and euthanized the young adult male because its health was too compromised to survive. A necropsy was being per-

formed to determine if the whale suffered from a disease or had ingested something that made it ill.

Rodríguez said Saturday there had been other sightings of the mammals and expressed concern there could be more distressed whales in the area. Pilot whales travel in close groups and are often involved in mass strandings. The biologist says pilot whales live year round off Puerto Rico's northwest coast. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this photo provided by NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, an orca whale known as L95 swims in the Pacific Ocean near La Push, Washington, shortly before being fitted with a satellite tag. — AP

## RARE LEMUR BORN AT SAN DIEGO ZOO

**SAN DIEGO:** The San Diego Zoo has announced the birth of a rare red ruffed lemur, an endangered tiny primate species that in nature is only found on the island of Madagascar. The male lemur with big black eyes and Teddy Bear-ears was born on May 18 at the zoo's Primate Propagation Center.

Primate keeper Kristen Watkins says the infant is being well cared for by its first-

time mother, named Morticia. The baby weighs more than 6 ounces, gaining about a third of an ounce a day, indicating it is successfully nursing. The zoo has bred more than 100 red ruffed lemurs since 1965, but it had been 13 years since the last birth. The red ruffed lemur will be seen when the San Diego Zoo opens a new exhibit area next year. — AP



**SAN DIEGO:** This photo provided by San Diego Zoo Global shows a male red ruffed lemur at the San Diego Zoo's behind-the-scenes Primate Propagation Center. — AP



**NORTH DAKOTA:** In this photo, North Dakota Health Department environmental scientist Jane Kangas shows how to operate a smell detection tool in her Fargo, North Dakota, office. — AP

## FARGO SCIENTIST SNIFFS OUT LANDFILL ISSUES

**FARGO, North Dakota:** Jane Kangas has the most valuable nostrils in North Dakota. The environmental scientist's state-certified nose gives her the ability to decipher whether a landfill is meeting standards for odor control - needing just a whiff or two to determine whether it has reached peak reek. Her verification: a device that records the level of odor. Kangas conducts odor inspections for 25 landfills in eastern North Dakota, none more scrutinized than the one in Fargo, the state's largest city. Several years ago, complaints about the stench from the dumping ground were so common, the city received criticism from people who worked in a horse park with a 400-stall barn. The city has since cut down on the funk by installing wells to mine the methane gas and turn it into energy. Even so, rising summer temperatures make more people bitter about the litter. "My job is very interesting because we talk to the public on a daily basis," said Kangas, who inspects the Fargo landfill at least once a week. "The odor part is such a small

part of my job. I enjoy my job, so to go on an odor complaint, it doesn't bother me." To make sure her olfactory senses stay sharp - "The older I get, the tougher it gets," said the 21-year veteran of the health department - she is required to annually attend odor school, where she is tested on a variety of scents.

The tool Kangas uses is called the Nasal Ranger, which looks like a radar gun with a nasal mask on one end. It is used to test everything from landfill smells to second-hand marijuana smoke in Colorado, where environmental officials have been trained to sniff out weed. The device was designed by St. Croix Sensory, a consulting business in Minnesota's Twin Cities that's run by Chuck McGinley, an environmental engineer who has trained odor inspectors since the 1980s. "We train up to several hundred inspectors a year, including people around the country and around the world," McGinley said. "The training is pretty basic. We train people to describe smell and to measure smell in the

ambient air. Most people are trainable." The Nasal Ranger measures aromas in odor concentration units, which essentially is the odor compared to clean air. Anything over seven units is a violation according to North Dakota law enacted in 1999 after a series of pungent debates in the Legislature.

The worst reading for Kangas - who also protects the public from asbestos, mold, lead and radon hazards, though not with her nose - was a snort of 31 units at a now-defunct ethanol plant near the northeastern North Dakota town of Grafton. "At 31, you are about dropping over," she said. "It was a case where you would take the readings, shove Kleenex up your nose and run away." McGinley said each community has different expectations about an acceptable level of smell, what should be done about it and how much money should be spent to fix it. "Odor is not like a speed limit," McGinley said. "It's more like observing and recording a habit of driving politely in the community." — AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
د. فهد علي المخيزيم



Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM





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

# RAMADAN IS BETTER WITH MAIS ALGHANIM

## ENJOY THE BEST IFTAR, GHABGA AND THE GREATEST ORIENTAL OUD NIGHTS

Mais Alghanim group has announced the launch of the many distinguished services it will be providing during the holy month of Ramadan, which will include a rich selection of dishes and beverages, specially made for iftar and suhoor for the whole family to enjoy and celebrate the holy month in a great atmosphere.

As usual, Mais Alghanim welcomes the holy month by providing the finest oriental setting for Ramadan, by decorating its restaurants with lanterns and oriental designs that reflect the generosity of this month. Mais Alghanim will serve the ultimate daily dishes for iftar and suhoor, which include the customers all-time favorite grilled dishes, in addition to soups, salads, hot meals and all kinds of Ramadan sweets, as well as special Ramadan beverages, including Laban, Qamaruddin, Vimto, and other varieties of Arabian cuisine in an authentic atmosphere.

For more diversity, Mais Alghanim will be ready to receive the esteemed customers and welcome them with the most delicious meal choices from 6:30 pm until 2:00 am. Customers can also pick the iftar meal of their choice from Mais Alghanim's main menu or its daily iftar menu, which include a complete iftar meal, consisting of soups, juices, appetizers and desserts. All of this is offered at great prices, inspired by the generosity of this holy month.

As for Mais Alghanim's restaurant, it welcomes Shisha lovers from iftar until suhoor hours, and to enjoy iftar or Ghabga in a great atmosphere. In addition, customers can be entertained by the oriental Oud night, every



night during Ramadan, starting at 9:00 pm until 1:00 am.

Saj will also be served in Mais Alghanim's Gulf Road branch for Ghabga and suhoor, where customers can pick from our various freshly-baked choices and different kinds of mouthwatering toppings to enrich their Ramadan meals.

To learn about Mais Alghanim's special Ramadan meals, all you have to do is visit our official website and browse through our exquisite menu.

Mais Alghanim's branch in Mahboula, Coastal Road, Spoons Complex, offers the same services as Mais Alghanim's Gulf Road branch. Customers can have a great time

savoring the exceptional services that have always been provided by Mais Alghanim's sincere hospitality to create unforgettable Ramadan nights.

Customers will be glad to know that they can also enjoy Mais Alghanim's delicious Ramadan meals with Mais Alghanim To Go in all its branches in Kuwait, and its newest

branch in Hawally next to Qadisiya Sports Club. Mais Alghanim To Go uses the latest and best packaging equipment and follows strict methods in public health and food safety, which it applies in all its branches, and with the help of a number of delivery vehicles, our services cover various areas in Kuwait. All you have to do is call our hotline or place your order online.

Mais Alghanim's offers also include catering services for iftar, ghabga and suhoor. special menus have been prepared to meet the tastes of our valued customers for this holy month, based on decades-long experience in turning private and official events into memorable moments starting with the basic arrangements and caring for all necessary needs. Our catering services are designed to ensure comfort for the guests and hosts alike in addition to offering rich and diverse menus, which include different varieties to suit all occasions, anywhere and anytime. Customers are welcome to visit our Gulf Road branch to place their order for our catering services that offer the best menu to cover most events.

On this special occasion, Mais Alghanim group, represented by the Managing Director Chawki Barakat, would like to wish Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwaiti citizens and expats, all the best for this holy month of Ramadan, stressing that Mais Alghanim's doors are wide open for customers to treat themselves to unforgettable authentic Ramadan nights with their families and take pleasure in Mais Alghanim's sincere hospitality.



### AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES BRANCH TIMINGS FOR RAMADAN

Ahli United Bank announced its working hours during the Holy Month of Ramadan, which will be applicable all throughout the holy month. Ahli United Bank branches will commence work in one shift from 10 am to 1:30 pm.

The Bank clarified its readiness to receive its valued clients during the Holy Month of Ramadan at its 37 branches throughout the State of Kuwait and provide them with all banking services they need, avail liquidity in all ATM machines, respond to their inquiries 24/7 through the bank's electronic sites or by calling Hayakom on 1812000.

On the blessed occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan, Ahli United Bank would like to convey its sincere congratulations and best wishes the Amir of the State of Kuwait His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, as well as to the government and people of Kuwait.



### ARMENIAN PRELACY SENDS RAMADAN GREETINGS

The Armenian Prelacy of Kuwait and the neighboring countries extended its heartfelt congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti government and the people of Kuwait on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. In a statement sent by Reverend Father Mas Zoubouyan, he stressed that the Kuwaiti people are 'highly noble' and highlighted the fatherly care Armenians in Kuwait are receiving.

### KUWAIT HUMANE EFFORTS ALLEVIATE SUFFERINGS OF MILLIONS OF REFUGEES: FATHER ANGELOS

The Coptic Catholic (Egyptian) Church in Kuwait extended its congratulations to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His



Father Angelos Masoud

Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti people, expatriates living in Kuwait and the Arab nation on the occasion of the advent of the holy month of Ramadan.

In this regard, father Angelos Masoud issued a statement congratulating the 'Humanitarian Leader' His Highness the Amir and stressed that such religious occasions provide great opportunities to compassionate with the poor and the needy worldwide, especially the increasing number of refugees. Masoud also hailed His Highness the Amir's role in alleviating the sufferings of refugees and displaced people.

## EMBASSY CELEBRATES BANGLA NEW YEAR

The Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait celebrated a 'Pohela Boishak' - Bangla New Year at the Chancery. People from all strata of the community including children and women participated during the colorful and joyous festival. A colorful cultural program was hosted by the Embassy. The enthusiastic Bangladeshi community people participated and enjoyed the traditional celebration. Charge d'affaires

Mahbubul Alam welcomed the guests and thanked the performers.

Mentionable, the Bangla New Year begins at dawn, which is related to Solar Calendar, and the day is marked with singing, processions, and fairs. Traditionally, businesses start this day with a new ledger, clearing out the old. People of Bangladesh enjoy a national holiday on Poila Boishakh. All over the coun-

try people can enjoy fairs and festivals. Singers perform traditional songs welcoming the New Year. Like other festivals of the country, the day is marked by visiting relatives, friends and neighbors. People prepare special dishes for their guests. The festivities from the deep heartland of Bengal have now evolved to become vast events both in the rural areas and cities across the country irrespective of religious belief.



A Bengali Cultural Program titled 'Boishakhi Mela 2016' was held recently. From Bangladeshi Embassy, the chief guest was S M Mahabubul Alam, Charge d'affaires and Abdul Latif, Counselor (Labor Department). Other officers and staff attended the event as well. Society Intellectual and Active Cultural organization members were also present. The program lasted for the whole day and had a huge family gathering. It was located at Ras Al-Salmiya in Rezayat Villa.

### BUWAIR HOSTS EVENT TO HONOR MARTYRS



Abdullah Buwair

Kuwaiti author and historical researcher Abdullah Abbas Buwair invites the public to attend a grand celebration to be organized on Sunday, June 19, 2016 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, in the honor of martyrs' families as well as officials and staff of the Martyrs' Bureau. A number of statesmen, sheikhs and diplomats will also be honored during the event, which Buwair is holding on

the occasion of issuing his newest publication titled 'Speeches of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.'



## AMBASSADOR TO GEORGIA VISITS PARADISE INVESTMENT RESORT

**K**uwait's Ambassador to Georgia Mubarak Mohammed Al-Suhajjan recently paid his second visit to the Paradise Investment Resort in Georgia,

where he was received by Maher Saleem, General Manager of Dar Ma'edati Company for General Trading and Contracting. They both opened the resort's new reception

building and toured the resort to examine developments done since the previous visit. Notably, Paradise resort is one of the largest in Georgia and the first to be built

by a Kuwaiti company. The resort is now one of the accredited hotels in Georgia and is accessible through the famous booking website booking.com. Saleem thanked

Suhajjan and stressed that Georgia is a major touristic attraction for which Kuwaitis do not have to obtain a visa beforehand.



## K-TECH SIGNS CO-OP AGREEMENT WITH GUST

**K**uwait Technical College (K-TECH) recently signed a cooperation agreement with the Gulf University for Sciences and Technology (GUST), out of its keenness to communicate with various private universities in Kuwait for the best of its

students who wish to resume university studies. The agreement allows accrediting the majors taught by K-Tech so that its graduates can carry on with university studies in GUST to obtain a bachelor degree in Management Information System or

Marketing. The agreement, due to take effect by the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year, was signed by GUST President Dr Donald Bates and K-Tech's board of trustees' Deputy Chairperson Dr Adel Al-Zera'a.

## WRITERS' FORUM, KUWAIT MEETS

**O**n the evening of 27th June at the residence of Tajwer Sultana, monthly meeting of the Writers' Forum, Kuwait started in a casual and lighter note. Members greeted each other and exchanged their personal talks and then discussion slowly moved towards serious notes when the agenda of "Multilingual Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira" on the occasion of 15th of August and publication of the "Multilingual book by Writers' Forum, Kuwait" were discussed by the president of the forum, Umesh sharma. Sharma also requested all WFK members to use WhatsApp group platform / portal with utmost care so that the dignity and growth of the WFK are not impaired. Multilingual Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira will be organized in the association of the Embassy of India, Kuwait. Details of this event will be furnished later. Sharma added that Dr Navniit Gandhi will be the convener of the Editorial

Committee. Dr Navniit Gandhi highlighted the ground rules and guideline to participate in the multilingual book. These rules / guidelines will be posted on the WhatsApp portal of WFK.

The meeting comprised of two sessions, in the first session members enjoyed the pleasure of listening to stirring stories written and narrated by Rajesh Verlekar "A memorable chilled evening" in

English, Biswa Ranjan ...Pratishruti" in Oriya and an articles by Nazneen Ali "Step by step toward a better world" in English.

During poetry session members recited their poetry in different languages including Umesh Sharma, Navniit Gandhi and Tajwer Sultana recited their poem in Hindi while Ameer Kidwai in Urdu, Ameer Uddin in Kannad and Mohan Singh read the English poem of her daughter Parminder Kaur on her behalf.

Short and sweet meeting concluded with discussions on productive ideas and advices by members for betterment of the forum. Those who attended the meeting were;

Umesh Sharma, Dr Waseem Siddiqui, Amir Kidwai, Tajwer Sultana, Dr Navniit Gandhi, Rajesh Varlekar, Nazneen Ali, Viswa Ranjan, Mohan Singh, Ameer Uddin. There will be no monthly meeting during the month of Ramadan.



## FOR AN OUTSTANDING CREATIVE STATEMENT THIS RAMADAN WITH PATCHI

**I**n 2016 Patchi is setting a new design trend for Ramadan with its rich selection of decorated chocolates, Tasali collections and chocolate gift items. The 2016 Ramadan Collection features captivating colors. Purple, orange and gold seamlessly merge to create a sensational modern impression. The motifs and patterns are a homage to authenticity and timeless ethnic tradition. The wonderful contrast comes together to make the Ramadan Collection truly memorable.

This season Patchi offers a vast choice of decorated chocolates beautifully arranged in crystal, glass, large silver jardinières and leather trays. The highly popular pre-packed Gourmandine boxes are back with an assortment of purple and orange wrapped chocolates and boxes with Patchi's signature unwrapped Ramadan specialty Tasali chocolates with dried fruits and nuts fillings. Vases and bowls filled with decorated chocolates and presented in elegantly designed boxes bring a special touch to this Ramadan season. All this rich choice ensures you will find the perfect gifts for family, friends and business partners. In addition to the impression selec-



tion of readymade boxes and arrangements that embody savoir-faire, elegance and innovation, Patchi, as always, offers companies and brands the option of gifting their esteemed clients customized corporate boxes (complete with the logo, corporate colors and more).

Ramadan is a blessed time for giving. It's a season of generosity, sharing and special iftar and souhour moments. A gift from Patchi is a distinctive way of showing you care and celebrating the spirit of Ramadan.



Khalid Al-Huwaishel

## KNES SCORES 118 OUT OF 120 IN EDEXCEL IAL BIOLOGY EXAM

**K**uwait National English School (KNES) is proud to announce that grade 12 student Khalid Al-Huwaishel has achieved an outstanding score of 118 out of 120 in his Edexcel IAL Biology Exam. Huwaishel reflected on his achievement by saying: "Biology is my most favorite subject which I pursue enthusiastically during term time and holidays. To broaden my knowledge and understanding of what I learn at school, I

spend time researching quite extensively. I am proud to say that my family and friends consider me as a reliable source in clarifying health and medical issues. Learning is an on-going process and I am always willing and ready to continue my passion in this field. I take this opportunity to thank Mr Abdul Majeed, my Biology teacher who has been teaching me for more than five years. I really appreciate his continuous support."

AMC

- 04:20 One More Kiss
- 06:00 The Wilby Conspiracy
- 07:45 Clifford
- 09:15 Charge Of The Light Brigade
- 11:20 Captain Jack
- 13:00 Movers And Shakers
- 14:20 Empire Of The Ants
- 15:50 Everybody's Fine
- 17:30 Follow That Dream
- 19:20 Funny Thing Happened...Forum
- 21:00 Phantoms
- 22:35 Winterhawk
- 00:15 Bio-Dome
- 01:50 Southie

ANIMAL PLANET HD

- 03:25 Natural World
- 04:15 Animal Cops South Africa
- 05:02 Lion Man: One World African Safari
- 05:25 Lion Man: One World African Safari
- 05:49 Gangland Killers
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:00 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dog TV
- 08:15 Giant Pandas Go Wild
- 09:10 Rugged Justice
- 10:05 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 11:00 Dog TV
- 11:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 12:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 12:50 Bahama Blue
- 13:45 Wildest Islands
- 14:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marven
- 15:35 Biggest And Baddest
- 16:30 Killer Iq: Lion vs Hyena
- 17:25 Wildest Islands
- 18:20 Restoration Wild
- 19:15 Rugged Justice
- 20:10 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 21:05 Village Vets
- 21:35 Village Vets
- 22:00 Restoration Wild
- 22:55 Snake Crusader With Bruce George
- 23:20 Snake Crusader With Bruce George

Discovery Channel HD

- 03:15 For The Love Of Cars
- 04:05 For The Love Of Cars
- 05:00 For The Love Of Cars
- 06:00 Yukon Men
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N Loud
- 08:30 Dukes Of Haggie
- 08:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 09:20 Property Wars
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Alaskan Bush People
- 11:25 The Last Alaskans
- 12:15 Hell Roads
- 13:05 Dukes Of Haggie
- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 13:55 Property Wars
- 14:20 Yukon Men
- 15:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 16:00 Fast N Loud
- 16:50 How Do They Do It?
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Diesel Brothers
- 18:30 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
- 19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls: Women
- 20:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 20:35 Property Wars
- 21:00 Dual Survival
- 21:50 Dual Survival
- 22:40 Fire In The Hole
- 23:30 Fast N Loud
- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:10 Dual Survival
- 02:00 Dual Survival
- 02:50 Fire In The Hole

Discovery Family

- 03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 03:50 You Have Been Warned
- 04:40 You Have Been Warned
- 05:30 You Have Been Warned
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 06:40 How It's Made
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 Kids vs Film
- 08:15 Kids vs Film
- 08:40 You Have Been Warned
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 13:40 Mythbusters
- 17:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
- 19:30 Prehistoric
- 20:20 How The Earth Works
- 21:10 Curiosity: Megastorm
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 00:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
- 02:10 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

ID. INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

- 03:00 Surviving Evil
- 03:48 Murder Among Friends
- 04:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 05:24 California Investigator
- 05:49 California Investigator
- 06:12 Southern Fried Homicide
- 07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 12:00 California Investigator
- 16:10 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
- 21:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 22:00 Disappeared
- 22:50 Double Cross
- 23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
- 00:30 Paranormal Lockdown
- 01:20 The Haunted
- 02:10 Double Cross

Discovery Science

- 03:29 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 04:16 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 05:03 Food Factory
- 05:50 Food Factory USA
- 08:08 Food Factory
- 10:23 Food Factory USA
- 11:08 How It's Made
- 14:57 The World's Strangest UFO Stories
- 17:18 Alien Encounters
- 18:05 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman

Disney Channel

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 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
- 08:30 Shake It Up
- 08:55 Hannah Montana
- 09:20 Hannah Montana
- 09:45 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:10 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:35 Cadet Kelly
- 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:20 Jessie
- 12:45 Girl Meets World
- 13:10 Best Friends Whenever
- 13:35 Jessie
- 14:00 Jessie
- 14:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 14:30 Jessie
- 14:55 Jessie
- 15:20 Jessie
- 15:45 Jessie
- 16:10 Jessie
- 16:35 Jessie
- 17:00 Jessie
- 17:25 Jessie
- 17:50 The 7D
- 18:00 Cloud 9
- 19:30 Evermoor Chronicles
- 19:55 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:20 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:05 The Hive
- 00:10 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

- 21:45 Lab Rats
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

food network

- 03:00 Private Chef
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Siba's Table
- 11:30 Siba's Table
- 12:00 Ching's Amazing Asia
- 12:30 Ching's Amazing Asia
- 13:00 Man Finds Food
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 17:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 18:00 Siba's Table
- 18:30 Siba's Table
- 19:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 19:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 20:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 21:00 Chopped South Africa
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 22:30 Man v Food
- 23:00 Mystery Diners
- 23:30 Mystery Diners
- 00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 01:00 Chopped South Africa
- 02:00 Man v Food

HD HISTORY

- 03:40 Shipping Wars
- 04:05 Shipping Wars
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Lost Worlds
- 06:00 Ax Men
- 06:50 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 07:40 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 08:30 Shipping Wars
- 08:55 American Restoration
- 09:20 American Restoration
- 09:45 Counting Cars
- 11:25 Grave Trade
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Barry'd Treasure
- 13:30 Barry'd Treasure
- 13:55 Sean Bean On Waterloo
- 14:45 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Ax Men
- 16:50 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 17:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 18:30 Grave Trade
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 21:50 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 22:40 Battle 360
- 23:30 Pawn Stars
- 23:55 Pawn Stars
- 00:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 01:10 American Restoration
- 02:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 02:50 The Curse Of Oak Island

itv CHOICE

- 03:00 Coronation Street
- 04:40 Endeavour
- 06:20 Midsomer Murders
- 08:00 Pick Me!
- 08:50 Catchphrase
- 11:25 The Lion Guard
- 11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
- 12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:25 Goldie & Bear
- 13:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 14:15 The Lion Guard
- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:10 Doc McStuffins
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 Jungle Cubs
- 16:50 Aladdin
- 17:15 The Lion Guard
- 17:40 Goldie & Bear
- 18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 The Lion Guard
- 20:00 Goldie & Bear
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:25 PJ Masks
- 21:50 Jungle Cubs
- 22:20 Aladdin
- 22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack
- 00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:45 Calimero
- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 02:05 Calimero
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:30 Loopidoo
- 02:45 Art Attack

NAT GEO people HD

- 03:05 Places We Go
- 03:30 Miguel's Feasts
- 03:55 East Bites West

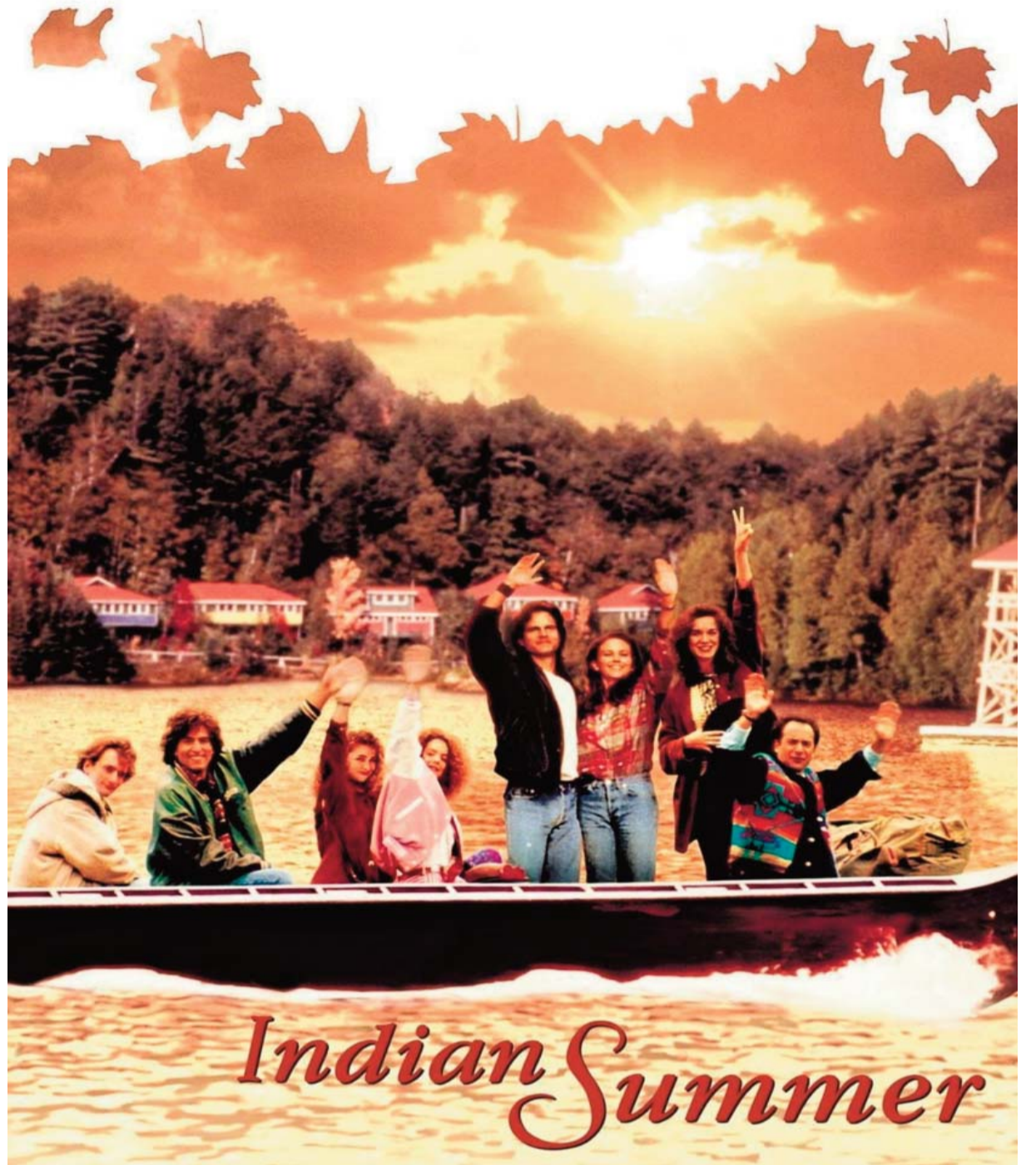
- 04:20 Access 360 World Heritage
- 05:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 05:35 The Food Files
- 06:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 06:25 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 06:50 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 07:15 Maverick Chef
- 07:40 Tales From The Bush Larder
- 08:05 Miguel's Feasts
- 08:30 One Man & His Campervan
- 08:55 One Man & His Campervan
- 09:20 My Dubai
- 09:45 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 10:10 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
- 10:35 World's Best Chefs
- 11:00 Maximum Foodie
- 11:25 This Is Brazil
- 12:15 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia
- 12:40 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 13:35 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 14:00 Meat v Veg
- 14:30 American Food Battle
- 14:55 Places We Go
- 15:25 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
- 16:20 Access 360 World Heritage
- 17:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 17:40 The Food Files
- 18:10 City Chase Marrakech
- 19:05 Places We Go
- 19:30 Cesar Millan: Viva Las Vegas!
- 20:25 Access 360 World Heritage
- 21:15 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet
- 21:40 The Food Files
- 22:05 City Chase Marrakech
- 22:55 A Marriage Of Flavours
- 23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
- 23:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
- 00:10 Meat v Veg
- 00:35 American Food Battle
- 01:00 East Bites West
- 01:25 Poh & Co.
- 01:50 Grandpa's Boy
- 02:15 World's Best Chefs
- 02:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt

NAT GEO WILD HD

- 03:45 Europe's Great Wilderness
- 04:40 Fish Tank Kids
- 05:35 Prehistoric Predators
- 06:30 Hooked
- 07:25 Monster Fish
- 08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
- 09:15 Animals Gone Wild
- 10:10 My Dog Ate What?
- 11:05 Big Baboon House
- 12:00 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
- 12:55 Animals Gone Wild
- 13:50 Croc Labyrinth
- 14:45 China's Golden Monkeys
- 15:40 Legends Of Lemur Island
- 16:35 Revenge Of The Lioness
- 17:30 Blood Rivals: Hippo V. Lion
- 18:25 Swamp Men
- 19:20 China's Golden Monkeys
- 20:10 Legends Of Lemur Island
- 21:00 Revenge Of The Lioness
- 21:50 Blood Rivals: Hippo V. Lion
- 22:40 Swamp Men
- 23:30 World's Deadliest: Jaws & Sins
- 00:20 Animals Gone Wild
- 01:10 Croc Labyrinth
- 02:00 Africa's Deadliest
- 02:50 Dr Oakley: Yukon Vet

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 03:50 Lockdown Compilation
- 04:45 Megastructures
- 05:40 X: The Generation That Changed The World
- 06:35 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 07:30 Explorer
- 08:25 Wicked Tuna
- 09:20 Megastructures
- 11:10 Building Wild
- 12:05 Cesar To The Rescue
- 14:00 Mine Kings
- 15:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
- 16:00 Wicked Tuna
- 17:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 18:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 19:00 Nazi Underworld
- 20:00 Wicked Tuna
- 20:50 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 21:40 Nazi Megastructures
- 22:30 Nazi Underworld
- 23:20 Building Wild
- 00:10 Wicked Tuna
- 01:00 The Story Of God With Morgan Freeman
- 02:00 Nazi Megastructures
- 02:55 Nazi Underworld
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways



INDIAN SUMMER ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:36 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbid's Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Harvey Beaks
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Get Blake
- 14:12 Rabbid's Invasion
- 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 15:00 Game Shakers
- 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:12 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
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 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

OSN FIRST MORE

- 03:00 Ballers
- 03:30 Funny Or Die Presents
- 04:00 The Wire
- 05:00 Winchell
- 07:00 San Francisco 2.0
- 08:00 On Freddie Roach
- 08:30 Flight Of The Conchords
- 09:00 Veep
- 09:30 Hello Ladies: The Movie
- 11:00 Einstein And Eddington
- 13:00 Real Women Have Curves
- 15:00 American Splendor
- 17:00 Einstein And Eddington
- 19:00 Bob Saget: That Ain't Right
- 20:00 From The Earth To The Moon
- 21:00 The Knick
- 22:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
- 23:00 Quincy Jones: Burning The Light
- 00:00 Bob Saget: That Ain't Right
- 01:00 From The Earth To The Moon
- 02:00 The Knick

OSN FIRST HD

- 03:00 Agent X
- 04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Unforgettable
- 07:00 Chicago Fire
- 08:00 Chicago Fire
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 Agent X
- 10:00 Criminal Minds
- 11:00 Chicago Fire
- 12:00 Prison Break
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Graceland
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Unforgettable

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

- 04:30 Legends Of The Fall
- 07:00 Two Men In Town
- 09:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 11:00 Legends Of The Fall
- 13:15 Beyond The Edge
- 15:00 We Are Family
- 17:00 Where Angels Fear To Tread
- 19:00 Out Of The Furnace
- 21:00 What Maisie Knew
- 23:00 Thank You For Smoking
- 01:00 S.O.S. Mulheres Ao Mar

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 03:30 Hook
- 06:00 Mr. Destiny
- 08:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 10:00 Hook
- 12:30 Mr. Destiny
- 14:30 Indian Summer
- 16:15 The Bounty Hunter
- 18:15 Spy Hard
- 20:00 Identity Thief
- 22:00 A Night At The Roxbury
- 00:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 02:00 Identity Thief

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 03:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
- 05:00 Up
- 07:00 Brave
- 09:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
- 11:00 The Mighty Ducks
- 13:00 Tangled
- 15:00 Wreck-It Ralph
- 17:00 Mars Needs Moms
- 19:00 Snow Dogs
- 21:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 23:00 Wreck-It Ralph
- 01:00 Snow Dogs

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

- 03:00 Snow Queen
- 04:30 Christmas Is Here Again
- 06:00 The Boxcar Children
- 08:00 Cher Ami
- 10:00 Barmse And The City Of Thieves
- 11:30 The Unbeatables
- 13:15 Snow Queen
- 14:45 Memory Loss
- 16:15 Hatching
- 18:00 Barmse And The City Of Thieves
- 20:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
- 22:00 Memory Loss
- 23:30 Hatching
- 01:00 Cher Ami
- 02:45 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

- 04:00 Some Girls
- 06:00 Metallica: Through The Never
- 08:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 10:00 The Book Of Life
- 12:00 The Cobbler
- 14:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
- 16:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 18:00 Imogene
- 20:00 Accidental Love
- 22:00 The King's Speech
- 00:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
- 02:00 The Book Of Life

STAR MOVIES HD

- 03:30 Beneath The Blue
- 05:15 Finding Neverland
- 07:00 Ironclad
- 09:00 The Hours
- 11:00 The Recruit
- 13:00 Soul Men
- 14:45 The Nines
- 16:30 Henry's Crime
- 18:15 School For Scoundrels
- 20:00 The King's Speech
- 22:00 My Bollywood Bride
- 23:45 Amphibious
- 01:15 The Rig
- 02:45 My Bollywood Bride
- 03:00 Star World
- 03:00 The Listener
- 04:00 The Listener
- 05:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 06:30 How I Met Your Mother
- 07:30 Happy Endings
- 08:30 Happy Endings
- 09:30 Castle
- 10:30 Bones

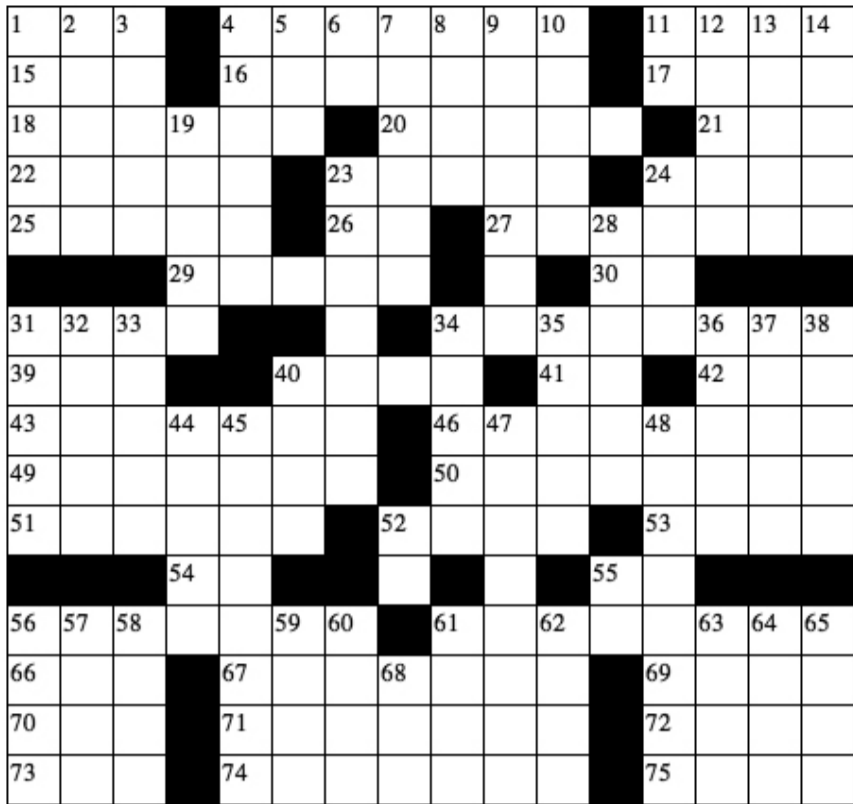


JUPITER ASCENDING ON OSN MOVIES HD





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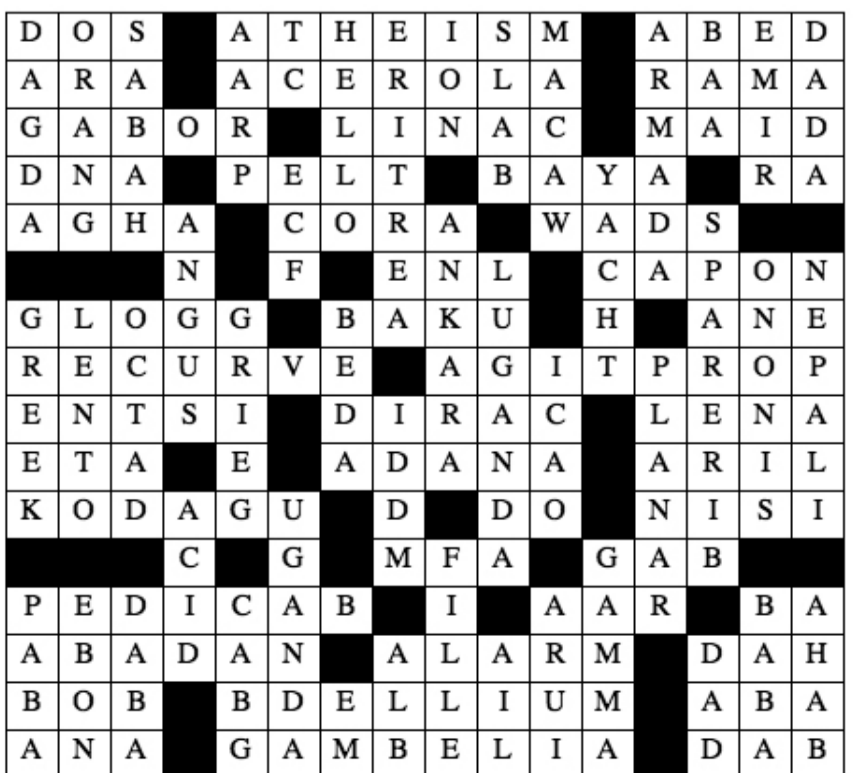
ACROSS

- Any of various trees of the genus *Ulmus*.
- A baroque musical composition (usually for a keyboard instrument) with full chords and rapid elaborate runs in a rhythmically free style.
- Pompous or pretentious talk or writing.
- Denoting a quantity consisting of 12 items or units.
- A capacitance unit equal to one billion farads.
- A large bundle bound for storage or transport.
- Indian grammarian whose grammatical rules for Sanskrit are the first known example of descriptive linguistics (circa 400 BC).
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Tag the base runner to get him out.
- Order by virtue of superior authority.
- An avalanche volcanic water and mud down the slopes of a volcano.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- (Japanese) Very thinly sliced raw fish.
- A small unit serving as the nucleus of a larger political movement.
- A bivalent and trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- Fabric dyed with blotches of green and brown and black and tan.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
- Fudge made with brown sugar and butter and milk and nuts.
- Consumer goods (especially clothing) in the current mode.
- Highly significant or important especially bringing about or marking the beginning of a new development or era.
- A computer network consisting of a worldwide network of computer networks that use the TCP/IP network protocols to facilitate data transmission and exchange.
- Read anew.
- A Spanish unit of length (about a yard) having different values in different localities.
- A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- Dragonflies and damselflies.
- The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
- In a short and concise manner.
- Cassava with long tuberous edible roots and soft brittle stems.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- Shrubby or herbaceous low-growing evergreen perennials.
- Extremely robust.
- A local computer network for communication between computers.
- In place of, or as an alternative to.
- A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.

DOWN

- As from a country.
- A woody climbing usually tropical plant.
- Tropical Asian starlings.
- Doctrine of enlightenment as the realization of the oneness of one's self and the visible world.
- A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
- A radioactive transuranic element.
- Small genus of succulent annual herbs found on sandy shores of North America and Europe.
- (Greek mythology) Greek god of war.
- Very spicy sauce made from tabasco peppers.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
- An island of central Hawaii.
- Fear resulting from the awareness of danger.
- A populous province in northeastern China.
- Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
- Small arctic whale the male having a long spiral ivory tusk.
- Deciduous or evergreen shrubs and shrubby trees of temperate and subtropical North America, South Africa, eastern Asia and northeastern Australia.
- A wave on the surface of a lake or landlocked bay.
- With the mouth wide open as in wonder or awe.
- The mansion of the lord of the manor.
- A linguistic element added to a word to produce an inflected or derived form v 1.
- Follower of Rastafarianism.
- Formerly included in genus *Cedrela*.
- Located inward.
- A riblike part of a plant or animal (such as a middle rib of a leaf or a thickened vein of an insect wing).
- Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
- A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere.
- A literary language of Chinese Turkestan (named for one of the sons of Genghis Khan).
- Taxonomic kingdom comprising all living or extinct animals.
- Wild mango.
- A class of proteins produced in lymph tissue in vertebrates and that function as antibodies in the immune response.
- A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
- A Chadid language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
- Small slender gull having narrow wings and a forked tail.
- Weapons considered collectively.
- Wrap us in a cerecloth, as of a corpse.
- Two items of the same kind.
- The lean flesh of a fish that is often farmed.
- (Greek mythology) God of love.
- Have supper.
- (usually followed by 'to' or 'for') On the point of or strongly disposed.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Talking should be quite unconstrained, as your mind is usually quite clear and natural and you are around the many people you enjoy. Ideas could come flowing to you with ease. You find your taste in artistic things and appreciation in general is keen now. It may be possible to get a group together to enjoy a new exhibit at the zoo or perhaps a play you want to see. This may also be the perfect time for you to pick out furnishings, colors and so forth the finer things in life. You may enjoy spending your time with loved ones later this afternoon. Your mood is just one of wanting to enjoy the home environment. Someone special wants to cook for you this evening and you may lend a helping hand, perhaps to chop, peel and steam. Yum!



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your commitment to spiritual ideas may find you teaching or taking a spiritual class or enjoying some form of yoga today. You always work for a real future, doing what has to be done. The vapors of the universe may cause you to be in an appraisal mood. Not only do you become actively involved in some form of toning and meditative type of exercise but you encourage your friends and family to cull through the pantry and throw out medicines and foods that are past their date of expiration. Move on toward the medicine cabinet and eliminate some of those old bottles from long ago. It would be easier to keep a log of the prescriptions than to have them sitting around taking up space. A favorite pet is worth your time this evening; there are lots of smiles.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Conditions are working together at this time that will make it easier to make your dreams real. Have faith, stop your worrying and keep looking for ways to build your family togetherness. This is a good time to project your ideas, use the facts and use the math. Inventions are fun and you have one invention with which you are having a lot of fun. At heart, you have a deep sense of responsibility and purpose and this seriousness is genuine and felt by others. You seem to gravitate to those things that last and hold true and are always separating the questionable from the facts. Enjoy a little time with a co-worker friend today and then invite them into your home for refreshments. Celebrations can come in remarkable ways.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

As this new phase dawns for you, the pursuit of social/political power and status has a way of seeming necessary and inevitable. An individual that you favor may demand a lot of energy and commitment if you decide to climb on board the social or political process. This could very well be political progress and you might enter the public eye. Decide what you want to dedicate your time to and get some type of outline that would help you make your decision. The next step is your natural obligation with family. You may decide that family time is important and discussions with family members are an important process.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could be most persuasive with others. Some situation or some desire has threatened to overwhelm your mind. Any of us can become overly involved in any subject such as love, anger, jealousy, control, etc. Find a way to excuse yourself a short while, perhaps to take a walk and give some thought to what is important. If possible, get away from any negative and create a new, positive atmosphere. When you ask this of others, problems get solved. When you return to whatever subject has you frustrated, you will have some positive answers or new insight. Your afternoon is full of creative distractions, and two of your friends suggest a project or game and off you go into a fun exercise that actually becomes a part of your free time.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Some of your expectations are too high with regard to some of your business goals. It may be, however, that you just need to slow yourself down a little. Today is for slowing down. Perhaps the energies are more toward a fun view of the kids playing ball. Now... Gather your own ballgame for later in the day but remember, if you criticize the kids' game, the kids are likely to criticize your game. Now take the day as it comes, those are the energies available and if you fight those fun energies, you create problems for yourself and your peace of mind. A cooking competition around the grill this evening can bring about some fantastic creations. Somewhere in that mind of yours is a new recipe for homemade ice cream-for next time.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

In a word, it is your emotions and gusto that hold your innermost self together. Your feelings are not just important-they are central to knowing more about yourself. A strong devotional nature becomes apparent to anyone who takes time to know the real you. Everything else is centered upon this inner drive and energy. The search for a mate and marriage in particular, are crucial for you. Communication with those in a place of worship is possible, enjoyable and uplifting. You are moved to unite and find out what togetherness means. Cleaning, health-awareness, shopping and cooperation from the family or your circle of friends make laughter easy. Someone will join you now in your fitness program or perhaps help you create one.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Keep moving forward by making a list of three things that you can do now to help you toward your goals. You love the working world and if someone suggested another opportunity to work a second job, you would probably jump in with both feet. Your talents are many and you are able to take on many tasks. Make sure these additional jobs are temporary, as you will want to turn your attention to travel or talents or family within a few short years. You may discover news about a special sale or an estate auction and you make your plans. Take notes today; you may find a special talent you can build upon that will bring in a little extra income. You are conservative and will not exceed a certain budget. Smile, your finances will multiply.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have a sunny disposition and when you are not smiling and having fun, you are the first to feel the push or the need for change. Get outside and enjoy some fresh air-enjoy a joke with friends over a light lunch this afternoon. You may be moved to discover and appreciate the beauty in your life and in those around you. At the same time, everything could take on added value and importance. Be careful that you do not overspend or indulge too much just now because a financial offer that sounds too good to be true may very well be... Too good to be true. Your energy seems to flow smoothly this afternoon. A new idea for dinner and a few candles can be quite fun; be creative. Enjoy some leisure time along with a little romance this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You could be seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of some project. You may be the person that is the best to start the race or call the winner of the race. A team works well today and you make sure the equipment is safe. Whatever you do, you enjoy your involvement with sports or the caring for equipment that creates a safe environment. Marriage and other close relationships give rise to great expectations as a new cycle gets underway in your life. This is a time to enjoy and appreciate your ties to others and to seek and promote harmony between people. Someone may bring your attention to some sort of social work-and you are interested in helping others. You and your loved one will give each other support in life.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may find yourself at a family gathering this afternoon. This could be a wedding celebration or a new child adoption, etc. You work hard to remember all the jokes you hear so that you could join in the fun of the party. You have worked to find the right gift and you enjoy presenting your gift. You enjoy the interactions between loved ones, take pictures and use them to add to the good memories that come with days like this. Peace is only a smile away. Things spiritual and psychic take the driver's seat of your imagination as you begin this afternoon. The fine arts and all manner of fantasies assume a larger-than-life importance. Surrendering to fate, karma, and other powers greater than merely mortal may be seen as the ultimate liberation.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

If you have not planned, breakfast time would be the time to make out your lists. Make one list for the things you definitely want to accomplish today and another list of the things you would like to accomplish. You will be pleased at your progress as you begin. A rule would be that if you are interrupted from doing your project, the person that interrupted you could help you. Allow for interruptions and enjoy a lot of laughter. You might ask yourself what you want the most when winter is its coldest now is a good time to create the answer to that request. This could be a better way to heat the house or purchase the extra equipment that you might need. You may not be able to handle this in one weekend but it is something you will do soon.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

70's Songs 3 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- |               |             |           |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| BABE          | LADY        | RICH GIRL |
| BAD BLOOD     | LET IT BE   | SAD EYES  |
| BARRACUDA     | MAGGIE MAY  | SIR DUKE  |
| CAR WASH      | MAIN STREET | SKY HIGH  |
| DANCING QUEEN | MONEY       | TRAGEDY   |
| DREAMING      | MY SHARONA  | VENUS     |
| FAME          | POP MUZIK   | YOUR SONG |
| GREASE        |             |           |
| HOT STUFF     |             |           |

Yesterday's Solution

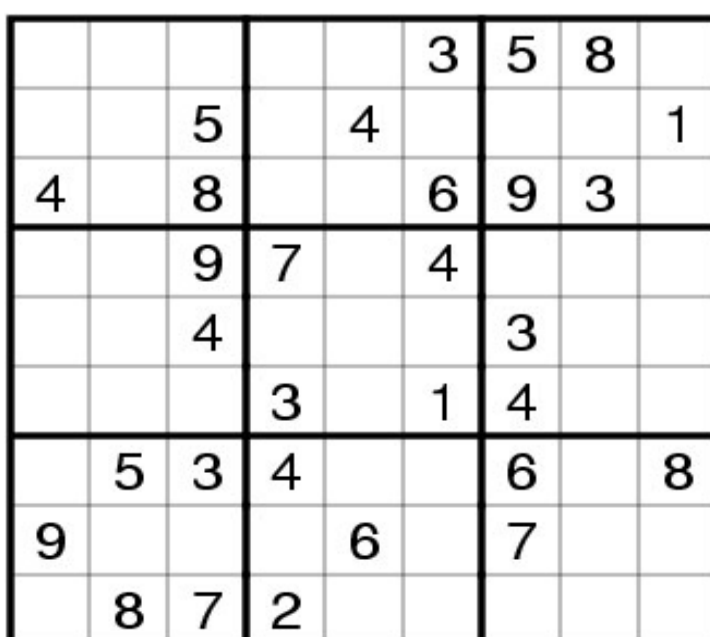
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

70's Songs 2 - Solution

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

AMERICAN PIE	LAST DANCE	REUNITED
BAD GIRLS	LOLA	SIGNS
BROWN SUGAR	LOVE HURTS	SUNDOWN
DREAM ON	LOW RIDER	SUPERSTAR
DREAMS	MAGIC MAN	THE GAMBLER
DRIFT AWAY	MY LOVE	WITHOUT YOU
EBONY EYES	NIGHT FEVER	WOODSTOCK
FEELINGS	PIANO MAN	
IMAGINE		

Daily SuDoku



hard

Yesterday's Solution



very hard



# Spain



**S**pain officially the Kingdom of Spain is a sovereign state largely located on the Iberian Peninsula in southwestern Europe, with archipelagos in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea, and several small territories on and near the north African coast. Its mainland is bordered to the south and east by the Mediterranean Sea except for a small land boundary with Gibraltar; to the north and northeast by France, Andorra, and the Bay of Biscay; and to the west and northwest by Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean. Along with France and Morocco, it is one of only three countries to have both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines. Extending to 1,214 km (754 mi), the Portugal-Spain border is the longest uninterrupted border within the European Union.

Spain is a democracy organized in the form of a parliamentary government under a constitutional monarchy. It is a middle power and a developed country with the world's fourteenth largest economy by nominal GDP and sixteenth largest by purchasing power parity. It is a member of the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and many other international organizations.

Prior to the Second World War, Spain suffered a devastating civil war and came under the rule of an authoritarian government, which oversaw a period of stagnation that was followed by a surge in the growth of the economy. Eventually democracy was peacefully restored in the form of a parliamentary constitutional monarchy. Spain joined the European Union, experiencing a cultural renaissance and steady economic growth.

**Culture**

Culturally, Spain is a Western country. Almost every aspect of Spanish life is permeated by its Roman heritage, making Spain one of the major Latin countries of Europe. Spanish culture is marked by strong historic ties to Catholicism, which played a pivotal role in the country's formation and subsequent identity. Spanish art, architecture, cuisine, and music has been shaped by successive waves of foreign invaders, as well as by the country's Mediterranean climate and geography. The centuries-long colonial era globalised Spanish language and culture, with Spain also absorbing the cultural and commercial products of its diverse empire.

**Monuments and World Heritage Sites**

It should be noted that after Italy (49) and China (45), Spain is the third country in the world with the most World Heritage Sites. At the present time it has 44 recognized sites, including the landscape of Monte Perdido in the Pyrenees, which is shared with France, the Prehistoric Rock Art Sites of the Cúa Valley and Siega Verde, which is shared with Portugal (the Portuguese part being in the Cúa Valley, Guarda), and the Heritage of Mercury, shared with Slovenia. In addition, Spain has also 14 Intangible cultural heritage, or "Human treasures", Spain ranks first in Europe according to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, tied with Croatia.

**History**

Iberia enters written records as a land populated largely by the Iberians, Basques and Celts. After an arduous conquest, the peninsula came under the rule of the Roman Empire. During the early Middle Ages it came under Germanic rule but later, much of it was conquered by Moorish invaders from North Africa. In a process that took centuries, the small Christian kingdoms in the north gradually regained control of the peninsula. The last Moorish kingdom fell in the same year Columbus reached the Americas. A global empire began which saw Spain become the strongest kingdom in Europe, the leading world power for a century and a half, and the largest overseas empire for three centuries.

Continued wars and other problems eventually led to a diminished status. The Napoleonic invasions of Spain led to chaos, triggering independence movements that tore apart most of the empire and left the country politically unsta-

Spanish territory includes two archipelagos: the Balearic Islands, in the Mediterranean Sea, and the Canary Islands, in the Atlantic Ocean off the African coast. It also includes two major exclaves, Ceuta and Melilla, in continental North Africa; and the islands and peñones (rocks) of Alborán, Alhucemas, Chafarinas and Vélez de la Gomera. With an area of 505,990 km<sup>2</sup> (195,360 sq mi), Spain is the largest country in Southern Europe, the second largest country in Western Europe and the European Union, and the fourth largest country in the European continent. By population, Spain is the sixth largest in Europe and the fifth in the European Union.

Modern humans first arrived in the Iberian Peninsula around 35,000 years ago. Iberian cultures along with ancient Phoenician, Greek and Carthaginian settlements developed on the peninsula until it came under Roman rule around 200 BCE, after which the region was named Hispania. In the Middle Ages, the area was conquered by Germanic tribes and later by the Moors. Spain emerged as a unified country in the 15th century, following the marriage of the Catholic Monarchs and the completion of the centuries-long recon quest, or Reconquista,

**DID YOU KNOW..?**

- Cats are one of, if not the most, popular pet in the world.
- There are over 500 million domestic cats in the world.
- Cats and humans have been associated for nearly 10000 years.
- Cats conserve energy by sleeping for an average of 13 to 14 hours a day.
- Cats have flexible bodies and teeth adapted for hunting small animals such as mice and rats.
- A group of cats is called a clowder, a male cat is called a tom, a female cat is called a molly or queen while young cats are called kittens.
- Domestic cats usually weigh around 4 kilograms (8 lb 13 oz) to 5 kilograms (11 lb 0 oz).
- The heaviest domestic cat on record is 21.297 kilograms (46 lb 15.2 oz).
- Cats can be lethal hunters and very sneaky, when they walk their back paws step almost exactly in the same place as the front paws did beforehand, this keeps noise to a minimum and limits visible tracks.
- Cats have powerful night vision, allowing them to see at light levels six times lower than what a human needs in order to see.
- Cats also have excellent hearing and a powerful sense of smell.
- Older cats can at times act aggressively towards kittens.

**COLORFUL FLOWERS EXPERIMENT**

**What you need?**

- White flowers
- Water
- Food coloring
- Small vases
- Activity

Cut a single flower with a fairly short stem. A shorter stem will get you a quicker result as the color has to travel all the way up the stem to get to the petals. Cut the stem on an angle to give a greater surface area for the colored water to enter by.

Now place the flower in a small, short vase or glass (a shot glass works well) and add a generous amount of food coloring.

Keep an eye on it, in about 30 minutes some color will start to show in the petals.

Why is it so? Flowers suck water up through their stems to feed their petals and make them grow. This process is called, 'capillary action'. Because the water is colored, the petals end up colored too!



**Berry Muffins**

**What you need:**

- 1 c. flour
- 1 c. oatmeal
- 3 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 c. blueberries, washed
- 1 egg
- 1 c. milk
- 1/4 c. vegetable oil
- nonstick cooking spray

**What to do:**

Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). In a large bowl, mix together the flour, oatmeal, sugar, salt, and baking powder. Mix in blueberries. In another bowl, break the egg and use a fork to beat it

just a little bit. Then add the milk and vegetable oil, and mix.

Add egg mixture to the dry ingredients in the large bowl.

Using a mixing spoon, mix about 25 or 30 times. Don't mix too much! Your muffin mixture should be lumpy, not smooth.

Line a muffin tin with paper liners or lightly spray with nonstick spray. Spoon in the muffin mix. Fill each muffin cup about 2/3 of the way up.

Bake for about 20 minutes. When muffins are finished baking, remove from muffin tin and cool them on a wire rack. Enjoy your berry tasty muffins!

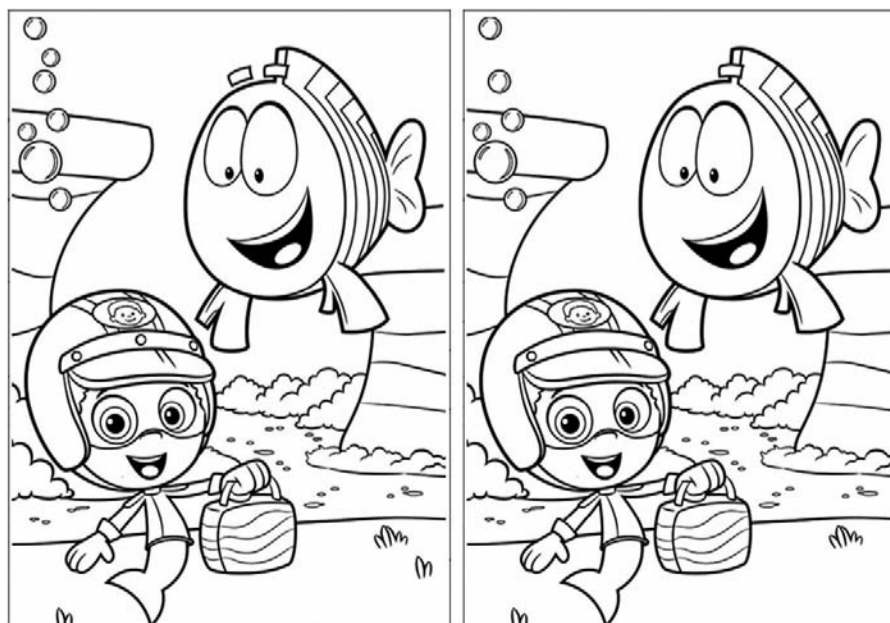


Recipes for Kids

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

**SUDOKU**

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

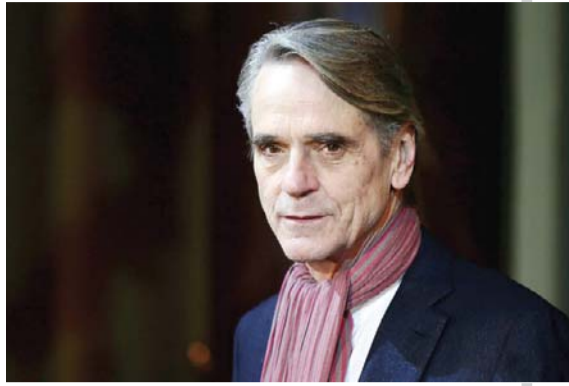


Find the 5 differences



## No knighthood for Jeremy Irons

Jeremy Irons says he would never accept a knighthood. The 67-year-old star believes he already gets too much adulation for being an actor and the honor should go to someone who deserves it more. He said: "I don't see the point of it. There are so many people who do amazing work which is unheralded and unrecognized. I do what I do because I like doing it. I'm well paid for it. I get far too much adulation compared with what it's worth. Society needs storytellers, but I've always thought artists should stir the s\*\*t." Although Jeremy attended a Buckingham Palace for a reception for British Oscar winners he insisted it wasn't a big deal because "The Queen wasn't there, it was Charlie [Prince Charles]. I'm not part of that." Jeremy caused outrage in 2013 when he said in relation to same-sex marriage becoming legal: "If I wanted to pass on my estate without death duties I could marry my son" but he insists he didn't mean it. He told Event magazine: "I was just wondering how things would change. You change one thing and there's a knock-on effect. I will forever be playing Devil's Advocate, just



because I like a good discussion, and from that I begin to work out what I actually feel. "I don't have prejudices because I spend my life playing people of completely different ways of thought, but I love trying to find out, 'What do you think? What do I think?' I think anything that makes people happy should be encouraged."

## Meghan Trainor wants to become an actress

The 'All About That Bass' hitmaker may have poured her blood, sweat and tears into becoming a pop star but she's now keen to pack away her microphone temporarily and launch an acting career. She said: "My biggest dream right now is to start an acting career. I'm going to get an acting coach soon." And the starlet has already got her foot on the ladder as she was asked to pen new tracks for 'The Peanut Movie' but she's hoping she can soon persuade bosses to give her an actual role. She added: "I was terrified and honored [when I was asked to write the songs]. When I told my grandmother, she was pumped! I still have to pinch myself. It's unbelievable." The 22-year-old singer was overcome with emotion when she heard her song play in the cinema for the first time but she managed to keep her excitement contained until she left the venue. She explained to Star magazine: "I was with my family and when I realized my song was coming up, my heart was pounding out of my chest. When it finally happened, I wanted to stand up and dance, but I kept my cool. My brothers and I were dancing in our seats. It was very emotional. I cried when I walked out of the theatre."



## Megan Fox feels judged on her looks



The 'Transformers' star says people "anticipate a shallowness [and] a lack of self-awareness" about her but she is done fighting that perception. She told the Los Angeles Times newspaper: "You know how women that are always cast in James Bond movies are pin ups but their job in the movies is always being a marine biologist or neuroscientist? I think people react to me that way. Like, 'Right, she's studying neurobiology.' But I am really interested in that. "I'm not going to keep fighting the image that exists ... People anticipate a shallowness [from me]. They anticipate a self-centeredness and a lack of self-awareness. It doesn't matter what I say, or how eloquent a speaker I may be, or how positive my intentions may be. I'm going to be made in what people desire me to be." Meanwhile, the 30-year-old actress - who has Noah, three, Bodhi, two and is expecting her third child with husband Brian Austin Green - previously revealed she sometimes gets "pigeon-holed" when it comes to the roles she is cast in. She said: "It is what it is. I don't care. I feel like if I was really hung up on critical acclaim or people's opinions then I would be more pressured, I would strive harder to disprove such a stereotype. But sometimes you just get pigeon-holed. I have fun most of the time making movies, and that's the main objective because it's just a job."

## Nick Jonas: Music is the 'best therapist'

Nick Jonas says music is the "best therapist" he's ever had. The 'Jealous' hitmaker is happy to be open about what he is going through as it helps him feel better about the things going on in his life. Speaking in his Last Year Was Complicated documentary, he said: "There's no better release for me than creating. I just had to do it, I had that instinct. The minute she [his ex-girlfriend Olivia Culpo] left, I was alone in my apartment. I was like, 'I have to come and get out of the city and write.' I came up here [to Mammoth Mountain] with my trusted group of collaborators. Immediately I was OK. I've tried talking to people and doing that thing, but I don't know. [I'm] too in my head and unwilling to open up and get deeper. I feel like the music is the best therapist I've ever had." Meanwhile, the 23-year-old singer previously admitted it was important for him to get "vulnerable" on his album. He shared: "I mean, it's always difficult to open yourself up that way, but it's important to get vulnerable. Right now, at this moment, Beyonce and Drake and all these artists are really embracing vulnerability; it makes a huge difference. I'm working my hardest to lay out my stories and my music and connect with my fans - and my own self - in that way." And the 'Levels' hunk says he has "poured everything" into the LP. He wrote at the time: "I've been making this record for a year and a half ... Pouring everything I have into it. Tomorrow night I'm gonna show the world the first single. When I first started making I thought I knew what it would be about ... Then I had a breakup. It then became very clear what this thing would be about ... And that I would need to dig really deep. "S\*\*t is too real sometimes ... Reliving some of these real life experiences through this music is hard. But I know it's important that I do it. I want to be an open book in my art. The first song you're gonna hear tomorrow night is about how I literally can't open up and be vulnerable with someone. (sic)". — Bang Showbiz



## Kate Moss' daughter thinks she is uncool

The 42-year-old supermodel has a 13-year-old daughter Lila Grace with former partner Jefferson Hack and the 45-year-old publisher admitted the teenager is not impressed with her famous parents. He told the Sunday Times magazine: "I spend a lot of time with Lila Grace. She's 13 and my relationship with her and her mum, Kate, is the thing I'm most proud of. That is life with a capital L. Everything else is window dressing. I have Lila at least one night in the week and every other weekend. "We use FaceTime most evenings. She thinks me and her mum are deeply uncool. I don't think her music tastes are cool - Capital radio and Justin Bieber. She keeps me real. I'm not on Snapchat. It's wrong when parents act like their kids. I don't buy into the 'my mum's my best friend' ethos. Kate's a great mum and they have a fantastic relationship." Meanwhile, Kate recently admitted that despite her best efforts, Lila has not inherited her interest in fashion. She explained: "I've lost a lot of stuff over the years, but I've still got some. I'll save it for my daughter." "I bought her an Ossie Clark dress, you know the one that Twiggy wore in that Richard Avedon [shoot], that white chiffon with leaves on?" [Lila] doesn't like anything at the moment. Fingers crossed [she will]."



## Jessica Biel: Motherhood is challenging

Jessica Biel says motherhood is the "most challenging job in the world". The 'Total Recall' star - who has son Silas Randall, 13 months, with her husband Justin Timberlake - loves being a mother but admits it can be stressful at times. She shared: "It's sometimes hard to find the words [to describe motherhood]. So amazing. So lovely. I'm over the moon. Honestly, I would say motherhood [is] the most difficult role I've done. It's probably the most challenging job in the world, but also the most joyous." But Jessica is thankful for the support of her 'SexyBack' singer spouse. She added: "Justin is a funny, sweet and caring dad - everything and more. I'd call him the perfect parenting partner." And the 34-year-old actress has described her son's smile as "pure magic". When asked what is her favorite time of day with Silas, she told Britain's OK! magazine: "If I

had to pick one it would be when he's waking up from his nap. He looks up and sighs and I can feel his smile from deep inside. That feels like pure magic." Meanwhile, Jessica previously praised her husband Justin for being a "wonderful partner". She said: "Well, he supports everything that I do and that's why I think he's a wonderful partner. And we should just be able to talk and laugh and learn together." And the 'Blade Trinity' beauty is reportedly considering having another child with the 'Can't Stop The Feeling' hitmaker. A source said: "They're already thinking about having more kids. They are homebodies. Justin is so happy. He's had career success, and now he says family is the most important thing."



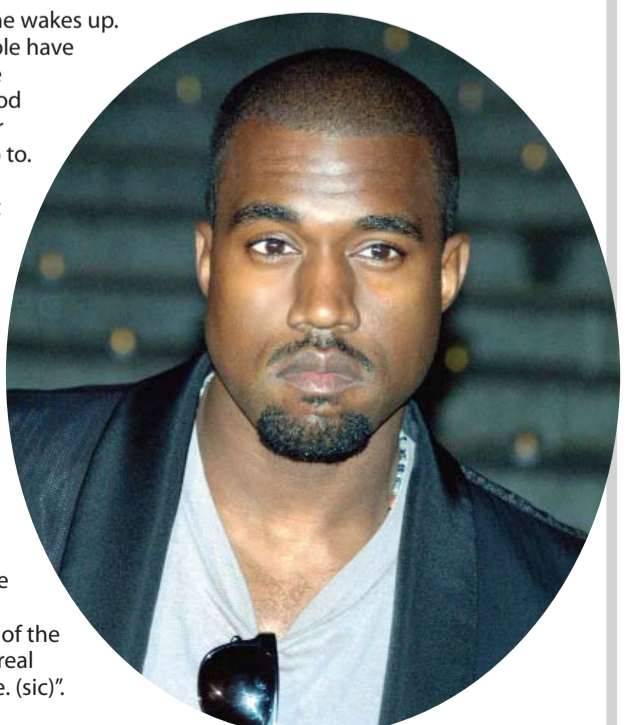
## Celine Dion's twin trick



Celine Dion changes her twins' names when they don't answer her. The singing legend admitted her youngest sons, five-year-old Nelson and Eddy, do everything together but occasionally they are unresponsive so she makes up new monikers for them and they eventually respond to her. She said: "They are like two pieces of a puzzle, so connected that I sometimes struggle to break into their little world. "I have even changed their names so they'll react. "The other day Nelson didn't answer after three calls so I called, 'Robert!' and he finally came. "Eddy, very fearful, sends him to see about anything that scares him." punishment" is if they are separated from each other. She added to Paris Match magazine: "I'm managing. For the past three years the twins saw their father only rarely. The worst punishment, for them, is to be separated. They don't do anything without the other. "When Nelson asks, 'Maman, I'm thirsty, is Eddy having a drink?' and I answer no, he says, 'Oh well, then I'm not thirsty'."

## Kanye West checks his Twitter every morning

Kanye West checks his Twitter first thing when he wakes up. The 'Only One' hitmaker likes to see what people have been saying about him and regularly visits site Hypebeast. He told Real 92.3's Big Boy's Neighborhood radio show in Los Angeles: "I like it. Any comments or whatever. Hypebeast is one of my favorite sites to go to. They're hilarious. It's just the funniest comments and stuff ... "I go read it. Wake up in the morning, check it out, read some comments. I got this line on 'Saint Pablo', checking Instagram comments to crowd source my self-esteem. I was saying that sarcastically." Meanwhile, Kanye - who has two-year-old daughter North and five-month-old son Saint with his wife Kim Kardashian West - previously revealed Twitter has given him "social immunity". He wrote on the site: "thank God for paps thank God for social media ... in the past the press/old guard and powers that be would have silenced me a long time ago but I have a form of social immunity. "I represent the dreamers. I speak truth to power!!! And I promise the power is in the people and I will use the power given by the people to bring everything I have back to the people. We are here to make life better. I speak yell scream directly at the old guard on behalf of the future. They can't kill us all. Eventually the guys with real ideas not running a scam on the world will overcome. (sic)".



## What's in a name? Ask the folks in Two Egg, Florida

What came first, the Chicken or the Egg - or make that the Two Egg? The answer is the Alaska town of Chicken came before the Florida town of Two Egg, by about 30 or so years. But they are neither first nor last in the country's long list of odd-named places. In Pennsylvania you'll find Intercourse, Virginville and Blue Ball. In Louisiana, if you've had too much of Moonshine, you can always visit Cut Off. The list goes on: Weed, California; Uncertain, Texas; Eek, Alaska; Butts County, Georgia and oh so many more.

For some, like Santa Claus, Indiana, the name has created a major tourist industry. Others, like Two Egg, are dots on the map that get the occasional visitor curious about the name, but offer little besides a road sign - and even the sign often went missing until it was riveted in place.

"It used to be one of the most stolen signs in the state of Florida," said Marcus Pender, whose grandfather owned a gas station and general store where trading eggs for goods led to the town name. "I even got a couple myself in the day." Here's background on a few peculiarly named places in the United States:

### Two Egg, Florida

Located about 70 miles northwest of Florida's capital, Tallahassee, Two Egg is a small farming community where people used to trade eggs for goods at the general store. "People would come in and trade two eggs for meat and cheese," said Pender. The store is no longer open, but people can still buy Two Egg cane syrup at a farm down the road.

### Chicken, Alaska

Doug Devore runs a website devoted to this small mining town near the Canadian border. He says in 1902, locals planned to call the town Ptarmigan after a chicken-like bird they often ate. But they worried people would spell ptarmigan wrong, so they named it chicken instead. Most visitors stop here on tour buses headed elsewhere, but some people make a special trip. "There are some people who are just obsessed with weird town names," Devore said.

### Santa Claus, Indiana

Melissa Brockman, executive director of the Spencer County Visitors Bureau, says Santa Claus was supposed to be named Santa Fe, but another Indiana town already had that name. The story goes that in the 1850s, families gathered to come up



A water tower is seen in Butts County, GA. Named for Capt Samuel Butts, who died in 1814 during the Creek War, residents at one point suggested a name change.

another name on a snowy Christmas Eve. Sleigh bells were heard outside and children shouted, "Santa Claus!" And so the town was named. Santa Claus has fewer than 2,500 people and no fully operating traffic signal, but 1 million people visit each summer and hundreds of thousands of requests arrive in December from people who want their Christmas cards post-marked "Santa Claus."

### Uncertain, Texas

Stories vary about how this Louisiana border town got its name, says Randie Canup, owner of the Hoot 'n Holler guest cottage. One is that when the city applied for incorporation, it hadn't picked a name, so "uncertain" was written on the form and it stuck. But Canup thinks the true story dates to the 1800s, when a steamship delivered goods to Caddo Lake ports. Shipping labels often peeled off in the humidity, and those boxes were marked "uncertain" and left at the final stop - which became known as Uncertain. With a population of about 100,

tourists far outnumber residents. Cell phone coverage and Internet access are spotty but there's fishing, birding and scenery. "When people come here, some of what they do is nothing. They just want the quiet," Canup said.

### Butts County, Georgia

The town is named for Capt. Samuel Butts, who died in 1814 during the Creek War. A radio station owner tired of people cracking jokes about the county suggested a name change at some point but local business owner Henry Kitchen started a "Save Our Butts" campaign with T-shirts and bumper stickers. With the name now safe, a popular bumper sticker reads "Keep Our Butts Clean." The water tower welcoming visitors driving in from I-75 proclaims "BEAUTIFUL B\*\*\*\*S."

### Weed, California

Abner Weed ran a lumber mill at the base of Mount Shasta in 1897, and thus the city's name. That doesn't make it immune



This undated photo made available by the Spencer County Visitors Bureau, Ind., shows a Santa Claus figure in front of the Post Office in Santa Claus, Ind. — AP photos

to marijuana jokes - there are tons of "I Love Weed" souvenirs to be found around town. Even the local brewery, Mt Shasta Brewing Company, plays it up - and got in trouble when the federal government objected to bottle caps that read "A Friend in Weed is a Friend Indeed. Try LEGAL Weed." — AP



# Fourth Arab Child Theater Festival concludes with award ceremony

**KUWAIT:** The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) held a ceremony on Saturday evening to honor the award-winning performances at the Fourth Arab Child Theater Festival. The winners are "the mice city" by Al-Gil Al-Aw'ei theatrical troupe and "the city of colors" by Arabian Gulf troupe, Kuwait, and "Mohra symphony" by Zayed theater of talents and youth, the UAE. Speaking to KUNA on the sidelines of the ceremony NCCAL's Assistant Secretary-General Dr Bader Al-Duwaish said the festival portrayed the children's theatrical scene of the Arab countries at large.

He appreciated the contributors of the child theater movement, notably NCCAL, the organizer of the festival, saying that NCCAL that the success of the festival testifies to the soundness of the good planning of the Council. "The ten-day event sought to implant the cultural values and useful knowledge in the hearts of the young generation through direct or indirect messages with a view to immunizing them against negative phenomena," Al-Duwaish added. The closing ceremony featured "fithah ya simem (open sesame) performance, supervised by Mohammad Al-Musallem and directed by Abdullah Abbas.

The festival, opened on May 26 by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah who doubles as NCCAL President, gathered troupes from Kuwait and other Arab countries that offered eight performances. — KUNA



## Turkey sinks Airbus jet to boost dive tourism

**T**urkish authorities have sunk an A300 Airbus jet off a resort on the Aegean Sea with the aim of boosting diving tourism in the region, reports said yesterday. The plane was put to the bottom of the sea Saturday afternoon off the popular resort of Kusadasi in Aydin province, the Dogan and Cihan news agencies reported. The sinking of the giant plane - with a wingspan of 44 meters (144 feet) and a length of 54 meters (177 feet) — is aimed at promoting artificial reef diving which is hugely popular with experienced divers.

Once sunken, the plane acts like a reef, becoming a magnet for underwater flora and fauna. The 36-year-old aircraft had been bought by Aydin municipality from a private aviation firm for 270,000 Turkish lira (\$93,000). Turkey is looking for new ways to promote its key tourism industry, which is expected to suffer a battering this year due to the security situation after a string of deadly attacks. Hundreds of people watched the two-and-a-half hour sinking on nearby boats, cheering and blasting their foghorns as the nose of the plane finally went down, video images showed.

"Our goal is to make Kusadasi a center of diving tourism," said Aydin's mayor Ozlem Cercioglu. "Our goal is to protect the underwater life. And with these goals in mind, we have witnessed one of the biggest wrecks in the world." She added: "Our main target to diversify tourism in Kusadasi and have a 12 month season." Three small planes have been sunk off Turkish resorts of recent years in the hope of promoting dive tourism but this is the first time Turkey has sent such a large aircraft to the bottom of the sea. — AFP



*Hello965 is a travel blog run by Fatima, a female Kuwaiti traveler who is curious to explore the world. In Hello965, Fatima aims to shed light on untraditional or new destinations, hotels, resorts, adventures and even events around the world. Fatima loves diversity, from luxurious to low-budget travel, group to solo traveling, and aspires to convey a diverse style of traveling to all her readers and followers through all her social media channels, blog, and newly in Kuwait Times.*

## What is Half Board, Full Board and All Inclusive? Understand the difference before you book

**W**e often hear or read the terms Half board, Full board or All Inclusive while booking our trip's hotel or resort. This post is to help you understand the difference before you book. Here we go:

Half Board (HB) would include two of your meals, usually breakfast and dinner. Lunch is usually not included. I would argue that soft drinks are included, but on my latest visits to one of the resorts in the GCC, half board did not even include water. I was charged extra for sparkling water - so you might want to almost 'always' inquire whether or not drinks are

included in the half board offers. I would recommend half board if you'd like to keep your options open to go out and try local cuisines or even spend the day out on an excursion, but be back for dinner at the hotel.

Full Board (FB) is your standard three meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner), which includes drinks (soft drinks). Sometimes, any drinks or snacks outside of these meal times will cost you extra.

All Inclusive (AI) is the option where all your food during your stay is inclusive all day. If you're traveling with children or a big family, this

option is very convenient. Pretty much everything is included in the package price in this option. This is the best type among the three for those who do not plan to go out from the hotel/resort they are staying in, or who don't want to worry about carrying cash around while on holiday. You may also be entitled to water sports and other activities which you would usually expect to pay for. Keep in mind - if you are booked in a resort where you will spend all your vacation time, choose the All Inclusive option. It would be the best.

Finally, there's a Bed and Breakfast (B&B)

option which usually includes breakfast only. This is a good option if you're spending all day outside the hotel.

Remember, always ask the hotel/resort about their options, since they differ from one hotel to another. The easiest way to ask a hotel about their options offered is to drop them an email, so that when they respond back to you, it's clear and easy. If you don't have the time to wait, call them, and they should answer you on the spot.

## ART



Syrian artist Akram Abu Elfoz poses for a picture with a model of the Al-Rawdah mosque which he built using bullet shells, cartridges and war leftovers, in the rebel-held town of Douma, east of the capital Damascus. In his most recent project Akram, 37, creates downscaled models of important sites which have been destroyed by the ongoing conflict through using war leftovers, to creatively recreate and document places and buildings that have suffered severe damage.—AFP photos



## Amsterdam seeks ways to tame its flood of tourists

**S**ome 17 million visitors flock to Amsterdam every year, but the tide of tourists is now threatening to swamp the historic city famous the world over for its picturesque canals. Many residents and politicians have decided enough is enough, and are seeking creative ways to control the deluge. With the number of visitors set to reach 30 million by 2030, it's a flood that threatens to overwhelm the Dutch city known as the Venice of the North. "It's Tuesday and it's raining. There shouldn't be so many people here," sighed Matheus Risso, a 25-year-old Brazilian, sheltering under the arches of the world-famous Rijksmuseum.

But he already had a plan-B up his sleeve, to visit one of the more unusual attractions such as the Sex Museum or the Torture Museum. They are among the lesser known places which city authorities hope could help absorb the overflow from the millions drawn by the red light district or the 'coffee shops'

where smoking marijuana is legal. Today, Amsterdam, which grew from a small fishing village into a major trading hub in the 16th and 17th centuries, has become a victim of its own success. Every year the flow of sightseers flocking to the city of 165 canals grows by some five percent as the result of an impressive marketing campaign.

It has invested almost 12 billion euros in improving its cultural offerings from a renovation of the Rijksmuseum home to Rembrandt's haunting painting "The Night Watch" - to the new water-front Eye film museum, or the secret Catholic church built in a private canal house in 1663 and now opened to the public as the Museum of Our Lord in the Attic. "Of course, people want to come and have a look," said Machteld Ligvoet, spokeswoman for the city's marketing team.

### Long waits, crowded streets

But the result has spawned eye-poppingly

long queues outside the biggest attractions with visitors to some places such as the Anne Frank House facing a grim wait of several hours. For the city's 830,000 permanent residents, the tourist numbers threaten to become a major annoyance. So much so that Amsterdam officials recently decided to "make some savings" in its marketing budget, according to the city's Socialist Party leader Daniel Peters. Mayor Eberhard van der Laan has appealed directly to visitors to seek accommodation in other often overlooked cities such as Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht, which have regular and good train links with Amsterdam.

"That could save us," he told the Het Parool daily. He has also put in place tougher conditions for the 170 annual festivals which attract more than 2,000 participants, such as limiting how many can be held in each park every year. Visitors spend about 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) a year in the country and the tourist

industry supports over 100,000 jobs in Amsterdam. But there are concerns that what is now an irritation could fester into a more permanent anger among locals fed-up with litter-strewn streets and clogged roads.

"We have to ensure that we don't exceed the levels of visitors that we've reached and seize the problem by its horns," said Marjolein Moorman, leader of the city's opposition labour PvdA party. "Amsterdam has an historic city-center, therefore its streets are small and narrow. If four buses, beer bikes, and bicycle taxis are all trying to get through, the streets are too small. That can cause people to lose their tempers," she added.

### Go to the beach instead!

Among her creative solutions would be to bar large tour buses from the center; track more closely private apartments let to vacationers via such sites as Airbnb, cutting the number of days they can be sub-let a year to

30 from 60, and cut museum queues. Some attractions are already trying to promote more online ticket sales, giving visitors a timed window for entry. The city is also trying to attract more people outside of the summer season, with such things as the Christmas winter light show along the canals.

But with Amsterdam in easy reach of many European countries and served by many budget airlines, such measures will not be enough to bring total relief, Moorman said. Hence the suggestion to travel outside the city to less well-known spots such as the UNESCO world heritage site of the fortress stretch resplendent with medieval castles, or the beaches at Zandvoort, the windmills at Zaanse Schans, and beautiful tulip fields at Keukenhof. "Yes, of course, you can have a look at the canals, but also have a look at their neighborhoods to the north or the south or upcoming east for example," said Ligvoet.—AFP



People walk under a passage covered with umbrellas at the Dubai Mall in the Gulf emirate of Dubai.—AFP photos



Tourists look at fish in a viewing tunnel at the aquarium.

# Bollywood, Hollywood enrolled in Dubai tourism drive



A picture shows workers working outside the Raj Mahal area, which is part of the Bollywood of Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR).

**D**omes inspired by the royal palaces of India rise from a new Bollywood theme park under construction in Dubai, part of a drive to lure millions more tourists to the emirate. It already boasts opulent shopping malls and numerous luxury resorts, but the Gulf city-state has even grander ambitions and the film industry is center stage. Bollywood Parks is part of Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR) which is being developed as the region's "largest integrated theme park resort". Spread over 25 million square feet (2.3 million square meters), it will feature three theme parks and a water park.

The resort is located near the region's busiest port and close to where Dubai is expanding its second airport to make it the world's largest. The Bollywood theme park, a first of its kind inspired by the Indian popular movie industry, aims with its centerpiece Rajmahal Theatre, cinemas, rides and simulators to increase Dubai's appeal to tourists from South Asia. "We are trying to target a wide geographic area, but of course the majority will be from India and countries in close proximity to India ... and (are) big lovers of Bollywood," said its general manager, Thomas Jellum.

Around 14,000 construction workers are toiling round the clock to keep DPR on track for its October opening. More than 14.2 million people visited Dubai in 2015, but the target is 20 million by 2020 when the Gulf emirate hosts the global trade fair Expo 2020. Dubai has invested billions of dollars over more than a decade to put itself on the map as a regional business and tourism hub. It has built a modern infrastructure unmatched by its regional peers. And as turmoil hits traditional tourism destinations in the Middle East and North Africa, Dubai has capitalized on its reputation as a safe haven for tourism and business.

Tourism authorities have said hotel capacity was to reach 100,000 rooms in May, boasting that Dubai aims to "position itself as a top 10 global destination in terms of available hotel supply". Hotel occupancy stood at 85 percent in the first quarter of 2016, with average nightly revenue of \$142 per available room. To increase tourist numbers, Dubai is looking for visitors far from beyond its Gulf neighborhood. "The benefits would be limited if we rely on markets that we are used to. We need to expand our marketing to new places," said Dubai Tourism chief Issam Kazim. Visitors from Gulf countries represented the largest regional group last year at 3.3 million, up 12.8 percent, with Saudis alone numbering 1.54 million. But Indian visitors surged by 26 percent to 1.6 million, becoming for the first time the largest single nationality, while Britons rose 11 percent to 1.2 million. "We do not want to focus on six or seven markets. We want to focus on 20 markets," Kazim told AFP.

### More theme parks in pipeline

Bollywood Parks will target visitors passing through Dubai and aims to "keep them a little bit longer," said Jellum. Other theme parks are also being developed to increase the number of visitors. Next door, Motiongate Dubai teams up three major Hollywood studios—Dreamworks, Sony Pictures and Lionsgate. It features rides that take visitors across simulated settings like the Smurfs Village, Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda, among 27 attractions based on 13 popular movies.

"Our target is everybody," said Motiongate Dubai general manager Guido Zucchi, including visitors from Gulf countries and elsewhere. The theme parks are only the latest additions to a long list of entertainment venues in Dubai, including an indoor ski slope. But authorities do not seem worried about saturation in Dubai's tourism market. "We follow a long-term strategy," said Dubai Tourism's Kazim. He said authorities make sure "hotel room numbers do not rise before seeing that the number of visitors is increasing," stressing there is "continuous dialogue between the private sector and the government" over expansion. Motiongate Dubai is also confident. "The tourists that Dubai is attracting every year, together with the expected ones for the following years, will absolutely be enough to create in this region an important destination, not only for tourism but also for leisure," said Zucchi. —AFP



Workers inside Kong Fu Panda Zone at the Dreamwork studios which are part of the Motiongate Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR).



Workers inside the Shrek Zone at the Dreamwork studios that are part of the Motiongate of Dubai Parks and Resorts (DPR).



A boy looks at a stingray in a viewing tunnel at the aquarium at the Dubai Mall.



People shop at the Dubai Mall.



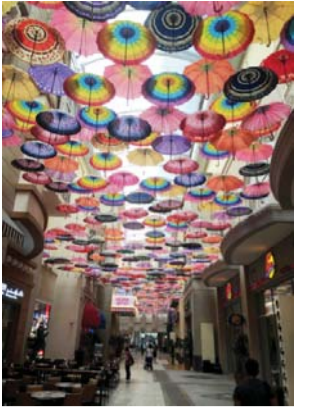
Veiled Arab women walk past an advertisement for a luxury shop at the Dubai Mall.



Tourists and Emiratis ice skate at the Dubai Mall.



Arab tourists look at a shark in a viewing tunnel at the aquarium at the Dubai Mall in the Gulf emirate of Dubai.



Lebanese girls hold traditional lanterns during street performances celebrating the upcoming Muslim holy month of Ramadan, in the southern port city of Sidon, Lebanon, Saturday. Devout Muslims throughout the world will begin to mark Ramadan next week, the holiest month in the Islamic calendar, refraining from eating, drinking, smoking and sex from sunrise to sunset.—AP

## Kenya wakes up to coffee

Africa's best barista doesn't drink coffee, nor even really like it, yet two-time Kenyan champ Martin Shabaya won the Africa round and next month competes at the World Barista Championships. Shabaya, 26, has only been pouring coffee for five years but his success is indicative of a country that—unlike him—is learning to love coffee. "I had not even tasted coffee. I had only taken this Nescafé," said Shabaya of his first day at Kenya's Artcaffe

why they are revered worldwide," she said. "Roasting brings out the nuances and flavors. Even a few seconds can make the difference to a roast's success."

### Don't kill the flavor

Kenya's Arabica beans are at their best when medium roasted, for around 15 minutes at 250 degrees Centigrade (482 Fahrenheit), then quickly sealed in aluminum packages to protect them from what quality controller Tim Obiayo calls "the enemies of coffee": heat, light, moisture and oxygen. "The most dangerous is oxygen, it assassinates flavor," he said. Dormans produces around a dozen coffee blends and has seen strong domestic growth. "For many years you would question the viability of setting up a coffee shop as drinkers were tourists and foreigners, and very few Kenyans," said Rana.

But that has changed. "Coffee is being taken seriously, as a business and by consumers," she said. Dormans is the biggest but not the only roaster in town. Smaller operations such as Ransley Coffee Company, run out of a ramshackle compound on the city's outskirts, and Kahawa Corner-kahawa is Swahili for coffee—with its small roasting and grinding shop next to a neighborhood grocery store, have also found space in an expanding market.

Ransley supplies independent outlets Tin Roof Café, in the leafy Karen suburb, and Pointzero Coffee in downtown Nairobi. The proprietors of both say buying from a small supplier

enables them to choose the beans they want, roasted and ground how they want. Self-described coffee enthusiast Andrea Mora opened Pointzero in the courtyard next to the Nairobi Gallery in late 2015 hoping to create a calming oasis among the city's hurly-burly. She seeks out single-origin Arabica because, "coffee is like wine: it brings to the cup the taste of the place it was grown."

### Growing coffee, drinking coffee

Mora says Kenyans are becoming more discerning, sophisticated consumers. "For the longest time we were a tea-drinking nation that grew coffee, now it's becoming part of our culture to drink coffee as well as grow it," she said. Sitting on the shady verandah of the Tin Roof Café, co-owner Abbie MacAndrew, says coffee drinking has thrown off its reputation as something for the fusty and the foreign. "Coffee isn't an elitist pastime anymore," she said. Shabaya tried brewed coffee for the first time when he began training as a barista, "but I never liked it," he said with a grimace and a sip of lemon and ginger tea to wash away the memory.

But Shabaya soon acquired a regular customer, a discerning Italian in his 40s who came in everyday, sat at the bar counter and ordered an espresso. "He explained the techniques and I learned to master the perfect shot of espresso," said Shabaya. While his espressos and cappuccinos are popular with customers and judges, the drink that sets Shabaya apart at competition is an idiosyncratic concoction he calls 'Goodnight Kenya' blending espresso with Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, orange juice and cardamom. "Kenyan coffee is full of citrus and blackcurrant, so these flavors complement those," he said. Shabaya hopes his signature brew will propel him into the top three at the world barista championships in Ireland, and earn Kenya a name for consuming coffee that matches its reputation for growing it.—AFP



Quality control workers picking out unsuitable green, unroasted coffee beans from a conveyor belt at Dormans coffee factory.

restaurant chain. "It was my first time to see an espresso machine."

They are everywhere now. Java House is Kenya's answer to Starbucks with 36 branches in shopping malls and petrol stations across the country. Artcaffe Coffee and Bakery has grown rapidly since 2009 with 11 branches and four more managed under Dormans brand, the country's oldest coffee roaster. "Roasting is an art and a science," said Rozy Rana, managing director of Dormans Coffee, dressed-like everyone else at the Nairobi factory—in a white lab coat. "East African coffees have unique flavors and that's



A worker removing a sample from a machine during the roasting process for coffee beans.



Workers stacking and storing sacks of green, unroasted coffee beans from a conveyor belt at Dormans coffee factory.



A worker checking the signs marking sacks of green, unroasted coffee beans from a conveyor belt at Dormans coffee factory in Nairobi.—AFP photos



A Muslim girl reads the Quran before an evening prayer on the eve of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at a mosque in Bali, Indonesia, yesterday. Muslims around the world will start observing Ramadan, the holiest month in Islamic calendar this week.—AP