

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016

JAMADA ALTHANI 8, 1437 AH

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Amir patronizes  
PAAET graduation  
ceremony



Trump, Clinton  
solidly on course  
for nominations



Obama picks  
Garland for US  
Supreme Court



Afridi powers  
Pakistan to big  
opening win



150 FILS  
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40 PAGES

## AL-SUBAIH REFUTES CLAIMS AS ASHOUR BLASTS SOCIAL AFFAIRS

GOVT URGED TO REFER 'PUBLIC FUND WASTE' TO PROSECUTION



Min 18°  
Max 25°  
High Tide  
07:33 & 17:38  
Low Tide  
00:29 & 12:12

### CHEST HOSPITAL PERFORMS RARE SURGERY

ROBOTIC STENTING USED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE REGION

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** For the first time in Kuwait, the Chest Hospital performed a successful cardiac catheterization surgery through the CorPath Vascular Robotic Stenting using Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (Abdsorb). This is the first time the equipment has been used in the region. Kuwait is the first in the Gulf region to receive CorPath Vascular Robotic Stenting. This system enables the precise, robotic-assisted control of coronary guide wires and balloon/stent devices during percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI).

"The chest hospital received the Robotic System two days ago. This machine is the third machine outside the US - and it's the second in the Gulf. The Ministry of Health approved the machine for the Chest Hospital which is the biggest of its kind in the Middle East - where we perform around 30 to 40 surgeries daily. Last year, we performed 8000 operations with 3000 innervations." Dr Mohammed Al-Mutairi, Head of Cardiology Department at Chest Hospital said.

Continued on Page 13



**KUWAIT:** Doctors and paramedics work with the new equipment, Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (Abdsorb). (Inset) Dr Mohammed Al-Mutairi seen during the interview with Kuwait Times. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly asked the government yesterday to refer all 'public funds waste' incidents committed by cooperative societies to the Public Prosecution. In recommendations after the end of MP Saleh Ashour's grilling of Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Affairs Hind Al-Subaih, the parliament called for prosecuting cooperative societies' board members for abusing their positions and wasting public funds.

The MPs urged the Minister of Social Affairs to help solve financial problems facing cooperative societies, and help societies boost their revenues by enrolling board members in training courses contributing to better decision-taking. They called for allowing cooperative societies to allocate part of their profits for social services in the residential areas.

The lawmakers also called on Social Affairs Ministry to pay attention to orphans. Subaih, in a statement after the interpellation, said she will implement the recommendations. She said the grilling was a chance to highlight the Ministry's achievements and to pin point shortcomings as well. Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem hopes the government would implement the recommendations.

The grilling was filed to address cooperative societies' privatization and suspended aid to orphans. According to Article 100 of the Kuwaiti Constitution, an MP can address an interpellation to the Prime Minister or ministers on matters and affairs pertinent to their ministries.

Continued on Page 13

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah attends the 2014-15 graduation ceremony for excellling students of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). — Amiri Diwan photos



(From left) His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Sheikh Jaber Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Sheikh Faisal Al-Saud Al-Sabah attend the ceremony.

# AMIR PATRONIZES PAAET GRADUATION CEREMONY

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday patronized and attended the 2014-15 graduation ceremony for excellling students of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). His Highness the Amir distributed certificates to the graduates, and in the end of the ceremony, His Highness was presented with a memorial gift.

His Highness the Amir's motorcade was warmly welcomed at the event venue by a group of leading figures, namely Minister of Education and Higher Education, PAAET Board Chairman, Dr Bader Al-Essa, PAAET Director-General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari and teaching staff.

The ceremony was attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, senior sheikhs, His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, senior state officials and a large number of graduates' families and other citizens.



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

Graduate Fatma Ali Al-Bader made a statement on behalf of her fellow students, expressing gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his personal care for the graduates. The ceremony was held at the College of Basic Education Theater in Al-Ardhiya.

**Progress**

Meanwhile, Athari said that PAAET has progressed well since its inception more than 33 years ago, adding that PAAET has spared no efforts to expand the size of its campus to eventually take in no less than 80,000 students. He said the institution he heads has concluded numerous educational agreements and protocols, among them one with the Paris Academy in France and another with the National Guard in Kuwait.

PAAET, he added, has signed a memorandum of understanding with Enertech Group which is a leading manufacturer of high technology energy to build a "technology park" for alternative energy research. Moreover, PAAET has signed an agreement with International Youth Foundation to prepare about 5000 students annually to enter the job market in Kuwait, he said.

He further said PAAET was preparing to hold an international conference next November regarding the apt use of technology in daily life. He wished this year's graduating class a prosperous carrier ahead and much success in applying what they learned in PAAET to real life situations. — KUNA



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah observes a performance held as part of the ceremony.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa, PAAET Director-General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari and other officials cut the ceremonial cake.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is pictured during his attendance at the ceremony.



Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa speaks at the ceremony.



PAAET Director-General Dr Ahmad Al-Athari addresses the attendees.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors some graduates.



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors some graduates.



In my view

45 YEARS OF CHINA-KUWAIT  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

By Javaid Ahmed

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Today, China celebrates its 45th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relationship with Kuwait. These diplomatic and friendly relations over the time get stronger in the fields of politics, economy and culture. For last 35 years, I have witnessed smooth development of this relationship and had observed the major events of this bilateral diplomatic relations between the two friendly countries.

Kuwait was the first country among the Gulf countries which has established the diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level with China back in March 22, 1971. Over the time both countries have proved their stronger bilateral relations in several fields and have signed several trade and economic agreements with each other. Both countries are still striving hard to further expand their bilateral relations.

China enormously respects Kuwait's support 'One China Policy'. Kuwait considers one China, whereas, China respects Kuwait's Sovereignty, Freedom and Territorial integrity of the country. China has practically demonstrated its support towards Kuwait at the time of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August, 1990. I remember, during July 1991, Prime Minister, Li Peng-then Prime Minister of China has personally visited Kuwait and has congratulated the Kuwait's leadership of their liberation. Kuwait's Amir HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah during his visit to China in 2009 has also signed a number of strategic energy partnership agreements with China.

In 2014, Kuwait Investment Authority was considered one of the biggest investment companies, worth \$2.5 billion of investment in public marketing in China. Kuwait and China Investment Company was established in 2005 with an initial investment of KD 80 million. KPC has established its office in China in 2005. KPC has exported 1.60 million tons of oil in 2005 which over the time increased to 14.4 million tons in 2015. China Petroleum & Chemical Corp (Sinopec) and Kuwait Petroleum Corp has signed agreement to build a \$9.3 billion joint refining and petrochemical complex in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong. Bilateral trade volume among the countries based on 2014 figures stood more than \$12.5 billion.

Kuwait has also established its consulate generals in Hong Kong and in Guangzhou provinces in China. On the other hand, a number of Chinese constructions, engineering and services companies are working in different sectors of the Kuwait economy. Chinese telecommunication companies are currently working on several projects in Kuwait. Kuwait has also responded well and by providing the financing 33 mega projects in China. On the cultural front, several cultural performers have visited and performed in Kuwait several times.

China and Kuwait friendship becomes stronger over the time as their size and volume of their interaction in several fields increased. China and its own local embassy may further broaden and deepen this bilateral cooperation in several fields as china is one of the growing power engines of world economy.



**RIYADH:** Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. Sheikh Khaled delivered to King Salman a letter from His Highness the Amir yesterday.

AMIR'S ENVOY DELIVERS  
LETTERS TO GCC LEADERS

**KUWAIT:** Envoy of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, yesterday handed a letter from His Highness the Amir to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, in presence of senior Saudi officials.

The letter included greetings from His Highness the Amir to the Saudi King, fraternal good relations between both countries and brotherly peoples and the latest regional and international developments.

Later, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled also delivered a letter from His Highness the Amir to Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa. The letter handled bilateral relations, Gulf unity support, issues of mutual interest and the latest regional and international developments.

After that, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled delivered a letter to Sultan Qaboos bin Said on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. The letter was received by Minister of Heritage and Culture Haitham bin Tareq Al-Said. — KUNA



**MUSCAT:** Omani Minister of Heritage and Culture Haitham bin Tareq Al-Said receives a letter from His Highness the Amir of Kuwait to Sultan Qaboos bin Said, delivered by Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



**MANAMA:** Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah delivers a letter from His Highness the Amir to Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa.

HARVARD ECONOMIC EXPERT  
HAUSMANN SPEAKS IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Collective "know-how" is the most fundamental determinant of the economic growth of nations, a world renowned economic expert said yesterday. Director of the Center for International Development at Harvard University Professor Richardo Hausmann made the remarks while delivering a lecture at Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS).

The lecture, entitled, "Economic Complexity and Secrets of Economic Growth", aimed to explain widening disparities in global economic wealth, a fact that has baffled even the most ardent of economists.

Hausmann, the thinker behind the "Economic Complexity" paradigm, debunked common conceptions about land, capital and labor being the answers to economic growth. "These factors, though important, are not the major contributors to the growth of a nation's economy," Hausmann said. Not even education, which he called "another common misconception," is the key to economic prosperity, Hausmann noted.

"Team know-how is the most fundamental factor that dictates the economic growth of nations," the economic expert revealed. Attempting to explain significant inequality in global economic wealth, where economies of countries like China have grown exponentially while other nations, particularly, in the African continent, remain mired in sheer poverty, Hausmann employed the "Scrabble" Theory of Development.

## Diversity of skill

The theory, he explained, likens the process of economic development to alphabetical letters, where "bigger networks of people with different know-hows are needed" to usher in economic growth. The theory also pinpoints society as instrumental to honing collective know-how, as "diversity of skills" is required to assemble competent teams. "Better use of this know-how results in more efficient production," Hausmann added.

Moreover, Hausmann underscored diversification as pivotal to economic growth, pointing to the fact that "rich coun-



**Professor Richardo Hausmann**

tries are usually more diversified than poor ones." He also attributed the wealth of oil-dependent nations like Kuwait, as merely a by-product of an abundance of natural resources.

"Undiversified oil-dependent countries are not likely to attain more economic growth as a result of specialization," the

economic expert said, a bleak prophecy at a time where the country is scrambling to transition the economy into a more sustainable one, due to plummeting oil prices. Growth is accompanied by diversification, not specialization," he noted.

Meanwhile, speaking on whether countries should focus on "adding value to their raw materials," Hausmann described it as "not completely wrong, but castrating." This approach, he explained, stifles the prospect of diversification. "Adding capabilities to your capabilities is the key, not value to raw materials," Hausmann said.

With a degree in Engineering and Applied Physics and a PhD in Economics, Hausmann had served as Chief Economist of the Inter-American Development Bank (1994-2000), Minister of Planning of Venezuela (1992-1993) and board member of the Central Bank of Venezuela, as well as Chair of the IMF-World Bank Development Committee.

He has also advised governments in over 40 developing countries, on creating effective growth strategies and development policies. — KUNA

## News

in Brief

PROSECUTION TO SUMMON  
MP DASHTI NEXT WEEK

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The Public Prosecution is expected to summon MP Abdulhameed Dashti next week for questioning on charges of slandering Saudi Arabia after his parliamentary immunity was lifted. In case Dashti does not show up for investigation, the case is expected to be referred to the criminal court. Meanwhile, the justice ministry sent Dashti a letter requesting that he attends the legislative committee's meeting next Sunday to be formally notified of the two-year prison sentence issued against him by a Bahraini court in absentia.



**MP Abdulhameed Dashti**

## National unity

The Criminal Court adjourned prosecuting the Islamic Alliance's Secretary General Hussein Al-Maatouq until June 1st, 2016, pending a Constitutional Court's ruling about the national unity law. Notably, Maatouq was prosecuted by the State Security Department over a speech he made defending the suspects arrested in the Abdaly cell case.

## Promotion

The Administrative Court yesterday ordered that a military man who was accused in the National Assembly's storming case is entitled for promotion after he was acquitted. Separately, the Court of Appeal yesterday acquitted an Egyptian man who was sentenced to capital punishment for drug trafficking.

## Renaming areas

Municipal Council members Hassan Kamal and Abdullah Al-Kandari proposed changing the names of Abo Feteera and Mahboula areas after consulting Kuwait University (KU) and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).



**KUWAIT:** Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi left Kuwait yesterday, concluding a two-day official visit, during which he held talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. President Hadi was seen off at the airport by head of mission of honor, Amiri Diwan Advisor Khaled Al-Fulaij. — KUNA

HOUSING MINISTER, INCHEON'S  
COMMISSIONER TALK COOPERATION

**SEOUL:** Kuwait's visiting Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul discussed yesterday with South Korea's Incheon Free Economic Zone Commissioner Lee Young Geun ways of bolstering joint cooperation, particularly issues related to housing.

Abul said that Incheon Free Economic Zone has numerous and magnificently attractive aspects, namely qualified human resources, strategic location, which connects south east Asia to the north through transportation, and including an airport, a sea port, and a high-speed train. The minister added that many specialized institutes wanted to become aware of how Incheon works in free trade, expressing readiness for cooperation on behalf of the state of Kuwait. Abul noted that Kuwait is keen to benefit from other countries' experience, especially in smart city area, asserting that his visit to South Korea comes to get acquainted with South Korea's successful experiences for future housing projects in Kuwait. The minister described his talks with South Korean officials as successful and fruitful, and in turn expressing desires by South Korean officials to engage in future housing projects. The minister leads a delegation



**SEOUL:** Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul and South Korea's Incheon Free Economic Zone Commissioner Lee Young Geun are seen during the tour. — KUNA

that includes representatives of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, the Supreme Planning Council, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority.

The Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ), located in Incheon, South Korea

is a Korean Free Economic Zone that consists of the three regions, Songdo, Cheongna, and the island of Yeongjong. The goal of the IFEZ is to transform these three areas into hubs for logistics, international business, leisure, and tourism for the Northeast Asian region. — KUNA

ALAFCO TO LEASE AIR  
INDIA 14 AIRBUS AIRCRAFT

**HYDERABAD:** The Kuwait-based ALAFCO Aviation Lease and Finance Company announced that it has signed an agreement with Air India for the lease of 14 new Airbus A320neo aircraft powered by CFM's LEAP-1A engines.

In a press statement, ALAFCO said that the aircraft will be leased for a period of 12 years, with the first six aircraft scheduled for delivery in 2017, six to be delivered in 2018 and the last two aircraft in 2019. All 14 aircraft are part of ALAFCO's existing order book with Airbus, it stated.

Air India is the state-owned national carrier of India and the largest airline in the country, currently operating a fleet of over 130 aircraft

to more than 100 domestic and international destinations. Air India became a member of the Star Alliance in July 2014.

ALAFCO is an aircraft leasing company and is listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. ALAFCO's portfolio consists of 49 Airbus and Boeing aircraft, leased to 14 airlines in 13 countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.

ALAFCO's order book comprises of 117 new technology aircraft from Airbus and Boeing including 85 A320neo, 20 B737MAX and 12 A350XWB aircraft.

The new orders are valued at \$14.9 billion, with deliveries scheduled to take place between 2017 and 2021. — KUNA





In Brief

INTERIOR OFFICIAL MEETS  
MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS

**MEXICO CITY:** Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad met Secretary-General of the Center for Research on National Security (CISEN) Miguel Robles, at the headquarters of the General Intelligence in Mexico City yesterday. The two sides discussed ways of cooperation and coordination in various sectors, including the exchange of analytical information, as well as training and countering terrorism besides exchange of visits between senior experts and specialists in the areas of security. —KUNA



KUWAIT, AUSTRALIA  
DISCUSS TRADE TIES

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najib Al-Bader discussed means of boosting commercial relations with Director General of Trade and International Affairs at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) Brayan Clark at its headquarters in Canberra yesterday. Kuwait is considered one of the most important commercial partners of Australia in terms of trade volume, Bader said in an embassy statement, stressing importance of signing a number of bilateral agreements between both nations to improve commercial exchange. — KUNA



KUWAITI ENVOY MEETS CUBAN  
MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Ambassador to Cuba Bader Al-Awadhi met Cuban Minister of Energy and Mines Alfredo Lopez Valdes yesterday. Al-Awadhi conveyed greetings and appreciation of Kuwaiti political leadership and people to the Cuban government for their efforts in strengthening bilateral relations. He expressed gratitude to Cuban government for taking part in the national celebrations in Kuwaiti embassy in Havana this year. The diplomat also discussed ways to promote joint cooperation between the Ministry of Energy and Mines in Cuba with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. —KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: AI-Babtain Library for Arabic Poetry's building in Kuwait City. — KUNA

ZAIN MAIN SPONSOR OF 10TH  
PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

**KUWAIT:** Zain, Kuwait's leading telecom company, recently announced that it is sponsoring the Tenth Annual Photography Competition jointly organized by Kuwait Times and Al-Anbaa Arabic daily to highlight participants artistic talents through images they capture in Kuwait. Titled 'Kuwait In Our Eyes', the competition has over the years received thousands images captured by photography lovers in Kuwait. Zain is proud to sponsor the competition, which aims to remind all those living in Kuwait of the beauty of the country. The competition also encourages the development and growth of local talent.

Zain also noted that the competition aims to enhancing both artistic and patriotic sides of participants to

unleash their potential in expressing their love for Kuwait.

"This photography competition is different from other ones held all year long in the simplicity of its conditions," added Zain noting that participation is open for all ages, nationalities and levels of experience including beginners. Zain also noted that participants could submit their entries by (today March 17, 2016) and that a special ceremony would be held at Salmiya Holiday Inn to honor the winners.

"Sponsoring this competition comes within the company's keenness on supporting creativity," Zain concluded, noting that photography was one of the most common hobbies amongst Kuwaiti youth.



NEW YORK: Kuwait's Chairperson of the Cabinet's Committee on Women's Affairs Sheikhha Latifa Al-Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah arrives in New York. —KUNA

KUWAIT PIONEERING  
GENDER EQUALITY

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's Chairperson of the Cabinet's Committee on Women's Affairs Sheikhha Latifa Al-Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah said Tuesday that Kuwait earned the first rank among Arab countries in gender equality due to its pioneering role in empowering women and reinforcing their role in the society. Sheikhha Latifa made her remarks on the sidelines of the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60), kicked off at the UN

headquarters on Monday, where she heads the Kuwaiti participating delegation at the event. The CSW60 is an appropriate venue to show the civilized side of Kuwait through highlighting Kuwaiti women's efforts in the country in recent years, Sheikhha Latifa said, adding that it is also important for Kuwaiti women to participate in international events, especially after the country gained a membership at CSW. — KUNA

KUWAIT: UNODC HAS GREAT ROLE IN  
HELPING COUNTRIES FIGHT ILLICIT DRUGS

**VIENNA:** Kuwait on Tuesday underlined important role of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in building capabilities and providing know-how to countries with the objective of fighting drug dealing and trafficking.

The UN General Assembly's Special Session on the World Drug Problem, due next month, is a genuine opportunity to seek best solutions towards cracking down on drugs "which has been shattering lives of people and communities as well as posing a threat to health, security and economy," Colonel Waleed Al-Duraie said.

Duraie, addressing the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), said drugs posed a real global challenge which required a serious will to fight it. He said Kuwait has adopted a full-fledged strategy to fight drugs, based on achieving security, as well as economic and social stability. Kuwait's public and private sectors, added Duraie, established special centers for the rehabilitation of drug addicts who would ultimately blend back in the society. National committees, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), media and social media are also contributing to the warning against drugs, he said.

Duraie underlined Kuwait's commitment to international drugs agreements, while respecting culture and religion of countries. He called for stepping up cooperation at regional and international levels to tackle drug-related crimes, like money laundering.

Understanding

UNODC Executive Director Yuri Fedotov said the UN agency was promoting a comprehensive understanding of the world drug problem and the need to put people first, with the focus of saving lives to end suffering caused by illicit drugs. "Your deliberations here at the CND ... can help to take further crucial steps forward to promote a healthier, safer and more prosperous future for all," he said.

Qatar's Ambassador to Austria and permanent representative Dr Ali Al-Mansouri, meanwhile, said illicit drugs were closely related to other crimes, like money laundering. He warned some parties, which he did not name, against allowing the use of drugs for personal use because this would have devastating effects on the family and society. Qatar's policies, said Al-Mansouri, aimed at boosting preventive programs among youths vis-a-vis drugs. Tunisia's Ambassador to the International Organizations Ghazi Jumaa said illicit drugs were closely linked to cross-border crimes like terrorism and terror financing. The 59th Session of the CND brings together around 1,500 delegates representing member states, inter-governmental organizations, and civil society for a global discussion on the world drug problem. This year, the Commission will discuss 10 draft resolutions, and hold 74 side events and over 25 exhibitions. — KUNA



VIENNA: Colonel Waleed Al-Duraie attends the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). — KUNA

KUWAIT GRANTS  
UZBEKISTAN KD 7M LOAN

**KUWAIT:** The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has signed a loan agreement with Uzbekistani government at a value of KD 7 million (about \$23.8 million) to finance a medical project in friendly central Asian country.

In a press statement issued Tuesday, the KFAED stated that the agreement was signed by Uzbekistan's First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Rustam Azimov and KFAED Deputy Director General Hamad Suleiman Al-Omar. It noted that the agreement aims to enhance the quality and efficiency of the medical services in Uzbekistan. It finances purchasing, and installing sophisticated equipment for urology departments in a number of the Asian republic's hospitals.

It also includes preparation works at the facilities, training of specialized doctors and technical staff as part of the supplier's contract, and the consultancy services for preparation detailed specification of equipment and supervision of installation.

This eighth loan provided by KFAED to Republic of Uzbekistan, the previous seven loans were estimated at KD 38.4 million (equivalent to about \$130.5 million). The KFAED loans have been used to finance development projects in various sectors. The Fund also extended to Republic of Uzbekistan three technical assistance grants, at a total value of KD 579,000 (i.e. about \$ 1.9 million), to finance technical and economic feasibility studies for projects in various sectors. — KUNA



## COURT ADJOURNS ABDALI CELL CASE TO MARCH 30TH

**KUWAIT:** The Court of Appeals has adjourned the 'terrorist cell' case number 302/2016, in which 26 people are implicated, to March 30th. The Court of Appeals, in a session yesterday, summoned police officers from the National Security Department at the Ministry of Interior.

On January 12th, the criminal court sentenced two

of the accused in the terrorist cell to death, while one of the accused in the 26-member cell was given a sentence of life imprisonment. Other accused defendants in the case received sentences from five to ten to 15 years in prison. One of them was fined KD 5,000 while another was acquitted of all charges against him.

Furthermore, the court ordered the confiscation of

all of the arsenal that were possessed by the terrorist cell. Last September 1st, the public prosecutor lodged criminal charges against the terrorist cell known as 'Al-Abdali Cell,' in which 26 defendants were put on trial over possession of huge caches of weapons and ammunition, as well as espionage for Iran and Hezbollah. — KUNA



## ELEVEN ARRESTED ON DRUG-RELATED CHARGES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) officers led by Acting Director General Colonel Waleed Al-Duraiee handled six drug import and trafficking cases during the period between the fifth and ninth of March 2016. A total of eleven suspects including five Arabs and six Asians were arrested. A total of 18 kilograms of hashish, 110,000 captagon tablets, 250 grams of marijuana, 140 gram of shabu (methamphetamine) and 170 gram of heroin were confiscated, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said in a statement. Ten more people were arrested and are being deported after catching them while helping drugs dealers, the department said.

### Drug smuggling foiled

Abdaly customs officers foiled a truck driver's attempt to smuggle 13,270 captagon tablets into Kuwait. A source said that suspicions about the driver, who arrived from Iraq, prompted officers to search the truck and find the

drugs. The man was taken to the proper authorities for further action.

### Driver runs over policeman

Police arrested a female student who ran over a First Lieutenant near the Bidaa roundabout and escaped, damaging a patrol car in the process. The Kuwaiti girl said during investigations that she escaped because she was 'terrified' when the accident happened. A case was filed for further investigations.

### Thief caught

Police foiled a robbery attempt at a money exchange office in Maidan Hawally, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department announced. An Indian man who used to work for the company broke into the store and attempted the theft, a ministry statement reads.

Workers were able to control the suspect until police arrived and arrested him. He was later sent to public prosecution.



In my view

## COMPLETING ELEMENTS OF POWER

By Khalid Ahmad Al-Saleh

**D**ear reader, can you imagine a child whose organs are growing normally except for his head as an example - the final image when this child reaches puberty will be distorted, as the head will be small while the body big. This example may reflect the truth of our situation in the Gulf countries. We, as Gulf people, are living in stability and security with the grace of Allah, and have clear civilized images, and an advancement that superseded the countries that entered this field ahead of us, but, and this is our topic today, we could not as Gulf countries grow in a balanced fashion, as our political system still lacks a lot.

Civilization and prosperity are all positive images that are not only important to get, rather, and this is the most important, to preserve them. This cannot be achieved unless we succeed as Gulf countries in developing our political systems to become one that goes along with the natural human being's development. It is not possible for us to ride the most modern cars, while we practice the tribe system in running countries. Our children cannot go higher in science and technology to the highest world level, while they do not have the right for political participation and are deprived from a selective opportunity to participate in running their country.

This contradiction is similar to the example we mentioned at the start of the column - we are societies that are still suffering from a distortion that prevents us from advancing. We should not be surprised to find embarrassment in our educated people and scientists when they defend their civilized achievements in the Gulf, and their adversaries answer them by presenting the issue of the political system's development in their countries - then they do not have an answer.

Kuwait was a pioneer in developing its political system, and the father of democracy, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem, was the one who opened the door for political development (although we are still behind in appreciating him, as only a side road carries his name). Back to the original topic, this door the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem opened, we did not develop it well and did not take it further to become a true democratic country with all standards.

For the state of our future in the GCC countries, we must admit that we need to develop our political systems. Develop them in slow or fast steps, this is not important, rather the important thing is to continue developing them and work on expanding popular participation and introduce the democratic rule elements so that there won't come a day that we only will be proud of our prosperity and security, but also be proud of our political systems, which is in truth the most guaranteed vessel for our Gulf to remain strong, united and stable.

You are all the inspiration I ever need mother.

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## FIRES, LACK OF MAINTENANCE ACCELERATED SAWABER EVICTION

**KUWAIT:** Real estate investors are currently focused on the strategic location of the 35-year-old Al-Sawaber Residential Complex downtown Kuwait City with anticipation after the expropriation department at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) announced the deadline of evicting all apartments and offered the owners either the price of their units or alternative ones.

Controversy about the complex started over ten years ago when the PAHW stopped its maintenance and repair contracts, leaving the owners confused about the details of the services they got such as the location of air conditioning units, water tanks and power fittings.

Tenants problems further intensified when they failed to conduct maintenance operations themselves, which overloaded power grids on the complex and led to various disastrous fire that have claimed some lives and caused serious injuries. Later on, the expropriation department forced the owners to evict their units in return for up to KD 230,000 each, but some of them refused the sum on grounds that would not be enough to purchase a decent house in any other area. This called for offering those alternative 400 square meter apartments in the West Sulaibikhat project.

Notably, expropriating the complex and purchasing its units was first considered in 2010 when a huge fire broke out and MPs and Municipal Council members started discussing proposal to solve the problem. Al-Sawaber Complex comprises 33 buildings, 66 elevators and 528 residential apartments of slightly different sizes and designs that used to be inhabited by around 3,000 people. The complex also included a kindergarten, a polyclinic, a co-op branch and two mosques.

The expropriation department managed to evict 458 apartments up till last January while the owners of 8 apartments rejected the offered prices as well as the alternative ones in Sulaibikhat. Those will be evicted by force by the end of this month. —Al-Qabas

## INTERIOR REJECTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONLINE CHARITY DONATIONS OVERSIGHT

**KUWAIT:** The Interior Ministry has informed the Social Affairs Ministry that it has no authority to investigate or punish people collecting donations through social media and the internet. The Social Affairs and Labor

Ministry is responsible for overseeing charitable donations and activities in Kuwait. The Interior noted that it cannot act to arrest or investigate anyone with a prosecutorial directive.

However, a new law is now being drafted that will address this issue. Citizens will face fines or jail time and expatriates caught breaking the new laws will be deported. —Al-Rai

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## OIL EMPLOYEES REJECT 'FREEZING' SALARIES, CANCELLING PRIVILEGES

**KUWAIT:** A possible pay dispute is brewing within Kuwait's strategic oil sector, with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) executives planning a freeze on salaries and the cancellation of economic incentives, bonuses and privileges and energy sector staff staunchly rejecting such 'rationalization' efforts.

Energy industry sources said that oil sector employee syndicates have refused initiatives that would jeopardize oil sector employees' privileges and rights that had been guaranteed by the law and treaties stipulated in KPC's subsidiary companies' charts.

Notably, KPC's executive administration had warned oil sector employees over the previous three days that the situation would be difficult if the rationalization initiatives, which cover both citizens and expat employees, were rejected and stressed that things were heading towards applying the payroll strategic alternative on both current and future employees. The government and parliament are currently working on a project to overhaul the payroll system in the public sector. The 'payroll strategic alternative' would set unified standards for employees' promotions, salaries, bonuses, indemnities and other rights and privileges at all ministries and state departments. Debate is still ongoing on whether to include the oil sector under the new system's coverage. It is not clear exactly how the 'payroll strategic alternative' would impact salaries.

### Temporary solutions

In a related statement, the Engineers Syndicate stressed that rationalization deci-

sions were nothing but 'temporary solutions' for the economic crisis that had been exaggerated by both the state and KPC without setting any fundamental solutions to diversify sources of income and increase the state's GDP.

However, in an escalation of the problems, the oil and petrochemicals employees' union called for a rally for employees to be held at 6:00 pm on March 22 at the union's headquarters. It explained in a statement that it would brief employees during the rally with the latest developments, discuss the best ways to fight and reject imposing the payroll strategic alternative project and express rejection of conditioned initiatives that affect employees' rights and privileges.

Meanwhile, oil sources stressed that KPC adopts over 100 initiative to cut down expenses over the upcoming few years expecting to save around KD 370 million through cutting down energy consumption, reducing operational and consultancy expenses, restructuring contracts to get ones with better prices, providing high cash assets and doing away with non-profit oil activities.

Further, the sources said that KPC would stop self-funding in coming years and mainly rely on mixed funding from banks. "Such steps had already been used in the clean fuel project as local and foreign banks will fund 70 per cent of its budget," stressed the sources, noting that KPC plans to follow further 28 initiatives on the long run that are expected to save KD 727 million, especially since it had already succeeded in saving KD 270 million up till December 2015. —Al-Anbaa

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS MUST REFUND ANY TUITION INCREASES

**KUWAIT:** Director General of Private Education Department at the Education Ministry Abdallah Al-Busairi said a circular was sent to all private schools asking them to cancel fees increase and refund parents, adding that schools who do not comply will have their files closed.

Al-Basri said there is a ministerial decision that sets the amount of increase and in case

it is violated, the private education department should be contacted to cancel them, and if they do not comply their transactions will not be accepted in all state ministries. He said any increase that was imposed will be considered cancelled until the education ministry issues a decision for that. He said the ministry is working on establishing standards for the increase. —Al-Jarida

## MINISTRIES DEMAND KD 14 MILLION EXTRA-BUDGETS FOR ALLOWANCES

**KUWAIT:** A government officials complained about recent demands made to the Finance Ministry, in which 60 percent of ministries and other state departments requested to increase their budgets in order to pay bonus for employees who scored 'excellent' in their performance assessment cards.

The sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity added that the total cost of the requests already made by around 25 government bodies added up to KD 14.3 million. "Requests will not be completely approved and will be subjected to austerity measures," stressed the sources.

Further, the sources said that fear in many government bodies that the excellent performance bonus would be stopped by Match 2017 has driven many senior officials to be 'gener-

ous' in nominating employees to get this bonus this year. "However, the basis and rules used in paying this bonus will be subject to monitoring and auditing," stressed the sources, noting that no violations will be tolerated in this regard.

The source also highlighted that the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) law entitles all employees to file grievances in case they do not get the bonus and feel their performance had been wrongly evaluated within the maximum of 60 days. "It is strange how some senior officials handle this bonus as if it were a gift or a grant paid from their own pockets," added the source, noting that some grievances, for example, were submitted by people who had been on long leaves that exceed the maximum limit allowed and yet were paid the excellent performance bonus. —Al-Qabas



Al-Anbaa

## NATIONALISTS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

**A**s an applied concept, Arab nationalism deserves the title of the biggest lie of the 20th century. It was the lie of the century because for over 70 years, Arabs have been dreaming about Arab unity ever since that concept was launched as a political slogan in the 1950s, when Arab nationalism was ideologically launched as a political belief, which has been exported to us in the form of poems, plays, speeches, articles and songs that have been obsessing Arabs like a spell.

Arab nationalism collapsed with the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and though this fall exposed it as the biggest lie believed by Arabs, nationalists who took up nationalism as a political position or profession rather than a an ideological political doctrine are just like any other professional craftsmen. For them, it is just a job that keeps sustaining them and they fight for keeping it.

The most famous Arab nationalist was Mohammed Hassanain Haikal, amongst many others, who according to the history of their countries, have been nothing more than political tools in the hands of some revolutions used to promote the concept of republics versus monarchies with the excuse of spreading democracy. Ironically, most of the states established upon nationalism were the ones that witnessed dictatorships and oppression.

As a theory of federation, nationalism is not so bad. It was its application and the way nationalists viewed it that was the problem, as they turned it from a political idea about federation and unity to Trojan horses used to spread revolutions. That was why it drastically fell. Moreover, the idea was also mostly racist, and this was another reason why it collapsed.

Arab nationalism is now over for good and will never resurrect, because facts tell us that Arab countries established upon nationalism concepts are the ones that are facing racial, religious and doctrinal divisions. What really astonishes me are GCC nationalists, because according to Arab nationalists, Arab countries are divided into two types - civilized urban countries and the people of the desert, which clearly refers to GCC states. According to an article by the Saudi writer Khaled Al-Dekheel that was published in Al-Hayat on July 5, 2015, Haikal, the most prominent nationalistic advocate, justified Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 by saying that it was "normal that civilized nations take over desert ones".

Finally, if anyone keeps annoying you by talking about Arab nationalism, simply call 24843900 and they will take it from there. (By the way, this number is of the psychological diseases hospital!)

## Crime

Report

## USERS LOSE CASH AT MALFUNCTIONING ATMS

**KUWAIT:** A citizen told Sabah Al-Salem police that a bank stole KD 500 from her. She said she inserted the ATM card in the machine to withdraw KD 500, but the card was returned without the money, then she received a SMS stating that KD 500 was debited from her account. She said bank officials insisted that I received the money, though this was not true.

Meanwhile, a Cambodian man filed a report a Jabriya police station regarding a faulty ATM machine and unfair charges from his bank. The man said he withdrew KD 1,100 from a bank's ATM but when he went to take the money, the machine pulled it back inside. The man went to the bank to complain and was told he would have to pay KD 50 to investigate and receive his money. He said this request is not justified because he did not make a mistake that warrants paying this money.

### Public drunkenness

Two Kuwaitis were taken to Maidan Hawally police station for being drunk in public and disturbance. A police patrol spotted the two men in a parking lot near the seaside. The men were inside a car with loud music playing. When the officers stopped to issue them a citation for the loud music, they noticed the two men were inebriated and arrested them.

### Jahra hospital fight

Several juveniles engaged in a violent fight at Jahra hospital. Six of the youths were arrested for using sharp objects. One man, a Gulf national, was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) after receiving two stab wounds to the head.

### Hash smuggling attempt foiled

Coast Guard officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 17 kilograms of hashish into the country. A security source said information was received about an attempt by a smuggler to bring in hashish, so they set a trap and caught the man. The drugs were found in the fishing nets tied to the boat under water. The smuggler admitted that he was planning to deliver the drugs to others in Kuwait and provided their names. Four others were arrested and sent to the prosecution.

### Man deceives girl

Hawally prosecutor ordered the arrest of a Syrian man to charge him on several offences related to entering a house without permission and deceiving a minor girl. This action came after a Lebanese man told Maidan Hawally police that he returned home early, and found a young Syrian man in his home with his daughter. The young man escaped and when he went to check on his daughter, she said she was surprised by the man who entered her room and attempted to rape her. The Syrian dropped his wallet in his escape attempt, revealing his identity. A warrant has been issued. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa





**North Korea sentences US tourist to 15 years in prison**  
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GERMANY TIGHTENS RAPE LAW IN WAKE OF COLOGNE ASSAULTS

TRUMP, CLINTON MOVE CLOSER TO PARTY NOMINATIONS  
RUBIO DROPS OUT OF THE RACE

**WASHINGTON:** Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump were solidly on course yesterday for their party's presidential nomination for the November general election after convincing wins in the latest batch of US primary elections.

Clinton won at least four states, dealing a blow to Bernie Sanders' bid to slow her march toward the Democratic prize. With her wins, Clinton put herself in a commanding position to become the first woman in US history to win a major party nomination. Trump won three states Tuesday, including the big prize Florida, but lost Ohio to that state's governor, John Kasich.

In Tuesday's primary votes in five states, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who staked his once-promising campaign on winning in his home state, dropped out of the race shortly after the polls closed. That leaves Kasich as the last true establishment candidate running against Trump and arch-conservative Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Trump, the brash and controversial businessman and reality TV star, has upended Republican politics by winning most of the state-by-state competitions for delegates who will choose the party's nominee. He has seized on Americans' anger with Washington politicians, discomfort with immigration and fears of terrorism, attracting voters with his blunt talk and promise to make America "great again."

The Tuesday outcome was seen as pivotal for Republicans because, for the first time, two states - Ohio and Florida - had winner-take-all contests. A Trump sweep could have given him an insurmountable lead in the delegate count. Trump won the biggest prize - all 99 Florida delegates - as well North Carolina and Illinois, and was locked in a



**WEST PALM BEACH:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses a press conference following his victory in the Florida state primary on Tuesday. —AFP

tight race with Cruz in Missouri. He told a victory rally in Florida, "This was an amazing night."

**Kasich keeps hope alive**  
Kasich's win, capturing all of Ohio's 66 delegates, was crucial to keeping alive the hopes of mainstream Republicans trying to stop Trump. But while Kasich could benefit from Rubio dropping out, he remains an extreme longshot

for the nomination, though he could help keep Trump below the 50 percent threshold.

While Trump has amassed the most delegates, he's winning just 46 percent of the delegates that have been awarded so far. If that pace continues, he would fall short of the majority needed to assure him the nomination at the party's convention in July. The result could be a contested convention, creating an unpredictable outcome. Trump said "we'd have riots" if the party tried to deny him the nomination if he went to the convention with close to the majority of delegates needed. "I think you would have problems like you've never seen before," Trump said on CNN.

Trump now has 621 delegates. Cruz has 396 and Kasich 138. Rubio left the race with 168 delegates. It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination. In Missouri, the margins between Trump and Cruz and between Clinton and Sanders, were less than one-half of 1 percentage point, meaning the losing candidate can request a recount. The Associated Press did not call either race.

In the Democratic race, Clinton's victories in Florida and North Carolina were expected, but Sanders, a Vermont senator and self-described democratic socialist, had hoped to take the industrial states of Ohio and Illinois, both of which Clinton won.

Sanders is unlikely to overtake Clinton in the delegate count, but his victory last week in Michigan underscored the unease that many Democratic voters have about her candidacy.

Overall, Clinton has at least 1,561 total delegates including superdelegates, who are elected officials and party leaders free to support the candidate of their choice. Sanders has at least 800 delegates when the count includes superdelegates. It takes 2,383 to win the Democratic nomination. —AP

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## INDIAN MOTHER KILLS HERSELF AFTER CASTE DISCRIMINATION

**NEW DELHI:** A mother hanged herself in India after a council of elders punished her family for her suspected extra-marital romance with a lower-caste man, a local police officer said yesterday.

The mother-of-four killed herself on Monday as dozens of villagers gathered outside her house in central Madhya Pradesh state for a party the council had ordered her family to host as a pun-

ishment for the relationship.

The council, comprising members of the woman's caste, found her "guilty" last month of having a relationship with a man from the lowest Dalit caste, previously known as untouchables, in India's deeply entrenched social hierarchical system.

As well as hosting the drinking party in Tikamgarh district, the 25-year-old was also fined 5,000 rupees (\$74) and

ordered to attend a local temple to atone for her "sins", local police officer Maduresh Pacharui said.

### Kangeroo court?

The council, or "panchayat", had earlier sanctioned a social boycott of the family but changed the penalty after the woman's family pleaded before the village elders, Pacharui said. "It seems she was depressed with the events and

over her alleged affair with her husband's co-worker, who is a Dalit. We are investigating the panchayat's role," he said.

Nobody has been arrested over her death so far, he said.

Panchayats exert enormous influence over rural life, particularly in northern India, where they act as arbitrators for millions of poor villagers who do not have access to legal

recourse. Although they carry no legal weight and are unconstitutional, they can be highly influential and have been blamed for numerous abuses such as the sanctioning of the murder of 'unapproved' couples and raping women for defying social traditions. Branded "kangeroo courts" by critics, they have also been known to hand down public beatings and heavy fines for perceived crimes. —AFP

## SYRIANS DREAM 'MIRACLE' DESPITE SLAMMED DOORS

### EU CONTINUES EFFORTS TO STEM MIGRANT WAVE

**GAZIANTEP:** Borders are slamming shut and European leaders are desperately trying to stem the flow of migrants to their shores-but near the Turkey-Syrian border, Mohammed Bilal is still dreaming of Real Madrid. The 23-year-old from Syria's war-torn Aleppo province was a promising footballer in his

football again and one day achieving his dream of pulling on the famous shirt of Spanish giants Real Madrid.

"Like a ladder, I want to start with a small team first and then a bigger one," he said. Facing the continent's worst migration crisis since World War II, European Union leaders will meet later this

miracle," he said.

EU leaders meet in Brussels today and tomorrow to hammer out the details of a deal under which the EU would resettle one Syrian refugee from camps in Turkey for every Syrian readmitted by Ankara from Greek islands. The plan aims to reduce the incentive for people to risk

Assad, 22, said that after five years of scraping a living selling bread on the streets, his sights are set on making the journey with his family. "It's hard to find jobs here. To us, Europe is better. It's time to build a life," he said.

Turkey says it has spent \$10 billion hosting Syrians who have fled their country's five-year civil war after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced an open-border policy. They now number around 2.7 million, with the large majority scattered in towns and cities throughout the country and only around 260,000 living in refugee camps, mostly in the southeast.

Some in Europe are starting to take a tougher line on the influx-countries along the "Balkan route" from Greece to wealthier northern Europe last week barred entry to transiting migrants. And voters in Germany handed a stinging rebuke to Chancellor Angela Merkel for her liberal refugee policy this week, turning to the right-wing anti-migrant Alternative for Germany party.

Even in Turkey, Syrians have found their presence has become a growing source of tension with local residents, and many now group together in neighborhoods for protection. And in Gaziantep, not all of the Syrians are keen to go on to a Europe that has been offering at best an ambivalent welcome.

Akil, who was a butcher back in Aleppo, now works at a spice shop in the city centre since he came nine months ago-and has little sympathy for Syrians risking their lives to reach Europe. "May God mend their ways," he said. "I condemn those who abandon their people and country to seek shelter in Europe, among infidels." "If you are going to die, die in your homeland, not in the sea. It's not worth it to die in the shores," he said. — AFP



**ISTANBUL:** In this Oct 7, 2015 file photo, Syrian refugees wait with their belongings in Aksaray neighborhood. —AP

homeland and he still hopes to make it big, despite the European Union's efforts to stop the influx of migrants.

Now weighing cheese and olives in a deli in the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep, Bilal put his footballing career on hold when he fled Syria and had to find a job to help feed his family. Like many of his countrymen, he still plans to make it to Europe, in the hope of playing

week to try to approve a plan with Turkey to curb the flow of people fleeing war or seeking a better life.

Nearly 150,000 people have made the sea crossing from Turkey to Greece already this year, according to the UN, but the passage is dangerous-hundreds have died in the attempt. But Bilal is undeterred. "I know it's going to be tough. But God willing, if it happens, it will be a

their lives crossing the Aegean in flimsy boats. "Our target is not to reduce numbers but to make them zero. We do not want any more deaths in the Aegean," a Turkish official said this week, speaking on condition of anonymity.

### 'Time to build a better life'

Many Syrians in Gaziantep, unaware of the EU-Turkey deal, are planning to head to Europe.

## BUS BLAST KILLS 16 IN PAKISTAN

**PESHAWAR:** At least 16 people were killed and more than two dozen wounded when a bomb blew up inside a bus in Peshawar, the main city of Pakistan's insurgency-wracked northwest, officials said, with the toll feared to rise. No group has so far claimed responsibility for the explosion, which took place as the bus carrying mainly government employees was passing through the crowded shopping district of Saddar.

But Pakistan has been battling a homegrown Islamist insurgency for more than a decade, with groups such as the Pakistani Taliban routinely carrying out

attacks as part of their struggle to overthrow the government. "At least 16 people were killed and more than 24 were wounded in a blast on a government employees' bus," senior police official Mohammad Kashif Zulfiqar said.

Another police official and hospital authorities confirmed the incident and casualties. Bomb disposal officials said a four-kilogramme (nine-pound) improvised explosive device (IED) had been planted near the bus's gas cylinder and appeared to have been detonated remotely. "The IED was fitted with ball bearings and was planted beneath the sixth row of seats

from the back," police official Abbas Majeed added.

Talking to reporters at the site, Abbas Majid Marwat, another senior police source, said the bus was transporting government employees from the northwestern town of Mardan to Peshawar. Rescue workers at the site were seen carrying the injured from the blue bus on stretchers to waiting ambulances.

### Long war continues

Pakistan's Islamist insurgency began after the US-led invasion of neighboring Afghanistan in 2001, which led to a spillover of militants across the border and a

surge in recruitment for Pakistani extremist groups.

The conflict reached new heights in 2007 when various militant factions came together under the umbrella Pakistani Taliban group, which was able to entrench itself in the country's border tribal areas and make territorial gains. Pakistan's army launched its latest series of offensives in the region in 2014 in a bid to wipe out militant bases bring an end to the war, that has cost Pakistan thousands of lives.

Overall levels of violence have fallen, with 2015 seeing the fewest number of civilian and security forces casualties since the formation of the Pakistani Taliban. But the militant group is still able to carry out periodic attacks, particularly in the country's northwest.

A suicide bomber killed 18 people and injured 31 in a court complex in the northwestern town of Shabqadar last week, in an attack which the Taliban described as revenge for the hanging of an Islamist assassin.

The Pakistani Taliban's Jamat-ul-Ahrar faction claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was to avenge the hanging of Mumtaz Qadri, who gunned down the liberal governor of Punjab in 2011 over a call to reform the country's blasphemy law. Qadri, feted as a hero by Islamists, was hanged on February 29 in what analysts described as a key moment in Pakistan's long fight against militancy, saying it demonstrated the government's resolve to uphold the rule of law rather than allow extremism to flourish. —AFP



**PESHAWAR:** A Pakistani man who was injured in a bomb blast arrives at a local hospital. —AP



**RIYADH:** Saudi Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Assiri, spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition forces fighting rebels in Yemen, gives an interview to AFP at the King Salman airport. —AFP

## YEMEN MUST NOT BECOME 'LIBYA': COALITION SPEAKER

**RIYADH:** A Saudi-led coalition's major military operations in Yemen are nearing an end, its spokesman said yesterday, but the country will need long-term support to avoid becoming "another Libya". During an interview with AFP in his office at a Riyadh airport, Brigadier General Ahmed Al-Assiri also said fighting along the Saudi-Yemeni border had essentially stopped after a mediation effort last week.

Saudi Arabia and several of its Sunni Arab allies launched the intervention on March 26 last year to support President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi after Iran-backed Houthis rebels and their allies seized control of large parts of Yemen including the capital Sanaa. Supported by air strikes and some coalition ground troops, anti-rebel forces have retaken ground, including much of the south.

But they have failed to dislodge the Shiite rebels from Sanaa or to completely remove them from the country's third city Taiz where intense battles continue. Still, Assiri said the main fighting was nearing an end. "In any military campaign you have phases.... Today we are in the end of the major combat phase," he said, adding that the next stages would involve creating a stable security situation and then reconstruction.

But he insisted the coalition would not abandon Yemen, saying it had learned from the United States which pulled combat troops from Iraq and Afghanistan before the countries were stable. Nor does it want to follow the example of Libya, where Western forces helped topple Moamer Kadhafi in 2011 and then left the country to slide into chaos, Assiri said. "We don't want that Yemen becomes another Libya, so we have to support the government, go with them step by step until they bring peace and security and stability for the people," Assiri said.

### No quick fix

Asked if the coalition may have to stay for years in Yemen, Assiri would not give a timeframe. "Look, there is no magic solution... Yemen has been dismantled through 30 years. You cannot fix this in 30 days."

The Houthis launched cross-border attacks against Saudi Arabia in retaliation for the intervention, with more than 90 people-both military and civilian-killed on the Saudi side of the frontier by shelling and in skirmishes. The Civil Defense agency said yesterday that a border zone resident had been wounded in shelling from Yemen, the first such report in days.

Assiri said the border was essentially calm since the mediation effort by tribal leaders last week allowed aid to start moving into Yemen at the Alb crossing in Dhahran Al-Janoub, northeast of Jazan city. Last week's talks were not an "agreement with the militias" but the coalition supported the effort in the interests of Yemen's stability, he said.

The effort allowed aid to be delivered to villages across the border and helped to ensure that humanitarian convoys are safe, including by the clearance of mines laid by rebels around Alb. Food and medical supplies have since been sent to Saada, which is the Houthis' stronghold, he said. "From time to time" shells are still fired into southern Saudi Arabia, and the coalition reserves the right to retaliate, but the number of cross-border attacks has dropped and the tribal mediation has gone well, Assiri said. The United Nations has been pursuing peace talks but the UN's envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, said last month that "deep divisions" were preventing any progress. —AFP

## ISRAEL SEES BOTH RISKS AND BENEFITS FROM SYRIAN CHAOS

**GOLAN HEIGHTS:** In a hospital in northern Israel, wounded Syrian rebel Malek is waiting until he is well enough to pick up his gun again to battle President Bashar al-Assad's regime. "I will return to Syria and fight until Assad is gone," the 22-year-old told AFP in a treatment room guarded by Israeli soldiers. Five years into Syria's civil war, Israel has seen benefits despite the chaos unfolding next door, and the treatment of wounded fighters is one sign of its quiet and limited involvement.

It has sought to avoid being dragged directly into the conflict, but at the same time defend what it sees as its interests. That has meant allegedly carrying out air strikes to stop arms deliveries to Hezbollah and coordinating with Russia despite Moscow's support for Assad's regime, which Israel opposes. Israel insists its policy of treating war wounded who seek help is driven by humanitarian concerns. But analysts point out that rebels, including those linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group, are also fighting, and weakening, Hezbollah militants backing Assad.

### Officially at war

Israel and Syria have formally been at war for decades though the demarcation line between them had been quiet for more than 30 years. When the civil war began in 2011, Israel decided to minimize any active intervention, said Haim Tomer, a former senior officer of Israeli intelligence service Mossad. But as Syria splintered, new threats and potential opportunities arose for Israel-sometimes leading to more direct involvement.

Israel has allegedly carried out a series of air strikes on Hezbollah within Syria, though it does not publicly confirm or deny them. More than 2,000 Syrians have been treated in Israeli hospitals since 2013, according to the Israeli army. Malek, who says he fights in a brigade in the Free Syrian Army in southern

Syria, has received one operation for a stomach wound paid for by Israel and was waiting for another on his leg. He said rebel commanders knew about the treatment and there was acceptance of it.

Another fighter, on his second trip to Israel, said that when he was wounded in a car bomb he chose Israel over Jordan for treatment because of its better healthcare. The Ziv Hospital estimates each Syrian on average costs the Israeli government roughly \$15,000. The Israeli army refuses to confirm or deny rumors of IS and Al-Qaeda fighters among the injured, saying it treats people without asking their affiliation.

### Shifting threats

The war means that Assad's forces no longer have the capacity to seriously threaten Israel. And Hezbollah, the Lebanese political party-cum-militia that Israeli officials routinely refer to as their largest danger, appears too preoccupied fighting alongside Assad to attack Israel. "The threat from the state of Syria to Israel disappeared, and this is part of the good news," said Itamar Yaar, a former deputy head of Israel's National Security Council. "We don't see this will change in the coming months or few years," he added, stressing Israel is happy to see Hezbollah battle it out with Islamists in clashes in which it has lost hundreds of fighters.

But the fractious nature of the war also creates potential threats, including what Israel sees as the growing influence of its arch-foe Iran in Syria. In the province of Quneitra, within sight of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and where Malek was fighting, much of the territory is held by Al-Nusra Front, the Syrian affiliate of Al-Qaeda. Further south are the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade, which have been linked to IS. Despite rhetoric against Israel, neither Al-Nusra nor IS has attacked Israeli territory. —AFP



## OBAMA NOMINATES GARLAND TO HIGH COURT, CHALLENGING GOP ‘THE GREATEST HONOR OF MY LIFE’

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama nominated appeals court judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court yesterday, challenging Republicans to drop their adamant refusal to even consider his choice in an election year. Obama called Garland, a long-time jurist and former prosecutor, “one of America’s sharpest legal minds” and deserving of a full hearing and Senate confirmation vote. Republican leaders, however, have said the vacant high court seat should not be filled until a new president is elected, a stance Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell emphasized immediately after the White House announcement.

Garland, 63, is the chief judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, a court whose influence over federal policy and national security matters has made it a proving ground for potential Supreme Court justices.

He would replace conservative, Justice Antonin Scalia, who died last month, leaving behind a bitter election-year fight over the future of the court.

Obama announced choice at a ceremony in the Rose Garden, with Democratic Senate leaders and allies looking on. Garland, who had been passed over before, choked back tears, calling the nomination “the greatest honor of my life.” He described his grandparents’ flight from anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe and his modest upbringing.

He said he viewed a judge’s job as a mandate to set aside personal preferences to “follow the law, not make it.” Obama held up Garland as diligent public servant, highlighting his work leading the investigation into the Oklahoma City bombing and prosecutions. He quoted past praise for Garland from Chief Justice John Roberts and Sen. Orrin Hatch. And he said Garland’s talent for bringing together “odd couples” made him a consensus candidate best poised to become an immediate force on the nation’s highest court. The president urged the Republican-led Senate not to let the particularly fierce and partisan political climate quash the nomination of a “serious man.” “This is precisely the time when we should play it straight,” Obama said.

### Garland’s background

Garland was confirmed to the D.C. Circuit in 1997 with backing from a majority in both parties, including seven current Republicans senators. If confirmed, Garland would be expected to align with the more liberal members, but he is not viewed as down-the-line liberal. Particularly on criminal defense and national security cases, he’s earned a reputation as centrist, and one of the few Democratic-appointed judges Republicans might have a fast-tracked to confirmation - under other circumstances.

In the current climate, Garland remains a

tough sell. Republicans control the Senate, which must confirm any nominee, and GOP leaders want to leave the choice to the next president, denying Obama a chance to alter the ideological balance of the court before he leaves office next January. Republicans contend that a confirmation fight in an election year would be too politicized.

Republicans have set up a task force that will orchestrate attack ads, petitions and media outreach. On the other side, Obama allies are to run a Democratic effort targeting states where Republicans might feel political heat for opposing hearings.

Obama’s choice risks deflating some of the energy among the Democratic base. Progressives and civil rights activists had pushed the president to name an African-American woman or to otherwise continue his efforts to expand the court’s diversity.

### History

Garland - a white, male jurist with an Ivy League pedigree and career spent largely in the upper echelon of Washington’s legal elite - breaks no barriers. At 63 years old, he would be the oldest Supreme Court nominee since Lewis Powell, who was 64 when he was confirmed in 1971. Presidents tend to appoint young judges with the hope they will shape the court’s direction for as long as possible. Those factors had, until now, made Garland something of a perpetual bridesmaid, repeatedly on Obama’s Supreme Court lists but never chosen. But he is finding his moment at a time when Democrats are seeking to apply maximum pressure on Republicans. A key part of their strategy is casting Republicans as obstructionists ready to shoot down a nominee that many in their own ranks once considered a consensus candidate. In 2010, Hatch called Garland “terrific” and said he could be confirmed “virtually unanimously.”

A native of Chicago and graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Garland clerked for two appointees of Republican President Dwight D. Eisenhower - the liberal U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan Jr. and Judge Henry J. Friendly, for whom Roberts also clerked.

In 1988, he gave up a partner’s office in a powerhouse law firms to cut his teeth in criminal cases. As an assistant U.S. attorney, he joined the team prosecuting a Reagan White House aide charged with illegal lobbying and did early work on the drug case against then-D.C. Mayor Marion Barry. He held a top-ranking post in the Justice Department when he was dispatched to Oklahoma City the day after the bombing at the federal courthouse to supervise the investigation. The case made his reputation. He oversaw the convictions of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, and later supervised the investigation into Unabomber Ted Kaczynski. —AP



**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentine legislators sit in the lower house of Congress to discuss the deal to resolve the long legal fight over debt default, between Argentina’s government and a group of creditors in the US on Tuesday. — AP

## ARGENTINA LAWMAKERS BACK DEAL TO REPAY HOLDOUT CREDITORS

**BUENOS AIRES:** Argentina’s chamber of deputies voted yesterday to approve a repayment deal with holdout creditors, as the nation seeks to finally close the door on 15 years of litigation over its defaulted bonds. The vote was a major victory for conservative President Mauricio Macri, who had to persuade the opposition-controlled Congress to set aside political differences and swallow what his administration described as an unpalatable but inescapable deal to end the debt morass. After a marathon debate that lasted some 20 hours, the bill passed the lower house by a vote of 165 to 86, gaining support from moderate opposition lawmakers.

It now goes to the Senate, where it likely faces stiffer opposition, political observers said. But the president warned the alternative was hyperinflation and a painful economic adjustment. “I’m sure that on April 14 we will pay and escape default,” he said before the vote.

Macri took office in December promising to revive the stagnant economy by rolling back his leftist predecessor Cristina Kirchner’s policies - including her refusal to strike a deal with the hold-out creditors, which she branded “vultures.” Macri’s

government needs the Congress to lift legal blocks instituted under Kirchner on repaying the holdouts, with which Buenos Aires has been fighting in a US court for years. After long refusing to pay, in February the government offered \$6.5 billion to resolve their claims of \$9 billion. The holdouts are the minority of creditors which refused to go along with the restructuring of the country’s debt after it defaulted on nearly \$100 billion in 2001.

The main holdouts were hedge funds which bought up the defaulted debt at steep discounts, aiming to recover the full value, and in 2012 the New York federal district court ruled in their favor.

### Bitter pill

Macri’s camp admitted the deal was a bitter pill, but said it was necessary medicine for the country to return to global capital markets and get the economy back on track. “Of course this deal is not ideal nor desirable,” said Mario Negri, a lawmaker allied with Macri’s center-right coalition. But he urged his colleagues to vote for the bill anyway.

Opposition moderates such as lawmaker Sergio Massa, one of Macri’s opponents in last year’s pres-

idential election, reluctantly endorsed the bill. “There’s a court ruling against us and we have to act. We generously and firmly support the government’s initiative and will expect the same when we present our own legislation,” Massa said.

Argentina has been mostly locked out of global capital markets and Macri, tasked with reviving Latin America’s third-largest economy, has vowed to pay off the creditors and move forward. If the Congress does remove the legal barriers to payment, the judge in the US case, Thomas Griesa, has agreed to lift an injunction that effectively prohibits Argentina from borrowing the new money necessary to clear out the old claims.

Not all remaining holdouts have agreed to the deal. Analysts estimate the full cost of settling all outstanding claims could total \$15 billion. The vote was the first legislative triumph for Macri, who had so far relied on executive power to push through market-friendly reforms such as scrapping foreign exchange controls and import restrictions. His administration was keen to show it was capable of getting bills through Congress despite lacking a majority. — AFP



**WASHINGTON, DC:** US President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden applaud US Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, during the nomination announcement in the Rose Garden of the White House yesterday. — AFP

## TRUMP WARNS OF ‘RIOTS’ IF DENIED WHITE HOUSE NOMINATION

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump warned yesterday of riots if he is denied the Republican presidential nomination, after adding to his growing pile of primary wins but losing in the key state of Ohio.

Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton emerged from the “Titanic Tuesday” contests in five states as their party’s clear frontrunners, but the billionaire real estate mogul’s failure to sweep the races means he may fall short of the delegates needed to win the Republican nomination outright. After the most divisive US campaign in nearly half a century, one that has shattered all rules of decorum and aroused an angry electorate, it remains unclear whether Trump can unite his party in time for the Republican convention in Cleveland in July.

Top Republican powerbrokers are still maneuvering to derail Trump, seen as an outsider who hijacked the party primaries, and are looking to a so-called brokered convention - which can occur if no candidate wins a majority of delegates by June - as their likely last chance.

But that extraordinary scenario - in which the party would seek to override the outcome of the primaries and unite around an alternative candidate - is a long shot few in the party seem to have the stomach for. “If Trump has hundreds more delegates than the runner-up... it will be exceedingly difficult to deny him the nomination. In fact, to do so would be to guarantee a meltdown of historic proportions in Cleveland,” said Sabato’s Crystal Ball, a newsletter by a group of US political scientists.

By far the more probable outcome is for the candidate with the most votes in all likelihood Trump - to be voted in as the White House nominee following a round of deal-making in the run-up to the convention. Tuesday’s primaries leave Trump

with 640 delegates, against 405 for his closest rival, Texas Senator Cruz and 138 for Ohio Governor John Kasich, according to a CNN count.

He needs 1,237 to win the nomination - difficult but not impossible. In an interview with CNN, Trump said he believed there would be “a natural healing process” but if he arrives at the convention 100 delegates short, “I don’t think you can say we don’t get it automatically.” “I think you would have riots,” he said.

The billionaire’s candidacy has drawn a following of millions, of many whom have never voted before because they don’t believe in the system, he said.

“If you disenfranchise those people and say, I’m sorry, you’re 100 votes short, even though the next one is 500 votes short, I think you would see problems like you’ve never seen before. “I think bad things would happen. I really do. I wouldn’t lead it, but I think bad things would happen,” he said. Trump won at least three of Tuesday’s primaries, including the biggest prize of the night, winner-take-all Florida and its 99 delegates. Missouri remained too close to call Wednesday, but Kasich easily won his home state, another winner-take-all contest with 66 delegates.

“Donald Trump could have generated unstoppable momentum had he won both Ohio and Florida,” said Sabato’s Crystal Ball. “But now it’s clear to everyone that this will go right through June 7, the end of the Republican primary season.”

With the departure of Florida Senator Marco Rubio - blown out of the race after a humiliating defeat in his home state - Trump’s competition has narrowed to Cruz and Kasich.

Of the two, only Cruz has a mathematical possibility of winning the nomination, but he would have to do extraordinarily well in all the remaining contests. —AFP

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## BEST OF BOTH WORLDS? NORWAY IS IN TWO MINDS ABOUT EU TIES

**OSLO:** It sounds like the best of both worlds: Norway sells fresh and frozen salmon worth billions of dollars to the European Union almost tariff-free, while curbing EU food imports to protect local farmers.

The fish and agriculture deals are among those that Norway, which twice rejected European Union membership in referendums in 1972 and 1994, has negotiated with the EU in order to access the bloc's 500 million consumers. It is an arrangement many eurosceptics say is an inspiration for Britain if it leaves the EU after a June 23 referendum. Both countries have their own currency. Norway, unlike Britain, has joined the passport-free Schengen area facilitating worker and travel mobility.

Yet many Norwegians say the compromise, under which Norway has stayed outside EU fish and agriculture policies and subsidies for example farmers to keep dairy cows in heated barns in the Arctic, is not as good as it looks.

Norway's 5.2 million people pay hundreds of millions of Euros to the EU to take part in its internal market, and have 5,000 laws based on EU directives. Norway has a theoretical right to veto directives but has never once said "No", fearing it would jeopardize the whole relationship, officials say.

And the Oslo government has no real say in the bloc's governance. "The Norwegian model is integration without representation," said Ulf Sverdrup, director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

Sverdrup oversaw a 900-page official

review of two decades of ties to the EU in 2012 that likened the relationship to a "download democracy" of instructions sent by email from Brussels.

As Britain debates the extent of its future in Europe, Norway's situation is emblematic of the irreversible integration of Europe, despite this continent's faltering efforts to become a true political bloc.

The reason Norway has to accept EU rules is to ensure its businesses have equal conditions for competition with EU peers. That counts in areas from international postal services to telecoms. It's important because 80 percent of Norway's exports go to the EU.

"You go to the office and find that Microsoft has upgraded your computer overnight without you knowing. Do you accept or not?" Sverdrup said, noting that most people unthinkingly press "Yes", just as, he said, many Norwegians feel forced to accept EU directives.

### BIG BENEFITS

Whether or not the nation should have full EU membership has been one of the most dominant and divisive issues in modern Norwegian political debate.

The Conservative Party, led by Prime Minister Erna Solberg, would have liked Norway to have full membership.

"Norway would have been better off inside the EU," she told Reuters, adding that it would give Oslo a voice in shaping continent-wide policies.

Yet many believe Norway, which has

grown rich thanks to oil and gas before the recent price fall, is better off outside the EU. The Oslo government has built a vast \$835 billion sovereign wealth fund, the world's biggest. It holds about \$160,000 for each of Norway's 5.2 million people.

"It would be a great inspiration if Britain leaves," said Kathrine Kleiveland, head of Norway's "No to the EU" group.

Still, the issue is on the back burner for now because of the two "No" votes. And no poll since 2005 has shown a majority in favour of EU membership.

Beyond the debate, the Scandinavian country has made big gains from access to the EU market as a member of the European Economic Area (EEA) since 1992 - with fellow outsiders Iceland and Liechtenstein. In addition to the bulk of Norway's exports going to the EU, 60 percent of Norway's imports come from the EU.

The 31-nation EEA, comprising the three outsiders and 28 EU states, aims to ensure freedom of movement for goods, capital, people and services. The three small non-members are consulted on rule-making but lack a vote when decisions are taken.

"Norwegian industry and business would have struggled without the EEA," said Elisabeth Aspaker, Norway's EEA and EU Affairs Minister. Still, she said there is a "democratic deficit" because Oslo has no say in making laws that ultimately affect the country.

### PERFECT SCORE

Norway was best of all EEA nations in

implementing EU directives into law, with a perfect score of zero delays in a 2015 official EEA scorecard. On average, EU nations lagged in implementing 0.7 percent of directives, with Italy worst at 1.6 percent.

Solberg and Aspaker's Conservatives, who supported membership in 1972 and 1994, bemoan a lack of say over EU policy-making even in areas such as oil and gas, where Norway is the number two energy exporter to the EU after Russia.

The Conservatives are now resigned to the EEA as a compromise for a NATO member where voters rejected EU membership, fearing loss of sovereignty. Asked if Norway should pull out of the EEA, 61 percent said "No" in a poll in January, with 23 percent saying "Yes".

The size of payments to the EU in both Norway and Britain, and how to gauge benefits and costs, is hotly debated. Both nations have a long and independent, sea-faring and trading history but now have to weigh that against the benefits of belonging to a bloc given the nature of world trade.

Norway's Foreign Ministry says Norway's main annual contributions are 388 million Euros for core EEA access from 2014-21, and 472 million Euros, mainly to take part in EU programs for scientific research and innovation.

Taken together, that gives a total of 860 million Euros, or about 165 Euros for each Norwegian every year. Norway also pays some smaller amounts, for instance to take part in Schengen.

By contrast, a UK parliamentary report in January estimated that Britain paid a net 8.5 billion pounds (\$11.99 billion) to the EU last year - about 170 euros each for a population of 64.6 million. It forecast the amount would fluctuate between 11.1 billion and 7.9 billion pounds until 2020.

Many campaigners for Britain to leave the EU say they will be able to avoid the drawbacks of the "Norway option".

Britain's "Vote Leave" campaign says Britain would negotiate a free trade deal with the EU but, unlike Norway, "we (will) end the supremacy of EU law. We regain control." Campaigners say Britain's far bigger economy would have far more clout. By contrast, Prime Minister David Cameron, who wants Britain to stay in the EU, has explicitly said Norway pays too much and lacks influence.

### SMOKING SALMON IN POLAND

The world's biggest producer of farmed salmon, Norway exported fish worth \$4.12 billion to the EU in 2015.

According to a deal with the EU, Norway pays a 2 percent duty to sell fresh and frozen salmon to the bloc. Oslo pays a higher price, of 13 percent, on smoked and other processed salmon.

Norway has found a way to circumvent this higher tax on processed fish. Many Norwegian firms have bought processing plants in the EU, mainly in Poland, to smoke salmon. Aspaker says Norway has created 12,000 jobs in the EU, mainly to process the fish. —Reuters



**COLOGNE:** This photo taken on December 31, 2015 shows people gathering in front of the main railway station where a rash of sexual assaults in crowds on New Year's Eve drew intense media coverage. —AFP

## GERMANY TIGHTENS RAPE LAW IN WAKE OF COLOGNE ASSAULTS

**BERLIN:** The German government yesterday approved a tightening of the country's rape law to cover cases in which a victim withheld consent but did not physically fight back. Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet signed off on the measure, which still requires parliamentary approval, after a rash of sexual assaults in crowds on New Year's Eve in the western city of Cologne drew intense media coverage.

Justice Minister Heiko Maas called the draft law "an important step toward strengthening sexual self-determination", noting that there were "unacceptable gaps in protection" against

sexual coercion and assault under German law. "It is high time that changes," he said in a statement. "We owe that to the victims."

### Legal protection for victims

Currently, rape victims in Germany must not only demonstrate that they verbally declined sex but that they physically resisted against their assailant. Maas said the new legislation would now cover "the actual situations in which most attacks occur." These include cases in which the victim was taken by surprise, intimidated or was threatened with other violence, for example in

an abusive relationship.

Hundreds of women reported sexual attacks and robberies in Cologne on New Year's Eve in attacks blamed on Arab and North African men. The city's police chief conceded that most perpetrators may never be caught over the spate of assaults, which ranged from groping to rapes, that inflamed public debate about a record influx of refugees and migrants. The cases also revived calls to provide more legal protection to victims of sexual assault in Germany, where critics say the standard of proof is excessively high. —AFP

## BRITISH EXPATS CHALLENGE EXCLUSION FROM EU REFERENDUM

**LONDON:** A British World War II veteran living in Italy launched a legal challenge yesterday against a rule barring long-term expatriates from voting in Britain's European Union referendum.

Lawyers for Harry Shindler, 94, and his co-claimant, Belgium resident Jacquelyn MacLennan, say they are being penalized for exercising their right of free movement across the EU.

Britons who have lived abroad for more than 15 years are prohibited from voting in British general elections and as a result cannot participate in the referendum on June 23. But lawyers from Leigh Day solicitors argue that the referendum franchise has already been extended beyond what is normal for elections, and should also include expats.

If successful, the law firm demanded that the government "rush through amending legislation" before the June vote.

The EU Referendum Act passed last year gives an exceptional vote to members of the unelected House of Lords, as well as to Irish and Commonwealth citizens living in the British territory of Gibraltar off the southern Spanish coast.

"The people it arbitrarily excludes are those UK citizens who are among those most likely to be affected by the decision taken by voters in this referendum," said Richard Stein, the Leigh Day lawyer leading the case. "Not to allow them to vote on the decision whether the UK remains part of the EU is unlawful and we have asked the court to deal with the issues urgently so that the act can be amended before the June date, to include all UK citizens residing in the EU for however long," he said.

### 15,000 sign online petition

The High Court in London confirmed it received papers on Wednesday seeking an urgent judicial review of the compatibility of the EU Referendum Act with European Union law.

"This is the first step in the process of applying for a judicial review, so there is no court hearing at this stage," a court spokesman told AFP. "That decision will be made by a judge," he added, without giving a timescale.

Shindler, who fought in Italy during World War II and retired to the country in 1982, lost a challenge to the 15-year general election rule at the European Court of Human Rights in 2013. "It leaves us speechless to think anyone can stand up in parliament and deny another Brit the right to vote," Shindler said this week from his home in Porto d'Ascoli.

An estimated 1.2 million Britons live in the European Union, according to a parliamentary report, and many are concerned about the impact that a so-called Brexit would have on their rights. Leigh Day claimed that up to two million people could be affected.

A government spokesman said the franchise issue had been "debated, considered and agreed" by parliament. He noted that in the long-term-but not in time for the referendum-ministers remained committed to a promise to scrap the 15-year rule.

A petition to allow all British expatriates to vote in the referendum, launched in November, has attracted almost 15,000 signatures. —AFP



**BRUSSELS:** (L to R) Belgian Justice minister Koen Geens, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel and Vice-Prime Minister and Interior minister Jan Jambon attend a press conference after a meeting of the national security council yesterday. —AFP

## POLAND SEIZES RECORD CONTRABAND AMBER HAUL

**WARSAW:** Polish customs said yesterday they had seized a record 1.5 tones of amber on the border with Ukraine, with some stones "the size of an ostrich egg". The amber, worth an estimated six million Euros was found carefully wrapped and stashed among legal merchandise in a Polish lorry consignment.

Some of the haul was uncut but authorities also uncovered stones

"the size of an ostrich egg," they said.

They added the Polish driver and his Ukrainian co-driver had been arrested but both denied smuggling.

Both countries last year agreed to exchange information on amber smuggling.

Amber has been highly valued as a gemstone since prehistoric times and is also used as an ingredient in perfume. —AFP

## BELGIUM NAMES DEAD GUNMAN

TWO SUSPECTS HELD • RAID LINKED TO PARIS ATTACKS

**BRUSSELS:** Belgian authorities identified the gunman killed in a raid targeting suspects in the Paris attacks as a 35-year-old Algerian and said police had detained two others while finding an Islamic State flag at the scene.

Investigators believe much of the planning and preparation for the Nov. 13 shooting and bombing rampage in Paris that killed 130 people was conducted in Brussels by young French and Belgian nationals, some of whom fought as militants in Syria.

On Tuesday, six Belgian and French police officers arrived to search a flat in a Brussels suburb and came under a barrage of automatic weapons fire through a door from at least two people barricaded inside, injuring four officers. A special forces sniper shot dead gunman Mohamed Belkaid when he tried to fire at police from a window, prosecutors said.

They said a Kalashnikov assault rifle and a book on Salafism, a radical branch of Islam, were lying next to Belkaid's body, and that he had been living illegally in Belgium though was known to police only for a case of theft in 2014.

The apartment in southern Brussels also contained a large cache of ammunition and an Islamic State flag, investigating prosecutor Eric Van der Sypt said. Investigators were holding a man admitted to hospital near Brussels with a broken leg that required surgery. The person who brought him to hospital fled as local police arrived. Another suspect was detained for questioning after a further house search near the scene of the shooting.

### Emergency security council meeting

Prime Minister Charles Michel summoned security and intelligence chiefs for an emergency sitting of Belgium's national security council yesterday to review the country's level of alertness and possible extra measures. "The threat remains," Michel told RTL radio, adding that for now Belgium would be on the second highest alert level of three.

Brussels, headquarters of the European Union as well as Western military alliance NATO, was entirely locked down for days shortly after the Paris attacks because of fears of a major incident there. Several of those involved in the Islamic State shootings

and suicide bombings were based in Belgium's capital. Brussels has maintained a high state of security alert since then, with military patrols a regular occurrence.

People living in the Forest suburb of Brussels suffered hours of lockdown after the initial search turned into a firefight, and voiced shock at the turn of events in their quiet neighborhood. Schoolboy Maxime, 11, was at home sick when he heard gunfire and helicopters and saw masked commandos on a rooftop. "They had a huge weapon," he said, and "(I was) 'very, very scared'."

Belgian security forces have been actively hunting suspects and associates of the militants involved in the Paris attacks. One of the prime suspects, 26-year-old Brussels-based Frenchman Salah Abdeslam, is still on the run. He left Paris hours after his brother blew himself up outside a Paris cafe. Belgian authorities are holding 10 people who have been arrested in the months since the attacks, mostly for helping Abdeslam.

Belgium, with a Muslim population of about 5 percent among its 11 million people, has the highest rate in Europe of citizens joining Islamist militants in Syria. —Reuters



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## JAPAN SUBMARINE TO VISIT PHILIPPINES, OTHER SHIPS TO VIETNAM

**TOKYO:** A Japanese submarine will make a port call in the Philippines for the first time in 15 years while accompanying naval ships will visit Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay for the first time ever, Japan's navy said.

The announcement came days after China accused its Asian rival of interfering in the South China Sea. Japan, which occupied the Philippines and Vietnam during World War II, is now strengthening relations. All three countries share

growing concerns about China's increasing military muscle amid a series of maritime disputes.

China claims almost all the South China Sea. It is also embroiled in a separate row with Japan over disputed islands in the East China Sea that has seen relations sour badly in recent years.

Tensions in the South China Sea through which one-third of the world's oil passes-have mounted in recent months since China transformed con-

tested reefs into artificial islands capable of supporting military facilities.

Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan also claim all or part of the Spratlys chain in the Sea, while Vietnam and Taiwan have rival claims with China in the Paracels chain there.

The Japanese submarine Oyashio and two escort vessels will visit Subic Bay in the Philippines for annual open sea drills, a spokesman for Japan's Maritime Staff Office confirmed to AFP. The escort ships

will also subsequently visit Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

The exercise, joined by some 500 personnel including officer candidates, is scheduled from Saturday through April 27. It will be the first call at a Philippine port by a Japanese submarine since 2001, while the visit by the escort ships to Cam Ranh Bay will mark a first for Japan's navy, the spokesman said. The submarine will not go to Vietnam, he said. Beijing accused Tokyo of interfering

in the South China Sea after Manila said it would lease five Japanese military planes. Philippine President Benigno Aquino said last week that Manila would lease five TC-90 training aircraft from Japan to "help our navy patrol our territory", pointing to the disputed South China Sea in particular.

China immediately reacted, saying it was "firmly opposed" to challenges to its sovereignty and security and would "remain on high alert"—AFP

## KILL ALL THE CRIMINALS! DUTERTE'S VOTE-WINNING VOW IN PHILIPPINES

**LINGAYEN:** Rodrigo Duterte curses the pope's mother and jokes about his own infidelities, but many voters in the Philippines want to elect him president so he can honor a campaign pledge to kill thousands of criminals. Duterte is making a spectacular, obscenity-filled charge towards the presidential palace by selling himself as a ruthless leader willing to bypass the judicial system in an unprecedented war against crime.

"Kill them all," Duterte, 70, told a cheering crowd of supporters this month at a campaign rally in the small northern city of Lingayen as he outlined his plans to eradicate drug traffickers. "When I become president, I'll order the police and the military to find these people and kill them."

Such comments are typical fare on the campaign trail for Duterte, who in Lingayen also jokingly gave business advice to those in the crowd to start up funeral parlors in preparation of him winning the May elec-



**DAGUPAN:** In this photo taken on March 2, 2016, shows Davao City Mayor and Presidential Candidate Rodrigo Duterte raising a clenched fist during his campaign sortie.—AFP

tions. "The funeral parlors will be packed... I'll supply the dead bodies," he said, to more cheers and laughter.

On a previous occasion Duterte, a lawyer, pledged to kill 100,000 criminals and dump so many in Manila Bay that the "fish will grow fat" from feeding on them.

### Political courage

Surveys indicate his law-and-order platform, which is a centerpiece of his election strategy, is winning him many fans in a nation bedeviled by crime, corrupt law enforcement agencies and deep poverty. The long-time mayor of the major southern city of Davao is one of four candidates with a genuine shot at succeeding President Benigno Aquino. And he is gaining popularity, climbing into second place just four percentage points behind Senator Grace Poe, according to the latest survey by Pulse Asia released this week.

"Duterte is really a phenomenon. I like what he is saying," Clarita Carlos, a political scientist at the University of the Philippines, said. "I like the fact that he has fire in his belly and he is politically courageous."

His unique form of political courage has extended to insulting Pope Francis, who is revered by many in a nation where 80 percent of the population are Catholics. In a speech to launch his presidential bid late last year, Duterte criticized the pope for causing traffic jams when he visited the Philippines. Duterte, who is in a long-term relationship with a woman after having his first marriage annulled, also admitted then to having two girlfriends. However Duterte jokingly assured taxpayers they would not foot his mistresses' bills, explaining he only spent 1,500 pesos (\$32) a month on their boarding room rent and saved money by taking them to short-time hotels.

Carlos said voters were willing to ignore his indiscretions as they focused on his track record in Davao, a formerly crime-plagued city that Duterte says he transformed into one of the nation's most peaceful. "Never mind he cusses a lot, he is a womanizer. I don't think that will intrude into his effectiveness as a political leader," she said. Duterte also maintains a frugal lifestyle, in contrast with many corrupt Filipino politicians who use the powers of office to enrich themselves.

### Death squad fears

Human rights campaigners are not enthusiastic about a Duterte presidency, warning he has the track record to back up his rhetoric. They accuse Duterte of organizing or tolerating vigilante squads that have targeted suspected criminals and street children in Davao, killing more than 1,000 people since the 1980s. For many years Duterte denied the existence of death squads, which were allegedly made up of local policemen, ex-communist rebels and hired assassins. But Duterte has in recent months said he was involved in them and that rights groups had in fact underestimated the number of people to have been killed. "They miscalculated... 1,700," Duterte told reporters in December.

That law enforcement agencies have failed to pursue allegations against Duterte is not surprising, according to Philippine Human Rights Commission chairman Chito Gascon. Gascon said this was part of the nation's "culture of impunity", where politicians and powerful figures often get away with crimes. Other politicians are also accused of running death squads.

Voters are attracted to Duterte's promise of a quick fix to such fundamental justice problems, according to Gascon and other rights campaigners. "He is popular because he taps into this extreme disappointment in criminality and the inability of the government to deal with it," Carlos Conde, a Manila-based researcher with Human Rights Watch, said. After losing four sons in Davao to what she and human rights groups believe were the death squads, 62-year-old Clarita Alia is urging voters to beware of short cuts. "I hope they think really hard because if they vote for the wrong person the killings will not stop," Alia, who lives in one of the city's bleakest slums, said after she visited her sons' graves. — AFP



**PYONGYANG:** American student Otto Warmbier, center, is escorted at the Supreme Court.—AP

## NORTH KOREA SENTENCES US TOURIST TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON TRIED TO STEAL A PROPAGANDA BANNER

**PYONGYANG:** North Korea's highest court sentenced an American tourist to 15 years in prison with hard labor for subversion yesterday, weeks after authorities presented him to media and he tearfully confessed that he had tried to steal a propaganda banner. Otto Warmbier, a University of Virginia undergraduate, was convicted and sentenced in a one-hour trial in North Korea's Supreme Court. He was charged with subversion under Article 60 of North Korea's criminal code. The court held that he had committed a crime "pursuant to the US government's hostile policy toward (the North), in a bid to impair the unity of its people after entering it as a tourist."

North Korea regularly accuses Washington and Seoul of sending spies to overthrow its government to enable the US-backed South Korean government to take control of the Korean Peninsula. Tensions are particularly high following North Korea's recent nuclear test and rocket launch, and massive joint military exercises now underway between the US and South Korea that the North sees as a dress rehearsal for invasion.

Before the trial, the 21-year-old from Wyoming, Ohio, said he had tried to steal a propaganda banner as a trophy for an acquaintance who wanted to hang it in her church. That would be grounds in North Korea for a subversion charge. Trials for foreigners facing similar charges in North Korea are generally short and punishments severe. Warmbier was arrested as he tried to leave the country in early January. He was in North Korea with a New Year's tour group.

### US tourism to North Korea legal

US tourism to North Korea is legal. Arrests of tourists are rare but the US State Department strongly advises against such travel. Further complicating matters, Washington and Pyongyang do not have diplomatic relations. The Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang acts as a go-between in consular issues when US citizens run afoul of North Korean authorities.

North Korea announced Warmbier's arrest in late January, saying he committed an anti-state crime with "the tacit connivance of the US government and under its manipulation." It remains unclear how the US government was allegedly connected to Warmbier's actions.

Warmbier had been staying at the Yanggakdo International Hotel. It is common for sections of tourist hotels to be reserved for North Korean staff and off-limits to foreigners. In a tearful statement made before his trial, Warmbier told a gathering of reporters in Pyongyang he tried to take the banner as a trophy for the mother of a friend who said she wanted to put it up in her church. He said he was offered a used car worth \$10,000 if he could get a banner and was also told that if he was detained and didn't return, \$200,000 would be paid to his mother in the form of a charitable donation. Warmbier said he accepted the offer because his family was "suffering from very severe financial difficulties."

Warmbier also said he had been encouraged by the university's "Z Society," which he said he was trying to join. The magazine of the university's alumni association describes the Z Society as a "semi-secret ring society" founded in 1892 that conducts philanthropy, puts on honorary dinners and grants academic awards.

### Public confessions

In previous cases, people who have been detained in North Korea and made a public confession often recant those statements after their release. In the past, North Korea has held out until senior US officials or statesmen came to personally bail out detainees, all the way up to

former President Bill Clinton, whose visit in 2009 secured the freedom of American journalists Euna Lee and Laura Ling.

In November 2014, US spy chief James Clapper went to Pyongyang to bring home Matthew Miller, who had ripped up his visa when entering the country, and Korean-American missionary Kenneth Bae, who had

been incarcerated since November 2012.

Jeffrey Fowle, another US tourist from Ohio detained for six months at about the same time as Miller, was released just before that and sent home on a US government plane. Fowle left a Bible in a local club hoping a North Korean would find it, which is considered a criminal offense in North Korea. —AP

## INDIAN JOURNALISTS SEE MORE THREATS, ATTACKS WITH PM MODI

**NEW DELHI:** A newscast on whether India had become intolerant of dissent quickly spiraled into something darker after a guest on the program referred to a pamphlet that called the Hindu goddess Durga a sex worker. Though the host did not make the remarks, she was accused of disparaging the deity and was bombarded with more than 2,500 threatening calls.

"Some called and said they would douse me with acid," Kerala journalist Sindhu Sooryakumar said. Six members of a militant group linked with India's Hindu nationalist ruling party have been arrested.

### Backlash against free speech

Sooryakumar is one of a growing number of Indian journalists who say they are increasingly facing a backlash for producing work that raises questions or criticisms of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government or his Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP. The crackdowns are happening as journalists try to cover a nationwide debate on how Indian patriotism should be defined - as Hindu or multicultural, devout or secular - and whether dissent should be tolerated.

Members of Modi's government have offered hard-line views on the issue, equating criticism of the government with criticism of the country. Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani said last month that "the nation can never tolerate an insult to Mother India," while Home Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted that anyone shouting anti-India slogans "will not be tolerated or spared."

### Attacks on members of the press

Last week, one of India's best-recognized TV anchors, Barkha Dutt, filed a police report after allegedly receiving "anonymous abusive death threats." She had been reporting along with the rest of the capital's media on a university student's arrest for allegedly making anti-India statements. The student criticized the 2013 secret hanging - under a previous government - of a Kashmiri separatist convicted of an attack on Parliament.

Dutt told a conference organized by a women's group that, following her reports, she received calls threatening "rape, sexual abuse and even shooting me."

During that same student's court hearing on sedition charges last month, lawyers beat reporters and damaged cameras and recording equipment while demanding they not cover public protests against the student's arrest. Journalists from several broadcasters, newspapers and wire services were attacked, including an Associated Press photographer whose hand was bruised and camera lens broken. The attacks "have heightened concerns about the state of press freedom in India," said a state-

ment from the international Committee to Protect Journalists. On Friday, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley issued the first government comments condemning the violence surrounding the hearing, saying "it was a terrible exception, what happened. Normally people in a public place find media as their natural ally. The whole idea of getting the media dragged into contemporaneous controversy and then attacking it physically is absolutely unacceptable anywhere." Journalists have never been entirely safe in India - 11 have been killed since 2010, according to the CPJ. Most were working outside major cities, often covering small-town corruption, when they were killed. The fact that journalists in major cities like New Delhi are now being hounded is relatively novel, after years during which they operated largely without fear of retribution thanks in part to the nation's educated, urban elite and the foreign media bearing noisy witness.

### Journo as story

"As a journalist, you don't want to be the story yourself," said Swati Chaturvedi, a veteran print and TV journalist who filed a police report last year while she said she was receiving up to 400 threatening messages a day. "I'm actually very scared that, one of these days, this sort of thing will trigger a real riot."

Rahul Jalali, president of the Press Club of India in New Delhi, said he's noticed a creeping change for several years and worries the pressure on journalists could ultimately hurt their credibility. "The moderate space, even politically, is sort of disappearing, even for journalists. Today, you're being forced to take sides," Jalali said. "There is a lot of self-censorship going on."

For the media, "it's disastrous, we're losing our objectivism," he said. But he hoped it was temporary, noting that India's media had endured previous crackdowns, including Indira Gandhi imposing a state of emergency and seizing powers in 1975-77.

After Sooryakumar, the Kerala news anchor, filed a police complaint about the threatening phone calls she received, police arrested six members of the militant Hindu organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, or RSS - the ideological parent of the ruling BJP - for alleged harassment, including posting Sooryakumar's cellphone number to a social media group. Sooryakumar said the group "exhorted members to call me and solicit my services as a sex worker." When the six were released on bail earlier this month, a crowd of RSS members reportedly greeted them with cheers. Kerala's BJP president and RSS member Kumanam Rajasekharan denied RSS involvement and said anyone who called the newscaster had "acted so of their own volition." —AP



**DAGUPAN:** In this photo taken on March 2, 2016, shows Davao City Mayor and Presidential Candidate Rodrigo Duterte stating his political platform at college students during his campaign sortie.—AFP

## THAI MOTOTAXI DRIVER NICKED FOR NICKING 4,000 KNICKERS

**BANGKOK:** A taxi driver accused of stealing some 4,000 items of women's underwear in Thailand has been publicly paraded by police, the second time in six years the alleged panty thief has been nabbed for fuelling his fetish.

The 54-year-old motorbike taxi chauffeur was paraded before local media yesterday next to a mountain of bras and underwear that he allegedly stole in between ferrying passengers around the Thai capital on the back of his moped.

But investigators said they were currently unable to charge him because no one has made an official complaint as they called for victims to come forward. "Police

cannot detain him because we cannot find plaintiffs and the villagers are too embarrassed so I decided to make a public alert," Sergeant Suwat Nisungkat of Samut Prakan police told AFP.

This is not the first time the prolific panty stealer has been caught for such an offence. In 2010, police found him in possession of some 10,000 undergarments he had surreptitiously plucked from clotheslines and drying racks.

He was convicted of theft and jailed for slightly over three years, Suwat said. "After he was arrested his wife left him and now she has become a nun because she's embarrassed," the officer said.—AFP





KUWAIT: Mohammed Al-Mutairi and Joe Aquilina are pictured during the operation. For the first time in Kuwait, the Chest Hospital performed a successful cardiac catheterization surgery through the CorPath Vascular Robotic System using Bioresorbable Vascular Scaffold (Abdsorb). This is the first time the equipment has been used in the Middle East. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Joe Aquilina explains how the machine works to doctors.

## CHEST HOSPITAL PERFORMS RARE...

Continued from Page 1

Mutairi added that the CorPath Vascular Robotic System minimizes the radiation to almost 0% - without wearing protection suits. "As a doctor in Cardiology Department, we work with radiation daily and we are regularly exposed to X-ray radiations. Doctors who frequently work around these machines take every precaution to reduce the risk of radiation exposure by wearing a 10 Kg suit, but it also heavy and risky. This Robotic Machine helps to minimize the radiation to almost 0% and it prevent doctors from having cataracts, and developing some sort of cancers. It brings robotic precision to interventional cardiology while enabling a safer working environment for the cath lab team," he said.

For his part, Joe Aquilina, Clinical Account Manager of Corindus Orthopedic told Kuwait Times that the angioplasty procedure has remained unchanged for over the last 30 years. Unlike many other invasive procedures, today's PCI procedure remains largely

unchanged from its introduction, and current PCI is not optimized to the level of complexity, dexterity and precision required.

Aquilina added that the occupational hazards in the cath lab are serious. "As PCI procedures become more complex and longer, radiation exposure and time in heavy lead gear continue to increase. Corindus developed the CorPath System to bring robotic precision to interventional cardiology while enabling a safer working environment for the cath lab team," Aquilina explained.

On the benefits of Corpath robotic-Assisted PCI, Aquilina said that the machine has 95% reduction rate in radiation exposure for primary operator, and it performs procedures comfortably, without the need for heavy lead aprons. The Corpath robotic system enhanced visualization while seated in the Interventional Cockpit. It prevents orthopedic injuries such as a 60% incidence of spine issues after 21 years in practice; 28% report hip, knee, or ankle problems among others.

## KUWAIT TO TAKE PART IN 'OIL MEETING' IN QATAR

DUBAI: Kuwait will take part in a meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers in the Qatari capital Doha in April, the acting Oil Minister said yesterday. Qatar's Energy Minister Mohammed Bin Saleh Al-Sada, said yesterday that OPEC and non-OPEC producers will hold the meeting on April 17. Anas Al-Saleh, who is also Kuwait's Finance Minister, said in a statement that the Doha meeting aims to "complete consultations for the stability

of the oil market and prices". According to well-informed oil sources, Kuwait's current capacity is 3 million barrels but it is only producing 2.7 million after production stopped in Wafra and Khafji fields. Kuwait would insist on its current share of 3000 barrels a day but can only agree to lower its daily production to 2700 barrels a day if other members concede to help increase oil prices to \$50 to \$60 per barrel. — Agencies

## DENMARK WORLD'S HAPPIEST COUNTRY, BURUNDI THE LEAST

ROME: Denmark overtook Switzerland as the world's happiest place, according to a report yesterday that urged nations regardless of wealth to tackle inequality and protect the environment. The report, prepared by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, showed Syria, Afghanistan and eight sub-Saharan countries as the 10 least happy places on earth to live. The top 10 this year were Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, and Sweden. Denmark was in third place last year, behind Switzerland and Iceland.

The bottom 10 were Madagascar, Tanzania, Liberia, Guinea, Rwanda, Benin, Afghanistan, Togo, Syria and Burundi. The United States came in at 13, the United Kingdom at 23, France at 32, and Italy at 50. "There is a very strong message for my country, the United States, which is very rich, has gotten a lot richer over the last 50 years, but has gotten no happier," said Professor Jeffrey Sachs, head of the SDSN and special advisor to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

While the differences between countries where people are happy and those where they are not could be scientifically measured, "we can understand why and do something about it," Sachs, one of the report's authors, told Reuters in an interview in Rome. "The message for the United States is clear. For a society that just chases money, we are chasing the wrong things. Our social fabric is deteriorating, social trust is deteriorating, faith in government is deteriorating," he said.

Aiming to "survey the scientific underpinnings of measuring and understanding subjective well-being,"



TIVOLI: Photo shows Tivoli in Denmark. US Democratic front-runners Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have singled out the small Scandinavian country as an example of a happy, well-oiled society. Yesterday, the United Nations made it official: It found Danes to be the happiest people on Earth, in a study of 156 countries. — AP

the report, now in its fourth edition, ranks 157 countries by happiness levels using factors such as per capita gross domestic product (GDP) and healthy years of life expectancy. It also rates "having someone to count on in times of trouble" and freedom from corruption in government and business. "When countries single-mindedly pursue individual objectives, such as economic development to the neglect of social and environmental objectives, the results can be highly adverse for human wellbeing, even dangerous for survival," it said. "Many countries in recent years have achieved economic growth at the cost of sharply rising inequality, entrenched social exclusion, and grave damage to the natural environment"

### Yardstick for happiness

The first report was issued in 2012 to support a UN meeting on happiness and well-being. Five countries - Bhutan, Ecuador, Scotland, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela - now have appointed Ministers of Happiness charged with promoting it as a goal of public policy. The 2016 survey showed that three countries in particular, Ireland, Iceland and Japan, were able to maintain their happiness levels despite external shocks such as the post-2007 economic crisis and the 2011 earthquake because of social support and solidarity. Sachs pointed to Costa Rica, which came in 14th and ahead of many wealthier countries, as an example of a healthy, happy society although it is not an economic powerhouse. — Reuters

## AL-SUBAIH REFUTES CLAIMS AS ASHOUR BLASTS...

Continued from Page 1

Ashour said during the grilling's debate that the step by Subaih to privatize Al-Dasma Cooperative Society was "unconstitutional."

He said that privatizing Al-Dasma and Bnaid Al-Gar co-op was tantamount to a plot against the idea of the work of cooperative societies, adding that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor was complicit in the sale of Al-Dasma co-op on Feb 21, 2016, opening the door wide for further sales of other co-ops. MP Ashour decried, the way the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor has been dealing with Kuwaiti orphans housed in government orphan homes. He said the Ministry is not satisfactorily taking care of 136 state-sponsored orphans. He urged the Ministry not to forcibly evict orphans from state orphanages.

Minister Subaih refuted the claims that she contem-

plated privatizing cooperative societies. In a rejoinder to Ashour's criticism, the Social Affairs and Labor Minister affirmed that she is a proponent of co-ops and she values their services to society. She said during her administration, co-ops have prospered enormously - posting more than KD 57 million in profits in 2015, a far cry from KD 38 million in the years before she took office.

With regard to Al-Dasma co-op, which has experienced difficulties, Al-Subaih said the problems are being addressed and that the co-op's General Assembly last February agreed to submit the co-op's properties to being invested by outside investors in a bid to bring the co-op back to solvency. She noted that the Al-Dasma co-op has been running large deficits - by 2014 the deficit ran into KD 6 million. The minister stressed that the cooperative movement is progressing well and that the Ministry she headed is working for the best of the co-ops and the society together. — KUNA

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## Issues

MATH AND MOMENTUM  
POINT TO CLINTON AND  
TRUMP NOMINATIONS

By Steve Peoples and Julie pace

With math and momentum on his side after more big wins, Republican front-runner Donald Trump called on GOP leaders yesterday to embrace the public's "tremendous fervor" for his candidacy. If GOP leaders try to deny him the nomination at a contested convention when he is leading the delegate count, Trump predicted, "You'd have riots." Trump, making a round of calls to morning TV talk shows, predicted he'd amass enough delegates to snag the nomination outright before the Republican convention, but added that "there's going to be a tremendous problem" if the Republican establishment tries to outmaneuver him at the convention.

He also said some Republican senators who are publicly trashing him have called him privately to say they want to "become involved" in his campaign, eventually. Trump did not name any. Democrat Hillary Clinton, ready for a November matchup against Trump, took aim at him after strengthening her position against rival Bernie Sanders with another batch of primary victories of her own.

"Our commander-in-chief has to be able to defend our country, not embarrass it," Clinton said in a speech that largely ignored Sanders. "We can't lose what made America great in the first place." Clinton triumphed in the Florida, Illinois, Ohio and North Carolina presidential primaries, putting her in a commanding position to become the first woman in US history to win a major-party nomination. Trump strengthened his hand in the Republican race with wins in Florida, North Carolina, and Illinois but fell in Ohio to that state's governor, John Kasich.

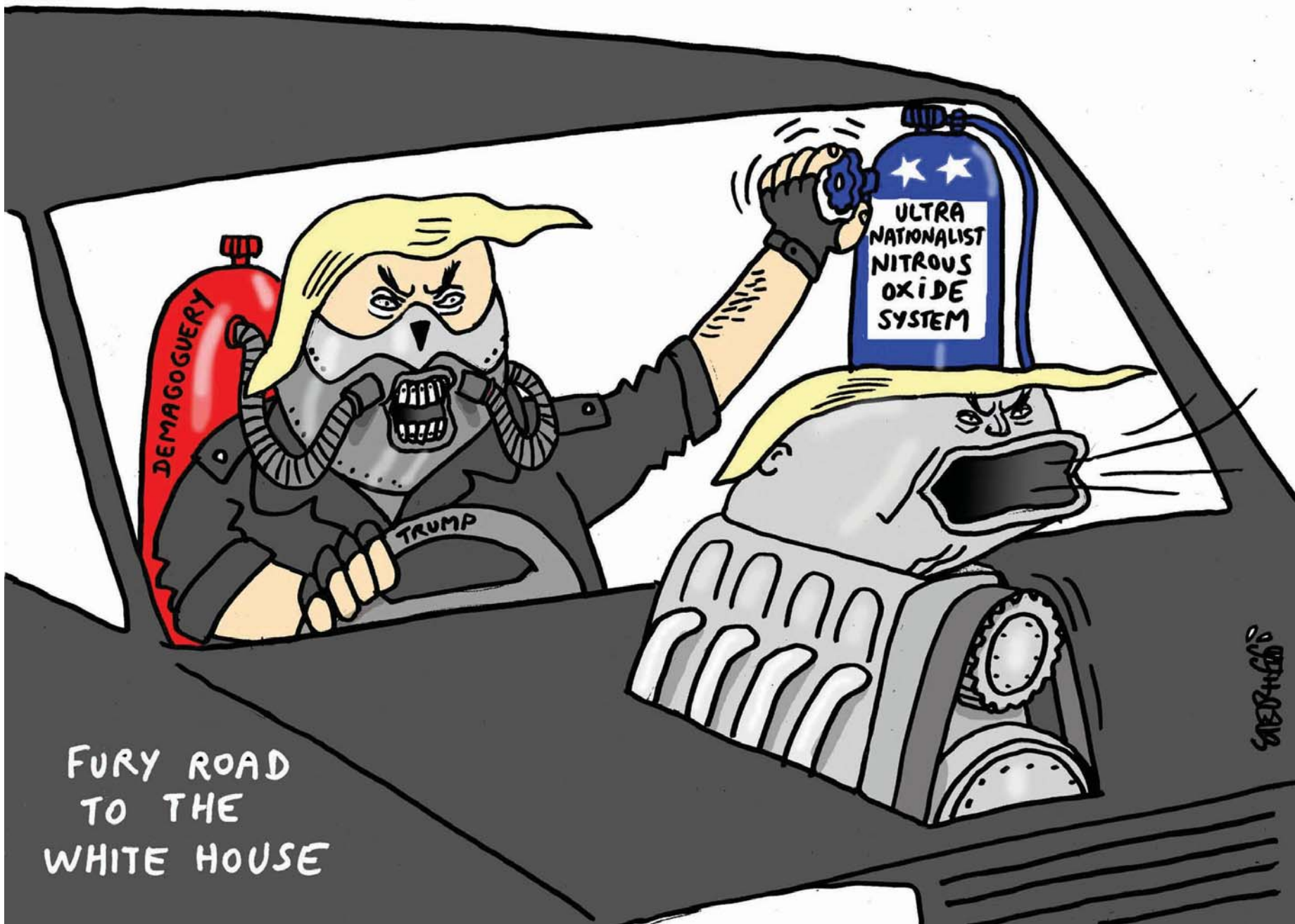
Votes were also being counted in Missouri, though races in both parties there were too close to call. Kasich, celebrating his win, told NBC's "Today" show, "I dealt him a very, very big blow to being able to have the number of delegates." He added that neither Trump nor Texas Sen. Cruz can win the general election. Florida Sen Marco Rubio ended his once-promising campaign after a devastating home-state loss that narrowed the field to just three candidates: Trump, Kasich and Texas Sen Ted Cruz. Even before Tuesday's results, a group of conservatives was planning to meet to discuss ways to stop Trump, including a contested convention or rallying around a third-party candidate. While no such candidate has been identified, the participants in Thursday's meeting planned to discuss ballot access issues, including using an existing third party as a vehicle or securing signatures for an independent bid. A person familiar with the planning confirmed the meeting on the condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss the gathering by name. Even House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., did not rule out the idea of being drafted by the party at the convention.

"People say, 'What about the contested convention?'" Ryan said in an interview with CNBC. "I say, well, there are a lot of people running for president. We'll see. Who knows?" With more than half the delegates awarded through six weeks of primary voting, Trump is the only Republican candidate with a realistic path to the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination through the traditional route. Kasich prevented a total Trump takeover by denying him victory in Ohio. But after Tuesday's contests, it's mathematically impossible for the Ohio governor to win a majority of delegates before the GOP's July national convention. "No candidate will win 1,237 delegates," Kasich's chief strategist, John Weaver, declared in a post-election memo. He suggested Kasich is well-positioned to amass delegates in the upcoming primary contests to help bolster his position in a contested convention. Cruz is in better position than Kasich, but he too faces a daunting mathematical challenge after losing four of five contests Tuesday. The Texas senator needs to claim roughly 75 percent of the remaining delegates to earn the delegate majority, according to Associated Press delegate projections.

With Rubio out of the race, Cruz welcomed the Florida senator's supporters "with open arms." The fiery conservative tried to cast the GOP nomination battle as a two-person race between himself and Trump. On the Democratic side, Clinton's victories were blows to Sanders and bolstered her argument that she's the best Democrat to take on the eventual Republican nominee in the general election. Her win in Ohio was a particular relief for her campaign, which grew anxious after Sanders pulled off a surprising win last week in Michigan. Clinton kept up her large margins with black voters, a crucial group for Democrats in the general election.

Clinton has at least 1,561 delegates, including the superdelegates who are elected officials and party leaders free to support the candidate of their choice. Sanders has at least 800. It takes 2,383 to win the Democratic nomination. Trump's Florida victory brought his delegate total to 621. Cruz has 396 and Kasich 138. Rubio left the race with 168 delegates. Clinton was more willing than Republican officials to recognize the likelihood of a Trump nomination, warning supporters that the New York real estate mogul has laid out a "really dangerous path" for the country. Republican voters continue to back Trump's most controversial proposals, with two-thirds of those who participated in GOP primaries Tuesday saying they support temporarily banning Muslims from the United States, according to exit polls. —AP

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## MARCO RUBIO: THE GOP'S FALLEN GOLDEN BOY

By Ivan Couronne

When he announced his presidential candidacy last year, Florida Senator Marco Rubio said some people were urging him to hold off, but he simply could not. "I believe our very identity as an exceptional nation is at stake, and I can make a difference as president," Rubio said, portraying himself as a young and fresh new face for the Republican Party. That was in April, two months before Donald Trump entered the race. Now, it is all over for Rubio, who did poorly throughout the primary voting season and ultimately could not even win in his home state, falling Tuesday to the Trump juggernaut.

"After tonight, it is clear that while we are on the right side, this year we will not be on the winning side," Rubio told supporters as he suspended his campaign. "I ask the American people—do not give into the fear, do not give into the frustration," he said, taking a parting shot at the frontrunner. "The politics of resentment against other people will not just leave us a fractured party—they're going to leave us a fractured nation," he said. Rubio, 44, was the polar opposite of the billionaire Trump. The son of poor Cuban immigrants, Rubio pledged to usher in a "new American century"—a tweak to the "morning in America" slogan of his political idol, Ronald Reagan—with a message that was conservative but optimistic.

Rubio was not just a telegenic young overachiever. As he prepared his candidacy in 2013 and 2014, the first-term US senator worked hard to gain stature, giving myriad speeches on defense, the welfare state, family issues and foreign affairs. He would address the Senate and make the rounds of the Washington think tanks with what his top-notch communications people routinely called major policy addresses. To hear Rubio tell it, he was the key to

renewing Republican political thinking. But 2016 has turned out to be the year of the political outsider, a time for candidates who do not smack of politics as usual—not senators and governors.

## Cuban success story

A recurring theme of the Rubio candidacy was the story of his parents, a hotel bartender and a cleaning lady in Miami.

wrote in his 2012 memoir "An American Son."

However else he may describe himself, Rubio is indeed a product of the establishment, spending much of his adult life in politics. Just two years after earning a law degree, he was elected in 1998 to the West Miami City Commission. A year later, it was Florida's House of Representatives, where he rose to become speaker from 2006 to

ended up eclipsing Crist, who ran as an independent. Rubio won the Senate seat, and emerged as a young star of the ultra-conservative Tea Party movement. On his arrival in Washington, conservatives traumatized by the election of President Barack Obama believed they had found their savior. Conservative news outlets positively drooled over Rubio. He was only in his 40s, spoke Spanish, went to mass and liked rap music, but still did not undermine any core conservative values on issues such as abortion, gay marriage or opposition to the Castro regime in Cuba.

He was an eloquent-albeit somewhat mechanical-public speaker. Rubio was perfect for lifting the party's fortunes among Hispanic voters. But his Tea Party support plunged in 2013 after he helped craft comprehensive immigration reform that would have legalized millions of undocumented migrants. Running for president was to be Rubio's redemption. As the months went by, his polling numbers rose, and he finished third in the Iowa caucuses in February in a crowded Republican field. Rubio sat well with both evangelical conservatives and more centrist Republicans.

When Bush pulled out of the presidential race, the party establishment placed its hope in Rubio. After subsequent primaries, as Trump scored win after win, Rubio pulled out all the stops and in a debate on February 25 launched an all-out attack against the real estate mogul, criticizing everything down to the size of his hands—a schoolboy taunt Rubio later said he regretted. Rubio's long, slow decline continued, but he refused to drop out, hoping for a last-gasp win in Florida. It did not happen. Rubio has joked on the campaign trail that if his White House bid failed, he would love to be commissioner of the National Football League. Might that be a good place to wait for the next election in 2020 to come around? —AFP



**FLORIDA:** Republican presidential candidate US Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), flanked by his family, speaks at a primary night rally on March 15, 2016 in Miami, Florida. Rubio announced he was suspending his campaign after losing his home state to Republican rival Donald Trump. —AFP

Through sheer hard work, albeit without getting rich, they achieved their American dream: raising a family, owning their own home and setting their kids up for an even better future. "I am the son of immigrants, exiles from a troubled country. They gave me everything it was in their power to give. And I am proof their lives mattered, their existence had a purpose," Rubio

2008, just as Jeb Bush was winding down his term as governor. In 2011, Rubio began his term in the Senate. He won that seat by challenging Florida's then Republican governor Charlie Crist, who had the support of the party hierarchy.

Rubio likes to depict that race as a sort of David and Goliath showdown. Rubio became more and more well-known and

## JOHN KASICH: THE ADULT IN THE REPUBLICAN PLAYPEN

By Daniel Woolls

As debate after debate degenerated into schoolyard shouting and insults among men vying to be US president, John Kasich fashioned himself the only grownup on the Republican stage. The Ohio governor, winner of Tuesday's primary in his key home state, insists he is about substance and issues—not headline-grabbing trash talk of the kind made popular in this election cycle by frontrunner Donald Trump.

"We know that we need to unite this country and be Americans and not spend our time dividing people in this country," Kasich told CNN after his victory was called. The win was a sweet, and essential one, for Kasich. He had yet to win a primary this season and absolutely needed a strong showing on his home turf to stay in the race after polling last or near last for much of the race. Kasich, a sitting two-term governor and former congressman, embodies the political establishment—hardly an advantage in an election year dominated by populist calls for an outsider to take the reins in Washington.

The 63-year-old tries to project an image as an experienced, more moderate optimist compared to his firebrand rivals. Kasich says that a mature, steady hand like his stands out and wins people over when Trump and his other rivals are at each other's throats. "Throughout this campaign, I've talked about issues, I have never tried to go and get into these scums that we're seeing here on the stage," Kasich said early this month at the

start of a debate in Detroit, Michigan. "And people say everywhere I go, 'You seem to be the adult on the stage,'" Kasich added.

## Staying positive

Kasich is hardly a household name in American politics. But he surged into the national view early in the race by finishing second in the New Hampshire primary.

Affable and seemingly relaxed on the campaign trail, he has largely refrained from attacking his opponents, projecting a relentlessly positive image that set him apart from his combative rivals—the billionaire frontrunner Trump chief among them. "We never went negative because we have more good to sell than to spend our time being critical of somebody else," Kasich said on the night of

his strong showing in New Hampshire. Kasich has earned praise from The New York Times, which called him "the only plausible choice for Republicans tired of the extremism and inexperience on display in this race."

Still, in absolute terms, Kasich is "no moderate," the Times noted, citing his record of confronting trade unions, limiting abortion rights, opposing same-sex marriage—a reflection of just how far right the Republican Party has moved. Kasich is also a vocal defender of the right to bear arms, another fault line in America's increasingly polarized politics. Elected Ohio governor in 2010 and re-elected in 2014, Kasich previously served as a US congressman from 1983 to 2001, when he earned kudos for helping balance federal budgets, and as a state senator from 1979 to 1983.

He considered a presidential bid in 2000 before giving up politics, going to work as an investment banker and commentator for Fox News. Kasich has often touted his bipartisan credentials while in office. In 1994, he voted with Democrats to support an assault weapons ban under President Bill Clinton, which earned him the National Rifle Association's wrath. He also proposed his own version of universal health care as a House Budget Committee member during the 1990s. Since he launched his campaign, Kasich has been mentioned as a potential vice presidential pick, someone who could help carry the crucial swing state of Ohio while lending gravitas and experience to the ticket. —AFP



**BEREA:** Republican US Presidential hopeful Ohio Governor John Kasich celebrates his Ohio primary victory during voting day rally at Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, Ohio. —AFP



FEUZ WINS AS PETER FILL CLAIMS DOWNHILL TITLE

**SAINT MORITZ:** Peter Fill became the first Italian to win the men's World Cup downhill title yesterday after Swiss skier Beat Feuz won the season-finale at Saint Moritz. Fill did enough in 10th to overtake Aksel Lund Svindal, the injured Norwegian with whom he had gone into the last event as joint downhill leader. Fill, 2009 world silver medallist in the super-G, finished the downhill season with 462 points, with Svindal, who had dominated the speed tests until a Kitzbuehel crash ended his season prematurely in January, on 436 points. Switching coaches proved a good move for 33-year-old Fill on the evidence of his best ever season with the highlight his win on the prestigious Kitzbuehel downhill. That was only his second ever World Cup success after Lake Louise in 2008. "This globe is reward for my consistency," said Fill who has had 14 podium finishes in his career. He said he only knew he'd scooped the title when other skiers came up to offer their congratulations. —AFP

DJOKOVIC AND NADAL TESTED BUT ADVANCE IN CALIFORNIA

**CALIFORNIA:** World number one Novak Djokovic broke his opponent late in both sets to eke out a 7-5 7-5 third round victory over an upset-minded Philipp Kohlschreiber on Tuesday as the Serb continued his BNP Paribas Open title defense in California. One day after world number two Andy Murray was surprisingly knocked out of competition, Djokovic had no such letdown despite suffering a bit of a wobble towards the end of the match. Djokovic broke serve to lead 4-2 in the second set and squandered four match points in the ninth game before handing back the break to the German world number 30. The next two games went with serve with Djokovic ensuring the contest would not go to a deciding set when he sealed victory on his fifth match point in breaking his opponent for the fourth time in the match to advance to the round of 16. He next plays Spaniard Feliciano Lopez for a place in the quarter-finals. Elsewhere, Rafael Nadal gained a modicum of revenge over Spanish compatriot Fernando Verdasco with a 6-0 7-6(9) triumph. Having lost to Verdasco in the opening round of the Australian Open in January, Nadal dominated early before digging in late in the second set to put the match away, saving five set points in the tie-break to triumph after falling 6-3 behind. "I feel lucky to win the tie-break but

at the same time, I played well with not many mistakes as I went for the points," said Nadal, who is looking for his fourth title at Indian Wells. "I lost matches similar to this one in Australia, in Buenos Aires and in Rio de Janeiro, so it's important for me to win matches like this." Nadal next faces 18-year-old German prospect Alexandr Zverev, who the Spaniard believes is "a possible future number one". The power-hitting Zverev confirmed his potential by breezing past 16th-seeded Gilles Simon of France 6-2 6-2 in just 67 minutes. "I thought I played really well today," said Zverev. "I was really ready for a long, long fight and a long three-set match... I'm really happy that I got through so quickly." Zverev is bidding to become the youngest quarter-finalist at the event since 1989 and to reach his first ATP World Tour Masters 1000 quarter-final in just his fifth tournament at this level. Earlier, Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori reached the round of 16 with a 7-6(6) 7-6(5) win over American Steve Johnson. Nishikori, chasing his second ATP World Tour title of the season after victory in Memphis last month, will next face big-serving American ninth seed John Isner, who fired 15 aces in his 6-4 7-6(4) win over France's Adrian Mannarino. France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga took down American Sam Querrey 6-3 6-4.

GALATASARAY NAME OLDE RIEKERING AS NEW COACH

**ISTANBUL:** Istanbul giants Galatasaray yesterday named Jan Olde Riekering as coach until the end of the season, replacing Mustafa Denizli, whose doomed three month spell saw the team crash out of title contention. The Dutchman, 53, who joined the club's coaching staff last month, takes the reins with the team languishing fifth in the Super Lig after winning the title last season. His first game in charge will be Sunday's home derby clash with Fenerbahce, who lie second in the table behind Besiktas, a full 20 points above Galatasaray. The side is packed with international stars like German international Lukas Podolski, Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder and Uruguayan goalkeeper Fernando Muslera. But to the despair of fans, Galatasaray have crashed out of the Champions League and Europa Cup and are well off the pace in what is shaping up to be a titanic title battle between its fierce Istanbul rivals Besiktas and Fenerbahce. Denizli-who took charge of the club for the third time in his career- quit two weeks ago in the wake of a 2-0 defeat to Gaziantepspor.—AFP

NORTHERN IRELAND BOSS O'NEILL SIGNS NEW DEAL

**LONDON:** Northern Ireland manager Michael O'Neill has signed a new four-year contract after steering his side to the Euro 2016 finals, the Irish Football Association announced yesterday. The extension comes after O'Neill guided Northern Ireland to the final stages of a major tournament for the first time since the 1986 World Cup. O'Neill's new deal is set to see him become the highest paid manager in Northern Ireland's history, with the BBC reporting the contract to be worth £500,000 a year (\$705,000, 636,000 euros). It is also understood that the contract extension, which will begin after Euro 2016, includes a release clause entitling the IFA to compensation if the 46-year-old O'Neill was lured back into club management. Under O'Neill, Northern Ireland became the first fifth-seeded nation to top a European Championship qualifying group, finishing ahead of Romania and Hungary. At the finals in France, they will play Poland, Ukraine and world champions Germany, with their first match on June 12. — AFP



PHILADELPHIA: Anthony Mantha #39 of the Detroit Red Wings skates in his first NHL game against Steve Mason #35 and Andrew MacDonald #47 of the Philadelphia Flyers at the Wells Fargo Center on March 15, 2016.—AFP

CAPITALS CLINCH PLAYOFF; OVERCOME HURRICANES

**WASHINGTON:** Alex Ovechkin scored in overtime as the Washington Capitals picked up their 50th win of the season and became the first NHL team to clinch a playoff spot, beating the Carolina Hurricanes 2-1 Tuesday night. Ovechkin scored his seventh game-winner of the season 1:38 into overtime after the Capitals clinched a playoff spot by picking up a point. It's their eighth playoff appearance in nine seasons and one that has been inevitable for a long time as they've skated away from the rest of the field. Justin Williams also scored for Washington, which got 25 saves from Braden Holtby. Hurricanes goaltender Eddie Lack stopped 29 of the 31 shots he faced. Jordan Staal scored for Carolina, which had its dim playoff hopes take another hit.

Parenteau added empty-net goals while Jonathan Bernier made 26 saves for his ninth win of the season. Brian Boyle scored for Tampa Bay. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 20 shots in the loss.

assists in his past four games. Jaromir Jagr got his 1,111th career assist on Barkov's goal.

FLYERS 4, RED WINGS 3

Michael Raffl scored two goals to lift Philadelphia to a key win in its playoff push. The Flyers have 78 points and pulled within one point of the Red Wings for the final Eastern Conference wild-card playoff berth. The Flyers dominated the Red Wings early and outshot Detroit 23-3 in the first period. They held on after Detroit's Tomas Tatar scored with 3:46 left in the game to make it 4-3. Raffle and Wayne Simmonds both scored in the first to give the Flyers a lead they would never relinquish. With 14 games left this season, the Flyers need every point possible to reach the playoffs. It's crunch time: Philadelphia also plays Pittsburgh three times and is at Detroit on April 6. The Flyers are only four points behind the Penguins.

PANTHERS 4, CANADIENS 1

Vincent Trocheck scored a goal and set up one by Jiri Hudler as Florida beat injury-riddled Montreal. Nick Bjugstad and Aleksander Barkov also scored for Florida, which has won three of its past four games to stay in the tight battle for first place in the Atlantic Division with Tampa Bay and Boston. Alex Galchenyuk, with his 12th goal in 10 games, scored for Montreal, which lost a second in a row at home. Trocheck has two goals and six

PENGUINS 2, ISLANDERS 1, SO

Pittsburgh's Kris Letang scored the only goal of the shootout with a pretty backhand past New York Islanders rookie goalie Jean-Francois Berube to lift the Penguins. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped Frans Nielsen, Kyle Okposo and John Tavares in the shootout as Pittsburgh strengthened its hold on the first wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference. Fleury finished with 25 saves for the Penguins. Chris Kunitz scored his 14th goal of the season in the 800th game of his career. Sidney Crosby picked up the secondary assist to extend his points streak to nine games. Berube made 33 stops in his third NHL start, including several in the extra period. Okposo's score at 14:35 of the third sent the game to overtime, but the Islanders couldn't pick up the additional point when they failed to solve Fleury in the shootout.

SHARKS 3, BRUINS 2

Joonas Donskoi scored a tiebreaking power-play goal with 13:23 remaining after an offensive zone penalty by Boston's Jimmy Hayes and the San Jose Sharks beat the Bruins. Brent Burns helped set up Donskoi's goal and scored one of his own, tying Sandis Ozolinsh's franchise records for goals and points in a season by a defenseman. Melker Karlsson also scored as San Jose won consecutive home games for the first time in two months to move within one point of Anaheim for second place in the Pacific Division. James Reimer made 21 saves on his 28th birthday for his first home win with San Jose.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, LIGHTNING 1

Ben Smith and Connor Carrick scored their first goals of the season to help Toronto beat Tampa Bay. With the win, the Leafs have won back-to-back games and picked up points in four of their past five. Zach Hyman and PA

SENATORS 3, WILD 2, OT

Erik Karlsson scored at 4:29 of overtime to lift Ottawa past Minnesota. Mike Hoffman and Mika Zibanejad also scored for the Senators as Craig Anderson, making his 55th start of the season, made 23 saves. Nino Niederreiter and Ryan Carter scored for the Wild, who have a one-point lead on the Colorado Avalanche for the final wild-card spot in the Western Conference. Devan Dubnyk stopped 17 shots. The Senators were looking to carry momentum from a 4-0 win over Toronto on Saturday, but struggled against the stingy Wild.

KINGS 5, STARS 2

Tyler Toffoli scored again a night after ending a long goal drought as Los Angeles capped an impressive back-to-back with another win. Anze Kopitar had a goal and an assist for the Kings, who scored 23 seconds in and had a 4-1 lead early in the second period a night after dominating another top Western Conference team in a 5-0 win over Chicago. Los Angeles improved to 9-1-1 on the second night of back-to-back. The Kings won for the fourth time in five games and are up to 89 points, two behind Dallas and St Louis atop the West and four points clear of Anaheim in the Pacific Division. Los Angeles has 13 games remaining to 11 for the Stars and Blues. Chicago has 88 points with 12 games to play.—AP

NHL Results/Standings

Pittsburgh 2, NY Islanders 1 (So); Washington 2, Carolina 1 (OT); Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 1; Florida 4, Montreal 1; Ottawa 3, Minnesota 2 (OT); Philadelphia 4, Detroit 3; Los Angeles 5, Dallas 2; San Jose 3, Boston 2.													
Western Conference													
Central Division													
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS							
Dallas	41	21	9	229	208	91	Boston	39	24	8	215	191	86
St. Louis	41	21	9	187	179	91	Tampa Bay	40	25	5	191	167	85
Chicago	41	23	6	195	173	88	Detroit	34	25	11	176	186	79
Nashville	35	22	13	192	179	83	Ottawa	33	30	8	205	220	74
Minnesota	32	27	11	184	175	75	Montreal	32	32	6	188	198	70
Colorado	35	31	4	188	198	74	Buffalo	28	33	9	167	190	65
Winnipeg	29	35	5	181	205	63	Toronto	24	34	11	164	202	59
							Metropolitan Division						
Pacific Division													
Los Angeles	42	22	5	190	156	89	Washington	50	14	5	221	161	105
Anaheim	38	21	9	174	160	85	NY Islanders	38	21	9	194	170	85
San Jose	39	24	6	206	181	84	NY Rangers	39	23	7	197	181	85
Arizona	30	32	7	185	211	67	Pittsburgh	37	24	8	190	174	82
Vancouver	27	29	12	166	197	66	Philadelphia	33	23	12	178	183	78
Calgary	29	35	5	189	217	63	Carolina	31	26	13	171	188	75
Edmonton	27	38	7	171	212	61	New Jersey	33	30	7	154	178	73
							Columbus						
Eastern Conference													
Atlantic Division													
Florida	39	22	9	198	171	87	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).						

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



CALIFORNIA: World No 1 Serena Williams of USA returns a shot to Kateryna Bondarenko of Ukraine at the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. — AFP



## PARTY OVER FOR HAMILTON AS NEW SEASON DAWNS

**MELBOURNE:** Lewis Hamilton spent the off-season crisscrossing the globe to party with A-list celebrities but Formula One's reigning champion is adamant there will be no hangover when he returns to work at this week's season-opening Australian Grand Prix. The clear bookmakers' favorite to win a third successive title with Mercedes, Hamilton will arrive in Melbourne after a whirlwind trip to New Zealand where he took to the skies in a helicopter yesterday above the mountain resort of Queenstown.

Hamilton's frequent flying and party lifestyle prompted some pundits to voice concerns about his focus and energy levels in the buildup to Sunday's race at Albert Park. However, the 31-year-old

says his competitive drive remains as sharp as ever and his feet will be firmly on the ground once he enters the paddock. "I know there's still more to come from me-I think I've shown that in the past two years," Hamilton, winner in Australia last year and in 2008, said this week. "There certainly needs to be some extra in my tank, as the competition will be stronger than ever this year."

Many invested in motor sport's pinnacle series will hope Hamilton is right about the level of competition he expects to face this season. Another win in Melbourne from pole position for the Briton could add more voices to the growing weariness of the Silver Arrows' dominance. The constructors champions are bullish about their car after near-

flawless pre-season testing, however, and team mate Nico Rosberg may again loom as Hamilton's stiffest competition in Melbourne.

While Hamilton has been living life like there is no tomorrow, there is also a sense that time is running out for his German rival, whose Mercedes contract expires at the end of the season. After Hamilton wrapped up his third title in Texas last year, Rosberg closed out the season with three successive wins, and at Albert Park he will hope to prove the late flourish owed more to his racing than a dip in his team mate's motivation.

### Rule changes

Ferrari, fired by four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, were the only team to

deny the Mercedes' drivers a sweep of race wins last year and the new SF16-H car showed impressive speed during testing. With only 11 cars finishing last year's season-opener in Melbourne, however, reliability will be paramount and that quality alone may be enough to score points. F1 bosses will hope Melbourne can lift the off-season gloom that has hung over a series which drivers have criticized for being over-complicated by rule changes and which commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone said he would not even bother taking his family to see. A positive start by Haas, the first US-owned outfit in 30 years, would help, and the new team will look to upstage more seasoned rivals like Sauber, who have the same Ferrari engine.

Indonesia's first F1 driver Rio Haryanto will also add a novelty factor when he debuts for Manor Racing. He is among three rookies set to make their race debuts, along with German team mate Pascal Wehrlein and Britain's Jolyon Palmer at Renault. Along with the new drivers, F1's governing body will feel some butterflies with the debut of a new qualifying format which sees drivers progressively eliminated during the three phases rather than knocked out at the end of each of them. Introduced to make F1 more exciting but approved less than two weeks ago, the new format has been slammed by drivers. "I'm personally not a fan ... and I think, speaking on behalf of all the drivers, no driver is," Vettel told Sky Sport.—Reuters

## BADMINTON BOOM IN INDIA SPARKED BY NEHWAL SUCCESS

**BIRMINGHAM:** Biopics are big business in Bollywood. The commercial success in recent years of Indian movies on sports stars such as runner Milkha Singh and boxer Mary Kom have spawned a strong desire for more. Coming soon to the silver screen will be the lives of past and present India cricket captains Mohammad Azharuddin and Mahendra Singh Dhoni, and wrestling coach Mahavir Singh Phogat. Next year will feature Saina Nehwal. It's to be the story of her rise to become India's first winner of an Olympic badminton medal, a bronze in London four years ago. It won't be a life story, she was 22 at the time.

Indians consume these biopics, not just because the films are well made, but because they're inspirational, and Indian sport hasn't produced a lot of world-beaters. "It's a good thing," Nehwal said. "Youngsters get to see their favorite player's life." There's always a plot twist or conflict to overcome in these movies. For Milkha Singh, the "Flying Sikh," it was finding redemption after blowing the 1960 Olympic 400-meter final, and for Kom, it was a comeback after having twin boys. Perhaps Nehwal's biopic will reveal her struggle, because her career seems to be one long success story.

Badminton is in her genes. The daughter of players - her scientist father Harvir was a university champ and her mother Usha a state champ - started in the sport at 9, was India senior champion at 17, junior world champion at 18, and winner of her first World Superseries event the following year. Since then, she's been a fixture in the top four of the world rankings, reaching the summit last year.

Nehwal was strong for her age, and pushed to eat right, play right, and focus right by Usha, whom she credits for her attitude and work ethic. Nehwal came to respect and fear her mother, and want to do right by her. Harvir was the carrot to Usha's stick; always encouraging, emptying the family bank account to pay for Nehwal's improvement, and getting her up at 4 a.m. and carrying her on a scooter 25 kilometers to training. She would spend up

to three hours in the gym long before her teenage years.

She came to be noticed by SM Arif, who trained anyone who was better than good, including Pillela Gopichand. When Gopichand won the All England title in 2001, he inspired Nehwal, who had practiced on courts beside him. He proved an Indian could beat the world's best, and break China's grip on badminton's biggest titles. Within three years, she was training under Gopichand in her Hyderabad hometown. Wishing future players would have the infrastructure he never had, Gopichand raised the millions he needed by 2008 to complete his academy, which includes 10 courts, accommodation, gym, pool and cafeteria. He had only 50 kids then, and was still taking anyone who walked in in 2010.

But since then, he's opened up a nine-court annex nearby, satellite academies in four other cities, and still can't meet demand. Call it the Saina Effect. Her enduring success, commercial attractiveness, and role-model appeal has sparked the badminton boom in India, especially since her London Olympic medal. Badminton is second only to cricket in active participation in India, and the fourth most followed sport after cricket, tennis and football. Racket sales have risen 20 percent annually. The national association cashed in by organizing a badminton league with the third highest TV following after the cricket and field hockey leagues. In the inaugural league, Nehwal was the second highest paid player after top-ranked Lee Chong Wei.

Last year, meeting Nehwal was the one of the prizes in a new junior championships sponsored by insurance company PNB MetLife and organized by Sara Foundation, which scouts for sports talent. Regional competitions for under-9s, -11s, -13s and -15s brought the top two in each to playoffs. It was such a hit, more cities were entered, an under-17s class added, more academy scholarships offered to winners and under-privileged kids, and there were more than 3,800 entries for the second tournament which ends this month.—AP



**JAKARTA:** India's Saina Nehwal hits a backhand return to Japan's Sayaka Takahashi during their women's singles match at the Badminton World Federation championships at Istora Stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia. —AP

## 9 BALL TOURNAMENT

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the Higher Organizing Committee of the late Khalid Al-Ghunaim Annual 9 Ball Tournament said the latest Championship was a vital event in the history of the tournament since its launch in 1984, adding that it completed all the requirements that qualify it to be one of the major championships. He said the top 10 players worldwide participated and the number of professional players who registered was 128 including American Sahne Van Boening, German Legend Ralf Souquet and players from America, Italy, Poland, Philippines, Japan and Germany in addition to Arab and Gulf

and Kuwait players. Al-Ghunaim said the organizing committee plans to develop the women competition, which was introduced for the first time in the championship. He said the level shown by Kuwait plays shows that they have skilled players who can go far in the billiards game, adding that "through Ghunaim Championship we will provide suitable atmosphere and opportunities to allow the players improve their skills." Meanwhile, world champion Sane Van Boenign said he was happy to win the title of the late Khalid Al-Ghunaim championship. He said he felt at home in Kuwait.



**SAN ANTONIO:** San Antonio Spurs guard Patty Mills (8) drives around Los Angeles Clippers guard Austin Rivers during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, in San Antonio. — AP

## PACERS FINISH STRONG, THUMP CELTICS 103-98

### SPURS DEPTH ON DISPLAY IN WIN VS CLIPPERS

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Paul George had 25 points as the Indiana Pacers finished with a strong fourth quarter to beat the Boston Celtics 103-98 Tuesday night. Monta Ellis added 16 points with six assists, and Jordan Hill scored 15 for Indiana. Isaiah Thomas had 21 points, eight assists and six rebounds for Boston. The score was tied at 77 with about 7 minutes remaining before the Pacers put together a 15 4 run that gave them enough breathing room to withstand a late Boston surge. Avery Bradley's jumper pulled the Celtics to 84-81 with about 4 1/2 minutes to go, but they got no closer after that.

### SPURS 108, CLIPPERS 87

Kawhi Leonard had 20 points to help San Antonio wear down the short handed Los Angeles Clippers and match the second-longest home winning streak to open a season in NBA history. San Antonio won its 33rd straight home game this season, tying Orlando's start to the 1995-1996 season. Chicago holds the record at 37 games in '95-96 on the way to a record 72 wins overall. LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and reserve guards Patty Mills and Manu Ginobili added 15 and 13, respectively, for the Spurs (57-10). Los Angeles (42-24), still playing without Blake Griffin, lost its second straight. The Clippers' reserves, who were without the injured Paul Pierce, were outscored 51-20 by the Spurs' bench.

### RAPTORS 107, BUCKS 89

Kyle Lowry scored 25 points as Toronto, despite resting leading scorer DeMar DeRozan, had no trouble with Milwaukee. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 18 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists in 35 minutes for the Bucks, just missing a triple-double. DeRozan, who averages 23.8 points per game, was in uniform but didn't play after starting each of the team's first 65 games and playing 39 minutes in a loss to Chicago on Monday night. Raptors rookie Norman Powell, starting for DeRozan despite averaging only 7 minutes per game, had a season-high 17 points in 34 minutes.

### MAGIC 116, NUGGETS 110

Evan Fournier scored 30 points and Jason Smith had 25 points and 13 rebounds off the bench to help Orlando beat Denver. Victor Oladipo scored 23 for the Magic, who led by 18 in the third quarter before fending off Denver's second-half rally. Brandon Jennings added 12 points and 11 assists in his first start for Orlando. The Nuggets had six players in double figures, led by Gary Harris with 18 points, but didn't have enough energy or firepower to complete the comeback.

### NETS 131, 76ERS 114

Bojan Bogdanovic scored a career-best 44 points to help Brooklyn set a season high for points against Philadelphia. Sean Kilpatrick had 19 points, Brook Lopez added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Thaddeus Young finished with 14 points and 16 rebounds for the Nets. Isaiah Canaan led the 76ers with 20 points. Nerlens

Noel, Ish Smith and Nik Stauskas each had 18. Bogdanovic's previous career high was 28 points against Orlando last April 15. His total was the most for a Nets player since Deron Williams scored 57 on March 4, 2012. The team moved to Brooklyn the following season. Philadelphia has lost 15 of 16 games. The only victory during that stretch came against the Nets at home.

### KINGS 106, LAKERS 98

Darren Collison had 22 points in his ninth start of the season, DeMarcus Cousins also scored 22 and the Sacramento Kings completed

a four-game season sweep of the Los Angeles Lakers with a 106-98 victory. The Lakers, who trailed by as many as 23, got as close as 97-91 on a pair of free throws by Julius Randle that capped a 15-5 run with 3:14 to play. Rudy Gay clinched it for the Kings by scoring seven of his 20 points in the final 2:57. This was the first time the Kings went an entire season without losing to the Lakers during the franchise's 68-year history, which dates back to the 1948-49 Rochester Royals. Sacramento has won eight of the last nine meetings, after losing 16 of the previous 21.— AP

### NBA Results/Standings

Indiana 103, Boston 98; Orlando 116, Denver 110; Brooklyn 131, Philadelphia 114; Toronto 107, Milwaukee 89; San Antonio 108, LA Clippers 87; Sacramento 106, LA Lakers 98.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	45	21	.682	-	Oklahoma City	45	22	.672	-
Boston	39	28	.582	6.5	Portland	35	33	.515	10.5
NY Knicks	28	40	.412	18	Utah	32	35	.478	13
Brooklyn	19	48	.284	26.5	Denver	28	40	.412	17.5
Philadelphia	9	58	.134	36.5	Minnesota	21	46	.313	24
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	47	19	.712	-	Golden State	60	6	.909	-
Indiana	36	31	.537	11.5	LA Clippers	42	24	.636	18
Chicago	33	32	.508	13.5	Sacramento	26	40	.394	34
Detroit	34	33	.507	13.5	Phoenix	18	49	.269	42.5
Milwaukee	29	39	.426	19	LA Lakers	14	54	.206	47
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Miami	39	28	.582	-	San Antonio	57	10	.851	-
Atlanta	38	29	.567	1	Memphis	39	28	.582	18
Charlotte	37	29	.561	1.5	Houston	34	33	.507	23
Washington	31	35	.470	7.5	Dallas	34	33	.507	23
Orlando	29	37	.439	9.5	New Orleans	24	42	.364	32.5

## DRIVING US CRAZY - HOW 'BORING' F1 IS TRYING TO PUT THE FUN BACK

**MELBOURNE:** The longest season in Formula One history also risks becoming its most extended test of patience as efforts to shake up the sport fall flat. Last year was so predictable that even F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone called it "boring", while runaway winner Lewis Hamilton agreed the crisis-prone sport was "broken". With a record 21 races in 2016, organizers have been searching hard for ways to boost flagging viewing figures for a series which is too often dominated by one team. The nightmare scenario is another parade for Mercedes, whose drivers Hamilton and Nico Rosberg won 16 of the 19 grands prix last year and only missed pole position once. Pre-season testing in which Mercedes clocked 6,024 kilometers (3,743 miles), nearly a third more than their closest rivals Ferrari, has cast a sense of foreboding over this week's season start in Melbourne.

Chief among the innovations is a much-debated new qualifying format, which steadily eliminates cars one by one and finishes in a top-two shoot-out. But the new system doesn't look like it will have much impact on the quickest

drivers, with Rosberg admitting last week he had not even bothered to look at it. One fear is that it will introduce even more complexity to a sport already heavy on technicalities. Toro Rosso's Carlos Sainz Jr said: "I read them (qualifying regulations) very briefly and I didn't understand them." "I just hope that the fans that are not big fans of Formula One and just turn on their TV on Sunday understand it and they know what's happening," he added, according to Autosport.com.

### 'Not remote-controlled'

The cars should at least make more noise this year, with twin exhausts introduced after complaints from petrol-heads that the hybrid F1 engines were simply too quiet. A big cut in radio communications will make a genuine difference, forcing drivers to make decisions rather than rely on their data-crunching teams in the pitlane. "Strategy, engine-mode deployment, tyre choices, even up to a point pit stops, a lot will be down to the driver to decide," Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said on Autosport.com. —AFP





Kuwait Times  
ICC WORLD TWENTY20



KOLKATA: Pakistan's Ahmad Shehzad fields a ball during the World T20 cricket tournament match between Pakistan and Bangladesh at The Eden Gardens Cricket Stadium in Kolkata yesterday. —AFP

AFRIDI POWERS PAKISTAN TO BIG OPENING WIN

SCOREBOARD	
KOLKATA: Scoreboard of the World Twenty20 match between Bangladesh and Pakistan at Edens Gardens in Kolkata yesterday:	
<b>Pakistan</b>	
Sharjeel Khan b Sunny	18
Ahmed Shehzad c Mahmudullah b Rahman	52
Mohammad Hafeez c Sarkar b Sunny	64
Shahid Afridi c Mahmudullah b Ahmed	49
Umar Akmal c Al Hasan b Ahmed	0
Shoaib Malik not out	15
Imad Wasim not out	0
Extras (lb1, nb1, w1)	3
Total (5 wickets, 20 overs)	201
Did not bat: Sarfraz Ahmed, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Irfan, Mohammad Amir	
Fall of wickets: 1-26 (Khan), 2-121 (Shehzad), 3-163 (Hafeez), 4-175 (Akmal), 5-198 (Afridi)	
Bowling: Ahmed 4-0-32-2, Hossain 3-0-43-0, Sunny 4-0-34-2, Al Hasan 4-0-39-0, Mortaza 3-0-41-0, Rahman 2-0-11-1.	
<b>Bangladesh</b>	
Tamim Iqbal c Wasim b Afridi	24
Soumya Sarkar b Amir	0
Sabbir Rahman b Afridi	25
Shakib Al Hasan not out	50
Mahmudullah Riyad c Khan b Wasim	4
Mushfiqur Rahim c Ahmed b Amir	18
Mohammad Mithun c Amir b Irfan	2
Mashrafe Mortaza not out	15
Extras (lb4, w4)	8
Total (6 wickets, 20 overs)	146
Did not bat: Al-Amin Hossain, Arafat Sunny, Taskin Ahmed	
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Sarkar), 2-44 (Rahman), 3-58 (Iqbal), 4-71 (Mahmudullah), 5-110 (Rahim), 6-117 (Mithun)	
Bowling: Amir 4-0-27-2, Irfan 4-0-30-1, Riaz 4-0-31-0, Afridi 4-0-27-2, Malik 2-0-14-0, Wasim 2-0-13-1.	
Result: Pakistan win by 55 runs.	

TURBULENT CHAMPS  
SRI LANKA FACE  
AFGHANISTAN CHALLENGE

KOLKATA: Afghanistan will try to exploit the disarray in the ranks of holders Sri Lanka in the World Twenty20 in Kolkata today, with their destructive opener Mohammad Shahzad looking to extend his trail of carnage. A victory for the defending champions in their World T20 opener against the tournament's rank outsiders would normally be a no-brainer. But the mood in the camps could not be more contrasting, with Sri Lanka in turmoil after changing their captain and coach in recent weeks and Afghanistan on a high after cruising through the preliminary round.

Afghanistan pulled off a comprehensive 59-run win against Zimbabwe in the qualifiers last week to storm into the Super 10s, a remarkable feat for the only non-Test team left in the tournament and who have to play all their matches away from their war-torn home. Since overcoming the odds to compete in the 2010 World T20 in England, the Afghan team has managed to qualify for all the major international tournaments, including last year's 50-over World Cup. They have also won 16 out of 19 T20 matches, thanks to some inspiring performances by Shahzad, their in-form opener and wicketkeeper. Shahzad has rattled off 624 runs at an average of 34.66 in the past year, including an unbeaten 118 off 67 balls against Zimbabwe in January.

Apart from his colorful array of shots, the 31-year-old is regarded as the team's chief motivator thanks to his chirpy presence behind the stumps. "The troubles back home are not really on our minds when we take the field," Shahzad said recently in an interview. "We are not here just to participate in the tournament, we have come here to do something," he said, bubbling with confidence. The Afghans could not have asked for a better first big opponent than Sri Lanka, who have been grappling with a slump in form, having won just four of their 14 fixtures since their 2014 World T20 victory. The defending champions have slumped to eighth in the T20 rankings and come into the World T20 following a disastrous showing at the Asia Cup in Bangladesh. —AFP

KOLKATA: Proud captain Shahid Afridi said he had been determined to lead by example yesterday after starring in Pakistan's demolition of Bangladesh, drawing a line under his side's troubled World Twenty20 build-up. The big-hitting Afridi, accused in some quarters of being a "traitor" ahead of his team's World T20 opener, silenced his critics with a devastating blitz with the bat before taking two key wickets in a 55-run victory. The allrounder's blistering 19-ball 49 helped Pakistan post a commanding total of 201 for five and his bowling was instrumental in restricting Bangladesh to 146 for six from their 20 overs.

The result was particularly satisfying for man-of-the-match Afridi who had been under fire back home after saying at the weekend that Pakistan received more "love" from Indian fans than from supporters back home. "It's a big event and I thought I should take responsibility as the captain," Afridi said after being named man-of-the-match. While his batting pyrotechnics once earned him the nickname "Boom Boom", Afridi has endured a torrid time at the crease in the last couple of years and some observers felt his ability to play a match-winning innings had gone for good.

But after promoting himself to number four in the order, Afridi smacked four boundaries and four sixes to help Pakistan register their second highest score in T20s. "I love to give a chance to the other batsmen but sometimes you need extra effort in a big event," said a beaming Afridi. "I was

hungry. I was keen to perform well for my country... As senior player, I had to lead by example. "Captaincy is not an easy job, but when the team gives you 100 percent, I enjoy it. People expect me to bat and bowl as well and I enjoy both." Little had gone right for Pakistan in recent weeks. After a dismal showing in the Asia Cup, they had to delay their departure to India for the World T20 in a row over security.

But everything fell into place once Afridi stepped onto the Eden Gardens surface where he won the toss and opted to bat. His decision was soon vindicated when Ahmed Shehzad (52) and Mohammad Hafeez (64) hit entertaining fifties to stitch a 95-run second wicket partnership and lay a solid foundation for others to build on. The duo combined the right dose of caution and aggression to blunt the Bangladesh bowling attack, with the Tigers' captain Mashrafe Mortaza unable to stem the tide in the absence of injured bowler Mustafizur Rahman. Shehzad, who was recalled after missing the recent Asia Cup, reached his fifth T20 international half-century in 35 deliveries while Hafeez struck seven fours and two sixes in his 42-ball stay.

**Breathtaking catch**

The only bright spot for Bangladesh was a moment of brilliance in the field when Soumya Sarkar took a breathtaking catch on the boundary to end Hafeez's innings. Bangladesh were never really in the hunt and got off to a dreadful start when opener



KOLKATA: Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez (left) is watched by captain Shahid Afridi as he celebrates after scoring a half-century (50 runs) during the World T20 cricket tournament match between Pakistan and Bangladesh yesterday. — AFP

Sarkar was bowled by Mohammad Amir with only the third ball. The in-form Tamim Iqbal and Sabbir Rahman put on 43 for the second wicket, but they both fell victim to Afridi and Bangladesh's chase fell away.

Amir, on the comeback trail after serving a prison sentence and a five-year ban for spot-fixing, ended with impressive figures of 2-27. All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan put up some resistance, top-scoring with an unbeaten 50, but his knock never looked

like altering the outcome. Mortaza said it was always going to be a struggle to overhaul Pakistan's total and his team's poor start had rendered it "almost impossible" as early as the sixth over. "Shakib batted very well and we got 150, so it's not that bad," he said. "We have to bowl better, we didn't bowl well today." Pakistan's next match is against arch rivals India in Kolkata on Saturday while Bangladesh's second assignment is against Australia on March 21. —AFP

GAYLE-FORCE BLOWS AWAY  
ENGLAND AT WORLD T20



MUMBAI: West Indies's Chris Gayle plays a shot during the World T20 cricket tournament match between England and West Indies at The Wankhede Cricket Stadium in Mumbai yesterday. — AFP

MUMBAI: Chris Gayle blasted a scintillating century to propel the West Indies to a stunning six-wicket win against England in their World Twenty20 opener in Mumbai yesterday. The powerful left-hander smashed 11 sixes and five fours as the Windies successfully chased down England's score of 182 for six at the Wankhede Stadium. Destructive opener Gayle was largely off-strike in the opening stages of the Super 10 Group One clash but lit up the tournament when the opportunity came his way. He hit two consecutive sixes off spinner Adil Rashid in the ninth over as the West Indies sat at 85 for two at the half-way stage of their innings. Gayle, 36, then repeated the feat against Ben Stokes in the 11th as he single-handedly took control of the Windies' assault on England's total.

Opener Johnson Charles had gone for nought in the first over while Marlon Samuels had made a speedy 37 before being caught deep by David Willey off Rashid. Denesh Ramdin went for 12 while Dwayne Bravo could manage only two, but Gayle remained destructive as partners fell around him. The Jamaican, who was accused of sexism after he asked an Australian TV presenter for a date live on air in January during the Big Bash League, hit one monstrous six after another. He clinched his century in the 18th over with a quick single as he finished on 100 not out from 48 balls.

Andre Russell hit the winning run as the West Indies beat the target set them in 18.1 overs. England's stand came after West Indies captain Darren Sammy won the toss and elected to field. Joe Root top-scored for England with a tidy 48, including two exquisite sixes, off 36 balls at the western Indian city's Wankhede Stadium. England skipper Eoin Morgan had promised his charges would bat aggressively but they looked nervy in the opening stages and took their time getting runs on the board. They posted just five runs in the opening two overs before openers Jason Roy and Alex Hales began to get into their groove as England reached 36-0 after four overs.

But right-handed batsman Roy was expertly caught at midwicket in the fifth over for 15 by a diving Samuel Badree off Russell, sporting an orange mohawk hairstyle. Hales and number three Root then struck up a healthy partnership as England quickened their run-rate, reaching 81 for one after 10 overs. The partnership was at 55 runs when six foot seven inches left-arm spinner Sulieman Benn bowled Hales in the 12th over with England's opener having made 28. Root then went when he miss-hit a Russell delivery straight to Jerome Taylor, who pouched the ball with ease at mid-off. Jos Buttler made 30, including three sixes, before being caught by Carlos Brathwaite in the deep, while Morgan scored 27 not out. —AFP

SCOREBOARD	
MUMBAI: Scoreboard of the World Twenty20 match between England and West Indies at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday:	
<b>England</b>	
J. Roy c Badree b Russell	15
A. Hales b Benn	28
J. Root c Taylor b Russell	48
J. Buttler c Brathwaite b Bravo	30
E. Morgan not out	27
B. Stokes lbw b Bravo	15
M. Ali run out	7
Extras (lb1, b1, w10)	12
Total (6 wickets, 20 overs)	182
Did not bat: C. Jordan, A. Rashid, D. Willey, R. Topley	
Fall of wickets: 1-37 (Roy), 2-92 (Hales), 3-114 (Root), 4-152 (Buttler), 5-175 (Stokes), 6-182 (Ali)	
Bowling: Taylor 3-0-30-0, Badree 4-0-34-0, Russell 4-0-36-2, Bravo 4-0-41-2, Benn 3-0-23-1, Brathwaite 2-0-16-0	
<b>West Indies</b>	
J. Charles c Ali b Willey	0
C. Gayle not out	100
M. Samuels c Willey b Rashid	37
D. Ramdin c Rashid b Ali	12
D. Bravo c Hales b Topley	2
A. Russell not out	16
Extras (lb4, nb2, w10)	16
Total (4 wickets, 18.1 overs)	183
Did not bat: D. Sammy, C. Brathwaite, S. Badree, J. Taylor, S. Benn	
Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Charles), 2-57 (Samuels), 3-103 (Ramdin), 4-113 (Bravo)	
Bowling: Willey 3-0-33-1, Topley 2.1-0-22-1, Jordan 4-0-24-0, Stokes 3-0-42-0, Rashid 2-0-20-1, Ali 4-0-38-1.	
Result: West Indies win by six wickets.	



## WAR, CRISIS, FOOTBALL DEFEATS, UKRAINIAN FANS IN DEPRESSION

**KIEV:** Foreign stars are leaving, clubs are collapsing, crowds are shrinking and Dynamo Kiev suffered the latest blow for long-suffering Ukrainian football fans. Their 3-1 aggregate defeat by Manchester City in the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday compounded the agony of a nation that proudly hosted the 2012 European Championships but has been at war for the past 23 months. Clubs like Dynamo and Shakhtar Donetsk bought foreign stars that made Ukrainian sides feared in the Champions League.

But conflict and economic crisis has seen the powerful clubs lose funding and home venues are considered too dangerous for opposing sides to visit because of clashes in surrounding streets. "Everything is collapsing; top foreign players have gone and clubs' budgets have been cut," Ukrainian football analyst Artem Frankov told AFP. Russia's annexation of the Crimea region in 2014 saw two of the Black Sea peninsula's teams leave Ukraine's top division—a move that upset UEFA, which barred them from joining the Russian championship.

Meanwhile, Shakhtar Donetsk and a few other eastern teams have been forced to flee their grounds in rebel-held territories and play in Kiev or nationalist western Ukraine. This allowed them to continue taking part in European competitions, but home support was at times replaced by jeering crowds that rooted for the away team. The success of Shakhtar and Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk-surprise finalists of last year's Europa League—was built around their purchase of stars from Brazil and other nations for huge sums. But security fears and budget cuts are seeing those players leave for far safer European countries. Brazilian Douglas Costa moved from Shakhtar to Bayern Munich last year for an estimated \$30 million. Ukrainian clubs now have to rely on homegrown, untested younger players.

### Hard times

According to Ukraine's Premier League, the past two years have seen the number of foreign top flight players dwindle from 170 to 60. This is reflected in performances on the pitch. Shakhtar-owned by Rinat Akhmetov, Ukraine's richest tycoon—have also sold Brazilian top scorer Alex Teixeira

to China's Jiangsu Suning for 50 million euros (\$55.5 million). The money has not been spent on new imports. The clubs need cash. "The days of teams' full funding (by billionaires) are gone. It is now hard times for all," Shakhtar's chief executive Sergiy Palkin told Novoye Vremya weekly.

Ukraine's political turmoil and conflict have fanned an economic crisis that has thinned the wallets of tycoons like Akhmetov, who finance most Ukrainian clubs. The cut in funding has forced some of the smaller teams into bankruptcy protection and to drop out of the Premier League, which has shrunk to 14 from 16 clubs since 2014. But even those still competing suffer from financial turmoil. There have been player strikes over unpaid wages, which many in Ukraine believe were too high from the start.

Perhaps the starkest example of the troubles is Dnipro, which less than a year after its stunning European performance faces possible expulsion from continental competition until 2019. Club president, banking magnate Igor Kolomoisky has refused to pay wages owed to Dnipro's former Spanish manager Juande Ramos and his assistants. "Our clubs are fully dependent on their owners' whims," Frankov said. The decline in football quality has emptied once vibrant stadiums and seen fans switch off their TV sets. Average match attendance has halved to 6,000 from 12,000 since last year, according to Premier League chief Petro Ivanov.

And those who do come out are often from hooligan fringes, some swearing allegiance to far-right groups renowned for racist behavior. One infamous incident spotlighted by Ukrainian television showed Dynamo Kiev fans throw Nazi swastika-embellished smoke bombs onto the pitch. A group of Dynamo ultras also attacked local black fans during a Champions League home match against Chelsea. The team played its next group stage game before an empty stadium as punishment, which it won against Maccabi Tel Aviv. Analysts say the crises should prompt a reform of the league, with teams' dependence on billionaires' largess replaced by market principles. "We forgot that football, at least partially, has to feed itself," Frankov said. "If Ukrainian football wants to survive, it must reform itself." —AFP

## AFC MOVES SAUDI-IRAN TIES TO NEUTRAL VENUES

**TEHRAN:** Saudi Arabian clubs will play Champions League matches against Iranian teams at neutral venues this year because of the lack of improvement in relations between the two countries, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said yesterday. Saudi Arabia cut all ties with Iran in January after its embassy in Tehran was attacked following the Saudis' execution of a prominent Shiite cleric.

The AFC, soccer's governing body in the region, had set a March 15 deadline for "normal relations" to be resumed between the countries or the matches would be played at neutral venues. "It is most unfortunate for the AFC to learn that... the Saudi Arabian government has yet to lift the travel restrictions on their nationals, which prohibit travel to Iran," the AFC said in a letter to the governing bodies of both countries.

"This travel ban offers no special dispensation for football teams." Furthermore, there has been no significant development in the relationship between the two countries concerned. The Iranian football federation was quick to object to the AFC directive in a statement released via the Tasnim news agency yesterday. "Football Federation of Iran will send

a letter to AFC to announce its objection. Saudi Arabia has brought a political issue into football which is against AFC and (world governing body) FIFA's statutes..." it said.

"Iran hosted Emirati games under the best condition and absolute security. Iran is known as a safe country in Asia and in the world so it will certainly react to this issue." An official with Iranian champions Sepahan told Reuters last month that Iran might withdraw its teams from the tournament if they were blocked from hosting matches against Saudi Arabian clubs. The AFC last month pushed back six group-stage Saudi-Iran fixtures to allow more time for independent evaluations on safety and security issues after four Saudi clubs complained it was unsafe for them to play in Iran.

Sepahan team manager Rassol Khorvash said the three Iranian clubs in the ACL believed the Saudis were "looking for excuses" and were demanding the switch to neutral venues for political reasons. Twice Asian champions Al-Hilal, one of four Saudi teams in the competition's group stage, said they had experienced problems playing in Iran in previous years and the breakdown in diplomatic relations would make it more dangerous this season. —Reuters

## LATEST SEOUL ROUT PUTS ADRIANO ON CLOUD NINE

**JINAN:** Brazilian super striker Adriano inspired FC Seoul to a 4-1 rout of Shandong Luneng and took his personal tally to nine goals in the AFC Champions League yesterday. Adriano scored twice in Jinan as FC Seoul bossed the hosts and assumed control of Group F with a maximum nine points—including 14 goals in their three games so far. Adriano opened the scoring in the 27th minute as the visitors took control, only for Shandong's Jucilei to equalize against the run of play on 62 minutes. But Shandong's goal drew the most emphatic of responses from FC Seoul, who were back in front in just three minutes and 4-1 ahead six minutes after that.

First Adriano's deft footwork released Go Yo-Han, who checked inside and shot past the defenders to beat goalkeeper Wang Dalei on his near post. Montenegrin striker Dejan Damjanovic had time and space to pick his spot on 68 minutes and make it 3-1 as the Shandong defense again went missing. And Adriano finished a penetrating team move on 71 minutes as Go delivered an angled ball to Damjanovic who swiveled to pull it back to the waiting Brazilian. FC Seoul had earlier totted up wins of 6-0 over Buriram United and 4-1 against Sanfrecce Hiroshima—with Adriano scoring seven of the goals—to assert themselves as the Asian competition's form team. —AFP



**SHANDONG:** Diego Tardelli Martins (left) of China's Shandong Luneng FC fights for the ball with Go Yo-Han (center) of South Korea's FC Seoul during their AFC Champions League group stage football match in Jinan, in China's Shandong province yesterday. —AFP



**NOGUEIRA DO CRAVO:** Nigerians Valentine Akpey and Sunday Akoh both 20, attend a training session at AD Nogueirense sporting association at Nogueira do Cravo. — AFP

## DREAMS OF FOOTBALL STARDOM DASHED FOR YOUNG AFRICANS

**NOGUEIRA DO CRAVO:** They dream of being the next Cristiano Ronaldo, but for many budding young stars who arrive in Portugal from Africa and Latin America, Europe's football riches remain an illusion. Abandoned by unscrupulous agents, some are unceremoniously deported, others left to fend for themselves on the streets. Few top clubs are interested. Valentine Akpey, 20, trains tirelessly with his fellow Nigerian Sunday Akoh, juggling the ball, passing and repassing, the snow-capped peaks of Portugal's Serra da Estrela mountains in the background.

For two years he has been on the books of Nogueirense, an amateur club in Portugal's third division. "I work hard so I can win a place in a higher division", he said. His face drawn, and with well-maintained dreadlocks, the young Nigerian has lofty ambitions. "I dream of playing for Barcelona, like Lionel Messi. The best football is in Europe, all young Africans want to come here."

He was not even 18 when he arrived in Portugal with other youths, brought over by a Nigerian agent who spotted him while he was playing in the streets of the capital Abuja. In mid-2014, he was picked up by police as his visa had expired. The Portuguese authorities gave him 20 days to get his papers in order or face deportation back to Nigeria. He was saved by Nogueirense, which offered him a modest contract and now lives in accommodation in the stadium which he shares with seven other young players, from Ivory Coast, Mali and Colombia.

### Football 'trafficking'

While some see an escape from dire poverty, others like Joaquim Evangelista, head of Portugal's professional footballers union, condemn the "illegal trafficking of minors." "There are parents who go into debt to finance their son's dream and pay agents up to 3,000 euros (\$3,300) in Africa, even 5,000 euros in Brazil," he said. FIFA, football's world governing body, bans all international transfers of players under 18, except those within the European Union.

However, with Portugal's economic woes, "more and more amateur clubs agree to train young players and act as nurseries. If the players succeed and are transferred to big clubs, they can earn big pay cheques," said Evangelista. But if they fail, "the young men are abandoned by their agents and find themselves in the street,

### 39 mouths to feed

Ansumane Fati, a 24-year-old from Guinea-Bissau, was one of the lucky ones, although it was a long hard route to success. Dropped by the Sporting Lisbon academy after a three-month trial, he was abandoned by his agent without any papers. Fati then began a journey far from Ronaldo's rags-to-riches tale in Portugal. He ended up at a small amateur club in northern Portugal where he slept rough under the stands. Fati changed clubs twice before securing a place at second division outfit Freamunde.

"Football, it's a passion but also a way of helping my family in Guinea-Bissau," said Fati. "Since



**NOGUEIRA DO CRAVO:** Nigerian Valentine Akpey, 20, heads the ball during a training session at Nogueira do Cravo. —AFP

broke." Some turn to petty crime or drugs, he said. At least 15,000 African minors try their chances in Europe every year, with the failure rate at around 70 percent, according to the Foot Solidaire, an activist group which campaigns for young footballers. Between 1,000 and 1,500 young footballers are illegal migrants in Portugal, border police said.

my father died, I have 39 people that I have to feed". Wearing a brown leather jacket, an amulet round his neck, he now earns 1,500 euros a month, 10 times what he made when he first started in Portugal. "Foreign players do not cost very much for clubs, who supply accommodation and food, but the salary is often derisory," said Joao Manteigas, a lawyer who specializes in sports issues.

Fearing expulsion or losing a job, few players dare to complain. Brazilian Alex Rambo, however, is one who broke the silence. "I was scared, but I finally spoke publicly about my case to obtain help," he said. An agent had dangled a contract with top club FC Porto in front of him, but when he arrived in Portugal the deal was never concluded. Aged just 18 at the time, he found himself alone and penniless in a hotel room for two months. Returning to Brazil, he became a star striker for the Osvaldo Cruz club. He has never given up the idea of one day going back to Portugal, "but only with a contract in my pocket." —AFP



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United players take part in a team training session at their Carrington Training Centre in Manchester, north west England yesterday ahead of their UEFA Europa League second leg football match against Liverpool. — AFP

## MANCHESTER UNITED IN LIVERPOOL CROSSHAIRS; SPURS ON THE BRINK

**PARIS:** Five-time European champions Liverpool will aim to finish off eternal rivals Manchester United when England's two most successful sides clash in the Europa League last 16, second leg at Old Trafford today. Leading 2-0 from the first leg at Anfield, Liverpool are well placed to reach the quarter-finals of a competition that realistically represents the best chance for either club to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Daniel Sturridge and Roberto Firmino scored as Jurgen Klopp's side dominated the first European meeting between the two Premier League giants, and Sturridge says Liverpool's mindset won't change despite their healthy advantage. "We'll approach the second leg exactly the same as we did the first leg. That's the only way we know," Sturridge told the Liverpool Echo. "The Liverpool way is to win games so we will go into the second leg and be positive. "The confidence is there within the camp and we are just looking forward to every game. We are mentally prepared for every job we have ahead of us."

United face a tough task to turn things around

as Liverpool have kept four straight clean sheets in Europe and are unbeaten in nine games in this season's competition. However, Juan Mata insists there is still hope for United as they bid to keep alive their quest to become just the fifth club to land all three major European trophies. "We need to have a good start on Thursday, with intensity. It's like a final for us. We need a comeback and I'm sure that the atmosphere in Old Trafford will take us closer to that goal. I'm sure it's possible," said the Spaniard, who missed Sunday's 1-1 draw against West Ham in the FA Cup through suspension.

Borussia Dortmund will seek to protect a 3-0 lead as they head to Tottenham Hotspur on the back of their biggest win against an English side. Spurs paid the price for resting Harry Kane and leaving Mousa Dembele and Erik Lamela on the bench as they were outclassed by Thomas Tuchel's German title challengers. However, Mauricio Pochettino's men are undefeated in nine European home games, winning their last two at White Hart Lane by three-goal margins, although the Bundesliga

giants represent a step up in class from previous opponents.

### Angry Neville

Gary Neville's Valencia must overcome a 1-0 deficit at home to fellow Spanish outfit Athletic Bilbao. The former Manchester United and England defender was furious after his side crashed to a 1-0 defeat against local rivals and La Liga's bottom side Levante over the weekend. "We have to pick ourselves up immediately. Our attitude has to change, simple as that. We're not playing like that on Thursday night," Neville told reporters. "The very least you will get on Thursday will be a Valencia team running around like crazy and fighting for every single ball." Holders Sevilla return to Spain following a goalless draw against Swiss champions Basel, whose St-Jakob Park will stage this year's final, as they continue their quest for a fifth title in the past decade. Villarreal go to Bayer Leverkusen with a 2-0 advantage from the first leg, while 2009 champions Shakhtar Donetsk head to Anderlecht following a 3-1 victory in Ukraine. —AFP



## ATLETICO EDGE OUT PSV IN PENALTY THRILLER

**MADRID:** Juanfran's winning penalty sent Atletico Madrid into the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday, clinching an agonizing 8-7 penalty shoot-out win over PSV Eindhoven after neither side could manage a goal in 210 minutes across the two legs of the tie. The first 14 spot-kicks of the shootout were then converted in clinical fashion before PSV's Luciano Narsingh smashed his effort against the bar.

Juanfran then stepped up to convert the winning penalty and send Atletico into the last eight for the third consecutive year. "It was a heart-stopping tie," said Juanfran. "I am very happy to see how the crowd got behind the side. We believe, our coach makes us believe and we have a lot of hunger and heart." It is the second consecutive season that Diego Simeone's men have progressed to the quarter-finals on penalties after seeing off Bayer Leverkusen in similar fashion a year ago. "It was a classic Cup tie with plenty of tension," said Simeone. "Neither team committed any errors and in the end penalties went our way."

PSV were left to lament Jan Oblak's brilliant save to tip Jurgen Locadia's effort onto the post in the second-half of normal time as the Dutch champions came so close to causing a huge upset. "There are mixed emotions," said PSV coach Phillip Cocu. "On the one hand I am very proud. We played well in the two games, but especially here. Tactically we played very well with a lot of discipline. "We were close to the quar-

ter-finals in the penalties, so there is also great disappointment." Despite being roared on by a full house at the Vicente Calderon, Atletico struggled early on as Cocu's 5-3-2 set-up allowed PSV to dominate midfield.

However, Atletico did enjoy the best chance of the first-half when Koke's low cross found Antoine Griezmann unmarked just six yards out, but Jeroen Zoet got down to deny the French international his 24th goal of the season. PSV had captain and top scorer Luuk de Jong back after he missed the first-leg through suspension and the former Newcastle United striker was a constant menace to the usually unflappable Diego Godin. De Jong was unlucky when the ball fell just behind him after Oblak cut out dangerous cross from the right.

Atletico settled into their stride at the start of the second-half, but still relied on a set-piece to carve out an opportunity as Jose Maria Gimenez rose highest at the back post only to head Koke's corner inches wide. As the hosts opened up, though, PSV became even more of a threat on the counter-attack. The visitors were somehow denied the vital away goal on the hour mark when Locadia's shot was brilliantly tipped onto the post by Oblak and De Jong's follow-up header from point-black range was blocked on the line by Filipe Luis.

Atletico suffered a huge blow just before the end of normal time when Godin limped off to be replaced by 20-



**MADRID:** PSV Eindhoven's goalkeeper Jeroen Zoet misses a save during the UEFA Champions League last sixteen second leg football match Club Atletico de Madrid vs PSV Eindhoven at the Vicente Calderon stadium on March 15, 2016. —AFP

year-old Lucas Hernandez. However, the young Frenchman had a great chance to make himself a hero early in extra time when he headed over from a cor-

ner. Griezmann's range was off again when he shot straight at Zoet after great work by Saul Niguez as Atletico dominated during the first period of

extra time. Yet, it was PSV who came closest after the break, but Andres Guardado curled just wide to send the game to penalties. — AFP

## PELLEGRINI BANKS ON MAN CITY EXPERIENCE

**MANCHESTER:** Manuel Pellegrini backed his Manchester City team to make a mark on the Champions League's latter stages after they overcame Dynamo Kiev to reach the quarter-finals for the first time. City fell to Barcelona in the last 16 in both of the past two seasons, but they will take their place in Friday's draw for the last eight after Tuesday's drab 0-0 stalemate completed a 3-1 aggregate success. City's shaky domestic form suggests that they cannot be considered serious contenders for the Champions League, but having seen them top their group above last season's beaten finalists Juventus before routinely eliminating Dynamo, Pellegrini is hopeful that more historic moments lie ahead.

"I think that as a team when you have a new achievement, it's always important for your trust (confidence)," he told reporters at the Etihad Stadium. "This season we had a very difficult group also, with Sevilla, with Juventus and with Borussia Moenchengladbach. "We won the group, so I think this season, I don't know if the word is better prepared, but we have more experience to arrive at this stage and I hope we can continue further." He added: "I'm very happy for the achievement because it's important for this club to continue improving every season. I always said that the last two seasons we are very unlucky to have the draw in the round of 16.

"We were unlucky to play against Barcelona. This season we won the group and we now are (among) the best eight teams in Europe for the moment. We will see how far we can go in this competition." The bad news for City came in the form of injuries to captain Vincent Kompany and his fellow centre-back

Nicolas Otamendi, both of whom were forced off in the first 23 minutes. Pellegrini expressed hope that Otamendi will shake off his knock within "the next couple of days", raising the possibility that he could be fit for Sunday's derby at home to Manchester United. But Kompany, who will undergo tests yesterday, is facing at least a month on the sidelines-and may therefore struggle to return before the end of the season-after sustaining his 14th calf injury since 2008.

## Beware Barcelona

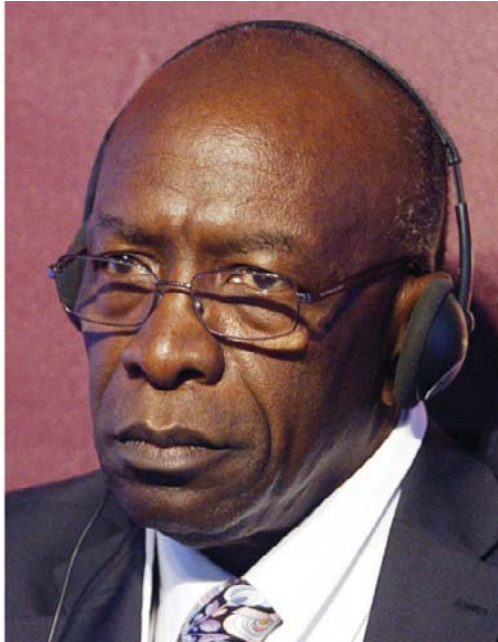
While City have flattered to deceive domestically this season, slipping 12 points off the pace in the Premier League, right-back Pablo Zabaleta said that their European breakthrough was a moment to savour. "It was really satisfying to make history for this club," said the Argentina international, who has played a part in all of City's five Champions League campaigns to date. "We are through to the quarter-finals for the first time. This group of players are working hard every day to make this club even bigger."

City came closest to scoring when Jesus Navas rattled the post midway through the second half, but Dynamo might have claimed the spoils on the night in the latter stages, only for City goalkeeper Joe Hart to save smartly from Vitaliy Buyalskiy and then Olexandr Yakovenko. "We had chances to score and Manchester had chances to score," said Dynamo coach Sergiy Rebrov.

"The guys showed they deserved to be in the Champions League. This game was a good experience for our guys. "I think we should say thank you to our guys and look to the future with optimism. — AFP



**A combination of file pictures shows then (left to right) general-secretary of the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Chuck Blazer, CONCACAF president Jeffrey Webb and FIFA Vice President and CONCACAF President Jack Warner in Barcelona. —AFP**



## GLOBAL SOCCER BODY ADMITS 'WORLD CUP HOSTING BRIBES'

## FIFA MAKES HUGE DAMAGES CLAIM AGAINST 'SORDID' OFFICIALS

**GENEVA:** While acknowledging for the first time that votes were bought in past World Cup hosting contests, FIFA is seeking to claim "tens of millions of dollars" in bribe money seized by US federal prosecutors. FIFA submitted a 22-page claim to the US Attorney's Office in New York on Tuesday that seeks a big share in restitution from more than \$190 million already forfeited by soccer and marketing officials who pleaded guilty in the sprawling corruption case.

Tens of millions of dollars more is likely to be collected by US authorities when sentences are handed down, and from dozens of officials currently indicted but who have denied bribery charges or are fighting extradition. FIFA claims it is the victim of corrupt individuals, despite widespread criticism that bribe-taking was embedded in its culture in the presidencies of Joao Havelange and Sepp Blatter, who was forced from office after 17 years by the current scandal.

"The convicted defendants abused the positions of trust they held at FIFA and other international football organizations and caused serious and lasting damage to FIFA," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said Wednesday in a statement. "The monies they pocketed belonged to global football and were meant for the development and promotion of the game. FIFA as the world governing body of football wants that money back and we are determined to get it no matter how long it takes."

In documents seen by The Associated Press, FIFA asks for: \$28.2 million for years of payments, including bonuses, flights and daily expenses, to officials it now says are corrupt; \$10 million for the "theft" of money that FIFA officials transferred as bribes to then-executive committee members to vote for South Africa as 2010 World Cup host; "Substantial" cost of legal bills since separate US and Swiss federal probes of corruption in international soccer were revealed last May; Damages for harm to its reputation, plus other bribes and kickbacks for media rights to non FIFA competitions but "which were made possible because of the value of the FIFA brand."

"FIFA has become notable for the defendants' bribery and corruption, not its many good works," lawyers for soccer's world body state in the claim. "FIFA is entitled to restitution for this harm to its business relationships, reputation and intangible property." FIFA's grab for a share of the money sets up a battle with two of its regional confederations - CONMEBOL, the South American confederation, and CONCACAF, the body running soccer in North America. It was officials and competitions from those regions that were most involved in the corruption crisis. It also signals a change in strategy for FIFA, after months of senior officials distancing Zurich from the scandal, instead blaming confederations which are beyond its control.

Most of the already seized money - \$151.7 million - will come from Brazilian marketing executive Jose Hawilla, whose group of agencies were heavily involved with matches CONCACAF and CONMEBOL controlled but not FIFA directly. In an initial claim for \$28.2 million, FIFA specifies an amount for each of 20 men from the Americas over many years that it says it should be repaid from money held by US authorities. FIFA wants more than \$5.3 million it spent on Chuck Blazer, the disgraced American official who has pleaded guilty, allocates \$4.4 million of its claim for former FIFA vice president Jack Warner, and \$3.5 million for Ricardo Teixeira, Havelange's former son-in-law from Brazil.

Warner, a long-time powerbroker from Trinidad and Tobago until resigning in a 2011 election bribery scandal, is identified by FIFA in its 22-page claim for receiving a \$1 million bribe from 1998 World Cup bid candidate Morocco, and ensuring the \$10 million bribe from South Africa was paid via a FIFA account in 2008. FIFA claims a further \$2 million for payments to Jeffrey Webb, the Cayman Islands banker who was arrested at a luxury Zurich hotel last May,

and now lives at his home near Atlanta, Georgia, awaiting sentence in June.

"These dollars were meant to build football fields, not mansions and pools; to buy football kits, not jewelry and cars; and to fund youth player and coach development, not to underwrite lavish lifestyles for football and sports marketing executives," Infantino said. It is unclear how much influence Infantino, a former lawyer, had had in the restitution claim since he was elected only three weeks ago, with strong support from voters in the Americas. Infantino's signature pitch to voters on election day was about finances, saying bluntly "It's your money."

That resonated with members of CONMEBOL and CONCACAF, who have had a combined \$20 million central funding frozen by FIFA. CONCACAF, based in Miami, has had its past three presidents implicated in the US case. But it has passed wide-ranging reforms to clean up its operations, and has targeted restitution money to rebuild. "CONCACAF views itself as a victim of a number of the offenses described in the indictments and intends to seek restitution at the appropriate time," the regional body said in a statement. —AP



**MANCHESTER:** Manchester City's Chilean manager Manuel Pellegrini (left) consoles Manchester City's Belgian defender Vincent Kompany as he leaves the pitch injured during a UEFA Champions League last 16, second leg football match between Manchester City and Dynamo Kiev on March 15, 2016. — AFP

## FIFA SUSPECT KEEPS UP CHAMPAGNE LIFESTYLE

**NEW YORK:** Jeffrey Webb, the disgraced former FIFA vice president, has kept up a millionaire lifestyle quaffing champagne, gambling and partying while under US house arrest awaiting sentence for corruption, according to football's world body. The 51-year-old husband of American gynecologist Kendra Gamble-Webb was the first former FIFA official to appear publicly in a New York court last July and quietly cut a plea deal four months later.

The Cayman Islands-British citizen pled guilty to racketeering, conspiracy, wire fraud and money laundering. He promised to forfeit more than \$6.7 million in assets and is to be formally sentenced in June. Last July he was confined to house arrest in New York on a \$10 million bond. But within weeks Webb was allowed to move home to Loganville, Georgia, albeit subject to electronic monitoring, home detention and a security detail.

Yesterday, FIFA's American lawyers complained in a letter to the US attorney's office that Webb enjoys an "extravagant lifestyle" at a home he may have purchased "with bribes and kickbacks." "According to reports, he recently hosted an expensive themed birthday party for his wife, replete with entertainment and gambling tables," the Washington DC law firm wrote, enclosing a Cayman Islands media report. The story published by the Cayman News Service said Webb enjoyed a "lavish" Harlem Renaissance themed party "at his Georgia mansion" to celebrate his wife's 40th birthday, attended by friends and family.

The report, dated February 8, included photos purportedly of Webb dressed in a white dinner jacket and bow tie playing a winning hand at a blackjack table with a huge grin on his face, and giving a speech next to a cake. —AFP

## HARRY REDKNAPP TO JUGGLE DERBY ROLE WITH TWO-MATCH JORDAN GIG

**LONDON:** Former Tottenham Hotspur manager Harry Redknapp has accepted an advisory role with Derby County until the end of the season, having already agreed to manage Jordan for two matches, the English Championship side said yesterday. The 69-year-old Redknapp will combine his mentoring role at second-tier Midlands club Derby with managing Jordan in this month's World Cup qualifiers against Bangladesh and Australia.

"It is excellent news that Harry has agreed to join us. His experience spans over several decades and he is one of the most knowledgeable and informed figures in the game," Derby Chairman Mel Morris told the club's website (www.dcfcc.co.uk). Redknapp was quoted by British media earlier on Wednesday saying he had agreed to help out Jordan's national team at the behest of their FA chief Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein, who lost the FIFA presidential election to Swiss Gianni Infantino last month.

Redknapp, who has also managed Bournemouth, West Ham United, Portsmouth, Southampton and Queens Park Rangers, said he would leave Britain for the Middle East

after Saturday's local derby at home to Nottingham Forest. "It's going to be a tough couple of weeks, that's for sure," he told the Sun newspaper. "I'm friends with Prince Ali and wanted him to take over from Sepp Blatter (at FIFA). He asked me if I'd manage the team for a couple of matches and I agreed. "I'll go to the Forest game and then go straight to London and fly to Jordan. It's a busy time but I've missed the buzz of being involved in football."

Derby are fifth in the standings, seven points behind Brighton & Hove Albion who occupy the second automatic promotion spot behind leaders Burnley. Jordan, currently led by caretaker manager Abdullah Abu Zema, play Bangladesh in Amman on March 24 and the Socceroos in Sydney five days later. The Jordanians trail Australia by two points in Group B in the second round of Asian qualifying for the 2018 World Cup with the top two from each group going through to the third round, when four berths in Russia will be at stake. Redknapp's fellow former QPR manager Ray Wilkins last year led Jordan to the Asian Cup in Australia, where they were eliminated in the group stage. — Reuters



# Sports

Gayle-force  
blows away  
England at  
World T20



Atletico edge  
out 8-7 PSV  
in penalty  
thriller



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AFC MOVES SAUDI-IRAN TIES TO NEUTRAL VENUES Page 18



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinean forward Lionel Messi (left) celebrates a goal with Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar (center) and Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez during the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 second leg football match FC Barcelona vs Arsenal FC yesterday. — AFP

## BARCA OUTGUN ARSENAL, BOOK QUARTER-FINALS

**BARCELONA:** Neymar, Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez were all on target as Barcelona piled more pressure on under-fire Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger by easing into the Champions League quarter-finals 5-1 on aggregate with a 3-1 win at the Camp Nou yesterday. Neymar's early strike appeared to erase any forlorn hopes of an Arsenal comeback, but the visitors were given hope when Mohamed Elneny drilled into the top corner just after half-time. Suarez put the tie beyond Wenger's men in emphatic fashion with a stunning volley 25 minutes from time before Messi's cheeky chipped finish rounded off the scoring late on.

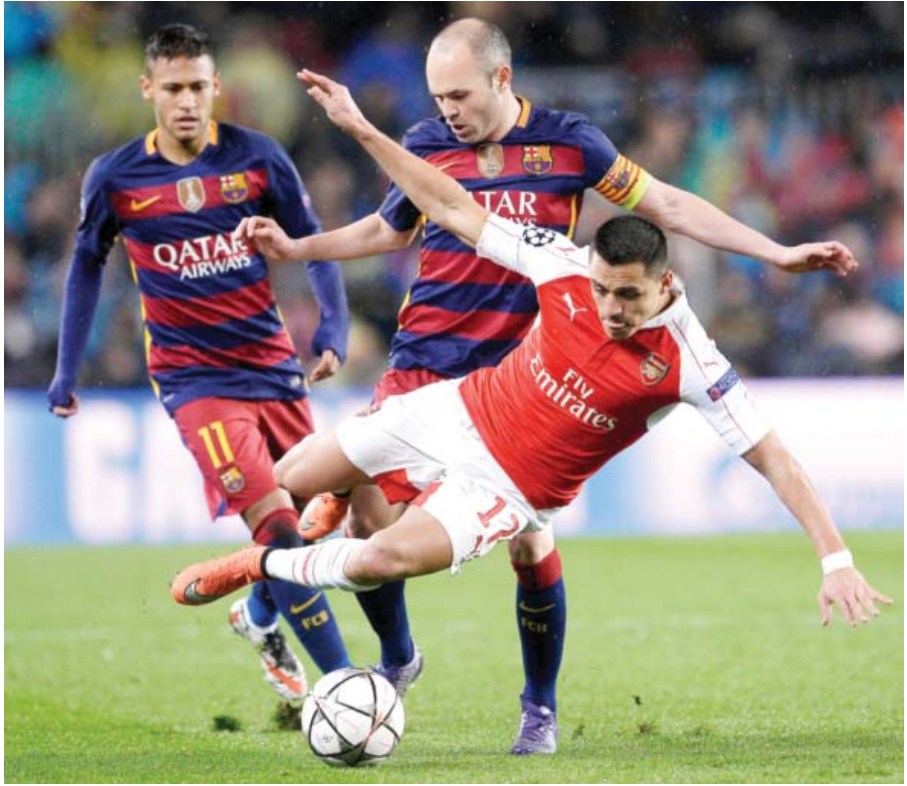
A ninth consecutive victory stretches Barca's unbeaten run in all competitions to 38 games and seals their place in Friday's quarter-final draw for the ninth consecutive season. One win in eight games has decimated Arsenal's hopes of silverware this season as they exit the competition at the last 16 stage for the sixth consecutive season days after relinquishing their two-year hold on the FA Cup. Yet, they made a bright start with Mesut Ozil curling just wide of the target. Barca's front three soon came to life, though, and David Ospina made a brilliant save from Messi after the Argentine had perfectly controlled Neymar's floated pass over the Arsenal defense.

Jeremy Mathieu headed over a gilt-edged chance from the resulting corner. Neymar wasn't so forgiving moments later when he was played in by Suarez and coolly slotted past Ospina for his 26th goal of the season. The Brazilian then fired too close to Ospina with

another fine chance after being teed up by Messi. Yet, Arsenal should have been at least level by the break as Barca struggled to handle the visitors pace on the break without the suspended Gerard Pique. Alexis Sanchez missed a glorious chance to net on his return to the Camp Nou when he glanced a header wide from Hector Bellerin's cross.

Danny Welbeck then sliced well wide when clean through on goal, whilst Alex Iwobi appealed in vein for a penalty after clipping his own ankles inside the box. Arsenal's pressure was finally rewarded six minutes into the second-half when Elneny rifled his first goal for the club into the top corner for Sanchez's layoff. Conceding a goal sparked Barca back into life as Ospina got down well to his left to parry Messi's low drive. Welbeck had another chance to put Arsenal right back in the tie when he pounced on a poor header from Mathieu, but saw his shot blocked by Javier Mascherano's brilliant last-ditch tackle.

Barca's nerves were settled in spectacular fashion by Suarez as the Uruguayan contorted his body to acrobatically volley home Dani Alves's cross. Arsenal continued to create chances as Welbeck drilled a shot against the bar from a narrow angle. Ter Stegen then produced a brilliant double save to turn away Sanchez's free-kick and Olivier Giroud's follow-up effort. However, Messi again demonstrated the difference in quality between the sides in front of goal when he dinked home two minutes from time to take he, Neymar and Suarez's combined tally for the season to 106. — AFP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's midfielder Andres Iniesta (center) vies with Arsenal's Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez (right) next to Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar during the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 second leg football match FC Barcelona vs Arsenal FC yesterday. — AFP

## NFL LINKS FOOTBALL, CTE

COULD IT AFFECT \$1 BILLION DEAL?

**NEW YORK:** On the contentious issue of concussions, the NFL has relented on a once-steadfast stance. Yes, the league acknowledged publicly for the first time, there is a connection between football and the devastating brain disease known as CTE. The NFL backed Tuesday the comments made at a congressional panel by Jeff Miller, the league's senior vice president for health and safety, that his surprising words "accurately reflect the view of the NFL," league spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

The league has long denied proof linking the sport and the condition called chronic traumatic encephalopathy. As recently as the week of the Super Bowl, Dr Mitch Berger, a member of the league's head, neck and spine committee, refused to draw a direct line from football to CTE. So that's what made Miller's admission, at a round-table discussion about concussions, somewhat startling. He said brain research on former NFL players "certainly" shows a link between football and CTE when asked about the subject. Miller referenced the work of Boston University neuropathologist Dr Ann McKee, who has found CTE in the brains of 90 of the 94 former pro football players she studied after their death.

"The answer to that question is certainly yes, but there are also a number of questions that come with that," Miller said, deferring to physicians on the science of the subject of CTE evidence. CTE is tied to repeated brain trauma and associated with symptoms such as memory loss, depression and progressive dementia. Players diagnosed after their deaths include Hall of Famers Junior Seau, Ken Stabler and Mike Webster. Four Democratic members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee sent a letter Tuesday to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, asking for answers by March 29 on the league's plans to protect both NFL players and those at the youth levels.

Critics of the NFL's proposed \$1 billion plan to settle concussion claims called Miller's sudden acknowledgement of a football-CTE connection a game changer. The settlement is being appealed by players concerned that it excludes future cases of CTE, what they consider "the signature disease of football." The deal announced by lead plaintiffs' lawyers and the NFL in August 2013 would instead pay up to \$4 million for prior deaths involving CTE. "Given that, the settlement's failure to compensate present and future CTE is inexcusable," lawyer Steven Molo wrote Tuesday in a letter to the federal appeals court in Philadelphia that is hearing his appeal.

Miller's admission might not have any tangible effect on the case, though, given the timing. The appellate reviews are typically only focused on the court records. "I think it's an uphill battle to have this even debated by the appellate judges, but it does give a glimmer of hope for the objectors," said Andrew Brandt, an ESPN analyst specializing



**FLORIDA:** Dr Ann McKee, of Boston University School of Medicine, talks about damaged human brains during a news conference about chronic traumatic encephalopathy in Tampa, Fla. Jeff Miller, the NFL's senior vice president for health and safety has acknowledged a link between football and the brain disease CTE for the first time. Miller referenced the work of McKee, who has found CTE in the brains of 90 former pro football players. - AP

in the business of the league. The court heard arguments in November on the fairness of the settlement and was expected to issue an opinion in the high-stakes case soon. The NFL and lead plaintiffs' lawyers have said they do not want to incentivize suicide by offering future payments. CTE cannot yet be diagnosed in the living.

The settlement would resolve thousands of lawsuits and cover more than 20,000 NFL retirees for the next 65 years. The league estimates that 6,000 former players (nearly three in 10) could develop Alzheimer's disease or moderate dementia. They would receive an average of \$190,000, though the awards could reach several million dollars in the most serious cases, including young men with Parkinson's disease or Lou Gehrig's disease.

"We welcome the NFL's acknowledgement of what was alleged in our complaint: that reports have associated football with findings of CTE in deceased former players," lead plaintiffs' lawyer Christopher Seeger said in a statement. "The settlement achieves that, providing immediate care to the sickest retired players and long-term security over the next 65 years for those who are healthy now but develop a qualifying condition in the future." Chris Nowinski, a former professional wrestler who runs the Concussion Legacy Foundation, noted that millions of children still play tackle football despite the suspected risks. The foundation seeks to study and prevent head

trauma in athletes. "If we actually believe that football is linked to CTE now, then how is the NFL underwriting (youth) tackle football when kids could just as easily play flag and not be exposed to the risk of CTE at such a young age?" he asked. The impact of the admission on college football is unclear, but a lead attorney in a lawsuit against the NCAA said he also saw this development as a milestone in the process. "It is amazing to think back to 2011, when we filed the first-ever class action against the NCAA for concussions, and compare the national conversation at that time to what we have now," Chicago-based lawyer Joseph Siprut said.

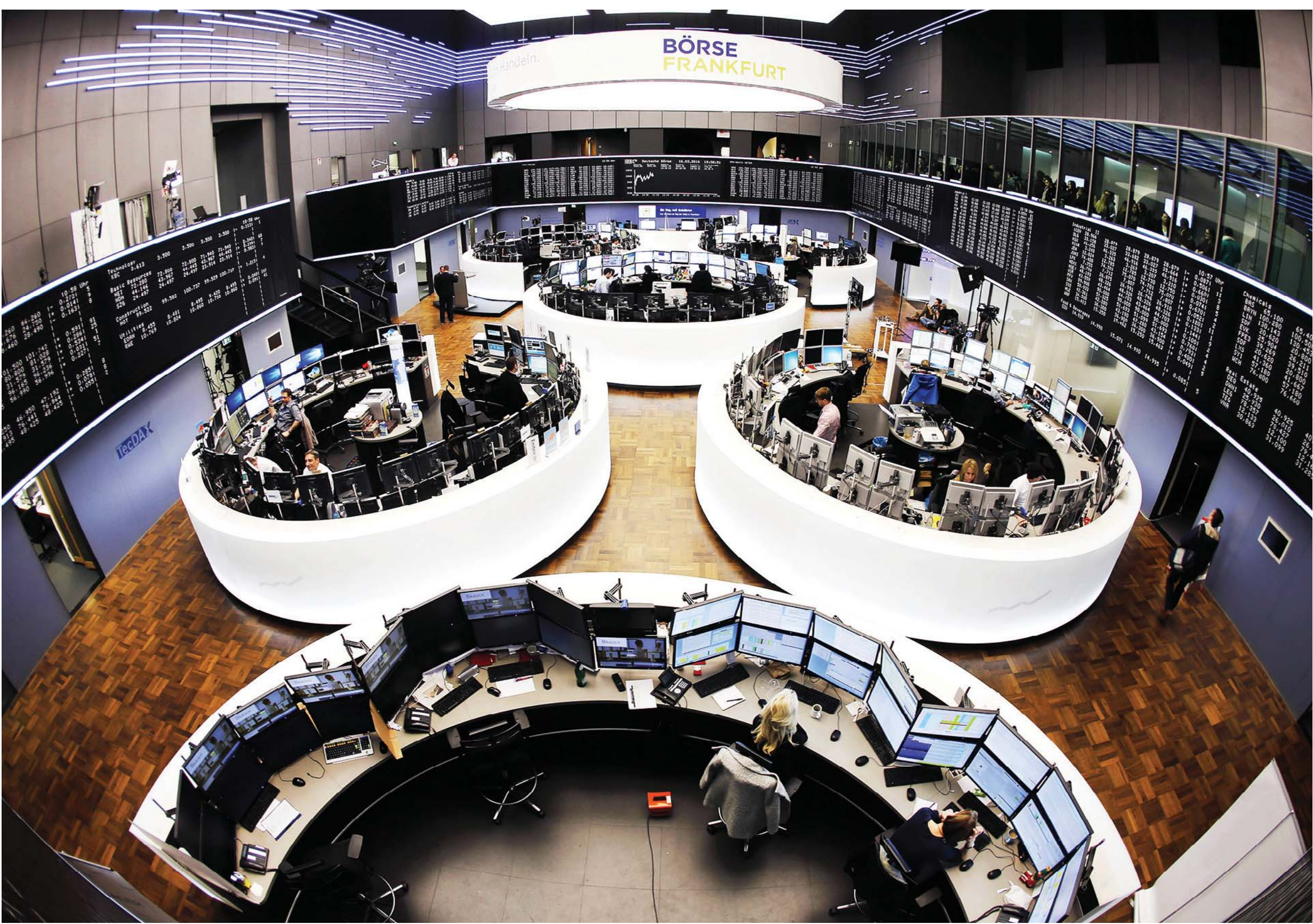
The admission by Miller could make an impact beyond the gridiron, too. Plaintiffs in a similar case of retired players suing the NHL for concussion-related damages called on that league Tuesday to acknowledge as much. Commissioner Gary Bettman said last year "from a medical and science standpoint, there is no evidence" of a connection between head injuries and CTE. The NHL didn't respond Tuesday to a request for new comment. "While the NFL, after intense public pressure, has finally admitted publicly that there is 'certainly' a link, the NHL, to this day, continues to deny that there is any long-term danger associated with suffering repeated concussions and sub-concussive blows, even in the face of compelling medical evidence," the co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs said in a statement. — AP





British budget extends austerity, cuts growth

FINALISTS OF LEXUS DESIGN AWARD 2016 ANNOUNCED



FRANKFURT: Brokers work in the trading room of the stock market. — AP

DEUTSCHE BOERSE, LSE FORGE AHEAD FOR PAN-EUROPEAN GIANT MERGER TO CREATE ONE OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST EXCHANGES

**FRANKFURT:** Deutsche Boerse and the London Stock Exchange agreed yesterday to press ahead with their planned merger to create one of the world's biggest exchanges, insisting the tie-up will succeed irrespective of the outcome of the looming Brexit vote on Britain's future in the EU. The two operators said that they planned to proceed with their "merger of equals" under the key terms already drawn up.

The announcement comes as US-based global markets operator Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), which owns the New York Stock Exchange, is also mulling a rival bid for the LSE. And it comes at a politically sensitive time as Britain is due to hold a referendum on June 23 to determine whether it remains in the European Union.

It is the third tie-up attempt after two earlier failed bids in 2000 and 2004. Deutsche Boerse chief executive Carsten Kengeter told a telephone news conference that the tie-up was "the right transaction at the right time for both of our companies. Deutsche Boerse and LSE are the right fit." The combination will "deliver more than the sum of its parts", he added. And LSE

chief Xavier Rolet said that he "100-percent backed" the plans, but neither made any reference to ICE's rival offer.

**No threat from Brexit**

Kengeter and Rolet insisted that the plans would not be torpedoed even if Britain votes to leave the EU. "The company and the structure of the transaction is such that we'll have a successful merger irrespective of the outcome," said Kengeter.

A committee has been set up to examine the implications of any vote to leave, but it "would not renegotiate terms, just provide answers," he added. As already proposed at the end of last month, Deutsche Boerse shareholders will end up with 54.4 percent of the new holding company's capital, and LSE shareholders with 45.6 percent.

Both markets would continue using their current brand names. The LSE and Deutsche Boerse are to become intermediary subsidiaries of the combined group, with the existing regulatory framework to remain unchanged. The combined group would have headquarters in London and Frankfurt and the

board would have "equal representation" from both sides.

LSE chairman Donald Brydon will be chairman of the combined group and Deutsche Boerse chief executive Kengeter will assume the role of CEO while LSE's finance chief David Warren will be chief financial officer.

**'World's biggest'**

The two sides described it as an "industry-defining combination" that would create a "leading Europe-based global markets infrastructure group". In addition to the London market, LSE also operates the Milan stock exchange and LCH Clearnet transaction clearing house. Deutsche Boerse operates the Frankfurt exchange, as well as the Luxembourg-based clearing house Clearstream and the derivatives platform Eurex.

In addition to its previous ambitions to tie the knot with the LSE, Deutsche Boerse also tried to combine forces with NYSE Euronext in 2011, which operated the New York, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Lisbon exchanges at the time.

A joined LSE and Deutsche Boerse would compete with the

likes of CME and ICE in the United States and the Hong Kong stock exchange. LSE chief Rolet said "it would be the largest stock exchange group in the world" by revenue. The merger would deliver "significant value creation through cost synergies of 450 million euros per year", both sides said. CMC Market analyst Jasper Lawler suggested ICE could still derail the plans with a counter-bid of its own. But "even if ICE doesn't step up, the merger is likely to spark regulatory unease in Europe where the combination of Eurex and LCH.Clearnet would create a monopoly player in European derivatives clearing", he said.

Peter Gray, partner and head of financial services at Cavendish Corporate Finance, said "the major test lies in the regulatory hurdle which, combined with added scrutiny in the context of Brexit, places the onus on the two companies to make a compelling case for the deal over the coming months." On the Frankfurt stock exchange, Deutsche Boerse shares were showing a gain of 0.7 percent at 76.28 euros in early afternoon trade, while in London, LSE shares were down 0.45 percent at 2,893 pence on London's FTSE 100 index. — AFP

GULF BANK RECEIVES APPROVALS FOR SUBORDINATED TIER 2 BOND ISSUANCE

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank yesterday announced that it has received approvals from the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Capital Markets Authority (CMA), as well as the approval of the Bank's Ordinary General Assembly meeting held on 9/3/2016, regarding the issuance of a Tier 2 Basel III compliant subordinated bond for up to KD 100 million. The Bank plans to use the proceeds of the offering for general corporate purposes and to strengthen its capital adequacy. KAMCO Investment Company (KAMCO) and Kuwait Financial Centre (MARKAZ) are the joint lead managers.

Gulf Bank's Capital Adequacy ratio as of 31 December 2015 was 15.6%, compared to the regulatory minimum of 12.5%. The Tier 1 Capital Adequacy ratio was 14.4% which is also above the regulatory required minimum of 10.5%.

Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Chairman of Gulf Bank said, "We are pleased to have received approvals on the issuance from the CMA and CBK. This step aims at supporting the Bank's future corporate plans, as well as strengthening its capital adequacy ratios. We thank KAMCO and MARKAZ for their cooperation as joint lead managers. I would also like to extend the Bank's appreciation to our regulators for their continued support and commitment towards Kuwait's financial institutions."

Cesar Gonz-lez-Bueno, Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Bank said, "We closed 2015 on a positive note and have transformed the Bank quite dramatically since 2012. Today, we have a stronger Consumer Banking franchise and a

more diversified Wholesale Banking business. We reduced our non-performing loans and increased our loan loss coverage. This approval to issue a Tier 2 Basel III subordinated debt will serve to further develop and strengthen the Bank."

At the Bank's recent Annual General Meeting, shareholders approved the Bank's financial results for the year ended 31 December 2015 and formally endorsed the board of directors recommendation for a cash dividend of 4 fils per share. For the year ended 31 December 2015, Gulf Bank's operating profit before provisions were KD 108 M and net profit grew by 10% compared to the prior year to KD 39M.

The Bank is rated "A+" by Fitch ratings, "A3" by Moody's, and "A-", by Standard & Poor's. The ratings reflect the restructuring of the credit portfolio, lower risk appetite and adequacy of the capital buffers. To achieve these ratings in a time of global turmoil is a testament to the healthy growth and the transformation the Bank has completed.

In 2015, the Bank was recognized by receiving 22 major awards reflecting all the major operations of the bank, including consumer banking, wholesale banking, products, performance, marketing and human resources. These included awards from respected international publications such as The Asian Banker; International Finance Magazine (IFM); International Banker; and Banker Middle East.

OIL FREEZE MEETING LIKELY TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT IRAN

**TEHRAN:** Oil producers including Gulf OPEC members support holding a meeting next month to discuss a deal to freeze output even without Iran, OPEC sources said, as political pressure to prop up prices increases. On Monday, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said after talks in Tehran that a deal could be signed in April and exclude Iran, which he said has the right to boost output after years of sanctions. Kuwait, for one, has argued that all major producers need to be part of the output freeze. While an exemption for Iran is not ideal, it is not a deal breaker, OPEC sources said.

"It's a setback but it will not necessarily change the positive atmosphere that has already started," said one OPEC source from a major producer, referring to Iran saying it will not join any freeze accord. "There are still talks about a possible meeting between main producers," the source said.

Two other sources familiar with the matter said the meeting was set to take place on April 17 in the Qatari capital Doha. Brent crude was trading at about \$39 a barrel on Wednesday, up from a 12-year low of \$27.10 reached in January. A preliminary deal to freeze output at January levels, agreed last month by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Venezuela plus non-OPEC member Russia, has helped to support prices.

A second delegate from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said not having Iran in the pact was not the perfect outcome but it was not the worst. "If the others freeze and the Iranians are outside the agreement, it will not help the market unless the demand is very large," this delegate said. "January output is already at high levels."

Some OPEC sources said it was hard to backtrack from the freeze deal after Iran said it would not join, so as not to impact the market negatively. "You can't ignore all other oil producers. The meeting is likely to go ahead," a third source said, adding that the April meeting was likely to discuss and finalise the details of the freeze deal. "We will not just meet for the sake of meeting."

It was not clear which countries besides the original four would attend. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have said they would commit to the freeze if other major producers also participated.

The willingness of Iraq, the biggest source of OPEC supply growth in 2015, to join the deal is also important. Baghdad on Monday said the freeze initiative was acceptable, citing the hardship for producers caused by low prices. — Reuters



# DC REGION BRACES FOR SUBWAY-FREE WORKDAY

**WASHINGTON:** An unprecedented day-long shutdown of the Washington area's Metro subway system will force commuters to spend a day without their most reliable form of transportation - and the source of their constant complaints.

Ridership on Metro has dipped as the system's reliability has deteriorated, and gripes on social media occur daily. Still, more than 700,000 people hop on the trains every day because it's still the best way to get downtown from Maryland, Virginia and the city's outer neighborhoods. On Wednesday, they won't have that option.

The nation's second-busiest transit system was shut down at midnight Tuesday for a system-wide safety inspection of its third-rail power cables, prompted by a series of electrical fires. It will reopen at 5 am today unless inspectors find an immediate threat to passenger safety, which the system's general manager said was unlikely.

Federal employees were given the option to take the day off or work from home. A federal shutdown usually makes driving into the city much easier - but that's with the Metro running. Officials were bracing for a difficult morning on the city's already traffic-choked streets, and many commuters said they would have no choice but to stay home.

"It's really frustrating. It's how everybody gets to work," said Atlee Ahern, 23, a Justice Department intern who takes Metro from her home in Bethesda, Maryland. "The whole system shuts down, the whole city shuts down."

Metro's general manager, Paul Wiedefeld, said the closure was necessary to ensure rider safety. "While the risk to the public is very low, I cannot rule out a potential life and safety issue here, and this is why we must take this action immediately," he said. Metro's six rail lines and 91 stations serve more than 700,000 riders daily, and it is a vital link for federal workers and other commuters to Washington.

### Safety first

A fire on the tracks led to major delays throughout the system Monday. The fire was caused by the same kind of electrical component that malfunctioned last year and caused a train to fill with smoke inside a downtown Washington tunnel, killing one passenger and sickening dozens. DC

Council member Jack Evans, the chairman of Metro's board, said that while the system had previously been closed for days for weather, including earlier this year, Wednesday was believed to be the first time the system would be shut down for mechanical reasons.

US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement that putting safety first is the right choice but Metro needs to get serious about fixing issues. "I've said it before, and I'll keep saying it until the region takes real ownership of its safety oversight responsibilities: DC, Maryland and Virginia need to stand up a permanent Metro safety office with real teeth. What are folks waiting for?" Foxx said.

Rep Gerry Connolly, a Virginia Democrat, called the decision to shut down "a gut punch to the hundreds of thousands of commuters who depend on the system." News of the closure exploded on social media, with some on Twitter dubbing the situation "#Metromageddon" or "#Metropocalypse." Riders who didn't hear the news were informed via loudspeaker announcements on the way home Tuesday.

District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser said additional police officers would be deployed to help deal with anticipated traffic gridlock. Construction work by city road crews will be suspended, and the city will increase service on its Circulator buses as well as offering free 24-hour memberships in the region's bike-sharing program. Suburban bus lines were beefing up service as well.

Another population affected by the closure: students at the District's public schools. The city does not have traditional school buses and many students rely on Metro, which they are allowed to ride for free, to get to school. The school system announced that while schools would be open, absences and tardiness would be excused. DC Council member David Grosso said he was concerned about student safety. "This is a significant disruption for many of our families," Grosso said. Some commuters said they welcomed the decision out of concern for their own safety. "If they're going to prevent some catastrophe from happening, then it's fine with me," said Alex Smith, a 44-year-old trade association administrator who lives in Washington. "It almost seems like something they needed to do a long time ago." — AP



WASHINGTON: The White House is visible as morning traffic builds along 16th Street Northwest. — AP

# BRITISH BUDGET EXTENDS AUSTERITY, CUTS GROWTH ‘DANGEROUS COCKTAIL OF RISKS’

**LONDON:** Britain unleashed a fresh wave of austerity yesterday in its latest annual budget and cut its growth outlook citing global markets turbulence rooted in China. Finance minister George Osborne, presenting his annual tax and spend plans, also warned that a potential 'Brexit', or departure from the European Union, would risk damaging the nation's economic recovery, ahead of a key June referendum.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Osborne said the government would seek additional spending cuts totaling £3.5 billion (\$5.0 billion, 4.5 billion Euros) by 2020, when it expects also to reach a budget surplus despite higher borrowing. The chancellor pointed to a "dangerous cocktail of risks" including "turbulence in financial markets, slower growth in economies like China, and weak growth in the developed world" for the downgrades.

In a speech lasting around one hour, Osborne forecast that the British economy was set to grow by 2.0 percent this year, down from a November estimate of 2.4 percent. And gross domestic product growth was expected to stand at 2.2 percent next year, down from a prior estimate of 2.5 percent.

Fiscal watchdog the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), which compiles official government forecasts, added that the latest predictions were based on the assumption that Britain remained in the European Union. Osborne, a top figure in Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative party and government, meanwhile announced plans to cut several taxes levied on businesses amid strongly divergent views being expressed by companies on whether Britain should quit the EU.

"This is a budget for small businesses," Osborne told lawmakers to loud cheers from the Conservative lawmakers sat on the House of Commons' green benches. There were also tax cuts for the oil and gas industry, which has been hit by tumbling energy prices.

### All eyes on Brexit vote

Turning to Britain's June 23 referendum on EU membership, Osborne revealed the OBR's warning over the potential impact of a Brexit. And he repeated the government's strong desire for the UK to stay within the 28-nation trading bloc.

"Britain will be stronger, safer and better off inside a reformed European Union-and I believe we should not put at risk all the hard work the British people have done to make our economy strong again," Osborne told parliament. Cameron is leading the battle to keep Britain in the EU, but several key members of his Conservative party-notably Mayor of London Boris Johnson-are in the Leave campaign.

"A vote to Leave in the forthcoming referendum



LONDON: British Finance Minister George Osborne poses for pictures with the Budget Box as he leaves 11 Downing Street. — AP

could usher in an extended period of uncertainty regarding the precise terms of the UK's future relationship with the EU," the OBR argued yesterday. "This could have negative implications for activity via business and consumer confidence and might result in greater volatility in financial and other asset markets." The OBR added: "There appears to be a

greater consensus that a vote to leave would result in a period of potentially disruptive uncertainty while the precise details of the UK's new relationship with the EU were negotiated." The government would also plough more cash into education and infrastructure projects, in line with announcements made in the run-up to the budget. —AFP

# GERMAN WOMEN EARN ONE FIFTH LESS THAN MEN: DATA

**FRANKFURT:** Women in Germany earn around one fifth less than men, a wider gap than the European average, but the shortfall is narrower in the east of the country, official data showed yesterday. In raw or unadjusted terms, the gender pay gap stood at 21 percent in Germany last year, an improvement of one percentage point from 2014, but still above the European average of 16.5 percent, the federal statistics office Destatis calculated.

On average, German women earned 16.20 Euros per hour before tax, while men earned 20.59 Euros. That means that since 2006, when the gender pay gap stood at 23 percent, the dif-

ference between men's and women's pay has remained more or less unchanged.

In the former communist east of the country, the pay gap was much narrower, standing at eight percent last year, but in the west it stood at 23 percent, Destatis calculated. Women in Germany tend more often to work in low-paid jobs or sectors and frequently only part time, the statisticians said.

Nevertheless, the working rate of women in Germany is changing. For a long time, it lagged behind men's working rate because of the traditional family structures where women tended to stay at home to look after the children. —AFP

# EGYPT CENTRAL BANK EXPECTING HIKING RATES AT MPC MEETING

**CAIRO:** Egypt's central bank is expected to raise interest rates today, a Reuters poll showed, in an attempt to defend the pound after the central bank devalued the currency and said it will adopt a more flexible exchange rate policy.

Egypt has been facing a foreign currency shortage since the 2011 uprising drove away tourists and foreign investors - major sources of hard currency. Reserves more than halved from 2011 to \$16.5 billion in February.

On Monday the pound was devalued to 8.85 pounds per dollar from 7.73 pounds and the central bank injected hundreds of millions of dollars through exceptional auctions this week in an effort to crush a black market in dollars.

All 10 contributors to the Reuters poll said they expect the monetary policy committee (MPC) to raise rates on March 17 in an attempt to defend the pound after the devaluation, with forecasts ranging from a 50 basis point hike to a hike of 100 basis points. "We've seen measures from the central bank to enhance foreign exchange liquidity... but for this cycle to be complete (they) need to enhance demand for the local currency and that is why we expect a hike in the next meeting," said Hany Farahat, economist at CI Capital who expects a 50 basis point hike.

Bankers said the black market for dol-

lars has sucked up foreign exchange liquidity from banks and put pressure on the pound but the central bank has recently been taking measures to divert liquidity back into the banking system.

This month the central bank eased capital controls that were imposed in February 2015 and last month the country's main three state-owned banks launched dollar-denominated certificates of deposit aimed at Egyptians living abroad. On Monday Egypt's top two state banks, the National Bank of Egypt and Banque Misr, also said they would offer Egyptian pound investment certificates with a 15 percent yield in return for foreign currency.

In anticipation of an interest rate hike, yields on Egyptian treasury bonds jumped aggressively on Monday, following news of the devaluation. Ziad Waleed, economist at Beltone Financial, expects the monetary policy meeting to raise interest rates by 100 basis points but said it could be raised even more to "defend the pound and counter dollarisation trends." Since taking over in November, Central Bank Governor Tarek Amer had taken measures to defend the pound. The MPC hiked interest rates by 50 basis points in December, citing inflationary pressures but kept it stable at the following meeting in January. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.663
Indian Rupees	4.499
Pakistani Rupees	2.884
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.086
Nepali Rupees	2.806
Singapore Dollar	219.690
Hongkong Dollar	38.918
Bangladesh Taka	3.850
Philippine Peso	6.453
Thai Baht	8.622
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.576
Qatari Riyal	83.001
Omani Riyal	784.823
Bahraini Dinar	802.440
UAE Dirham	82.266
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	35.500
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	35.524
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.410
Tunisian Dinar	150.100
Jordanian Dinar	425.860
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013
Syrian Lira	2.153
Morocco Dirham	31.295
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.000
Euro	336.730
Sterling Pound	428.390
Canadian dollar	226.810
Turkish lira	104.680
Swiss Franc	307.070
Australian Dollar	226.650
US Dollar Buying	300.800

### GOLD

20 Gram	253.510
10 Gram	129.510
5 Gram	65.600

### 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	302.050
Canadian Dollar	229.115
Sterling Pound	432.050
Euro	336.620
Swiss Frank	299.080
Bahrain Dinar	799.075
UAE Dirhams	82.480
Qatari Riyals	83.690

Saudi Riyals	81.225
Jordanian Dinar	425.495
Egyptian Pound	33.652
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Indian Rupees	4.489
Pakistani Rupees	2.879
Bangladesh Taka	3.842
Philippines Peso	6.458
Cyprus pound	575.305
Japanese Yen	3.655
Syrian Pound	2.370
Nepalese Rupees	3.800
Malaysian Ringgit	74.070
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.745
Thai Bhat	9.575
Turkish Lira	105.395

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

COUNTRY	SELL CASH Europe	SELLDRAFT
British Pound	0.419857	0.428857
Czech Korune	0.004368	0.016368
Danish Krone	0.040835	0.045835
Euro	0.329413	0.337413
Norwegian Krone	0.031196	0.036396
Romanian Leu	0.074716	0.074716
Slovakia	0.008988	0.018988
Swedish Krona	0.032155	0.037155
Swiss Franc	0.299035	0.309235
Turkish Lira	0.099183	0.109483
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.216770	0.228270
New Zealand Dollar	0.193129	0.202629
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.220541	0.229041
US Dollars	0.297900	0.302400
US Dollars Mint	0.298400	0.302400

### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003432	0.004006
Chinese Yuan	0.044925	0.048425
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036822	0.039572
Indian Rupee	0.004280	0.004670
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002576	0.002756
Kenyan Shilling	0.002970	0.002970
Korean Won	0.000243	0.000258
Malaysian Ringgit	0.069488	0.075488
Nepalese Rupee	0.002863	0.003033
Pakistan Rupee	0.002708	0.002988
Philippine Peso	0.006391	0.006671
Sierra Leone	0.000071	0.000077
Singapore Dollar	0.215302	0.221302
South African Rand	0.012881	0.021381
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001707	0.002287
Taiwan	0.009080	0.009260
Thai Baht	0.008293	0.008843

### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.794492	0.802492
Egyptian Pound	0.031523	0.036641
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000194	0.000254
Jordanian Dinar	0.421942	0.429442
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020573	0.044573
Nigerian Naira	0.001244	0.001879
Omani Riyal	0.777996	0.783676
Qatar Riyal	0.082241	0.083454
Saudi Riyal	0.079647	0.080597
Syrian Pound	0.001280	0.001500
Tunisian Dinar	0.146597	0.154597
Turkish Lira	0.099183	0.109483
UAE Dirhams	0.081242	0.082391
Yemeni Riyal	0.001365	0.001445



## BALI FARMERS INSURE RICE FIELDS IN DEFENSE AGAINST EL NINO

**NUSA DUA:** Tourist taxi driver Nur-ul Aslam watches in hopeful silence as drops of rain begin to cloud his windscreen. Last year at this time he was farming rice on his two-hectare farm 40 kilometers northeast of Bali's airport. But a long spell of dry weather, which has lasted since last July, dried up irrigation channels in his village of Tegal Mengkeb.

To survive, the 33-year-old walked away from his farm last December and began driving a taxi in Nusa Dua, a tourist hub with dozens of luxury resorts. He dreams of returning home. "We need regular good showers, but there is mostly drizzle. Unless the subaks (water channels) are full again, I can't plant any crop," he said.

Aslam may have found a way to stay on the farm next year, however. He recently signed up for new government-backed

crop insurance, one of 100 farmers to do so in Bali, where rice is grown on about 80,000 hectares of land. The Bali insurance program, launched last October, promises to pay farmers up to six million rupiah (\$480) for a crop failure caused by disasters such as drought, flooding or pest attacks.

The premium is 180,000 rupiah (\$13) per hectare, but the state has agreed to pay 80 percent of the cost. That means a farmer like Aslam only has to come up with 36,000 rupiah, or about \$2, per hectare. The program is part of a larger Indonesian crop insurance scheme introduced in 2012-2013 with financial support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

In the first season of the program, 470 hectares of rice fields were insured in East Java and Sumatra. This year, the government has moved to include Bali and a few

other provinces, though delays in the expansion have limited the number of farmers signed up.

"Our previous target this year was 11,000 hectares of rice fields (insured), but only 4,000 hectares can be insured due to limited time," said Ida Bagus Wisnuardhana, head of the Bali provincial Agriculture and Foodstuffs Affairs office. Currently, the scheme targets only small-scale farmers growing rice, but the federal government hopes to bring in all 27 million farmers in Indonesia's 33 provinces by 2019, according to a paper published by Japan's Ministry of the Environment.

### El Nino and drought

In Indonesia, the dry season runs from May to August. But Badan Meteorologi, Klimatologi dan Geofisika (BMKG) - the

local official weather mapping organization - says the island of Bali has seen "extreme" weather since the end of August. The agency attributes the unusually hot weather to the El Nino phenomenon. In November, the temperature in the area around Denpasar, Bali's provincial capital, rose as high as 37 degrees Celsius above the average daily temperature of 31.4 degrees Celsius, said Nyoman Gede Wirajaya of BKMKG. Bali's provincial agricultural department says nearly a thousand hectares of farmland are suffering some degree of drought, which threatens the coming harvest. With crops drying, local media have already reported food shortages in several villages.

Buleleng, a north Bali district which has recorded crop failure on 160 hectares, has been declared under "severe drought". With

no rice available, "we have been living off dried cassava for several weeks," said Palembang Kaka, a small-scale farmer from Buleleng who now works as a porter in Pasar Badung, Denpasar's largest community market.

Although globally El Nino is expected to start weakening soon, meteorological service officials in Bali are advising farmers to brace for more dry weather. Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, of the National Disaster Management Agency, predicted that "rainfall will be extremely low until the end of this year". For Aslam, the prediction could mean another missed crop and another season at the wheel - unless his new insurance policy works. "We will see how the insurance (money) is paid. I hope it is enough to recover my losses," he said. — Reuters

## JOYALUKKAS OPENS IN DAVANGERE WITH OVER ONE MILLION DESIGNS

**DAVANGERE:** The global giant Joyalukkas Jewelry opened their latest showroom in Karnataka at Davangere. This is as part of their mega expansion plan they have planned for this financial year "This financial year we are committing ourselves to rapid expansion across India, GCC and a couple of new countries. This compliments my vision to make the brand accessible and available to every jewelry lover in the world," said Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group.

Joyalukkas Jewelry had recently launched their showroom in Davangere. The brand which is one of the world's largest jewelry retail chains is a part of a multi-billion dollar global conglomerate, which has varied business interests. The Joyalukkas Group's business interests include Jewelry, Money Exchange, Fashion & Silks, Luxury Air Charter, Malls and Realty. The world's largest jewelry retail chain has presence in Singapore, London, UAE, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman & India and will soon open in 2 new countries. The jewelry retailer currently has a customer base of over 10 million customers worldwide and offers over 1 million choices in all types of jewelry at each of its showroom.

"Our plan for Joyalukkas Jewelry in this financial year (2015-2016) includes strengthening our presence across various parts of India and opening our showrooms in cities and towns that we feel are ready for the Joyalukkas experience said Mr Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group.

The showrooms will feature over One Million dazzling collections and exquisite designs in gold, diamond, precious stones, platinum and pearl. The collections will be a mix of traditional, ethno contemporary and international designs that have won hearts of customers around the world.

Other than this 'Trust' is an integral part of the Joyalukkas offer which is managed through ensuring assurance and peace of mind to customers on their jewelry purchase. The retail chain manages this through strict adherence to quality and internationally accepted standards eg. 100% IGI certified diamonds, BIS Hallmark gold jewelry and PGI certified platinum jewelry etc. Joyalukkas, is also the first and only ISO 14001-2006 & ISO 9001-2008 certified jewelry retail chain.

"My vision for our jewelry business is to 'ornament the world' and we will manage this by offering customers the best mix of Price, Choice, Convenience and Service" added Joy Alukkas. Other unique feature of Joyalukkas jewelry includes consumer friendly value added schemes like 'Advanced Purchase schemes, Joyalukkas Golden Rewards Card, 100% buy back guarantee and more.

This international jewelry retail chain is also one of few retail chains to be recognized with many awards and accolades for its exceptional standards in jewelry retailing. Joyalukkas has also been awarded the prestigious 'Superbrand' status 5 years in a row in the UAE.



## PEABODY ENERGY WARNS IT MAY FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION

**NEW YORK:** The largest American coal miner, Peabody Energy, is delaying an interest payment due this week and warned that it may have to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Shares of Peabody Energy Corp. plummeted more than 40 percent yesterday morning. Its shares have already lost half their value in the last three months and 97 percent over the past year.

A slowing global economy and toughening environmental standards have slammed the coal industry, which is already beset by bankruptcies, shuttered mines and layoffs. Peabody makes most of its money by selling its coal to utility companies that use it to generate electricity.

But many utilities have shifted to using natural gas, which costs less than coal and produces less pollution. In fact, electricity generation from coal fell 13 percent last year compared to the previous year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. US coal production also fell to its lowest level in nearly three decades last year, the EIA said.

Within the last year, coal companies Alpha Natural Resources, Arch Coal and

Patriot Coal have all filed for bankruptcy protection. St Louis-based Peabody said yesterday that it didn't pay more than \$70 million in interest payments that were due Tuesday.

If the company doesn't make the payment in 30 days, it would default and it said there's "substantial doubt" it would be able to go on. The company made the announcement in a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Peabody said it has talked with its debt holders on ways to improve its finances, but if that doesn't work it may need to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection allows companies to reorganize their debt while they keep their businesses operating. When Arch Coal filed for bankruptcy protection in January, for example, it said its mines would remain open and its employees would not be affected.

Peabody had about 7,600 employees at the end of last year and has ownership stakes in 26 mines in the US and Australia. Its US mines are in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, New Mexico and Wyoming. — AP



ST LOUIS: This Oct 19, 2009, file photo shows Peabody Energy headquarters. — AP



BEIJING: Chinese worker load cables on steel frames at a building under construction at the Central Business District. — AP

## CHINA'S PREMIER STAYS CONFIDENT IN ECONOMY, VOWS NO HARD LANDING

### GOVERNMENT PRESSES AHEAD WITH PAINFUL REFORMS

**BEIJING:** China's Premier Li Keqiang defended the government's economic policies yesterday, vowing there would be no mass layoffs and no hard landing for the world's second-largest economy even as the government presses ahead with painful reforms.

While conceding that downward pressure is increasing, Li and other top officials at the annual meeting of parliament this month have repeatedly tried to reassure jittery financial markets and China's major trading partners that Beijing is able to manage the slowing economy.

"We are confident that as long as we continue to reform and open up, China's economy will not suffer a hard landing," Li said at a news conference at the end of the parliament meeting. "Economic productivity is being held back by unnecessary government interference and we need to create a more level playing field and more oversight," he said, adding that China plans to cut red tape for businesses, devise ways to reduce corporate debt and improve financial regulation.

The country's top economic planner made a similar attempt to calm investors' jangled nerves earlier in the 12-day parliamentary session, saying that authorities had ample policy tools to ensure growth remains within a "reasonable range", remarks which were repeated by Li yesterday. China's "supply-side reforms", which include tax cuts, will unleash fresh economic growth drivers, Li added, at his one news conference of the year, a staged event where journalists are often pre-selected to ask questions.

"Instead of resorting to massive stimulus measures, we have chosen a more sustainable but more painful economic path, pursuing struc-

tural reforms," he said. Similarly, central bank Governor Zhou Xiaochuan took pains to expand on its views in the face of international criticism that China needs to communicate better about its policies, particularly after its surprise currency devaluation last year.

Zhou on Saturday appeared to rule out excessive stimulus to bolster the economy, but said China would keep policy flexible to counter any shocks. China is already in the midst of its most aggressive economic stimulus campaign since the global financial crisis, but Beijing is wary of unleashing massive spending as it did in 2008/2009, which left a legacy of high debt and excess capacity.

Some analysts argue China wants too many things - economic growth but no painful reforms and no mass layoffs. "Premier Li signalled that China would continue to implement reforms this year including cutting red tape (and) improving the portability of social welfare..." Julian Evans-Pritchard, China economist at Capital Economics wrote in a research note.

"But the government still shows little willingness to tolerate the pain associated with significant change. It says that cutting oversupply and restructuring the inefficient state sector is a priority for this year but appears determined to avoid major job losses."

### How to avoid massive tradeoffs?

Indeed, while the government insists it will press on with structural reforms despite the slowing economy, there has been a lack of talk at this year's parliament about how millions of people could be thrown out of work as authorities try to reduce overcapacity in "rust belt"

heavy industries such as coal and steel and restructure bloated, loss-making state enterprises. Sources have told Reuters that China is expecting to lay off 5-6 million state workers in the next two to three years as part of efforts to curb excess capacity and pollution. Even as parliament was in session, thousands of coal mine workers in a depressed part of northeastern China protested against unpaid wages over the weekend.

Li said the government will try to avoid mass layoffs, and comments from other policymakers over the last two weeks appear to indicate that Beijing will focus first on a slower but less politically sensitive approach: persuading companies to merge or restructure rather than forcing them to quickly downsize.

There have been few specific details from officials about how China will deal with those who lose their jobs. But Li said yesterday that the government could offer more aid for laid-off workers if necessary, in addition to a 100 billion Yuan (\$15.3 billion) fund announced in February aimed at relocating workers who lose their jobs.

Weighed down by sluggish demand at home and abroad, faltering investment and massive industrial overcapacity, China's economy expanded by 6.9 percent last year, its weakest pace in a quarter of a century.

The government has set a growth target of 6.5-7 percent for 2016 and is widely expected to continue a year-long stimulus blitz to spur activity, ranging from higher spending on infrastructure projects to more interest rate cuts. Some China watchers, however, believe real growth levels are already much lower than official data suggests. — Reuters

## KFH NAMES WINNERS OF BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN 9TH DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) named 7 winners of the ninth 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: Fatemah Alshatti, Abdullatif Derbai, Wasan Alyaqout, Lesama Shako, Shaikha Aladwani, Imad Abdulaziz Alsarawi and Nourah Husainan.

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 benefiting 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.



STOCKS DIP, OIL BOUNCES BUT DOLLAR DITHERS

**SYDNEY:** Asian shares were mostly lower yesterday while the dollar dithered as markets waited anxiously for the Federal Reserve to provide guidance on the risk of US rate hikes this year. Spread betters expected the cautious mood to extend into Europe, forecasting a flat to modestly higher open for Britain's FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC.

While no move is expected at this meeting it does include updates of Fed members' economic projections and a news conference with Chair Janet Yellen, events that have caused violent market reactions in the past.

"There's no question that the FOMC is expect-

ed to provide the much-needed clarity global markets need in order to move forward with some sense of conviction," said Stefan Worrall, director of Japan equity sales at Credit Suisse. "Ahead of that, we're seeing a very pregnant pause and an air pocket of conviction."

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan edged down 0.3 percent, and Japan's Nikkei took a knock from a firmer yen and slipped 0.7 percent. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.5 percent. South Korean stocks were effectively flat while Shanghai crawled up 0.1 percent. Oil prices did manage a bounce after data from industry group American Petroleum

Institute (API) showed US crude stockpiles rose by less than half what analysts expected. US crude gained 49 cents to \$36.33 a barrel, while Brent rose 40 cents to \$39.14. There was little movement on Wall Street where the Dow ended up 0.13 percent, while the S&P 500 lost 0.18 percent and the Nasdaq dropped 0.45 percent.

Join the dots

Hurting sentiment were downward revisions to retail sales that left consumer spending looking a lot softer so far this year. One result was that the Atlanta Fed "GDPNow" measure of economic growth dropped to 1.9 percent for the

first quarter, from 2.2 percent. The disappointing data only heightened the stakes for the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting.

Analysts generally assume Fed projections for interest rates widely known as the "dots" - will indicate only three hikes are likely this year instead of four. Yet the market is pricing in just one move of 25 basis points for 2016. "It may seem dovish but the dots will have to come down by more than this, especially the 2016 dot, to be seen as genuinely bullish," said Alan Ruskin, global head of forex research at Deutsche.

"The market has less tightening priced in for the end of 2018 than the December FOMC median dot for the end of 2016." This

leaves equity and bond markets vulnerable to any hint of hawkishness from the Fed, say if Yellen made it clear that hikes were still possible at the April and June meetings.

In contrast, the US dollar would likely benefit from the chance of higher rates. It could do with the help having recently touched a one-month low of 95.938 against a basket of major currencies late last week. The dollar index stood little changed at 96.731 yesterday, while the euro marked time at \$1.1100. Both the greenback and euro nursed losses on the yen, which tends to gain at times of risk aversion. The dollar fetched 113.42 yen, while the euro bought 125.92 yen following a fall of 0.5 percent on Tuesday.

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Wednesday 16 March 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▼ -13.88	5,229.91	5,243.79	5,244.06	5,219.01
Weighted Index	▲ 0.51	361.08	360.57	361.20	358.82
KSX 15	▲ 2.21	853.21	851.00	853.66	846.34

Security	High	Low	Trades				Last	Change
			Volume	Value (KD)	Trades			
MARIN	104	99	5063	522	4	99	▼	-5.8
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	—	0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	—	0.0
FNFRGYH	37.0	36.0	1,008	37	2	37.0	▲	1.6
GPI	41.0	40.0	1,541,625	61,880	37	41.0	▲	0.6
ABAR	104	104	500	52	1	104	▼	-10.0
Oil & Gas			1,548,408	62,491	44	789.44	▼	-6.42

KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0.0
BPCC	460	460	62,150	28,599	7	460	—	0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	—	0.0
ALQURAIN	194	190	697,356	134,618	34	194	▲	2.6
Basic Materials			789,596	163,207	41	923.66	▲	3.80

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	—	0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	—	0.0
CABLE	315	290	214,631	62,882	26	315	▲	10.9
SHIP	148	140	22,000	3,161	4	148	▲	6.6
PCEM	1,020	1,020	5,008	5,100	1	1,020	—	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	420	—	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	—	0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	—	0.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	—	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	—	0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	—	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	—	0.0
NICBM	234	226	9,100	2,064	3	226	▼	-10.0
EQUIPMENT	53	51	871,863	45,273	19	53	▲	1.6
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	—	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	—	0.0
SALBOOH	70	69	190,500	13,257	13	69	—	0.0
AGLTY	460	446	97,697	43,770	6	460	▲	6.6
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	—	0.0
CLEANING	36.5	36.5	4,000	154	1	36.5	▼	-0.6
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	435	—	0.0
KGL	46.0	45.5	220,500	10,133	10	46.0	▲	1.6
KCPK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	—	0.0
HUMANSOFT	770	720	2,712	2,003	2	720	▼	-60.0
NAFIS	144	144	10,000	1,440	1	144	—	0.0
SAFWAN	265	265	10,000	2,650	1	265	—	0.0
GFC	25.0	24.0	1,051	25	3	24.0	▼	-2.6
MAYADEEN	15.0	18.0	1,441,644	26,558	25	19.0	—	0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	—	0.0
MTCC	81	80	1,583,637	126,891	30	81	▲	2.6
UPAC	790	680	88,282	60,156	12	680	▼	-20.0
ALAFPO	190	188	1,104	209	3	190	—	0.0
MUBARRAD	63	62	475,285	29,837	22	63	▼	-1.8
LOGISTICS	65	64	180,000	11,593	11	64	▼	-2.8
SCEM	85	85	50,000	4,250	1	85	▲	1.6
GCEM	78	77	24,600	1,899	3	77	▼	-4.8
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	—	0.0
FCEN	73	71	383,095	25,773	10	71	▼	-1.8
RKWC	98	97	7,250	713	2	97	▼	-1.8
SPEC	80	75	1,108	83	2	80	—	0.0
Industrials			5,575,091	479,872	210	969.56	▼	-8.95

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	—	0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	—	0.0
PAPCO	102	102	60,000	6,120	8	102	▼	-4.8
CATTL	134	134	100	13	1	134	▲	2.6
DANAH	71	71	58,000	4,118	1	71	▲	1.6
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180	—	0.0
FOOD	2,360	2,340	111,645	262,916	27	2,340	▼	-20.0
Consumer Goods			229,746	273,168	37	1063.93	▼	-3.89

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	—	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	—	0
YIACO	214	196	418,385	82,008	14	196	▼	-8
Health Care			418,385	82,008	14	966.59	▼	-6.75

KHIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,000	—	0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	—	0
SULTAN	69	67	82,200	5,593	3	69	▲	2
CABLETV	25.0	24.0	20,000	491	4	24.0	▼	-1
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0
IFAHRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192	—	0
OUJAFUEL	114	112	14,624	1,639	9	114	—	0
MUNT'AZAHAT	84	84	40,000	3,380	2	84	▼	-4
JAZEERA	880	860	284,188	228,922	22	860	▼	-20
SOOR	114	114	10,889	1,241	9	114	—	0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	—	0
ALNAWADI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	78	—	0
ALRAI	142	140	11,000	1,542	3	142	▲	2
ZIMAH	64	66	21,032,775	1,269,814	585	62	▲	1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0
Mezzan	1,080	1,040	88,317	93,505	11	1,060	—	0
Consumer Services			21,563,393	1,596,106	648	933.55	▼	-6.25

ZAIN	375	370	1,403,943	526,397	40	375	—	0
OREDOO	1,280	1,180	17,882	21,837	11	1,220	▲	20
HITSTELEC	25.0	28.5	183,390	5,307	8	29.0	—	0
VIVA	1,000	990	235,588	234,496	87	990	▼	-10
Telecommunications			1,340,803	788,837	146	618.07	▼	-1.49

NBK	740	720	1,386,368	1,012,139	41	740	▲	10
GBK	210	208	651,080	136,266	9	210	▼	-2
CRK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	500	—	0
ABK	350	345	51,480	17,768	3	350	▼	-6
ALMUTAHED	425	425	8,720	2,896	3	425	—	0
KIB	194	194	15,000	2,910	1	194	—	0
BURG	340	335	60,309	20,452	4	340	▲	5
KFIN	495	490	2,119,761	1,049,223	66	495	—	0
BOUBYAN	420	415	1,022,076	426,334	34	420	—	0
AUB	290	290	511,962	102,392	9	290	—	0
ITHMR	36.0	34.5	4,113,448	143,940	41	36.0	▼	-1
WARSABANK	172	168	1,580,486	269,080	91	170	▼	-2
Bank			11,518,570	2,183,359	302	813.42	▼	-0.70

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	—	0
GIN5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	—	0.0
AJNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	475	—	0.0
WINS	114	112	60,500	6,890	4	114	▲	2.6
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
WETHAQ	36.5	38.5	192,089	7,395	1	38.5	▲	2.6
BKIKVT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			252,589	14,291	5	1088.02	▲	13.55

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	—	0
GIN5	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	—	0.0
AJNS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	475	—	0.0
WINS	114	112	60,500	6,890	4	114	▲	2.6
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	—	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
WETHAQ	36.5	38.5	192,089	7,395	1	38.5	▲	2.6
BKIKVT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			252,589	14,291	5	1088.02	▲	13.55

Trades									
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# KAMCO OIL MARKET MONTHLY REPORT



Source for the above charts : OPEC and Bloomberg

Oil prices continued to rise during February-16, recording the highest monthly jump in almost nine months after four OPEC and non-OPEC producers agreed to stabilize the oil market by freezing output. The oil price trend during the first two weeks of March-16 was even stronger signaling a bottoming of oil prices on the back of USD weakness, a stronger Yuan that reached its highest level in 2016 as well as a continued decline in oil rigs in the US that reached its lowest recorded level in the history.

During mid-February-16, in a bid to stabilize the oil market, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Russia and Venezuela agreed to freeze their respective oil production at January-16 levels with a caveat that other producers follow suit. This led to a short term oil price rally that pushed prices to a 3-month high level of USD 35.62/b of OPEC oil. However, despite welcoming the decision to freeze output, Iran's oil minister said in a recent announcement that it would consider joining other oil producers in seeking ways to rebalance the global oil market only after it reaches a pre-sanction crude output of 4 mb/d, a level not seen since 2008.

As a result of this announcement, oil prices fell almost 3% on 14-March-16. An official also said that the country plans to boost oil production by 1 mb/d by June-16 and expects oil exports to rise to 2 mb/d by month ending 20-March-16 from almost 1.75 mb/d during the previous month. Meanwhile, supply disruption to the tune of 0.85 mb/d in Northern Iraq and Nigeria also provided some support to oil prices by the end of February-16. A pipeline stoppage in Turkey cut off almost 0.6 mb/d of crude from Kurdistan. On the other hand, an oil pipeline leak led Royal Dutch Shell to declare force majeure on almost 0.25mb/d of crude in Nigeria.

In its monthly report, IEA stated that oil prices may have bottomed as the production decline by United States and other non-OPEC producers is at a faster pace, whereas the increase in production by Iran is expected to be gradual. The agency forecasted a production decline of 0.75 mb/d in 2016 as against its previous expectation of 0.6 mb/d as a result of low oil prices that has started affecting high-cost production. Contrastingly, OPEC in its monthly report said that the global demand for its oil in 2016 will be less than previous expectations as supply from non-OPEC producers appears more resilient to low prices.

As a consequence, the global demand for OPEC's crude is expected to decline by 90 tb/d from last months expectation to average at 31.52 mb/d in 2016. After touching a 13-year low level in January-16, average monthly OPEC oil price increased by 8.4% to USD 28.72/b during February-16. The gains during the first half of March-16 stood at an even higher 17.2%. We expect oil prices to trade range bound during the year taking cues from the reaction of OPEC members on production optimization. OPEC meeting, likely to be in April-16, would set the trend for the rest of the year.

### Oil Prices

Sentiments surrounding oil market largely remained positive after multiple indicators pointed to a fall, albeit gradually, in production primarily from shale producers in the US in addition to both OPEC and non-OPEC oil producers being in talks to freeze production.

Moreover, although demand side factors are yet to show a turnaround (with Chinese demand yet to recover amid economic slowdown) higher demand in other markets, primarily India, and other smaller non-OECD Asian countries remain strong. According to IEA's monthly report, global oil demand declined to its lowest level in a year during 4Q-15 to 1.2 mb/d as compared to 4Q-14 primarily due to a decline in demand from the US and China.

For the full year 2016 the agency expects demand to grow by 1.2 mb/d. Meanwhile, according to IEA, OECD commercial inventories increased by

World Oil Demand - 2014/2015, mb/d	2014	Q1-15	Q2-15	Q3-15	Q4-15	2015	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	24.14	24.25	24.10	24.75	24.49	24.40	0.26	1.08
of which US	19.41	19.60	19.47	19.99	19.78	19.71	0.30	1.55
Europe	13.45	13.56	13.59	14.10	13.69	13.74	0.28	2.09
Asia Pacific	8.14	8.75	7.71	7.63	8.24	8.08	(0.06)	(0.69)
<b>Total OECD</b>	<b>45.73</b>	<b>46.55</b>	<b>45.41</b>	<b>46.48</b>	<b>46.41</b>	<b>46.21</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>1.06</b>
Other Asia	11.47	11.46	12.03	11.89	12.20	11.90	0.42	3.70
of which India	3.79	4.01	3.98	3.91	4.26	4.04	0.25	6.69
Latin America	6.60	6.40	6.66	6.88	6.44	6.60	(0.01)	(0.12)
Middle East	8.14	8.24	8.21	8.74	8.22	8.35	0.21	2.59
Africa	3.78	3.88	3.85	3.79	3.94	3.86	0.09	2.25
<b>Total Developing Countries (DCs)</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>29.99</b>	<b>30.74</b>	<b>31.30</b>	<b>30.81</b>	<b>30.71</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>2.37</b>
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	4.59	4.43	4.27	4.66	4.98	4.59	0.00	(0.08)
Other Europe	0.65	0.66	0.62	0.66	0.75	0.67	0.02	2.79
China	10.46	10.44	11.06	10.69	10.98	10.79	0.33	3.15
<b>Total "Other Regions"</b>	<b>15.71</b>	<b>15.53</b>	<b>15.95</b>	<b>16.01</b>	<b>16.70</b>	<b>16.05</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>2.19</b>
<b>Total World</b>	<b>91.44</b>	<b>92.06</b>	<b>92.11</b>	<b>93.79</b>	<b>93.92</b>	<b>92.98</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>1.69</b>

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March 2016

World Oil Demand - 2015/2016, mb/d	2015	Q1-16	Q2-16	Q3-16	Q4-16	2016	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	24.40	24.54	24.42	25.03	24.76	24.69	0.29	1.20
of which US	19.71	19.86	19.75	20.24	20.00	19.96	0.25	1.27
Europe	13.74	13.60	13.61	14.10	13.68	13.75	0.01	0.08
Asia Pacific	8.08	8.64	7.62	7.55	8.15	7.98	(0.09)	(1.18)
<b>Total OECD</b>	<b>46.21</b>	<b>46.78</b>	<b>45.65</b>	<b>46.68</b>	<b>46.58</b>	<b>46.42</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>0.45</b>
Other Asia	11.90	11.84	12.38	12.24	12.56	12.26	0.36	3.01
of which India	4.04	4.21	4.15	4.08	4.44	4.22	0.18	4.46
Latin America	6.60	6.41	6.73	6.94	6.50	6.65	0.05	0.78
Middle East	8.35	8.39	8.39	8.93	8.40	8.53	0.18	2.11
Africa	3.86	3.98	3.95	3.89	4.05	3.97	0.11	2.75
<b>Total Developing Countries (DCs)</b>	<b>30.71</b>	<b>30.63</b>	<b>31.46</b>	<b>32.00</b>	<b>31.51</b>	<b>31.40</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>2.25</b>
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	4.59	4.45	4.32	4.70	5.03	4.63	0.04	0.82
Other Europe	0.67	0.68	0.64	0.68	0.77	0.69	0.02	2.98
China	10.79	10.73	11.35	10.99	11.27	11.09	0.29	2.72
<b>Total "Other Regions"</b>	<b>16.05</b>	<b>15.86</b>	<b>16.31</b>	<b>16.37</b>	<b>17.07</b>	<b>16.40</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>2.19</b>
<b>Total World</b>	<b>92.98</b>	<b>93.27</b>	<b>93.42</b>	<b>95.05</b>	<b>95.15</b>	<b>94.23</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.34</b>

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March 2016

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2014/2015, mb/d	2014	Q1-15	Q2-15	Q3-15	Q4-15	2015	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	20.08	21.04	20.69	21.14	21.10	20.99	0.91	4.53
of which US	12.96	13.78	14.05	14.06	14.06	13.99	1.03	7.95
Europe	3.61	3.69	3.77	3.68	3.88	3.75	0.14	3.88
Asia Pacific	0.51	0.43	0.45	0.50	0.48	0.46	(0.04)	(9.80)
<b>Total OECD</b>	<b>24.20</b>	<b>25.16</b>	<b>24.90</b>	<b>25.32</b>	<b>25.46</b>	<b>25.21</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>4.17</b>
Other Asia	2.60	2.71	2.71	2.65	2.73	2.70	0.10	3.85
Latin America	5.01	5.23	5.16	5.17	5.18	5.18	0.18	3.39
Middle East	1.34	1.30	1.27	1.24	1.24	1.26	(0.08)	(5.97)
Africa	2.38	2.39	2.37	2.36	2.35	2.37	(0.01)	(0.42)
<b>Total Developing Countries (DCs)</b>	<b>11.33</b>	<b>11.63</b>	<b>11.51</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>11.50</b>	<b>11.52</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>1.68</b>
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	13.55	13.75	13.65	13.59	13.73	13.68	0.13	0.96
of which Russia	10.68	10.81	10.80	10.81	10.89	10.83	0.15	1.40
Other Europe	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00
China	4.30	4.33	4.39	4.38	4.37	4.37	0.07	1.63
<b>Total "Other regions"</b>	<b>17.98</b>	<b>18.21</b>	<b>18.17</b>	<b>18.11</b>	<b>18.24</b>	<b>18.18</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>1.11</b>
<b>Total Non-OPEC Production</b>	<b>53.51</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>54.58</b>	<b>54.86</b>	<b>55.19</b>	<b>54.91</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>2.62</b>
Processing gains	2.16	2.19	2.19	2.19	2.19	2.19	0.02	1.39
<b>Total Non-OPEC Supply</b>	<b>55.67</b>	<b>57.19</b>	<b>56.77</b>	<b>57.04</b>	<b>57.38</b>	<b>57.09</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>2.55</b>
<b>OPEC NGLs and non-conventionals</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>6.02</b>	<b>6.11</b>	<b>6.18</b>	<b>6.29</b>	<b>6.15</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>2.50</b>
<b>OPEC Crude Oil Production</b>	<b>30.77</b>	<b>31.03</b>	<b>31.89</b>	<b>32.24</b>	<b>32.25</b>	<b>31.85</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>3.51</b>
<b>Total World Supply</b>	<b>92.44</b>	<b>94.24</b>	<b>94.77</b>	<b>95.46</b>	<b>95.92</b>	<b>95.09</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>2.87</b>

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March 2016

20.2 Mn barrels during January-16 equivalent to 32.7 days of demand cover; whereas, preliminary data for February-16 suggests OECD inventory drawdown for the first time in a year. Furthermore, in a positive development for the oil market, US oil rigs declined for the 12th consecutive week by 6 to 386, its lowest level on record, according to data released by Baker Hughes. Drilling activity in the US has taken a severe hit as drillers are conserving cash and have curtailed producing oil from even newly drilled wells in the hope that production can be scaled up when oil prices strengthen. According to Reuters, some producers are squeezing out older wells for additional oil, whereas a few have slashed capex on almost all activity, in some cases even leaving drilled wells unfinished to conserve cash and wait for a sustained turnaround in prices. Oil prices also got a boost from USD weakness versus most of the major currencies that coincided with ECB's announcement of monetary easing measures during the second week of February-16. On the other hand, Chinese Yuan also strengthened to its

highest level in 2016 after the central bank fixed the reference rate of Yuan at a higher than expected level.

Average monthly OPEC oil price increased by 8.4% to USD 28.72/b during February-16 whereas the gains during the first half of March-16 stood at an even higher 17.2%. Kuwait oil was up by 11.9% during February-16 whereas Brent oil surged 5.6% during the month.

### World Oil Demand

OPEC's monthly report kept total world oil demand growth for 2015 unchanged from the last month at 1.54 mb/d to reach 92.98 mb/d although adjustments were made within the regions. Oil demand in the US surged by 0.1 mb/d or 0.5% year-on-year during December-15 primarily on the back of higher gasoline demand for the transportation sector. The monthly gain comes despite a fall in demand during the previous two months (October-15 and November-15). Meanwhile, demand remained weak in Canada during the year due to a fall in demand for gasoline, LPG and residual fuel oil. The year was also positive for

the whole of European region with all the quarters showing higher demand resulting in a demand growth of 0.30 mb/d. Meanwhile in OECD Asia Pacific, oil consumption declined by 0.06 mb/d led by a fall in demand from Japan.

Oil demand growth for 2016 was also kept unchanged at 1.25 mb/d to average at 94.23 mb/d despite upward adjustments in Other Asia, Asia Pacific and Europe on the back of higher-than-expected oil demand that were offset by downward adjustments for Latin America and FSU. A mild winter season in the US led to decline in demand for distillates which fully nullified higher demand for gasoline and jet fuel during the first two months of 2016.

Meanwhile, oil demand in OECD Europe was weak according to preliminary data for January-16 that showed a year-on-year decline of 50 tb/d as higher demand for diesel and fuel oil was more than offset by a decline in demand for jet fuel/kerosene and LPG. The region continues to be marred by several uncertainties relating to economic performance although low oil

price could provide a boost to oil demand in the region. An unusually warm weather also affected oil demand in OECD Asia Pacific, especially in Japan where commodity substitution played a key role in declining use of oil for electricity generation. Contrastingly, oil demand continued to post robust growth in South Korea during January-16 rising by more than 5% year-on-year or 0.11 mb/d.

Another bright spot in the region was India that recorded almost 13% year-on-year rise in oil demand or more than 0.50 mb/d led by higher demand for gasoline, fuel oil and diesel. For the full year, India's oil requirement is expected to grow by 4%-5%.

### World Oil Supply

Non-OPEC oil supply growth in 2015 was once again revised upward by 100 tb/d to 1.42 mb/d to average at 57.09 mb/d after updated production data for 4Q-15 led to upward revision in supply from the OECD (+258 tb/d), Developing Countries (+48 tb/d) and FSU (+26 tb/d) partially offset by downward revisions of

almost 0.33 mb/d in supply from Australia, Argentina and the Sudans.

Upward revisions were also made to non-OPEC supply figures for Q1-15 (+63 tb/d) and Q2-15 (+31 tb/d). The OECD Americas region saw the biggest jump in oil supply during 2015 with a growth of 0.91 mb/d to reach total supply of 20.99 mb/d. Oil supply from OECD Asia Pacific remained unchanged as compared to the last month's monthly report whereas, Developing Countries saw a marginal upward revision of 10 tb/d to average at 11.52 mb/d during 2015.

On the other hand, despite internal adjustments, non-OPEC oil supply growth for 2016 was kept unchanged and is expected to decline by 0.70 mb/d and to average 56.39 mb/d. The expected decline in oil supply is primarily due to a decline in cash flow in 2016 resulting in reduced capital investment as well as deferral of major new projects until oil price shows sustainable recovery. For instance, companies like EOG Resources slashed its 2016 capex by half whereas, Encana Corp. and Chesapeake slashed their 2016 capex by more than 50%. In terms of regional breakdown, OECD Americas is expected to show the steepest supply decline of 0.48 mb/d in 2016 followed by FSU - 0.12 mb/d. In the Middle East, supply is expected to decline by 50 tb/d due to geopolitical conflicts.

### OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity

According to Bloomberg, OPEC oil production declined marginally by 79 tb/d to 33.06 mb/d during February-16 as production declines in Iraq and Nigeria were partially offset by higher production in Iran. Production by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait remained flat at 10.2 mb/d and 3 mb/d, respectively, during February-16. Iran continued to boost production during the month by producing an additional 140 tb/d during the month to reach an average production rate of 3 mb/d.

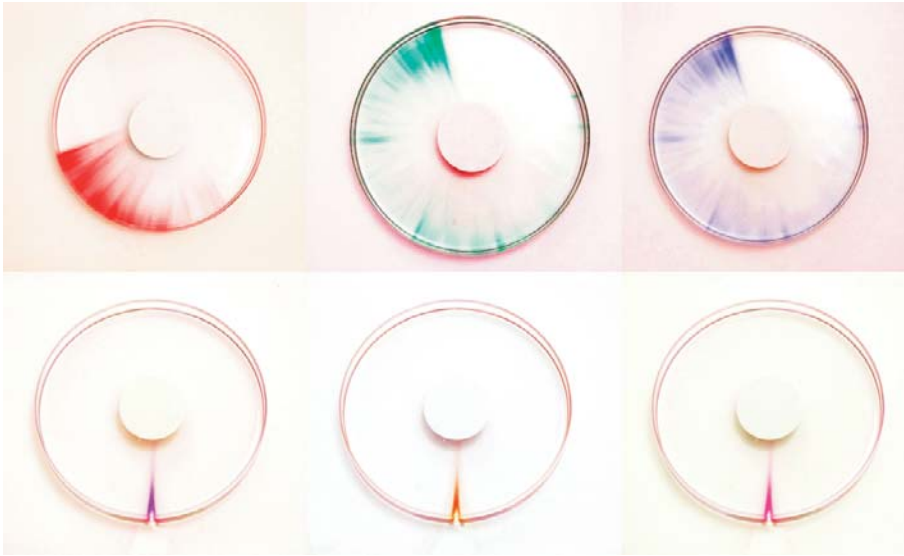
In terms of agreement on output freeze as was announced by Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Venezuela and Russia, Iran initially appreciated the move but its oil minister recently said that the country will only join talks on stabilizing oil prices once its output reaches pre-sanction levels of almost 4 mb/d. Iran is actively engaged in signing oil contracts with European customers by aggressively boosting production. According to a news report, the country is seeking to boost oil output by 1mb/d by June-16 although analysts believe that it is a near impossible achievement to scale production to this level even by the end of the year, which would also require significant investment in the country's oil industry.

The investment requirement was pegged at USD 200 Bn, according to the country's oil minister, in order to develop joint fields and enhance recovery of oil reservoirs, as well as secure development targets. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said that the Kingdom will continue to maintain its oil market share and the idea that it would cut its production while others maintain their share would be unrealistic.

On the other hand, the disruptions in Iraq and Nigeria resulted in a total oil production decline of 264 tb/d during the month. A pipeline stoppage in Turkey cut off almost 0.6 mb/d of crude from Kurdistan. On the other hand, an oil pipeline leak led Royal Dutch Shell to declare force majeure on almost 0.25mb/d of crude in Nigeria.

The overall production by OPEC members reached more than 90% of its capacity by the end of February-16. Among the member countries, Saudi Arabia continues to hold the largest buffer capacity at almost 2.3 mb/d followed by Libya with a spare capacity of 0.41 mb/d. The total share of production of Saudi Arabia stood at 30.9% almost in line with its share during January-16. On the other hand, the share of Iran increased from 8.6% in January-16 to 9.1% in February-16.





# FINALISTS OF LEXUS DESIGN AWARD 2016 ANNOUNCED

**KUWAIT:** Lexus International has recently announced the 12 finalists for the Lexus Design Award 2016. First launched in 2013 to foster the growth of ideas that can contribute to society, this international design competition aims to support young up-and-coming creators from around the world. The fourth annual staging of the Lexus Design Award drew 1,232 entries from 73 countries under the theme of "Anticipation."

A panel of world-renowned designers and creators gathered in November 2015 to judge the entries. This year, entrants impressed the judges by creating designs as yet unseen or undefined but likely to be realized in the near future. After

extensive discussion, and after noting the participants' passion and willingness to explore the unpredictable, the judges chose 12 finalist entries for their potential contribution to design innovation.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "The Lexus Design Award is an attractive showcase for talented designers from across the globe and gives them a great platform to showcase their inventiveness and creativity in design. The theme of design is central to Lexus as a brand in keeping with the Lexus Design philosophy of L-

finesse which defines the core character of all Lexus products. We look forward to highlighting these talented individuals and elevate the discussion around progressive design in line with the chosen theme."

The four finalists will produce prototypes of their designs under the mentorship of globally recognized creators. Architects and interdisciplinary designers Neri&Hu, along with designer Max Lamb will return as mentors, while designer/architect Elena Manferdini and artist/architect Snarkitecture join as the mentors for the first time.

The Lexus exhibition at Milan Design Week will run from

April 11 through April 17 at T32 Turnerries/Carrozzeria, Via Tortona 32, 20144 (Zona Tortona). The Grand Prix winner of the Lexus Design Award 2016 out of the four selected prototype finalists will be announced on April 11 at a glittering award ceremony.

Further details on the Lexus space at the 2016 Milan Design Week, which is the world's largest design exhibition, also known as Salone Del Mobile, will be announced in mid-February. Last year, the "Lexus - A Journey of the Senses" exhibit in 2015 earned high acclaim and won the "Best Entertaining" award at the "Milano Design Award" competition.

## FORD SMART MOBILITY ESTABLISHED TO DEVELOP, INVEST IN MOBILITY SERVICES

**DUBAI:** Ford Motor Company has announced the creation of Ford Smart Mobility LLC, a new subsidiary formed to design, build, grow and invest in emerging mobility services. Jim Hackett, former Steelcase vice chairman and CEO, is leaving his position on the Ford Board of Directors to serve as chairman of the new subsidiary.

Ford Smart Mobility LLC is part of Ford's expanded business model to be both an auto and a mobility company. The company is continuing to focus on and investing in its core business - designing, manufacturing, marketing, financing and servicing cars, SUVs, trucks and electrified vehicles. At the same time, Ford aggressively is pursuing emerging opportunities through Ford Smart Mobility, the company's plan to be a leader in connectivity, mobility, autonomous vehicles, the customer experience and data and analytics.

"Ford Smart Mobility and expanding into mobility services are significant growth opportunities," said Mark Fields, president and CEO, Ford Motor Company. "Our plan is to quickly become part of the growing transportation services market, which already accounts for \$5.4 trillion in annual revenue. Jim Hackett is the right visionary leader - with extensive experience in business development and design - to take us into the mobility services business in the future."



### Building and investing in new mobility services

The new Ford Smart Mobility LLC will build on the products, technologies and Ford Smart Mobility innovations and work already under way at Ford Motor Company. Working with Ford's existing product development, research and advanced engineering, marketing and data analytics teams - which will remain unchanged - the subsidiary will develop commercially ready mobility services and invest in promising mobility-related ventures.

Designed to compete like a startup company, Ford Smart Mobility LLC will design and build mobility services on its own, and collaborate with start-ups and tech companies. "Ensuring the freedom of mobility requires us to continually look beyond the needs of today and interpret what mobility will mean to future generations," said Bill Ford, executive chairman, Ford Motor Company. "This new subsidiary will enable us to develop mobility solutions to address the rapidly changing transportation challenges of an increasingly crowded world."

Reporting to Mark Fields, Hackett, as chairman of Ford Smart Mobility LLC, will lead a team of business and technology leaders from inside and outside the company.

**Hackett: Consumer-Focused, transformer-focused, visionary leader**

As a consumer-focused, visionary leader in the office furniture industry, Hackett is credited with expanding Steelcase's business model and becoming a global innovator. During his 30 years there, he helped transform the company from a traditional office furniture manufacturer to a company that would change the way people work. This included predicting that the office landscape would shift away from cubicles to an open space environment, giving employees the flexibility to work where they want.

"I am absolutely thrilled to lead Ford's mobility business into the future," said Hackett. "Transportation in the world today is on the cusp of a major revolution, and Ford plans to lead the way by changing the

way the world moves through Ford Smart Mobility."

A member of the Ford Motor Company Board of Directors since 2013, Hackett served on the Audit, Sustainability and Innovation, and Nominating and Governance committees. He resigned from the Ford Board effective March 10 to join Ford Smart Mobility LLC.

**Changing the way the world moves**

The world is becoming more crowded and urbanized, air quality is a global issue, and customer preferences are changing rapidly. The Ford Smart Mobility plan was established early last year to use technology and innovation to address these trends and to make people's lives better. Already, significant progress has been made, including:-

**Connectivity:** Ford is a leader in vehicle connectivity with the most popular entertainment and communications system in the industry, Ford SYNC. This year, an all-new, more intuitive SYNC 3 system is being offered on Ford and Lincoln vehicles. In addition, new SYNC Connect gives owners the ability to remotely access vehicle features, including a remote start, unlocking doors, checking fuel level or locating a parked vehicle on a smartphone. Additionally, SYNC includes AppLink, which enables drivers to voice-control smartphone apps from the driver's seat - allowing drivers to keep their eyes on the road and hands on the wheel.

**Mobility:** For the past 14 months, Ford has conducted more than 30 global mobility experiments to gain insight into changing consumer transportation preferences. Several ongoing pilot programs are under way, including: GoPark, which builds a predictive parking system in London capable of directing drivers to streets where they are most likely to find a space; GoDrive, a car sharing program in London that provides vehicles with guaranteed parking at busy locations, such as London City Airport; and Dynamic Shuttle, a program at Ford's Dearborn, Michigan, campus that allows employees and visitors to summon point-to-point rides on-demand.

**Autonomous Vehicles:** Ford this year will have the largest test fleet of autonomous vehicles of any automaker - with vehicles on the road in California, Arizona and Michigan. Ford also is the first to test autonomous vehicles in the snow - a major step in the company's plan to bring fully autonomous vehicles to millions of customers worldwide. At the same time, Ford is tripling its engineering investment in driver assist and semi-autonomous vehicle technology - such as adaptive cruise control, active park assist, lane-departure warning, lane-keeping aid, pedestrian detection, Pro Trailer Backup Assist and vehicle-to-vehicle connection technology - during the next five years.

**Consumer Experience:** Ford this year is introducing FordPass - a free digital, physical and personal platform that offers four benefits for members: a Marketplace with mobility services, such as parking and sharing; FordGuides to help consumers move more efficiently; Appreciation for members to receive recognition for their loyalty; and FordHubs, where consumers can experience Ford's latest innovations. The first hub opens later this year in New York City.

**Data and Analytics:** To better anticipate customer wants and needs, Ford is increasing funding for data science and analytics research as the foundation of the Ford Smart Mobility plan. One example is Ford and IBM collaborating on a pilot platform that allows research scientists to look at tiny pieces of data - 10 or 15 seconds at a time - to spot patterns, correlations and trends, and write code to make more efficient transportation decisions to support the company's Dynamic Shuttle experiment.

## ETIHAD AIRWAYS TAKES PART IN PREMIER INDIAN AVIATION SHOW IN HYDERABAD

**ABU DHABI:** Etihad Airways is supporting India Aviation 2016 this week by proudly showcasing two of its newest aircraft - a Boeing 787 passenger jet and Boeing 777 freighter - at the country's premier civil aviation exhibition and air show being held in Hyderabad.

The Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, one of five in the airline's fleet, will be joined by a freighter on static display during the event attended by key government and aviation industry stakeholders from India and around the world. The five-day show at Begumpet Airport in southern India runs from March 16 to 20.

Organized by India's Ministry of Civil Aviation and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the event provides Etihad Airways with another platform to engage with policy makers, business leaders, aviation experts and others across the aviation industry.

India is one of Etihad Airways' key markets with 175 scheduled passenger flights each week being operated across 11 cities from the airline's Abu Dhabi hub. With strategic Indian partner Jet Airways, Etihad Airways has a combined 254 weekly flights between Abu Dhabi and 15 cities across India. Together, both carriers are the largest international operator of scheduled flights to and from India, with a 20 per cent market share.

Last year, Etihad Airways and Jet Airways carried a total 3.3 million guests to and from India, a 63 per cent increase on the 2 million flown in 2014. Etihad Airways' current 11 Indian destinations from Abu Dhabi are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Mumbai and Thiruvananthapuram.

Jet Airways offers the additional Indian gateways of Pune, Lucknow, Goa and Mangalore, as well as numerous domestic connections as codeshare services with Etihad Airways. Through the combined networks of both carriers, Etihad Airways proudly promotes India to global business and leisure travelers, and helps connect India's people and products to the world.

In addition, Etihad Airways' freight division, Etihad Cargo, operates 14 dedicated freighter services each week to four Indian metro cities - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Bengaluru. The airline flies 120,000 tons of cargo to and from India each year that represents around nine per cent of the total Indian international freight market.

This includes pharmaceutical products, largely originating from Hyderabad, the centre of India's medicinal industry.

James Hogan, Etihad Airways President and Chief Executive Officer, said: "This week's India Aviation show in Hyderabad enables Etihad Airways to show our unwavering support for trade and tourism in one of the world's most dynamic economies.

"Our new Boeing 787 passenger aircraft and



Boeing 777 freighter will provide visitors with an opportunity to see firsthand the latest additions to our fleet. With our equity partner Jet Airways exhibiting, our combined presence and strength demonstrates the prominence we give to the rapidly developing Indian market.

"Since our first flight into India 12 years ago, Etihad Airways has supported trade, commerce and job creation, as well as contributed to the tourism industry. Our passenger flights have given the travelling public from India greater choice and more connectivity to destinations worldwide over our Abu Dhabi hub."

Added Mr Hogan: "Our cargo operation too has grown rapidly to support India's manufacturing industry and exports, today making us a strong partner for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India initiative." Etihad Airways' presence in Hyderabad also reaffirms the strong ties between the UAE and India. The UAE is the 10th biggest foreign - and largest Arab - investor

world, including its unique curved aisle in the carrier's award-winning First Class cabin. The aircraft, more fuel efficient than any other in its category, features 8 First Suites, 28 Business Studios and 199 Economy Smart seats with one of the most advanced inflight entertainment systems in the world, featuring hundreds of hours of interactive in-seat audio and video programming options.

The Boeing 777 freighter - the 11th aircraft in Etihad Airways' cargo fleet - is specifically equipped with nine seats to carry additional grooms as part of its Sky Stables program, which supports the movement of high value horses. In addition to serving India, the 777 freighters also fly to destinations in Europe, South America, Far East and Africa. Etihad Cargo is the 10th largest air freight business in the world and fifth largest when combined with Etihad Airways' equity partners, according to official data from World Air Cargo.

## RENAULT AL BABTAIN LAUNCHES MARCH CAMPAIGN ON DUSTER AND SYMBOL

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co, the exclusive agent of Renault in the state of Kuwait launched an exceptional promotion on both of Renault Duster 4x2 and Renault Symbol as part of its 'March Campaign' for 2016.

According to this promotion, the price of Duster 4x2 starts from KD 3,800, and when purchasing this vehicle, the customer will also receive a voucher of 200 KD. While the price of Symbol starts from KD 2,750 with five years warranty, one year free service, free traffic registration, and free third party insurance, in addition to a voucher of KD 150. Renault is known for its European style, and it succeeded to impose its presence strongly due to its ability to meet all tastes and satisfy those looking for different categories of practical vehicles.

The affordable price of the Duster 4x2 will attract the seekers of the vehicle that strongly imposed its presence in the market of multipurpose sport SUVs. The Duster is equipped with chrome front lights, and 16 inch aluminum wheels in diamond black. When sitting behind the steering wheel of Renault Duster 4x2 the driver feels the luxury and beauty of the cabin, which is considered the best in its category. Duster 4x2 provides additional space for storage, higher level of comfort with focusing on highest standard of safety.

Furthermore the vehicle also combines various systems including the Electronic Stability Program (ESP) of the four wheels, Cruise Control

System with speed limiter, and Rear Park Assist where the sensor signifies approaching objects. The Duster 4x2 is run by a 2.0 liters engine producing 135 ph with automatic transmission.

Renault Symbol is designed to meet the needs of clients seeking a sedan family vehicle that combines elegance, speciousness, and affordable price. It's a smart vehicle from all sides, as it offers many unique options, modern technology and attractive design. Furthermore it offers great space for baggage storage and cutting edge technology.

Symbol is equipped with high standard features that are usually available in vehicles of higher category. It's perfect for those who aim to buy elegant and economic vehicle at the same time. It is equipped with advanced features including front airbags, Cruise Control System with speed limiter, Rear sensors for park assist, in addition to offering the best spacious trunk in its category with capacity of 510 liters, which makes it the best vehicle in its category for luggage transport. The Symbol is run by a 1.6 liters V16 engine, which means it is equipped with the biggest engines available for a sedan in the B category. Its seats can comfortably welcome five adults due its spaciousness in the backseats.

Renault Al Babbain is keen to always offer best promotions aiming to achieve customers' satisfaction, in addition to systematically keeping in contact with them, which is best expressed in the after sales service. The Company would also like to invite them to visit its special Renault showroom at Rai area to benefit from this promotion or to visit its website on: [www.renault-me.com](http://www.renault-me.com)





# KASPERSKY LAB PROTECTION GOES WEARABLE



## Use Kaspersky Internet Security on your watch

You can use a watch to receive notifications from the app and start the main features. Start features with the voice commands: scan, update, or find.

**DUBAI:** Kaspersky Lab unveils a new version of Kaspersky Internet Security for Android that, in addition to offering improved performance speed and protection quality includes an option for managing protection via Android Wear devices. In 2015 alone, Kaspersky Lab registered nearly 17 million attacks by malicious mobile software. These included programs designed for surveillance, extortion, stealing money and other criminal activities.

Kaspersky Internet Security for Android provides protection from these kinds of threats. To make it even more user-friendly and accessible, Kaspersky Lab has released an update that includes control via Android Wear smart watches.

A user's smartwatch can now display notifications from Kaspersky Internet Security for Android, installed on a paired smartphone or tablet. This could include, for example, notifications about a threat detected on the device. A user can also remotely issue commands to the product via a watch by pressing keys on the screen or via voice control. These commands can activate an audible alarm to find a lost phone, run a scan for Android malware and update anti-virus databases. In addition, the new version of the security solution is now compatible with Android 6.0, which provides effective protection against online threats to even more owners of Android devices.

"Statistics show that Android con-

tinues to be the second most attacked platform after Microsoft Windows, which is why owners of Android-based devices are strongly recommended to use security solutions. At the same time, the Internet of Things market is rapidly developing, attracting more and more users. This means that security solution vendors need to make it possible for customers to use the combination with their protection solutions," says Alexey Chikov, Product Manager at Kaspersky Lab.

The new Kaspersky Internet Security for Android is now available from Google Play, on the Kaspersky Lab site, and as part of Kaspersky Internet Security - Multi-Device, and Kaspersky Total Security - Multi-

Device. In 2015, Kaspersky Lab was awarded the Top Developer prize from Google for its innovative approach and high quality products.

In addition to protection against malicious software and websites, the solution includes tools to remotely control a device if it is lost or stolen, to filter out unwanted calls and messages, and to hide personal data from prying eyes. The product can also be controlled remotely via the My Kaspersky portal, for example, to activate the Anti-Theft function, to enable or disable the Privacy Protection function or to update anti-virus databases. More information about Kaspersky Internet Security for Android is available at the Kaspersky Lab site.

# PLAYSTATION VIRTUAL REALITY GEAR TO LAUNCH IN OCTOBER

## PLAYSTATION VR HEADGEAR PRICED AT \$399

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Sony plans to make virtual reality-long the stuff of films cast off into a distant future-mainstream with the October release of PlayStation VR headgear priced at \$399. "Virtual reality represents a new frontier for gaming, one that will forever change the way users interact with games," Sony Computer Entertainment chief executive Andrew House said during a press event in San Francisco on Tuesday.

Sony chose October for the launch of PlayStation VR to allow time for making enough units to meet anticipated demand and to let developers get games ready for the headsets, according to House. The headsets are designed to plug into PlayStation 4 (PS4) consoles.

Sony touted PS4 as its fastest-selling console ever with more than 36 million of them bought since they hit the market in late 2013. But there is competition and Facebook-owned virtual reality start Oculus is set to begin shipping its Rift headsets later this month.

Oculus has been taking orders for Rift at a price of \$599 and has worked with computer makers to certify machines as powerful enough to handle the technology. Pre-orders have also been taken on bundles combining Rift with compatible gaming computers starting about \$1,500. Buying a PS4 and PlayStation VR would add up to about half that price.

"We are proud of the price point we have been able to achieve,"

House said of PlayStation VR. PlayStation VR users will still need to buy camera and controller accessories, pushing the price up slightly, but it is considerably less expensive than rival headsets that synch to gaming computers, according to Gartner analyst Brian Blau. "The cost

### Game makers dive in

More than 230 developers and publishers are working on games for PlayStation VR, with some 50 titles expected to be available by the end of this year, according to Sony. The list included French video game titan Ubisoft, which is creat-

ing an "Eagle Flight" game that lets players virtually take wing, and a collaboration between Electronic Arts, DICE, and Lucasfilm on a new "Star Wars Battlefront" title for PlayStation VR.



**SAN FRANCISCO:** Nick Pino of TechRadar tries out a PlayStation VR video game at a Sony press event. —AFP

of ownership of PlayStation is going to be a lot more affordable than the PC (personal computer) counterparts," Blau told AFP after attending the Sony event. And, since millions of PS4 have already been bought, the price of adding virtual reality is comparably lower for owners of those consoles since no computer upgrade is needed.

ing an "Eagle Flight" game that lets players virtually take wing, and a collaboration between Electronic Arts, DICE, and Lucasfilm on a new "Star Wars Battlefront" title for PlayStation VR.

PlayStation motion-sensing "Move" wand-shaped controllers were used to provide "hands" in some titles demonstrated at the

event Virtual reality was a hot topic at a Game Developers Conference (GDC) taking place a short distance from the Sony press briefing. Chip makers showed off powerful processors designed to handle rendering rich, immersive graphics in virtual worlds. Games shown off at GDC included titles tailored for PlayStation VR and rivals Oculus Rift and HTC Vive.

Thirty-year-old GDC bills itself as the largest and longest-running event for professional game makers. This year, GDC integrated an inaugural Virtual Reality Developers Conference focused on "making immersive virtual reality and augmented reality experiences." The virtual reality portion of GDC had to be moved to larger rooms to double the capacity in response to heavy demand, according to organizers.

In a sign that virtual reality is poised to extend beyond gaming, PlayStation VR boasted a Cinematic mode that can let people watch digital video on large virtual screens. House promised more information on "entertainment content" in coming months. "It makes sense that you should be able to see all kinds of PlayStation content inside the headset," analyst Blau said. "I think it will extend PlayStation into areas it has never been before." For example, Blau noted, PlayStation VR could expand to include sports viewing, streaming films or television shows, and even be put to work use by businesses. —AFP



**SEOUL:** South Korean professional Go player Lee Sedol smiles as he reviews the match with other Go players after finishing the final match of the Google DeepMind Challenge Match against Google's artificial intelligence program, AlphaGo. —AP

# FAME IN DEFEAT FOR KOREAN GO MASTER

**SEOUL:** With 18 international titles under his belt after a decade of dominance in his chosen field, it seems a little unfair that South Korean Go grandmaster Lee Se-Dol has finally achieved global recognition in defeat. Prior to his world headline-grabbing showdown with the Google-developed supercomputer AlphaGo, the 33-year-old's celebrity status was largely restricted to Northeast Asia.

Elsewhere, it was only among the small community of Go fans and other players of the arcane board game, which originated in China 3,000 years ago, that his name was really recognized. That all changed last week, when Lee sat down for a five-match, one-on-one battle with a computer program boasting what its creators said was a new form of "intuitive" artificial intelligence (AI).

With a confidence born of his status as one of the greatest Go players of the modern era, Lee had predicted a landslide in his favour, but could only watch horrified as AlphaGo quickly stormed to an unassailable 3-0 lead. His humiliation was broadcast to the world as the global media hailed the rise of a new AI capable of the "human-like" creative thought needed to prevail at a complex game like Go. Although Lee fought back with a win in game four, he lost the final match for a 4-1 series defeat that clearly dented his pride.

### 'So ashamed'

"I feel so ashamed as a professional," Lee told a journalist from the South Korean JoongAng newspaper, who tagged along with the player and his brother for a drinking session after game five. "I was emotionally affected by the fact that my opponent was a machine. I should have got over it, but I just wasn't capable. "AlphaGo plays very well but is not on a level of, like, a God of Go," he said.

"As a pro player I don't want to do a match like that again. It's simply too hard," he added. Nicknamed "Sen-Dol" (strong stone), Lee comes from humble origins. Born on a remote island off the southwest coast, he started playing Go aged five and was quickly identified as a prodigy who turned pro just seven years later. But the stress of tough training got to him and the then 13-year-old suffered

from temporary aphasia, which left his bronchial tubes permanently damaged.

It also left his voice, once it recovered, high-pitched and shrill-something the deeply traumatized Lee later acknowledged had made him reluctant to speak in public for years. But that reticence did not extend to evaluations of his talent. "I am the best ... when it comes to playing skills, I am behind no one," he once said when asked who the best player in the world was. "I want to remain a living legend. I want to be the first person people associate with Go. I want my games to remain pieces of art," he told another interviewer in 2013.

### Rebel streak

At one point he boycotted competitions for months in protest at what he said were unfair rules—a rare act of rebellion against the game's conservative elders. And he was often heard mocking rivals with barbed comments aimed at undermining their confidence. But in AlphaGo he met an opponent he could not intimidate and instead it was Lee who seemed to buckle under the pressure and the media spotlight. Lee might have lost the tournament, but his fight back won him many new admirers.

During the challenge series, his name became the most widely searched item among single young women on South Korea's largest news portal, Naver. "I don't know anything about Go but Lee Se-Dol is charming. Especially the picture of him smiling after his first victory. My heart was sort of pounding," one besotted fan wrote on Twitter. Lee has been married for 10 years and has a young daughter who was often seen sitting on his lap before the games.

"I understand many people outside East Asia may remember him as a loser, since they don't really know what a great player he's been for decades," said Seo Kon-Woo, a high-ranked Go professional who refereed the fourth game. "AlphaGo stunned us with its tremendous performance and it certainly has a pro-level playing skill," said Seo, who still took comfort from Lee's sole victory.

"The future of Go might have looked a bit bleak if Lee was defeated 5-0. But he pulled off a dramatic win, showing humans still have lots of room to improve and evolve in the face of daunting challenges," he said. —AFP



# AVAYA BREEZE: BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT REDEFINED

**DUBAI:** At the Avaya Technology Forum, taking place this week in Dubai, Avaya announced it is changing the rules for business communications application development. Avaya executives unveiled Avaya Breeze(tm), a technology platform that makes it easier for organizations to develop the mobile, customer-facing and cloud-migration applications they need to achieve their digital transformation objectives, and the Avaya Snapp Store, the first-ever ecommerce app store for business communications.

As organizations today look to evolve digitally and deliver differentiated experiences to their digitally-savvy customers and workforce, IT departments are struggling to keep pace: by the end of 2017, market demand for mobile app development services will grow five times faster than internal IT organizations can deliver them, according to Gartner Inc. With 89% of companies now competing primarily on customer experience, IT executives need to overcome the skills gap and deliver initiatives at customer speed.

Avaya Breeze, the next generation of the Avaya Engagement Development Platform, provides an entirely new way to develop business communications applications, profoundly simplifying application development, while delivering built-in capabilities for enhanced mobile, customer-facing and hybrid/cloud requirements. To make it even easier to create entirely new customer experiences, Avaya announced the Avaya Snapp Store, a focused, ecommerce-enabled marketplace for Avaya Breeze applications, is now officially open for business.

Savio Tovar Dias, Director - Sales Engineering, Asia, Middle East, Africa & Turkey, said "this game-changing technology is built for digital

business where companies need the flexibility, speed and the freedom to easily create unique value for their customers. Avaya is delivering on the promise of open, mobile engagement with a platform that allows companies to easily design and embed applications into workflows via a powerful, simplified, software-defined architecture and infrastructure for communications. Avaya Breeze helps organizations get ahead of the transformation curve and stand out from their competitors."

With Avaya Breeze, organizations can deliver enhanced business value and execute on their digital strategies by integrating communications and collaboration into workflows, business processes and existing applications. The open framework allows organizations to automate manual processes to improve digital experiences, while workflow-based applications can be created within a matter of hours or days, rather than months. The Avaya Snapp Store provides a delivery mechanism, allowing a single integrated experience via browsers and native smart apps for entirely new customer experiences.

The Avaya Snapp Store is a focused, ecommerce-enabled marketplace for Avaya Breeze applications - or Snap-ins - from Avaya and 3rd party developers. Snap-ins — easily consumable, prebuilt connectors, fit-for-purpose apps and/or developer code — enable companies to quickly build workflows, customer journeys and other unique applications. The Avaya Snapp Store makes it easy to find, access and download Snap-ins by simply using a credit card for purchase. Developers can create Snap-ins and be on-boarded in the store within weeks.

Avaya is also helping organizations meet

changing customer expectations with innovative customer engagement solutions, which can be implemented through a fully hosted or hybrid cloud model to help ease the transition between existing and new technologies for digital businesses.

The Avaya Customer Engagement solutions deliver a flexible, robust foundation provided by Avaya Aura and Elite contact center solutions, now available as a 100% virtualized, 100% software-based platform that eliminates the need for hardware-based media gateways to perform important call center functions. With Avaya Pod FX, organizations can remove complexity and streamline operations, with a full turnkey solution to run an advanced virtualized contact center.

These innovative solutions build on Avaya's successful transition to software and services, which made up 73% of revenue in its fiscal first quarter. As the only company specializing in complex business communications, built on open and mobile software platforms, and supported by a robust underlying network infrastructure, Avaya is uniquely placed to help drive customers' digital transformation strategies.

Gary Barnett, SVP and GM, Avaya Engagement Solutions, said: "the competitive battleground has shifted, requiring a new type of solution and means to respond to digital customer behavior. Speed is the new currency for business transformation - businesses need to understand, predict and respond to customer needs in less time than it takes for a spark to burnout. Avaya is the only company that can rapidly elevate the customer end game without the disruption typical of massive technical change."



# OVERWEIGHT MOTHERS HAVE LARGER BABIES

**WASHINGTON:** Overweight or obese women give birth to larger babies, says new research which could make some pregnant women think twice before reaching for that box of ice cream. Mothers with high blood sugar or diabetes, even within a healthy range, also tend to have bigger babies, according to a study published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Conversely, having higher blood pressure during pregnancy causes women

to deliver smaller babies, researchers at the British universities of Bristol and Exeter, who led the study, found.

"Being born very large or very small can carry health risks for a newborn baby, particularly when that's at the extreme end of the spectrum," said Rachel Freathy of the University of Exeter Medical School, who co-wrote the report. Understanding which characteristics of mothers influence birth weights may help reduce the number of

babies born too large or too small, she added. The researchers examined data from more than 30,000 healthy women and their babies across 18 studies. All the women had European ancestry and lived in Europe, North America or Australia. They gave birth between 1929 and 2013.

The researchers examined genetic variants associated with women's body mass index, blood glucose and lipid levels and blood pressure, together with

measurements of those characteristics during pregnancy and babies' birth weights.

A four-point higher body mass index (BMI) for mothers results in a 1.9 ounce (54 grams) higher birth weight for babies, the study found. Researchers also determined ratios for correlations between higher glucose levels in mothers' blood and higher birth weights, as well as higher blood pressure in mothers and lower birth weights. "The esti-

mated associations between these maternal traits and birth weight (either increased or reduced) are substantial and of clinical importance," the authors wrote. "They support efforts to maintain healthy gestational glucose and blood pressure levels to ensure healthy fetal growth." The researchers also found that lipids, or fat levels, in mothers' blood do not appear to affect baby sizes, contrary to the findings of some previous studies. —AFP



**BOSTON:** In this still photo from video, Gibbs Saunders, right, managing director of the nonprofit Healthworks Community Fitness, exercises with clients at their gym in the Boston neighborhood of Dorchester. —AP photos

# MORE DOCTORS ARE PRESCRIBING EXERCISE INSTEAD OF MEDICATION

‘EXERCISE IS NOT A NEW MEDICINE. IT’S REALLY AN OLD MEDICINE’

**BOSTON:** When Dr. Michelle Johnson scribbles out prescriptions, the next stop for many of her patients is the gym, not the pharmacy. Doctors treating chronic health problems increasingly are prescribing exercise for their patients - and encouraging them to think of physical activity as their new medication. In one such program run by a health center in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood, primary care physicians, internists and psychologists prescribe access to a gym for \$10 a month, including free child care, classes and kids programs. Providing affordable gym access for patients ensures compliance, said Gibbs Saunders of Healthworks Community Fitness, a nonprofit gym in Dorchester that has partnered with several health care providers to help low-income residents fill their exercise prescriptions.

Executives at the Whittier Street Health Center say low-cost access to a gym is important, since many residents' income is low and 70 percent of those they treat suffer from chronic problems such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes and depression. Life expectancy in Roxbury is 59 years - well below the national average of 78.8 years.

"Exercise is not a new medicine. It's really an old medicine," said Johnson, who prescribes exercise to patients at the Roxbury-based health center. "But you know, I think we're now coming to the point of understanding how important it is."

Monisha Long, who is morbidly obese and suffers from hypertension, got a doctor's prescription for exercise and says she's gotten visi-

ble and dramatic results after more than two years of regular workouts. "I lost well over 150 pounds, and I've been keeping it off for the past couple of years," she said after working out on an elliptical machine at Healthworks. And Long cites other, less-visible benefits.

"I'm more energized," she said. "As far as my energy, I feel like I'm stronger. I feel like I'm less tired. I

feel like I can do almost anything now." People who are physically active tend to live longer and are at lower risk of heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, depression and some cancers, according to the US Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention. Yet fewer than one in four American adults exercises enough to reap those benefits, the agency says.

Dr. Edward Phillips, a Boston physician, is so sold on exercise he pedals on a stationary bike that's integrated into his office desk. Phillips said exercise is "like taking a little bit of Prozac - an antidepressant - and a little bit of Ritalin, which is a stimulant." "Our bodies are meant to move," he said. "Integrating movement into our day allows the system to work optimally. Part of the system that needs to work is our brain, and includes sleep, mood, cognition, ability to concentrate." A prescription for exercise is a bargain, said Stephanie Dennis, who works out on a treadmill to stay fit. "\$10 a month is what? \$2 a week, \$2-\$2.50 a week," she said. "A lot of people pay that every day for coffee. It's not a big sacrifice for something that you get big rewards from." —AFP



**BOSTON:** In this still photo from video, Dr. Anna Groskin, left, examines a patient at the Codman Square Health Center in Boston's Dorchester neighborhood.

# GIRLS ON MOST EFFECTIVE BIRTH CONTROL MAY UNWISELY SKIP CONDOMS

**NEW YORK:** High school girls who use the most effective methods of birth control are less likely to also use condoms, making them vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), researchers say. Girls who use intrauterine devices and implants to prevent pregnancies are less likely to use condoms than their peers taking birth control pills, they found. "The findings highlight a need for strategies to increase condom use among all users of highly and moderately effective contraceptive methods ... to prevent STIs," wrote lead researcher Riley Steiner of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, in an email to Reuters Health.

Intrauterine and implantable devices are highly effective at reducing unintended pregnancies, the researchers write in JAMA Pediatrics. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) says these devices, which are known as long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), should be first-line birth control options for teenagers.

Among 100 women on LARC, there will be about one unintended pregnancy per year, according to ACOG. That's compared to six to nine unintended pregnancies among 100 women using the Depo-Provera shot, birth control pills, rings or patches. For the new study, the researchers used data from a 2013 survey of US high school students in grades nine through 12.

Of the 2,288 sexually active girls in the survey, about 2 percent used LARC, about 22 percent used birth control pills, about 41 percent used condoms, about 12 percent used withdrawal or other methods,

about 16 percent used no contraceptive method and about 6 percent used the shot, patch or ring. About 2 percent didn't know which method they used. Overall, LARC users were about 60 percent less likely to use condoms, compared to girls taking birth control pills.

There was no significant difference in condom use between those using the shot, patch or ring and those using LARC. Steiner said it's unclear why girls on LARC are less likely to use condoms but offered two possible explanations.

"Young women using highly effective LARC methods may be less likely to use condoms because they don't perceive a need for additional protection from pregnancy; It's also possible that providers are more likely to offer LARC to adolescents who rarely or never use condoms," she said. LARC users were also more likely to have two or more sexual partners in the past three months and four or more lifetime sexual partners, compared to those using the shot, patch, ring and pills. "The important takeaway message from this story is that we need to be giving girls the right message of why condom use is important," said Dr. Julia Potter, who co-wrote an editorial accompanying the new study.

Steiner said the new results should not deter adolescent LARC use, "but rather inform how STI prevention is addressed within the context of adolescent LARC scale-up." Potter, of Boston Medical Center, also said more research on why girls using LARC aren't using condoms as much is needed so that people aren't basing their opinions on assumptions. —Reuters

# LIMIT OPIOID PAINKILLER PRESCRIPTIONS, US REGULATORS SAY

**WASHINGTON:** US health authorities issued guidelines Tuesday to limit prescribing opioid painkillers, in an attempt to help curb an epidemic of overdoses that kills more than 40 Americans every day. The recommendations, which are not binding for doctors, urge them to exercise more caution prescribing opioids in order to reduce the abuse of drugs that cause powerful addictions amid growing concerns about their use across the country.

Overdose deaths soared to 26,647 in 2014, a 14 percent increase from the year before. They represented 61 percent of all drug overdose deaths. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which published the guidelines in the Journal of the American Medical Association, has been under pressure to set national standards after a number of medical organizations and some states established their own restrictions. Officials say the

new guidelines' nationwide scope will encourage doctors to exercise more restraint in prescribing the powerful painkillers.

"It's become increasingly clear that opioids carry substantial risk but only uncertain benefits-especially compared with other treatments for chronic pain," CDC Director Tom Frieden told reporters. "More than 40 Americans die each day from prescription opioid overdoses, we must act now." The guidelines, endorsed by many addiction experts, encourage physicians to first recommend non-opioid anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen and aspirin for chronic pain-described as lasting longer than three months. The CDC also recommends limiting opioid prescriptions for patients suffering short-term, acute pain to three days or less in most conditions. More than seven days of opioid drug use will "rarely be needed," the CDC said. —AFP

# CDC GUIDELINES AIM TO CURB PAINKILLER PRESCRIBING

**WASHINGTON:** Prescription painkillers should not be a first choice for treating common ailments like back pain and arthritis, according to new federal guidelines designed to reshape how doctors prescribe drugs like OxyContin and Vicodin. Amid an epidemic of addiction and abuse tied to these powerful opioids drugs, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is urging primary care doctors to try physical therapy, exercise and over-the-counter pain medications before turning to painkillers for chronic pain. Opioid drugs include medications like morphine and oxycodone as well as illegal narcotics like heroin.

The new recommendations - which doctors do not have to follow - represent an effort to reverse nearly two decades of rising painkiller use, which public health officials blame for a more than four-fold increase in overdose deaths tied to the drugs. In 2014, US doctors wrote nearly 200 million prescriptions for opioid painkillers, while deaths linked to the drugs climbed to roughly 19,000 - the highest number on record. "We're trying to chart a safer and more effective course for dealing with chronic pain," Dr. Tom Frieden, the CDC's director, said in an interview with the Associated Press. "The risks of addiction and death are very well documented for these medications." More than 40 Americans die every day from painkiller overdoses, a staggering rate that Frieden said is "doctor driven."

Under the new guidelines, doctors would prescribe painkillers only after considering non-addictive pain relievers, behavioral changes and other options. The CDC also wants doctors to prescribe the lowest effective dose possible. And doctors should only contin-

ue prescribing the drugs if patients show significant improvement. For short-term pain, the CDC recommends limiting opioids to three days of treatment, when possible. The guidelines do not apply to doctors who specialize in treating severe pain due to cancer and other debilitating diseases.

## Multiple approaches

Though the guidelines are voluntary, they could be widely adopted by hospitals, insurers and state and federal health systems.

Government officials have already tried multiple approaches to tackling painkiller abuse. The Food and Drug Administration restricted some widely-prescribed painkillers to limit refills. States like Florida and New York have cracked down on "pill mills" using databases to monitor what doctors are prescribing. And this week, Massachusetts signed into law a seven-day limit on first-time prescriptions for opioids - the first of its kind in the nation.

"Changing medical practice isn't quick and it isn't easy," Frieden said. "But we think the

pendulum on pain management swung way too far toward the ready use of opioids." The CDC rarely advises physicians on how to prescribe medications - a role typically delegated to professional societies and drug regulators.

FDA labeling for the drugs is broad, listing uses like "relief of moderate to severe pain." Guidelines by pain specialists provide more detail, but focus less on risks. The CDC guidelines put such warnings upfront: "Opioids are not first-line therapy," states the agency's first recommendation. Local health authorities applauded the CDC for weighing in on the problem they face in their communities.

"The CDC is a respected source of information. Their guidelines carry weight," said Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen. But some leading medical groups stopped short of embracing the recommendations. The American Medical Association, the largest professional group for physicians, cautioned that the guidelines could create problems if they steer patients toward pain treatments that aren't accessible or covered by insurance. "If they produce unintended consequences, we will need to mitigate them," said Dr. Patrice Harris, in a statement. "They are not the final word."

In many ways, the guidelines are a return to older medical practice. Physicians trained in the 1960s and 1970s - amid a wave of urban heroin use - were taught to reserve opioids for the most severe forms of pain, such as cancer or end-of-life care. That approach remains accepted. But in 1990s, some specialists argued that doctors were undertreating common forms of pain that could benefit from opioids, such as backaches and joint pain. The message

was amplified by multimillion-dollar promotional campaigns for new, long-acting drugs like OxyContin, which was promoted as less addictive.

## Drug therapy

OxyContin's maker, Purdue Pharma, later agreed to plead guilty for misleading the public about the drug's risks. "A whole generation of physicians grew up thinking they could use opiates pretty liberally," said Dr. Bruce Psaty, a professor at the University of Washington who also advises the FDA. "We are now in the process of re-educating ourselves and our patients." Physicians must now find a "comfortable balance," Psaty said, using opioids carefully while making sure patients don't go untreated.

The CDC delayed its guidelines earlier this year following criticism from pain specialists, drugmakers and others. Critics complained that the recommendations went too far and had mostly been developed behind closed doors by physicians who are biased against drug therapy. Instead of releasing the guidelines in January, as originally planned, the CDC agreed to re-open them to public input, receiving more than 4,000 comments over a 30-day period.

Critics said the proposal could block patient access to medications if adopted by health providers, insurers and hospitals. Such organizations often look to the federal government for health care policies. Last week, an early sign of the guideline's impact surfaced in the Senate. Lawmakers there overwhelmingly passed a bill designed to combat opioid abuse, including a provision requiring the Veterans Administration to adopt the CDC recommendations. —AP



**WASHINGTON:** This undated image provided by Abbott shows their experimental heart stent "Absorb." —AP



## MORE CARS BANNED IN MEXICO CITY AFTER POLLUTION ALERT

**MEXICO CITY:** More cars were ordered off Mexico City's streets yesterday after a surge in pollution prompted authorities to issue the first air quality alert in 14 years. President Enrique Peña Nieto convened a meeting of an anti-pollution commission after the city's government declared an "environmental contingency" on Monday due to high levels of ozone. "The goal (of the meeting) is for them to find stricter measures to improve air quality and protect the health of more than 20 million Mexicans," Peña Nieto wrote on Twitter.

After older vehicles were kept off the streets on Monday and Tuesday, the Environmental Commission of the megapolopolis decided to expand the ban yesterday to include all cars with license plates that have red stickers and end in the numbers three and four. The commission, which was formed in 2013 to coordinate anti-pollution policies between the federal government, the capital and several surrounding states, said the ban was needed because vehicles produce 87 percent of nitrogen oxide and 32 percent of volatile organic compounds, both of which are ozone precursors.

The panel also agreed on a plan to improve the verification of vehicle emissions. The extraordinary measures were imposed following an increase in ozone concentration, which can cause respiratory and heart ailments. Officials urged people in the metropolitan area of 21 million people to avoid outdoor sports while kids and seniors were advised to stay indoors, in a city where a honking mess of more than 5.5 million vehicles chug along every day. Federal authorities ordered factories in the

greater Mexico City area to slash their emissions by 40 percent.

### Too many cars

The last time the air quality emergency was issued was in September 2002. The latest alert took residents by surprise as thick smog descended on the city just two days after the skies were unusually clear thanks to high winds that blew away hundreds of trees.

The alarm rang after ozone concentration surpassed the 190-point limit, surging to 194. "There's no wind and this situation has not allowed the dispersion of pollutants," Tanya Muller, the city's environment secretary, told Radio Formula. Muller lamented a Supreme Court decision that imposed changes last year to the city's "No Driving Today" program, which limits the number of days that older cars can be on the street. The city must now take into account the levels of pollutants to impose restrictions on cars older than 2007. The change, Muller said, has added 1.2 million more cars to the streets. "We need to restrict vehicular traffic," Muller said.

### Former world pollution champion

The pollution alert marks a reversal of years of progress made by the city to improve air quality after the United Nations declared the Mexican capital the world's most polluted city in the 1990s.

During that decade, ozone levels reached 398 points. The environmental contingency was declared 12 times in 1993 alone, according to the environmental commission. —AFP



MEXICO : View of Mexico City blanketed by smog on Tuesday. —AFP

## WISH ANNOUNCES HEALTHY POPULATIONS FORUM AND REPORT FOR 2016 CONFERENCE

**QATAR:** The World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), a global initiative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), will present a 'Healthy Populations' forum and report during its 2016 conference, which will be held from 29th to 30th November in Doha, Qatar. WISH is a meeting point for thousands of high-level policymakers, academics, and professionals. It has also evolved into a key platform for the dissemination of healthcare innovation and best practices, and is aligned with QF's mission to reinforce Qatar's pioneering role as an emerging centre for healthcare innovation.

The new research will seek to define the concept of population health, explain why a strategy is needed to address it, and list actions for policymakers to improve it. By discussing case studies based on community and employer-led initiatives, healthcare systems and city-wide approaches, the paper will lay out a framework for a population health management strategy that will translate into actionable policy recommendations.

Sue Siegel, CEO of GE Ventures & Healthymagination, who will chair the forum, said: "Healthy Populations' is a term widely used yet commonly misunderstood. It is a privilege to be engaged with this distinguished group of leaders working to improve the health outcomes of communities worldwide. I am confident that the results of our efforts will contribute to the evidence base needed to better understand the kinds of cross-sector, collaborative actions necessary in communities globally for change to truly take hold."

Among the topics the report will cover are

the significance of technology and innovation in enhancing the health of populations, in both low and high-income countries. It will shed light on how technology has transformed the way healthcare is delivered in certain countries, while identifying possible interventions that lead to short and long-term



QATAR: Sue Siegel, CEO of GE Ventures and Healthymagination.

impact.

Researchers will discuss how a country's national policy can play an important role in

population health. Commenting on the upcoming report, Egbert Schillings, CEO of WISH, said: "This is an exciting body of work because the health of a population is influenced by factors that are outside the traditional healthcare system, such as social inequalities, pollution, education, urban planning, and lifestyle choices. As a consequence, most healthcare costs are really due to non-healthcare factors, so the report will showcase successful population health strategies which seek to address all factors influencing health."

The WISH 2016 Summit will feature seven groundbreaking research forums that highlight and address some of the world's most pressing healthcare challenges. In addition to Healthy Populations, the forums will generate interdisciplinary, evidence-based reports on topics including Precision Medicine, Economic Benefits of Investing in Health, Cardiovascular Disease, Accountable Care, Autism, and Behavioural Insights. Internationally-renowned experts will chair the sessions. For the first time, WISH will also report on its ongoing impact locally and globally on issues previously highlighted at the Summit, such as diabetes and patient safety.

The Summit will feature innovation showcases from around the world that are shaping the design, delivery, and financing of care, as well as a cohort of young innovators; emerging healthcare leaders under the age of 30, whose contributions to global health deserve wider recognition. For further information about WISH, please visit [www.wish-qatar.org](http://www.wish-qatar.org) and Twitter @WISHQatar.

## HIKMA REPORTS STRONG PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGIC PROGRESS DURING FINANCIAL YEAR OF 2015

**DUBAI:** Hikma Pharmaceuticals PLC, the fast growing multinational pharmaceutical group, has reported its preliminary results for the year ended 31 December, 2015. Following an exceptionally strong year in 2014, Group revenue increased by 2% in constant currency, reaching USD 1.44 billion in 2015. Injectables revenue climbed by 3% in constant currency, driven primarily by growth in Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Meanwhile, core operating profit rose 4% in constant currency, with strong profitability in Injectables and Branded offsetting expected declines in Generics.

In 2015, Hikma successfully implemented an organic growth strategy across all three of its core business segments: Injectables, Branded and Generics. Hikma launched 92 new products and received 220 product approvals across all countries and markets, expanding and enhancing Hikma's global product portfolio.

Its acquisition of Roxane, a well-established US specialty Generics company, has brought transformational scale and growth opportunities, adding a broad portfolio and a large, differentiated pipeline of niche products. In addition, Hikma's swift integration of its acquired US company, Bedford Laboratories, has delivered new high-value products and is expected to drive Injectables' growth in 2017. In Europe, significant investments were made in the Injectables manufacturing capabilities. Hikma's businesses in MENA performed well. Its acquisition of EIMC United Pharmaceuticals (EUP) boosted its capabilities in oncology and injectables in Egypt.

The outlook for 2016, is that Group revenue is expected to be in the range of USD 2.0 - 2.1 billion in constant currency, reflecting strong growth across all three business segments and the consolidation of ten months of revenue

from the Roxane acquisition. Completing its duty of care, strong operational growth in various locations was coupled with responsible initiatives in surrounding communities.

Contributing to the health and wellness of its employees and local community members, Hikma organized a Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, in several of its companies worldwide, in addition to a 'Walk Against Hypertension'. It also held its annual global 'You are Hikma' campaign to improve the medical health and safety awareness of its employees. The Company encouraged community service through its Global Volunteering Day. It partnered with Tkiyet Um Ali, Charity Clothing Bank and SOS Children's Villages in Jordan to provide for the vulnerable during Ramadan, and food and clothes drives were held in Algeria and Tunisia as well. Hikma continued supporting communities through medicinal donations, donating critical treatments to Syrian and Palestinian refugees, and to the people of Guinea in Morocco, aiding in the fight against Ebola. Said Darwazah, Chief Executive Officer of Hikma, said: "Following an exceptional 2014, our Branded and Injectables businesses performed strongly in 2015 and we made excellent strategic progress in US Generics, transforming the future prospects of the Group."

Our businesses in MENA are performing very well. We achieved excellent growth in our key markets in 2015 whilst continuing to invest in our pipeline to support future growth. This goes hand in hand with our corporate responsibility strategy, which is an integral part of Hikma. As we expand into global markets, we are committed to continue playing a positive role in the communities we touch, not only through our high-quality pharmaceuticals, but also by promoting philanthropy, medical awareness and community engagement."

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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





## JW MARRIOTT KUWAIT CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY

**M**other's Day is the perfect occasion for family get-togethers. It is a day to show the dearest women in your lives how much they are loved and appreciated. It is a day to celebrate and create unforgettable memories.

On the occasion of Mother's Day, the JW Marriott Kuwait has prepared special treats for guests who want to say 'a huge thank you' to the exceptional and extraordinary women in their lives. Mothers will enjoy a complimentary

dinner at La Brasserie restaurant for every table of at least three persons. The French inspired restaurant offers top quality food and beverages, lavish buffets, great ambience and world-class service.

In addition, the hotel is also offering a superb range of dining experiences throughout the month of March. The "Terrace Grill" restaurant, the best steakhouse in Kuwait, offers a wide range of promotions, including "Ladies Night" every Tuesday from 07:30 pm to 11:30 pm, where ladies

can unwind with family and friends and enjoy complimentary mouth-watering appetizers or desserts with each main course purchased. Guests can also enjoy delicious crepes every Thursday and special meat cuts every Monday at Terrace Grill from 7:00 pm to 11:30 pm.

Furthermore, Tea Lounge invites dessert lovers to enjoy a wide selection of mouth-watering cupcakes throughout March. The different flavors available include chocolate, caramel, vanilla and a lot more.

## EMBASSY CLOSURE

**T**he Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Kuwait will remain closed today on the occasion of 97th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children Day 2016.

The Embassy will arrange the following program on Thursday, 17 March 2016 at Chancery to observe the day.

Multipurpose Hall:  
09:10 am: Recitation from the Holy Quran  
09:15 am: Reading out the messages on the day  
09:30 am: Display of documentary on Bangabandhu  
09:45 am: Discussion on the Day  
10:15 am: Closing speech  
10:30 am: Prize and certificate giving to the children.

## TIES CENTER HOSTS LECTURE

**T**he TIES Center cordially invites all those interested to the third lecture about the Treaty of Hudaibiya today at 7:00 pm. In this lecture, the focus will be on how the Prophet (PBUH) took care of his companions and did everything that was in their best interest - even during their absence, the Pledge of Pleasure and how Allah (SWT) commended it. Moreover, we will learn how the Prophet (PBUH) was conversant with the background of everyone among the emissaries that the Quraish sent to him and how that affected the negotia-

tions positively or negatively.

The attendees will also learn how relatives turned against one another in supporting the mission of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as well as other worthwhile lessons that are of great significance in our lives today.

Go and learn about the life and times of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in a friendly and serene atmosphere. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or log onto: [www.tiescenter.net](http://www.tiescenter.net) or e-mail: [info@tiescenter.net](mailto:info@tiescenter.net)

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR GULF BANK PRIORITY CLIENTS ON ARMANI DOLCI AND ARMANI FIORI IN CELEBRATION OF MOTHER'S DAY



**CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH ARMANI**

**Exclusively for Priority Banking customers**

Enjoy a 20% discount on selected Flower and Chocolate arrangements from Armani Fiori and Armani Dolci. Also earn valuable Gulf Points on your purchase.

\* This offer is valid from March 15 to 21, 2016

\*\*Purchases should be made with Gulf Bank Credit Cards

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**GULF BANK**  
GROWING WITH YOU

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank announced a special 20 percent discount for its Priority Banking clients on Armani Dolci chocolates and Armani Fiori flowers on the occasion of Mother's Day. The exclusive offer is valid from 15th to 21th of March 2016.

To enjoy this offer, Gulf Bank Priority Banking clients should make their purchases using any of Gulf Bank Premium credit cards; Visa Infinite, World MasterCard, Visa Signature, Visa Platinum, MasterCard Platinum or MasterCard Titanium.

Clients can offer their beloved ones a collection of Armani Dolci's finest Italian chocolates in its elite packaging, complemented by an original and trendy flower arrangement from Armani Fiori. The Armani Dolci and Armani Fiori boutiques are both located in Tilal Complex, Shuwaikh.

Gulf Bank strives to offer its Priority Banking clients added value benefits through its various partnerships. Gulf Bank clients not only receive premium banking services but also enjoy luxury offers and great privileges along the way.

For more information about Gulf Bank's exclusive offers, visit one of Gulf Bank's 55 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com).



## SULTAN TELECOM ADDS ARAMEX SERVICES TO IZONE SERVICES BRANCHES INSIDE THE SULTAN CENTERS

**S**ultan Telecom, one of The Sultan Center Group of companies is keen on establishing its name within the retail segment by offering innovative services for the consumer market. The consumer facilities branches branded as "iZONE Services", has added Aramex service to its already existing bouquet of services.

Currently, iZONE Services are available across Kuwait and located within the premises of The Sultan Center at Shuwaikh, Al-Kout mall, Souk Sharq, Egaila, Salmiya and Hawalli. The current services offered are Internet Subscription services for Service Providers like KEMS, Mada, Fasttelco, Qualitynet and GulfNet. We are also conveniently located to allow the mobile user community to have their bills paid or to top up their accounts. We offer services for Zain, Ooredoo and Viva. Apart from providing mobile accessories, we also provide mobile repair services.

On launching the new service with Aramex, Mr.

Mamoun Sweis CEO of Sultan Telecom, said: "Our main aim is to enable iZONE Services to be a one-stop shop for all our customer technology related requirements. Our partnership with Aramex allows our customers to take advantage of the delivery services provided via Kuwait."

Mr. Sweis added that iZONE Services will diversify from its current offerings to continually provide more services that cater to our customer requirements.

Sultan Telecom is one of the leading communications solutions and infrastructure companies in all sectors and is one of the major companies in Kuwait and has contributed in many major projects in Kuwait and abroad. The company has a branch in the State of Bahrain as well and has plans to grow to other countries as well.

"iZONE Services" has been developed by ArabianITS an ISO 9001: 2008 certified company and is a subsidiary of Sultan Telecom and The Sultan Center Group.

## KUWAIT NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL EARLY YEARS CHILDREN PLANT A COMMUNITY GARDEN



**T**he Early Years Children visited Rawda Park to take advantage of the great outdoors. With the sponsorship of the Public Affairs of Agriculture and Fish Resources as well as Al Rawda and Hawalli Co Op, the children planted a Community Garden. Each of the children were able to plant a flower and also leave their name on it so they might come back with their parents to watch them grow. KNES is dedicated to improving our environment and are thankful for the community partners who supported our children as the planted their garden.





# RED BULL CAR PARK DRIFT KICKS OFF APRIL 1ST!

After 7 years of its launch in 2010, the Red Bull Car Park Drift Championship returns to Kuwait with an atmosphere filled with challenge and excitement similar to all the previous events. The championship is in partnership with Nissan Kuwait and is organized by the Basel Salem Al Sabah Motorsport Club, Shop and Ship, Falken Tyres, Total, Aqua Eva, Road Emergency Association Road Emergency Association, Aqua Eva, Total, Falken Tyres on Thursday 31st March till 1st April at the Basel Salem Al Sabah arena at the 7th ring road.

Contestants will go through the final race in competitive rounds where a winner will be selected to compete against other winners from the Middle East in the regional championship held in Kuwait in November.

During this unique event, speed and competition lovers don't hesitate in showcasing their

unique and smooth drift skills at high speed, giving amateurs and professionals the chance to compete in a challenging and fun event. The event will be judged by a panel of experts in motorsports where they will give out points to each driver depending on his unique accomplishments. The event is also supervised by Lebanese drifting legend, holding the longest drift record and the Middle East Hill Climbing champion, Abdo Feghali.

During the final race, the luckiest driver and highest ranking in points will be crowned, taking into consideration all the driving and drifting talents, the engines' roars, the external look of the car, the smoke produced by the friction of the tires and finally the audience's excitement and cheers for the performance. The event will also feature a live show by the Trial Biker Brian Capper.

Red Bull Car Park Drift was first launched in Lebanon back in 2008, however, the very beginnings of drifting were on the roads of the Japanese mountains in the sixties of the last century. It was when a group of contestants tried to achieve the record for each distance between the two points. These were not competitions to show off speed, of course, but the phenomenon has evolved into a completely new discipline.

Make sure not to miss the excellent opportunity to witness exciting event at the Basel Salem Al Sabah racing track to live the thrill of safe, unique and fun drifting in the Red Bull Car Park Drift Championship of 2016. For more information, follow us on @redbullkuwait on Instagram and Twitter, or visit our website: [www.redbull.com/cpd](http://www.redbull.com/cpd), or call us on our hotline: 50125070



The Ministry of Interior hosted a ceremony for retired personnel and their families at the retired officer's diwaniya in Seddiq. A raffle draw for several prizes including a travel ticket and a hotel stay was held during the event.



The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) visited the Australian College in Kuwait (ACK) to promote its @Tijari account, which currently offers clients the chance to win three trips to Bahrain to attend the 2016 Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix on April 3, 2016.



LOYAC, a non-profit organization working towards the overall development of the youth, signed a cooperation agreement with Knowledge Consulting to train young people who take part in LOYAC programs.



amc

01:10 I Love Your Work  
03:00 London  
04:35 The Garbage Pail Kids Movie  
06:10 Return Of The Seven  
07:45 Improptu  
09:30 Groundhog Day  
11:15 Saved!  
12:45 A Kiss Before Dying  
14:15 Follow That Dream  
16:05 Mannequin  
17:35 Beauty Shop  
19:20 Mirromask  
21:00 Breaking Bad  
22:00 London  
23:35 Mighty Fine

ANIMAL  
PLANET HD

00:50 River Monsters  
01:45 Mountain Monsters  
02:40 Dog Rescuers  
03:35 Tanked  
04:25 Charles & Jessica: A Chimp Tale  
05:15 Gator Boys  
06:02 Treehouse Masters  
06:49 Dog Rescuers  
07:36 Monkey Life  
08:00 Monkey Life  
08:25 Preposterous Pets  
09:15 Dog Rescuers  
10:10 Treehouse Masters  
11:05 Tanked  
12:00 Preposterous Pets  
12:55 Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet  
13:50 Dog Rescuers  
14:45 Gator Boys  
15:40 Treehouse Masters  
16:35 Tanked  
17:30 Charles & Jessica: A Chimp Tale  
18:25 River Monsters  
19:20 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marvin  
20:15 Tanked  
21:10 Animal Cops South Africa  
22:05 Treehouse Masters  
23:00 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marvin

BBC  
FIRST

00:30 Eastenders  
01:00 New Tricks  
01:55 New Tricks  
02:50 Luther  
03:45 Eastenders  
04:15 Frankie  
05:05 Death In Paradise  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 Eastenders  
07:00 Frankie  
07:55 Call The Midwife  
08:55 Doctor Who  
09:45 Doctors  
10:15 Eastenders  
10:45 Death In Paradise  
11:40 Frankie  
12:35 Call The Midwife  
13:35 Doctor Who  
14:25 Doctors  
14:55 Eastenders  
15:25 Frankie  
16:20 Dickensian  
17:10 Doctor Who  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Eastenders  
19:05 Father Brown  
20:00 Hobby City  
21:00 Stella  
21:45 Happy Valley  
22:50 Happy Valley  
23:45 Doctors

Bloomberg  
TELEVISION

00:00 With All Due Respect  
01:00 Charlie Rose  
02:00 First Up With Angie Lau  
03:00 First Up With Angie Lau  
04:00 Trending Business  
05:00 Trending Business  
06:00 Asia Edge  
07:00 Bloomberg West  
08:00 Charlie Rose  
09:00 Countdown  
10:00 Countdown



DRUMLINE: A NEW BEAT ON OSN MOVIES HD

10:30 On The Move  
11:00 On The Move  
12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance  
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance  
14:00 Bloomberg Go  
15:00 Bloomberg Go  
16:00 Bloomberg Go  
17:00 Bloomberg Markets  
18:00 Bloomberg Markets  
19:00 Bloomberg Markets:  
European Close  
20:00 Bloomberg Markets  
21:00 Bloomberg Markets  
22:00 Bloomberg Markets  
23:00 What'd You Miss?

CCTV NEWS

00:00 News Update  
00:30 Dialogue  
01:00 News Update  
01:15 China 24  
02:00 The Heat  
02:30 News Update  
03:00 Global Business  
04:00 News Update  
05:00 News Update  
06:30 Dialogue  
07:00 News Hour  
08:00 Global Business  
09:00 News Update  
10:30 Sports Scene  
11:00 Global Business  
12:00 News Update  
12:30 Culture Express  
13:00 Africa Live  
14:00 News Update  
14:30 Dialogue  
15:00 News Update  
15:15 China 24

16:50 Chasing Classic Cars  
17:15 How Do They Do It?  
17:40 Salvage Hunters  
18:30 Redwood Kings  
19:20 Dynamo: Magician Impossible  
20:10 The Liquidator  
20:35 Garage Gold  
21:00 Salvage Hunters  
21:50 Redwood Kings  
22:40 Kings Of The Wild  
23:30 Wheeler Dealers

ID.  
INVESTIGATION  
DISCOVERY

00:40 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
01:05 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
01:30 The Haunted  
02:20 Ghost Lab  
03:10 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion  
04:00 Deadline: Crime With Tammor Hall  
04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
05:30 The Haunted  
06:20 Fatal Encounters  
07:10 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
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

CNBC

00:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report  
01:00 Access: Middle East  
01:30 U.S. Squawk Alley  
02:30 Inside China  
03:00 Asia Squawk Box  
05:00 Asia Street Signs  
07:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report  
08:00 Capital Connection  
09:00 Squawk Box Europe  
12:00 Europe Street Signs  
13:00 U.S. Squawk Box  
16:00 Squawk On The Street  
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley  
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report  
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch  
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell

crime  
& investigation  
network

00:00 The Haunting Of...  
01:00 The Ghost Inside My Child  
02:00 My Haunted House  
03:00 Private Crimes  
03:30 Private Crimes  
04:00 The First 48  
05:00 The Ghost Inside My Child  
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 Britain  
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 Britain  
19:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
20:00 The First 48  
21:00 Homicide Hunter  
22:00 Deadly Wives  
23:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover

Discovery  
CHANNEL  
HD

00:20 Fast N' Loud  
01:10 You Have Been Warned  
02:00 The Weapon Hunter  
02:50 Big Giant Swords  
03:40 What's In The Barn?  
04:05 The Liquidator  
04:30 Garage Gold  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:30 Chasing Classic Cars  
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  
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10:35 You Have Been Warned  
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12:15 Big Giant Swords  
13:00 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

SC DISCOVERY  
science

00:35 Race To Escape  
01:20 How It's Made  
01:44 How It's Made  
02:08 Invent It Rich  
02:55 How The Universe Works  
03:42 Science Of The Movies  
04:29 Race To Escape  
05:16 Invent It Rich  
06:03 How The Universe Works  
06:50 Mighty Ships  
07:37 How Do They Do It?  
08:00 How Do They Do It?  
08:23 Race To Escape  
09:08 Science Of The Movies  
09:53 Mighty Ships  
10:38 How It's Made  
11:00 How It's Made  
11:23 Food Factory  
11:45 Food Factory  
12:08 How The Universe Works  
12:53 Mighty Ships  
13:38 Race To Escape  
14:23 How It's Made  
14:46 How It's Made  
15:10 Science Of The Movies  
15:57 Food Factory  
16:20 Food Factory  
16:44 How The Universe Works  
17:31 Mighty Ships  
18:18 Science Of The Movies  
19:05 Speed Junkie  
19:50 Mega Builders  
20:40 Space Voyages  
21:25 How It's Made  
21:50 How It's Made  
22:15 Science Of The Movies  
23:00 Mega Builders  
23:45 Space Voyages

Discovery  
world

00:40 HMS Ark Royal  
01:30 Zero Hour  
02:20 Origins  
02:40 Chasing Classic Cars  
03:05 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
03:50 Bush Pilots  
04:35 Secrets Of The Arsenal  
05:20 Extreme Engineering  
06:05 Gunslingers  
06:50 HMS Ark Royal  
07:35 Origins  
08:00 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
08:50 100 Miles From Nowhere  
09:40 Extreme Engineering  
10:30 Codes And Conspiracies  
11:20 Origins  
11:45 Chasing Classic Cars  
12:10 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
13:00 Bush Pilots  
13:50 Extreme Engineering  
14:40 Codes And Conspiracies  
15:30 Origins  
15:55 Chasing Classic Cars  
16:20 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
17:10 Bush Pilots  
18:00 Extreme Engineering  
18:50 Codes And Conspiracies  
19:40 Origins  
20:05 Chasing Classic Cars  
20:30 American Guns  
21:20 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations  
22:10 Extreme Engineering  
23:00 American Guns



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

Ladybug & Cat Noir  
12:45 Fish Hooks  
13:00 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  
15:20 Dog With A Blog  
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
16:10 Violetta  
17:00 The Next Step  
17:25 Alex And Co  
17:47 Descendants Wicked World  
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  
21:45 Kikkin' It  
22:25 Binny And The Ghost  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Hank Zipzer  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost

Disney  
JUNIOR

00:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:20 Calimero  
00:35 Zou  
00:50 Loopdidoo  
01:05 Art Attack  
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:45 Calimero  
02:00 Zou  
02:15 Loopdidoo  
02:30 Art Attack  
02:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:05 Calimero  
03:20 Zou  
03:30 Loopdidoo  
03:45 Art Attack  
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:20 Calimero  
04:35 Zou  
04:45 Loopdidoo  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:35 Calimero  
05:50 Zou  
06:00 Loopdidoo  
06:15 Art Attack  
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:50 Calimero  
07:00 Zou  
07:20 Loopdidoo  
07:35 Art Attack  
08:00 Calimero  
08:10 Zou  
08:25 Loopdidoo  
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 Agent Oso  
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 Loopdidoo  
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 Neverland  
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

00:00 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:00 Chopped  
02:00 Cutthroat Kitchen  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
05:00 Iron Chef America  
06:00 Chopped  
07:00 Man Fire Food  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 The Pioneer Woman  
11:30 The Pioneer Woman  
12:00 Chopped  
13:00 Guy's Big Bite  
13:30 Guy's Big Bite  
14:00 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Dinners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Man Fire Food  
15:30 Man Fire Food  
16:00 Chopped

00:00 Programmes Start At 7:00am  
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 Kickin' It  
15:10 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  
18:40 Mighty Med  
19:10 Annedroids  
19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
20:00 Kirby Buckets  
20:25 Gamers Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
20:55 K. C. Undercover  
21:20 Pickle And Peanut  
21:45 Lab Rats  
22:10 Mighty Med  
22:40 Super Matrak  
23:05 Super Matrak  
23:30 Boyster

00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show  
01:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
02:20 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
03:15 Pop Innovators  
04:10 El Entertainment Special  
05:05 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami  
06:55 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami  
07:50 Style Star  
08:20 El News  
09:15 Giuliana & Bill  
11:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
12:05 El News  
13:05 WAGs  
14:05 Botched  
15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
17:00 Fashion Bloggers  
17:30 Fashion Bloggers  
18:00 El News  
19:00 House Of DVF  
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
21:00 Dash Dolls  
22:00 El News  
23:00 WAGs

00:10 The Chase  
01:05 Emmerdale  
01:30 Eggheads



THE BOUNTY HUNTER ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 Big Star's Little Star  
03:25 Murdoch Mysteries  
04:20 Murdoch Mysteries  
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples  
06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?  
07:00 Eggheads  
07:30 Murdoch Mysteries  
08:25 Murdoch Mysteries  
09:20 Big Star's Little Star  
10:15 The Chase  
11:05 Eggheads  
11:35 Come Dine With Me Couples  
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 Grantchester  
17:25 Seven Days With A Friend  
18:20 Emmerdale  
18:45 Coach Trip  
19:10 Coronation Street  
19:35 Come Dine With Me Couples  
20:30 Grantchester  
21:25 Seven Days With A Friend  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?

NAT GEO  
people HD

00:10 Eat Street  
01:00 The Great Food Revolution  
01:50 Top Tables, Top Cities  
02:15 Eat Street  
03:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
03:30 The Wine Quest: Spain  
03:55 Poh & Co.  
04:20 Maximum Foodie  
05:10 Eat Street  
05:35 Eat Street  
06:00 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
06:50 The Great Food Revolution  
07:40 Top Tables, Top Cities  
08:05 Eat Street  
08:30 Eat Street  
08:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
09:20 The Wine Quest: Spain  
09:45 Poh & Co.  
10:10 Maximum Foodie  
11:00 Eat Street  
11:50 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
12:40 The Great Food Revolution  
13:35 Top Tables, Top Cities  
14:00 Eat Street  
14:30 Eat Street  
14:55 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
15:25 The Wine Quest: Spain  
15:50 Poh & Co.  
16:20 Maximum Foodie  
16:45 Maximum Foodie  
17:15 Eat Street  
18:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
19:05 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
19:30 The Wine Quest: Spain  
20:05 Poh & Co.  
20:25 Maximum Foodie  
20:50 Maximum Foodie  
21:15 Eat Street  
21:40 Eat Street  
22:05 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
22:30 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
22:55 The Great Food Revolution  
23:45 Top Tables, Top Cities

OSN FIRST HD  
COMEDY

00:30 Playing House  
01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
01:30 Married  
02:00 The Brink  
02:30 The League  
03:00 Your Family Or Mine  
03:30 Living With Fran  
04:00 Two And A Half Men  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 My Name Is Earl  
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
06:30 Community  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:00 Two And A Half Men  
08:30 My Name Is Earl  
09:00 Your Family Or Mine  
09:30 The Last Man On Earth  
10:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter  
10:30 Community  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
12:30 Two And A Half Men  
13:00 My Name Is Earl  
13:30 Community  
14:00 Living With Fran  
14:30 The Last Man On Earth  
15:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter  
15:30 Playing House  
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Your Family Or Mine  
18:30 Living With Fran  
19:00 Kevin From Work  
19:35 I Hate My Teenage Daughter

itv  
CHOICE  
hd

00:00 Trans World Sport  
01:00 European Tour Weekly  
01:30 Super Rugby  
03:30 Premier League Darts  
07:00 AFL Season Preview  
10:30 Golfing World  
11:30 NRL Full Time  
11:57 Live NRL Premiership  
14:00 Top 14 Highlights  
14:30 PGA European Tour  
Highlights  
15:30 WWE Vintage  
16:30 WWE Raw  
19:00 WWE NXT  
20:00 WWE Smackdown  
22:00 Live Premier League Darts

Daughter  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Playing House  
21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
22:00 Web Therapy  
22:30 Curb Your Enthusiasm  
23:05 The League  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

OSN FIRST HD

00:00 Supernatural  
01:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.  
02:00 The Flash  
03:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
04:00 Good Morning America  
06:00 Once Upon A Time  
07:00 Covert Affairs  
08:00 Heroes Reborn  
09:00 The Voice  
11:00 Covert Affairs  
12:00 Coronation Street  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 Live Good Morning America  
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 Heroes Reborn  
19:00 The Art Of More  
21:00 Blindspot  
22:00 Wicked City  
23:00 Mr. Robot

OSN MOVIES HD

ACTION  
01:00 The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day  
03:00 Area 407  
04:45 Jurassic Attack  
06:15 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
08:30 Jaws: The Revenge  
10:15 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power  
12:15 Destruction: Las Vegas  
13:45 The A-Team  
16:00 The Assault  
17:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
20:00 12 Rounds  
22:00 Running Scared

OSN MOVIES HD

COMEDY  
00:00 Good Luck Chuck  
02:00 The Bounty Hunter  
04:00 John Tucker Must Die  
06:00 Encino Man  
08:00 The Love Punch  
10:00 The Bounty Hunter  
12:00 Tooth Fairy  
14:00 Planet 51  
16:00 The Love Punch  
18:00 Cas & Dylan  
20:00 Malavita  
22:00 About Last Night

OSN MOVIES

FESTIVAL  
01:00 Tea With Mussolini  
03:00 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place  
05:00 Dr. Strangelove  
07:00 Blackfish  
09:00 Grand Central  
10:45 Beaches  
13:00 Powder  
15:00 Great Expectations  
17:15 Grand Central  
19:00 Gattaca  
21:00 Out Of The Furnace  
23:00 Choke

OSN MOVIES HD

01:00 Out Of The Dark  
03:00 Isa  
05:00 A Promise  
07:00 Drumline: A New Beat  
09:00 Into The Storm  
10:30 Interstellar  
13:30 Kristy  
15:00 The Song  
17:00 Last Knights  
19:00 Mortdecai  
21:00 The Babadook  
23:00 Stretch

OSN SPORTS 1 HD

01:00 PGA European Tour Highlights  
02:00 Inside The PGA Tour  
02:30 AFL Season Preview  
06:00 PGA European Tour Highlights  
07:00 Golfing World  
08:00 European Tour Weekly  
08:30 Live PGA European Tour  
10:30 Gillette World Sport  
11:30 Inside The PGA Tour  
11:30 European Tour Weekly  
12:00 Live PGA European Tour  
12:00 Gillette World Sport  
15:30 FIH Hockey World  
16:00 NRL Premiership  
18:00 Golfing World  
19:00 World Rugby  
19:30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens  
Highlights  
20:00 European Tour Weekly  
20:30 Inside The PGA Tour  
21:00 Live PGA Tour

OSN SPORTS 2 HD

00:00 Trans World Sport  
01:00 European Tour Weekly  
01:30 Super Rugby  
03:30 Premier League Darts  
07:00 AFL Season Preview  
10:30 Golfing World  
11:30 NRL Full Time  
11:57 Live NRL Premiership  
14:00 Top 14 Highlights  
14:30 PGA European Tour  
Highlights  
15:30 WWE Vintage  
16:30 WWE Raw  
19:00 WWE NXT  
20:00 WWE Smackdown  
22:00 Live Premier League Darts

OSN SPORTS 3 HD

00:30 NRL Premiership  
02:30 The Weber Cup  
03:30 PGA European Tour  
Highlights  
04:30 European Tour Weekly  
05:00 Super League  
07:00 Super Rugby  
09:00 World Pool Masters  
10:00 Super Rugby  
12:00 Inside Sailing  
12:30 The World Sailing Show  
13:00 Europro Tour  
15:00 The Weber Cup  
16:00 Premier League Darts  
19:30 Golfing World  
20:30 HSBC World Rugby Sevens  
Highlights  
21:00 NRL Premiership  
22:58 Live Super League



# CLASSIFIEDS



## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (17/03/2016 TO 23/03/2016)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b>			
TRIPLE 9	11:30 AM	ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME	10:45 PM
SOLACE	1:45 PM	UNNATURAL	12:45 AM
TRIPLE 9	4:00 PM		
SOLACE	6:15 PM	<b>FANAR-2</b>	
TRIPLE 9	8:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	11:30 AM
SOLACE	10:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:30 PM
TRIPLE 9	12:30 AM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:30 PM
		KUNG FU PANDA 3	5:45 PM
		KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:45 PM
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	10:00 PM
		THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:30 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>			
KUNG FU PANDA 3	12:00 PM		
KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:00 PM		
KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:00 PM	<b>FANAR-3</b>	
KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:00 PM	KAPOOR AND SONS- Hindi	12:45 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:00 PM	THE WAVE	1:30 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:00 PM	THE WAVE	3:45 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:05 AM	KAPOOR AND SONS- Hindi	6:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM	KAPOOR AND SONS- Hindi	9:00 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:00 AM	THE WAVE	12:05 AM
		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:05 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>			
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:15 PM	<b>MARINA-1</b>	
ZOOTOPIA	2:45 PM	SOLACE	11:30 AM
ZOOTOPIA	5:00 PM	SOLACE	1:30 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:15 PM	TRIPLE 9	3:45 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	9:15 PM	SOLACE	6:00 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	11:45 PM	SOLACE	8:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:45 PM	TRIPLE 9	10:00 PM
		TRIPLE 9	12:15 AM
		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM
		SOLACE	1:00 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>			
KAPOOR AND SONS- Hindi	11:45 AM		
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	2:30 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b>	
KAPOOR AND SONS- Hindi	5:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:00 PM
UNNATURAL	7:45 PM	ZOOTOPIA	2:00 PM
THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	9:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:15 PM
UNNATURAL	12:15 AM	ZOOTOPIA	6:15 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:30 PM
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:30 PM
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:30 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>			
SOLACE	11:30 AM	<b>MARINA-3</b>	
SOLACE	1:30 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	1:00 PM
SOLACE	3:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3 -3D	1:30 PM
ZOOTOPIA	5:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:30 PM
SOLACE	7:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3 -3D	5:30 PM
TRIPLE 9	9:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:30 PM
TRIPLE 9	12:05 AM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	9:30 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:45 PM	THE DIVERGENT SERIES: ALLEGIANT	12:05 AM
TRIPLE 9	12:45 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:05 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>			
LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:30 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b>	
KUNG FU PANDA 3	12:30 PM	EMELIE	11:30 AM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:30 PM	EMELIE	1:15 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:30 PM	ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME	3:15 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:30 PM	EMELIE	5:15 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	8:30 PM	ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME	7:15 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:30 PM	EMELIE	9:15 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:30 AM	ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME	11:15 PM
		ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME	1:15 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b>			
ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME	12:30 PM	<b>AVENUES-2</b>	
ZOOTOPIA	2:30 PM	UNNATURAL	12:45 PM
UNNATURAL	4:45 PM	UNNATURAL	2:45 PM
ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME	6:45 PM	UNNATURAL	4:45 PM
UNNATURAL	8:45 PM	UNNATURAL	4:45 PM

## FOR RENT IN BAYAN

New villa, good for an embassy large flats system. Each flat has saloon, 4 rooms, 5 baths, maid's room, laundry room, outdoor parking and in basement  
*(no middle men please)*

**67000813**

## REQUIRED

### Laundry Manager

Full knowledge of all laundry work.  
Housing available + Good salary

**50288330**

## WANTED

### COUNTER STAFF

FOR LEADING EXCHANGE CO.

Requirements:

- Transferable residence ( ITEM 18 ).
- Multi Languages.
- Good Knowledge in Computer/ Typing Etc.
- Nationalities accepted are: Bangladesh, India ,Pakistan, Philippine , Srilankan

CV TO BE SENT BY EMAIL:

**hr19792016@outlook.com**

## SAHARA AIR CONDITIONING

Announces the sale of split A/C units, refrigerators & water coolers very good condition at very less price. Buyers can contact Mr. Nadeem on his mobile or Tel. **97861063 / 23981915 Ext. 105.**

No: 16816

Ads will not be accepted over the fax

TEXT OF ADVERTISEMENT TO BE PUBLISHED

CONDITION

1. Ads must be on the original coupon.

2. Ads of personal nature. will be accepted for **KD 3 for 3 days.**

3. Semi-commercial ads i.e. Baby-Sitting, Matrimonial, Tuition & Transport available will be accepted for **KD 5 for 3 days.**

4. Ads must not exceed 25 words.

Sender's Name

Address, Tel. No:

P.O.Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait 13014, Tel:

EIG  
Ethiopian Investment Group

**BUSINESS IN OMAN**

We Are Providing  
Visas, Registration,  
Local Sponsor,  
Business Partner,  
Decoument Clearing.

Contact Us: 00968-98457638  
Email: [Info@EigIcoman.Com](mailto:Info@EigIcoman.Com)

**FOR RENT**

New flat  
in Jabriya  
3 bedrooms, 3  
baths, kitchen

Contact:  
**97414191**

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

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

Arrival Flights on Thursday 17/3/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:05
THY	772	Istanbul	01:05
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:35
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10
QTR	1076	Doha	03:15
KKK	6507	Istanbul	03:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:25
LMU	510	Cairo	04:05
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55
QTR	8511	Doha	06:20
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
QTR	1086	Doha	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	08:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:50
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:10
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:20
QTR	1070	Doha	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
OMA	641	Muscat	10:05
IRA	673	Ahwaz	10:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
SVR	341	Damascus	10:55
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	561	Sohag	12:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:45
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40
THY	6676	Dubai	14:45
KAC	672	Dubai	14:45
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50
KAC	538	Sohag	14:50
KNE	472	Jeddah	15:05
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:30
OMA	645	Muscat	15:30
KAC	562	Amman	15:40
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
JAD	301	Amman	15:55
QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
JZR	535	Cairo	16:10
JZR	779	Jeddah	16:10
FDB	051	Dubai	16:30
KNE	474	Jeddah	16:35
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40
RJA	640	Amman	16:55
KAC	542	Cairo	16:55
JZR	787	Riyadh	17:00
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
MSR	614	Cairo	17:50
KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50
KAC	118	New York	17:55
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55
UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
KAC	502	Beirut	18:00
FDB	063	Dubai	18:05
JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:30
ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45
QTR	1080	Doha	18:55
KAC	742	Dammam	18:55
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
KAC	618	Doha	19:35
KAC	104	London	19:40
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	19:55
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:05
KNE	480	Taif	20:10
JZR	189	Dubai	20:15
FDB	061	Dubai	20:20
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:55
JAI	572	Mumbai	20:55
QTR	1088	Doha	21:00
MEA	402	Beirut	21:20
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:20
ALK	229	Colombo	21:25
UAE	859	Dubai	21:40
GFA	219	Bahrain	21:45
JZR	125	Bahrain	21:55
QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KLM	417	Amsterdam	22:05
AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25
KAC	564	Amman	22:25
FDB	059	Dubai	22:30
JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
PIA	205	Lahore	23:40
FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
THY	764	Istanbul	23:50
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55
MSC	403	Asyut	23:55

Departure Flights on Thursday 17/3/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
THY	767	Istanbul	14:45
KNE	481	Taif	14:50
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:55
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:20
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
JZR	188	Dubai	15:40
KAC	617	Doha	15:45
KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
KAC	741	Dammam	15:50
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
THY	6676	Istanbul	16:15
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:25
OMA	646	Muscat	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:30
JAD	302	Amman	16:40
KAC	563	Amman	16:45
JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KNE	475	Jeddah	17:25
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	17:30
FDB	052	Dubai	17:35
QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
UAE	858	Dubai	17:45
JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
RJA	641	Amman	17:55
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
JZR	238	Amman	18:50
MSR	615	Cairo	18:50
JZR	554	Alexandria	19:10
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:10
FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
KAC	353	BLR	20:40
KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
KAC	543	Cairo	20:55
KAC	343	Chennai	21:00
MSR	619	Alexandria	21:05
KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
OMA	648	Muscat	21:20
FDB	062	Dubai	21:20
DLH	634	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
KAC	381	Delhi	22:00
QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:10
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:10
MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
ETD	311	Abu Dhabi	23:15
KAC	410	Bangkok/Manila	23:35
FDB	060	Dubai	23:35



CROSSWORD 1198

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14
15				16									17		
18				19							20	21			
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83						84						85			

ACROSS

1. The ratio of the distance traveled (in miles) to the time spent traveling (in hours).  
4. Capable of having having clear evidence of eliminated without trace.  
12. Counting the number of white and red blood cells and the number of platelets in 1 cubic millimeter of blood.  
15. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.  
16. Line that is the commercial organization responsible for operating a railway system.  
17. 10 hao equal 1 dong.  
18. Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..  
19. (Greek mythology) One of the three Graces.  
20. Any of numerous composite plants having flower heads with well-developed ray flowers usually arranged in a single whorl.  
22. Largest known toad species.  
24. A blood vessel that carries blood from the capillaries toward the heart.  
26. (archaic or Scottish) Faithful and true.  
27. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.  
28. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.  
30. Predatory insect of western North America having a long necklike prothorax.  
32. Boer statesman (1825-1904).  
35. A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.  
36. The cry made by sheep.  
38. The basic unit of money in Bangladesh.  
41. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.  
45. A Loloish language.  
48. The battle in 1806 in which Napoleon decisively defeated the Prussians.  
50. Electrical device that can interrupt the flow of electrical current when it is over-loaded.  
51. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.  
52. Manufactured in standard sizes to be shipped and assembled elsewhere.  
54. Relating to or characteristic of the Celts.  
56. A seducer who ruins a woman.  
57. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.  
59. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.  
60. A loose cloak with a hood.  
62. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.  
64. Convert code into ordinary language.  
67. Any loose flowing garment.  
69. A television system that has more than the usual number of lines per frame so its pictures show more detail.  
72. Large genus of erect or climbing prickly shrubs including roses.  
76. American novelist (1909-1955).  
78. A line drawn on a map connecting points having the same numerical value of some variable.  
79. A common cyst of the skin.  
82. The length of a straight line passing through the center of a circle and connecting two points on the circumference.  
83. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.  
84. A festival featuring African-American culture.  
85. The persistence of a sound after its source has stopped.

DOWN

1. Long-tailed brilliantly colored parrot of Central and South America.  
2. The beach at a seaside resort.  
3. (Judaism) An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem.  
4. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.  
5. Disparaging terms for the common people.  
6. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.  
7. Speaking a Slavic language.  
8. A small zodiacal constellation in the northern hemisphere.  
9. (Irish) Goddess.  
10. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.  
11. A doctor's degree in education.  
12. Most important element.  
13. (botany) Especially of leaves.  
14. In a coy manner.  
21. Flesh of shad-like fish abundant along the Atlantic coast or in coastal streams.  
23. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.  
25. An associate degree in applied science.  
29. The money risked on a gamble.  
31. Unknown god.  
33. A monarchy in northwestern Europe occupying most of the British Isles.  
34. A Hindu prince or king in India.  
37. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.  
39. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.  
40. An associate degree in nursing.  
42. A Muslim trained in the doctrine and law of Islam.  
43. Of or relating to or characteristic of Asia or the peoples of Asia or their languages or culture.  
44. Joint capital (with Riyadh) of Saudi Arabia.  
46. Apoapsis in orbit around Jupiter.  
47. Common black European thrush.  
49. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).  
53. Tall woody perennial grasses with hollow slender stems especially of the genera Arundo and Phragmites.  
55. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).  
58. Small bitter fruit of the marasca cherry tree from whose juice maraschino liqueur is made.  
61. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.  
63. Treat or speak of with contempt.  
65. Having a specified kind of border or edge.  
66. Comb-plate or locomotor organ consisting of a row of strong cilia whose bases are fused.  
68. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.  
70. God of death.  
71. Portuguese explorer who in 1488 was the first European to get round the Cape of Good Hope (thus establishing a sea route from the Atlantic to Asia) (1450-1500).  
73. Of or relating to near the ear.  
74. Title for the former hereditary monarch of Iran.  
75. Projectiles to be fired from a gun.  
77. The compass point that is one point west of due north.  
80. A state in northwestern North America.  
81. In operation or operational.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may have that nagging feeling that no matter how well you are progressing in the workplace, there is still something you have missed. It may be time to reassess the balance between your professional and personal goals and the progress you are making with each one. This must be the balance that is right for you-there are no correct answers-but neither side should monopolize your life at the expense of the other. Be as realistic today as possible. Plans for travel and higher education get good support from relatives and friends. Do not let finances completely dominate your concerns. During this month you will find some financial gains fall apart and some ideas for financial gains will materialize. It is good to just go with the flow for now.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Check and recheck your work and the expectations for this day. This is a time when you could make some wrong choices. Knowing this ahead of time, it will be easier for you. Just make it known that you might need a little time to think over a request before giving an answer. Completing old projects just now is a good thing to do. To avoid being the victim of a misunderstanding at work, be explicit in all things you do and say, also you could ask questions. This afternoon you need complete information before gambling with an investment. Check all aspects of a situation to find out where your energies could best be applied. Seeking these intricate details are not necessary all the time, but very helpful.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your highly active mind encourages you to voice your ideas. This could potentially lead to a management position if you are careful. Strive for coordinator or a consulting position within your work-you are good at coordinating events, assigning jobs, consultation and encouraging others. If you are not involved in any volunteer groups, you might consider ways to encourage recycling in your city or a cleanup crew in your community. You have a great deal of talent in discovering ways to help in the healing of the earth. You know that we all have a responsibility and you would do well to turn your attention in this direction. This new volunteer work may also bring about the opportunity for a new love relationship-if you are looking.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Be as realistic as possible when job opportunities come your way. This time is one of hard work and responsibility, both in salvaging some endeavors that appear to be failing and in branching out in new directions. You are able to obtain success financially through the power of attraction. This means that you may improve your position in the world of moneymaking through a business associate, social affair or friend. Networking, as well as good timing, can mean success. Today you have the mental concentration and discipline to work out the final details of a past project. It may be a good idea to put off any negotiations requiring personal decisions about a close relationship just now; you have enough on your mind concerning a business situation.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This should be a normally active, stimulating day, full of paperwork, conferences and communication. A technical matter may need special attention around noon today. Double-check the facts in front of you-mistakes can be easily made by someone new and you will be able to catch the mistakes by just scanning the report. There are increased opportunities for advancement in your job or to decide the advancement of another person. Keep note of the things you think you might like to see change in the workplace that would make it a safer or more efficiently running place. These could be discussed at a review or in a report. This evening is an excellent time for taking part in social activities with friends.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

This is a go-to-it day, like many of your days this month. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it entails more than usual. Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing with others and you can respond to the most difficult of situations without haste. This is an important time as you are encouraged to make use of your natural abilities to solve problems. You will also make career gains by your ability to sense quality and choose accordingly. Take caution as you engage in enterprises which entail accruing debts. Seek approval from higher-ups if there is a chance you might exceed a quota. Work, achievement and ambition are where your energy navigates.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

If work seems to monopolize your life, it may be time to stop and take notice. If the changes that you will have to make are too much for now, make some small changes each week that will bring you to a better-balanced lifestyle. The choices we make today determine the life we lead tomorrow-make one life-changing choice for the better this week. There is a need for change, a desire to break with outmoded patterns of the past. You may want to break an old routine and try something different. Take a little trip after work, just for the view. You may discover insights into day-to-day problems that will be of great value later. Indulge in some daydreaming while you are at home this evening. Consider a new color for a wall or new floor textures.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Putting aside youthful antics, you are now more intent on the secure, dependable aspects. This may mean that you have settled on a particular major in college or a profession in your community. You will make great headway in your choices, whether it means you have that perfect job or not. You may have interested a rather large group of co-workers in some technique or vision that others want to learn or purchase. This demonstration is an attention grabber when it comes to the higher ups in your business. You may also draw customers to you because of the way you excite the client into joining or purchasing the product that your business sells. Keep up the good work but enjoy your home as your place to relax, entertain and refurbish your energies.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Unfinished business from the past may weigh on your mind just now. Pace yourself and in surprisingly little time, progress will be recognized. You may be of great help to a business associate today as your compassion is heightened. Information you have acquired or a person you know could be the key to guiding this colleague in the right direction. You feel great empathy for others and are usually the first to come to someone's aid. Your artistic talents or your appreciation of art is your way of finding the meaning to your own life and life around you. This could be music, pottery, cooking, etc. This evening, the most enjoyable way to relax is through some form of art. A loved one shares good news with you tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Your heart is as big as all outdoors-not only for those close to you emotionally, but for the general public as well. You just cannot be mad at anybody. All you want to do is help, protect and nurture. From those who perceive this, it will be reflected back to you. Just make sure that this feeling comes across as genuine-because it is. You may wish to strengthen the ties with an older family member, not necessarily to prove yourself to him or her but to create an avenue in which you can be assured of his or her welfare. You will begin to see your relationships more clearly this month by recognizing just how much you did not know about the people with whom you live. Also, you should open up to relatives since this is a good time for emotional support.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Hard work and responsibility, both in salvaging some endeavors that appear to be failing, and in branching out in new directions, are evident. You stick to routine tasks and avoid starting new projects for now. Mental stimulation from others is the key for today. It would be wise to cooperate and compromise as much as possible. The results of these efforts should be a successful project by a group effort. You could be most persuasive with others and influential in speech and communication. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas and thoughts. You could talk someone into almost anything. This afternoon would be a good time to weed the garden or wash the car-great stress relief.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could find that you have a feeling of leaving some unfinished business today. You work carefully to bring projects to an end before your day is over. You may be surprised to find others are happy to help you in your work. Easy does it, you may be pushing too hard to try and please too many different people at once. After you have completed whatever tasks are set before you, you may plot your next move. Life is easier than you think, especially if you accept what you think is impossible, do without what you think is indispensable, and bear what you think is intolerable, then you will be able to smile at anything. For now, consciously think of your life as balanced. This evening there is time to dance, sing and be merry.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Photography

Find and circle all of the Photography terms that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a type of camera.

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

APERTURE BALANCE BELLOWS BLOWUP CAMERA CLOSE UP COLOR CONTRAST CROPPING DARKROOM DEVELOPER ENLARGEMENT ENLARGER FILTER FIXING BATH FLASH FOCAL LENGTH FRAME PROCESSING HOT SHOE LIGHT METER LIGHTING NEGATIVE OVEREXPOSURE PANNING PANORAMA PARALLAX PHOTOFINISHER POSITIVE PRINT RANGEFINDER RETOUCHING SAFELIGHT SATURATION SHUTTER SLIDE STOP BATH TELEPHOTO LENS TINT TONE TRIPOD UNDEREXPOSURE VIEWFINDER ZOOM LENS

Yesterday's Solution

The Raven

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

ANGELS BEAK BEGUILING BIRD BLACK BLEAK BURNING BUST CHAMBER CROAKING DARKNESS DECEMBER DOOR DREAMS DREARY EBONY ENTRANCE EYES FEATHER FIEND FLITTING FLUTTER FOWL GASTLY GRIM HEART HORROR LATTICE LENORE LORE MAIDEN MELANCHOLY MIDNIGHT MORTAL MYSTERY NAMELESS NAPPING NEPENTHE NEVERMORE OMINOUS PALLAS PALLID PERCHED PLACID PLUME PLUTONIAN PROPHET QUAFF QUOTH RADIANT RAPPING RAVEN RUSTLING SHADOW SHUTTER SOUL TAPPING VISITOR WEARY WIND

Hidden sentence: WITH ME POETRY HAS NOT BEEN A PURPOSE, BUT A PASSION

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



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
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	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 Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya 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 Ikhlās 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

## STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

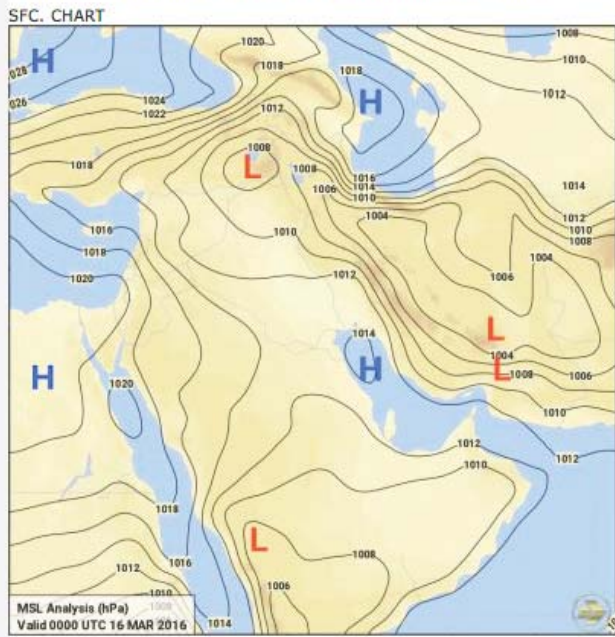


### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 16/03/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 26 °C

By Day : Mostly sunny with light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 18 km/h  
By Night : Fair with light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 18 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Expected Weather	sunny	sunny	sunny	p.cloudy + blowing dust over open areas
Min Temp °C	15	14	15	15
Max Temp °C	26	25	27	28
Wind Direction	northerly to north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly	southerly to south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 30	08 - 30	08 - 28	20 - 45

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	18	27
KUWAIT AIRPORT	13	26
ABDALY	12	28
BUBYAN	15	26
JAHRRA	15	27
FAILAKA ISLAND	16	25
SALMIYAH	19	25
AHMADI	18	26
JAL ALIYAH	12	26
QAROH ISLAND	19	23
UMM AL-MARADEM	19	23
NUWAISIB	17	26
WAFRA	14	27
MANAGISH	12	28
SALMY	13	27
MUTRIBA	13	27

### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	27
Min Temp (°C)	17
Max Rel Hum (%)	86
Min Rel Hum (%)	24
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 NW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

	Sunrise	05:56
	Sunset	17:57

### Prayer Times

Fajr	04:37
Sunrise	05:56
Zuhr	11:57
Asr	15:22
Sunset	17:57
Isha	19:13

## INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	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	Niger	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
Lesotho	0026		



## PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	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	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaazem	25726920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	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 Aliytami	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 Gujare	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. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah 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 Abidallah 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	24555050 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	

Psychologists  
/Psychotherapists

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Noor Clinic  
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William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677  
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



G o s s i p

# AFFLECK AND PHOENIX HAVE SPLIT

**C**asey Affleck and Summer Phoenix have split. The couple - who have sons Indiana, 11, and eight-year-old Atticus - have "amicably" gone their separate ways after almost 10 years of marriage. A spokesperson confirmed to In Touch magazine: "Casey and Summer have amicably separated. They remain very close friends." Though news of the separation has just broken, it has been claimed the couple - who had dated for six years before tying the knot in June 2006 - had separated several months ago and

tried hard to repair their relationship. A source said: "She was having a lot of trust issues. They went to couples counseling but they just couldn't recover." Despite their separation, the former couple are "committed" to co-parenting their sons. Casey, 40, was first introduced to Summer, 37, by her brother, and his 'I'm Still Here' collaborator, Joaquin Phoenix, in 2000. Last month, the 'Gone Baby Gone' star endured an awkward interview with talk show host Stephen Colbert, which got off to a bad start when the presenter

poked fun at his scruffy appearance. Stephen said: "Thanks for dressing up. I can't tell whether this choice is the least celebrity thing to do or the most celebrity thing to do because it's very casual." There was then a number of other uncomfortable exchanges, prompting the presenter to joke: "We should probably end up fighting at the end of this. It feels like this is where this is going."



## Adele praised for making couple's engagement amazing

**A**dele has been thanked for the most "amazing" evening by the woman who got engaged at her concert in London. Financial advisor Natalie King was left overjoyed when Johnny Biggle, her partner of 12 years, popped the question as Adele performed 'Make You Feel My Love' at The O2. She was then further flabbergasted when the music superstar invited the newly betrothed couple onto the stage to personally congratulate them on their engagement. Natalie, 29, couldn't have imagined a more special way to become Johnny's fiancée than the way it happened at the gig. Describing the evening's events during an appearance on UK TV show 'This Morning', she said: 'Johnny went to get a drink, and then the song came on, and he came back and said the bar was closed. "Then he said, 'I've got a question to ask you.' With it being Johnny I didn't think anything of it, then he dropped down to one knee and then it was just pure craziness, there were phones in my face and people were screaming." Going on to thank Adele for her reaction, Natalie added: "Adele is my idol. When she got us on stage, it was just amazing." She also told MailOnline: "To be asked on stage I was in total shock. It was amazing to meet Adele. She said 'congratulations'. This was my early 30th birthday present but I never expected anything like this. "If I knew I was going to be on stage and all over the news I'd have worn a better top!" Natalie - who has a son Alfie with her partner - also revealed she took home a huge bag of confetti that was fired into the crowd as Adele closed her show with 'Rolling In The Deep' as a memento. Each piece of confetti contains a song lyric, such as "everybody loves the things you do" from 'When We Were Young' and "throw your soul through every open door from 'Rolling in The Deep', or a thank you message in Adele's own handwriting. The 27-year-old singer - who has three-year-old son Angelo with her partner Simon Konecki - told the happy couple their engagement was the "most beautiful thing" she had ever witnessed at one of her concerts. Speaking on stage, she said: "I thought there was a fight at first! I saw loads of camera phone lights go on and loads of arms go up and I thought it was a fight ... I'm just so in love with you both ... That was the most beautiful thing I've ever witnessed at one of my shows. If I'd known I'd have dedicated that song to you. Are you gonna set a date? Wait, save up." As Natalie and Johnny left the stage and returned to their seats, Adele added: "That was amazing, people started cheering, then they started kissing, then she started crying, it was lovely. Oh my goodness!"



## Ne-Yo's wife gives birth

**N**e-Yo's wife has given birth to their first child. The 'So Sick' hitmaker's spouse Crystal Renay - who he married last month - shared a photo of the new arrival's hand clutching her finger on Snapchat. She wrote: "Prince SJ has arrived.(sic)" A representative for the star confirmed the couple had welcomed a healthy baby boy into the world, but hasn't given any further information. Earlier this week, Ne-Yo - who already has five-year-old daughter Madilyn and four-year-old son Mason with ex-girlfriend Monyetta Shaw - shared a picture of himself cradling Crystal's bump as they cuddled on the sofa together. He captioned the image: "I hear Miles Davis playin' in the background #Blessed (sic)." The 36-year-old singer announced last September that Crystal was pregnant and they were

planning to wed. He tweeted: "Clearing the air...@mscrystalrenay and I are ENGAGED to be married next year. And yes we are expecting #FromTheHorsesMouth (sic)." The couple first met when Ne-Yo contacted Crystal about working together on a short film for his album, and although she was two hours late, it was love at first sight. He previously explained: "When she sat down, we got to talking, and we just kind of hit it off, more than I think either one of us expected. It was strictly business initially, but after a couple hours of just hanging out, talking, things got a little more personal: We started getting to know each other. "I kind of knew right away. From that first encounter, I knew there was something different about her, something special."

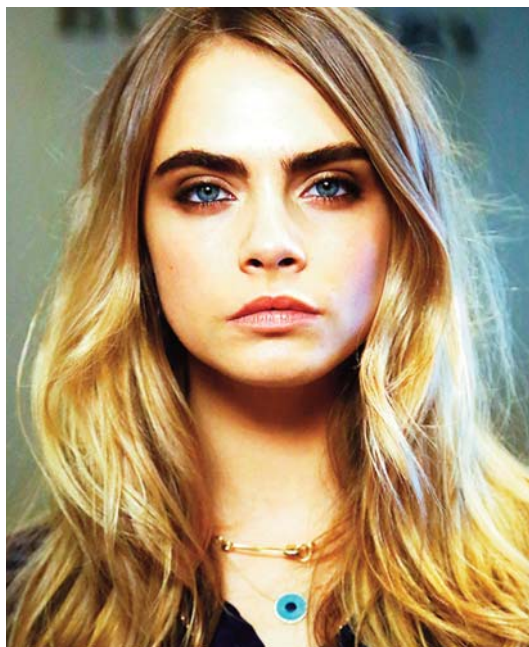


## Carey to marry on an Caribbean island



**M**ariah Carey is to marry on an exclusive Caribbean island. The 'Hero' hitmaker will reportedly tie the knot with James Packer in front of just 50 guests on Barbuda - where the billionaire businessman is currently building a private \$250 million resort with Robert De Niro - at some point this summer. According to TMZ, the wedding is likely to take place sometime after mid-June, though no date has been set yet. Friends will be flown into the exclusive setting via private jet, though they haven't issued any invitations for the big day yet. Mariah - who was previously married to record company boss Tommy Motola and 'America's Got Talent' host Nick Cannon - recently admitted she will be having a "grand" wedding. She said: "I'm most excited about the grandeur, darling. "It's not gonna be a big wedding. But it's going to be grand. "I think the most important thing is the relationship and, you know, just the connection. The love of it all. That's the most important thing, but of course I love a grand moment." The 45-year-old singer - who has four-year-old twins Moroccan and Monroe with Nick - has kept details of James' proposal under wraps but admitted she was "surprised" when he popped the question. She said: "Darling, it's my engagement ring, we can't know when it's coming. "We just have to receive it." And Mariah adores her stunning 35-carat diamond and platinum ring. She joked: "Walking through a crowd with a ring on your finger and a lot of bracelets is a little bit, you know, daunting. "But it's hard to take it off cause I love it so much."

## Delevingne returns to modeling with Chanel campaign



**C**ara Delevingne has made her return to modeling with a Chanel Eyewear campaign. The 23-year-old beauty has posed for Karl Lagerfeld for the brand's 2016 Spring/Summer range, and as well as sunglasses Cara is seen with geek chic look in clear frame spectacles. The British star also poses as a tomboy a Chanel cap and crisp white shirt. Cara's new campaign comes after she revealed why she took a step back from the fashion industry to focus on her acting career. In an essay written for Time Motto, the 'Suicide Squad' star said: "I found myself surrendering to the industry's approval process. I felt like I needed validation from everyone. "As a result, I lost sight of myself and what it meant to be happy, what it meant to be successful. I think it all stemmed from a deep-down feeling of wanting people to like me and love me. "Over time, I came to realize that work and getting others' approval isn't the most important thing. Yes, your career is very important-but it's not the most important. Of course I was proud of my accomplishments, but I wasn't genuinely happy. "I was nearly 20 and had been modeling for several years. My vantage point had changed ... and I had changed. I knew I had to re-evaluate my life and my goals for my future. I didn't want to resent fashion or my success. The process didn't happen overnight, but it was imperative for me to preserve my integrity."

## Lohan's 'Grand Theft Auto' lawsuit to proceed

**L**indsay Lohan's lawsuit against the creators of 'Grand Theft Auto' can proceed, a court has ruled. The 29-year-old actress previously filed a case against Take-Two Interactive and it's subsidiary Rockstar, claiming that the character Lacey Jonas in 'Grand Theft Auto V' was modeled on her without her permission, but legal proceedings have been stalled for two years. New York Supreme Court judge Joan Kennedy has now decided that the evidence from defendants isn't sufficient to have the case thrown out, an action for which they'd previously filed a motion. The ruling said: "Defendants have not been able to prove, at this juncture of the litigation, that the republication exemption to the one year statute of limitations is not applicable to this case because the intended audiences were the same as those of the original publication and the images consistently remained the same." Voice actor Ned Luke, the man behind main character Michael has slammed the legal decision. Tweeting a picture of a 'GTA5' cow, he wrote: "It's a stretch but MAYBE there's a resemblance #LindsaysNuts (sic)" Rockstar previously claimed the 'Mean Girls' star filed her case "for publicity purposes" when they asked for the case to be dismissed. They have also insisted the character - a Hollywood diva escaping from paparazzi - is similar to Lindsay only in that they are both young blonde women.



## Cavallari had her children on a strict goat milk diet

**K**ristin Cavallari makes her own formula milk for her children. The 29-year-old beauty - who has sons Camden, three, and Jaxon, 22 months, and daughter Saylor, three months, with husband Jay Cutler - is very careful about her kids' diet and concocted a goat's milk-based drink for her boys once they had stopped breastfeeding as she felt it was the best thing for them. She said: "Once I stopped breastfeeding each kid and we ran out of stock of my frozen breast milk, we put them on a homemade goat milk formula "I'm not a fan of soy (it's usually genetically modified; more about that later), and both Cam and Jax have sensitivities to cow's milk-and unfortunately, soy and cow's milk are the only two options for store-bought formula available right now. "Goat's milk is the closest thing out there to human breast milk. Plus, it is more easily digested than cow's or

soy milk. "Giving goat's milk to children is popular in Europe and other parts of the world. Goat's milk is not enough, though, so Jay and I, along with our pediatrician, came up with a formula recipe for our kids." Kristen admitted she is a "a psycho about reading every single ingredient label and researching ingredients" but believes her insistence on a clean diet and only eating organic meat and fish has made her family healthier, and even helped her spouse better control his diabetes. Writing in her new book 'Balancing in Heels', she explained: "His insulin use is down, and he's off his blood pressure medication. And he looks the best he ever has: His weight is ideal and his skin is clear. "I really believe that my family's infrequency of getting sick is due to our diet."— Bang Showbiz





# Zachary Levi takes the long way to Broadway

To one day get to Broadway, Zachary Levi made the calculated choice to not initially go to Broadway. The southern California native grew up as a passionate fan of theater, but knew he had to play a long game to make those dreams happen. First up, he had to become a TV star. "I knew that people who win Tony Awards have a hard time getting arrested in Hollywood, but if you could get on some schmucko sitcom in LA, Broadway comes a-knocking, saying, 'Hey, come and be in our show,'" Levi said, laughing.

Broadway has indeed come knocking for the former star of "Chuck" and "Heroes Reborn," who is starring in a revival of "She Loves Me," considered by many to be one of the most charming musicals ever written. The show opens Thursday at the Roundabout Theatre. Levi, who made his Broadway debut in 2013 in a small summer show, now finds himself among a Broadway All-Star team: Laura Benanti, Jane Krakowski, Gavin Creel, Byron Jennings, Michael McGrath and Peter Bartlett.

The 6-foot-4 Levi hopes he doesn't stand out for the wrong reasons. "I don't want people walking away going, 'You know, for a Hollywood guy, not bad.' I would hope that people walk away going, 'I didn't even think about it.'" Levi plays a clerk of a perfume store who exchanges love letters with a pen pal only to discover she works alongside him. The story has been adapted into the films "The Shop Around the Corner" with

James Stewart and "You've Got Mail" with Tom Hanks. Levi, an actor with a self-effacing manner, solid moral compass, flawless comic timing and leading-man looks, is a worthy successor to Stewart and Hanks. "They're major influences," he said.

"I've always kind of found myself fitting into the Everyman role. As much as I'd like to feel like I can compete with the Brad Pitts of the world, that's like Adonis-y, leading-man stuff and I'm just a little goofier than that, I guess." Tony-nominated director Scott Ellis said Levi belongs alongside his veteran and celebrated cast mates - calling him a rare find - a leading man who is also funny. "He brings a beautiful, beautiful soulfulness, humor, truth to this role," Ellis said. "He has stepped up in a major way. No one is going to be able to walk away after seeing him and not go, 'That's a guy who's not only a terrific actor but that's someone who can carry a musical.' And there are not a lot of them out there."

As a kid, Levi loved to tell jokes and do impressions. He adored TV sitcoms, computer games and animation. "I joke that half of my acting influences are cartoons," he said. Theater became an important outlet. "If you're a spazzy kid who likes to crack wise and sing and dance around like an idiot, that's your home," he said. In middle school, he did a production of "Grease" and later a regional production of "Marvin's Room," which got him noticed by a retired manager, who got him an



File photo shows Zachary Levi participates in AOL's BUILD Speaker Series to discuss his company and website 'The Nerd Machine' at AOL Studios in New York. — AP

agent. He did the TV show "Less Than Perfect" for four years. Broadway came calling in 2007 with an offer to audition for the musical "Young Frankenstein."

## A dance party

He flew across the country and performed in front of director Susan Stroman and Mel Brooks. "I start stomping my foot in time to the music so they can't see me shaking," he recalled. Though he forgot some lines - he rates the audition a C-plus - he got the job. Then "Chuck" was picked up and he had to do that instead. Broadway came again after "Chuck" ended in 2012 - and Levi took it. He starred opposite Krysta Rodriguez in the charming musical "First Date." One critic said he was a "strikingly adept stage comedian." Another praised his "vitality and off-kilter humor." At the stage door, Levi brought out a stereo and he and Rodriguez turned signing autographs into a dance party.

For his latest foray, Levi took over when Josh Radnor of "How I Met Your Mother" had to back out of "She Loves Me." Levi, whose film credits include "Thor: The Dark World," took the job because of the cast, songs and Ellis, even though he insisted after his last time he wouldn't return in a musical. "There are so many things I still want to do," he said. "I feel like I've been really, really blessed that I've been able to check off so many boxes and maybe that will be my legacy ... to do a little bit of everything." — AP

# Joint China-Hollywood venture unveils movie line-up

A joint Hollywood and Chinese production house yesterday announced a slew of upcoming films including an action-horror flick about a giant shark, as moviemakers increasingly look to tap into China's vast market. The announcement in Hong Kong was made by Flagship Entertainment, a tie-up between Warner Brothers, China Media Capital and Hong Kong television broadcaster TVB and comes with Hollywood awash with constantly growing Chinese funding. US studios are also keen to capitalize on China's burgeoning cinema market at a time when Beijing is pushing entertainment as a source of "soft power."

"Working with our esteemed partners in Flagship... Warner Brothers is looking forward to helping create high-quality Chinese and Hong Kong films of every genre for audiences in China and around the world," the studio's chairman Kevin Tsujihara told reporters at the city's International Film and Television Market exhibition.

"We want Flagship to be a true cultural exchange between our companies and our countries," said Tsujihara, whose studio's highly anticipated "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" comes out later this month. Flagship unveiled 12 new films. They include "Meg", about the discovery of a gigantic ancestor of the great white shark, and "Beautiful Coma" a romance co-produced by Hong Kong director Peter Chan and US director Brett Ratner, who directed the "Rush Hour" franchise.

Other productions include a remake of the US comedy hit "Miss Congeniality" and another come-



A woman walks past movie billboards at the international film market in Hong Kong yesterday on the day when a joint Hollywood and Chinese production house announced a slew of upcoming films. — AFP

dy "Mission Milano" which stars popular Hong Kong actor Andy Lau. The main driver of Chinese cinema's phenomenal growth is a steady emergence of a modern consumerist lifestyle among China's burgeoning middle class. In 2014, 8,035 movie screens — 22 per day — were installed in China and the screen count stood at 31,627 by the end of 2015,

according to official sources. Chinese conglomerate Wanda Group bought US film studio Legendary Entertainment in January for a record-breaking \$3.5 billion. — AFP



This file photo shows musician Aretha Franklin attending the opening of the Mica and Ahmet Ertegun Atrium at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. — AFP

## Aretha Franklin cancels shows

Gospel legend Aretha Franklin has scrapped a mini-tour of Florida, in the latest cancellation for the 73-year-old star. Franklin had three concerts scheduled this month in Florida but the venues ran similar statements saying that she could not go ahead "due to lack of band personnel," without further explanation. The Miami area's annual Jazz in the Gardens, which planned Franklin as its headliner this weekend, announced Tuesday that another R&B legend, Charlie Wilson, would step in at the last minute.

Franklin in August also canceled a show in Las Vegas citing exhaustion, although the following month she sang "Amazing Grace" before Pope Francis during his visit to Philadelphia for a major Roman Catholic gathering. Franklin, who has won 18 Grammys, is best known for her feminist-tinged cover of Otis Redding's "Respect" and went on to a successful pop career. The daughter of a Baptist minister, she recorded her first album in his church in Detroit when she was 14. — AFP



In this undated image provided by Polk and Co, performers appear in 'Wicked' in New York. — AP

## Broadway's 'Wicked' reaches \$1 billion mark

Producers of "Wicked" say the theatrical blockbuster has grossed over \$1 billion on Broadway, joining only "The Lion King" and "The Phantom of the Opera" to that mark but faster than either rival. The show, which opened in 2003 based on novelist Gregory Maguire's fanciful "Wicked of Oz" prequel, took just 121/2 years to reach \$1 billion. "The Lion King," which opened in 1997, reached that mark in 2013. "The Phantom of the Opera," which opened in New York in 1988, reached \$1 billion last year.

With a score by Stephen Schwartz and a book by Winnie Holzman, "Wicked" has been one of Broadway's biggest success stories since it arrived in 2003 starring Kristin Chenoweth as Glinda and Idina Menzel as Elphaba. Worldwide, "Wicked" has amassed nearly \$4 billion in global sales and has been seen by nearly 50 million people. — AP



File photo shows John Krasinski, left, and Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs announce the Academy Awards nominations for best performance by an actor in a supporting role. — AP

## Film academy diversifies leadership, apologizes to Asians

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has added three new governors to its 51-member board and appointed six minority members to other leadership positions. The group also apologized for a racially insensitive skit during last month's Oscar show. Academy president Cheryl Boone Isaacs announced the new appointees late Tuesday after a meeting of the organization's Board of Governors. The board also ratified other changes proposed in January in response to the OscarsSoWhite crisis aimed at increasing diversity, including limiting Oscar voting rights to those active in the movie business.

The academy's apology came after criticism from some Asian academy members offended by a skit during the Oscar show that introduced three Asian kids as academy accountants. "I can understand the feelings and we are setting up a meeting to discuss, because as you well know, no one sets out to be offensive, and I'm very sorry that has happened," Boone Isaacs said in a phone interview with The Associated Press late Tuesday. "I think so much is achieved with dialogue, so much is achieved. And that is what we'll continue to do: have dialogue, listen and just keep fixing."

In the interview, Boone Isaacs also expanded on Tuesday's board meeting and the academy's diversity goals. Responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

**AP: Talk about the new positions announced tonight (new governors include Oscar telecast producer Reginald Hudlin and "Kung-Fu Panda 3" director Jennifer Yuh Nelson; committee members include actor Gael Garcia Bernal and producer Effie Brown).**

**Isaacs:** Now the board has much more of a diversity to it... It's always good to have some new-ness, someone who comes into the conversation that has been rolling along, just a different perspective... We set out, even a few years

ago, of having more inclusion and certainly have stepped it up. We just want to keep this process going, and so were really happy that were able to announce these additions.

**AP: How did the voting discussion go? When you first announced planned voting changes in January, some older members worried about losing their privileges.**

**Isaacs:** Overall it was positive. What we have added to this discussion is - our branches are diverse within themselves... in terms of perspective, and we respect this tremendously. We have just clarified a bit more that because the branch qualifications are so varied that the best way to determine specific criteria is within the branches. It's not such a one-size fits all.

**AP: So voters concerned about their voting status can appeal to their branch?**

**Isaacs:** Each branch will review with regard to their qualifications.

**AP: A past academy president said the goals you announced in January to double the academy's female and minority members are impossible to achieve without relaxing standards. Are they?**

**Isaacs:** The thing is we want to set goals and we're going to work our damndest to meet them all. That's our goal. The goal is to have one, and then do everything you can to meet it... Everything about us is setting our standards high, and we're going to continue that. I think that this conversation really has picked up around the industry as a whole. You see different companies - whether its Bad Robot or Ryan Murphy or Plan B or the program that Warner Bros just set up - this conversation is really, really rolling. So absolutely: Let's set it, let's work for it and do everything we can. That is the goal. — AP

## New faith-based films tone down religion, amp up star power

For some filmgoers, hearing a movie described as "faith-based" makes it a must-see. But just as many others find the term a turn-off. To reach audiences beyond the Christian churchgoers that generally propel the genre, some producers of faith-based films are ramping up the star power and tamping down the evangelical messages.

The latest example is "Miracles From Heaven," starring Jennifer Garner and Queen Latifah, which tells the true story of a 9-year-old Texas girl who inexplicably recovers from an incurable condition after surviving a 30-foot fall.

Among the film's producers are pastor TD Jakes and preacher DeVon Franklin - the team behind 2014's \$100 million hit "Heaven is for Real" - who say they aim to make movies for all audiences, not just religious ones. "I think sometimes when people hear 'faith-based,' to them that is code for preachy, that is code for more medicine, and it's also sometimes code for lower quality, lower budgeted," Franklin said in a recent interview.

"It's the way people think when you use labels that is the barrier," Jakes said. "It's not necessarily the film, but the image that comes up in people's minds ... It suggests a discrimination that was not intended. We didn't do this film just for people of faith. We did this film for everybody." Other entertainment aimed at Christian audiences, including new films "The Young Messiah" and "God's Not Dead 2," and the live TV special "The Passion" (airing Sunday), take a more religious approach. "Miracles From Heaven" is based on Christy Beam's 2015 memoir, which describes her family's struggles and her own crisis of faith when daughter Anna is diagnosed with an incurable digestive disorder, then has a potentially deadly fall. But following the mishap, Anna has no serious injuries and ultimately shows no signs of the disorder. She later tells her mom she went to heaven and talked to Jesus during the ordeal.

## Divine experience

The film is being released Wednesday by Sony's Affirm Films, the studio's specialty faith



This image released by Sony Pictures shows, from left, Jennifer Garner, Queen Latifah and Kylie Rogers in a scene from Columbia Pictures' "Miracles from Heaven." — AP

division established in 2007. Affirm also released "Heaven is for Real," starring Greg Kinnear, which is similarly based on a parent's account of a child's divine experience. The film had a reported \$12 million budget and made more than \$100 million at the box office. Paramount's "Captive," released last fall, was a modest faith-based success. Also a true story, it stars David Oyelowo as Brian Nichols, an escaped murderer who takes a single mother (Kate Mara) hostage, then lets her go after she reads a Christian book to him. Despite mixed reviews, it more than doubled its small budget at the box office.

Marketing a film as faith-based means nothing if the content doesn't speak to religious audiences, said Maria Elena de Las Carreras, a professor of international cinema at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television. "It's a label, but it's not magical. It doesn't guarantee box-office turnout," she said, citing Paramount's 2014 big-budget Biblical flop, "Noah." "Audiences flock to well-made films that deal with stories of optimism and renewal, even if there is suffering and there is loss," she said. "That was true in classic Hollywood cinema and it's true today."

## Proud of the film

Hollywood has a long history of Biblical blockbusters, from Cecil B DeMille's "The Ten Commandments" to Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" to the currently playing "Risen," also released by Affirm and starring Joseph Fiennes. But such big names haven't traditionally been drawn to the quieter God-related fare. Garner, who plays Christy Beam in "Miracles From Heaven," celebrated the film's Christian themes. "I wasn't scared of doing a movie that had faith at its center, as long as it wasn't preachy," Garner told The Associated Press. "And doing this movie, part of that is talking about something that we always held dear and close to my heart... I'm proud of growing up a little good churchgoing United Methodist girl and I'm so, so proud of the film." — AP





Models displaying creations from 'DISCOVERED' by Japanese designers Tatsuya Kimura and Sanae Yoshida at the 2016 autumn/winter collection show in Tokyo during Tokyo Fashion Week. — AFP photos

# The fashion scouts taking Japan's underground labels global

Far from the flashbulbs of Tokyo fashion week, Yoshio Yokobori is juggling multiple roles-talent scout, cultural interpreter, dealmaker-in a quest to help foreign buyers navigate a labyrinthine design landscape and access Japan's most exciting underground labels. Although Tokyo's streets offer up a wealth of inspiration for global trend spotters, Japanese designers have struggled to make a dent abroad in recent years to follow in the hallowed footsteps of influential and successful designers such as Issey Miyake and Yohji Yamamoto.

And while local labels continue to earn respect for their quality, technical skill and creative design, many fail to translate that reputation into global sales. It's a problem industry insider Yokobori knows well. "If someone running a store in Singapore, for example, wants to place an order with a Japanese designer, it is impossible," Yokobori said. "The designers don't speak English, they often can't write an invoice or make decisions quickly... and many have no knowledge of overseas markets or why they matter," he told AFP on the sidelines of fashion week.

A booming domestic market once meant Japanese labels had little reason to ponder global



Japanese designer Issey Miyake participates in a press conference for the Miyake Issey Exhibition at the National Art Center.

expansion. But chronically low birth rates have resulted in a decline in local consumption, prompting the fashion fraternity to begin looking outward for future customers. The lull has seen Tokyo government officials and the Japan External Trade Organization sponsor visits by fashion buyers from leading concept stores, including Colette in Paris and Andreas Murkudis in Berlin, in a bid to stir up business overseas.

**Secrecy rules**

For those designers willing to dive into unfamiliar waters, consultants like Yokobori can mean the difference between sink or swim, thanks to a Rolodex packed with contacts and an insight into what makes Japanese brands tick overseas. The 37-year-old, whose responsibilities cover everything from brokering business deals to ensuring that designers file invoices and answer store-owners' emails on time, works in six countries on a punishing schedule that saw him take 117 flights last year.

He launched his company a decade ago, intending to work as a domestic distributor for Japanese brands, but later realized that economic opportunities lay elsewhere-in countries with consumers hungry for fashion and branded goods. While Yokobori works with stores based in China, Singapore, Indonesia and other Asian countries, veteran fashion consultant and journalist Masahiro Kubo takes Japanese brands to Paris, hosting pop-up shops and running a fashion news website called "Journal Cubocci".

A founder of Tokyo's International Fashion Fair, a trade show which attracted around 15,000 visitors last year, Kubo worked as Paris bureau chief for Japan's top fashion daily, Senken Shimbun, before setting up

a consultancy. Neither Kubo nor Yokobori were willing to reveal details of who they represent, citing non-disclosure agreements with stores. Furthermore, in a business focused on finding underground labels, maintaining an air of secrecy is seen as the key to exclusivity. "My priority is to find brands that people haven't heard of yet," Kubo told AFP.

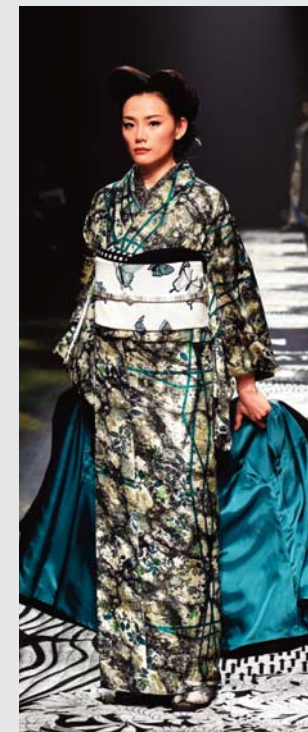
"The most satisfying part of the job for me is incubating a small brand and watching it grow," he said. Local labels such as DISCOVERED and divka, the latter a former client of Yokobori, are now stocked in leading boutiques across the US and Asia, signaling that a shift is underway, as well as success for the consultants working behind the scenes. For fashion hunter Yokobori, who spent his teenage years working several part-time jobs in order to afford T-shirts sold at cutting-edge boutiques in Tokyo's vibrant Harajuku neighborhood, business is on the up. "When I started working with overseas clients, I worked with just one store my first year, so we have experienced a big increase," he said. "Japanese fashion designers have to go outside (Japan)... but many don't bother. That needs to change." —AFP



Journalists looks at creations by Japanese designer Issey Miyake during a press preview of the Miyake Issey Exhibition at the National Art Center in Tokyo.



# Tokyo Fashion Week



Models display creations by Japanese designer Jotaro Saito at the 2016 autumn/winter collection show in Tokyo yesterday. — AP/AFP photos

## ALDO frees the imagination through its new spring/summer 2016 campaign

**A**LDO, an international leader in fashion footwear and accessories, sets its imagination free by unlocking unique sources of inspiration within its spring/summer 2016 global campaign. ALDO showcases their design team's seasonal trends through a cast of authentic personalities that embody the founding spark of each unique inspiration. The campaign features a diptych: two side-by-side images playing off each other visually and conceptually. On one side, there is a still life representing ALDO's abstract inspiration shot by Bela Borsodi. On the other, a portrait of interesting people by Matteo Montanari illustrating the complete look that speaks to the heart of the inspiration. Each accompanying still life is a wink to the portrait it couples. Together they intersect to tell the complete story - inspiration that goes from the abstract to a tangible and sets the stage for ALDO's take on SS'16 trends.

The faces of the campaign were chosen for their unique personal styles and creative self-expression, representing a range of tastes, passions and lifestyles. Marissa Seraphin, Paris-based jewelry designer, Susannah Liguori, art student and model living in New York, Laura Harrier, up-and-coming actress and cast member in the HBO series 'Code of Conduct' and Kelsey Soles, 'It Girl' and London-based model, all exude a style of their own. Silviu Tolu, New York style blogger, Harry Uzoka, model and member of a video art collective in

London, and Keisuke Asano, artist and model living between London and Tokyo, represent a masculine cross fabric lending contextualization and creativity to the ALDO campaign.

"Our 'Inspiration is Everywhere' campaign has been a compelling way to enliven and empower our customer to express themselves through fashion - while staying true to their own personal style. This season, we wanted to continue the conversation we started with our inspiring, style-driven clientele through ALDO's Fall/Winter 2015 campaign. For Spring/Summer 2016, there is a playful imaginativeness to the campaign - meant to spark excitement and interest in the brand and the message we are sending. The fresh faces and styles found in the campaign have a wonderful originality to them. Our aim is to speak to the ALDO customer in an authentic and relevant way," shares Erwin Hinteregger, Chief Marketing Officer for ALDO. "Through this campaign - which will live in print, digital, social media and out of home - we hope to inspire our internationally diverse customer and fuel a reflection of their own signature style." ALDO is operated in Kuwait by Mondial General Trading.



## Malabar Gold & Diamonds launches specially designed Mother's Day pendants

**M**other's Day is just around the corner and to celebrate this occasion, Malabar Gold & Diamonds introduced four exclusive diamond pendants as a glittering tribute to the unspoken love of a mother. Mother's Day is celebrated on 21st March every year to honor and commemorate the unconditional bond of motherhood. It reminds us that motherhood cannot be taken for granted and this particular day gives us a unique opportunity to let her know just how special she truly is to you.

This Mother's Day, make your Mom feel unique by gifting her diamond pendant specially designed for the special occasion by Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Let your Mom know how you feel and shower some love on her with the magnificent mother's day collection by Malabar Gold & Diamonds. Show her how much she is loved and appreciated by gifting an entwined pendant sparkling with brilliant diamonds, representing the unbreakable bond a mother and child share.

These special edition diamond pendants will surely touch her heart, bringing a sparkling smile on her face and adding that extra sparkle of love in her eyes. Celebrate the true essence of her motherhood with this perfectly crafted pendant offered at an affordable price of KD 65 to 95 in 4 designs and turn this occasion memorable. All pendants will come with the 18ct chain.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is always at the forefront when it comes to promotions and festivals. The immaculate collection of Studs and Drops are available at their outlets in UAE, Oman, Kuwait, KSA, Singapore and Malaysia with their unique exchange offers and buyback policies. The jewelry chain offers lifetime free repair and maintenance service for all its products. These diamond pendant sets will be available at all Malabar Gold & Diamonds showrooms in the GCC until stocks last.





A Kyrgyz berkutchi (eagle hunter) releases his bird, a golden eagle, during the hunting festival 'Salburun' in the village of Alysh, near Naryn, 350 km outside Bishkek. — AFP

## Museum insider, Moldovans arrested over Italy art heist

Italian authorities said yesterday they have pinned last year's theft of Rubens and Tintoretto masterpieces in Verona on a Moldovan gang they believe was helped by a museum security guard. But despite ordering 12 arrests in Moldova and Italy they have yet to recover any of the 17 artworks that disappeared in November from the northern city's Castelvecchio museum, which values the missing canvases at 15 million euros (\$16 million).

"We are on the right track but we have not yet been able to put our hands on the missing paintings," Verona prosecutor Mario Giulio Schinaia was quoted as saying by local media. At the time of the robbery, police said it appeared the works had been stolen 'to order' for a private collector, given the difficulty anyone would have in selling on works by such well-known artists. Three masked men entered the 14th century building at the evening change of guard, slipping in after the museum

had been emptied but before its state-of-the-art security system had been put into overnight mode.

A security guard and another member of staff were tied up before the pictures were taken. The guard is one of the suspects arrested, along with his brother and the brother's Moldovan girlfriend, who is suspected of having alerted the robbers to the potential to pull off the audacious heist. The thieves' haul included "Portrait of a Lady" by Flemish Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens and

"Male Portrait" by Venetian artist Tintoretto, as well as works by Pisanello, Jacopo Bellini, Giovanni Francesco Caroto and Hans de Jode. Another acclaimed work, "The Conversion of Saul", by Italian Renaissance painter Guilio Licinio, was damaged during the robbery but has since been successfully restored. — AFP



This file photo shows the Holy Cross Cathedral is pictured in Lagos, on January 29, 2016. — AFP photos



A residential Afro-Brazilian style building under renovation in Lagos.



A dilapidated residential Afro-Brazilian-style building at the Brazilian quarter.

## Lagos losing splendor of its Afro-Brazilian past

Otogenarian Yewande Oyediran sits back in a comfy armchair in her living room in the "Campos" quarter of Lagos, with its fading Brazilian heritage. She talks about her great-grandfather Joao Esan da Rocha, from Osun state in southwest Nigeria, who was captured by slave traders in the 1850s, taken to South America and later freed. "Frejon"-a coconut bean soup popular in Nigeria and Brazil and eaten in the week before the Christian holiday of Easter-is also a favorite topic. "I don't wait until Good Friday to eat 'frejon,'" she said. "I cook and eat it throughout the year."

But such Brazilian influences on daily life in Nigeria's financial capital are rapidly becoming hard to find. Descendants are ageing, the pastel-shaded buildings of the "Campos" are being torn down, and few people, if any, speak the Portuguese brought back to West Africa by freed Yoruba slaves. Only the colorful annual street carnival and a legacy of surnames such as Cardoso, d'Almeida, de Costa, da Silva and Gonsalves remind Lagosians of links to a South American past.

### Afro-Brazilian architecture

The declining influence is reflected in the dwindling number of Afro-Brazilian-style buildings in Lagos and nearby Badagry, from where thousands of slaves were shipped to Brazil, mainly to Salvador in the coastal state of Bahia. Freed slaves, most of whom had converted to Roman Catholicism, began returning in the mid-1800s, bringing with them their new faith and architectural influences. The "Water House" in the dilapidated "Campos" on Lagos Island was built in 1895 and along

with the nearby Roman Catholic cathedral is one of the best examples still standing.

Other structures include the Shitta Mosque, which was built in 1892. The buildings were a reflection of the new-found status of former slaves, many of whom went on to become government officials and successful businessmen after their return. Oyediran's great-grandfather, for example, is thought to have been Nigeria's first millionaire. But preserving heritage or, as elsewhere, making it a draw for tourists, has largely failed, as Lagos mushroomed into a megacity that is now home to an estimated 20 million people.

More domestic and foreign tourists could help Nigeria's economy, which has been battered by the global fall in oil prices since mid-2014, as well as by mismanagement and fraud. One official in the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, however, described efforts to maintain and preserve the city's Brazilian-influenced history as "lacklustre". "These feeble attempts have been hampered by funding and corruption," he told AFP on condition of anonymity. "The children of the owners of these buildings are also not helping matters." Many of them do not value the historical monuments they live in."

### Disappearing heritage

Most of these Afro-Brazilian-style structures have either been redesigned or demolished to make way for characterless high-rise buildings, said Abiola Kosoko, a tour guide. Yet the returning ex-slaves from Brazil "took over Lagos by storm with their special building designs," he said. "Decades back we had about 900 of those buildings on Lagos Island, in (the suburbs) Ikorodu, Epe and

Badagry. There are less than 40 of those buildings still standing now.

"The disappearance of Brazilian heritage has been drastic. Most of the buildings were pulled down for development's sake." An Afro-Brazilian-style building collapsed on Lagos Island recently, added Kosoko, a royal prince as his great-grandfather was the king of Lagos, and who is writing a history of the city. "Nobody cared to preserve it. They allowed the one-storey building, an architectural masterpiece, to disintegrate," he said.

"Even the annual 'Brazilian Carnival' and the 'Fanti' (Brazilian-style celebration of life and community shows) which used to attract foreign tourists are fast losing their allure these days," said Dayo Medeiros, whose ancestors were taken to Brazil. "They are sometimes hijacked by area boys (local gangs)." University tutor Tundonu Amosu, author of "Jaded Heritage: Nigeria's Brazilian Connection", blamed life in Lagos, where traces of British colonial times have been virtually eradicated. Most members of the Brazilian community "have melted into the generality of Lagos people and life," he said. Many of the descendants of Brazilian returnees "sold their property along the Marina (shoreline) on Lagos Island," further making their culture fade into "insignificance," he added. "It is a pity that we allowed the Nigerian factor to creep into it." — AFP



The Holy Cross Cathedral in Lagos.



A dilapidated residential Afro-Brazilian-style building at the Brazilian quarter.