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## LOW OIL PRICES PUT STRAINS ON CURRENCY PEGS

**KUWAIT:** Weak oil prices pose a threat to Gulf Arab states' currency pegs against the dollar, but the energy-rich region is unlikely to abandon the policy yet, analysts say. Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates all keep the values of their currencies fixed against the greenback, while Kuwait has a link to a basket of currencies including the dollar. But doubts are growing about whether the policy still makes sense.

The slide in oil prices has battered the economies of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states at a time when an improving American economy and prospects of higher US interest rates are lifting the dollar. To maintain the currency pegs, all GCC members except Qatar

Continued on Page 13



**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and chairmen of parliamentary committees yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah told MPs yesterday that planned government measures to reduce subsidies will not undermine the income of Kuwaiti citizens but are aimed at countering the existing financial situation. He also told members of three National Assembly panels, including the financial and economic affairs committee, that subsidies will be made available to all sections of the society and those who want to consume more will have to pay the cost of this extra consumption, MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran cited the Amir as saying. The Amir also said this does not represent anything beyond the capability of citizens.

Head of the Assembly's priority issues committee MP Yousef Al-Zalzal said the Amir analyzed the financial situation in the country and provided solutions for the issues. Zalzal said the Amir assured MPs that the government will continue to provide services to citizens and ensure they continue to live a dignified life. The Amir also called on the Assembly and the government to cooperate to overcome the current financial situation, adding that Kuwait will be capable to do this if available resources are utilized in the best way.

Continued on Page 13

## GULF OIL SQUEEZE SPREADS TO BANKS

**DUBAI/DOHA:** Low oil prices are forcing Gulf states to borrow to prop up their economies and are now taking their toll on the region's banks too, complicating their efforts to raise capital required by regulators. The impact of crude's fall from more than \$100 to below \$30 a barrel in less than 18 months has already been felt by oil and gas revenue dependent Middle Eastern countries which have had to borrow to prop up their economies. And international investors have been avoiding the Gulf region's debt in recent months as a result, concerned about slower economic growth and substantial budget deficits.

This has had a knock-on effect on banks from Doha to Muscat, with the ensuing slump in stock prices and bond market volatility making it impossible for them to raise new capital so far this year, a situation which is unlikely to ease in the near future as they will have to compete with governments needing to borrow billions of dollars to pay their bills. A dozen of the region's banks have announced capital raising plans as they try to meet local regulatory requirements, which in some cases are above the levels set by the Basel III banking accord, and top up reserves after years of lending growth.

These plans are now on ice and Gulf banks have to decide whether to attempt to borrow at a higher cost or hold out and risk falling short of more stringent regulatory requirements, which come into force over the next three years. Another potential complication is that the flight of international buyers means banks will have to turn to local investors to buy their debt or equity. The problem here is that banks themselves are the largest regional debt investors.

Continued on Page 13

## KUWAIT TO DEVELOP PAK OILFIELDS

### FORMER US FIRST LADY NANCY REAGAN DIES

**LOS ANGELES:** Nancy Reagan, the former actress who was fiercely protective of husband Ronald Reagan through a Hollywood career, eight years in the White House, an assassination attempt and her husband's Alzheimer's disease, died yesterday at age 94, the Reagan library said. Michael Reagan said on Twitter he was saddened by his stepmother's death. "She is once again with the man she loved," he wrote. Reagan became one of the most influential first ladies in US history during her Republican husband's presidency from 1981 to 1989.

Her husband, who affectionately called her "Mommy" while she called him "Ronnie", died in 2004 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's, the progressive brain disorder that destroys memory. As Nancy Davis, she was a Hollywood actress during the 1940s



Nancy Reagan

and 1950s and married Reagan, a prominent film actor, in 1952. She then served as first lady of California during her husband's stint as California governor from 1967 to 1975 before moving into the White House after his decisive victory over incumbent Democratic President Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Continued on Page 13

**KUWAIT:** State-run Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Pakistani Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources (MPNR) for developing oil wells in the south Asian country. In a press statement, the KPC said that the MoU would be implemented through its foreign subsidiary Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC).

It noted that the MoU was signed yesterday during Pakistani Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's visit to KPC headquarters. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Acting Minister of Oil and Board Chairman of KPC Anas Al-Saleh received the Pakistani minister at the KPC premises and held bilateral talks over means to strengthen ties and upgrade cooperation, it said.

The statement pointed out that KUFPEC has been working in Pakistan for over 25 years and has invested more than \$1 billion in a number of operating licenses in the southeastern Sindh province. It noted that KUFPEC operates the Jati Exploration Block in Sindh and recently won a contract to explore for oil in the Paharpur Block in the northern part of the country.

KUFPEC, a subsidiary of KPC, is an international oil company engaged in the exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas outside Kuwait. It is currently active in 15 countries worldwide with 63 oil and gas projects across Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and North America. — KUNA

# SOON

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Pakistani Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Pakistani Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.

# AMIR MEETS PAKISTANI PETROLEUM MINISTER

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received the visiting Pakistani Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and his accompanying delegation at Seif Palace yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) CEO Nezar Al-Adhani and Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC) CEO Sheikh Nawaf Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah later received the visiting minister separately.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince, National Assembly Speaker Marzuq Ali Al-Ghanem, His Highness the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, and Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince also received Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Also yesterday, His Highness the Prime Minister received Sheikh Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah who presented His Highness with a copy of a movie on the martyr poet Faqeh Abduljalael.

In other news, His Highness the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, will patronize and attend the graduation ceremony of the 43rd batch of non-commissioned officers at Ali Al-Sabah Military Academy at 10:30 am today.—KUNA



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Pakistani Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi.



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah.



JAKARTA: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is pictured among participants at a preparatory ministerial meeting for the fifth extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).— KUNA

# PALESTINIAN FM EXTOLLS AMIR'S CONTINUED SUPPORT

JAKARTA: Palestine's Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki described His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a man of noble actions, underscoring his continued support of the Palestinian cause.

"His Highness the Amir's support of Palestine remains persistent," Maliki said during a preparatory ministerial meeting for the fifth extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

"Kuwait has never ceased, not even for a day, to support Palestine," Maliki said. "Palestine needs to be supported by joint Arab and Islamic

efforts to protect the holy Al-Aqsa mosque from Israeli aggressions," he noted. "We are not here to discuss a peace plan, but a way of safeguarding the holy Al-Aqsa mosque. A peace plan could be discussed during a forthcoming OIC session slated to take place in Istanbul," the Palestinian foreign minister said. This meeting has one aim, which is to "spur all Muslims into action to protect the holy Al-Aqsa mosque," he said.

The meeting kicked off yesterday focusing on Palestine and Jerusalem. Kuwait is participating in the meeting with a delegation led by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. The delegation

also includes Kuwait's Consul General in Jeddah Saleh Al-Saqabi, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for International Organizations' Affairs Nasser Al-Hein and Kuwait's Ambassador to Indonesia Abdulwahab Al-Saqer.

Senior officials held earlier yesterday a closed preparatory meeting headed by Indonesian Deputy Foreign Minister for multilateral affairs Hassan Kulaib, as well as Kuwaiti Deputy Assistant Forging Minister for International Organizations Ambassador Nasser Al-Hein. They tackled potential draft resolutions and Jakarta draft declaration to be referred to the ministerial meeting.— KUNA

# JUSTICE MINISTER LAUNCHES FIRST PHASE OF ELECTRONIC ANNOUNCEMENT SYSTEM

KUWAIT: Minister of Justice and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane launched yesterday the first phase of an electronic announcement system for government transactions, in conjunction with the Department of Fatwa and Legislation. Speaking at an initiation ceremony, Sane said that he had set a motto of "prompt justice" upon taking the helm of the Ministry of Justice.

The first step is to amend Law 26/2015, which deals with civil and commercial cases in a way that "adapts to technological advances by overcoming any impediments to a more efficient judicial system," Sane said. "We as a nation will not prosper until we embrace the latest technological

means," he noted. "This system will spare us time and effort and lead to a smoother judicial process," Sane added. The Minister also revealed that the Ministry has signed a contract with courier company Express Post, after amending Law 26/2015. The company would be tasked with delivering recorded messages pertinent to judicial cases, to various destinations no later than 72 hours after receiving the messages.

Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Salah Al-Masaad said that he is proud that the department was the first to initiate the new electronic system. "This system propels us towards a world of technology and civilization," Masaad said.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Justice Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane (center) and Head of the Fatwa and Legislation Department Salah Al-Masaad launch the first phase of an electronic announcement system for government transactions.— KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah recently inaugurated a wedding hall in Jahra, which was funded by a donation from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

— Amiri Diwan photos



Legalese

## WORK-RELATED INJURIES

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

As I have previously mentioned in my articles, the majority of the questions I receive are regarding work-related concerns. It is also clear and evident to me that the law is unfortunately not easily accessible by the majority of the people living in Kuwait - expats!

I have received a very important question this week concerning a work-related injury that I have decided to share with you:

Firstly, I want to thank you for making the legislations in Kuwait more accessible and understandable to us expats, as I am sure a lot of people would find this information extremely helpful. There isn't enough information online about labor laws in Kuwait to empower the people that work in Kuwait, specifically the expats.

The reason I'm emailing you is because I want to get some preliminary advice regarding a scenario a friend of mine was involved in, who is a hardworking expat. My friend had a work-related injury where he was badly injured and therefore has been temporarily disabled and will be out of work for a period of probably three to six months.

Initially, the employee was given friendly advice from lawyer friends regarding compensation that would be settled by the courts of a rough estimate of about KD 15,000-30,000. The compensation/settlement was assumed to be coming from a third party company. This company helped set up equipment that led to the injury. My questions are:

### Compensation

**Question: What is the expectation here in terms of compensation? Who compensates the employee who sustained a very serious injury at work?**

**Fajer:** Before answering your question, I would like to make one thing clear to my readers and clients. I do not answer questions asked on behalf of another client. In order for my answer to be legally accurate, I would need to speak to the person concerned. With that said, I will answer your questions generally and not specifically but would require your friend to contact me personally, and I assure you all will be confidential.

It is not for a lawyer to answer this question! The compensation amount is calculated by an expert hired by the court and therefore lawyers are not qualified to answer this question. With that said though, there is a law that states the amounts to be compensated for each body part injured.

According to the decree on the regulation of blood money (Diyah), loss of eyesight (even in one eye only) is compensated by KD 10,000, loss of hearing (even in one ear only) is compensated by KD 10,000, loss of one hand is compensated by KD 5,000, loss of one leg is compensated by KD 5,000, loss of thumb is compensated by KD 1,500, disjointment of bones is compensated by KD 1,500, and a scar is compensated by KD 500.

These figures are for injuries that were by accident and are not directly because of your friend's acts. For example, if an employee is obligated to wear head protection while working as per his company's policies or rules and regulations, yet the employee does not abide with this, then the employee is responsible for any injuries that may occur due to his carelessness.

### Negotiation

**Question: Is this something that is done through the court or can this be settled outside the courts? And if so, how long is this process?**

**Fajer:** It can be settled by negotiation or by court, and honestly it is better for both parties to negotiate amicably to agree to an amount outside of court. Going to court will cost both parties legal fees as well as time and may butcher the relationship between the employee and the employer. Taking the matter to court will initially take around 8 months minimum and could take years.

### Estimation

**Question: The employer has offered KD 3,000 in cash (half a year's worth of salary) with no salary for the time that is taken away from work and the employee is expected to be possibly out of work for 3-4 months? This does not sound correct to me - what do you think?**

**Fajer:** As I have mentioned above, it is not for me or any other lawyer to estimate and since I do not even know what your friend's injury is exactly, I cannot make any assumptions. Your friend should be compensated for the months he is off as this should be a medical leave (just as long as it does not turn into a permanent disability). I am assuming here as well that your friend works in the private sector.

I hope your friend has a quick recovery and I hope that his or her employer compensates him fairly. Thank you for emailing me and your kind words, and I hope you find the above helpful.

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

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** MP Hamdan Al-Azmi strongly criticized the government's performance in handling the current deficit, attributing it to the government's mismanagement. "How can the government convince citizens to rationalize and cut expenses while it continues to waste and squander public funds?" he wondered, noting that at the same time, millions had been spent on the recent fireworks show at Kuwait Towers. Accordingly, Azmi filed a parliamentary enquiry with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah about the total cost of the fireworks festivity and the company that executed it.

### Suspect released

A court yesterday released a Syrian man who had been arrested for forging Kuwaiti citizenship on KD 2,000 bail and banned him from leaving the country. Notably, the man is accused of paying a citizen KD 20,000 to register his son under his name so that he could get Kuwaiti citizenship.

### Canceled scholarships

The Civil Services Commission (CSC) said that the total number of scholarships cancelled because of violating scholarship rules was 100 in addition to cancelling 150 study leaves to resume university studies. CSC added that the total number of students dispatched on local and overseas scholarships was 1,500 in addition to 3,750 employees on study leaves. CSC also explained that the new fiscal year included increasing the monthly allowance of non-medical students by KD 100 to become KD 400 for students studying in Europe and KD 340 for students studying in Arab countries, in addition to annual flight tickets (instead of every two years), doubling the annual books allowance to become KD 200 and KD 300 and increasing scientific research allowance for medical students to KD 800 instead of KD 600.

### Expiry dates

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is currently preparing the draft of a ministerial decision to regu-

late print presses' work in a way that prevents forging expiry dates on various products. According to the new decision, print presses will not be allowed to print production and expiry date stickers without prior permission from relevant authorities at the commerce ministry. The decision will also subject any violating presses to penalties that may reach as far as closure.

### Municipality staff

Kuwait Municipality stressed that it is currently reassessing the performance of its employees by measuring each individual employee's productivity. The municipality added that employees and directors would be reshuffled for the greater good and that their IDs would be connected to GPS systems to locate their whereabouts during working hours.

### Visiting professor

University of South California (USC) in Los Angeles recently selected Kuwait University (KU) urology professor Dr Ahmed Al-Kandari as a distinguished visiting professor to teach in



MP Hamdan Al-Azmi

its urology center. Kandari holds a Canadian medical board certificate from McGill University and US board from LIJ center at Einstein University, New York. He has been invited to many American and Canadian medical centers. He recently met USC's assistant dean while attending the first medical conference held by USC's urology department.



## POLICE FOIL ATTEMPT TO SMUGGLE DRUGS INTO JAIL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Relations and Security Information Department at the Interior Ministry said the prisons security department foiled an attempt to smuggle illicit material into the prisons complex. It said that an Asian truck driver attempted to smuggle the material but security men foiled his plans. Separately, airport customs officers arrested a Nepalese who seemed nervous as soon as he saw customs officers. When his luggage was searched, one kilogram of marijuana was found. He confessed to bringing in the drug for trade.

### E-cigarettes

Nuwiseeb customs officers confiscated a quantity of electronic cigarettes with a citizen. A report was made and the confiscated material was sent to concerned authorities.

### Firemen's Day

The Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) concluded the 14th Fireman's Day Festival at Souk Sharq. Several activities took place during the three-day event. KFSD Director General Lieutenant General Yousuf Al-Ansari said the festival was highly successful, adding that it was also distinguished by the support of State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to firemen.



## COUNCILOR SAYS GOVT 'LYING' ABOUT LIFTING SUBSIDIES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Municipal Council member Ahmed Al-Bughaili slammed the government's performance and said that the government was lying to citizens about lifting fuel and electricity subsidies and repeatedly using the term 'citizens with limited income.' "We do not know how the government classifies citizens and who gets limited income according to it," he stressed, noting the fact that the government only resorted to one option - lifting subsidies - to handle deficits resulting from dropping oil prices emphasizes that the government is lying.

"The government has approved petrol prices at 65 fils per liter. Taking into consideration that oil prices now have reached \$25 per barrel, simple calculations show that the actual cost of petrol is 47 fils per liter, in addition to 16 fils for refining, distribution and other costs, adding up the total per liter cost to 63 fils, which means the government will not pay any subsi-

dies, and even make two fils profit per liter," he explained.

### Rumors denied

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) has strongly denied social media rumors about subjecting girls in the ministry's care houses to pressure to willingly leave the houses. Public Relations Director Afifa Akbar said that MSAL's family care department works relentlessly to make care home tenants comfortable and that KD 13,000 has been allocated for each of them once they turn 18. She added that other services provided included vehicles and drivers, trips to chalets, laundry services and pocket money depending on which stage they are studying in.

### Fintas Group

The criminal court yesterday adjourned the 'Fintas Group' case until March 14 to summon the criminal evidence officer for testimony.

# CONDOLENCES

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

## Al-Bazzi Family

on the sad demise of

## Fatima Ahmad Merei Bazzi Um Khalil

Her sons: Khalil, Nabeel and Mohammad Bazzi

*May Allah Almighty bestow His mercy on her*



**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) honored the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) for sponsoring the Fireman Day Festival which was organized recently under the patronage of Minister of Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.



In Brief

FM MEETS SAUDI PRINCE

**KUWAIT:** First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday met visiting Director-General of the Saudi King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies Prince Faisal bin Abdulmohsen bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister for the First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's Office Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah and several other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry. —KUNA



INFO MINISTER MEETS INDIAN AMBASSADOR

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday discussed with India's Ambassador to Kuwait Sunil Jain, ways to enhance cultural and media ties. In a press statement, the Ministry of Information said that the meeting, also attended by Indian Chief Public Information Officer Shubashis Goldar, underscored harmonious viewpoints of both nations in numerous issues of mutual concern. Jain invited Sheikh Salman to attend a cultural festival due in the Indian capital New Delhi on March 11-13. —KUNA



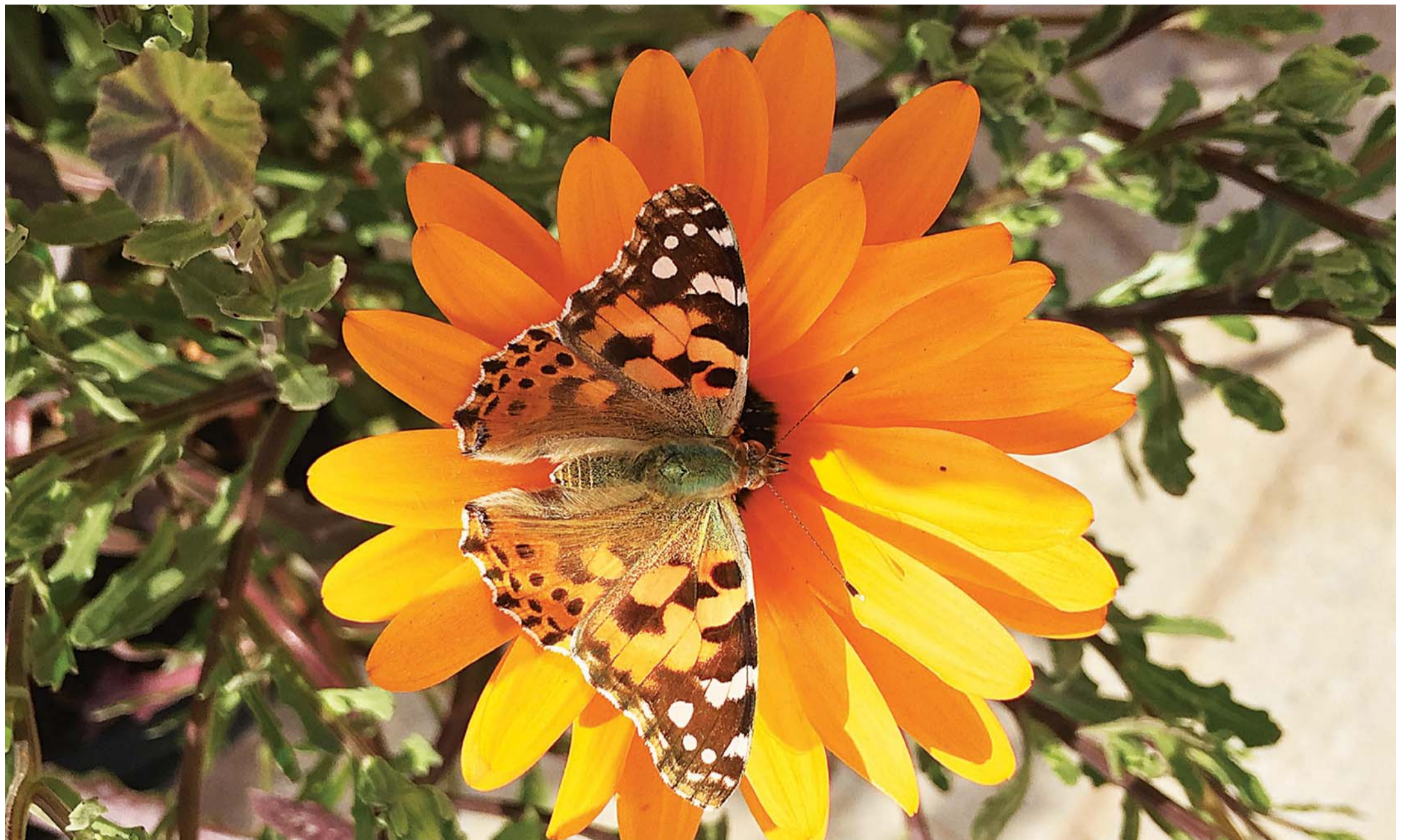
ECLIPSE TO BE SEEN IN PACIFIC

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti astronomer and historian Adel Al-Saadoun reiterated yesterday that the world will witness a total solar eclipse on March 9th, and will be visible from parts of Indonesia and locations in the Pacific Ocean. He added that the solar eclipse will not be seen in Kuwait, as it will only be visible in large parts of south-east Asia, and the totality will exceed duration of more than four minutes, while the moon will glide across the sun's disk and create a total solar eclipse. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** Blooming flowers and butterflies are signs for the beginning of spring in Kuwait. —KUNA photo

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- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Dubai - Kuwait

Fourth prize

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 85 mm f/1.8 USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait- Bahrain- Kuwait

Fifth prize

- Canon Camera EOS 760D + Canon EF 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6 DO IS USM.
- Free Camera Bag.
- One Economy class ticket Kuwait - Bahrain - Kuwait

Sixth prize

- Canon Camera PowerShot G15.
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Rules & Conditions:

- The competition is open to individuals of all ages.
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- The coupons are advertised at Kuwait Times and Al Anba newspapers during the period of competition.
- All submitted photos will become property of Kuwait Times newspaper and can be used for different purposes.
- The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges.
- All photos must be original and should not be doctored with any design program, such as Photoshop.

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KUWAIT'S EXPORTS DOWN TO KD 3.5 BILLION IN Q4

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's exports fell by 37.6 percent to KD 3.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2015, compared with the same period of the previous year, the Central Statistical Bureau said yesterday. Kuwait's imports, comparatively, amounted to KD 2.4 billion in the period from October to December 2015, up 7.7 percent over the same period of 2014, the bureau added. Trade balance made a surplus of KD 1.04 billion in the fourth quarter of 2015, compared with KD 3.3 billion in the same period of 2014, down 68.7 percent, it added.

In October-December 2015, the main partner country for non-oil exports was Saudi Arabia with KD 60.4 million. For exports, Saudi Arabia was followed by India with KD 60 million and UAE with KD 58 million, it said. The top country for Kuwait's imports was China (KD 374 million), records for imports range from UAE (KD 223.3 million), the US (KD 214.6 million), and Japan (KD 204.1 million), it added.

As compared with the same quarter of the previous year, exports to the GCC countries were KD 152.3 million, increased by 16.8 percent. The share

of the GCC countries was 4.3 percent in October-December 2015, while it was also 2.3 percent in October-December 2014, the bureau noted.

During the same period, 24.2 percent of imports products were industrial supplies. As compared with the same period of the previous year, industrial supplies decreased 1.6 percent. Food and beverages, capital goods and transport equipment and parts and accessories thereof increased by 20.2 percent, 4.2 percent and 2.9 percent respectively, it added. —KUNA



**ROME:** The State of Kuwait's Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Palermo's Mayor Leoluca Orlando. —KUNA

KUWAIT AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES COOPERATION WITH PALERMO MAYOR

**ROME:** The State of Kuwait Ambassador to Italy Sheikh Ali Khaled Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held talks with Palermo Mayor Leoluca Orlando on means of boosting cultural cooperation with Kuwait and other GCC countries particularly for reviving Islamic and Arab heritages.

The Kuwait Embassy said in a statement that the ambassador discussed with the mayor some ideas and proposed initiatives for promoting deep effects of the Arab-Islamic civilization in the Mediterranean region.

The talks dealt with ideas to rebuild historic bonds between the Arab and European civilizations that are still visible through historic relics in the Palermo, now being renovated by the local administration in coordination with the government in Rome.

Ambassador Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled discussed with the mayor prospects of holding musical and artistic Kuwaiti and Gulf activities at the city renowned opera theatre, particularly with aim of presenting Kuwait contributions to mankind civilization.

Mayor Leoluca expressed pride in the city Arab heritage which constitutes a great part of its identity and affirmed desire to re-establish bonds with the Arab world. He also lauded the ambassador's role in bolstering mutual cooperation, particularly at the cultural and humanitarian levels, and expressed readiness to host Arab cultural activities.

Moreover, the Kuwaiti ambassador manifested gratitude to the mayor for the warm hosting of the Kuwaiti "journey of hope," months ago. The sea expedition which toured the world was intended to promote status of people of special mental challenges. He affirmed Kuwait's keenness on boosting cooperation and values such as peaceful co-existence among peoples of diverse cultures and belonging. —KUNA

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## FORUM OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE FUTURE OF INVESTMENT: OFFICIAL

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) yesterday asserted that the Kuwait Investment Forum, which kicks off tomorrow, is an



**KDIPA Director General Sheikh Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah**

opportunity to explore the future of investment in Kuwait. During a press conference yesterday at Hamra Tower in Kuwait City,

KDIPA Director General Sheikh Mishal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said that the two-day forum will present investment opportunities as well as review economic legislation recently approved in Kuwait. "The forum also aims to highlight the efforts of the government to work with the private sector in order to achieve the vision to transform Kuwait into a financial and commercial center regionally and internationally," he said.

Sheikh Mishal pointed out that the forum seeks to attract regional and international investors. He said the event will be attended by a number of ministers and officials from all sectors in Kuwait as well as business leaders, investors from Arab and European countries, academics and economic experts. The forum's sessions will include a variety of talks on the Kuwaiti economy, important developments and investment prospects in the future.

Sheikh Mishal praised the role of the local media and cooperation in highlighting the positive changes taking place in Kuwait, its role in the definition of areas of improvement and growth and supporting the body as a government specialist in the launch of the first session of the activities of this economic and investment event, which reflects the seriousness of Kuwait in the dissemination of public knowledge of developments that are taking place to develop the investment climate in Kuwait.



**KUWAIT:** Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah met an agricultural delegation from Jordan yesterday, including Awdah Al-Rawashdah, Chairman of the Jordanian Farmers Union. A delegation from the Kuwaiti Farmers Association led by Chairman Hadi Al-Watri attended the meeting.



# KUWAIT UNIVERSITY WINS CFA INSTITUTE RESEARCH CHALLENGE

## WINNERS REPRESENT KUWAIT AT EMEA REGIONAL FINALS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait University became the 2015-16 CFA Institute Research Challenge winner in Kuwait, beating other universities in a close competition hosted by CFA Society Kuwait, the local society of CFA Institute. Each competing team analyzed the financial performance of Mezzan Holding to produce a comprehensive equity research report which was then judged by CFA representatives based on accuracy, insight and thorough analysis.

The winning team will represent Kuwait at the EMEA regional competition final in Chicago, Illinois, USA the week of 11 April 2016 where it will compete against other teams from around the world. The successful team will then go on to compete in the Global Final taking place in the same location. The competition featured four teams from four different universities including: Australian College of Kuwait, American University of Kuwait, American University of the Middle East, and Kuwait University. The teams produced an equity research report that was graded by industry experts, and then presented their findings on Mezzan Holding to a panel of judges who then conducted a Q&A session.

Mijbel Al-Qattan, Vice President of CFA Society Kuwait, said: "All of us at the CFA Society Kuwait congratulate Kuwait University and everyone else who took part in this year's competition. While the winning team will be moving on to the next phase of the competition, every student will have benefited from this exceptional opportunity to put their academic studies into an important practical context."

### Greater levels

Commenting on this year's research challenge, Robin Bhattacharya, CFA, Education Committee Chair of CFA Society Kuwait and Host of the challenge, commented: "As Kuwait's financial market continues to grow, greater levels of transparency, technical competence and integrity are becoming increasingly important. The annual CFA research challenge is a very positive platform to showcase the financial talent available within Kuwait and also encourage young graduates to consider the CFA program as the qualification of choice. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to the judges, the industry mentors and coordinators for their time and effort in making the 2015-2016 CFA Institute Research Challenge in Kuwait a success."

The CFA Institute Research Challenge is an educational competition for university students, offers participants the opportunity to assume the role of investment research analysts and subsequently develop and present an equity research report, which was based this year on Mezzan Holding. Student teams compete on a global basis with peers from top business schools.



**A group photo of judges from the CFA Institute and Kuwait university.**



**The KU presentation winners.**

### Investment expert

Each team was closely mentored by an investment expert during the research process. After drafting the report and receiving feedback from the designated mentor, each team made a presentation which was given to a panel of experts from top financial institutions. The panel

of judges included the following industry professionals: Abdulaziz Al-Loughani, Vice Chairman of Kuwait National Fund for SMEs Development, Faisal Hasan, CFA, Chief Business Development Officer at KAMCO, Dr Mohammad Alomar, Head of Research Division at GIC, and Rani Selwanes, Executive Director - Investment Banking at NNBK Capital.



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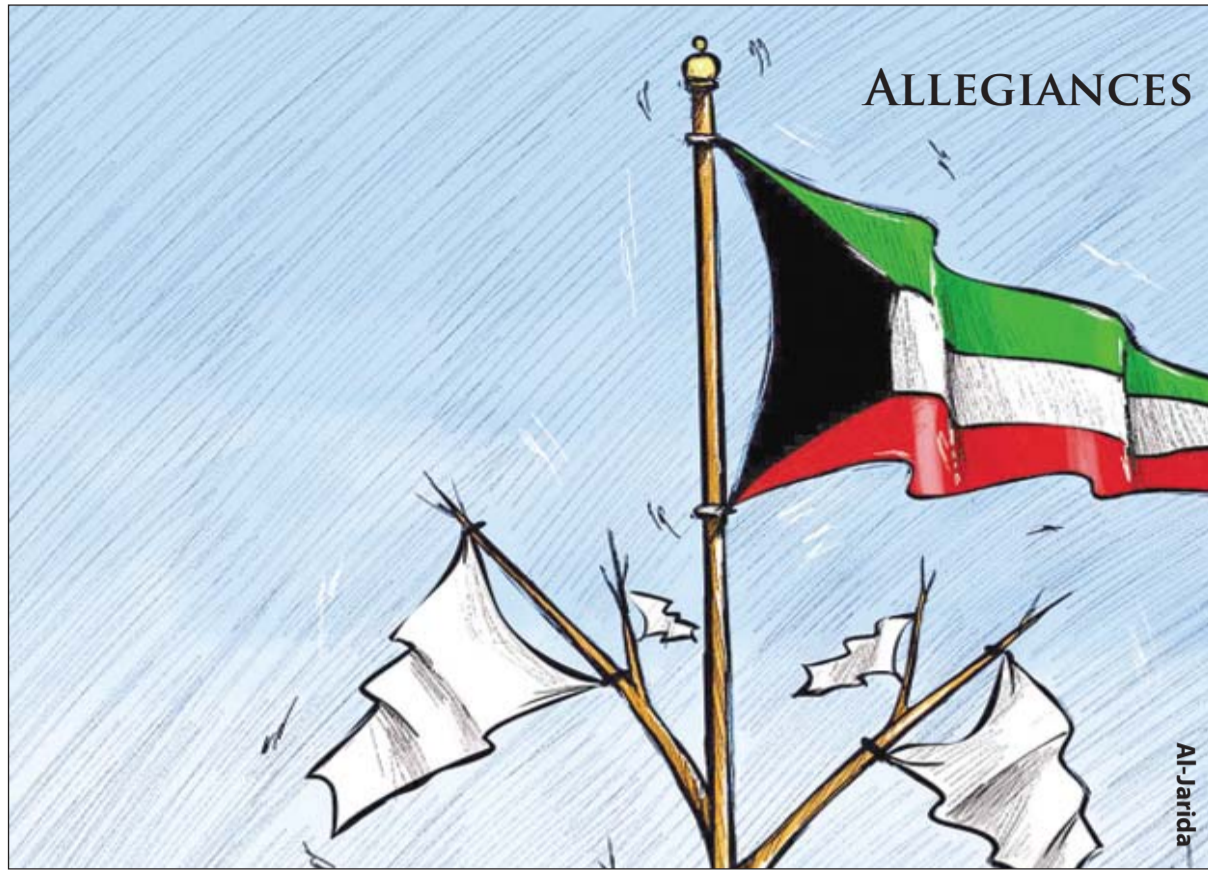
**Al-Anbaa**  
**HOW TO DESTROY TRUMP?**  
By Sami Al-Nisf

Ever since he started his presidential election campaign, candidate Donald Trump has been antagonizing everybody, while presidential candidates usually try to befriend everybody and claim that everybody supports him. Trump has strong animosity to the press and accuses American reporters of lying in every interview. He also declares hostility to traditional politicians in New York and accuses them of deceiving the American people. He also antagonizes Democratic candidates, who hate him. He even hates those in the Republican Party he is representing in the elections. He hates immigrants with Latin and Islamic origins in addition to those with European and Asian origins.

One of the most important advice American presidency candidates usually get is not to antagonize the Zionist lobby because it dominates the media and controls the economy. However, Trump ignored such advice and declared that he would be neutral in terms of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He also hesitated in rejecting support from the former KKK chief David Duke, who has in many books and interviews accused Jews of being behind the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia. Duke even questions the numbers and the mere occurrence of the Holocaust. He also accuses Jews of being behind bombing the World Trade Center attacks. Duke actually left nothing for Arabs, who are in favor of conspiracy theories!

Destroying Trump will inevitably be through uniting his opponents' efforts to prevent him from winning the 1,200 needed delegates to declare him as the official Republican candidate, though he has so far won 300. Opponents will also focus on bringing his tax returns to the public as soon as possible and thus reveal the fact that he is not as financially successful as he claims to be. They also insist on exposing what he said in a closed-door meeting with New York Times reporters whose leaks suggest that he said he would not be committed to many issues such as building a wall on the border with Mexico and limiting the numbers of immigrants. Many of his losing projects and repeated bankruptcy of his partners will be exposed too, in addition to the fact that, despite his allegations, he still has factories in China and Korea. His hotels do not hire Americans and favor immigrants in order to cut expenses.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



**Al-Anbaa**  
**OKASHA AND OTHERS**  
By Saleh Al-Shayji

The Egyptian lawmaker Tawfiq Okasha is absolutely the most famous member in the current Egyptian parliament who won the largest number of votes, which made him strongly consider running for the speaker's position. Okasha is also the most famous media figure in Egypt. These two facts are not meant to compliment Okasha, whom I do not know as a lawmaker, but I know him as a media figure by watching him on TV and I believe that he had degraded media to the lowest levels. He does not even possess the least characteristics of a media figure. In addition, he adopted sarcastic talk on all occasions. Well, what I think about the man does not matter here and I did not write to describe him. I am writing now after his parliamentary membership was annulled in the aftermath of inviting the Israeli ambassador to Egypt to his house.

I wonder how lawmakers could annul the membership of an elected colleague who was not an employee making his living by working for the parliament! Annuling Okasha's membership by having MPs vote on

it is neither fair nor right, regardless of whatever crime he committed because crimes can only be handled in courts of law and not in the parliament. It is not fair either for colleagues to turn into judges.

If hosting the Israeli ambassador was really a crime, crimes can be classified and have certain penalties to be decided by courts of law after granting the accused the chance to defend himself. Because of his style that can sometimes be small and rude, Okasha is resented by many people, including me. At the same time, he is much envied by people who believe that he has gained fame and stardom beyond Egypt.

As far as I know, the law does not allow a lawmaker whose membership was annulled to go to court. Well, those who wished to annul Okasha's membership could have questioned the validity of a PhD he claims to hold. Why did they not do that and resorted to suspicions, making the man exit as if he was the victim of a conspiracy plotted by those who hate him?

— Translated by Kuwait Times

**Crime**

Report

**Partygoers assault police in Reqqa**

**KUWAIT:** Policemen received a call about reckless driving in Reqqa near a multipurpose hall, where a wedding party was going on. Ahmadi police rushed to the area, blocked the suspects and asked them to pull to the side of the road, but policemen were surprised by tens of people coming out of the hall, hindering police work, and attacking two of them. Backup patrols were called in to deal with the situation, and rounds were fired in the air to disperse the crowd who attacked the policemen. Four suspects were arrested, while many escaped.

**Drug possession**

Southern roads security arrested a drug user on Nuwaiseeb road with various types of drugs including 14 heroin joints, 26 hashish pieces as well as an envelope containing what is suspected to be drugs. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

**Domestic violence**

Two citizens accused their brother of beating their mother and sisters in their Salmiya home, while the accused claimed that his family wants to take his money. The case was sent to investigations.

**Break-in**

A company's warehouse in Salhiya was broken into and its contents stolen. The company's lawyer filed a complaint, and detectives are working on the case.

**Attempted rape**

A citizen complained against a man she knows, claiming he attempted to rape her in a public parking lot in Salhiya. A security source said the woman, in her twenties, said she was with a man, a citizen, and when they parked the car, he attempted to rape her. When she screamed for help, he let her out of the car and drove off. Detectives are looking for him. — Al-Rai

**CUSTOMS, UNION CLASH OVER APPOINTMENTS**

**KUWAIT:** A crisis of noncooperation between the customs department and its workers union is poised to head the labor union scene once again in the coming days, as the latter had reservations on the decision to appoint deputies of the general manager as one of them is from outside the customs department. They considered that the appointment did not take the union's view, which is strict in applying "justice and equality" principles.

Head of the Customs Union Ahmad Al-Enezi said its workers have the scientific competence and experience that excludes the need of appointing a deputy director general from outside the customs establishment, especially since this prestigious position is longed for by workers. Enezi said non-consideration of civil service rules in appointing senior officials will remove trust and communications between employees and their administrations, especially since the nomination is in violation of the rules that calls upon the finance minister to name three names for each leadership position, and the Civil Service Commission chooses one.

Enezi said appointments do not take seniority and experience into consideration and may open the door for contestation at the administrative court, and appointment of leaders in this un-institutional fashion, despite the presence of competent personal, raised many questions. Enezi said the customs workers union will have a clear stand in not accepting appointments from outside the customs, and may lead to tension in the relationship between customs officers and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, who "we are looking forward to deal and coordinate with in the interest of employees."

**OVER 25% EXPATS WORK AS DOMESTIC LABORERS**  
**73% OF CITIZENS WORK IN OFFICES, SECURITY, EDUCATION**

**KUWAIT:** Recent government statistics showed that the total number of workers in Kuwait's labor market is 2.574 million working in three major sectors - the public sector, private sector and domestic laborers. Statistics also highlighted that 26.4 percent of expats working in Kuwait are domestic laborers, 26 percent work as laborers and 14.64 percent work as drivers and automotive and heavy machinery technicians, Al-Qabas reported.

Statistics collected until Dec 31, 2015 also showed that the total number of expats working in Kuwait is 2.138 million compared to only 435,000 Kuwaitis, ie only 17 percent of the total manpower, while expats form 83 percent. In addition, statistics showed that 73 percent of Kuwaitis mainly worked in three fields: 35 percent in offices, 23 percent doing technical jobs and 15 percent of the total manpower in security-related jobs. The study also showed that 9,500 Kuwaitis work as executives (2.2 percent) in both the public and private sectors.

Furthermore, the statistics showed that Kuwaitis outside the labor market reach 389,000, retired citizens 92,300 and Kuwaiti

housewives 73,411. On the other hand, statistics showed that expats outside the labor market reach 371,000 including 733 seniors sponsored by their children, 207,000 housewives and 163,000 young people aged 15 and above.

**Five domestic workers**

In other news, Al-Anbaa reported that in a bid to fight the soaring fees of recruiting domestic laborers which reached up to KD 1,400, the interior ministry's visa affairs director Maj Gen Talal Maarafi issued a directive limiting the total number of domestic labor visas a citizen can issue every year to five only. The measure also helps fight human trafficking, especially as some sponsors tend to bring in many workers and then relinquish their sponsorship to the highest bidder.

**Educational institutes**

Meanwhile, the Manpower Public Authority (MPA) has allowed the issuance of work visas for jobs in universities and education institutes without limiting them to educational jobs, in addition to bringing in workers for home med-



ical care, reported Al-Rai. MPA spokesman Aseel Al-Mazeed said the authority issued administrative decision 212/2016 to amend article 1 and 2 of administrative law 747/2015 with regards to issuing work permits. It amended item 15 of the first article with regards to universities and accredited private institutions. — Al-Qabas, Al-Anbaa, Al-Rai

Top ten commercial activities for expatriates in Kuwait		
Occupation	Number (by thousand)	Percentage
1 Domestic workers	585.5	26.4%
2 Wholesale, retail, vehicle maintenance and household goods	371	17.4%
3 Constructions and contracting	342	16%
4 Administrative and technical workers in the public sector	140	6.54%
5 Manufacturing	137	6.44%
6 Real estate and business services	123	5.8%
7 Social services	103	4.9%
8 Hotels and restaurants	86.2	4%
9 Transportation, storage and communications	63.3	3%
10 Agriculture and fishing	61	2.85%

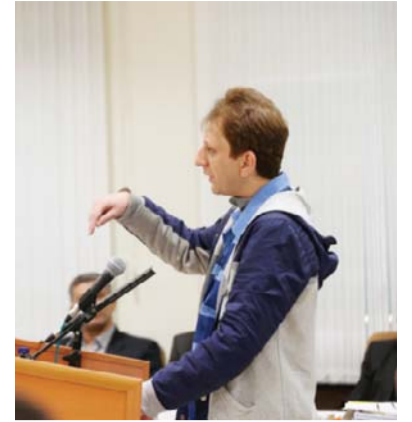
Top five occupations for Kuwaitis		
Occupation	Number (by thousand)	Percentage
1 Administrative and desk jobs in the public sector	152	35%
2 Technicians (holders of diplomas from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training)	100	23%
3 Preventive and security services' workers	65.3	15%
4 Teachers and similar jobs	33.5	7.7%
5 Specialists in medicine, engineering and other fields	20.3	4.7%



**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) organized a Kuwaiti heritage exhibition at the Avenues Mall as part of its fifth annual 'Ya Zain Turathna' (our beautiful heritage) cultural campaign. A large number of visitors stopped by the exhibition, which mimicked an old Kuwaiti neighborhood, during the three days in which it was organized, said Amani Al-Wara, Assistant General Manager, Public Relations and Media Department.







Iran sentences tycoon to death for corruption

## BRAZIL TOP JUDGES BACK GRAFT PROBE



COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho: Republican presidential candidate Sen Ted Cruz speaks during a rally on Saturday at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds. — AP



WARREN, Michigan: Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders addresses a rally at Macomb Community College on Saturday. — AFP

# CRUZ, TRUMP SPLIT FOUR STATES

SANDERS WINS TWO STATES, CLINTON ONE • RUBIO URGED TO DROP OUT

WASHINGTON: Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz split victories in four nominating contests with frontrunner Donald Trump yesterday, bolstering Cruz's argument that he represents the party's best chance to stop the brash New York billionaire. The results were a repudiation of a Republican establishment that has bristled at the prospect of either Cruz or Trump winning the party's nomination and has largely lined up behind US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, who was shut out in all four contests. "I think it's time that he dropped out of the race," Trump said of Rubio after the contests. "I want Ted one on one."

Cruz won Kansas and Maine on Saturday, while Trump won the bigger states of Louisiana and Kentucky, holding onto his lead in the race for the Republican nomination for the Nov 8 presidential election, even though Cruz captured more delegates on Saturday. The next big contest, and a crucial one, will be tomorrow's primary in the industrial state of Michigan. Republicans in three other states, Mississippi, Idaho and Hawaii, also will vote on Tuesday. Puerto Rico Republicans will vote on Sunday.

In the Democratic race, front-runner

Hillary Clinton won in Louisiana, and her rival Bernie Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, won in Kansas and Nebraska, in results that did not substantially change Clinton's big delegate lead. Mainstream Republicans have blanched at Trump's calls to build a wall on the border with Mexico, round up and deport 11 million undocumented immigrants and temporarily bar all Muslims from entering the United States. But the party's establishment has not been much happier with Cruz, who has alienated many party leaders in Washington. "It looks like it will be the angry Trump voters against the purist conservative Cruz voters," said Washington-based Republican strategist Ron Bonjean. "The establishment is just being left out."

A spokesman for Rubio, who spent the past week launching harsh personal attacks on Trump, said the senator would push on with an eye on the March 15 contest in Florida. "After we win the Florida primary, the map, the momentum and the money is going to be on our side," spokesman Alex Conant said in a statement. Cruz, a first-term US senator from Texas who has promoted himself as more of a true conservative than

Trump, said the results showed he was gaining momentum in the race to catch the real estate mogul.

Cruz, 45, has run as an outsider bent on shaking up the Republican establishment in Washington. A favorite of evangelicals, he has called for the United States to "carpet bomb" the Islamic State militant group and has pledged to eliminate the tax-collecting Internal Revenue Service and four cabinet agencies and to enact a balanced budget amendment.

### 'A Howl from Washington'

"The scream you hear, the howl that comes from Washington, DC, is utter terror at what 'We the People' are doing together," Cruz told supporters in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, after his early win in Kansas. "What we're seeing is the public coming together, libertarians coming together, men and women who love the Constitution coming together and uniting and standing as one behind this campaign," Cruz said.

Trump, 69, has a substantial lead in the delegates needed to secure the nomination at the Republican National Convention, but since winning seven of the 11 contests on

Super Tuesday he has come under withering fire from a Republican establishment worried he will lead the party to defeat in November's election. But endorsements from establishment Republicans have failed to sway voters. Rubio won the backing of Kansas Governor Sam Brownback but still came in third there.

The four Republican contests on Saturday together accounted for just 155 delegates. Cruz won 64 delegates on Saturday, while Trump took 49. The races on Saturday were open only to registered Republicans, excluding the independent and disaffected Democratic voters who have helped Trump's surge to the lead. The anti-Trump forces have a short window to stop the caustic businessman, who ahead of Saturday had accumulated 319 of the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination at July's Republican national convention, outpacing Cruz, who had 226 delegates.

On March 15, the delegate-rich states of Florida, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri and North Carolina will vote. Both Florida and Ohio use the winner-take-all method to allocate Republican delegates, making the stakes in those states particularly high. All of the

Republican contests on Saturday, and through March 14, award delegates proportionate to the popular vote, although some states set minimum thresholds to qualify for any delegates. If Trump takes both Florida and Ohio he would be nearly impossible to stop. There are a total of 358 delegates at stake in the five states voting March 15, including 99 in Florida and 66 in Ohio.

On the Democratic side, Clinton has opened up a big delegate lead and Sanders might have a tough time making up the difference. All states in the Democratic race award their delegates proportionally, meaning Clinton can keep piling up delegates even in states she loses. The three states holding Democratic contests on Saturday had a total of 109 delegates at stake. The early estimates were that Clinton, who appeared headed to a smashing nearly 50-point win in Louisiana, had won at least 48 delegates on Tuesday and Sanders 37. But Sanders made it clear he was not planning to end his White House quest anytime soon. "We have the momentum. We have a path toward victory. Our campaign is just getting started," he said in a statement after his wins on Saturday. — Reuters

## IS TRUCK BOMB KILLS AT LEAST 60 PEOPLE IN IRAQ

HILLA, Iraq: A truck bomb at an Iraqi checkpoint south of Baghdad killed at least 60 people and wounded more than 70 yesterday, medical and security officials said, and Islamic State claimed responsibility for the blast. The suicide attack, involving an explosive-laden fuel tanker, is the second deadliest this year after one on Feb 28 that killed 78 people in Sadr City, a district of Baghdad. This was also claimed by the ultra-hardline Sunni group that controls vast swathes of territory in Iraq and in Syria.

The escalation in Islamic State bombings suggests that Iraqi government forces are being stretched thin after their recent gains against the group in the western and northern provinces. Responsibility for the bombing in Hilla, 117 km south of Baghdad, was claimed in a posting on the website of the Amaq news agency, which supports Islamic State. "A martyr's operation with a truck bomb hit the Babylon Ruins checkpoint at the entrance of the city of Hilla, killing and wounding dozens," the statement on the Amaq website said.

Hilla is the capital of Babylon province, a predominantly Shiite region with some Sunnis. "It's the largest bombing in the province to date," Falah Al-Radhi, the head of the provincial security committee, told Reuters. "The checkpoint, the nearby police station were destroyed as well as some houses and dozens of cars." A provincial hospital official confirmed the number of casualties, adding that 23 of them were members of the police and other security forces that were manning the checkpoint located at the northern entrance of the city.—Reuters

### OBITUARY RUPERT ALEX LOUIS (Kuwait Airways)



Born: 26.02.1958 Died: 02.03.2016  
 Son of Late William Louis and Idalina Louis  
 Husband of Sally Louis, father of Laura Louis (Ex-Carmel School)  
 Brother/Brother-in-law of Rudy/Philomena, Late Cynthia/Imad and Sandra/Bona  
 Uncle of Naveen, Reuben, Krishna and Russell  
 Funeral services will be held on Monday, 7 March 2016 with mass at 3.00 pm at the Holy Family Cathedral followed by the burial at Sulalbiqhat Cemetery  
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## LITTLE TO SHOW FOR IN BOKO HARAM-IS PARTNERSHIP

**LAGOS:** When Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria last year, there were fears the deadly insurgency in northeast Nigeria would take on an international dimension. The world's deadliest designated terrorist organizations - notorious for the indiscriminate slaughter of tens of thousands of people - were now officially linked. Speculation and concern mounted about a potential influx of foreign fighters to the countries surrounding Lake Chad and an escalation of a previously localized conflict.

But 12 months on that hasn't happened. If anything, Boko Haram appears a considerably weaker force and apparently in disarray after a year-long military counter-offensive. Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau has

only been heard from twice since his audio message published on March 7, 2015 pledging an oath to his IS counterpart Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. Nigeria's army has since then increasingly claimed crushing blows against the militants and their strongholds plus the liberation of thousands living under Boko Haram control. This week, dozens of rebels reportedly surrendered because of hunger. Nigeria now wants many of the two million people internally displaced by the conflict to return home.

### 'Marketing Label'

Many analysts have long viewed the announced tie-up as propaganda for both sides. Boko Haram was at the time struggling against regional forces and IS suffering set-

backs to its territorial ambitions. "Nothing has changed in the Boko Haram camp since Shekau's declaration," Nigerian security analyst Abdullahi Bawa Wase told AFP. "It has failed to bring in IS fighters. It has not attracted IS weapons and cash, which many feared would happen." On the contrary, Boko Haram is weaker than it was before the declaration, which is evident from the drastic drop in deadly attacks. Even the rate of suicide bombings has slowed.

A Nigerian security source said IS was "only a marketing label which Boko Haram wants to use to deceptively project itself as a formidable terrorist group." Shekau's declaration and the subsequent re-branding of Boko Haram as "Islamic State West Africa Province" or ISWAP caused a reported rift in the Boko

Haram hierarchy. Few, if any, wanted to go against his word but dissenters have reportedly explored closer ties with other jihadi groups in the wider Sahel region.

### Active Threat

Some security consultants predict Boko Haram in Nigeria could this year be reduced to a largely criminal, regional threat along the lines of the Lord's Resistance Army in central Africa. But with the United States this week including Nigeria on its updated "Worldwide Caution" list, Western governments clearly still view Boko Haram as a serious threat. US military drones recently began operating from a base in northern Cameroon while the Pentagon is considering sending military trainers to northeast Nigeria.

Nigeria's secret police meanwhile announced the arrest of seven members of Ansaru, the Boko Haram offshoot that kidnapped several Westerners and which is more aligned ideologically to Al-Qaeda. The Department of State Services said it had also arrested an IS recruiter, two "ISIS agents operating in Nigeria and the West African sub-region" plus four others heading to join IS. Six of those detained were said to be heading or preparing to go to Libya, where Nigerians are said to be in the IS ranks in territory it controls. Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari, who has claimed Boko Haram is "technically" defeated, has increasingly pointed to lawless Libya as a potential security "time bomb" for Europe and Africa.—AFP

## IRAN TYCOON SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR CORRUPTION

### BILLIONAIRE'S TWO ASSOCIATES ALSO CONVICTED

**TEHRAN:** Iran has sentenced billionaire tycoon Babak Zanjani, reportedly one of the country's richest men, to death, convicting him of corruption after a long trial on accusations he fraudulently pocketed \$2.8 billion. A justice official announced the punishment yesterday, noting that Zanjani, who became notorious for finding ways to channel hard currency from oil sales during the sanctions-ridden era of president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad from 2005 to 2013, could appeal.

by managing to subvert the banking restrictions. He said he did so using a web of companies in various countries including the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Malaysia, selling millions of barrels of Iranian oil.

But he was arrested in Dec 2013, three months after current President Hassan Rouhani took office, having pledged to crack down on corruption. Zanjani, 41, was convicted of fraud and economic crimes and must repay money to the state as well as face the death penalty, judiciary

British-Iranian businessman Mahdi Shams, who was detained in 2015, and the other as Hamid Fallah Heravi, a retired businessman.

"The preliminary court has sentenced these three defendants to be executed, as well as paying restitution to the plaintiff," said Mohseni-Ejeie, adding this was the oil ministry. They must also pay a "fine equal to one fourth of the money that was laundered", the spokesman said, without specifying the sum. Zanjani had denied wrongdoing, insisting the

### 'Corrupt Parasites'

Zanjani told the media that in return for commissions he was tasked with circumventing sanctions to get money back to Iran. He did so at a time of record high oil prices, meaning tens of billions of dollars were at stake. In October last year, however, Rouhani's oil minister Bijan Zanganeh hit out at the use of middlemen such as Zanjani. Iranian media have put the tycoon's fortune as high as \$13.5 billion, with public opinion split on whether he was indeed helping the government or enriching himself at the country's expense. Zanganeh and other officials said the latter was the case.

Speaking after Iran concluded a nuclear deal with world powers in July, paving the way for increased foreign activity in Iran's energy sector, the oil minister urged investors to deal directly with the government and avoid third parties. "We despise the corrupt parasites that want to suck the nation's blood even in this situation," Zanganeh said to loud applause at an industry event in the capital while Zanjani's trial was under way. "I recommend foreign companies stay away from these corrupt individuals" who know nothing but "deceitfulness".

Zanjani was among Iranian individuals blacklisted under US and European sanctions. The nuclear deal saw a large part of these sanctions lifted at the beginning of 2016 in exchange for Tehran curbing its nuclear program. Defending the nuclear talks in 2014 before the deal came about, Rouhani said "a small, fringe group is very angry about it because they will suffer losses" and referred to Zanjani as such a person. In parliamentary elections last month, the president secured his goal of a more moderate parliament, signalling strong public support for the nuclear accord and creating an opening for domestic reforms. As of 2015, Iran ranked first in the world in natural gas reserves and fourth in proven crude oil reserves, according to energy giant BP.—AFP



**TEHRAN:** A picture made available yesterday shows Iran's billionaire tycoon Babak Zanjani in a court.—AFP

Zanjani rose to prominence after sanctions imposed on the Islamic republic's banks as punishment for its nuclear program hit the country's finances hard. Having taken commissions, he said he was at all times working with the knowledge and backing of Ahmadinejad's government and he boasted in media interviews of his skills and wealth amassed

spokesman Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejeie said. The trial was public, a rarity for such a major case in Iran, and two other accused were also convicted of "corruption on earth", the most serious offence in the Islamic republic, meaning they too will face the death penalty. A news website run by the judiciary identified the two associates as

only reason the money had not been paid to the oil ministry was that sanctions had prevented a planned transfer from taking place. That claim was disputed in court. The case follows repeated declarations from Rouhani's government that corruption and the payment of illegal commissions thrived under Ahmadinejad's rule. Other trials are ongoing.

## ASSAULT TO RETAKE MOSUL MONTHS AWAY

**BAGHDAD:** It will take many more months to prepare Iraq's still struggling military for a long-anticipated assault on the Islamic State group's biggest stronghold in the country, the city of Mosul, US and Iraqi officials say - and it may not even be possible to retake it this year, despite repeated vows by Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi. As the US and its allies furiously work to train thousands more troops for the daunting task of retaking Iraq's second largest city, Islamic State fighters are waging a diversion campaign of bloody suicide attacks in Baghdad and elsewhere. Their aim is to force Iraq's already overburdened security forces to spread even thinner to protect the capital and other cities rather than prepare the Mosul operation.

Iraq's answer to that has been a plan to build a wall around the capital. Meanwhile, the US-led coalition and the Iraqis are struggling to protect pockets of territory that have been recaptured from the extremists. "Mosul will be very complicated, it will be a mix of forces and it will be very important to ensure it's well planned," Brett McGurk, President Barack Obama's envoy to the US-led coalition fighting IS, said Saturday. US Army Col Christopher Garver, a coalition

spokesman, put it more bluntly. "The forces that are going to conduct that assault into the city, they're not in place yet."

The northern city of Mosul, once home to more than a million people, was the biggest prize captured by IS when it swept over much of Iraq's north and west in the summer of 2014 and declared a "caliphate" across those lands and territory it holds in Syria. While Iraqi forces have clawed back some territory in the past year, retaking Mosul is considered crucial for bringing the jihadis' back in the country. Estimates of the number of IS fighters in Mosul vary from a few thousand to "not more than 10,000," according to the coalition.

The Iraqi military is still struggling to regroup. When Mosul fell to IS, more than a third of the military disintegrated as thousands of soldiers shed their uniforms and dropped their weapons to flee. In the following months, tens of thousands more Iraqi troops were identified as "ghost soldiers" - nonexistent troops whose pay was pocketed by commanders.

The US-led coalition began a training program months later in Dec 2014, but so far only 18,500 soldiers and security forces have been trained in courses

which last around seven weeks. Experts question whether such a crash course is adequate preparation. Coalition and Iraqi officials estimate eight to 12 brigades, or an estimated 24,000 to 36,000 troops, will be needed for the operation to capture Mosul. So far, 2,000 to 3,000 Iraqi troops have been deployed at Makhmour base, the likely staging ground for a Mosul assault, located 67 km southeast of the city.

"We are all trained, qualified and ready for battle. But this force is not enough to retake Mosul," said Iraqi Lt Col Mohammed Al-Wagaa, stationed at Makhmour. "The battle for Mosul is going to take a long time." Under political pressure to show victory, Abadi has repeatedly vowed to "liberate" Mosul this year. But US Lt Gen Vincent Stewart, head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told Congress last month: "I'm not as optimistic."

Stewart said they may be able to begin "isolation operations" around the city, but "securing or taking Mosul is an extensive operation and not something I see in the next year or so." The Iraqi military's few competent, battle-tested units are scattered, helping to hold various front lines against IS in the country's central and western provinces or tied down controlling cities and towns retaken from the militants since other security forces aren't capable.

Iraq's elite counterterrorism forces have units near Tikrit and Baiji in central Iraq and Habaniya in the west. In Ramadi, capital of the western Anbar province, a counterterrorism commander said his unit has to remain because local police forces can't maintain control. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to talk to the press. "You can't just pick up and leave," Garver said. Without proper forces in place, "Daesh comes back and seizes terrain that you just spent months taking from them," he said, using an Arabic acronym for IS.

IS has meanwhile stepped up attacks on Baghdad and other towns removed from front-line fighting. Over the past week a double bombing at a market in Baghdad's Sadr City killed more than 70 people. The following day, a suicide attack at a funeral north of Baghdad killed over 30, and on Sunday an explosives-laden fuel truck plowed into a checkpoint south of the capital, killing at least 47 people and wounding dozens.—AP



**In this May 27, 2015 file photo, US soldiers (left) participate in a training mission with the Iraqi army soldiers outside Baghdad.—AP**



**CAIRO:** Egyptian Interior Minister Magdy Abdel Ghaffar speaks during a press conference yesterday.—AFP

## EGYPT SAYS BROTHERHOOD, HAMAS KILLED PROSECUTOR

**CAIRO:** Egypt has accused exiled Muslim Brotherhood officials of conspiring with Gaza-based Hamas militants to assassinate Public Prosecutor Hisham Barakat last year and arrested 14 people in connection with the attack. Barakat, 64, was killed by a car bomb in Cairo in June 2015. He was the most senior state official assassinated since the toppling in mid-2013 of elected president Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood. There was no claim of responsibility for the attack at the time.

Interior Ministry Magdi Abdel Ghaffar told a news conference that the attack was ordered by Turkey-based leaders of Egypt's oldest Islamist movement and coordinated with Hamas. He accused Hamas of helping to provide training and explosives. He said the authorities had arrested 48 members of a Muslim Brotherhood cell aimed at undermining security through a series of attacks. Fourteen of them had confessed to killing Barakat. "This is a very big conspiracy that started a long time ago and continued," he said.

A judicial source told Reuters on Sunday that six people had been arrested for Barakat's murder. The official MENA news agency reported that those arrested were suspects in several acts of "terrorism, possessing and using explosives, and joining a terrorist group". Judges and other senior

officials have been targeted by radical Islamists since then-military chief Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi ousted Morsi after mass protests against his rule.

Sisi, who went on to win a presidential election the next year, banned the Brotherhood and jailed thousands of its followers. Security forces killed hundreds of Morsi supporters in a single day in the bloodiest episode in Egypt's modern history. The Egyptian judiciary says it is independent of the government and military, but some judges have been accused of bias after handing down lengthy jail terms and mass death sentences.

The crackdown, which has included restrictions on freedom of protest, has angered many opponents of Sisi who has struggled to suppress an insurgency that is raging in the Sinai Peninsula which borders Hamas-controlled Gaza. The attack last June cast doubt on Egypt's ability to contain an Islamist insurgency based in Sinai that has killed hundreds of policemen and soldiers since Sisi took over. The Brotherhood has been banned and designated as a terrorist organization. The group says it rejects violence. The most active militant group is Sinai Province, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, the jihadist group that has seized control of significant areas of Iraq and Syria.—AFP



**ANKARA:** The front page of the first new edition of the Turkish daily newspaper Zaman, which had staunchly opposed the president, is seen with articles supporting the government since its seizure by authorities.—AFP

## ANTI-ERDOGAN PAPER TOES GOVT LINE IN NEW EDITION

**ANKARA:** A leading Turkish newspaper which had staunchly opposed President Recep Tayyip Erdogan printed yesterday its first new edition since its seizure by authorities, strongly supporting the government line. Turkish police on Friday raided the Istanbul premises of the Zaman newspaper using tear gas and water cannon to enter the building in order to impose a court order placing the media business under administration. The front page of the paper, normally strongly critical of the president, on Sunday was full of articles supporting the government.

Zaman headlined an ambitious three billion dollar government project to connect Asian and European sides of Turkey's mega city Istanbul by a third bridge. In common with traditionally pro-government newspapers the front page also contained images of the funerals of "martyrs" killed in the military clashes with Kurdish rebels in the southeast. In one corner of the new edition Erdogan is seen holding the hand of an elderly woman and the newspaper announces the president is due to host a reception for women on women's day.

With an estimated circulation of 650,000, the newspaper has been closely affiliated with Erdogan's enemy, exiled Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen, believed to be wielding significant influence in the police and judiciary, as well as media and financial interests. Ankara accuses Gulen of running what it calls the Fethullahist Terror Organisation/Parallel State Structure (FeTO/PDY) and seeking to overthrow the legiti-

mate Turkish authorities. In its last edition that went to print before its takeover, the newspaper warned of the "darkest days" in the history of the Turkish press, and on Saturday police fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse a group of the paper's supporters who were clapping in protest.

The new administration, appointed by the court order, on Saturday abolished the contract of the newspaper's editor-in-chief Abdulhamit Bilici while newspaper employees entered the building under tight police scrutiny. Sunday's edition was the first issue after the takeover, which critics said was aimed at eradicating opposition media in Turkey, which hopes to join the European Union. "Internet has been cut off, we are unable to use our system," one of the newspaper's journalists told AFP. "The Sunday edition was not produced by Zaman's staff," the journalist said.

### Gulen's Extradition

The seizure of the newspaper by the state comes ahead of a critical summit today between Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and EU leaders in Brussels. The EU has urged Turkey, its key ally in tackling the huge migrant crisis facing the continent, to uphold press freedom. The government, for its part, has denied any interference in what it termed a "legal process". "There are many media outlets in Turkey that criticise our government. None of them are subjected to legal procedures," Davutoglu told A Haber television yesterday.—AFP





SAO BERNARDO DO CAMPO, Brazil: Former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and current President Dilma Rousseff greet supporters gathering outside his house to show him their support near Sao Paulo on Saturday. —AFP

## BRAZIL TOP JUDGES BACK GRAFT PROBE

SAO PAULO: Senior judges in Brazil voiced concern on Saturday over the detention of former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, even as they threw their support behind the sweeping corruption investigation that threatens to topple his embattled successor. Lula's three hours of questioning in police custody on Friday was the highest profile development in the two-year-old probe focused on state oil firm Petroleo Brasileiro SA (Petrobras). The detention of the 70-year-old Lula, Brazil's first working-class president and a hero to millions of his fellow citizens, shocked his supporters. His 2003-2010 government helped lift an estimated 40 million Brazilians out of poverty.

Supporters and opponents of the former union leader clashed outside his home on the outskirts of Sao Paulo after Lula was detained by police early on Friday. Supreme Court Justice Marco Aurelio Mello told CBN Radio on Saturday that "nothing justified the use of force" when police picked up Lula unannounced from his apartment. Even Justice Gilmar Mendes, who has publicly said there is strong evidence the ruling Workers' Party used graft proceeds to fund electoral campaigns, called Lula's interrogation in police custody a "delicate" situation in O Estado de S Paulo newspaper.

The federal judge who ordered Lula to be brought in for questioning, Sergio Moro, said in a statement on Saturday that steps were taken to protect Lula's image during the operation, and he expressed regret that it sparked violence. Speaking to his supporters at Workers' Party headquarters in Sao Paulo after being released on Friday, Lula said investigators were "disrespectful of democracy" and that he "deserved respect."

Lula has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing either while in office or since. President Dilma Rousseff flew from Brasilia on Saturday morning to meet with Lula in his apartment in Sao Bernardo do Campo, in a show of support

for her predecessor and political mentor. She called his detention "unnecessary". But the public prosecutors in charge of conducting the probe shot back at critics' claims that Lula was handled poorly. They said police have detained 116 other suspects in the Operation Car Wash investigation in the past two years who were treated with similar care as was taken with the ex-president, and never has the public complained of the practice.

### Crackdown

Lula "is owned no more respect than any other Brazilian citizen, as he holds no power that puts him beyond the reach of the Car Wash investigation" according to the law, prosecutors said. Before Friday, some analysts had questioned whether the crackdown on graft could be at risk of fizzling out after the justice minister stepped down amid a barrage of criticism from the ruling Workers' Party over the investigation. But Supreme Court justices were unambiguous in support for prosecutors pursuing their investigations into Brazil's biggest ever corruption scandal.

Justice Rosa Weber late on Friday rejected a request by Lula's lawyers to suspend investigations into real estate assets and the ex-president's institute, which police allege he and his family likely used to launder money stolen from Petrobras. Even Mello, who was critical of Lula's arrest, said the evidence uncovered by prosecutors was "very serious" and deserved further investigation. The pressure on Rousseff and Lula shows no sign of abating. Local media have reported on a spate of new plea bargains by senior politicians that could further ensnare the government. IstoE news magazine on Thursday published alleged testimony by Workers' Party Senator Delcidio Amaral claiming that Rousseff and Lula both directly benefited from corruption. He alleged Rousseff had tried to hamper the investigation. —Reuters

## BERGDAHL LAWYERS SEEK MEETING WITH TRUMP

WASHINGTON: Attorneys for Army Sgt Bowe Bergdahl said Saturday they may seek a deposition from presidential contender Donald Trump or call him as a witness at a legal proceeding, saying they fear his comments could affect their client's right to a fair trial. Bergdahl's attorney Army Lt Col Franklin Rosenblatt asked Trump in a letter dated Saturday for an interview to discuss the Republican's comments about Bergdahl, who faces military charges after walking off a post in Afghanistan in 2009. The letter sent to Trump's New York office by registered mail says the interview would determine whether they will seek to have him give a deposition or appear as a witness at a legal hearing.

"I request to interview you as soon as possible about your comments about Sergeant Bergdahl during frequent appearances in front of

large audiences in advance of his court-martial," Rosenblatt wrote in the letter on US Army letterhead. Defense attorney Eugene Fidell said Trump's statements could affect Bergdahl's right to a fair trial. He added in an email to AP that the statements "raise a serious question as to whether he has compromised Sgt Bergdahl's right to a fair trial." A spokeswoman for Trump's campaign didn't immediately respond to an email and a phone call seeking comment.

Fidell had previously asked publicly that Trump cease making comments about Bergdahl such as Trump's comment in October that the soldier was a "traitor, a no-good traitor, who should have been executed." Fidell has also said previously that Trump gave incorrect information about rescue efforts for Bergdahl during public speeches. —AP

# FAMILY, FRIENDS OF CIA AGENT DEMAND HIS RELEASE FROM IRAN

LEVINSON'S WHEREABOUTS, CAPTORS REMAIN A MYSTERY

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: The family and colleagues of a former FBI agent who disappeared in Iran nine years ago while on a CIA mission expressed anger and disappointment at a rally Saturday that he wasn't part of a January prisoner exchange with Tehran. Several hundred people attended the rally for Robert Levinson, 67, who disappeared from Iran's Kish Island in March 2007. A 2013 AP investigation revealed that the married father of seven was working for the CIA on an unauthorized intelligence-gathering mission to glean information about Iran's nuclear program. If Levinson remains alive, he has been held captive longer than any American - longer than then-AP journalist Terry Anderson, who was held more than six years in Beirut in the 1980s. Unlike Anderson, Levinson's whereabouts and captors remain a mystery. US officials believe the Iranian government was behind his disappearance. It has denied that. The case drew renewed attention in January when Levinson was not part of a prisoner swap between the US and Iranian governments that freed four other Americans who had been in Iran's custody. Levinson's family insists he is still alive, even with health issues including diabetes, gout and high blood pressure. They last received video and photos of him about five years ago.

Stephanie Levinson Curry, his second-oldest child, said her autistic 9-year-old son Ryan cried for days when the other American captives were released, but not his grandfather. The rally's stage was decorated with nine chained and padlocked glass cookie jars filled with yellow rocks, each one representing a day Levinson has been held captive. The crowd held yellow signs showing the social media hashtag "whataboutbob."

"Bob Levinson has been deprived of being a grandfather, a job that he would love so much," Curry said. "We worry all the time about what he is thinking while he is alone in his cell. Even prisoners in jail get to see their families, write them letters and call them. Bob Levinson has none of that." Retired FBI agent Ellen Glasser harshly criticized the Obama administration for not demanding that Iran release Levinson or, at least, turn over information about his whereabouts. The FBI says it still investigates every lead and remains committed to finding Levinson. A \$5 million reward for information leading to his whereabouts remains in effect.



CORAL SPRINGS, Florida: Robert Levinson's children (from left) Samantha Levinson, Stephanie Curry, Susan Boothe, Sarah Moriarty, Dan Levinson and Douglas Levinson are seen during a rally for Levinson, a former FBI agent who disappeared in Iran nine years ago while on a CIA mission, at the Center for the Arts on Saturday. —AP

### 'Outrage'

"The failure to push publicly and hard for answers about Bob was an outrage," Glasser said. "A rare opportunity was squandered when we had the most possible leverage to bring him home. Despite many requests, no new pressure was put upon Iran to produce information on Bob's status." US Rep Ted Deutch told the crowd they should send messages to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who is active on Twitter. "It is unfair that Bob wasn't among the Americans who came home, but because of that, our fight continues," he said.

The 2013 AP investigation showed that in a breach of the most basic CIA rules, a team of analysts - with no authority to run spy operations - paid Levinson to

gather intelligence from hotspots around the world, including the Middle East and Latin America. The official story when Levinson disappeared was that he was in Iran on private business, either to investigate cigarette smuggling or to work on a book about Russian organized crime. Russia has a presence on Kish, a tourist island. In fact, he was meeting a source, an American fugitive, Dawud Salahuddin. He is wanted for killing a former Iranian diplomat in Maryland in 1980. In interviews, Salahuddin has admitted killing the diplomat. The CIA paid Levinson's family \$2.5 million to preempt a revealing lawsuit, and the agency rewrote its rules restricting how analysts can work with outsiders. Three analysts who had been working with Levinson lost their jobs. —AP

# THOUSANDS ATTEND FUNERAL OF HONDURAN ENVIRONMENTALIST

LA ESPERANZA, Honduras: Thousands of mourners paid their final tributes Saturday to Berta Caceres, the indigenous activist killed on Thursday, demanding justice for the renowned environmentalist. The 45-year-old head of the Civic Council of Indigenous and People's Organizations (COPINH) was gunned down in her hometown of La Esperanza, 200 km northwest of the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa, in what her family has called an assassination.

Mourners from across the country attending the funeral in La Esperanza chanted "Justice, justice!" "Berta lives!" and "The struggle continues!" as her coffin was taken to a church service before its burial. Caceres' brother Gustavo, one of the first to find her body, told AFP that at least two masked men entered the back of the house where his sister was sleeping early on Thursday. She got up to investigate the noise and confronted the men, who fractured her arm and leg before shooting her at least eight times at point blank range, he said. A bullet also wounded Gustavo Castro Soto of the organization Friends of the



LA ESPERANZA, Honduras: The brother of murdered indigenous activist Berta Caceres, Gustavo Caceres shouts slogans during her funeral on Saturday. —AFP

Earth Mexico, who had been sleeping in the next room, when he came out to see what was happening. The attackers fled after he pretended to be dead. Caceres lived in the house, which belongs to her

mother, until moving out two months ago. "Now we understand it was a way to protect her family," Gustavo Caceres said. A mother of four who would have turned 45 Friday, Caceres rose to prominence for lead-

ing the indigenous Lenca people in a struggle against a hydroelectric dam project that would have flooded large areas of native lands and cut off water supplies to hundreds. In 2015, she won the Goldman Environmental Prize, considered the world's top award for grassroots environmental activism. She persevered in her activism despite numerous death threats. Caceres was arrested in 2013 for illegal possession of firearms in what critics say was harassment. She was acquitted in 2014.

Caceres' killing has drawn international condemnation, including from the United Nations, the United States and many environmental activists. The activist's family has accused the authorities of trying to mask her death as a random murder, insisting that she was assassinated because of her activism against environmental destruction by large mining and hydroelectric companies. They also accuse the government of responsibility in her murder for failing to provide protection and investigate the threats against her. —AFP

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## EU MAY PUSH TURKEY TO TAKE BACK MIGRANTS ON 'LARGE-SCALE'

**BRUSSELS:** European leaders will push Turkey at a summit yesterday to agree to "large-scale" deportations of economic migrants from Greece which is bracing for a fresh surge of migrant and refugee arrivals by the end of March.

The European Union's 28 leaders are hoping for new commitments from Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at their talks in Brussels in order to curb the chaos on the west Balkans route that begins in over-stretched Greece. The EU will also push Ankara to drastically reduce the huge flow of migrants into Europe, as Turkey is the launch pad for most of the more than one million refugees and migrants who have come to the continent since early 2015.

On Saturday, European Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos said Greece-already struggling with a buildup of 30,000 migrants-was expected to receive "another 100,000" by the end of March. EU leaders will also try to increase aid for Greece which has seen non-EU Macedonia and EU countries on the Balkans route tighten their borders, stranding asylum seekers desperate to head northward to wealthy Germany and Scandinavia.

Macedonia allowed just 240 people to cross the border with Greece between Saturday and early yesterday morning, Greek frontier police said.

Meanwhile, there are already over 5,000 refugees and migrants waiting to cross to the Greek mainland from the Aegean islands facing Turkey, Greece's state agency ANA reported yesterday.

Donald Tusk, the European Council president and summit host, said in his invitation letter that success depended largely on securing Turkey's agreement at the summit for the "large-scale" readmission from Greece of economic migrants who do not qualify as refugees.

Syrians, who top the influx of people into Europe, are considered genuine refugees requiring admission under international law. Brussels has meanwhile unveiled a plan for saving the passport-free Schengen zone, which has been jeopardised by several countries closing their borders to stop the huge influx of people.

### 'European consensus'

"For the first time since the beginning of the migration crisis, I can see a European consensus emerging," Tusk said in his letter. Following their lunch with Davutoglu in Brussels, EU leaders are to meet by themselves. The EU said Turkey has made progress toward implementing a cooperation-for-aid deal clinched in November but added that too many people were still heading from Turkey to Greece, the main entry point to Europe.

The European Commission, the EU executive body, said in a report that the daily average of irregular arrivals in February amounted to just under 2,000, which is "high" for a winter month.

In the report to EU summit participants, the commission said encouragingly that Ankara on February 26 approved 859 readmission requests from Greece.

Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the Netherlands, which currently holds the bloc's rotating presidency, told reporters he hoped Turkey would agree today "to accelerate readmission of third country nationals and economic migrants." Rutte added: "I think that would be the minimum outcome."

The commission report urged Ankara to "swiftly negotiate and conclude readmission agreements with the relevant third countries," which would then take back economic migrants from Turkey.

In return, Rutte said, Europe could implement a more "ambitious" plan to resettle refugees directly from camps in Turkey, which hosts 2.7 million Syrian refugees. Under the action plan, the EU will give Turkey three billion euros (\$3.3 billion) to aid refugees on its territory and Turkey will crack down on people smugglers.

### 'Decisive action'

In its report, the commission urged Turkey to "take decisive action against migrant smuggling" by stepping up police work, coast guard patrols and cooperation with NATO. Turkey on Wednesday denied claims it was blocking NATO vessels deployed in the Aegean Sea from launching a new anti-smuggling mission. Under their deal, Turkey expects to accelerate its bid for EU membership and see Brussels ease visa requirements for Turks visiting the Schengen area.—AFP

## BRITAIN FACES 'GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY' OUTSIDE EU: LONDON MAYOR

**LONDON:** London's influential mayor yesterday denied personal ambition was behind his decision to campaign for Britain to leave the European Union and said it was a "golden opportunity" for the country to forge its own trade deals with the world. Boris Johnson, whose backing for a so-called 'Brexit' has angered Prime Minister David Cameron and highlighted the deep splits within his Conservatives over Europe, said he believed the risky option was to remain inside the 28-nation bloc when Britons vote in a June 23 referendum. His comments came as German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble warned Brexit would lead to years of tortuous negotiations and create insecurity that would be "poison" to the British, European and global economies. No country has previously quit the EU, and a British departure would deprive the bloc of its number two economy and leading financial centre. Cameron says leaving would be a risky "leap in the dark."

But Johnson said it would be a "huge weight lifted from British business" and he did not believe banks "threats" to relocate from London if it happened. "For the last few years I have said clearly if we didn't get reform we should be prepared to walk away. I think we now have a golden opportunity to shrug off a regulatory legislative burden that is profoundly undemocratic," he said in a BBC interview. "We have got a once in a lifetime opportunity, which will not come again, to strike a new series of relationships, free trade deals with the growth economies around the world, whilst maintaining ... our free trade advantages with the European Union."

Cameron has said he will not run again at the next election due in 2020, and many believe Johnson took the gamble that campaigning for 'Out' would boost his chances of succeeding him. Twice elected to run London, he is among the country's most popular politicians and seen as one of the Eurosceptic camp's chief assets. Asked if he expected to be the next prime minister, he responded: "Certainly not." As both sides accuse each other of scaremongering in an increasingly acrimonious debate, another leading 'Out' campaigner, Justice Secretary Michael Gove, told the Sunday Times that the EU's treatment of Greece in its debt crisis had fuelled the rise of far-right "Hitler worshippers" across the bloc. In the same paper, Johnson said the EU made it harder for Britain to carry out surveillance on terrorists. He criticised as "scandalous" reports that the head of the British Chambers of Commerce, which represents thousands of businesses, had been suspended for backing Brexit.—Reuters



**IDOMENI:** A woman breastfeeds her baby as refugees and migrants wait to receive some food at the makeshift camp of the Greek-Macedonian border near the Greek village of Idomeni yesterday.—AFP

## 18 MIGRANTS DROWN OFF TURKEY MACEDONIA IMPOSES FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON REFUGEES

**IDOMENI, Greece:** At least 18 people drowned off the Turkish coast while trying to reach Greece yesterday, while Macedonian authorities imposed further restrictions on refugees trying to cross the Greek border.

The Turkish coast guard launched a search-and-rescue mission for other migrants believed to be missing from the accident, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. The coast guard rescued 15 other migrants off the Aegean Sea resort of Didim, it added.

The dead included three children, according to private Dogan news agency. Meanwhile, Greek police officials said Macedonian authorities are only allowing those from cities they consider to be at war to cross the Idomeni border crossing from Greece. That means people from cities such as Aleppo in Syria, for example, can enter, but those from the Syrian capital of Damascus or the Iraqi capital of Baghdad are being stopped.

The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak on the record. The developments come a day ahead of a summit between the European Union and Turkey

to discuss the crisis.

Nearly all refugees and other migrants who enter the EU have been doing so by taking small inflatable dinghies from the Turkish coast to the nearby Greek islands. With thousands of kilometers of coastline, Greece says it cannot staunch the flow unless Turkey stops the boats from leaving its shores.

Athens has also criticized Europe for not sticking to agreements to take in refugees in a relocation scheme that never really got off the ground.

"While Idomeni is closed for refugees and the flows from the islands, from the Turkish shores to the islands, remain, it must be perfectly clear that the immediate start of a reliable process of relocation of refugees from our country to other countries of the European Union is a matter of complete urgency," Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said Sunday during a speech to his party.

"And this is exactly what we will seek in the summit on Monday. Not just the wording that this is urgent, but that it will begin immediately and with a large number," Tsipras said.

While thousands arrive in Greece's main

port of Piraeus from the islands, about 13,000-14,000 people remain stranded in Idomeni, with more arriving each day. The refugee camp has overflowed, with thousands pitching tents among the railway tracks and in adjacent fields.

The rate at which refugees are being allowed to cross had already been reduced to a trickle, with sometimes only a few dozen, or even nobody, being allowed to cross. Greek police said 240 people crossed between 6 am Saturday and the same time yesterday morning.

The camp is beginning to take on a form of semi-permanence, with people realizing they will be spending at the very least several days in the fields. As morning broke, women swept the earth outside their tents with makeshift brooms made of twigs and leaves. Men stomped on branches pulled off trees nearby to use as firewood for small campfires to boil tea and cook.

Throughout yesterday morning, dozens of local Greeks arrived in cars packed with clothes and food donations to distribute to the refugees. Many were mobbed as they arrived at the first tents, with men, women and children scrambling to receive what-

ever handouts they could.

The sheer numbers have overwhelmed Greek authorities. Massive queues of hundreds of people form from early in the morning, with people waiting for hours for a lunch-time sandwich.

While Greek officials have tried to discourage more people from arriving, and no longer allow buses to drive to the Idomeni border, hundreds continue to arrive each day, walking more than 15 kilometers (10 miles) from a nearby gas station where the United Nations refugee agency has set up large tents. "We have been here five days, or six. Who remembers the days anymore," said Narjes al Shalaby, 27, from Damascus in Syria, travelling with her mother and two daughters, 5-year-old Maria and 10-year-old Bara'a. Her husband and third daughter are already in Germany.

"All we do here is sleep, wake up, sleep. We get hungry, we wait in the queue for two hours for a sandwich, we come back, we sleep some more," said Narjes, who worries about her daughters.

"She's grown up sooner that she should have," she says of Maria, who is sleeping in the back of the family's small tent. "She's aged." —AP



**TIRANA:** An old Mig-19 fighter jet is photographed at the Rinasi air base, near Tirana. If you want to buy a secondhand fighter jet, Albania's the place to go right now.—AP

## ALBANIA OFFERS COLLECTORS ITS COMMUNIST-ERA AIRBORNE GLORY

**RINASI AIR BASE, Albania:** If you want to buy a secondhand fighter jet, Albania's the place to go right now. The 40 obsolete Soviet and Chinese-made aircraft up for sale once roared over what was Europe's most exclusive airspace. The Albanian pilots were members of an exalted military elite that had its own food-tasters and was tasked by Communist Albania's paranoid regime with deterring countless enemies who never did come to this country on the Adriatic Sea.

Now a NATO member, Albania is auctioning off the rusted jets to pay for modernizing its military and to save space in its air bases. The Socialist government says it has received strong interest from aviation collectors and museums abroad - so much that it pushed back the initial auction date and is considering raising the starting bids, first set at 1.1 million to 1.9 million leks (\$8,600-14,800).

"It was a surprise for us," Defense Minister Mimi Kodheli told The Associated Press, noting "a rush" of interest from prospective bidders in the United States, Germany, France, Italy and other countries.

In a corner of the Rinasi air base outside the capital of Tirana, 11 decrepit MIG-17 and MIG-19 jets are parked in neat rows, guarded by two military officers. Their silver-grey paint with the distinctive red, black and red roundels is fading, their tires are flat, the guns are rust-flecked and some of their glass canopies are broken. Former jet

mechanic Vasil Jongari, 55, seemed almost ashamed to show the planes to visiting journalists.

"There is nostalgia always," he said, running his fingers over the 32 millimeter gun on a MIG-19. "But they cannot be kept only based on desire. They need money, and money we don't have."

Ilirjan Kola, 61, who flew Albanian air force MIG-15 to MIG-19 jets from 1976 until 1991, said the planes were always so expensive to operate.

"MiGs were so costly," he told The Associated Press. "A twin-engine MIG-19 consumed 52 liters of the fueling jets to pay for a normal flight of 30-40 minutes, imagine the expense ... Better that they had sold them before." Albania's air force was founded in 1951 and received MiGs from the Soviet Union until 1962. After Communist leader Enver Hoxha broke with the Russians, the country continued to be supplied with planes and spares from Communist China - until 1977, when Albania also severed ties with the Chinese.

About 160 Albanian pilots graduated from a military academy in southwestern Vloera, and used to clock up about 80 flying hours a year. Only five still serve - and now they all fly helicopters.

"We were privileged at the time, with specially chosen food, shelter, health care and vacations," Kola said. He said the food came from a dedicated farm near the air base, which a doctor tasted for them on a daily basis.—AP

## BENIN VOTES FOR PRESIDENT TO SUCCEED BONI YAYI

**COTONOU:** Benin went to the polls Sunday to choose a new president from a record field of 33 candidates but with concerns about the distribution of voters' cards that already forced a two-week delay. Polling began at 0600 GMT in the tiny West African nation, with international observers assessing the atmosphere as "very calm and very relaxed." Voting was due to end nine hours later.

Mathieu Boni, an official from a civil society group which has deployed more than 3,000 election observers, said "more than half" of the nearly 8,000 polling stations opened on time.

President Thomas Boni Yayi is bowing out after serving a maximum two five-year terms, marking him out among some African leaders who have tried to change constitutions to ensure third terms. The first results are expected within 72 hours of the vote.

### Main contenders

Prominent candidates include Lionel Zinsou, the Franco-Beninese financier who stepped down as head of France's biggest investment bank to become prime minister last year.

The 61-year-old is standing for the ruling Cowry Forces for an Emerging Benin (FCBE) party and is widely viewed as Boni Yayi's chosen successor. He already has the support of two opposition

parties but critics view him as an outsider "parachuted" in by former colonial power France.

Zinsou, who in the 1980s was a speechwriter for France's socialist former prime minister Laurent Fabius, cast his vote shortly before midday in the Cocotiers area of Benin's commercial hub, Cotonou.

Two of Benin's leading businessmen, Patrice Talon, 57, and Sebastien Ajavon, 51, are also front-runners, pitching for the top job after previously bankrolling presidential bids.

Other favourites include economist Abdoulaye Bio Tchane and financier Pascal Irenee Koupacki, both 64, who were voting in the northern town of Djojou and Pomasse in the south.

### Key region

With so many candidates, political analysts predict no decisive result yesterday and believe whoever wins in the northern region will determine the overall result. Key issues in the election include job creation, tackling corruption, improving health and education, and the economy in the country, a major cotton producer.

Farmer Emile Sosa was one of the first to vote in Cocotiers, Cotonou, and said lack of opportunities for the country's young people was a major problem.—AFP



**COTONOU:** Voters queue to cast their ballots at a polling station in Cotonou yesterday during the presidential election.—AFP



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Decision Management Consultants - UAE

You will be responsible for driving Organization's internal hiring process, collecting of data for recruitment, short listing the resumes, arrangement of interviews, selecting of candidates - offer letter, joining formalities, exiting interview, full & final settlement and coordinating with effective communication between employer and employee.

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UAE

You will be responsible for ensuring all elements of the Auto Units Storage facility and distribution sites are supervised professionally, efficiently, safely and profitably on a continuous basis, as well as, achieving maximum customer satisfaction while maintaining optimum levels of operational efficiency at minimum cost, supervising both the fleet and drivers.

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Ghassan Aboud Group  
UAE

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Propel Consult - Qatar

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Hyatt Plaza - Qatar

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You will be responsible for providing maintenance to all buildings, Plants, ETS's and PDN's including, but not limited to Electrical, Control & Instrumentation, conducting regular and scheduled visual maintenance inspections inside and outside Plants, ETS's and PDN's to see where maintenance is needed, as well as, recording maintenance activities as carried out and following daily/weekly work orders.

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Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for liaising and negotiating with customers and suppliers, supporting QR Sales Teams across the network to deliver revenue targets, ensuring all SOPs are documented and integrated into the necessary cargo manuals - CSM, GOM, FHM, as well as, defining KPIs with internal and external stakeholders on product performance.

Apply Now **JB3458080**



## AGEING, INDEBTED JAPAN DEBATES RIGHT TO 'DIE WITH DIGNITY'

**TOKYO:** Retired Japanese airline employee Tarou Tanzawa said he hadn't thought much about his own death until his 84-year-old mother was diagnosed with malignant lymphoma and decided against costly and invasive life-prolonging treatment. He watched his mother die peacefully at a nursing home where she received only palliative care after checking out of the hospital where she was diagnosed.

Soon after, Tanzawa made his own "living will", stipulating he did not want life-prolonging treatment if he became terminally ill or was in a vegetative state.

"I felt it was too soon (for my mother to die) but I also thought 'Ah, there is this way of dying,'" Tanzawa, now 68, told Reuters. "My generation of baby-boomers ... are reaching old age, and we must confront death as a practical issue."

Although Japan has one of the world's fastest ageing populations, the country has no laws regarding "living wills", let alone assisted suicide, which is legal in a few US states such as California and some nations

including Canada and Belgium. Japanese like the Tanzawas with "living wills" are a small minority. But as ageing baby-boomers ponder their own demise and the country struggles with the worst public debt among advanced countries due partly to rising expenditure on medical care, the taboo on avoiding life-extending care is eroding.

The topic of "natural death" is increasingly being tackled in TV shows, newspaper and magazine articles and books; seminars on preparing for death are popular; and health experts say the use of feeding tubes for feeble elderly patients is declining.

"I think we are at a turning point in terms of attitudes," said Teruhiko Mashiko, an opposition lawmaker and head of a parliamentarians group set up a decade ago to discuss a law giving legal protection to doctors who withhold life-prolonging care with the patient's consent. "The view that it is not dignified as a human to simply be kept alive by medical treatment is becoming more common," Mashiko said in an interview.

### "CALLOUS ABANDONMENT"

The lawmakers' group drafted a new version of a bill last year but it has yet to be introduced in parliament, largely because of opposition from disability rights groups who fear it could be a first step toward legalising euthanasia. Traditional Japanese views that families are obliged to care for elderly relatives have long been an obstacle to rejecting or withdrawing life-prolonging treatment. Many families fear being accused of callous abandonment, whatever the patient's wishes.

Doctors worry about family members filing suits. Health Ministry guidelines issued in 2007 call for an informed decision by the patient or a proxy and say a decision to withdraw aggressive treatment should be made by a health care team. But these and other guidelines have not erased physicians' concerns. "We doctors want some guarantee not to be accused criminally or civilly if we stop such treatment," said Toshiharu Furukawa, head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's health, welfare and labour panel, and a

lawyer-doctor who has treated terminally-ill cancer patients.

The sensitivity of the topic was underscored by the outcry that greeted remarks by Finance Minister Taro Aso in 2013 when he said the ailing elderly should be allowed to "hurry up and die" and linked the issue to the high cost of medical care. Most advocates of the legal change say respect for individual rights, not cost, is the key factor and legislation would help promote the concept of "living wills".

Others, though acknowledge the role of the fiscal burden. Japan's total spending on national health care topped 40 trillion yen (\$350 billion) for the first time in the year to March 31, 2014. Spending on those aged 75 and over exceeded a third of the total, a percentage set to grow as the population ages.

"We cannot say clearly that it is a problem of cost, but it is a problem," the LDP's Furukawa said. Groups representing the handicapped say such talk simply confirms what they fear - public financial woes are driving the push for legislation that could be

a first step toward legalising euthanasia of those society deems a burden.

"They say people want to die in a dignified way ... but because of the cost, they want people to have 'living wills' and reduce medical expenses," said Shoji Nakanishi, president of the non-profit Human Care Association. "If such a law is passed, it could lead to euthanasia," said Nakanishi, 72, wheel-chair bound since a spinal cord injury at age 21, when he was told he had just three months to live.

Legislation on the right to "die with dignity" is unlikely to be submitted ahead of a national election expected in July since advocates see little upside now in pushing a controversial bill. But some proponents argue that's fine, since delay will allow a changing public consensus to consolidate.

"My parents are nurses, and so is my sister, so we have a lot of debates concerning life and death at home," said Tokyo housewife Chihyo Yamaguchi, 27. "We're already committed that we don't need to do those kinds of treatments. I personally think 'dying with dignity' is fine." —Reuters

## SOUTH KOREA TO ANNOUNCE NEW SANCTIONS ON NORTH SEOUL, WASHINGTON BRACE TO LAUNCH JOINT DRILL

**SEOUL:** South Korea will soon announce its own tougher sanctions on North Korea, an official said yesterday, a move set to further heighten tensions as Seoul and Washington prepare to launch their largest joint military exercise. The new measures following Wednesday's decision by the UN

yet to punish the North for its latest nuclear and missile tests in violation of UN resolutions. The North responded within hours by test-firing rockets into the sea. Its leader Kim Jong-Un ordered the nation's nuclear arsenal to be readied for pre-emptive use at "any moment".

Korean individuals and organizations believed to be involved in weapons development will also be added to a blacklist, it said, citing a government source.

In February, in an unprecedentedly tough move, the South announced the total shutdown of a jointly-run industrial park in

This year's will be the largest ever, with the US reportedly sending more than 15,000 troops-four times as many as last year-to the Key Resolve drill, which is largely a computer-simulated exercise.

Foal Eagle-a field exercise also involving US strategic assets including a naval fleet led by an aircraft carrier and nuclear-powered submarines-is also expected to be far bigger than before.

Seoul says the drills, which continue through April 30, are defensive in nature but Pyongyang has habitually slammed them as a preparation for war.

Last month it warned it would attack the South and the US mainland in case of any armed provocation during the exercise.

Yesterday the North said the US would be to blame if war broke out. "The US is working hard to turn the Korean Peninsula into the theatre of a war, not content with slapping its unreasonable 'sanctions' against the DPRK (North Korea) over its self-defensive H-bomb test and satellite launch for peaceful purposes," according to a statement by a foreign ministry spokesman.

"No one can vouch that the do-or-die confrontation between the DPRK and the US will not spill over to a global thermonuclear war," said the statement quoted by the North's official news agency.

In the first move to enforce the UN sanctions, a North Korean cargo ship is being detained by the Philippines, a close US ally. Its 21 North Korean crew members remain on board the ship at Subic Bay while officials await the expected arrival of a UN team to inspect it.

The new UN sanctions requires states to inspect all cargo to and from North Korea. —AFP



**SEOUL:** A general view shows the entrance to the Osan US military air base south of Seoul yesterday. South Korea will soon announce its own tougher sanctions on North Korea, an official said, a move set to further heighten tensions as Seoul and Washington begin their largest-ever joint military exercise. —AFP

Security Council to slap unprecedented sanctions on the North-will be announced this week, a Seoul government official said on condition of anonymity.

The Security Council announced its toughest sanctions

The Seoul official did not elaborate on the South's separate sanctions. Yonhap news agency said they would include banning any ships which have previously docked in the North from South Korean ports. A group of North

North Korea, saying Pyongyang had been using it to fund its nuclear weapons programs. On Monday South Korea and its close ally the US will begin their annual Key Resolve/Foal Eagle military drill.



**BEIJING:** Hostesses pose for selfies outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing during the second day of the National People's Congress yesterday. —AFP

## AFGHAN PRESIDENT: IS BEING WIPED OUT IN AFGHANISTAN

**KABUL:** Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani said yesterday that the Islamic State group has been defeated in the eastern parts of the country, where it had taken over some remote districts. Speaking at the opening of parliament, Ghani said Afghan forces had dislodged IS loyalists from regions of Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan. "Afghanistan will be their graveyard," he said in an address broadcast live on national television.

IS has had a presence in Afghanistan for more than a year. Officials have said most militants calling themselves IS are disaffected Taliban fighters. Afghan forces have claimed victory following a 21-day operation in the Achin and Shinwar districts of Nangarhar, claiming at least 200 militants killed, a provincial official told The Associated Press.

Achin and Shinwar are among a number of districts in the remote mountainous regions along the Pakistan border that were overtaken by IS loyalists in recent months. Operations against the militants included airstrikes to destroy bases and a radio station that was broadcasting IS recruitment messages across Nangarhar province. The radio station was destroyed, along with at least seven militants, on Feb. 1. "The aim of the operation in Nangarhar was to root out IS from the area," said Afghan Army Lt. Col Sharin Aqa, a spokesman for the 201 Corps. The operation was aided by local residents who set up checkpoints to help maintain security in their villages. These so-called "local uprisings" had supplemented the Afghan forces, which have been stretched since the drawdown in 2014 of the international combat mission, he said.

The Afghan government is attempting to end the war on its territory with hopes of drawing the Taliban into a dialogue and eventual peace talks. The IS presence has been principally in the east, where they have also fought the Taliban for territory. The Taliban have intensified their war to overthrow the Kabul government. The usual winter lull on fighting did not come in the southern regions, notably Helmand province where most of the opium that produces the world's heroin supply is grown.

Officials have said the fight in Helmand, which the Taliban consider part of their heartland, is for control of the smuggling routes, and some Taliban groups have been fighting each other. The drug production is worth up to \$3 billion a year. The Islamic State group is believed to be interested in Afghanistan because of the riches offered from contraband, including weapons, alcohol and minerals. —AP



**AHMADABAD:** Railway policemen stand guard at a railway station following high alert in Ahmadabad yesterday. —AP

## INDIA'S GUJARAT STATE ON TERROR ALERT

**AHMADABAD:** The western Indian state of Gujarat was placed on high alert yesterday after officials said they received intelligence reports that around 10 suspected militants from Pakistan had entered the state.

Policemen were checking cars and buses on highways and at the entrance of major cities and towns, said Gujarat's home minister, Rajnikant Patel. Security was also stepped up in the Indian capital, New Delhi, with more police and paramilitary troops assigned to shopping malls, railway stations and other crowded places.

All vacations of policemen in the state have been canceled and they have been

asked to report back to work. Around 25 members of India's elite National Security Guards have reached Gujarat to beef up security, Patel told reporters. Some fishing boats have been found abandoned near the coast over the past few days, raising suspicions that militants from Pakistan had entered Gujarat by sea, Patel said, adding that security patrols have been increased along Gujarat's coastline in fears of an attack emanating from neighboring Pakistan.

In 2008, armed militants entered Mumbai, India's financial hub, by boat from Pakistan and launched a terror attack in which 166 people were killed. —AP



**KUALA LUMPUR:** A woman takes pictures of balloons with names of the missing Malaysia Airlines ill-fated flight MH370 during a memorial event in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. —AFP

## TWO YEARS ON, MH370 FAMILIES SAY SEARCH FOR MISSING JET MUST CONTINUE

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The families of passengers lost aboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 say the two-year search for the missing aircraft must go on beyond a June deadline, as new hope emerged last week of resolving the aviation mystery. Debris found off the African coast rekindled hope for many, prompting relatives like Grace Subathirai Nathan to demand investigators go back over mistakes made early on.

"A lot of it was based on calculations that had never been used before, where there's room for human error," Nathan said in an interview. Nathan's mother, Anne Daisy, was on board when MH370 disappeared on its way to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur on March 8, 2014, with 239 passengers and crew on board.

Some 120,000 sq km (46,300 sq mi) of the sea floor is being scoured at an estimated cost of about A\$170 million (\$124.17 million). But no trace of the missing Boeing 777 has been found except for a wing part, known as a flaperon, which surfaced on Reunion island off Madagascar last July.

Australia said in August that initial drift models of where debris from the jet might first wash up had incorrectly identified Indonesia as the most likely location. "If that could be wrong, what else could be wrong?" Nathan, a 28-year-old lawyer, said. A meeting set for June between Australia,

Malaysia, and China will determine whether to extend the search.

But families are calling for the search to continue after the discovery last week of a white, metre-long chunk of metal suspected to be from MH370 off the coast of Mozambique. Just as they prepare to mark the two-year anniversary of the jet's disappearance, the relatives are asking for efforts to focus on the southeast African coast. Voice370, a support group for MH370 next-of-kin, said last week in a statement that the claims of funds drying up was "unacceptable" as a reason for ending the investigation, which they say could benefit the broader industry and increase safety.

### BACK TO DRAWING BOARD

On Sunday, scores of family and friends of those on board the plane gathered at a mall in Kuala Lumpur in a memorial seeking to "re-investigate, re-evaluate, re-start" the search. Accompanied by poignant musical and dance performances, the next-of-kin made an impassioned plea for search efforts to continue until the plane is found. "They can stop the search, but where do we stop the feeling of loss? We want them to try, if possible, to continue searching for MH370," said Jacquita Gonzales, the wife of MH370 in-flight supervisor Patrick Gomes. —Reuters

## CHINA: 300,000 PUNISHED FOR CORRUPTION IN 2015

**BEIJING:** China's ruling Communist Party said yesterday that it punished nearly 300,000 officials for corruption last year. The party's official watchdog body said that 200,000 of those were given light punishments and 82,000 handed severe penalties, including demotions within the bureaucracy.

The body known as the Central Committee for Discipline Inspection rarely explains its methodology or what evidence it considers, and no other details were given in the brief statement posted on its website. President Xi Jinping has pressed a massive nationwide probe of corruption among offi-

cial of all ranks, including those in the party, government, military and state-run industries.

Hundreds of thousands of officials have been interviewed in the campaign, but only a small number have been identified. An independent database lists 1,567 as having been investigated, expelled from the party or sentenced.

Among the highest-level targets of the campaign was Zhou Yongkang, the head of a rival power network and former member of the party's inner sanctum, the Politburo Standing Committee, who was sentenced last year to life in prison for corruption. —AP



## FORMER US FIRST LADY NANCY REAGAN DIES

Continued from Page 1

Her most publicized project as first lady was the "Just Say No" anti-drug campaign. After her husband developed Alzheimer's disease, she became an advocate for discovering a cure. She was diminutive and publicly soft spoken but Nancy Reagan's strong will, high-tone tastes and clout with her husband made her a controversial figure during his presidency.

As Reagan's wife, political partner and adviser, she became one of America's most potent first ladies, alongside the likes of Franklin Roosevelt's wife, Eleanor, Woodrow Wilson's wife, Edith, and Bill Clinton's wife, Hillary. "I see the first lady as another means to keep a president from becoming isolated," she said in 1985. "I talk to people. They tell me things. And if something is about to become a problem, I'm not above calling a staff person and asking about it. I'm a woman who loves her husband and I make no apologies for looking out for his personal and political welfare."

Tiny and frail in her later years, Reagan devoted her time to caring for her ailing husband at their home in Los Angeles' exclusive Bel Air enclave. She was always a stickler for protocol and detail and stoically presided over the former president's weeklong funeral and celebration of his life in June 2004.

One of her most trying times as first lady came when John Hinckley stepped out of a crowd outside a Washington hotel on March 30, 1981, and fired six shots toward the president, striking him in the chest. A .22-caliber bullet punctured his lung and nearly entered his heart. "Honey, I forgot to duck," he told her at the hospital.

Some critics lambasted Nancy Reagan as a meddling "dragon lady"; derided her anti-drug campaign and ridiculed her for consulting an astrologer to schedule presidential events. President Reagan called this view of his wife "despicable fiction," saying in 1987: "The idea that she is involved in governmental decisions and so forth and all of this, and being a kind of dragon lady - there is nothing to that."

The reputation was established during Reagan's time as California governor and followed her to Washington. She was first accused of being a vacuous spendthrift interested chiefly in renovating and buying new china for the White House, lavish entertaining, her designer wardrobe and the like, then portrayed as a cunning manipulator of policy and people.

### Influence

Advocates of the latter view saw her influence as virtually unlimited in such matters as the dumping of presidential advisers, efforts to get a nuclear arms accord with the Soviet Union and her husband's decision to seek a second term in 1984. Some Reagan-watchers said reports of Mrs Reagan's influence were exaggerated and that it was merely the protective concern of a loving wife.

She frequently clashed with President Reagan's chief of staff, Donald Regan, who lambasted her in a 1988 "tell-all" book after he was ousted from the White House during the chaos of the Iran-Contra scandal in 1987. Regan disclosed that she had used astrology to decide the timing of presidential speeches and trips, and even her husband's 1985 cancer surgery. "Virtually every move and decision the Reagans made during my time as White House chief of staff was cleared in advance by a woman in San Francisco who drew up horoscopes to make certain that the planets were in a favorable alignment for the enterprise," Regan wrote.

James Baker, who served as White House chief of staff during Reagan's first term, took a different view, telling PBS in 2011: "If there was one person who was indispensable to

Ronald Reagan's political success, it was Nancy Reagan." Nancy Reagan acknowledged she had the ear of her husband. "In most good marriages that I know of, the woman is her husband's closest friend and adviser," she wrote in her 1989 memoir, "My Turn." "... But however the first lady fits in, she has a unique and important role to play in looking after her husband. And it's only natural that she'll let him know what she thinks. I always did that for Ronnie and I always will."

Ronald Reagan was known for penning innumerable letters to his wife. In one, he stated: "I more than love you, I'm not whole without you. You are life itself to me. When you are gone I'm waiting for you to return so I can start living again." The former president's Alzheimer's struggle made Mrs Reagan a campaigner for broader human embryonic stem cell research, a stand that put her at odds with many Republicans. "Ronnie's long journey has finally taken him to a distant place where I can no longer reach him. Because of this, I'm determined to do whatever I can to save other families from this pain," she said before his death in 2004.

Some critics dismissed her "Just Say No" efforts as simplistic but she became America's most visible anti-drug crusader at a time when the crack cocaine epidemic was raging. In 1988, she addressed the UN General Assembly, saying the United States must do more with tougher law enforcement and anti-drug education efforts and should stop blaming the poor nations that produce most of the narcotics used by Americans.

"We will not get anywhere if we place a heavier burden of action on foreign governments than on America's own mayors, judges and legislators. You see, the cocaine cartel does not begin in Medellin, Colombia. It begins in the streets of New York, Miami, Los Angeles and every American city where crack is bought and sold," she told the General Assembly.

### Early life

Mrs Reagan had her left breast surgically removed in Oct 1987 after a cancerous tumor was discovered. She was born Anne Frances Robbins into a crumbling marriage in New York on July 6, 1921. Her car-salesman father deserted the family soon after, and her mother, actress Edith Luckett Robbins, resumed her show business career two years later. In 1929, her mother married Loyal Davis, a neurosurgeon. Nancy came to adore him, even taking his name, and the doctor was believed to have had considerable influence on his eventual son-in-law's shift from Democrat to Republican years later.

After graduation from elite Smith College, she worked as a nurse's aide, then began a stage career in New York. Starting in 1949, she had an eight-year career in films including one - "Hellcats of the Navy" (1957) - co-starring with Ronald Reagan. She often took supporting roles but had starring roles like one in the 1953 B-movie "Donovan's Brain" about a scientist who kept the brain of a dead millionaire alive in a tank.

Ronald Reagan divorced another actress, Jane Wyman, in 1948. They had a daughter, Maureen, and adopted a son, Michael. At the time, Ronald Reagan headed the Screen Actors Guild. Davis was stunned when an industry newspaper published a list of communist sympathizers and her name was included (it turned out to be a reference to another actress of the same name). She sought out her future husband for assistance. During the early years of the Cold War, Hollywood blacklisted - refused to employ - numerous people accused of holding communist views, ruining many careers and lives. Ronald and Nancy Reagan got married in 1952 and had two children together - Patti Davis, an actress, and Ron Jr, who pursued careers in ballet and television. — Reuters



Syrian refugee Mohammed Al-Shareef, 20, who fled with his family from Damascus, performs breakdance on the Mediterranean waterfront promenade in Beirut yesterday. — AP

## GULF OIL SQUEEZE SPREADS TO BANKS

Continued from Page 1

Gulf banks reinforced their capital buffers in the wake of the global financial crisis so are not in any imminent danger, according to bankers and analysts. However, they don't have the same funds to deploy as before as Gulf governments have withdrawn some of their deposits to bridge budget shortfalls, which as in Europe during the euro zone crisis, has exposed the interlinked relationship between governments and banks when bond markets fall.

The trend is perhaps most prevalent in Qatar, where half its commercial lenders have announced capital plans, including the largest conventional and Islamic banks, respectively Qatar National Bank and Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB). "Market volatility has absolutely impacted plans for raising capital-boosting sukuk (Islamic bonds) but we are in a good position," Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al-Thani, chairman of QIB, told Reuters at the bank's annual general meeting.

QIB's total capital adequacy ratio (CAR) - a key indicator of its health - stood at 14.1 percent at the end of December, above Qatar's minimum requirement of 12.5 percent, even though its total lending jumped 46.1 percent in 2015. Although Basel III's core equity minimum is 7 percent, rising to 9.5 for the biggest global banks, most countries have set levels well above this, with Kuwait requiring 13 percent. But further increases are due which would eliminate the bank's room for manoeuvre. The 15.125 percent minimum CAR set by Oman for 2019 would put most lenders there below or close to the limit at current capital levels.

Gulf secondary bond markets have been particularly volatile since the start of the year, with the yields on perpetual bonds issued by banks to boost their capital widening significantly as prices have fallen. This has forced high-net-worth

individuals and private banks, traditionally major holders of perpetual bonds, to sell and will discourage them from buying back in, Ram Mohan Nataraja, portfolio manager at Invest AD, said. "The usual latent demand will also be much lower, given the overall volatile market conditions," he added.

Although the relative illiquidity of these instruments accentuates such moves, they are generally considered riskier investments than regular bank bonds and this was apparent in some of their recent price movements. These moves suggest that enticing investors to buy new capital-boosting bonds will require banks to pay higher, more attractive coupons, something that will grate with Gulf bond issuers who are traditionally regarded as extremely price-sensitive. But limited options mean price is likely to trump pride.

Slumping stock markets - Dubai's bourse dropped 39 percent between mid-July and mid-January, while Saudi Arabia's index is down 10.1 percent year-to-date - means equity investors would be loathe to plough money into rights issues. So-called contingent-capital bonds have never been sold in the Middle East, while convertible bonds are also a rarity.

And while retaining earnings would give bank reserves a minor lift, it would cut into shareholder dividend payments which are already in the sights of local regulators. The United Arab Emirates central bank told its lenders to get approval before disclosing payouts for 2015, while Oman's regulator warned it could intervene on dividends to support capital ratios. Banks seem poised to wait for better markets to place capital-boosting bonds and sukuk, according to bankers, although time is limited. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman are among the countries expected to issue bonds and the start of the holy month of Ramadan in June may mark the start of a three-month market shutdown for the Middle East's long summer break. — Reuters

## LOW OIL PRICES PUT STRAINS ON CURRENCY PEGS

Continued from Page 1

raised their interest rates in December, tracking the US Federal Reserve, even though their economies needed exactly the opposite. The Gulf states now face a dilemma of whether to keep the pegs or opt for a flexible exchange rate regime, allowing their currencies to fall against the greenback. "Maintaining a peg is a costly affair. The central bank has to be willing to buy or sell its currency in the open market to maintain the peg, which could deplete forex reserves," said M.R. Raghu, head of research at Kuwait Financial Centre.

"Oil exports, which account for about 80 percent of (GCC) government revenues, have fallen by 70 percent since mid-2014, thus making the currency peg vulnerable as it reduces the foreign exchange reserves," Raghu told AFP. For now GCC states, with the exceptions of Bahrain and Oman, have huge reserves to defend their pegs. But some speculators are betting that the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia, will be unable to maintain the currency links indefinitely.

Jan Randolph, director of Sovereign Risk Analysis at IHS Global Insight, believes the contrasting performances of the US and Gulf economies will increase pressure on the pegs. Monetary policies are also expected to diverge - "stimulating in the GCC and gradual tightening in the United States," Randolph told AFP. GCC states need weak currencies and low interest rates to boost their waning economies, especially to develop non-oil export sectors, Randolph said. The longer the economic divergence continues, "the more sense it makes to move to a more flexible exchange rate regime," he said.

Maintaining the dollar pegs brings financial stability and certainty to GCC economies amid regional geopolitical ten-

sions. It also helps contain inflation and boost confidence for foreign investment. Oil producers like Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Nigeria have already devalued their currencies, raising oil revenues in local currency terms which helped to curb their current account and budget deficits.

But there is a cost. Devaluation "typically causes higher inflation and often results in falling living standards, which can undermine social stability," Standard and Poor's said in a recent report. Analysts say that if GCC states de-peg from the dollar, some currencies risk falling by 20 percent or more. That would boost oil revenues and the value of GCC fiscal reserves in their sovereign wealth funds in terms of local currencies, said Sebastian Henin, head of asset management at Abu Dhabi-based The National Investor.

The hospitality sector of the Gulf emirate of Dubai would also benefit as it becomes a more affordable tourist destination and more attractive to non-oil businesses, Henin told AFP. That is why some analysts and speculators anticipate that the United Arab Emirates could be the first to end its dollar link. Another risk of abandoning the dollar peg is a capital flight from the Gulf, Raghu said. "Capital outflows would be exacerbated as investors would like to move their assets to other markets. This would increase volatility and financial uncertainty in the region," he said.

Raghu thinks an end to the peg would happen "only as an extreme measure". Mohamed Zidan, chief market strategist at ThinkForex, a Dubai-based brokerage firm, said the peg regime "is costly and hurting the economy". "GCC states are defending it now for stability, but if the low oil price continues, they will opt for a managed floating regime within five years." — AFP

## CITIZENS' INCOME WON'T BE HIT BY SUBSIDY...

Continued from Page 1

Zalzal said MPs said they will abide by what the Amir said because this is the way out for the economic problems facing the country. The government and Assembly have failed to strike a deal on a way to reduce subsidies on petrol, electricity and water as part of the government's economic reform plans. So far, the two sides have held a series of meetings and MPs have resisted plans to hike electricity charges, saying it will harm low- and middle-income citizens. More meetings are planned and the government hopes to convince the Assembly before the new fiscal year takes effect on April 1. Local newspaper Al-Anbaa quoted finance ministry undersecretary yesterday as saying the government plans to start hiking electricity charges in 2017.

The Assembly's health committee meanwhile told Health Minister Ali Al-Obaidi that they want the new Jaber Hospital in South Surra to be reserved exclusively for Kuwaiti patients. Rapporteur of the committee MP Saadoun Hammad said the committee also asked the minister that the hospital should include all specializations in a bid to reduce the number of Kuwaiti patients sent abroad, which has become a controversial issue after the government decided to cut spending on it.

During the meeting, MPs also asked the minister to amend some provisions in new rules issued by the ministry recently to cut expenditures for sending patients abroad. During a debate on the issue last week, the Assembly was told that allocations for this item were a mammoth KD 441 million in the current fiscal year.

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## AFGHANS FEEL FORGOTTEN IN MIGRANT CRISIS

By Dasha Afanasieva

As the European Union and Turkey focus on stemming the flow of Syrian refugees attempting perilous journeys across the Aegean sea to Greece, another migrant community whose numbers are also swelling says it is being overlooked. Largely denied the chance for legal resettlement in Europe and struggling to find work or support in Turkey, Afghans account for around a quarter of the migrants risking their lives in the small boats leaving Turkey's shore.

Ahead of an emergency European Union summit with Turkey on Monday, the EU executive has announced the first payouts from a 3 billion euro (\$3.3 billion) fund meant to help Turkey cope with an influx of more than 2.7 million Syrian refugees and encourage them to stay put. But while Afghans are unlikely to be prevented from using services such as medical centres and education facilities set up with European funds in Turkey, the fact they speak Pashto and Dari, rather than Arabic, risks excluding them from projects designed for Syrian refugees, aid workers warn.

"The EU is not even discussing these issues and is exclusively focused on Syria," Kati Piri, the European Parliament's rapporteur for Turkey, told Reuters last month. "Even if the Syrian crisis would be solved tomorrow, there would still be a serious refugee crisis, with a large number of refugees in Turkey who don't have access to their rights." Afghan migrants in Turkey interviewed by Reuters said that over the past few years they had been denied interviews with UN refugee agency UNHCR that would formally determine their refugee status, a key step in the journey to being resettled.

Polat Kizildag, program coordinator at ASAM, an organization which registers asylum seekers in Turkey, said they were generally told they were ineligible because Turkey was the third country on their journey and the expectation was that they apply for refugee status in their second, in many cases Iran. Human rights groups have said Iranian forces deport thousands of Afghans without giving them a chance

to prove their asylum status and that they are pressured to leave the country.

"We want to stay (in Turkey) but ... there is no support here. It's too expensive," said Najebullah, 45, a father of four originally from Kabul waiting in Cesme, on Turkey's Aegean coast, to make an illegal crossing to the Greek Island of Chios. "In Europe we will get work and they will help us," he said, echoing a commonly-held belief among the migrants flooding to Turkey's shore that once they arrive in Europe they will be more easily able to build a new life.

Selin Unal, UNHCR spokeswoman in Turkey, said the most vulnerable, including Afghans, still received interviews, adding that close to 500 Afghans had been interviewed last year. She said the sheer numbers meant those most at risk were prioritized among UNHCR's active case load of some 254,000 non-Syrians.

### Resettlement Woes

More than 63,000 Afghans came to Turkey last year, a sharp rise from 15,652 in 2014, according to ASAM, counting only those who registered. Some came directly from Afghanistan, others from Iran, where they had tried unsuccessfully to settle. Kirikkale, near Turkey's capital Ankara, is one of several satellite towns where registered Afghans are allowed to reside. Hakima Rezai, in her late thirties, said she was trying to get to Europe to be reunited with her four children, taken to Europe by sea by her brother-in-law almost a year ago. She said UNHCR - which declined to comment on individual cases - had told her they could not help.

Rezai lives in a single room with a coal-burning stove and relies on the charity of neighbours. She does not receive the cash cards given to some Syrian refugees by international NGOs and their local partners to help meet basic living costs because there is no such scheme specifically set up for Afghans. "I cry every day," she said, showing the identity documents of her absent children. The exodus from Afghanistan has been prompted by an increasingly precarious security situation, with 11,000 civilians killed or

injured in 2015, as well as widespread corruption undermining faith in the future and a war-ravaged economy that cannot provide enough work for its population.

Kabul and other Afghan cities have seen a spate of suicide bombings and other attacks as the Taleban has stepped up its insurgency following the withdrawal of international troops from most combat operations in 2014. The insurgents, driven from power by a US-led campaign in 2001, are seeking to re-impose hardline Islamist rule and are now in control or threatening around a third of the country.

### False Perceptions

According to the European Commission, 64,109 asylum requests were registered in Turkey in 2015, more than 11,000 of them from Afghan citizens, but only 459 were concluded, either by granting or rejecting refugee status. Some are still waiting in Turkey, but others are among the thousands to have crossed illegally to Europe. Under a law passed two years ago, Afghans and other refugees have access to healthcare in Turkey and Unal said the most vulnerable could also benefit from social security schemes.

In January, Turkey also passed a new law to give refugees access to legal employment, a move praised by the European Union, although the program has not yet been rolled out. But many of the Afghan refugees, hampered in part by language difficulties, are unaware of their rights and rely on illegal labor such as fruit picking to survive.

Birnur Esen, a psychologist who works for IMECE, an organization which collects and distributes clothes and other supplies to migrants rescued at sea, said convincing migrants to stay in Turkey meant improving their lives there and making them realize conditions in Europe would be just as difficult. That, she said, should be the focus of European efforts. "We are trying to change their mind," she said. "Europe must stand behind Turkey. It must say that if you stay in Turkey, we will improve your conditions." —Reuters

## FLEXISECURITY: DREAM FOR FIRMS, NIGHTMARE FOR SHORT-TERM WORKERS

By Daniel Bosque

In 2009 the Nissan factory in Barcelona in northeastern Spain seemed condemned to close. But it was saved thanks to labor rights sacrifices, becoming a symbol of "flexisecurity" - a cooperative approach to labor relations in which employees accept a degree of flexibility in working arrangements - which is being held up as an example to follow in France even as it remains the focus of debate in Spain. Production at the plant plunged from 197,000 vehicles in 2007 to 44,000 vehicles in 2009.

Then no new orders arrived. "We had to react, become competitive and flexible," the vice president of Nissan in Spain, Frank Torres, told AFP. Employers and employees reached an agreement to allow for a longer work day and lower salaries for new hires and in exchange the plant received orders to produce five new models of vehicles.

"If we had not accepted, we would have had 2,000 colleagues turned out in the street," said Enrique Saludas, the head of the main union at the factory, which employs 3,500 workers. Similar measures were adopted in the entire auto sector, which accounts for ten percent of Spain's economic output. The country's total motor vehicle production rose by 11.1 percent last year.

### Weakens Workers' Rights

The cornerstone of this policy was a labor market reform adopted in 2012 by acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative Popular Party government. At the time the unemployment rate stood at 22.5 percent after 2.6 million jobs were lost during the past four years of economic crisis. The reform created a new open-ended contract which can be used by small and medium sized businesses for employees who are under the age of 30 which allows dismissals without justification during the first year of employment.

It also drastically reduced the amount of compensation that must be paid when workers are let go and allows for collective dismissals, even when a firm is not facing economic difficulties. The reform also weakens workers' rights, such as a prohibition on unilaterally changing work conditions. Four years later the reform - which triggered a general strike - remains controversial. Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez vowed to revoke the reform when he took the helm of the party in June 2014.

But the party has softened its stance since it allied itself with new market-friendly party Ciudadanos last month following an inconclusive December general election. "Your pact does not defend workers. You have left the door open to lowering the cost of dismissals," the head of new far-left party Podemos, Pablo Iglesias, said Wednesday in parliament as he announced his party would vote against Sanchez's big to form a government.

### 'Work Becoming More Precarious'

"The goal of this reform was to create jobs but what it has achieved in fact was make it possible to fire workers at will," said labour lawyer Ramon Hernandez Carrera. Labor law flexibility has been pursued in other nations in Europe as well. In Germany a plan introduced in 2005 by a Social Democratic government encouraged so-called "mini-jobs" - short-term contracts which are exempt from tax and social charges if they pay workers less than A450 a month. "Every day the global economic market requires greater flexibility, we can't oppose this reality," said Jordi Garcia Vina of Spanish business association CEOE.

After Spain returned to growth in 2014, the country began to create jobs - over a million in two years, the vast majority short term contracts. The unemployment rate registered a record fall last year, dropping nearly three percentage points to 20.9 percent, although it still remains the highest rate in the eurozone's after Greece's. "Unemployment is falling but the price is that work is becoming more precarious. Lower salaries are offered and much more is demanded from the worker," said Beatriz Toribio, spokesman for Infojobs, Spain's main employment website.

Between 2011 and 2014 the average salary in Spain rose by 2.1 percent to 1,881 euros (\$2,042) while inflation rose 5.2 percent. The percentage of contracts that pay less than the monthly minimum wage of 752 euros rose during this period to 13 percent from eight percent. The labour market reform is "unfair and a failure," said Antonio Ferrer of Spain's UGT union, who points out the jobless rate remains high. A study by Spanish bank BBVA defends the reform, arguing if it had been adopted earlier, in 2008, it would have prevented the destruction of one million jobs. —AFP

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## SCANDAL TAINTS WORKING-CLASS HERO LULA

By Natalia Ramos

### Poverty to Power

Former metalworker who rose to become one of the most popular presidents in Brazilian history, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva now sees his legacy under threat after being implicated in a huge corruption probe. Lula, as he is known to all in Brazil, left office in 2011 as a blue-collar hero who presided over a watershed boom and helped lift tens of millions of people from poverty. He was so widely admired as president that Foreign Policy magazine called him a "rock star" and US counterpart Barack Obama called him "the man".

Known for his charisma and common touch, Lula's popularity in Brazil and the success of the economy during a period of high commodities prices helped him ride out numerous corruption scandals. When he stepped down after two terms, he basked in 80 percent popularity ratings. But five years after helping handpicked successor Dilma Rousseff take his place in the presidency, graft allegations have left him fighting for his reputation - and potentially his freedom.

The gruff, bearded leftist was briefly detained for questioning Friday in the investigation into a massive embezzlement and bribery conspiracy centered on state oil company Petrobras. Prosecutors accused Lula, 70, of accepting "many" favors from corrupt construction companies seeking Petrobras contracts. They also suggested that they are looking at an allegedly more central role played by Lula in the scheme that has already seen charges against scores of people, many of them politicians and businessmen closely tied to Lula's Workers' Party. Lula, who was not charged, has rejected any involvement in the Petrobras scheme.

Lula grew up in deep poverty, the last of eight children born to a family of farmers in the arid, hardscrabble northeastern state of Pernambuco. He had little formal education, quitting grade school to help his family get by. When he was seven, his family joined a wave of migration to the industrial heartland of Sao Paulo state, where Lula worked as a shoeshine boy and street vendor before becoming a steel worker. As a teenager, he lost the little finger on his left hand in a machine accident. But in an early sign of his toughness, he not only persevered but became president of his trade union, less than a decade after joining.

He was the force behind big strikes in the 1970s that challenged the military dictatorship in power at the time. And in 1980, Lula founded the Workers' Party, first stand-

ing as its candidate for president nine years later. Lula made three unsuccessful presidential bids from 1989 to 1998, each time chipping away at the establishment parties and the idea that a poor, uneducated labor leader could never be president of Brazil. The fourth time, in 2002, he succeeded, taking office on Jan 1, 2003. "The majority of the population has given me the opportunity to prove that a mechanic shift worker can do for this country what the elite never managed to do," he said at the time.

### Glory Days

Lula soon calmed market fears of a radical surge to the left by adopting fiscally responsible policies, dark suits and a calm, pragmatic approach. He also had the good fortune to preside over a so-called golden decade for Latin America, when a rising

China's ravenous demand for raw materials propelled the region's economies to a historic period of growth. Brazil's economy hit a breakeven 7.5 percent growth in 2010, his final year in office.

Despite a series of scandals in his first term - most notably a congressional vote-buying case that felled his chief of staff - Lula coasted to reelection in 2006. He became a star of the emerging markets boom of the 2000s, reinforcing alliances across the world's developing nations. Constitutionally limited to two consecutive terms, he cemented his legacy by helping Rousseff into power.

### Question Over Comeback

But his post-presidential life has been fraught with difficulties. In Oct 2011 he was diagnosed with cancer in the larynx and successfully underwent chemotherapy. Although he has flirted repeatedly with the possibility of running to succeed Rousseff in 2018, he is an increasingly divisive figure, loved by his leftist, working-class base but loathed by the more well-off. With Brazil's economy in deep recession, Rousseff highly unpopular, and the Petrobras corruption scandal heating up, Lula's political mastery has never been under greater challenge.

He was defiant after his release from police questioning. "I escaped dying from hunger before I was five. That was one miracle. The second was getting a diploma as a metal worker. Another was getting a political conscience. Another was founding a party. Another miracle was getting to the presidency of the republic and I was better than all of them - the political scientists, doctors and lawyers who presided over the country," he said. "It's not all over as I thought," he added. "It's time to start again." —AFP

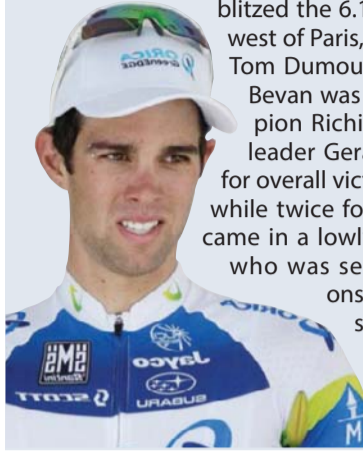


In this March 4, 2016 photo, Brazil's former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is surrounded by supporters as he leaves the Worker's Party building in Sao Paulo. —AP



## AUSSIE MATTHEWS WINS PARIS-NICE PROLOGUE

**CONFLANS-SAINTE-HONORINE:** Australian Michael Matthews took the overall leader's yellow jersey at the Paris-Nice stage race after winning the opening prologue yesterday. Orica GreenEdge rider Matthews, 25, blitzed the 6.1km course at Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, to the west of Paris, in 7min 39sec to beat Dutch timetrial specialist Tom Dumoulin by a single second. New Zealander Patrick Bevan was third at 2sec while Australian defending champion Richie Porte came in 11th, 10sec down. Team Sky leader Geraint Thomas, widely tipped to run Porte close for overall victory in the 'Race to the Sun', was seventh at 7sec while twice former Tour de France winner Alberto Contador came in a lowly 27th at 16sec. Specialist sprinter Matthews, who was second at last year's world road race championships, was competing in his first race of the season. Today's first stage proper will take the peloton 198km from Conde-sur-Vesgre to Vendome and is expected to finish in a bunch sprint. — AFP



## KUWAITI RACER YOUSEF AL-ABDULRAZZAQ HONORED

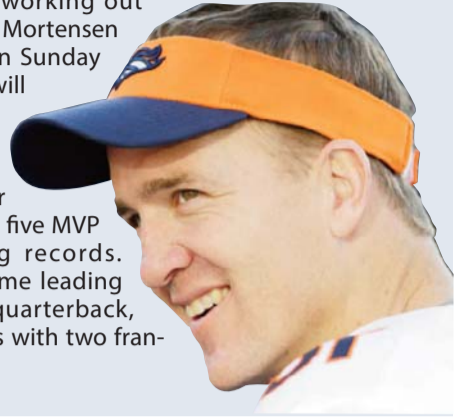
**KUWAIT:** Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) has honored Kuwaiti racer of the Speed Racing Watersports (KSR) Yousef Al-Abdulrazzaq as the World Champion 2015, in Monaco Saturday.

He expressed in remarks to KUNA yesterday his happiness for this great achievement which reflected the bright image of Kuwait specially that he is the only Arab and Kuwaiti who has achieved the title twice in the professional category.

He also praised efforts exerted by technicians and administrators, headed by Sheikha Mashael Al-Duaij Al-Sabah who greatly contributed to the fulfillment of this accomplishment, as well as the sponsorship of Zain of the championships. Al-Abdulrazzaq is the only Kuwait and Arab who won the world title seven times in senior professional categories.—KUNA

## MANNING TO RETIRE AFTER NFL SEASONS

**ENGLEWOOD:** A person with knowledge of the decision tells The Associated Press that Peyton Manning has informed the Denver Broncos he's going to retire. The person, who was briefed on the matter, spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity because the quarterback and the team were still working out details of an announcement. Chris Mortensen of ESPN first reported the decision Sunday morning. Just shy of 40, Manning will forgo \$19 million and a 19th season in the NFL, where he served as both a throwback and a transformer during a glittering career bookmarked by an unprecedented five MVP awards and dozens of passing records. Manning leaves as the NFL's all-time leading passer and winningest starting quarterback, the only one to win Super Bowls with two franchises.— AP



Ali Yousef attempts to block Bader Al Yaqout.



Abdullah Basheer V/s Mohamed Hersi.

## EBRAHIM AL SHEMARY WINS RED BULL KING OF THE ROCK IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Hundreds of spectators lined up to witness the top 16 basketball talents from Kuwait compete head-to-head for the prestigious title of Red Bull King of the Rock. The event held at Radisson Blu hotel, started at 7 pm and the competition became fierce as the single elimination 1-on-1 games moved further through the brackets. The 16 players relied on endurance and composure as they battled through fierce competition, humidity and cold temperature. The action was intense and almost nonstop throughout the championship. However, there can be only one king, and at the end of the night, it was Ebrahim Al Shemary who was left standing to take the trophy.

In the final, Al Shemary managed to clinch the title with a hard-fought victory against Fares Al Fadhli. The game went to overtime tied at 10. Both players traded

baskets but at the end, only two points (14-12) decided Al Shemary's victory.

"It was a tough battle," said Al Shemary. "Red Bull King of the Rock was an unbelievable experience, the atmosphere, the crowd and the players were amazing. The level at this year's tournament is very high. I was so tired in the final, but I had to keep going and not let my fans down. I trained very hard and will train harder to represent Kuwait in the best possible way at the World Final in Turkey."

The fourth edition of the Red Bull King of the Rock Kuwait was held at a unique and iconic surrounding with Al Hashemi boom and the lit castle wall serving as a background. Al Hashemi is the largest dhow ever built, and one of the largest wooden ships in the world today.



Al Shemary with the Championship Trophy.



Nate Diaz (right) raises his hand in a stunning reverse at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

## MCGREGOR STUNNED BY DIAZ AT UFC 196

**LAS VEGAS:** UFC featherweight champion Conor McGregor was choked into submission by Nate Diaz in a stunning reverse at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. In another huge upset, Miesha Tate snatched the world bantamweight crown from Holly Holm, choking her unconscious in the final round to take the title.

Following a week of trash talk between the two, a stunned McGregor was somewhat humble in defeat. "I thought I took him in the first round. I'm humble in victory or defeat," he said in the octagon after the fight. "I took a chance to move up a weight and it didn't work. "I thought I landed with some good punches that got him off," a delighted Diaz said. "I started off slow but I'm faster than anyone later on. My jiu-jitsu is always there for me." McGregor, who was denied a chance to become the first fighter to hold two UFC belts at the same time when lightweight champ Rafael dos Anjos pulled out with a foot injury, struggled in the second round after Diaz landed a

heavy blow. McGregor had landed some heavy left-hand shots of his own in the first round, opening up a cut over Diaz's right eye that streamed blood as he struggled to cope with McGregor's quick feet and hands.

The 27-year old Irish fighter, who took just 13 seconds to knock out Jose Aldo and win the featherweight crown, couldn't put the 30-year-old away, and when Diaz landed a punch in the second round McGregor looked stunned. Sensing that McGregor was hurt, the Californian suddenly seemed more energetic and went after him, firing off a series of hooks and jabs that found their target.

Struggling to stay in the fight, McGregor took it to the mat, but it was a move that backfired in stunning fashion as he suffered more punishment from the heavy-hitting Diaz. A black belt in jiu-jitsu, Diaz then slipped behind him and applied the choke hold that finished the fight, silencing the thousands of Irish fans

for the first time on the night. A win against Diaz would have left McGregor in the enviable position of being able to take on Robbie Lawler for the welterweight belt, or fighting Rafael dos Anjos for the lightweight title.

UFC boss Dana White had said in the lead-up to the fight that it was hard to deny McGregor at the moment, and a fight against Lawler would definitely draw an enormous pay-per-view audience.

But Diaz, who took on this fight at short notice, will surely believe that the defeat of McGregor means that he deserves a shot at the title.

The fight was preceded by Tate's sensational victory over reigning bantamweight champion Holm, who waited patiently throughout the fight for her chance to take her opponent down before choking her out late in the fifth round. "She went out like a champion. I have so much respect for this woman," the 29-year-old Tate told the octagon announcer as she received the belt. —Reuters

## CAVENDISH STRUGGLES AS GAVIRIA WINS WORLD OMNIUM

**LONDON:** Mark Cavendish's hopes of competing at the Rio Olympics were dealt a blow as he finished sixth in the omnium at the Track Cycling World Championships in London on Saturday.

Cavendish had been set a target of a top three finish by British Cycling coaches if he is to win selection to their Rio squad, but poor showings in the time trial and individual pursuit saw him finish outside the medal places as Fernando Gaviria Rendon took gold.

"I wanted to test it. I don't know if I am going," Cavendish said of his Olympic hopes.

"But I really wanted to test myself against the best riders. "Hopefully I did enough for selection. I don't know. We are incredibly lucky with GB that we have a group of strong guys to go to the Olympic Games. We have got an absolute load of riches."

Colombian Gaviria successfully defended his title in the tightest possible finish in front of 8,000 fans at the Lee Valley VeloPark.

The Etixx-Quick-Step road rider edged out two rivals in an amazing finish to the six-discipline event with a masterful tactical display in the points race.

With the lead changing hands multiple times over the 160 laps of the deciding points race, the top three positions were not decided until the 16th and final sprint of the 40-kilometre race as the 21-year-old Gaviria came over the line ahead of Roger Kluge of Germany and Australian Glenn O'Shea.

That trio were tied on 191 points with the countback being determined by their respective finishing positions on that final sprint.

"It was an epic battle," said Gaviria. "All the riders were very strong and I'm just pleased I managed to defend my title."

"People say I'm crazy, I don't think about the race too much, I just go with the flow and try not to make many childish mistakes that would be normal for someone of my age."

O'Shea ultimately paid the price for



**LONDON:** Colombia's Fernando Gaviria Rendon celebrates after winning the Men's Omnium during the 2016 Track Cycling World Championships at the Lee Valley VeloPark in London on Saturday. —AFP

a disastrous showing in the individual pursuit event in which he could only come 17th, but the Australian is hopeful of turning his bronze medal into gold at the Rio Olympics.

"I had one bad event and that was out of character for me," said O'Shea. "But there are no excuses there. You can say it cost me a gold medal but I was close and one bad event out of six isn't bad."

"The last two World Championships I've been on the podium and I'll put my hand up for the Olympics, but it's up to the selectors whether they want to take me or not. I believe I can go to Rio and have a chance."

### HOME CHEER

The home supporters had something to cheer about in the men's sprint where Olympic champion Jason Kenny was in magnificent form, winning the third world title of his career, but first in three years.

Three-time Olympic gold medallist Kenny has earned a reputation for failing to perform in non-Olympic events, but he eased into the final before defeating Australia's Matthew Glaetzer 2-1 in the best-of-three com-

petition. Kenny lost the first race but showed great tactical awareness and power to beat his rival in the last two rides.

"It was epic, I'm absolutely shattered," said Kenny. "I'm over the moon. "That was definitely my hardest world title I've won. To win the sprint is special. "Twelve months ago I remember sitting in the stands, watching the semi-final and the final and it just seemed like a world away. I'd been first-round fodder and we'd all gone home early."

"I don't think I'll ever feel like I'm ready for Rio. You always feel like you need to have more time. The key thing is now between now and the Games - doesn't matter whether we've won here or lost - it's about making the most of every day. To win in Rio we know we'll have to get better again."

Poland's Katarzyna Pawlowska won the women's points race in London, capturing the third world title of her career.

Twice a world champion at the scratch race event, Pawlowska took the lead at the seventh of the 10 sprints and never surrendered her advantage.—AFP





Abdallah Al-Rashidi and Naif Al-Daihani at the award ceremony.



Al-Rashidi with Adan Al-Ibrahim and Eng Duajj Al-Otaibi.

## KUWAIT TOPS MEDAL TALLY IN HH THE AMIR SHOOTING GP



Italian Shooters Jossipi and Rossi.



Senior officials at the awarding ceremony.



Kuwait's Afrah Adel

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's skeet shooter Abdallah Al-Rashidi proved tough for other shooters in a hard fought match and won the first place gold medal during the second and final round of the skeet event being held during Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Fifth Annual Shooting Grand Prix, keeping Kuwait in first place with three gold medals, two silver and two bronze. Kazakhstan in second place with one gold, New Zealand in third with silver, and Egypt fourth with bronze.

Al-Rashidi's teammate Naif Al-Daihani won the silver medal while Czech Danie Herberger won bronze. Kuwait's Eman Al-Shamaa who won the bronze medal in the women's skeet earlier in the week expressed her happiness in winning bronze, adding "I succeeded in qualifying for the final round only to compete with heavy weight shooters, and despite that I was able to take third place." She said "competing in HH the Amir Grand Prix is an honor in itself, and winning one of the medals make shooters feel very happy, due to the strong competition."

Al-Shamaa dedicated her win to HH the Amir



Abdallah Al-Rashidi celebrating with Kuwait flag.

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Sabah, HH the Crown Prince, and Information Minister, State Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, Algeria's head of delegation Rabeh Buzaid lauded the good organization and Kuwait hospitality during the tournament, which he considered of high standards.

Buzaid thanked HH the Amir for patronizing the Grand Prix which contributes to preparing shooters at both the Arab and international levels. He said Algeria is keen to attend the tournament every year. He said Algeria is participating with two shooters in preparation for upcoming events.

President of Tunis Shooting Union Sameer Shooshan expressed keenness on participating in HH the Amir Grand Prix in the presence of large participation by many international federations.

Shooshan commended the atmosphere and organization of the tournament at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, adding this is not strange for Kuwait shooting officials and the tremendous facilities the complex has.



Jordan's Maleeha and Noor



Shooters preparing for their round.



Group photo of shooters

## MCILROY FIRES A BOGEY-FREE 68 TO TAKE CONTROL

**MIAMI:** Rory McIlroy again benefited from his new putting grip as he overhauled halfway leader Adam Scott to move three strokes clear after the third round of the WGC-Cadillac Championship in Miami on Saturday.

Two shots behind Scott overnight, the Northern Irish world number three racked up four birdies in a flawless display to card a four-under-par 68 on the difficult Blue Monster course at Trump National Doral Resort. McIlroy, seeking his first victory since the European Tour's season-ending DP World Tour Championship in late November, parred the last three holes on the brutal closing stretch to post a 12-under total of 204.

"I just played a really solid round of golf," he told Golf Channel after getting up and down from a greenside bunker to save par at the last. "I didn't make any mistakes, no bogeys, which is what I've been looking to do. I feel like I've been making too many mistakes, so to eliminate the mistakes out there today and hole a lot of good putts and give myself a lot of (birdie) looks, I felt really good about it," added McIlroy, who is seeking his 12th PGA Tour win. "I just need to do more of the same tomorrow."

Australian Scott, winner of the Honda Classic last week, bogeyed two of the last six

holes on the way to a 73 and a share of second at nine-under with long-hitting American Dustin Johnson (71).

Two ahead of the chasing pack overnight, Scott bogeyed the par-three fourth after missing the green off the tee to fall back into a tie for the lead with McIlroy, who picked up a shot at the opening hole.

McIlroy sank a seven-foot birdie putt at the fifth to edge a stroke in front before doubling his lead when he drained a 16-footer at the par-five 10th.

The Northern Irishman, using a deft short game, parred the last eight holes to maintain his grip on the tournament.

"It feels really good," McIlroy said of his change this week from a conventional putting grip to left-hand low, following a missed cut at the Honda Classic.

"I feel really comfortable over it and you can see by the way I have been putting, I have been holing a lot of the putts that I should hole to keep the round going."

"It's so nice to hole a putt like that on the last just to give myself that little bit of a cushion going into tomorrow," he said of his six-footer for par at 18. World number one Jordan Spieth was tied for 17th at two-under after a 73. — Reuters

## JANG DANCES CLEAR OF RIVALS TO WIN IN SINGAPORE

**SINGAPORE:** Jang Ha-na sank a short eagle putt on the last and immediately broke into a Beyonce-inspired shimmy to celebrate her second win of the season with a brilliant four-shot triumph at the HSBC Women's Champions yesterday.

The Korean started the day one ahead of the pack but stormed clear on the back nine to close with a seven-under-par 65 for a 19-under total, capped by the gutsy eagle on the par-five last when she took on the lake with a fairway wood to attack the pin.

"I felt very comfortable today but am really, really happy this year because I have two wins right now," Jang, who will rise to number five in the world rankings, told reporters. "Closing with that eagle was amazing in my mind, very lovely." The effervescent Jang was tracked all the way by playing partner Pornanong Phatlum of Thailand, who scrambled brilliantly to stay in touch and closed with a bogey-free 68 but was thwarted once more in her latest attempt to win on tour.

Pornanong now has three second-place

finishes in as many years and would have secured victory had it not been for the brilliance of Jang, the Thai finishing four clear of Korea's Amy Yang in third with a group of five players a further shot back.

Jang started the year by becoming the first player on the LPGA Tour to score a hole-in-one on a par-four in the Bahamas and has backed that up with a victory in Florida last month and another in Singapore to continue her rich vein of form.

### SINGLE LADY

That maiden triumph was celebrated with her self-styled 'Samurai-lasso' dance and after inventing a new way to enjoy her victory on Sunday, the 23-year-old could soon be running out of ideas to mark each victory as her stock rises on the LPGA Tour.

"This week, I've been listening to Beyonce's music. So I'm watching the concert at the Super Bowl and it looks really nice," she added. "So I tried to be like Beyonce, the single lady. I'm single right now too, so I try the

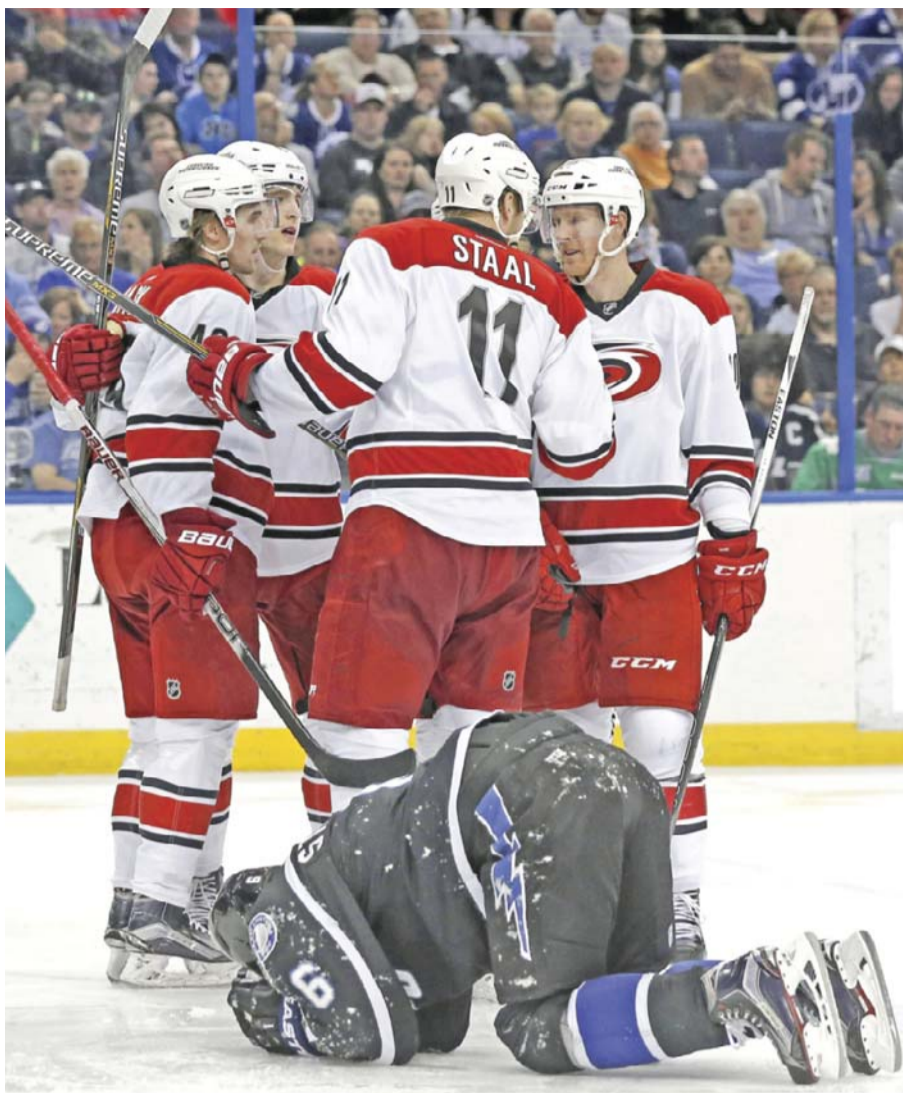
single lady." Jang predicted on Friday she may have "something special" to perform should she win this week and such was her confidence that she took a stranglehold of the tournament with an opening-hole birdie on Sunday and refused to let go.

Two more birdies gave her a three-shot lead over Pornanong at the turn as the chasing pack faltered but the Korean gave the 26-year-old Thai a glimmer of hope with a messy bogey on the 11th which could have been a lot worse.

The lead was briefly down to one when the Thai birdied the par-five 12th until Jang matched her moments later to keep the advantage at two shots, before a couple of monster putts led to back-to-back birdies from the 13th to send the Korean clear.

World number one Lydia Ko, who was eight adrift at the start of the day, sizzled on the front nine and moved to within four of the lead on the 12th hole but an error-strewn finish left her 12 shots off the pace in a tie for 15th at seven-under. — Reuters





**TAMPA:** Carolina Hurricanes celebrate a goal by Jordan Staal (11) after the puck deflected off the face of Tampa Bay Lightning's Anton Stralman (6), of Sweden, during the third period of an NHL hockey game Saturday, March 5, 2016, in Tampa, Fla. The Lightning won 4-3 in overtime. — AP

## LIGHTNING WINS RECORD NINE STRAIGHT GAMES

**CAROLINA:** The Tampa Bay Lightning have won a franchise-record nine straight games, perhaps none as thrilling as Saturday night, after they rallied to force overtime before center Alex Killorn's goal with 42 seconds left resulted in a 4-3 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes at Amalie Arena. The Lightning broke the team mark set during their run to the Stanley Cup championship in 2004. Carolina had rapped from a goal down to take the lead in the third period but couldn't hold on for the road win. Killorn's goal-his 13th of the season-came with 42 seconds remaining in overtime after both goalies had denied multiple strong scoring opportunities in a chaotic three-on-three overtime.

### CAPITALS 2, BRUINS 1 (OVERTIME)

Washington got a goal from Matt Niskanen in overtime against Boston. Niskanen slapped his fifth goal of the season past Tuukka Rask at 2:24 of the overtime as the Capitals reached 100 points for the season. Philipp Grubauer made 33 saves, 20 of them in the second period, as the Capitals completed their second straight 3-0 season sweep of the Bruins.

### JETS 4, CANADIENS 2

Mark Scheifele had a hat-trick as Winnipeg ended a six-game skid. Scheifele's third goal was an empty-netter with 29 seconds left in the game. It was the third-year center's first NHL hat-trick, and he now has a team-leading and career-high 20 goals for Winnipeg. Rookie Andrew Copp added his third goal of the season. Alex Galchenyuk scored his 20th and 21st goals of the season for the Canadiens.

### SENATORS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 2

Bobby Ryan, Marc Methot and Zack Smith had goals for Ottawa in a win over Toronto. Smith scored the winner at 17:45 of the third period. William Nylander and Nikita Soshnikov had Toronto's goals.

### FLYERS 6, BLUE JACKETS 0

Radko Gudas snapped a 65-game goal drought by scoring two and compiling four points in Philadelphia's drubbing of Columbus. Gudas ignited and punctuated Philadelphia's explosion while setting career highs in goals and points in a game as fans chanted his name during the third period. The Flyers have won four of five during a six-game homestand and are within three points of the Pittsburgh Penguins for the Eastern Conference's final wild-card spot.

### DUCKS 3, KINGS 2

Jakob Silfverberg had a goal and an assist and Fredrik Andersen made 32 saves as Anaheim extended its team-record winning streak to 11 games. Anaheim is 17-1-1 since Jan. 7 and gained sole possession of first place in the Pacific Division after once trailing the

Kings by as many as 16 points in mid-January.

### FLAMES 4, PENGUINS 2

Joe Colborne scored a goal and set up Lance Bouma's game-sealing goal in the third period and Calgary ended a seven-game losing streak. The Flames, who had won only once in 11 games since Feb. 11, got a solid effort in net from Joni Ortio in his first win of the season while handing Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury only his second regulation-time loss at Consol Energy Center since Jan. 1.

### PREDATORS 5, AVALANCHE 2

James Neal and Mike Fisher scored in the third period and surging Nashville beat Colorado. Filip Forsberg had a goal and an assist, and Shea Weber and Mikko Salomaki scored empty-netters for Nashville. Pekka Rinne stopped 34 shots for the Predators. Nashville has been one of the hottest teams in the NHL to move securely into the first wild card in the Western Conference. The Predators have not lost in regulation since a 5-3 setback against Washington on Feb. 9 and are 8-0-4 in that span.

### WILD 3, SABRES 2 (SHOOTOUT)

Jason Pominville scored in the fourth round of the shootout to lift Minnesota over Buffalo. The former Sabres captain beat goalie Robin Lehner with a wrist shot to the glove side on the winning attempt. Charlie Coyle and Jack Eichel scored earlier in the shootout to force the extra round. Mikko Koivu and David Jones scored in regulation for Minnesota. Goalie Devan Dubnyk made 30 saves. Eichel and Johan Larsson scored in regulation for Buffalo.

### COYOTES 5, PANTHERS 1

Alex Tanguay scored two goals to lead Arizona over Florida. Shane Doan and Jordan Martinook also scored and Louis Domingue made 29 saves as the Coyotes snapped a season-high seven-game losing streak. Aaron Ekblad scored for Florida, which hasn't won in Arizona since the 1999-2000 season. Al Montoya had 21 saves for the Panthers, who went 1-3-1 on their five-game road trip and have fallen out of first place in the Atlantic Division.

### CANUCKS 4, SHARKS 2

Vancouver defenseman Dan Hamhuis scored his first goal of the season to break a tie midway through the third period to lead the Canucks to a 4-2 win over the San Jose Sharks. The first three Canucks' goals came on the power play as the Sharks took an uncharacteristic bad number of penalties. Conversely, San Jose went 0-for-3 on the power play, hardly generating anything from its chances, to see a three-game winning streak snapped. — Reuters

## NHL results/standings

Minnesota 3, Buffalo 2 (SO); Calgary 4, Pittsburgh 2; Nashville 5, Colorado 2; Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 2; Washington 2, Boston 1 (OT); Ottawa 3, Toronto 2; Tampa Bay 4, Carolina 3 (OT); Philadelphia 6, Columbus 0; Winnipeg 4, Montreal 2; Arizona 5, Florida 1.

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Chicago	40	21	5	187	159	85
Dallas	39	20	7	213	191	85
St. Louis	37	20	9	166	162	83
Nashville	33	21	12	181	168	78
Minnesota	31	25	10	175	165	72
Colorado	33	30	4	180	194	70
Winnipeg	27	32	5	168	192	59
Pacific Division						
Anaheim	37	19	8	164	149	82
Los Angeles	38	22	4	170	148	80
San Jose	35	23	6	193	173	76
Vancouver	25	27	12	156	183	62
Arizona	28	31	6	174	204	62
Calgary	27	34	4	177	205	58
Edmonton	25	35	7	165	200	57
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Tampa Bay	39	22	4	183	155	82

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).

# LEBRON DOMINATES AS CAVS CRUSH CELTICS

**BOSTON:** LeBron James led eight players in double-figures with 28 points and reached two more milestones in his illustrious career while Cleveland crushed Boston 120-103 on Saturday night. Kyrie Irving contributed 20 points, Iman Shumpert posted a career-high 16 rebounds to go with 12 points off the bench, and J.R. Smith delivered 14 points on four 3-pointers in what was a bit of a payback win for the Cavs, who have won three straight and lead the East by 2.5 games over Toronto.

### Spurs 104, Kings 94

Manu Ginobili scored 22 points in his return from a testicular injury and San Antonio improved to 30-0 at home by beating Sacramento. Kawhi Leonard led the Spurs with 25 points and 13 rebounds. David West added 12 points for San Antonio before fouling out late in the game and Boris Diaw hit for 11 points.

### Pacers 100, Wizards 99

Paul George scored 38 points including two free throws with 3.0 seconds remaining as Indiana outlasted Washington. John Wall had 25 points and 12 assists for Washington, but the All-Star guard also missed a free throw inside the final minute along with the potential game-winning jumper at the buzzer.

### Jazz 106, Pelicans 94

Derrick Favors and Gordon Hayward combined for 52 points, including 12 in a decisive 14-0 run to close the third quarter, to power Utah past New Orleans. Favors had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Hayward added 24 points as the Jazz (29-33) snapped a five-game losing streak. Center Rudy Gobert grabbed 18 rebounds, helping the Jazz dominate the Pelicans 53-32 on the boards.

### Knicks 102, Pistons 89

Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points and New York rolled past Detroit.

Robin Lopez added 21 points and Arron Affalo contributed 20 for New York, which won for the fourth time in its last 20 games since Jan. 22. New York played without rookie Kristaps Porzingis, who sat out with a left leg contusion.

### Timberwolves 132, Nets 118

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 28 points and Minnesota coasted to a win over Brooklyn. Andrew Wiggins added 26 points for Minnesota, which shot a team record 68.4 percent (52 of 76). Zach LaVine contributed 21 while Ricky Rubio collected 16 and 10 assists.

### Bulls 108, Rockets 100

Pau Gasol scored 28 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and dished six assists as Chicago held on to beat Houston. Jimmy Butler scored 24 points and pulled down 11 rebounds in his first game back since injuring his left knee Feb. 5. Derrick Rose scored 17 points on 6-for-10 shooting as Chicago snapped a four-game losing streak.

### Hawks 107, Clippers 97

Jeff Teague scored 22 points as the Atlanta Hawks rallied from a 17-point deficit and posted a 107-97 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers. Paul Millsap added 20 points and pulled down 18 rebounds as the Hawks recovered from allowing 37 points in the first quarter. Kent Bazemore contributed 17 points as Atlanta won for the second straight night at Staples Center and moved to within 1 1/2 games of idle Miami for first place in the Southeast Division. — Reuters



**CLEVELAND:** Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving (2) drives to the basket against Boston Celtics' Jae Crowder (99) in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, March 5, 2016, in Cleveland. Crowder was called for the foul. The Cavaliers won 120-103. — AP

## NBA results/standings

Cleveland 120, Boston 103; NY Knicks 102, Detroit 89; Indiana 100, Washington 99; Utah 106, New Orleans 94.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division			
	W	L	PCT		W	L	PCT
Toronto	41	19	.683	Oklahoma City	42	20	.677
Boston	38	26	.594	Portland	33	30	.524
NY Knicks	26	38	.406	Utah	29	33	.468
Brooklyn	18	45	.286	Denver	24	38	.387
Philadelphia	8	54	.129	Minnesota	20	43	.317
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Cleveland	44	17	.721	Golden State	55	5	.917
Indiana	33	30	.524	LA Clippers	40	21	.656
Chicago	31	30	.508	Sacramento	25	36	.410
Detroit	31	31	.500	Phoenix	16	46	.258
Milwaukee	26	36	.419	LA Lakers	12	51	.190
Southeast Division				Southwest Division			
Miami	36	26	.581	San Antonio	53	9	.855
Atlanta	35	28	.556	Memphis	37	24	.607
Charlotte	33	28	.541	Dallas	33	29	.532
Washington	30	32	.484	Houston	30	32	.484
Orlando	27	34	.443	New Orleans	23	38	.377

# SPEED BOAT COMPETITION TO BEGIN ON FRIDAY

**KUWAIT:** The organizing committee of the speed boat gathering, concluded its final preparations for the major event that is being held in Kuwait for the second consecutive year, and will begin on Friday at nine in the morning from the Marina.

The Higher Organizing Committee prepared a work plan that brings out the event in a way that is fitting to Kuwait's reputation.

Chairman of Higher Organizing Committee Dr Tariq Al-Kazimi said this gathering is taking place for the second time in Kuwait, and it is the first country in the Middle East to host this major event, as Europe and particularly the USA keep organizing these events. He said the goal behind organizing the gathering is to shed the light on this activity and increase its popularity in Kuwait and the region.

Al-Kazimi said "extreme" was keen on bringing the experience to Kuwait last year, and it was successful because of Kuwaitis' efforts, and that is why the event is being repeated for the second consecutive year. Al-Kazimi said there is a large increase in the number of participants, as the number of boats reached 20, which in itself proves success. He said the "boat march" will start from the Marina Hotel all the way to Kuwait Complex and back. He asked fans to come and enjoy the scene.



Tariq Al-Kazimi

# ISNER PUTS US THROUGH TO DAVIS CUP Q-FINALS

**MELBOURNE:** John Isner fended off Australia's Bernard Tomic 6-4 6-4 5-7 7-6(4) yesterday to book the United States a berth in the Davis Cup quarter-finals for the first time in three years.

The world number 11's win on a steamy afternoon at Melbourne's Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club sealed the tie 3-1 with a singles rubber in hand, while silencing a raucous crowd of yellow-clad fans. "Our team prepared very, very well and I think it showed out here," Isner, who closed out the contest with his 49th ace on match point, said court-side.

The win will take some heat off US captain Jim

Courier, who came into the tie on the back of two first-round exits from the team tournament. "We knew it was going to be very difficult," said Courier, whose team will face Croatia or Belgium in the last eight in July. "Our team certainly came good, John stepped up so big ... and finally cracked it there in the breaker which was really impressive." The United States, Davis Cup champions 32 times, arrived Down Under early to prepare and had first practice on Kooyong's temporary grass court even before Australia's team had assembled in Melbourne. The Lleyton Hewitt-captained Australia lost young gun Nick Kyrgios

to a virus in a major blow in the buildup but Isner led off superbly for the Americans with a dominant win over Sam Groth in the opening singles.

He also appeared set to cruise to another emphatic win on Sunday before wobbling when serving late in the fourth set. Tomic finally broke the towering American on the fifth set point but neither player offered a look at the other's serve in the decider. Isner's chief weapon would ultimately prevail, as he blasted a string of huge serves to seal the tiebreak and condemn Australia to a first round exit after their run to the semi-finals last year. — Reuters



# CELTIC CRUISE INTO SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINALS

**GLASGOW:** Leigh Griffiths showed the way as Celtic cruised into the Scottish Cup semi-finals after comfortably seeing off Championship side Morton 3-0 at Parkhead yesterday.

The Scottish champions scored three first-half goals to join Glasgow rivals Rangers—who demolished Dundee 4-0 in Saturday's quarter-final at Ibrox—and Dundee United in the final four of the competition. Griffiths pounced on a defensive error to tap in the first goal from close

range in the 14th minute before Gary Mackay-Steven added a second 11 minutes later. Callum McGregor curled home a third in the 35th minute to end any hopes Morton had of causing an upset.

The win eases the pressure on under-fire manager Ronny Deila as Celtic progressed to their sixth semi-final in seven years. Hibernian and Inverness Caledonian Thistle will make up the draw for the semi-finals after the sides played out a 1-1 draw at Easter Road.

Celtic made a host of changes for the match at Parkhead after their disappointing draw with Dundee in midweek, which saw their lead at the top of the Scottish Premiership cut to four points.

But any nerves the home side had were soon settled as Griffiths took advantage of Tom O'Ware's misjudged header to collect a cross and fire home from close range for his 34th goal of the season. The second goal was equally straightforward as Mackay-Steven got on the end of Kieran

Tierney's cross to stroke the ball past Derek Gaston.

McGregor completed the scoring 10 minutes before the break as he beat the goalkeeper with a bending effort from the edge of the box to send the Hoops supporters home happy.

Holders Inverness Caledonian Thistle had to come from behind to force a replay against Championship side Hibernian. Hibs, who had lost their previous three games, put their league slump behind them to

take a 54th-minute lead through James Keatings. On-loan Celtic star Anthony Stokes released David Gray wide on the right and Keatings emphatically fired home his cross.

However, the holders grabbed an equaliser in the 77th minute as two substitutes combined to earn the Highlanders a replay in Inverness on March 16. Andrea Mbuyi-Mutombo gathered Lewis Horner's cut-back and took a touch before rifling an effort into the roof of the net. — AFP

## Soccer results/table

Crystal Palace 1, Liverpool 2; West Brom 1, Manchester United 0.  
English Premier League table after yesterday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Leicester	29	17	9	3	52	31	60
Tottenham	29	15	10	4	51	24	55
Arsenal	29	15	7	7	46	30	52
Man City	28	15	5	8	52	31	50
West Ham	29	13	10	6	45	33	49
Manchester Utd	29	13	8	8	37	27	47
Liverpool	28	12	8	8	43	37	44
Stoke	29	12	7	10	31	34	43
Southampton	29	11	8	10	36	29	41
Chelsea	29	10	10	9	43	39	40
West Brom	29	10	9	10	30	36	39
Everton	28	9	11	8	51	39	38
Watford	29	10	7	12	29	30	37
Bournemouth	29	9	8	12	35	45	35
Crystal Palace	29	9	6	14	32	39	33
Swansea	29	8	9	12	28	37	33
Sunderland	29	6	7	16	35	54	25
Norwich	29	6	6	17	31	54	24
Newcastle	28	6	6	16	28	53	24
Aston Villa	29	3	7	19	22	55	16

## Spain La Liga results/standings

Eibar 0, Barcelona 4; Real Betis 2, Granada CF 0; Deportivo Coruna 3, Malaga 3; Getafe 1, Sevilla 1; Real Madrid 7, Celta Vigo 1; Villarreal 0, Las Palmas 1.

Barcelona	28	23	3	2	78	22	72
Atletico Madrid	27	19	4	4	39	11	61
Real Madrid	28	18	6	4	81	27	60
Villarreal	28	15	8	5	33	19	53
Sevilla	28	12	9	7	39	29	45
Celta Vigo	28	12	6	10	40	51	42
Athletic Club	27	12	5	10	42	36	41
Eibar	28	10	6	12	40	40	36
Valencia	27	8	10	9	32	30	34
Real Sociedad	27	9	7	11	36	38	34
Real Betis	28	8	10	10	26	36	34
Malaga	28	8	9	11	27	28	33
Deportivo Coruna	28	6	15	7	37	39	33
Las Palmas	28	8	6	14	30	40	30
Espanyol	27	8	4	15	26	53	28
Getafe	28	7	6	15	27	45	27
Rayo Vallecano	27	6	8	13	37	58	26
Granada CF	28	7	5	16	29	53	26
Sporting Gijon	27	6	6	15	30	48	24
Levante	27	5	5	17	25	51	20

## German Bundesliga results/standings

Mainz 0, SV Darmstadt 98 0; Hamburg SV 2, Hertha Berlin 0; Cologne 1, Schalke 04 3; Borussia Dortmund 0, Bayern Munich 0; Eintracht Frankfurt 1, FC Ingolstadt 04 1; FC Augsburg 3, Bayer Leverkusen 3; VfB Stuttgart 5, Hoffenheim 1; VfL Wolfsburg 2, Borussia Moenchengladbach 1; Werder Bremen 4, Hannover 96 1.

Bayern Munich	25	20	3	2	59	13	63
Borussia Dortmund	25	18	4	3	59	25	58
Hertha Berlin	25	12	6	7	33	26	42
Schalke 04	25	12	5	8	37	32	41
Mainz	25	12	4	9	34	30	40
Moenchengladbach	25	12	3	10	50	42	39
VfL Wolfsburg	25	10	7	8	38	32	37
Bayer Leverkusen	25	10	6	9	36	33	36
FC Ingolstadt 04	25	8	8	9	19	26	32
Hamburg SV	25	8	7	10	30	34	31
VfB Stuttgart	25	9	4	12	40	49	31
Cologne	25	7	9	9	26	33	30
Werder Bremen	25	7	6	12	35	48	27
FC Augsburg	25	6	8	11	30	38	26
SV Darmstadt 98	25	6	8	11	25	38	26
Eintracht Frankfurt	25	5	9	11	28	40	24
Hoffenheim	25	4	9	12	26	42	21
Hannover 96	25	5	2	18	22	46	17



**DHAKA:** Indian cricketer Virat Kohli (R) shakes hand with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (C) after winning the match during the Asia Cup T20 cricket tournament final match between Bangladesh and India at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Dhaka yesterday. — AFP

# INDIA CLINCH ASIA CUP

**DHAKA:** Opener Shikhar Dhawan hit a career-best 60 as India won the Asia Cup for the sixth time after beating host Bangladesh by eight wickets yesterday. Bangladesh was put into bat and posted 120-5 in a rain-hit game that was reduced from 20 to 15 overs after a two-hour delay. India won with seven balls to spare, reaching 122-2 as skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni smashed a towering mid-wicket six. Dhawan and Virat Kohli combined for a 94-run partnership for the second wicket after India was reduced to 5-1.

Kohli was unbeaten on 41, while Dhoni was on 20. Bangladesh's fast bowlers Taskin Ahmed (1-14) and Al-Amin Hossain (1-30) shared the wickets. To the delight of the home crowd, Al-Amin broke through in just the second over when he swung one nicely to get the edge of Rohit Sharma (1) who was caught by Soumya Sarkar at first slip. Dhawan and Kohli spent some uncomfortable moments at the crease against the pace of Al Amin and Taskin. They took their frustration out on Abu Haider, who was playing his first match. Haider conceded 14 runs in his first over and the quick didn't bowl further in the match. Both Dhawan and Kohli also found Shikib Al Hasan's left-arm spin to their liking as they kept India in the hunt.

Taskin returned to his second spell to remove Dhawan with a low full toss after the batsman had hit nine fours and one six in his 44-ball 60.

Bangladesh		India	
Tamim Iqbal lbw b Bumrah	13	R. Sharma c Soumya b Al-Amin	1
Soumya Sarkar c Pandya b Nehra	14	S. Dhawan c Soumya b Taskin	60
Sabbir Rahman not out	32	V. Kohli not out	41
Shakib Al Hasan c Bumrah b Ashwin	21	MS Dhoni not out	20
Mushfiqur Rahim run out	4	Extras	0
Mashrafe Mortaza c Kohli b Jadeja	0	Total (two wickets; 13.5 overs)	122
Mahmudullah Riyad not out	33	Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Sharma), 2-99 (Dhawan)	
Extras (w3) 3		Did not bat: S. Raina, Y. Singh, H. Pandya, R. Jadeja, R. Ashwin, J. Bumrah, A. Nehra	
Total (five wickets; 15 overs)	120	Bowling: Taskin 3-0-14-1, Al-Amin 2.5-0-30-1, Abu Hider, Taskin Ahmed	
Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Soumya) 2-30 (Tamim), 3-64 (Shakib), 4-75 (Mushfiqur), 5-75 (Mashrafe)		Bowling: Ashwin 3-0-14-1 (w1), Nehra 3-0-33-1 (w1), Bumrah 3-0-13-1, Jadeja	
Did not bat: Nasir Hossain, Al-Amin Hossain, Abu Hider, Taskin Ahmed		Result: India won by eight wickets.	
Bowling: Ashwin 3-0-14-1 (w1), Nehra 3-0-33-1 (w1), Bumrah 3-0-13-1, Jadeja			

Dhoni hurried the victory with 20 off six balls - including one four and two sixes. Kohli once again played with composure, hitting a risk-free unbeaten 41 off 28 with five fours. The start of the match was delayed by two hours following torrential rain, after which Bangladesh was put into bat first. Mahmudullah smashed an unbeat-

en 33 for Bangladesh Mahmudullah helped the side plunder 42 runs in the last three overs after Bangladesh was in trouble at 78-5 in 12 overs.

The platform was built by in-form Sabbir Rahman, who hit 32 not out. Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah curbed the aggression of Mahmudullah, ending with figures of 1-13. — AP

# AUSTRALIA WINS ON LAST BALL TO BEAT S AFRICA IN SECOND T20

**JOHANNESBURG:** Australia chased down 204 in a thrilling last-ball victory over South Africa in the second Twenty20 international yesterday to level the three-game series at 1-1. Australia's chase was powered by a brilliant partnership of 161 between David Warner, who made 77 off 40 balls, and Glenn Maxwell, who got 75 off 43. The pair took Australia from 32-3 to 193-4. Maxwell fell in the penultimate over and Warner was out first ball of the last over, leaving new batsmen Mitchell Marsh and James Faulkner to get 11 off the final five balls to win.

Helped by two wides in that last over from Kagiso Rabada, the Australians scrambled home to 205-5, running two off the last delivery to clinch a victory that appeared way out of their reach at 32-3 in the sixth over. Dale Steyn, on his return from a two-month injury layoff, took 2-32 to slow Australia in that early spell. Rabada also claimed two wickets (2-25), but his joy at bowling Warner with a yorker to start the last over quickly disappeared as he struggled right at the end. Marsh and Faulkner scrambled two -runs and singles - helped by the two extra balls - before Marsh lobbed the last ball down the ground and Faulkner sped back to the danger end to complete a second run, and send the series to a deciding game in Cape Town.

The rousing victory ended a run of five straight T20 defeats for Australia, just in time for the upcoming World Cup in India. Put in to bat by Australia at the Wanderers, a ground which is high-scoring and often good to chase on, South Africa posted a big score of 204-7. Captain Faf du Plessis

top-scored with 79 off 41 balls, opener Quinton de Kock got 44 at the top of the innings, and David Miller hit a quick 33 off 18 in the middle order. Faulkner, on his recall to the team, was Australia's best bowler with 3-28. He also won the game with the bat. Warner and Maxwell came together with Australia well behind following the loss of Aaron Finch for two in the first over, Shane Watson for nine and captain Steven Smith for 19.

Even at the halfway stage of the innings, the Aussies still needed 12 an over for the last 10 overs. But Warner and Maxwell accelerated dramatically, with

Warner eventually clattering five sixes and six fours. Maxwell clubbed seven fours and three over the ropes, including one that hit the top of the giant scoreboard at square leg and continued on its way out of the stadium. Their 161 came off only 79 balls.

They appeared to be taking Australia home before Chris Morris, who had taken some punishment, finally got Maxwell to mistime one in the second-last over and AB de Villiers took the catch at deep cover.

Warner was beaten by Rabada to open the last over, but Marsh and Faulkner kept their nerves as young fast bowler Rabada appeared to lose his. — AP

## SCOREBOARD

**JOHANNESBURG:** Final scores from the second Twenty20 international between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers Stadium yesterday.

South Africa		Australia	
A. de Villiers b Hastings	13	A. Finch b Rabada	2
Q. de Kock b Faulkner	44	S. Watson c Duminy b Steyn	9
F. du Plessis c Maxwell b Hastings	79	S. Smith c Rabada b Steyn	19
J. Duminy c Smith b Marsh	14	D. Warner b Rabada	77
D. Miller c Maxwell b Agar	33	G. Maxwell c De Villiers b Morris	75
F. Behardien c Agar b Faulkner	3	M. Marsh not out	2
C. Morris c Warner b Faulkner	3	J. Faulkner not out	7
D. Wiese not out	10	Extras (lb4, nb2, w8)	14
K. Rabada not out	0	Total (5 wkts, 20 overs)	205
Extras (lb1, nb1, w3)	5	Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Finch), 2-28 (Smith), 3-32 (Watson), 4-193 (Maxwell), 5-194 (Warner)	
Total (7 wkts, 20 overs)	204	Bowling: Rabada 4-0-25-2 (3w), Morris 4-0-39-1 (1nb, 3w), Steyn 4-0-32-2 (1nb), Wiese 4-0-58-0 (1w), Imran Tahir 4-0-47-0 (1w)	
Fall of wickets: 1-15 (De Villiers), 2-77 (De Kock), 3-103 (Duminy), 4-142 (Miller), 5-151 (Behardien), 6-165 (Morris), 7-198 (Du Plessis)		Did not bat: A. Agar, P. Nevill, J. Hastings, J. Hazlewood.	
Bowling: Hazlewood 4-0-50-0 (2w), Hastings 4-0-42-2, Marsh 2-0-28-1 (1nb), Maxwell 4-0-30-0, Faulkner 4-0-28-3 (1w), Agar 2-0-25-1			



**JOHANNESBURG:** Australia's batsman David Warner is bowled by South Africa's bowler Kagiso Rabada, for 77 runs during the second T20 cricket match between South Africa and Australia at the Wanderers stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday. — AP



## TEN-MAN MAINZ STAY ON COURSE FOR CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**BERLIN:** Ten-man Mainz failed to back up their mid-week shock win at Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich, but stay on course for a Champions League place, after drawing 0-0 with Darmstadt yesterday.

Having become the only team to win at Bayern's Allianz Arena stadium on Wednesday by pulling off a stunning 2-1 win in Munich, fifth-placed Mainz were frustrated by Darmstadt, who are just above the relegation places.

Hosts Mainz were reduced to ten men at the Coface Arena when Italian defender Giulio Donati was shown a straight red card on 57 minutes for kicking out at Darmstadt striker Sandro Wagner.

The result leaves Mainz just one point from one of Germany's four Champions League places, with Martin Schmidt's team having one of the best seasons in the club's history.

On Saturday, Bayern stayed five points clear of nearest Bundesliga rivals Borussia Dortmund after a goalless draw between Germany's top two sides.

Despite the lack of goals, the game

lived up to its billing as the clash of the teams which have dominated the German league this season at Dortmund's sold-out Signal Iduna Park.

The game's best chance came on 64 minutes when Arturo Vidal's shot for Bayern was palmed onto the bar by Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Buerki. Bayer Leverkusen came back from 3-0 down to avoid a fourth straight league defeat in a 3-3 draw at Augsburg. Augsburg's South Korea striker Koo Ja-Cheol scored his first hat-trick in Germany's top flight to put the hosts 3-0 up mid-way through the second-half. But Leverkusen, who play Villarreal in the last 16, first-leg, of the Europa League on Thursday, fought back as Karim Bellarabi netted, then Augsburg's Paul Verhaegh scored an own goal on 80 minutes.

In the dying stages, Augsburg defender Jeffrey Gouweleuw's handball allowed Hakan Calhanoglu to convert a 92nd-minute penalty as Gouweleuw was sent off. Earlier on Saturday, Wolfsburg warmed up for their



**MAINZ:** Mainz' Colombian forward Jhon Andres Cordoba (L) and Darmstadt's forward Sandro Wagner vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga football match of FSV Mainz 05 v SV Darmstadt 98 in Mainz, yesterday. — AFP

Champions League clash at home to Gent on Tuesday with a 2-1 win over Borussia Moenchengladach.

The win moved Wolfsburg up to seventh ahead of the visit of Gent on Tuesday, with the Germans leading 3-2 from the last 16, first leg tie.

Having shocked Leverkusen 4-1 on Wednesday when Claudio Pizarro scored a hat-trick, Werder Bremen pulled further away from the relegation zone with a 4-1 thrashing of bottom side Hannover 96. The 37-year-old Pizarro claimed his fourth goal in two games, and then provided an assist as Czech international Gebre Selassie added Bremen's third on 56 minutes to leave Werder three points from the relegation spots.

Stuttgart are up to mid-table after their 5-1 thrashing of second-from-bottom Hoffenheim, who stay four points from safety, as defender Georg Niedermeier netted twice.

Schalke are fourth after their 3-1 win at Cologne thanks to goals from Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, Max Meyer and Argentina striker Franco di Santo. — AFP

## MARSEILLE HELD BY TOULOUSE, RENNES THRASH NANTES 4-1

**PARIS:** Marseille's hopes of qualifying for Europe look all but over after they were held to an entertaining 1-1 draw by struggling Toulouse at the Velodrome yesterday, while Rennes thrashed Nantes 4-1.

Marseille missed a host of good chances, and Wissam Ben Yedder ran clear to slot Toulouse ahead in the 55th minute. Relegation-threatened Toulouse were supposed to be playing their first game under new coach Pascal Dupraz, but he was absent after suffering a heart scare at training on Saturday and spending the night in hospital under observation. And the away defence imploded, as they have done all season, as Somalia put through his own net with 16 minutes to play.

Coach Michel has come under increased pressure in recent weeks, but Marseille would have expected to end a club record 11-match streak without a home win in the league against relegation-threatened Toulouse. But instead they were held and stay seven points off the top three, and with Lyon playing later yesterday that gap could quickly become eight. Toulouse remain second-from-bottom in the table and nine points from safety. "This was a very hard game for us, it was unbelievable that it was still 0-0 at half-time," bemoaned Spanish coach Michel. "It's been happening all year, nothing this season will go our way. Once again our best opponent was the goalkeeper."

"I think the strikers are missing so many opportunities because they have lost confidence. In our last two games we have created 11 and 15 chances, but have scored only two goals. "We needed to win, one point was useless." The hosts desperately needed all three points to keep alive their hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League, and they started brightly with plenty of early crosses being sent in the direction of Steven Fletcher. The Scot set up a decent chance for Remy Cabella, but his powerful strike was beaten clear by Toulouse goalkeeper Alban Lafont. The 17-year-old had to be alert again soon after, getting down quickly to keep out a low effort from Michy Batshuayi.

The best chance of the first half fell to Mauricio Isla, but the Chilean was denied by the right boot of Lafont at point-blank range.

### SUCKER PUNCH

But Michel's side were punished for their profligacy in front of goal when Ben Yedder raced through to give Toulouse an unlikely lead. The home defence were caught sleeping and the 25-year-old forward took advantage with a cool finish for his tenth league goal of the season. Toulouse were hanging on desperately as they looked to end a 10-match run without a win, and for just a fourth league clean sheet of the season. But they shot themselves in the foot as Lafont spilled the ball straight to Fletcher, whose deflected effort was miskicked into his own net by Somalia. Yann Bodiger almost restored Toulouse's advantage, but Steve Mandanda produced an excellent flying save from the substitute's rising drive. Suddenly Marseille were struggling, but they were indebted to their keeper again as Mandanda brilliantly kept out Oscar Trejo with a one-handed stop. Martin Braithwaite also had a glorious opportunity to win the game for Toulouse, but the Dane blazed over when he should have scored. Meanwhile, Rennes ended Nantes' 13-match unbeaten run in the league in emphatic style, as young striker Ousmane Dembele scored a hat-trick at Roazhon Park.

The 18-year-old opened the scoring within the first minute as he reacted quickest after a set-piece was not fully cleared. Supersub Kamil Grosicki was given a rare start by Roland Courbis and the Pole doubled the lead inside the first quarter of an hour, before Dembele's free-kick evaded everyone in the middle to put the result beyond doubt. Dembele completed his treble before half-time, and although Adryan's strike and a second yellow card for Giovanni Sio gave Nantes a glimmer of hope, Rennes held on with ease.

The hosts move level on points with third-placed Nice, while the Canaries stay four points off the Champions League spots, but with a game in hand. — AFP



**EIBAR:** FC Barcelona's Ivan Rakitic, center, duels for the ball with SD Eibar's David Junca during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between SD Eibar and Barcelona, at Ipurua stadium, in Eibar, northern Spain, yesterday. — AP

## MESSI DOUBLE KEEPS BARCA RECORD ROLLING

**MADRID:** A Lionel Messi-inspired Barcelona tightened their grip on the La Liga title race with a comprehensive 4-0 win at Eibar yesterday to open up an 11-point lead at the top.

Munir El Haddadi tapped home the opener from Luis Suarez's cross before Messi doubled Barca's advantage with a brilliant individual effort just before half-time.

Messi doubled his tally from the penalty spot before Suarez lashed home the fourth six minutes from time. Barca's 11th consecutive league win also stretches their record unbeaten run to 36 games. Atletico Madrid can close the gap at the top to eight points when they visit Gary Neville's Valencia later yesterday.

Real Madrid remain 12 points adrift of Barca in third despite Cristiano Ronaldo's four-goal show in a 7-1 demolition of Celta Vigo on Saturday. "It is evident we are well-positioned in the league, but there are plenty of points to play for and meetings with direct rivals to come," said Barca

boss Luis Enrique.

"I am very happy to see the team evolve and improve without ever losing their ambition."

The European champions were without the suspended Neymar, who made the most of his free weekend to return to his native Brazil.

However, El Haddadi made the most of his rare chance to start with a simple finish at the back post eight minutes in after Messi's brilliant pass had played in Suarez behind the Eibar defence. Suarez was surpassed by Ronaldo in the fight to be La Liga's top scorer and the Uruguayan look determined to hit back early on, but fluffed his lines with just Abel Riesgo to beat two minutes later. El Haddadi should have teed up Suarez for a tap-in from another Messi through ball midway through the half, but the youngster overhit his pass and the ball slipped just wide. Eibar then enjoyed a concerted period of pressure and were desperately unlucky not to level when Borja Baston's cross hit Sergio

Busquets and flew inches past the far post.

Yet, just when Eibar looked the most likely to score, Messi killed the game as a contest as he intercepted the ball in midfield and drove towards the Eibar goal before firing into the far corner for his 20th league goal of the season.

The second half was far shorter on goalmouth action, but there was time for Messi to put Barca's recent troubles from the penalty spot behind him when Ivan Ramis blocked the Argentine's cross with his hand.

Messi took responsibility after Suarez had missed from the spot against Rayo Vallecano in midweek and coolly dispatched the penalty for his 35th goal of the season.

And Suarez finally got the goal he craved to move back to within one of Ronaldo in the scoring charts with a brilliant nutmeg of Capa before smashing the ball into the far corner. That goal also took Suarez, Messi and Neymar's combined tally for the season to 100. — AFP



**MARSEILLE:** Toulouse's French-Tunisian forward Wissam Ben Yedder (L) vies with Marseille's French defender Benjamin Mendy (R) during the French L1 football match between Marseille and Toulouse yesterday at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille, southern France. — AFP

## HIDDINK CONFIDENT OVER COSTA FITNESS FOR PSG CRUCIAL CLASH

**LONDON:** Guus Hiddink dismissed concerns over Diego Costa's fitness by insisting the Spain striker will be available for Chelsea's crucial Champions League clash with Paris Saint Germain on Wednesday.

Costa missed Saturday's 1-1 Premier League draw against Stoke as he rested to avoid aggravating a tendon injury, but Blues interim manager Hiddink is confident his star forward will return for the last 16, second leg against PSG.

With the French champions holding a 2-1 lead, Hiddink can't afford to be without the in-form Costa, especially as Chelsea laboured without him in a match that prompted the Dutchman to dismiss their top four hopes as "impossible" and set his sights on success in Europe and the FA Cup.

"Diego had a problem on the tendon, that's why I was cautious not to worsen the situation, but I think he will be OK on Wednesday," Hiddink said.

"I think the top four is difficult, almost impossible especially when oth-

er teams are knocking on that door.

"I am very respectful of the likes of West Ham who got a good result today (at Everton). On the other hand we know where we came from in December, one point off the relegation zone, and amazingly we got safe in a relatively short time.

"We got into mid-table which normally for Chelsea standards is not enough. But if we can go into a very beautiful March and April that would be nice in the Champions League and FA Cup." Bertrand Traore, the exciting 20-year-old from Burkina Faso, started in attack in the absence of Costa, and justified his manager's faith with his second Premier League goal, a spectacular left-footed shot from 20 yards six minutes before the break.

But Stoke pushed Chelsea all the way and were rewarded five minutes from the end when Mame Diouf headed into an empty net after Thibaut Courtois failed to claim Xherdan Shaqiri's cross. — AFP

**MILAN:** Juventus restored its three-point advantage at the top of Serie A with a 2-0 win at Atalanta yesterday.

Andrea Barzagli and Mario Lemina scored for Juventus while Gianluigi Buffon had a ninth successive clean sheet. The goalkeeper has not been beaten in Serie A in 836 minutes, the third-longest stretch in league history.

Napoli beat Chievo Verona 3-1 on Saturday. "The lads are doing well, we have won 17 of the last 18 matches but the second and third teams are still close," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "The title will be decided on the last day. "We did well in the first 50 minutes, then there was a drop and in that regard we have to improve in managing the lead." Below them the battle for third place and final Champions League spot is heating up. Fifth-place Inter Milan hosts Palermo later and is currently eight points behind Roma, which beat Fiorentina on Friday to move three points clear of its opponent. AC Milan could have leapfrogged Inter, temporarily at least, but lost 2-0 at 10-man Sassuolo. Coach Sinisa Mihajlovic was sent off for dissent after the second goal.

"I am very angry with us and the referees but I don't speak about referees," Mihajlovic said. "We dominated in the first half-hour but as often happens, we struggle to score goals. We can't create chances and then concede on our opponents' first chance. "I protested because he didn't blow for a foul," he said. "I was angry also with my players who stopped, which they shouldn't have done."

At the other end of the table, Frosinone beat fellow struggler Udinese 2-0 to give it hope of avoiding relegation. It is one point below Palermo, which occupies the last safe spot in Serie A. Carpi is five



**BERGAMO:** Juventus' Croatian forward Mario Mandzukic (R) heads the ball as Atalanta's Italian midfielder Luca Cigarini tries to take the ball during the Italian Serie A football match between Atalanta and Juventus yesterday at the Azzurri Stadium in Bergamo. — AFP

points from safety after drawing 0-0 at Bologna.

Genoa also boosted its chances of escaping the drop with a 1-0 win over Empoli. Torino missed a penalty for the second time in three matches as it drew 1-1 against Lazio in the lunchtime kickoff.

Juventus was looking to bounce back from a surprise 3-0 defeat to Inter midweek in the Italian Cup - although it qualified for the final on penalties. It took the lead in the 24th minute through an unlikely goalscorer as a corner was knocked down

by Mario Mandzukic for the unmarked Barzagli to volley in from six yards.

It was his second goal for Juventus, almost four years after his first, which also came against Atalanta. Lemina sealed the win four minutes from time, skipping past two Atalanta players before unleashing a powerful shot from the edge of the area. Buffon's record chase came under threat right at the end but he got down smartly to turn Andrea Masiello's effort around the post. — AP



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## RONDON PUNISHES MATA AS MAN UNITED LOSE



**WEST BROMWICH:** West Bromwich Albion's Venezuelan striker Salomon Rondon (L) has an unsuccessful shot during the English Premier League football match between West Bromwich Albion and Manchester United at The Hawthorns stadium in West Bromwich, central England, yesterday. — AFP



**WEST BROMWICH:** Salomon Rondon inflicted a major blow upon Manchester United's Champions League qualification hopes and left Juan Mata ruing two moments of madness as West Bromwich Albion won 1-0 yesterday.

The £12 million (\$17 million, 15.5 million euros) Venezuelan international lashed home his eighth goal of the season to move West Brom to within touching distance of manager Tony Pulis's all-important 40-point mark as 10-man United's run of four successive victories came to a miserable end. Louis van Gaal's side were left fighting an uphill battle after Mata saw red for picking up two yellow cards in the space of three minutes midway through the first half.

United, whose recent run of success in all competitions had raised hope that they could still force their way into the title race, have now lost more valuable ground in the chase for a more realistic target, that of finishing in the top four and earning a Champions League spot. They paid the price for Mata's rashness as he was first yellow-carded for blocking Albion's attempt to take a quick free-kick and then took a swipe at former United team-mate Darren Fletcher.

The game was decided by an excellent finish from Rondon, who swiftly controlled Sebastien Pocognoli's cross before lashing a shot past David de Gea. United acquitted themselves well in the opening stages, Anthony Martial registering the first shot on target, albeit an ambitious one from long range, which Ben Foster gathered quite comfortably.

But West Brom began to build up a head of

steam, threatening through Craig Dawson and Saido Berahino. As if that was not enough of a concern to United, their problems multiplied when Mata paid the price for picking up two needless bookings.

### MATA DECAMPS

Having been shown a yellow card for preventing Fletcher from taking a free-kick, he then picked up a second booking for a reckless swipe at the same player, leaving referee Mike Dean with little option but to give him his marching orders. Dawson had been well off target with an early header, but that was not the case when he tried an instinctive lob from long range that left De Gea grasping at thin air as it drifted just wide of the far post.

Van Gaal shuffled his pack in an attempt to stem the tide, with Martial, Jesse Lingard and Marcus Rashford all changing positions, and it succeeded in helping United to see out the remainder of the first half without any further alarms.

Not content with that, they began the second period with even greater vigour and purpose, Lingard's bursts down the left giving them even greater encouragement.

It was Lingard who went close to breaking the deadlock when he cut in from the left and unleashed a dipping shot that brushed the roof of the net after just clearing the bar.

Little had been seen of Albion as an attacking threat after the break, but they went in front midway through the second period courtesy of Rondon's clinically taken strike.

The Baggies' record signing showed great composure to bring Pocognoli's drilled cross under control before lashing a left-foot shot past De Gea. It seemed to knock the stuffing out of United and Mata looked on forlornly from The Hawthorns' media centre as the home side pressed for a second goal.

Van Gaal's side avoided any further damage, but that was little consolation as they suffered their first Premier League defeat at West Brom. — AFP

## LAST-GASP BENTEKE GIVES 10-MAN LIVERPOOL WIN



**LONDON:** Substitute Christian Benteke won and scored a 96th-minute penalty as 10-man Liverpool came from behind to win 2-1 at Crystal Palace in the Premier League yesterday. Joe Ledley's 48th-minute strike and

Liverpool midfielder James Milner's second-half dismissal for two bookable offences looked to have set Palace on course for a first win in 12 league matches.

But a slip by Palace goalkeeper Alex McCarthy gifted Roberto Firmino a 72nd-minute equaliser, before Damien Delaney's rash challenge on Benteke enabled the Belgium striker to net the winner with a last-gasp penalty. Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool, who host Manchester United in the Europa League on Thursday, climb two places to seventh after recording a third successive league win for the first time in a year. It was a fifth consecutive home league defeat for Alan Pardew's Palace, who remain nine points above the relegation zone in 15th place.

A thigh injury cost Palace the services of in-form striker Connor Wickham, who had scored four goals in his previous two games, but Emmanuel Adebayor quickly set about proving himself a capable deputy.

He created the game's first clear chance in the seventh minute with a square pass for Yannick Bolasie, only for Liverpool goalkeeper Simon Mignolet to slide out bravely and save. The Togo international then went close twice in as many minutes, first working Mignolet with a disguised shot towards the near post and then clattering the bar with a header from Pape Souare's left-wing cross. — AFP

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Mercedes-Benz Kuwait participates in GulfRun Car Show 2016

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YEMEN'S FOOD CRISIS DEEPENS AS BANKS CUT CREDIT FOR SHIPMENTS

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PHNOM PENH: A Cambodian man rides his motorbike loaded with bananas traveling along a street in Phnom Penh yesterday. From glitzy malls and high-rise flats to five-star hotels, a luxury building boom in Phnom Penh is transforming a capital once reduced to a ghost town into one of Asia's fastest growing cities. — AFP

## CHINA RULES OUT HARD-LANDING FOR ECONOMY

UNCERTAIN GLOBAL ECONOMY POSES RISK TO CHINA'S GROWTH: XU

**BEIJING:** China's economy isn't headed for a hard landing and isn't dragging on the global economy, China's top economic planner said yesterday, but uncertainty and instability in the global economy do pose a risk to the country's growth. China on Saturday acknowledged it faced tough battle to keep world's No.2 economy growing by at least 6.5 percent over the next five years while pushing hard to create more jobs and restructuring state-owned enterprises.

The comments, as Beijing kicked off its 12-day annual national parliament, underscored the challenges facing China as its economy transitions from an investment and export focused economy to one based more on services and consumption. "China will absolutely not experience a hard landing," Xu Shaoshi, head of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), told reporters at a briefing. "These predictions of a hard landing are destined to come

to nothing." China's economy grew 6.9 percent in 2015, the slowest pace in a quarter of a century, but still comfortably the fastest among major economies. It has set a growth target of 6.5 percent to 7 percent for this year, introducing a band rather than a hard target as it seeks greater flexibility in juggling growth, job creation and restructuring of a host of "zombie companies" in bloated industries.

On Saturday, Premier Li Keqiang outlined a series of targets on issues such as energy consumption, job creation and inflation but few details on how they would be met.

Many investors had been hoping China would post an aggressive target for fiscal spending to prop growth. But the draft goal of running a fiscal deficit equivalent to 3 percent of GDP, while up from the previous year's target of 2.3 percent, disappointed some.

Xu emphasized that China will work to

improve the "efficiency" of government investment, suggesting a desire for more targeted spending. That would be a contrast to the last stimulus injection after the global financial crisis when Chinese local governments built ghost cities, roads to nowhere and airports to juice growth. China has massive foreign exchange reserves of more than \$3 trillion to tap if needed, but a sharp decline in reserves in the past 18 months as Beijing sought to support its yuan has rattled some investors. Central bank vice governor Yi Gang on Sunday reiterated Beijing will keep the yuan basically stable and there was no basis for continued depreciation.

### NEW NORMAL

The state of China's economy and Beijing's ability to manage it were key talking points at a Group of 20 finance ministers and central bankers in Shanghai last month. Li said China has

the confidence to handle the complexities both at home and abroad while pressing ahead with reforms.

"In general, I think China's economy performance has stayed at a reasonable range (since 2015)," Xu said, adding that the Chinese economy shouldn't be viewed through traditional perspectives. "First, we should look from the angle that the economy has entered the 'new normal' period," he said, in which growth rates have shifted and the economy's growth engines are changing towards services from investment.

In the run-up to parliament, Beijing has flagged major job losses in the country's bloated coal and steel industries. But plans to reduce industrial over-capacity were unlikely to result in large-scale layoffs, Xu said. Economic growth will create more jobs and help offset the impact of capacity cuts, he said. Nonetheless, the broader world economy poses challenges to China this

year, Xu said.

"First, we estimate the slow recovery and low growth rates in the world's economy will continue for a period of time," he said. "Also we could not overlook the risks from unstable (global) financial markets, falling prices of commodities and risks of geopolitics." China also plans to launch several mixed ownership pilot programs in the oil, natural gas and rail sectors, Xu said, part of the most far-reaching reforms of its sprawling and inefficient state sector in two decades.

In September last year, China issued guidance on reforming state-owned enterprises, including the introduction of so-called mixed ownership of state firms. China has about 150,000 state-owned enterprises, managing more than 100 trillion yuan (\$15 trillion) in assets and employing over 30 million people, according to the official Xinhua news agency. — Reuters

## GERMAN ECONOMIC ENGINE THROTTLES BACK OVER 'WHAT IF' UNCERTAINTIES

**BERLIN:** Nervousness among buyers of German goods around the world - often over problems that have yet to materialize - is forcing some of the nation's small- and mid-sized manufacturers to postpone investments, and threatening to stunt economic growth.

These largely family-owned companies of the "Mittelstand", the backbone of German industry, definitely face trouble this year in major export markets, such as an economic slowdown in China and recession in Russia and Brazil. But much of the anxiety among customers is of a 'what if' nature: what if turmoil on financial markets spreads to the real economy, what if the West gets into a serious confrontation with Russia, what if Britain leaves the European Union?

None of these things may happen, but the risk is that the fear sets off a self-fulfilling downward spiral, feeding through to the Mittelstand in the form of expected orders that never happen, or those already placed that get cancelled.

Larger German corporations - such as Daimler, BASF and ThyssenKrupp - can afford to look beyond such near-term uncertainties and are pressing ahead with investment plans.

However, Mittelstand firms with more modest financial resources make up roughly 98 percent of German export companies and they are being held back by a fall in business confidence caused by the political risks plus this year's dive on stock, energy and commodity markets.

"We're worried that we are talking ourselves into a crisis," said Josef Minster, CEO of the Schlemmer Group, a Bavarian-based automotive supplier specialized in cable protection systems. "I see a clear risk here that panic reactions on financial markets could spill over and hurt the real economy," said Minster, naming China, Russia and Brazil as the weak spots for his firm's growth prospects.

### STRONGER THAN SENTIMENT

The common feeling in the Mittelstand is that the business environment is stronger than sentiment, but this may not last. The concern is that when foreign customers postpone investment decisions, the exporters are forced to follow suit.

This in turn threatens to drag German growth below the government's 1.7 percent forecast for this year, despite a largely buoyant domestic economy. Stephan Gais, CEO of Mittelstand firm Mahr, which makes high-end measuring tools used in the auto and chemicals sectors, cited tensions between the West and Russia over the Ukraine conflict, the refugee crisis, the British referendum in June on whether to leave the EU, and general anxiety about terror attacks as risks to his business.

"If any of these geopolitical issues escalates, then things will get difficult," said Gais, who is seeing delays in investment decisions by domestic as well as foreign customers in Mahr's biggest markets: Germany, the United States and China. "We're trading from quarter

to quarter," he said, adding that his plan for five percent sales growth this year was looking challenging, though still achievable. "But I'm not doing any expansionary investment at the moment."

According to a survey by the Ifo economic institute, sentiment among German manufacturers plunged last month by its largest amount since the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers in 2008, a major event in the global financial crisis.

A breakdown for Mittelstand firms, the KfW-ifo SME Barometer, highlights the confidence problem. A sub-index measuring their expectations of future business fell for the first time since October 2014 below zero, the long-term average since 1991. And yet the firms still rated their current business as exceptionally positive.

"This ... shows that the mood is so far affected mainly by the many disturbing news reports and the concerns and fears they create, and not by actual economic trends," KfW bank analyst Klaus Borger said. Smaller 'micro-cap' companies listed on the stock market are also cautious. Of those that have reported outlooks this year, 10 gave forecasts above analysts' estimates, 32 in line with expectations, and 15 below.

By contrast, companies in the blue-chip DAX index able to take a longer view are investing in new technologies and markets they believe will grow in due course. Daimler, for example, is investing 500 million euros (\$550 million) in a battery factory in Germany for electric cars. — Reuters

## GULF MARKETS GAIN AS OIL NEARS \$39

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Firmer oil prices and a revival of global risk appetite helped lift stock markets in the Middle East yesterday, as heavyweight petrochemical firms and banks boosted Saudi Arabia's bourse in heavy trade. Moody's Investors Service put the debt ratings of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar on review for possible downgrade late on Friday, and cut Bahrain's rating to junk, citing low oil prices.

But many investors saw this as a belated response to old news, and focused instead on oil's rebound near \$39 a barrel in the past couple of weeks. "This is not really new news," a Jeddah-based analyst said of the Moody's action. "I believe the bottoming of oil prices will outweigh the negative impact of the cut in outlook to negative."

Riyadh's index rose 2.9 percent in the highest volume since Jan. 20. Short-term technicals have turned positive for Saudi Arabia, which triggered a bullish right triangle by breaking its January peak last week; it closed very near its session high yesterday. Leading petrochemical producer Saudi Basic Industries gained 3.4 percent and Samba Financial Group added 4.5 percent.

Dubai's index also jumped 2.9 percent as shares in construction firm Arabtec surged

13.0 percent, after adding 8.0 percent on Thursday. They have been swinging wildly in speculative trade since exchange data at the start of last week showed former chief executive Hasan Ismaik had raised his stake in the company to 11.91 percent from 11.81 percent. Other speculative shares favoured by local traders also attracted volume, with builder Drake & Scull surging 13.1 percent to 0.48 dirhams; it is now up 66 percent from its record low in mid-January. Nine analysts polled by Thomson Reuters on the stock believe it is fairly valued, as their median price target is 0.42 dirhams.

But, in contrast to last week's rebound in Dubai's market, blue-chips also posted strong gains. Emaar Properties surged 2.6 percent and Emirates NBD added 2.5 percent.

Abu Dhabi's benchmark gained 3.1 percent with volumes concentrated in mid-cap companies including Eshraq Properties and Dana Gas, the two most heavily traded stocks, which climbed 5.4 and 3.9 percent respectively. But the banking sector, which was largely dormant last week, was active on Sunday with heavyweights National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank jumping 2.3 and 4.7 percent. — Reuters





ADEN: Yemeni security forces gather outside an elderly care home after it was attacked by gunmen in the port city of Aden. Banks have cut credit lines for traders shipping food to war-torn Yemen, where ports have been battlegrounds and the financial system is grinding to a halt, choking vital supplies to an impoverished country that could face famine. — AP

# YEMEN'S FOOD CRISIS DEEPENS AS BANKS CUT CREDIT FOR SHIPMENTS

## BANKS WARY OF GUARANTEEING PAYMENTS FOR FOOD CARGOES

**LONDON/ABU DHABI:** Banks have cut credit lines for traders shipping food to war-torn Yemen, where ports have been battlegrounds and the financial system is grinding to a halt, choking vital supplies to an impoverished country that could face famine.

Lenders are increasingly unwilling to offer letters of credit - which guarantee that a buyer's payment to a seller will be received on time - for cargoes to a country plagued by a civil war between the government and Houthi militia as well as an Al-Qaeda insurgency, say banking and trading sources.

"Western international banks no longer feel comfortable processing payments and are not willing to take the risk," said an international commodities trading source active in Yemen.

"What this means is traders are saddled with even more risks and have to effectively guarantee entire cargoes, usually millions of dollars, before the prospect of getting paid," said the source, who declined to be named, citing security concerns. "There are just more and more obstacles now to bringing goods into Yemen."

Traders that procure food for Yemen are mostly smaller, private firms based locally or regionally that buy the goods from international

markets. Reuters spoke to several sources who declined to be identified, also citing security concerns.

The situation has worsened rapidly in the past month after Yemen's central bank stopped providing favourable exchange rates for local traders buying rice and sugar from global markets, say the sources, further hindering trading of food, which accounts for a large proportion of the country's imports. The decision to limit such rates to wheat and medicine - deemed more nationally crucial - was a bid to preserve fast-windling foreign currency reserves.

The financing difficulties have been one of the factors behind falling shipments to Yemen, according to the sources. In January, around 77 ships berthed at ports in Yemen, according to UN data, down from around 100 ships in March last year - when the civil war escalated - and a far cry from the hundreds of ships that called every month in previous years. The consequences could be grave for the Arab peninsula's poorest country, which the United Nations says is "on the brink of catastrophe". It relies on seaborne imports for almost all its food and 21 million out of 26 million people are in need of humanitarian support, with over half the population suffering

from malnutrition. The war has seen a Saudi-led Arab coalition intervene in late March a year ago to seek to restore the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, battling the Iranian-allied Houthis and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Mohammed AlShamery, an official at Yemen's sole sugar refinery, in the northern city of Hodaïda on the Red Sea, said the credit and currency curbs had added to the problems of bringing cargoes into the country. The process had already been complicated by deteriorating security as well as inspections of vessels by Arab coalition warships hunting for weapons bound for Houthi fighters.

"You have to be in constant touch with the shippers and reassure them that everything is fine and sometimes send pictures of the area so they know it's safe," AlShamery said.

### PRICES RISE

A European banking source said some banks had decided to completely withdraw from offering credit lines on food trades to Yemen. "Even if a bank is willing to process a payment, which relates to food, they have to be careful," the source added.

Trading sources said banks that had been involved in Yemen's food trade have included Commerzbank, Deutsche Bank and HSBC as well as regional Middle East banks. Commerzbank and Deutsche Bank declined to comment. HSBC said it continued to support customers trading across the Middle East and North Africa region including Yemen "subject to relevant regulatory and commercial controls".

Yemeni banks are also feeling the pressure. Aidros Mohammed, an official with state-run National Bank of Yemen, said since the end of last year it had stopped opening letters of credit for the trade of goods in general "as outside banks have stopped dealing with us".

Watheq Ali Hamed, the manager of a store in Sanaa, said the decision by the central bank regarding rice and sugar purchases would be felt by ordinary Yemenis. "Prices are already going up because of the war and the rise in the cost of securing the goods," he said. "The full effects of that decision will be felt going forward. Luckily, we still have some stocks."

Slowing of imports and rising prices could pose grave problems for Yemen, where areas are at risk of famine. The country lacks sufficient seasonal rains, has limited access to farming areas and facing rising costs of agricultural supplies, a report by a U.N. food agency said in January.

### PORT FLASHPOINTS

More than 6,000 people have been killed - about half of them civilians - in the war, which has seen the Houthis gain control of the capital Sanaa. Major ports have been flashpoints for fighting including the southern gateway of Aden, which has been gripped by violence since Hadi supporters seized it from Houthi forces in July. There have also been Saudi-led air strikes close to the port of Hodaïda.

Adding to the turmoil, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has been expanding its presence in Yemen; in February it took control of the southern town of Ahwar, months after seizing the major port city of Mukalla to the east.

Two banking sources in Yemen said restrictions on moving money abroad due to the conflict was adding to trade financing difficulties. "We have a big problem in transferring money abroad ... so we cannot open letters of credit for traders to import," one Yemeni banker said. Trading and banking sources also said uncertainty over who was in control of Yemen's central bank - given its headquarters in Sanaa - was adding to lenders' caution. One Middle East banking source said some institutions were steering clear of transactions while Sanaa was still under Houthi control. — Reuters

## News

in brief

### US dollar stabilizes against KD at 0.300

**KUWAIT:** The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar stabilized at KD 0.300, while the euro rose to reach KD 0.330 compared to the exchange rates for Thursday, said a statement by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. According to the CBK, the exchange rate of the Sterling pound went up to KD 0.427 and the Swiss franc rose to KD 0.302. Exchange rate of the Japanese yen remained the same at KD 0.002.

### Egypt CB to hold \$500m FX auction

**CAIRO:** Egypt's central bank said yesterday it would hold an exceptional auction for \$500 million to cover imports of strategic goods, pumping more foreign exchange into an economy that has been starved of dollars. Egypt, which relies heavily on imports, hasn't been able to recover since a popular uprising in 2011 toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak, driving tourists and foreign investors away - major sources of hard currency. The central bank has been keeping the pound at 7.7301 per dollar, but the currency has been depreciating rapidly on the black market over the past week. It reached 9.50 to the dollar on the black market on Thursday. The central bank normally sells no more than \$40 million at its regular forex auctions, which are held three times a week. Egypt's reserves have dropped from \$36 billion in 2011 to \$16.53 billion at the end of February.

### IDB issues sukuk worth \$1.5 billion

**JEDDAH:** The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has announced a five-year sukuk issuance of \$1.5 billion, with annual revenue of 1.775 percent, the IDB said on Saturday. The move is part of the IDB's mid-term sukuk issuance program, which hits a total of \$25 billion, the IDB added in the statement. The issuance was arranged by Emirates NBD Capital, Boubyan Bank, Gulf International Bank CIMB, JP Morgan, Natix and Standard Chartered. It will be listed in the London, Malaysia and Nasdaq Dubai stock exchanges. A senior IDB official expressed pleasure over the issuance that follows previous ones which realized success, and a record profit margin for the sukuk. Buying orders started on Wednesday, March 2, as soon as official pricing was announced, 50-55 basic points. It was earlier announced that the orders were worth more than \$1.5 billion from investors, of which \$243.8 million came from the joint lead arrangers and related parties.

## EGYPT NAMES NEW HEAD FOR AGRICULTURE QUARANTINE AUTHORITY

**CAIRO:** Egypt has appointed a new head of its agriculture quarantine authority, the ministry of agriculture said yesterday, replacing Saad Moussa, a figure who has been at the centre of a controversy over the country's wheat import requirements. As head of the agricultural quarantine agency Saad Moussa imposed a zero tolerance policy on ergot, a common grains fungus, a policy at odds with the ministry of agriculture and supply backing a more common international standard that allows trace levels.

"Essam Fayed the minister of agriculture has appointed Ibrahim Ahmed Imbabi, head of the Plant Pathology Research Institute, to head the central administration of the agricultural quarantine authority," a statement from the ministry said.

Many traders, who say guaranteeing zero ergot is impossible, have declined in recent months to make offers in state wheat tenders, saying it was too costly to risk having their shipments later turned away by Moussa's quarantine authority. The disrupted wheat tenders have raised the possibility of a shortage of grain which could pose a political problem for President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi as the impoverished population relies on highly subsidized bread. The ministry said Imbabi's appointment was part of a plan to "restructure the ministry of agriculture and its various sectors, to develop and improve its performance". — Reuters

## GULF BANKS PLANNING TO RAISE CAPITAL IN 2016

**DUBAI:** A dozen Gulf banks have announced plans to raise capital in the coming months, mostly through the issuance of bonds and sukuk which enhance their reserves.

The banks need to meet limits which often exceed

those put down by the Basel III standards and which are set to increase in coming years as well as top up reserves after years of double-digit percentage increases in lending.

### BANK

- AlKhalij Commercial Bank
- Bank Dhofar
- BBK
- Boubyan Bank
- Commercial Bank International
- Doha Bank
- Dubai Islamic Bank
- Gulf Bank
- Kuwait Finance House
- Qatar International Islamic Bank
- Qatar Islamic Bank
- Qatar National Bank

### PLANS ANNOUNCED

- Shareholders approved up to 2bln riyal bond issue. Planning 45mln rial rights issue.
- To issue 100mln dinar convertible bond by end of March. Has regulator approval for sukuk worth up to \$250mln. Awaiting central bank approval before deciding capital increase plans Planning to raise capital in 2016.
- Seeking shareholder approval to raise Tier 1 bond programme by \$750mln, planning to raise capital in 2016.
- Seeking shareholder approval for variety of capital-boosting measures. Studying the issuance of sukuk to boost Tier 1 or 2 capital.
- Shareholders to meet Mar.14 to extend approval for issuing Tier 1 sukuk Has shareholder assent to issue up to 3bln riyals of sukuk.
- Shareholders approved issuing bonds to boost Tier 1 and 2 capital. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.649
Indian Rupees	4.503
Pakistani Rupees	2.877
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Nepali Rupees	2.744
Singapore Dollar	220.810
Hongkong Dollar	38.810
Bangladesh Taka	3.841
Philippine Peso	6.424
Thai Baht	8.529

GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.390
Qatari Riyal	82.809
Omani Riyal	783.004
Bahraini Dinar	800.580
UAE Dirham	82.076

ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	35.780
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	38.545
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.407
Tunisian Dinar	148.750
Jordanian Dinar	424.870
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.201
Syrian Lira	2.148
Morocco Dirham	31.062

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	301.300
Euro	334.740
Sterling Pound	431.910
Canadian dollar	228.000
Turkish lira	104.060
Swiss Franc	306.350
Australian Dollar	227.180
US Dollar Buying	300.100

GOLD	
20 Gram	253.750
10 Gram	129.800
5 Gram	65.740

### UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL

CURRENCIES	TELEX TRANSFER PER 1000
Australian Dollar	201.91
Canadian Dollar	219.82
Swiss Franc	306.95
Euro	336.85
US Dollar	299.90
Sterling Pound	431.04
Japanese Yen	2.67
Bangladesh Taka	3.817
Indian Rupee	4.375
Sri Lankan Rupee	2.083
Nepali Rupee	2.732
Pakistani Rupee	2.860
UAE Dirhams	0.08161
Bahraini Dinar	0.7970
Egyptian Pound	0.03819
Jordanian Dinar	0.4265
Omani Riyal	0.7788
Qatari Riyal	0.08269
Saudi Riyal	0.07994

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.550
Canadian Dollar	228.450
Sterling Pound	429.835
Euro	333.360
Swiss Frank	300.490
Bahrain Dinar	797.750
UAE Dirhams	82.340
Qatari Riyals	83.555

Saudi Riyals	81.090
Jordanian Dinar	424.790
Egyptian Pound	38.399
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.086
Indian Rupees	4.482
Pakistani Rupees	2.873
Bangladesh Taka	3.836
Philippines Peso	6.413
Cyprus pound	574.350
Japanese Yen	3.645
Syrian Pound	2.370
Nepalese Rupees	3.800
Malaysian Ringgit	75.030
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.600
Thai Bhat	9.500
Turkish Lira	103.785

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.421904	0.430904
Czech Korune	0.004281	0.016281
Danish Krone	0.040495	0.045495
Euro	0.325961	0.333961
Norwegian Krone	0.031461	0.036661
Romanian Leu	0.086429	0.086429
Slovakia	0.008955	0.018955
Swedish Krona	0.031524	0.036524
Swiss Franc	0.297483	0.307683
Turkish Lira	0.097855	0.108155
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.216097	0.227597
New Zealand Dollar	0.199460	0.208960
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.221100	0.229600
US Dollars	0.297200	0.301700

US Dollars Mint	0.297900	0.301900
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003453	0.004053
Chinese Yuan	0.044746	0.048246
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036775	0.039525
Indian Rupee	0.004194	0.004584
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002577	0.002757
Kenyan Shilling	0.003014	0.003014
Korean Won	0.000240	0.000255
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069676	0.075676
Nepalese Rupee	0.002856	0.003026
Pakistan Rupee	0.002701	0.002981
Philippine Peso	0.006331	0.006611
Sierra Leone	0.000071	0.000077
Singapore Dollar	0.215969	0.221669
South African Rand	0.013525	0.022025
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001702	0.002282
Taiwan	0.009079	0.009259
Thai Baht	0.008205	0.008755

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.792530	0.800530
Egyptian Pound	0.033276	0.037612
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000193	0.000253
Jordanian Dinar	0.420950	0.426450
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000149	0.000249
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020497	0.044497
Nigerian Naira	0.001240	0.001875
Omani Riyal	0.776178	0.781858
Qatar Riyal	0.082048	0.083261
Saudi Riyal	0.079460	0.080410
Syrian Pound	0.001276	0.001496
Tunisian Dinar	0.145112	0.153112
Turkish Lira	0.097855	0.108155
UAE Dirhams	0.081052	0.082201
Yemeni Riyal	0.001361	0.001441



# KAREENA KAPOOR KHAN UNVEILS SOLITAIRE ONE

AN EXCLUSIVE SOLITAIRE BRAND FROM MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS

**S**olitaire One is a powerful statement. Simple, yet always a showstopper. From princess cut solitaire rings to round solitaire engagement rings, and everything in between, give her the ring she'll be happy to wear forever.

Solitaire is used to describe a single diamond or gemstone set into piece of jeweler. People prefer to buy solitaire diamond rings for their engagement or wedding. A single diamond in which the size varies from 0.3 to 1 carat is normally used and the fast moving. Solitaire rings are very popular because of its elegance.

In the quest to serve the unique requirements for solitaire, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched Solitaire One - An exclusive collection of solitaires showcasing a wide collection of loose solitaires in various sizes, color and quality. Every Solitaire One gemstone is certified by leading international certification agencies like GIA, IGI and HRD.

As a preferred jewellery retailer for diamonds, we have developed Solitaire One to showcase a wide collection of loose solitaires in various sizes, color and quality,

said Shamlal Ahmed, Managing Director - International Operations at Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

The confidence of customers in diamonds especially solitaire diamonds are increasing day by day and this is a promising trend. The preference seems to be due to the eye catching inherent beauty of solitaires and the fact that solitaires do appreciate its value in the long term. While buying a solitaire diamond, the customer should exercise great attention and ensure that they buy only from reputed jewellery retailers. One should also demand certificates for the diamonds from leading certification agencies like IGI or GIA' said Mr. KP Abdul Salam, Group Executive Director - Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds also showcase an array of exclusive brands catering to the discerning needs of today's customers namely Era - Uncut Diamond Jewellery, Ethnix - Handcrafted Designer Jewellery, Mine - Diamonds Unlimited, Precia- Precious Gem Jewellery, Divine - Indian Heritage Jewellery, Starlet - Kids Jewellery, Everafter - Wedding Bands and Ago Bay - Pearl Jewellery.



**HONG KONG:** High rise residential buildings are seen in Hong Kong yesterday. Property prices in Hong Kong, famous for its sky-high rent and super-rich tycoons, have more than doubled in six years due to record low interest rates and a flood of wealthy buyers from mainland China. — AFP

## BANKERS JOSTLE TO BE JUNIOR AS UK ACCOUNTABILITY RULES KICK IN

NEW RULES CAN HOLD BOSSES RESPONSIBLE FOR BANK MISCONDUCT

**LONDON:** New rules to hold bosses responsible for wrongdoing at British banks is deterring some bankers from taking on senior management roles and even prompting big-hitters to play down their own importance, say legal and compliance experts. Public anger that so few senior bankers were punished after taxpayers bailed out the industry in the financial crisis, or for scandals such as Libor and currency-market rigging, has led to the rules which make it easier to hold them to account.

The Senior Managers Regime (SMR) from today replaces a system that UK lawmakers criticised for giving illusory control over individuals with little prospect of enforcement action.

A step change in banking rules, it will allow regulators to pin blame on named people rather than just firms, which lawyers said has triggered anxiety among top bankers. "I have had some clients with staff resistant to being a senior manager, worried they are going to be kept awake at night about what their team is doing, and if something goes wrong, will they be the scapegoat," said Sarah Henchoz, an employment partner at Allen & Overy law firm.

Unlike the old system, bankers deemed to wield significant managerial influence will have to sign up to a legal duty of responsibility for their units, and show they took reasonable steps to prevent or stop rule-breaking that comes to light. They include CEOs,

heads of big business units, and non-executive directors who chair key committees and will amount to about 10,000 staff across 900 banking companies, or an average of about 12 per firm, rising to 40-50 for the biggest lenders.

Ron Gould - a former UK regulator who is now European Chairman of Compliance Science, which helps financial companies comply with rules - said some senior bankers were looking at whether they could convince regulators that they did not have significant managerial influence over their teams.

"One thing I have seen that does make me smile is the wonderful term used by some firms that want to 'juniorise' positions," Gould said. "It may be more wishful thinking than anything else."

One person familiar with how the SMR is being introduced said regulators were aware of this and were pushing back against banks that fail what the person described as the "sniff test" - or too many senior managers saying that they did not have full responsibility over teams but simply reported to other more senior managers. But such attempts at creating a chain of senior managers to blur direct accountability were not widespread, the source said.

Britain's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Authority, which will both enforce the regime, declined to comment.

Asked if bankers were balking at the new rules, Simon Hills, an executive director at the British Bankers' Association, said the SMR was regarded in the industry as a key element to restoring trust in banking. "I talk to senior managers at banks who say it's been a useful exercise, enabling banks to check and confirm they have got the right people in the right roles and clarify job descriptions where necessary."

### EMAIL TRAIL

The United States and other European countries have not gone as far as the SMR by holding senior managers personally responsible by law. Requirements in the rules for senior managers to demonstrate they took steps to prevent or stop rule-breaking will also prompt bosses to document all delegation of tasks and to archive emails to help keep them in the clear if misconduct is uncovered, lawyers said.

"You need to be clear that you have a document trail on how you delegated responsibility, how you supervised key parts of the business, that you know in five years' time exactly what you did," said A&O's Henchoz. Adrian Crawford, employment partner at Kingsley Napley, which advises individuals in the financial sector, said more senior managers might have been held responsible for the Libor-rigging scandal if the SMR had existed in past years. — Reuters

## EX-BOE CHIEF SAYS EURO A 'VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM'

**LONDON:** The European single currency is a serious problem for Britain whether or not the country leaves the European Union, a former governor of the Bank of England said yesterday.

Mervyn King said that even though Britain does not use the euro, "we are influenced and affected by what goes on in the euro area." He says the euro has been economically "a, if not disaster, very serious problem."

Asked on BBC television if that meant Britain should leave the EU, King said Sunday: "I don't think you can draw that conclusion." He said "in or out," Britain would have close ties to the eurozone.

"The euro area is our biggest trading partner, that's going to carry on being the case and therefore it does matter to us what goes on there," said King, who now sits in Parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords. Nineteen of the EU's 28 members use the euro, which has suffered instability since the 2008 financial crisis hammered the currency's debt-bur-

dened weaker members, particularly Greece.

Those who want to leave the EU say the crisis shows Britain would be better off outside the bloc.

Economic issues have dominated the debate ahead of Britain's June 23 referendum on whether to stay in the EU. London Mayor Boris Johnson, a leader of the "out" campaign, said yesterday that after leaving Britain would be able to negotiate a free-trade deal with the EU while escaping the bloc's "top-down legislation and regulation."

But German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said countries that wanted access to the EU's single market "still have to pay into the budget of the community and they have to accept the free movement of people" from EU member states. "So actually they have all the disadvantages of the common market and they are not involved in the decision-making process of the internal single market," he said. — AP

## GREEK PM BLASTS IMF 'STALLING TACTICS'

**ATHENS:** Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras yesterday said the IMF was employing "stalling tactics" and "arbitrary" estimates to hold up a reforms review crucial to the country's economic recovery.

The leftist PM said the Washington-based global lender was bent on counter-productive cuts that failed to take into account the improved performance of Greece's economy. "The review will be completed soon in spite of the IMF's stalling tactics," Tsipras told his party's central committee.

"For the first time, there is substantial convergence... between the Greek side and European institutions," he said. Greece and the EU now see eye to eye on the pace of reforms, the state of the 2016 budget and fiscal requirements to 2018, he said.

In contrast, the International Monetary Fund had "unrealistic expectations" "unrevised and erroneous calculations," Tsipras said.

The Greek economy in 2015 saw output fall by just 0.2 percent, after an August forecast of a drop of up to 2.0 percent, the government says.

Athens also closed the year with a small primary surplus instead of an expected primary deficit, Tsipras said. "Numbers are numbers...this is not a technocratic disagreement, it is a political disagreement," the PM said.

Greece's international creditors-the EU, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund-completed a first phase of the review nearly a month ago, but there has been little progress since. Athens is hoping that a meeting of the 19-nation eurozone today will authorise senior EU-IMF auditors to return later in the week. Athens is eager to complete the reforms review to unlock debt relief promised by its European peers. But the IMF's European zone head last month warned against "over-optimistic assumptions (which) will soon cause fears (of a Greek euro exit) to resurface once again and stifle the investment climate."

A major sticking point is a pension reform planned by Tsipras's leftist government which the IMF has found insufficient. The IMF worked with the EU on two previous bailouts for Greece since 2010 but the Washington-based lender said it would not participate in the third rescue plan without credible reforms and an EU agreement to ease Greece's debt burden.

In July, Greece accepted a three-year, 86-billion-euro (\$94 billion) European Union bailout that saved it from crashing out of the eurozone, but imposed strict conditions such as fresh tax cuts and pay cuts. — AFP



**ZAGREB:** Croatian inventor Mate Rimac, 28, poses next to his "Concept One" supercar model at his factory and showroom in Sveta Nedelja, on the outskirts of Zagreb. He's the name behind the world's first electric supercar, winning international plaudits for his ingenuity. But for Croatia's 28-year-old Mate Rimac, it all started as a hobby in his garage. — AFP

## OBAMA CHEERS ECONOMY AS 'PRETTY DARN GREAT'

**WASHINGTON:** Once reluctant to hype the US economy's slow climb out of recession, President Barack Obama now is in cheerleader mode. "America's pretty darn great right now," Obama told reporters Friday as he celebrated a strong jobs report that he said proved Republicans' "doomsday rhetoric" is little more than "fantasy."

Obama's brief remarks were a striking turn for a president who for most of his seven years in office has put on a sober face every time he spoke about the economy. Years of slow jobs growth and stagnant wages made the president and his team wary of seeming out of step with the plight of Americans still feeling the aftereffects of the recession.

Those concerns seemed a thing of the past on

Friday. Hours after a new Labor Department report showed employers added 242,000 workers in February, Obama called reporters to the Roosevelt Room at the White House, and he didn't hold back. "Our businesses have created jobs every single month since I signed that job-killing Obamacare bill," Obama said, digging at the Republicans' favorite name for his health-care law. Obama didn't name names but showed he's been following the especially combative GOP nomination fight. He seemed ready to get off the sidelines. The president said he looks forward to "forcefully" making his case for changing the conversation to a debate over investing in education and infrastructure and increasing wages, "not fantasy, not name-calling." — AP

## GEORGIANS FORM HUMAN CHAIN TO PROTEST TALKS WITH GAZPROM

**TBILISI:** Thousands of Georgians formed a human chain stretching for about 7 kilometers (4 miles) through the capital yesterday to protest negotiations between their government and the Russian natural gas monopoly, Gazprom. The demonstrators, supporters of the main opposition party, said they fear that buying gas from state-controlled Gazprom would make the former Soviet republic dependent on Moscow. But even before yesterday's protest the opposition appeared close to winning its case. The government announced Friday that it had signed a deal with neighboring Azerbaijan to increase gas supplies enough to fully cover Georgian demand. Energy Minister Kakha Kaladze previously had justified the negotiations with Gazprom by saying Azerbaijan did not have the technical ability to supply more gas, but he said this problem has now been overcome.

"They tried to deceive us by saying it was not technically possible to increase gas supplies from Azerbaijan," David Bakradze, the opposition leader in parliament, said yesterday. "But they failed because people didn't believe them and forced the government to do everything possible to receive additional fuel from Azerbaijan. We will not allow Georgia to be under Russia's control."

A related issue is how Gazprom compensates Georgia for the gas transported across Georgian territory to Armenia. In the past, Georgia has taken 10 percent of the gas, but Gazprom recently demanded that Georgia

accept payment, apparently expecting that this would force Georgia to buy Russian gas.

Kaladze said Gazprom has now agreed to leave the previous barter arrangement in place, but the contract still needs to be signed. The Georgian government says it has

received 200 million cubic meters of Russian natural gas per year in return for the transit. Under the new agreement with Socar, Azerbaijan's state oil and gas producer, Georgia will receive an additional 500 million cubic meters per year. — AP



**BEIJING:** Xu Shaoshi, director of China's National Development and Reform Commission, waves as he leaves a press conference in Beijing yesterday. — AP



# ECB RATE MEETING, CHINESE DATA IN FOCUS

## GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

**FRANKFURT:** The European Central Bank is almost certain to ease policy next week as depressed commodity prices raise the risk of deflation, while a string of data from China will offer clues about the extent of the recent emerging market slowdown. Growth in most key economies has slowed this year as states such as China to Brazil attempt to rebalance, weighing on global demand and sending deflationary waves around the world through sharply lower oil and metals prices.

Already struggling with ultralow inflation after years of crisis, the ECB has all but promised policy easing on Thursday but the devil will lie in the

details. A small 10 basis point cut to push its deposit rate deeper into negative territory is a foregone conclusion while some type of adjustment of the bank's 1.5 trillion euro asset purchase program is also near certain.

But each option on the table comes with side effects and limited functionality as monetary policy is deep in unconventional territory, making exotic decisions less likely given the difficulty of aligning the interest of 19 countries and 25 policymakers.

"Negative Interest Rate Policy (NIRP) seems to be all the rage in central bank circles these days," Morgan Stanley said in a note to clients, arguing

that such policies do not actually help bank lending.

"There are concerns amongst investors that the negative deposit rate will undermine the effectiveness of the ECB's quantitative easing," Morgan Stanley added. "This is because it effectively introduces a tax on excess bank reserves, i.e., effectively a tax on QE itself."

A small majority of analysts also expect a 10 billion euro increase in monthly asset purchases while others predict an expansion of QE into new asset classes or a fresh push for targeted long term refinancing operations. The ECB could also remove its self-imposed limits not to buy bonds

yielding less than the deposit rate, a contentious move as it would mean certain losses on some assets, while a range of technical changes are possible.

### CHINA

The outlook for the United States was brighter, with Friday's non-farm payrolls figures easing fears that the world's largest economy was heading into recession and potentially allowing the Federal Reserve to gradually raise interest rates this year.

However, China's faltering outlook will remain a top concern for policymakers around the globe and investor focus will be fixed on the annual meeting of China's parliament, which must try to engineer a huge economic shift towards services and consumption and away from basic manufacturing. As around 3,000 delegates from the National People's Congress meet in Beijing, a wide range of fresh data, including on reserves and trade, are expected to point to a further loss of momentum and capital flight, supporting expectations for more measures to prop up sagging growth.

"Government policy is being set to guide China along a narrow path: enough pain to force through reform and restructuring, close overcapacity, improve efficiency of investment, etc., but not enough to seriously damage job creation," Commonwealth Bank said.

Foreign trade data are expected to make for a sombre reading, reflecting persistent weakness in demand at home and abroad

which is holding back industrial production and keeping a lid on commodity prices. Imports are seen down 10 percent in February, an improvement from a January's 19 percent drop, while exports are seen declining by 12.5 percent following an 11.2 percent drop in January.

New lending is also seen lower after a surge a month earlier but money supply growth is seen steady, a figure closely analyzed by markets to gauge if China can arrest the slowdown in investments.

February foreign reserves data will also be closely watched, with most expecting a slowdown in the exit of funds after exceptionally high outflows in January.

"Capital is flowing out of China at an unprecedented pace," Nordea analysts Amy Y. Zhuang said. "\$850bn is estimated to have left the country since mid-2014."

"Even huge FX reserves like China's would seem insufficient if the pace of depletion continues," Zhuang added. The Bank of Canada also meets next week and will likely keep rates on hold, taking comfort in stabilizing global markets, a slightly better-than-forecast fourth-quarter GDP reading and a modest rebound in commodity prices.

British industry data are also expected to generate interest after output fell 1.1 percent in December, its sharpest monthly drop since 2012. January figures are expected to show a 0.6 percent increase, taking the annualized growth to 0.2 percent. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						Global									
Sunday 06 March 2016															
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low										
Price Index	▲ 36.58	5,280.58	5,244.00	5,283.30	5,244.00										
Weighted Index	▲ 1.39	363.49	362.10	364.27	361.14										
KXS 15	▲ 1.66	856.29	854.63	860.01	850.31										
Trades						Trades									
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0	SOKOUK	35.5	34.0	7508550	260,348	105	34.5	▲ 0.5
IKARUS	80	78	35,000	2,761	5	79	▲ 1.0	KRE	52	51	2,994,254	153,634	67	51	▲ 1.0
IPG	315	300	111,400	33,426	6	315	▼ -5.0	URC	92	92	255,000	23,460	14	92	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	630	▲ 0.0	NRE	102	99	1,251,253	124,763	32	102	▲ 4.0
ENERGYH	29.0	29.0	40,000	1,160	3	29.0	▼ -1.0	SRE	365	325	1,120	403	5	360	▲ 10.0
GPI	43.0	42.0	5,358,978	228,730	103	42.0	▼ -0.5	TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	▲ 0.0
ABAR	114	114	270	31	1	114	▼ -10.0	AREC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>5,545,648</b>	<b>266,108</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>747.34</b>	<b>▼ -8.98</b>	MASSALEH	51	51	7,000	357	1	51	▼ -1.0
KFOUC	210	206	27,951	5,784	2	206	▼ -10.0	ARABREC	29.5	29.0	2,960,663	86,172	43	29.0	▲ 2.0
BPPC	445	445	201,277	89,568	17	445	▲ 0.0	ERESCO	55	52	102,009	5,342	12	55	▲ 2.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	▲ 0.0	MABANEE	870	860	1,145,485	985,166	16	860	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	194	188	162,559	30,803	18	190	▼ -2.0	INJAZZAT	86	81	9,600,198	815,416	35	84	▲ 1.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>391,787</b>	<b>126,155</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>913.35</b>	<b>▼ -16.10</b>	INVESTORS	21.0	20.0	11,043,355	226,182	125	20.0	▲ 0.5
KCEM	365	365	51,230	18,699	7	365	▲ 0.0	IRC	27.0	26.5	1,473,076	39,453	34	27.0	▲ 0.0
REFRI	325	320	15,659	5,087	7	320	▼ -5.0	ALTUJARIA	79	77	538,898	41,829	28	79	▲ 1.0
SABLE	350	345	57,542	19,852	7	350	▲ 5.0	SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.0	▲ 0.0
CHIP	146	146	48,600	7,096	9	146	▲ 4.0	AYANIRE	70	68	738,181	50,477	36	69	▲ 1.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,020	▲ 0.0	AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▲ 0.0
PAPER	420	420	109,000	45,780	3	420	▲ 0.0	ALAGARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	21.5	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0	MAZAYA	114	108	3,136,580	349,134	54	114	▲ 8.0
AMCO	290	285	8,000	2,285	5	290	▲ 5.0	ADNC	20.5	19.5	6,699,715	135,436	71	20.5	▲ 1.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	475	▲ 0.0	THEMAR	80	80	89,748	7,180	4	80	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	▲ 0.0	TIJARA	29.5	36.5	500	18	1	36.5	▲ 0.5
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	325	▲ 0.0	TAAMEER	22.5	21.5	1,187,062	25,656	30	21.5	▼ -0.5
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230	▲ 0.0	ARGAN	176	176	10,000	1,760	1	176	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	56	52	3,929,787	215,155	110	54	▲ 3.0	ABYAAR	26.5	25.0	6,841,222	174,804	68	25.5	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0	MUNSHAAT	46.0	44.5	4,985,670	225,011	89	45.0	▲ 0.5
GYPNUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0	FIRSTDUBAI	42.5	41.0	838,770	35,134	27	41.5	▲ 0.5
SALBOKH	72	70	263,250	18,668	18	70	▲ 0.0	KBT	47.0	45.0	9,109,003	416,287	174	46.0	▲ 1.0
AGLTY	460	450	796,756	363,127	31	460	▲ 5.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	▲ 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0	MENA	20.5	19.5	1,398,100	27,860	42	20.0	▼ -1.0
CLEANING	39.5	38.5	897,870	35,274	29	39.5	▲ 0.5	ALMUDON	33.0	31.0	3,875,607	124,058	84	33.0	▲ 2.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	▲ 0.0	MARAKEZ	32.5	30.0	3,950	120	4	30.0	▼ -2.5
KGL	45.0	43.5	617,100	27,539	13	44.5	▲ 0.5	REMAL	35.0	34.0	944,000	32,479	50	34.5	▲ 1.0
KPC	190	190	32,201	6,118	5	190	▼ -10.0	MASHAER	100	100	6,350	635	1	100	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	780	760	1,200	923	5	770	▲ 20.0	<b>Real Estate</b>	<b>78,735,319</b>	<b>4,388,577</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>844.43</b>	<b>▲ 8.89</b>		
NAFAIS	142	142	73,871	10,490	5	142	▲ 10.0	KINV	92	91	141,748	13,031	12	92	▲ 3.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	▲ 0.0	FACIL	184	180	323,500	58,819	32	184	▲ 4.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	▲ 0.0	IFA	29.5	28.5	1,405,271	40,649	45	29.0	▲ 0.5
MAYADEEN	20.0	18.5	16,067,322	308,258	162	19.5	▲ 1.0	NINV	88	83	2,850,916	245,700	110	85	▲ 2.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790	▲ 0.0	KPROJ	560	550	935,267	516,632	17	560	▲ 10.0
MTCC	78	75	1,529,870	117,825	51	78	▲ 2.0	COAST	38.0	35.5	5,097,133	187,933	95	36.0	▲ 0.0
UPAC	660	660	7,500	4,950	3	660	▼ -10.0	SECH	42.0	39.0	8,541,011	347,862	156	39.0	▼ -2.5
ALAFCO	200	194	121,313	23,535	16	198	▼ -6.0	SGC	82	82	975	80	2	82	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	65	63	1,881,657	121,277	51	65	▲ 2.0	ARZAN	34.5	33.0	621,500	20,757	19	33.0	▼ -0.5
LOGISTICS	66	64	771,250	49,977	35	66	▲ 1.0	MARKAZ	84	82	8,077	673	4	84	▲ 0.0
SCEM	84	84	12,444	1,045	5	84	▲ 0.0	KMEFIC	28.0	26.0	1,337,977	34,950	61	26.5	▼ -2.0
GCEM	80	77	180,038	13,968	14	80	▲ 5.0	ALAMAN	58	57	878,100	50,735	30	58	▲ 0.0
QCCEM	65	65	6,045	393	4	65	▲ 0.0	ALOLA	49.5	47.0	2,163,905	104,151	63	49.5	▲ 2.0
FCEM	73	71	97,010	6,888	6	72	▲ 0.0	ALMAL	36.0	34.0	13,001,192	456,072	184	35.0	▲ 1.0
RKWC	102	102	21,000	2,142	4	102	▼ -8.0	GIH	27.0	25.0	5,807,375	151,567	88	25.5	▲ 1.0
SPEC	82	80	58,836	4,720	6	80	▼ -5.0	AYAN	43.5	41.0	3,423,260	144,603	82	42.5	▲ 1.5
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>27,656,351</b>	<b>1,431,070</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>983.76</b>	<b>▲ 4.65</b>	BAYANINV	37.5	35.5	3,076,987	112,589	61	37.5	▲ 2.0
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	▲ 0.0	OSOUL	34.5	32.5	75,900	2,475	6	34.5	▲ 0.5
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0	KFC	31.5	31.5	21,000	662	3	31.5	▼ -0.5
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	▲ 0.0	KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▲ 0.0
CATTL	140	134	195,186	26,940	20	140	▲ 8.0	NIH	47.0	45.5	3,350	156	6	46.5	▲ 1.0
DANAH	74	72	249,025	18,115	22	73	▼ -1.0	ISKAN	29.0	28.0	3,170,683	90,302	50	28.0	▲ 0.0
POULT	190	190	5,450	1,036	3	190	▲ 0.0	MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,300	2,200	12,412	27,386	4	2,300	▲ 100.0	ALDEERA	31.0	29.0	534,192	15,869	24	30.0	▼ -0.5
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>462,073</b>	<b>73,477</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1089.12</b>	<b>▲ 19.73</b>	ALS							





## MERCEDES-BENZ KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN GULFRUN CAR SHOW 2016

**KUWAIT:** Mercedes-Benz fans can prepare themselves for adrenaline and excitement as A R Albisher and Z Alkazemi Company confirms its participation in its eighth consecutive GulfRun Car Show. Taking place from 10 - 12 March at a new outdoor location, Murooj - Sahara golf club, the GulfRun Car Show is part of the annual GulfRun motorsport event which seeks to bring together car and automobile racing lovers.

Established in 2005 by a group of passionate young Kuwaitis, GulfRun has developed into a complete season of motorsport activities that include the 12hr and 24hr Karting Endurance races, the GulfRun Car Show, GulfRun Race in Bahrain and the GulfRun Racing Academy, with the aim of educating drivers on the correct techniques and training in a professional, controlled environment.

Labelled the premier car show in Kuwait, the auto exhibition showcases a range of the latest and most exotic sports cars alongside race cars participating in the 11th GulfRun race that takes place on 17-18 March in Bahrain international race circuit. Mercedes-Benz will have two of its dream cars on display this year - the Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 Coupe and AMG GT. Also available for on spot test drives will be the GLE and GLC SUVs. Visitors registering for test drives will go in the running to win one of five spectacular week-

end test drives of the Mercedes-Benz vehicle of their choice. "GulfRun has become one of the most anticipated auto events in Kuwait, and this year is shaping up to be another exceptional edition. Our customers will have the chance to appreciate, test drive and learn everything they need to know about our beautiful motor vehicles. It's also a special opportunity for us to showcase the Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 Coupe and AMG GT," Michael Ruehle, CEO of Abdul Rahman Albisher & Zaid Alkazemi Company.

Visitors will be assisted and have their questions answered by a team of knowledgeable sales consultants at the Mercedes-Benz stand. For lovers of speed, the new AMG GT S is the second sports car developed entirely in-house by Mercedes-AMG. Its newly developed AMG 4.0-litre V8 biturbo engine underscores the hallmark AMG driving performance, combining driving dynamics and first-class racetrack performance with superb everyday practicality and efficiency that sets new standards in the segment. The first sports car engine with internally mounted turbochargers ("hot inside V") and dry sump lubrication is configured in two output ratings, with the GT S launch model having an output rating of 375 kW (510 hp).

Its interior design embodies maximum emotion and sensual purity. Radically low, sporty proportions create a unique sense

of spaciousness. Clearly drawn components and their authentic materials underscore the dynamic character and create instant excitement: anyone opening the door discovers an exciting interplay between the deep, sloping dashboard and a dominant, arched high centre console, a design which evokes emotions and impresses with its perfection.

Also sharing the spotlight at GulfRun, the all-new Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 4MATIC CoupE is an exciting interpretation of a four-door SUV coupE that combines the sportiness of a coupE with the strengths of an SUV.

Exceptional agility, distinctive engine sound and typical sports car acceleration are united with poise, assurance, tremendous pulling power and perfect traction. Its avant-garde exterior design and exclusive interior adds to its stand-out appeal - a unique creation for those looking for an all-round vehicle with high-performance technology and an emotional design.

The all-new GLE 63 4MATIC CoupE comes with a powerful, hand-built AMG 5.5-litre V8 biturbo engine and a wealth of AMG-tuned enhancements that add unrivalled performance to its sleek coup styling and commanding SUV strength.

GulfRun Car Show 2016 takes place from 10 - 12 March at Murooj, Sahara Golf Club, Kuwait. Visit the Mercedes-Benz stand to avail your free test drive.



## DOLLAR DROPS AS WEAK WAGES ECLIPSE JOB GROWTH

### NBK MONEY MARKETS REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Last week, mixed economic data from major economies dictated the movement in the foreign exchange market. The market also revolved around the highly awaited US Job report for further indications over the health of the US economy and the Fed's path. Additionally, global equities were up last week after China cut its reserve requirement to boost its slowing economy and rising oil prices lifted investor's sentiments.

On the foreign exchange side, the Dollar started the week on a strong footing and managed to hold gains on the back of a positive ISM manufacturing figure and a strong ADP employment report. However, the greenback lost its footing following weak jobless claims on Thursday, fuelling concerns over the health of the labor market. On Friday, employment data continued to come back mixed with non-farm payrolls increasing better than expected but wages decreased unexpectedly. While the job market seems to be in good health, bigger wage gains are needed to help inflation move closer to the Fed's target. The Dollar Index opened the week at 98.148 and reached a high of 98.582. The Index failed to hold on to these gains and dropped to a low of 97.019 after the jobs data was released.

The Euro opened the week at 1.0934. The currency led the way lower as weaker than expected Eurozone inflation increased the possibility of further easing by the ECB. The news pushed the Euro to reach a low of 1.0826. Meanwhile, the currency managed to erase its losses against the greenback and reach a high of 1.1043 following soft data from the US. The currency closed the week higher at 1.1006 following the US figures. The Sterling pound gained considerably as profit taking pushed the currency higher despite weak economic data and looming "Brexit" worries. The currency opened the week at 1.3871 and rose gradually towards the end of the week. On Friday, the Pound reached a high of 1.4248 amid weakness in the US Dollar. The currency closed the week at 1.4226.

The Japanese Yen traded in a volatile manner last week. The currency gained strength amid disappointing figures from China's manufacturing sector. However, the pair failed to sustain gains against the US dollar as comments from the BoJ Deputy Governor indicated further efforts to derail inflation are needed. The USD/JPY closed the week at 113.75.

The Australian dollar opened the week on a strong footing as risk appetite improved following a better than expected GDP reading. The currency then extended its gains against the greenback following a narrower trade deficit and an upbeat services index. The Aussie opened the week at 0.7126 and managed to reach a high of 0.7443. Finally, the currency closed the week at 0.7441.

On the commodities side, oil rallied last week as investors continue to estimate whether OPEC will introduce a production freeze later this month in order to curb the downturn in the oil industry. West Texas crude reached a high of 36.34 and closed the week at 36.33. Meanwhile, gold initially range traded between 1225 and 1248. The metal then broke higher on Thursday following disappointing data from the US. Gold reached a high of 1279.88 and closed at 1258.95.

#### Pending home sales drop

US pending home sales fell unexpectedly in January as price increases and lower inventory hit demand. The National Association of Realtors said its pending home sales index fell 2.5 percent last month versus expectations of a 0.5 percent increase in January. Meanwhile, December sales

were revised upwards to 0.9 percent from the previous 0.1 percent. Pending sales point to the future direction of the housing market as they measure purchases at the time a contract is signed, rather than at closing.

#### US manufacturing stabilizes

Manufacturing activity in the US contracted again in February, but at a slower pace than in the previous month. In a report, the Institute for Supply Management said its index of purchasing managers inched up to 49.5 last month from a reading of 48.2 in January. Analysts had expected the manufacturing PMI to rise to 48.5 in February. Comments from the panel indicate a more positive view of demand than in January, as 12 of our 18 industries report an increase in new orders, while four industries report a decrease in new orders.

Service sector activity in the US grew at the slowest pace in almost two years in February. The Institute of Supply Management said its non-manufacturing PMI fell to 53.4 from 53.5 in January. Analysts had expected the index to tick down to 53.2. The downbeat data indicated that weakness in the US manufacturing sector is spreading to the services sector.

US private employers added 214,000 jobs in February, above economists' expectations. Economists had forecast that the ADP National Employment Report would show a gain of 190,000 jobs, with estimates ranging from 160,000 to 225,000.

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits rose last week, but remained in territory associated with a firming labor market. Initial jobless claims rose to 278,000 from the previous week's total of 272,000 the Labor Department said. Economists had forecast claims rising to 271,000 last week. Claims have now remained below the 300,000 mark, which is associated with strong labor market conditions, for 52 straight weeks.

#### Mixed employment data

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released mixed news Friday as labor increased better than projected but wages unexpectedly declined. Employers added 242,000 workers in February following a 172,000 rise in January while the jobless rate stayed unchanged at 4.9 percent. Conversely, average hourly earnings declined 0.1 percent, or 3 cents, for the same month.

#### Eurozone unemployment

The euro zone's unemployment rate fell to the lowest level in more than four years in January, fueling optimism over the health of the region's economy, official data showed on Tuesday. In a report, Eurostat said that the eurozone's unemployment rate fell to a seasonally adjusted 10.3 percent from 10.4 percent in December. This is the lowest rate recorded in the euro area since August 2011. Analysts had expected the jobless rate to hold steady at 10.4 percent in January.

#### Eurozone falls back

The eurozone fell back into deflation in February for the first time in five months. Consumer prices fell 0.2 percent from a year earlier after rising 0.3 percent in January. It was the first negative inflation figure since September, when prices fell 0.1 percent. The drop was largely due to falling energy costs, which were 8 percent lower in the year to February. The weak data adds more pressure on the ECB to

ease monetary policy again at its March 10 meeting.

Manufacturing activity in the UK expanded at the slowest rate in nearly three years in February, as output growth eased sharply, industry data showed on Tuesday. In a report, Markit research group said that its UK manufacturing PMI fell to a seasonally adjusted 50.8 last month from a reading of 52.9 in January. Meanwhile, analysts had expected the index to inch down to 52.2 in February.

Similarly, the UK's construction sector activity expanded at the slowest pace in ten months in February, underlining concerns over the economy and dimming the case for higher interest rates. The country's construction purchasing managers' index fell to a seasonally adjusted 54.2 last month from a reading of 55.0 in January. Economists had expected the index to inch up to 55.5 in February.

Additionally, the Services Purchasing Managers Index declined to 52.7 last month from a reading of 55.6 in January that was its highest reading since last November. Analysts had expected the index to dip to only 55.1 in February its lowest level in nearly three years.

#### China's manufacturing PMI declines

China's factory gauge extended its stretch of deteriorating conditions to a record seven months while a measure of services fell to the weakest in seven years, underscoring the challenge for policy makers as they seek to cut overcapacity in manufacturing without derailing growth. The manufacturing purchasing manager's index dropped to 49 in February, missing estimates of 49.4. It hasn't been weaker since January 2009. Numbers below 50 indicate conditions worsened.

In a sign China's slowdown is spreading, the non-manufacturing PMI, which has been outperforming the factory measure, fell to the lowest level since December 2008. The Non-manufacturing PMI fell to 52.7 from 53.5.

#### Reserve Bank of Australia

The Reserve Bank of Australia kept its cash rate unchanged at 2 percent leaving interest rates at historically low levels. In his statement, RBA Governor Glenn Stevens said low interest rates were supporting demand, while tougher lending standards were helping to contain risks in the housing market. In terms of further easing, the RBA mentioned it is appropriate for monetary policy to be accommodative and continued low inflation would provide scope for easier policy, should that be appropriate to lend support to demand.

#### Australia GDP and trade balance

The Australian Bureau of Statistics released positive numbers that aided the AUD's climb against the dollar to 7 month highs. Australia's economic growth was higher than expected at 0.6 percent for the December quarter and 3 percent for the year. The two biggest contributors to growth for the quarter were consumer spending, which added 0.5 percentage points, and an increase in inventories, which added 0.2 percentage points. Australia's seasonally adjusted trade balance narrowed in January to -2.9B from an expected -3.2B with value of imports declining to 1.1 percent while exports rose 1.1 percent. AUD/USD jumped from 0.7172 to a high of 0.7430 after the numbers were released.

#### Kuwait

Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30045

The USDRWD opened at 0.30045 yesterday morning.

## BRITISH RETAILERS INVITE RIVAL BRANDS TO FILL THEIR EMPTY SPACES

**LONDON:** As online deliveries surge and shop sales fall, Britain's retailers are looking to refit their once bustling superstores with new attractions such as rivals' fashion brands to fill empty spaces and keep shoppers coming through the door. In a shift in strategy aimed at making the space profitable and avoiding store closures, retailers such as Tesco have also started experimenting with gyms and children's play areas to entertain customers.

"You've got more choice. It's a bit like a shopping mall where you can come and look at different things," said healthcare worker Margaret O'Regan, who was browsing clothes from the privately-held Dorothy Perkins, Burton and Evans brands in a huge Tesco store in Woolwich, south east London.

The brands have 20,000 square feet of the store's 120,000 sq ft, replacing space previously taken up by Tesco's toys, stationery and technology offer, some of which are now only available on its website.

In the four months since the brands went in, shopper numbers at the Woolwich store have risen.

A Tesco spokesman said the changes at Woolwich were illustrative of Tesco Chief Executive Dave Lewis' strategy to turn around the business, giving shoppers more choice so they start to see superstores as the most convenient way to shop again. "We are always looking at new ways our stores can meet the needs of local customers. We're pleased with the feedback from customers in Woolwich who tell us they like the store's convenient range of fashion options," he said.

Thousands of small shops have disappeared from British towns in recent years, unable to compete with the lower costs and prices of online outfits and bluechip retailers such as Tesco and Marks & Spencer could join the exodus. "The UK is very advanced in terms of online shopping," said Neil Saunders, managing director of retail research firm Conlumino. "As other regions catch-up with that they will experience similar problems and similar issues."

In the UK online sales as a percentage of total sales rose to 15.2 percent in 2015 from 13.5 percent in 2014, according to the Centre for Retail Research, compared with 11.6 percent in Germany, 8.0 percent in France and just 2.5 percent in Italy.

#### UNDER ONE ROOF

Britain's supermarket sector alone added around 35 million square feet between 2007 and 2014 even as online shopping rose and the digital shift looks unstoppable.

Sainsbury's, Britain's second biggest supermarket, has acknowledged that it now has around 6 percent excess space, or about 1.5 million sq ft.

A big part of the rationale for its 1.3 billion pounds proposed takeover of Argos-owner Home Retail is to bring Argos concessions into its stores to absorb this space.

"The coming together of the two organizations would allow us to optimize the space and optimize the space quickly," said Sainsbury's Chief Executive Mike Coupe. The Argos concessions will complement other moves by Sainsbury's to exploit under-utilised space through existing partnerships with Jessops, the photographic shop, and Timpons, the shoe repair and key cutting firm. Tesco has also struck deals for third party outlets with firms such as Sports Direct, Mothercare, Claire's Accessories and Sock Shop and is testing gyms and soft play areas in some stores. Similarly Wal-Mart's Asda recently agreed a deal to give space over to Decathlon, the sports equipment and sports-wear retailer.

Matthew Hopkinson director of retail property experts The Local Data Company expects a proliferation of retail tie-ups. He says store groups are asking themselves: "What are the other things that you can bring in under the roof that make customers feel happier and therefore spend more?"

#### CLOSURES

If retailers can't make stores profitable the alternative is closure. Tesco has closed 61 stores since Lewis became CEO in 2014, while Morrisons, Britain's No. 4 grocer, has closed 21 supermarkets and plans to close seven more, saying it can't see a way to make them profitable.

Analysts say Marks & Spencer, the country's biggest clothing retailer is ripe for a major store rationalization.

In its Christmas quarter M&S grew online sales by 21 percent and although it did not break out general merchandise sales for its stores only, analysts have estimated a year-on-year decline of over 8 percent.

The firm has been tinkering with its near 900 UK stores, dedicating a little more space to the faster growing food over clothes. There has been speculation that M&S, whose clothing offer is entirely own brand though it does sell some third-party food items, could bring in rival clothing brands. This has, however, been dismissed by CEO Marc Bolland, who will be replaced by Steve Rowe in April. A spokeswoman for M&S declined to comment. —Reuters



## PRODUCT OF THE YEAR GULF AWARDS REINFORCES FOCUS ON INNOVATION

### DOWNTREND FAILS TO DAMPEN BRANDS' QUEST AS AWARDS ATTRACT CONSISTENT ENTRIES

**KUWAIT:** The overall market sentiment may look a bit challenging across sectors, but one award has inspired companies to buck the trend, so to say. The 2016 Product of the Year Gulf Awards (POY), renowned worldwide for its recognition of innovation, has once again reaffirmed its popularity with more and more companies implementing innovative business models in order to win the coveted honor and maintain their sector leadership.

The 2016 edition of POY awards, was held on 24th of February at Waldorf Astoria Palm Jumeirah, Dubai, has maintained its credibility in the FMCG sector, with not only last year's participating companies signing up again but new ones joining the fray to reinforce their market innovation, pursuit of excellence and the prestigious industry recognition.

No wonder, the POY award is the first and only award to be voted solely by consumers, through an independent survey which truly represents the consumers' preferred choice. Hence, contrary to expectations amidst dwindling sales and market trends, the companies and consumers have once again reposed their trust in the POY concept.

How are the winners of POY chosen? The Product of the Year award involves a GCC and region-wide consumer survey involving face-to-face interviews with over 3,600 households on the perception of various new products that have been launched in the GCC market.

The consumer ultimately decides the winners of the awards, as they are the ones who use and truly understand the

products most. The consumers give detailed feedback on the products based on three measures - attractiveness, satisfaction and last but not the least innovation.

In other words, the POY title is considered a major achievement by the consumers and companies, and has proven to enhance the award winners' brand presence in the GCC and internationally.

Christian Le Bret, Founder of Product Of The Year, said, "Since its creation in Europe in 1987, over 10,000 products have been voted Product of The Year. The Product of the Year is now continuing its success story across 42 countries with new franchises in Chile, Russia, Malaysia and Tunisia with expansion plans in Egypt and Morocco."

The award has grown significantly each year, with the winners garnering the due credit and recognition for their achievements. Winning products have proven to register positive changes in consumer behaviour, and resulting in huge spurt in sales post-winning.

Dory Kfoury, CEO - Middle East and Africa of Product of the Year, said: "In spite of a challenging economic landscape, we are thrilled with response to POY this year, which reaffirms the importance of consumer needs and evaluation as also the companies' commitment to innovation and evolution to meet consumer needs. This is a very encouraging trend, which will redefine and boost competition across the entire market spectrum."

Dory Kfoury added: "It is a great honour to participate in the awards night, as



it offers a great platform to meet diverse and influential guests, to network and have a great time." The partners of this year's edition of POY include Into-All Marketing Solutions, Integral Shopper, Gulf Marketing Review, TNS, Traffik 360, Sayidaty Magazine

#### List of POY 2016's winners:

Nivea Men Sensitive Cool Range (Shaving preparations), Philips Airfryer XL (Airfryer), Similac 3 (Baby Nutrition), Sadia Tender Chicken Breast (Chicken), Similac 4 (Milk), OMO Detergents

(Laundry Detergent), Pediasure complete (Child Nutrition Supplement), Twix Top (Chocolate Snacks), Scholl Velvet Smooth electronic Foot File with Diamond Crystals (Footcare), Mazola Lite mayonnaise (Mayonnaise), Gandour Yamama (Cakes & Cup Cakes), Kleenex Viva Calorie Absorb (Kitchen Towels), Philips Electric Shaver S9511 (Male grooming), Huggies Little Babies (Baby Diapers), Afa Olive Oil (Olive Oil), Philips ClearTouch Essence Garment Steamer (Garment Steamers), Nivea Men Creme Range (Men's Skincare), Sanita Bambi

Pure & Sensitive Baby Wet Wipes (Baby Wet Wipes), Nivea Invisible for Black & White Fresh (Deodorants for women), Lifebuoy Clini Shield 10 (Skin Cleansing), Philips Pro Curler (Hairstylers), Pinar Labneh (Labneh), Sunbulah Chocolate Puff Pastry (Frozen Pastry), Labello Care & Color Lip Balms (Lip Care), Tabasco Brand Sauces (Sauces & Condiments Category), Kiri Taste of Labneh (Cheese), Signal Sensitive Expert (Toothpaste), Kotex Maxi NightTime (Feminine Care), SMAC Express Ultra Degreaser (Kitchen Cleaners).

## KFH NAMES 7 WINNERS OF 'BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN' IN 7TH DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named 7 winners of the seventh draw of the new banking cards promotional campaign themed "Shop and Win Back Up to KD 50,000 with KFH Cards" that had been launched in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will get a chance to enter a draw and win back up to KD 500 of their daily spends for 100 days ending April 19th 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.

The winners are: Abdulsalam Almutairi, Abdulrahman Alsaied, Mubarak Almutairi, Abdullah Alkhabaz, Rashed Sulaiman, Hamdan Alomairi and Zaid Alotaibi.

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.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.



## NISSAN STAFF HONORED FOR EXCELLENCE IN SKILLS CONTEST

**DUBAI:** As part of its ongoing strategy to offer the best customer care services, Nissan has awarded its top sales force and service technicians from across the region at its Regional Skills Contest event held at the Armani hotel in Dubai.

The Japanese automaker invests heavily in customer care and focuses on providing the highest standards of sales and after-sales service.

Speaking at the ceremony, Samir Cherfan reaffirmed Nissan's commitment to customer service: "At Nissan, we believe customer experience excellence is top priority. Globally, Nissan's objective in this area is to be the best and in this region we have also aligned ourselves with this goal. It is not simply about satisfying a customer with a particular service or purchase, it is about delivering an overall outstanding customer experience." The Nissan Regional Skills Contest, now in its 19th year, honors those members of staff that have shown exemplary performance over the course of the year.

The Regional Skills Contest comprises four competitions for Technicians, Service Advisors, Sales and Parts with the objective of realizing their capabilities and then advancing their skills.

The awards span every aspect of the business - from knowledge of Nissan genuine parts to service advice to sales acumen to technical expertise.

Samir Cherfan paid tribute to the winners: "We acknowledge each entrant's efforts in the skills contest and congratulate those who won in their respective categories. The contest is part of our major investment in customer care. By investing in our employees and the company, our customers are constantly rewarded by the consistent professionalism of our staff."

The oldest and most coveted category is Nissan Service Technical Excellence Competency Award (NISTEC), now in its 19th year. This year, the accolade was awarded to Uchita Bandara.

"I am so grateful to have received such a coveted award, especially when it's judged by my colleagues and peers within the company," says Uchita Bandara. At the end of the day, the best reward for me is doing my job to the best of my ability and to the satisfaction of the customer."

The first place under the Nissan Service Advisor Excellency Competency Award (NISAC) category was won by Sajeew Thomas and the winner of the Nissan Sales Executive Excellence Competency Award (NISEC) category went to Mohamed Dayane. In addition, Mohammed Ansari was presented with the first place for the Nissan Parts Executive Excellence Competency Award (NIPAC). The Best Performing NSC award was given to Arabian Automobiles Co.



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Use any of KFH credit, prepaid or debit cards and win back the value of your purchases up to KD 500 daily for 100 days for every KD 10 you spend.

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## AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD ISLAMIC SAVING PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on March 02, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first and only prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Sharia principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: Arif Ali Rajab.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Aeshah Abdullah Al-Kandari, Mohammad Jassim Al-Huraibi, Mohammad Ahmad Mohammad, Abdullaah Talq Al-Azemi, Maryam Abdulwahab Al-Moomen, Jasim Ibrahim Alkazimi, Saqer Ali Hassan, Sanad Rashed Al-Nafees, Layla Mrad Haji, Wadhha

Nohammad Al Sulaiman, Amthal Noorulden Al Refai, Balqees Ali Al Mesry, Nafea Houry Aldhafiri, Aesha Hasan Mohammad, Khalid Aqlah Al-Enezi, Estabraq Ahmad Mohammad, Kutubuddin Asgar Ali, Mahdi Abdulkareem Sayed, Shim Fahed Al Dabbous, Ali Ghareeb Muhasseb, Hamed Mahmood Hameed, Jawad Abdulla Ali, Mohammed Yousif Al Arabi, Isa Ahmed Ali, Ahmed Mustafa Abdali.

The Prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner. In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000/-. In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 73 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

For further information about "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch, or call: "Hayakom" service at Tel.: 181 2000.

## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Mohammad Abdullah Ali
2. Raja'a Yaqoub Essa Sadeq
3. Yaser Ayoub Fahmi Mena
4. Salem MUSAED Hamad Al Shammari
5. Abdulwahab Abdulsamad Taqi Al Saffar

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2

months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.



## US COMMERCE DEPT TO PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON CHINA'S ZTE

**LONDON:** The US Commerce Department is set to place export restrictions on Chinese telecoms equipment maker ZTE Corp for allegedly violating U.S. export controls on Iran, according to documents seen by Reuters.

The restrictions will make it difficult for the company to acquire U.S. products by requiring ZTE's suppliers to apply for an export licence before shipping any American-made equipment or parts to ZTE. According to a Commerce Department notice that will be published next week in the U.S. Federal Register, the licence applications generally will be denied. The restrictions will take effect Tuesday, Reuters has learned, and apply to any company worldwide that wants to ship U.S.-made products to ZTE Corp in China. Those companies are not the target of the export curbs on ZTE.

"This is a significant new burden on trade with ZTE," a senior official at the Commerce Department told Reuters. The official declined to comment on whether the U.S. government might take further action against ZTE.

A spokesman for ZTE, based in Shenzhen, China, could not be reached for immediate

comment. The company can appeal the action.

The Commerce Department investigated ZTE for alleged export-control violations following reports by Reuters in 2012 that the company had signed contracts to ship millions of dollars worth of hardware and software from some of America's best-known tech firms to Iran's largest telecom carrier, Telecommunication Co of Iran (TCI), and a unit of the consortium that controls it.

The US product makers - which included Microsoft Corp, IBM, Oracle Corp and Dell Inc have all said they were not aware of the Iranian contracts. It is not clear if any of these companies still do business with ZTE.

Washington has long banned the sale of US-made tech products to Iran. The Commerce Department's investigation focused on whether ZTE had acquired American products through front companies and then shipped them to Iran, a violation of US sanctions.

Commerce Department investigators obtained internal ZTE documents - some marked by the company "Top Secret" - outlining an alleged sanctions-busting scheme. Reuters reviewed some of the documents.

### SCHEME

The senior Commerce Department official declined to comment on whether ZTE had carried through with the alleged scheme. The day after the first Reuters article was published in March 2012, a ZTE spokesman said the company would "curtail" its business in Iran. The company later issued a statement saying:

"ZTE no longer seeks new customers in Iran and limits business activities with existing customers" (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-telecoms-idUSBRE82L0B820120322>) (<http://www.reuters.com/article/zte-iran-ary-acell-idUSL3E8FA4MS20120410>)

What effect the new export restrictions will have on ZTE's current global business is not clear. One undated internal ZTE document obtained by Commerce Department investigators and reviewed by Reuters states: "Our company has many technologies and components that came from suppliers in the US" It also states: "Lots of chips or software used in the products of our company is from US suppliers."

One of ZTE's websites also states that several major US tech companies, including Microsoft, Intel Corp, IBM and Honeywell

International Inc, are "key strategic partners of ZTE." The terms of the partnerships are not described.

A spokeswoman for Microsoft said the company had a licensing agreement with ZTE but could not confirm if the Chinese company purchases other products, such as software. The other US companies did not respond to requests for immediate comment.

The undated internal ZTE document also describes a proposal overseen by the company's legal department that describes ways to export American products subject to U.S. sanctions by using shell companies to avoid getting caught. "The biggest advantage" of one method is that it will make it "harder for the US government to trace it or investigate the real flow of the controlled commodities," the document states.

In its planned action against ZTE, the Commerce Department cites the proposal, stating that the company "planned and organized a scheme to establish, control, and use a series of 'detached' companies to illicitly re-export controlled items to Iran in violation of US export control laws." It is not clear if the alleged scheme was carried through.

### EXPORT CONTROL RISKS

Another internal ZTE document from August 2011 that discusses "US export control risks" facing the company allegedly was signed by several top ZTE officials, including Shi Lirong, its president.

The document, marked by the company "Top Secret" and "No spreading abroad without permission of ZTE," begins "Dear company leaders". It states that ZTE "has on-going projects in all five major embargoed countries - Iran, Sudan, North Korea, Syria, and Cuba. All of these projects depend on US-procured items to some extent, so export control obstacles have arisen."

The document goes on to cite "other risks" to ZTE, including its operations in the United States. "R&D employees at the US Research Centers often travel between China and the US, carrying R&D data," it states, in an apparent reference to research and development. "This already severely violates the law." The document does not specify what law may have been violated. The company "needs to take preventative measures immediately, otherwise will face the risk of being investigated anytime," the document states. — Reuters



**BOSTON:** In this Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016, file photo, protesters carry placards outside an Apple store in Boston. Tech companies, security experts and civil liberties groups are filing court briefs supporting Apple in its battle with the FBI. The groups oppose a judge's order that would require Apple to help federal agents hack an encrypted iPhone used by a San Bernardino mass shooter. — AP

## IN APPLE'S BATTLE WITH FBI, COMPROMISE APPEARS ELUSIVE

**WASHINGTON:** As Apple's legal battle with the FBI over encryption heads toward a showdown, there appears little hope for a compromise that would placate both sides and avert a divisive court decision. The FBI is pressing Apple to develop a system that would allow the law enforcement agency to break into a locked iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino attackers, a demand the tech company claims would make all its devices vulnerable.

In an effort to break the deadlock, some US lawmakers are pushing for a panel of experts to study the issue of access to encrypted devices for law enforcement in order to find common ground.

Senator Mark Warner and Representative Mike McCaul on Monday proposed the creation of a 16-member "National Commission on Security and Technology Challenges."

But digital rights activists warn that the issue provides little middle ground that once law enforcement gains a "back door," there would be no way to close it.

"We are concerned that the commission may focus on short-sighted solutions involving mandated or compelled back doors," said Joseph Hall, chief technologist at the Center for Democracy & Technology. "Make no mistake, there can be no compromise on back doors. Strong encryption makes anyone who has a cell phone or who uses the Internet far more secure."

Kevin Bankston of the New America Foundation's Open Technology Institute expressed similar concerns. "We've already had a wide range of blue ribbon expert panels consider the issue," he said.

"And all have concluded either that surveillance

back doors are a dangerously bad idea, that law enforcement's concerns about 'going dark' are overblown, or both."

The debate had been simmering for years before the Apple-FBI row. Last year, a panel led by Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists warned against "special access" for law enforcement, saying they pose "grave security risks" and "imperil innovation."

### OPENING UP ALL DATA

"I'm not sure there is much room for compromise from a technical perspective," said Stephen Wicker, a Cornell University professor of computer engineering who specializes in mobile computing security. Opening the door to the FBI effectively makes any data on any mobile device available to the government, he said. "This is data that was not available anywhere 10 years ago, it's a function of the smartphone," Wicker said.

"We as a country have to ask if we want to say that anything outside our personal human memory should be available to the federal government." Apple has indicated it is ready for a "conversation" with law enforcement on the matter. But FBI Director James Comey told a congressional panel that some answers are needed because "there are times when law enforcement saves our lives, rescues our children."

Asked about the rights envisioned by the framers of the US constitution, he said, "I also doubt that they imagined there would be any place in American life where law enforcement, with lawful authority, could

not go." A brief filed on behalf of law enforcement associations argued that because of Apple's new encryption, criminals "have now switched to the new iPhones as the device of choice for their criminal wrongdoing." Ed Black, president of the Computer & Communications Industry Association, which includes major technology firms but not Apple, said that although tech firms and law enforcement have had many battles, "there are many areas where we cooperate and where we find middle ground."

But Black said the tech sector is largely united in this case because the FBI wants Apple to create weaker software or introduce "malware" to be able to crack the locked iPhone.

"On this narrow specific issue of 'can companies be compelled to create malware,' I think there may not be an answer," he said.

### 'GOING DARK' FEARS

Law enforcement fears about "going dark" in the face of new technology have been largely exaggerated, Black said. While access to encrypted apps and smartphones is difficult and traditional wiretaps don't work on new technology, "there are a lot of other tools for law enforcement," he said.

"There is more information available in 2016 than in any year since the founding of the country."

Although law enforcement has growing expectations about using technology to thwart criminals, that type of power is too broad, Black added. "If they are seeking a level of total surveillance capability, I don't see a compromise available," he said. — AFP



This promotional image from the PS4's unveiling is now woefully out of date.

## STREAM PS4 GAMES TO YOUR PC OR MAC WITH NEXT SYSTEM UPDATE

**NEW YORK:** One of the PS4's most useful features-in-home remote streaming over a high-speed router-will finally be widely available without the need for proprietary Sony hardware soon. Sony announced on Tuesday that PS4 System Update version 3.5 will bring Remote Play to Windows and Macintosh computers. While the system update will launch in beta tomorrow, the streaming feature won't be available until a full release expected later in the month.

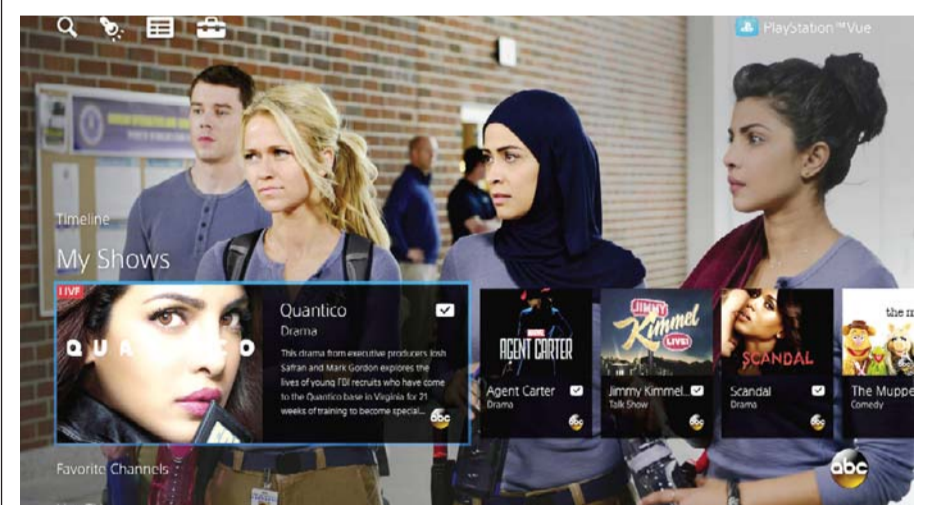
Until now, Remote Play has only been available on Sony's own PlayStation Vita and PlayStation TV hardware, as well as certain Sony Xperia phones (Update: we forgot about the phones when this was originally posted. Ars regrets the error). With the portable Vita all but dead in a tough mobile marketplace and the PlayStation TV in the process of being discontinued, Sony now seems willing to expand this

useful feature to a much wider set of general computing devices.

Meanwhile, last year, Microsoft introduced the ability to stream Xbox One games from an in-home network to any Windows 10 computer, a feature that we found surprisingly robust in tests. Sony's new Remote Play expansion goes a bit further than Microsoft's in also allowing Mac owners to get in on the streaming.

Steam has allowed users to stream gameplay to and from any computer on the same in-home network since early 2014. Last year, Valve released the \$50, streaming-focused Steam Link to help PC players stream games to the living room TV; we found that hardware a bit wanting in the quality department.

PS4 system update version 3.5 also lets users go "incognito" to appear offline when they are playing and adds social features making it easier to gather friends together in an online party.

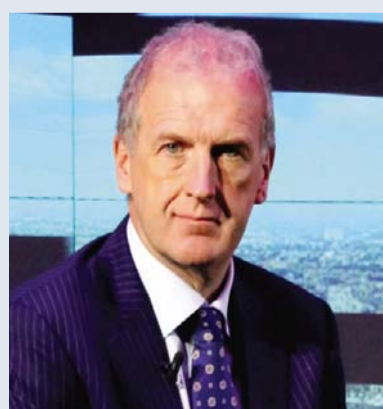


**NEW YORK:** This image provided by Sony shows a frame grab demonstrating Sony's PlayStation Vue streaming-television service. Sony announced that PlayStation Vue is getting a \$10-a-month price cut and adding Disney-owned channels such as ABC and ESPN. — AP

## TENTH ANNUAL CISCO VNI FORECASTS 15-FOLD RISE IN MOBILE DATA TRAFFIC

**KUWAIT:** Since 2000, when the first camera phone was introduced, the number of mobile users has quintupled. By 2020, there will be 5.5 billion mobile users, representing 70 percent of the global population, according to the Cisco Visual Networking Index (VNI) Global Mobile Data Traffic Forecast (2015 to 2020). The adoption of mobile devices, increased mobile coverage, and demand for mobile content are driving user growth two times faster than the global population over the next five years. This surge of mobile users, smart devices, mobile video and 4G networks will increase mobile data traffic eight-fold over the next five years.

Smart mobile devices and connections2 are projected to represent 72 percent of total mobile devices and connections by 2020-up from 36 percent in 2015. Smart devices are forecasted to generate 98 percent of mobile data traffic by 2020. From an individual device perspective, smartphones are dominating mobile traffic. They will account for 81 percent of total mobile traffic by 2020-up from 76 percent in 2015. The proliferation of mobile phones, including "phablets" (a hybrid blend of smartphone and tablet features), is increasing so rapidly that more people will have mobile phones (5.4 billion) than electricity (5.3 billion),



**Andy MacDonald, Vice President, Global Service Provider, Middle East, Africa & Russia, Cisco.**

running water (3.5 billion) and cars (2.8 billion) by 2020.

Mobile video will have the highest growth rate of any mobile application. Consumer and business users' demand for higher video resolution, more bandwidth, and processing speed will increase the use of 4G connected devices. 4G connectivity share is projected to surpass 2G by 2018 and 3G by 2020. 4G will represent more than 70 percent of all mobile traffic, and 4G connections will generate nearly six times more traffic per month than non-4G connections by 2020.

"According to the 10th annual Cisco

VNI report, the Middle East and Africa will see a growth rate of 71% in mobile data traffic in the next five years. The number of mobile users will grow from 709 million in 2015 to 879 million in 2020 in the MEA region. With the ever-increasing millions of people and things that are being connected in the region, mobility is the predominant medium that's enabling today's digitization transformation. Future mobile innovations in cellular, such as 5G, and Wi-Fi solutions will be needed to further address new scale requirements, security concerns, and user demands. IoT advancements will continue to fuel tangible benefits for people, businesses, and societies," says Andy MacDonald, Vice President, Global Service Provider, Middle East, Africa & Russia, Cisco.

### MOBILE DATA TRAFFIC PROJECTIONS, TRENDS

Global Mobile Data Traffic Shows No Signs of Slowing Down

• By 2020:  
• Global mobile data traffic will reach 30.6 exabytes per month-up from 3.7 exabytes in 2015.

• Annual global mobile data traffic will reach 366.8 exabytes-up from 44.2 exabytes in 2015.

• The forecast annual run rate of 366.8 exabytes of mobile data traffic for

2020 is equivalent to:

• 120X more than all global mobile traffic generated just 10 years ago in 2010.

• 81 trillion images (e.g., MMS or Instagram)-28 daily images per person on earth for a year.

• 7 trillion video clips (e.g., YouTube)-more than 2.5 daily video clips per person on earth for a year.

• From 2015 to 2020, global mobile data traffic will grow two times faster than global fixed IP traffic.

• In 2015, 51 percent of total mobile data traffic was offloaded; by 2020, 55 percent of total mobile data traffic will be offloaded.

• By 2020, over 75 percent of the world's mobile data traffic will be video.

### MOBILE DEVICES, CONNECTIONS ARE GETTING SMARTER

• There will be 11.6 billion mobile-ready devices/connections-including 8.5 billion personal mobile devices and 3.1 billion M2M connections-up from 7.9 billion total mobile-ready devices and M2M connections in 2015.

• Globally, 67 percent of mobile devices/connections will be 'smart' by 2020-up from 36 percent in 2015.

• Globally, 98 percent of mobile data traffic will come from 'smart' devices/connections by 2020-up from 89 percent in 2015.

• Smartphones, laptops, and tablets will drive about 92 percent of global mobile data traffic by 2020-down from 94 percent in 2015. M2M traffic will represent 7 percent of global mobile data traffic by 2020-up from 3 percent in 2015; while basic handsets will account for 1 percent of global mobile data traffic by 2020-down from 3 percent in 2015.

• By 2020:  
• 66 percent of mobile devices/connections will be IPv6-capable-up from 36 percent in 2015.

• IPv6 traffic will be 54 percent of total mobile data traffic-up from 13 percent in 2015.

### MACHINE-TO-MACHINE CONNECTIONS RISE

Machine-to-Machine (M2M) refers to applications that enable wireless and wired systems to communicate with other devices of the same ability (e.g., GPS/navigation, asset tracking, utility meters, security/surveillance video, healthcare monitoring, et al.). Wearable devices can be worn (e.g., smart watches and health monitors) and communicate to the network either directly via embedded cellular connectivity or through another device (primarily a smartphone) via Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, etc. Wearable devices are a subset of the M2M category in the forecast.

• By 2020, M2M connections will represent 26.4 percent of mobile-connected devices-up from 7.7 percent in 2015.

• By 2020, M2M connections will generate 6.7 percent of total mobile traffic-up from 2.7 percent in 2015.

• Global wearables will grow six-fold from 2015 to 2020.

• By 2020, there will be more than 600 million wearable devices in use, up from nearly 97 million in 2015.

### MOBILE NETWORK SPEEDS AND 4G CONNECTION GROWTH

• Average global mobile network speeds will increase 3.2 fold from 2015 (2.0 Mbps) to 2020 (6.5 Mbps). Global 4G adoption is the primary catalyst for mobile speed improvements.

• By 2020:  
• 4G connections will account for 40.5 percent of all mobile connections-up from 13.7 percent in 2015.

• 3G connections will account for 38.7 percent of all mobile connections-up from 33.7 percent in 2015.

• 2G connections will account for 13.5 percent all mobile connections-down from 52.3 percent in 2015.

• 4G traffic will grow 13-fold from 2015 to 2020.

• By 2020, 4G connections will account for 72 percent of total mobile data traffic-up from 47 percent of total mobile data traffic in 2015.



## MODEL AIMS TO TELL RESEARCHERS HOW INFECTION PASSES PLACENTA

**WASHINGTON:** Researchers have created a cellular model of the human placenta to help uncover how infections, from toxoplasmosis to the Zika virus, may pass from a mother to her unborn child. The placenta nourishes a growing fetus, among other critical roles, and yet it's one of the body's least understood organs. One of its jobs is to act as a protective barrier, but sometimes pathogens sneak past. Infections such as rubella, toxoplasmosis, syphilis and HIV are well known for harming fetuses; now the Zika virus rapidly spreading through Latin America is a strong suspect, too.

But "we still don't understand how any of those pathogens actually reach the fetus," or why that happens in one pregnancy but not another, said University of Pittsburgh virologist senior researcher Dr Carolyn Coyne, a virologist at the University of Pittsburgh. Now Coyne's team has developed a way

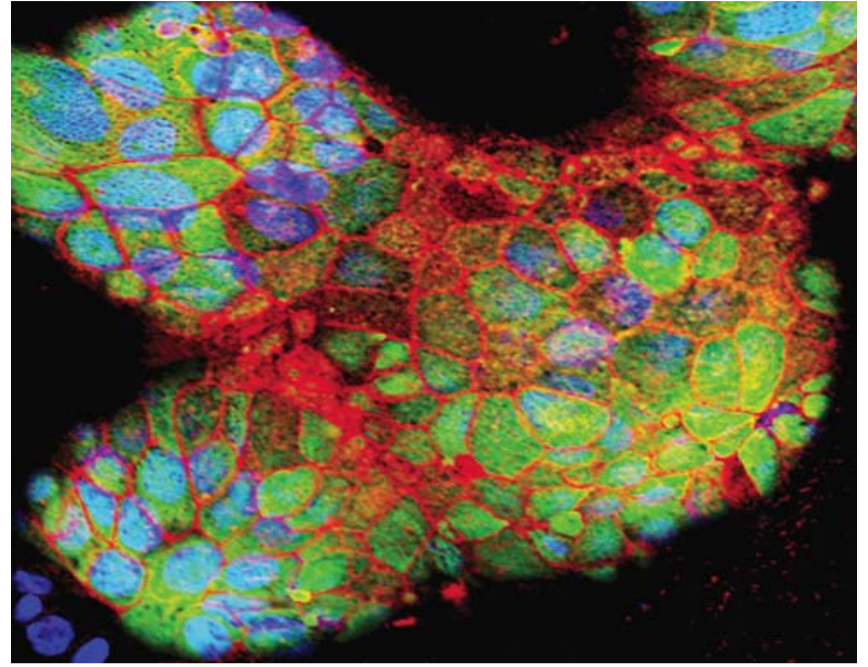
to test that question - growing a 3-D model of the placenta's outer boundary, the barrier that forms in very early pregnancy.

Earlier attempts testing placental cells in lab dishes haven't mimicked that boundary well enough to be of much use, Coyne explained. Her team succeeded in growing the cells into a 3-D structure that's more like the real thing, the researchers reported Friday in the journal *Science Advances*. The trick was to grow them in a microgravity bioreactor developed by NASA, spinning the cells to mimic the forces of blood flow they'd normally experience in a mother's body, Coyne explained.

Why not just test placentas that are expelled after childbirth? The placenta is quite different in the early weeks of pregnancy - when risks to just-forming fetal organs are thought to be especially high - than months later, said Dr

Catherine Spong of the National Institutes of Health, which helped fund the work. "What you can learn from a placenta at the end of pregnancy may not tell you what is happening at the beginning of pregnancy," said Spong, of NIH's National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The new research "has developed a neat model system to help us better understand how the placenta develops and how it might react" to a range of harmful substances.

In the first tests, the model resisted infection by a test virus and by three different strains of a parasite that causes toxoplasmosis, an infection that can trigger miscarriage or birth defects. Next up is testing how it reacts to the Zika virus. The idea: If the model appears to protect like a healthy placenta, then researchers could manipulate it to see what it takes for various pathogens to break through. — AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this microscope image provided by the University of Pittsburgh, cells form a 3-D model of the placenta, developed by scientists at the University of Pittsburgh to learn more about how infections sometimes pass from a mother to her unborn child. — AP



**DONGLIU, China:** This picture shows workers on a pollution mask assembly line at the ASL Masks factory. —AFP photos

## CHINESE SMOG HAS SILVER LINING FOR MASK MAKERS

'PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF POLLUTION PROTECTION IS INCREASING'

**DONGLIU, China:** The steel plants and cement factories scattered across China's Shandong province have made it one of the most contaminated areas of the world's biggest polluter. But for one company, that just makes the business climate better. ASL Masks says it turned out more than 100,000 face coverings last year and aims to more than double that in 2016 as China struggles to shake off the toxic smog produced by its heavy industries. At ASL's Dongliu facility, shabby buildings bearing faded signs from the 1980s exhorting "scientific innovation" are just visible through the haze-pollution levels were six times international standards when AFP visited.

Dozens of middle-aged women wearing bright blue hats and aprons worked in near silence, sliding air filters into holes in the plastic products before threading on straps and yellow buckles. "Smog is bad for the lungs. We all wear masks around here," said packager Chen Aimei. China is the world's top greenhouse gas emitter and last year air quality in some 300 haze-hit Chinese cities failed to meet national standards. Levels of PM2.5, tiny particles which can embed deep within the lungs, are usually above the World Health Organization's recommended maximum of 25 parts per million. In the northeastern city of Shenyang they reached more than 1,400 in November.

The pollution-mostly generated by burning coal to power industry and heat homes, along with road traffic-is responsible for hundreds of thousands of premature deaths in China each year, experts say. Public anger is mounting over the



**DONGLIU, China:** A worker checking a pollution mask.

issue, but a wave of firms see silver linings to the smog, including air purifier and pollution monitor manufacturers, as well as mask makers.

### Animal manure

Even when many Chinese factory workers had downed tools for the Lunar New Year holiday in February, CEO Zhang Wenchao kept his staff on until the last possible moment. "December to April is our busiest period... because it's the peak for pollution," he said. ASL started making industrial masks in the 1980s, but has since turned to the more lucrative anti-pollution equipment market. Demand has grown as authorities have started releasing more data on the problem, and state media estimate the Chinese pollution mask market was worth nearly 4 billion yuan (\$600 million) in 2015.

ASL has designed a product specially adapted for youngsters by

measuring the faces of 100 children. "People's awareness of pollution protection is increasing all the time. People know that PM 2.5 is bad for them," Zhang said. Shandong, in eastern China, is the center of the industry, with another production hub, Dadian, dubbed the "mask village" for producing the cheapest specimens. It can be a murky business. Dadian was hit by scandal last year when local media reported second-hand fabric used to make the masks was piled up beside fresh manure, and slept in by stray dogs. Customs officers in China's commercial capital Shanghai said in December they had seized 120,000 fake respiratory masks, labelled as being made by US manufacturer 3M Co. In other cases, hospital masks have been washed and resold as new, reports said.

### 'Like doctors'

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang

declared a "war on pollution" at the Communist-controlled National People's Congress (NPC) parliament two years ago. But although average particulate levels in Chinese cities fell 10.3 percent in 2015, according to official figures collated by Greenpeace, none met the WHO's standards. On Friday, a day before Li opened this year's NPC session, PM2.5 counts were well over 300 in the capital.

Beijing and other cities in China issued their first ever "red alerts" for pollution this winter, banning half of all private cars from roads and advising some schools to close. The alerts struck fear into millions-and were a boon to companies selling protection from the smog. "In the red alert, suddenly all these people who never cared were like: 'Oh my God!'" said Liam Bates, the founder of a company producing handheld pollution monitors, mainly for the Chinese market.

"In 24 hours we sold pretty much what we sold the entire month before," he added. Zhang, 29, whose father bought ASL when it was an unprofitable state-owned enterprise in the 1990s, said he had amassed considerable wealth, but declined to go into detail. Behind a large mahogany desk, he branched his latest invention-an air filter which covers only the nose-and insisted he hoped efforts to reduce pollution would be effective, even at the expense of sales. "We are like doctors looking at patients," he said. "No doctor wants his patient to be sick." Still, Zhang does not expect demand to die. "Over the next decade, there will be efforts to improve the air quality," he said. "But it won't be completely improved." — AFP



**DONGLIU, China:** Workers checking a pollution masks.



**DONGLIU, China:** A worker checking the valve on a pollution mask.

## NEW PIONEERING TREATMENT FOR NASAL ALLERGIES

**LONDON:** Nasal allergy is one of the most common conditions affecting millions worldwide. It is one of the medical conditions which have so far has no cure. All of the current treatments are symptomatic treatments and for short periods of time, not mentioning the countless side effects from misuse or long use of the medication in a form of tablets, nasal spray, or various injections. Regarding surgery, this is also a temporary solution as far as nasal allergy is concern, however most nasal surgeries do improve nasal breathing.

I have pioneered an effective treatment for nasal allergy with a success rate of around 90% in the reduction of the nasal allergy after 1-2 weeks following the procedure. The procedure is non-invasive with no incision, no wounds with long term effect. The procedure is done in ten minutes, under local anesthesia in a clinic setting with no admission to the hospital, with no nasal packing or dressing and the patient can go back to his office or home following the procedure.

Most of the nasal allergy (allergic rhinitis) symptoms are an immune triggered inflammation of nasal tissues and mucosal linings of the nose and para-nasal sinuses, the nasal allergy process which occurred as a result of an inhaled, administrated or ingested materials or allergens. The most common and famous allergens are pollens, dust and house dust mite (a microscopic parasite usually on the lining of bed or pillow cases) or certain ingested food. Allergic Rhinitis is one of the most common untreatable medical conditions since it was recognized as a medical condition with worldwide distribution. It can also cause many symptoms of suffering to the patients with various degrees of long or short term complications i.e. sinusitis, polyposis, loss sense of smell, excessive watery, mucous or even mucopurulent secretions, unpleasant smell in the nose or mouth, mucous, loss sense of taste, headaches, migraine, snoring, blocked ears, reduced hearing, triggering imbalance and light headed attacks when affecting the ears, disturb breathing at night and other complications and most importantly it does affect the quality and enjoyment of life and can also cause social embarrassment.

### Symptoms of nasal allergy

Most of the symptoms and signs are mainly affecting the inside of the nose and nasal breathing, but it can also affect the face eyes and throat. It can also cause general malaise, fatigue, stress and affecting the quality of life. The main symptoms are nasal blockage, rhinorrhea(nasal secretions), itching, sneezing, watery post nasal dripping, facial pain, headaches, dizziness, facial congestion, partial anosmia(loss sense of smell) or rarely total anosmia, dark shadow or rings below and around the eyes, occasional swelling of the nose, sometimes around the eyes, watering or thick nasal mucopurulent secretion, loss a reduced sense of smell, blocked ears (due to the blockage of Eustachian tube openings) which can cause reduced hearing and other symptoms that may exacerbate or trigger the attacks of migraine, tension headache, asthma, recurrent chest infection etc.

The irritating itching does not only involve the nose or para-nasal sinuses but it can also involve the mouth, pharynx, face, eyes and the throat. Most patients suffer a combination of these symptoms and signs, but in some patients, may only have one or two symptoms of nasal allergy.

### Types of nasal allergy

Allergic Rhinitis could be seasonal, perennial (all year round), an instant allergy from certain materials, or senile allergies. Allergy of the Nose and para-nasal sinuses becomes one of the most common medical conditions especially in modern history. The condition is wide spread all over the world and it affects all ages. The condition became worse with the advancement of civilization and pollutions. Nasal allergy even becomes reluctant to the effect of symptomatic treatment of the medication and ends with a poor response to medications such as nasal spray, anti-allergy tablets or injections. It has created a situation when poor responses to the current treatment has led to more misuses of medication when frequent, higher doses and multiple medications are administered to the nose which puts the patient in a vicious circle that includes negative counter effects to the nose and general health.

The rebound phenomenon start affecting nasal tissues and the mucosa or linings of nasal and par nasal sinuses which start a defense mechanism; that being a poor response to medication, hypertrophied or



**LONDON:** Dr Mohammed Faig Abad Al-Razak.

thickening of the mucosa and the normal structures in the nose in order to avoid the direct and chemical effect of nasal sprays and other locally applied medications to the nose.

### Complications of nasal allergy:

Nasal allergy usually cause intermittent nasal blockage and in severe and untreated or complicated cases can cause a constant nasal blockage. Nasal allergy can cause a loss of sense of smell, nasal polyps, enlarged or hypertrophy of nasal turbinates (long structures inside the nose), blocked lacrimal duct, acute or chronic purulent rhinitis and sinusitis, blocked ears, recurrent secretory or purulent otitis media, hearing loss imbalance and even vertigo. Triggering or worsening the attacks of asthma, migraine, recurrent headaches, sinusitis and others medical conditions.

### Diagnosis of nasal allergy

The full medical history of the condition with signs and symptoms of nasal allergy are the major factors to reach for a diagnosis. ENT Examination of the nose, mouth, pharynx, ears and neck. The special coloration of the nasal mucosal linings and the type of nasal secretions is highly indicative of nasal allergy. Other signs, like hypertrophied or enlarged inferior or middle turbinate with excessive watery secretions, mucous or even mucopurulent secretions( especially in children). Detailed examination by flexible or rigid fiberoptic nasoendoscopy which allows for full assessment of the nasal cavities, signs of complications, examining the middle meatal area where the ostiums(openings) of some sinuses can be seen and to make sure there is no infection or polyps or mass or foreign body are inside the nose of sinuses.

### Investigations for nasal allergy

The investigation for nasal allergy like radiological test to exclude or confirm any complication inside the nose or para-nasal sinuses, an allergy test in order to discover the allergen which triggers the nasal allergy which in most of the times accompanies with allergy of the mouth, pharynx, ears, lungs, eyes and sometimes the skin. The cause for allergic rhinitis is a single allergen or allergens, and can be either inhaled through the nose or mouth, or ingested, or might has been in contact with mucosa of the nose(medicine or any other materials). It is not possible to do the test for all or every allergen, the test are not 100% confirmatory and may provide a false positive results. The allergy tests are not requested in every case, but it needs to be done in severe, reluctant, resistant cases, when there is no repose to medication and when the potential allergen is affecting general health.

In the modern world cost effectiveness is an issue to many hospitals or medical centers and practically speaking it is not possible to test every one with nasal allergy, not mentioning the huge financial burden arising from the cost, personnel involved and the time required for conduction of the test.

The test done to find out the cause for allergy is usually performed to search for the suspected allergen causing the nasal allergy. Once the allergen is found, the first treatment is avoidance of the substance or substances (in practice is usually very difficult for inhaled allergens). By complete avoidance of the allergen (which is almost impossible) the allergy symptoms will be dramatically reduced but rarely will it completely stop the allergy.

X-ray of the nose and sinuses. This type of investigation is much less informative than the CT scan, x-ray is usually requested for children with nasal allergy or as a survey test for the presence of any complications, sinusitis or adenoid hypertrophy.



# ELECTRIC SUPERCAR WINS YOUNG CROATIAN GLOBAL FAME

**SVETA NEDELJA, Croatia:** He's the name behind the world's first electric supercar, winning international plaudits for his ingenuity. But for Croatia's 28-year-old Mate Rimac, it all started as a hobby in his garage. A keen techie since high school, Rimac was racing an old BMW when he blew the engine and decided to turn the car into an electric one starting with pieces he bought on the Internet. A decade later, his firm Rimac Automobili is becoming a global leader in electric vehicle technology, selling Concept One supercars for 850,000 euros (\$923,000) each and giving a much-needed boost to Croatia's start-up scene.

"We want to be the best in the world in what we do and we are changing the world," Rimac told AFP in his factory showroom in the small town of Sveta Nedelja, near the Croatian capital. The confident but modest entrepreneur was named by Politico Europe in December as one of 28 people across the continent who are "shaping, shaking and stirring Europe". But mastering the complex technology of electric sports cars and winning financing was no easy task—especially in a small country of 4.3 million people with no automotive industry.

Rimac formed the company in 2009 when he realized there was not much left of the original vehicle he had transformed in his garage, and the aim was to build an electric supercar from scratch. "First we had to create a team, then the know-how by trial-and-error method to eventually become a company that could make a product," he said.



**SVETA NEDELJA, Croatia:** Croatian inventor of the world's first electric supercar Mate Rimac (left), 28, talks to employees at his factory.

### Motor show success

The company unveiled the Concept One at the 2011 Frankfurt Motor Show, where nobody expected a small Croatian firm to showcase an electric car that could reach 100 kilometers (62 miles) per hour in a staggering 2.8 seconds. Last week at the Geneva International Motor Show, Rimac introduced the production version of the car along with a prototype of its "evil twin", the even more powerful

### Concept S.

"We can't really decide which Rimac creation we'd rather have, so we're off to get lottery tickets with hopes of buying both," said a review on motor news site Autoblog. Many expected Rimac's success would lead him to move somewhere else, such as Silicon Valley, Germany or Italy. But instead he has kept the business in Croatia, a country slowly emerging from six years of recession. "I want to do it here... I'm stubborn," he said. "I think it is possible, I mean we are doing very well!"

He plans to build another factory in Sveta Nedelja, while his employee numbers are set to double this year to 300. Their average age is 30, and many are young engineers straight out of university. They build most of the supercar parts from scratch on-site—from the body and chassis to the power distribution unit and batteries—sticking to Rimac's philosophy of creating know-how and jobs instead of outsourcing. "That's why we are growing so quickly and becoming experts in different fields," said Rimac, who won financing from three international investors in 2014 and is now in a second round of fundraising.

Two Concept One prototypes, including the red vehicle unveiled in Frankfurt, were on display behind Rimac as he spoke to AFP, while nearby engineers worked on three cars to be delivered to the United States, Germany and Italy within a month. The firm is producing a limited quantity of



**SVETA NEDELJA, Croatia:** Engineers work on sophisticated car parts at Mate Rimac's factory. — AFP photos

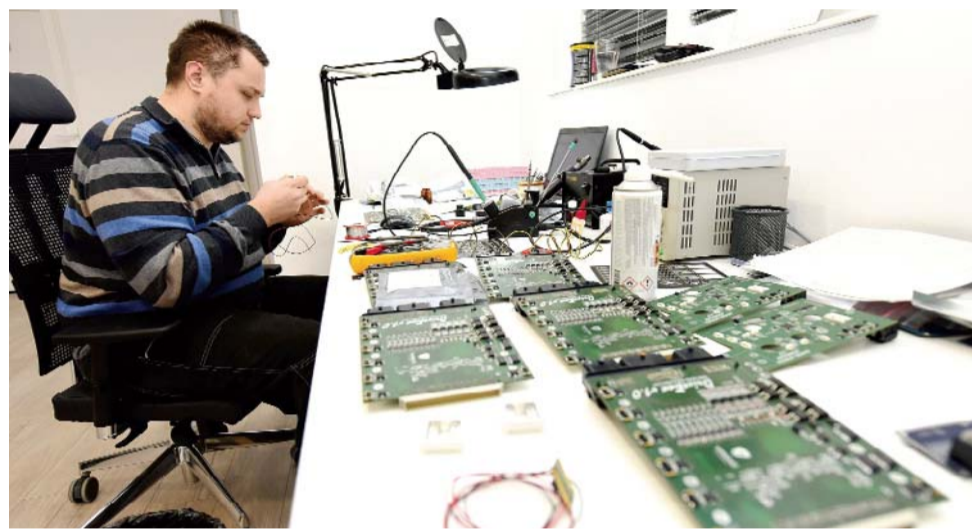
just eight Concept One vehicles for clients who are both motor fanatics and technology aficionados—and can afford the hefty price tag.

### 'World going electric'

The supercar may be Rimac's headline product, but he says it is only a showcase for the company's technology, from infotainment systems to battery packs, which aim to reach a far wider audience in ordinary cars, planes, ships, bicycles and wheelchairs. "We are helping the world to go electric. Our business is to implement these technologies and help other industries to go electric," he said. Spin-off firm Greyp Bikes, set up in 2013, produces high-per-

formance electric bicycles that can reach up to 70 kilometres per hour. So far around 80 have been sold around the world for 8,500 euros each.

Rimac said the company was not directly affected by Croatia's problematic business environment, which sees companies burdened by excessive red tape and changeable fiscal rules. But he stressed that a better framework was needed to help the country's young entrepreneurs, who only succeeded "either by themselves or despite everything". "We are creating our own little island here with positive young people... We are trying to be one of the sparks in Croatia that will trigger the change that is necessary," he said. — AFP



**SVETA NEDELJA, Croatia:** An engineer checks electronic parts.



**SVETA NEDELJA, Croatia:** "Concept One" car model, the world's first electric supercar, is displayed at Mate Rimac's factory and showroom.

## EXPERTS OFFER ABDULLAH AL-SHUKRY A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

**LONDON:** For Abdullaziz Al-Shukry, Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) is more than a hospital. It is the place that offered his son, Abdullah, a second chance at life. "There are no words to explain how I feel and how much I appreciate everything. This is my hospital, I feel at home here. I love this hospital!" Abdullah says in fond memory of GOSH. For Abdullaziz and his wife who now care for Abdullah full-time, GOSH offered them an answer to what was wrong with their son, something that had escaped doctors back in Kuwait, and the chance for them to care and support him. "Until I came to Great Ormond Street Hospital, I was so worried. We didn't know what was wrong with Abdullah," Abdullaziz explains. "Now finally, finally after everything he's been through, he's smiling, he's happy."

The mystery began when Abdullah was born. He began vomiting and would not breast feed and was transferred almost immediately to an ICU in Kuwait and stayed there for four months before being moved to GOSH. "They could not tell us what was wrong in Kuwait and we were so worried - we wanted to make sure our son had the best treatment," Abdullaziz states. "One of the doc-

tors said that it was due to a lack of oxygen. Another said it was liquids on the brain and he would get better while one doctor said he would not live another 6 months." Once at GOSH Abdullah was seen by Dr Sophia Varadkar, an expert neurologist, who diagnosed Abdullah with a rare condition known as molybdenum cofactor deficiency. The condition is caused by the absence of molybdenum cofactor which leads to an accumulation of toxic levels of sulphite and neurological damage. Abdullaziz remarks how grateful the family was to know what was wrong so that they could begin to care for him properly: "Previously I was worried about him, now we know what is wrong, I am happier. We were lucky to have amazing doctors treating our son. They treated him like their own child - they took amazing care of him."

### Chest pain

Abdullah also presented with a series of complications including a hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which is a condition where the heart muscle overgrows and causes problems in the outflow of blood from the left sided pumping chamber. Abdullah was referred to the expert care of Dr Alessandro

Giardini, a paediatric cardiologist at GOSH specialising in the care of children with congenital heart disease and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. "Abdullah had hypertrophic cardiomyopathy which was causing his heart muscle to bulge, causing a narrowing on the way out of the left side of the heart. The condition meant he was very vulnerable to even small infections. If he had caught an infection it would have put his heart under a great strain that could have potentially caused him to suddenly die," Dr Giardini explains. "This condition is very common in adults and although rarer in children it is not unheard of. We need to raise the awareness of this condition for the public, as it can result in sudden death. It causes chest pain, shortness of breath, palpitations and sometimes sudden death, but it can be treated and managed."

"I had been managing Abdullah's hypertrophic cardiomyopathy with medications for a number of years," Dr Giardini explains, "Unfortunately, the situation evolved to the point where the medications were not sufficient anymore." Dr Giardini was able to offer Abdullah an operation called a myectomy whereby some of the excess muscle of the heart is carved out and removed to allow



space for the blood to come out of the left side of the heart. "As expected," Dr Giardini says, "Abdullah's recovery was long, but he has made very good progress and is much better than before the operation."

Abdullaziz explains his gratitude for the care his son received from Dr Giardini, "without him I wouldn't be happy, and my son wouldn't be alive. He did everything possible to help my son and without him, my son

wouldn't be smiling today." Whilst Abdullah will still have complications associated with molybdenum cofactor deficiency, he has recovered well from the operation. "He is still in the ICU but we are solving the problems now," Abdullaziz says. The future for Abdullah looks positive, with a loving family dedicated to providing full-time care for him, he is achieving things that his family weren't sure were possible when he was first diagnosed.

# CLINIC PAGE



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## KFMB NAMED FINALIST OF BEST FOOD COMPANIES AT GULFOOD

**K**uwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Company (KFMB) participated in the 'Gulfood 2016' exhibition - the 21st edition of the world's largest annual food and hospitality exhibition - at Dubai World Trade Centre last February 2016.

KFMB team had succeeded in promoting the company's various products and that

includes the Arabic and European bread, the flour, the macaroni, the vegetable oil, the biscuits and the Gluten Free products.

In this regards, Mutlaq Yousuf Al-Zayed, CEO of KFMB said: "Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Co. is considered as one of the leaders in the Food Industry in the Middle East, and its participation in the (Gulfood 2016)

exhibition aims to expose the name of the company besides its role in achieving the food security in the State of Kuwait in parallel with the continuous growth of the food industry

Zayed concluded that the (Gulfood 2016) exhibition is an ideal platform to launch KFMB's latest products such as the new pack of Flour in 10 kg, Gluten Free Products (Rolls,

Toast, Hamburger buns and Cupcakes) and the new (Biscotti) pistachio biscuit which was produced upon the demand of the local and GCC market. On the other hand, KFMB has also highlighted its ability to provide wide range of high quality products. Within the company's strategic framework to reinforce its position in the Food industry regionally and internation-

ally by participating in the major food events and initiatives.

Worth mentioning, Kuwait Flour Mills and Bakeries Co. has reached the 'Gulfood Awards' finalists and been awarded a 'Finalist Best Food Company' certificate for its excellence and innovation across its category in the Middle East.

## RUSHDI ASHKAR APPOINTED GENERAL MANAGER OF MOVENPICK HOTEL KUWAIT

**M**ovenpick Hotel Kuwait announces the appointment of its new general manager, Rushdi Ashkar, a Jordanian national with over 25 years of international experience in the hospitality industry. Before accepting this new position, Ashkar had held several key positions in different hotels Chains around the GCC. He has a long history serving as general manager for Movenpick Madinah and Coral Hotel Dhahran's pre-opening team.

Ashkar has worked for international hotel chains, such as Marriott, Starwood, InterContinental and finally Movenpick. His career has included key leadership roles in prestigious hotels throughout the GCC and the Middle East. Furthermore, his training experience stands him in good stead for his role, as he provides executive leadership and accountability in planning and management. Commenting on his appointment,



Ashkar said, "I am thrilled to be in Kuwait with Movenpick Hotel Kuwait, which has an incredible reputation for achieving high levels of guest satisfaction. I'm looking forward to continuing its evolution and success."



## HUGE PARTICIPATION IN KDNA MALABAR MAHOLSAVAM COMPETITIONS

**S**everal ladies and children participated in various competitions held on 26th February 2016 at Indian Central School, Abbasiya during the Malabar Maholsavam 2016 in conjunction with Kuwait National and Liberation Day celebration.

Prizes were distributed to the winners during the event, as follows:

**Cookery competition in Biryani Category** - sponsored by Lulu Hypermarket and the winners are:  
1st Prize: Shamna Hidas  
2nd Prize: Shifana Noufal  
3rd Prize: Soujath.

**Henna Designing competition** - sponsored by Malabar Gold & Diamonds and the winners are:  
1st Prize: Boushira  
2nd Prize: Fawmi Noufal  
3rd Prize: Manuja Madhu.

**Face Painting Competition** - sponsored by I Black Electronics and the winners are:  
1st Prize: Alina Rose  
2nd Prize: Brinda Krishnan  
3rd Prize: Devna Shabi.

**Fancy Dress Competition (Category A)** - sponsored by I Black Electronics and the winners are:  
1st Prize: Sandra Bijoy  
2nd Prize: Sanya Mohammed  
3rd Prize: Kaashvi Subin.

**Fancy Dress Competition (Category B)** - also sponsored by I Black Electronics and the winners are:  
1st Prize: Meenakshi Sunil Kumar  
2nd Prize: Govind Girish  
3rd Prize: Khadeeja Riya



## AL-MUNAYES TEA BAG RELAUNCHES WITH NEW LOOK

**A**l-Munayes General Trading Est has relaunched its Tea Bag product in the Kuwait market, sporting an all-new look and enhanced quality. The new modern design places the Al-Munayes logo in the center of focus and conveys a clear visual message about the quality of the packaging through smart use of white space. Now in distribution, the all-new Al-Munayes Tea Bags will gradually become available in all points of sale throughout the country.

The new Al-Munayes Tea Bags come in two variants: 25 bags and 100 bags, and feature a freshness-preserving metallic foil wrapping to ensure the highest levels of quality and taste.

"Our improvements are not limited to the visual presentation of the Al-Munayes Tea Bags, rather our vision goes much further than that. We ensure a 100 percent all natural product to deliver a rich and refreshing taste," explained Salah Al-Munayes, Deputy General Manager of Al-Munayes General Trading Est.

He added: "Drinking tea is an essential

habit for most people. We take this fact very seriously and never compromise on quality because we believe that customers deserve to always receive the best."

Al-Munayes Tea has a distinguished heritage that stretches back to 1954. Its tea is 100 percent pure original Ceylon, and packaged in Sri Lanka. The product enjoys widespread popularity thanks to its comprehensive formula that blends together rich refreshing taste, pristine color and beautiful aroma. Moreover, Al-Munayes Tea is a purely "Natural" product without any additives or preservatives making it a healthy choice for consumers of all ages.

All Al-Munayes Tea packages display the "Original Ceylon Tea" seal of quality which can be done only with the permission of The Ceylon Tea Counsel in Sri Lanka. Moreover, Al-Munayes Est ships utilizes a highly efficient delivery and distribution system which ensures that the tea reaches the market quickly, thereby preserving quality and freshness.

## MMF KUWAIT ELECTS NEW OFFICE-BEARERS

**M**alayali Media Forum, (MMF) Kuwait, the common platform of the Malayali media persons working in Kuwait, elected its new office-bearers for the year 2016-17 at a general body meeting in Abbasiya. The meeting elected Sam Painummodu (Deshabhimani) as its new General Convenor and Ismayeel Payyoli (Reporter TV) and Salim Kottayil (Deepika) as convenors. Sathar Kunnil has been elected as the internal auditor.

The meeting also elected Reji Bhaskar, Sajeev K Peter, Anil P Alex, Abdulfattah Thayyil, Azeez Thikkodi, Naufal Moodadi, Nixon George, Anil K Nambiar, Muhammad Riyaz, P P Junoob, Sunoj Nambiar, Gafoor

Moodadi, Muneer Ahmad, Hamsa Payyannoor and Girish Ottapalam as its executive committee members. M M Hassan, Siddique Valiyakath, Thomas Mathew Kadavil, Hikmath, Anwar Sadath Thalassery, Jalin Triprayar and Dijesh Kannur will be the permanent invitees to the forum for 2016-17. Thomas Mathew Kadavil presided over the election.

The meeting approved the financial report and the activities report for the year 2015-16 after detailed discussions on them. The meeting was presided over by outgoing general convenor Abdulfattah Thayyil while, convenor Muneer Ahmad welcomed the members.







# SHAMSHUN PULLS VEHICLES IN SHOW OF STRENGTH

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti trainer and javelin thrower Fahd Sayid Mohammed, also known as Shamshun (Samson), yesterday pulled vehicles with his teeth in Hawally. Shamshun pulled various vehicles including pickups and trucks. He pulled a small pickup weighing 1,800 kg, a bigger pickup weighing 2,700 kg and a truck weighing 5,000 kg. He topped this by a record pull of two vehicles

weighing 9,000 kg.

This was the second such event held by Shamshun. "I was inspired to go for this challenge by the videos that are spreading on the YouTube by people claiming they are Shamshuns. This title should only be given to those who are champions of all activities including eating glass, embers and other superhuman activities. So I held this event to show people that I am the real Shamshun of Kuwait and the Arab world," he told

Kuwait Times. According to him, his feat of pulling 9,000 kg breaks the record in this activity registered by the Guinness World Records. "Today I pulled all the vehicles by my teeth and the engine was off, which makes the vehicle heavier, while I have seen others pulling them with the engine running. I also can eat 5-cm thick glass and swallow embers. I also can bend metal with my neck and do many other superhuman activities, but I am a very peaceful person,"

Shamshun pointed out.

He will hold more events in the future. "I held this activity to commemorate late Sheikh Ali Sabah Al-Salem. Through these events I aim to honor important Kuwaiti personalities who have passed away as an appreciation for their achievements. Soon, I will hold other events to commemorate another personality. I didn't train for this event, as I just go for the challenge," he concluded.



## UNLOCK BOB'S TREASURE CHEST AT BEC

**B**ahrain Exchange Company (BEC), specialists in worldwide money transfers and foreign exchange, have announced yesterday the start of its all new 'Bob's Treasure Chest' campaign fronted by its new BEC brand ambassador Bob, the BEC Buddy.

Running from the 21st February to 30th April 2016, customers who make a money transfer or currency exchange transaction during the campaign period will have a chance to win some of Bob's treasure in the form of great cash prizes. Bob will give away 10 prizes each week to 10 lucky winners including 1st prize of \$2,000 to one winner and 2nd prize of \$250 to nine winners.

Bob's Treasure Chest is BEC's first campaign since it appointed Bob as its brand ambassador to provide customers with his guarantee they will receive great rates and customer service with every transaction. The campaign will be available at all of its 40+ branches across Kuwait as well as to customers transacting through its online money transfer service BEC Online.

Commenting on the campaign, Mathews Varghese, BEC General Manager said, "The response to Bob has been extremely positive from our customers so far and we are optimistic that Bob's Treasure Chest will help to strengthen his role as their trusted BEC Buddy by rewarding 100 loyal customers with great cash prizes. With many competitors in our market we recognize and appreciate the patronage our customers show to BEC and will continue to reward their loyalty with exciting promotions and chances to win fantastic prizes."

BEC currently has over 40 branches across Kuwait and specializes in sending money around the globe safely and quickly to over 54,000 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.

## THE SULTAN CENTER NOW AN ILM-APPROVED CENTER

FOUR RETAIL CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS LAUNCHED

**T**he Sultan Center (TSC) announces that it is now an approved center with the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM), a UK-based organization that helps companies raise the professional standards of their managers through learning and development programs based on unique business requirements. They are the European market leader and the UK's largest awarding body for leadership and management qualifications. Through a quality-assured network of over 2,500 approved learning providers throughout the world, they help over 90,000 individuals each year.

As an ILM-accredited center, TSC can deliver popular leadership and management qualifications that can be specifically adapted to the company's needs, thus providing its employees with internationally-recognized learning and development programs, all backed by ILM-branded certificates. All course content, delivery methods and trainers are approved by ILM to ensure a high quality learning experience. Learners will also have access to an extensive online database of ILM materials.

Hani Ismael, Human Resource Director for TSC stated that: "We are committed to promoting future leaders from within our existing stores by recognizing individuals for their performance and managing their talents to retain knowledge and experience within the company. We believe in our employees and want to give them opportunities to flourish professionally. Through investing in top-notch personal development programs, not only will they benefit but so will the company as a whole."

### Programs

As an Approved Centre, TSC can deliver the following recognized programs:

- Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management
- Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management
- Level 3 Diploma in Leadership and Management

TSC will be offering four ILM recognized in-house retail career development training courses which will provide employees with essential technical and behavioral skills that can be transferred directly into their work environment. These include Becoming a Supervisor (BAS), Becoming a Manager (BAM), Becoming a Customer Service Manager (BACSM), and Becoming a Duty Manager (BADM) - each program is designed to develop specific skill levels depending on job responsibilities within TSC.

Not only will attendees benefit from the knowledge of leadership and management experts, they will also emerge with industry-wide recognition of their achievements. Upon completion of these pro-



grams, participants will receive ILM certificates demonstrating their accomplishments.

TSC always endeavors to play an important role in the community in which it operates and believe

that a good place to start is from within the company itself.

## FUNDRAISER FOR PAWS

**C**ome enjoy a short presentation from Claudia about PAWS, vintage and hand made goods, animal crafts and animal face painting, raffle for designer jewelry, cakes to taste and buy, animals to pet and adopt, play area for kids, and a bouncy castle. The event takes place Saturday, March 19 at 4-8pm, Villa No 67, Street 413, Block 4, Shuhada Area, Kuwait. Phone: +(965) 25231015. Email: info@tiescenter.net.



**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

- 00:50 Gator Boys
- 01:45 Gator Boys
- 02:40 Wild Capture School
- 03:10 Wild Capture School
- 03:35 Wildest Latin America
- 04:25 Bahama Blue
- 05:15 Wildest Middle East
- 06:02 Wildest Islands
- 06:49 Biggest And Baddest
- 07:36 Monkey Life
- 08:00 Monkey Life
- 08:25 Bad Dog
- 09:15 Big Fish Man
- 10:10 Treehouse Masters
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Bad Dog
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Big Fish Man
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Treehouse Masters
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 18:00 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 18:25 River Monsters
- 19:20 Treepot Cat Rescue
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 21:40 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli
- 22:05 Treehouse Masters
- 23:00 Treepot Cat Rescue
- 23:30 Treepot Cat Rescue
- 23:55 Gator Boys

**Discovery CHANNEL HD**

- 00:20 Fast N' Loud
- 01:10 Racing Extinction
- 02:50 Saving Africa's Giants With Yao Ming
- 03:40 What's In The Barn?
- 04:05 The Liquidator
- 04:30 Garage Gold
- 05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 05:30 How Do They Do It?
- 06:00 Flying Wild Alaska
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 What's In The Barn?
- 08:55 The Liquidator
- 09:20 Garage Gold
- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Fast N' Loud
- 11:25 Street Outlaws
- 12:15 Extreme Car Hoarders
- 13:05 What's In The Barn?
- 13:30 The Liquidator
- 13:55 Garage Gold
- 14:20 Flying Wild Alaska
- 15:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 Chasing Classic Cars
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Gold Rush
- 18:30 Diamond River Hunters
- 19:20 Dynamo: Magician Impossible
- 20:10 The Liquidator
- 20:35 Garage Gold
- 21:00 Gold Rush
- 21:50 Diamond River Hunters
- 22:40 Pacific Warriors
- 23:30 Wheeler Dealers

**Discovery Science**

- 00:35 Sci-Fi Saved My Life
- 02:08 Invent It Rich
- 02:55 Unchained Reaction
- 04:29 Mighty Ships
- 05:16 Mega Builders
- 06:03 Food Factory
- 07:37 How Do They Do It?
- 08:23 Weird Or What?
- 09:08 Science Of The Movies
- 09:53 Mighty Ships
- 10:38 How It's Made
- 11:00 How It's Made
- 11:23 Alien Mysteries
- 12:08 How The Universe Works
- 12:53 Mighty Ships
- 13:38 Weird Or What?
- 14:23 How It's Made
- 14:46 How It's Made
- 15:10 Science Of The Movies
- 15:57 Alien Mysteries
- 16:44 How The Universe Works
- 17:31 Mighty Ships
- 18:18 Science Of The Movies
- 19:05 Race To Escape
- 19:50 You Have Been Warned
- 20:40 How The Universe Works
- 21:25 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 22:15 Science Of The Movies
- 23:00 You Have Been Warned
- 23:45 How The Universe Works

**ID**

- 00:40 Deadly Affairs
- 01:30 Deadly Devotion
- 02:20 Serial Killers
- 03:10 House Of Horrors: Kidnapped
- 04:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
- 04:45 Deadly Affairs
- 05:30 Deadly Devotion
- 06:20 The Will
- 07:10 The Will
- 08:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 08:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 09:40 Fatal Encounters
- 10:30 Murder Shift
- 11:20 Deadly Affairs
- 12:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 13:00 The Will
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 California Investigator
- 15:05 Dr G: Medical Examiner
- 15:55 Fatal Encounters
- 16:45 On The Case With Paula Zahn
- 17:35 Murder Shift
- 18:25 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:15 The Will
- 20:05 Deadly Affairs
- 20:55 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 21:45 California Investigator
- 22:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 22:35 Who On Earth Did I Marry?
- 23:00 Swamp Murders
- 23:50 True Nightmares

**Discovery Channel**

- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta
- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Loloock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Gravity Falls
- 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 07:40 Jessie
- 08:05 Shake It Up
- 08:55 That's So Raven
- 09:45 Austin & Ally
- 10:10 Austin & Ally
- 10:35 A.N.T. Farm
- 11:25 Jessie
- 12:15 Cars Toons
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 12:45 Fish Hooks
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 14:30 Liv And Maddie
- 14:55 Dog With A Blog
- 15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 16:10 Violetta
- 17:00 The Next Step
- 17:25 Austin & Ally
- 17:50 Dog With A Blog
- 18:15 Mako Mermaids
- 18:40 Gravity Falls
- 19:05 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir
- 19:30 Violetta
- 20:20 The Next Step
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 H2O
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost

**EHD**

- 00:00 The Grace Helbig Show
- 00:30 WAGs
- 01:25 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 02:20 E! News
- 03:15 Stewarts And Hamiltons
- 04:10 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
- 05:05 Beyond Candid With Giuliana
- 07:50 Style Star
- 08:20 E! News
- 09:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 10:15 Giuliana & Bill
- 11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 12:05 E! News
- 13:05 Dash Dolls
- 14:05 Hollywood Cycle
- 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons
- 18:00 E! News
- 19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 20:00 Bolched
- 21:00 Christina Milian Turned Up
- 22:00 WAGs
- 23:00 Sex With Brody
- 23:30 Fashion Bloggers

**food network**

- 00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 01:00 Tia Mowry At Home
- 02:00 All Star Academy
- 03:00 Follow Donal... To Europe
- 03:30 Follow Donal... To Europe
- 04:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 07:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:30 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 09:30 Barefoot Contessa
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 15:30 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Iron Chef America
- 21:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 22:00 Mystery Diners
- 22:30 Mystery Diners
- 23:00 Save My Bakery

**itv CHOICE**

- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:05 Emmerdale
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Big Star's Little Star
- 03:25 Seven Days With A.I.
- 04:20 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 05:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:00 More Tales From Northumberland...
- 07:30 Grantchester
- 08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show
- 09:20 Big Star's Little Star
- 10:15 The Chase
- 11:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Eggheads
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Big Star's Little Star
- 15:35 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 16:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 17:00 Raised By Wolves
- 17:25 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Coach Trip
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 20:30 Tracey Ullman's Show

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD**

- 00:10 Big Fish, Texas
- 01:00 Drain The Bermuda Triangle
- 02:00 Megastructures
- 02:55 Lawless Island
- 03:50 Big Fish, Texas
- 04:45 World's Toughest Fixes
- 05:40 Yukon Gold
- 06:35 Challenger Disaster: Lost Tapes
- 07:30 How To Win At Everything
- 08:25 80s: The Decade That Made Us
- 09:20 World's Toughest Fixes
- 10:15 Lawless Island
- 11:10 Primal Survivor
- 12:05 Evacuate Earth
- 13:00 Beyond Magic With DMC
- 14:00 Dog Whisperer
- 15:00 China From Above
- 16:00 Lawless Island
- 17:00 Primal Survivor
- 18:00 Drain The Bermuda Triangle
- 19:00 China From Above
- 20:00 Lawless Island
- 20:50 Primal Survivor
- 21:40 Drain The Bermuda Triangle

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 00:00 Community
- 00:30 Suburgatory
- 01:00 The Nighty Show With Larry Wilmore
- 01:30 Family Guy
- 02:00 South Park
- 02:30 The League
- 03:00 Your Family Or Mine
- 03:30 The Goldbergs
- 04:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Modern Family
- 06:00 Mad Love
- 06:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
- 08:30 Breaking In
- 09:00 Your Family Or Mine
- 09:30 Grandfathered
- 10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 Mad Love

**OSN FIRST HD**

- 00:00 Chicago Fire
- 01:00 Scandal
- 02:00 How To Get Away With Murder
- 03:00 The Last Kingdom
- 04:00 Bones
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Suits
- 07:00 White Collar
- 08:00 Blood & Oil
- 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 10:00 Bones
- 11:00 White Collar
- 12:00 Coronation Street
- 12:30 Coronation Street
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Suits
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Blood & Oil
- 19:00 Scandal
- 20:00 How To Get Away With

**OSN MOVIES ACTION**

- 00:00 300: Rise Of An Empire
- 02:00 Beneath
- 04:00 Forget And Forgive
- 06:00 Stranded
- 08:00 Need For Speed
- 10:15 Jaws III
- 12:00 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
- 14:15 Justice League vs. Bizarro League
- 15:30 Need For Speed
- 18:00 The Outsider
- 19:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past
- 22:00 Automata

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 00:00 Child's Play 2
- 02:00 The Assault
- 04:00 Jaws III
- 06:00 Android Cop
- 08:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target
- 10:00 Jaws: The Revenge
- 12:00 Last Passenger
- 14:00 Turbulence
- 16:00 Android Cop
- 18:00 The X Files
- 20:00 The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen
- 22:00 Savages

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 00:15 Deliver Us From Eva
- 02:15 The Love Punch
- 04:00 Planet 51
- 06:00 Orange County
- 08:00 Cas & Dylan
- 10:00 Planet 51
- 12:00 The Love Punch
- 14:00 Rush Hour
- 16:00 Cas & Dylan
- 17:45 Mystery Men
- 20:00 Date Night
- 22:00 Role Models

**OSN MOVIES DRAMA**

- 01:00 10 Years
- 03:00 Foreverland
- 05:00 Stone Markers
- 06:30 For Greater Glory
- 09:00 Grand Central
- 11:00 Stone Markers
- 13:00 Foreverland
- 15:00 A Valentine's Date
- 17:00 Grand Central
- 19:00 Blood Ties
- 21:15 71
- 23:00 Enemy

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

- 01:45 Beyond The Edge
- 03:15 Rent
- 05:30 The Fold
- 07:00 The Citizen
- 09:00 Great Expectations
- 11:15 The Fold
- 13:00 Memories
- 14:45 To Write Love On Her Arms
- 16:30 Great Expectations
- 19:00 Calvary
- 21:00 Young Ones
- 23:00 Bessie

**OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**

- 00:00 Son Of A Gun
- 02:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
- 04:00 The Song
- 06:00 4 Minute Mile
- 08:00 So Undercover
- 10:00 A Madea Christmas
- 12:00 The Song
- 14:00 The Package
- 16:00 So Undercover
- 18:00 Kristy
- 20:00 Life After Beth
- 22:00 The Canal

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

- 01:00 Blue Elephant 2
- 02:45 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 04:30 Blackie And Kanuto
- 06:00 Worms
- 08:00 Hatching
- 10:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 11:30 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 13:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 14:30 Minuscula: Valley Of The



THE MARINE 4: THE MOVING TARGET ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- Lost Ants
- 16:00 Saving Santa
- 18:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 20:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 22:00 Minuscula: Valley Of The Lost Ants
- 23:45 Saving Santa

**OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**

- 00:00 Son Of A Gun
- 02:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
- 04:00 The Song
- 06:00 4 Minute Mile
- 08:00 So Undercover
- 10:00 A Madea Christmas
- 12:00 The Song
- 14:00 The Package
- 16:00 So Undercover
- 18:00 Kristy
- 20:00 Life After Beth
- 22:00 The Canal

**TLC HD**

- 00:45 The Day I Almost Died
- 01:35 Long Island Medium
- 02:00 90 Days To Wed
- 02:50 My Five Wives
- 03:40 Secret Eaters
- 04:30 Jon & Kate Plus 8
- 05:00 Little People, Big World
- 05:30 Cake Boss
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:25 Catwalk 30+
- 07:15 Hoarding: Buried Alive
- 08:05 Belief
- 08:55 Oprah's Lifeclass

**amc**

- 00:35 The Joshua Tree
- 02:15 Untamed Heart
- 03:55 Annie Hall
- 05:30 Eight Men Out
- 07:30 Guns Of The Magnificent Seven
- 09:15 Big Screen
- 09:30 George Washington
- 11:00 Natural Causes
- 12:30 Puckoon
- 13:55 Big Screen
- 14:10 Sharks' Treasure
- 15:45 The Magnificent Seven
- 17:50 One More Kiss

**ci**

- 00:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 01:00 The Haunting Of...
- 02:00 The Haunting Of...
- 03:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 04:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos
- 05:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 06:00 The Haunting Of...
- 07:00 The FBI Files
- 08:00 The FBI Files
- 09:00 Homicide Hunter
- 10:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 11:00 Deadly Wives
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 13:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 14:00 The First 48
- 15:00 Homicide Hunter
- 16:00 Martina Cole's Lady Killers
- 17:00 The FBI Files
- 18:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
- 19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
- 20:00 The First 48
- 21:00 Homicide Hunter
- 22:00 Deadly Wives
- 23:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos

**Disney Junior**

- 00:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 00:20 Calimero
- 00:35 Zou
- 01:05 Loopedido
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 02:20 Zou
- 02:45 Loopedido
- 03:20 Art Attack

- 02:55 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:05 Calimero
- 03:20 Zou
- 03:30 Loopedido
- 03:45 Art Attack
- 04:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:20 Calimero
- 04:35 Zou
- 04:45 Loopedido
- 05:00 Art Attack
- 05:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:35 Calimero
- 05:50 Zou
- 06:15 Art Attack
- 06:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 06:50 Calimero
- 07:00 Zou
- 07:20 Loopedido
- 07:35 Art Attack
- 08:00 Calimero
- 08:10 Zou
- 08:25 Loopedido
- 08:40 Miles From Tomorrow
- 09:05 Sofia The First
- 09:30 Goldie & Bear
- 09:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 10:10 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 10:35 Doc McStuffins
- 11:00 Sofia The First
- 11:30 Goldie & Bear
- 12:00 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:25 Special AgentOSO
- 12:40 The Hive
- 12:50 Handy Manny
- 13:15 Jungle Junction
- 13:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 14:00 Sofia The First
- 14:25 Goldie & Bear
- 14:50 Doc McStuffins
- 15:15 Zou
- 15:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:55 Loopedido
- 16:10 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 17:00 Sofia The First
- 17:25 Jungle Cubs
- 17:50 Aladdin
- 18:15 Gummi Bears
- 18:40 Goldie & Bear
- 19:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:30 Sofia The First
- 19:55 Doc McStuffins
- 20:20 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 20:35 Miles From Tomorrow
- 21:00 Goldie & Bear
- 21:30 Sofia The First
- 22:00 Jungle Cubs
- 22:25 Aladdin
- 22:50 Gummi Bears
- 23:20 Lilo And Stitch
- 23:50 Zou

**Disney XD**

- 00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am KSA
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K. C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Annedroids
- 08:40 Lab Rats
- 09:10 Kirby Buckets
- 09:35 Wander Over Yonder
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Boyster
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats
- 13:00 Lab Rats
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Wander Over Yonder
- 16:05 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 16:30 Kirby Buckets
- 16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 17:25 K. C. Undercover
- 17:50 Supa Strikas
- 18:15 Lab Rats



UNTIL SHE CAME ALONG ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (03/03/2016 TO 09/03/2016)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
12:45 PM	SHARQIA-1 ZOOTOPIA	2:15 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:15 AM	CONTAINMENT
3:00 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	4:15 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:30 PM	AVENUES-2 THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET
5:15 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	6:15 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:30 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET
7:15 PM	ZOOTOPIA	8:15 PM	BACKTRACK	3:45 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER
9:30 PM	RACE	10:15 PM	BACKTRACK	5:45 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER
12:15 AM	RACE	12:15 AM	BACKTRACK	7:45 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET
				9:45 PM	THE HOUSE ON PINE STREET
				12:15 AM	
12:00 PM	SHARQIA-2 LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:30 PM	FANAR-3 JAI GANGAAJAL - Hindi	11:45 AM	AVENUES-3 ZOOTOPIA -3D
2:00 PM	ZOOTOPIA	1:30 PM	KHALTET OMRY	2:00 PM	ZOOTOPIA
4:15 PM	ZOOTOPIA	3:30 PM	JAI GANGAAJAL - Hindi	4:15 PM	ZOOTOPIA -3D
6:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:30 PM	JAI GANGAAJAL - Hindi	6:45 PM	ZOOTOPIA -3D
8:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	9:30 PM	KHALTET OMRY	9:15 PM	ZOOTOPIA
10:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	11:30 PM	KHALTET OMRY	11:45 PM	ZOOTOPIA
12:30 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN				
11:30 AM	SHARQIA-3 RACE	1:00 PM	FANAR-4 LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:30 AM	AVENUES-4 LONDON HAS FALLEN
2:15 PM	RACE	2:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
5:00 PM	JAI GANGAAJAL - Hindi	4:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	3:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
8:00 PM	KHALTET OMRY	6:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
10:00 PM	KHALTET OMRY	8:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	6:00 PM	Special Show "LONDON HAS FALLEN"
12:05 AM	KHALTET OMRY	10:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:15 PM	Special Show "THE REVENANT"
		12:45 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	11:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
11:30 AM	MUHALAB-1 RACE	1:00 PM	FANAR-5 EL AMERICANO: THE MOVIE	1:15 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
2:15 PM	ZOOTOPIA	3:00 PM	EL AMERICANO: THE MOVIE	3:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
4:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA	5:00 PM	EL AMERICANO: THE MOVIE	5:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
6:45 PM	ZOOTOPIA	7:00 PM	RACE	7:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
9:00 PM	RACE	9:45 PM	RACE	9:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
11:45 PM	RACE	12:30 AM	RACE	11:15 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
12:45 PM	MUHALAB-2 JAI GANGAAJAL - Hindi	1:00 PM	MARINA-1 HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	1:15 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
1:30 PM	CONTAINMENT	2:30 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	3:15 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
3:45 PM	CONTAINMENT	4:45 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	5:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
5:45 PM	JAI GANGAAJAL - Hindi	7:00 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	7:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
5:45 PM	NO FRI	9:15 PM	RACE	10:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
5:45 PM	KALYANA VAIBHOGAME-Telugu	12:05 AM	RACE	12:30 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
8:45 PM	CONTAINMENT	11:30 AM	MARINA-2 LONDON HAS FALLEN		
10:30 PM	BACKTRACK	1:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN		
12:30 AM	BACKTRACK	3:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN		
		5:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN		
12:00 PM	MUHALAB-3 LONDON HAS FALLEN	7:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:15 PM	BACKTRACK
2:00 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	9:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	3:15 PM	BACKTRACK
4:00 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER	11:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	5:15 PM	BACKTRACK
6:00 PM	HELP I SHRUNK MY TEACHER			7:15 PM	BACKTRACK
8:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN			9:15 PM	BACKTRACK
10:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN			11:15 PM	BACKTRACK
12:05 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN			1:15 AM	BACKTRACK
12:15 PM	FANAR-1 ZOOTOPIA	11:30 AM	MARINA-3 BACKTRACK	1:30 AM	BACKTRACK
2:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA	1:30 PM	ZOOTOPIA -3D	3:45 PM	BACKTRACK
4:45 PM	ZOOTOPIA	3:45 PM	ZOOTOPIA -3D	6:00 PM	BACKTRACK
7:00 PM	ZOOTOPIA	6:00 PM	ZOOTOPIA	8:15 PM	BACKTRACK
9:15 PM	CONTAINMENT	8:15 PM	BACKTRACK	10:15 PM	BACKTRACK
11:00 PM	CONTAINMENT	12:15 AM	BACKTRACK	12:15 AM	BACKTRACK
12:45 AM	CONTAINMENT	1:00 PM	AVENUES-1 ZOOTOPIA	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.1 LONDON HAS FALLEN
		3:15 PM	KHALTET OMRY	1:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
		5:15 PM	KHALTET OMRY	3:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
		7:15 PM	KHALTET OMRY	5:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
		9:15 PM	KHALTET OMRY	8:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN
		11:15 PM	KHALTET OMRY	11:30 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN

## CLYDE IP SERVICES

is looking for a Government Liaison Officer and IP Administration Assistant based in Kuwait to support our IP professional team in Dubai with trade mark prosecution work. You need to be a Kuwaiti national and will ideally have 2 - 3 years' of government liaison/ administrative experience, fluent Arabic and English, excellent organisation skills and attention to detail.

For a detailed job description and to apply, please send your CV to

**Mena.Recruitment@clydeco.ae**

### CAR FOR SALE

A Diplomatic Mission desire to sell its old staff car, Brand: Chevrolet, Type: Lumina LS, 6 Cylinder, Fully Auto ABS, 4 Door, Front Air Bag NC Seats, Cloth C.D. Model: 2008 (Black) in good condition. Car can be inspected at Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, House-11, Street-29, Block-2, Khaldiya during office hours.

Please submit offer in sealed cover at the Embassy address by 10 Mar 2016

Tel: 24913203  
Mobile: 99147786

### FOR SALE

Mercedes Benz E-350, model 2010, single owner, no accident, well maintained by agency, km 180,000. Mob: 5576200. (C 5141) 3-3-2016

**EMERGENCY 112**

### Embassy of Bangladesh, Kuwait

#### Job Opportunity

Bangladesh Embassy, Kuwait is seeking dynamic & Qualified persons for the following position:

#### Welfare Assistant

Pay Scale 2807-X10350. Bangladeshi nationals & any other nationals residing in Kuwait are eligible to apply. Age limit 45 yrs. Must have listening & speaking fluency & reading & Writing ability in Arabic & English Languages. Must have educational qualification of minimum Bachelor Degree/equivalent level; however, applicants with 03 year working experience in similar positions in diplomatic missions having Higher Secondary School/equivalent Certificate (12yrs of education) can also apply. Job experience of two or more years in Embassy or government offices will be weighted and preferred. Ability to work with Computer applications (Excel, MS Word & power Point) is highly desirable. Should have knowledge in Muslim, Saria & labour laws in Kuwait. Must have transferable valid Kuwait residency & Must have valid Driving Licence in Kuwait.

02. Applicants have to apply with a latest C.V. along with two passport size recent photographs & copies of educational, professional & experience certificates attested from the concerned Embassy/Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh. The dead line of submitted application is by 4pm on 18 March, 2016. The application should be submitted to the Head of Chancery, Embassy of Bangladesh, House # 11, Street # 29, Block # 02, Khaldiya, Kuwait or with email addresses : (i) mahbub50@yahoo.com, (ii) bdoot@kems.net.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))



## Flight Schedule

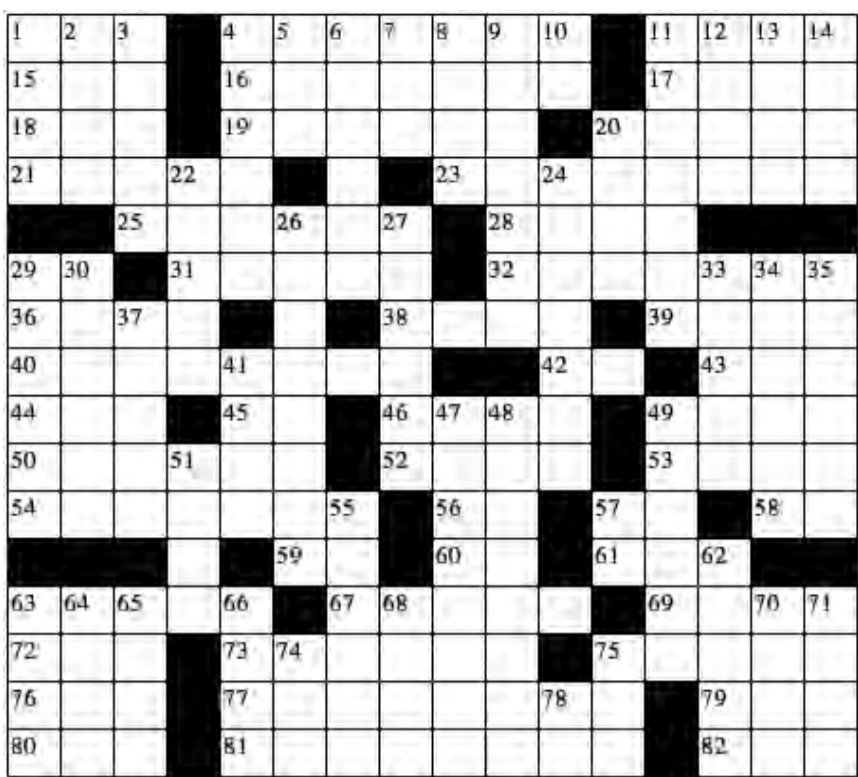
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Arrival Flights on Monday 7/3/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 7/3/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05	JZR	528	Asyut	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka/Dammam	00:05	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	403	Asyut	00:15	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05	MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05	MSC	404	Asyut	01:15
DLH	635	Doha	01:35	BBC	044	Dhaka	01:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
CEB	7694	Manila	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20	KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25	QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25	THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40	CEB	7695	Manila	05:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	JZR	560	Sohag	06:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50	RJA	643	Amman	07:05
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55	THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	537	Sohag	08:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00	BAW	156	London	08:45
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00	KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20	KAC	561	Amman	10:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	501	Beirut	10:30
IRA	667	Esfahan	10:00	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05	KAC	153	Istanbul	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05	QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:15	IRA	666	Esfahan	11:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	OMA	642	Muscat	11:05
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	AXB	890	Mangalore	12:15
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45	KAC	103	London	12:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
				MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
				JZR	176	Dubai	13:45

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



CROSSWORD 1188



ACROSS

1. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
4. An official written record of names or events or transactions.
12. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
16. With full strength.
17. A plant hormone promoting elongation of stems and roots.
18. Tropical vine having umbels of small purple flowers and edible roots sometimes boiled as a potato substitute.
20. A grant made by a law court.
22. Not only so, but.
23. Jordan's port.
26. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
27. Intentionally so written (used after a printed word or phrase).
29. (Norse mythology) God of light and peace and noted for his beauty and sweet nature.
30. A bachelor's degree in science.
32. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
33. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay.
35. Slightly open.
39. Great coolness and composure under strain.
42. A note appended to a letter after the signature.
43. A mineral consisting of titanium dioxide in crystalline form.
45. The Hebrew patriarch who saved himself and his family and the animals by building an ark in which they survived 40 days and 40 nights of rain.
46. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
48. United States naval officer and historian (1840-1914).
49. To an excessive degree.
53. Arranged without spaces between.
55. Nocturnal mouse-like mammal with forelimbs modified to form membranous wings and anatomical adaptations for echolocation by which they navigate.
56. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
57. The residue that remains when something is burned.
60. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
61. (obstetrics) The number of live-born children a woman has delivered.
66. Remove from memory or existence.
68. Type genus of the Anhimidae.
71. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
72. An ancient Assyrian city on the River Tigris and traditional capital of Assyria.
74. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
75. Black tropical American cuckoo.
76. On or of upper floors of a building.
79. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
80. A coenzyme derived from the B vitamin nicotinic acid.
81. The capital of Tajikistan.
82. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

DOWN

1. Posing no difficulty.
2. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
3. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
4. A run that is the result of the batter's performance.
5. The fatty flesh of eel.
6. Agile long-tailed nocturnal African lemur with dense woolly fur and large eyes and ears.
7. A republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
8. A state in north central United States.
9. An alloy of copper and zinc (and sometimes arsenic) used to imitate gold in cheap jewelry and for gilding.
10. Military action involving the use of electromagnetic energy to determine or exploit or reduce or prevent hostile use of the electromagnetic spectrum.
11. A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
12. The face of a timepiece.
13. Made from residue of grapes or apples after pressing.
14. An informal term for a father.
19. The second great battle of the American Civil War (1862).
21. Straggling shrub with narrow leaves and conspicuous red flowers in dense globular racemes.
24. Lower in esteem.
25. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
28. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
31. A piece of cutlery with a shallow bowl-shaped container and a handle.
34. Distance travelled per unit time.
36. A holy war by Muslims against unbelievers.
37. Paralysis of the vocal cords resulting in an inability to speak.
38. Someone who pays rent to use land or a building or a car that is owned by someone else.
40. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
41. (of a shore or shoreline) Having an extensive gently sloping area covered with sand or gravel or shingle down to the water line.
44. Innumerable but many.
47. (prefix) Coming before or being preliminary or preparatory.
50. An oval sensory end organ on the surface of the tongue.
51. Lie adjacent to another.
52. A native-born Israeli.
54. A fractional monetary unit in Bangladesh and India and Nepal and Pakistan.
58. Inhabitant of the island of Cebu.
59. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
62. A particular environment or walk of life.
63. Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea.
64. Follower of Rastafarianism.
65. Deciduous shrub of North America.
67. A girl or young woman who is unmarried.
69. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
70. A French abbot.
73. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
77. A radioactive transuranic element that is similar to uranium.
78. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may decide you will take over someone else's job today-like a plumber or an electrician-don't. There are people that know things and will take risks that you should probably not take. If you need this type of worker or an installer to come into your home, it would be good to have this happen while you are at home today. This is a time of enthusiasm and new beginnings. Be careful of a tendency to impulsiveness and making snap decisions. New business, contracts and proposals are all possibilities during this next week-get plenty of rest and find ways to keep yourself stress-free. You may decide to visit a library, museum or bookstore later this afternoon. Check out possibly adding more vitamin supplements to your diet.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may work extra hard most of the time, but today it is time to relax. Rebel against restlessness and allow yourself to enjoy the world around you. There could be an opportunity to learn a creative activity or to teach a child a fun game. Write a poem about the first pelican you ever saw or a short story. An item you have been looking to purchase may show up in a magazine today. You could order over the phone but instead, use this item's price as a guideline for the stores near you. Gathering new information will help you find a better price. Check out your nutrition needs and concentrate on keeping a more natural chemical balance in the body. You take all this into consideration and may want to prepare the lunches ahead for next week.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Extra responsibility comes with almost everything you do now: romance, creativity or childcare. Have patience... You are up to whatever task is placed before you! High-level differences of opinion or outlook represent an important area of change in your life now. This extends to fundamental religious or philosophical beliefs that cry out for reexamination in the light of new information and influences. Educational projects require much study and may also involve travel later this year. Fresh insight comes to you through mass media, such as broadcasting, publishing, advertising, giving you a whole new perspective. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. Antigravity technology has you mesmerized and you may be involved in some research.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Your communicative abilities are accented now. This is an excellent time to sway others to your cause through speeches or clever arguments-your thinking is most logical. Independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is valued now. This is a perfect time to be assertive in decision making where a move or elderly relative's care comes into play. Becoming the advocate for an elderly person takes known information and since the energies today work in your favor, brush up on all the information you can get before pushing an issue with an elderly-then, you will be successful in your help. Your own path is open and clear as you make mental plans for your own future. There is the possibility of new visions that you can share with a loved one.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Car repairs, equipment, documents, contracts, letters and your nervous system may be in need of tender loving care. Start at the top and work through the list meticulously. You will be finished in no time and your nervous system will be happier for the work that is completed. Relax. In the future, consider planning your meals according to your health needs. Check to make sure you are getting enough of the foods that produce red blood cells and good bones. If you want to take a vacation soon-make your plans for after the fifteenth of this month. You may naturally attract people with sob stories-particularly considering the placement of the moon and the planets just now. Help others and make a conscious effort to cultivate positive-minded friends.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your financial sector as well as the buildup of relationships is highlighted now. Business and relationship issues can be a little cloudy just now. You may find it difficult to get any clear understanding on matters of importance. Better budgeting is in the forecast and the time to plan is now. Your personal life flows more easily now and while you are in a focused frame of mind, you would be wise to mend any hard feelings with others. If you wait you might not feel as pleasant or as capable of thinking straight. You will find yourself weeding through and getting rid of some negative patterns that have slowed your progress. You will see some closure to some long-time frustrations now. Matters of love will be full speed ahead!



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Lots of creative people were born under your same birth sign-you may be amazed as you review the list. You are appreciative of the miracles around you and can express your artistic talents easily. It may now be time to begin a new hobby or a new routine or even a new exercise plan. Take steps in that direction today. This afternoon is an excellent time to spend with friends. If you have nothing planned, you may interest others in chess or another board game or some other entertainment. You are always ahead of the trends and can get into some fun conversations with friends. You enjoy showing off your up-to-date knowledge, but should take care that you do not brag too much. Someone has to lead us gently into the creativeness of tomorrow.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your eagerness to succeed is high. If you throw that charm around, just about anything you want to do can be achieved and enjoyed. This may mean becoming involved in some active sports or digging for treasure around your city. You are known for making miracles happen and others could learn from your positive thinking. If you find yourself particularly nervous or experiencing fatigue, you might consider introducing some supplements that will help your physical wellbeing. A good certified clinical nutritionist or naturopathy doctor can lead you in the right direction. You inspire others a great deal this month so be very careful of your actions. Enjoy a walk after the dinner hour tonight and look at how the seasons are changing.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Today, you prepare for a new project in the workplace tomorrow. You may be interviewing with someone that is of importance, like the CEO of a company or a popular musician. Try not to be too naive or awestruck at someone's fame. There could be some problems with rules, electricity and electronic equipment this evening. With your attention to the matter, an answer will present itself in no time. The key word here is attention. You are smart to prepare ahead for the scheduling of activities before any difficulties occur. You are comfortable and confident about next week now that you have made the preparations. Family members are talkative and agreeable. A loved one has your attention this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This is a good time to seek improvement of your finances-you will begin to gain ideas on how to better prepare for the future. Some sort of conference or counseling program begins today. There is a lot to learn and you may even get permission to record the most important and helpful ideas. While you are in this learning mode, there could be some ideas for new business opportunities. Do not be afraid to network and take some literature so you can check it out later. You can be most persuasive yourself and may find yourself making a few family decisions this evening. You and a friend or relative may talk over what you have learned. The situation is natural and lends itself to your self-expression. This evening there is talk of opportunities for new work.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You may be pleased to meet a new friend today. Through this new friend you will be introduced to some exciting people. There is a tendency to overwhelm your imagination. If you spend all of your time at the sideshow, the main tent will be gone, so to speak. Take a chance and ask someone out for a dinner date next week-you will enjoy the company. Elder people in your family may demand some of your time. You will graciously help them; they may not have any other way to obtain the help they need. This evening is a good time to seek advice from a sibling or other family member. Shared responsibilities are rewarding and bring people together. There is a lot of chatter this evening about positive results.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There you are this morning, adapting to your surroundings by blending into the crowd. Although you enjoy other people's enthusiasm, you have a good passion of your own-particularly when it comes to creative energy. Express your ideas, hopes and dreams-others will listen and add their own personal dreams. You are inclined to create music. Today will be one of those musical days. Otherwise, a concert or some other attraction is enjoyed. This is certainly a day to be artistic-a new hobby can be a gift from a friend. Friends and family want to show their attention, and surprises and chatter add to the warm, cozy feelings of this day. This evening is a time for lovers and loving. You will enjoy a unique type of love offering.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Halloween

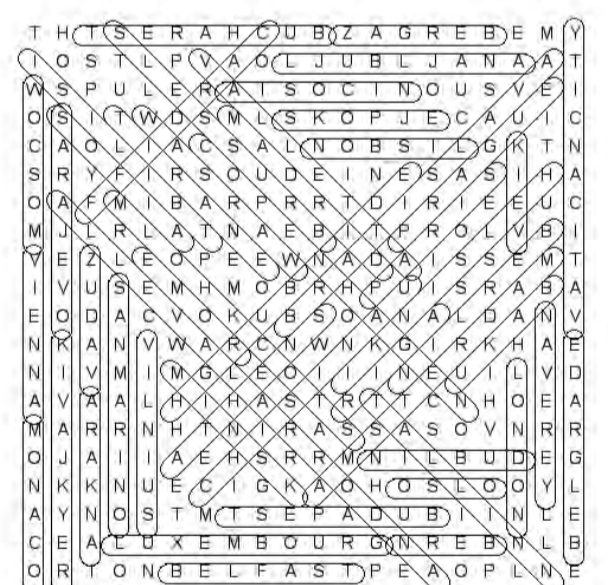
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an activity played on Halloween.



- |            |             |                |           |
|------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| APPLES     | COSTUME     | JACK O LANTERN | SKELETON  |
| BATS       | DRACULA     | MASK           | SKULL     |
| BLACK CAT  | FRIGHTENING | MUMMY          | SPIDERS   |
| BROOMSTICK | FULL MOON   | NIGHT          | TOMBSTONE |
| CANDLE     | GHOSTS      | PUMPKIN        | VAMPIRE   |
| CANDY      | GHOULS      | SCARECROW      | WEREWOLF  |
| CEMETERY   | GOBLINS     | SCARY          | WITCHES   |
| COFFIN     | GRAVEYARD   | SCREAM         | ZOMBIE    |

Yesterday's Solution

Capital Cities of Europe



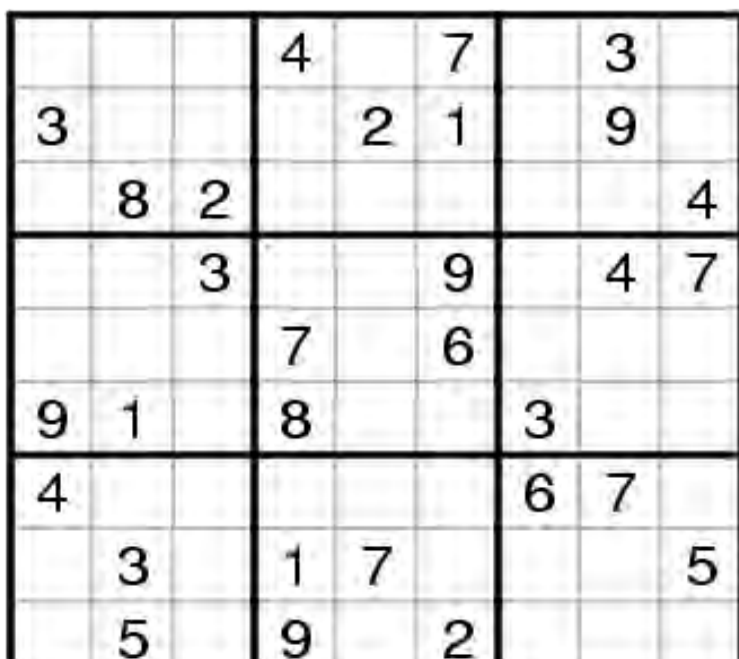
- |                              |                             |                               |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| AMSTERDAM (Netherlands)      | EDINBURGH (Scotland)        | ROME (Italy)                  |
| ANDORRA LA VELLA (Andorra)   | HELSINKI (Finland)          | SAN MARINO (San Marino)       |
| ANKARA (Turkey)              | KIEV (Ukraine)              | SARAJEVO (Bosnia-Herzegovina) |
| ATHENS (Greece)              | LISBON (Portugal)           | SKOPIE (Macedonia)            |
| BAKU (Azerbaijan)            | LJUBLJANA (Slovenia)        | SOFIA (Bulgaria)              |
| BELFAST (Northern Ireland)   | LONDON (England)            | STOCKHOLM (Sweden)            |
| BELGRADE (Serbia/Montenegro) | LUXEMBOURG (Luxembourg)     | TALLINN (Estonia)             |
| BERLIN (Germany)             | MADRID (Spain)              | TBILISI (Georgia)             |
| BERN (Switzerland)           | MINSK (Belarus)             | TIRANE (Albania)              |
| BRATISLAVA (Slovakia)        | MONACO (Monaco)             | VADUZ (Liechtenstein)         |
| BRUSSELS (Belgium)           | MOSCOW (Russian Federation) | VALETTA (Malta)               |
| BUCHAREST (Romania)          | NICOSIA (Cyprus)            | VATICAN CITY (Vatican City)   |
| BUDAPEST (Hungary)           | OSLO (Norway)               | VIENNA (Austria)              |
| CARDIFF (Wales)              | PARIS (France)              | VILNIUS (Lithuania)           |
| CHISINAU (Moldova)           | PRAGUE (Czech Republic)     | WARSAW (Poland)               |
| COPENHAGEN (Denmark)         | REYKJAVIK (Iceland)         | YEREVAN (Armenia)             |
| DUBLIN (Ireland)             | RIGA (Latvia)               | ZAGREB (Croatia)              |

The hidden sentence is: THE MOST POPULOUS CITY IN EUROPE IS MOSCOW WHICH HAS OVER EIGHT MILLION PEOPLE

Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

**Hospitals**

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

**Clinics**

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



**PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY**

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

**INTERNATIONAL CALLS**



Afghanistan	0093	Luxembourg	00352
Albania	00355	Macau	00853
Algeria	00213	Macedonia	00389
Andorra	00376	Madagascar	00261
Angola	00244	Majorca	0034
Anguilla	001264	Malawi	00265
Antigua	001268	Malaysia	00660
Argentina	0054	Maldives	00960
Armenia	00374	Mali	00223
Australia	0061	Malta	00356
Austria	0043	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lithuania	00370		

**STATE OF KUWAIT**  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION  
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



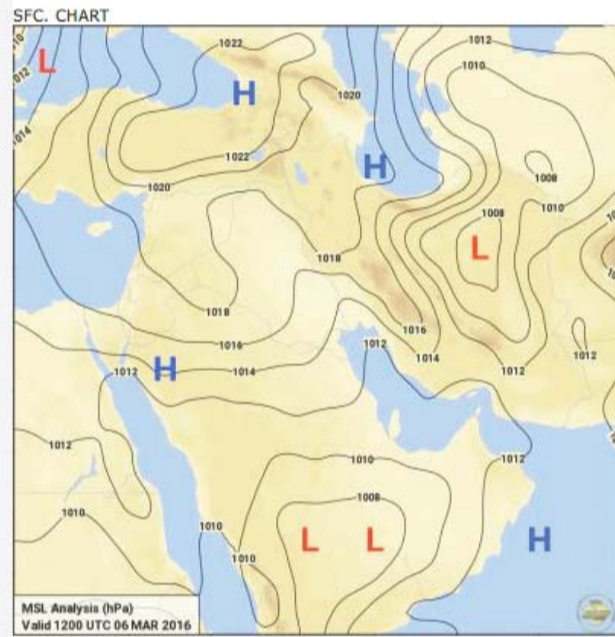
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours**  
Issued 06/03/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

**MIN Temperature 17 °C**

By Night :Fair with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 38 km/h

By Day : Partly cloudy with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	partly cloudy	partly cloudy to cloudy	partly cloudy +cloudy + scattered rain	sunny
Min Temp °C	17	16	18	18
Max Temp °C	27	27	26	30
Wind Direction	north westerly	variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	06 - 22	08 - 28	06 - 28

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

**Warnings & Weather Watches**

no warnings or weather watches

**Kuwait Forecast**

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	19	29
KUWAIT AIRPORT	17	29
ABDALLY	16	30
BUBYAN	18	27
JAHRA	16	29
FAILAKA ISLAND	18	27
SALMIYAH	20	26
AHMADI	21	24
JAL ALIYAH	16	29
QAROH ISLAND	19	22
UMM AL-MARADEM	19	23
NUWAISIB	15	25
WAFRA	17	28
MANAGISH	17	29
SALMY	16	28
MUTRIBA	16	30

**Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport**

Max Temp (°C)	30
Min Temp (°C)	19
Max Rel Hum (%)	85
Min Rel Hum (%)	34
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	32 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:08
Sunset	17:51

**Prayer Times**

Fajr	04:49
Sunrise	06:08
Zuhr	11:59
Asr	15:21
Sunset	17:51
Isha	19:07



**PRIVATE CLINICS**

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	2455050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammed Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	2455050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	2455050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123





# Dubai lounge debut

**B**ritish Airways has today unveiled its prestigious new lounge at the newly built Concourse D in Dubai International Airport. The airline's new concept lounge features a special Concorde Bar for those flying in first.

The lounge has been designed to maximize space using architectural elements such as illuminated glass screens giving customers separate spaces to work, relax or dine, creating a calm and relaxing environment. The new premium lounge has a large framed wall mirror that reflects the stunning feature lighting making a more spacious setting. Customers can also choose from a selection of hot and cold food as well as enjoy premium beverages at the Deli Bar.

Overlooking the airport's retail atrium, the lounge has been finished to a very high quality, complete with black nero marble surfaces and European oak flooring. Within the lounge, the new Concorde Bar provides an exclusive area for first customers and their guests to relax and unwind in a private environment before boarding their flight.

Paolo De Renzis, Head of Middle East, Africa and Central Asia Sales for British Airways said, "Our premium customers flying from Dubai will be able to enjoy the airline's newest lounge, featuring the exclusive luxury of the Concorde Bar for first customers. "Our designers have created a contemporary and stylish space for Club World and first customers to relax, dine and refresh before boarding their flight to Heathrow."

"We have also ensured that, for the first time, every single customer has access to power and USB points throughout the new lounge to re-charge their personal electronic devices." The new lounge has been carefully designed to showcase the best of British design and architecture, offering a stylish, quiet and relaxing space for premium customers. It will also feature artwork from established Iraqi-born artist, Dia Al-Azzawi, as well as Gulf heritage images from the British Airways archive.

The new Dubai lounge is home to the airline's second Concorde Bar, the first of which opened late last year in Singapore. First customers will be given a special entry card at reception for the private bar, which they simply swipe at an electronic reader to gain access. Inside, they will be able to choose from a selection of premium beverages before relaxing in the privacy of their own booth.

The lounge is open to British Airways' First and Club World (business class) customers as well as Silver and Gold Executive Club members. Earlier this week, British Airways was announced as the top Consumer Superbrand for the third year in a row in the prestigious Superbrands UK awards, beating off competition from 1,600 rivals to take the top spot. The airline also won the Business Superbrand title for a second year in a row. This is the first time any company has ever won the double consecutively.



This file photo taken on January 01, 2001 shows the Austrian conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt during the New Year Concert with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in Vienna, Austria.—AFP

## Austrian conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt dies at 86

**C**elebrated Austrian conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt, considered to be the "pope" of the Baroque music revival, died Saturday aged 86, three months after announcing his retirement, his family announced.

"Nikolaus Harnoncourt took his last breath peacefully surrounded by family," said the short announcement carried by the Austrian news agency APA. In December Harnoncourt had announced his retirement, citing health reasons, in a farewell letter to the audience of the Wiener Musikverein, home to the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra.

"My physical capacities mean that I have to cancel all my upcoming projects," he wrote in an open letter to disappointed fans with tickets to a concert by the baroque ensemble he founded, the Concentus Musicus Wien, the weekend of his 86th birthday at the start of December. "An era is over," the Musikverein's director Thomas Angyan told APA. "I didn't think so little time would pass between his retirement and his death. We must continue with the musical heritage which he left us." Count Nikolaus de la Fontaine und d'Harnoncourt-Unverzagt was born in Berlin on December 6, 1929 to a granddaughter of a Habsburg Archduke and an Austrian count.

Growing up in Graz, southern Austria, he was already a contrarian thinker. "Even when I was small, I always took the opposite point of view. I'm not someone who agrees," he said, suggesting that his rebellious intellect stemmed from being called up just two weeks before World War II ended. Harnoncourt showed a keen interest in the arts early on, and studied the cello at Vienna's Academy of Music, joining the Vienna Symphony Orchestra as cellist in 1952.

But the authoritarianism of conductors enraged him. "I used to ask them the 'why' behind their instructions. But the only reply I ever got was 'Because I say so,'" Harnoncourt complains. "Even the best musicians simply had to play. They were all part of an instrument called an 'orchestra', and the conductor was its player." His intensive research into historical instruments and period performance practice led him to set up his own ensemble, Concentus Musicus, in 1953 and it began giving concerts in 1957.

### Classical music

Organized by the musicians themselves, with help from their wives and partners, they specialized in renaissance, baroque and early classical music by the likes of Bach, Beethoven or Haydn. In 1969, Harnoncourt quit the Vienna Symphony and the decision—and the ensuing financial and professional insecurity that entailed (he and his wife had had four children by then) — was one of the best he ever took, he says. In musically conservative Vienna, his insistent questioning raised hackles as it ran contrary to the norms of the established classical music scene.—AFP

## Susan Sarandon takes in Colombian sights, filmfest

**O**scar-winning actress and producer Susan Sarandon has touched down in Cartagena, the historic resort city on Colombia's Caribbean coast for its celebrated annual film festival. "Morning Cartagena!" she said on Twitter from the city which has a large Spanish-colonial era old city, a massive fort and glittering highrises along the beach.

On Friday, Sarandon, 69, was honored with a showing of her film "Dead Man Walking" for which she won an Academy Award for best actress in 1996. As a guest of the Cartagena de Indias International Film Festival, now in its 56th year, Sarandon also gave a seminar at Latin America's oldest film festival, a showcase for the region's works in progress.—AFP



In this Thursday, March 3, 2016 photo Academy Award winning Polish film director Andrzej Wajda shakes hands with a spectator.—AP



US actress Susan Sarandon speaks during the 56th Cartagena Cinema Festival, in Cartagena, Colombia.—AFP

## Poland marks 90 birthday of leading filmmaker Andrzej Wajda

**P**oland marked the 90th birthday of the country's leading filmmaker, Andrzej Wajda, with special showings of his films and exhibitions honoring his life. Wajda, whose movies focus on key moments in Poland's history, is still active.

He is currently working on a movie about Polish avant-garde painter Wladyslaw Strzeminski, whose works were banned by the communist regime. Wajda's last movie was "Man of Hope," which told the story of Lech Walesa, who founded the Solidarity freedom movement. "Man of Iron," focusing on the rise of Solidarity out of worker protests, won the 1981 Palme d'Or at Cannes. In 2000, he received an Academy Award for lifetime achievement.—AP

## American rapper Bankroll Fresh slain in studio

**A**merican rapper Bankroll Fresh, who real name was Trentavious White, was shot dead at an Atlanta recording studio, authorities said Saturday. White, 28, and known for his hit "Hot Boy," was declared dead late Friday at a hospital, the Cobb County coroner's office spokesman Clint Harbin told AFP. Police had been called to the studio when shots were heard and several people were seen running out of the building.

Witnesses told local media they heard several shots at Street Execs studio. White co-owned the studio with rapper 2 Chainz. "Man I'm a fan of Bru and always will be, I'm in shock at the moment!! Senseless deaths we just got to stop it, I'm speaking up now," 2 Chainz said on Twitter.—AFP



Bankroll Fresh

## Joseph Gordon-Levitt drops out of 'The Sandman'

**J**oseph Gordon-Levitt has ditched his "Sandman" project at New Line due to disagreement with the studio.

The announcement came a day after New Line confirmed that "The Conjuring 2" writer Eric Heisserer had come on board. "The Sandman" had been set up at Warner Bros. in 2013 with Gordon-Levitt coming aboard to produce with "The Dark Knight" screenwriter David Goyer for an adaptation of the DC Comics title. Gordon-Levitt said Saturday that the disagreements emerged after Warner subsidiary New Line took over the project.

He posted the statement on his Facebook page Saturday: "So, as you might know if you like to follow these sorts of things, a while back, David Goyer and I made a producing deal with Warner Brothers to develop a movie adaptation of Neil Gaiman's SANDMAN," Gordon-Levitt wrote. "Neil himself came on as an executive producer, we hired the excellent screenwriter, Jack Thorne, and we started in on the ambitious task of adapting one of the most beloved and boundary-pushing titles in the world of comics. I was pleased with the progress we were making, even though we still had quite a ways to go. "Recently, as you also might know if you like to follow

these sorts of things, the sorta 'ownership' (for lack of a better term) of the Sandman material changed hands when Warner Brothers shifted the entire catalogue of Vertigo comics (an imprint of DC) to their subsidiary, New Line. And a few months ago, I came to realize that the folks at New Line and I just don't see eye to eye on what makes Sandman special, and what a film adaptation could/should be. So unfortunately, I decided to remove myself from the project. I wish nothing but the best for the team moving forward.

"I'd like to thank all the great people I've had the opportunity to work with on this one. I've had a blast with and learned a ton from David and Jack. Nijja Kuykendall, Greg Silverman, and everyone at Warner Brothers have been fantastic, as have Geoff Johns and everyone at DC. And it's been a particular privilege as well as a rocking good time getting to know Mr. Gaiman, whose generous insights and masterful work have certainly convinced me that the Lord of Dreams and the Prince of Stories are one and the same Endless pattern."—Reuters



Joseph Gordon-Levitt





# Saab, Westwood and Ricci

## dominates in Paris

**W**endi Deng attended Nina Ricci's Paris collection just a few hours after her ex-husband, media magnate Rupert Murdoch, got married to Jerry Hall across the English Channel in London. At the wedding Hall wore a Vivienne Westwood ice-blue chiffon gown - appropriately enough on the same day that Westwood herself unveiled her fall-winter ready-to-wear collection to the fashion world. At Elie Saab's show, meanwhile, Kendall Jenner continued to reign supreme. Here are the highlights of the day's ready-to-wear shows including reports from Elie Saab, Vivienne Westwood, Mugler and Nina Ricci.

**Elie Saab's dark glamour**  
Lebanese designer Elie Saab turned up the glamour stakes for fall-winter in his dark, sultry and brooding collection that riffed on the Seventies. Lashings of lace, fur, ribbons and masses of decorative layering adorned feminine floor length gowns that often fluttered with the delicacy of the fabric. For once, the overriding sensuality of the 56 looks wasn't achieved by exposing inches of flesh, as is often the case with the popular 51-year-old designer.

In this more subtle show, it was the suggestion of flesh, made faintly visible by sections of sheer tulle and lace, which



**Westwood's variations**  
This season's installment of Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood delved into the styles of the East. It might have been a new geographical direction for the house, but the eclectic fashion fusion remained the same. Looks started with baggy Indian pants, voluminous layered coats and loosely-draped Indian-style fabric gowns that came in the colors of natural dye, such as Chinese red, orange and carmine pink.

But when Japanese-style platform shoes were unearthed it became abundantly clear that this collection's Asian musings wouldn't be confined to India, and would voyage far. A wide Chinese



gave the gowns their power. The darker palette - lots of black, deep red and ultramarine - gave this collection a more sophisticated feel. But occasional flashes of Seventies boho prints, like one red tie-dye style silk gown modeled by Kendall Jenner, also ensured the collection had a little fun.

**Vivienne Westwood is renamed**  
British fashion designer Vivienne Westwood has renamed her Gold Label brand, which she presents each womenswear season in Paris, after her husband and house creative director, Andreas Kronthaler. Kronthaler, a 63-year-old former fashion student of Westwood, whom she then married, has long worked on the fashion designs. But the name change "Andreas Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood," the house says, will signal a "new direction." The changes came in a plan to streamline the British house, a direction popular among established London-based houses recently, such as Burberry and Paul Smith.



Models present creations by Elie Saab during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection in Paris. —AP /AFP photos





**Blumarine store opening**

Capitalizing on recent financial success, Italian brand Blumarine inaugurated their new Paris boutique Saturday with a VIP-filled cocktail party hosted by designer Anna Molinari. Fashionistas took a break out of their busy schedule in between shows to raise a glass of champagne for the house founded in Carpi in 1977, where the company's headquarters are still located today. The house, known for its leopard-rose print, cardigan with fur trim, and splattering of sequins, has proved successful on the international market and is sold by around 1,000 outlets worldwide.

**Nina Ricci**

Designer Guillaume Henry continued to move the gamine house of Nina Ricci in a more sophisticated direction. The romance in the predominantly dark collection, with flashes of vermilion, was still present - but less so than in previous years. The 42-pieces were very much rooted in the real world with some stand out oversize coats and jackets with a fine cut in gray, green and brown. One white and black sheep skin coat was stand out. Elsewhere, there were also some saleable riffs on the styles of the 1930s - the

decade in which Maria "Nina" Ricci first founded the house in Paris. One long sleeved blue-gray woolen with round collar oozed Katherine Hepburn.

**Mugler's Roman fembot**

Designer David Koma oiled up Mugler's atelier design cogs to produce yet another robotting ode to female beauty in Saturday's show. Against a backdrop of a sun and dystopian red sky, a series of 36 tight-fitting looks filed past oozing power and sexual confidence - exposing the midriff, leg, shoulder and cleavage. Stiff shimmering black leather bodices evoked the mechanical theme that has quickly become associated with Koma's designs, and with near-fetishistic bands wrapping the bust and fluttering, frayed ribbons in the skirt.

At times the silhouette - circular collar, stiff bodice and short slim skirt - channeled a sort of Roman centurion. It was a woman dressed as if ready for battle. The saleable collection mellowed as it progressed to produce its best look: a sleeky cream and burnt orange satin gown, with a flash of a sporty stripe. —AP

Models present creations by Elie Saab during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection in Paris. — AP /AFP photos

# PARIS

## FASHION WEEK



Models present creations by Vivienne Westwood during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection in Paris.



# PARIS

FASHION WEEK



Models present creations by Nina Ricci during the 2016-2017 fall/winter ready-to-wear collection in Paris.



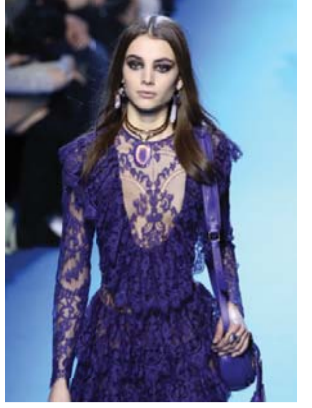


# Lifestyle

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016

Wendi Deng attends Paris show hours after Murdoch marriage

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Chinese pianist Lang Lang performs in a transparent tunnel as sharks and fish swim overhead at the aquarium of the Valencia Oceanography center on March 4, 2016.—AFP

# Flower

show touts US parks, bringing great outdoors inside



A Black Eyed Susan is on display during a preview.



People view an installation during a preview of the Philadelphia Flower Show.—AP photos

The City of Brotherly Love wouldn't normally be considered rustic, but starting Saturday it will be home to Big Timber Lodge - a structure welcoming people to the Philadelphia Flower Show.

This year, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has brought the great outdoors inside to mark the National Park Service's 100th anniversary. Huge, verdant installations and floral designs encourage visitors to "Explore America" by paying homage to natural treasures like Acadia, Yosemite and Redwood.

"The flower show this year covers every kind of landscape, from the wilds of Yellowstone's forest down to urban balconies and even windowsills," said Matt Rader, president of the horticultural society. The nine-day festival runs through March 13. Billed as the largest event of its kind in the US, the show attracted about 250,000 people last year. Visitors enter the 10-acre main hall through Big Timber Lodge, where they encounter bison and bear sculptures and a 12-foot-tall waterfall surrounded by evergreens, hyacinths, crocuses, cosmos and other woodland flowers. Two giant overhead screens show videos of various parks.

An exhibit honoring Independence National Historical Park features a giant, flowered Liberty Bell suspended over the grassy "People's Promenade." A tribute to Ansel Adams' iconic photos of Yosemite uses clusters of white orchids hanging from strings to mimic the white foam of Vernal Fall. The flower show partnership continues the park service's yearlong centennial celebration and public engagement campaign. Officials are looking to spark broad interest and support for the parks, which face a nearly \$12 billion maintenance backlog nationwide.

BJ Dunn, deputy superintendent for Independence park, said discussions with the horticultural society began two years ago. "We were talking about how complementary our missions are," Dunn said. "It just seemed to be a natural fit." Throughout the week, rangers will staff the park service's pavilion and broadcast live interviews from sites across the country - including from Denali National Park in Alaska, where employees will introduce their sled dog team to the flower show audience.



Echeveria runyonii plants are on display during a preview.



Tulip flowers are planted during a preview.



### 'Railway Garden'

For his exhibit, Jack Blandy of Stoney Bank Nurseries in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, recreated a scene after a 1988 fire in Yellowstone, "which everybody thought was a devastating event." "But in reality, it was actually a great benefit to Yellowstone because it was all part of the renewal of nature," he said. The park's lodge pole pines, he noted, only reproduce when fire germinates their pine cones. So Blandy's display juxtaposes barren tree trunks with flowers like lupines and rudbeckia, along with representations of Yellowstone's famous hot springs and geysers - a bubbling mud pit and colorful, steaming replica of Morning Glory Pool.

Other flower show highlights include plant judging, a butterfly garden, interactive exhibits and craft workshops. Also new this year is a "Railway Garden," where model trains rumble through miniaturized National Parks landscapes. The annual event, which dates to 1829, serves as a rite of spring in the region. Proceeds benefit the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and its programs, including an urban tree planting campaign and City Harvest, which provides locally grown, fresh produce for underserved families.—AP



A detail of an installation during a preview of the Philadelphia Flower Show.