

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016

RAMADAN 2, 1437 AH

www.kuwaittimes.net

Kuwaiti killed, one injured in ghastly crash



Army officer Deshauna Barber crowned Miss USA



Warriors destroy Cavaliers to open a 2-0 Finals lead



Ramadan Timings	
Emsak:	03:04
Fajer:	03:14
Shrooq:	04:48
Dohr:	11:47
Asr:	15:21
Maghreb:	18:46
Eshaa:	20:17

40 PAGES NO: 16897 150 FILS



# HOLY MONTH BEGINS

## MUSLIMS MARK RAMADAN, MANY UNDER CLOUD OF WAR



Min 27°  
 Max 45°  
 High Tide 09:01 & 22:03  
 Low Tide 02:48 & 15:48

### Ramadan Kareem MONTH OF QURAN

By Teresa Leshner

The first verses of the Holy Quran were revealed in Ramadan, 1449 lunar years ago (610 AD). During the course of 23 years, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) received Quranic verses as spoken addresses from the Creator - the Quran is considered the speech of God in the Arabic language. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) then recited the verses so that they could be memorized verbatim, and they were also recorded in writing. Before he died, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) specified the order of verses and the division of chapters, according to divine instruction.

The original Quran is still preserved until today with precise pronunciation, with the Arabic language developing to represent it phonetically. It is the only revelation or divine book that contains the pure words of God without being rephrased by His messengers or any other human being. The Quran is addressed to all mankind. Sometimes Muhammad (PBUH) is specifically addressed with instructions such as "They ask you about... Say [to them]..." Muhammad (PBUH) is also encouraged and sometimes gently reproached in the Quran. Believers are addressed with specific instructions on how to achieve both temporal and eternal success.

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TANGERANG: An Indonesian girl reads a copy of the Quran on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan at a mosque in Tangerang yesterday. Muslim people around the world fast during the month of Ramadan abstaining from food, drink, smoking or having sex from the dawn to the dusk. — AFP

BEIRUT: More than a billion Muslims observed the start of Ramadan yesterday, but in the besieged cities of Syria and Iraq residents were struggling with how to mark the holy month. Islamic authorities across much of the world—from the most populous Muslim-majority country Indonesia to Saudi Arabia, home to the faith's holiest sites—announced the start of the fasting month with the sighting of the crescent moon.

Marking the divine revelation received by Islam's Prophet Mohammed (PBUH), the month sees Muslim faithful abstain from eating, drinking, smoking and having sex from dawn to dusk. They break the fast with a meal known as iftar and before dawn have a second opportunity to eat and drink during suhur. The month is followed by the Eid al-Fitr festival.

In Syria's second city Aleppo, divided between President Bashar Al-Assad's forces and rebel fighters since 2012, residents of opposition-held eastern neighborhoods despaired for the month ahead. Many have grown accustomed to hardship after five years of war, but this year's Ramadan was expected to be especially difficult after recent fighting cut off the Castello Road—the last supply route into their area. "We can't gather together in the holy month like we always used to before the war," said Ahmad Aswad, a 35-year-old father of three in the eastern Salhin district. "The cost of food has risen so much that it's really hard to even get a bite to eat," he said, his only hope for this Ramadan that unlike the holy month last year the city is not heavily bombed during the night.

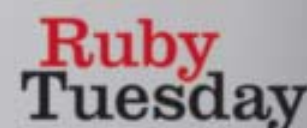
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# Kuwait Times

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**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Director-General of Kuwaiti Municipality and Chairman of the Science Club Ahmad Abdullah Al-Manfouhi and the club's deputy chairman Talal Jassem Al-Kharafi, board members and winners of Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) awards. — Amiri Diwan photo

## AMIR MEETS INTEL SCIENCE, ENGINEERING FAIR WINNERS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met at Seif Palace yesterday with Director-General of Kuwaiti Municipality and Chairman of the Science Club Ahmad Abdullah Al-Manfouhi and the club's deputy chairman Talal Jassem Al-Kharafi, board members and winners of Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) awards. During the meeting, His Highness the Amir congratulated the winners and urged them to continue working hard to win more awards in all fields in order to better promote the nation at international gatherings, wishing them more progress and success. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting.

### Supportive role

Following the meeting, Manfouhi said he was pleased to meet with His Highness the Amir and appreciated his supportive role for young people and their inventions. He boasted that Kuwait is now well-positioned to win international awards in different domains, saying that Kuwaiti winners of awards in the US and Geneva are a source of pride to Kuwait and its people. He highly commended His Highness the Amir as the key supporter of inventions and patents, noting that Kuwait is now the Gulf leader in view of the number of patents thanks to the support and efforts of His Highness the Amir, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) and

Science Club. The winner Suleiman Adel said he was so happy to win the ISEF award in Arizona, adding that he had contested the competition through a solar energy project, which would be very useful to all Arab countries and even solar energy-using nations. The contestant Yusuf Abdullah Al-Tawrah voiced pleasure to meet His Highness the Amir as an incentive for joining more world competitions. The contestant Abdulrahman Al-Jassem said he had joined the competition through a car tire reuse project, and thanked His Highness the Amir for his attention and support.

### Ramadan greetings

In other news, His Highness the Amir

exchanged greetings with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. In a phone conversation Sunday evening, His Highness the Amir expressed best wishes for King Salman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as well as the Arab and Muslim nations. In similar conversations, His Highness the Amir exchanges the Ramadan greetings with Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Qatari Father Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and Qatari Amir Sheikh Tamim Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani.

### Condolences

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir sent yesterday a cable of condolences to King

Abdullah II of Jordan in which he expressed his deepest condolences and sympathy on the victims of the terrorist attack on a headquarters of the Jordanian intelligence in the Baqqa camp. His Highness the Amir expressed Kuwait's strong condemnation of such terrorist attack that contradicts with all norms and humanitarian principles, pointing to Kuwait's firm stance which denounces terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as its bid to dry out its sources in collaboration with the world community. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also sent similar cables. — KUNA

## SHEIKH SALMAN RENEWS SUPPORT TO SPORTS

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah on Sunday reiterated the government's support to the local and international sports organizations. "We will continue to back Kuwait's sports, and international organizations' independency, laws, and decisions," Sheikh Salman told reporters on the sidelines of an honoring ceremony held for the outstanding workers of youth ministry.



**Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah**

Meanwhile, the minister expressed his disappointment toward the "unfair" suspension imposed on Kuwait by FIFA and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) last year without making investigation or consideration of the country's historic place at regional and international arenas.

Kuwait has taken all legal and technical measures to protect its athletes after the imposed ban, he said, expressing the country's faith in the Olympic charter and athletes' rights in taking part in international and regional events, including the forthcoming 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Kuwait would not take part in any sports event without its flag hoisted high among participating countries, Sheikh Salman said, stressing the importance of moving on with enhancing and improving the sports movement in the country despite all obstacles and difficulties.

### Capacity building

Separately, Sheikh Salman, also the Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), said that it is a huge challenge to qualify and train the human resources, especially in the cultural field.

The aspirations and goals of NCCAL's cultural strategies cannot be achieved without fully qualified and trained the human resources, Sheikh Salman told a ceremony to

honor the trainers and trainees at NCCAL's first cultural training program. The program is a launching mark of a national cultural training center, he said, reiterating the Council's strive to invest all academic and specialized expertise in all cultural and arts fields to achieve the desired goal.

Two national cultural centers, sponsored by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, are to open very soon; Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Cultural Center, the minister mentioned, noting that the two cultural bodies will be a significant quantum leap in the country's cultural action.

Sheikh Salman also stressed the importance of caring for human training and development to enhance the country's cultural movement and achieve the cultural aspirations in the state and private sectors, adding that nations would not improve without human development, sound thought, and correct building.

Investing in human resources is important for building Kuwait's future, he said, wishing all development and prosperity for Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, and His Highness the Prime Minister. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

## CABINET HOLDS WEEKLY MEETING

**KUWAIT:** The cabinet held its customary weekly meeting at Seif Palace yesterday under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Following the meeting, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said His Highness the Premier congratulated His Highness the Amir and Kuwaiti people on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

At the onset of the meeting, the cabinet reviewed a letter sent to His Highness the Amir by Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi on the latest regional situation and efforts to fight terrorism and to maintain regional security and stability. The cabinet was apprised of a letter addressed to His Highness the Amir by UK Prime Minister David Cameron on deep and permanent relations between both friendly countries and shared commitment toward regional security and stability, as well Kuwait-hosted Yemeni peace talks.

It was then informed of another message sent to His Highness the Amir from Tajik President Imam Ali Rahman, who voiced satisfaction with the good results of his recent visit to Kuwait and invited His Highness the Amir to visit Tajikistan.

It was notified by a message sent to His Highness the Amir from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, inviting His Highness the Amir to attend the annual ceremony of signing 2016 treaties due in New York in September.

A letter sent to His Highness the Amir by South Korean President Park Geun-hye on the fruitful outcomes of His Highness the Premier's recent visit to South Korea was also reviewed by the ministers during their weekly meeting today.

Afterwards, First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah kept the cabinet posted on the favorable results of the recent GCC consultative meeting in

Jeddah in Saudi Arabia, during which the GCC leaders had agreed to set up a high-level economic body, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Mideast peace process, anti-terrorism efforts.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled also notified the ministers on the outcomes of the recent visit by UK Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on bilateral relations, how to promote and develop them and ways of addressing the current regional challenges and the latest regional and international developments.

### Economic reforms

The cabinet then reviewed a report on medium-term financial and economic reforms in light of a presentation by Deputy Premier, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh on a relevant executive plan. In this context, the cabinet asked the minister to report to it about economic and financial reforms during its meeting next week.

The cabinet reviewed a report on activating the role of youth in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah offered the meeting a brief account of the relevant efforts being exerted in cooperation with the Kuwait's National Fund for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs). Sheikh Salman tackled the strategic orientations for bolstering youth participation in entrepreneurship, in addition to recommendations seeking to provide a more-attractive business environment in Kuwait.

Then, Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Issa briefed the meeting on the results of the Thanwya Amma (Secondary School) exams. He also reviewed the ongoing arrangements by the Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, the Ministry of Higher Education, the Secretariat of the Supreme Council for

Universities, for taking in students in the affiliate colleges and institutes in the new academic year.

### Draft decrees

Meanwhile, the cabinet approved and referred to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah a host of draft decrees. These included one amending Decree 156/2022 licensing the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST). The amendments aim to add new specializations and offering the Master degree in general business administration.

Other decrees approved a MoU on standardization cooperation with Iraq; a MoU for technical cooperation with Mexico; a cultural and artistic cooperation agreement with Qatar; an industrial cooperation agreement with Qatar; a MoU on agricultural cooperation with Nicaragua; a MoU for investment cooperation with Mexico; an air services agreement with Georgia.

Similarly, the ministers approved and referred to His Highness the Amir a draft bill amending a number of provisions of the Decree Law 38 of 1980 on Commercial Code of Civil Procedure, Decree Law No. 20 of 1981 on the establishment of the tribunal for consideration by the college administrative disputes and Decree Law No. 46 of 1989 concerning the actions of little value. The bill will later find its way to the National Assembly.

The cabinet reviewed the 2015 report of the Government Performance Follow-up. It then entrusted the body with coordinating with the concerned authorities to follow up the implementation of the recommendations comprised on the report. The ministers appreciated the sincere efforts lavished in preparing the report. Concluding today's meeting, the cabinet reviewed the National Assembly agenda and the political developments on the Arab and international scenes. — KUNA

## OFFICIAL HIGHLIGHTS KUWAIT'S FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL TRADE OF WILD ANIMALS

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has stressed the necessity of countering illegal trade of wild animals. Protecting the wildlife is the duty of all, Sheikh Abdullah said in lecture during a ceremony organized by EPA to mark the World's Environment Day (WED).

He added that the EPA would carry on with efforts to combat desertification and curb encroachments on the environment,

as well as assessing the environmental conditions. He said that the wildlife in Kuwait is rich, as there are up to 374 species of plants, and around 350 of birds, 18 of which are denizens of Kuwait. June 5 was chosen as WED in line with a resolution by a UN conference held in 1972. Sheikh Abdullah pointed to the new law Kuwait issued reiterating its commitments to protect wildlife and preserve the environment. — KUNA

## KUWAITI FARMER GROWS NEW, EXTRAORDINARY CROPS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti farmer Yousef Al-Kiribani said yesterday that he has managed to grow new varieties of crops, including red corn, white and orange watermelons, in addition to cotton. Kiribani revealed in an interview that he has grown new products that has hitherto been unknown to the Middle East region, such as red corn, orange watermelons and cotton, noting that he always strived to cultivate the most extraordinary of fruits and vegetables.

Moreover, he added that red corn was distinct for its crimson color and sweet taste, noting that the crop was indigenous to Central and South America. The agriculturist also said that he was able to grow American cotton, regarded as the most superior form of the downy substance.

Meanwhile, speaking on some challenges he had encountered while growing these crops, Kiribani said that soaring temperatures, amongst other factors, proved to be a hindrance, adding that he managed to

overcome these hardships through trial and error. He also announced that his farm has yielded more than 70 kinds of produce, as plans are underway to introduce these products to the market. — KUNA



White and orange watermelons



Red corn



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### 3 ABANDONED, 17 UNDOCUMENTED FILIPINO CHILDREN FLY HOME

By Ben Garcia

**KUWAIT:** Twenty children (three abandoned and 17 undocumented), aged 8 months to 14 years, were repatriated to the Philippines on Sunday evening. The move was part of the Kuwaiti government's and Philippine Embassy's efforts to give these children a chance to lead a normal life while their parents continue to work here. Most undocumented children in Kuwait are usually denied a formal education as they are not accepted in any schools - private or public. The repatriation program, which has been going on for years, is done on a monthly basis. The program is considered by many as the best and viable solution for the growing number of undocumented Filipino children in Kuwait.

#### Four categories

There are four categories of undocumented children assisted by the embassy: (1) Totally abandoned (2) Left by one of the parents or left homeless because their parents were arrested by the authorities (3) illegitimate children of parents who are not legally married and (4) children whose parents do not meet the required salary cap set by Kuwait. The repatriated children were accompanied by their parents and guardians and the embassy's Assistance to Nationals Unit (ATNU) team led by Philippine Social Welfare Attache Nilda Oliva. "Another group of children will be back home with their families. Some of them were left in the care of the Philippine Embassy for a while now, and some are children whose parents are unable to pro-

vide them iqamas, making them illegal here," she said. "In order to help parents, we introduced this program many years ago and hundreds have benefited from it. This program of the Philippine Embassy has been made possible by the support and cooperation of the Kuwaiti immigration and CID division," Oliva added.

#### Child welfare

Oliva called on Filipino parents of undocumented children to visit the embassy and urged them to prioritize child welfare. "We have to cooperate and bring them to our attention, because at the end of the day, we will provide the request to the immigration department. Without our endorsement, no approval will be given. So I urge you to come and coordinate with us. We will try to help you in sending your children back home. Do not be afraid because we are doing our best for all our kababayans. Do not worry, we will not hand you over to the authorities. Some are afraid because they might get arrested, but we will not allow this, so please come and accept our assistance," she promised. Parents who want their children to be assisted by the embassy may enlist their kids at the embassy shelter in Hatem for the processing of their travel documents and clearances. The shelter is open 24 hours in Block 2, Street 217, Villa 42, or the hotline +96598005115 can be contacted for all requirements. Oliva also clarified that the three abandoned children sent home will be temporarily housed at the government's Department of Social Workers and Development before they are given to foster parents.



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah with assistant undersecretaries of his ministry and field commanders during the meeting.— Interior Ministry photo

## INTERIOR MINISTER CHAIRS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON RAMADAN SECURITY PLAN

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah stressed the sound deployment of, and vigilance by, the security personnel during the holy month of Ramadan.

During his meeting with assistant undersecretaries of his ministry and field commanders, the minister called for closer cooperation with the citizens of foreign residents as part of the plan to ensure safety during the month of fasting. The meeting gathered Undersecretary of the Ministry Lieutenant

General Sulaiman Al-Fahad, according to a statement by the Ministry's Security Media Department.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled congratulated His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on the advent of the holy month and expressed best wishes for His Highness the Amir and the dear homeland. He commended the level of the preparedness of the security personnel and their ability to implement the Ramadan security plan, saying that he will personally oversee

the implementation. Meanwhile, Lt Gen Fahad made a presentation on the various aspects of the security plan, including the traffic and precautionary measures. The plan envisages deployment of security personnel and patrols near the places of worship, shopping malls and through main streets to ensure smooth flow of the traffic, he said. Lt Gen Fahad highlighted the significance of the minister's instructions for strict coordination among the various sectors of the ministry to implement the plan.—KUNA



**KUWAIT:** The undocumented children are seen being accompanied by their parents/guardians as they head back to the Philippines from Kuwait International Airport.— Photos by Ben Garcia



**Philippine Department of Social Welfare and Development Attache Nilda Oliva (right) assists parents/guardians at Kuwait International Airport on Sunday.**

## 2,800 LIQUOR BOTTLES BUSTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** On the first day of Ramadan, narcotics detectives arrested a citizen - who had a criminal record in liquor trafficking - with 2,800 imported liquor bottles he intended to store and sell before Eid Al-Fitr. Case papers indicate that narcotics detectives had been tipped off concerning a shipment of electricity generators at Shuwaikh Port with liquor hidden inside. Arrangements were made with custom inspectors to facilitate the truck's release to follow it and arrest the receiver, who turned out to be a Kuwaiti. He immediately confessed that he had been importing and

smuggling liquor for years and that he had intended to store this latest shipment to sell before Eid.

#### Courts roundup

The criminal court yesterday postponed hearing citizenship forgery cases until June 18 because the six suspects in the case were not brought from the prison to court. Separately, the administrative court yesterday ordered retroactively paying an employee KD 100 monthly effective from 2012 as supervision allowance. The employee had gone to court demanding his right to receive the allowance, which was approved by the court.



**KUWAIT:** These handout photos provided by the Interior Ministry shows the four suspects in the murder of an Asian woman whose body was found on January 26.

## TWO OF FOUR MURDERERS APPREHENDED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior's security media and relations department said that criminal detectives managed to unfold the mystery of the murder of an Asian woman whose corpse was burned inside a truck that was found between Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh and Abdullah Mubarak on January 26.

Investigations led to four alleged perpetrators including two Sri Lankan and two Pakistani nationals who were forcing the victim to practice prostitution and then decided to get rid of her when she got pregnant. Case

papers indicate that detectives found that the prime suspect, one of the two Sri Lankan men, had killed the woman eight days before her body was found.

The suspect was ambushed and arrested in Andalus and he confessed, leading the police to his accomplices including a Pakistani who left last February, another Pakistani who was deported in March and a Sri Lankan who works as a cleaner at Al-Sabah hospital. The suspect explained that when the woman fell pregnant, the suspect working at the hospital procured some pills to help her abort, but those pills failed and only made her weaker,

which made them decide to get rid of her. The four then slaughtered the woman, dumped her body in a truck and set it afire.

#### Motorist killed in car crash

A Kuwaiti citizen was instantly killed and another seriously injured when their vehicles collided along the Seventh Ring Road, said security sources. Firemen from Dhafer rushed to the scene and had to cut through one of the two wrecks to release the driver who was already dead. The other driver was rushed to hospital onboard a chopper ambulance.

## 51 KG BAD FOOD DESTROYED

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department announced that all preparations for the holy month of Ramadan had been made, including the 'Your Health Concerns Us' campaign that involved several inspections of various markets and stores selling foodstuff. The department also explained that Mubarak Al-Kabeer inspectors inspected foodstuff stores and co-ops in Subhan and Sabah Al-Salem that resulted in filing 14 citations and destroying 51 kg of foul products.

#### Zoo's relocation

After receiving many complaints from Omariya residents, Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah called the Municipal Council Chairman Muhallhel Al-Khaled to discuss the possibility of relocating the zoo.

#### Cleaning companies

Municipal Council deputy chairman Meshal Al-Juwaisri urged the municipality's executive body to closely monitor cleaning companies' work during Ramadan, especially in private and model residential areas.

#### Clinics' hours

The Ministry of Health (MoH) yesterday announced the working hours of various polyclinics during Ramadan. In this regard, MoH's primary healthcare director Dr Rehab Al-Watyan said that Fahaheel, Reqqa, Adan, Ali Sabah Al-Salem and West Sabahiya clinics would be working 24/7. Watyan added that Dhafer, Fintas and Mubarak Al-Kabeer clinics would work from 9:00 am till midnight including weekends and official holidays. She added that clinics in Ahmadi, Jaber Al-Ali, East Mubarak Al-Kabeer, Egaila, Abu Halifa, east Sabahiya, Adan and Fahd Al-Ahmed would work in the morning and evening periods.



## CBK ANNOUNCES RULES FOR KUWAIT ELECTRONIC CHEQUE CLEARING SYSTEM

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) would like to draw the attention of all clients 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. CBK will advise clients' beneficiary of these types of cheques to go to the issuer bank to cash their cheque or deposit it in their accounts - if available with the issuer bank. Accordingly, CBK would like to urge its 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. They also need to avoid writing or signing over the MICR line at the bottom of the cheque.

Furthermore, they need to keep the cheques in a good condition by avoiding folding, damaging, stapling or tearing cheques. In addition, they must 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. Also, they must 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 clients are strongly recommended to ensure the acceptance and processing of the cheques under KECCS and to highly benefit from the new system.





# Ramadan

Quiz  
2016



الإتحاد  
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 received 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  
Odien men's watch | Odien women's watch | Gift vouchers from Ruby Tuesday lunch or dinner 40Kd  
Gift voucher from Lulu Hypermarket 50KD

**5th Prize** Canon camera 113  
Oden 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 ten 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



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwait's last pearl-sellers huddle beneath their sunshade in the early 1970s, dwarfed by the huge Telecommunications Tower. This photo was prepared by Mahmoud Zakaria Abu Alella, heritage researcher in the Ministry of Information. (Source: 'Pearling in the Arabian Gulf', by Saif Marzooq Al-Shamlan).

Young Voices



'I CANNOT STAY WITHOUT FOOD FOR MANY HOURS'

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Nearly a quarter of Kuwait's entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints.

This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait's future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.

It is hard to interview kids, especially if they do not like to talk much. It is tough to get answers and I had to be patient and repeat the question twice or thrice.

Louay is a seven-year-old French boy who was born in Kuwait and has lived here ever since. He has travelled to many countries including France. He studies in the third grade at the Lycee Francais de Koweit.

**when you grow up?**

**A:** I want to be a golfer. I like this game, and I do not want to do a regular job.

**Q: Where do you prefer to live? In Kuwait or France?**

**A:** I like both, but I prefer France as all my relatives live there.

**Q: Did you ever try to fast?**

**A:** No. It is too hard for me. I cannot stay without food for many hours.

**Q: What do you like most in Kuwait?**

**A:** I love all my friends who live here, and Hawally Park.

**Q: What don't you like in Kuwait?**

**A:** The only thing I do not like here is the heat. It is very hot.

If you would like your child to be interviewed for this special series, please email us at [local@kuwait-times.net](mailto:local@kuwait-times.net)

**Q: What do you want to become**



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Crime

Report

MORE SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN MINA ABDULLAH DEATH CASE

**KUWAIT:** Following up the case of the murder of an Asian man whose body was dumped under tons of garbage in Mina Abdullah, security sources said that detectives arrested two other suspects of other Asians nationalities who had some problems with the victim. The suspects confessed that they initially killed the victim by burying him alive, then took the body and dumped it at a garbage collection point, where it was buried under tons of garbage.

Search for attacker

Detectives are hunting for an unidentified person who shot and stabbed a bedoon man in Jahra, said security sources, noting that the suspect also fired at the ambulance while it was taking the injured man to hospital. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Landmine

An Asian shepherd was seriously injured and rushed to Jahra Hospital for treatment of injuries he sustained after stepping on a landmine that had been left over by Iraqi forces in 1991.

Drunk man arrested

A 21-year-old citizen was found heavily drunk and unconscious outside a mosque in Qosour, said security sources. He was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

Liquor possession

An Asian man was arrested in Sharq with five liquor bottles, said security sources. Case papers indicate that when asked to pull over by a police patrol, the suspect left his vehicle and tried to flee on foot, but was chased and caught. On searching the car, policemen found the five bottles. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities.

Property damage

A female citizen reported that a citizen damaged her vehicle as he hit it several times from the rear, after she rejected his advances. A case was filed and the man is being summoned.

Theft at large

A citizen reported that an unidentified robber broke into his apartment in Maidan Hawally and stole KD 4,000 he had saved to travel abroad on a summer vacation. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



Al-Jarida

Al-Anbaa

TUMBLING SNAKES

By Saad Al-Motesh

**N**obody is perfect at all. It is only Almighty Allah that is perfect. Our Holy Prophet (PBUH) said that 'All Adam's children are sinners and that the best of them are those who repent.' For the past 50 years of my life, I have erred, but finally found how true the slogan used by the traffic department is: "To arrive late is better than not arrive at all." I started applying this to my daily life and everybody should follow my steps in this, because once you realize your mistakes, even if this happens late in your life, it is much better than to die before you realize them.

The first thing you have to reconsider is your relationship with yourself and how much you have done it wrong by not disciplining it and preparing it for a day when nobody can do you any good, including parents and children, except for one's good deeds and clear hearts.

*Once you realize your mistakes, even if this happens late in your life, it is much better than to die before you realize them*

In addition, relations with others around us must be evaluated according to this principle as well. We must review them before it is too late and we accordingly start losing. There are many enemies dressed and disguised as friends, while they hold the worst feelings and grudges against you within their hearts.

Then come public relations and admiring certain people. This is something one has to review at least three times a day, because we have finally realized that some people change five times a day in the blink of an eye, following the 'snakes' principle and pattern. You have to be very careful because you can never trust a snake.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

TIGERS AND DEER

By Sami Al-Nisf

**T**he situation in our Arab region is more like a herd of deer running and other packs of tigers, panthers and wild wolves chasing it to feed on its meat and blood and take over its lands. Whenever one of the deer feels tired and stops running, it is immediately devoured by the wild beasts that mercilessly start tearing it apart, then run again to chase the deer herd in anticipation for devouring another prey.

This survival conflict has been going on in our region for years, during which all means of deception and role exchange had been used to reach the ultimate goal of devouring the entire or most of the chased herd. Some are being chased from the east, others are chased from the west, a third part is being chased from north while a fourth group hides amongst southern rocks.

The best possible solution for these deer to get out of this life-threatening situation that has been targeting their very survival lies in creating some

tumults and disagreements amongst the wild pack of beasts, if possible. They should try to create disagreements on bounties and spoils even before getting them, so that the wild beasts can get busy with their own problems than with the deer and eventually give up attempts to catch the prey because of such disagreements and head to other hunting regions.

Unless we counter deception with more cunning deception, more deer will continue to fall in the region one after another in the few coming years as we step into the second decade of the 21st century. Unfortunately, through their negligence, some deer present themselves as easy prey for the wild beasts. And just for the record, there is hardly a regional deer (state) that fell without the involvement of negligence, lack of wisdom and shortsightedness, which formed the basic reasons for their fall, rather than the efficiency or the speed of the hunters themselves!

—Translated by Kuwait Times

*Unless we counter deception with more cunning deception, more deer will continue to fall in the region*

**Ramadan Quiz 2016**

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 received by Friday 8th July 2016 at Kuwait Times Office.

**Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win**

2- What is the name of longest surah of the Holy Quran?  
**Surah Baqara.**

YES  NO

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Civil ID: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Espresso Ramadan Kareem Baby SehaMed



**KUWAIT:** Sheikh Talal Al-Fakher among group of AUB staff after the seminar 'How do we receive Ramadan.'

AHLI UNITED BANK LAUNCHES UNIQUE SOCIAL PROGRAM DURING RAMADAN

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank announced the launch of its social program during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The bank's latest initiative includes a wide number of charitable, cultural, religious, and social care activities, and is part of its continued commitment to being a social enabler across the local community in Kuwait. The bank is keen to develop its social program during the month of Ramadan to ensure the delivery of activities that are in line with the Holy Month's values, to reflect upon its social commitment.

Ahli United Bank said in a press release, "Our social program throughout the month of Ramadan includes an extensive array of activities and initiatives such as issuing the Imsakiya prior to Ramadan, as well as driving an employee religious seminar under the name "How do we receive Ramadan", delivered by Sheikh Talal Al Fakher. This is in addition to the Bank's annual seminar that takes place during the last ten days of Ramadan, and is delivered by Sheikh Dr Khaled Al-Mathkour, AUB's Head of the Fatwa and Sharia Supervisory Board."

The bank has also organized its

Ramadan Quran Recitation competition, which is being held for the second consecutive year. This year, the competition has been developed to include four primary categories: male and female employees to recite Ar-Rahman and Al-Waqiah verses by choice. Other categories include staff members' children and the wider public whose ages range between seven to fourteen years old, where they will need to recite An-Naze'at or Al-Mutaffin verses by choice. Activities also include announcing on a daily basis new historic and religious facts via employees' emails, where the winner will receive a valuable prize.

In an effort to promote and encourage religious awareness through media, AUB will sponsor the prominent Hadith program, which is broadcast on Al-Rai TV throughout the month of Ramadan, and is presented by Sheikh Dr AbdulAziz Al-Qassar. The program aims to thoroughly address a number of Hadiths. Moreover, the Bank will distribute Gargeen bags to employees, as it does on an annual basis.

The press release added, "In line with AUB's commitment towards

charity work that is in line with the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Bank's social program includes a number of social initiatives which include visits by the Public Relations team to orphans in hospitals, distributing gifts and valuable prizes with an objective of bringing more joy and happiness to them throughout the month. The Bank also encourages its employees who are interested to volunteer to participate, in an effort to encourage the overall understanding of social work."

AUB, in collaboration with the Social Volunteering Association, LOY-AC, will hold a number of activities that include distributing food and clothes to unfortunate families along with a number of visits to the elderly in hospitals and distributing prizes and Gargeen.

AUB concluded, "We believe in the importance of social giving, and as a leading financial institution that operates in line with the Islamic Sharia, we are committed to interacting with our local community and supporting its wellbeing throughout the month of Ramadan, a time where good activities are carried out extensively."

NEW COMPANY TO RUN AL-ZOUR COMPLEX PROJECT

**KUWAIT:** The Supreme Petroleum Council agreed in principle to establish a company to be known as KPRC and run Al-Zour Complex megaproject. Kuwait is planning to launch a \$28-billion Al-Zour complex project involving the construction of a 615,000-bpd refinery and a large petrochemical plant. During a meeting last Sunday chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, the council agreed to allocate KD 90

million (\$300 million) to complete the preliminary architectural studies for the project's petrochemical complex, sources said.

The company's capital is yet to be determined, but is expected to be between KD 1.5 million and KD 2 million, thus exceeding Kuwait National Petroleum Company's capital which currently stands at nearly KD 1.3 million. The council has selected Kuwait Petroleum Corporation's Managing Director Hashim Hashim as president of

the new company, according to the sources.

Separately, the council agreed in principle to carry out studies concerning the possible participation by 50 percent in an oil refinery project in Oman. Furthermore, the sources said that the council confirmed during its meeting that financial rewards to be paid to oil sector employees who did not join a labor strike last April are legal. —Al-Rai



# Kuwait Times International

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2016



**German president won't serve second term**

S CHINA SEA CASTS SHADOW OVER KEY US-CHINA TALKS

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**AMMAN:** Jordanians shop for traditional lanterns known in Arabic as "fanous", sold during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, at a market in the capital on Sunday as the fasting month begins. —AFP



People and security personnel stand outside the Jordanian intelligence agency office in the Baqaa camp north of the capital following a gun attack. — AFP

## FIVE JORDAN INTEL AGENTS KILLED

LONE GUNMAN OPENS FIRE IN 'TERROR ATTACK', ESCAPES

**BAQAA, Jordan:** A gunman apparently acting alone killed five Jordanian intelligence agents yesterday in a daylight "terrorist attack" on their office in a Palestinian refugee camp north of the capital. Jordan is a leading member of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in neighboring Iraq and Syria, and has been the target of jihadist attacks in the past. "The intelligence agency office in the Baqaa camp was the target of a cowardly attack shortly before 7:00 am (0400 GMT) today that left five agents dead," government spokesman Mohammed Momani said.

Momani said security forces were investigating who was responsible for the "terrorist attack" on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. A security source told AFP that preliminary findings suggested the attack was carried out by a lone gunman who opened fire with an automatic weapon before escaping. The shooting happened as the team members were starting their shift. It was unclear whether the gunman was a camp resident or an outsider, the source said, adding that experts were poring over CCTV footage for more clues.

Jordan has seen spillover from the conflicts in Iraq and Syria in the past. In Dec 2005, sui-

cide attacks on three Amman hotels claimed by IS's predecessor Al-Qaeda in Iraq killed 60 people and wounded dozens. The Baqaa camp, where yesterday's attack took place, is 20 km from central Amman and is the largest of the kingdom's 10 official Palestinian refugee camps. On Monday security forces blocked the road to the camp to keep journalists away, an AFP correspondent said. Former member of parliament Mahmud Al-Kharabsha said what happened in Baqaa had been "expected".

### 'Midst of a Cyclone'

"This camp was chosen for an attack in order to sow sedition (between Palestinians and Jordanians) in the country," Kharabsha told AFP in Baqaa. "What happened was expected. Jordan is in the midst of a cyclone and shares long borders with Syria and Iraq," he added. Baqaa - which suffers from chronic poverty and unemployment - houses around 220,000 people, including more than 100,000 of the two million Palestinian refugees who live in Jordan.

It was one of "six emergency camps" set up in 1968 to house Palestinians fleeing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a result of the 1967 Six-Day War during which Israel seized the

Palestinian territories, east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights. Baqaa was the home of Mahmud Abdelal, an Islamist extremist who blew himself up in Syria in Oct 2012. In 2010, three Jordanian Islamist extremists were sentenced to prison terms of between three years and life for plotting to kill intelligence officers in the camp, a court official said at the time.

According to sources close to Islamists, almost 4,000 Jordanians have joined jihadist groups in Iraq and Syria, where an estimated 420 have been killed since 2011. Jordan has carried out air strikes against IS in Syria since 2014. One of its pilots was captured by the jihadists when his plane went down in Syria in Dec 2014. In February 2015, IS released gruesome footage of Maaz Al-Kassasbeh being burned alive in a cage. His murder prompted Jordan to extend its air strikes against IS to Iraq, where it is the only Arab coalition member taking part in the bombing campaign.

Jordan has also opened up the Prince Hassan airbase, northeast of the capital, to other members of the US-led coalition in the air war. In March, Jordanian authorities announced they had foiled an IS plot to carry out attacks in the kingdom in an operation that led to the deaths of seven jihadists. —AFP

## CHINA RESTRICTS RAMADAN FASTING IN MUSLIM REGION

**BEIJING:** Chinese officials have restricted civil servants, students and children in a mainly Muslim region from fasting during Ramadan, government websites said as the holy month began yesterday. The country's ruling Communist party is officially atheist and for years has banned government employees and minors from fasting in Xinjiang, home to the more than 10 million-strong mostly Muslim Uighur minority. It has also ordered some restaurants to stay open.

The region sees regular clashes between Uighurs and state security forces. Beijing has blamed deadly attacks there and elsewhere in China on militants seeking independence for the resource-rich region. Rights groups blame tensions on religious and cultural restrictions imposed on Uighurs and other Muslim minorities in the vast area, which abuts Central Asia.

Several local government departments

in Xinjiang have posted notices on their websites in the last week ordering restrictions on fasting during Ramadan. During the holy month, the faithful fast from dawn to dusk and strive to be more pious. "Party members, cadres, civil servants, students and minors must not fast for Ramadan and must not take part in religious activities," said a notice posted last Thursday on the official website of the city of Korla in central Xinjiang. "During the Ramadan month, food and drink businesses must not close," it added.

A Uighur official in the city's Tiekou township named Ahmatjan Tohti told a meeting last week that officials should "resolutely stop party members, civil servants, students and minors from entering mosques for religious activities" during the month, according to a separate report on the website. —AFP

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## CIVILIANS DIE TRYING TO FLEE BESIEGED FALLUJAH

**AMRIYAT AL-FALLUJAH, Iraq:** Civilians desperate to flee Fallujah were having to dodge sniper fire from the Islamic State group, which was keen to keep its "human shields" inside the city as Iraqi forces closed in yesterday. Families who managed to escape told of how IS jihadists opened fire on them as they crossed the Euphrates River on boats and makeshift rafts. "We know from witness testimonies that civilians... are being forced to stay and are being threatened," Nasr Muflihi, the Norwegian Refugee Council's Iraq director, told AFP.

Footage carried by Iraqi channels showed civilians paddling for their lives on the river, others drifting in inflated wheel chambers. "People are using anything that floats, from wardrobes to plastic containers," said Caroline

Gluck, spokeswoman for the UN's Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Iraq. "We know that people have drowned, at least one person was shot by a sniper as he was on some kind of boat or dinghy," she said.

In Amriyat al-Fallujah, where NRC runs the camps housing most of those who have managed to escape IS-held areas, there are new arrivals every day. "Daesh (IS) shot at us when we left the city from the south. We could hear bullets zipping above our heads as we were crawling through the countryside," said a 60-year-old woman who was too scared to give her name. "I shouted at them that I would never go back. 'Kill me now,' I said. What point is there in living if my children are suffering?" she told AFP on the phone.

The vast majority of the approximately

18,000 people who have fled IS rule since Iraqi forces launched an operation to retake Fallujah two weeks ago are from outlying areas. The NRC and other groups put the number of civilians trapped inside the city proper at 50,000. For them, leaving Fallujah is almost impossible. "They put a car bomb on the old bridge and tell people who want to leave the city that they will blow it up against them," said Abu Mohammed Al-Dulaimi, a father of six who still lives in the city centre.

He said IS militants had sawed off the top of the car and covered it to make it less visible to enemy aircraft. "They are under pressure... we can see it in their behaviour. I would say there is one percent of support from the population, it comes from people who get benefits from them," he said.

### Keeping the Poor

Dulaimi said residents saw IS members shaving their beards Sunday for the first time, as they have done in the past to try to mingle with fleeing civilians when they are about to lose a town to the Iraqi forces. "Daesh has been helping their own families to escape but they are trying to keep the poor people like us," said a 25-year-old woman who reached a camp in Amriyat al-Fallujah after fleeing from Azkrakiyah, a rural area just west of Fallujah.

IS fighters have been moving forces along the dense maze of trails and canals flanking the river, often taking civilians with them as cover. "There's a lot of internal movement. In Garma, they forced families to move back inside Fallujah," said the UNHCR's Gluck, referring to an area northeast of Fallujah that Iraqi

forces recently liberated. "They did the same thing in Zoba and Saqlawiya," she said. "We've heard this consistently from families."

Two weeks into the offensive, elite forces are struggling to break into the city centre. The Iraqi government has cited the risks faced by civilians used as human shields in Fallujah as the main factor slowing operations to retake the city. But Abu Mahdi al-Mohandis, the powerful military commander of the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary organization, argued the plight of trapped families was all the more reason to ramp up the offensive. "Now Daesh is shooting at women and children to prevent them from leaving," he told reporters on Sunday. "It's clear that this city is hostage to these gangs, we are not going to just stand here with our hands tied." —AFP

## IRAQI ARMY, COALITION BICKER ON FALLUJAH WAR OPERATIONS

### MILITIA BLASTS DECISION TO MOVE TANKS TO MOSUL

**BAGHDAD/ERBIL, Iraq:** An Iraqi Shiite militia leader accused government forces of "betrayal" as a split emerged between the Iranian-backed paramilitaries and the army over tactics for fighting Islamic State. The head of the largest militia, Hadi Al-Amiri, criticized the army for moving an armored brigade to the Makhmour area near Mosul - Islamic State's capital in northern Iraq - while

Mosul battle, is a betrayal of the battle for Fallujah," he told Al-Sumaria TV on Sunday. Badr Organization is the largest component of the Popular Mobilisation, a militia grouping which has been fighting alongside the Iraqi army at Fallujah, with government units also receiving air support from the US-led coalition.

Amiri also accused the Iraqi authorities of deciding to move the

The row reflects the diverging priorities of Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi - a Shiite who was elected in 2014 on a promise to mend rifts with the Sunni Muslim minority - and the Shiite militias backed by Iran. Fallujah, which lies 50 km west of Baghdad, is a historic bastion of the Sunni insurgency against the US occupation and then against the Shiite-led authorities that took over

Asaib Ahl Al-Haq, Jawad Al-Talabawi, said the operations had come to a near standstill and asked Abadi to order the resumption of attacks. Abadi said on June 1 that the army had slowed its offensive over fears for the safety of tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the city with limited access to water, food and healthcare.

Iraqi army officers confirmed that an armored brigade had arrived on Sunday night in Makhmour. This was part of preparations for an offensive to take an airfield that they plan to use in a future offensive on the city. Bridges and boats have also been brought to facilitate the crossing of the Tigris river from Makhmour to Qayyara, where the airfield lies, they said, giving no indication of when the battle would start.

Iraqi armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Rasool played down the effect of any mobilisation to capture Mosul. "I don't believe it would impact the ongoing battle of Fallujah," he told Reuters. "The forces allocated to Fallujah are achieving victories and we have started moving towards the city centre." Fallujah was the first city captured by Islamic State in Iraq, in Jan 2014, six months before the group declared its caliphate over areas of Iraq and Syria. Abadi has expressed hope that 2016 will be the year of "final victory" over Islamic State, with the capture of Mosul.

Abadi ordered the offensive on Fallujah after a series of bombings claimed by Islamic State hit Shiite districts of Baghdad, causing the worst death toll this year. His initial decision seems to have gone against the plans of his US allies, who would prefer the government concentrate on Mosul rather than risk getting bogged down in a protracted battle in a potentially hostile mainly Sunni area. The government has already recaptured two cities from Islamic State - Saddam's home town of Tikrit, and Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's vast western province of Anbar. —Reuters



**FALLUJAH:** Iraqi Sgt Hashem Addawi, wounded during fighting against Islamic State militants, is treated for a shrapnel wound after an IS mortar attack at a field aid station at Camp Tariq, outside Fallujah, yesterday. —AP

the battle to dislodge the militants from Fallujah, their stronghold near Baghdad, is still underway.

"Unfortunately there is an absence of precise planning for the military operations," said Amiri, who leads the Badr Organisation. "I believe that sending a large number of armored vehicles and assets to Makhmour, under the pretext of the

forces to Makhmour, which lies around 60 km south of Mosul, under pressure from the United States. An army spokesman denied that the buildup would affect the battle for Fallujah, about 350 km south of Mosul, which the militias and Iraqi government forces are trying to regain after two years of Islamic State control.

after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, in 2003. Sunni politicians fear the participation of the Shiite militias in the assault could further inflame sectarian tensions.

### Historic Bastion

Amiri is the second militia official to voice dismay over the Fallujah assault. On Friday, a spokesman for



**DOHA:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (center) meets with hundreds of Indian laborers at a workers' camp in the Qatari capital on June 4, 2016. —AP

## QATAR REASSURES INDIA OVER LABOR REFORMS

**NEW DELHI:** Qatar has reassured India that labor reforms will improve the conditions of more than half a million Indian migrants, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised concerns of abuses during a weekend visit to the Gulf state, a statement said yesterday. Qatar is home to 630,000 Indian nationals, the single largest group of migrants in the country of 2 million. Many work in low paid construction jobs, building stadiums and other infrastructure for the 2022 World Cup.

A joint government statement said Modi met with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani on Sunday and discussed the plight of Indian migrants. "The Qatari side briefed the Indian side on the reform in labour laws which would protect the interest of skilled and unskilled labor in Qatar," said the statement issued by the prime minister's office. Modi thanked the Qatari leadership for "hosting the Indian community and for ensuring their continued welfare and safety".

Qatar is an important partner for India, with bilateral trade in 2014/15 exceeding \$15 billion, according to the Indian government. It is also one of India's key sources of crude oil. During a two-day visit to the Gulf nation, Modi addressed a gathering of Indian laborers in Doha, assuring them he would present their concerns to Qatari authorities. "I am aware of the issues you are facing. I

will talk about it when I meet the authorities," Modi told them on Saturday. "If you have some issues on changing some laws and regulations, I can assure you that I will work with you all to bring about these changes."

Modi's comments come amid growing scrutiny of Qatar over the plight of migrants from countries such as Nepal, India and Bangladesh employed to build infrastructure as Qatar gears up to host the world's largest sporting event. The International Labour Organization said Qatar is making progress towards ending forced labor and improving migrant worker conditions, but added the real test will be whether it enforces new legislation from December.

The new Qatari law abolishes the kafala sponsorship system and removes all curbs on worker movements. Migrants will no longer be forced to continue a job if there is abuse or exploitation, but domestic workers are excluded from this law. Modi said he believed Qatar would respond positively to challenges faced by the Indian community in the country. "I have been given a long list of all the problems that you face. I have studied it in detail and will address them over the next two days," Modi told the Indian laborers. "Despite these issues, the people here are very fond of Indians, they trust Indians, and I am sure that when we raise these concerns, they will respond positively." —Reuters

## SYRIAN ARMY, KURDS ADVANCE ON IS NORTHERN STRONGHOLDS

**BEIRUT:** Syrian regime troops supported by Russia and US-backed fighters pressed twin offensives against the Islamic State group yesterday as pressure built on the jihadists' northern strongholds in the war-torn country. The advance comes as 17 civilians - nearly half of them children - were killed in air raids on a popular market in eastern Syria on the first day of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

In northern Syria, IS fighters in the town of Tabqa are caught between Russian-backed regime forces advancing from the southwest and US-supported Kurdish and Arab fighters pushing in from the north. The coincidence of the near-simultaneous attacks has raised speculation about possible coordination between the United States and Russia in the anti-IS fight. The Syrian Democratic Forces - led by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) - last week launched an assault on Tabqa, its military base, and a nearby dam from the north of Raqa province.

They are slowly working their way through vast agricultural plains to reach the strategic locations and are still at least 60 km north of Tabqa. But after

the government's latest advance on Monday, regime forces pushing north were closer to Tabqa than the SDF, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Russian-backed government fighters are now within 24 km of Lake Assad, the key reservoir in the Euphrates Valley contained by the Tabqa Dam, the Britain-based Observatory said.

### 'Informal' Coordination

"There is a joint operations room in Baghdad where the Iraqis and the Syrians are coordinating with the support of the Americans and the Russians," a source close to the regime said yesterday. Around Tabqa in particular, the source said, it would be "impossible" for the US and Russia to back their respective ground allies if they did not coordinate. London-based analyst Matthew Henman stressed that any coordination between Washington and Moscow has so far been "informal".

"There may be an element of informal, top-level coordination to avoid any confusion or inadvertent clashes but full coordination is unlikely," said Henman, who heads IHS Jane's Terrorism and

Insurgency Research Centre. Russia last month floated a proposal for joint air strikes with the United States against jihadists in Syria, but the offer was swiftly rejected.

Two years after it shot to international infamy after declaring a fundamentalist "caliphate", IS is coming under mounting international pressure. In Iraq, US-backed forces are laying siege to Fallujah, which IS has held since 2014. In Syria, besides the Raqa front, IS is also under attack by the Kurdish-led SDF in Aleppo province. SDF fighters crossed the Euphrates near the border with Turkey and pushed west towards the jihadist-held Syrian city of Manbij.

Analysts suspect that the SDF's operational focus on Manbij may explain the alliance's minimal progress towards Tabqa. Manbij lies at the heart of a pocket of IS-held territory along the border that US commanders regard as the principal entry point for foreign fighters and funds. Both Manbij and Tabqa stand on a key supply route from the IS-held border town of Jarabulus to the jihadists in Raqa city.

### Raqa 'Last to Fall'

The US government estimates that IS has between 19,000 and 25,000 fighters in Syria and Iraq. Syria's conflict has evolved into a complex war involving foreign powers since it started in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests. Peace talks to end the five-year war - which has killed more than 280,000 people and displaced millions - have stalled and a related ceasefire is in tatters.

Yesterday, 17 civilians - among them eight children - were killed in air strikes on Al-Shaara, an IS-held town in eastern Deir Ezzor province. The Observatory said the strikes were suspected to have been carried out by either Russian or Syrian government planes. Neither IS nor its rival Al-Qaeda was included in the truce between the regime and non-jihadist rebels which came into effect in February after efforts by Washington and Moscow. While the battles for the key locations of Tabqa and Manbij intensify, it appears the fight for Raqa city - which would be a much more symbolic victory - has taken a backseat. —AFP



**IDLIB, Syria:** Syrians help an injured man following reported air strikes on a residential neighborhood in this rebel-held northwestern city on Sunday. —AFP

## BIBI ADMITS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FRENCHMAN ON TRIAL FOR FRAUD

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged yesterday that he had received \$40,000 from a French tycoon on trial for alleged fraud, but said the contribution was not political and was used for promoting Israel. During his trial in France, Arnaud Mimran said he had given one million euros (\$1.1 million) in campaign contributions to Netanyahu in 2001, when the Israeli leader was not in public office.

Israeli law limits individual campaign contributions to parliamentary candidates to 11,480 shekels (A2,670) and 45,880 shekels for party chairmanship races. The allegation has received widespread attention in Israel, with the country's attorney general examining Mimran's testimony. "The claim that Arnaud Mimran contributed one million euros to the election campaign of Mr Netanyahu is a baseless lie," a statement from the prime minister's office said. "There was no contribution by Mimran to Netanyahu's election campaign. In August 2001, when Mr Netanyahu was a private citizen, Mimran contributed \$40,000 to the fund for public activities for Mr Netanyahu, which included media appearances and numerous educational campaigns abroad in favor of Israel, and made in accordance with the law."

In an earlier statement, Netanyahu's office said that "Mr Mimran, who is on trial for fraud in the range of several

hundreds of millions of dollars, is trying to divert attention by means of another fraud" by accusing the prime minister. An Israeli justice ministry spokeswoman said Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit had ordered an examination of Mimran's testimony "immediately after he became aware of it." If the donation was not a campaign contribution, tax authorities would have to verify whether it was declared, said Moshe Negbi, legal expert for Israeli public radio.

Netanyahu left the prime minister's office in 1999 after being defeated by Labour's Ehud Barak. In 2002, he became foreign minister in then-prime minister Ariel Sharon's government. Mimran is one of the main defendants in a trial in Paris over an alleged scam amounting to A283 million involving the trade of carbon emissions permits and the taxes on them. The tycoon's allegations against Netanyahu are the latest focused on his spending.

Last month, the Israeli state comptroller issued a critical report on Netanyahu's foreign trips, some with his wife and children, in 2003-05 when he was finance minister. "Trips by Mr Netanyahu and his family, funded by external bodies during the period in which he served as finance minister, deviated from regulations on the subject and as such could give the appearance of obtaining a benefit or of a conflict of interest," the report said. —AFP



# EX-BANKER HAS EDGE IN TIGHT PERU VOTE

**LIMA:** Peru's presidential vote faced a tight finish yesterday as early results gave ex-banker Pedro Pablo Kuczynski a lead over his rival Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of a jailed former presi-



Pedro Kuczynski

dent. Both have vowed to unite the country after the violent period of rule by Fujimori's father Alberto in the 1990s. He is in prison for corruption and for massacring alleged terrorists. Kuczynski had 50.59 percent of the vote against 49.41 percent for Fujimori, with nearly 52 percent of votes counted, the national elections office said.

Kuczynski, best known by his initials PPK, earlier urged his supporters to wait for the full official results, but was confident of victory. "We are hoping to have a government of consensus. No more fighting and confrontation," he said, waving from a balcony. "Ole, ole, PPK!" yelled the crowd. Fujimori also urged her supporters to sit tight for what looked like a long vote-counting process. "We are going to wait cautiously because the results will be coming in all night from the regions, from overseas, and the rural vote from deepest Peru. For that reason we are optimistic," she said. "We have seen the vitality of Peruvian democracy and that fills me with pride."

**Cocaine and Crime**

Many voters want Fujimori to win in her bid to become Peru's first woman president. They

want her to be tough like her father in fighting a wave of violent crime in Peru, a major cocaine-producing country. Others distrust her because Alberto Fujimori dissolved congress and killed opponents with death squads. "I voted for PPK and against the return of the Fujimori dictatorship," said Katy Escudero, who rallied to celebrate on Sunday night outside Kuczynski's campaign base. Peru's 1980-2000 civil conflict involving leftist insurgents killed an estimated 70,000 people.

Both candidates are right-leaning, US-educated politicians. They have both vowed to fight crime and create jobs in the nation of 31 million people. Kuczynski, son of a Jewish doctor from Germany, also studied in Britain in the 1950s. Fujimori is the granddaughter of Japanese immigrants. A mother of two, married to an American, she is seen as more populist and socially conservative. "She is the only one who has signed a commitment to oppose gay marriages. And with her there will be less crime," voter Silvia Cuadros told AFP. "Our parents may make mistakes, but that does not mean their children will do the same."

Former economy minister Kuczynski has a

long career in business and finance. His American wife is a cousin of Hollywood actress Jessica Lange. "He has a lot of experience," said pro-Kuczynski voter Enrique Castillo, who runs a business exporting clothes. "We want security and stability so that foreign investment will come."

**Tied in Polls**

Both candidates are seen as pro-market in their plans to further Peru's economic growth. The country is a big exporter of copper, gold and other minerals. Its strong growth has slowed under outgoing leftist President Ollanta Humala. Several other Latin American countries have started shifting to the right as a wave of leftist governments over the past decade weakens. Fujimori's side has been hit by allegations of corruption and irregularities. But it won a majority in the congress in a first-round vote in April.

Kuczynski has less support among poorer voters but "anti-Fujimoristas" flocked to him, said Luis Benavente, director of consultancy Vox Populi. Pollsters said the candidates were in a technical tie pending full results. The head of the national elections office ONPE, Mariano

Cucho, announced the updated partial results in a public address. Earlier counts by pollsters Ipsos and GfK indicated a similar outcome to those partial official results. —AFP



Keiko Fujimori



**SACRAMENTO:** Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton greets supporters during a campaign rally at Sacramento City College on Sunday. —AFP

## CLINTON WINS PUERTO RICO

**WASHINGTON:** Hillary Clinton defeated her rival Bernie Sanders in Puerto Rico's Democratic primary Sunday, bringing her to the brink of victory in their long-fought battle for the party's presidential nomination. Former secretary of state Clinton won with 59.38 percent of the vote against 37.53 percent for Sanders, according to official results from the Democratic Party of Puerto Rico. Victory in debt-hobbled Puerto Rico marked a double dose of good news for Clinton over the weekend, with another territory, the US Virgin Islands, voting overwhelmingly for her on Saturday.

The pair of wins provides a boost ahead of Tuesday's culminating vote with New Jersey and the big prize of California at stake. "We just won Puerto Rico! 'Gracias a la Isla del Encanto por esta victoria!' - Clinton wrote in a bilingual tweet that thanked the Isle of Enchantment for the win. Puerto Rico has 60 pledged delegates at stake, and Clinton won 36 of them, with 24 going to Sanders.

That puts Clinton, who amassed 2,323 delegates prior to Puerto Rico's vote, just a handful shy of the 2,383 needed to clinch the Democratic nomination, a threshold she will undoubtedly cross on Tuesday. Sanders, however, has vowed to fight on all the way until the Democratic National Convention in July, arguing he could persuade many of the several hundred so-called super delegates who back Clinton to change their allegiance and support his campaign.

Super delegates are Democratic Party bigwigs who are not bound to any candidate or to the results of statewide votes and do not officially cast their vote until the convention. Both Clinton and Sanders campaigned in Puerto Rico in recent weeks, and both have put forward plans to help the island emerge from a debt crisis. Lawmakers have introduced legislation, backed by the White House, that would be charged with overseeing fiscal and structural reforms aimed at stabilizing its finances and restructuring the Caribbean island's \$70 billion in debt. —AFP


## MEXICO RULING PARTY TRAILS IN GOVERNOR RACES

**XALAPA, Mexico:** Mexico's ruling PRI party was trailing early yesterday in key races for governor in elections considered as a test for its hopes of retaining the presidency in 2018. Results trickled in slowly late into the night in 12 states, out of 32, that voted Sunday for new governors following an election day marked by incidents of violence. President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) holds the governorship in nine of the states up for grabs.

But early official results showed the PRI leading in just five states while losing its grip on two key states, Tamaulipas and Veracruz, which it has controlled for more than 80 years. The conservative National Action Party (PAN) was leading in six states, including two where it partnered with the left-wing Democratic Revolution Party (PRD). The leftist Morena party was ahead in Veracruz.

PRI leader Manlio Fabio Beltrones had voiced confidence of victory in nine states, declaring "today we can say that Mexico chose PRI". PAN chief Ricardo Anaya had claimed wins in three states, the most his party had won in a single election. "We have broken the authoritarian monopoly the PRI has had for 86 years," Anaya said. All three candidates in the oil-rich eastern state of Veracruz declared victory, even though final results were not due for hours. "We didn't just defeat a political party. We defeated a corrupt system," said Miguel Angel Yunes, candidate of a coalition of the PAN and the leftist Democratic Revolution Party (PRD).

But with 24 percent of the votes counted, Cuitlahuac Garcia Jimenez of the left-wing Morena party held a slight lead, with 32.2 percent. Yunes had 31.5 percent while his cousin, the PRI's Hector Yunes Landa, had 26.8 percent. Veracruz has been run since 2010 by the unpopular Governor Javier Duarte, whose administration has been marred by drug violence and the killings of 18 journalists. Victory for Morena would boost two-time failed presidential candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who founded the movement after leaving the PRD in 2012. Veracruz remained a PRI stronghold even after the party lost its 71-year grip on the presidency in 2000. Pena Nieto returned the PRI to power in 2012. —AFP




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# BRAZIL SURFER PRINCE URGES RETURN TO MONARCHY

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** He surfs, dances in carnivals and can sound more revolutionary than royal, but Prince Dom Joao de Orleans e Braganca is serious about restoring the monarchy to save Brazil. As Latin America's biggest country sinks under a tsunami of corruption, recession and political instability, Dom Joao told AFP that the royals - who were last in charge 126 years ago - could be part of a "radical" solution.

The prince, great-great-grandson of the

tragic final monarch, Emperor Pedro II, said Brazil should switch from a republic to a constitutional monarchy, along the lines of Britain or Sweden, where Queen Elizabeth II and King Carl XVI Gustaf are essentially figureheads. With a greying, trimmed beard, a neatly buttoned shirt, tan slacks and boat shoes worn without socks, the 62-year-old real estate developer and keen photographer said there would be no need for ornate palaces and long titles.

Brazil's modern emperor would be modeled on the modest, so-called bicycle monarchs of Scandinavia, he said - even if as a life-long beach lover, he'd more likely be dubbed the surfer king. "There's an idea that the monarchy is pompous and I don't disagree, but if you look at the modern ones, especially the Scandinavians, they are very simple heads of state," he said at his apartment building in Rio's swanky Leblon neighborhood.

Dom Joao claims that royals would mean the return of an almost extinct type of public figure in today's Brazil, where president Dilma Rousseff is in the throes of impeachment proceedings over her alleged fiddling of the national budget, while Congress is reeling from corruption scandals. "As royals, the one difference is that we have been raised to have... a sense of serving the country without wanting anything back," Dom Joao said.

### Game of Thrones

Although most Brazilians would agree the political system isn't working, few are serious about putting the imperial family back in business. The last time Brazilians held a referendum on restoration, in 1993, only 10 percent voted yes. And there's another problem: the royals can't agree who would wear the crown. The last to occupy the throne, Emperor Pedro II, was deposed on Nov 15, 1889 in a military takeover, followed by the declaration of a republic. A progressive monarch whose reign saw the abolition of slavery and Brazil's rise as a regional power,

Pedro II went into exile in Europe where he is said to have lived with little money, dying two years later.

Since then, the royal family has sunk into obscurity and internal division. One branch living in Sao Paulo is headed by presumptive heir Dom Luiz, 77, while many consider the politically active third eldest in the family, Dom Bertrand, to be the real emperor in waiting. An austere and deeply religious 75-year-old, Dom Bertrand is linked to the conservative Tradition, Family and Property organization. In public appearances, he rails at communists and what he calls the "eco-terrorists" fighting to preserve the Amazon rainforest from Brazil's powerful agricultural industry.

Dom Joao, from the more liberal Petropolis-based branch, near Rio de Janeiro, seems embarrassed by his right wing cousins. "It's awful, awful," he murmured. According to Dom Joao, Dom Bertrand's affiliation to political organizations rules him out from claiming the throne. As for his own impediment - a decision a century ago by his grandfather to renounce his rights and those of his descendants - "there is a big group of jurists who say that abdication had no legal standing." "If you want to ask 'Who's the heir?' Well, there is no heir," Dom Joao said firmly. It would be up to the new parliament - replacing today's discredited Congress - to decide.

### People's Prince?

Despite the referendum failure, Brazilians could be persuaded to think again, said

Nilton Ferreira, a member of the Brazilian Monarchy Circle, which promotes a return to royal rule. "The idea of monarchy is very attractive to people - not the idea of ostentation but because they recall the example set during the time of Emperor Pedro II," he said. And the man to steer Brazil's return to that golden age would be Dom Joao rather than the Sao Paulo princes, Ferreira, 40, reckons. "Dom Joao is young and much closer to the people and he understands the Brazilian dynamics far better."

To be sure, Dom Joao is not your average Brazilian. But he is keen to show a popular touch. He plays tambourine in the annual Rio carnival and while people often address him as "Your excellency," he said that Dom Joao will do. "Or just Joao if you prefer." A frequent traveler, he has friendly ties with Brazil's indigenous peoples. His Facebook page features him sitting with tribesmen, his face streaked in ceremonial paint.

More controversially, Dom Joao is a strong supporter of impeaching Rousseff. He joined the huge street demonstrations against the leftist president over the last year. Rousseff, a former Marxist guerrilla who was tortured under Brazil's military dictatorship in the 1970s, claims she is the victim of a right-wing coup masked as an impeachment. Critics also say that protesters, while numerous, were overwhelmingly middle and upper class whites, with little participation by the more black and poor parts of Brazil's multi-ethnic population.—AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazilian Prince of Orleans-Braganca Joao Henrique speaks during an interview at his home on May 31, 2016. —AFP

# GERMAN PRESIDENT SAYS HE WON'T SERVE SECOND TERM

## POLITICAL HEADACHE FOR MERKEL

**BERLIN:** German President Joachim Gauck said yesterday that he would not stand for a second term, creating a political headache for Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of an election year. The popular Gauck, 76, who has held the largely ceremonial post of head of state since 2012, made the announcement at Berlin's Bellevue Palace, citing his advanced age. "I'm grateful to be doing fine," he said, after speculation about health concerns. At the same time, I am aware that the life phase between 77 and 82 is a different one than the one I am in now. I cannot guarantee that I would have the same energy and vitality for another five-year term."

Gauck, a charismatic Protestant pastor, rose to prominence as a human rights activist in communist East Germany and was instrumental in the movement which helped topple the

Berlin Wall in 1989. His decision not to run for a second mandate complicates the political equation for Merkel, who will have to fill the job just as campaigning for the general election, expected to be held in Sept 2017, kicks off. "The search for a successor will start the general election campaign more than 15 months before the poll - a conflict that the chancellor would have preferred to avoid," news website Spiegel Online said.

Even before Gauck's announcement, speculation about who would replace him was fervent, although commentators expressed regret about the exit of a towering figure of German postwar history. "Seldom have we seen someone with his personality in politics. His departure also heralds the end of a generation that shaped Europe's identity," the daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung said. It added, however, that

Germany would do well to seek diversity in its choice for the president, who serves as a kind of moral arbiter for the nation.

"With that in mind, those considering Gauck's successor would do well to look beyond the traditional Christian, ageing grandfatherly types. The office of federal president would emerge the winner if greater consideration were given to the next head of state's gender, religious beliefs or age."

### Unprecedented Coalition

Parliament would elect Gauck's successor in February 2017, with conservatives mentioning Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, parliamentary speaker Norbert Lammert, and Bavarian MP Gerda Hasselfeldt, a close Merkel ally who would be Germany's first female president, as possible candidates. Berlin's

Tagesspiegel newspaper said the horstrading that is expected in backing a candidate for president was "sure to send a signal" about likely coalitions after the general election.

It said that if Merkel's Christian Democrats had to seek the backing of the opposition Greens to win a majority for their pick, it could lay a foundation for an unprecedented coalition between the parties at the national level. Merkel, who has been in power since 2006, has not yet announced whether she herself will stand for a fourth term. She is currently in a left-right grand coalition with the Social Democrats (SPD) but their plummeting support and the desire for more dynamic alliances could push Merkel's conservatives toward the ecologist Greens.

"If Merkel now wants to prevent an SPD candidate, then she will have to find someone who also appeals to the Greens," the right-leaning broadsheet Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung wrote. "That should be manageable," it added. Such a scenario would also block the potential development of a leftwing alliance between the SPD, the Greens and the hard-left Linke party. The choice of Hasselfeldt, meanwhile, could help heal a rift between the Christian Democrats and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), which has been sniping at Merkel's refugee policy for several months.

The dispute has prompted speculation the CSU could field its own candidate for chancellor rather than backing Merkel. Unity on the right could then help fend off a growing challenge from the anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which is currently polling at about 15 percent, analysts said. —AFP



**BERLIN:** German Federal President Joachim Gauck delivers a speech at the Bellevue palace yesterday. —AFP



**ROME:** Virginia Raggi of the 5-Star Movement waves to supporters yesterday. —AP

# PROTEST PARTY'S ROME SUCCESS A BLOW TO PM

**ROME:** Italy's anti-establishment Five Star movement fired a warning shot across Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's bow yesterday with a landmark victory in the first round of Rome's mayoral race. Five Star (M5S) candidate Virginia Raggi looks likely to become the capital's first female mayor after easily taking the lead over Roberto Giachetti of Renzi's centre-left Democratic Party (PD), tapping into anger over corruption scandals in the Eternal City. The movement also celebrated gains in other cities, mirroring the rise of populist and anti-establishment parties across Europe. "A historic result. #Let's change everything," a jubilant M5S tweeted.

Lawyer Raggi, 37, who snapped up nearly 36 percent of the vote according to the provisional official tally, will face Giachetti, who took 24 percent, in a run-off on June 19. Losing control of Rome would not augur well for Renzi four months before a referendum on constitutional reforms designed to end decades of gridlock in parliament. The 41-year-old premier has vowed to resign if voters reject the reforms.

### 'PM Should be Worried'

"Unless there is a startling and dramatic turn in events, the capital is going to have a 'Grillino' mayor," political commentator Stefano Folli said in the Repubblica daily, using a nickname for the movement's members. "The optimism and hope in the future needed if voters are to back the ruling party proved too weak. This should worry the prime minister, considering the challenges of the coming months," he said. The Italian capital has been without an elected leader since last October, when Ignazio Marino, a member of PD, was forced to quit over an expenses scandal.

The city is also still dealing with the fallout from Mafia Capitale, a scandal that erupted in 2014 when dozens of businessmen, politicians and officials were arrested on suspicion of having conspired for years to siphon off city funds through rigged tenders and other scams. In a further blow to the PD, the 55-year-old Giachetti had to fight hard in Rome to beat Giorgia Meloni, a candidate put up by one of several small groups that emerged from Italy's neo-fascist movement.

In Turin, the party also failed to clinch an all-out victory, and will have to face off against the M5S candidate, while in Milan, the PD appeared to have won against the right only by the skin of its teeth.

### 'Historic Moment'

"(Renzi's) party is in a terrible state, it is at risk all over the place, even in the cities it considered in the bag," commentator Marco Travaglio said in the left-wing Il Fatto Quotidiano daily. A Five Star win in Rome would boost the populist movement - founded in 2009 by wild-eyed and outspoken comedian Beppe Grillo - as it seeks to cement its status as a mainstream party. "Romans are sending a clear message. We are witnessing a historic moment," Raggi said in a nighttime victory address.

The "Grillini" will be hoping victory will give them the platform they need to transform themselves into Italy's principal opposition in the run-up to national elections due by June 2018 at the latest. But experts have warned it could be the movement's undoing, landing a politically inexperienced team with a city not only plagued with corruption, refuse and transport problems but notoriously difficult to administer.

"Winning in Rome would land them with a hot potato. I hope for their sake they do not," Piergiorgio Corbetta, research director at the Cattaneo di Bologna institute, told AFP. Overall, more than 13 million people nationwide were asked to cast their ballots to choose members of 3,300 municipal councils in a two-round ballot. Renzi, who played little part in most of the elections, played down their significance ahead of the vote, saying they were "about mayors, the people whose job it is to repair the streets, not the government of the country".

But yesterday he told a press conference that while Giachetti had "performed a minor miracle" by coming second in Rome after the problems with the outgoing mayor, "we are not happy". And in Naples, where Renzi had personally rolled up his sleeves for a PD victory, the ruling party failed to make it even to the second round. —AFP

# BELGIUM PROBES DEADLY TRAIN CRASH

**SAINT-GEORGES-SUR-MEUSE, Belgium:** Investigators worked through the wreckage of a high speed train crash in eastern Belgium yesterday that killed at least three people and injured nine others. A fast-moving passenger train late Sunday slammed violently into the back of a slow-moving freight train that was travelling on the same track for reasons that remain unexplained. Authorities said lightning and flood damage caused by heavy storms that affected all of western Europe in the past few days were being explored as a possible cause.

Investigators were on the scene, but a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office in Liege warned that finding the cause "would be difficult". Nine passengers were injured to varying degrees with

some described as being in a critical condition by authorities during a press briefing near the scene of the crash. There were roughly 40 passengers on board the train that was travelling at about 100 km an hour at the moment of the collision.

Investigators believe the passenger train rammed into the freight train that was travelling at about 10-15 km an hour, said Brigitte Leroy, a spokeswoman from the prosecutor's office. The train was travelling from the west to the east of Belgium on the Namur-Liege line when the accident occurred in the municipality of Saint-Georges-sur-Meuse at 11:00 pm (2100 GMT). The crash killed the driver of the passenger train, authorities said. "The passenger train is really in a bad way, it's stunning," said Francis Dejon, mayor

of Saint-Georges-sur-Meuse who had been following rescue operations.

"The front carriage is crunched back up on itself. We were very lucky not to have more victims," he told the Belgian news agency Belga. "Two of the six carriages derailed and are lying on the tracks," the Infrabel railway infrastructure company and the National Railway Company of Belgium (SNCB) said in a joint statement. Witnesses told Belga news agency the collision had been "very violent," with several passengers having to be extracted from the wreckage. Frederic Sacre, the spokesman for Infrabel, said investigators would look carefully at a report of lightning on the tracks about 90 minutes before the crash.

### 'All my Condolences'

The SNCB rail company on Sunday evening said lightning had caused signal problems near the site, but that the incident was over. "The investigation will tell us if there is a link with the recent storms," said Leroy, of the prosecutor's office. "There was a lot of rain yesterday (Sunday), other train lines were completely flooded," she said.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel was to visit the scene with Belgium's King Philippe later yesterday. "All my condolences for the families of the victims... and a fast recovery to the injured," Michel said on Twitter. A crash in 2008 took place almost at the exact same location, in which 42 people were injured. That incident was later blamed on human error and a power failure. In Feb 2010, 18 people were killed and 95 injured when two trains collided in a Brussels suburb in one of Europe's deadliest railway accidents of the past decade. More recently, one person was killed and nearly 50 injured when a train carrying highly toxic chemicals derailed and exploded near the city of Ghent in May 2013. —AFP



**SAINT-GEORGES-SUR-MEUSE, Belgium:** A picture taken yesterday shows damaged trains following a collision between a goods train and a passenger train, killing at least three people. —AFP

# TWO SHOT DEAD IN PROTEST OVER KENYAN VOTE BODY

**NAIROBI:** At least two protesters were shot dead in a rally against Kenya's election body in the western city of Kisumu yesterday, an opposition official said, as demonstrators also gathered on the streets of the capital. Police had fired into the air to break up a crowd trying to march on the Kisumu office of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), one witness told Reuters. Protesters, accusing the commission of pro-government bias and demanding its members resign before elections in August next year, blocked roads with burning tyres in both Kisumu and Nairobi's Kibera slum. "IEBC must go," demonstrators shouted.

There was no immediate police comment on yesterday's reported deaths. Kenyan television reported at least one person killed. Western Kenya, traditionally an opposition stronghold, has seen some of the worst violence in the almost weekly protests. Three people were

killed in clashes in the region on May 23. Western ambassadors have accused the police of using excessive force and called for dialogue in a nation prone to political strife. The 2007 election triggered weeks of ethnic bloodshed and the 2013 result was disputed.

A meeting last week between President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga failed to defuse tensions. Police said on Friday that any march by protesters would contravene a court order and demonstrators could face arrest. "We have confirmed two people shot dead," Dennis Onyango, spokesman for opposition leader Raila Odinga, saying they had participated in the protest in Kisumu. He said the protests "have been cleared by the court". The opposition have demanded dialogue on reforming the IEBC. "There is no word yet from State House on our demands," Onyango said, referring to the president's residence and office. —Reuters



## MYANMAR WOMEN DEFY BAN ON WORKING AS FOREIGN MAIDS

**FALAM, CHIN STATE, Myanmar:** Van Biak had only been away from her family in Leilet in north west Myanmar for two weeks, but her mother was in tears as they embraced on the veranda. Biak and her older sister Van Hnem left to find work as maids in Singapore with few job opportunities in their remote village in Chin State, the poorest region of Myanmar where 73 percent of the population lives below the poverty line.

Biak and Hnem were aware of the risks. Another maid from Leilet has been working in Saudi Arabia for six years without pay or hope of return - and this was not isolated case. A number of high profile cases of worker abuse prompted the government in Sept 2014 to put a temporary ban on women going abroad to find work as maids. But with few economic opportunities at home, the number of women leaving to get jobs abroad as domestic workers has not abated and more do so illegally, prompting calls for the newly appointed government of Aung San Suu Kyi to lift the ban.

"I'm ready to work hard and face difficulties abroad in order to help my family," said Biak, who, at age 15, was too young to get a passport and so returned home. Hnem, who is 18, made it to Singapore with six other girls from Leilet, lured by the chance to make up to US\$370 (\$500) a month compared to Myanmar's minimum wage of about US\$67. "I am so scared they will be used as slave labour," said her mother, a fear echoed by

all parents whose daughters are now working abroad illegally. For the ban has not only failed to stop women from Myanmar going abroad to work, but it has led to a black market that puts the women at greater risk of exploitation and slavery, according to the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME), set up to protect migrant workers' rights in Singapore.

### In Debt for the Job

Since the ban was implemented, the fee paid by workers to secure a job abroad has increased in order to facilitate the bribes required to circumvent the ban. Workers do not start to see any money themselves until this debt is paid off. Moreover, since these workers often leave their country as a tourist, they are not protected by labor or migration laws. Jolovan Wham, executive director of HOME, said the number of Myanmar maids in Singapore grew 50 percent between 2013 and 2015 with over 30,000 there now which was evidence that the ban was not effective.

"Unfortunately, a lot of Singaporean employers request Myanmar maids because they are more affordable and generally more compliant," Wham told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Sian Men Mawi legally worked as a maid in Singapore before moving to China, lured by the promise of a lucrative employment contract. She arrived in Guangzhou on a tourist visa. Sian

Men, 26, said she was enslaved by her agent who locked a number of Myanmar girls in separate houses and rotated them through different jobs, holding their wages and never letting them pay off their debts. "We didn't know the agent would exploit another human being like that," Sian Men said from her mother's home in the Chin village of Zawngte.

Sian Men managed to escape and returned to Myanmar by bus, evading the police who manned checkpoints along the route. "We get into difficulty because of the agents but we can't do anything about it because we don't have legal passports or work permits. We have to do what the agency says," she said.

The Thomson Reuters Foundation managed to get hold of Melody, Sian Men's agent in Guangzhou, who admitted to enforcing a six month debt bondage period but denied exploiting her employees. "If their employer is unhappy then I have to replace them [before they pay off their bondage debts]," she said repeatedly, without giving her full name.

The Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) said it has become harder for the authorities to police the movement of domestic workers across Myanmar's borders because large employment agencies have been replaced by individual traffickers, often from within the victim's social circles. "It is particularly difficult to track the trafficking of girls from Chin

and Kayin state because their church is often involved," said Win Tun, vice chairman of MOEAF.

There were 130 official cases of trafficking in Myanmar last year, with a total of 641 victims. Chin State was the only region of Myanmar not to have recorded any official cases. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Police Division does not have a branch in Chin State. The Thomson Reuters Foundation contacted the nearest office on Kalaymyo, Sagaing Region, but they were unable to comment on the presence of trafficking in their neighboring state.

In 2015, MOEAF signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with 12 employment agencies in Hong Kong who agreed to treat Myanmar staff according to the federation's employment standards and it wants to see similar deals in other countries. "These agreements would make it less dangerous for girls because we can ensure their labor rights are protected in their host countries, hold information about who is abroad and offer assistance to anyone that gets into trouble," said Win Tun. "But the last government didn't want to know anything about them."

MOEAF have met with members of the new government twice since it took over in April. The Department for Labour declined to comment to the Thomson Reuters Foundation but a parliamentary committee is now considering whether to lift the ban. — Reuters

## FIVE GUILTY OF DANISH TOURIST'S GANG-RAPE

**NEW DELHI:** A court convicted five men yesterday of the gang-rape of a Danish tourist in New Delhi in 2014, a crime which put India's record on sexual violence back in the spotlight. The five were found guilty of the rape and robbery of the 52-year-old woman, who was attacked at knifepoint after losing her way as she returned to her hotel in central Delhi in 2014. "I pronounce all the accused guilty. Arguments (on sentencing) to be held on June 9," Additional Sessions Judge Ramesh Kumar told the court in the capital where media and relatives of the accused had gathered.

Three others charged over the attack are being tried separately in the juvenile justice system. A ninth accused, an adult, died before the end of the trial. Under new tougher laws the minimum punishment for gang rape is imprisonment for 20 years along with a fine while the maximum is life. The Danish woman, travelling alone and in Delhi after visiting the Taj Mahal, had approached a group of men for directions as she returned to an area popular with backpackers, reports at the time said.

The assault in Jan 2014 was the latest in a series of sex attacks on foreigners in India which reignited concerns about women's safety in the country. A Polish woman had been drugged and raped as she travelled to Delhi with her young daughter in a car, just before the attack on the Danish woman. India's government toughened jail sentences for rapists and overhauled polic-

ing procedures in the wake of the gang-rape of a Delhi student on a moving bus in December 2012. She later died in a Singapore hospital.

### Identified by Victim

That attack sparked furious mass street protests about high levels of violence against women, as well as global headlines about the treatment of women in India. Yesterday, the five accused showed little emotion as the verdicts were read out. Neither the victim nor members of her family were in court. Immediately after the incident, the victim had given a detailed statement to police at the Danish embassy in the capital before leaving for home.

She returned to India in July the following year to record her in-camera testimony before the trial court judge, and identify the accused. The prosecution submitted that the evidence irrefutably proved the case against the accused but the suspects pleaded not guilty, claiming that they had been framed by police. Defense counsel Dinesh Sharma told AFP that yesterday's verdicts were handed down even though he was still awaiting the outcome of a request before a more senior judge to reopen the trial. "We had filed a revision plea in the High Court seeking recall of some of the witnesses," Sharma said. "The matter is listed in the High Court... but even before this matter could be taken up, the verdict has been announced." — AFP



**SALAWA, Sri Lanka:** Destruction caused by a mortar bomb which hit a home on the edge of the Sri Lankan capital Colombo is seen yesterday, hours after an explosion of an ammunition depot at the neighboring military complex. — AFP

## SRI LANKA RACES TO DEFUSE BOMBS AFTER DEPOT BLAST

### THOUSANDS OF VILLAGERS FLEE THEIR HOMES

**COLOMBO:** Sri Lankan police were yesterday racing to defuse unexploded bombs that rained down on villages near the capital overnight, destroying homes and killing a soldier, after a fire at an ammunition depot. At least one soldier burnt to death and thousands of villagers fled their homes after fire broke out at the Salawa military complex late Sunday, triggering a series of explosions that sent shrapnel flying into the air. Local businessman Neville Nishantha fled with his wife and three children as the explosions began and returned yesterday morning to see his house in ruins. "A mortar bomb had gone through my roof and hit the living room," Nishantha told AFP. "A wall collapsed in the bedroom where my three children would have slept."

Yesterday, the police Special Task Force commandos were deployed to defuse multi-barrel rockets, artillery rounds, rocket propelled grenades and mortar bombs from residential areas. An AFP photographer saw commandos collecting at least four unexploded rockets, one of which was lodged in the ground outside an abandoned home. "Forensic experts have examined the site and we have just begun clearing

the main roads of all unexploded ordnance," a senior police official told AFP. Nearly 50 people were treated for injuries or smoke inhalation after the fire, which forced the evacuation of the local government hospital. Police said the facility had been badly damaged.

### 'Military Matter'

Authorities are yet to identify the cause of the fire, which began at sundown Sunday and continued until yesterday morning. Government spokesman Rajitha Senaratne said the national security council would meet yesterday to review the blast. "This is a military matter and they must investigate if this was an accident or sabotage," said Senaratne. One of the affected villages housed widows and wounded veterans from Sri Lanka's long civil war, who had to cross a river to safety. "We took a boat and went across the Kelani river and took shelter at a temple," said 53-year-old widow Mahilagodage Rohini. "Most of the houses at our (Swarna Jayanthi) village have been destroyed."

Wasantha Fernando, 45, said he abandoned his home and ran as thick black smoke filled the area. "When I got back this morning the entire

place was covered in ash," he said, adding that his walls had cracked and the house was unstable. It was the second time in three weeks that residents of Colombo were forced to leave their homes. Last month, around 200,000 residents in the capital were driven out of their homes by floods caused by the Kelani river bursting its banks.

The Salawa military complex, just by the Kelani river, is located at a former plywood factory about 36 km east of Colombo. It is used by the army to store heavy weaponry and ammunition, including rockets. Law and Order Minister Sagala Ratnayake said the fire had spread quickly to two ammunition depots within the military complex. The explosion was the worst at a military installation since the end of Sri Lanka's decades-long Tamil separatist war in May 2009.

In June 2009, a much less intense explosion at an army ammunition storage facility in the northern district of Vavuniya, 250 km north of Colombo, injured several soldiers. The separatist conflict ended when government forces crushed Tamil Tiger rebels in a no-holds-barred military campaign that triggered allegations up to 40,000 ethnic Tamil civilians were killed in government bombardments. — AFP



**AMRITSAR:** Indian Sikh activists from radical Sikh organizations shout slogans in support of Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and Khalistan, the name for an envisioned independent Sikh state, after prayers on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of Operation Blue Star at Sri Akal Takht Sahib at the Golden Temple yesterday. The Indian military's 1984 assault on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, called Operation Blue Star, was aimed at flushing out militants holed up inside demanding an independent Sikh homeland. The struggle culminated in the deadly storming of the Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine. — AFP

## OBAMA HOSTS MODI, UNLIKELY FRIEND

**WASHINGTON:** US President Barack Obama welcomes India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the White House this week in a low-key nod to the improved ties between the world's biggest democracies. That the pair would get along was not a given: When Obama came to office in 2009, the Hindu nationalist was banned from entering the United States over his role in anti-Muslim riots. But the ban was lifted after Modi was sworn into office in May 2014 and he has since made four US visits - two to Washington - while Obama has twice travelled to India.

Relations between the countries are not always easy - India insists on staying out of formal alliances and forging its own course - but both leaders can boast that ties have improved. For Obama, who will step down from office in January, this is now a matter of his legacy - friendship with India and inroads into its huge market are a victory for his so-called "pivot to Asia".

For Modi, today's visit is a time to set the seal on what has been achieved and set the stage for what he hopes will be a mushrooming in US-India trade from \$120 billion to \$500 billion. Ahead of the trip, India's Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar told reporters Obama had invited Modi as one of the leaders with whom "he had a close and productive working relationship". "So, in many ways you can say it is sort of a consolidation visit," he added.

Yesterday, Modi was to head to Arlington National Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony and meet with think tank scholars. He will have a working lunch with Obama today, followed by a series of meetings with US business leaders and members of the three million strong Indian-American community. Tomorrow, he will

become the fifth Indian premier to address a joint session of the US Congress, and afterwards will be hosted at a reception for dignitaries and lawmakers.

### Electric Deal, Military Memorandum

Officials played down the chances of major announcements during the visit, but noted that India is very close to a deal with US electric giant Westinghouse to build a nuclear plant. "There is a very detailed and advanced negotiation," Arun Singh, India's ambassador to the United States, told reporters, adding that only the financing details of the scheme remain to be agreed. The multibillion-dollar deal to provide power to India's growing, energy-hungry populace had been on hold because of concerns about site safety in Modi's home state Gujarat. But a new location for the six-reactor plant has been found in Andhra Pradesh and concerns about insurance have been ironed out, Singh said.

Another potential arena for greater cooperation is in the military and security arena. India has made the United States its main arms supplier - spending \$14 billion over the past five years - but also spends heavily with French, Israeli and Russian suppliers. The two countries are negotiating a Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), although it is not clear whether a final draft will be ready for Modi to sign on his visit.

This arrangement, long-sought by Washington, will allow the two militaries to seek supplies and spare parts from each other's bases. Singh did not say whether agreement was imminent - India also wants deals to acquire advanced US arms technology - but noted that Indian and US troops now train together regularly. — AFP

## TRIBUTES FOR SLAIN US, AFGHAN JOURNALISTS

**KABUL:** Accolades poured in yesterday for veteran American reporter David Gilkey and an Afghan reporter killed in southern Afghanistan when their vehicle came under Taliban fire, highlighting the growing dangers faced by journalists covering the worsening conflict. Gilkey and his colleague, 38-year-old Zabihullah Tamanna, were killed on Sunday while they were travelling with an Afghan army unit near the town of Marja in the volatile opium-rich province of Helmand.

Two other National Public Radio (NPR) journalists travelling with Gilkey in a separate vehicle, reporter Tom Bowman and producer Monika Evtastieva, were unharmed. "David has been covering war and conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11. He was devoted to helping the public see these wars and the people caught up in them. He died pursuing that commitment," said Michael Oreskes, NPR's senior vice president of news and editorial director. "As a man and as a photojournalist, David brought out the humanity of all those around him. He let us see the world and each other through his eyes."

Gilkey's colleagues responded with shock at the news of his sudden death, the first time in NPR's 46-year history that it has lost a journalist on a reporting assignment. One co-worker Audie Cornish tweeted that Gilkey was among the company's "greatest journalists," and his death was "an unimaginable loss".

Tributes also poured in for Tamanna, a father of three young children, as Afghan journalists gathered outside his house in Kabul to offer condolences. "We are shocked and saddened by the killing of Zabihullah Tamanna, who loved his job in the media," said Afghan journalist Abdul Halim, a close friend. "He wanted to serve his people through journalism." A Taliban hotbed, the province of Helmand is almost entirely under the control of the militants, waging a deadly insurgency against

the Western-backed Afghan government. Afghan military spokesman Ahmad Shakil Tasal said Gilkey and Tamanna, who was hired as a translator, were heading to Marja to cover an army operation when they were hit by a Taliban rocket. "Even though much of the world's attention has shifted away, let no one doubt that Afghanistan remains a dangerous place for journalists - local and foreign - working to cover that protracted conflict," said Bob Dietz, the Asia program coordinator at the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), a press freedom group. "We are deeply saddened by the deaths of Zabihullah Tamanna and David Gilkey. There are too many journalists who have given their lives to tell the Afghan story."

### 'Beyond the Headlines'

Afghanistan is among the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. Prior to the deaths of Gilkey and Tamanna, 24 journalists and one media worker have been killed in Afghanistan since the 2001 US-led invasion, said the CPJ. US Secretary of State John Kerry praised Gilkey as a "gifted storyteller," and paid tribute to "intrepid journalists - and their interpreters - trying to convey that important story to the rest of the world."

A "devastated" NPR president and CEO Jarl Mohn said "horrific incidents like this remind us of the important role journalists play in America's civic life. They help us understand beyond the headlines and see the humanity in others". Gilkey received a 2007 national Emmy award for a video series about Michigan Marines in Iraq. "The things to do were amazing and the places to see were epic," he once said. "But the people, the people are what made it all worth the effort." — AFP



# MAO CRITIC DOCUMENTS CHINA'S TURBULENT PAST

**BEIJING:** As China's Cultural Revolution descended into mob violence, teenage Red Guards dragged Mao Yushi and his father, two proud and bookish engineers, out of their home to sweep a boulevard as a crowd watched and jeered. The pair were then lashed with a copper-flecked whip until their backs were flayed. When Mao later stumbled into work, he didn't know blood was still seeping through his shirt until colleagues pointed it out. "I was whipped through my skin, but I

didn't feel pain because in my heart I was so scared I would be beaten to death," Mao recalls. "Every day they pulled dead bodies through ... the market on flat-bed tricycles. A piece of cloth covering every tricycle, just like that." Fifty years later, the prominent economist's campaign to document China's turbulent past and hold the ruling Communist Party accountable continues to win him enemies among die-hard acolytes of Mao Zedong, who unleashed the Cultural Revolution in 1966 a

bid to destroy his political foes and revive his radical egalitarian agenda.

The life and career of the 87-year-old economist, who is not related to the late leader, traces the twists of modern China's tumultuous history. He survived near starvation in the late 1950s and persecution during the Cultural Revolution only to battle a concerted campaign by neo-Maoists to vilify him today. "The one who brought calamity to an entire nation still hangs in Tiananmen Square and is still found on the banknotes we use every day," Mao wrote in a 2011 essay that placed him firmly in the crosshairs of the neo-Maoists. "China's tragedy still hasn't had its curtain call."

Mao's ordeals have only emboldened his criticism of a restrictive political system that gave rise, he says, to a climate in which rampaging teenagers could publicly whip him into a bloody heap five decades ago, and which continues to impose one-party authoritarian rule over an increasingly prosperous and diverse society.

A former scholar with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and co-founder of free-market think-tank Unirule, Mao's arguments for market reforms and individual rights have brought him an international following, and won him accolades including the 2012 Milton Friedman Prize from the libertarian Cato Institute in Washington, DC. Yet, interviewed one recent afternoon in their west Beijing home, Mao and his wife, Zhao Yanling, said they are still paying the price for his widely circulated 2011 online column criticizing Mao

Zedong as a power-obsessed sociopath whose legacy continues to warp Chinese society.

## Under Siege

Neo-Maoists have left death threats on his voicemail, held protest rallies outside his public lectures and signed petitions seeking his arrest. One man threw a shoe at him at a lecture in eastern China; another barged into a speech in Washington to denounce him as a traitor to the Chinese people. The government has warned him to be less outspoken but has not employed harsher methods it has used on others critical of the leadership.

With this year marking the Cultural Revolution's 50th anniversary, the couple feels particularly under siege. In recent weeks police have intercepted suspected Maoists seeking to confront them at home, said Zhao, who dreads the sound of her own doorbell. "She lives in a state of constant fear," Mao said. "So do I." Mao was born in 1929. His father and an uncle were engineers trained at Purdue University in the United States. Mao moved 13 times in a dozen years as he followed the work assignments of his father, a high-ranking railway planner.

Although a strong supporter of the Communist Party following its violent 1949 takeover, Mao began openly questioning the planned economy while pursuing his own career as a railway engineer. Amid a far-reaching crackdown on dissent, he was labeled a rightist in 1957 and lost several pay grades. Worse was to come. In 1960, he was sent to rural Shandong province to be re-educated,

where he discovered the horror of the massive famine that resulted from Mao Zedong's headline drive to collectivize agriculture and build up industry. Mao Yushi and others survived by eating insects and birds, while all but one in a family of 12 in his village succumbed to starvation. An estimated 30 million or more are believed to have died over three years in an event that remains little discussed in the country.

## Cultural Revolution

Eventually reinstated to a comfortable life in Beijing, Mao's existence was again upended on a steamy August evening in 1966 soon after the start of the Cultural Revolution. A neighbor directed a band of Red Guards to the Mao home, denouncing the family as capitalists and intellectuals who were ripe targets for class struggle. "Don't speak," one of the boys, no older than 16, warned as he led the family outside, adding ominously: "If you speak, I'll dig another hole in the ground."

The thuggish youths carted away furniture, jewelry and clothes and burned the family's ration coupons, leaving just enough cash for a handful of meals. In the following weeks, they returned to whip both the father and son and shave the head of Zhao, Mao's wife, as a particularly bitter form of humiliation. Mao Yushi was soon banished to a locomotive factory in distant Shanxi Province while Zhao stayed in Beijing, leaving a portion of their monthly salary in a milk box outside to fend off the roving gangs. —AP



**BEIJING:** In this May 25, 2016 photo, Mao Yushi writes calligraphy as his wife Zhao Yanling prepares the ink at their home. —AP

# S CHINA SEA CASTS SHADOW OVER KEY US-CHINA TALKS

## XI CALLS TO INCREASE MUTUAL TRUST

**BEIJING:** President Xi Jinping said China and the US needed to trust each other more as both sides sought to minimize tensions over the South China Sea at the opening yesterday of key annual talks in Beijing. China claims nearly all of the strategically vital sea despite competing claims by several Southeast Asian neighbors, and has rapidly built artificial islands suitable for military use. Washington has responded by sending warships close to Chinese claimed reefs, angering Beijing. "China and the US need to increase mutual trust," Xi said at the opening of the annual strategic dialogue, calling for redoubling of efforts for the two powers to manage conflicts and avoid "strategic misjudgment." "Some disputes may not be resolved for the time being," he said, but both sides should take a "pragmatic and con-

structive" attitude towards those issues. "The vast Pacific should be a stage for cooperation, not an area for competition," he said.

Speaking for the US, Secretary of State John Kerry called for a "diplomatic solution" to the problem. "We are looking for a peaceful resolution to the dispute in the South China Sea and oppose any country resolving claims through unilateral action," he said, referring to China's increasingly aggressive expansion in the area. The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam have competing claims in the South China Sea, which encompasses vital global shipping routes and is believed to have significant oil and gas deposits.

Manila accuses China of taking effective control of the Scarborough Shoal in 2012 and has brought a case against Beijing to the Permanent Court

of Arbitration at The Hague. China has shunned the proceedings and says it will not recognise any ruling.

## 'Provocative Act'

The Beijing talks follow an Asian security summit at the weekend where US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter warned that Chinese construction on the shoal would prompt unspecified "actions" by the United States and other nations. Following Carter's comments at the Singapore meeting, Chinese Admiral Sun Jianguo said the issue had become "overheated" and said China did not fear "trouble" over its territorial disputes.

Tensions mounted after the South China Morning Post reported last week Beijing could establish an air defence identification zone (ADIZ) over the sea which would require civilian aircraft to

identify themselves to military controllers. Such a move would be considered "a provocative and destabilizing act," Kerry said on a trip to Mongolia Sunday. The Beijing dialogue is perhaps the most important meeting between the world's two largest economic and military powers, giving them a chance to seek agreement and iron out disputes on a range of issues related to security and economics.

Both countries promote the event, known as the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, as an opportunity to move forward issues, such as global warming, where they find easier agreement. But the discussions are often defined by points of conflict, with increasing tensions in the South China Sea promising to overshadow this year's efforts to focus on the positive.

## 'Keep the pressure'

The meeting is the eighth of its kind and is set to cover a number of key issues beyond the South China Sea, including climate change, cyber-security, terrorism, trade and economic cooperation. Among those is the question of how to handle North Korea's nuclear ambitions, an area where Kerry said it is "imperative to keep the pressure." The North staged its fourth atomic test in January and launched a long-range rocket a month later - widely seen as a ballistic missile test, banned under existing UN resolutions.

Beijing is Pyongyang's largest trading partner and has been its key diplomatic protector for decades. It is seen as a critical element in any plan to convince North Korea to change its behavior. China has seemingly lost patience with North Korea's behavior, and it played a critical role in pushing a recent round of sanctions through the United Nations. —AFP



**BEIJING:** (From left) US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, US Secretary of State John Kerry, China's President Xi Jinping, China's Vice Premier Liu Yandong and China's Vice Premier Wang Yang pose for a photo at the Diaoyutai State Guest House yesterday. —AP

# FATHER SAYS SON FORGIVES HIM AFTER FOREST ORDEAL

**TOKYO:** The father of a seven-year-old Japanese boy found alive nearly a week after his parents left him in a dense forest as punishment said his son has forgiven him, as details emerged of the boy's ordeal. Japan has been mesmerized by young Yamato Tanooka, who survived six nights alone after his angry parents abandoned him by the side of a mountain road on the northern island of Hokkaido on May 28. Searchers, including soldiers, spent days scouring the mountainous forest which is home to brown bears, but could find no clues to the missing boy.

He was discovered Friday morning sheltering in a hut on a military drill field some 5.5 km from where he had been left. Takayuki Tanooka, his 44-year-old father, has said he, his wife and daughter returned several minutes later to the spot where Yamato was forced out of the family car, but there was no sign of him. "I said to him, 'Dad made you go through such a hard time. I am sorry,'" the elder Tanooka told broadcaster TBS in footage aired yesterday. "And then, my son said, 'You are a good dad. I forgive you,'" Tanooka added, choking up.

Yamato, who was taken to hospital by helicopter immediately after being found in the hut by a soldier, will be discharged on Tuesday, a hospital official

told AFP, refraining from giving further details. Local reports said he had suffered slight dehydration and minor scars on his arms and legs. His weight, originally about 22 kg, was down about two kilograms. His father said Yamato was recovering quickly, finishing each meal served, drawing in a notebook and playing cards with his family, the Mainichi Shimbun daily reported. Local police have reported the case to a child welfare centre as possible mental abuse,



**HAKODATE, Japan:** In this June 3, 2016 file photo, Takayuki Tanooka, father of a 7-year-old Japanese boy who went missing since May 28, bows in front of the media after his son was found safe. —AP

the Hokkaido Shimbun newspaper and other reports said.

## 'Father's Dignity'

Police also interviewed Yamato yesterday, Jiji Press said. The child told them he would walk around the drill field on sunny days but did not wander far. He heard the sound of helicopters and the cries of wild animals but no people, Jiji said, citing police. Immediately after being abandoned,

the crying boy tried to chase his parents' car but ended up getting disoriented and going the opposite way, the Mainichi reported, citing sources close to the family. Yamato also said that because he was afraid of the forest he walked about five hours in the dark along a path until he came to the hut, the report added.

Other reports said the boy saw no one until the soldier found him on Friday but he believed his family must be looking for him. Yamato's parents have been severely criticized for forcing him out of their car to teach him a lesson for throwing stones at cars and people. The elder Tanooka said he was angry because the boy had recently been scolded at school for hitting cars with a wooden stick. "So I tried to show him that I can be scary if seriously angry," he said, citing what he described as a "father's dignity".

The contrite dad bowed and apologized in front of reporters on Friday after being reunited with Yamato for what he admitted were his "excessive" actions. The parents originally told police their son got lost while on a family outing to gather wild vegetables. Tanooka said they lied at first because they feared social censure and possibly being questioned by police as abusive parents. —AFP



**SYDNEY:** A man looks at the damage caused by a severe storm in Collaroy on Sydney's northern beaches yesterday. —AFP

# THREE DIE, OTHERS MISSING IN FIERCE AUSTRALIA STORMS

## EXTENSIVE FLOODING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**SYDNEY:** Wild weather which smashed into Australia's east coast and whipped up giant waves on Sydney beaches has left at least three people dead and others missing, police said yesterday as the clean-up began. Ferocious storms pounded the coast over the weekend, causing flooding in New South Wales state. Huge seas eroded the shoreline, in one instance sweeping the in-ground swimming pool of a beachside home onto the beach. "This storm, which was so ferocious, has taken life from us," New South Wales Premier Mike Baird said as he warned that conditions remained dangerous. "It is clear - the ferocity of this storm was such that the damage has been unbelievable up and down the coast."

The Bureau of Meteorology said a combination of rain, wind and wave action had created the conditions which saw beaches strewn with debris and rivers and creeks bursting their banks. One part of Sydney suffered its worst flooding in 30 years, while the city's Observatory Hill weather station received some 226 mm of rain over the weekend - well above the average monthly rainfall for June of 131.9 mm. The bureau said a wind gust in excess of 115 km per hour was recorded in Sydney Harbour, while two of the airport's three runways were closed due to high winds.

Police said divers had retrieved two bodies from cars swept away by floodwaters, one in the southwestern Sydney suburb of Leppington and

another near the town of Bowral, some 100 km south of the city. "It is a tragedy these two lives have been lost. We simply do not know how either of these two men came to be in the flood waters," said acting assistant state police commissioner Kyle Stewart. "But what we know is that their deaths show just how dangerous flood waters are." Authorities said the body of a third man was found near a flooded river crossing close to Canberra.

The storm swept south from Queensland, through New South Wales and onto Tasmania where police yesterday held grave fears for two people thought to have been swept away by floodwaters. A man aged in his 80s was believed to have been swept away, Tasmanian police said, while the wife of another elderly man rescued by helicopter through the roof of his inundated home was missing.

A swimmer seen in distress at Sydney's Bondi Beach was also missing after lifeguards and a rescue helicopter failed to find him. Abnormally high tides and damaging surf were still pounding parts of the New South Wales coast late yesterday, and flood warnings were in place in Tasmania. In the hard-hit northern Sydney beach suburb of Collaroy, Fran Young was left to contemplate the ocean which had swallowed part of her waterfront garden overnight. "It was definitely the most ferocious (storm) I've ever seen; the sea was pounding," she told AFP. "It felt like it was coming directly, straight at all of us." —AFP

# BRITISH PEDOPHILE GETS LIFE FOR MALAYSIA ABUSE

**LONDON:** A British pedophile who preyed on Christian children in an impoverished part of Kuala Lumpur was sentenced yesterday to life with a minimum term of 25 years. Judge Peter Rook handed Richard Huckle 22 life sentences to be served concurrently after he pleaded guilty to 71 counts of child sex offences. Huckle, 30, held his hands together in prayer as the judge delivered his sentence, and remained impassive as his punishment was announced. A woman in the public gallery leapt to her feet and shouted "a thousand deaths is too good for you" as Huckle was led out of court. Rook said Huckle had almost certainly "blighted the lives of his victims forever".

The prolific offender has already spent 488 days in jail, so faces more than 23 years behind bars before a parole board can consider his release. Among the admitted offences were 22 charges of rape against children he groomed while posing as a volunteer working with Christian communities in the Malaysian capital. "Relentlessly you preyed on the very young," said Rook. "You

targeted and groomed impoverished children." Huckle posted pictures of the abuse of boys and girls on website True Love Zone (TLZ), with the youngest victim believed to have been around six months old. He was eventually snared by an Australian investigation into the site.

## 'Truly Evil'

British police arrested Huckle, from Kent in southeast England, at London Gatwick Airport in Dec 2014 as he returned home from Malaysia to spend Christmas with his parents. He was carrying a heavily-encrypted computer and camera that contained over 200,000 images of child sex abuse, over 1,000 of which showed him committing offences including rape. The laptop contained a ledger in which he detailed the abuse of 191 victims, but officers were unable to press charges on all cases as there was no photographic evidence.

Huckle handed the judge a note before sentencing on Monday pleading for leniency and his defence argued in mitigation that he had not inflicted any physical pain on his victims, a claim the judge dismissed. "I've been shown some of the video footage and I'm sure that your action caused immediate pain and distress," said Rook. "Others were passive, having been groomed into submission." —AFP



**Richard Huckle**





MEDAN: Students perform a prayer on the first day of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at Ar-Raudlatul Hasanah Islamic boarding school in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia yesterday. — AP

# WHAT IS RAMADAN AND WHY DO MUSLIMS FAST?

**DUBAI:** Millions of Muslims around the world yesterday marked the start of Ramadan, a month of intense prayer, dawn-to-dusk fasting and nightly feasts. Others will begin fasting a day later, Tuesday, due to a moon-sighting methodology that can lead to different countries declaring the start of Ramadan a day or two apart. Here are some questions and answers about Islam's holiest month:

### Why do Muslims fast?

The fast is intended to bring the faithful closer to God and to remind them of the suffering of those less fortunate. Ramadan is a time to detach from worldly pleasures and focus on one's inner self. It's seen as a way to physically and spiritually purify, refraining from habits such as smoking and caffeine. Muslims often donate to charities during the month and feed the hungry. Many spend more time at mosques during Ramadan and use their downtime to recite the Quran. London's new Muslim mayor, Sadiq Khan, wrote in the Guardian that he plans to use Ramadan to "build bridges" and break bread with Muslims and non-Muslims around the city at synagogues, churches and mosques, though he acknowledged that 19-hour-long fasts during the longer summer days in Europe and forgoing coffee will be challenging. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam, along with the Muslim declaration of faith, daily prayer, charity, and performing the hajj pilgrimage in Mecca.

### How do Muslims fast?

Observant Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to dusk for the entire month of Ramadan. A single sip of

water or a puff of a cigarette is enough to invalidate the fast. However, Muslim scholars say it's not enough to just avoid food and drinks during the day. Ramadan is also an exercise in self-restraint. Muslims are encouraged to avoid gossip and arguments. Sexual intercourse between spouses is also forbidden during the daytime fast. Just before the fast, Muslims have a pre-dawn meal of power foods to get them through the day, the "suhoor." Egyptians eat mashed fava beans called "ful," spiced with cumin and olive oil, while in Lebanon and Syria, popular suhoor food is flatbread with thyme, cheese or yogurt. In Afghanistan, people eat dates and dumplings stuffed with potato and leeks, first steamed, then fried.

### How Muslims break their fast

Muslims traditionally break their fast like the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did some 1,400 years ago, with a sip of water and some dates at sunset. That first sip of water is the most anticipated moment of the day. After sunset prayers, a large feast known as "iftar" is shared with family and friends. Iftar is a social event as much as it is a gastronomic adventure. Across the Arab world, apricot juices are an iftar staple. In South Asia and Turkey, yogurt-based drinks are popular. Every night of Ramadan, mosques and aid organizations set up tents and tables for the public to have free iftar meals. But large crowds at mosques can also be targets for extremists. As the war with the Taliban intensifies, Afghan and US military officials have said they expect attacks to increase during Ramadan. Nigerian intelligence officials also say the extremist Boko Haram group plans to

attack Muslims during morning and evening prayers.

### Can Muslims be exempted?

Yes. There are exceptions for children, the elderly, those who are ill, women who are pregnant, nursing or menstruating, and people traveling, which can include athletes during tournaments. Many Muslims, particularly those living in the United States and Europe, are accepting and welcoming of others around them who aren't observing Ramadan. However, non-Muslims or adult Muslims who eat in public during the day can be fined or even jailed in some Mideast countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which is home to large Western expat populations in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. In many predominantly Muslim countries like Indonesia, karaoke bars and nightclubs are closed across much of the country for the month. Restaurants there use curtains to conceal customers who eat during the day.

And in Egypt, the Dar Al-Ifta, which is the main authority in charge of issuing religious edicts, on Monday warned against eating in public, saying this is not an act of "personal freedom, but chaos - an assault on Islam." In China, minority Uighur Muslims complain of heavy restrictions by the Communist Party, such as bans on fasting by party members, civil servants, teachers and students during Ramadan, as well as generally enforced bans on children attending mosques, women wearing veils and young men growing beards.

### Ramadan traditions

Typically, the start of the month is welcomed with the greet-

ing of "Ramadan kareem!" Another hallmark of Ramadan is nightly prayer at the mosque among Sunni Muslims called "taraweeh." Egyptians have the tradition of Ramadan lanterns called the "fanoos," often the centerpiece at an iftar table or seen hanging in window shops and from balconies. In the Arabian Gulf countries, wealthy families hold "majlises" where they open their doors for people to pass by all hours of the night for food, tea, coffee and conversation. Increasingly common are Ramadan tents in five-star hotels that offer lavish and pricey meals from sunset to sunrise. While Ramadan is a boon for retailers in the Middle East and South Asia, critics say the holy month is increasingly becoming commercialized. Scholars have also been disturbed by the proliferation of evening television shows during Ramadan. In Pakistan, live game shows give away gifts promoting their sponsors. In the Arab world, month-long soap operas starring Egypt's top actors, rake in millions of dollars in advertising.

### The end of Ramadan

The end of Ramadan is marked by intense worship as Muslims seek to have their prayers answered during "Laylat al-Qadr" or "the Night of Destiny." It is on this night, which falls during the last 10 nights of Ramadan, that Muslims believe that God sent the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and revealed the first verses of the Quran. The end of Ramadan is celebrated by a three-day holiday called Eid al-Fitr. Children often receive new clothes, gifts and cash. Muslims attend early morning Eid prayers the day after Ramadan. Families usually spend the day at parks and eating - now during the day. — AP

## MONTH OF QURAN

Continued from Page 1

And mankind in general is addressed with invitations to believe in God and mold life around that belief, and they are informed of the consequences of accepting or rejecting God's invitation. The Quran's purpose is to inform people of a reality beyond their five senses and their perceptions of space and time, and to teach moral lessons and develop spirituality. With the additional perspective it offers, the Quran also invites people to adopt a lifestyle that ensures ultimate happiness and success. Finally, through stories and instruction, it describes the beliefs and practices that are essential to achieve that state.

The verses of the Quran were revealed to address particular situations, to relate historical information and to codify Islamic law. Common subjects are descriptions of God, stories of prophets, descriptions of believers and disbelievers, promises of God's rewards, especially Paradise, warnings about consequences for rebellion toward God, including Hellfire, instructions for personal conduct, guidelines for familial and social relations, and a framework for international relations. Being an oral revelation first and foremost, devout Muslims learn how to recite the holy scripture as it was revealed. Verbatim memorization is common and care is taken to reproduce the exact pronunciation and vocal duration of each letter.

Arabic is a rich language, and words of the Quran have great depth and breadth; therefore, they also study the meaning of the words, verses and chapters, and there are encyclopedic works of this nature. In addition, Muslims study the occasions of revelation, the relation of the holy text to prophetic traditions, and the application of princi-

ples by renowned scholars and rulers. The study of the Quran develops moral reasoning and spirituality first and foremost, as well as thought processes of logic, sequencing, deduction, intuition, assimilation and abstraction. Reciting and memorizing it develops memory, enunciation and self-expression.

The printed Quran is revered as a holy book and is treated with respect. It is not considered casual reading or handled like an ordinary book. There is only one version of the Quran, and careful measures are taken that prints and reprints of the Quran in Arabic are authenticated by authoritative bodies for accuracy. Since the Quran is an Arabic-language literary masterpiece both technically and aesthetically, it is impossible to portray its rhythm, rhyme, depth of denotation and subtlety of connotation in another language.

There are many translations of the Quran, but we cannot call a translation "the Quran" but only an approximation of the meaning of the Quran. The best English translations have the accompanying original text in Arabic so that it can be consulted. Since Ramadan is the month of the Quran, everyone should have their copy handy and complete reading it in this holy month.

*Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.*

## HOLY MONTH BEGINS

Continued from Page 1

In the Syrian city of Madaya, where some 40,000 people have been living under government siege for months, resident Mumina was preparing to break the fast with her husband using the little food aid the United Nations has managed to bring in. "The food packages we receive are very bland, pulses and five cans of tuna per person. There's no pasta, no meat, no dairy. We tried to plant some vegetables but the land isn't good for planting now," the 32-year-old said. "There's barely any food in the markets and whatever we find is so expensive that we can't buy it," she said, planning a simple meal of beans for the night.

In the Iraqi city of Fallujah, father-of-six Abu Mohammed Al-Dulaimi also worried about how to provide food for his family during Ramadan. Iraqi forces have tightened a siege around Fallujah as they press a major advance to retake the city from the Islamic State jihadist group. An estimated 50,000 people are believed trapped inside, some being used as human shields by IS, and the families left behind are often those who could not afford to leave. "You have to get up at 5:00 in the morning and stand in line forever to pay 5,000 dinars (\$4.50) for a kilo of tomatoes," said Dulaimi, contacted by AFP inside Fallujah. "I can't even go there myself, I have to send someone, because you need to have a long beard and a short dishdasha," he said, referring to traditional robes which the jihadists insist should be worn shorter than usual in local custom.

In other parts of the Islamic world Muslims were

preparing to mark Ramadan with extravagance. In the wealthy Gulf states, hotels and restaurants were competing to offer the most luxurious meals. At Dubai's sail-shaped landmark Burj Al-Arab hotel, diners were being offered "an array of delectable traditional delicacies" at iftar meals for 400 Emirati dirhams (\$110) per person.

In Indonesia, faithful spent the days leading up to Ramadan taking part in rituals, including visits to relatives' tombs and swims in springs infused with flowers. Most in the country practice a moderate form of Islam and centuries-old, local beliefs are often fused with Muslim customs to create a particularly Indonesian brand of the faith. Indonesia's conservative Muslim leaders regularly urge people not to partake in some of these rituals - such as swimming in springs - but the practices are deeply entrenched. Hardline group the Islamic Defenders' Front (FPI) also threatened to launch raids on Indonesian nightspots that flout restrictions during Ramadan.

In the past, the group has raided bars that are open later than they should be, seizing alcohol and throwing out customers. "Please respect the holiness of Ramadan," Ja'far Shodiq, the group's deputy chairman said. "The FPI is not against fun-but sometimes fun can verge on immoral." In China, the start of Ramadan was marked with the customary ban on civil servants, students and children in the mainly Muslim Xinjiang region taking part in the daytime fast. China's ruling Communist party has for years banned government employees and minors from fasting in Xinjiang, home to the more than 10 million strong Uighur minority. It has also ordered restaurants to stay open. — AFP

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## Issues

CASH ALLAYS  
GRIM ROUTINE  
FOR REFUGEES

By Sebastien Malo

As Mohammed Said Amin witnessed the intensifying battle between government forces and rebel groups for control of his hometown of Damascus, he and his wife made a plan to escape. They left for Ras al-Ayn, a Syrian town bordering Turkey. But when it came under attack from the Nusra Front, the former bus driver felt he had no option but to take up arms against the Al-Qaeda-linked group. "We fought them for weeks," Amin, 48, said in a tired voice. "Who would want to do that? But we had to protect our women, our homes, our land."

Two years on, Amin and his wife, Nadia, are refugees living in Iraq's Kurdish region - a haven for about 235,000 people uprooted by Syria's civil war and more than 1 million Iraqis who have fled violence in other parts of their country. Once a prosperous oil-producing region, Iraq's Kurdistan has been hit by an economic crisis caused by a slump in oil prices with protests earlier this year against austerity measures.

The war against Islamic State and the influx of displaced people has only compounded the crisis. Jobs are few and far between, especially for the more recent arrivals. Amin's new home is in a converted prison once used by Saddam Hussein to hold political dissidents during his iron-fisted rule spanning more than two decades. Some 1,000 Syrian refugees are sheltering in the gloomy fortress-like building in the northern town of Akre. The frontline in fighting is some 50 km away, beyond Akre's barren hills. Although Amin has no job, he and his wife receive a \$38 monthly lump sum from the UN World Food Programme (WFP) as part of a pilot project to offer assistance in cash rather than goods, food or vouchers.

## Inflation Risk

More than 14,000 households receive cash under the program launched in Iraq this year. Aid officials say the relative stability of Iraqi Kurdistan has made it possible to roll out a form of food assistance that has been touted as a more efficient way of delivering aid. "Cash provides people with flexibility so they spend it on whatever they need - be it food or medicine or part of their rent," said WFP spokeswoman Abeer Etefa.

The European Commission's humanitarian department ECHO has provided most of the nearly \$680,000 (600,000 euros) needed to run the program, part of a \$20 million pot of funding the agency has provided WFP in Iraq since 2015. Nicholas Hutchings, a technical assistant with ECHO, said that while it was impossible to rule out the risk that recipients would spend cash on cigarettes and alcohol, rather than food and rent, there was little to suggest they do. "Not just in this country but in others, evidence shows that people don't spend it on vice," he said.

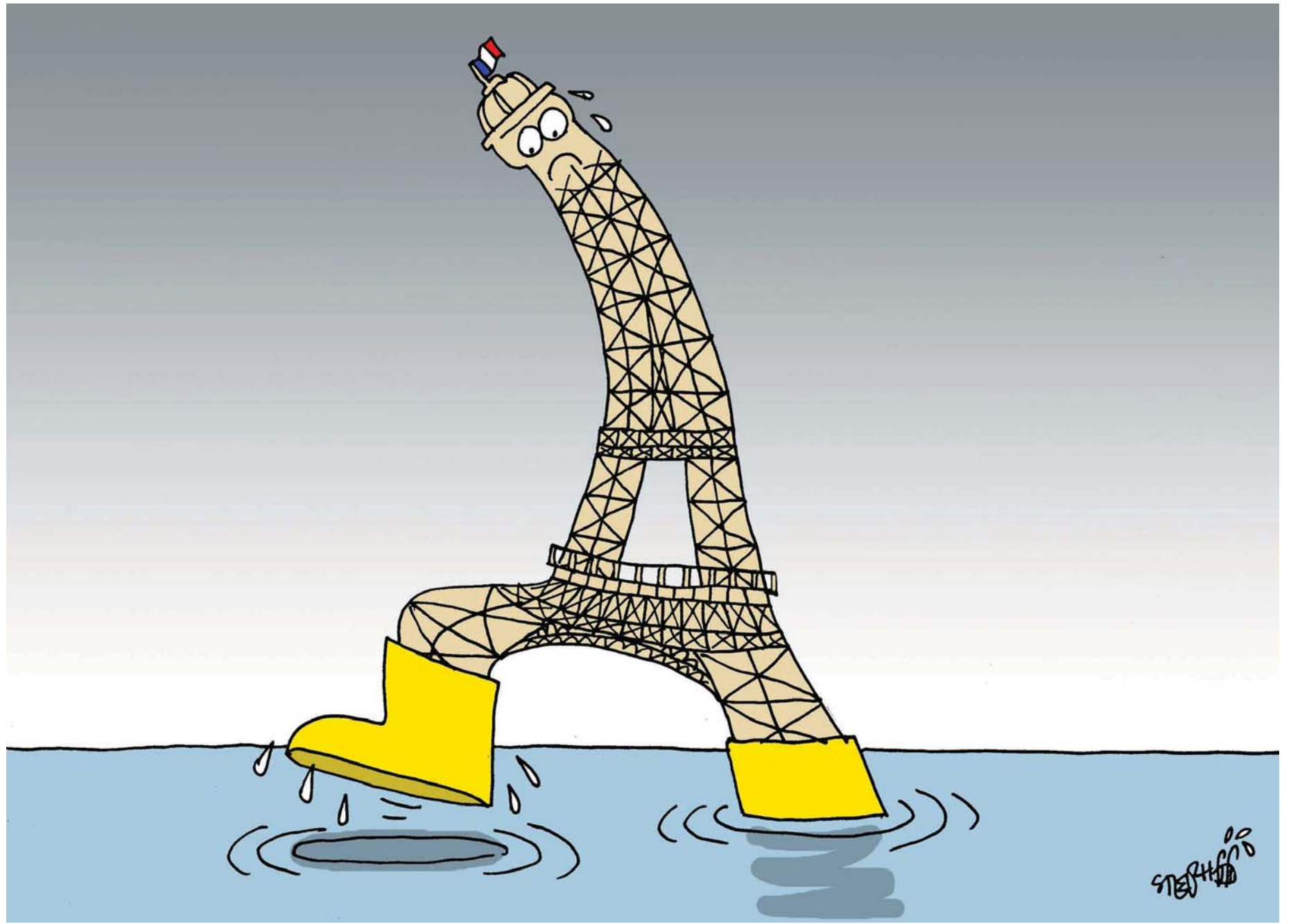
Giving cash benefits the local economy and offers people the dignity of choice, but it must be done in a way that does not cause inflation, proponents of cash assistance say. "Of course with large-scale numbers of people receiving assistance ... there is the risk of pushing the prices up," WFP's Etefa told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. In conflict areas in Syria, where WFP is providing food to more than 4 million people, handing out cash indiscriminately would risk causing inflation, she said.

Previously, refugees like Amin would often have had to queue for bags of beans, flour, bulgur wheat and other staples. Many families find the experience humiliating, and such operations are more expensive to run because of transport, storage and other costs, aid officials say. Clutching his crumpled US dollar bills, Amin sat and talked inside his dark living quarters - a former prison cell which the couple have tried to brighten up with red ribbons hung on the concrete walls. Amin said cash was better than food vouchers which he could only use in specially designated shops, where goods are often pricier than in neighboring stores. "Now I can take the money and go buy wholesale from the supermarket," Amin said. "When it was the voucher, the prices were fixed and I would lose some of the value of the dollar."

## Marshall Plan

Despite the assistance they receive, the lump sum does not cover all the refugees' needs and most would prefer to work. Recalling his life in Damascus, Amin lamented how the war had stifled his plans to open his own shop, with which he hoped to secure the financial future of his nine children who fled Syria ahead of him and are now in Turkey and Germany. "I worked really hard," he said. "I wanted them to remember me afterwards by saying 'Our father has done his best to provide for us.'" —Reuters

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## AUSTRIA: A COUNTRY SPLIT OVER FAR RIGHT

By Kirsti Knolle and Shadia Nasralla

When the far right took the lead in Austria's presidential election earlier this year, Viennese businessman Georg Demmer says he was so shocked that he got involved in national politics for the first time. Patiently and methodically he and a group of like-minded people worked their way from bar to bar, persuading and cajoling voters to cast their ballot to keep the far right Freedom Party candidate from office. But 180 km to the west, in the city of Linz, shoe salesman Patricia Haginger took a very different view. To her, the prospect of putting an Austria-first eurosceptic in the presidential palace was a chance to upend mainstream politics. Demmer and Haginger, both 33, stand on either side of a near perfect political divide in Austria, where the collapse of the political center has set up a clash between an often disgruntled and fearful working class and a more comfortable urban elite. With many Western voters moving away from traditional parties and politicians, lifting forces as varied as the National Front in France and Donald Trump in the United States, Austria's split could be mirrored elsewhere.

In the end, the presidency narrowly eluded far right candidate Norbert Hofer in a run-off vote last month, thanks in part to Demmer and others like him who mobilised voters in support of Hofer's second round opponent, former Greens leader Alexander Van der Bellen. The Freedom Party traces its roots to the decade after World War Two. Its first leader was Anton Reinthaller, a decorated member of the Nazi SS who served as agriculture minister

after Hitler's annexation of Austria in 1938. On Reinthaller's death in 1958, he was replaced by another former SS officer, Friedrich Peter.

The party's more recent history was dominated by Joerg Haider, who became leader in 1986. It is from Haider's nationalist, anti-immigration, anti-EU platform that much of the party's current line is derived. Haider died in a car crash in 2008 but still casts a shadow over Austrian politics.

## Splits

Demmer in Vienna and Haginger in Linz are equally sure of their ground. Demmer runs a working space for startups and freelancers. He says it is unimaginable that "a backward-thinking person with ethnically-based and nationalist views could take such high office." This notion is rejected by Hofer, who says he expresses the concerns of ordinary people. Demmer recounts how, shocked by Hofer's strong first round showing, he and others who share his views targeted bars in areas where neither run-off candidate had a clear lead. They found people were generally prepared to listen. "There was no negative atmosphere, no aggression," he said. "There were many arguments that had little to do with facts, more with sympathies and a general feeling of protest against the government."

In the run-off on May 22, Van der Bellen's margin of victory was only about 31,000 votes, or less than 1 percentage point - a result that Freedom Party leader Heinz-Christian Strache said on Saturday he is likely to challenge. The election for the largely ceremonial post revealed splits between young and old, city and countryside, and blue- and white-collar workers.

Election-day polling by the SORA institute showed 86 percent of blue-collar voters backed Hofer. Among those with a university degree, 81 percent voted for Van der Bellen. Cities were also hubs of support for Van der Bellen. In Vienna for instance he had a margin of 26.6 percentage points. The former Green leader had the backing of 60 percent of women voters. For many of Hofer's supporters, immigration and integration were important issues. "Being multicultural is all well and good, but we need to make sure that there is a togetherness," said Haginger, the shoe salesman who lives in Auwiesen, a largely working-class area of Linz.

In Haginger's view, immigrants should accept the cultural and religious values of predominantly Catholic Austria. The Freedom Party's message that mass immigration threatens security and jobs in a country that took in 90,000 asylum seekers last year - more than 1 percent of its population - resonates in neighborhoods like hers. While she says she gets along well with neighbors who settled in Austria years ago and learnt to speak German, security is a big concern. Hofer's direct language is appealing.

"He believes in what he says. He says very clearly Austria first, homeland first," she said. For her, the party's roots in Austria's Nazi past are irrelevant. "We are not a Nazi party. I would never describe myself as a Nazi," she said. "We are people who want security and want to see Austrians put first." That outlook is anathema to Demmer. To him, Austria's Nazi, or "brown", history is relevant. Austrians have a Nazi past and a "brown core", he says, "and it is therefore slightly different than in other countries."

## Frustration

Voters on both sides are frustrated with Austria's traditional parties of government - the Social Democrats (SPO) and the conservative People's Party (ÖVP) - which have dominated post-war politics and whose coalition term runs until 2018. Their dominance has been such that they have carved up major institutions between them and supplied every president since World War Two. But this election marked a sea change, with both parties' candidates having failed to make the run-off. "The ÖVP and SPO were increasingly busy fighting each other," Haginger said, explaining why she switched from supporting the centre-left SPO to the Freedom Party years ago. "The FPÖ has become the real workers' party."

She feels the party better understands what life in her neighborhood of post-war apartment blocks is like, unlike Van der Bellen whom she calls "a daydreamer". In Vienna's 10th district, where 38.4 percent of the population was born outside Austria, kebab shop worker Pasa Coeset reflects on events - and voices sympathy for Hofer. Coeset recounts that he came to Austria from Turkey in 1988. A naturalized Austrian, he has served in the Austrian army and his children have Austrian passports. But now he hankers to return to Turkey.

"Working here doesn't pay anymore, bills are getting more expensive, fees and taxes, electricity is getting more expensive. Hofer is right. Hofer is not against foreigners. He only does not want you to get money from the state if you have been unemployed for a long time. I am Muslim, but Hofer is not Islamophobic." —Reuters

## RED TAPE SPREADS FROM LONDON, NOT BRUSSELS

By William Schomberg

Troy Barratt, a small business owner in this southeastern English town, has a list of labor, energy and safety regulations that add to the costs of his precision metal fabrication firm. But unlike opponents of Britain's membership in the European Union, he puts the blame on London rather than Brussels. "By far the biggest frustration I have is with home-grown laws," Barratt, managing director of Contracts Engineering, said as laser-cutting machines sliced into sheets of steel in his firm's workshop in an industrial park about 60 km east of London, close to the mouth of the River Thames.

Barratt, a 36-year-old former investment banker from the United States, points to a new UK pension contribution system for his 26 employees and duplicative checks on electrical equipment that advisors recommend he carry out in order to meet separate sets of British rules. He also cites commercial power tariffs that are among Europe's highest because London raises extra tariffs to help fight climate change.

As the country prepares for a June 23 referendum on whether to leave the EU, the "Out" campaign says rules made in Europe jar with Britain's traditionally free-market approach to business, hurting profits and hobbling economic growth. The growing weight of EU legislation represents a threat to the country's sovereignty, it says. Yet many employers say it's British rules, coupled with the sometimes overly rigorous British implementation of EU rules, that are their main hindrance. Two examples often cited by business have nothing to do with the EU: last year's surprise announcement of a 38 percent rise in the minimum wage by 2020 and a planned new levy to pay for apprenticeships. While Britain ranks among the easiest countries in the world in which to do business, the Confederation of British Industry warned the government of Prime Minister David Cameron late last year against intervening too much in the labour market.

Estimating how many British laws actually originate in Brussels is part of the fierce debate around the referendum. A parliamentary analysis in 2010 found the EU was behind between 15 and 50 percent of laws and regulations in Britain, depending on the definition of what constitutes a law. Some EU rules Britain has signed up to have no impact locally, such as those which concern Southern Europe's olive industry.

## 'Overreach'

Central to the "Out" camp's case that British business is tangled up in Brussels red tape is a study by pro-market think-tank Open Europe which estimates that the EU's 100 most burden-

some rules cost British businesses 33 billion pounds a year to comply with, in areas ranging from the labour market to financial regulation and renewable energy. Open Europe said by way of comparison, that is more than Britain usually raises each year in council tax, which is levied on households across Britain and is a major source of tax revenue.

"Just think of how much more success our economy could have if we had the power to reduce the burden of red tape and replace pointless EU rules with sensible domestic regulation," said Priti Patel, a government minister who broke ranks with Cameron to campaign for a British exit. By halving the impact of EU social and employment laws, Britain could create 60,000 new jobs, she said. The "Out" campaign also points to situations where EU law duplicates UK regulation.

Patel said UK rules on how long self-employed truck drivers may spend on the road, how often they must take breaks and how companies must keep records of their driving time were just one example of duplicative legislation and cost British business £100 million a year. Jack Semple, head of policy at the Road Haulage Association, said the industry agreed on the need for such rules but the EU legislation meant firms had to keep two sets of records, adding to costs.

Yet, many of the biggest problems faced by hauliers were due to British decisions, Semple said. He cited high fuel duties, insufficient investment in roads and a requirement that vehicle roadworthiness tests were conducted only by civil servants. The government said recently that it will drop this tests rule. "Most of the really big issues for the industry are about UK regulations or the application in the UK of Brussels regulations," he said.

Britain often goes above and beyond EU requirements, even if its social laws are not as generous as in other countries in the bloc, such as France or Italy. For example, UK employers must give workers 28 days of paid leave a year, less than in other countries in the bloc but higher than the EU required minimum of 20. Similarly, employers mention parental leave rules that are more generous to workers and longer consultation periods over redundancies than set out by Brussels.

In the country's vast finance sector, British rules on how much capital banks must hold are stricter than in other EU nations, reflecting a tough response to the financial crisis. The government acknowledges there are problems which it is trying to fix. The business ministry says its cuts to red tape since 2010 have so far saved businesses 10 billion pounds, something it wants to repeat by 2020.

In Brussels, too, officials have made cutting red tape a core part of the current European Commission's agenda. Vicky Ford, a

British Conservative member of the European Parliament, said 80 EU laws were repealed last year and dozens more are due to go in 2016. She said even more important for British firms is the ability to shape the rules that affect their markets, something which they could no longer do if the country left the EU. "The idea that UK businesses would allow the rules of their trade to be set by their competitors is bonkers," said Ford, who chairs the parliament's Internal Market Committee.

If Britain does leave the EU, reversing the rulebook would not be easy. Open Europe says only £13 billion out of the £33 billion cost for Britain of EU rules could be saved under any politically realistic scenario, mostly by repealing employment and environmental legislation. Even that kind of cull would be met with resistance from trade unions and many voters. For many employers, adapting to EU labor rules has not been hard as they have sidestepped one of the bloc's potentially most onerous rules - a maximum 48-hour working week. Many British businesses have persuaded staff to sign an opt-out clause won by Britain in negotiations with the EU in 1993 in order to maintain its flexible labor market.

Tim Parkinson, chairman of Airedale Springs, a spring manufacturer in the Yorkshire town of Haworth, responded to the EU's Working Time Directive by agreeing a new, flat-pay deal with employees in 1999 in return for agreeing to the opt-out. "It was really no burden at all for us," he said.

## The Natural Location

In Sittingbourne, Barratt said Britain's pro-enterprise spirit made it the natural location for him in Europe as well as the fact that his wife is from the country. Since he bought Contracts Engineering in 2012, annual sales have almost doubled to 2 million pounds and he has found new clients such as medical device manufacturers and advanced lighting firms.

Like many entrepreneurs, Barratt is worried by the prospect of a vote to leave the EU, however. Almost all of his biggest customers export to other countries in the bloc's single market, something that might be harder to do from outside the EU. Uncertainty over the vote has weighed on orders, prompting him to freeze all new hiring. He is particularly vexed by claims from members of the "Out" camp that only a Brexit can free small firms from red tape and deliver Britain into a new era of stronger economic growth. "What costs will come in when other costs go out? Something will," he said. "What I see is a very compelling, very rigorously analysed case about the benefits of staying," he said. "But there is no real detailed analysis of how we are better off economically if we leave, except 'Trust me.'" —Reuters



RUSSIAN EURO HOPES HIT BY DENISOV INJURY

**MOSCOW:** Russia's injury problems mounted yesterday after key defensive midfielder Igor Denisov told AFP that he will miss Euro 2016 after suffering a hamstring injury in a friendly against Serbia. The Russian squad had already lost influential Alan Dzagoev after the CSKA Moscow midfielder fractured a bone in his foot last month. Dynamo Moscow's Denisov, 32, went down in the 51st minute of Sunday's friendly, which ended 1-1. "I injured my hamstring in the match against Serbia," Denisov told AFP. "It's a pity, but I will have to miss the Euro."

Russia's Football Union (RFU) said in a statement that an MRI scan on Denisov's leg showed muscle damage that "rules out the possibility of a recovery within the next two weeks." He will return to Russia from France, where the Euros kick off on Friday, to undergo medical treatment. R-Sport news agency reported that Zenit Saint-Petersburg midfielder Artur Yusupov, who trained with the Russian squad yesterday, could replace Denisov, although the RFU has yet to make an official announcement.

"Words fail me, it's a pity and it's so unexpected," Russian sports minister Vitaly Mutko, who also serves as president of the RFU, told TASS agency. "Of course it will weaken the team's midfield a great deal." —AFP



RUSSIA TO START COMPULSORY ANTI-DOPING IN SCHOOLS

**MOSCOW:** Russia is to start compulsory anti-doping classes in schools as part of a campaign to stamp out cheating in sport, authorities announced yesterday. With the country furiously lobbying to overcome a ban on its athletes in time for the Rio Olympics, the lessons will be part of new measures, drawn up with the Council of Europe, "to reform social attitudes to doping", the sports ministry said in a statement. Russia has been hit by a series of doping scandals, still under investigation, that led the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) to suspend Russia from international competition. "Lessons on anti-doping will be rolled out as part of the curriculum in schools across the country," the sports ministry said. "The classes on anti-doping will be taught as part of physical education classes, and will be obligatory for all children, meaning that it will reach millions of students across Russia." The ministry said that before the lessons start, there will be anti-doping classes for "all higher education institutions for professionals in the fields of sport and medicine". — AFP

SHIRT OF HAT-TRICK HERO HURST UP FOR AUCTION

**LONDON:** The shirt worn by Geoff Hurst in the 1966 World Cup final could sell for £500,000 (\$720,000, 635,000 euros) at an auction, 50 years on from English football's greatest triumph, valuers said yesterday. The red long-sleeved jersey with the England Three Lions badge on the front and white No 10 on the back was worn by striker Hurst as he became the first-and so far only-player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final as West Germany were beaten 4-2 after extra-time at Wembley Stadium. West Ham forward Hurst was only in the starting line-up after first-choice striker Jimmy Greaves was injured earlier in the tournament. Auctioneers Sotheby's estimate the cotton shirt, made by sportswear manufacturer Umbro, will sell for between £300,000 and £500,000 when it goes on sale in London on July 12. "Half a century on, the immense importance of this match to the English game and nation is being underlined once again with the extensive commemorations of the match's 50th anniversary," Sotheby's Gabriel Heaton said. "This shirt, worn by the match's star player, is the most significant obtainable artefact relating to this historic match." —AFP



CHICAGO: Addison Russell #27 of the Chicago Cubs tags out Patrick Corbin #46 of the Arizona Diamondbacks during a steal attempt in the fifth inning at Wrigley Field on Sunday in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

ARRIETA'S WIN STREAK ENDS AT 20, DIAMONDBACKS BEAT CUBS

**CHICAGO:** Jake Arrieta lost for the first time in 25 starts, as the Arizona Diamondbacks posted a 3-2 win over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday. Arrieta (9-1) struck out a season-high 12 but gave up a season-worst nine hits and walked one in five innings. He last lost July 25, 2015, when the Philadelphia Phillies' Cole Hamels threw a no-hitter against the Cubs. Arrieta had won 20 consecutive decisions, the third most in baseball since 1913. The Cubs lost for the first time in 24 starts by Arrieta on Tuesday when they fell 5-0 to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Arrieta was also trying to become the quickest Cubs pitcher to reach 10 victories since Grover Alexander in 1920. Yasmany Tomas hit a two-run double off Arrieta in the second inning, and Paul Goldschmidt added an RBI single in the fifth. Diamondbacks lefty Patrick Corbin held Chicago to two runs in five innings.

MARLINS 1, METS 0

Jose Fernandez matched his career high with 14 strikeouts and won a pitching duel against Matt Harvey as Miami defeated New York. Fernandez (9-2) pitched seven scoreless innings for his eighth win in his past eight starts. He allowed four hits and no walks. The only time Fernandez encountered even mild trouble was the first inning when Curtis Granderson hit a two-out double. Fernandez, who has a 2.29 ERA, retired the next 15 batters in a row, striking out the side in the fourth. Harvey (4-8) allowed four hits, no walks and one run in seven innings. He struck out three. He surrendered an RBI single to J.T. Realmuto in the fifth inning, and that was the difference.

BLUE JAYS 5, RED SOX 4

Edwin Encarnacion belted a two-run homer and Marco Estrada took a no-hitter into the eighth inning as Toronto held on to beat Boston. Estrada (4-2) held the Red Sox without a hit through 7 1/3 innings before Chris Young's solo homer. He gave up two hits and three walks while striking out five in eight-plus innings. Jose Bautista, Darwin Barney and Russell Martin hit solo homers for the Blue Jays, who have won five of its last six and 12 of 16 since ending a season-worst five-game skid. David Ortiz and Hanley Ramirez each hit RBI doubles and Jackie Bradley Jr. had an RBI single in the ninth for the Red Sox, who dropped two of three in the series and four of five overall.

TIGERS 5, WHITE SOX 2

Justin Verlander held Chicago to five hits over seven innings-two of them solo home

runs-and struggling Justin Upton negated those with a two-run double at the end of a four-run fifth inning to help Detroit complete a three-game sweep of Chicago. Shane Greene worked his second perfect inning of relief in as many days since coming off the disabled list and Francisco Rodriguez converted his 17th straight save to help the Tigers defeat their third straight southpaw

Pujols hit an 0-2 pitch from reliever Tony Watson into the left field stands for his 12th homer. It also scored Kole Calhoun, who led off the inning with a single, giving Pujols three RBIs in the game. It was Pujols' 30th home run at PNC Park, more than any other opposing player. He has 88 RBIs in 92 career games at the Pittsburgh ballpark.

Chris Young (2-6) in a span of nine batters in the fourth and fifth innings.

ORIOLES 3, YANKEES 1

Matt Wieters' pinch-hit single in the eighth inning off New York closer Aroldis Chapman led to three runs, lifting Baltimore to a victory. The Orioles finally broke through in the eighth when Mark Trumbo walked and Chris Davis singled off Dellin Betances. After Betances (2-4) struck out Nolan Reimold, the game was delayed because of rain. When play resumed after 1 hour and 37 minutes, Chapman entered for New York. He struck out Schoop before Francisco Pena lined a single to right to load the bases. Wieters then lined a single up the middle that scored two runs, and a throwing error by Jacoby Ellsbury allowed the third run to score.

ASTROS 5, A'S 2

Lance McCullers rebounded from a rocky first inning and worked a season-best seven innings as Houston completed a three-game sweep of Oakland. McCullers (3-1) faced seven batters and surrendered two runs in the first inning, but he didn't yield another run in his seven-inning outing. McCullers allowed eight hits and three walks while striking out seven. Oakland right-hander Sonny Gray was as effective as McCullers in making his return off the 15-day disabled list, giving up just a solo homer by Carlos Gomez in his five innings. Houston took advantage of the A's bullpen, though, scoring four runs, including an Evan Gattis solo home run in the sixth.

RAYS 7, TWINS 5

Evan Longoria and Logan Morrison each hit two homers to lead Tampa Bay to a come-from-behind win over Minnesota. Longoria hit at least one homer in all four games of the series and had five during the weekend, establishing a franchise record for home runs in a series. Morrison wasn't far behind, hitting at least one in each of the past three games and four overall. Minnesota hit three homers Sunday, getting back-to-back solo shots from Byung Ho Park and Robbie Grossman in the third inning and a solo blast from Eduardo Nunez that tied the score at 5 in the eighth. Brad Miller's ninth-inning sacrifice fly broke the tie, and Longoria added an RBI single.

RANGERS 3, MARINERS 2

Texas took advantage of two Seattle errors in the fifth inning to score three times and complete a three-game sweep. With a runner on first and one out, Texas' Elvis

Andrus hit a grounder to short that Luis Sardinas bobbled to put runners on first and second. Jared Hoey brought in the first run with a single to left-center. Bobby Wilson followed with a shallow fly ball to left off Hisashi Iwakuma (4-5), with Andrus able to sprint home to tie the game as left fielder Stefan Romero was slow to throw the ball in. Jurickson Profar followed with a single to left that Romero couldn't come up with cleanly, and Hoey scored the go-ahead run.

DODGERS 12, BRAVES 6

Rookie Corey Seager went 3-for-5 with his two home runs to bring his total for the series to five, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of Atlanta. Seager has hit 12 home runs since May 11, the most in the league. It was the third multi-homer game of his career and second in the series. Scott Kazmir (5-3) earned the win, limiting the Braves to three runs in five-plus innings before exiting with a left quadriceps cramp. He is not expected to miss a start.

CARDINALS 6, GIANTS 3

The Cardinals scored four runs in the sixth inning to erase a 3-1 deficit, and they went on to win and take two of three from San Francisco in the weekend series. The Cardinals cut the lead to 3-2 on back-to-back doubles by Matt Carpenter and Aledmys Diaz. After a walk and a hit batter, Matt Adams hit an RBI infield single to tie the score. Yadier Molina's hard grounder up the middle was misplayed by shortstop Brandon Crawford for an error, giving the Cardinals a 4-3 lead. Greg Garcia followed with a run-scoring, fielder's choice grounder. Carlos Martinez (6-5) was the beneficiary of the Cardinals' four-run rally. He pitched six innings of three-run ball.

ROCKIES 10, PADRES 3

Carlos Gonzalez stroked a pair of two-run homers and Nolan Arenado added one, too, as Colorado beat San Diego to snap a four-game losing streak. Gonzalez, who had five RBIs, hit his shots in the second and ninth innings, both traveling more than 400 feet. Arenado, who had three hits and reached base five times, smacked his league-leading 18th homer in the fifth. Right-hander Jon Gray (4-2) worked seven innings, charged with two runs on five hits, with a walk. Gray, a former first-round pick, had a career-high 12 strikeouts. He was impressive from the get-go in earning his third straight win as he struck out the initial five Padres he faced. —Reuters

MLB Results/Standings

Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 2; Cleveland 7, Kansas City 0; Miami 1, NY Mets 0; Washington 10, Cincinnati 9; LA Angels 5, Pittsburgh 4; Philadelphia 8, Milwaukee 1; Baltimore 3, NY Yankees 1; Toronto 5, Boston 4; Houston 5, Oakland 2; Tampa Bay 7, Minnesota 5; Arizona 3, Chicago Cubs 2; Texas 3, Seattle 2; LA Dodgers 12, Atlanta 6; St. Louis 6, San Francisco 3.

American League				National League			
Eastern Division				Eastern Division			
Baltimore	32	23	.582	Washington	34	23	.596
Boston	33	24	.579	NY Mets	31	24	.564
Toronto	31	27	.534	Miami	30	27	.526
NY Yankees	26	30	.464	Philadelphia	28	29	.491
Tampa Bay	25	30	.455	Atlanta	16	40	.286
Central Division				Central Division			
Cleveland	31	24	.564	Chicago Cubs	39	16	.709
Kansas City	30	26	.536	Pittsburgh	30	26	.536
Chicago White Sox	29	28	.509	St. Louis	30	27	.526
Detroit	28	28	.500	Milwaukee	26	31	.456
Minnesota	16	40	.286	Cincinnati	21	36	.368
Western Division				Western Division			
Texas	34	22	.607	San Francisco	35	24	.593
Seattle	31	25	.554	LA Dodgers	31	27	.534
Houston	28	30	.483	Colorado	25	31	.446
LA Angels	26	30	.464	Arizona	25	34	.424
Oakland	25	32	.439	San Diego	23	35	.397

after entering the series with a 3-8 record against left-handers. Verlander (5-5) allowed a two-out home run to Jose Abreu, his seventh, in the first and a second solo shot to Todd Frazier, his 18th, with two out in the sixth. Verlander walked one and struck out eight.

NATIONALS 10, REDS 9

Daniel Murphy and Wilson Ramos hit home runs to help Washington avoid a series sweep with a victory over Cincinnati. The Nationals' trio of Bryce Harper, Murphy and Ramos combined to go 9-for-15 with two homers and five RBIs in just the second win in the past nine meetings with the Reds. Jay Bruce homered for the Reds, who have won six of nine since snapping an 11-game losing streak.

ANGELS 5, PIRATES 4

Albert Pujols hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to give Los Angeles a victory over Pittsburgh. With the Angels trailing 4-3,

PHILLIES 8, BREWERS 1

The long ball ruled the day for a Philadelphia team that entered the game on a 2-14 slide and ranked second to last in the majors in home runs. For the first time since Aug. 22, 2015, the Phillies hit back-to-back homers in the fifth inning courtesy of Jimmy Paredes and Cameron Rupp en route to a win over Milwaukee. With 13 hits to the Brewers' 11, the Phillies now move to 18-3 when out-hitting the opposition. Odubel Herrera tied his career high with four hits.

INDIANS 7, ROYALS 0

The Indians hit four home runs and Corey Kluber pitched six scoreless innings as Cleveland completed a four-game sweep of Kansas City. The American League Central-leading Indians won their fifth game in a row. The Royals came to Cleveland on a six-game winning streak and left with a four-game losing streak. Mike Napoli, Tyler Naquin, Carlos Santana and Francisco Lindor all homered off



## LOOKING UP: CLIMBING SETS SIGHTS ON 2020 OLYMPICS

**MADISON:** Climbing is on the precipice of becoming an Olympic sport, raising the profile of a recreational activity that is seeing a surge in young participants.

The ascent to potential Olympic inclusion got a boost on June 1 after the International Olympic Committee executive board gave its approval to include climbing along with four other sports:

baseball-softball, surfing, karate and skateboarding. The IOC will decide in August whether to add the sports to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Japanese organizers initially proposed the new sports in September and looked at climbing as a competition that could appeal to teens and young adult, an age where there is already increasing interest. "My dream is to ... keep on helping getting (climbing) bigger and bigger so hopefully I can compete in the Olympics and win it maybe," said 15-year-old Ashima Shiraishi, a New Yorker whose parents were Japanese immigrants. Her spider-like ascents up rock walls and cliffs have made her a viral sensation online and drawn the curiosity

of late-night television.

There were roughly 35 million climbers worldwide in 2015, according to the International Federation of Sport Climbing, up 40 percent from two years earlier. As of last fall, about half of the total was younger than 25 "thanks to the latest trend of urban/action sports," the federation said in a report.

USA Climbing had almost 3,800 registered members age 19 and under as of the 2015-16 season, an increase of nearly 90 percent in nine years - a boom that could position the United States to emerge as a top Olympic contender.

The United States "is already a very active country for climbing and we trust the national federation will keep on developing its expertise and keep on bringing kids to our competitions, which would be definitely a plus for a possible medal in 2020," said Anne Fuynel, spokeswoman for the international federation in Turin, Italy. Many young climbers are getting a foothold indoors at climbing gyms, which have grown in number to nearly 400 across the United

States. One young climbing star, 16-year-old Kai Lightner, got his start indoors after visiting a gym in Fayetteville, North Carolina, a decade ago.

### TECHNIQUES CAN BE PERFECTED

"Kids like me have access to these resources that did not exist decades ago," Lightner said. "When you are able to start training at high levels, as young as 6, 7 years old, it shouldn't be surprising that kids are becoming more skilled at younger ages."

Indoor climbing removes barriers inherent outdoors, like weather, travel and expensive equipment, said Ian McIntosh, president of Mesa Rim Climbing Center in San Diego.

Techniques can be perfected year-round indoors. It's an option to fill time between soccer seasons for the average, on-the-go pre-teen in the suburbs.

Lily Canavan of Boston is one of the top competitors at her age bracket. Now 18, she got into the sport about eight years ago while attending a birthday party at a gymnastics facility that had a

climbing wall. The physical demands can be extreme, but Canavan is attracted by the mental side of climbing. Finding the right route and piecing it together with the right movements is like solving a puzzle. "So you can be the strongest person ever and not be able to climb as (well) as someone who isn't strong," Canavan said.

She was among 134 participants at USA Climbing's Bouldering Open National Championships in Madison this year, an increase of 47 percent from 2010. The youth nationals in Madison a month later drew 499 competitors, up 37 percent from last year and almost 55 percent from 2010.

USA Climbing's goal over the last 10 years has been to focus on developing its youth program. While Olympics inclusion has never influenced the organization's decisions, CEO Kynan Waggoner said, the potential addition to the Summer Games "can't do anything except promote the sport and raise the profile level, period."

In the 2020 Olympics proposal, com-

petition would only take place on man-made structures, though it hasn't been determined if walls would be constructed indoors or outdoors. Participants would take part in the disciplines of speed, bouldering and lead (also known as sport), with results combined into one overall ranking system to determine medalists. Waggoner said he likes the strides American climbers have made on the youth level in international competition. If the Olympics were held now, the United States would be competing with top contenders including France, Austria, Germany and Japan.

Waggoner stopped short of predicting how success now might translate to performance in four years, even with top young climbers like Shiraishi and Lightner presumably in the mix.

One wrinkle is that climbers usually specialize in one or two disciplines. For the Olympics, they would need to take part in three. "I don't know who we'll have ready to go in 2020," Waggoner said. "I do know some of our best U.S. athletes ... are starting to train." — AP



**TOKYO:** Graham Vigrass (L) of Canada spikes the ball over Chen Longhai (R) of China during the men's volleyball world final qualification for the Rio de Janeiro Olympics 2016 in Tokyo on Sunday. — AFP

## AUSSIE CHIEF DEFENDS 16-PAGE KYRGIOS LETTER

**SYDNEY:** Australia's team boss for the Rio Olympics has defended the decision to send controversial tennis star Nick Kyrgios a 16-page letter asking him to explain his behaviour if he wanted to be picked for the Games.

Kyrgios, Australia's highest-ranked male tennis player at 19 in the world, responded to the letter by declaring himself unavailable for selection, saying he had been subjected to "unwarranted attacks" from the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC).

But Australia's chef de mission for Rio, Kitty Chiller, rejected his claims, saying Kyrgios was never singled out and that she was just following the rules governing the behaviour of all team members.

"Someone needs to stand up," she told reporters at the weekend. "Why I'm doing this, we fought long and hard for the last three years to establish a set of behaviours for our team in Rio. I'm doing this for the 428 other athletes that we will have in Rio."

Chiller confirmed that the AOC sent Kyrgios the 16 pages last week chronicling potentially disreputable conduct and asking him to "please explain". Volatile 21-year-old Kyrgios has frequently fallen foul of tennis authorities, most recently receiving a code violation at the French Open for shouting at a ball boy, and being fined for an audible obscenity during his thrashing at the hands of Richard Gasquet.

He also infamously made crude remarks last year about the girlfriend of Swiss ace Stan Wawrinka, earning a suspended 28-day ban and

a US\$25,000 fine. Chiller said similar letters were sent to shooter Michael Diamond, who is facing drink-driving and firearms charges, and field hockey player Anna Flanagan, who is at the centre of an alleged drink-driving cover up.

### 'IT'S HIS DECISION'

"(They) received exactly the same letter that Nick Kyrgios did," Chiller said. "Admittedly, Nick's letter was 16 pages long. Theirs wasn't quite that long." An outspoken and combative figure on and off the court, Kyrgios announced Friday he was pulling out of Olympic contention because the AOC had "chosen to publicly and privately disparage me". He said no one from the AOC had sought a meeting "to discuss their concerns"—a claim disputed by Chiller.

"I was surprised actually because, contrary to what was in his statement, we had reached out to him," she said. "He received a letter on the 30th of May asking him to basically please explain, to explain his side of the story. So we had reached out to get that from him."

"He chose to not respond to that and to withdraw. So, ultimately, it's his decision."

If Kyrgios changes his mind, he has until June 17 to respond and the AOC executive would then "determine whether indeed he had brought himself, the sport or the Olympic movement into disrepute".

Tennis Australia, which said in a statement last Friday that it was disappointed that Kyrgios "has been put in this position", is due to nominate its players for selection on June 30. —AFP



**SYDNEY:** A file photo taken on December 4, 2015, shows Kitty Chiller, Australia's Olympic chef de mission for the 2016 Rio Olympics, in Sydney. Australia's team boss for the Rio Olympics has defended the decision yesterday, to send controversial tennis star Nick Kyrgios a 16-page letter asking him to explain his behaviour if he wanted to be picked for the Games. — AFP

## LONG JUMPER LAPIERRE EYES RIO MEDAL AMID 'BEST-EVER' FORM

**MELBOURNE:** Australian long jumper Fabrice Lapierre can see himself landing on the podium at the Rio Olympics after another encouraging performance at the Diamond League event in Birmingham at the weekend. A world silver medalist in Beijing last year, Lapierre posted a jump of 8.21 meters to finish third behind winner Marquise Goodwin (8.42) and another American in Mike Hartfield (8.29) on Sunday.

It was the 32-year-old's fourth Diamond League podium of the year, having finished third in Rome and Shanghai and second last month in Rabat. "I'm really confident," Lapierre told Australian media. "I've been racking up the podiums and if I keep doing that, then going to Rio with the big stage, the momentum and the adrenaline, anything can happen. This is the best I've ever

jumped in my life consistency-wise. When it comes to a major championship, I'm always going to lift. I've got two months to get stronger ... Once I do that, that's when I'll jump my jumps — 8.40 and 8.50."

Lapierre, runner-up behind Olympic champion Greg Rutherford at last year's world championships, is hoping to be among the Briton's biggest threats in Rio. He recorded his personal best of 8.40 back in 2010 and the Phoenix-based Australian felt he would have smashed that mark but for an error on his final jump in Birmingham. "Instead of holding my hips up, I leant forward," Lapierre said of his error in flight, which he estimated cost him up to 30 centimeters. "It would've been a really big jump." Goodwin recorded the best jump of the year with his 8.45, a personal best, at Guadeloupe last month. — Reuters

## OLYMPIC 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. "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. 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. —AP

## AUSTRALIA'S ASHWOOD SHINES IN SANTA CLARA

**LOS ANGELES:** Jessica Ashwood notched an Australian record of 8min 18.14sec Sunday to win the 800m freestyle at the Pro Swim meeting in Santa Clara, California. With the Rio de Janeiro Olympics beckoning in August, Ashwood is the second-fastest woman in the event this year. Only American Katie Ledecky has gone faster, setting a world record of 8:06.68 at Austin, Texas, in January and posting a time of 8:13.20 in April.

Ashwood led a strong Australian showing on the final day of the meeting, one of three this weekend in which US Olympic hopefuls are tuning up for their trials in Omaha this month and overseas swimmers are prepping for the Rio Games themselves. Aussie Mitch Larkin won the men's 200m backstroke in 1:55.38 ahead of Ryan Murphy (1:56.10), compatriot Emily Seebohm won the women's 200m

back in 2:08.57. James Magnusson won the men's 100m free in 48.99, leading an Australian one-two ahead of Kyle Chalmers (49.70). Emma McKeon lifted her third title of the meet, winning the 100m free in 53.30 with fellow Aussie Brittany Elmslie second in 53.77.

Thiago Pereira, looking to be among the medal contenders in front of home fans in Rio, won the 200m individual medley in 1:57.77, moving ahead of US superstar Michael Phelps and into third in this year's world rankings. At the Longhorn Elite Invitational in Austin, Texas, 2012 Olympic gold medalists Matt Grevers and Missy Franklin posted 100m backstroke victories, while Denmark's Lotte Friis won the 800m free. Grevers won the men's 100m back in 53.48. Franklin's winning time in the women's 100m back of 1:00.50 was well out-

side the 59.80 she produced in February, but put her comfortably in front of runner-up Tasija Karosas (1:01.11).

In the 800 free, Friis cruised to victory in 8:24.33 ahead of North Baltimore Aquatic Club training mate Cierra Runge (8:28.64). Phelps, aiming to add to his tally of 18 Olympic gold medals in Rio, scratched the final of the 200m medley in Austin, where he had qualified fifth-fastest in his fourth event of the week. Phelps finished the meeting with a victory in the 100m freestyle, a second place in the 100m butterfly and a fourth-placed finish in the 200m free. At the Indianapolis Pro Swim, the Bahamas' Arianna Vanderpool-Wallace added the 100m freestyle title to the 50m free she won earlier in the week. Her time of 54.18sec was nearly half a second ahead of Olivia Smoliga (54.66). —AFP



**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Rowers protest the pollution of Marapendi lagoon where the lagoon's brown waters empty into the Atlantic, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Saturday. 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. — AP



## SIX RUSSIAN WEIGHTLIFTERS, JUDO CHAMPION BANNED FOR DOPING

**MOSCOW:** Six Russian weightlifters, including former world and European junior champions, have been banned for doping violations, the country's national anti-doping agency said yesterday. The agency said 2014 world junior champion Larisa Kobeleva received a four-year ban, while 2014 European junior champion Nadezhda Ovchinnikova was suspended for two years. The four other weightlifters received sanctions of between four and eight years for doping offenses com-

mitted last year. The agency did not publish details of the offenses.

Russia's weightlifting team is already under pressure after four of its top athletes, including world record holder Alexei Lovchev, were banned for doping at November's world championships. Lovchev has appealed. The agency also announced a four-year ban for Russian judo champion Pyotr Khachirov. The latest bans come less than two weeks before a key vote by the IAAF on whether to allow Russia's

track and field team to compete at the Olympics. The team was suspended in November after a World Anti-Doping Agency commission's report alleged drug use was systematic and sponsored by the Russian state.

Also yesterday, the Russian Sports Ministry pledged to add anti-doping education to the curriculum in all schools. However, it maintained that doping had not been state sponsored. Nataliya Zhelanova, anti-doping adviser to Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, wrote

"no" during a question-and-answer session on Twitter when asked if the ministry's recent conciliatory tone toward WADA was matched by acceptance of the accusation that it had a role in doping. "The state has taken a lead in doing everything to demonstrate we are reforming and have nothing to hide," she tweeted.

The ministry said there will be compulsory lessons for "millions of children" in schools across Russia and more specialized education addressed at young

athletes aged 10 and over in more than 3,000 state sports academies. "Our job of eradicating doping from sport will be considerably helped by teaching children from an early age that this is not acceptable in our society," the acting head of the Russian anti-doping agency, Anna Antseliovich, said in the ministry statement. Antseliovich's agency is currently suspended from collecting samples after the WADA commission's report accused its employees of helping to cover up doping.— AP

## ALI'S BODY RETURNS BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN LOUISVILLE

**LOUISVILLE:** The family of boxing legend Muhammad Ali on Sunday accompanied his body back to his hometown Louisville, ahead of a public funeral procession and service expected to draw huge crowds in honor of "The Greatest." Former president Bill Clinton and comedian Billy Crystal are among those due to speak Friday at a memorial in a sports arena in the Kentucky city where Ali—a three-time world heavyweight champion—grew up and threw his first punches.

The charismatic Ali, a dazzling fighter and outspoken civil rights activist who became one of the 20th century's most towering figures, died on Friday at age 74 after health problems complicated by a long battle with Parkinson's disease. "Ali is now home," Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer tweeted. A private plane carrying the casket and Ali's relatives arrived in Louisville, the largest city in Kentucky, from Arizona, where he died.

The casket was loaded into a hearse and taken to a local funeral home, where dozens of fans were waiting to show their support, local CBS affiliate WLKY reported. Also on Sunday, interfaith services were held at Louisville's Islamic Center in Ali's honor. Fischer told AFP that the city—whose residents have left flowers, balloons and tributes at Ali's childhood home—was ready for a massive celebration to honor its most famous son. "The Champ was a supernatural figure who crossed all kinds of boundaries, from athletics to arts, to humanitarian activities, from black to white, from Christians to Islam, and he belongs to the world," he said. "There will be people coming from all over."

The mayor said plans for Ali's last farewell had been in the works for "quite some time," and that the city—host of horse racing's elite Kentucky Derby, which draws crowds of nearly 200,000 — was set to "handle big crowds." After a small family funeral on Thursday, Ali's coffin will be transported Friday through the streets of Louisville, before a private burial and the public memorial service at the KFC Yum! Center. The procession has been organized to "allow anyone that is there from the world to say goodbye," family spokesman Bob Gunnell told reporters. More details about the ceremonies were to be revealed at a press conference in Louisville yesterday.

### 'YOU CAN GO NOW'

The official cause of Ali's death was septic shock due to unspecified natural causes. Gunnell said Ali had sought medical attention for a cough, but his condition rapidly deteriorated. He was admitted to a hospital in the Phoenix suburb of Scottsdale, where he had lived for several years with his wife Lonnie. Ali's family ultimately removed him

from life support on Friday, Gunnell said. "Our hearts are literally hurting. But we are happy daddy is free now," one of Ali's nine children, daughter Hana, wrote on Twitter. "We all tried to stay strong and whispered in his ear, 'You can go now. We will be okay,'" she wrote.

Political leaders, sports figures, celebrities and fans around the world paused to remember "The Greatest," whose remarkable career spanned three decades. "Muhammad Ali was The Greatest. Period," US President Barack Obama said. "His fight outside the ring would cost him his title and his public standing. It would earn him enemies on the left and the right, make him reviled and nearly send him to jail. But Ali stood his ground." Tributes for Ali—who converted to Islam in the 1960s—even came from Iran, where Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called him "#TheGreatest in the ring and in the fight for justice, dignity and peace."

### STELLAR CAREER

Ali's career stretched from 1960 to 1981 and he retired with a record of 56-5, including such historic bouts as the "Rumble in the Jungle" against George Foreman in 1974 in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). "He hit me with a quick one-two, knocked me down to the canvas and my whole life changed," Foreman told CNN of the epic "Rumble." "I was devastated," he said. "Little did I know I would make the best friend I ever had in my life." Other defining moments of Ali's career included two knockouts of Sonny Liston and his rivalry with Joe Frazier.

### CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

Ali-born Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr on January 17, 1942 - dazzled fans with slick moves in the ring and his wit and engaging persona outside it. He famously said he could "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." He took the name of Muhammad Ali after converting to Islam in 1964, soon after he had stunned the sport by claiming the world title with a monumental upset of Liston.

Ali's refusal to serve in the Vietnam War saw him prosecuted for draft evasion, and led to him being effectively banned for boxing for three years of his prime. The US Supreme Court overturned his conviction for draft dodging in 1971. Ali held firm to his beliefs and eventually earned accolades as a civil rights activist. He received the highest US civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 2005 and was chosen to light the Olympic torch in 1996, his hands trembling due to Parkinson's—a poignant moment for the sports world. Ali will be buried at Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.—AFP



**SAN FRANCISCO:** This Sept 27, 1975 file photo shows Belinda Ali, wife of heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, talking with news people after arriving in San Francisco from Manila. Muhammad Ali was in the Philippines in 1975, preparing for the iconic Rumble in the Jungle with Joe Frazier and was seen about town with Veronica Porsche, a woman he introduced as his wife. The only problem was, Ali had a wife back home in Chicago, and she wasn't happy when she heard the news.—AP

## HOW ALI 'THRILLA' LEFT ITS MARK ON THE PHILIPPINES

**MANILA:** A bustling shopping mall forms an unlikely monument to the "Thrilla in Manila," but Muhammad Ali's most brutal fight made its biggest impression on the minds of those who witnessed it and still speak of it with awe. The late Ali's third and final meeting with Joe Frazier, in 1975, only went to Manila because Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos was hoping to gain popularity and prestige, three years after declaring martial law.

But after Ali's glamorous hob-nobbing with Marcos and his beauty-queen wife, Imelda, the fight at a stifling Araneta Coliseum was a fearsome collision of the two heavyweights—and sometimes described as the best boxing match ever seen. "It was like death. Closest thing to dyin' that I know of," said Ali, who was handed victory when Frazier, blinded by swelling around his eyes, failed to emerge for the 15th and final round. Forty-one years later, the Araneta Coliseum is still doing brisk business, hosting mixed martial arts bouts and concerts by the likes of Kenny Rogers and Engelbert Humperdinck.

The stadium's canny owner, Jorge Araneta, cashed in further when he asked Ali at the post-fight dinner if he could name a new shopping mall after him. Ali was so flattered he agreed without asking for payment. The result was the 'Ali Mall', the Philippines' first major shopping centre which was built close to the fight venue—turning a patch of suburban Manila into a far-flung shrine to 'The Greatest', who died on Friday after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Later generations of Filipino boxers, including eight-division world champion Manny Pacquiao, grew up venerating Ali and

especially the 'Thrilla', which briefly put an impoverished, Southeast Asian dictatorship in the centre of the world's view.

### 'BLOOD SPATTERED FAR AND WIDE'

Frazier had won their first fight in 1971 before Ali avenged the loss three years later. By the time they met in Manila, the ill-feeling between them was raw, stoked by some incendiary comments from the 'Louisville Lip'. "It will be a killa and a chilla and a thrilla when I get the gorilla in Manila," taunted Ali, giving the fight its iconic nickname.

The fight was held on October 1, 1975 at nearly midday in the tropical country, and with a 25,000-plus crowd and TV lights, the venue's air conditioning was overwhelmed. "It was really debilitating. Really humid," said Lito Tacujan, sports editor of Philippine Star newspaper, recalling the sweltering conditions. Frazier advanced remorselessly, laying into Ali who mainly tried to keep his distance but absorbed blow after blow before emerging periodically with flurries of combinations. "I don't like him but I got to say, in the ring he was a man," Frazier later said of Ali. "In Manila, I hit him punches, those punches, they'd have knocked a building down." In testament to the violence inside the ring, Imelda Marcos's clothes were spattered with blood, according to one account, and journalists were unable to take notes because their table shook so much from the blows. "It was literally very bloody," Marcos was quoted as telling a confidante, Sol Vanz. "Their punches were so powerful that blood splattered far and wide, staining spectators' clothes, including mine." Tacujan told AFP: "We couldn't write any notes

because the table was shaking from the exchanges inside of the ring. "It was that brutal. They were at each other from round one."

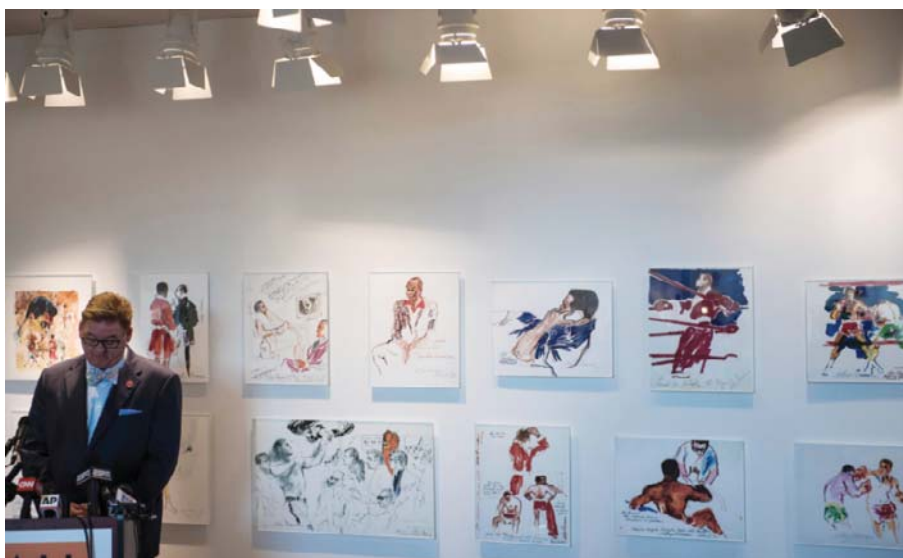
### DECLINE AND FALL

Although Ali won, the punishing bout was to prove a turning point for the ageing champion, then 33, as he moved into a phase of steady decline until his eventual retirement in 1981. "God blessed me that day. He's blessed me many times, and that fight in Manila was one of them," Ali said. "It was like I took myself as far as I could go, and God took me the rest of the way." The fight was a triumph for President Marcos, who was able to claim a public relations victory. He was eventually toppled in the 'People Power' protests of 1986. "It helped project the Philippines internationally at a time when we were being criticized by the western press because of martial law," said sportscaster Ronnie Nathanielsz, who acted as Ali's government liaison. "It projected a positive image for the Philippines and it was one of the biggest gains of the Marcos regime at the time," he added.

Joey Romasanta, vice-president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said that despite the abuses of martial law, "momentarily, we were grateful to President Marcos for bringing the fight over." "The 'Thrilla in Manila' united them (Filipinos) and momentarily made them forget their problems," he said. Tacujan also recalls that during the match, acclaimed boxing journalist Ed Schuyler told him: "You should be proud this fight happened here. Twenty-five years from now, they'll be talking about this fight in Manila." "It's been 40 years, and they are still talking about this fight," said Tacujan.—AFP



**LOUISVILLE:** In this Nov. 19, 2005, file photo, Muhammad Ali, left, hugs former US President Bill Clinton as he walks onstage at the grand opening gala celebration for the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ky. Clinton will deliver the eulogy at Muhammad Ali's funeral on Friday, June 10, 2016, in Louisville.—AP



**KENTUCKY:** US mourns death of boxing legend Muhammad Ali Bob Gunnell, a spokesperson of the Ali family, pauses while speaking about funeral and memorial arrangements for boxing legend Muhammad Ali at the Muhammad Ali Center June 6, 2016 in Louisville, Kentucky.—AFP

## SPORTS COURT FACES LANDMARK RULING FROM GERMAN JUDGES

**LAUSANNE:** The authority of the highest court in global sports will be at stake today when a potentially landmark verdict is announced in Germany. The Court of Arbitration for Sport is not even a formal party in the quest by five-time Olympic speedskating champion Claudia Pechstein to get 4.4 million euros (\$5 million) in compensation from the International Skating Union, which banned her in 2009 for blood doping. She denied doping and claimed her irregular blood values were due to an inherited condition. Still, the ruling by German federal judges could affect the position of CAS as world sport's recognized authority to judge appeals, arbitration cases and contract disputes. "If we win it is clear that athletes will no longer be forced to submit to the CAS, as long as CAS is based as it is," a lawyer for Pechstein, Thomas Summerer, told The Associated Press.

The core of Pechstein's case is that CAS is biased in favor of the sports establishment - the International Olympic Committee and governing bodies - and against athletes and individuals who are obliged to respect the court's authority. Pechstein, now 44 and still competing, could only challenge her doping ban at CAS. She also lost a subsequent appeal at Switzerland's Supreme Court, which can overturn CAS verdicts if legal process was abused. Even if she wins today, CAS would not be shut down. She will win if federal judges dismiss the skating body's appeal against a German regional court ruling that let her pursue a civil damages suit outside of sports' jurisdiction.

The key would be any recommendations for change that German judges might make to the court based in the Olympic home city of Lausanne since its creation in 1984. "They would not be binding on us but they would be taken into consideration by the ICAS," the court's secretary general, Matthieu Reeb, told the AP in an interview. The 20-member ICAS, the International Council of Arbitration for Sport, took over running the court in 1994 from the IOC. That move was provoked by a Switzerland supreme court ruling that the CAS was not truly independent.

Today, the ICAS appoints lawyers to a closed list of around 400 approved arbitrators. It also picks the chair of a three-member judging panel after both parties select a judge from the list. That is weighted in the establishment's favor, say Pechstein and FIFPro, the international group of soccer players' unions which has paid toward her legal bills. "Pechstein is breaking new ground," FIFPro said in a statement. "Few cases challenging the authority of CAS, which must be reformed, have advanced this far. It highlights the need for fair, independent, swift and accessible arbitration."

Underdogs have beaten the system to win notable cases at CAS. Sprinter Dutee Chand of India overturned IAAF rules on hyperandrogenism - the presence of high levels of testosterone in female athletes - last year; Gibraltar's soccer federation defied UEFA and FIFA in separate cases to gain membership; Olympic hammer throw medalist Vadim Devyatovskiy of

Belarus beat the IOC and World Anti-Doping Agency in cases linked to doping. Supporters of CAS say it has changed since 2009, when current President Thomas Bach headed the appeals division overseeing the appointment of judges. Bach was not involved in the case of his German compatriot Pechstein.

The ICAS now includes more former Olympic athletes, and two of its members, Dick Pound and Moya Dodd, are among the most outspoken and pro-reform officials at the IOC and FIFA, respectively. However, athletes have no formal input in the process of approving judges. Swiss lawyer Stephan Netzle has been on both sides of the CAS chamber. As a judge, he was on the 2009 panel that ruled against Pechstein, who denied doping and claimed irregular blood values were due to an inherited condition. As a defense lawyer, he helped Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar overturn a life ban by FIFA for alleged bribery.

Netzle believes CAS would be fairer if the currently closed list of arbitrators was opened up. "You would take out a lot of criticism, or grounds for criticism, if you just say: 'Choose whoever you want,'" Netzle told the AP, suggesting 90 percent of the same lawyers would be picked. Reeb believes that would harm the consistency of case law at CAS, which he said "answers a need in international sport." "I don't feel like it is a big attack to sink the CAS forever," the Swiss official said of the Pechstein case. "It is one athlete fighting against one decision she feels is unfair."— AP



## ADIDAS AND PUMA, BROTHERLY RIVALRY TO THE CORE

**HERZOGENAURACH:** Helmut Fischer will not be cheering for Germany during the European Championship finals. He comes from the Bavarian town of Herzogenaurach where sport is a family affair that gets bitter and personal. Fischer, 67, said he has always hated the jerseys worn by Die Mannschaft, which are made by Adidas. "I never watch any of their matches, unless they're facing a team wearing Puma shirts."

The pretty town of 25,000 in the southern state of Bavaria is where the Dassler brothers, Adolf and Rudolf, set up their rival sportswear empires, Adidas and Puma. Fischer has worked for Puma for 38 years and the allegiance goes more than just skin deep. He is proud of his employer's logo tattooed onto his calves and on his back. And when he meets someone for the first time, he says he "automatically" looks at what they're wearing on their feet before saying hello. The habit is so widespread in Herzogenaurach that it has been nicknamed "the town of bent necks."

For decades, everyone sported their trainers as a sort of flag: Adidas on the southern bank of the Aurach river that

divides the town, and Puma to the north. It has never been quite clear what caused Adolf and his older brother Rudolf to fall out in 1948. But there has never been a lack of theories-jealousies during the Nazi period, interference by the brothers' wives, extra-marital affairs. "The secret has never been uncovered. All of the explanations up until now are just suppositions," said Joerg Dassler, a grandson of Rudolf, who quit the sports industry to become an event manager. "No one understood why they fell out," said Georg Hetzler, an 85-year-old pensioner who was an apprentice tailor when the two brothers broke up their joint company, Dassler Brothers. Initially hired by Rudolf, he was one of 13 adventurers who followed him to Puma.

### 'ADI' DASSLER

Adolf held on to the equipment and most of the workforce and christened his firm Adidas, which combines the abbreviated form of his first name with the first part of his surname. What ensued was a bitter family feud littered with betrayals and low blows. During the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games,

Adidas had Puma's shoes held up at customs. In 1970, Puma broke a gentlemen's agreement between the two to not hire Pele, taking him on for the World Cup.

"The family feud spread to the entire workforce," said Joerg Dassler, who only met his grand-uncle Adolf once, in the stands during an athletics championship. The two never spoke. During the 1960s and 1970s, the "Pumeraner" and the "Adidassler," as the respective workforces called themselves, "didn't even sit next to each other in bars," recalled Georg Hetzler. "When I started at Adidas 30 years ago, we were forbidden from even mentioning the name Puma. We always had to speak of 'the competitor on the other side of the Aurach,'" Adidas chief executive Herber Hainer said.

"There were restaurants and bars only frequented by Puma employees and others only by Adidas employees. But that's over now," he insisted. On Herzogenaurach's market place, the 100-year-old bakery, Roemmelt, is staying neutral. "My parents always had a pair of shoes of each brand in their car, which they would put on," depending

on which firm they were delivering to, smiled Klaus Roemmelt, 53. A Dassler has not been in charge of either group since the early 1990s. Adidas and Puma are both now listed on the stock exchange and attract employees from all over the world who are less inclined to carry on the feud. In face of the battle with the world's number one sportshoe maker, Nike, the family squabbles are unimportant anyway. Nike, with annual sales of \$30.6 billion (26.9 billion euros), dwarfs Adidas with 16.9 billion euros (\$19 billion) and Puma with just three billion euros (\$2.64).

### A FALSE PEACE?

Officially, the two brothers buried the hatchet in 2009 at a football match between teams made up of Adidas and Puma workers mixed together. Bjorn Gulden, the Norwegian head of Puma, who has also worked at Adidas, insisted the rivalry has reached a "healthy" balance. But tensions remain. Adidas recently delay a Puma building application for an extension of its headquarters at the town authorities. Moreover, both accuse the other of plagiarism. Their

two new sportshoe models-Adidas' "Boost" and Puma's "NRGY"-look remarkably similar with their soles made of expanded thermoplastic polyurethane (eTPU), a shock-absorbing granulated component. Puma began developing the technology with chemical giant BASF. But BASF pulled out of the partnership to work with Adidas instead.

Puma insists it did everything to reach an amicable agreement. "History is repeating itself," joked Neil Harriman, Puma's legal director. Puma says it invented the detachable cleats used on the Adidas boots worn by German players when they won the 1954 World Cup final. Ever since, Die Mannschaft has worn the Adidas logo. Herzogenaurach also has two football teams: ASV, which is sponsored by Adidas, and FC which wears Puma. Since 2014, young players have trained wearing the same jersey. "That would have been unthinkable 40 years ago," said town mayor German Hacker. But "the final hurdle would be a merger of the two clubs. And that's a very long way off, with the family lines etched too deeply into people's minds," he conceded. — AFP

## DJOKOVIC BRACED FOR RECORD GRAND SLAM RUN

**PARIS:** Having sealed his place as one of the greatest players of all time, Novak Djokovic was yesterday backed to keep breaking Grand Slam records with little seemingly standing in his way. The 29-year-old captured his first French Open on Sunday to become only the eighth man to complete a career Grand Slam. More impressively, he is just the third man to hold all four majors at the same time and the first since Rod Laver back in 1969.

That is something even his eternal rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have failed to do achieve. "He will be the big favorite again at Wimbledon and at the tournament after that and all of those after that one," predicted three-time French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten who was on hand Sunday to witness Djokovic end a three-peat losing streak at Roland Garros finals with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 win over Andy Murray. That was Djokovic's 12th Grand Slam title to add to his six at the Australian Open, three at Wimbledon and two at the US Open.

### DECLINING POWERS

He also became the first man since Jim Courier in 1992 to clinch the Australian and French Opens back-to-back and therefore put himself in a position to grab a calendar Grand Slam which has only been achieved three times by Don Budge in 1938 and Laver in 1962 and 1969. "Well, I don't want to sound arrogant, but I really think everything is achievable in life," said the Serb. "I'm trying to grasp and I'm trying to cherish, obviously, these moments right now. Whether or not I can reach a calendar slam, that's still a possibility." He is right to be confident as he tightens his grip on the men's game. His victory over fellow 29-year-old Murray was his 24th in 34 meetings with the British world number two and eighth in 10 clashes at the Slams. He leads Federer 23-22 and is 26-23 against Nadal.

Federer still holds the record for Grand

Slam titles at 17 while Nadal is second on the all-time list at 14. But Federer will be 35 in August and has not added to his Slam total since winning Wimbledon in 2012. Nadal's last major was at Roland Garros in 2014 while Murray remains firmly stuck on two, the last of which came at Wimbledon in 2013. Djokovic has won six of the last eight Grand Slams-his only losses coming to Kei Nishikori in the semi-finals of the 2014 US Open and his 2015 French Open final heart-breaker to Stan Wawrinka. The winning mentality is also hot-wired into his DNA. He has now won 29 successive matches at the Slams bettering even his run of 27 which ended in 2011.

As well as time, Djokovic has physical fitness and endurance on his side. By contrast, Federer's streak of 65 successive Grand Slams, stretching back to 1999, ended when a back injury ruled him out of the French Open while Nadal, plagued by injuries throughout his career, withdrew from Roland Garros after two rounds with a serious wrist injury. Despite declining powers, Djokovic insists he owes Federer and Nadal a great debt for pushing him closer to a historic calendar sweep which could also become a 'Golden Slam' should he win the Olympics in August.

"These two guys-and Andy, as well-the rivalries with all three of the guys have definitely helped me to become a better player and helped me achieve all these things," said Djokovic. "Nadal and Federer were so dominant in the sport when Andy and myself came in in the mix. But, again, at the beginning I was not glad to be part of their era. "Later on I realized that in life everything happens for a reason. You're put in this position with a purpose, a purpose to learn and to grow and to evolve. "Fortunately for me I realized that I need to get stronger and that I need to accept the fact that I'm competing with these two tremendous champions." — AFP



**PARIS:** Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic poses with his trophy on Place de la Concorde in Paris yesterday, after winning the final match against British Andy Murray at the Roland Garros 2016 French Tennis Open. — AFP

## WITH STARS NEUTRALIZED, UNSUNG PLAYERS STEP UP IN THE CUP FINAL

**SAN JOSE:** This is a Stanley Cup Final filled with stars who have won the Hart Trophy, Olympic gold medals and numerous other awards. With players like Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Joe Thornton and Joe Pavelski, the final features some of the biggest names in hockey. The one place where those players haven't showed up so far is on the goal-scoring sheet. In a series that has featured three straight one-goal games all decided either in the final three minutes of regulation or overtime, some of the lesser-known players have delivered the goals.

"You look through these playoffs and third-line, fourth-line guys have stepped up for both teams and scored big goals," Sharks center Logan Couture said Sunday. "It's not necessarily that the big guys have scored the huge goals for both teams. You need that when you get to this point." Sharks rookie Joonas Donskoi was the latest to get on that list when he scored the overtime winner in San Jose's 3-2 victory in Game 3 on Saturday night that cut Pittsburgh's series lead to 2-1. Game 4 is Monday night in San Jose.

Donskoi matched the overtime goal scored just one game earlier by Penguins rookie Conor Sheary. Before that, it had been 30 years since a rookie had scored in overtime in the final when Montreal's Brian Skrudland did it in Game 2 against Calgary. But Donskoi and Sheary are far from the only unusual suspects to score in the first three games. Sharks defenseman Justin Braun has two goals in the past two games, matching his total from the previous 40 contests. "I'm happy I can finally chip in offensively," Braun said. "A lot of other guys have done a lot of heavy lifting to get us here. I'm just trying to do my part."

Pittsburgh defenseman Ben Lovejoy, who has 15 goals in 334 career regular season games, scored one of the Penguins' goals in Game 3 and set up the other that was deflected in by Patric Hornqvist. Nick Bonino got the Game 1 winner for Pittsburgh when the other goals were scored by rookies Sheary and Bryan Rust. And after three games, players like Crosby, Malkin, Thornton, Pavelski, Kris Letang, Logan Couture and Brent Burns are all still looking for their first goals. — AP



**GEORGETOWN:** Australia's David Warner plays a shot during a One-day International (ODI) cricket match between the West Indies and Australia in the Tri-Nation Series in Georgetown, Guyana on Sunday. — AFP

## WARNER HALF CENTURY AS AUSSIES THRASH WINDIES

**PROVIDENCE:** David Warner scored an unbeaten half century as Australia romped to a six-wicket thrashing of West Indies in their opening Tri-Nation Series day-night game at the Guyana National Stadium on Sunday. Warner's 55 not out saw Australia home with almost 25 overs to spare after the West Indies earlier collapsed from 50 for one to 116 all out from 32.3 overs.

Australia then wasted little time in getting to the modest target, Warner anchoring the effort to ensure a victory that was never in doubt despite the loss of three wickets for seven runs with the end in sight. Spinners Sunil Narine, with two wickets in one over, and Sulieman Benn caused the discomfort but it was not enough to save the hosts. The emphatic victory earned Australia a bonus point to move ahead of the West Indies in the three-team standings before Tuesday's final game at Providence against South Africa. "Our batting is a real concern," said West Indies coach Phil Simmons. "The bowlers and fielding side are doing a great job but we need to get it together with the bat for the next two matches in St Kitts."

### STARC BACK WITH A BANG

Boosted by a four-wicket win in the tournament-opener against the South Africans at the same venue two days earlier, the West Indies plummeted back down to earth at the feet of the World Cup-holders, whose frontline spinners Nathan Lyon and Adam Zampa did the bulk of the damage with three wickets apiece after the usual effective opening burst from Mitchell Starc. "I really enjoyed it out there on that pitch," Zampa enthused after his performance. "South Africa will be a big challenge though on Tuesday with so many quality batsmen." Playing his first international match for more than six months after being sidelined by injury, the left-arm fast bowler breached the defenses of openers Andre Fletcher and Johnson Charles to finish with figures of two for 37 from nine overs. He showed signs of rustiness in delivering five wides and a no-ball, however his lethal pace proved more than a handful for the West Indies top order.

Starc's tally of ODI wickets is now at 92 in his 47th match and should he take eight more before the end of this competition he will eclipse Pakistan's Saqlain Mustaq for the record as the fastest to 100 wickets in terms of matches played in this format of the international game. Charles top-scored with a chancy 22 while all-rounder Carlos Brathwaite was last out for 21, Aaron Finch taking the catch at long-on to give Zampa his third wicket. Notwithstanding the turgid surface, the home batsmen contributed to their swift demise with a succession of poor shots, exemplified by Darren Bravo's loose cover-drive at seamer Mitchell Marsh which offered a straightforward catch to Zampa at cover.

Lyon, the experienced off-spinner, had an

almost instant impact in disposing of Marlon Samuels and Kieron Pollard off successive deliveries. Pollard, whose unbeaten 67 guided the West Indies to victory over the Proteas two days earlier, attempted a heave over long-on to be taken by Warner on the boundary. Jason Holder gave mystery spinner Narine first use of the new ball from one end in hopes of an immediate breakthrough

at the start of the Australian reply, but it was left to the captain to separate the opening pair as Warner and Finch got off to a flying start with a succession of boundaries on both sides of the wicket. They had put on 44 by the eighth over when Finch was leg-before for 19 in Holder's first over, giving the gangling Barbadian his 50th wicket in One-Day International cricket. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play in the second Triangular Series match between West Indies and Australia on Sunday in Georgetown, Guyana.

West Indies Innings:		Australia Innings:	
J. Charles		D. Warner not out	55
A. Fletcher c Maxwell b Starc	4	A. Finch lbw b Holder	19
Da. Bravo c Zampa b M. Marsh	19	U. Khawaja c Holder b Benn	27
M. Samuels lbw b Lyon	10	S. Smith lbw b Narine	6
D. Ramdin lbw b Maxwell	12	G. Maxwell b Narine	0
K. Pollard c Warner b Lyon	0	M. Marsh not out	9
C. Brathwaite c Finch b Zampa	21	Extras (lb-1)	1
J. Holder b Zampa	1	Total (for 4 wickets, 25.4 overs)	117
S. Benn c&amp;ppb Lyon	3	Fall of wickets: 1-44 A. Finch, 2-85 U. Khawaja, 3-92 S. Smith, 4-92 G. Maxwell	
S. Narine st Wade b Zampa	5	Did not bat: M. Wade, M. Starc, A. Zampa, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon	
J. Taylor not out	5	Bowling: S. Narine 10-2-36-2, J. Taylor 3-0-20-0, S. Benn 6-0-21-1, J. Holder 3-0-21-1, C. Brathwaite 3-0-14-0, A. Fletcher 0.4-0-4-0.	
Extras (lb-3 nb-2 w-9)	14		
Total (all out, 32.3 overs)	116		
Fall of wickets: 1-6 A. Fletcher, 2-50 Da. Bravo, 3-59 J. Charles, 4-70 M. Samuels, 5-70 K. Pollard, 6-85 D. Ramdin, 7-88 J. Holder, 8-91 S. Benn, 9-111 S. Narine, 10-116 C. Brathwaite			
Bowling: M. Starc 9-0-37-2 (nb-1 w-5), J. Hazlewood 3-0-			

## FIT AGAIN, ROGER FEDERER DEFENDS PARIS PULL-OUT

**STUTTGART:** A newly fit Roger Federer yesterday defended his decision to pull out of the French Open because of a back injury, rubbishing suggestions it had anything to do with the wet Paris weather. The Swiss star and world number three, who turns 35 in August, this week plays on the Stuttgart grass for the first time as he ramps up his preparations for Wimbledon in June-July.

"It's the grass-court season now, that's huge for me," said the seven-time Wimbledon champion, who headlines the Stuttgart event, which switched from clay a year ago and crowned Rafael Nadal its first champion on the new surface. Federer made clear he had been disappointed by those who questioned-mostly on social media-the extent of the back injury that forced him out of Roland Garros. Federer, who has been plagued by knee and back injuries this year, last missed a Grand Slam event in 1999

when he skipped the US Open. "I was surprised to hear that some thought I pulled out because of the (Paris) weather," said Federer, who last tasted action when he lost to Dominic Thiem in the third round in Rome nearly a month ago. "That (rain) had nothing to do with it-either you are strong enough or you are not. I knew I made the right decision. "After all these years, it's Ok to miss a major. It's not all about them anyway: it's about health, it's about feeling good about the rest of the season, my career and my life as well." Federer, one of the best tennis players of all time after racking up 17 Grand Slam titles, said he had taken the time off from Paris to get back to fitness and spend time with his family. The 2009 French Open champion was full of praise for Novak Djokovic after his Serb rival won the Paris title for the first time at the weekend with a four-set victory over Andy Murray. "For tennis it's great, now he has won all of the grand slams." — AFP



## IBRAHIMOVIC - TROUBLEMAKER WHO BECAME A ROLE MODEL

**MALMO:** Zlatan Ibrahimovic makes no secret of his lofty opinion of himself and according to his childhood club it is a longstanding trait of the Swedish superstar. Ibrahimovic pulled on his boots for the first time at the age of six at Fotbollsklubben (FBK) Balkan, a club created by Yugoslav immigrants in Malmo in 1962. "The only thing he wanted was to score goals, so sometimes he listened to the coaches but sometimes he just did what he wanted," said Ivan Milosevic, the FBK Balkan president.

He played with Ibrahimovic when they were young and now trains the senior side. A former FBK Balkan coach Hasib Klicic has similar memories. He remembered Ibrahimovic as "a troublemaker. Not very good but he always wanted to play." "He was good but not 'wow what's happening here... He was a little bit slow when he started but the

finish was good!" recalled his coach at Malmo, Ola Gallstad, where Ibrahimovic went in 1994.

The stubbornly single-minded perseverance was the key to Ibrahimovic's success. And the powerful striker likes to trumpet it. "I came like a king, left like a legend," the 34-year-old Swede said as he confirmed last month that he would be leaving Paris Saint-Germain where he broke scoring records in four years. "From morning to night, he would practice with the ball, dribbling, feinting, playing, playing, playing," Milosevic said. "He always had a ball. I think he even slept with one. He was never without one," added Klicic. "He and a friend fought to score the most." Some FBK Balkan members say Zlatan has forgotten the team since becoming a star. But Milosevic avoids that debate. He prefers to remember a very determined player.

### ZLATAN TUNNEL VISION

The club president presses the message to young players that if Ibrahimovic can do it, so can they. FBK Balkan is based in the working class Rosengard district of Malmo. The flamboyant Ibrahimovic seems omnipresent. He rarely goes to the town of red brick apartment buildings now, but his unmistakable grin adorns a local tunnel wall. Young and old are quick to boast of their connections to Sweden's best known player who had a stellar career at Ajax Amsterdam, Inter Milan, Barcelona, Juventus, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain.

Even at 34, Ibrahimovic will be the centrepiece of Sweden's team at the European Championship finals. He is the all-time record national scorer with 62 goals and a 10-time winner of the national Guldbollen player of the year

award. As soon as school ends in Rosengard, kids rush out onto "Zlatan Court", kicking the ball around a pitch he had built and which is emblazoned with the gold swoosh of his sports equipment sponsor. "Everyone knows who Zlatan is. By contrast, not everyone knows who the king (of Sweden) is!", joked Milosevic. "For us, it's huge to play for his first club," said Max Skarpas Torres, a 19-year-old defender who wears the same FBK Balkan jersey that Zlatan wore, featuring the flags of Sweden and the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

FBK Balkan claims to be the oldest club in Europe representing a diaspora, as well as Ibrahimovic's alma mater. It has had its ups and downs over the years and is now struggling, having failed to attract the migrants from the Middle East who are now a majority in

Rosengard. "On our team, for those born in 1980-1981, we all came from the former Yugoslavia," recalled Milosevic. Born in Malmo, Sweden's third city, Ibrahimovic has a mother of Croatian origin and a Bosnian father.

The team still follow the Ibrahimovic ethic however. "If you really want it and give it all you've got, there's a chance you could become like Zlatan Ibrahimovic," said 24-year-old player Dino Dulji. For kids in this neighborhood, where unemployment is high, Ibrahimovic is a role model: the son of migrants who grew up in difficult conditions and managed to make it to the top ranks of the football world. "For the kids and youth of Malmo, he is proof that you can rise to the top echelons, that you can become someone in life," said Ibrahim, a 26-year-old Rosengard resident.—AFP

## WCUP AGONY STILL HURTING PANAMA

**ORLANDO:** Nearly three years after Panama agonizingly saw qualification for the World Cup slip out of their grasp in injury time in their final game, the feeling of hurt still hasn't gone. Indeed, according to veteran defender Felipe Baloy, that experience, which cost the team a first ever appearance on the biggest stage, is still very much an open wound.

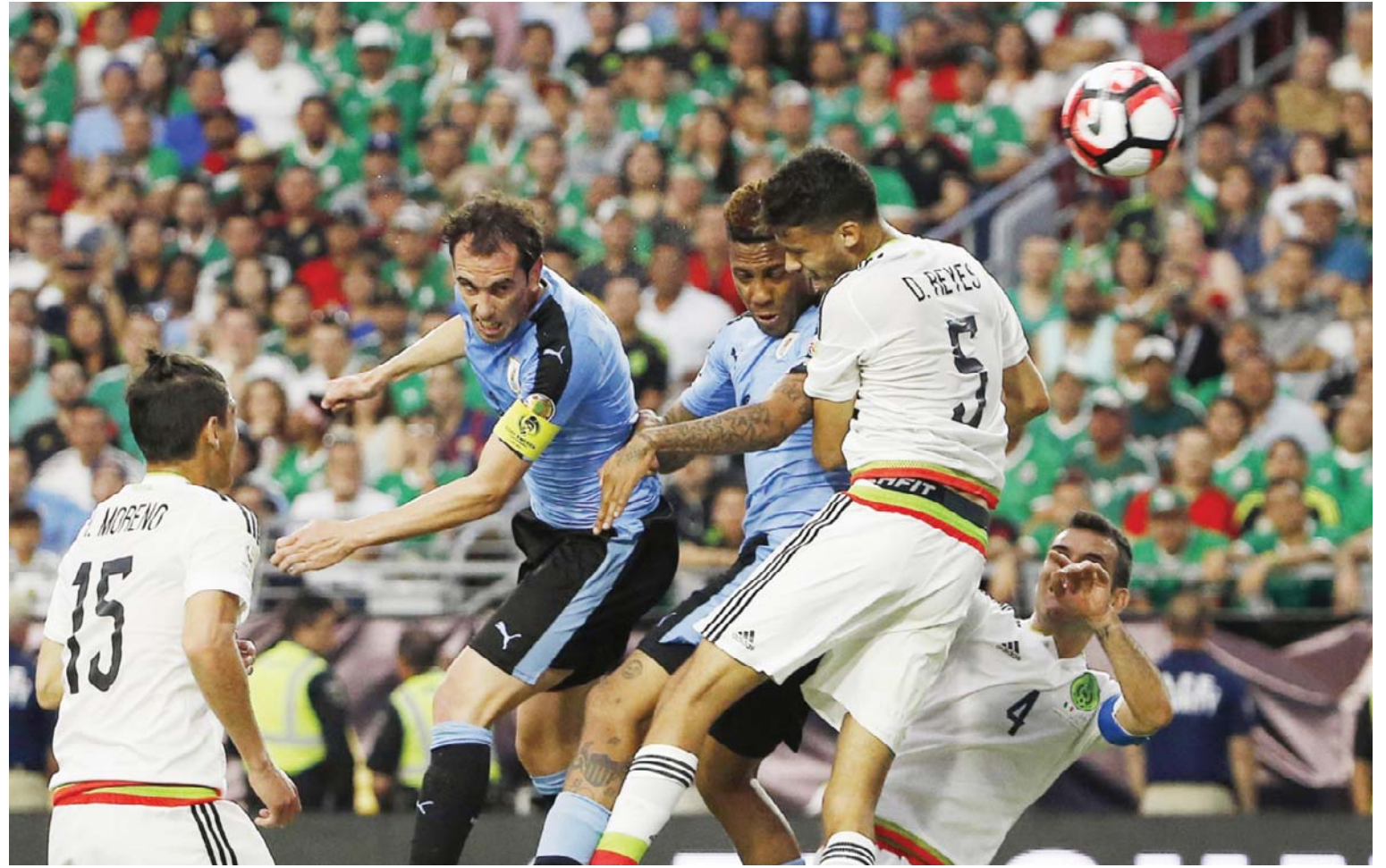
"That was a very bitter experience. And lot of Panamanians can't forget it. But the important thing is that we as players have the desire to turn it around and get to the next World Cup," he told reporters ahead of Monday's Copa America Centenario game against Bolivia. "That is not only my dream, that is my passion. Get to the World Cup," he said. Panama were 2-1 up against the United States heading into injury time with a win enough to secure them fourth place in CONCACAF qualifying and a play-off against Oceania's New Zealand for a place in Brazil.

But dramatically, the US scored twice in injury time meaning that Mexico grabbed fourth spot, beat the Kiwis and went on to reach the second round in Brazil. Coach Hernan Dario Gomez, a Colombian who took over after that campaign in 2014, has clearly used the lingering sense of hurt as motivation for his players. "It is good to hear that from Felipe because that is the mentality I want Panama to have, for us the ultimate goal is to get to the World Cup in

Russia. "These are things we are working on. Mentally it is about fighting for your goals and the goal is to get to a World Cup, to take that next step," he said.

At this Copa America, Panama have been drawn in a tough group which includes defending champions Chile and World Cup runners-up Argentina. Not surprising then, that with progress to the knockout stage a long-shot for the Central Americans, the focus is on using the tournament to get valuable experience for the push to get to Russia 2018. Panama has grown as a nation within CONCACAF and their days as a minnow are clearly over. Los Canaleros have reached the last four in their three most recent CONCACAF Gold Cup campaigns, losing 1-0 to the United States in the 2013 final.

"We are up against opponents here who are very experienced and with great history - Argentina and Chile are two of the best in the world, so they will show us if our work is effective or not for our goal. But in this tournament, we will try and get as far as we can," said Gomez, who added that he would prefer to face an Argentina with Lionel Messi in the line-up. "To be honest, the players would be sad if Messi didn't play, because we came here for that. We want the full Argentina because it's great to play against opponents like that - that's why we consider this a historic tournament for us," he said. — AFP



**GLENDAL:** Uruguay's Diego Godin, second from left, heads the ball to the goal for a score, sending it past Mexico's Diego Reyes (5), Rafael Marquez (4) and teammate Abel Hernandez as Mexico's Hector Moreno (15) looks on during the second half of a Copa America group C soccer match at University of Phoenix Stadium Sunday, in Glendale, Ariz. Mexico defeated Uruguay 3-1. — AP

## MEXICO DOWN URUGUAY AFTER ANTHEM BLUNDER

**GLENDAL:** Mexico defeated Uruguay 3-1 in a stormy Copa America Centenario on Sunday that saw both teams finish with 10 men after a pre-match furor over a bungled national anthem. A pulsating clash at the University of Phoenix stadium in Arizona saw Mexico take all three points in the crucial Group C battle through an own goal from Alvaro Pereira and late strikes from Rafa Marquez and Hector Herrera. Uruguay's lone strike came from captain Diego Godin, the Atletico Madrid player heading in an equalizer 16 minutes from time that looked to have secured the South Americans a share of the points. But 37-year-old Marquez's emphatic strike into the roof of the net on 85 minutes fired Mexico 2-1 up before Herrera added a third in injury time to complete a memorable victory for "El Tri".

Uruguay's players angrily remonstrated with match officials at the final whistle in an ill-tempered finale that capped a miserable afternoon for 'La Celeste'. Before kick-off, Uruguay's players had looked baffled as they lined up for their national anthem-only for Chile's national anthem to be played by mistake. Copa America Centenario organizers swiftly apologized for the blunder. "We sincerely apologize to the Uruguayan Federation, the Uruguayan National Team, the people of

Uruguay and to the fans for this mistake," a statement said, blaming the gaffe on "human error".

When the game kicked off, Mexico took the lead after only four minutes with a goal that owed everything to the guile of PSV Eindhoven midfielder Andres Guardado. The 29-year-old wide player carved out space for himself on the left flank superbly and then whipped in a wicked cross that sowed panic in the Uruguayan defense as Herrera lurked menacingly. Alvaro Pereira spotted the danger but as he scrambled to neutralize the threat, succeeded only in powering a header into his own net.

### GODIN PELTED

The goal rocked Uruguay who struggled to find their rhythm in the early exchanges. Paris Saint-Germain striker Edinson Cavani almost went close to equalizing on the half hour, but his low shot was saved brilliantly by Alfredo Talavera in the Mexico goal. On the stroke of half time it got worse for Uruguay when Matias Vecino picked up a second yellow card and received his marching orders. Diego Rolan almost equalized after a superb charging run from his own half by Godin, who laid off to Cavani who fed Rolan, only for the Uruguayan to shoot wide.

Guardado then received a second yellow to earn a red card and from the ensuing free-kick Godin headed Uruguay level-before being pelted with missiles from the overwhelmingly pro-Mexico crowd as he celebrated. The game appeared headed for a draw but Marquez rifled home score his 16th international goal in 131 appearances to put Mexico 2-1 up and Herrera added his injury-time third. Uruguay's veteran coach Oscar Tabarez refused to be downcast in defeat, paying tribute to his side's "courage" in coming back to level in hostile conditions. "I'm proud of the courage of the team and the way we came back," said Tabarez, whose side now face a tricky second game against Venezuela in Philadelphia on Thursday.

Venezuela improved their chances of progressing with a 1-0 win over Jamaica earlier Sunday. "We are in a difficult situation with Venezuela," Tabarez said. "We have to try to play well in that game, because if we lose we are out of the Cup," he said. Venezuela defeated Jamaica in Chicago thanks to a 16th minute strike from Josef Martinez. Jamaica were reduced to 10 men after Rodolph Austin was sent off in the first half while coach Winfried Schafer was also banished from the dugout at halftime.—AFP

## MOURINHO FACES GRILLING AFTER CHELSEA DOCTOR REJECTS £1.2M

**CROYDON:** Jose Mourinho faces a public grilling at an employment tribunal brought by former Chelsea doctor Eva Carneiro, which opened yesterday after she rejected a £1.2 million offer to settle the case. The tribunal heard that new Manchester United manager Mourinho is likely to be questioned for at least a day during the case. Carneiro is claiming constructive dismissal against Chelsea and a connected, personal legal action against Portuguese boss Mourinho, who left the Blues in December, for alleged victimization and sexual discrimination.

The case at the London South Employment Tribunal in suburban Croydon is expected to take seven to 10 days. Carneiro alleges she was sexually discriminated against by Chelsea's then-manager Mourinho shouting "filha da puta" at her-Portuguese for daughter of a whore after she ran on the pitch during a match. As preliminary matters in the case got under way, an extract from a statement by Mourinho was read out. In it he claimed he was known for regularly using the term "filho da puta", meaning son of a whore, and had done so throughout the match in question last August.

A skeleton argument submitted to the tribunal on behalf of Chelsea and Mourinho said Carneiro had been "made an open offer of £1.2 million (\$1.73 million, 1.52 million euros) to settle her claims". "The respondents have taken these steps only because they believe that it is in no-one's interests that this dispute should be determined through litigation." The argument claimed Carneiro had only made a discrimination claim in order to "lift the statutory cap" and thereby justify her "extravagant compensation claim".

### Semantic debate

In Mourinho's own statement, the manager said: "Filho da puta is a phrase I often use, all of the players know it. There is no sexist connotation in the use of the phrase. 'In the world of football, a lot of swear words are used.' In her opening argument, Carneiro's lawyer Mary O'Rourke said Mourinho had used the word filha rather than filho "because he is abusing a woman". The expression is "very offensive", she claimed, and was aimed at Carneiro because she was the "only female pitch-side".

Portuguese language experts could not agree on what Mourinho actually said during the confrontation, the tribunal heard. Carneiro, 42, is expected to begin giving two and a half days of evidence from today. She attended the tribunal yesterday though Mourinho did not. Mourinho dropped Carneiro as Chelsea's first team doctor after the Blues' opening match of last season in the English Premier League, a 2-2 draw at home to Swansea on August 8.

Mourinho angrily berated her after she and physio Jon Fearn went on the pitch to treat midfielder Eden Hazard, obliging him to leave the field of play before being readmitted. With Chelsea chasing a victory late in the game, that meant the Blues were temporarily down to nine players-goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois having already been sent off. The Portuguese boss branded Carneiro and Fearn "impulsive and naive", saying they failed to understand the match situation. She did not appear on the bench again for first-team duties and later parted company with Chelsea. The tribunal was adjourned until 2:00pm (1300 GMT) today.—AFP



**ILLINOIS:** Jamaica's Joel McAnuff (R) falls next to Venezuela's Oswaldo Vizcarrondo during the Copa America Centenario football tournament in Chicago, Illinois, United States, on Sunday. — AFP

## GUARDIOLA 'WILL TRANSFORM' CITY

**LONDON:** New manager Pep Guardiola is an "incredible asset" who will "transform" Manchester City, the Premier League club's chairman said yesterday. Guardiola will arrive at Eastlands with a stellar reputation, having twice won the Champions League with Barcelona and seven titles in three years with Bayern Munich, whom the 45-year-old Spaniard left at the end of last season. Khaldoon Al-Mubarak, City's chairman since the club was bought by the Abu Dhabi United group in September 2006, is in no doubt that Guardiola was the right man to replace Manuel Pellegrini.

"I'm absolutely excited about Pep joining our team," he told City TV, the club's in-house television station. "I consider Pep to be one of the best, if not the best, managers today in football." "He's a winner, he's a proven winner, he has won professionally in every team he has coached, his record at Bayern Munich, his record at Barcelona, I think speaks for itself." "The trophies he's won...every single club competition out there, from the Champions League to La Liga to the Bundesliga, to the respective cups...I have no doubt that he will transform our team to a whole new level."

Mubarak met with Guardiola in Abu Dhabi earlier this week, although City's new manager does not officially start work until next month. Last season saw City, who confirmed Guardiola was taking over during the campaign, finish fourth under Chilean boss Pellegrini and edge out local rivals Manchester United for a place in the Champions League. Pellegrini's three years in charge yielded three trophies, winning the Premier League and the League Cup in his first season. No silverware

made it to Eastlands in 2014/15 but last term saw City lift the League Cup again and get to the semi-finals of the Champions League. But that's not good enough as far as City's owners are concerned, with domestic and Champions League titles in their sights, for all that Mubarak acknowledged Pellegrini's contribution to the club. "Let's be objective first," the City chairman said. "Over three years we won our second Premier League title in the history of the club, we've won two League Cups under Manuel, we've gone to the semi-finals of the Champions League for the first time, we've scored—I think an incredible amount of goals.

"So there are a lot of achievements that have been made in those three years that I think we all have to recognize... Manuel and the team around him, we should thank them and be grateful for these achievements." "At the same time, I think we also can't hide the disappointment, particularly this year." "I think all of us came with high expectations for this season, and I think, at the end of the day, I cannot hide the disappointment of myself, obviously (club owner) Sheikh Mansour, I know the fans of the club, and I'm sure the entire team." Guardiola's first match as City manager will be a pre-season friendly away to former club Bayern in Munich on July 20.—AFP



**MARSEILLE:** People walk in Marseille yesterday by the "Cube M" office opened for all fans and supporters to check information about the UEFA EURO 2016 championships events in the city. The French authorities have mustered 90,000 security personnel to guard stadiums and "fan zones" where spectators will gather to watch the matches on giant screens. — AFP



# Sports

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Warner half  
century as Aussies  
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OAKLAND: Draymond Green #23 of the Golden State Warriors defends against Richard Jefferson #24 of the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 2 of the 2016 NBA Finals at ORACLE Arena on Sunday in Oakland, California. —AFP

## WARRIORS DESTROY CAVALIERS 110-77

CAVS GET HAMMERED IN GAME 2; LOVE LEAVES WITH CONCUSSION

**OAKLAND:** Draymond Green emphatically flexed his bulging biceps with big plays on both ends of the floor, and these determined Golden State Warriors might just be far too strong for the Cleveland Cavaliers. That repeat championship Golden State has spoken of since the very start more than eight months ago is suddenly two wins from becoming reality. It will be the only way the Warriors' record-setting season ends right. For now, they sure seem unstoppable.

Green had 28 points with five 3-pointers, seven rebounds and five assists, while MVP Stephen Curry scored 18 points despite foul trouble, and Golden State thoroughly overwhelmed Cleveland 110-77 in Game 2 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night. "They just beat us," LeBron James said. "We didn't win anything. At no point in the game did we win anything." The 33-point win was the Warriors' most lopsided ever in a finals game. "I'm

definitely surprised at the margin of victory tonight," coach Steve Kerr said. "It happens in the NBA, sometimes things get away from you. Sometimes shots go in, sometimes they don't ...

Everything changes when we go to Cleveland, we know that." Once the Splash Brothers found their shooting touch, Cleveland couldn't keep up. Klay Thompson got hot after halftime to finish with 17 points and five assists as Golden State became the first team to go ahead 2-0 in the finals since the Lakers in 2009 against Orlando. "What we've done the last few years, everybody, every night has an impact," Curry said. "You don't know where it's going to come from any given night. We've got to keep our focus and our edge and hopefully get two more."

Now, the series shifts to Cleveland, and James and the Cavs must show up for Game 3 on Wednesday in front of their title-starved fans

down 2-0 to the defending champs and with forward Kevin Love dealing with a head injury.

### GUYS ARE NOT DISCOURAGED

The NBA said Love experienced dizziness early in the second half and left for the locker room to be re-examined, then was placed in the NBA's concussion protocol. The league said he didn't exhibit any symptoms before then, even after taking an elbow to the back of the head from Harrison Barnes in the second quarter and going down for several minutes before returning following a timeout. He made a baseline 3-pointer for the Cavs' first basket in nearly 51/2 minutes.

After a scoreless first quarter when he missed all five shots but had five assists, James scored 14 of his 19 points in the second and also finished with nine assists and eight rebounds, but seven turnovers - and he took the blame. James' teams

had won nine straight postseason Game 2s after losing the series opener dating back to a loss in the 2008 Eastern Conference semifinals to Boston. "The guys are not discouraged," Cleveland coach Tyrone Lue said. "But we've got to be tougher. ... They did what they were supposed to do, they won two games at home. We've got to get home and do the same." After Curry and Thompson combined for only 20 points in Thursday's 104-89 Game 1 win on 8-for-27 shooting and the bench carried the load, they each hit four 3-pointers and went 13 for 24.

Leandro Barbosa had three straight transition layups in the third quarter and scored 10 points for his first back-to-back postseason games in double figures since 2008. Green shot 11 for 20 and made 5 of 8 3-pointers, sparking a suggestion he might apply to be a Splash Brother with fellow All-Stars Curry and Thompson. "Stop it," Green said

with a chuckle. "Tonight, he's one of us," Thompson said. The Warriors' 87 victories combined from their record 73-win regular season and the playoffs matched the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls, the group Golden State topped for the most regular season victories in NBA history of 73.

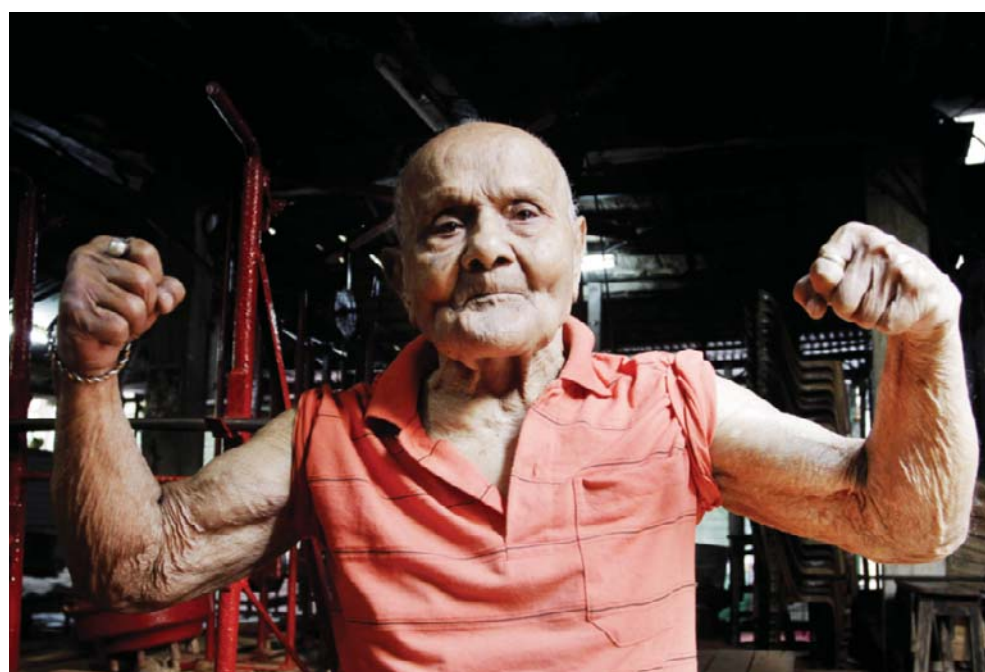
Andrew Bogut had four of his five blocks - Golden State had nine overall - in the first 7:15 and received a standing ovation when he came out at 3:50 in the first then went to the locker room late in the quarter. He hit his hand on the rim early and grimaced in pain. Green credited the defense for holding down James and Co. While the outspoken swingman insists he just wants rings and isn't yet ready to consider the Warriors among the best of all time, the typically quiet Thompson let loose a little. "We're better than the Showtime Lakers," he quipped, a friendly jab at father, Mychal. —AP

## INDIA'S 'POCKET HERCULES' DEAD

**KOLKATA:** Manohar Aich, the bodybuilder who became the first Indian to take the Mr. Universe title in 1952 and won the nickname 'Pocket Hercules' for his tiny stature, has died aged 104. Aich, who stood just 1.5 meters (four feet, 11 inches) tall, started lifting weights in 1942 when he was working as a gym instructor in the Royal Indian Air Force.

That job ended when he slapped a British officer who had made an offensive remark about Indians, earning him a brief jail term—a punishment he later described as a "blessing in disguise." "The jailor had been very kind and allowed me to train. In fact, he encouraged it," Aich told the Indian Express newspaper in an interview to mark his 100th birthday. He emerged from prison as India won its independence in 1947 and decided to settle in the eastern city of Kolkata, where he turned to selling coconuts for a living.

But his interest in bodybuilding continued and in 1951 he travelled to Britain to take part in the Mr. Universe competition. When he missed out on the title he decided to stay on in Britain and have another go, taking a job with British Rail. In 1952 he became the first Indian ever to win. Aich died at his home in Kolkata on Sunday, his son told AFP by phone. "Our father used to say discipline comes from within. He always maintained a strict regimen—sit-ups, push-ups," said Manoj Aich. "His simple diet of milk, fruits and vegetables along with rice, lentils and fish kept him healthy. He never smoked, nor did he take alcohol." —AFP



**KOLKATA:** In this March 16, 2012 file photo, Indian bodybuilder Manohar Aich flexes his muscles as he poses for a photograph at a gymnasium in Kolkata, India. Aich, a celebrated Indian bodybuilder and former Mr Universe, has died in the eastern city of Kolkata at the age of 104. — AP

## WARRIORS' STAR CURRY SWAPS JERSEYS WITH BRAZIL'S NEYMAR

**OAKLAND:** NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry swapped jerseys with Brazilian football star Neymar on Sunday after Curry helped the Golden State Warriors rout Cleveland 110-77 in the NBA Finals. NBA scoring champion Curry made the exchange shortly after the defending NBA champions seized a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven championship series, which resumes Wednesday in Cleveland.

Curry's Brazilian teammates, Leandro Barbosa and Anderson Varejao, also received autographed jerseys from the 24-year-old Brazilian striker, a spectator for the blowout of LeBron James and company. "It's the first time we've met," Curry said. "LB and Varejao talk about him all the time. But obviously a star in the soccer world, and such skill and kind of grace when he's out there on the field, so he's fun to watch."

Neymar had been in the Rose Bowl on Saturday along such Hollywood celebrities as Justin Bieber and Jamie Foxx to watch Brazil play Ecuador to a goal-less draw in Copa America Centenario, the special 100th anniversary edition of the South American football championship being staged in US

stadiums. Neymar is skipping the Copa to focus on the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August, where he'll try to help Brazil claim one of the few trophies it lacks in football, Olympic gold. Curry proudly displayed Neymar's number 11 uniform while the Brazilian smiled as she showed off Curry's number 30 on a yellow jersey. Curry has also exchanged jerseys with Argentine star Lionel Messi, Neymar's Barcelona teammate.

That swap was engineered via social media, but it was fun for Curry to see Neymar in person. "I know he's a basketball head," Curry said. "I saw him dribbling two basketballs the other day trying to mimic my two-ball routine." "I told him I appreciate that and he doesn't want to see me with a soccer ball because I wouldn't know what to do. It's pretty cool to know we've got fans all over and obviously it's inspiring what he does on the soccer field." Curry missed a chance to catch up with Messi, whose team faced Chile in their Copa opener in nearby Santa Clara, California yesterday. "Obviously schedules didn't work out," Curry said. "But he's got business to take care of, so good luck to him." —AFP



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BEIJING: US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew (C) and his delegation attend the 8th round of the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue with China's Vice Premier Wang Yang at Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing yesterday. —AFP.

## US RAPS CHINA ON EXCESS STEEL PRODUCTION

### BEIJING BLAMED FOR PLANT CLOSURES AND JOB LOSSES WORLDWIDE

BEIJING: Chinese oversupply of steel is "damaging and distorting" global markets, US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said yesterday, joining a chorus of criticism that blames Beijing for plant closures and job losses in the industry worldwide. China is the world's number one steelmaker, producing more than half of global output, but stands accused of flooding the market with steel at below cost prices-dumping-in violation of international trade rules.

"Excess capacity has a distorting and damaging effect on global markets," Lew said at the US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Beijing, a key annual meeting between the world's two top economic powers. "Implementing policies to substantially reduce production in a range of sectors suffering from overcapacity, including steel and alu-

minium, is critical to the function and stability of international markets."

Lew's comments echo those of other senior officials around the world who have blamed the Chinese supply glut for industry turmoil in Europe and elsewhere. Among those hit has been Indian-owned Tata Steel, which said in March it was selling its struggling British assets-putting 15,000 jobs at risk.

At Group of Seven summit talks in Japan last month world leaders said the global steel oversupply must be "urgently addressed", in what was seen as a barely disguised jab at China. The US has punished Beijing with harsh tariffs, most recently in March, when it slapped a 300 percent rate on the cold rolled steel used to make auto parts. The EU, the second-biggest steel producer, has launched a dumping probe into Chinese steel but angry manu-

facturers have urged it to mirror the US's tough tariffs. The 28-nation bloc said this month that granting market economy status for China at the World Trade Organization was "untenable" because it would cost jobs in Europe in industries such as steel.

The designation would make it much harder for major economies to fight Beijing over alleged unfair trading practices. But Beijing hit back Monday, with Finance Minister Lou Jiwei defending overcapacity as a hangover of China's rapid economic growth.

"Now the world is pointing a finger at China saying its overcapacity is a drag on the world, but they didn't say so at the time China contributed to world growth." He added that half of Chinese steelmaking firms are privately owned, and "they are not going to accept any instructions from us".

#### Social instability

China's steel industry is huge, with national production growing sevenfold from 2000 to 2014 on the back of massive infrastructure investment in cities and as the government ploughed billions of dollars into heavy industry to counter the impact of the 2008 financial crisis. But demand for steel has fallen as the rate of economic growth has slowed, leaving producers making hundreds of millions of tons more than they can sell domestically each year.

Chinese leaders have repeatedly pledged to address the issue of excess capacity, admitting it is a drag on their own economy. The country's largest steel firms are state run, and the government wields significant control over the industry as a whole. Beijing has vowed to eliminate 100 million to 150 million

tons of capacity-out of a total of 1.2 billion tons-by 2020, saying the reforms would cost 500,000 jobs. But local governments with ownership stakes in steel firms have resisted reforms, fearing the social instability that mass layoffs could cause.

Ratings agency Fitch has said that the plan to cut capacity "faces immense social and financial challenges", while laid-off steelworkers have already begun to protest at losing their jobs.

Ahead of the Beijing meeting, Lew said he didn't think policies to deal with excess capacity had been implemented. "They made the policy commitment to make these changes, they now have to implement and execute, not just at the national level but at the provincial level as well," he said according to Bloomberg. — AFP

## SAUDI SHARES UP BEFORE ECONOMIC REFORM DETAILS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's stock market rose yesterday before the kingdom announced details of its economic reform plan. Other Gulf markets were mixed as the start of the religious holiday of Ramadan thinned trading volumes. The National Transformation Plan, part of reforms intended to make the Saudi economy less dependent on oil revenue, was to be presented to the cabinet for approval late yesterday. Details were to be disclosed in daily news conferences with ministers starting on Monday evening.

It was not clear which economic policies would be discussed in the news conferences, but the broad reform plan is known to include subsidy cuts, tax increases, sales of state assets, a government efficiency drive and efforts to spur private-sector investment.

The Saudi stock index dropped 1.2 percent on Sunday as local investors worried about the austerity measures. But stocks drifted back up in thin trade yesterday and the index closed 1.0 percent higher. Saudi Basic Industries, which could be hurt by future cuts in energy and gas feedstock subsidies and fell 3.6 percent on Sunday, rebounded 2.2 percent yesterday.

However, telecommunications company Zain Saudi, which jumped its 10

percent daily limit on Sunday after signing a 2.25 billion-riyal (\$600 million) loan refinancing, fell 4.2 percent.

Dubai's index dropped 0.2 percent as Dubai Islamic Bank fell 1.8 percent. The stock has been under pressure for most of the time since its rights issue started trading on May 30; the last day of trading those rights will be June 13. Abu Dhabi's index rose 0.4 percent, led by volatile trade in First Gulf Bank, which dropped early on but closed 0.8 percent higher.

Qatar gained 0.7 percent, buoyed by second-tier banks such as Qatar Islamic Bank, up 1.2 percent, and Qatar Commercial Bank, which was 2.4 percent higher.

In Egypt, the index climbed 1.0 percent on the back of strength in emerging markets. Commercial International Bank, the biggest lender, rose 2.9 percent in its heaviest trade since last November. EFG Hermes gained 2.7 percent to an 11-month high. On Sunday, the company said Lebanon's central bank had approved its sale of a 40 percent stake in Credit Libanais; EFG Hermes's board agreed in March to sell a 40 percent stake in Credit Libanais to Arab and Lebanese investors at \$33 per share, and to sell its remaining shares by next May. — Reuters



GENEVA: Nestle's CEO Paul Bulcke, left, speaks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, center, and Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann, right, after a round table with the Swiss Economic representatives, in Geneva, Switzerland, yesterday. — AP

## MODI WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH SWISS ON TAX-EVASION

GENEVA: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi says his country and Switzerland have a "shared priority" in fighting tax evasion and the practice of squirreling away "black money" in Swiss banks. Modi spoke yesterday to reporters alongside Switzerland's president in a brief stop in Geneva as part of a five-country trip. Modi's next stop is Washington.

The Indian leader pointed to "the need for an early and expeditious

exchange of information to bring to justice the tax offenders." President Johann Schneider-Ammann said Switzerland will dispatch a state secretary for international financial matters to India on June 14 to explore tighter cooperation on the matter.

Schneider-Ammann said he and Modi did not discuss any figures about the number of Indian tax evaders or the total value of their assets involving Switzerland. — AP

## SAUDI OKAYS ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION PLAN

JEDDAH: Saudi officials have finalized a detailed plan to diversify the kingdom's economy away from oil and have sent it for cabinet approval, official media said yesterday. The National Transformation Program (NTP) will elaborate upon Vision 2030, an 84-page document released in April by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, 30, who is leading the reform charge.

At the heart of the Vision is a plan to float less than five percent of state oil firm Saudi Aramco on the stock market. The proceeds would become part of the world's largest state investment fund, with \$2 trillion in assets.

Profits from the investment fund would help economic diversification and provide an alternative to oil revenues that have fallen by about half since 2014. The collapse has accelerated Saudi efforts to move away from petroleum which still accounts for the bulk of government income.

The main economic coordinating body, the Council of Economic Affairs and Development chaired by

Prince Mohammed, on Sunday night decided to submit the "final version" of the NTP to the cabinet for approval, the Saudi Press Agency said. The cabinet normally meets on Mondays. A press conference is expected in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, the summer home of the government, last night.

According to Vision 2030, the NTP relates to the government's role "in implementing the initiatives necessary for delivering on national priorities." It said opportunities for partnering with the private sector were being looked at, "as well as innovative administrative and funding approaches. We are detailing specific initiatives that have clear performance indicators."

Among its wide-ranging goals the Vision aims to reduce unemployment, increase women's participation in the workforce, boost private sector economic contributions, and develop cultural and entertainment activities in the kingdom. Saudi Arabia is one of the world's most conservative societies, but more than half of its citizen population is younger than 25. — AFP



# VIVA LAUNCHES 'WIN BIG IN RAMADAN' CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, launched the campaign "Win Big in Ramadan" that allows postpaid customers to win valuable cash prizes during the holy month Ramadan.

VIVA gives the customers a wonderful opportunity to win amazing cash prizes this Ramadan - KD 100 daily, KD 500 fortnightly and KD 1,000 at the end of the month, once they pay their VIVA bills through Direct Debit, VIVA website,

VIVA App or by calling 102 during the holy month.

Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA said: "VIVA is always keen to communicate with its customers, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, thus we launched "Win Big in Ramadan" campaign, to allow customers to enter draws during Ramadan and win valuable prizes." He added: "customers earn 2 chances if they pay their bills through

direct debit or call center, and 1 chance through app and website, for each KD 1."

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer-centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by

being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.



Abdulrazzaq Bader Al-Essa

# ITALY EXPORT CREDIT AGENCY PLANS ISLAMIC FINANCE PUSH

## ISLAMIC FINANCE INDUSTRY GROWING FAST IN MIDDLE EAST

**DUBAI:** Italy's export credit agency SACE plans to move into Islamic finance, becoming one of the first Western trade finance bodies to do so, in order to support expansion of its business in the Middle East and North Africa.

"We think we can reach more customers, small ones as well as large, in consumer goods industries and other areas," SACE chairman Giovanni Castellana said in an interview.

SACE insured 40.7 billion euros (\$46.4 billion) of international risk at the end of last year, up 11.6 percent from a year earlier. The Middle East and North Africa accounted for 14 percent of the total, the largest fraction outside Italy. Around a quarter of banking business in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council is sharia-compliant.

Italy is also keen to develop business with Iran, where the entire banking system is designated Islamic, after the lifting of international sanctions on that country last January. SACE said in April that it would guarantee credit lines of 4 billion euros which Italian state-run lender Cassa Depositi e Prestiti would offer to companies building oil-and-gas and transport infrastructure in Iran.

Last year Britain's export credit agency guaranteed a \$913 million Islamic bond issue by Emirates, the Dubai-based airline which is a major customer of Airbus. But the vast majority of deals by Western trade agencies in the region are still based on conventional finance. Marco Ferioli, head of SACE's regional office in Dubai, which opened in February, said his organisation was talking with big international banks that operated Islamic windows to see how SACE's deals could comply with Islam's ban on interest payments.

"We are studying the more common

Islamic structures for financing investment and export contracts in order to understand...amendments of our standard guarantees, to align and make them compliant with the requirements of an Islamic structure."

One of SACE's two basic conventional finance structures is a "supplier credit" scheme in which the Italian agency covers an exporter's risk of payments being deferred from a short maturity to the longer term. "It seems that only a few amendments would be needed to make

the conventional supplier credit scheme compliant with sharia principles," Ferioli said. "An international bank with Islamic window operations should easily discount the receivables insured by SACE."

The other conventional structure used by SACE is a "buyer credit" scheme, often employed to finance big equipment purchases and turn-key projects, in which the agency covers the risk of a term loan extended by a bank to a foreign buyer.

Ferioli said SACE was studying how this might be replaced by Islamic structures

such as commodity murabaha, in which one party purchases an asset on credit from a second party on a deferred payment basis, and istisna, a form of sharia-compliant manufacturing contract.

"Conventional products are and will continue to represent the core of our business. Nevertheless, Islamic finance is growing across the region and we are increasingly receiving requests about that from some of our customers in markets like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Iran." —Reuters



**PARIS:** Gilbert Garrel, leader of the French trade union CGT-Cheminots, speaks to journalists as workers of the French national state-owned railway company SNCF demonstrate yesterday in Paris, during negotiations on the organization of working time between unions representatives and the board of the company. —AFP

### News

in brief

#### US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at KD 0.301, while the euro went down to KD 0.341 compared to Sunday rates, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound dropped to KD 0.432, and the Swiss franc was stable at KD 0.308, while the exchange rate of the Japanese yen remained unchanged at KD 0.002.

#### Yield drops on Egyptian debt at auction

**CAIRO:** Yields on the Egyptian government's five-year bonds dropped at an auction yesterday, data from the central bank showed. The average yield on the five-year bond dropped to 15.684 percent yesterday from an average of 15.705 percent at the previous auction on May 23.

#### Dubai Islamic Bank to open rights issue for AED 3.16bn

**DUBAI:** Dubai Islamic Bank will open subscriptions today for a 3.16 billion dirham (\$860.3 million) rights issue aimed at bolstering the capital base of the United Arab Emirates' largest sharia-compliant lender. The bank is offering 988.4 million new shares to shareholders in total, with subscription open on the basis of one new share for every four currently held, according to a document detailing the offering. Shares are priced at 3.2 dirhams each, a substantial discount to Monday's closing share price of 4.95 dirhams. Rights issues in the Gulf are traditionally sold at substantial discounts to the stock price to attract local subscribers. Those wishing to sell their rights to buy new stock can do so until June 13, with the subscription period for the capital increase closing on June 20.

#### Turkish lira's effective exchange rate falls to 99.14

**ANKARA:** The consumer price index-based real effective exchange rate of the Turkish lira fell to 99.14 in May, from a revised 101.76 in April, central bank data showed yesterday. The rate measures the weighted average of domestic prices relative to those of Turkey's trading partners. In September, the rate had hit the lowest level since January 2003.

# UGANDA ECONOMY TO GROW 5.9% IN FISCAL 2016/17: WB

**KAMPALA:** Uganda's economy will grow by 5.9 percent in the 2016/2017 (July-June) fiscal year, up almost a percentage point from the levels estimated for the previous 12 months thanks to spending on large infrastructure projects, the World Bank said.

The bank said in a report published yesterday that private sector investment was expected to pick up as fears of political turmoil continued to dissipate after the relatively peaceful conclusion of national elections in February. Veteran leader Yoweri Museveni, 71, was re-elected for another five-year term, extending his three decades in office, although the opposition disputed the result.

"The predominant driver of growth will be an increase in ... the construction sector,

with this growth driven by Uganda's significant investments in public infrastructure," the bank said.

Uganda, which has found oil reserves that it wants to develop, is rolling out a range of big energy and transport projects, including highways, two hydropower dams, a crude oil pipeline and a refinery.

"The stimulus effects from this large public investment program will offset those of a weak external sector," it said. Some projects are being financed with credit from China and the government has indicated it wants Beijing to help fund more initiatives, such as a new railway link to Kenya and the coast. Uganda's total public debt stood at 31.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of 2015

and is seen rising to 46.1 percent of GDP by 2018, according to the bank's data.

The bank said any surge in debt beyond the threshold of 50 percent of GDP could pose risks to the outlook if investments did not generate sufficient revenues to service the debt. Possible adverse weather affecting an economy still heavily reliant on agriculture, regional instability and protracted low global economic growth could undermine prospects for Uganda, which neighbors conflict-torn South Sudan, the bank added. Economic growth for the 2015/2016 fiscal year is currently estimated at 5 percent. The World Bank figure suggests slightly faster growth than the 5.5 percent previously forecast by the IMF for 2016/17. —Reuters

# OIL PRICES RISE ON DOLLAR SLUMP

**LONDON:** Oil prices pushed higher yesterday thanks to a softer dollar caused by last week's disappointing US jobs report, but gains were capped by signs of higher output according to analysts.

At about 1200 GMT, Brent North Sea crude for delivery in August was up 54 cents at \$50.18 a barrel. US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for July delivery climbed 55 cents to \$49.17 a barrel compared with Friday's close. The US currency was sent plunging on Friday after the jobs numbers, making the dollar-denominated currency cheaper for holders of rival currencies.

The US Labor Department on Friday said that just 38,000 jobs were created last month, a quarter of what had been expected by financial markets.

With a US interest rate rise not now seen before September at the earliest, the dollar in turn tumbled, before recovering in early trading yesterday. IG Markets analyst Bernard Aw meanwhile noted that current oil price movements were "not in proportion to the dollar retreat".

He added: "One would have expected oil prices to push much higher than what we're seeing... traders might be waiting for news more related to oil itself" such as the supply-demand picture.

The market was reacting also to the Baker Hughes weekly North American rig count that showed an increase of nine onshore oil drilling platforms in the US. Friday's update came after the refusal last week by export cartel OPEC to agree to output limits. With oil prices up about 85 percent from the near 13-year lows touched at the start of the year, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries did not feel a need to alter current production policy. —AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>ASIAN COUNTRIES</b>		
Japanese Yen	2.835	
Indian Rupees	4.510	
Pakistani Rupees	2.882	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.050	
Nepali Rupees	2.813	
Singapore Dollar	224.250	
Hongkong Dollar	38.875	
Bangladesh Taka	3.850	
Philippine Peso	6.501	
Thai Baht	8.511	
<b>GCC COUNTRIES</b>		
Saudi Riyal	80.563	
Qatari Riyal	82.987	
ani Riyal	784.693	
Bahraini Dinar	802.310	
UAE Dirham	82.253	
<b>ARAB COUNTRIES</b>		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.150	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.393	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.213	
Tunisian Dinar	142.300	
Jordanian Dinar	425.610	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013	
Syrian Lira	2.153	
Morocco Dirham	31.784	
<b>EUROPEAN &amp; AMERICAN COUNTRIES</b>		
US Dollar Transfer	301.950	
Euro	344.980	
Sterling Pound	441.600	

Canadian dollar	235.350
Turkish lira	104.366
Swiss Franc	312.740
Australian Dollar	225.250
US Dollar Buying	300.750

	GOLD
20 Gram	251.850
10 Gram	128.850
5 Gram	65.270

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.000
Canadian Dollar	234.405
Sterling Pound	440.385
Euro	345.255
Swiss Frank	296.765
Bahrain Dinar	801.595
UAE Dirhams	82.735
Qatari Riyals	83.950
Saudi Riyals	81.480
Jordanian Dinar	426.835
Egyptian Pound	34.024
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.057
Indian Rupees	4.498
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Peso	6.508
Cyprus pound	577.120
Japanese Yen	3.835
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.805
Malaysian Ringgit	75.020

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.470
Thai Bhat	9.540
Turkish Lira	104.640

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.427214	0.437214
Czech Korune	0.004651	0.016651
Danish Krone	0.041956	0.046956
Euro	0.0336965	0.0345965
Norwegian Krone	0.032810	0.038010
Romanian Leu	0.075625	0.075625
Slovakia	0.008995	0.018995
Swedish Krona	0.032912	0.037912
Swiss Franc	0.302420	0.313420
Turkish Lira	0.098508	0.108808
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.213144	0.225144
New Zealand Dollar	0.202513	0.212013
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.227349	0.236349
US Dollars	0.298050	0.302750
US Dollars Mint	0.298550	0.302750
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003404	0.003988
Chinese Yuan	0.044453	0.047953
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036807	0.039557
Indian Rupee	0.004192	0.004602

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002734	0.002914
Kenyan Shilling	0.002982	0.002982
Korean Won	0.000248	0.000263
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069885	0.075885
Nepalese Rupee	0.002879	0.003049
Pakistan Rupee	0.002709	0.002999
Philippine Peso	0.006379	0.006679
Sierra Leone	0.000073	0.000079
Singapore Dollar	0.216296	0.226296
South African Rand	0.013894	0.022394
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001669	0.002249
Taiwan	0.009217	0.009397
Thai Baht	0.008206	0.008756
<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.794890	0.803390
Egyptian Pound	0.027923	0.033041
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422155	0.431155
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020766	0.044766
Nigerian Naira	0.000914	0.001549
Omani Riyal	0.778385	0.784065
Qatar Riyal	0.082182	0.083632
Saudi Riyal	0.079487	0.080787
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.139580	0.147580
Turkish Lira	0.098508	0.108808
UAE Dirhams	0.080839	0.082539
Yemeni Riyal	0.001365	0.001445





BRUSSELS: National Bank (BNB-NBB) governor Jan Smets delivers a speech during a press conference of the Belgium national bank on the economic forecasts, in Brussels yesterday. —AFP

## ABRAAJ MOVES INTO TURKISH BANKING WITH FIBABANKA BUY

ISTANBUL: Emerging markets focused private equity firm Abraaj Group said yesterday it had acquired a minority stake in Fibabanka to get a foothold in the Turkish banking sector.

Private equity deal activity has dropped off in Turkey due to rising political uncertainty, security concerns and a struggling currency, which make it harder to lure new investors and exit investments profitably. However, Abraaj's move to buy a 9.95 percent stake in Fibabanka comes days after British private equity firm Bridgepoint bought Turkish dried fruit and nuts producer Peyman in a deal sources said was worth some \$110 million.

Fibabanka will use the investment by Abraaj, which has about \$9 billion in assets under management, to expand its franchise and support its growth, Abraaj said in a statement. Details of the Fibabanka deal were not disclosed, although Abraaj said that following the investment it will have deployed around \$900 million of capital in Turkey since 2007. "The Turkish banking sector loan book has increased tenfold in the last decade, yet Turkey remains an under-leveraged market

with a household debt to GDP ratio that is approximately a third of the Eurozone average," said Selcuk Yorgancoglu, Partner and Regional Head of Turkey and Central Asia at The Abraaj Group.

"The country's young and rising middle class continues to fuel demand for loan products and Fibabanka is well-positioned to expand in the market."

Established by leading Turkish businessman Husnu Ozyegin in 1987, the Fiba Group is also involved in real estate, retailing, hotel management and energy. Fibabanka was acquired by Fiba Group in 2010. It currently has 70 branches across 18 cities in Turkey, total assets of \$4.3 billion and a loan book of \$3.2 billion at the end of first quarter of 2016, the statement said. The bank's focus was on commercial, corporate and SME customer segments, it said.

EBRD and IFC both have 9.95 percent stakes in Fibabanka.

Turkish M&A activity has also been subdued, with only 41 transactions in the first four months of this year in the country, according to data from Ernst & Young, the lowest level since 2009, during the global financial crisis. — Reuters

## SYRIAN GOVT RAISES LOCAL WHEAT PRICE

ABU DHABI: Syria's government has raised the price it pays local farmers for their wheat to 100 Syrian pounds (\$0.212) a kg as it attempts to buy as much Syrian grain as possible, a government source said yesterday. The source, who did not give a figure for how much was targeted for buying this year, said harvesting of wheat had started while local buying would begin "within days".

Syria's General Organization for Cereal Processing and Trade (Hoboob) is the state agency responsible for buying the country's wheat crop. Farmers were offered 60 pounds a kg in the 2015 season. "We aim to buy everything that is offered to Hoboob," the government source said.

This year it has set up 29 collection centres across Syria to buy grain, down from around 140 before the civil war which has fractured state agricultural support systems.

The government is yet to give an estimate of areas planted and crop estimates.

Last year, farmers sold just over 450,000 tons of wheat, a fraction of the 1-1.5 million tons that is needed to provide enough bread to government-held areas of the country alone, government sources and traders said.

Farmers have said the government agency is the only body capable of buying the wheat at suitable prices. Those who are unable to reach collection centres usually sell their grain to traders who end up eventually selling the crop to Hoboob. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization has told Reuters that the area of land sown with wheat and barley for the 2015-2016 season has decreased to 2.16 million hectares, down from 2.38 million hectares the previous season and 3.125 million in 2010 before the war, and only around two-thirds of the area targeted by the government.

Before the conflict Syria could produce 4 million tons of wheat in a good year, with around 2.5 million going to the state and the surplus exported. — Reuters

# HENKEL REPORTS GOOD SALES AND EARNINGS PERFORMANCE IN Q1

## SALES INCREASED TO 4,456 MILLION EUROS

DUSSELDORF: "Henkel had a good start into the fiscal year 2016. We further grew sales and earnings and significantly increased adjusted return on sales to 16.8 percent. All three business units contributed to the overall good performance. We delivered strong organic growth again in our emerging markets," said Henkel CEO Hans Van Bylen. With regard to the current fiscal year, Van Bylen stated: "We expect the overall challenging market environment to continue in 2016 - with only moderate global economic growth, high uncertainties in the markets and unfavorable foreign exchange developments. We will therefore focus on leveraging our strong brands, our leading market positions and our innovation capabilities to achieve our ambitious targets." Adjusted for one-time charges/gains and restructuring charges.

### Guidance for 2016 confirmed

Van Bylen confirmed Henkel's outlook for the current fiscal year: "For the full fiscal year 2016, we expect organic sales growth of 2 to 4 percent. We expect our adjusted EBIT margin to rise to approximately 16.5 percent and adjusted earnings per preferred share to grow between 8 and 11 percent."

In the first quarter of 2016, sales increased by 0.6 percent to 4,456 million euros. Adjusted for negative foreign exchange effects of 3.4 percent, sales improved by 4.0 percent. Organically - i.e. adjusted for foreign exchange and acquisitions divestments - sales rose by 2.9 percent. The Laundry & Home Care business unit recorded solid organic sales growth of 4.7 percent. The Beauty Care business unit achieved a solid increase in organic sales of 2.6 percent. The Adhesive Technologies business unit likewise posted a solid improvement in organic sales of 2.1 percent.

After one-time gains, one-time charges and restructuring charges, adjusted operating profit



(EBIT) rose by 6.2 percent from 707 million euros to 751 million euros. Reported operating profit grew by 10.7 percent from 648 million euros to 717 million euros.

Adjusted return on sales (EBIT margin) increased by a very strong 0.8 percentage points to 16.8 percent. Reported return on sales rose from 14.6 percent to 16.1 percent. Henkel's financial result improved by 2 million euros to -7 million euros. This was attributable in particular to the repayment of the hybrid bond in November 2015. The tax rate amounted to 24.2 percent compared to 24.6 percent in the prior-year quarter.

Adjusted net income for the quarter after deducting non-controlling interests grew by 7.6 percent from 510 million euros to 549 million euros. Reported net income for the quarter increased by 11.6 percent from 482 million euros to 538 million euros. After deducting 13 million euros attributable to non-controlling interests, net income increased to 525 million euros (prior-year quarter: 470 million euros).

Adjusted earnings per preferred share (EPS) rose by 7.6 percent from 1.18 euros to 1.27 euros. Reported EPS increased from 1.09 euros to 1.21 euros. Net working capital as a percentage of sales improved by 0.8 percentage points to 5.4 percent, due mainly to foreign exchange effects and lower inventories. Henkel's net financial position as of March 31, 2016, was 452 million euros. Effective December 31, 2015, it

amounted to 335 million euros.

### Business unit performance in Q1

The Laundry & Home Care business unit once again recorded profitable growth in the first quarter of 2016. Thanks to higher market shares, sales grew organically by 4.7 percent year on year, outperforming the relevant markets. Nominally, sales increased by 2.7 percent to 1,333 million euros (prior-year quarter: 1,298 million euros). The solid organic increase in sales was primarily driven by the performance in emerging markets. Growth was double-digit in both Eastern Europe and Asia (excluding Japan). Africa/Middle East reported strong growth, although the market environment remained very difficult. Latin America registered a solid sales performance. Sales growth in the mature markets was positive. In an environment of intense competition, sales growth in Western Europe and North America was positive.

Adjusted operating profit of the Laundry & Home Care business unit increased by 9.5 percent to 243 million euros. Adjusted return on sales registered an excellent increase of 1.1 percentage points to 18.2 percent. Reported operating profit increased by 23.3 percent from 192 million euros to 236 million euros.

The Beauty Care business unit also posted further profitable growth in the first quarter of 2016. Based on market share gains, sales grew organically by 2.6 percent - once again above relevant markets' growth. Nominally, sales increased by 1.1 percent to 950 million euros (prior-year quarter: 940 million euros).

The business unit's successful development in emerging markets continued with very strong organic sales growth. Eastern Europe made a significant contribution with double-digit sales growth. Sales growth in Latin America and Asia (excluding Japan) was positive. The Africa/Middle East region recorded solid sales growth. Sales performance in the mature markets was positive versus the prior-year quarter. The businesses in North America, in particular, contributed to this development with very

### Strong growth

Positive growth was achieved in the mature markets of the Asia-Pacific region. Due to persistently intense crowding-out competition and strong price pressure, sales in Western Europe were below the level of the prior-year quarter. Quarter by 5.0 percent to 157 million euros. Adjusted return on sales showed a very strong improvement of 0.6 percentage points to 16.5 percent. Reported operating profit grew by 7.5 percent to 143 million euros.

The Adhesive Technologies business unit generated solid organic sales growth of 2.1 percent in the first quarter. Nominally, sales decreased slightly, by 0.8 percent to 2,144 million euros (prior-year quarter: 2,160 million euros). The emerging markets continued their successful development with solid organic sales growth. The Latin America region recorded a double-digit percentage increase. Eastern Europe exhibited very strong growth despite the difficult political situation in some countries of the region. In Asia (excluding Japan), sales showed positive performance. In the Africa/Middle East region, sales were below the level of the first quarter of 2015. Sales in the mature markets remained stable overall. Here, the North America region showed positive sales growth, while sales in the mature markets of the Asia-Pacific and Western Europe regions remained slightly below the level of the prior-year quarter. Adjusted operating profit of the Adhesive Technologies business unit increased versus the first quarter of 2015 by 6.4 percent to 376 million euros. Adjusted return on sales registered an excellent increase of 1.1 percentage points to 17.5 percent. Reported operating profit increased by 5.5 percent, to 364 million euros.



### Regional performance

In a highly competitive market environment, Henkel's sales in the Western Europe region were organically 0.5 percent below the level of the prior-year quarter. Solid performance in Southern Europe and growth in France were unable to compensate for the slight decline in Germany. Reported sales decreased slightly to 1,528 million euros. In Eastern Europe, sales organically rose double-digits by 10.9 percent, with the main contribution coming from the businesses in Russia and Turkey. On reported basis, sales amounted to 629 million euros, representing a slight increase year on year. With 3.5 percent Africa/Middle East showed a solid organic sales growth in the first quarter of 2016 although political and economic instability in some countries continued to affect the business development. At 349 million euros, reported sales were slightly below the prior-year level.

North America showed solid organic sales growth of 2.4 percent, with all business units contributing. Reported sales rose from 885 million euros to 926 million euros. In Latin America, sales organically increased by 8.3 percent. Business performance in Mexico made a significant contribution to this very strong improvement. On reported basis, sales amounted to 247 million euros compared to 274 million euros in the first quarter of 2015. Despite slowing market growth in China, organic sales in Asia-Pacific improved by 2.2 percent. Sales development in China was positive. Reported sales in the region rose from 732 million euros to 747 million euros. In the emerging markets, organic growth remained strong at 6.3 percent, with all business units contributing to the increase. As a result of negative foreign exchange effects, reported sales declined by 1.8 percent to 1,837 million euros and at 41 percent, the share of Group sales from emerging markets was slightly below the level of the prior-year period. In the mature markets, sales grew organically by 0.5 percent to 589 million euros.

### Outlook for the Henkel Group in 2016

Henkel expects to generate organic sales growth of 2 to 4 percent in the fiscal year 2016. Henkel expects that each business unit will generate growth within this range. Henkel furthermore expects a slight increase in the share of sales from its emerging markets. For adjusted return on sales (EBIT), Henkel expects an increase versus the prior year to approximately 16.5 percent. The adjusted return on sales of the individual business units is expected to be at or above the level of the previous year. Henkel expects an increase in adjusted earnings per preferred share of between 8 and 11 percent.

## UK PENSION FUND FORUM ASKS MEMBERS TO REJECT WPP REPORT

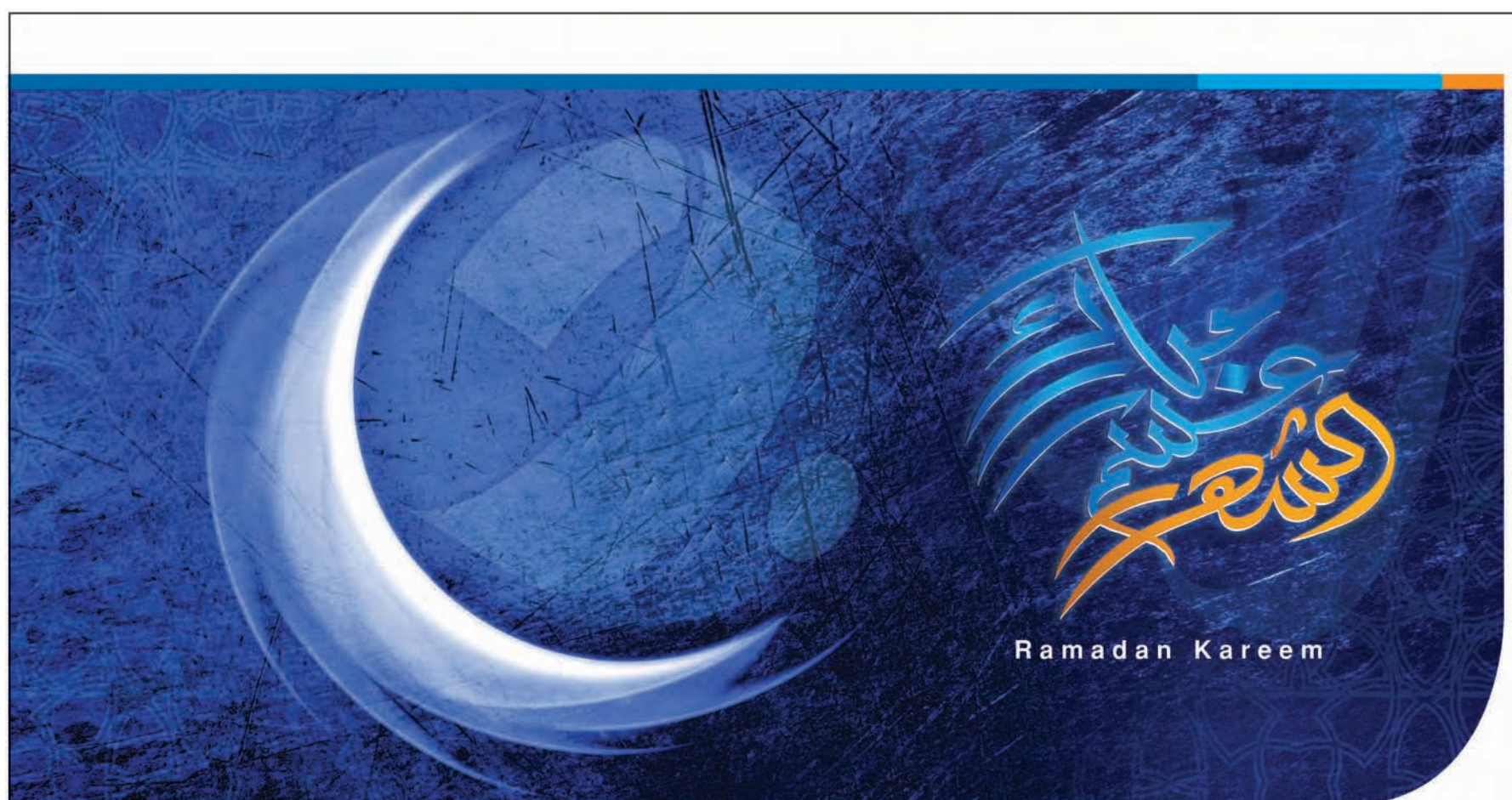
LONDON: The Local Authority Pension Fund Forum (LAPFF), an association of 70 UK-based public sector pension funds, asked its members to vote against WPP Plc's remuneration report at the advertising firm's annual meeting, citing "excessive" payments offered to its chief executive. PIRC, an advisory firm and LAPFF's research partner, asked WPP shareholders last week to oppose Chief Executive Martin Sorrell's pay, while Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) asked the shareholders last month to accept it.

Sorrell's pay increased by 56% over the past five years to 70.4 million pounds (\$101.4 million), which is twice the year-on-year average increase in the company's total shareholder return over the same period, LAPFF said yesterday. The forum said Sorrell's total variable pay was more than 58 times his 1.15 million-pound salary, which is the highest of the sector peer group and in the top 10 highest CEO salaries of the FTSE 100.

"Martin Sorrell's remuneration is derived from the formulaic application of long-term co-investment scheme approved by an 83 percent vote in favour by shareholders in 2009," a WPP spokesman told Reuters via email.

The company does not comment on individual shareholder advisory bodies' recommendations, he said. Some other big British companies have also faced shareholder opposition to executive pay packages this year in a resurgence of investor activism against excessive boardroom salaries.

In April BP shareholders voted against Chief Executive Bob Dudley's \$20 million pay deal for 2015 after the company made a record annual loss. WPP's annual general meeting is to be held on June 8. — Reuters



Borgan Bank Group wishes you a blessed Ramadan. May this holy month bring you good health, happiness and prosperity.

### Borgan Bank branches timings during Ramadan:

All branches: 10:00am-1:30pm

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# STOCKS RISE AS TRADERS AWAIT FED MOVE

LONDON: Shares rose in Europe and Asia yesterday, helped by commodity stocks as the dollar held close to more than three-week lows hit after surprisingly weak jobs data led investors to rule out a rise in US interest rates this month. The diminishing prospect of a near-term rate hike, which had looked very likely, kept yields on low-risk US Treasuries near lows touched after Friday's data while German equivalents fell closer to record levels.

The focus for traders and investors shifted to a speech later by Fed Chair Janet Yellen. HONG KONG, June 6, 2016 (AFP) - Most Asian markets rose yesterday while the dollar clawed back some

of its hefty losses after last week's soft US jobs report reduced the chances of an imminent interest rate rise, but the stronger yen hit Japanese exporters. The US Labor Department said Friday that May saw the world's top economy create the fewest number of jobs in six years, slashing expectations borrowing costs will rise anytime soon.

Traders who had been expecting the Fed to announce a rise no later than July-with the central bank having hinted at such just last month-were caught off guard.

The dollar was sent plunging two percent against both the yen and the euro on Friday but made some minor headway in afternoon trading

yesterday. The greenback edged up to 107.13 yen from 106.63 yen in New York but was still sharply down from levels above 109 yen before the jobs report. The euro dipped to \$1.1357 from \$1.1364 but was well up from the \$1.1154 reached Thursday.

"The slowdown in job growth in recent months must have put paid to any chance of a hike in interest rates by the Fed at its mid-June meeting," said Richard Jerram, chief economist at Bank of Singapore.

"A July rate hike is still possible but it would require a very strong June jobs report, reversing much of the slowdown of recent months. If the

June report is inconclusive then the Fed might find it sensible to wait until its mid-September meeting."

Higher-yielding, or riskier, currencies also gained. South Korea's won added 1.4 percent against the dollar, Indonesia's rupiah jumped 1.5 percent and the Malaysian ringgit climbed one percent.

However, the greenback rallied against the British pound after opinion polls at the weekend showed more people saying they will vote to leave the European Union in this month's referendum. Elsewhere, sterling fell more than 1 percent after opinion polls published over the weekend showed a pick-up in support for Britain voting to leave the European Union in a June 23 referendum.

The pan-European FTSEurofirst 300 stocks index gained 0.1 percent. Britain's FTSE 100, which includes several major mining and oil and gas firms, rose 0.9 percent.

The price of copper hit its highest in four weeks and the gold price its highest in two while Brent crude oil rose above \$50 a barrel on dollar weakness and the Fed outlook. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was up 0.9 percent. Australia's mining-heavy S&P/ASX 200 index closed up 0.8 percent. However, a stronger yen against the dollar helped push Japan's Nikkei stock index down 0.4 percent. The dollar, which

suffered its biggest one-day drop against a basket of major currencies in four months on Friday, recovered some of the lost ground yesterday. After hitting a one-month low of 106.35 yen on Friday, the dollar rose 0.6 percent to 107.12 yen. It also rose 0.1 percent to \$1.1356 per euro. Yellen speaks at the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia at 1630 GMT.

"Rate hike expectations for June have disappeared. And while the focus has shifted to July, we expect the dollar to be rather subdued this week, with not much of economic data out of the US," said Yujiro Goto, currency strategist at Nomura. Sterling fell 0.7 percent to \$1.4420, having earlier fallen more than 1 percent to a low \$1.4350 on the polls showing increased support for "Brexit". US 10-year yields, which fell to 1.697 percent, their lowest in almost two months, on Friday, stood at 1.706 percent, fractionally up on the day.

German 10-year Bunds, the benchmark for euro zone borrowing costs, dipped to 0.069 percent, shrugging off a deeper-than-expected fall in German industrial orders. Bund yields fell on Friday as far as a 0.065 percent, their lowest in more than a year, and were still close to a record low of 0.05 percent hit in April 2015. The British opinion polls and gains by the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement in weekend Italian municipal elections also supported Bunds.

## Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 06 June 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▲ 12.07	5,382.97	5,370.90	5,383.58	5,367.32
Weighted Index	▲ 1.50	354.93	353.43	354.93	352.05
KSX 15	▲ 7.13	818.38	811.25	818.38	808.43

Volume	61,292,501
Value (KWD)	7,225,981
Number of Trades	1,497

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	40	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	730	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	46.0	45.0	20,000	912	9	▲ 1.0
GPI	43.5	43.0	1,655,701	71,372	32	▲ 1.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	88	▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>1,675,701</b>	<b>72,284</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>▲ -1.10</b>
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	172	▲ 0.0
BPC	520	510	59,167	30,266	6	▲ -10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	600	▲ 0.0
ALOURAIN	202	202	10,873	2,196	3	▲ 0.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>70,040</b>	<b>32,482</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>▲ -4.75</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	375	▲ 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
CABLE	400	400	200	80	1	▲ 15.0
SHIP	160	158	54,000	8,532	5	▲ 2.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	1,000	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	59	▲ 0.0
ACICO	300	295	14,447	4,287	3	▲ 10.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	260	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	142	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.0
GYPSON	0.0	0.0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	73	▲ 0.0
AGLTY	475	470	153,147	72,167	16	▲ 5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	40.0	40.0	2,250	90	1	▲ -0.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	530	▲ 0.0
KGL	48.5	48.0	40,020	1,921	7	▲ 1.0
KPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	206	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,360	1,360	400	544	1	▲ 20.0
NAFAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	174	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	305	▲ 0.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	34.5	▲ 0.0
MAYADEEN	25.5	25.0	1,479,000	36,977	15	▲ 1.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	780	▲ 0.0
MTCC	69	67	150,200	10,064	2	▲ 0.0
UPAC	690	690	1,420	980	1	▲ 0.0
ALAFCO	198	198	2,500	495	3	▲ -8.0
MUBARRAD	63	63	30,000	1,890	1	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	85	84	164,842	13,907	12	▲ 0.0
SCEM	78	78	500	39	1	▲ -2.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	74	▲ 0.0
QIC	72	72	150,000	10,800	3	▲ 0.0
FCEM	74	73	1,723,000	125,782	47	▲ 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	94	▲ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	77	▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>3,965,926</b>	<b>288,554</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>▲ 3.84</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	150	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0
CATTI	196	188	864,100	165,488	30	▲ 10.0
DANAH	114	104	2,796,419	293,908	104	▲ -10.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,080	1,940	684,567	1,367,611	51	▲ 40.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>4,345,086</b>	<b>1,827,008</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>▲ -2.98</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	208	▲ 0.0
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>990.98</b>	<b>▲ 0.00</b>
KCIN	1,780	1,780	2,663	4,740	2	▲ 100
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0
CABLETV	25.0	25.0	2,966	74	1	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	198	▲ 0.0
OULAFUEL	110	110	3,614	398	4	▲ 110
MUNTAZAHAT	95	92	4,161,900	389,697	68	▲ 0.0
JAZEERA	900	900	5,000	4,500	1	▲ 20
SOOR	112	110	60,471	6,772	2	▲ 2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	120	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	144	142	213,177	30,437	14	▲ 2
ZIMAH	43.0	42.0	313,318	13,312	9	▲ -1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	140	▲ 0.0
Mezzan	1,040	1,040	58,206	60,534	5	▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>4,821,315</b>	<b>510,464</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>▲ 12.89</b>
ZAIN	345	340	1,806,517	618,101	19	▲ 5
OOREDOO	1,140	1,100	357	393	2	▲ -60
HITSTELEC	39.0	38.0	3,314,600	127,517	64	▲ 0.0
VIVA	940	920	25,217	23,206	30	▲ -0.0
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>5,146,691</b>	<b>769,217</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>▲ -0.03</b>
NBK	620	610	2,143,725	1,318,182	31	▲ 10
GBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	224	▲ 0.0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	430	▲ 0.0
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0
ALMUTAHED	410	405	647,839	264,364	13	▲ -10
KIB	194	194	174,000	33,756	5	▲ 194
BURG	330	325	45,217	14,869	6	▲ 5
KFIN	465	460	226,160	105,140	11	▲ 0.0
BOUBYAN	405	400	79,225	31,874	13	▲ 0.0
AUB	194	192	217,412	42,168	5	▲ 2
ITHMR	38.5	38.0	8,200	313	3	▲ -1
WARBANK	172	172	125,709	21,622	28	▲ 0.0
<b>Banks</b>			<b>3,667,487</b>	<b>1,832,288</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>▲ 1.21</b>
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	670	▲ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	465	▲ 0.0
WINS	102	100	150,582	15,359	2	▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	50	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	32.0	32.0	250	8	1	▲ 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>150,832</b>	<b>15,367</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>▲ 0.00</b>

Security	Trades					
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last Change
SOKOUK	36.5	36.0	51500	1,855	3	▲ 1.0
KRE	56	55	133,532	7,368	4	▲ -1.0
URC	92	91	40,050	3,685	3	▲ -1.0
NRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
SRE	350	350	4,300	1,505	1	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
AREEC	138	138	7,721	1,065	1	▲ 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ERESCO	59	55	1,481,000	82,459	30	▲ -6.0
MABANEE	790	780	56,696	44,475	9	▲ 10.0
INJAZZAT	76	73	152,632	11,305	17	▲ -1.0
INVESTORS	22.5	22.0	540,100	12,101	11	▲ 0.5
IRC	34.0	32.5	745,100	24,861	19	▲ -1.5
ALTIJARIA	75	75	92,787	6,999	11	▲ 0.0
SANAM	32.0	31.0	2,030,000	62,955	8	▲ 1.0
AAYANRE	63	63	24,000	1,512	1	▲ 0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ALAQARIA	25.0	23.5	229,000	5,635	13	▲ 2.5
MALAZAYA	118	118	199,345	23,523	2	▲ 0.0
ADNC	12.5	12.5	417,000	5,213	15	▲ -0.5
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
TJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	▲ 0.0
ABYAR	24.0					



# WHY MARK CUBAN VALUES TIME OVER MONEY

## Q&A WITH A BILLIONAIRE ENTREPRENEUR

**NEW YORK:** After working his way up from selling garbage bags door-to-door as a teen in Pittsburgh, Mark Cuban, 57, is now climbing the ranks of the wealthiest Americans.

Cuban's holdings are varied and his media personality is huge, ranging from his role on ABC's "Shark Tank," to film ventures to his ownership of the National Basketball Association's Dallas Mavericks. The entrepreneur, who lives with his wife and three children in Dallas, speaks directly - and frequently - to more than 5 million Twitter followers. Cuban started to seriously accumulate wealth after he sold several early web ventures, including Broadcast.com for \$5.7 billion in 1999. He was number 200 on the 2015 Forbes 400 list, with a net worth of \$3 billion, up from \$1.8 billion in 2005.

Cuban spoke with Reuters about the life lessons he has learned about money, and what he hopes to pass along to the next generation:

**Q: Do you have any billionaire role models on how to handle your wealth?**

**A:** No. The exact opposite. My role models are the guys I grew up with in Pittsburgh and went to school with at Indiana. The money is the easy part. Staying

true to who I am was tougher when I first got wealthy. Having great friends kept me grounded.

**Q: What lessons did you learn about money from your own parents or grandparents - either by good example or bad?**

**A:** It's not easy to come by. You have to work hard to get it. And then, never take it for granted.

**Q: Is your estate plan something you tinker with frequently, or did you set it some time ago and mostly leave it alone?**

**A:** Other than adding kids, I haven't touched it.

**Q: As your wealth has grown over the years, what mistakes have you made in handling its growth?**

**A:** I placed too much importance on comparing how much I had to others early on. Then I started realizing time was a far more valuable asset. When I started using money to create more time, I appreciated both more.

**Q: Is your business succession plan something you actively think about as your business interests and wealth change?**



**A:** All my companies have people who run the business on a day-to-day basis already.

**Q: You have pioneered several charitable ventures, including the Mark Cuban Foundation and the Fallen Patriot Fund. How do you make decisions about what charities to give to?**

**A:** I'm not a fan of giving to charities. I have a few I support, but the overhead and inefficiencies really bother me. Instead, I pay people's bills and help solve problems. I don't know the total or if it's a lot or a little, but I think I'm able to more readily and directly help people who need it and not pay for the commercials and administration of all the duplication that exists

across charities. I also have young kids. So it's important to me to stay liquid just in case they have difficult health issues that need solved. I also have never asked anyone for a nickel to contribute to a charity. If it's important enough I can write the check.

**Q: What do you think the Cuban Foundation (and family) will look like in 100 years?**

**A:** Whatever my kids and their kids want it to look like. It will be up to them.

**Q: You've said you don't want your children to grow up to be "entitled jerks." What specific techniques are you using to avoid that?**

**A:** Trying to make them work for money to pay for the things they want and to live with as little help as possible. It started when they were 4 or 5. They have a variety of normal household chores. And I bring them to events, and my oldest does do charity work.

**Q: Do you think your kids (or anyone's children) need that "shark" mentality to be successful?**

**A:** That's not how I run my businesses and so, no, that's not what I pass along. Nice goes much further than mean. — Reuters

## INDIA TO BACK STATE BANKS TO DEAL WITH BAD LOANS

**NEW DELHI:** India is committed to protecting state banks suffering from mounting bad loans after they reported almost \$2.7 billion in losses in the last two quarters, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said yesterday. The banks are struggling under a mountain of soured loans, prompting central bank governor Raghuram Rajan to set a 2017 deadline for them to clean up their balance sheets.



India's RBI governor Raghuram Rajan

After meeting the heads of India's 27 public-sector banks, Jaitley said the government has already earmarked 250 billion rupees (\$3.7 billion) for recapitalisation of banks this year and would provide more if needed.

"Banks should be empowered and constitutionally should be protected so as they can bring about commercially prudent settlements," Jaitley told reporters after the meeting. "We must support them fully so that their ability to support (economic) growth remains sound."

Jaitley said the government has overhauled its bankruptcy law, which will soon make it vastly easier to wind up companies and help banks recover bad loans. He said other reforms to help banks were also in the pipeline. Jaitley said the 180 billion rupees (\$2.7 billion) in net losses suffered by the state banks in the last two quarters were mainly because of provisions for bad debt.

The Reserve Bank of India has asked lenders to treat some troubled accounts as bad loans and make adequate provisions for these loans as the banks come under increasing pressure to clean up their books.

Vijay Mallya, a liquor tycoon who left the country in March owing \$1.34 billion, has come to personify India's problems with bad debt, with banks scrambling to recover loans to his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. — AFP

## US ECONOMISTS INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN ABOUT US GROWTH

### UNCERTAINTY ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HITS OUTLOOK

**NEW YORK:** Business economists are giving a more pessimistic outlook about US economic growth this year for the third consecutive month and uncertainty over the November presidential election has proven to be damaging.

The median estimate from economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics calls for gross domestic product growth of only 1.8 percent, down from the 2.2 percent forecast in March. The outlook for next year calls for 2.3 percent growth. The survey released yesterday also shows the forecast for growth in corporate profits swinging from a 2 percent gain in March, to negative 2 percent in June.

Of the economists surveyed, 57 percent said that uncertainty over the election led them to reduce their expectations. Doubts about the economy deepened Friday when the government reported that hiring in May slowed to a near-standstill. 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.

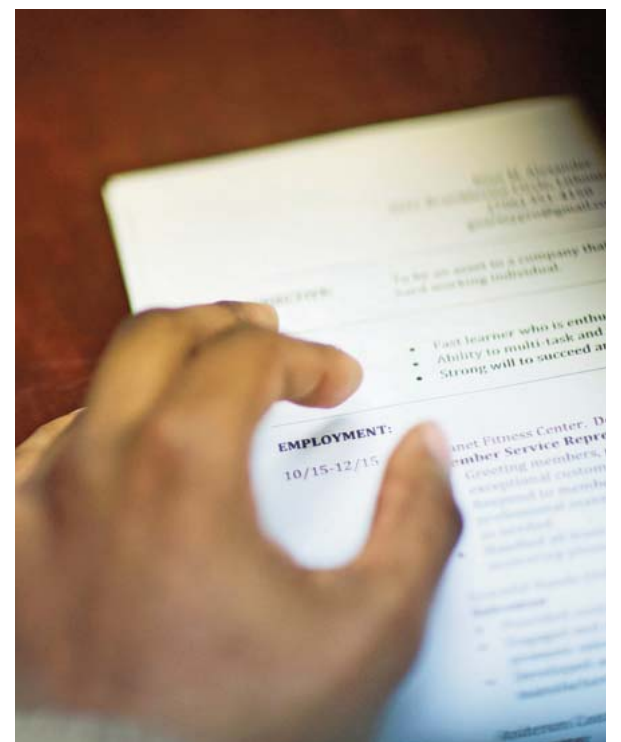
Employers added just 38,000 jobs in May, the fewest in more than five years. The surprisingly weak jobs report raised doubts that the Federal Reserve will increase short-term inter-

est rates at its next meeting in mid-June or perhaps even at its subsequent meeting in July. Rates have hovered around zero for seven years and almost everyone had expected the Fed to grow more aggressive this summer.

Economic unease has shaken up the upcoming presidential race. Americans especially worried about the economy have been more likely to support outsider candidates like Donald Trump and Sen. Bernie Sanders.

The crucial California Democratic primary is today. Forty-nine percent of the economists in the NABE survey see a positive impact on economic growth this year from low oil prices, as opposed to 18 percent viewing it as a negative. For next year, 55 percent see the impact as positive and 7 percent as negative.

The economists expect home prices to increase 5 percent for the fourth quarter, unchanged from the March forecast. The median estimate is for the growth in home prices to slow to 4.3 percent next year, just above 4 percent forecast in March. Another negative political factor for economic growth: the rise of nationalist views such as trade protectionism around the world was chosen by 38 percent of those surveyed as the factor most likely to significantly reduce global growth in the next two years. Sixteen percent chose terrorism. The survey of 48 forecasters was taken between May 2 and May 17. — AP



ATLANTA: A job candidate's resume sits on a table as he interviews for a job during a recruiting event at the Georgia Department of Labor office in Atlanta. — AP



TOKYO: People look back in front of an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian shares were mostly lower yesterday as a US report that showed slowing hiring was seen as making a Federal Reserve rate hike as less likely but sent the dollar lower and fanned fears about the American economy. — AP

## SON OF THE CIRCUS THRIVES AS CRUDE-OIL TRAFFIC COP

**HOUSTON:** 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

## FRENCH MINISTER PELTED WITH EGGS AS STRIKES WANE

**PARIS:** France's economy minister was pelted with eggs yesterday as a strike against planned labour reforms disrupted rail services for a sixth day but appeared to be running out of steam.

Industrial action in the oil sector was also waning. Oil group Total SA said two of its five refineries in northern France - Grandpuits and Normandy - were being prepared for restart after days at a standstill. Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron was splattered on the head when militants of the hardline CGT trade union cornered him in the Paris suburb of Montreuil, where he was launching a stamp to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the "Popular Front" government that gave French workers new rights. Macron, who advocates economic reforms to loosen rigid labor market rules and promote flexibility and competition, has become a bogeyman for traditional leftists.

"It's par for the course but it won't have any impact on my determination," Macron told reporters after the attack, saying there was no economic future for those who resisted change.

Participation in action against the labor

reform is dwindling with just 8.5 percent of rail workers still on strike, the SNCF state railway said before crucial negotiations between management and unions over a reorganization of working time. Rail connections remained seriously disrupted, however, as the company worked to secure a truce before the Euro 2016 soccer tournament kicks off in France on Friday. About 60 percent of high-speed TGV and regional trains but only one-third of slower inter-city services were running.

Socialist President Francois Hollande, piling pressure on the CGT, said on Sunday it would be incomprehensible if rail and airline strikes prevented fans from traveling to matches during the month-long championship. The strike is costing the rail company close to 20 million euros (\$22.70 million) a day in ticket exchanges, reimbursements and lost freight business, an SNCF source said.

### "BACK AGAINST THE WALL"

Negotiators worked to clinch a deal by an end of yesterday deadline after the government intervened last week pledging to safeguard rest periods and help the SNCF

with its debt of 50 billion euros before passenger services open to private competition in 2020.

Their task is complicated by the fact that the communist-founded CGT union, along with smaller labour unions such as Force Ouvriere, is also on the warpath over the labour reform that would make hiring and firing easier and give precedence to deals on pay and conditions negotiated at company level. Force Ouvriere union leader Jean-Claude Mailly showed no sign of being ready to call off the industrial action. "We're not stupid. Nobody's saying 'we're going to block the Euros' ... but when your back is against the wall, there's little alternative but to continue," Mailly told LCI TV.

A BVA poll published at the weekend showed that 54 percent of French people interviewed were against the protests. The government averted a separate strike by air traffic controllers. However, pilots at Air France have given notice of plans to strike for several days from June 11 over management plans to curb their salaries. Management and unions at the flag carrier were due to hold a new round of talks yesterday. — Reuters



## ETIHAD AIRWAYS APPOINTS 3 EMIRATIS TO SENIOR POSITIONS IN ITS GLOBAL NETWORK

**ABU DHABI:** Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has appointed UAE nationals as Airport Managers in South Korea, Seychelles, and Saudi Arabia. This brings to eight the number of Etihad Airways' Emirati Airport Managers across the world.

Fatima Al-Hashemi has been appointed Airport Manager for Incheon, South Korea (ICN). Yousuf Mohammed has been selected as Airport Manager for Medina, Saudi Arabia (MED), and Mansour Hamad will be Airport Manager for Seychelles (SEZ), in MahE.

Ray Gammell, Etihad Aviation Group's Chief People and Performance Officer, said: "These new appointments embody the success of our UAE National Development Programme and also demonstrates our ability to attract top Emirati talent from elsewhere. Our new airport managers are excellent examples of our Emirati employees' enthusiasm to become leaders in aviation, and I look forward to watching their careers continue to flourish."



Fatima Al-Hashmi.

An important part of developing the UAE national workforce is the opportunity to work in a dynamic, multi-cultural environment and to be posted on international assignments to accelerate their development. More than 90 UAE nationals are positioned at the airline's offices and airports across the Middle East, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Fatima is the airline's second Emirati female Airport Manager. She joined Etihad Airways in 2012 as a Graduate Manager and has worked in Abu Dhabi and Singapore. Fatima graduated from Zayed University in Dubai with a degree in Business Administration and Information Technology.

Yousuf began his career in the aviation industry in 2004 as an airport services agent. He joined Etihad Airways in 2011 as an Operations Duty Manager and has worked in Jeddah, Kuala Lumpur, Colombo, and most recently, Muscat. Mansour is a 13 year veteran of the UAE Air Force, where he worked in

roles as diverse as Air Defence, Search and Rescue, and Air Traffic Control. He joined Etihad Airways in 2011 and has worked in operations in Doha, Manchester and Riyadh. His last position was as Duty Manager in Riyadh.

Geert W. Boven, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice-President Global Airport Services, said: "It's great to have staff of this calibre on our team. They will have overall responsibility for our operations at their airports, including safety, security, and station performance management. These are challenging roles requiring a number of diverse skills sets that have been carefully developed during their careers with us."

The UAE's national airline employs over 3,000 Emiratis globally. In 2015 the airline welcomed more than 1,200 UAE nationals to its global workforce, representing 30 per cent of its core staff - the largest nationality group of the 140 nationalities within Etihad Airways' multicultural global team.

Etihad Airways began operations in 2003,



Mansour Hamad

and in 2015 carried 17.6 million passengers. From its Abu Dhabi base, Etihad Airways flies to, or has announced plans to serve, 117 passenger and cargo destinations in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas. The airline has a fleet of 122 Airbus and Boeing aircraft, with 204 aircraft on firm order, including 71 Boeing 787s, 25 Boeing 777Xs, 62 Airbus A350s and 10 Airbus A380s.

Etihad Airways holds equity investments in airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, Jet Airways, Virgin Australia, and Swiss-based Darwin Airline, trading as Etihad Regional. Etihad Airways, along with airberlin, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Alitalia, Etihad Regional, Jet Airways and NIKI, also participate in Etihad Airways Partners, a brand that brings together partner airlines to offer customers more choice through improved networks and schedules and enhanced frequent flyer benefits.



Asaad Al-Banwan



Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group CEO



Jennifer Suleiman, Zain Group's Head of Corporate Sustainability.

## 'BUILDING THE FUTURE' ZAIN PUBLISHES FIFTH ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator with a presence in eight markets in the Middle East and Africa, announces the publication of its fifth annual sustainability report, entitled 'Sustainability Report 2015: Building the future'. The availability of this latest report makes Zain Group one of the most consistently transparent mobile operators in the MENA region given the detail of information it shares in the publication.

Available exclusively online through an interactive interface that is user-friendly and minimizes the company's environmental impact, this year's publication has a number of new developments including a section dedicated to detailing Zain's engagement in human rights issues that are related to the company's activities and business relationships.

For the first time the report is aligned with the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGP), given the UNGP Business and Human Rights Reporting Framework was published in 2015 as the first comprehensive guidance for companies to report on their most relevant human rights issues.

Zain's 2015 report also details the company's sustainability agenda, highlighting key partnerships and commitments with global entities such as the World Economic Forum, Business Backs Education, Child Helpline International (CHI), and REFUNIT.

The report illustrates Zain's ongoing commitment to align its policies and activities with the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, and the document communicates Zain's triple bottom line approach (social, environmental and economic) to all stakeholders. The report is a tool to measure success, and to chart Zain's adherence to universal principles such as human and labor rights, as well as the company's engagement with the general public.

Commenting on the release of the report, Zain Group Chairman, Asaad Al-Banwan said, "The value of sustainability reporting can be witnessed in the transparent nature in which we report on Zain's impact on the wider socio-economic landscape, the company's governance structure, and its relationships with various regulatory bodies. By taking the lead in the region on sustainability reporting, Zain is attempting to transform our communities and raise the bar with regards to private sector involvement in achieving broad socio-economic

progress on the national and regional level."

Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group CEO said, "Zain is one of the leading mobile operators in the MENA region and as such we continue to lead the way on transparency and sustainability. Our detailed reports help us to gauge where we are across a number of important indicators aiding the planning and implementation of future sustainability

members of society have been well-chronicled over the years, and in 2015 the company launched a Group-wide comprehensive effort to raise awareness about child abuse. This topic is often considered a taboo in the Middle East region, and showcases Zain's resolve to cast the spotlight anyway it sees unjust and exploitation.

The report also highlights Zain's material



and capacity building initiatives."

Key highlights of the latest report include the fact that Zain was able to reduce its 2014-2015 emissions in Sudan by 24 percent; in Jordan by 6 percent, in Saudi Arabia by 5 percent, and in South Sudan by 2 percent. The company also reported that the number of hybrid solution installations had grown to include 193 diesel generator battery solutions, and 30 solar hybrid solutions. During 2015 the Group reached a total of 604 hybrid installations, an increase of 59 percent between 2014 to 2015.

Zain's long list of humanitarian efforts in 2015 included the development of a prepaid package by touch in Lebanon to enable connectivity for over one million Syrian refugees present in the country. The Al-Tawasol line offers discounted rates for Syrians in Lebanon for voice, SMS and data, as well as discounts for calls and messages to Syria.

Zain also established the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Assistance Project during the course of 2015, adopting a multilateral approach aimed at providing relief and assistance to the displaced in Iraq. The project was launched during Ramadan 2015, and has impacted a total of 19,700 internally displaced persons in Iraq so far.

Zain's efforts to protect the most vulnerable

actions to leverage and drive efficiencies in procurement across all operations by undertaking a Group-wide optimization process during 2015. This program saw the centralization of many innovative technologies that the company invests in, a significant exercise that will result in Zain saving in excess of US \$100 million over the next three years.

Jennifer Suleiman, Zain Group's Head of Corporate Sustainability commented, "We are very serious and proud of the work we do in this area, and in many ways have become the regional telecom benchmark with regards to the disclosure of many of the activities we undertake and the feedback we offer regarding their implementation and development."

Suleiman continued, "Zain is committed to forging better living circumstances for people in the communities in which we serve and beyond, and this is reflected in developments such as Zain's expansion of the alignment of its business and corporate social responsibility activities with those of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals as developed by the United Nations. We also signed up for membership of the World Economic Forum in 2015 as a Strategic Partner Associate. Such initiatives reflect Zain's ongoing drive to address development challenges in the region and beyond."

## AS ABENOMICS STRUGGLES, JAPAN PREMIER PUSHES 'EQUAL PAY'

**TOKYO:** When Fumiko Kasai returned to work a decade ago she found Japan's job market was very different to the one she had left in the 1980s to raise her four children. Kasai, who had enjoyed a well-paid full-time job with a car firm before giving up work when she married, is now a temporary worker at a butcher's. Earning 200,000 yen (\$1,835) a month, her hourly pay is around half that of a full-time worker doing the same job. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has put tackling Japan's labor inequality at the centre of his policy agenda as the number of temporary workers hits a record high, posing a challenge to his "Abenomics" stimulus package ahead of a summer election. "At first I saw nothing strange about a housewife doing a low-paid part-time job," 59-year-old Kasai said.

"But no matter how hard I worked, my salary would not rise much even as I bear the responsibility as a team leader. I don't want employers to treat temporary workers as cheap labour force for the sake of cutting personnel costs." With part-time and temporary workers now making up about 40 percent of the labour force, Abe vows to adopt an "equal pay for equal work" scheme, forcing firms to pay the same wage for workers doing the same job.

Abe is counting on the plan - a centrepiece of a mid-year raft of policy announcements - to boost flagging consumption and win votes ahead of a July upper house election. The move follows his decision to delay a scheduled sales tax hike by two-and-a-half years, putting his plans for fiscal reform on the back burner amid stubborn weakness in the economy.

But the plan could backfire on Japanese firms by pushing up labour costs and squeezing profits, analysts say. It also faces resistance from the businesses who would have to implement it.

"It will be a step forward towards fixing a labour gap," said Yuriko Kinoshita, a member of the Seikyo Roren representing co-op workers. "But it's hard to carry it out without support from the management and understanding from regular employees who worry about pay cuts in the name of equal pay for equal work." Sadayuki Sakakibara, head of Japan's biggest business lobby Keidanren, has said he would support Abe's plan, but added: "We must consider Japan's own pay system and job practice, rather than just promising the same pay for the same job." In the Reuters Corporate Survey earlier this year only 9 percent of Japanese firms described the plan as realistic.

### LOST DECADES

Structural reform to boost consumption and revive growth is one of the "three arrows" of Abenomics - aimed at reviving the economy after two so-called lost decades of torpor and deflation - alongside fiscal stimulus and massive monetary easing. But Abe has so far struggled to push labour reforms that would make it easier for companies to hire and fire, due in part to

opposition from unions representing full-time employees. Meanwhile, the gap has been growing between "regular" and "non-regular" workers. The former are full-time employees with permanent contracts and pay scales based on seniority; the latter are temps, part-timers and short-term contract workers with more precarious jobs. Before Japan's bubble burst in the early 1990s, 80 percent of workers were full-time employees with job security, and most felt middle class. Last year, the share of non-regular workers in the labour force hit a record 37.5 percent. Suzuka Watanabe, 53, a temporary store manager at a grocery, said her pay was about 60 percent of regular workers in the same job. Watanabe took up the job three years ago when her husband died and she had to raise their teenage son by herself.

"I agree there needs to be a system in which part-timers work for a short time and flexibly," Watanabe said. "But that doesn't mean part-timers should put up with lower hourly pay than full-time workers if they do the same job with the same responsibilities." Masaki Kuwahara, senior economist at Nomura Securities, said Japan needed to make more use of women and older workers given its dwindling labour force. "However, it will be difficult to implement such a policy anytime soon and the hurdle is high if you attempt to force it under Japan's traditional labour system, which is based on the lifetime employment and seniority-based wage system," he said.

### CHEAP LABOUR FORCE

Overall employees' annual pay stood at 4.15 million yen as of 2014, having peaked at 4.67 million yen in 1997, reflecting a steady decline in the number of well-paid full-time workers, government data shows. Hourly wages for part-timers stand at 56.8 percent of those for full-time workers, excluding benefits.

In France, by comparison, the ratio is 89 percent, while in Germany it is 79 percent and in Britain and Italy about 70 percent, according to data from the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training, a semi-governmental institution.

The government aims to bring the wage differential between regular and non-regular workers to the same levels as in Europe. "Labour inequality is becoming a serious problem even as companies are raising record profits," Masahiko Shibayama, special adviser to the premier, told Reuters. "To boost consumption, we must improve treatment of non-regular workers." Fusako Hirasawa, a single mother of a seven-year-old girl, earns 150,000 yen-a-month as a temporary worker delivering door-to-door food and groceries near Tokyo five days a week, about 70 percent of what regular employees make.

"It's quite common nowadays for women to work regardless of being married or a single mother, so I hope companies treat workers more equally," she said.— Reuters



## BEC TO GIVEAWAY FOUR CARS: GRAND PRIZE BMW 3 SERIES

**KUWAIT:** Bahrain Exchange Company (BEC), specialists in worldwide money transfers and currency exchange, have launched their latest promotional campaign 'Bob's Car Bonanza'.

Fronted by the company's Brand Ambassador Bob, the BEC Buddy, the campaign will consist of 3 prize draws taking place on July 3, August 1 and September 1 where one lucky customer will win a new Toyota Yaris each month. Ending the campaign in style, BEC will conduct a grand prize draw for the chance to win a brand new BMW 3 Series.

Running from the 1st June to 17th September 2016, the campaign will be open to all customers that make any money transfer or currency exchange transaction from one of its 40+ branches, plus customers who send money online through BEC's secure online money transfer service 'BEC Online' will also be eligible to take part. Customers will be entered into the monthly prize draw for the month that they make a transaction and the grand prize draw will be open to all customers that have transacted throughout the campaign period.

Mr. Mathews Varghese, BEC General Manager commented on the campaign, "As we approach the holy month of Ramadan, we are delighted to spread goodwill amongst our customers and reward their

loyalty with the chance to win incredible prizes. We would like to take this opportunity to wish our customers and their families a healthy and blessed Ramadan."

BEC currently has over 40 branches across Kuwait and specialises in sending money around the globe safely and quickly to over 46,000 locations in 30 countries through its own money transfer product - EzRemit. Its global reach is extended to over 200 countries through its partnership with MoneyGram an international remittance company.

BFC Group Holdings (BFC Group / The Group) is the holding company for Bahrain Financing Company (BFC), Bahrain, Bahrain Exchange Company (BEC), Kuwait, BFC Exchange Limited (formerly EzRemit Limited), United Kingdom, BFC Forex & Financial Services PVT Ltd (BFC Forex), India and BFC Exchange Malaysia Sdn.Bhd. (BFC Exchange), Malaysia. The Group specializes in sending and receiving money securely and efficiently across the globe and offers foreign currency exchange solutions at the best available rates. With a history of over 95 years, BFC Group continues to grow its retail network and currently has over 120 branches located across the world. Its money transfers product - EzRemit - is also present in over 30 countries with more than 46,000 agent locations worldwide.



## KFH NAMES 7 WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named 7 winners of the fifth draw of the new banking cards promotional campaign themed "Win Samsung Curved UHD 65" TV with KFH Cards" in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

The winners are Jamal Ali, Mohammad Alrabeia, Abdullah Alenezi, Fawziya Abdullah, Reem Alawadhi, Sanitan Al-Mutairi, and Sara Alhais. For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will get a chance to enter a draw and win daily Samsung Curved UHD 65" TV for 50 days ending June 14th 2016. KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international retail spends and KFH Debit cards used in international retail spends are eligible for the daily draw.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster bank's leading position in the field of banking cards.

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

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

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



## UNPLUGGED WEDDING: HERE COMES THE BRIDE, DOWN GO THE PHONES

**NEW YORK:** In a phone-toting, social media age, you might think trying to keep your wedding offline would be crazy.

Yet we did just that. We asked our guests to stay off their phones during our ceremony and other key moments. In doing so, we were hoping to make the celebration more enjoyable for everyone. As fun as smartphones, Facebook and Instagram are, they've turned us into part-time documentarians. We think about how to photograph something as soon as we see it. And we distance ourselves from the feelings that go along with these moments.

"Everyone is kind of watching your entire big moment in life through a little 5-inch screen," says Lizzie Post, a great-great-granddaughter of etiquette expert Emily Post and president of the Emily Post Institute. "We're not really in the moment. We're recording the moment." That's why my then-fiancee Amber Marlow knew what she wanted: an unplugged wedding, in which you ask guests to put away their phones for all or part of the festivities. She's a wedding photographer, and she's been recommending that clients go unplugged for years.

The fact that "put your phones away" is a style of wedding instead of an obvious point shows how much mobile phones have altered even the most emotional moments of our lives. And as we worked to spread the word and plan our wedding, we learned even more about our relationship with technology - 'til death or logging out do us part.

Smartphones have become an all-or-nothing phenomenon: When one person at the table pulls out a phone, everyone else takes it as permission to do the same. Sometimes people start giving advice and tech support. The next thing you know, everyone is checking texts and social media. Not to mention those horrible photos we regret the next morning. It's incredibly easy to take photos with your phone, which means it's incredibly easy to shoot subjects looking terrible, utterly intoxicated or twice their actual age. And because of Amber's professional experience, we both knew what we didn't want to see in our wedding photos: guests glued to their screens as we walked down the aisle or holding up iPads to record the first dance. Phones can take good photos, but with their distracting glow,

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

### Funny pattern

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

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

were they invited and I wasn't?" she says. Figuring that our guests wouldn't feel the need to take selfies if they had a chance to take better pictures, we set up a photo booth with a beautiful backdrop. It was busy all night. There's a photo of some of my friends carrying me sideways. Thanks to champagne, I don't quite remember why that happened.

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

## ORACLE WHISTLEBLOWER SUIT RAISES QUESTIONS OVER CLOUD ACCOUNTING

**SAN FRANCISCO:** A whistleblower lawsuit filed against Oracle Corp over its accounting practices underscores the pressures established computer companies face to show that they are growing in the fast-moving business known as the cloud.

The lawsuit, filed on Wednesday in US District Court in San Francisco by former Oracle senior finance manager Svetlana Blackburn, also revives longstanding questions about proper accounting when software and computer services are bought on a subscription basis rather than as a single package, analysts said. Those questions are becoming more urgent as companies including Oracle, IBM, Microsoft and SAP race to transform their businesses for an era in which customers no longer own and operate their own information technology systems and instead lease computing services and software from cloud vendors using vast data centers.

### Subjectivity

Blackburn's lawsuit accuses Oracle management of pushing her to "fit square data into round holes" to make Oracle's cloud services' results look better. She alleges that her bosses instructed her to add millions of dollars of accruals for expected business "with no concrete or foreseeable billing to support the numbers." "We are confident that all our cloud accounting is proper and correct," an Oracle spokeswoman said on Thursday, adding that Blackburn worked at Oracle for less than a year and was terminated for poor performance. Blackburn does not use the word "fraud" in her lawsuit, and analysts say outright fraud is unlikely. Nevertheless, the situation poses risks, said Pat Walravens, an analyst at JMP Securities, partly because Oracle's sales force has been offered big incentives to book cloud deals. An Oracle spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the incentives.

Oracle shares fell almost 4 percent the day after the lawsuit was made public. Accounting for cloud software "can get very complex and requires judgment calls and estimates which a third party might disagree with upon further review," Walravens added. Because cloud software is growing fast while traditional software sales slow, companies have an incentive to play up their prowess in the cloud.

In quarterly reporting, many companies

have begun to break out some measure of cloud revenue, including Oracle, SAP, Microsoft and Amazon. Accountants and analysts say that classifying software sales as cloud or traditional remains something of an art. "There's some subjectivity in 'is it cloud, is it traditional software?'" said Steve Biskie, an auditor and co-founder of compliance consultancy High Water Advisors.

Like others, he said the most nebulous part of cloud accounting concerns situations where the customer buys a product that can be used partly in the cloud, and partly on its own hardware.

US accounting rules state that in cases when use is mixed, companies should allocate the revenue between traditional, or licensed software; and cloud, or hosted software. "Determining the fair value of the software license and hosting service may require the use of estimates," the rules say. "Management should consider all relevant information, such as information from the negotiation process with the vendor, in estimating the fair value of the license."

There lies the gray area, says Enterprise Strategy Group analyst Dan Conde, and the point on which the Oracle lawsuit might hinge. "They can't tell how much I use my own hardware," he said. "Am I a casual user, or writing a lot on a computer? It then requires some guesswork there."

Software accounting issues have dogged companies for years, particularly subscription-software businesses. Three years ago, the US Securities and Exchange Commission investigated IBM over how it reports its cloud-computing revenue, an investigation that ended in 2014 with no enforcement action. Five years ago, Bernstein analyst Mark Moerdler took cloud-software company Salesforce.com Inc to task for financial practices such as how it accounts for sales commissions. An SEC inquiry over a similar issue, which ultimately led to the company restating its 2002 and 2003 results, contributed to a delay in Salesforce.com's 2004 initial public offering. In 2006, software maker Computer Associates had to restate past financial results after an internal audit found issues concerning stock options and how the company booked some subscription revenue. Its former chief executive, Sanjay Kumar, pleaded guilty to securities fraud in 2006 and was sentenced to 12 years in jail. —Reuters



SEATTLE: A JetBlue plane takes off in view of the air traffic control tower at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, in Seattle. —AP

## NO ROOM FOR OLD TECHNOLOGY IN NEW AIRPORT TOWERS: UNION

PROTOTYPE E-STRIP SYSTEM IS TOO UNSTABLE AND CRASHES TOO OFTEN

**WASHINGTON:** Two state-of-the-art airport towers due to go into operation this fall in San Francisco and Las Vegas will first need extensive remodeling to make room for technology that dates back to the early days of air traffic control, according to union officials.

The new rooms on top of the towers where controllers watch aircraft operations were designed for equipment that helps controllers track planes electronically. But the prototype electronic strip system the Federal Aviation Administration plans to use is too unstable and "crashes" too often to be relied upon, said Paul Rinaldi, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. This means that controllers need to quickly turn to the historic system of passing paper strips from one controller to another to hand off responsibility for a plane and carefully line up multiple strips to keep tabs on the status of flights.

Here's the problem: the tower "cabs" have been designed without the tables, printers and places to hang strips that are necessary for controllers to use the old system while still keeping an eye on planes, he said. This is an example of the larger problem that the FAA's remodel of these towers relied on the assumption that the new technology would work. The FAA's continued use of paper strips to track planes when air traffic control systems in many countries have long since moved to electronic methods is frequently cited by lawmakers and industry officials as an example of the agency's often painfully

slow adoption of new technology. The paper strips are more time-consuming, which slows the handling of planes. Remodeling the cab at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas may not be too difficult because it's fairly roomy, but remodeling the one at San Francisco International Airport will be tough because there is no extra space, Rinaldi said.

The FAA's head of air traffic operations said she was unaware of this problem until Rinaldi raised it during a recent aviation symposium. If the electronic strips can't be relied upon, "we'll figure out what we need to do," said Terri Bristol. Rinaldi raised the issue during a discussion of legislation sponsored by Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, to remove air traffic control operations from the FAA and spin them off into a private, nonprofit corporation controlled primarily by major airlines and other segments of the aviation industry.

### New system

The union supports the bill as a means to break FAA's cycle of failed or delayed technology acquisition programs, and to eliminate chronic understaffing at air traffic facilities, Rinaldi said. The roughly 15,000 controllers employed by the agency is the lowest number in nearly three decades, and many controllers in New York, Atlanta and other busy facilities routinely work 6-day weeks and 10-hour days, union officials said. The prototype electronic system developed by the FAA has been in use in the Phoenix Sky

Harbor International Airport tower for several years, but has been plagued with problems that frequently require controllers to revert to using paper strips, Rinaldi said. The most recent crash of the system's server was on May 16, said Doug Church, a union spokesman.

"The most frustrating thing is that there are systems out there that would work off the shelf," said Rinaldi, citing electronic flight strip systems made by Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, Thales and Canada's air traffic control agency. "Why are we recreating the wheel?" The FAA recently solicited bids from manufacturers to create an electronic strip system for the agency to replace the internally developed prototype system. However, even after a contractor is selected, there are likely to be many years of development, testing and installation, Rinaldi said. Construction of the San Francisco tower cost the FAA \$77 million, while the airport is spending an additional \$50 million to remove the old tower and construct several unrelated facilities, said airport spokesman Doug Yalck. The FAA estimated the cost of the Las Vegas tower at about \$100 million at the time ground was broken in 2011.

The agency announced last week that it has broken ground on construction of a third new airport tower at Charlotte, North Carolina, that is also designed to use the prototype electronic tracking system. The design of the Charlotte cab appears to allow enough room to add equipment for the use of paper strips as a fallback, said Church. —AP



## BANGLADESH HEIST CRIMINALS MAY NEVER BE IDENTIFIED: EX US OFFICIAL

**SINGAPORE:** A former top US intelligence official on cyber security has warned that government investigators may never be able to ascertain who carried out a cyber heist that led to the theft of \$81 million from Bangladesh's central bank in February. Sean Kanuck, who was the most senior official in charge of cyber security at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence for five years until mid-May, told Reuters that there had been no official determination on who committed the cyber heist, one of the biggest ever.

"They may never be able to make one," Kanuck said on the sidelines of the annual Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia's premier security forum, held at the weekend in Singapore. He said he had some knowledge of the case but was not directly involved in the probe. Investigations into the heist are being coordinated by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. The authorities in Bangladesh, the Philippines

and some other countries are also carrying out inquiries. The hackers stole money from Bangladesh Bank's account at the New York Federal Reserve. One fraudulent transfer to a Sri Lankan entity was reversed, but four transfers for a combined \$81 million went to the Philippines and wound up being laundered through casinos and casino agents there.

Most of the money remains missing. Kanuck said that he believed either an extremely sophisticated criminal group or a rogue nation carried out the theft.

BAE Systems has said malware used to erase the tracks of hackers in the Bangladesh Bank heist was similar to code used to attack Sony Corp in 2014, a strike blamed by the FBI on North Korea. "We have actually seen criminal enterprises that were able to bring together a range of capabilities, ranging from insider access to credentials, going through to people who were willing to go physically remove money from ATMs," said Kanuck. —Reuters

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Nest Labs CEO Tony Fadell is flying the coop two years after selling the smart-thermostat maker to Google for \$3.2 billion. Fadell, best known for helping to invent Apple's iPod, announced in a Friday blog post he is leaving Nest. His departure comes after reports published earlier this year detailed intensifying friction within Nest and delays in delivering new products designed for Internet-connected homes. Both Fadell and Alphabet, the parent company of Google and Nest, depicted the shake-up as a mutual decision. Fadell, 47, will now serve as an adviser to Alphabet CEO Larry Page. Fadell's replacement at Nest will be an outsider, Marwan Fawaz, who formerly oversaw the home division of Motorola Mobility while that device maker was owned by Google. In his blog post, Fadell said the discussions about a transition to a new management began late last year.

"This will give me the time and flexibility to pursue new opportunities to create and disrupt other industries," Fadell wrote. Jackdaw Research analyst Jan Dawson suspects Fadell may have been nudged aside as Alphabet imposes more financial discipline on its subsidiaries in an effort to pare its losses on its operations outside Google. Those businesses, which include self-driving cars and medical research in addition to Nest, lost \$802 million during the first three months of this year, widening from a \$633 mil-

lion setback at the same time last year. Fadell's "position was becoming pretty untenable, so it's probably a good thing that he's going," Dawson said. "This should allow Nest to move on without the distraction of the recent news stories and criticisms." In the most evident sign of the tension within Nest, Fadell clashed with a co-founder of Dropcam, a web cam maker that Nest bought for \$517 million in 2014.

Fadell told the technology website The Information that a lot of Dropcam employees

"were not as good as we hoped," prompting Dropcam co-founder Greg Duffy to lash out in a post on Medium.

After calling it a mistake to sell Dropcam to Nest, Duffy wrote that Nest's leadership seems to "be fetishizing only the most superfluous and negative traits of their mentors" in an apparent reference to Fadell's former boss at Apple, the late Steve Jobs, who was known for demeaning employees. Page praised Fadell as "a true visionary" in his Friday statement. —AP

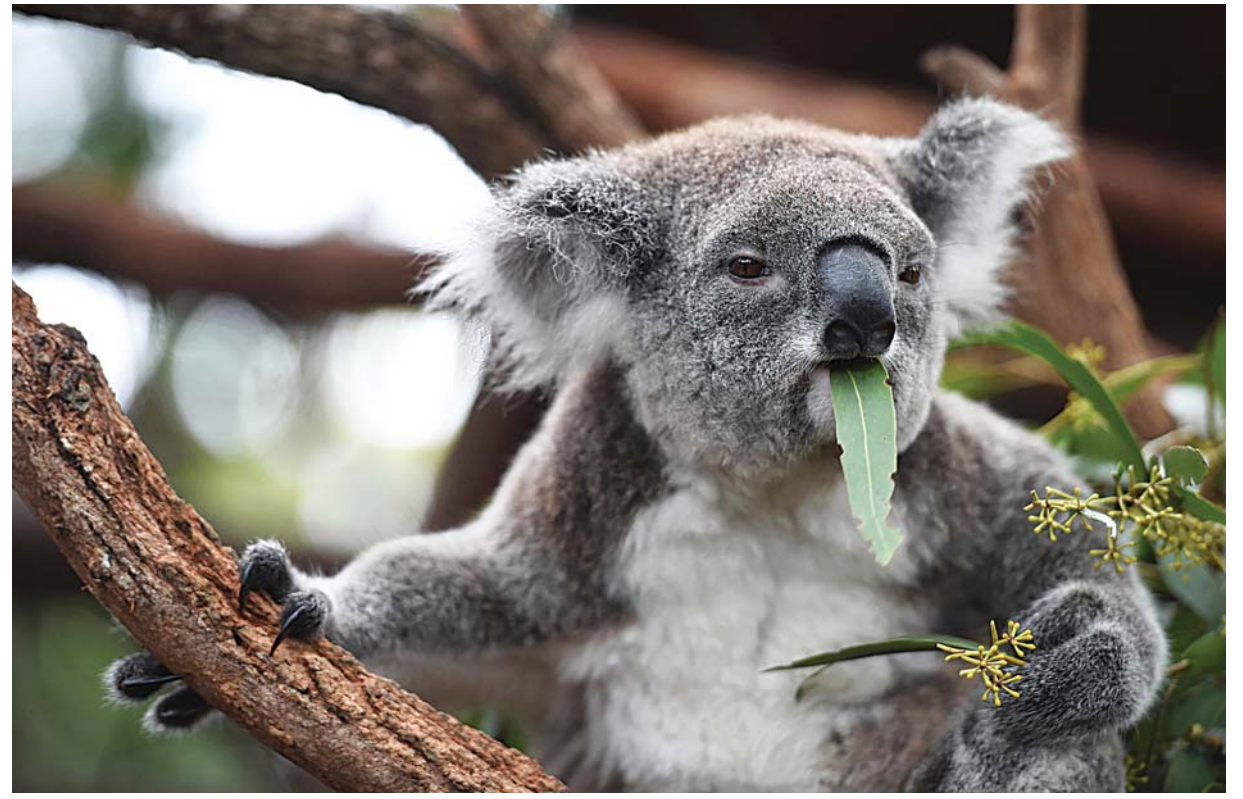


SAN FRANCISCO: People make their way along Post Street outside the new Apple Union Square store in San Francisco. —AP





AUSTRALIA: In this photo, a koala who goes by the name of Oxley Kaylee who lost an eye and has had her left hind leg amputated after being hit by a car resides at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie.



AUSTRALIA: In this photo, a koala who goes by the name of Ocean Summer who is blind from brain damage resides at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie. —AFP Photos

## HAIRY FUTURE FOR AUSTRALIA'S BELOVED KOALA

**PORT MACQUARIE:** A sweet, sickly smell filled the air as Sherwood Robyn, a 12-year-old koala, was brought into a small examination room at Australia's first hospital for the furry marsupials.

From afar, she appeared in fine health. But closer inspection revealed a "wet bottom" - a clear sign of the Chlamydia infection which is ravaging Australia's iconic native animal. With no available

cure, Robyn, found on Sherwood Road and named in a nod to the famous outlaw, is already experiencing advanced stages of the sexually-transmitted disease and will likely die a painful death within months, vets say.

The spread and impact of the disease have been exacerbated by human development encroaching the animals' territory, Cheyne Flanagan, clinical director at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie, told AFP. "It's driven by pressure on the animals, when there's a disturbed habitat... they're forced to live closer together, which gives us more interaction between the animals," she explained. This causes the disease to spread rapidly, Flanagan added, saying that additional factors such as increased competition for territory and food can add to the problem.

### 'Effectively extinct'

The prognosis for Sherwood Robyn mirrors the dire outlook for koala populations on Australia's east coast as habitat loss, dog attacks, car strikes, climate change and disease take their

toll. While there were believed to be more than 10 million koalas before British settlers arrived in 1788, a 2012 national count placed their total numbers at around 330,000, though their existence in treetops makes accurate assessment difficult. In parts of Queensland, koalas are "effectively extinct" a recent study by the state university found.

In New South Wales the marsupial's overall numbers have plunged more than 30 percent since 1990. Both regions - along with the Australian Capital Territory - have listed the animal as "vulnerable" to extinction. "I'm not optimistic at all," said Damien Higgins, head of the Koala Health Hub at the University of Sydney, assessing the animal's long term prospects for survival. "Ultimately, the pressures acting against koalas are not going away. Development is continuing... and while people want to live where koalas live... and mine where koalas live, they're going to be in trouble," he told AFP.

Chlamydia has been in koala popu-

lations for some time and can cause blindness, infertility and death. It is different to the human strain of the disease: The latest research suggests it could have first spread to the marsupials from livestock brought by early European settlers to Australia. But increased human development on koala territory has exacerbated the impact of the disease in recent years.

### 'Death by a thousand cuts'

The Koala Hospital was established in the coastal town of Port Macquarie in 1973. But there has been a marked shift in those being treated in recent years. Flanagan says she now sees mainly older marsupials and that admission numbers have dramatically fallen - suggesting populations are dying out. She believes the changes are caused by habitat loss as trees are felled to make way for urban development, describing the impact on koalas as "death by a thousand cuts".

Due to this land clearance, young koalas are driven further afield to search out suitable sites to set up

home, making them vulnerable to vehicle strikes and animal attacks, said hospital coordinator Mick Feeney. The animal famously only eat leaves from a narrow range of the eucalyptus gum tree species-limiting its food supply and adding to its woes. "It's not an easy issue to deal with in an area where there is a great deal of growth," Port Macquarie-Hastings Mayor Peter Besseling told AFP. "People want to move to the coast and we need to look at ways in which we can protect the koala into the long-term," he added.

Researchers at the University of Sydney, who have collaborated closely with the Koala Hospital for decades, are working hard to mitigate the challenges facing koalas by studying the diseases they succumb to. "The other aspect is damage control. Once things like development are happening, (it's about) trying to somehow reduce the impact on koalas," Higgins said. "It's a band-aid in a way, to try and keep the populations as healthy as we can." —AFP



AUSTRALIA: In this photo, Sherwood Robyn, a 12-year-old koala is given a general anesthetic before being examined by Cheyne Flanagan, clinical director at the Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie.

## MUTILATED RHINO IN S AFRICA ON LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

**BELA BELA, South Africa:** Sedated, blindfolded, her ears plugged with cotton-wool, "Hope" the rhino breathes heavily as veterinarians work to repair a gaping wound left by poachers who hacked off her horns. A year after being left for dead on a game reserve outside South Africa's southern city of Port Elizabeth, Hope has undergone about 15 operations to reconstruct her ravaged face.

Veterinary surgeon Johan Marais sounded optimistic after examining the wound, originally one meter in length after the attack. "It has

healed 60 percent," he said with satisfaction, stressing that the pioneering medical procedure continues to be a risky experiment. "We don't know which antibiotics to give, at which dosage, which painkillers to give, we don't even know the basic anatomy," he admitted.

Hope, aged six, has been treated by South African veterinarians organized by Saving the Survivors, a non-profit organization that focuses on rhinos and other wild animals subject to brutal attack or injuries. South Africa, home to around 20,000 rhinos, or 80 percent

of the worldwide population, has borne the brunt of a recent boom in international poaching syndicates.

### 'Hope survived'

The rhino are slaughtered for their horns in the supposed belief that they cure diseases such as cancer in Vietnam and China. Also believed to be an aphrodisiac, the horn is composed mainly of keratin, the same component as in human nails. From under 100 rhinos poached in South Africa in 2008, nearly 1,200 were killed by poachers in 2015 in carnage driven by the soaring price of horn which is estimated to be up to \$60,000 a kilogram. Hope survived her attack, and for the past 12 months, Marais and his team have exhaustively tried often unconventional techniques to try to heal and re-seal the gruesome cavity in her face.

Materials involved in the procedures have included elephant skin, nylon fishing thread, and steel wire mesh. But keeping the dressings and bandages in place has been a major problem as the wound gets itchy, so Hope scratches away against fence posts. "So whatever we put in there she just tears it out," said fellow surgeon Gerhard Steenkamp. "She is so powerful, weighing two tones."

### 'Every individual counts'

The latest attempt to pull together the edges of the wound uses special elastic bands in a technique developed for post-abdominal surgery in humans. Marais starts off cleaning Hope's wound while chasing away flies attracted by the stench from the wound. He drills small holes in the skin and sews an elastic band along the wound. With the anesthetics wearing out, Hope's ears twitch - signaling that the surgery must be wrapped up quickly. A mosquito net is stapled over the wound, and covered with a large bandage which is then secured with blue duct tape.

Within seconds the rhino hops to her feet, and the surgeons back off quickly, crossing their fingers that the latest dressing will stay in place. It has so far cost \$45,000 to try to reconstruct Hope's face, but for Saving the Survivors, it is money well spent. "When a species becomes endangered, every individual counts because it is genetic diversity," said anesthetist Jana Pretorius. "If we had 100,000 rhino, then we would probably never do this. But because it is becoming critical, then it makes sense."

With around 25,000 rhino left in the world, Hope embodies the survival of the species. "We don't just want to treat her because we want to close a hole, she has to fit into the whole conservation of rhinos," said Steenkamp. "What would be success for us is the day Hope has a baby and the day she can be part of the renaissance of the rhinos." These doctors may be at the cusp of a medical victory, and they plan to release Hope back into the wild. In a sign of life after death, a small re-growth of her horn has been detected. —AFP



SOUTH AFRICA: This file photo shows South African veterinarians applying bandage and stitches to a poached de-horned rhinoceros that was left to die by poachers on a ranch in Bela Bela district. —AFP Photos



NORTH CAROLINA: In this photo, Dr. Ronald C. Chen poses for a photo in his office at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Chen is the lead author on a new study of aggressive cancer treatment in the last month of a patient's life. —AP

## WHEN TO GIVE UP: TREATMENT OR COMFORT FOR LATE-STAGE CANCER?

**CHICAGO:** Two months before Joe Clark died of colon cancer at age 31, a doctor gently told him it was time to stop treatment. He had suffered through more than a year of chemotherapy that produced painful sores in his mouth, last-ditch major abdominal surgery had left behind excruciating scar tissue, and hope had dried up. But the end of treatment had a surprise effect on Clark and his wife. "It was a whole new way of thinking to wrap our minds around," his widow, Amanda Evans-Clark recalled. No more "fight mode," she said. "We finally felt like we were allowed to live." When to stop aggressive treatment is one of the most wrenching decisions in cancer care.

Medical guidelines say dying cancer patients shouldn't get harsh and painful treatment, but new research suggests it happens almost all of the time. During their last month alive, three out of four cancer patients younger than 65 got too-aggressive treatment and only a handful got comfort-based hospice care instead, according to the recent study. There are many reasons why, but one of them is this, said University of Chicago palliative care specialist Dr. Monica Malec: "There's nearly nothing harder than being faced with a patient who's begging you not to give up on them."

Dying patients and their families are sometimes in denial about their illness, and sometimes don't understand the limitations of medical treatment, the researchers and other specialists say. Those misunderstandings can often be avoided if doctors begin end-of-life conversations early in the process of treating patients whose cancers are likely to be deadly. But those talks often never happen, Malec said, or they don't happen until the situation has progressed to crisis, because they're just too difficult. The new study is an analysis of health claims data involving more than 28,000 cancer patients who died between 2007 and 2014. Their end-of-life treatment included hospitalizations, chemotherapy and invasive procedures. Fewer than one in five patients received hospice care.

### 'I'm not giving up hope'

"There are hundreds if not thousands who undergo too much therapy and too much suffering for every one person that we have who ends up having a miracle," said Dr. Otis Brawley, the American Cancer Society's chief medical officer. The study was presented Yesterday in Chicago at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's annual meeting. Dr. Ronald Chen, the study's lead author and a cancer specialist at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, said the decision is still a struggle, even when he knows hospice might be the right choice. "If I can offer chemotherapy or if I can offer radiation treatment, then I'm not giving up hope," he said.

Wendy Sparks of Oklahoma City says watching her elderly mother and younger sister both die of cancer within the last three years changed her thoughts about end-of-life treatment. Her mother stopped chemo after her doctor assured her that ending treatment didn't mean giving up. But her sister, Nikki Stienman, kept up the treatment and suffered severe side effects from what her sister thinks was a needless final round of chemotherapy before she died at 38 of metastatic lung cancer in 2013. "You're not giving up if you don't do treatment," Sparks said. "You're still fighting for your life, in a different way. You're fighting to have good days."

Dr. Andrew Epstein, a palliative care expert with the oncology society, said the new research, which echoes studies in older cancer patients, is important because less is known about end-of-life care for younger patients. Too few doctors know about hospice, which is among the best but most under-used resources, he said. But abandoning treatment and seeking hospice care is sometimes seen as surrendering, especially with young patients, said American Cancer Society's Brawley. "When you're dealing with young people, in their 40s, 50s, even 60s, it's just so difficult to accept that this person is going to die," he said. —AP



## US MAY APPROVE PRIVATE VENTURE MOON MISSION

**WASHINGTON:** The US government, in a first, is preparing to approve a private commercial space mission beyond the Earth's orbit, the Wall Street Journal has reported. The expected decision would set precedents for how the US government would ensure that private ventures comply with international space treaties, the Journal reported late Sunday, citing unnamed sources familiar with the details.

Once the guidelines are set, the space startup Moon Express would embark on a mission to land a 20-pound (nine-kilo) package of scientific gear, including a telescope, on the moon sometime in the second half of 2017. "We've been a regulatory pathfinder out of necessity,"

because up to now "only governments have undertaken space missions beyond Earth orbit," Moon Express CEO and founder Bob Richards told the Journal.

The approval, still months away, would pave the way for several other for-profit space ventures. These include plans to mine asteroids, track space debris, and billionaire Elon Musk's plan for an unmanned mission to Mars in 2018. Moon Express is one of 16 companies competing for the Google Lunar X prize, which offers \$20 million (18 million Euros) for the first team that can land a privately funded rover on the moon, have the rover travel at least 500 meters (yards), and transmit back to Earth high definition video and images.—AFP

## HUNT ON FOR SHARK THAT KILLED AUSTRALIAN DIVER

**SYDNEY:** A hunt was underway yesterday for a monster six-meter shark blamed for a fatal attack on a diver in western Australia, despite allegations it amounted to a "revenge killing". The woman, 60, was fatally mauled one kilometer (half a mile) offshore from Perth on Sunday, by a shark described by witnesses as bigger than their 5.3-metre (17.4-foot) boat. A surfer also succumbed to his injuries on Friday after his leg was bitten off by a shark along the same coastline last week.

The West Australian fisheries department said it would deploy "capture gear" to haul in what they believe is a great white shark that poses "a serious threat to public safety". Fisheries official Tony Cappelluti said if a shark matching the description of the one that attacked the diver was captured, it was "highly likely we will take the decision to destroy it in the interests of public safety".

### Imminent threat

"We have two methods... we can either let it expire on the line or we can use a firearm to destroy it," he said. "In this instance today, we will be using a firearm." Animal rights group Humane Society International expressed "extreme concern" at the government's plans. "Given that science tells us that drum lines are an unnecessary and lethal option for shark management, the government's response can only be described as revenge killing," campaign director Michael Kennedy said in a statement.

Western Australian Premier Colin Barnett said his

state, which has now suffered 14 shark attack fatalities since 2000, was in shock at the latest deaths. "I don't think there's any doubt that the number of shark attacks and fatalities from shark attack has increased quite significantly over recent years," he told reporters in Perth. Barnett said a number of measures were deployed, including the aerial patrols, to alert swimmers to sharks. But the catching and killing of the predators has long proved controversial.

A previous trial involving baited hooks attached to floating drum lines to snare sharks was abandoned after objections from conservationists and marine scientists. Barnett said, however, that the government would always err on the side of public safety and reserved the right to destroy a shark if it posed an imminent threat. Last Wednesday, a 4.2-metre shark was caught near to where surfer Ben Gerring lost his leg off Falcon Beach, 115 kilometers south of Sunday's attack near Mindarie, but it is unclear if it was the animal that attacked him.

Deadly attacks are relatively rare, according to the International Shark Attack File, which in February reported only six fatalities worldwide last year, including one in Australia. In Sunday's incident, the woman's dive partner told police they were in the water together when he felt something brush past him. He spun around but did not find anything and decided to head to the surface where he "saw a commotion". The man and his rescuers then managed to retrieve the woman, but she died from her injuries, police said.—AFP

## OBAMA OPPOSES PRIVATIZATION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE

**COLORADO:** President Barack Obama is opposing suggestions the government privatize the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve health care veterans receive. In an interview with the Colorado Springs Gazette, the president said his administration has made progress modernizing the VA and providing veterans with more timely health care following criticism over wait times. Privatizing the agency would delay that progress, he said.

The administration came under fire when it was disclosed that secret wait lists were uncovered at a VA health care system in Arizona amid reports that several veterans had died waiting for health care. Government investigations found significant system failures. "The notion of dismantling the VA system would be a mistake," Obama told The Gazette during an interview on Thursday that was published Sunday. "If you look at, for example, VA health care, there have been challenges getting people into the system. Once they

are in, they are extremely satisfied and the quality of care is very high."

Obama said during his last term in office, he will continue to work on issues plaguing the Veterans Administration. "It's a big ocean liner, and on any given day, given how far-flung the agency is, we're still seeing problems crop up that we have to correct. I think the main message is that we've still got a lot of work to do. It's an all-hands-on-deck process." Obama appointed a new VA secretary in 2014 after Eric Shinseki resigned. Robert McDonald, former CEO of Procter & Gamble, took his place. "I think Secretary McDonald has done a terrific job," the president said.

"Since there's only eight months left in my administration, he's got all the way until then to run through the tape." U.S. Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colorado Springs, a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee, agreed with Obama that total privatization would be a mistake, but he said veterans need more options, including private care.—AFP

# HOW CANDY MAKERS SHAPE NUTRITION SCIENCE

**NEW YORK:** It was a startling scientific finding: Children who eat candy tend to weigh less than those who don't. Less startling was how it came about. The paper, it turns out, was funded by a trade association representing the makers of Butterfingers, Hershey and Skittles. And its findings were touted by the group even though one of its authors didn't seem to think much of it. "We're hoping they can do something with it - it's thin and clearly padded," a professor of nutrition at Louisiana State University wrote to her co-author in early 2011, with an abstract for the paper attached.

The paper nevertheless served the interests of the candy industry - and that's not unusual. The comment was found in thousands of pages of emails obtained by The Associated Press through records requests with public universities as part of an investigation into how food companies influence thinking about healthy eating. One of the industry's most powerful tactics is the funding of nutrition research. It carries the weight of academic authority, becomes a part of scientific literature and generates headlines. "Hot oatmeal breakfast keeps you fuller for longer," declared a Daily Mail article on a study funded by Quaker Oats.

"Study: Diet beverages better for losing weight than water," said a CBS Denver story about research funded by Coke and Pepsi's lobbying group. The studies have their defenders. Food companies say they follow guidelines to ensure scientific integrity, and that academics have the right to publish no matter what they find. Many in the research world also see industry funding as critical for advancing science as competition for government funding has intensified.

It's not surprising that companies would pay for research likely to show the benefits of their products. But critics say the worry is that they're hijacking science for marketing purposes, and that they cherry-pick or hype findings. The thinner-children-ate-candy research is an example. It was drawn from a government database of surveys that asks people to recall what they ate in the past 24 hours. The data "may not reflect usual intake" and "cause and effect associations cannot be drawn," the candy paper authors wrote in a section about the study's limitations.

The candy association's press release did not mention that and declared, "New study shows children and adolescents who eat candy are less overweight or obese." The headline at cbsnews.com: "Does candy keep kids from getting fat?" Carol O'Neil, the LSU professor who made the "thin and clearly padded" remark, told The Associated Press through a university representative that data can be "publishable" even if it's thin. In a phone interview a week later, she said she did not recall why she made the remark, but that it was a reference to the abstract she had attached for her co-author to provide feedback on. She said she believed the full paper was "robust."

The flood of industry money in nutrition science partly reflects the field's challenges. Isolating the effect of any single food on a person's health can be difficult, as evidenced by the sea of conflicting findings. The ambiguity and confusion has left the door open for marketers. Since 2009, the authors of the candy paper have written more than two dozen papers funded by parties including Kellogg and industry groups for beef, milk and fruit juice.

Two are professors: O'Neil of LSU and Theresa Nicklas at the Baylor College of Medicine. The third is Victor Fulgoni, a former Kellogg executive and consultant whose website says he helps companies develop "aggressive, science-based claims about their products." Their studies regularly delivered favorable conclusions for funders - or as they call them, "clients."

In a phone interview, Fulgoni said industry-funded studies show favorable results because companies invest in projects with the "best chance of success." He said any type of funding creates bias or pressure to deliver results. "The same kind of questions you're asking me, you should be asking (National Institutes of Health) researchers," Fulgoni said.

It's true that industry-funded studies don't have a monopoly on the problems in scientific research. Still, Marion Nestle, a professor of nutrition at New York University (and no relation to the food company) said unlike other research, industry-funded studies "are designed and produced to be useful in marketing. The

hypotheses are market driven." In the past year, 156 of the 168 industry-funded studies Nestle reviewed showed favorable results for sponsors. She said playing up nutritional perks has become a critical marketing tool in the competitive food industry. "The only thing that moves sales," she said, "is health claims."

### 'TROLLS'

The documents show how researchers can be motivated by financial concerns. In 2010, Nicklas said in an email she decided against attending a General Mills health summit because she didn't want to "jeopardize" a proposal the group planned to submit to Kellogg. For another project, Fulgoni advised O'Neil against adding data. "I suggest we focus on these first and 'hook' Kellogg for more funding before conducting more analyses," he wrote.

For the paper on candy-eating children, a disclosure says the funders had no role in the "design, analysis or writing of this manuscript." But emails obtained from LSU show the National Confectioners Association made a number of suggestions. "You'll note I took most but not (all) their comments," Fulgoni wrote to O'Neil about the paper in 2010.

"I have finally waded through the comments from NCA. Attached is my attempt to edit based on their feedback," he wrote about a similar paper on candy consumption among adults. The trumpeting of their

no salary compensation. As research faculty, O'Neil is expected to publish.

A Baylor College of Medicine representative, Lori Williams, said all research funding goes through the college. She said the college did not receive payment from the candy association or Nutrition Impact for the paper on children and candy co-authored by Nicklas. The records obtained by the AP show Nicklas sent Nutrition Impact an invoice for \$11,500 for three manuscripts in 2011, including \$2,500 for "candy." After being provided a copy of the invoice, Williams said the school began a review "surrounding funding and disclosures on this research." "We take this very seriously, and your information is of significant concern to our leadership at the College," Williams wrote. Papers co-authored by O'Neil and Nicklas also list support from the US Department of Agriculture - general funding the two professors receive from the department through their respective universities for research work.

Another paper by the co-authors found a link between chickpeas and hummus and better nutrient intake. It was funded by Sabra Dipping Co. and a disclosure says funders had no input in drafting the manuscript. But Sabra provided feedback that was incorporated. For a line on the benefits of "recipes made from chickpeas," for instance, it suggested tacking on, "such as hummus." Sabra said it received a courtesy



**NEW YORK:** This photo shows Skittles, in New York. The Associated Press takes a look at how candy, cookie and soda makers are shaping nutrition science. —AP

research was also carefully timed. In June 2011, a candy association representative emailed O'Neil a critical article about a professor with industry ties.

"I'd like to monitor the fallout from this story, and give a little bit of distance to our research piece. I do not want to put you in the crossfire of a media on a rampage," wrote Laura Muma of FoodMinds, an agency that represented the candy association. Fulgoni said the group runs manuscripts by clients to check for errors or omissions. "It's more using them as a set of eyes to make sure we haven't forgotten something," he said. O'Neil said she takes only "grammatical corrections from the clients - I can't speak for the others." For the paper about candy and children, Chris Gindlesperger, a spokesman for the National Confectioners Association, said the group was given "the courtesy of reviewing the manuscript" and that its suggestions did not change results. He pointed to another paper that came to the same conclusion by analyzing multiple studies, including the one funded by the candy association.

O'Neil said she believed it was important to research foods such as nuts and milk to know whether they're good for you, and that it is difficult to get government funding for such studies. She said Fulgoni's consulting business, Nutrition Impact, gets most of the funding for their projects and that she receives reimbursements for costs such as travel, but

review for "providing clarifying notes and ensuring accuracy of product data."

The International Life Sciences Institute, which is funded by companies including McDonald's, Red Bull and Unilever, encourages scientific collaboration with industry. Eric Hentges, its executive director, said sponsors have long been able to provide comments to ensure excellence, but that authors have the final say. Hentges said the goal is to improve quality - not change the results. For a study comparing breakfasts for children, the American Egg Board asked a University of Arkansas researcher to explain in a progress report the implications of her study for the egg industry.

"This could lead to increase(d) sales and profits," wrote Jamie Baum, an assistant professor of nutrition. In a statement, Baum said it is standard for funders to ask about industry implications. She said she applies the same scientific rigor regardless of the funder. An egg board representative, Mitch Kanter, said opinions about industry implications are irrelevant to the integrity of the research.

Coca-Cola's former chief science officer, Rhona Applebaum, referred to industry critics as "trolls" in one of her regular emails with company-backed researchers, according to documents obtained from West Virginia University, where one of the researchers is the dean of the school of public health.—AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem



د. فهد علي المخيزيم

إستشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



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





The Ambassador of Italy to Kuwait Giuseppe Scognamiglio hosted a reception at Symphony Hotel on the occasion of his country's national day. Senior officials, diplomats and media persons attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

# SWEARING IN OF SCHOOL CABINET AT IISM

Leaders are not born but are made by their experiences in life. To inculcate the leadership qualities in students and to give them a feel of functioning of the administrative body, a school cabinet was formed at India International School, Mangaf through an election procedure in a democratic way on 19 April 2016. Master Moosa Kazi of XII B and Sadaf Mariyam of XII A were elected as the Head Boy and the Head Girl for the academic year 2016-17.

The School kick started its glorious vistas of events for the year with the Investiture Ceremony on 30 April 2016 in the august presence of the school's Chairman Dr PA Ibrahim and the Director, Malayil Moosa Koya. The Chief Guest, Dr PA Ibrahim was given a warm red carpet welcome by the dignitaries of the school. The program started in a traditional way by invoking the blessings of the Almighty with the recitation of the Holy Quran.

A profound welcome note was delivered by the Principal FM Basheer Ahmed, enlisting the glorious achievements of the Chief Guest as a charismatic leader, an educational visionary, and an entrepreneur. His immense contribu-

tions for the welfare of the society have brought him international fame and it was appreciated with an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) award by American Global International University, Florida and a prestigious position as a governing body member at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University. The Chairman was greeted with a floral bouquet presented by the school's ex-Head Girl Ms. Khadeeja Raeda.

The administrative responsibility of the school cabinet for the academic year 2016-17 was officially handed over by presenting the school flag to the Head Boy and the Head Girl by the CCA in charge, Feroza Sultana. It was followed by the much awaited crowning of the cabinet by presenting their position badges. It was a spectacular sight watching the Chief Guest, the dignitaries and the House Masters and Mistresses conferring badges to all the Council Members, House Captains and Prefects. This was followed by the momentous Oath Taking Ceremony. The Student Council Members, the House Captains and the Prefects of all the four houses- Shanthiniketan, Sarabhahi, Nalanda and Homibhaba were sworn in by the

Principal. This eventful ceremony was suitably followed by the power packed speech given the Head Boy and the Head Girl. CBSE toppers of Class X and XII examinations were honored by the Chairman along with the academic achievers from classes VI-XI and the staff members who secured cent percent attendance. Arsh Mukadam of XII B, the winner of Wild Life Photography Competition conducted by FAIPS Kuwait on 29 April 2016 also was honored on the dais amidst loud round of applause.

In his address, the Chief Guest Dr PA Ibrahim, appreciated the efforts taken by the school for providing such opportunities and responsibilities to the students. He also congratulated the newly appointed school cabinet members for their readiness to take responsibilities. He made a special mention about the staff members who were honored for their full attendance. A special memento was presented to the Chairman by the Director as a token of love and gratitude.

The next segment of the event was a hair raising patriotic fusion song performance by the school choir. The program came to a solemn close with vote of thanks proposed by

the CCA Secretary, Sidra Abdurahim followed by refreshments and the photo session. As they went home, the students, parents and teachers cherished the valuable words of Dr PA Ibrahim; "With desire, we achieve nothing, with decision we achieve something and with determination we achieve everything". There is no doubt that these prized words have ignited the fire of determination in the young minds of IISians as these were the true words from a man who conquered the world with his determination.





#ويك

## مبارك عليكم الشهر Ramadan Kareem

إمساكية شهر رمضان المبارك لسنة 1437 هـ - 2016 م

أيام الأسبوع	رمضان 1437 هـ	يونيو/يوليو 2016 م	إمساك	حجر	شروق	ظهر	عصر	مغرب	عشاء
الأثنين	1	6	3:14	3:04	4:48	11:47	3:21	6:45	8:16
الثلاثاء	2	7	3:14	3:04	4:48	11:47	3:21	6:46	8:17
الأربعاء	3	8	3:13	3:03	4:48	11:47	3:21	6:46	8:18
الخميس	4	9	3:13	3:03	4:48	11:47	3:21	6:47	8:18
الجمعة	5	10	3:11	3:03	4:48	11:47	3:21	6:47	8:19
السبت	6	11	3:11	3:03	4:48	11:47	3:21	6:47	8:19
الأحد	7	12	3:11	3:03	4:48	11:48	3:22	6:48	8:20
الاثنين	8	13	3:11	3:03	4:48	11:48	3:22	6:48	8:20
الثلاثاء	9	14	3:11	3:03	4:48	11:48	3:22	6:48	8:21
الأربعاء	10	15	3:11	3:03	4:49	11:48	3:22	6:49	8:21
الخميس	11	16	3:03	3:03	4:49	11:49	3:22	6:49	8:21
الجمعة	12	17	3:03	3:03	4:49	11:49	3:23	6:49	8:22
السبت	13	18	3:03	3:03	4:49	11:49	3:23	6:50	8:22
الأحد	14	19	3:03	3:03	4:49	11:49	3:23	6:50	8:22
الاثنين	15	20	3:03	3:03	4:48	11:49	3:23	6:50	8:23
الثلاثاء	16	21	3:03	3:03	4:48	11:50	3:23	6:50	8:23
الأربعاء	17	22	3:04	3:04	4:48	11:50	3:24	6:51	8:23
الخميس	18	23	3:04	3:04	4:49	11:50	3:24	6:51	8:23
الجمعة	19	24	3:04	3:04	4:50	11:50	3:24	6:51	8:23
السبت	20	25	3:04	3:04	4:50	11:50	3:24	6:51	8:23
الأحد	21	26	3:05	3:05	4:50	11:51	3:24	6:51	8:24
الاثنين	22	27	3:05	3:05	4:50	11:51	3:25	6:51	8:24
الثلاثاء	23	28	3:06	3:06	4:51	11:51	3:25	6:51	8:24
الأربعاء	24	29	3:06	3:06	4:51	11:51	3:25	6:51	8:24
الخميس	25	30	3:06	3:06	4:51	11:51	3:25	6:51	8:24
الجمعة	26	1	3:07	3:07	4:52	11:52	3:26	6:52	8:23
السبت	27	2	3:07	3:07	4:52	11:52	3:26	6:52	8:23
الأحد	28	3	3:08	3:08	4:53	11:52	3:26	6:51	8:23
الاثنين	29	4	3:08	3:08	4:53	11:52	3:26	6:51	8:23
الثلاثاء	30	5	3:09	3:09	4:53	11:52	3:26	6:51	8:22

صلاة العيد الساعة 05:08 صباحاً

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بنك الكويت الدولي  
KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL BANK

## KIB DISTRIBUTES RAMADAN IMSAKIYA

Kuwait International Bank (KIB) has started distributing its 2016 branded Ramadan Imsakiya as a gift to its customers at the head office or any of its branches throughout Kuwait, on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Noting that, KIB has recently announced its working hours during Ramadan at all branches that will be open from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm, seven days a week, excluding Fridays and Saturdays.

The Head of Corporate Communications at KIB, Nawaf Najia, stated that similarly, as every year, the bank aimed at distributing its Ramadan Imsakiya as a giveaway to its customers visiting the head office or any of its branches in Kuwait. He said that the Imsakiya has a unique, elegant and practical design, and it is available in big, medium and small sizes to match customers' lifestyle.

On this occasion and on behalf of the bank's family, Najia extended his sincere wishes to the valued customers, the Kuwaiti people and all Muslims around the world on the start of the Holy Month, asking Allah the Almighty to accept their fasting and righteous deeds.





## AL-THURAYA CITY ORGANIZES BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN

In line with its Corporate Social Responsibility, Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Kuwait Al-Thuraya City held a Blood Donation Campaign, which involved the active participation of its team. In collaboration with the Central Blood Bank of Kuwait, the hotel made a

concentrated effort towards the benevolent cause of saving lives of citizens and residents of the State of Kuwait. The said event also coincides with the first day of appointment of the new Area General Manager of Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG) hotel properties in Kuwait,

Antoine Flouty.

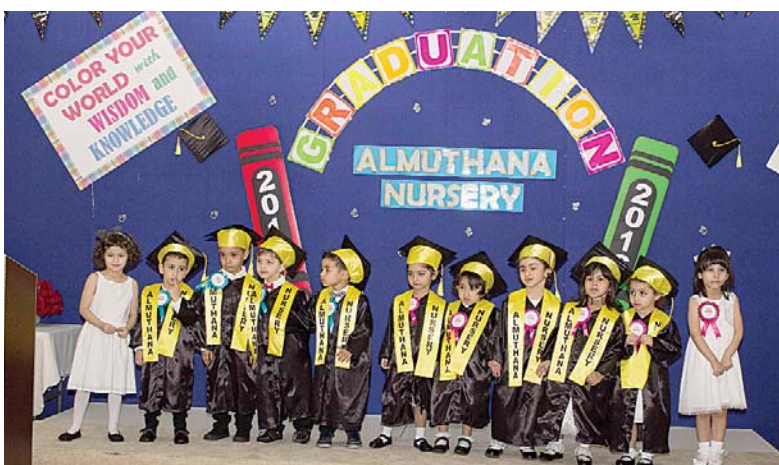
Antoine Flouty, the Area General Manager opined, "Blood donation is part of our commitment towards the community we live in. It is our social responsibility to serve the community and support charitable actions; be it donating blood or any

other humanitarian activities and we are extremely proud to see the large number of our team who has come forward to donate blood for this noble cause. We also look forward to organize similar activities on a regular basis within the two hotels."

The medical team from the Central

Blood Bank expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the team of Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Kuwait Al-Thuraya City for their active interest towards such responsible social activities, which involves the saving of precious human lives for organizing the blood donation campaign.

## AL-MUTHANA NURSERY HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY



Bumblebee Class - graduating students



Ladybug Class - presenters

Banking with the theme, 'Color your world with Wisdom and Knowledge,' Al-Muthana Nursery has successfully held its Graduation Ceremony for its Preschool level recently. Certificates of Completion were awarded to the completers as they were escorted by their parents. They were: Abdulrahman Fahad Bin Eidan, Mohammed Sami Sultan, Omar Kareem Medhat, Yousef Fadi Abu Enain, Fathema Meshal Al-hashash, Ghaliyah Sulaiman Bin Yousef, Haniya Raza Bokhari, Hoor Abdullah Abbas, Malak Sameer Baalbaki, Rozanne Lynn Machado and Talia Yousef Erfani. Special participation by Emilia Saragoca Camacho and Malak Ahmed Sultan.

Guest Speaker was Julie Fautley. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of making the learning experience of the children fun and entertaining. She also pointed out the challenges parents, children and the teaching staff face at the beginning of each school year. But with caring and confident staff the children will thrive and grow day by day.

Students from the Toddlers' classes presented song and dance special numbers which added to the festive mode of the ceremony. Parents were happy and excited to see their children confidently performed on the stage.

Director of Al-Muthana Nursery, in his speech, assured the parents of the safety and security of their children while in the Nursery. "We will take care of your children", he was quoted as saying. He went on to thank the teaching staff and Administration for their year-round hard work making the nursery consistently a friendly and conducive environment for the children. He assured the parents that besides playing and learning, serious attention is given to the children the basic foundation of good manners. In the same vein, Angie Lantaca, Nursery Administrator thanked all the parents who entrusted Al-Muthana Nursery to be a part of their children's growing up years, and assured them that the nursery will continuously work on improving and enhancing the brand of Al-Muthana education.



Al-Muthana Nursery staff



Fadi Abu Enain, a proud parent



## PAKISTAN EMPLOYMENT FORUM KUWAIT CELEBRATES 5 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Pakistan Employment Forum Kuwait (PEFK) celebrated five years of excellence upon successful completion of five years for community services in noble cause of career development. A very decent and beautiful event was held to honor and appreciate the Executive Team of Pakistan Employment Forum Kuwait last week in a famous hotel of Kuwait. Dignitaries from all walk of life participated in this graceful appreciation ceremony. This remarkable event was started with recitation of Holy Quran by Qari Sohaib Anjum followed by Nasheed by Haji Muhammad Nawaz. National Anthems of Pakistan and Kuwait were presented at this stage.

Kashif Shahzad, Vice President of PEFK presented a comprehensive presentations contains complete details of achievements and accomplishment of PEFK Team in last five years. He briefly explained about Pakistan Employment Forum Kuwait and stated that PEFK is a premier and first ever Pakistani Forum of its kind in State of Kuwait which is purely designated to provide assistance for job seekers and career counseling for students residing in Kuwait especially among Pakistanis. PEFK is a non-Political and non-Governmental organization. It is a social welfare group established with a vision to provide career guidance to jobseekers and students, mainly Pakistani citizens residing in Kuwait, and help those in need of assistance in their career development, with no limitations of religion, nationality, race or ethnicity. We are here to serve humanity and the career

of all humans is precious to us. We aim to provide the Best Career Development Counseling and Job Hunting guidance to our community in Kuwait. PEFK Team is working hard since 5 years to serve our community and humanity in career development and hundreds of peoples getting benefits from it in their job search, CV designing, job placements and career guidance and development. Many Career guidance seminars for high grade students, oral health care seminars in schools, professional training and workshops were organized during the years and hundreds of students and jobseekers benefitted from these seminars and trainings.

### Excellent achievements

Shamshad Khan Tanoli the Patron of Pakistan Qirrat and Naat Council Kuwait and guest of honor of event addressed the audience and said the accomplishment and achievements of PEFK Team are wonderful and excellent. PEFK Team is serving the humanity successfully and consistently in noble cause of career development since last 5 years and hundreds of Pakistanis and other nationals residing in Kuwait got job placement and career assistance by this great forum. At PEFK great voluntarily services being witnesses since years and credit goes to all PEFK Team members for their dedication and hardworking. PEFK impact a lot in career development more than a positive role in development of local society where social responsibilities are comes in picture. PEFK had done a vital role in developing soft image of Pakistan in Kuwait.

This is a platform which is equally popular and earned respect from the peoples all walk of life and communities and we as Pakistanis proud of its services to humanity and rendering our support always with PEFK in noble cause of career development.

### Remarkable efforts

Muhammad Irfan Adil, the Founder President of Pakistan Employment Forum Kuwait (PEFK) highly appreciated the remarkable efforts, teamwork and dedication of all PEFK team members who done great contribution towards PEFK mission and successfully served the humanity in career development since 5 years. He mentioned that all the successes and achievements are the result of Allah Almighty's Blessings and teamwork, unity and sincerity with cause. PEFK team is blessed with wonderful talented and highly professional persons who enjoy the team work to fulfill our social responsibility in career development. He stated that the prayers of those peoples and families who got job placements, guidance and assistance in their career, are a real asset and achievements of PEFK team and we thank to Allah Almighty who selected us to serve for this great humanitarian cause. Today PEFK is bench mark of quality, standard, teamwork, discipline, achievements and dedication towards community services and many people are following our footsteps. At the end he congratulates all PEFK team members for their 5 years of excellence. He said we are determined and committed to continue our

services for the community with teamwork, dedication and zeal. He announced to open PEFK Labour Wing to cater career services for labour class and unskilled persons which was highly welcomed by the community.

### Executive Team

PEFK Executive Team is consisting of Muhammad Irfan Adil, Kashif Shahzad, M.Irfan Shafiq, Eng. Waqas Ahmed, Maqbool Ahmed, Akhtar Naveed, Muhammad Imran Khan, Atif Aziz Ahmed, Aqeel Khan, Muhammad Riaz, Farid Khan, Khalil Ahmed Rajput, Bushra Waqas, Nadiya Muhammad, M. Younas Shahid, Adnan Yousef, DrAmna Altaf, Zohaib Khurshid, Huda, Yasir Jameel, PEFK Advisors Dr Mohsin Mehmood, M.Arshad, Amjad Ali, Ali Raza and Naveed Iqbal Butt.

Maqbool Ahmad. The President of Pakistan Sports Association Kuwait appreciated and thanked all PSA Team and volunteers for their excellent piece of work and contribution in PSA Annual Blood Donation Camp held in last December.

Mohammad Irfan Shafiq, the Secretary General of PEFK, thanked all Honorable Guests, Team Members, Sponsors and Media representatives. After this appreciation shields and certificates were given by honorable guests to PEFK Team, PSA Team and Volunteers and PQNCK Women Team, Sponsors and Media representatives upon their outstanding performance and contribution for society. Dua was offered by Qari Talat Sharif Naqshbandi followed by Delicious dinner.









# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY (06/06/2016 TO 08/06/2016)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
9:45 PM	SHARQIA-1 THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:45 PM	MARINA-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:45 PM	GO WITH ME
12:05 AM	GO WITH ME	12:15 AM	Hepta	12:15 AM	360°-2 THE CODE OF CAIN
9:30 PM	SHARQIA-2 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	10:00 PM	AVENUES-1 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	10:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
12:30 AM	WARCRAFT	12:15 AM	THE CODE OF CAIN	12:15 AM	360°-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
10:00 PM	SHARQIA-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:30 PM	AVENUES-3 THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ
12:15 AM	Hepta	11:45 PM	GO WITH ME	11:45 PM	360°-4 X-MEN: Apocalypse
9:30 PM	MUHALAB-1 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	10:00 PM	AVENUES-4 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	10:00 PM	360°-5 HIGH STRUNG
12:15 AM	Hepta	12:05 AM	GO WITH ME	12:30 PM	THE NICE GUYS
10:15 PM	MUHALAB-2 GO WITH ME	9:45 PM	AVENUES-5 WARCRAFT	11:00 PM	360°-6 DON'T GROW UP
12:15 AM	GO WITH ME	12:15 AM	WARCRAFT	1:00 AM	DON'T GROW UP
9:45 PM	MUHALAB-3 THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	AVENUES-6 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:30 PM	360°-7 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi)
12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	12:30 AM	NO MON	12:05 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
9:30 PM	FANAR-1 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	10:30 PM	AVENUES-7 HIGH STRUNG	9:45 PM	360°-8 Hepta
11:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:45 AM	THE NICE GUYS	12:15 AM	Hepta
9:45 PM	FANAR-2 THE JUNGLE BOOK	9:30 PM	AVENUES-8 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi)	10:00 PM	360°-9 THE JUNGLE BOOK
12:05 AM	Hepta	12:05 AM	HASAN WA BOQLOZ	12:15 AM	GO WITH ME
10:00 PM	FANAR-3 THE CODE OF CAIN	9:30 PM	AVENUES-9 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	9:30 PM	360°-10 WARCRAFT
12:15 AM	DON'T GROW UP	10:15 PM	NOT TUE	12:05 AM	WARCRAFT
9:45 PM	FANAR-4 WARCRAFT	12:30 AM	DON'T GROW UP	10:15 PM	360°-11 THE JUNGLE BOOK
12:30 AM	WARCRAFT	12:30 AM	NOT TUE	12:30 AM	MONEY MONSTER
9:30 PM	FANAR-5 HOUSEFULL 3 (Hindi)	9:45 PM	AVENUES-10 Hepta	9:45 PM	360°-12 HASAN WA BOQLOZ
12:15 AM	GO WITH ME	12:15 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	11:45 PM	WARCRAFT
10:00 PM	MARINA-1 GO WITH ME	10:00 PM	AVENUES-11 WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D)	10:00 PM	360°-13 WARCRAFT (3D-IMAX)
12:05 AM	MONEY MONSTER	12:30 AM	WARCRAFT (Atmos 2D)	12:30 AM	WARCRAFT (3D-IMAX)
9:30 PM	MARINA-2 WARCRAFT	9:30 PM	360°-1 CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	9:30 PM	360°-14 Ely Ekhtashou Matou
12:05 AM	WARCRAFT				

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Anthony Manuel Desouza**, holder of Indian Passport No. F9269570, House No. 1488, opp. American Bar, Orda, Candolim, Bardez, Goa, has change my name from Manuel D'souza to Anthony Manuel Desouza. Here after in all my documents I will be known by my new name Anthony Manuel Desouza. **(C 5181) 7-6-2016**

**I, Husain Kutbuddin**, holder of Indian Passport No. G1276114, address: Mohamedi Pura Sagwar, Dingarpur, Rajasthan, hereby change my name Husain Kutbuddin Maudiwala. **(C 5177)**

**I, Elaine Peter Caido** holder of Indian Passport No. J6957804, address in India as 17/C Sheryly village, Off Carter Rd, Bandra - W, Mumbai - 50 hereby change my name to Elaine Caido. **(C 5180)**

**The public** is hereby notified that Ms. Albina Baronia Laguicao has filed with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines, State of Kuwait, a Migrant Petition for Correction of Clerical Error to correct the middle name of her daughter from Mohammed to Laguicao and first name of mother of child to Albina in the report of birth filed with the embassy. Any person having knowledge and/or



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claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition, file his written opposition with the embassy within ten (10) working days. **(C 5178)**

### FOR SALE

**AC (Craft)**, veg.-fruit juicer, food dehydrator. Contact: 96945155. **(C 5179)**

### ACCOMMODATION

**Sharing** accommodation available for Keralite couple / family, from June 25. Behind Telecommunication Tower Abbasiya. Contact: 99388074, 99398084

**Sharing** accommodation available in Khaitan for couple w/o kids from Goan Hindu, near Khaitan round-about police station. Contact: 97306396. **(C 5176) 5-6-2016**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

**Fajr: 03:14**  
**Shrook 04:48**  
**Duhr: 11:46**  
**Asr: 15:21**  
**Maghrib: 18:45**  
**Isha: 20:16**



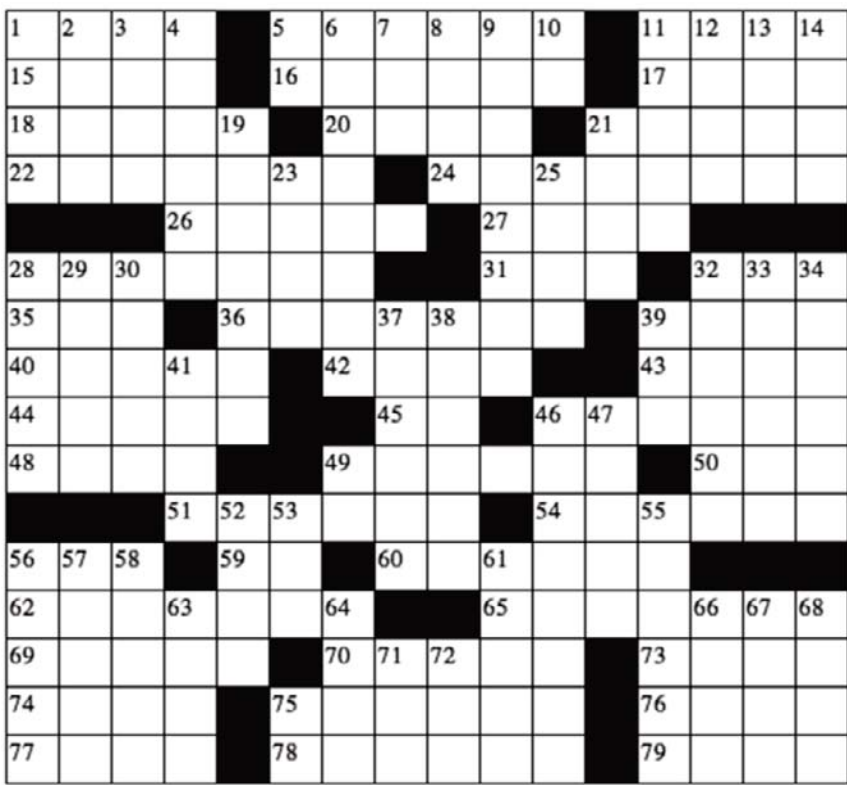
## In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 7/6/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 7/6/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	BBC	144	Chittagong/Dhaka	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KLM	411	Amsterdam	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
LMU	5101	Cairo	04:00	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	LMU	5111	Cairo	05:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	BAW	156	London	08:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	JZR	1770	Jeddah	08:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	KAC	513	Tehran	09:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	619	Doha	09:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:45
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	IRA	674	Lar	10:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
SYR	341	Damascus	10:30	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	QTR	1082	Damascus	11:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	219	Bahrain	11:35
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	NIA	151	Cairo	12:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	12:05
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JZR	125	Bahrain	12:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	12:10
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	PIA	239	Sialkot	12:15
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	KAC	782	Jeddah	13:00
SVA	9350	Jeddah	13:15	THY	764	Istanbul	13:10
IRC	6507	Shiraz	13:35	MSC	403	Asyut	13:10
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	JAI	574	Mumbai	13:30
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	MSR	614	Dubai	13:30
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	FDB	071	Dubai	13:35
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	JAD	301	Amman	13:45
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45				
SVA	2250	Jeddah	14:45				
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00				
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00				
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05				
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05				
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05				
AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10				
KAC	617	Doha	15:15				
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30				
SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45				
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55				
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00				
JZR	801	Taif	16:00				
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10				
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15				
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20				
RJA	641	Amman	16:55				
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10				
FDB	052	Dubai	17:25				
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25				
KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30				
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40				
NIA	252	Alexandria	17:50				
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15				
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20				
CLX	713	NBO	18:30				
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30				
CCE	342	Alexandria	18:35				
JZR	238	Amman	18:45				
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05				
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20				
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30				
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40				
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50				
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55				
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55				
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30				
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35				
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45				
DLH	634	Doha	20:50				
KAC	353	BLR	20:55				
KAC	343	Chennai	20:55				
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00				
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00				
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15				
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15				
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15				
MSR	607	Luxor	21:30				
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50				
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55				
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55				
ALK	23						



CROSSWORD 1277



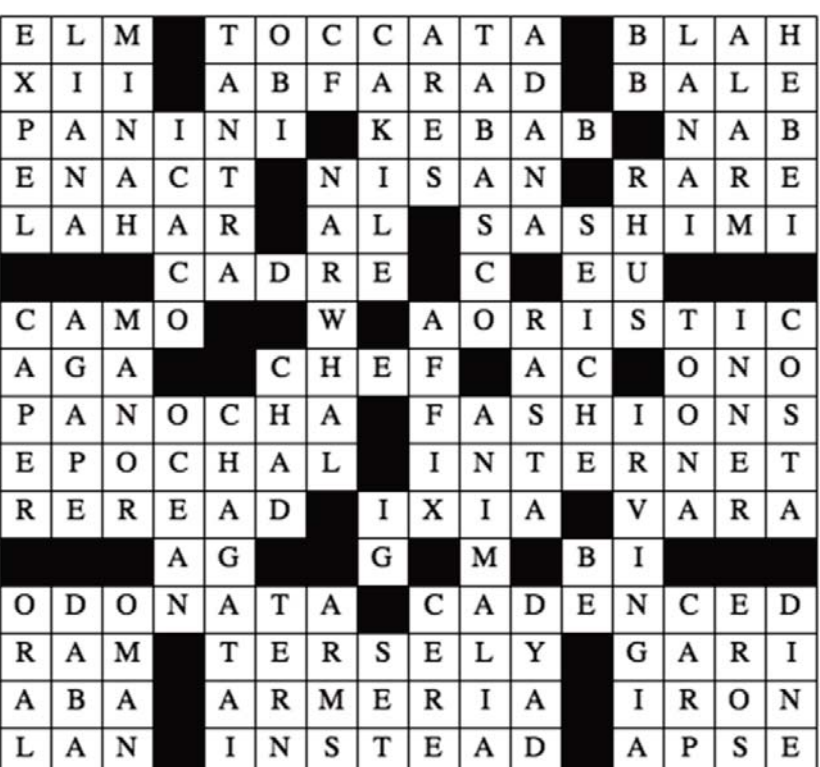
ACROSS

1. Block consisting of a thick piece of something.
5. Keenly excited (especially sexually) or indicating excitement.
11. (Greek mythology) The Titaness who was mother of Helios and Selene and Eos in ancient mythology.
15. A state of deep and often prolonged unconsciousness.
16. Pocket mite.
17. A violent throw.
18. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.
20. Period extending from Dec. 24 to Jan. 6.
22. Of or relating to or characteristic of Monaco or its people.
24. Offensive inquisitiveness.
26. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
27. Sheet glass cut in shapes for windows or doors.
28. A member of the Mayan people of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.
31. A mature blood cell that contains hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the bodily tissues.
35. (Babylonian) The sky god.
36. 1 species.
40. Son of John Cabot who was born in Italy and who led an English expedition in search of the Northwest Passage and a Spanish expedition that explored the La Plata region of Brazil.
42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
43. (heraldry) An ordinary consisting of a broad horizontal band across a shield.
44. The largest Greek island in the Mediterranean.
45. A metric unit of volume equal to one thousandth of a liter.
48. A platform raised above the surrounding level to give prominence to the person on it.
50. An inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
51. A coming to an end of a contract period.
54. A descent down a nearly vertical surface by using a doubled rope that is coiled around the body and attached to some higher point.
56. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
59. A state in midwestern United States.
60. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
62. A short introductory essay preceding the text of a book.
65. Lacking or having only very short awns.
69. Not acknowledging the God of Christianity and Judaism and Islam.
70. An African river that flows northwest into Lake Chad.
73. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
74. Type genus of the Apidae.
76. Ancient Italian deity in human shape, with horns, pointed ears and a goat's tail.
77. For fear that.
78. Ice cream served with a topping.
79. A federally chartered corporation that purchases mortgages.

DOWN

1. A fraudulent business scheme.
2. A company emblem or device.
3. A primeval personification of air and breath.
4. United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
5. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
6. A nonmagnetic housing for a ship's compass (usually in front of the helm).
7. A toilet in England.
8. A primeval personification of air and breath.
9. A drug (trade name Zylorprim) used to treat gout and other conditions in which there is an excessive buildup of uric acid.
10. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
11. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
12. Scottish philosopher whose sceptical philosophy restricted human knowledge to that which can be perceived by the senses (1711-1776).
13. (Greek mythology) Goddess of discord.
14. By bad luck.
19. A salt or ester of acetic acid.
21. A bluish-white lustrous metallic element.
23. In bed.
25. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
29. Take away the weapons from.
30. Spicy fruit of the cubeb vine.
32. (usually followed by 'to') Strongly opposed.
33. A rosid dicot genus that includes moon carrots.
34. Lacking in body or vigor.
37. A member of the Finno-Ugric-speaking people living in eastern European Russia.
38. A constitutional monarchy in southeastern Asia on Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.
39. A city in the European part of Russia.
41. A member of the Siouan people inhabiting the valleys of the Platte and Missouri rivers in Nebraska.
46. (of movement) At an angle.
47. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
49. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
52. A city of central China.
53. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
55. Strike with a flat object.
57. Any of various juicy purple- or green-skinned fruit of the genus Vitis.
58. Kindly endorsement and guidance.
61. A dark region of considerable extent on the surface of the moon.
63. Acting or moving or capable of acting or moving quickly.
64. A very light brown.
66. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
67. Worthless people.
68. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
71. A member of a nomadic people who invaded Europe in the 4th century.
72. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
75. A mouth or mouthlike opening.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You begin this day with the attitude of progress. You may feel that there is so much to do and so little time. You are very communicative, flexible, mental and other-oriented. Perhaps you can be all things to all people, giving them what they require but guess what, nobody is perfect; you must not push yourself so hard. You are a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue-there are many who listen to your ideas and advice today. There is an interest in civic affairs or recycling techniques. You are coming into a time of experimenting with new concepts and putting the old ideas behind you. You may wonder at people who spend much time making money and attending to necessities. You are thrilled by some new opportunities.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Easy does it-this is one of those busy days. Excessive emotional energy could produce flare-ups, harsh words and arguments. Your mind is very sharp during this time and can cause as much harm as good. Be sure to take your breaks and get away from work, school or whatever you are doing today-enjoy the noon hour out-of-doors. The new ideas you want to express should really be tried out on paper first. You always manage to bring the searing truth to group situations; today is no exception. You could point out several mistakes of others. You will want to be discrete with your suggestions. Others may feel that nothing is a secret from you. You may have a political influence or handle other people's money soon.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find it very easy to overdo today. You do not have to prove yourself; people that work with and above you know of your good work. There may be a delay in some business transaction but you are not the reason for the delay. Things that are happening in your career or path may depend on your own ambition, drive and patience, which are strong now. You seem willing to be consciously aware of balancing your work or career with the rest of your life now. Believe it or not-you could learn from subordinates or young people during this time. Your home environment, friends and surroundings in general become energized and there is new encouragement. Enjoy the celebration of life every day!



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are not bound by relationships and are thus not much of a domestic. This is the perfect time to ask for a raise. Believe in yourself. You find it easy to work with other people and will pour a lot of energy into those around you. Foreign affairs may catch your attention today. Perhaps an investment you are thinking about is beginning to show quite an upswing in income. You will find support from others when you turn your attention to health, food, nutrition and areas where service or attention to detail is in high focus. You may enjoy working with a group of people where you can make use of your differences. With your powerful spirit, you enjoy your strong emotions and have an active social life as well. Plan a party soon.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Good practical job-related thoughts and ideas are available for you today. The ability to converse with superiors or describe what you see is of the foremost importance. You are coming into a time of experimenting with new concepts and putting aside old ways. Your optimum job is just being you, which often indicates a career in front of the public with politics or perhaps sales. You are your own vocation and the best way for you to get ahead in the world is just to be yourself. A majority of planets in the past suggest that you are comfortable with established values. You know and understand more than you let on and life changes seldom take you by surprise. Don't be afraid of serving in a volunteer position, you can make a difference.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Take a little trip, or get outside during the lunch hour today. You may want to break your routine and try something new or different. You may discover insights into day-to-day problems that will be of great value later. Perhaps you are a little too serious today. Essentials are what count. You may, however, enjoy splurging a bit on yourself-perhaps some new clothing. This afternoon you may enjoy attending some gathering that pertains to your hobby. Perhaps your interest or hobby is electric trains. Attending this social gathering could be of benefit to your professional life. Networking is possible and new business is probable. Things you say mean a lot. Ideas, words and books may be the subject of conversation tonight.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Ideas of group cooperation and communion could further your career at this time. Teamwork is very important in your place of business. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will be what guides you and proves successful. Your career could assume a more solid form-a firm foundation. The current flow of events may dictate a time of research and planning. Your talents and abilities are up to any challenge that you may find. Keep moving; full steam ahead. You are popular in your community and might want to consider a little work in city politics. This can be quite successful for you. You will enjoy long conversations with a loved one this evening, writing a letter, or making a special phone call. Let peace follow you wherever you go.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are a real guide or pathfinder for others and your sense of truth and direction is very clear. You already know the way to accomplish things and solve problems and you need no education to succeed. Your analytical powers are superb-you enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. Career choices, decisions that should be made, may appear to go against or challenge your current sense of security and home environment. The easy way out may not be beneficial to your health and general well-being. Weigh alternatives with care. Relationships, whether they involve partnerships, private life or the social scene in general, are very important to you and can have a very decided influence on other areas of your life. An emotional challenge is manageable today.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You might notice that the closer you come to a particular goal the more nervous you become. For now, forget about yesterday and tomorrow and just concentrate on today... You will complete your task quickly. You are coming into a time of experimenting with new concepts and putting aside the old tried and true. You work well in a team situation and today is a good day for many challenges to be overcome. Any slowdowns are just temporary and great opportunities to read another chapter in a book. You appreciate tradition and regularity in your home life and this evening you appreciate knowing exactly the routine. A chat with a relative that lives at a distance can make you feel close. Is it warm enough for a swim relax and enjoy the evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You can be the perfect manager at this time: conservative and professional. It may be time to let higher-ups know of your potential-perhaps through a written request. Your career is all-important. You have learned to think in practical ways and this is most important for the job market. You are quick to get the outline of a project and see how things work. You could excel in a career that involves understanding and self-sacrifice. Psychology, counseling-encouraging and guiding others may be a specialty of yours. Work with mental patients, prison inmates, etc., is possible. You are born lucky! You are a natural when it comes to finding the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. You are very generous with others. You have an urge to spread good cheer.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Work seems intense today but you possess a powerful, persistent drive and are a hard, steady worker. You are ambitious and driven to win this month. Others may find you deep, with a sense of mission and mystery. Your own needs may appear to limit and separate you from where the rest of the gang is headed. This is of short duration. This afternoon would be a good time to teach others how to do some of the work you do, in order to free up some of your time. You take pride in people who have good management abilities and you want that diplomacy and organization for yourself as well. You are coming to a time of experimenting with new concepts and putting aside the old tried and true. A loved one is on your side this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are good at relations, politics, diplomacy and sales, not to mention considerate, helpful and courteous. Be calm. This is a good day for you to deal in sales or to make presentations. You may have an inner urge to be all things to all people; you enjoy helping others. You are a natural diplomat, always courteous and concerned with the comfort and welfare of others. You stay in the background, but are able to manipulate and bring out cooperation in others every time. Not content with appearances, you are driven to reduce everything to the essentials: the practical details. This compelling urge for integrity and contempt for the superficial may offend some. Your strong drive and urge to do and accomplish will get you rewards for your efforts.

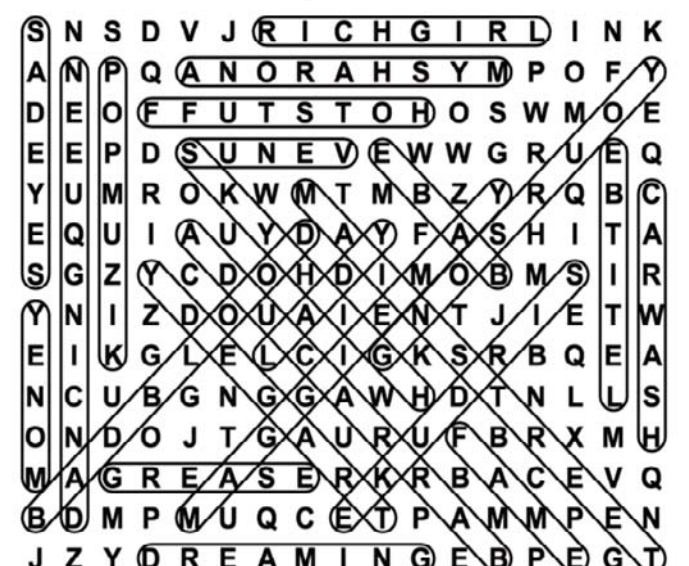
WORD SEARCH

80's Songs 1 - Word Search  
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



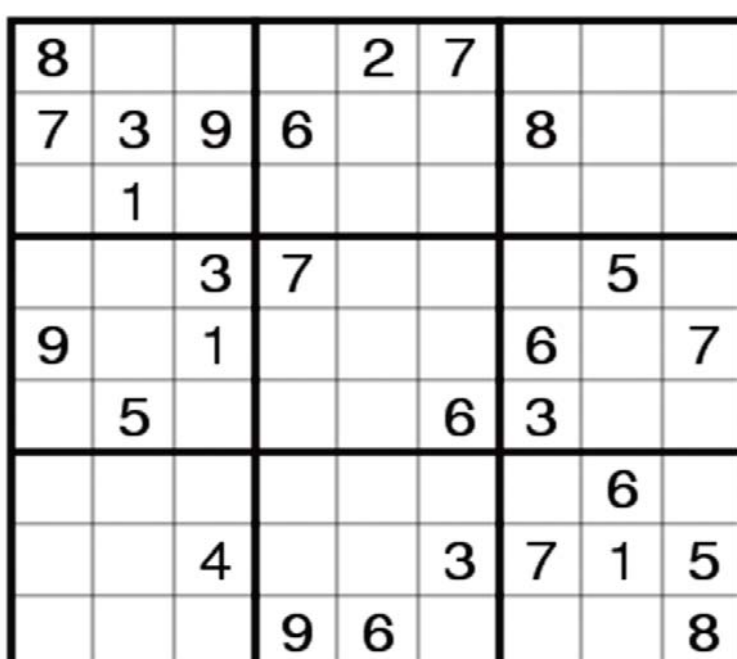
- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| ANGEL<br>TRUE<br>CELEBRATION<br>COOL NIGHT<br>DRIVE<br>FIRE LAKE<br>HELLO<br>HOLD ON | KEY LARGO<br>KOKOMO<br>KYRIE<br>LEGS<br>LOVE BITES<br>MANEATER<br>MICKEY<br>NEVER | OH SHERRIE<br>PRIVATE EYES<br>ROSANNA<br>SUDDENLY<br>TAINTED LOVE<br>UPTOWN GIRL<br>VALERIE |
|--|---|---|

Large Print Word Search Puzzles  
70's Songs 3 - Solution



- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| BABE<br>BAD BLOOD<br>BARRACUDA<br>CAR WASH<br>DANCING QUEEN<br>DREAMING<br>FAME<br>GREASE | HOT STUFF<br>LADY<br>LET IT BE<br>MAGGIE MAY<br>MAIN STREET<br>MONEY<br>MY SHARONA<br>POP MUZIK | RICH GIRL<br>SAD EYES<br>SIR DUKE<br>SKY HIGH<br>TRAGEDY<br>VENUS<br>YOUR SONG |
|---|---|--|

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution







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

SUDOKU

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

Solution



Paris

Paris is the capital and most populous city of France. Situated on the river Seine in the north of the country, it is in the centre of the Île-de-France region, also known as the "Paris Region". The City of Paris largely retains its one and a half century old administrative boundaries, with an area of 105 kms and as of 2014 a population of 2,241,346.

Paris was founded in the 3rd century BC by a Celtic people called the Parisii, who gave the city its name. By the 12th century, Paris was the largest city in the western world, a prosperous trading centre, and the home of the University of Paris, one of the first in Europe. In the 18th century, it was the centre stage for the French Revolution, and became an important centre of finance, commerce, fashion, science, and the arts, a position it still retains today. Since the 19th century, the built-up area of Paris has grown far beyond its administrative borders.

CULTURE

Paris is the home of the most visited art museum in the world, the Louvre, as well as the Musée d'Orsay, noted for its collection of French impressionist art, and the Musée National d'Art Moderne, a museum of modern and contemporary art. The notable architectural landmarks of Paris include Notre Dame Cathedral (12th century); the Sainte-Chapelle (13th century); the Eiffel Tower (1889); and the Basilica of Sacre-Cœur on

Montmartre (1914). Paris is also known for its fashion, particularly the twice-yearly Paris Fashion Week, and for its haute cuisine, and three-star restaurants. Most of France's major universities and grandes écoles are located in Paris, as are France's major newspapers, including Le Monde, Le Figaro, and Liberation.

SPORTS

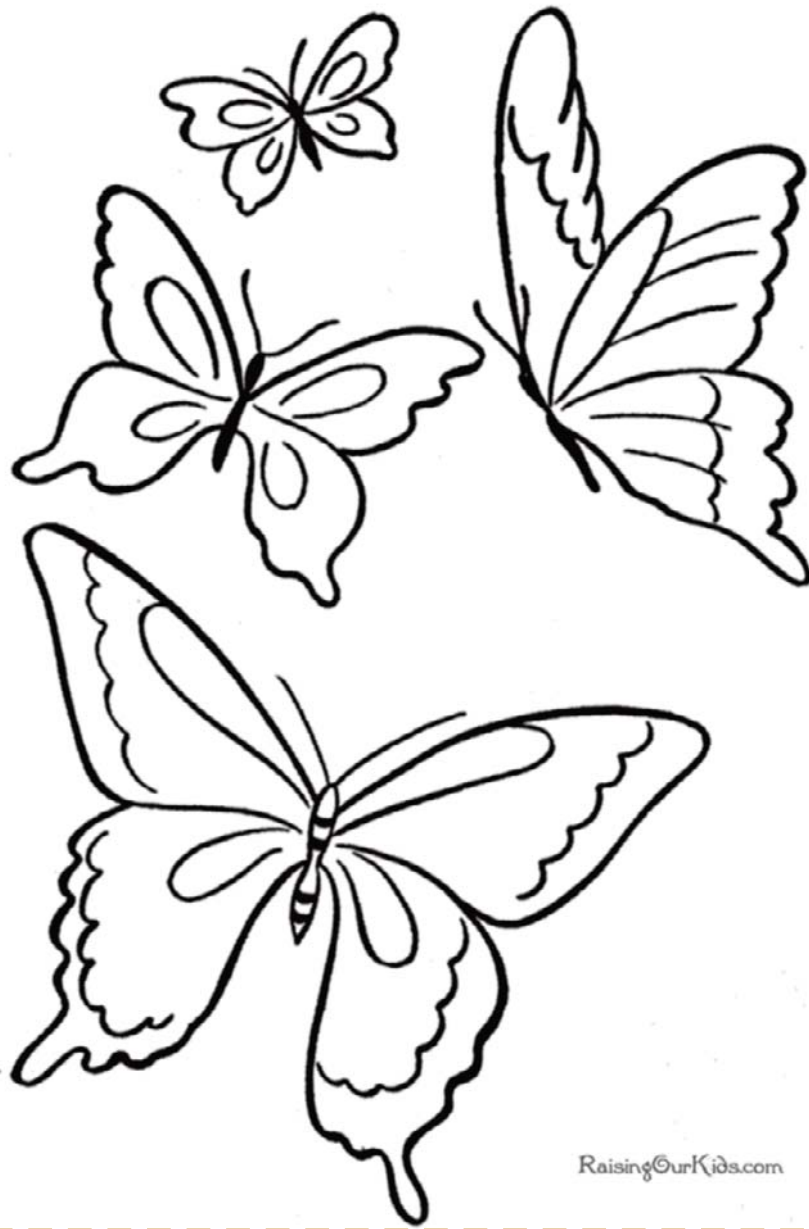
The association football club Paris Saint-Germain and the rugby union club Stade Français are based in Paris. The 80,000-seat Stade de France, built for the 1998 FIFA World Cup, is located just north of Paris in the commune of Saint-Denis. Paris hosts the annual French Open Grand Slam tennis tournament on the red clay of Roland Garros. Paris hosted the 1900 and 1924 Summer Olympics, the 1938 and 1998 FIFA World Cups, and the 2007 Rugby World Cup. Every July, the Tour de France of cycling finishes in the city.

TRANSPORT

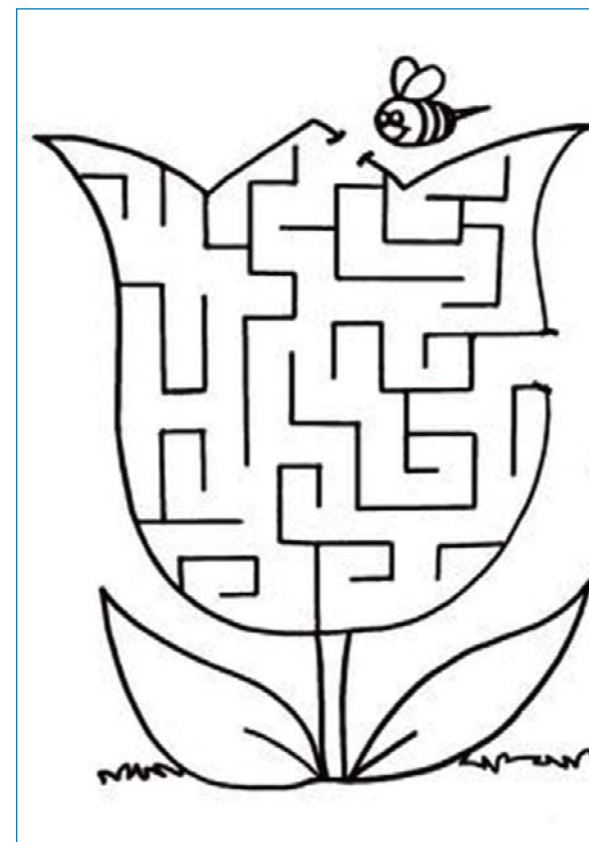
The city is also a major rail, highway, and air-transport hub, served by the two international airports Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Orly. Opened in 1900, the city's subway system, the Paris Metro, serves 4.5 million passengers daily.[9] Paris is the hub of the national road network, and is surrounded by three orbital roads: the Peripherique, the A86 motorway, and the Francilienne motorway in the outer suburbs.



Color me!



RaisingOurKids.com



RECIPES FOR KIDS



Chocolate Sweetheart Parfait

What you need

- 1/2 teaspoon cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1 1/2 cups low-fat or fat free Greek yogurt
- 2 cups fresh or frozen raspberries
- 1/4 cup shaved dark chocolate or chocolate chips

What to do

- In medium bowl, whisk together cocoa powder and vanilla.
- Add honey and yogurt and stir until they're well combined with cocoa mixture. It will turn light brown.
- Spoon 2 tablespoons of yogurt mixture into the bottom of four clear glasses.
- Top with some raspberries and repeat until all of the yogurt and raspberries are used up.
- Sprinkle each parfait with chocolate shavings.
- Serve or refrigerate until ready to serve.

Word Search



Find the 25 words listed below that are often used in connection with air pollution:

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

- 1. air
- 2. dust
- 3. oxygen
- 4. particulates
- 5. inversion
- 6. breathe
- 7. eyes
- 8. pollution
- 9. smoke
- 10. carbon monoxide
- 11. bus
- 12. fresh
- 13. sick
- 14. woodstove
- 15. ozone
- 16. car
- 17. lungs
- 18. truck
- 19. dirty
- 20. emissions
- 21. haze
- 22. nose
- 23. carpool
- 24. atmosphere
- 25. environment



Did you know..?

- The tiger is the biggest species of the cat family.
- Tigers can reach a length of up to 3.3 meters and weigh as much as 300 kilograms.
- Subspecies of the tiger include the Sumatran Tiger, Siberian Tiger, Bengal Tiger, South China Tiger, Malayan Tiger and Indochinese Tiger.
- Many subspecies of the tiger are either endangered or already extinct. Humans are the primary cause of this through hunting and the destruction of habitats.
- Around half of tiger cubs don't live beyond two years of age.
- Tiger cubs leave their mother when they are around 2 years of age.
- A group of tigers is known as an 'ambush' or 'streak'.
- Tigers are good swimmers and can swim up to 6 kilometers.
- Rare white tigers carry a gene that is only present in around 1 in every 10000 tigers.
- Tigers usually hunt alone at night time.
- Tigers have been known to reach speeds up to 65 kph.
- Various tiger subspecies are the national animals of Bangladesh, India, North Korea, South Korea and Malaysia.
- Tigers that breed with lions give birth to hybrids known as tigons and ligers.

JOKES

- Q: Why didn't the chicken cross the road?
- A: Because there was a KFC on the other side!
- Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?
- A: To show everyone he wasn't chicken!
- Q: Why did the lion spit out the clown?
- A: Because he tasted funny!
- Q: Why did the turkey cross the road?
- A: To prove he wasn't chicken!
- Q: What animals are on legal documents?
- A: Seals!
- Q: What do you get when you cross a snake and a pie?
- A: A pie-thon!
- Q: What is 'out of bounds'?
- A: An exhausted kangaroo!
- Q: What did the buffalo say to his son when he went away on a trip?
- A: Bison!
- Q: Why didn't the boy believe the tiger?
- A: He thought it was a lion!
- Q: How do bees get to school?
- A: By school buzz!
- Q: What do you call a bear with no ears?
- A: B!
- Q: What animal has more lives than a cat?
- A: Frogs, they croak every night!





## James Corden suffers from 'homesickness'

The 37-year-old star - who moved to Los Angeles with his family around 18 months ago to front US television show 'The Late Late Show' - admits there are times when he misses being in Britain. He said: "We have bouts of homesickness. But I've got this little box that connects to your TV so I can always watch 'Match Of The Day' on a Sunday afternoon here. I find that incredibly comfortable. "[But] the great thing is I'm at home every day. There's no sort of sense of going off and leaving my family to film something which I'm very, very grateful for." And James - who has Max, five, and Carey, 19 months, with his wife Julia Carey - also admits he is still in awe of the success he has been having across the pond. He added: "What are the chances of a chubby boy, and I'm being generous, going to America to do a top job like this every night and being anything other than a complete disaster? I'm scared I'll be the boy from High Wycombe who just couldn't hack it and had to go back home with his tail between his legs. "Yeah, I guess [I've proved myself] a little bit. It has really helped that our show has been received in the manner that it has and the role that the internet has played in our show."



## Kris Jenner didn't want Khloe to get divorced

The 31-year-old reality TV star called off her divorce from Lamar Odom last year in order to help him recover following his collapse at a Nevada brothel but once he was much better, she decided to press on with legally ending their marriage. However, it seems Khloe's mother didn't think it was such a good idea. In a preview clip for next week's episode of 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', Kris and Khloe are discussing her plans to divorce and the 60-year-old matriarch tells her daughter: "I think Lamar needs us as a family." Frustrated Khloe replies: "Lamar and I are not together." Khloe then turns to her sister Kourtney Kardashian to express her annoyance with Kris' comments. She asks: "Why is mom so on his side and never really mine?" Despite the exchange in the clip, it was recently claimed "everyone" is happy that Khloe is pressing ahead with her divorce. A source said: "Everyone in her family is happy that she is moving on. She has all the support possible." Khloe is also "at peace" with her decision and although she was happy to provide emotional and financial support for Lamar, 36, following his collapse after a drugs and alcohol binge, she wants to focus on her own life.

## Simon Cowell son is his 'right-hand man'



The 56-year-old music mogul - who has two-year-old son Eric with his partner Lauren Silverman - regularly brings the little one down to 'America's Got Talent' auditions to help him decide which acts to put through. He said: "He's the world's cutest little boy. I've got to tell you, he's going to be my little right-hand man - anything he likes I like. He's brilliant, he comes down to the auditions and really enjoys the acts. "He's very good to

watch, funnily enough, because I can see when he's bored and when he's up dancing. He's a good critic already. He's unpaid, but he's helping me!" And Simon is joining fellow judges Heidi Klum, Mel B and Howie Mandel on the judging panel for the show's new season and admits he felt like "the new boy" when he first arrived back on set. Simon - who created the show - told PEOPLE magazine: "What was funny was that I felt like the new

boy on AGT because these guys have worked together for so long. They kept kidding that I was the boss. I thought they were the boss and I was the new boy who has gone to a new school and hoped they liked me. Actually we got on brilliantly - it was much, much easier than I thought it was going to be."

## Jamie Cullum thought music would save Amy Winehouse

The late singer - who died in 2011 at the age of 27 - opened for Jamie, 36, on his first-ever tour in 2003 and although they lost touch as she spiraled into addiction, he hoped that when her issues started affecting her music she would turn her life around. He explained: "I thought it would be the music that would bring her back. When she didn't start sounding right, I thought that would be enough to make her stop and get well. I knew how much sounding right meant to her. But it didn't. It's just sad." Jamie and

Amy connected through their shared passion for music and he insisted that in the early days, Amy never even wanted to go out partying after a gig. He told Event magazine: "I started out with Amy. She was my support act on my first-ever tour. We were really close. As performers we completely connected because we share that same looseness, that love of improvising to whatever is happening in the room or in that moment. But this was way before she hit the height of her fame."



## Dan Ackroyd rushed to hospital

The 'Ghostbusters' actor called 911 complaining of abdominal pains and was taken from his home to a Santa Monica hospital by paramedics. Sources told TMZ the 63-year-old star was suffering from a minor stomach ailment and underwent tests but doctors have yet to determine the cause of the pain. He has now been released and is recovering at home. Dan recently opened up about his memories of working on 'Ghostbusters' in 1981 and admitted walking the streets of New York with his co-stars Bill Murray, Harold Ramis and Ernie Hudson made him feel like he "owned" the city. Speaking about the

iconic scene where the ghoulish-fighting gang of scientists defeat the giant Stay Puff Marshmallow Man who attacks New York City - he said: "The biggest joy was taking over New York, just watching the people in the city react when we were driving about in the Ecto-1 and walking about with the packs, coming out of public places... There we were, the four of us, Harold, Ernie and me and Billy going to work. It was a great time. I owned Chicago once, with 'The Blues Brothers', and on the 'Ghostbusters' I owned New York."



## Helen Mirren praises Kim Kardashian for curvy, sexy

While the 70-year-old actress is not a fan of the 35-year-old star's reality TV show 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', she admires Kim for promoting body positivity. She said: "I'm not into the Kardashians, it's a phenomenon I just don't find interesting, but - and this is the big word: B-U-T-T - it's wonderful that you're allowed to have a butt nowadays! Thanks to Madame Kardashian, and before her, J-Lo. We're also allowed to have thighs now, which is great too. It's very positive." And Helen revealed she has a special admiration for "shameless" women who are pushing boundaries. She explained: "When I was growing up, it was thought to be unbelievably slutty to even have a bra strap showing. Everything was about women conforming. I love shameless women. Shameless and proud! "Women were controlled by being shamed, so I love women who have claimed their own bodies: Madonna, Chrissie Hynde, Joan Jett, Bonnie Raitt. I love Pussy Riot more than anything in the world. They all raise their middle fingers to this epithet of 'sl\*t' They wear what they want to wear, behave as they want to behave."



## Kanye West was forced to cancel his secret gig

The 'Bound 2' hitmaker was set to perform an intimate show at Webster Hall in Manhattan but was left with no choice but to axe the performance after hundreds of desperate fans descended on the venue, climbed on top of cars and scrambled over one another to get a glimpse of the rapper. The situation got so out of control that the 38-year-old rapper was heard on his wife Kim Kardashian West's Snapchat calling for Mayor Bill de Blasio to "shut down the block" after a number of fans were pepper sprayed. Kanye was set to perform at the venue after his headline slot at the Governors Ball, held in the Big Apple,

but he was left disappointed after it was called off due to bad weather. However, although he didn't get to wow fans at the music event, he did perform at Hot 97's Summer Jam instead. Meanwhile, Kanye hasn't had the best of luck this weekend as he was also part of a long list of stars - including Jessica Simpson and Mariah Carey - who were forced to evacuate their expensive homes in Calabasas, California, after a bushfire ripped through 300 acres of the lavish gated area.



## Ellen DeGeneres, Portia di Rossi don't regret not having children

The 58-year-old talk show host - who married the 43-year-old actress in 2008 after four years together - admitted they previously discussed the possibility of raising a family but realized they preferred their lives the way they were. She said: "We talked about it for a minute, about four years into the relationship, but we just decided we like our conversations not being interrupted and our furniture without sticky grape juice on it." And Ellen doesn't think it is always fair to raise children in the spotlight. Speaking to Australia's Sunday Style magazine, she said: "Also, I think in this profession it can be

really tough for children. It's hard for them to have to share their parents with the world." The former 'Ellen' star admits it can be tough enough when she's out with her nieces as the girls find it frustrating having to share her with other people. She said: "When we're out in public and people want to talk to me they're like, 'Why does everybody want your time? Why aren't you just with me?'" Though the couple don't want children, they dote on their pet dogs and love watching them together.



## Taylor Swift reduced groom to a '10-year-old fanboy'

The 26-year-old singer delighted Max Singer and his new wife Kenya Smith when she showed up unannounced to perform a stripped-back version of her hit 'Blank Space' during their celebrations at the Brant Beach Yacht Club in Brant Beach, New Jersey, and her lifelong fan admitted he had "no idea" about the famous guest until she walked in the room. He told 'Access Hollywood': "I had no idea until the second she actually walked in and I reacted like a little 10-year-old fanboy rather than a grown man [laughs]." The wheels were set in motion for the performance in April when Max's sister Ali wrote to Taylor - who recently split from Calvin Harris after over a year of dating - to tell her about the death

of her mother, how the couple had wed in hospital before she passed away so their mom wouldn't miss out on the big day, and the groom even danced with his sick parent to 'Blank Space'. And Max knew straight away his sister had to have been involved in getting his idol to the wedding. He recalled: "We thought we were about to start having dinner because the toasts were over, but then [Taylor] literally walked in at that exact moment. As it was happening, I just looked at [Ali] and she had that, like, smile like she knew what was going on. And I clearly didn't, so I knew she had to have something to do with it."

## Kylie Jenner's Twitter page hacked

The 18-year-old reality star's social media page was targeted by a user identifying themselves as @sw4y10l - a handle very similar to @lolsw4y, who hacked Katy Perry last year - who then unleashed a string of vulgar posts purporting to be from Kylie. One post read: "I want ur c\*\*k @justinbieber (sic)" Another stated: "miss you both @taylorswift13 @katyperry. (sic) And as well as a message saying Kylie "loves being famous with no talent", the hacker also referenced two controversies involving the teenager, including a rumored sex tape with ex-boyfriend Tyga and an offer from a porn company to shoot an adult film. One post read: "well my sex tape with tyga was trash (sic)." However, Kylie insisted she "didn't care" about having her account violated. She said in a Snapchat video: "So my Twitter was hacked, and I don't really care. I'm just letting him have fun." And while she insisted fans will "never" see a sex tape from her, the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star didn't deny if one exists.



## Gigi Hadid

### says 'simple Things' make her happy

The 21-year-old model - who is believed to still be dating Zayn Malik, despite speculation their seven-month romance is on the rocks - loves nothing more than art, cooking and spending time with the people she loves. Asked what makes her happiest, she said: "Effortless happiness. The things that ground you. For me it's art and cooking, for example, and when I can be with my friends and the people I love and do simple things. That's when I'm the happiest..." "[I prefer a] night in. Cook. Paint. Play with my dog. Hang out with my boyfriend. Watch movies. Just chill." Gigi is proud of her cooking, especially when her grandmother

approves of her dishes. She told Elle.com: "I make this really good tomato soup from scratch and I do it with grilled cheese sandwich dippers on the side. That's really, really, really good. And my grandma loves that. My grandma is the best cook ever so for her to love that makes me think it's probably the best thing I make." The blonde beauty constantly wants to reassure the people she cares about just how much she loves them. She said: "My biggest fear is the people I love not knowing how much I love them. I just want to remind people all the time."



## Liam Neeson pays tribute to his 'hero' Muhammad Ali

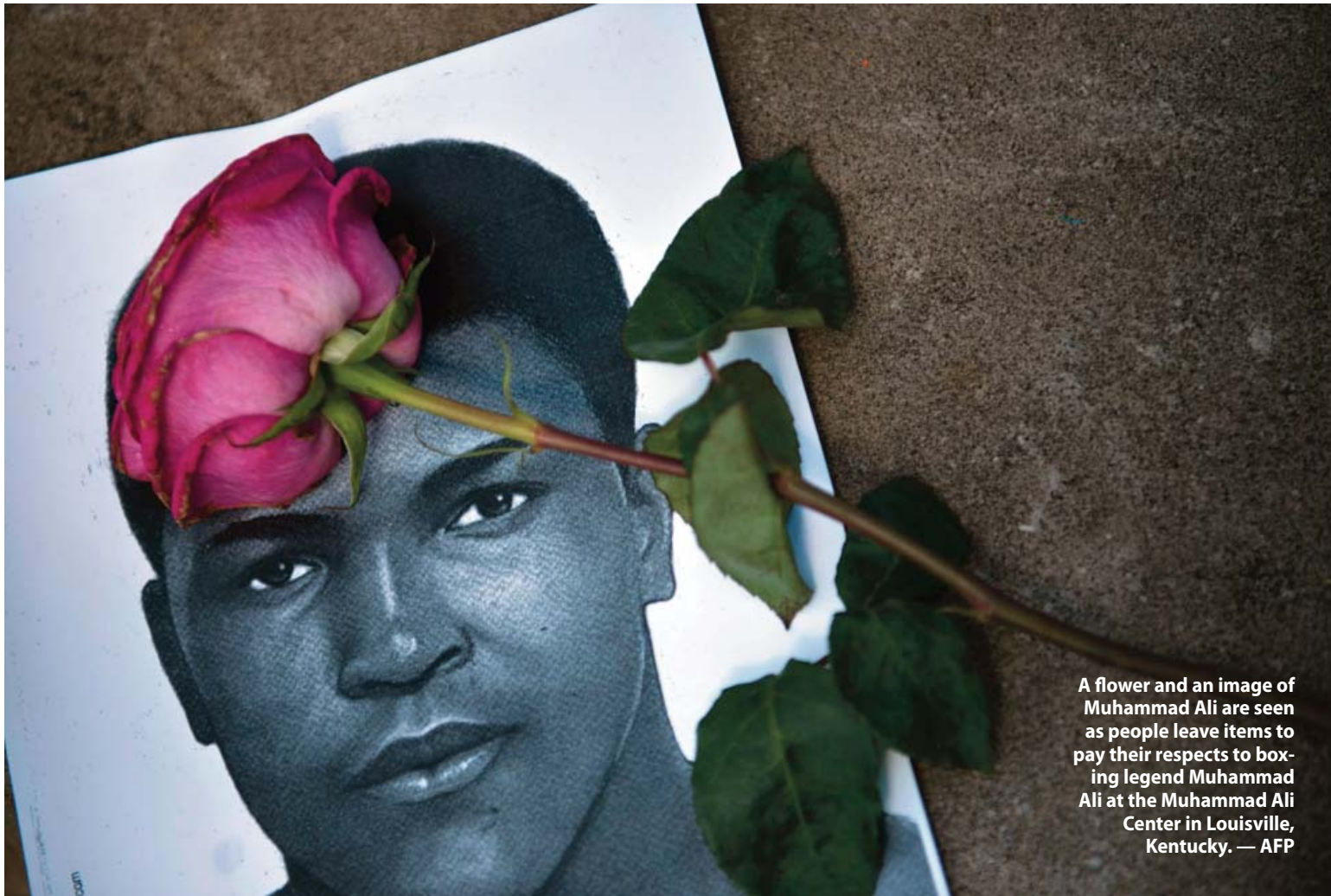
The 63-year-old actor had been a fan of the legendary boxer - who died on Friday (03.06.16) at the age of 74 from "septic shock due to unspecified natural causes" - since he was a child with his own aspirations of a sporting career. He told IrishCentral.com: "He was my hero from when I was a young amateur boxer, and schoolboy, back in Ireland. "I'll never forget hearing that he had beaten the unbeatable Sonny Liston. It was 1964 and it was a cold wet February in Ballymena. As I walked to school that morning, my feet didn't seem to touch the ground: my mind was an excited blur, because somehow the world had changed with that victory." The 'Taken' star may have given up on his boxing dream but he still admired Ali, and will always treasure their two meetings, in 1981 and 2011. He recalled: "I got to meet him and before he had his last fight in 1981. Not knowing what to say and with my knees shaking, I said, 'Muhammad, I love you.' He gave me a hug and then signed an autograph for my father. "I met him again in 2011. He was unable to speak with his advanced Parkinson's. I put my hand over his and whispered 'I love you'. His wife said to me 'He knows who you are'.



## Sir Paul McCartney admits he was 'racist'

The Beatles legend didn't realize the language he used with his friends was offensive and upsetting to people of different ethnicities. He said: "When I was a kid, you were racist without knowing it. It was just the normal thing to use certain words that you wouldn't use now. Along the way we suddenly realized how it would make the people you were talking about feel. I don't think until then we'd ever even thought about other people. It was like a joke between ourselves..." But then someone points out, "Well, that's denigrating..." you know, in my case, black people. And then the penny drops, and I think that's what happened for a lot of people. Certainly a lot of people in my generation used to use words you wouldn't use now." The 73-year-old musician features on Kanye West's track 'All Day', which features over 40 uses of the 'N-word' but Paul insists the song isn't offensive as it takes away the "sting" of the term and becomes more a "term of endearment. He told Event magazine: "Kanye's an artist. He can say what he wants. It's the freedom of speech, literally. "The n-word, to a lot of black people, particularly younger black people, it's almost a term of endearment. "It's a slang word, and I think the good thing about it is that it kind of takes the sting out of it. It just becomes a word, rather than the derogatory word it could be used as."





A flower and an image of Muhammad Ali are seen as people leave items to pay their respects to boxing legend Muhammad Ali at the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Kentucky. — AFP

# In Louisville, Ali seen as face of 'real Islam'



Two women look at photos they made of worshippers who wrote messages on a banner during an interfaith memorial service for former heavy weight boxing champion Muhammad Ali at the River Road Mosque in Louisville, Kentucky. — AFP



A banner displays messages as worshippers bow to pray during an interfaith memorial service for former heavy weight boxing champion Muhammad Ali at the River Road Mosque in Louisville, Kentucky. Ali died June 4. He was 74. — AFP



A worshipper writes a message on a banner during an interfaith memorial service for former heavy weight boxing champion Muhammad Ali.

At a time when Muslims in America are facing scorn and bigotry, the late boxing legend Muhammad Ali should be remembered as the true, peaceful face of Islam, residents of his hometown say. On Sunday, two days after the three-time heavyweight champion known simply as "The Greatest" died at age 74, hundreds of people filed past his childhood home in Louisville, now a museum dedicated to his remarkable life.

Mourners leaving flowers and other mementos remembered his sporting prowess and his activism, but also spoke of Ali and his Muslim faith—he converted in the mid-1960s—and how his example can help dispel stereotypes about Islam. "As a Muslim, I think it's definitely important for us that we have such a person in the respected world that's known to everybody, that gives us a good image," said Hamza Shah, a doctor in Louisville, where Ali grew up and first started boxing. "With the stuff going on these days, most of the time, you see in the media there's a bad image of Muslims," Shah said. "The one person we can definitely get a good image of was Muhammad Ali, and he portrayed what the real Islam is."

Since early 2015, attacks by Muslim extremists in Paris, San Bernardino, California, Brussels and elsewhere have fueled animosity among some Americans toward the Islamic world. Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump, now the party's presumptive nominee, has seemingly co-opted that hostility for political gain, on Sunday even suggesting a Muslim judge could be biased against him in US courts.

Trump sparked outrage at home and abroad in December when he suggested a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the United States. "We as Muslims have to stand up to those who use Islam to advance their own personal agenda," Ali said in a sharp rebuke to the Trump proposal. "I believe that our political leaders should use their position to bring understanding about the religion of Islam, and clarify that these misguided murderers have perverted people's views on what Islam really is."

### 'Man of truth'

When he learned that Ali—who abandoned his given name Cassius Clay when he converted to Islam in 1964—had died, Chicago-based imam Syed Hussein Shaheed said he dropped everything to head to Louisville. Shaheed was traveling with several other men, all dressed in white and wearing caps. "He was famous for multiple reasons, but the biggest was that he became Muslim," Shaheed said, as he and his group contemplated an art installation at the Muhammad Ali Center, another place in Louisville where fans have gathered.

Ali was respected throughout the Muslim world—from Pakistan to Indonesia, from Saudi Arabia to Malaysia and across Africa—for the values he espoused and promoted, the imam said. "He didn't want to kill anybody, he couldn't do it and he did not want to support people who were killing people in a wrongful way," the imam said in reference to Ali's refusal to serve in the US armed forces in Vietnam.

That decision cost Ali his heavyweight title, years of his career and nearly landed him in prison. "He stood up as a man of truth, and Muslim countries look to people who not only are truthful but also compassionate and merciful." That message of tolerance and compassion was celebrated Sunday at an interfaith prayer service in Ali's honor at

Louisville's Islamic Center." At a time when a candidate for the most powerful position in the world encourages us to fear those who are different from us, we need the voice, we need the presence of Muhammad Ali," said Derek Penwell, who leads a Christian church in the city.



### 'Devout Muslim'

After the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, Ali sharply cautioned Americans against categorizing all Muslims as extremist killers. "Islam is a religion of peace. It does not promote terrorism or killing people," he said. "I am angry that the world sees a certain group of Islam followers who caused this destruction, but they are not real Muslims. They are racist fanatics who call themselves Muslims, permitting the murder of thousands." He repeated the message in his December response to Trump, saying: "True Muslims know that the ruthless violence of so-called Islamic jihadists goes against the very tenets of our religion."

Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders, who is fighting Hillary Clinton for the right to face Trump in November, said Saturday that Ali was not only an elite athlete but a champion of civil rights, and a true believer in Islam. "To all of Donald Trump's supporters who think it is appropriate to tell us that they love Muhammad Ali but they hate Muslims, understand that Muhammad Ali was a devout Muslim who took his religion very seriously," Sanders said.— AFP

A worshipper writes on a banner during an interfaith memorial service.



Kids visit the childhood home of boxing legend Muhammad Ali in Louisville, Kentucky.



A man carries a photo of Muhammad Ali past the boxer's childhood home in Louisville, Kentucky. — AFP photos





## Centrepoint launches special gift zones in-store for Ramadan

Centrepoint has a fabulous collection of season's gifts that are perfect for this Ramadan. The region's largest family fashion retailer has created an exclusive Gift Zone in-store; stocked with delectable gift sets, home accessories, and bath and body ranges that not only make Ramadan shopping a delightful experience but also showcase a selection of beautiful presents for your loved ones. To add to the fun of gifting, Centrepoint has created Ramadan gift bags and gift cards to enhance your season's purchases.

New styles for Ramadan and Eid have also filled our racks with the latest in kids wear, fashion, accessories and footwear available in-store. Simon Cooper, Head of Centrepoint, says the brand's consistent customer-centric approach has been instrumental in creating the best gifting solutions for shoppers. "We traditionally see a high demand for gifts in Ramadan and have curated a space for our customers to shop in ease and find well-priced home and body ranges that they can gift with pride to family and friends," he said.

This Ramadan, bring joy to your friends and family with thoughtful and beautiful gifts from Centrepoint. Ornate, Exquisite and Artistic - The Ramadan Collection of Home Accessories - The Ramadan Collection of Home Accessories by Lifestyle features elegant lamps, bath accessories, chandeliers, dinnerware, home fragrance solutions, tableware and home furnishings. With brands like Elite D'Art, Adore and Sasha, find the perfect home accompaniments to your family gatherings this season.

### Kids' Style for the Season

Babyshop has a gorgeous collection of whimsi-



cal waisted prom dresses to turn your little girl into a princess. Antique pastel is in style with metallics like Rose Gold and Silver and traditional pinks, creams and whites. Sequins, glitter, large intricate corsages and bead work layered mesh for volume are Ramadan and Eid detail favorites. Fabrics on-trend include patterned jacquards, all over applique florals and sateens. Summer colors in a palette of cobalt blues, aqua and lemon yellow are popular picks for the season.

For our well-dressed little boys, Babyshop has a selection of smart shorts and pant sets with shirts and polos with chic little bowties. Popular prints in the collection include stars, paisleys, scattered leaves, stripes and geometric patterns. The traditional Ramadan palette of beige brown and navy blue are injected with white and cream this season for a clean, sharp and fresh summer look. Mint green, powder blue, powder lemon yellow and a hint of baby pink have also been showcased through the collection. Our toddlers have a special linen range for the festivities with 12 soft and natural color choices to perfectly mix and match together.

### Ramadan fashion

Splash's range of modest fashion is the go-to look for every fashionista on-trend this season. The demure styles, long flowy silhouettes, classic cuts and interesting prints will leave you looking elegant, stylish and sophisticated through Ramadan, while our collection of embellished party dresses will up your glamour quotient this Eid glamour. For the trend-setting man, Splash's range of smart evening jackets is perfect for Ramadan Iftars and Eid style. The collection also has a selection of

shorts and pants in cool summer colors along with fashionable printed shirts.

### Festive Footwear

Shoe Mart has an array of beautiful styles that will let you shine bright in special evening gatherings all-month-long. Flashy metallic tones in ankle straps and high-heeled pumps in bright hues exude the line's signature fashionable and glitzy character to rev up your style. The Men's footwear collection focuses on smart, sophisticated options that will add an extra dose of opulent formality to your Ramadan looks. The designs come in monk straps finished in a rich tan to help you look as sharp as you can be.

Bling meets easy-wear for young girls this Ramadan, with cozy sandals crafted in metallic materials and encrusted with crystals so your little princess can feel extra special during the festive season. Golden leather mesh sandals with contrasting high-grip white soles are also sure to turn heads as she wears them outside on summer days. The Ramadan collection is available at all Centrepoint stores located in Al Rai, Avenues, Hawally, Salmiya, Fintas, Jahra, Fahaheel, Sulaibikhat, and Kuwait City.



## Tickling palates pink, France wins war of the rose

Would Sir and Madam care for red or white with their meal to appeal to their exacting, traditionalist palates? After all, pink is surely plonk-or is it? France's winemakers are waging a low-level war to strike down such traditional snobbery in the face of intense global competition for market share. The industry has been on the back-foot since Italy leapfrogged France to regain top spot in the global production rankings last year, according to latest data from the International Organization of Vine and Wine (OIV). But the French have a powerful weapon in their armoury. Rose. Worldwide sales of French blush wine have grown by nearly a third in ten years, driven by an explosion in demand from the USA where imports of rose from the Provence region increased 58 percent last year, according to the Provence Wine Council (CIVP).

Worldwide rose production grew just 15 percent between 2002 and 2013 while French winegrowers spotted the trend, boosting their output by 31 percent in the same period, according to the CIVP. Though France remains the world's foremost consumer of rose, pulling corks on some eight million hectolitres (176 million gallons) in 2015 alone, its booming popularity in the US has been a major boon for French winegrowers. "Americans have totally integrated rose into the wine family," said Olivier Brun, who along with his three brothers runs a family vineyard at Chateau Brugue, at Le Luc-en-Provence in the southeastern Var region.

### Hamptons, Brangelina, Pink Floyd

"It's easily accessible and there's no need to be an expert to enjoy it," he said. Some 70 percent of the Brun family's sales are exports-half of them to the United States-"our top market," where Florida, California, New York and, latterly, Chicago lead the way. "Over there, rose is drunk in all seasons even in colder cities," said Brun. "And it flows all summer long in the chic Hamptons," the Long Island retreat of wealthy New Yorkers.

"Rose sales to the United States began to take off a decade ago thanks to (marketing) efforts by large estates such as Ott and Chateau de Peyrassol, a small pioneer," says Brun. This year is already on track to be record breaking. Brun's January through April sales topped those for the whole of 2015 - "200,000 crates, and 70 percent to the

United States". French roses are strongly associated with the southern Provence region where the climate, grapes and soils are just right for rose which makes up the majority of the region's overall viticulture.

Provence is home to 600 producers who hold 39 percent of coveted "registered designation of origin" (AOC) certificates. Provence and its produce have had their global profile raised markedly by British writer Peter Mayle's best-seller "A Year in Provence" that describes life in the region's lavender-scented countryside. Provençal rose has also been lifted by the "Jolie-Pitt" effect following Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's purchase of the Chateau de Miraval, complete with a vineyard capable of producing a fine and balanced nectar-including a light, flinty and highly-acclaimed "Pink Floyd" rose. The English rock band of the same name notably recorded part of their iconic album "The Wall" in a studio at Miraval.

### 'Much less intimidating'

Dufavet says that producing a top rose is an art-form requiring the utmost precision, so much so that in 1999 a rose research centre was opened at Vidaudan in the Var in order to seek out wine of "optimal quality". Their work has borne fruit, according to Dufavet, in the form of "pale, elegant colours much cherished on the American market which we have managed to control without affecting its aromatic and taste qualities".

Roses are made when red grape varieties are harvested via a short maceration (soaking) period, while the technique of direct pressing may also be used once grape skins have been stripped or punctured before the juice is sent for fermentation. The saignee or "bled" method sees juice bled off from nascent reds and placed in a separate vat. "You have to be able to get up at the dead of night (to check on the brew's progress) - it's a little like the ultra-precise cooking of a grand chef," said Philippe Faure-Brac, voted the world's best sommelier in 1992. Faure-Brac says technical mastery and a seductive image will continue to fuel the booming appeal of roses which are "much less intimidating than whites or reds." - AFP

## Alyasra's top fashion picks



With Ramadan in full swing, Alyasra Fashion has got you covered. When it comes to selecting the perfect look, you'll be spoilt for choice with flowing maxi dresses and chic layering options on offer. Here are a few of Alyasra's top fashion picks for the modest season.



## Rasasi Perfumes launches new bouquet of luxurious essences

Rasasi Perfumes, the leading perfume brand in the Middle East, has announced the launch of a new bouquet of luxurious concentrated fragrances ahead of the Holy Month of Ramadan this June. The new bouquet brings a contemporary touch to the traditional, oil-based Arabic fragrances that are coveted for their strong essences and invoke a sense of magic and mystique by enveloping the wearer in a lingering fragrant trail. Created from oud, floral and other natural ingredients including exotic animalist inflections, these latest offerings range from softly romantic to flamboyant undertones; smouldering, sensuous dark and smoky oudhy trails to luscious gourmand fragrances; the wet balmy wafts remi-

niscient of rain drenched oriental forests to the powdery, earthy, warm wafts of desert nights.

Reflecting myriad moods and tastes, this range reimagines rich legacy ingredients through modern inflections, thus reinterpreting coveted vintage luxury and giving it a desirable contemporary touch. Exotic flowers, fruits, spices and woods blend together with precious musk, amber, sandalwood and oudh, creating rich natural concoctions that are particularly suited for the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Concentrated perfumes are highly coveted by the connoisseurs of pure and classical oriental alchemy and continue to be associated with high social status, refined taste, sophistication and

indulgence. The magical scent associated with concentrated perfumes comes from the enthralling journey interspersed with mesmerizing fragrant deluges, leading towards the ultimate revelation as the perfume meanders through a complex, versatile and layered composition. This slow and enigmatic swell of the perfume to reach the pinnacle shrouds the wearer in waves of enigmatic oriental mystique. The lingering trails leave behind an intriguing aura. The fragrances are splendid when worn alone and equally enthralling as a base when layered with other fragrances.





Students sit in circles during a Quran recital class on the first day of the holy fasting month of Ramadan at Ar-Raudlatul Hasanah Islamic boarding school in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia yesterday. During Ramadan, the holiest month in Islamic calendar, Muslims refrain from eating, drinking, smoking and sex from dawn to dusk. — AP

## Army officer crowned Miss USA

The newly crowned Miss USA is a 26-year-old Army officer from the District of Columbia who gave perhaps the strongest answer of the night when asked about women in combat. "As a woman in the United States Army, I think ... we are just as tough as men. As a commander of my unit, I'm powerful, I am dedicated," Deshauna Barber said. "Gender does not limit us in the United States." As the winner of Sunday's 2016 Miss USA competition held at the T-Mobile Arena off the Las Vegas Strip, Barber will go on to compete in the Miss Universe contest.

Coming in second was Miss Hawaii, who punted during the question-and-answer segment when asked who she would vote for among the likely presidential candidates, Democrat Hillary Clinton or former pageant owner Donald Trump, a Republican. Chelsea Hardin acknowledged that there was no way to correctly answer the question during the beauty pageant. The question was framed with Clinton's likely status of being the first woman nominated by a major political party for the White House. Hardin responded that gender doesn't matter when deciding the next commander in chief.

The 24-year-old college student from Honolulu simply said the new president should push for what's right for the country. The other women in the top five were asked about voting rights, income inequality and the recent death of sports

icon Muhammad Ali. Fan favorite Miss California, Nadia Grace Mejia, had stumbled and paused when answering a question about social and economic inequality.

The 20-year-old model, who is the daughter of the 1990s one-hit-wonder singer known as "Rico Suave," had also talked about suffering from anorexia and wanting to promote body confidence earlier in the show. The Fox network carried the three-hour broadcast. Last year, the show aired on cable's Reelz network. The beauty pageant organization is bouncing back from a series of controversies last year, including a breakup with former owner Donald Trump and the mistaken crowning of Miss Universe.

At the start of Sunday's show, Steve Harvey made a cameo in a video to poke fun of the Miss Universe crowning that he botched in December. Harvey was hosting that event, also held in Las Vegas, and had mistakenly named Colombia's Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo the winner before correcting himself on the stage. Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach of the Philippines was then given the crown. Officials later said it was due to human error. The talk show host said he had re-read the card and noticed it said "first runner-up" next to the Colombia contestant's name before clarifying with producers his mistake.

As for Trump - who didn't appear at Sunday's Miss USA pageant - the presumptive Republican

presidential nominee wasn't forgotten by viewers on social media. Perhaps as polarizing as his policy views were the reactions to the Miss USA show on Twitter. Some commented that the event was less campy and more boring than previous years without the brash billionaire's involvement, while others said they were glad to take in the guilty-pleasure show without supporting the businessman turned politician. A year ago, Trump set off an ugly break up with The Miss Universe Organization, then co-owned by Trump and NBC Universal. Trump offended Hispanics last June when he made anti-immigrant remarks in announcing his bid for the White House.

NBC, which had aired the pageant since 2003, quickly cut business ties with Trump and refused to carry the 2015 show it had already scheduled. The Spanish-language network Univision also pulled out of the broadcast for what would have been the first of five years airing the pageants. Trump then sued both Univision and NBC. He settled with NBC in September. Trump's \$500 million lawsuit against Univision claimed his First Amendment rights were violated, as well as claiming a breach of contract. That dispute was eventually settled, too. The talent management company WME/IMG then acquired The Miss Universe Organization. — AP



Miss District of Columbia USA 2016 Deshauna Barber (left) reacts as she is crowned Miss USA 2016 by Miss USA 2015 Olivia Jordan during the 2016 Miss USA pageant on June 5, 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP



Contestants celebrate as Miss District of Columbia USA 2016 Deshauna Barber is crowned Miss USA 2016 during the 2016 Miss USA pageant at T-Mobile Arena on June 5, 2016 in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP



Finalists Miss Hawaii Chelsea Hardin (center), Miss District of Columbia Deshauna Barber (right) and Miss Georgia Emanii Davis stand during the 2016 Miss USA pageant in Las Vegas. — AP