

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016

JAMADA ALTHANI 17, 1437 AH

No: 16825

Sheikh Salman  
hails KFH's role in  
recognizing youth



No drama, no  
walkouts in  
Syria peace talks

8



W Indies beat S  
Africa, enter  
World T20 semis

48



150 Fils

## BELGIAN POLICE SHOOT SUSPECT IN TERROR RAIDS

### KERRY BACKS BRUSSELS AS PARIS BUSTS JIHADIST NETWORK



Min 16°  
Max 33°



BRUSSELS: A member of a bomb squad arrives to take part in an anti-terrorist operation on tramway tracks in the Schaerbeek - Schaerbeel district in Brussels yesterday. — AFP

## PALMYRA CITADEL RETAKEN, IS NO 2 'DEAD'

**DAMASCUS:** The Islamic State group suffered a double setback in Syria yesterday as army troops recaptured parts of the ancient city of Palmyra and the Pentagon said the jihadists' second-in-command was killed in a US raid. The seizure by Russian-backed Syrian troops of areas of Palmyra including the hilltop citadel came nearly a year after IS overran the UNESCO world heritage site, most of which remains in jihadist hands. The regime's gains came after US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russia's President Vladimir Putin agreed to intensify the drive for a political settlement in Syria. Pentagon chief Ashton Carter said the death this week of Abd ar-Rahman Mustafa Al-Qaduli, described as IS's number two, would hamper the ability of the jihadists to conduct operations in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere.

He said Washington was "systematically eliminating" IS's cabinet, referring also to the killing earlier this month of "Omar the Chechen," who Washington said was effectively the jihadists' defense minister. "The momentum of this campaign is now clearly on our side," he said. Syrian state television said loyalist troops has seized the Palmyra citadel "after inflicting many losses in the ranks of the terrorist group Daesh," using another name for IS.

It said the army had also cut off the main Palmyra-Deir Ezzor highway leading to the Iraqi border. IS has blown up UNESCO-list-

ed temples in Palmyra and looted relics that dated back thousands of years, and murdered the city's former antiquities chief. Built in the 13th century, the citadel is Palmyra's main Islamic-era monument. Earlier, Syria's antiquities chief Maamoun Abdelkarim said the army had also made gains elsewhere in the city. "In the southwest, the army has liberated the district of hotels and restaurants as well as the Valley of the Tombs," he told AFP. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, said Russian and Syrian warplanes were continuing air strikes in the area. Abdelkarim said the army was 600 metres (yards) from the site of the Temple of Bel, which IS destroyed in September, "but it is advancing slowly because of mines and above all to protect the city, which is an ancient treasure."



Mustafa Al-Qaduli

Palmyra's full recapture would be a major strategic and symbolic victory for President Bashar Al-Assad, since whoever holds it also controls the vast desert extending from central Syria to the Iraqi border. IS also faces mounting pressure in neighboring Iraq where the army said on Thursday it had launched a long-awaited offensive to retake the second city of Mosul, a key IS hub since a lightning assault in June 2014. Iraqi forces cleared roadside bombs and booby traps yesterday in villages from which they ousted jihadists a day earlier south of Mosul, officials said. — AFP

**BRUSSELS:** Belgian police shot a suspect as part of a huge European terror crackdown that netted several arrests yesterday as France's president said a jihadist network that targeted both Paris and Brussels was being "destroyed".

Grieving Belgians held prayers in the rain in a central Brussels square carpeted with flowers and tributes to the 31 dead and 300 wounded in Tuesday's carnage, but there was also growing anger at the government for letting a string of militants slip through the net. The raids came as under-fire Belgian investigators uncovered alarming new evidence of a European jihadist cell tied to bombings at Brussels' airport and metro, November's Paris attacks and a new French plot.

As US officials confirmed two Americans were among the Brussels dead, Secretary of State John Kerry said he stood by the Belgian people, echoing their backing for the United States after the 9/11 terror attacks. "Then, voices across Europe declared, 'Je suis Americain.' Now, we declare, 'Je suis Bruxellois' and 'Ik ben Brussel,'" Kerry said in French and Flemish, the country's two main languages, after meeting Belgian Premier Charles Michel.

European authorities are under huge pressure to better coordinate the tracking of homegrown extremists and fighters returning from Syria, as evidence grows of a thriving jihadist network straddling France and Belgium. French President Francois Hollande said the jihadist network behind the Paris and Brussels attacks was "being destroyed" but warned that other terror cells remain.

French police said they had foiled a terror strike by 34-year-old Reda Kriket—a man previously convicted in Belgium in a terror case alongside Paris attacks ring-leader Abdelhamid Abaoud—after arresting him and discovering explosives at his home. French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said the arrest "foiled a planned attack in France, which was at an advanced stage." Belgian police later arrested three people in connection with the new French conspiracy, prosecutors said. In dramatic scenes, one of the suspects was shot in the leg at a tram stop.

in a huge operation by police in the Belgian capital's Schaerbeek district, where police this week found a bomb factory linked to the Brussels attacks. Deepening the links, Belgian prosecutors revealed that Brussels airport bomber Laachraoui's DNA was found on a suicide vest and a piece of cloth at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris and on a bomb at the Stade de France stadium.

German police said meanwhile they had arrested a 28-year-old Moroccan man whose mobile-phone text messages may link him to one of the Brussels bombers, the news weekly Der Spiegel and ARD TV channel reported. In the stunned city, home to the European Union and NATO, mourners returned yesterday to the Place de la Bourse square where they stood silently under umbrellas, some in tears and others still in shock. — AFP



# KUWAIT CALLS FOR ENDING WOMEN'S PLIGHTS

## UN MUST SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY: SHEIKHA LATIFA

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait has urged the United Nations to "shoulder its responsibility" on ending plights suffered by women worldwide, namely violence and repression.

The Kuwaiti stand was expressed by a delegation that took part in the 60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), said the chief envoy, Sheikha Latifa Al-Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Cabinet's

Committee on Women's Affairs, in a statement to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) after the session conclusion.

Affirming that the Kuwaiti participation was "quite effective," she said the session was significant because of its long agenda, tackling diverse women issues. The Kuwaiti delegation, during the meetings, portrayed initiatives that have been taken by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah for aiding peoples afflicted with crises and violence. Such good deeds on His Highness' part have earned him respect of the international community, namely the unprecedented designation of Sheikh Sabah as the "Humanitarian Leader."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has granted the title to His Highness the Amir, along with proclaiming the State of Kuwait as the "Humanitarian Center" in appreciation for the generous aid given to peoples stricken with conflicts, crises or catastrophes across the globe.

Sheikh Latifa added, in the exclusive remarks to the Kuwaiti news network, that the Kuwaiti delegation urged states during the session to follow Kuwait's example in helping peoples cope with natural disasters, political turbulence, for sparing life of the innocent, women, elderly and children, who usually bear the brunt of such tragedies.

The CSW 60th session concluded early today with an appeal to the world to honor the Beijing Declaration for empowering the women, eliminating gender indiscriminate, enabling them occupy senior and parliamentary posts. The UN convened the Fourth World Conference on Women on September 4-15, 1995, in Beijing, China. Delegates had prepared a Platform for Action that aimed at achieving greater equality and opportunity for women. The three previous World Conferences at this level had been held in Mexico City (International Women's Year, 1975), Copenhagen (1980) and Nairobi (1985).

Elaborating, the leading Kuwaiti woman, Sheikha Latifa, said topics raised during the deliberations were in harmony with the State of Kuwait vision, particularly on resolving refugee problems and lingering domestic violence. Indicating that a number of conferees noted that boosting women status requires politicians' willingness to help in this respect, Sheikha Latifa told her peers that Kuwait had already taken pioneering steps, granting the women political franchise and eligibility to serve in powerful posts. The session started in March at the UN headquarters. It involved states' representatives, UN agencies and NGOs. —KUNA

## 27TH FUTURE GENERATION CULTURAL FESTIVAL BEGINS

**KUWAIT:** The National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) inaugurated on Thursday the 27th Future Generation Cultural Festival. The cultural event, to last until March 31st, includes a number of children theatrical shows, as well as fine art and reading workshops.

The festival coincides with Kuwait's celebration as a the Capital for Islamic Culture 2016, and will highlight Kuwait's civilized and cultural role in sponsoring future generations, the Council's Secretary-General Eng. Ali Al-Youha said in his opening speech on behalf of NCCAL's President Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Children are the strategic human storage that should be protected and raised by intellectual and cultural values in order to perform their roles in serving their country when they become adults, Al-Youha said, confirming the Kuwaiti political leadership faith in sponsoring the youngsters out of moral principle and constitutional right. Providing the appropriate environment that grants the children the foundations of social, interactive, and mental growth is very important, he noted, adding that this year's festival is filled with cultural with artistic activities.

Al-Youha also stressed the importance of providing a special culture for the children that fits each stage of their growth and helps them develop correctly in order to achieve an integrated educational system for the future generations, noting that Kuwait has always kept up with the international interest in children culture and literature.

NCCAL's Assistant Secretary General for the Culture Sector Mohammad Al-Asousi stated to KUNA that the festival has become a distinctive cultural landmark at the Council, especially since it carries an important strategy in the development of children's' conscious through various cultural actions. The opening ceremony was followed by the Khalifa Al-Qattan's 10th Formative Art Workshop for children and youngsters, themed "Youngsters' Creativities in Islamic Arts" and will last until March 26th.

It is a drawing contest for children, which aims at encouraging them to improve and refine their artistic talents and creativities through formative drawing and painting.—KUNA

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**KUWAIT:** KFSO recently concluded a training course on running operational and control rooms at Costa Hotel. The course was attended by a number of KFSO officers and warrant officers.



## HUSBAND CAUSED GAS BLAST TO KILL INDIAN WOMAN IN SALMIYA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Following up the cooking gas cylinder explosion that claimed an Indian

woman's life in Salmiya on February seventh, Hawally detectives found out that the husband had cut off the gas hose and set the house alight to kill his wife. Security source

added that detectives had initially suspected the husband but had to wait until he recovered from his injuries to interrogate him. The man confessed that following severe matrimonial problems with his wife, he decided to get rid of her.



### Huge fire in Wafra

A huge fire broke out in an animal fodder warehouse located over an area of 1,000 square meters in Wafra agricultural area, said security sources. Firemen from Wafra, Nuwaiseeb and Zour were dispatched to the scene and they managed to control the fire without any casualties.

### Wanted man arrested

The capital police recently launched an inspection campaign that resulted in arresting a man who had been wanted for a four-year prison verdict along with two drunk Indians. Security sources added that Hawally police also launched a similar campaign that resulted in arresting many wanted people, people with possession of drugs. They also raided a liquor factory on Amman Street where detectives found 50 cartons and 67 gallons of liquor. The sources added that the campaigns also resulted in finding several stolen vehicles.

### Restaurant raided

Acting on a tip off from MPW, environment police recently raided a restaurant that had been violating environment law by get-

**KUWAIT:** Fire-fighters douse a fire that broke out in an animal fodder warehouse in Wafra agricultural area.

ting rid of used cooking oil in the sewers. The restaurant was fined and referred to public prosecution for violating the law.

### Homemade liquor seized

Ahmadi detectives recently arrested an Asian with possession of 40 bottles of home-made liquor, a wanted suspect, another with the possession of drugs and three absconders. They issued 30 traffic tickets for violations.



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**KUWAIT:** A restaurant being raided for violating environment law by getting rid of used cooking oil in the sewers.





# KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN STUDENTS ART COMPETITION

## HELLO ARTISTS...

Welcome to the Student's Art Competition. I hope you are ready to paint a beautiful painting and win wonderful prizes. The theme for your painting must be related to planting and greening, basically anything pertaining to our environment. We are looking for a great painting. So, please pick up your color pencils, paint brushes, crayons or whatever you prefer and start drawing and painting.

*Good luck to you, our young artists.*

- Competition is open to ages from (6 - 8) (9 - 11) (12 - 14) and (15 - 17) & Special needs.
- The competition is open for all schools in Kuwait (Government and Private)
- **The competition will start on March 10th and will continue till April 14th 2016.**
- 10 winners from each category will receive valuable prizes.
- All participants will receive a certificate of appreciation.
- All schools participating in the competition will receive an appreciation plaque.
- Any school or individual interested to participate in this competition is welcome to visit the office of Kuwait Times and collect the drawing sheets.
- Drawing sheets will be given to schools FREE of charge.
- Only drawing sheets provided by the Kuwait Times will be allowed.
- You can use any kind of color pencils, paint brushes or crayons.

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# CAMEROON SEEKS TO LURE KUWAITI INVESTMENTS

**CAIRO:** Cameroonian (designated) Minister of Economy Yaqoub Abdullah yesterday affirmed his country's relentless efforts to enact legislations intended to lure and encourage foreign investments in the country. Abdullah, during a meeting with a visiting Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation held in the capital Yaounde, called on Kuwaiti entrepreneurs to make use of investment opportunities in Cameroon.

"There is a study to create a legal framework for protecting Kuwaiti investments and provide legal protection to the investors in addition to working out an accord for evading double taxation," he was quoted as saying during the meeting. Lawmakers in the country have already enacted

two legislations; one dealing with incentives, taxation and customs and the other with establishing industrial zones, he said, noting that external investors can accomplish paper work in a very short period of time, with aid from government offices present in cities and airports for this particular purpose. He expressed gratitude to Kuwait for various support and aid for his country, indicating that the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) has contributed to construction of a 100-km-long road linking the east and north of the country in addition to an academy project. For his part, the Kuwaiti MP Saud Al-Herajji underscored Kuwait's ongoing support for brotherly and friendly nations.—KUNA



**CAIRO:** Cameroonian (designated) Minister of Economy Yaqoub Abdullah with the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation.—KUNA

# KUWAITI LEGISLATOR PRAISES SAUDI CHARITABLE CENTER IN CAMEROON

**CAIRO:** Kuwaiti legislator Saud Al-Herajji, currently heading a parliamentary delegation on a visit to the Cameroon, lauded humanitarian role played by the Saudi charitable center in the capital Yaounde. Al-Herajji, head of the visiting Kuwaiti parliamentary friendship group,

was speaking during a visit to the center, named the Center of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques-the late King Fahad Bin Abdulaziz. He lauded the charitable aid provided by the center to Muslims and non-Muslims.—KUNA

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46<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE & NATIONAL DAY OF BANGLADESH**

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**BBC** Bangladesh Business Council  
Kuwait

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## Crimes

Report

**Two expats arrested in restricted military area**

**KUWAIT:** A Lebanese and a Yemeni were recently arrested when they drove their vehicle into a military maneuver area on a hunting expedition. Their vehicle broke down there, said security sources. Case papers indicate that MOE received a call of distress from two people whose vehicle broke down to the north of the country while they were on a hunting expedition. A police chopper and various land patrols had to be dispatched to look for the two men who were stranded in a restricted military area. They were referred to state security for further investigations.

**Citizen arrested**

A citizen was arrested with possession of seven packets of drugs, said security sources. The suspect, who was drugged when arrested, tried to resist arrest but was overpowered by policemen.

**Indian carjacked**

An Indian recently reported that two unidentified people had stopped him pretending to be police detectives in Fintas. They assaulted him and stole the vehicle he drove, which belongs to a company he worked for. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

**Arrested for violation**

A Bangladeshi was recently arrested in Rabiya for stealing the contents of parked vehicles, said security sources noting that a routine patrol had spotted the suspect while trying to open a vehicle. On stopping him, the man was found in violation of residency laws and that he used to work for a cleaning company. A case was filed and the suspect was referred to relevant authorities.

**Security guard assaulted**

A Rumaithiya School security guard recently reported that his compatriot assaulted him over some unsettled old scores, said security sources.

**Arrested with drugs**

An Indian was recently arrested with the possession of a kilo of heroin on arrival at Kuwait airport, said security sources. Airport custom inspectors also arrested an Egyptian arriving with possession of hashish hidden in his luggage.

**Citizen robbed**

A female citizen reported that an unidentified robber had broken open her vehicle's window and stolen her purse, two mobile phones and some personal effects. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

**Fighting**

Two citizens were recently arrested for fighting with each other using heavy sticks and metal objects in Mahboula, said security sources.

**KD 270 stolen**

A taxi driver recently reported that two suspects had stopped him in Khaitan and stole KD 270 of him in cash in addition to his mobile phone, said security sources.

**Drugs seized**

A Saudi was recently arrested in Hawally with the possession of a bag full of drugs, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol had suspected the man when he was standing outside a building. When they approached, he tried to run away but was apprehended. Asking him about his ID, he said that his passport was in a bag he carried and on searching it, policemen found a variety of drugs. a case was filed.



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah with KFH PR Manager and his team.

## SHEIKH SALMAN HAILS KFH'S ROLE IN RECOGNIZING YOUTH KFH SPONSORS FIRST GCC YOUTH CONFERENCE

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah hailed the significant role of Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in recognizing the youth and supporting the society, which confirms the bank's firm belief in the importance of this pivotal and most influential segment in the society. This underscores the major role of the youth in achieving the comprehensive sustainable human development.

On the occasion of opening the first GCC Youth Conference sponsored by KFH, under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Minister stressed on the importance of drawing up the best plans for youth empowerment that hone their skills and enable them to enhance the development process in the country.

The four-day conference is co-organized by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the GCC Secretariat under the theme of "Youth Spaces - Opportunities and Potentials".

The conference comes in response to His Highness the Amir's call for activating the role of youth in the development of their communities and shedding light on conditions and aspirations of the youth, yet it promotes the socio-economic GCC integration based on joint destiny.

KFH spares no efforts in supporting the youth and sponsoring their activities as part of its corporate social responsibility.

KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the

Kuwait Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

### YOUTH MINISTRY KEEN ON ENHANCING HR TOOLS

**KUWAIT:** Ministry of State for Youth Affairs is keen on developing tools to improve its human resources and draw up new strategies to enable youth to reach their full potential, the Ministry's Undersecretary Sheikha Al-Zain Sabah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikha Al-Zain made this remark to the press on the fringes of an ongoing GCC conference on youth. She said that the ministry is keen on encouraging the youth to think out of the box to allow for more room for expanding their train of thoughts to adopt more creative and innovative ideas, hence comes the title of the conference "Youth Spaces ... Opportunities and Potentials."

Allowing younger people to expand and stretch out their potentials and capabilities is the country's real investment, especially since 72 percent Kuwait's population consists of young people. The Ministry of Youth itself is budding due to the aspirations and innovations of its staff who are under 30 years of age.

On his part, Director of voluntary work at the Ministry Dr Fuad Bushehri touched on volunteerism in the country, pointing out that having a whole department dedicated to voluntary work is "exceptional." However, what is more impressive is to turn such humanitarian activities into development projects that generate more benefit to the country. The rise of volunteerism in the country encouraged the Ministry to seek cooperation with the Ministry of Education through establishing clubs specialized in voluntary work to induce a sense of social responsibility in younger generations. —KUNA

## 3 LEBANESE EXECUTIVES ASKED TO LEAVE KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Well-informed security source said that a number of Lebanese who are reportedly affiliated to Hezbollah had been notified to leave Kuwait.

The sources added that deportees include an executive secretary working for a company owned by a former minister in addition to two others working in a company owned by two current MPs. The sources noted that the three had been summoned, their residency visa cancelled and told to leave within a fortnight.

Further, the sources highlighted that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled Al-Sabah would reject any pleas or interference to keep any expat who is affiliated to Hezbollah in Kuwait because Kuwait security was a 'Red Line'. — Al-Qabas



# International

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016

**London holds vigil for Brussels terror victims**

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**Rouhani in Pakistan on a landmark visit**

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**Cruz-Trump spat over wives takes nasty turn**

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**TRIPOLI:** UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (C-L) and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim (C) meet Syrian refugees during his visit in Hay Al-Tanak, an impoverished district that was turned into an informal Syrian refugee camp in the northern Lebanese city. — AFP

## NO DRAMA, NO PROGRESS IN SYRIA TALKS

### SHAKY TRUCE HAS CONTINUED TO HOLD

**GENEVA:** As Syrian peace talks were adjourned in Geneva after 10 days, the UN mediator said he was encouraged that there was “no drama, no walk-outs” - but, while a shaky truce has continued to hold across the war-torn country, there was also no visible sign of progress on a lasting settlement. The ultimate goal for Staffan de Mistura, the UN envoy, is a plan for political transition in Syria.

In the wake of the Brussels bombings - claimed by Islamic State group, which has flourished in Syria's conflict - de Mistura sought to focus international attention on the next-step, saying that to defeat “terrorism, you have to find a political solution in Syria.”

Although he succeeded in keeping Syrian government and opposition delegations from walking away from the indirect talks, de Mistura made little headway on getting them to sit around the same table or discuss the UN Security Council's envisaged political transition away from President Bashar Assad's government.

Still, the fact that the talks did not break off in recrimination as they did the last time - coupled with the relative calm on the ground - underline the limited options left for either side of the conflict. Worn out by five years of fighting, with neither side able to defeat the other militarily, the warring sides

appeared to acknowledge that they have no choice but to continue talking.

#### 'Target date'

The US and Russia, who back opposite sides of the war, are working together toward a political settlement for the civil war that has killed more than 250,000 people and displaced half the country's population. The talks were adjourned on Thursday, with de Mistura setting April 9 as a “target date” for the resumption of the discussions. The top Syrian government envoy, Bashar Ja'afari, met with the envoy on the final day but didn't hold a news conference before leaving Geneva.

The night before, when asked by a reporter about whether the talks had made progress, Ja'afari said the two sides had worked through some unspecified issues that had existed when the talks began on March 14.

“For the first time, we were able to break the impasse, perhaps symbolically and perhaps a bit more in substance, but we have not yet started on substantial matters,” he said, according to the Syrian state-run news agency SANA.

George Sabra, a senior member of the opposition's High Negotiations Committee, indicated Thursday that his side was committed to continu-

ing talking. “Progress in the talks is difficult, but we will fight this battle as we have fought the war,” he told reporters. As in previous talks, the sticking point remains the fate of President Assad. De Mistura calls political transition “the mother of all issues.” Emboldened by a Russian military campaign that has turned the tide of the war in their favor, Damascus officials have said that any talk of removing Assad during a transitional period sought by the United Nations is “a red line.”

But Russia's surprise withdrawal of most of its forces earlier this month signaled that Moscow expected the Damascus government to engage seriously in the peace talks. There has been some improvement on the humanitarian front - including a trickle of aid convoys to besieged and hard-to-reach areas - though not nearly enough.

Western diplomats say the main achievement in recent weeks has been the US and Russia-brokered “cessation of hostilities” that has led to a sharp drop-off in violence and eased the suffering of millions of Syrians still inside the country. Yet, as the talks demonstrated, a more lasting solution is still a long way off. Ja'afari, who is also Syria's UN ambassador, has stuck to the government line that fighting terrorism is a priority. He has derided the opposition's top negotiator Mohammed Alloush, calling

him a “terrorist” and said he would not sit at the same table with him before Alloush apologizes for crimes committed “and also shaves his beard.”

#### Territorial integrity

Mistura's office provided a document comprised of 12 points - which he hopes could be common ground between the two sides to build on - such as affirming Syria's territorial integrity, reforming state institutions, rejecting terrorism, rebuilding the army and paving the way for the return of refugees. It will offer homework to the two sides in the interim, to plot strategy for the next round - and notably sidesteps the issue of Assad's future.

Alloush told The Associated Press that he gave de Mistura a “document of principles” that calls for forming a transitional governing body with full executive powers that would lead to real transfer of power. The government, in turn, has given de Mistura a document that underlines its vision for combating terrorism. The IS-claimed carnage in Brussels on Tuesday offered a potent reminder of the extremist group's reach far beyond the battlefields of Syria. De Mistura told reporters Wednesday that fighting terrorism was a priority, but “the priority of the priorities” in defeating terrorism was finding a political solution in Syria. — AP



## SAUDI JOURNALIST SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS DUE TO TWEETS

**DUBAI:** A Saudi journalist has been sentenced to five years in prison over tweets deemed insulting to the kingdom's rulers, Amnesty International said yesterday.

Alaa Brinji, who has reportedly already served two years behind bars, was found guilty on Thursday of a list of charges including "insulting the rulers (and) inciting public opinion," the rights group said in a statement.

Brinji was also convicted of "accusing security officers of killing protesters" in

the Shiite town of Awamiya in Saudi's restive Eastern Province, it added. The group said the journalist had been tried in a "notorious" counter-terrorism court that also found Brinji guilty of "ridiculing Islamic religious figures".

In addition to the jail term, Brinji has been slapped with a fine of 50,000 riyals (\$13,333) and an eight-year travel ban, it said, pointing out that he has been in detention since May 2014, including an initial period of incommunicado solitary

confinement.

Amnesty's regional deputy head James Lynch slammed Brinji's sentence as "utterly shameful". "He is the latest victim of Saudi Arabia's ruthless crackdown on peaceful dissent, where the aim appears to be to completely wipe out any and all voices of criticism," he said.

"Putting someone behind bars for peacefully exercising his legitimate right to freedom of expression, and defending the rights of others to do so, is a complete

distortion of the very notion of justice. "The authorities must ensure his conviction is quashed and release him immediately and unconditionally," Lynch added, insisting that Saudi Arabia "must be held accountable for its gross and systematic violations of human rights."

Amnesty said Brinji worked for Saudi newspapers Al-Bilad, Okaz and Al-Sharq. Awamiya, a town of about 30,000 in Eastern Province, has been the scene of repeated incidents since 2011. — AFP



**ISTANBUL:** Can Dunder, the editor-in-chief of opposition newspaper Cumhuriyet, left, and Erdem Gul, the paper's Ankara representative, speak to the media before the start of their trial.— AP

# TURKISH JOURNALISTS ON TRIAL FOR SYRIA ARMS SMUGGLING

## THE EROSION OF MEDIA FREEDOMS IN TURKEY

**ISTANBUL:** Two Turkish journalists went on trial yesterday on allegations that they revealed state secrets and helped a terror organization with their reports on alleged government-arms smuggling to Syrian rebels, in a closed-door trial that has increased concern about the erosion of media freedoms in Turkey.

Cumhuriyet newspaper's chief editor Can Dunder and Ankara representative Erdem Gul face life imprisonment if found guilty of charges of espionage and of aiding the moderate Islamic movement led by US based cleric Fethullah Gulen, a foe of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The pair are on trial for publishing images that reportedly date back to January 2014, when local authorities searched Syria-bound trucks, leading to a standoff with Turkish intelligence officials. Cumhuriyet said the images proved Turkey was smuggling arms to Islamist

rebels. The prosecutor asked that the hearing proceed behind closed doors, a request that was granted by the court, according to local media. Turkey's private Dogan news agency said the court also accepted that the Turkish president and national intelligence organization be plaintiffs in the case.

### On the international level

International media advocacy groups, who are pressing Turkey to drop charges, are closely watching Friday's opening hearing. The trial is seen as a bellwether of the future of press freedom in the country, which has witnessed a growing crackdown on independent and opposition media over the past few years.

The journalists were arrested in November after Erdogan filed a personal complaint against the two. Turkey's Constitutional Court ruled in February that their rights were violat-

ed, leading to their release from jail.

Speaking to reporters as he entered the courthouse, Dunder said he was hopeful that the court would take the high court's ruling into account and drop charges. "The Constitutional Court has already said that this news is not an act of terrorism but an act of journalism. So this judge, we hope, will approve this decision and drop (this) case," he said. The indictment accuses the two of working with the Gulen movement to create the image that the government was aiding terror groups. The government initially denied the trucks were carrying arms, maintaining that the cargo consisted of humanitarian aid. Some officials later suggested the trucks were carrying arms or ammunition destined for Turkmen kinsmen in Syria.

Government officials accuse Gulen's supporters of stopping the trucks as part of an

alleged plot to bring down the government. The government has branded the movement a "terror organization" although it is not known to have engaged in any acts of violence. Speaking in Istanbul on Thursday, the secretary general of Reporters Without Borders, Christophe Deloire, criticized the authorities for treating journalists as a threat when the country is facing real terrorism. He also criticized Erdogan, who filed the lawsuit against Dunder and Gul, for spearheading attacks against the media and creating an "atmosphere of fear."

A representative of the Committee to Protect Journalists also came to Turkey to attend the hearing. "They have done nothing wrong but committed the act of journalism," said Nina Ognianova. "They have covered a story of public interest that is important not only for Turkey but also the region and the international community." — AP



## SECURITY COUNCIL WANTS UN MISSION IN WESTERN SAHARA AT 'FULL CAPACITY'

**UNITED NATIONS:** The Security Council called Thursday for the UN mission in Western Sahara to resume working at "full capacity," in its first statement following a dispute between Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Morocco. The United Nations said Tuesday it closed its military liaison office in Dakhla, Western Sahara at the request of Morocco, which was angered when Ban referred to the "occupation" of the disputed territory. The 15 Security Council member states, while refraining from taking sides in the dispute, stressed "the importance of addressing in a constructive, comprehensive and cooperative manner the circumstances that led to the current situation

so that MINUSRO may resume its full capacity to carry out its mandate."

Angolan Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins, who is serving as Security Council president for the month of March, relayed the statement to the press after three hours of closed-door consultations. Ban made the "occupation" remark early this month during a visit to a Sahrawi refugee camp in Algeria. Morocco on Sunday expelled most of the civilian experts attached to the UN mission and have also closed the military liaison office. According to the UN, the retaliatory measures are of grave risk to the mission, which has about 500 civilian and military personnel and was established in

1991. Ban's comments crossed a red line for Morocco, which considers the former Spanish territory, which it annexed in 1975, as an integral part of the country, proposing self-government for the region under Moroccan sovereignty. Gaspar Martins said Security Council members "expressed their serious concerns about the developments" and emphasized that the world body's 16 peacekeeping missions across the globe are meant to carry out critical tasks to maintain international peace and security. Ahmed Boukhari, the representative at the United Nations of the Polisario Front, which is campaigning for independence for Western Sahara, welcomed the call for a return to full

capacity. "But we were waiting for a stronger message to the Moroccans," he said, calling Rabat the primary agitator in the episode. "The Security Council should have taken a stronger stance," he added.

A UN official who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity Wednesday said that Morocco's actions were seen "as an unprecedented violation of the UN charter... and a direct challenge to the Security Council." A 1991 ceasefire ended the war that broke out when Morocco deployed its military in the territory in 1975. But UN-led mediation efforts under way since 2007 to try to define the territory's status are at an impasse. — AFP

## 'IT'S FINISHED': TURKEY MIGRANT SMUGGLING BUSINESS TAKES A MASSIVE HIT BY EU DEAL

**BADEMLI:** The Turkish villagers had grown used to hearing the smugglers arrive in the dead of night, speeding through the narrow streets in minibuses packed with Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans headed for the rocky coves nearby. "Before the EU agreement there were hundreds of refugees crossing the sea here," said 50-year-old fisherman Hasan Balci as he played cards in a cafe. "But now there are none."

Outside the small village of Bademli on the Turkish coast lie the turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea, with the Greek island of Lesbos visible on the horizon just six miles. But with many migrants and refugees now fearing they will be sent straight back, even if they succeed in making the dangerous crossing, the dream of a new life in Europe is starting to slip out of sight. Locals at other well-known launching points along the coast from Kuccukuyu, opposite northern Lesbos, to Cesme further south, opposite the island of Chios say that in recent days migrants have simply vanished from the streets.

Before the deal between Turkey and the EU to send back all irregular migrants landing in Greece took effect on Sunday, the "little Syria" district of Basmane in Izmir had been full of new arrivals. Migrants would pay people smugglers up to \$1,200 (1,070 euros) each to arrange transportation to Greece. Cafe owners now point to empty tables, where migrants and smugglers used to negotiate a price for the crossing.

"Now it's finished," said one of many shopkeepers who had a lucrative sideline in selling life jackets, samples of which still hang alongside suits and jackets at the front of his store.

### Better off in Syria

Assam, an 18-year-old refugee from Damascus, whose parents are both dead, has been living in Izmir for six months but had wanted to eventually travel to Germany. "Now I really don't know what to do," he said, sitting with a group of fellow Syrians in a cafe. "Here in Izmir you can't find money to eat and drink. We are suffering from humiliation."

His friend Wada, a 20-year-old from Idlib, said he would prefer to return to Syria, even as the civil war there rumbles on. "I want to go back to the shelling, to the rubble, to the bombing—it's better than dying in Turkey." Another young Syrian, who used to work as an IT specialist in Damascus, has become part of a smuggling network.

Speaking by telephone, he said he made in the region of \$10-15,000 last year, taking a \$50-100 cut from each trafficked person. "Some people are afraid to be smuggled now and this (the EU deal) has had a bad impact on the business," he said, adding that the recent closure of the Greek-Macedonian border to migrants has also put people off. "But the bottom line is that this business is called people smuggling, and it will never stop. It will slow down but it will never stop."

### Tighter controls

European leaders have presented the deal under which they have agreed to take in a number of Syrian refugees directly from camps in Turkey—as a way to curb smuggling.

Asked about the hundreds that have died at sea, the 23-year-old smuggler insisted no one aboard his boats had drowned. "I can't describe how bad I feel about migrants that have died at sea. It's a lifelong guilt to be responsible for someone's death."

According to official Greek figures, there were 1,498 arrivals on Saturday, the day before the agreement came into place. By Tuesday that had dropped to 600 and by Thursday to zero but, although strong winds in the region could also have been responsible for the decline. — AFP



LONDON: A man lights a candle during a tribute to the victims of the Brussels terror attacks, in Trafalgar Square. — AFP

# BRITISH CHARGED WITH RACE CRIME

## LONDON HOLDS VIGIL FOR BRUSSELS TERROR VICTIMS

**LONDON:** A British man has been charged with using social media to incite racial hatred after posting anti-Muslim tweets in the days after the Brussels attacks. Matthew Doyle was charged yesterday after more than a day of questioning by police. The 47-year-old is scheduled to appear in court today. He is charged with publishing or distributing written material which is threatening, abusive or insulting and likely or intended to stir up racial hatred. Doyle had tweeted about confronting a Muslim woman in south London and asking her views on the Brussels attacks. He said her response was "mealy mouthed." He later used an anti-Muslim epithet to describe her. His tweets drew wide attention with many mocking him. Doyle quickly deleted both tweets.

In another development, crowds draped in Belgian flags gathered for a vig-

il in central London on Thursday in solidarity with those affected by the attacks in Brussels. Standing under drizzling rain, men, women and children lit candles and left flowers by a 25-metre (80-foot) flag that stretched over the steps of Trafalgar Square in the centre of the capital.

"We are here to say no to terrorism. I am a Syrian, I am a Muslim and I am a refugee in Europe and what has happened in Belgium absolutely broke my heart so I am here to show solidarity to the Belgian people," said Abdulaziz Almashi, 30, a Syrian refugee and campaigner. "Those people aren't Muslims... they don't represent Islam, they don't represent our culture and our values," he said of the perpetrators. The vigil follows tributes in which London landmarks were lit up in the black, yellow and red of the Belgian flag after the Wednesday attacks on Brussels airport

and a metro station, which killed 31 people and injured another 600.

Kris Nathanael, 27, who works as a regulator in London, said the show of solidarity was comforting for Belgians like her, living away from home. "It's just shocking, it's people who get up and go to work and they say goodbye to the people they love and they never see them again," said Nathanael as she welled up with tears. "I have seen all the flags... A lot of countries have done it and it means a lot," she added. The gathered crowds shared beers, chanted "everybody together" and sang the Belgian national anthem. The Belgian ambassador to Britain, Guy Trouveroy, said it was a bittersweet gathering that showed both sadness and solidarity. Candles were left by the flag "as a symbol of this tragedy, a small thing, but a way for us to remember," Trouveroy said. — Agencies



## PAKISTAN CAPTURES INDIAN SPY, SUMMONS ENVOY IN PROTEST

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan summoned the Indian ambassador yesterday to protest against the illegal entry of an Indian spy who Pakistan said was captured in the violence-plagued province of Baluchistan the previous day.

The accusation could raise tension between the nuclear-armed rivals months after India blamed Pakistan-based militants for an attack on an Indian air base in which seven military personnel were killed. "(Pakistan) conveyed our protest and deep concern on the illegal entry into Pakistan by a RAW officer and his involvement in subversive activities in Baluchistan and Karachi," Pakistan's foreign ministry said in a statement, referring to the message conveyed

to India's ambassador. RAW is India's Research and Analysis Wing, its main external intelligence agency. Pakistan believes India is supporting a separatist insurgency in resource-rich Baluchistan. It also accuses India of fuelling strife in the city of Karachi. India denies any such meddling. India has long accused Pakistan of backing militants fighting Indian security forces in its part of the divided Kashmir region, of helping militants launch attacks elsewhere in India and backing the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Pakistan say it only offers diplomatic support to the Muslim people of Kashmir living under what Pakistan says is heavy-handed Indian rule. It denies backing militant attacks in

India. A Pakistani military official in Baluchistan told Reuters the suspected RAW spy was an Indian navy officer. Another Pakistani official gave the same information.

Both declined to be identified as they were not authorized to give details of the incident to the media. One of the officials said the suspected spy had been moved to Islamabad for interrogation. The neighbors have fought three wars since 1947, two of them over Kashmir which they both claim in full but rule in part. Baluchistan's provincial interior minister, Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, told reporters the arrest "proved Indian involvement" in his province. Last year, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said RAW was

bent on annihilating Pakistan. "RAW has been formed to undo Pakistan and to wipe Pakistan off the map of the world," Asif said in a television interview.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif made improving ties with India a priority when he won a 2013 election. But his push is seen as causing friction with the army which sees relations with India as its domain. Last December, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise stopover in Pakistan to meet Sharif, the first visit by an Indian premier in over a decade. The visit raised hopes that stop-and-start negotiations might finally make progress after decades of hostility. — Reuters

## ROUHANI IN PAKISTAN ON A LANDMARK VISIT

**ISLAMABAD:** Iran's Hassan Rouhani arrived yesterday in Pakistan on a landmark visit, his first since becoming president, at a time when Saudi Arabia is courting Islamabad to increase participation in a new Saudi-led military alliance of mostly Sunni nations, a coalition perceived by Tehran as an anti-Shiite block. Pakistan, a majority Sunni country, has traditionally close ties with Saudi Arabia, which is hostile to Iran, a Shiite power.

The kingdom accuses Tehran of supporting Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen against the internationally recognized president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi. Saudi Arabia has been leading a coalition of mostly Gulf Arab states in a blistering air-campaign against the Houthis in the conflict in Yemen, widely seen as a proxy Saudi-Iran war.

Last year, Pakistan refused a Saudi request to send troops into Yemen after a vote in Parliament delivered an overwhelming "no." Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif visited the kingdom in January, expressing support for the alliance but without making any military commitment. Local Pakistani papers have carried unconfirmed reports that Saudi Arabia asked Pakistan's military chief, Raheel Sharif, to head the alliance.

Rouhani's visit is also a landmark moment for Iran, after international sanctions in the wake of the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers. "This visit means a lot," said Imtiaz Gul, executive director of the Islamabad-based Center for Research and Security Studies, adding that Pakistan is still "ambivalent" about its participation in the new Saudi-led alliance. Pakistan, a Muslim-majority country of 180 million, has a Shiite minority that makes up about 15 percent of the population.

The country frequently sees Sunni militant groups attacking the Shiite minority, which in turn has accused Saudi Arabia of financing groups like Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, blamed for many such deadly attacks. For their part, the militant Sunni groups accused Iran of financing a Pakistani militant Shiite group, Tehreek Nafaz-e-Fiqh-e-Jafariya.

On the eve of his visit, Rouhani said that "constructive relations with neighbors and the Islamic world are at the priority list of our foreign policy." "Destabilization of others causes everlasting conflicts that benefit nobody," he said in a veiled reference to Saudi Arabia.

"I believe that at this crucial moment of the history of relations between the two countries, it is essential that Pakistan and Iran ... lay the cornerstone of a new bilateral engagement based on the mutual interests of the two countries," Rouhani added in his statement. Rouhani's visit is also expected to discuss a controversial gas pipeline from Iran, through Pakistan to India.

Work has stalled on the Iran-Pakistan section, which was designed to help Pakistan meet its energy needs. Iran has invested over \$2 billion in the project, but Pakistan has yet to finish construction on its half of the pipeline. Washington had for years opposed the project amid concerns over Tehran's nuclear program. — AP



**FARAH:** Afghan Taliban fighters listen to Mullah Mohammed Rasool, the newly-elected leader of a breakaway faction of the Taliban. — AP

## PROSPECTS OF TALEBAN PEACE TALKS DIM AS FRONT LINES SHIFT

### 'THEY ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY'

**ISLAMABAD:** Prospects of jumpstarting peace talks with the Taliban are becoming increasingly dim amid recent battlefield gains by the insurgents in Afghanistan, an embattled government in Kabul and growing suspicions of Pakistan's good intentions in facilitating such negotiations. Even if Pakistan wanted to bring the warring sides to the negotiating table, its leverage as a safe haven for the Taliban has weakened as the insurgents' southern Afghan heartland has expanded, providing them with more places to hide at home.

The Taliban were toppled in the 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan and have fought against the Kabul government and NATO forces ever since. Their insurgency escalated after the end in 2014 of the US-NATO combat mission.

That pullout left inexperienced and poorly trained Afghan forces to battle insurgents largely on their own. When the Taliban launched their annual warm-weather offensive last year, Kabul responded with large-scale military operations, but the Taliban gained ground. A report released this month by the independent Afghan Analysts Network offered a breakdown of the southern Helmand province, showing the Taliban in control of parts of many districts and all of other districts, with the exception of district capitals.

The AAN, which is based in Kabul, concluded that the Taliban have become better armed and better organized, and have established "well-equipped and mobile commando-like" units. As a result, neighboring Pakistan, which has acted as a traditional go-between, has lost some of its leverage over the insurgents and may no longer have the authority to bring the Taliban into the talks.

"Pakistan has derived its influence over the Taliban through the safe havens it provides to the group on its soil," said Michael Kugelman, a senior associate for South and Southeast Asia at the US-based Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. "Now the Taliban are developing new sanctuaries in Afghanistan, and they may not have as much need to heed the requests of their patron," Kugelman told The Associated Press. "In effect, if the Pakistanis come calling, the Taliban may choose not to listen, and simply keep on fighting."

A four-nation group that included Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the United States launched efforts earlier this year to try to bring Afghanistan's protracted war to a negotiated end. They developed a roadmap and promised an early start to talks. Pakistan was seen as key to bringing the Taliban to the table.

But the Taliban issued a statement saying

they would not participate in the talks and their new leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, claimed the Taliban were winning the war and were "in a better state than at any other time."

Meanwhile, Islamabad's commitment to moving things forward has come under scrutiny, particularly after reports surfaced this week that Mullah Mohammed Rasool, leader of a renegade Taliban faction, was arrested in Pakistan. While Islamabad has refused to confirm Rasool's arrest, an intelligence official and two senior Taliban figures told the AP that he was detained by Pakistani authorities - a development that came after he expressed a willingness to speak directly with the Afghan government. The Pakistani official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence data. The Taliban sought anonymity because they did not want to come to the attention of the Pakistani authorities.

If confirmed, the reports would feed into the perception that Pakistan might be reluctant to pressure the Taliban to come to the talks. It wouldn't be the first time Pakistan has detained a Taliban leader who tried to talk peace directly with Kabul. In 2010, Islamabad arrested Abdul Ghani Baradar after reports emerged that he had tried to talk to Afghanistan's president at the time, Hamid Karzai. — AP



## CHINA TEEN VOLLEYBALL PLAYER LEAVES NEWBORN IN BUSHES

**BEIJING:** A teenage volleyball player in China gave birth to a baby in a gymnasium toilet before leaving the girl in some bushes and returning to her tournament, state-run media reported yesterday.

The girl went into labor while filming a match at the national under-18s women's volleyball championship in Changxing city in the eastern province of Zhejiang on Wednesday, the Hangzhou Daily said.

She gave birth alone in the toilet before placing the baby in the bushes near the gymnasium "out of fear", the report said, then went back inside to continue recording the match. The infant was discovered by a passerby, who followed a trail of blood on the ground to find the mother, the report said.

"She was resting near the courtside," the website of the People's Daily quoted the passerby, surnamed Wang, as saying. "She looked fine after giving birth. I assumed that she must have a strong body to give birth to a baby during the match." The newborn and the mother were rushed to hospital for treatment, it added. Both were safe.

Chinese babies born out of wedlock are sometimes abandoned because of social and financial pressures. The country's family-planning policy can mean heavy fines for couples who have more than two babies. A newborn was rescued from a toilet sewage pipe on Sunday in Xiping county, in the southwestern province of Yunnan, according to a website run by the fire department of China's public security ministry.

It took firefighters nearly three hours to take the pipe apart, piece by piece, in order to pull the baby out, said the report. It did not state whether the baby-whose gender was not given-was thought to have ended up in the pipe deliberately or by accident, or mention its mother.

Local officials told AFP they were not aware of the case. In 2013, a baby boy was also saved from a sewage pipe after his 22-year-old unmarried mother gave birth unexpectedly as she used a squat toilet.—AFP



**HONG KONG:** Bookseller Lee Bo speaks to media near his home yesterday.—AP

## 'MISSING' BOOKSELLER LEE BO ON WAY BACK TO CHINA

### IN SERIOUS BREACH OF AN AGREEMENT

**HONG KONG:** Kong bookseller Lee Bo, who went missing three months ago and surfaced in China, is already on his way back over the border after a brief return home, local media reported.

British citizen Lee, 65, returned to Hong Kong Thursday after disappearing in late December, in a case that has raised alarm over Beijing's tightening grip on the region.

But Lee crossed back into the mainland yesterday, just a day after he arrived, according to local media who followed him to the border. "It's a release with Chinese characteristics," China expert Willy Lam of the Chinese University of Hong Kong told AFP. "The fact of the matter is that he has not really been fully released... he needs to report back to China," he said.

Lee is one of five Hong Kong booksellers who went "missing" in recent months—the other four are now under criminal investigation on the mainland linked to trading illegal books in China. The men all worked for the Mighty Current publishing house, which produced salacious titles about political intrigue and love affairs at the highest levels of Chinese politics.

Lee's case caused the greatest outcry because he was the only bookseller to disappear from Hong Kong, prompting accusations that Chinese law enforcement agents were operat-

ing in the semi-autonomous city, illegal under its constitution.

Three of the other booksellers went missing from southern mainland China and one from Thailand in October. Lee had returned to Hong Kong Thursday, where he insisted a missing person case on him should be dropped and that he was a free man.

He told Hong Kong's pro-Beijing Phoenix TV Thursday that he "may need to return to the mainland multiple times to assist in the investigation". Lee vowed not to sell "fabricated books", according to Chinese news portal thepaper.cn, and said he would no longer run Hong Kong's Causeway Bay bookstore, outlet for Mighty Current's titles, which remains shuttered. "The homeland is very prosperous and formidable. I am very proud to be Chinese," it quoted him as saying.

#### Hard to believe

Lee told reporters yesterday that he would return to China with his wife to pay respects to his ancestors. He has also said he would be prepared to bring his autistic son to the mainland, praising China's medical treatment as "advanced".

"Before, there was a time I was afraid to go back to the mainland, because I heard that some people had got into trouble because of these books," Lee said outside his Hong Kong apartment block yesterday. "The

problems have been solved."

Asked whether he had been abducted from Hong Kong by security agents, Lee answered: "It's not convenient for me to say." Smiling and laughing nervously, Lee was escorted into the back of a black people carrier. Soon after, he was spotted at the border.

Immigration officials refused to confirm whether Lee had crossed back over to China. "It's now becoming a pattern, it really just makes it even harder to believe that the so-called released booksellers actually have freedom," said Amnesty International's China researcher William Nee.

Bookseller Gui Minhai, a Swedish citizen, confessed to trying to smuggle illegal books into China in a television interview in February. Colleagues Cheung Chi-ping, Lui Por and Lam Wing-kee blamed the company's illegal book trade on Gui. Cheung and Lui returned to Hong Kong earlier this month on bail, but are reported to have quickly gone back to the mainland.

The case has drawn international criticism, with Britain saying it believed Lee had been "involuntarily removed" to the mainland, in a "serious breach" of an agreement signed before Britain handed Hong Kong back to China in 1997, which protects the city's freedoms for 50 years.—AFP

## INJURED INDIAN FLIGHT ATTENDANT 'STABLE'

**MUMBAI:** An Indian flight attendant who was pictured covered in dust and blood after the Brussels attacks, making newspaper front pages around the world, is under sedation in hospital, her employer said yesterday. Indian airline Jet Airways said in a statement to AFP that 40-year-old Nidhi Chaphekar, who is from Mumbai, was in a stable condition and not in a coma as some reports had stated. "We have spoken to the doctor at the (Brussels) hospital where Jet Airways crew Nidhi Chaphekar is under treatment. "The doctor has confirmed that Nidhi is in a stable condition and not in coma. She is resting and under sedation for her comfort," read the emailed statement.

A haunting photograph of a dazed Chaphekar covered in debris, that surfaced soon after two massive suicide blasts hit Zaventem Airport, became one of the most widely published images of the bombings. The attacks on Tuesday, which also targeted a metro train in the city, left 31 people dead and 300 injured. In the photo shared by millions on social media, the mother of two is seen in the tattered remains of her yellow Jet Airways jacket, missing a shoe and with blood running down her face. Many online users criticized the publishing and sharing of Chaphekar's photo, saying her privacy should have been respected.—AFP



# CRUZ-TRUMP SPAT OVER WIVES TAKES NASTIER TURN

## 'I WILL SPILL THE BEANS ON YOUR WIFE'

**DANE, Wisconsin:** Ted Cruz branded Donald Trump a "sniveling coward" as the feud between the Republican presidential contenders over their wives took a nastier turn. After an earlier and vague threat to "spill the beans" about Heidi Cruz, Trump stoked the spat on Twitter when he retweeted side-by-side images of Cruz's wife, with an unflattering grimace, and his wife, Melania, in a glamorous pose.

"No need to spill the beans," said the caption. "The images are worth a thousand words." On Thursday, Ted Cruz, campaigning in Wisconsin, was livid. "Leave Heidi the hell alone," Cruz said, speaking through reporters to Trump. "Donald does seem to have an issue with women," he said. "Donald doesn't like strong women. Strong women scare Donald."

Trump was set off this week when a group that opposes him released an ad before the Utah presidential contest raising questions about the propriety of Melania Trump becoming first lady. The ad showed a provocative, decade-old magazine photo of her when she was a model and before she married Trump.

Trump wrongly attributed the ad to the Cruz campaign and warned on Twitter: "Be careful, Lyin' Ted, or I will spill the beans on your wife!" Trump has a substantial lead in the delegate chase for the Republican nomination. Cruz has a stiff challenge trying to catch him in remaining races and may only have a shot at the nomination if the contest spills into the summer convention.

On the Democratic side Thursday, front-runner Hillary Clinton warned that "hot rhetoric and demagoguery" can be offensive and dangerous. Her remarks at a round-table dis-



**ARIZONA:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally in Tucson. — AP

cussion on keeping communities safe from radicalization and terrorism echoed criticism she made a day earlier of Trump and his Republican rivals. Speaking at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Clinton warned that voices that could bring communities together can be "drowned out by politics, by partisanship."

### Clinton mounts aggression

Also on Thursday, Clinton said she would

mount an aggressive campaign across California and compete to win over "every voter in it." Her remarks to reporters in Los Angeles came a day after rival Bernie Sanders predicted he would claim the nation's most populous state in its June 7 primary, so long as he gets a strong turnout.

Clinton also appeared to be looking beyond the Democratic primaries. She called California an "exclamation point" on the primary season, but adds that it's "important to

get ready and organized for the fall election." Clinton carried California in the 2008 Democratic primary, when she was running against then-Sen Barack Obama. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, carried the state in 1992 and 1996.

For the Republicans, the lurch into personal territory normally off limits in campaigns came as an anti-Trump super political action committee ran an ad in primary states that features women reciting derogatory comments made by the billionaire about women. The ad was produced by Our Principles, a group founded by a former Mitt Romney campaign adviser who is trying to help the Republican Party appeal to more women.

### Man arrested at rally

A man charged after rushing the stage at a Donald Trump rally in Ohio is due in federal court. Authorities say 22-year-old Thomas DiMassimo, of Fairborn, Ohio, jumped a barricade and charged at Trump during the rally at a Dayton International Airport hangar. He was arrested and charged with illegally entering a restricted area.

An initial hearing is scheduled Friday before a magistrate. The misdemeanor count carries a potential one-year prison sentence. DiMassimo's attorney has said the Wright State University student meant only to express his political views. Video from the rally shows DiMassimo touched the stage where Trump was speaking as Secret Service agents and other security converged. The airport rally March 12 was Trump's first after well-organized students succeeded in keeping him from taking the stage in Chicago. — AP

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## SANDERS DOESN'T NEED MUCH EXPLAINING IN LIBERAL SEATTLE

**SEATTLE:** Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders' brand of democratic socialism may take some explaining in some parts of the United States, but not in Seattle. This city elected a socialist, Kshama Sawant, to the City Council in 2013 and was among the first to phase in a \$15 minimum wage, mandate sick leave for most companies and offer paid parental leave for city workers - issues that mirror Sanders' platform.

So it's not surprising the US senator from Vermont has found enthusiastic support here. Seattle is among the top cities that have donated to Sanders' campaign, and twice as many Seattle individual donors have given to Sanders than to Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, according to federal campaign data through the end of February.

The senator returns to Seattle's Safeco Field on Friday - his second large rally here in less than a week - hoping to energize voters a day before Washington's Democratic caucuses. Sanders has drawn big crowds in liberal cities like Seattle nationally, but in Washington he has also held events in more conservative areas like Spokane, Vancouver and Yakima. Today's nominating contest is expected to draw tens of thousands of voters who will determine how 101 of the state's Democratic delegates will be awarded.

So far Sanders has performed better in states with caucuses than primaries, which tend to have larger populations of liberal whites, and "the fact that his supporters are more energized is a huge factor," said Geoffrey Skelley, a political analyst at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "The real problem is the math," he added. Clinton has a comfortable lead over Sanders in the delegate count. Based on primaries and caucuses to date, the former secretary of state leads Sanders 1,223 to 920.

### 'Taking this all the way'

During a Tuesday campaign stop in Everett, about 30 miles north of Seattle, Clinton noted she has gotten 2.6 million more votes than Sanders and more votes than anyone else, including Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

"The senator has made clear that we're taking this all the way to the convention in July," said Sanders' Washington state director Dulce Saenz. "We have an uphill battle, absolutely. There's no denying the math, but the second half of the primary calendar is much more favorable to Bernie." Most of the state's Democratic leadership has endorsed Clinton, including Gov Jay Inslee and Sens Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. But Sanders has raised more in individual contributions from this state than any other presidential candidate.

Seattle leads the way among large cities in per-capita individual contributions to Sanders, with about \$145 for every 100 people, according to an analysis of federal campaign data. In terms of dollars, Seattle trails only New York and San Francisco in total individual contributions from cities, with \$884,000 given through the end of February. That does not include individual contributions under \$200, which makes up the majority of Sanders' support.

"Nobody is very surprised that Bernie Sanders has so much support because the city elected a much more radical socialist a few years ago," said James Gregory, a history professor at the University of Washington.—AP



**WASHINGTON:** Supporters cheer as Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt, speaks at a rally at the Yakima Valley SunDome Thursday, March 24, 2016, in Yakima.—AP



**WASHINGTON:** Attorney General Loretta Lynch, accompanied by FBI Director James Comey, speaks during a news conference at the Justice Department.—AP

## US INDICTS HACKERS IN EFFORT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO IRAN

'NAME AND SHAME' SENDS MESSAGE TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

**WASHINGTON:** The seven Iranian hackers charged with attacking dozens of banks and a small dam near New York City may never see the inside of a courtroom, but US officials hope their "name and shame" tactic sends a message to foreign governments that support such attacks.

Indictments announced Thursday by the Justice Department portrayed Tehran-linked hackers reaching into the US infrastructure and disrupting its financial system. It was the first time the FBI attributed a breach of a US computer system that controls critical infrastructure to a hacker linked to a foreign government.

None of the individuals is in American custody and it's unclear if they'll ever be arrested or whether criminal indictments in absentia effectively combat such crimes. Publicly naming and shaming such crimes linked to foreign governments is a tactic focused on by the Justice Department since 2012.

The hackers are accused of infecting thousands of people's computers with malware to create a network of computers to overwhelm servers of major institutions and knock them offline. Targets included the Bank of America, NASDAQ and the New York Stock Exchange.

### 'Systematic and widespread'

"The attacks were relentless, systematic and widespread," said Attorney General Loretta Lynch. "They threatened our economic well-being and our ability to compete fairly in the global marketplace," which she said "are directly linked to our national security." One of the alleged hackers is accused of repeatedly gaining access to the control system of the Bowman Avenue Dam, a small flood-control structure in Rye Brook, about 20 miles north of New York City.

Officials termed his access "a frighten-

ing frontier on cybercrime," and said the hacker could have operated a digitally controlled sluice gate, potentially flooding portions of the city of Rye, if the gate had not been disconnected for maintenance at the time. The hacker still gained information about the dam's operations, including its water level, temperature and the sluice gate.

While that attack did no harm, one official said the hacker obtained knowledge about the computer system that could be used on other dams and infrastructure. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly. Computer systems, such as the one controlling the dam, are considered the backbone or core of modern industries including transportation, energy, oil and gas and manufacturing.

The intrusions between 2011 and 2013 targeted 46 victims, disabling bank websites and interfering with customers' ability to do online banking, the indictment states. The entire coordinated campaign occurred sporadically over 176 days and cost the institutions tens of millions of dollars in remediation costs; no customers lost money or had their personal information stolen.

The hackers worked for two Iranian computer companies linked to the Iranian government, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the US said. Charges include violating US laws on computer hacking and gaining unauthorized access to a protected computer.

### Persian New Year

Iranian officials in Tehran could not be immediately reached for comment amid the country's celebration of the annual Nowruz holiday, which marks the Persian New Year and the arrival of spring. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not

immediately respond to a request for comment. Iran has previously been suspected in hacking attempts. A Wall Street Journal report in November linked Iran's Revolutionary Guard to similar hacking and phishing attempts targeting the email and social-media accounts of Obama administration officials.

The seven newly charged defendants are Ahmad Fathi, 37; Hamid Firoozi, 34; Amin Shokohi, 25; Sadegh Ahmadzadega, 23; Omid Ghaffarinia, 25; Sina Keissar, 25; and Nader Saedi, 26. Firoozi is charged alone for hacking the dam. Shokohi received credit from the Iranian government toward his mandatory military service for his work in the attacks, the US alleges. The Justice Department in May 2014 indicted five Chinese military officials suspected of hacking into several major American companies, including US Steel and Westinghouse, and stealing trade secrets. None has been brought to trial.

Such indictments do tell foreign governments that they're not "invisible" and can be targeted for retribution, said James Lewis, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He said the one against Chinese hackers helped encourage an agreement with the US to curb economic cyber espionage. "There is a benefit," Lewis said. "It's not going to be a court case. I don't know if anyone expects that. But it will shape how the Iranians calculate what they can get away with."

The new charges come amid warming relations between the US and Iran following last year's agreement that Iran roll back its nuclear program. But significant tensions remain, with Iran conducting several ballistic missile tests in violation of a U.N. ban and prompting the latest US sanctions against it on Thursday.—AP



# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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MIAMI: In this Wednesday, Feb 3, 2016, photo, people walk past a shoe store advertising a sale along Lincoln Road Mall, a pedestrian area featuring retail shops and restaurants. — AP

## US GREW SLIGHTLY MORE IN 4TH QUARTER CONSUMERS MAY BE PROVIDING MORE LIFT TO ECONOMY

**WASHINGTON:** The US economy grew at a slightly faster rate in the fourth quarter than previously estimated, boosted by stronger consumer spending. Consumers may be providing more lift to the economy in the current January-March period. The Commerce Department said yesterday that the economy grew at a modest 1.4 percent annual rate in the October-December period. That was better than the 1 percent growth rate estimated a month ago but still below the 2 percent annual growth for the July-September quarter.

Most of the strength in the revision for last quarter came from an upward boost to consumer spending, particularly involving recreation. Exports also were not as weak as previously thought. The estimated growth of the US gross domestic product - the nation's total output of goods and services - was the government's third and final look at GDP for the fourth quarter. Yesterday's report also contained a potentially worrisome sign - a weak first estimate of corporate profits. It showed that pretax profits fell 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter after

a 1.6 percent drop in the third quarter. Fourth quarter profits were also down 11.5 percent from a year earlier - the steepest annual drop since 30.8 percent plunge in the fourth quarter of 2008 at the depths of the financial crisis.

On the other hand, consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, grew at an annual rate of 2.4 percent in the fourth quarter, faster than the 2 percent growth estimated a month ago. Many economists saw this upgrade as a welcome sign that spending should remain strong, helped by solid employment gains this year.

### 'Consumer in the driver's seat'

"The consumer is back in the driver's seat with their foot down hard on the gas as last year came to a close," said Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFG Union Bank in New York. "Real economic growth was stronger than we thought late last year, and this makes us more hopeful that the first quarter will be better than expected." Also helping boost growth was a slightly smaller drag from the nation's trade

deficit: The deficit widened in the fourth quarter but not as much as previously thought. Exports fell at a 2 percent annual rate, not the 2.7 percent decline estimated a month ago. Trade subtracted 0.14 percentage point from growth in the fourth quarter, less than the 0.25 percentage point previously estimated.

A slowdown in stockpiling by businesses reduced growth by 0.22 percentage point, slightly more than the 0.14 percentage point drag previously estimated. Many economists think growth as measured by the gross domestic product is accelerating in the current quarter to a 2 percent annual rate. But some analysts have been downgrading their estimates of late, reflecting some weaker-than-expected economic data.

Analysts at forecasting firm Macroeconomic Advisers, for example, on Thursday reduced their forecast of first-quarter GDP growth to a 1.5 percent annual rate after the release of a weak report on new orders for long-lasting manufactured goods. Those orders dropped 2.8 percent in February. That decline was seen as a sign

that the nation's manufacturing sector is still struggling with weakness overseas and a strong dollar, which has made American-made products more expensive in foreign markets.

This year, continued strong gains in hiring could boost household incomes and support solid increases in consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. This month, the Federal Reserve left its key policy rate unchanged after having raised it from a record low in December. Fed officials also scaled back their expectations for the number of rate hikes this year from four to two.

The officials said they thought the global economy and financial markets still pose risks even though financial markets have stabilized since the year began. Stocks had nosedived after investors worried about how steep the slowdown would be in China, the world's second-largest economy. Analysts have forecast that for 2016 as a whole, the economy will grow around 2 percent. That would be down from 2.4 percent growth for all of 2015, a figure that was not revised in the new report. — AP



## MESSAGE SERVICE LINE ENTERS CARRIER BUSINESS IN JAPAN

**URAYASU:** Line Corp, which offers a popular mobile message and online voice-call service, is entering the mobile carrier business in Japan, promising to under-price competition as it grows its platform for news, music, games, live streaming and online shopping. Tokyo-based Line, founded five years ago, already has a billion global registered users, 215 million of them active each month on average. That makes it bigger on mobile than Facebook or Twitter in Japan.

Line executives outlined the company's future strategy Thursday at a suburban theater, and also highlighted some achievements, such as racking up 120.7

billion Yen (\$1.1 billion) in sales last year. Jun Masuda, chief strategy and marketing officer, told reporters that the mobile carrier service will be launched in a few months, starting at an affordable 500 Yen (\$4.40) a month and offering reliable connectivity using the telecommunications infrastructure of major Japanese carrier NTT DoCoMo.

In Japan, many mobile users pay four times that much or more a month for data transmission and voice calls. Line said users will get unlimited use of Facebook and Twitter, plus Line communication, calls, chats and music. Although social media companies have struggled

to gain revenue, Line, now used in 230 nations including Asia, South America and Africa, has succeeded in unusual ways, such as merchandising of its mascot-like characters as dolls, which are sold in real stores.

It also sells sticker images that are sent with Line messages called "stamps" in Japan, some of which are free but many that come at a small price. Some 2.4 billion such stickers are sent each day, with sales reaching 25.3 billion yen (\$224 million) last year, according to Line, a subsidiary of Korean Internet company Naver Corp. It remains to be seen whether users outside Japan would be as willing to pay

for such perks. Line has been rapidly growing in some parts of Asia, such as Indonesia.

Line has signed on major advertisers, like Toyota Motor Corp, and plans to expand its clientele, using its knowledge of users' interests to devise advertising that will appeal to them, said Shintaro Tabata, another Line executive. Line says it plans to make online payments easier, partnering with a major Japanese credit card company and offering its own cash cards that can be charged at a convenience store chain. Online Line purchases will accumulate "points" that can be later converted into cash. — AP



**TOKYO:** In this March 16, 2016 photo, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (second from right) and Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz (left) take their seats for an economic seminar with other members of his Cabinet at Abe's official residence. — AP

## ABE CONSULTS EXPERTS AS HE MULLS DELAYING 2ND TAX HIKE

### CHEAPER OIL PRICES SLOWING PROGRESS

**TOKYO:** The scene: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the economy minister and top central banker receiving a lecture from Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz. The message: No matter how bad the debt, Japan's economy is too weak to withstand another tax hike. All is not well in the world's third-largest economy, and Abe is seeking fresh advice from top experts, both foreign and Japanese, on what to do next.

Japan's economy initially expanded under a policy mix dubbed "Abenomics" that included monetary easing and fiscal stimulus. But China's slowdown, weaker than hoped-for growth in other economies and lackluster spending by households and businesses have combined to keep Japan's growth well below forecasts. Cheaper oil prices, meanwhile, has slowed progress toward a 2 percent inflation goal that Abe and his advisers say is needed to revive the "animal spirits" that would get growth back on track.

The economy contracted at a 0.3 percent annual rate in October-December and is forecast to shrink again in the current quarter. Japan's sales tax was due to rise to 10 percent from 8 percent in October 2015, but that that increase was deferred until April

2017. Now many here are betting that with an election for the upper house of parliament looming, Abe will once again postpone that hike.

"The headwinds that are facing us are far stronger than what the policymakers expected," said Masamichi Adachi of JP Morgan in Tokyo. "You can make an argument that it's a good excuse to change the original plan."

#### Urgent priority

An April 2014 tax hike from 5 percent to 8 percent was an urgent priority to try to rein in Japan's public debt, which has ballooned to more than twice its GDP. But the move led to sharp economic contraction, and despite a barrage of monetary stimulus, the economy has meandered in and out of recession ever since.

Inflation has also remained flat. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food prices, was zero in February, data released yesterday showed. Earlier in the week, the government downgraded its assessment of the economy for the first time in five months.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, one of Abe's most powerful allies, says the tax will be raised unless it's clear the hike would hurt the economy so badly that tax

revenues would fall.

That's where the economics big guns come in, as Abe seeks advice ahead of the summit of Group of Seven leaders in central Japan in late May.

TV news showed Stiglitz and another Nobel economics laureate, New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, addressing Abe and other top Japanese officials. Both men urged Abe not to raise taxes. "I'm a great admirer of the policy moves that have been made by Japan, but they are not good enough, and partly because all the rest of us are in trouble as well," Krugman said in comments to Abe and other top officials broadcast by the national TV network NHK.

According to documents posted online, Stiglitz called for boosting demand and countering rising inequality by retraining workers, improving social services networks such as child care and improving oversight of the financial sector. Since Abe earlier promised to go ahead with the next tax hike unless the global economic outlook is too weak, a pessimistic assessment of the global situation could provide a pretext for another postponement, while deflecting criticism of his own policies and Japan's domestic economic performance. — AP

## SHANGHAI STOCKS RISE IN HOLIDAY-CUT TRADE

**HONG KONG:** Shanghai and Tokyo stocks turned higher in holiday-thinned Asian trade yesterday, while the dollar ticked up with talk re-emerging of another US interest rate hike. With most markets closed for the Easter break there was little to drive buying at the end of an up-and-down week that was marred by the terror attacks in Brussels on Tuesday. "The market is seeing a little bit of a pause in momentum," Kevin Caron, a New Jersey-based market strategist and portfolio manager at Stifel Nicolaus & Co, told Bloomberg News. "Now we're looking ahead at what drives us beyond what central bank actions have been able to curry so far."

In Japan, exporters rose with the yen easing against the dollar as a broad global rally inspired by a string of central bank easing measures from Asia to the Americas injected some much-needed optimism into trade. Japan's Nikkei ended up 0.7 percent, with global giants Toyota, Canon and Sony among the best performers.

There was little response to data showing Japanese inflation remained at zero in February for the second month in a row. The dollar-which earlier this month tumbled after the Federal Reserve lowered its rate cut forecasts for 2016 — edged up as talk turned back to a possible increase in April or June as the bank's policymakers eye a more positive outlook. Shanghai added 0.6 percent after tumbling 1.6 percent Thursday. Seoul was 0.1 percent lower and Taipei 0.4 percent down. Most other markets including Hong Kong, Sydney and Wellington were closed for the long Easter weekend. Oil markets were also shut. — AFP

## FRANCE TRIMS PUBLIC SECTOR DEFICIT, GROWTH EDGES UP

**PARIS:** France put tighter reins on its public sector deficit last year than expected on the back of slightly better growth, data showed yesterday, as the country struggles to meet Eurozone rules. France's public deficit fell to 3.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) last year from 4.0 percent the previous two years, according to national accounts published by the statistics agency Insee.

That was slightly better than the government's target of 3.8 percent for the year. "It's our budgetary rigor which has allowed us to attain these good results," Finance Minister Michel Sapin said in a statement. He said the reduction was "all the more notable" as the government had faced unforeseen spending such as on ramping up security and said France would continue reducing the deficit this year and next while still financing its priorities.

EU rules set the limit on public deficits at three percent of an economy's total annual output. The threshold for total public debt is 60 percent of output. France's gross public debt however grew slightly in 2015, to 95.7 percent of GDP amounting to more than two trillion Euros, Insee said. Growth in the Eurozone's second biggest economy, meanwhile, was slightly better in 2015 than originally thought. Insee revised its growth figure for France up to 1.2 percent from a previously announced 1.1 percent but left its fourth-quarter estimate unchanged at 0.3 percent. In 2014, French growth was 0.2 percent. On Thursday, France reported a rise in unemployment of 1.1 percent in February, the biggest monthly jump in joblessness in two and a half years. President Francois Hollande has made jobs his government's top priority, and has said he will not seek reelection in 2017 if he fails to bring down the unemployment rate. — AFP





WASHINGTON DC: A helicopter patrols the sky above the Jefferson Memorial and the cherry trees that surround the Tidal Basin near the National Mall. — AFP

## IS RAINING MONEY FROM HELICOPTERS A SOLUTION TO DEFLATED ECONOMIES? HELICOPTER MONEY MAY BE THE NEXT BIG THING

**FRANKFURT:** Helicopters dropping money in the streets: it's a vivid metaphor for a drastic form of central bank stimulus that is gaining attention as a possible way to help the global economy out of its malaise. The idea of "helicopter money" is straightforward: central banks would create new cash and give it to people, like an air drop of supplies. As people spend or invest it, economic growth and inflation would rise.

The potential efficacy is tempting in a world where central banks are struggling to nudge up low inflation and growth with their current tools: repeated interest rate cuts - often below zero - and extraordinary stimulus programs like bond purchases.

### Next big thing?

As the world economy faces the threat of deflation, a long-term weakness in prices and wages that kills off growth for years on end, the sound of choppers bearing bank bags is being heard more and more in discussion among economists. "Helicopter money may be the next big thing, as policymakers reach the limits of standard unconventional practices," says Andrew Kenningham, senior global economist at Capital Economics in London. European Central Bank head Mario Draghi was asked this month about the possibility of using "helicopter money" after the bank announced a further round of stimulus measures, including negative interest rates and more massive bond purchases aimed at pushing up inflation and growth. "We haven't really thought or talked about it," he said. "It's a very interesting concept that is now being discussed by academic economists and in various environments."

Nobel laureate economist Milton Friedman first proposed the idea almost 50 years ago. It is close to - but not quite the same - as quantitative easing, the method central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve, Bank of Japan, Bank of England, and ECB have used since the financial crisis and

Great Recession of 2007-2009.

Under quantitative easing, central banks buy government bonds from commercial banks. Central banks pay for the bonds by electronically increasing the amounts of money in the accounts that the commercial banks are required to hold at the central bank. When the account balance goes up, new money is created.

There's just one problem. The money is sitting in a reserve account. If the bank itself is shaky, or has become cautious about lending, the central bank can print all it wants, but the new money won't reach people. Helicopter money gets around that dependence on banks. It aims to put the money directly into circulation.

And helicopter money is supposed to be accompanied with a guarantee that it is a permanent addition to the money supply - unlike quantitative easing, which central banks say they eventually intend to unwind. As Friedman put it in a 1969 paper, "let us suppose now that one day a helicopter flies over this community and drops an additional \$1,000 in bills from the sky, which is, of course, hastily collected by members of the community." They then spend it, increasing economic activity and pushing up inflation.

Other top economists have put forward versions of the same idea. British economist John Maynard Keynes said the government should bury bottles of banknotes in old coal mines, and let people dig them up to increase the supply of money. In 2002, Ben Bernanke, at the time a member of the Federal Reserve's board of governors and later its head, proposed a helicopter drop as a way for Japan to get out of its deflationary quagmire.

### Hyperinflation

Money-printing can be a disaster, if governments come to depend on it or central banks lose the courage to withhold it when it's not needed. It can result in hyperinflation,

as it did in Germany in the 1920s and more recently in Zimbabwe. The time to do it, backers of the idea say, is when the economy is so slack that inflation is not a worry.

In theory, central banks could just print banknotes and hand them out. But most current discussion focuses on Bernanke's specific version of how helicopter money could best be delivered. The government delivers a tax cut, and then issues more bonds, which the central bank promises to buy, in effect financing the tax cut with new money. Bernanke said such a step would "almost certainly be an effective stimulant to consumption and hence to prices."

There are a few obstacles. Unlike quantitative easing, Bernanke's version of helicopter money adds more government debt that could undermine confidence. To fix that, the central bank could commit to keep buying bonds, so the government could be certain it could roll that debt over. Alternatively, the central bank could simply forego repayment on the government's debts. But that would then put a large accounting loss on the central bank's accounts, which might undermine public confidence. In Draghi's case, the European Union treaty forbids the European Central Bank from financing governments. Legal and political opposition could be insurmountable. Jens Weidmann, one of two German members of the ECB council, has rejected the idea, pointing to its impact on the ECB's own finances.

Moreover, many governments have resisted spending more. Germany's finance minister, Wolfgang Schäuble, has proposed a 2017 budget with a slight surplus. Congressional Republicans in the United States say they want less government spending and debt, not more. Britain's Conservative government has stressed deficit reduction, not stimulus. Japan, where deflation has lasted longer and where the government has huge debts, might be a more likely candidate, thinks economist Kenningham. — AP

## GULF BANK ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al Danah daily draws on 20 March 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 13 March - 17 March 2016. The Al Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.

### The winners were:

**(Sunday 13/3):** Yousef Mohammed Ali Hassan Mohammad, Suood Abdulaziz Suood Al-Sabti

**(Monday 14/3):** Abdullah Sabieh Abdullah Buftain, Abdulla Ghaed Ibrahim Dawoodi

**(Tuesday 15/3):** Mohammed Wael Mohammad Waleed Al-Bayrouti, Abdulwahab Khaled Abdulwahab Al-Musalam

**(Wednesday 16/3):** Saleh Abdullah Amanallah Al-Mousawi, Ahmad Thamer Jabr Karem

**(Wednesday 17/3):** Mohammad Hussain Ali Hashem, Ahmed Khaled Ahmed Al-Jassar

Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al Danah's 1st Quarterly draw for the prize of KD200,000 will be held on 31 March, the 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on the 30th of June and the 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al Danah Millionaire will be announced.

Al Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 55 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners](http://www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners), to find out more about Al Danah and its winners.

## PLAYBOY EYES SALE OF ASSETS

**NEW YORK:** Playboy Enterprises, known for its iconic but struggling men's lifestyle magazine, said Thursday it had hired an investment adviser to look at a possible sale of the company. A company spokesman told AFP it had retained Moelis & Co to examine a sale or other strategic options, confirming a report in the Wall Street Journal.

Playboy, which has been seeking a new image in an age of easy access to online pornography, is currently controlled by Rizvi Traverse Management, which holds about two-thirds of the capital, and founder Hugh Hefner, with about one-third. The Journal said a sale could yield about \$500 million. The famous Playboy Mansion was put on sale earlier this year, and could fetch some \$200 million.

As a privately held company, Playboy's finances are not routinely made public. The 2011 deal which took it private and delisted its shares valued Playboy at around \$207 million. The magazine's circulation peaked in 1972 at seven million, but has declined to about 800,000 now.

Playboy has already toned down some content in order to be allowed on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram that drive Internet traffic. Playboy is still featuring a Playmate of the Month, though the images will now be "PG-13," according to the company. The Playboy brand, with its trademark silhouette logo of a bunny wearing a bow tie, has had a major impact worldwide. Hefner founded the magazine in 1953 with a centerfold of Marilyn Monroe, and he took credit for helping spur the sexual revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. — AFP



## SHANGHAI SEEKS TO COOL HOME PRICES

**SHANGHAI:** Shanghai yesterday unveiled rules to cool its housing market, as China seeks to rein-in property speculation in select top-tier cities where prices have raced out of control in recent months. The regulations require down payments of at least 70 percent for larger and more expensive housing, and ban developers and real estate agencies lending buyers the money for such payments, according to a Shanghai government statement.

"The new rules in Shanghai are

quite strict," Deng Haozhi, chief analyst at property developer Fineland, told AFP. "It's a comprehensive policy, which will certainly push down the investment atmosphere." The moves by Shanghai, China's commercial hub and one of the country's most vibrant property markets, are a departure from most of the rest of the country, where local governments are trying to boost real estate prices after two years in the doldrums.

Home prices have surged in China's

first-tier cities after the government moved to stimulate the flagging property market to help boost the slowing economy. Shanghai's new home prices jumped 20.6 percent year-on-year in February, according to figures from the central government's National Bureau of Statistics. It lagged only behind the southern city of Shenzhen, which saw a whopping 56.9 percent year-on-year jump for the month.

A survey by the China Index Academy showed that the average

price of a new home in the country's 100 major cities rose 0.60 percent month-on-month in February to 11,092 yuan (\$1,695) per square meter. Shenzhen, Beijing and the southern city of Guangzhou have started to crack down on financing sources for down payments, state media reported earlier this month. Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday pledged to prevent big fluctuations in the property market and promote its "stable and healthy development". — AFP



**YANGON:** Serge Pun (right) executive chairman of First Myanmar Investment joyfully hugs a bell pillar as electronic trading commence listing his company during the opening day of trading at Yangon Stock Exchange. — AP

## MYANMAR LAUNCHES ITS FIRST SHARES ON FLEDGLING BOURSE HOPES TO BOOSTING COUNTRY'S NEW ECONOMY

**YANGON:** Myanmar launched its first stock exchange with just one listed company yesterday in the hopes of boosting the country's economy as it emerges from decades of isolationist military rule. The Southeast Asian nation is in the midst of a dramatic transition from a graft-soaked backwater to a vibrant emerging economy, with Aung San Suu Kyi's party days away from forming a civilian government.

The Yangon Stock Exchange officially opened for trading, 20 years after it had first been conceived, with the clang of a bell and cheers from a business elite who are hungry for investment. Maung Maung Thein, head of Myanmar's Securities and Exchange Commission, said it marked a "great day" for the country, which would now leave the tiny club of nations without a functioning stock exchange. "We can now proudly and mightily proclaim to the world that we are no longer a backward nation," he told an assembled crowd of business leaders at the YSX's restored colonial era building in downtown Yangon.

Suu Kyi's incoming government will next week replace a transitional administration of

retired generals who oversaw five years of political and economic reforms that pumped life back into the resource-rich country of 51 million people. But significant hurdles lie ahead in a nation that still lacks a credit rating and is grappling with entrenched corruption and widespread poverty.

YSX started trading with just a single firm, First Myanmar Investment, which is one of the country's largest companies with stakes in financial services, real estate, aviation and health industries. With its sister firm Yoma Strategic Holdings listed in Singapore, and with around 6,800 shareholders through an in-house system, FMI already has experience of stock trading and open investor relations, a rarity in Myanmar.

### 'Good for our country'

According to the YSX official website shares closed yesterday up 19.2 percent at a value of 31,000 kyat (\$25.6), with a trading volume of 112,845 shares. "We look forward to a buoyant economy and we look forward to a robust Yangon Stock Exchange that will help many companies in Myanmar access capital and build their companies," said

Myanmar tycoon Serge Pun, who runs FMI, at the opening ceremony.

Several other firms have been granted provisional approval to list, including the Japan-backed Thilawa Special Economic Zone, but have yet to finalize their preparations. State-owned Myanma Economic Bank has a controlling 51 percent stake in YSX, with the remainder divided between Japanese partners the Japan Exchange Group and Daiwa Institute of Research. The bourse is currently open only to domestic investors and firms, although there are plans to allow foreign involvement in the future.

Officials hope to attract between 30 and 50 firms to list in the next five years. The bourse has been greeted with enthusiasm by local investors. But with little practical experience of shareholding, dozens of people every week have flocked to classes run by YSX to learn about the risks and rewards of trading. "I have learned a lot from books because I think that a stock market is good for our country," said Soe Myint, 64, a retired officer from the Ministry of Energy who had arrived at the YSX hoping to buy FMI shares. — AFP

## VIETNAM'S GDP GROWTH SLOWS IN FIRST QUARTER

**HANOI:** Vietnam's economy slowed in the first quarter of 2016, official figures showed yesterday, hampered by low oil prices and an ongoing drought that has hit the agricultural sector hard. The dip followed a record surge in economic growth last year, the peak of a five-year boom fuelled by a flurry of international interest in the communist country.

The first three months of 2016 saw GDP growth drop to 5.46 percent, down from 6.12 percent for the same period last year, according to data released by the General Statistics Office. "Cold spells in the north, drought... had a major impact on domestic production, especially agriculture, industry and exports during the period," GSO director Nguyen Bich Lam told the official VietnamPlus news website.

Lower global oil prices have also weighed on growth, affecting the country's income from crude production, independent economist Le Dang Doanh told AFP. "The price of the global crude oil, a lengthy holiday for Lunar New Year (in February) and a slide in the price of agricultural products" have all affected growth, he said.

Crude oil exports have accounted for around one tenth of state income in the past, according to Bloomberg News. Inflation was also up in the first quarter, by 1.25 percent against that of 2015, according to GSO figures. Earlier this week, the government said it was aiming for growth of between 6.5 and seven percent by the end of 2016, still in the range of last year's record 6.68 percent. "If there are no further efforts on economic reforms, the government may not be able to meet the set target," economist Doanh said to AFP. Communist Vietnam is part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the world's largest free trade deal between 12 nations, including the US and Japan, which is grinding slowly towards ratification. But many analysts say Vietnam's economic progress remains vulnerable due to high public debt, inefficiencies in the sprawling state-owned sector and rampant corruption. — AFP

## US SEE RISK IN CHINA SYNGENTA'S TAKEOVER

**WASHINGTON:** Top US legislators called Thursday for a national security assessment of a Chinese state company's planned takeover of Swiss agribusiness Syngenta, pointing to its sizeable US operations. Senators Chuck Grassley, Sherrod Brown and Joni Ernst, all members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, called for a proactive review of the \$43 billion deal by the powerful Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) with participation by officials from the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration.

The review should assess "any potential ramifications the purchase may have for American national security, with a specific focus on the potential effects on food security and the safety of our food system," the senators said in a letter to the Treasury Department, which chairs CFIUS.

"Shifts in company governance; operational strategy; or financial health—particularly in light of the magnitude of this leveraged transaction—could have consequences for food security, food safety, biosecurity, and the highly competitive US farm sector as a whole," they warned.

Their letter focused on the February offer by state-owned China National Chemical Corp. or ChemChina, to buy the Swiss company, a leading player in farm science and technology, with market-leading seeds and crop protection products. The senators also suggested a growing general wariness of Chinese moves to buy US companies. In a separate letter to the Treasury Wednesday, Brown said Chinese investment deals are behind a sharp overall climb in foreign takeovers of US companies. — AFP



## CONGRATULATIONS TO NISSAN X-TRAIL WINNER



**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co (AABC), the exclusive agent of Nissan cars in Kuwait, is keeping its promises to its loyal customers with the exclusive offers and gifts it promised in celebration of the National and Independence Day.

Nissan Al Babtain had many prizes as a part of Hala February celebrations and had a grand prize - the brand new Nissan X-Trail, which Mr Ahmad AlMezail was lucky to win. Nissan Al Babtain is known for always providing the customers with exceptional offers throughout the year and Hala February offer was a continuation of the year's surprises and will be followed by many more offers.

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW ELICITS MASS REBUKES FROM BUSINESSES

**RALEIGH:** Corporations expressed disappointment and the NCAA vowed to monitor what North Carolina does next now that the state has banned any local government measures protecting people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

American Airlines, which operates its second-largest hub in Charlotte; IBM and Biogen, which have facilities in the state's Research Triangle; and payments processor PayPal, which had announced plans to hire 400 people in Charlotte only last week, were among major employers condemning the new law Thursday.

The legislature called a special session Wednesday to void a Charlotte ordinance that would have enabled transgender people to legally use restrooms aligned with their gender identity, and would have provided broad protections against discrimination in public accommodations in the state's largest city. The new law now prevents the state's cities and counties from passing their own anti-discrimination rules, and instead imposes a statewide standard that leaves out sexual orientation and gender identity.

### First state

North Carolina is the first state to require pub-

lic school and university students to use only those bathrooms that match their birth certificates, according to the National Conference on State Legislatures. The state law "is a clear step backwards. Sad day," tweeted Jim Whitehurst, chief executive of Raleigh-based open-source software company Red Hat.

The economic impact will take time to quantify. There were no immediate threats to withdraw business from the state, which has seen booming growth and an influx of "knowledge workers" in Charlotte and Raleigh, even as rural towns lag behind economically.

Other businesses have voiced support for the measure Republican Gov. Pat McCrory signed into law late Wednesday, a spokesman for his reelection campaign said. Spokesman Ricky Diaz did not respond when asked which businesses backed the governor's decision. About 200 protesters blocked a downtown Raleigh street in front of the state's Executive Mansion Thursday evening. Police said in a statement that five people were arrested after they sat down in the street and refused orders to disperse.

McCrory, a former Charlotte mayor, stays in the mansion while in the state capital but was not there at the time of the protest, spokesman

Josh Ellis said. Demonstrators like Alex Berkman complained that lawmakers acted quickly before Charlotte's example could be adopted by other communities. "The way that these things work is that one place will pass a law and then another place will pass a law and then we start to build momentum," said Berkman, 29, of Raleigh.

Democrats warned that North Carolina risks losing billions in federal education dollars by conflicting with Title IX anti-discrimination regulations that apply in public schools. Republican lawmakers downplayed the threat Wednesday.

The NCAA, which is scheduled to hold men's basketball tournament games in Greensboro in 2017 and Charlotte in 2018, said it takes diversity into account when it chooses its event sites. The National Basketball Association said it is too early to know if the new law will affect Charlotte hosting the league's all-star game in 2017.

### 'Anger and fear'

Supporters say the new law protects all people from having to share bathrooms with people who make them feel unsafe. Advocates for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights say it demonizes them with bogus claims about bathroom risks. "The disappointment, anger and fear many are feeling today is beyond words. What's worse is this will likely not be our last defeat," Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin wrote in an online column Thursday.

Bathroom use has proved to be a potent wedge issue across the country since Houston's anti-discrimination law was overwhelmingly voted down in a referendum last year, but LGBT advocates have had some victories, too. South Dakota's legislature failed to override Gov. Dennis Daugaard's veto of a bill requiring students to use bathrooms corresponding to their birth gender, and a similar bill in Tennessee bill died Tuesday.

The LGBT movement won't likely table the bathroom issue to focus on other areas of discrimination, said Katherine Franke, a Columbia university law professor and director of the school's Gender and Sexuality Law center. "The issues of discrimination and violence against transgender people in the context of bathrooms are so overwhelming, that to them it is a cutting-edge problem," she said. "Overwhelmingly, it's transgender people who are the victims of violence in the bathroom setting. ... This is a basic human need." — AP



**RALEIGH:** (Front from left) Demonstrators Jess Jude, Loan Tran and Noah Rubin-Blöse sit chained together in the middle of the street during a protest against House Bill 2 on Thursday, March 24, 2016, outside of the Governor's Mansion on North Blount Street. — AP



## 'TASTE OF Q8' FOOD FESTIVAL ABK SPONSORSHIP A SUCCESS

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) successfully concluded the sponsorship of the 'Taste of Q8' food festival for the second consecutive year, which was held at the Marina Crescent from 17 - 19 March, 2016. ABK gave away five ABK Emirates Visa Gold Prepaid Travel cards worth KD 100 each, during a raffle draw that was held at the event.

The three day food festival celebrated Kuwait's great culinary diversity and offered visitors the opportunity to experience many different cuisines from local restaurants, bakers and gourmet grocers, and enjoy live cooking demonstrations presented by renowned celebrity chefs. The event also featured live entertainment, activities for kids and a VIP lounge.

The Bank was pleased to take part in this exciting event that aims to keep Kuwait's culture alive and support local talents, while bringing together the Kuwaiti community in the midst of an upbeat and positive ambiance.



## CHINA SETS UP INDUSTRY FOR INTERNET FINANCE

**SHANGHAI:** China's central bank said yesterday that firms involved in Internet finance had set up an industry association, as authorities try to get a handle on the rapidly growing but weakly regulated sector.

The group will seek to "self-regulate" the industry at a time of growing risk from Internet financing, according to a transcript of a speech by a People's Bank of China (PBoC) official at the opening ceremony. Its establishment followed revelations last month that a well-known peer-to-peer (P2P) lending firm called Ezubao had bilked 900,000 investors out of \$7.6 billion in what a company executive called a "Ponzi scheme".

The Shanghai-based industry association groups online payment providers, P2P lenders and other Internet finance entities, PBoC deputy governor Pan Gongsheng said, according to the transcript posted on the central bank website. "We must fully understand that Internet financing institutions lack familiarity with risk," Pan said.

He added many were unaware of the need to abide by regulations, protect consumer rights, oppose money laundering or combat financing for terrorism. "Industry self-regulation is beneficial and strongly supports administrative supervision," he said. Members of the new industry group include major banks and financial firms, as well as P2P lenders and retailers with online sales, reports said, among them Bank of China and P2P giant Lufax, which is linked to financial Ping An Insurance Group.

China has nearly 2,600 platforms described as P2P businesses, according to industry website [www.wdzj.com](http://www.wdzj.com), with transactions valued at around \$150 billion last year. Online and mobile payment services are dominated by e-commerce giant Alibaba, with nearly three-quarters of the market, followed by Tencent-operator of the popular messaging app WeChat-which has some 17 percent, according to Beijing-based BigData Research. But Tencent is keen to expand in the area while US technology giant Apple recently entered the market by launching Apple Pay.

Pan said Internet financing could boost efficiency, lower costs and introduce more channels of funding. Small, private firms especially have looked online for financing as many are shut out of the state-dominated banking system. — AFP

## ACER PROFITS TUMBLE, ANNOUNCES RESHUFFLE

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan's struggling personal computer maker Acer saw its 2015 earnings plunge by two-thirds as it announced a corporate reshuffle that separates off its new businesses, including cloud services and smart devices. Full-year net profit came in at Tw\$603.7 million (\$18.5 million), down 66 percent from a year earlier, while revenue fell 20 percent to Tw\$263.78 billion, the company said Thursday.

Acer revealed in a separate statement that it would form a holding company to manage its new businesses from yesterday, which it said would help speed up the "overall company transformation". "The new structure will address the diverse development needs of IT hardware products versus cloud services, smart devices and e-businesses," Acer said.

It did not give any detail as to whether the reshuffle would mean job losses and the company was not immediately contactable yesterday. Acer-once the world's second largest PC maker-has struggled as demand tapered and competition increased from the likes of Apple.

Analysts say the hiving off of its new businesses will pave the way for any future sale of the company's divisions. "By establishing an investment holding company, Acer will likely sell off or introduce new shareholders to any subsidiary company under the holding structure," Fubon analysts said in a note.

Analysts also say the reshuffle may be part of a succession plan by founder Stan Shih, who returned from retirement for a short stint to salvage the company after it sunk into deep losses. His son Maverick Shih was appointed Thursday to co-head Acer's build-your-own-cloud (BYOC) service and smart device division.

Still, Fubon says a turnaround for Acer is not happening any time soon as outlook for its core business of selling hardware continues to be bleak. "None of this affects our negative view on the company's future, given the end of the PC and slowing smartphone growth, and the lack of any significant server business for Acer," it said. The worldwide PC market contracted 10.4 percent in unit volume in 2015, the worst performance on record, according to market intelligence provider International Data Corporation (IDC). —AFP



**LAS VEGAS:** In this Jan 7, 2014, file photo, Yahoo president and CEO Marissa Mayer speaks during the International Consumer Electronics Show. — AP

## YAHOO SHAREHOLDER MUTINY BEGINS ANOTHER SOAP OPERA

### AS REGULAR AS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Shareholder rebellions at Yahoo are becoming like presidential elections - they are happening every four years. Activist investor Starboard Value launched a widely anticipated mutiny Thursday in a letter announcing its intent to overthrow Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer and the rest of the company's board. It marks the opening salvo in a battle for control of Yahoo Inc. that could drag into the summer.

This is the third attempted coup at Yahoo since 2008, all led by different shareholders fed up with different management teams' fruitless attempts to turn around the company. The two previous uprisings in 2008 and 2012 culminated in Yahoo giving board seats to the dissident shareholders. The unrest also contributed to the departures of two of Yahoo's previous CEOs, company co-founder Jerry Yang and Scott Thompson.

Now, Mayer's job is in jeopardy as a prolonged revenue slump at Yahoo deepens nearly four years into her reign as CEO. "We have been extremely disappointed with Yahoo's dismal financial performance, poor management execution, egregious compensation and hiring practices, and general lack of accountability," Starboard CEO Jeffrey Smith wrote in Thursday's letter.

#### Proxy fight

As part of a process known as a proxy fight, Starboard nominated nine alternative candidates to oppose Mayer and Yahoo's other current directors at the company's annual shareholder meeting in June. The list of alternatives includes Smith, who has been publicly skewering Yahoo for the past 18 months in an attempt to pressure Mayer into taking drastic steps that he believes will boost the company's stock price.

Starboard, which owns a 1.7 percent stake in Yahoo, engineered a 2014 proxy battle that tossed out the entire board of Darden Restaurants Inc., the owner of Olive Garden. In a statement, Yahoo said it would review Starboard's nominees and

respond "in due course." The Sunnyvale, California, company snubbed Smith's request for representation on its board two weeks ago when it appointed two directors with no ties to Starboard.

The tussle with Starboard comes at a pivotal time for Yahoo. The current board is currently wrestling with a decision to sell Yahoo's Internet operations to a list of bidders that could include Verizon Communications, AT&T Inc. and Comcast Corp., or stick to Mayer's latest plan to revive the company.

Mayer is in the process of laying off 15 percent of Yahoo's workforce and closing unprofitable services, while trying to pull off a complicated maneuver that would spin off Yahoo's Internet operations into a newly created company. If the split is successful, Yahoo would then be left with highly prized stakes in China's Alibaba Group and Yahoo Japan. Those holdings are the main reason that Yahoo's stock has more than doubled since the company hired Mayer away from Google in July 2012.

But the stock has dropped by about 30 percent in the past 15 months, driven by a downturn in Alibaba's shares as well as a loss of investor confidence in Mayer. "I can't believe she is still there," said Phil

Davis, CEO of PSW Investments, which sold its holdings in Yahoo in 2013. "They just make bad decision after bad decision over and over again. You almost think anybody else would be an improvement."

After subtracting its ad commissions, Yahoo's annual revenue has fallen from \$5.4 billion in 2008 to \$4.1 billion last year with another decline projected for this year. The erosion has occurred even though advertisers have been steadily boosting their digital spending, but most of that money has been flowing to Google and Facebook. While continuing to back Mayer, Yahoo's board last month hired three investment banks to help evaluate potential bidders. Analysts have estimated that Yahoo's Internet operations, including popular email, sports and finance services, could fetch anywhere from \$4 billion to \$8 billion in an auction. BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis expects Starboard to push for the sale with the backing of most Yahoo shareholders. "A lot of people want to see Yahoo's value to be unlocked via a sale, but this board seems to lack some urgency in getting that done," Gillis said. "This (proxy fight) should help keep the board honest." — AP

## VERIZON SAYS BIG BUSINESS CUSTOMERS HAD DATA STOLEN

**NEW YORK:** Hackers have stolen contact information of Verizon business customers in the latest breach of a big company or organization. The New York telecommunications giant said Thursday that its Verizon Enterprise Solutions unit, which provides IT services to big companies, recently discovered and fixed a security vulnerability in a client portal. Verizon says it is notifying customers.

It says no data about consumer cus-

tomers was involved in the breach. A Thursday report from security journalist Brian Krebs says a post in a "closely guarded underground cybercrime forum" earlier this week advertised that a database with the contact information of 1.5 million Verizon business customers was for sale. Verizon did not immediately respond to questions about what the security issue was, how it was discovered and how many customers are affected. —AP



SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2016

# Weekender

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)



A model presents a creation for the Hempel Award, as part of the 24th China International Young Fashion Designers Contest, at China Fashion Week in Beijing yesterday. —AP

**Saudi film fans revel on 'green carpet' as fest begins**

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# Saudi film fans revel on 'green carpet' as fest begins



Saudis attend the opening ceremony of the film festival yesterday at the Saudi Cultural Center in Dammam, some 400 km eastern of the capital Riyadh. — AFP photos



Saudis attend the opening ceremony of the film festival.

The "red carpet" was made of green artificial turf and women wore traditional black robes instead of plunging necklines when the third Saudi Film Festival opened on Thursday night. About 400 enthusiastic film fans filled a hall for the opening ceremony at a culture and arts centre in the Gulf coast city of Dammam. Although public cinemas are banned in the conservative kingdom, which practices an austere version of Islam, there is a growing interest in cinema and filmmaking.

Saudis are voracious viewers of online videos and rank among the world's highest watchers of YouTube. Private film screenings are also held in the kingdom, although the festival's English program says it takes place "under the supervision" of its organizer, the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts, and the information ministry. Yellow and purple lights swirled on the ceiling before the hall darkened.

A six-meter (yard) screen showed trailers from among the 70 Saudi productions competing at the five-day festival, while six speakers mounted high on the walls blared cinema-style sound. Women sat at the back, in keeping with the kingdom's official policy of separation of the sexes, but almost none cov-



The Saudi film festival director Ahmed Al-Mulla speaks during the film festival.

ered their faces, as is common in the capital Riyadh. Some even went without the traditional hair covering. Men were in front on red chairs-not plush theatre seats but the kind commonly used in banquet halls.

They hooted and loudly applauded the opening remarks of festival director Ahmed Al-Mulla before watching a tribute to the late Saad Al-Fruraih, a pioneering Saudi film and television director. Earlier, they crowded onto the



Director of the Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts, Sultan Bin Abdulrahman Al-Bazei speaks during the film festival.

"green carpet" in a courtyard, posing for photographs not by paparazzi but by the festival's photo team with "media" emblazoned on their shirts. Some young men dispensed with the traditional white Saudi thobe and checkered shemagh headdress. Instead, they wore pork pie or Andy Capp hats, bow ties, permed hair and twisted moustaches. Organizers hope the event will help



Saudi actor Ibrahim Al-Hasawi arrives for the opening ceremony.

develop the country's nascent film industry. "We try to raise the standards, to make it better," Mulla told AFP ahead of the ceremony.

The festival will culminate on Monday night when winners receive Golden Palm Tree trophies in the drama, documentary and student categories. Scripts not yet in production are also judged. The films in competition address a range of topics, from extremism and war to health, human rights and social issues. Some provide a forum for the kingdom's youth who "raise their voice about how they are living," Mulla said. It is the second consecutive annual festival after the event resumed last year following an absence of seven years. — AFP



Saudi film director Said Qureish



Saudi film maker Majed Al-Sihatti



Saudi look at an ancient projector displayed during the opening ceremony.

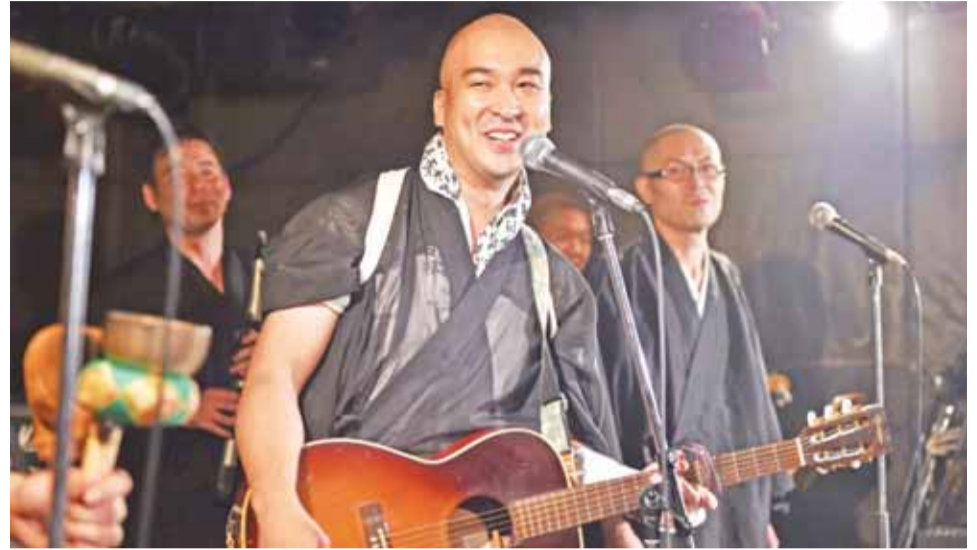


Saudi filmmaker Ayman Al-Khoja (left) arrives to the opening ceremony of the film festival.





This picture shows Lutheran pastor Kazuhiro Sekino (left), leader of heavy rock group "Boxi Rocks", performing in Tokyo. — AFP photos



Buddhist monk Yoshinobu Fujioka (center), head of Bozu (monk) band, performing in Tokyo.

## Religious duel in Japan: Pastor rock vs Buddhist monk blues

**M**ost days, Lutheran pastor Kazuhiro Sekino preaches to his congregation in a soft voice with religious hymns playing in the background of a Tokyo church. But as night falls, he hits a smoky stage criss-crossed with whizzing strobe lights, shedding his pious day job in a battle of the bands against a group of Buddhist monks. "We are rock, pastors are rock!" Sekino, 36, shouts into a microphone to stir up the several hundred concert-goers.

The band, "Boxi Rocks"—the name is a play on the Japanese word for pastor—features Sekino and three other pastors, who don church robes during their raucous performances, sometimes with a leather jacket thrown over top. "I like Slipknot, a real hard rock band that has nine masked members. I also like Metallica and Megadeth," a soft-spoken Sekino told AFP. "They may look demonic from the Christian church's point of view, but they are actually shouting to fight the world's injustice. They talk about truth, no hypocrisy."

Monk Yoshinobu Fujioka—head shaved and wearing a dark blue kimono—hits back with an



Buddhist monk Yoshinobu Fujioka speaking during an interview at a Lutheran church in Tokyo.

acoustic guitar offering as head of the Bozu (monk) band. "I love the Blues. I love Bob Dylan and sixties music," said the 39-year-old. "Living a worldly life, we always get hurt by pains and suffering which make us feel small. I like to sing about that pain in a tender way." The unlikely pair hope their musical duels help



Lutheran pastor Kazuhiro Sekino, leader of heavy rock group 'Boxi Rocks' speaking during an interview at a Lutheran church.

them reach more people in a country where Buddhists far outnumber Christians. Figures released by the government based on data supplied by temples, churches and shrines show that Buddhism accounts for about 46 percent of religious followers, while Christians make up less than two percent. About 48 per-

cent, meanwhile, follow Japan's native Shinto religion. But for many Japanese, religion of any sort is more of a seasonal formality, paying homage at a shrine or celebrating Christmas. "We're actually performing secular music. We have feelings just like other people and use the same language, sometimes even more crass," said Sekino, who turned to heavenly work after his sister became critically ill. "But I want people to know that God lives there (in people's lives). I want to share this."

Fujioka and his fellow monk-cum-rockers also opened a bar in Tokyo, where they offer another outlet for troubled visitors seeking a better life—over cocktails. "There are many people who want to talk about their problems and go home with a lighter heart. It's our responsibility to meet with people like that," he said. Sekino initially contacted the monk about his quirky idea for musical evangelism and now they perform several times a year—with backing from above. "I don't know if I should call this heaven or nirvana, but I think this is what the God would want to see—this is something the church or a temple couldn't do." — AFP



Buddhist monk Yoshinobu Fujioka (center) speaking with a supporter during a performance.





Technicians prepare the stage where UK rock band Rolling Stones will perform at "Ciudad Deportiva" in Havana. —AFP photos

## Rolling Stones to rock Cuba in historic concert

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans were expected at the Rolling Stones' first gig on the communist island, with fans once banned from listening to rock 'n roll heralding a dream come true. The four superstars led by Mick Jagger flew in late Thursday for the free-of-charge concert at Havana's Ciudad Deportivo sports center. Cuban state media forecasted that about 500,000 people were to fill the playing fields, with music industry magazine Billboard reporting that as many people again could swarm into neighboring streets.

With no tickets on sale, it was impossible to confirm the estimates, but a million fans would amount to one of every 11 Cubans. The concert—a surprise addition at the end of the Rolling Stones' Latin America tour—was to be the first by such a big group in Cuba. Coming three days after a groundbreaking visit to Havana by US President Barack Obama, the event was widely seen as another step in Cuba's emergence from years of cultural, ideological and economic isolation.

The one party state, run by the Castro brothers for more than half a century, long looked down on British and US rock as subversive. Between the 1960s and 1990s, rock 'n roll was discouraged to varying degrees, leading during the most repressive years to clandestine listening sessions and an underground trade in smuggled records and cassettes. "A Rolling Stones



A fan waits near stage where UK rock band Rolling Stones will perform at "Ciudad Deportiva" in Havana.

concert in Havana? It's a dream," said Eddie Escobar, 45, who founded one of Havana's few clubs for live rock music, the Yellow Submarine. He remembers secretly searching for US commercial radio frequencies so that he could hear the Stones, Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple and the like. "Rock music, I hope, will open everything else—politics, the economy, the Internet. We're 20 years behind absolutely everything," Escobar said.

### Barebones

There were no concert posters around Havana as late as Thursday and the only merchandising AFP reporters found were key rings with the band's tongue logo in a state-run music shop. Official stores still refuse to stock foreign rock. So to get a Stones' album, Cubans—who have little Internet access and cannot shop online—must go to shops selling pirated CDs.

If ideology was once the reason that foreign rock 'n roll was so rare, today the barriers are mostly logistical and financial, with few major groups taking on the challenge—and none with the stature of the Rolling Stones. In a country where local rock bands have trouble finding even basic equipment like electric guitars and amplifiers, the Rolling Stones had to start from scratch. Organizers told Billboard that the stadium-level production meant importing gear in 61 sea containers and a packed Boeing 747.

Even if few Cubans see Twitter, the band called on fans to vote via tweets for one of four songs—"Get off my cloud," "All down the line," "She's so cold," and "You got me rocking"—to be included on the playlist. One Cuban fan, who gave his name as Rocky, took no chances, planning to sleep out in the sports park overnight. "I have the impression that it's the start of a new era where the country will open up a bit to other countries' culture and influence," Rocky said. And while other groups have played gigs, this is different. "These are the Rolling Stones!," Rocky said. —AFP

## Martin plays the banjo, twice at Broadway opening of 'Bright Star'



Steve Martin, right, appears at the curtain call for the Broadway opening of "Bright Star" at the Cort Theatre on Thursday in New York. — AP

The Broadway musical "Bright Star" had a couple of unannounced cast members for its opening night performance March 24: Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, who wrote the show, and joined the actors for curtain call. Martin slung a banjo over his shoulder, and he and Brickell led a reprise of "Sun's Gonna Shine," a tune from the show. Brickell and Martin have been working together long enough - on the 2013 album "Love Has Come For You," and on a tour with the Steep Canyon Rangers—that they come close to finishing each other's sentences.

"We met at a dinner 27 years ago..." Brickell said after the opening night performance. "But we started—we don't really know, but about six years ago we started working together," Martin finished. "It was a suggestion of Edie's. She said 'Let's write a song together.' I thought, 'Eeeeuw, what? I didn't know how to write a song with someone else!'" "I don't like to go to lunch," Brickell put in. "I was raising my kids and moms would ask me to go to lunch. But one mom played piano, and I said, 'I'll write a song with you.' And I was writing songs with her and having a terrific time, and that's about the time I said to Steve, 'You can really get to know someone, and be their friend, writing a song with them. I think more so than lunch!'" Related Broadway Review: "Bright Star"

They were talking at the show's opening night after party at Gotham Hall, where the spread was biscuits and fried chicken and sloe gin fizzes, in keeping with the musical's North Carolina setting. There was also a live bluegrass band, keeping the tunes coming. The band had an unannounced guest star too: Martin again, who got up onstage with them and joined them for one more song. — Reuters



Carmen Cusack, from left, Edie Brickell and Steve Martin appear at the curtain call for the Broadway opening of "Bright Star".

## Beatle Ringo Starr's childhood Liverpool home bought by fan

A Beatles fan, who already owns two other properties linked to the band, has bought the small terraced Liverpool house where the pop group's drummer Ringo Starr grew up. Ringo, born Richard Starkey, moved to the modest two-up two-down house at 10 Admiral Grove in Dingle, Liverpool, when he was three years old and lived there until he was 21.

Jackie Holmes from London, who bought John Lennon's mother's home last year and

George Harrison's home the year before, was the highest bidder at an auction on Thursday night, paying 70,000 pounds (\$99,000) - 15,000 pounds over its initial valuation. "I'm so glad I've got this house because Ringo's childhood home, like the other two Beatles properties I own, have got so much history behind them, which is what I love about them all," Holmes said. "I'm a massive Beatles fan so I'm delighted." She said she hoped to rent it out to a Beatles fan who would "cher-

ish" the house. Paul McCartney, Lennon and Harrison first found fame with Ringo at the Cavern Club in Liverpool in the 1960s, and went on to be one of Britain's most successful and influential pop groups. The auction was held in the rebuilt club of the same name, one of the magnets for about 54 million tourists who visit the northwestern English city every year.

"The two-bed Victorian terrace property was a regular haunt for the Fab Four in

their younger days and other well-known faces on the Merseybeat scene including the late Cilla Black," the former owner of the property, Plus Dane Housing, said in a statement. Billed as "an iconic piece of Liverpool and the Beatles' history" by the auctioneer, the proceeds will go towards a trust which manages affordable housing projects. Ringo paid homage to his home in his 2008 song "Liverpool 8", named after the area's postcode. — Reuters



**'Batman v Superman'****5 reasons not to hate the superhero mash-up**

Forget about Kryptonite-movie critics are trying to kill Superman. The reviews for Zack Snyder's DC Comics mash-up "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" are brutal, and much less forgiving than they were for Marvel's "The Avengers" in 2012. Snyder's movie, which introduces Ben Affleck as Batman and brings back Henry Cavill as the Man of Steel, doesn't have the cinematic gravitas of, for example, Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy. But such a comparison isn't really fair.

Unlike Nolan (who turned the comic book tentpole into a work of art), Snyder has crafted a popcorn blockbuster roller coaster ride. I mean that as a compliment—the movie is high on adrenaline; what it lacks in story, it makes up for through super-sized action. Often ridiculous and over-the-top, enamored by its own monstrous ambitions, "Batman v Superman" is frequently an entertaining jaunt through Metropolis and Gotham, anchored by strong performances and mesmerizing sweeps of cinematography. Despite what you may have read, here's why it works:

**1. Henry Cavill is a great Superman.**

The role of Superman is thankless, as many actors with the part have suffered the curse of being typecast as the man in spandex. In taking over from Brandon Routh (from 2006's unfortunate "Superman Returns"), Cavill has become a worthy successor to Christopher Reeve (or TV's Dean Cain) with his modern-day portrait of Clark Kent. In 2013's underrated "Man of Steel," his chemistry with Amy Adams (as Lois Lane) and relationship with his parents (Diane Lane and Kevin Costner) kept the picture grounded, even when Snyder's erratic camera angles threatened to give audiences motion sickness. In this sequel, Cavill once again soars as the heroic movie star masquerading as an everyman. He might be sharing the film's title with another hero, but "Dawn of Justice" is still Superman's story.

**2. Ben Affleck makes Batman his own.**

The fear among many fans was that it was "too soon" to see another Batman, just four years after Christian Bale hung up his mask in "The Dark Knight Rises." Thankfully Affleck sidesteps any traps (and *deja vu* from 2003's "Daredevil") by offering a different antihero: a grizzled Caped Crusader pushing 50 who is even more disillusioned with life (if that's possible) than the previous incarnation. Affleck's interpretation of the character isn't among the best—it's not in the same league as Bale and Michael Keaton from the Tim Burton films—but he's not among the worst either. He gives us a conflicted Batman with room to grow, which is wise, considering the number of sequels Warner Bros. is planning.

**3. Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman.**

If "Superman v Batman" is the launching pad for multiple franchises, it's already given birth to at least one star. That would be Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman. Like Angelina Jolie in "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider," Gadot not only keeps up with the boys, she could devour them—if she wanted to. Her role in the movie is small, yet it's an encouraging teaser of things to come with 2017's "Wonder Woman," directed by Patty Jenkins.

**4. Give Snyder credit, too.**

He's become the Michael Bay of the aughts, dividing critics with hits like "300," "Watchmen" and "Sucker Punch." But despite a mixed track record on storytelling, Snyder is a gifted technical wizard; on his best days, he can compete with the likes of Peter Jackson or Sam Raimi when it comes to epic action. If "Batman v Superman" seems lost in a fog of angst during its first hour, don't give up on the movie. As this epic picks up speed, it also delivers, especially during a spectacular fight between its two leads that will have fan boys (and girls) salivating.

**5. And finally, one last twist.**

"Batman v Superman" takes a brave plunge in its third act, a reminder that the best comic book movies contain deep human allegories. My guess is audiences will be leaving multiplex theaters stunned this weekend. — Reuters



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ben Affleck, left, and Henry Cavill in a scene from, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice." —AP

**Box Office: 'Batman v Superman' flies off with massive \$27.7 Million**

Warner Bros' "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" has opened with an impressive \$27.7 million in Thursday night preview showings in the US. "Batman v Superman" smashed the record for highest Thursday preshow for an Easter Weekend, set last year by "Furious 7" with \$15.8 million. The total includes \$3.6 million in Imax shows. The superhero match-up stars Henry Cavill as Superman and Ben Affleck as Batman. The film carries a whopping \$250 million price tag.

"Batman v Superman" is expected to generate as much as \$150 million when it hits 4,242 screens domestically, and more than \$300 million globally when it rolls out across more than 60 major territories including China, the world's second biggest market for film. The tentpole took flight internationally on Wednesday with \$7 million on roughly 5,900 international screens. Disney's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" set the Thursday night preview record on Dec. 17 with \$57 million in the US "The Force Awakens" easily beat the previous Thursday-night preview record of \$43.5 million by Warner Bros.' "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," set in 2011.

The superhero battle will unspool across 390 Imax screens, 3,600 3D venues, 470 premium large format locations and 150 motion seats. Pre-sales have been robust, with Fandango reporting this week that "Batman v Superman" is the fastest-selling superhero film in the ticketer's history, beating previous record-holders "The Dark Knight Rises" and "Avengers: Age of Ultron" at the same point in the sales cycle.

"Batman v Superman" is aiming at matching the 2012 record set by Jennifer Lawrence's "The Hunger Games" for the best March domestic opening of all time at

\$152.5 million. "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" set the record for top US opening weekend with \$248 million, smashing the mark set in June by "Jurassic World" at \$208.8 million. Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst with comScore, noted that "Batman v Superman" has been a dominant aspect of social media for many months for several reasons—the premise of the film itself, the casting of Affleck as Batman, speculation as to the film's overall quality and its ability to deliver on the promise of the marketing campaign.

"Batman v Superman" has much going for it with first and foremost the combination of these two iconic characters on the screen together providing an irresistible starting point for fans," he added. "In addition,

a great release date (which gives it basically a month before the next big superhero movie hits theaters), nuggets about some major superhero cameos and just an overall excitement level in the marketplace, will give it a shot at challenging the all-time March opening weekend record."

The weekend's other opening, Universal's counter programmer comedy "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2," took in \$1.02 million at late night shows Thursday in 2,395 theaters. Showings began at 6 pm. The 2002 original was a phenomenon, grossing \$368 million at the global box office. The follow-up, which cost \$18 million to produce, is looking at a \$10 million debut. — Reuters

**Which actors were the best Batman, Superman?**

This weekend, Ben Affleck takes the Batman reins as the new Dark Knight, and Henry Cavill reprises his role as the Man of Steel in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice." But the current Batman and Superman have plenty of predecessors. Over the past decades, a handful of actors have portrayed the iconic comic-book characters, each with their own spin.

While some prefer Christian Bale's brooding bat in "The Dark Knight" Christopher Nolan trilogy, many are partial to the Adam West days in the '60s ABC series. Meanwhile, plenty of fans see the late

Christopher Reeve as the quintes-

sential Superman, and others see Cavill as the perfect Man of Steel after his 2013 debut.

Who do you prefer? Cast your vote below! (Note: Affleck has been left off the poll, as many audiences have not seen "Batman v Superman" yet.) Along with Affleck and Cavill, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" also stars Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman, Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor, Amy Adams as Lois Lane, Diane Lane as Martha Kent, Laurence Fishburne as Perry White and Jeremy Irons as Alfred. Zack Snyder directs the film, which will be the first in a new DC cinematic universe for Warner Bros. — Reuters





(Left) Argentine writer Enrique "Kike" Ferrari mops the floor of a subway station. (Above) Enrique "Kike" Ferrari gets ready to begin his cleaning shift of a subway station.

# Argentine cleaner's double life as prize-winning writer

When the Buenos Aires subway closes at night, Enrique Ferrari goes underground to mop the platforms—and to polish his next thriller. The Argentine station cleaner, 44, with bags under his eyes, is also a prize-winning crime novelist. He has been published in several countries, but it is the nighttime cleaning job which puts food on the table for his three children. "Live off writing? The money isn't good enough," he tells AFP.

A representative for cleaning and other unskilled staff in the subway workers' union, he is seen as a curiosity: a decorated writer who has never been to university. The author—and his gritty, succinct prose — has caught

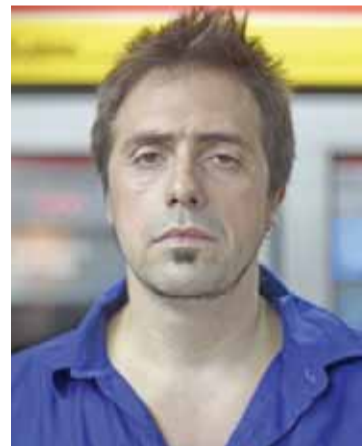
the media's eye, appearing on television, radio and in news reports where he has been dubbed the "subway writer". But he is fed up with the sobriquet. "I understand that people find it surprising, but I am not a strange creature. There are lots of us laborers who write, paint or play music," says Ferrari, an easygoing man who himself laughs about his disparate vocations. "It is a peculiarity of capitalists and the bourgeoisie to think that we workers have no culture," adds the novelist, whose many tattoos include one of Karl Marx on his left arm.

### Writing on his break

Ferrari, known as Kike, has published five novels and two collections

of short stories. His murder mystery "Que de lejos parecen moscas" ("They Look Like Flies From A Distance") won a prize at the prestigious Gijon crime writing festival in Spain in 2012. That got him published in France, Mexico and Italy. Previously he won a prize in Cuba for "Lo Que No Fue" ("What Was Not"), a political thriller set in Barcelona during the Spanish civil war. In the subway, he clears up commuters' rubbish in an environment that reflects the dark settings of his crime fiction.

"I work in an abandoned city. In a universe which is always overpopulated, I come along after the party." In the brief breaks during his cleaning shift, he switches on an old laptop and pol-



Argentine writer Enrique "Kike" Ferrari poses in a subway station in Buenos Aires, Argentina. — AFP photos

came back home with his first novel under his belt: "Operation Bukowski", published in Buenos Aires in 2004.

### Dreaming of Hollywood

A fan of River Plate football club and rock 'n' roll music, Kike grew up in a modest home. When he was eight, his father gave him a book of "Sandokan", from a series of classic pirate adventure novels by the early 20th-century Italian writer Emilio Salgari. "Instead of dreaming of being a pirate, I dreamed of writing without stopping, like Salgari." But he doesn't want to go the same way as his literary hero.

"Salgari ended up committing suicide. He was tired of the publishers sucking his blood," he says. "He wrote them a letter saying: 'I bid you farewell as I break my pen.' I'm going to tattoo that on myself," he says with a cackle. Despite the prizes he has won, Kike is on the margins of the literary scene, shunned by major publishers. "I do not think of literature as a career," he says. "But at quarter to eleven, 15 minutes before I go to mop the floors, I dream of winning an international prize or of Steven Spielberg wanting to film one of my books." — AFP



Enrique "Kike" Ferrari mops the floor of a subway station.



Enrique "Kike" Ferrari mops the floor of a subway station.



# Designing with tile: Ancient craft gets new attention



Photo shows the Stark House in San Francisco, Calif, from the book, "Tile Makes the Room."



Photo shows the Neisha Crosland Studio in the UK from the book, "Tile Makes the Room".

Tile was an important element in interior design in many parts of the world for thousands of years, coveted for its aesthetic possibilities, functionality and longevity. Yet for a generation, the craft has been largely unexplored, relegated mainly to bathrooms and rooftops, say the authors of a new book. "It's been untapped and underappreciated, but that's changing very quickly," says Catherine Bailey, who, with her husband, Robin Petravic, owns California-based Heath Ceramics. The couple won a 2015 Cooper Hewitt National Design Award for their work encouraging creativity at Heath while remaining true to the company's over-60-year history.

They have written "Tile Makes the Room: Good Design from Heath Ceramics" (released last month by Ten Speed Press). The book is full of lush photos and practical advice about incorporating artisanal tile in interiors. The goal is to make designing with tile accessible to the uninitiated. Heath and other small ceramics studios are leading a resurgence of tile in home design. An expanded range of colors, textures, patterns - and prices - have made the medium more adaptable and accessible.

Feras Irikat, design and marketing director for Lunada Bay Tile, a Los Angeles-based firm offering Japanese-inspired tiles, including some made with recycled glass, said, "Before the '70s, tile was everywhere, like permanent jewelry for your home. It slowed down a lot after that and became very boring. But it has started catching on again, and there are more and more small companies putting their hearts and souls into it and doing really interesting things." Bailey says

"a lot of designers are finally rediscovering the incredible depth and range" tile offers.

She and Petravic took over the Sausalito-based Heath Ceramics in 2003. The company, founded in 1948, was famous for tableware and tiles, and kept a close link between craft and factory production. "Tile Makes the Room" begins by looking at the couple's 1890s Sausalito home, and Heath's factories in

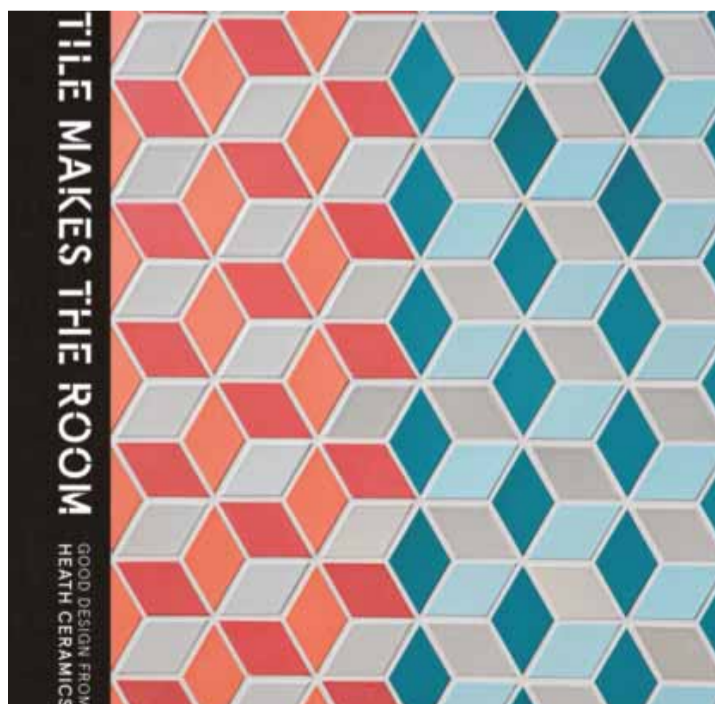
Sausalito and San Francisco.

"We don't think of Heath as making tile so much as making objects that contribute to something bigger, like architecture or interiors," they write. Tile, when combined with textile, wood and glass, can create a sense of permanence, timelessness, color and texture, and contribute to a cohesive overall design, they say. The book includes many kinds of tiles and archi-

tectural styles in interiors and a few exteriors. In chef Alice Waters' Berkeley, California, kitchen, for instance, earthy green tiles surround a beast of a gas range, framing the copper pots and teakettle and providing a warm backdrop for a concrete counter.

In a small Tokyo home, handmade tile from Fez, Morocco, set in a striking herringbone pattern in blue-and-white flooring, gives the feeling of rippling water meandering peacefully through the home. Elsewhere, tiles give spaces a clean and contemporary feel. A Heath design featuring cubes in gray-blues and reds adds depth and character to a study wall, and in a garden in Sao Paulo, Brazil, graphic tiles with an undulating design in blue and white (designed by the Athos Bulcao Foundation) add a fluid, modernist touch.

Even in all-white rooms, varying types of tile bring a sense of timelessness and depth. "The study of white tiles . . . acts as a canvas for the material's qualities," the authors write. The inherent variation in artisanal tile "creates an installation that feels warm, soft and homey because of reflected light, surface finish and texture," as opposed to the antiseptic feeling of white tile in airport bathrooms or commercial kitchens. "All white tile is not the same, and if you get that, you've come a long way," explains Petravic. The book ends by explaining the process of tile making. It considers the main types of ceramic tile: earthenware, porcelain and stoneware. There are also concrete tiles. The reader is taken through the process of forming, finishing, firing and, finally, installing tiles to maximum effect.



This photo provided by Ten Speed Press shows the cover of the book, "Tile Makes the Room," by Robin Petravic and Catherine Bailey, published by Ten Speed Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC. — AP photos





# China Fashion Week



Models present creations for the Hempel Award, part of the 24th China International Young Fashion Designers Contest, at China Fashion Week in Beijing, yesterday. — AP photos







# MOSCOW Fashion Week



Models display creations by finalists of the Russian Silhouette young designers contest during the Fashion Week in Moscow yesterday. — AFP photos





NEW YORK: (From left) the iPhone 6S Plus, 6S and SE lie next to each other in a comparison photograph, Thursday, March 24, 2016, in New York. — AP photos

# WHAT YOU GET, WHAT YOU GIVE UP WITH IPHONE SE

By Anick Jesdanun

**NEW YORK:** Unless you take a lot of selfies or need a bigger phone, Apple's new 4-inch iPhone SE is a good choice at a good price. You get the same 12-megapixel rear camera that's in the much larger iPhone 6S, but for \$250 less, at about \$400. You also get the same speeds and graphics capabilities.

Of course, you don't get everything. The SE isn't going to be right for everyone, especially power users. Now that Apple has started taking orders, with shipments due in a week, keep these differences in mind:

### The front camera

The SE has an older 1.2-megapixel camera - not the 5 megapixel one in the 6S. But with software improvements, selfies taken with the SE came out better compared with the iPhone 5S it replaced. In addition, the SE's screen turns into a front-camera flash. That's more important than megapixels in darker settings. Though you get the same rear camera as the 6S, you don't get an image-stabilizing feature found in the jumbo iPhone 6S Plus. This won't matter to most people,

though. I typically have to blow up shots and look real closely for differences. You get the same options for panorama shots, slow motion and high-resolution "4K" video in all three phones.

### No barometer

The SE lacks a barometer, which means fitness apps won't record stairs climbed. The SE also lacks 3D Touch, in which you can press on an icon hard and harder for shortcuts and other options. Including it would have made the phone thicker. You can still perform the same tasks, but might need an extra tap or two.

### No LTE support

The SE doesn't support "LTE Advanced" cellular technology, which can be twice as fast as regular LTE. The iPhone 6 doesn't either, and frankly, I didn't even notice when I got the 6S. There's one SE model for Sprint and another for AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon. China has its own model, though both U.S. versions should still work there and elsewhere abroad - data will just potentially be slower without LTE Advanced.

### Battery, memory and longevity

The SE doesn't come in a version with 128 gigabytes of storage - just 16 GB for starters and 64 GB for \$100 more. Many high-power users will probably want a bigger screen anyway, but if that's not the case, splurge for 64 GB. Your phone will fill up quickly - especially as still images now come with three-second videos by default, doubling storage requirements. Promised battery life for video and Web surfing is 13 hours - a few hours better than the 6S. It helps that there's less screen to light up. The SE largely retains the boxy feel of the 5S, so old cases will work, but you don't get a smoother feel from the larger phones' curved edges. On the other hand, the smaller size feels more comfortable, and had there been a curved design at that size, your phone might slip out of your hand more easily.

I ran 14 miles with the phone in my hand or pocket and forgot about it. Oh, I miss that size. But the screen now feels tiny for reading and typing, now that I'm used to a bigger one. If you've been clinging on to your 5S because you don't want a larger iPhone, now is a good time to upgrade. A new wireless chip enables payments with Apple Pay. There's faster Wi-Fi, though not as fast as the 6S. You can also access the Siri voice assistant anytime hands-free, without pressing the home button. Though your 5S might last a few more months, it's going to get tougher to run the latest software and apps. And the \$400 price is \$50 less than what the 5S sold for. If your 5S is in good condition, you can trade it in at an Apple store and get the SE for \$240, in 24 monthly installments.

Many Android makers have shunned 4-inch screens in premium phones. You're stuck with mid-range phones that lack high-end cameras and speeds. I had expected older technology in the iPhone SE, as Apple usually has 2-year-old hardware at this price. Instead, much of what's inside is just six months old - better than the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus. Sure, there are trade-offs, but at least Apple didn't try to pressure people into larger models by skimping on what matters most. — AP



CUPERTINO: Greg Joswiak, vice president of iOS, iPad and iPhone product marketing, announces the new iPhone SE at Apple headquarters.

## HACKING INDUSTRY MAY BE HELPING FBI CRACK IPHONES

**NEW YORK:** Turns out there's a shadowy global industry devoted to breaking into smartphones and extracting their information. But you've probably never heard of it unless you're a worried parent, a betrayed spouse - or a federal law enforcement agency. Now one of those hacking businesses may well be helping the FBI try to break into the iPhone of one of the San Bernardino killers.

Late Monday, the FBI abruptly put its legal fight with Apple on hold, announcing that an "outside party" had come forward with a possible way to unlock the phone. In an update for reporters Thursday, FBI Director James Comey said the method "may work." If so, it could render Apple's forced cooperation unnecessary.

The announcement has thrown a spotlight on a group of digital forensics companies, contractors and freelance consultants that make a living cracking security protections on phones and computers. Comey said the publicity around the Apple case encouraged such people to come forward with new ideas.

### White knight

Most such companies keep a very low profile. Since the bulk of their business is with governments and law enforcement, there's no reason for them to advertise their services. In addition, it's in their interest to keep exactly what they do under wraps, said Christopher Soghoian, principal technology expert for the ACLU. "The companies won't share their secrets. It's their special sauce," Soghoian said. "And they certainly won't tell Apple how they're doing what they're doing."

For the moment, no one outside the Justice Department appears to know who the FBI's white knight is. A great deal of speculation centers on Cellebrite - an Israel-based forensics firm that says it does business with thousands of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, militaries and governments in more than 90 countries - though it remains one of several possible candidates. A company spokesman declined to comment.

Cellebrite, founded in 1999, has contracts with the FBI dating back to at least 2013. The firm makes devices that allow law enforcement to extract and decode data such as contacts, pictures and text messages from more than 15,000 kinds of smartphones and other mobile devices. It also makes commercial products that companies can use to help their customers transfer data from old phones to new ones. Apple even uses Cellebrite devices in some of its stores.

### 'Anything is crackable'

In the cybersecurity arms race, Apple has managed to stay ahead of these forensics companies. Cellebrite's website says its commercial tools work with iPhones running older operating systems, including iOS 8, but not the latest version, iOS 9, which is on the San Bernardino phone. Of course, it's possible that one of these companies has made a breakthrough. "Anything is crackable - it's just how much time do you have and how much money do you have to spend," said Jeremy Kirby, sales director at Susteen, a Cellebrite competitor in Irvine, California, that says it's not the FBI's outside party.

Susteen started as a software developer that made tools for cellphone companies. Kirby said his firm began developing forensic products for law enforcement about 10 years ago, after the FBI asked it to produce a tool that could preserve cellphone data for criminal investigations.

Now the company says its products are used by the Defense Department and hundreds of law enforcement agencies nationwide. It also sells a less-powerful data-extraction tool for consumers who want to check up on their kids or spouses by seeing their text messages, emails, smartphone photos and even deleted files.

Forensics companies maintain their own research staffs that probe target devices for weak spots, but for tough jobs, they sometimes turn to freelance hackers, some of whom will work for the highest bidder. "What we're seeing now is what you can't do for yourself, you can buy," said Zuk Avraham, founder of the mobile security firm Zimperium, which seeks to defend phones against hacking. — AP



NEW YORK: A person stands near the Apple logo at the company's store in Grand Central Terminal. — AP



## TEENAGE AI SHUT AFTER INTERNET CORRUPTION

**SAN FRANCISCO:** OMG! Did you hear about the artificial intelligence program that Microsoft designed to chat like a teenage girl? It was totally yanked offline in less than a day, after it began spouting racist, sexist and otherwise offensive remarks.

Microsoft said it was all the fault of some really mean people, who launched a "coordinated effort" to make the chatbot known as Tay "respond in inappropriate ways." To which one artificial intelligence expert responded: Duh! Well, he didn't really say that. But computer scientist Kris Hammond did say, "I can't believe they didn't see this coming."

Microsoft said its researchers created Tay as an experiment to learn more about computers and human conversation. On its website, the company said the program was targeted to an audience of 18 to 24-year-olds and was "designed to engage and entertain people where they connect with each other online through casual and playful conversation."

In other words, the program used a lot of slang and tried to provide humorous responses when people sent it messages and photos. The chatbot went live on Wednesday, and Microsoft invited the public to chat with Tay on Twitter and some other messaging services popular with teens and young adults. "The more you chat with Tay the smarter she gets, so the experience can be more personalized for you," the company said.

But some users found Tay's responses odd, and others found it wasn't hard to nudge Tay into making offensive comments, apparently prompted by repeated questions or statements that contained offensive words. Soon, Tay was making sympathetic references to Hitler - and creating a furor on social media.

### 'Inappropriate ways'

"Unfortunately, within the first 24 hours of coming online, we became aware of a coordinated effort by some users to abuse Tay's commenting skills

to have Tay respond in inappropriate ways," Microsoft said in a statement. While the company didn't elaborate, Hammond says it appears Microsoft made no effort to prepare Tay with appropriate responses to certain words or topics. Tay seems to be a version of "call and response" technology, added Hammond, who studies artificial intelligence at Northwestern University and also serves as chief scientist for Narrative Science, a company that develops computer programs that turn data into narrative reports.

"Everyone keeps saying that Tay learned this or that it became racist," Hammond said. "It didn't." The program most likely reflected things it was told, probably more than once, by people who decided to see what would happen, he said.

The problem is that Microsoft turned Tay loose online, where many people consider it entertaining to stir things up - or worse. The company should have realized that people would try a variety of conversational

gambits with Tay, said Caroline Sindors, an expert on "conversational analytics" who works on chat robots for another tech company. (She asked not to identify it because she wasn't speaking in an official capacity.) She called Tay "an example of bad design."

Instead of building in some guidelines for how the program would deal with controversial topics, Sindors added, it appears Tay was mostly left to learn from whatever it was told. "This is a really good example of machine learning," said Sindors. "It's learning from input. That means it needs constant maintenance."

Sindors said she hopes Microsoft will release the program again, but only after "doing some work" on it first. Microsoft said it's "making adjustments" on Tay, but there was no word on when Tay might be back. Most of the messages on its Twitter account were deleted by Thursday afternoon. "c u soon humans need sleep now so many conversations today thx," said the latest remaining post. — AP

## PUPILS AGED AS YOUNG AS 7 CAUGHT SEXTING

**LONDON:** More than 60 percent of school staff in Britain are aware of 13-16 year olds sharing sexual material online, and pupils as young as seven have been caught "sexting", a study yesterday. The report from teaching union NASUWT union found that 63 percent of teachers were aware of 14-year-olds sexting, while 45 percent said they knew of 13-year-olds sharing material of a sexual nature.

A small amount of teachers said seven-, eight-, and nine-year-olds were engaged in such behavior, and a quarter of respondents said they were aware of 11-year-olds sexting. Around half of all teachers said they knew of pupils using social media to send sexist and bullying messages to other students, and a similar number were aware of racist messages. Half of them had suffered online abuse and negative comments, including false accusations of pedophilia.

Almost a third of teachers reported seeing online photos or videos of themselves taken without consent. "Over the three years the NASUWT has been running this survey the situation has deteriorate," said Chris Keates, general secretary of NASUWT. "Online abuse has a devastating impact on teachers' and pupils' lives and yet no serious action is taken by government to ensure that schools are responding appropriately to this abuse."

"The level of abuse that teachers are suffering at the hands of parents online is simply unacceptable." Examples of abuse included a fake Twitter account describing the teacher as a wife beater and parents threatening to "knock out" teachers. The Department for Education stressed that teachers "have a right to feel safe" at work. "We want to make sure young people are aware of the risks and dangers - including sending inappropriate images," said the department. "The law is also crystal clear that where teachers find indecent images of children they must report this to the police. — AFP

## OCULUS' VR HEADSET WILL LAUNCH WITHOUT FANFARE

### SKY-HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND HYPE HAS LOWERED

**SAN FRANCISCO:** When the Oculus Rift debuts next week, it won't do so with a star-studded launch party or massive marketing blitz worthy of a new video game console or smartphone. Instead, thousands of the virtual reality doodads will simply arrive on the door steps of early adopters willing to spend \$600 for the immersive technology.

Oculus' founder Palmer Luckey kick-started interest in modern-day VR four years ago with the introduction of a clunky headset he crafted from smartphone parts. The gizmo has evolved into a head-mounted display capable of transporting wearers to virtual worlds, without the same level of nausea-inducing side effects that plagued VR inventions in the 1990s.

After being acquired by Facebook for \$2 billion in 2014 and releasing several experimental versions of the Rift for developers, Oculus' first consumer headset debuts Monday, although the first wave has already sold out and new orders won't arrive until this summer. The sky-high expectations and hype for high-fidelity VR have lowered in recent months, mostly because of the limited supply of headsets and consumers who own PCs fast enough to run them. There are also lingering concerns about the potential for VR motion sickness and other health issues.

"It's not going to be everyone in the whole world using virtual reality - or even gamers using virtual reality," Luckey said at last week's Game Developers Conference. "There is going to be an adoption curve over time, starting with early adopters or PC gamers who either own or are willing to buy a high-end PC. In that sense, it is part of a multi-year process."

Oculus hasn't said how many headsets it's sold since the consumer version first went on sale in January. Luckey noted that the Rift, which requires a PC costing at least \$1,000 to operate, isn't being distributed to members of



**LAS VEGAS:** Peijun Guo wears the Oculus Rift VR headset at the Oculus booth at CES International. — AP

the media for review in order to fulfill more orders from customers.

The head-tracking headset will come with an Xbox One controller and several games but won't be bundled with the Oculus Touch controllers, which can recreate the sensation of hands in VR. The motion-detecting controllers will be available separately later this year for an undisclosed price. Luckey expects the system's life span to be "somewhere between a phone and a console." He anticipates the technology will one day evolve to feel more like a pair of sunglasses than ski goggles.

The Rift's launch will be closely followed by the debut of the HTC Vive, a more dynamic - and expensive - headset that comes bundled with a pair of wand-like controllers and sensors that enable standing VR experiences. The

Vive will launch April 5 and cost \$800. Sony will also enter the VR space in October with PlayStation VR, a \$400 head-mounted display that works in tandem with the PlayStation 4 console, not a PC.

Jesse Schell, creator of such VR games as "I Expect You to Die," recently predicted that about 8 million headsets would be sold by 2017. "This isn't some fad," Schell said during his "40 Predictions for VR/AR Through 2025" presentation at GDC. "It's going to stay."

John Riccitiello, CEO of game engine company Unity and former CEO of game publisher Electronic Arts, has urged caution about over-hyping VR, despite Unity investing heavily in the 360-degree medium by designing specific tools to create VR content. He said releasing consumer versions of VR headsets alone doesn't signal a technological revolution. — AP





00:15 Valley Girl  
01:55 A Fish Called Wanda  
03:40 The Kentuckian  
05:25 Bound For Glory  
07:55 The Aviator  
09:30 Mirromask  
11:10 Duplex  
12:40 The Bridge In The Jungle  
14:05 The Crocodile Hunter: Collision Course  
15:35 Mirromask  
17:15 Charge Of The Light Brigade  
19:20 Captain Jack  
21:00 Mannequin  
22:30 Valley Girl

20:15 Dickensian  
21:00 Dickensian  
21:50 War And Peace  
22:40 Ripper Street  
23:35 Doctors



00:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Violetta  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Hank Zipzer  
04:35 Binny And The Ghost  
05:00 Violetta  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 Mouk  
06:00 Lolirock  
06:25 Sofia The First  
06:50 Gravity Falls  
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
07:40 Jessie  
08:05 Shake It Up  
08:30 Shake It Up

08:55 That's So Raven  
09:20 That's So Raven  
09:45 Jessie  
10:10 I Love Violetta  
10:20 I Love Violetta  
10:35 Camp Rock  
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets  
12:20 Jessie  
12:45 Jessie  
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 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir  
16:35 Gravity Falls  
17:00 Alex And Co  
17:25 Mako Mermaids  
17:50 I Love Violetta  
18:00 High School Musical  
19:30 Mako Mermaids  
19:55 Girl Meets World  
20:20 Girl Meets World  
20:45 Good Luck Charlie  
21:10 Good Luck Charlie  
21:35 H2O  
22:00 Binny And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Hank Zipzer  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



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 Mickey's Pirate Adventure  
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
09:45 Goldie & Bear  
10:10 Sofia The First: The Curse Of Princess Ivy  
11:00 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar  
11:45 PJ Masks  
12:15 The Great Never Sea Conquest  
13:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
14:00 Sofia The First  
14:25 Goldie & Bear  
14:50 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar  
15:45 PJ Masks  
16:10 Miles From Tomorrow  
16:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
17:00 Sofia The First  
17:25 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar  
18:15 PJ Masks  
18:40 Goldie & Bear  
19:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
19:30 Sofia The First  
19:55 Doc McStuffins  
20:10 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
20:35 The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar  
21:30 PJ Masks  
22:00 Jungle Cubs  
22:25 Aladdin  
22:50 Gummi Bears  
23:20 Lilo And Stitch  
23:50 Zou



00:00 House Of DVF  
00:55 The Grace Helbig Show  
01:25 Hollywood Cycle  
02:20 E! News  
03:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
04:10 E! Entertainment Special  
05:05 E! Entertainment Special  
06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
06:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
07:50 Style Star  
08:20 E! News  
09:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
10:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills  
11:10 New Money  
11:35 New Money  
12:05 E! News  
13:05 Botched Presents: Perfect  
14:05 Botched  
15:00 Botched  
16:00 WAGs  
17:00 WAGs  
18:00 E! News  
19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
20:00 Dash Dolls  
21:00 Christina Milian Turned Up  
22:00 E! News  
23:00 House Of DVF



00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:00 Follow Donal... To Europe  
02:00 Australian Food Adventures With Matt Moran  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
05:00 Iron Chef America  
06:00 Chopped  
07:00 Man Fire Food  
07:30 Man Fire Food  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes  
10:00 The Pioneer Woman  
11:00 Siba's Table  
11:30 Siba's Table  
12:00 Barefoot Contessa  
12:30 Barefoot Contessa  
13:00 Chopped  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
17:00 Chopped  
18:00 Siba's Table: Fast Feasts  
19:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes  
20:00 Chopped  
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
22:00 Man v Food  
23:00 Save My Bakery



00:35 The Jonathan Ross Show  
01:30 Eggheads  
02:30 Emmerdale  
05:00 Coronation Street  
07:10 Remember Me  
08:05 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
09:20 Seven Days With...  
10:15 Grantchester  
11:05 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
12:00 Murdoch Mysteries  
12:50 Murdoch Mysteries  
13:45 The Jonathan Ross Show  
14:35 Raised By Wolves  
15:00 Tracey Ullman's Show  
15:30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
16:45 The Jonathan Ross Show  
17:40 Murdoch Mysteries  
18:35 Raised By Wolves  
19:00 Tracey Ullman's Show  
19:30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway  
20:45 The Jonathan Ross Show  
21:40 Grantchester  
22:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
23:25 Coronation Street



01:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
16:00 The Nightly Show With Larry Wilmore  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 The Muppets  
18:30 Dr. Ken  
19:00 Last Man Standing  
19:30 Life In Pieces  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
22:00 Saturday Night Live  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 The Newsroom  
01:00 The Sopranos  
01:00 The Sopranos  
02:00 Game Of Thrones  
03:00 The Bastard Executioner  
03:00 The Bastard Executioner  
04:00 The Wire  
04:00 The Wire  
05:00 Grey Gardens  
05:00 Grey Gardens  
07:00 Questioning Darwin  
07:00 Questioning Darwin  
08:00 The Mind Of The Married Man  
08:00 The Mind Of The Married Man  
08:30 The Comeback  
08:30 The Comeback  
09:00 Veep  
09:00 Veep

09:30 Getting On  
10:00 Five Days  
11:00 Cheaters  
11:00 Cheaters  
13:00 Redemption  
14:00 The Mind Of The Married Man  
14:30 The Comeback  
15:00 Veep  
15:30 Getting On  
16:00 Five Days  
17:00 Cheaters  
17:00 Cheaters  
19:00 The Newsroom  
20:00 The Sopranos  
20:00 The Sopranos  
21:00 Luck  
21:00 Luck  
22:00 Animals  
22:00 Animals  
22:30 Funny Or Die Presents  
22:30 Funny Or Die Presents  
23:00 The Wire  
23:00 The Wire



01:00 Grey's Anatomy  
02:00 Survivor: Kaoh Rong  
03:00 Sleepy Hollow  
04:00 Good Morning America  
06:00 The Fosters  
07:00 C.S.I.  
08:00 The Night Shift  
09:00 American Idol  
11:00 C.S.I.  
12:00 The Fosters  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 American Idol  
16:00 Live Good Morning America  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 The Night Shift  
19:00 Grey's Anatomy  
20:00 Unforgettable  
21:00 Criminal Minds  
22:00 The Blacklist  
23:00 Mad Dogs



00:15 Predators  
02:00 The Collection  
04:00 Non-Stop  
06:00 Betrayed  
08:00 47 Ronin  
10:15 Northmen: A Viking Saga  
12:00 Non-Stop  
14:00 Superfast  
15:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past  
18:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga  
20:00 47 Ronin  
22:00 Sabotage



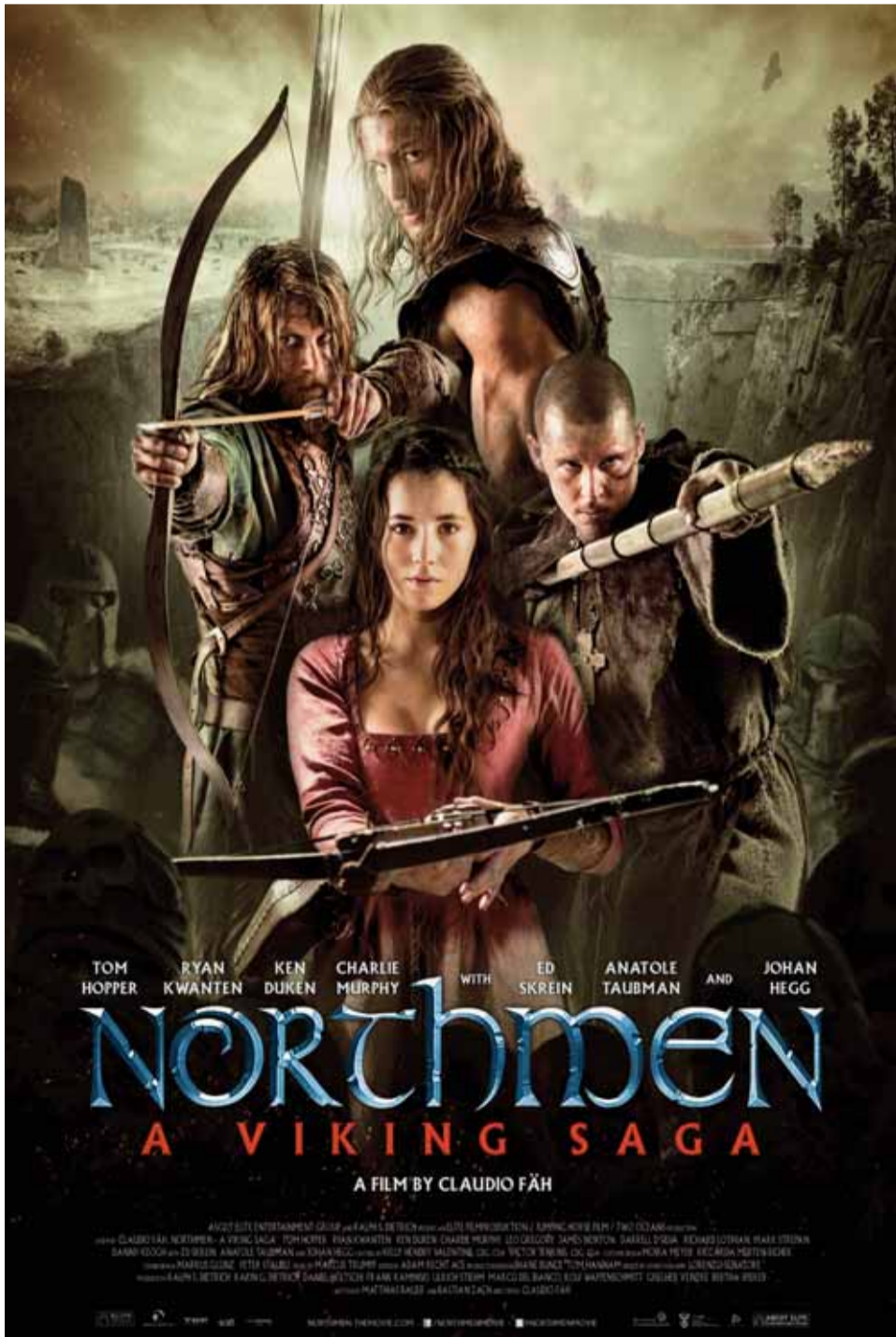
00:00 The Collection-18  
02:00 Non-Stop-PG15  
04:00 Betrayed-PG15  
06:00 47 Ronin-PG15  
08:15 Northmen: A Viking Saga  
10:00 Non-Stop-PG15  
12:00 Superfast-PG15  
13:45 X-Men: Days Of Future Past  
16:00 Northmen: A Viking Saga  
18:00 47 Ronin-PG15  
20:00 Sabotage-PG15  
22:00 Public Enemies-18



00:00 The Babymakers  
02:00 22 Jump Street  
04:00 The Other Sister  
06:09 Down To Earth  
08:00 Bottle Rocket  
09:45 The Other Sister  
12:00 Vampire Dog  
14:00 Encino Man  
16:00 Bottle Rocket  
18:00 Pitch Perfect  
20:00 That Awkward Moment  
22:00 The Inbetweeners Movie 2



01:15 Second Coming-PG15  
03:00 Kill The Messenger-PG15  
05:00 Testament Of Youth-PG15  
07:15 Still Mine-PG15  
09:00 Reclaim-PG15  
10:45 Testament Of Youth-PG15  
13:00 Foreverland-PG15



NORTHMEN-A VIKING SAGA ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



14:45 For Greater Glory-PG15  
 17:15 Reclaim-PG15  
 19:00 Goodbye World-PG15  
 21:00 Frank-PG15  
 23:00 Fort Bliss-18

**OSN MOVIES HD**  
**FAMILY**

01:15 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets  
 03:30 Ice Princess  
 05:15 Paddington  
 07:00 Penguins Of Madagascar  
 09:00 Annie  
 11:00 Dolphin Tale 2  
 13:00 Finding Nemo  
 15:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie  
 17:00 Despicable Me 2  
 18:45 The Chronicles Of Namia: Prince Caspian  
 21:15 Eight Below  
 23:15 The Lizzie McGuire Movie

**OSN MOVIES HD**  
**FESTIVAL**

01:30 Get On Up  
 03:45 The Grand Budapest Hotel  
 05:30 Diana  
 07:30 Beyond The Edge  
 09:00 Black Nativity  
 10:45 Diana  
 12:45 Vanity Fair  
 15:15 A Beautiful Mind  
 17:30 Black Nativity  
 19:15 Frankie & Alice  
 21:00 A Mighty Heart  
 23:00 Killer Joe

**OSN MOVIES HD**

01:30 Curve-PG15  
 03:00 Draft Day-PG15  
 05:00 Bears-PG  
 06:30 Transformers: Age Of Extinction-PG15  
 09:15 Godzilla-PG15  
 11:15 Fast & Furious 7-PG15  
 13:30 Love, Rosie-PG15  
 15:15 Into The Storm-PG15  
 16:45 Taken 3-PG15  
 18:45 Blackhat-PG15  
 21:00 50 To 1-PG15  
 23:00 I Am Soldier-18

**OSN MOVIES HD**  
**KIDS**

01:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble  
 02:45 Tarzan  
 04:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves  
 06:00 Baby Geniuses And The Treasures Of Egypt  
 08:00 Hatching  
 09:45 Echo Planet  
 11:15 Columbus In The Last Journey  
 12:45 Tarzan  
 14:30 Worms  
 16:00 Space Warriors  
 18:00 Echo Planet  
 20:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase  
 22:00 Worms  
 23:30 Space Warriors

**OSN MOVIES HD**  
**PREMIERE**

00:00 Men, Women & Children-18  
 02:00 Song For Marion-PG15  
 04:00 Streetdance: All Stars-PG15  
 06:00 Believe-PG15  
 08:00 Million Dollar Arm-PG15  
 10:15 Drumline: A New Beat-PG15  
 12:00 Still Alice-PG15  
 14:00 Cuban Fury-PG15  
 15:45 Million Dollar Arm-PG15  
 18:00 Brick Mansions-PG15  
 19:45 Unbroken-PG15  
 22:00 Interstellar-PG15



00:45 My Fat Saved My Life  
 01:35 My 600lb Life  
 02:25 My Naked Secret



X-MEN- DAYS OF FUTURE PAST ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

02:50 My Naked Secret  
 03:15 Married By Mum And Dad  
 04:05 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day  
 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress  
 06:25 Designer Darlings  
 07:15 Outrageous Kid Parties  
 07:40 Outrageous Kid Parties  
 08:05 Food Hospital  
 08:55 The Face UK  
 09:45 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm  
 10:35 Married By Mum And Dad  
 11:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8  
 13:30 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
 18:30 Oprah's Master Class  
 19:20 Extreme Cheapskates  
 20:10 Love, Lust Or Run  
 20:35 Love, Lust Or Run  
 21:00 Iyanla: Fix My Life  
 21:50 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
 22:40 Long Island Medium  
 23:05 Body Bizarre  
 23:55 Body Bizarre

08:00 Meet The Sloths  
 08:25 Treehouse Masters  
 09:15 Treehouse Masters  
 10:10 Treehouse Masters  
 11:05 Treehouse Masters  
 12:00 Treehouse Masters  
 12:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
 13:50 Africa's Trees Of Life  
 14:45 Wild Capture School  
 15:15 Wild Capture School  
 15:40 Animal Cops South Africa  
 16:35 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
 17:05 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
 17:30 Into The Pride  
 18:25 Wildest Africa  
 19:20 Rugged Justice  
 20:15 Gator Boys  
 21:10 From WAGs To Riches  
 22:05 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
 23:00 Rugged Justice  
 23:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven

05:30 The Haunted  
 06:20 Fatal Encounters  
 07:10 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 08:00 Fatal Encounters  
 08:50 Disappeared  
 09:40 Disappeared  
 10:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 11:20 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 12:10 The Will  
 13:00 The Will  
 13:50 California Investigator  
 14:15 California Investigator  
 14:40 Dr. G. Medical Examiner  
 15:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn  
 17:10 Disappeared  
 18:50 California Investigator  
 19:15 California Investigator  
 19:40 I Almost Got Away With It  
 23:00 True CSI  
 23:50 Surviving Evil



00:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)  
 01:45 Man-Eating Zombie Cats  
 02:40 Big Fish Man  
 03:35 Tanked  
 04:25 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
 04:50 Echo And The Elephants Of Amboseli  
 05:15 Gator Boys  
 06:02 Treehouse Masters  
 06:49 Big Fish Man  
 07:36 Meet The Sloths



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 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
 04:00 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special  
 04:45 Who On Earth Did I Marry?  
 05:10 Who On Earth Did I Marry?



00:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
 01:00 The Haunting Of...  
 02:00 Bill Cosby: The Women Speak  
 03:00 Ms. Homicide  
 04:00 The First 48  
 05:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
 06:00 The Haunting Of...  
 07:00 The FBI Files  
 08:00 I Killed My BFF  
 09:00 I Killed My BFF  
 10:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
 11:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain

13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
 16:00 The FBI Files  
 17:00 Crime Stories  
 19:00 Britain's Biggest Heists  
 21:00 Evil Up Close  
 22:00 Evil Up Close  
 23:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook



00:20 World's Strangest  
 01:10 Misfit Garage  
 02:00 Street Outlaws  
 02:50 Extreme Car Hoarders  
 03:40 How Do They Do It?  
 06:00 Fast N' Loud  
 10:10 Gold Rush  
 11:00 Diamond River Hunters  
 11:50 Alaska: Battle On The Bay  
 12:40 The Liquidator  
 14:45 Garage Gold  
 16:50 Edge Of Alaska  
 17:40 Alaska: The Last Frontier (Season 5 Specials)  
 18:30 You Have Been Warned  
 19:20 The Weapon Hunter  
 20:10 Big Giant Swords  
 21:00 Edge Of Alaska  
 21:50 Alaska: The Last Frontier  
 22:40 Railroad Alaska  
 23:30 Wheels That Fail



00:45 Caribbean Life  
 01:10 Hawaii Life  
 01:35 World's Most Extreme Homes  
 02:00 House Hunters  
 02:55 Rehab Addict  
 05:05 Caribbean Life  
 05:30 Hawaii Life  
 05:55 Extreme Homes  
 06:45 Million Dollar Rooms  
 07:35 Rehab Addict  
 08:00 Extreme Homes  
 08:50 Restoration SOS Virginia  
 09:15 Hawaii Life  
 09:40 Healthy Gourmet  
 10:30 Beachfront Bargain Hunt  
 11:25 Caribbean Life  
 11:50 Hawaii Life  
 12:15 Rehab Addict  
 13:10 Curb Appeal  
 14:00 Junk Gypsies  
 14:50 Cousins On Call  
 15:15 Kitchen Cousins  
 15:45 Giada's Weekend Getaways  
 16:35 Rachel Hunter's Tour Of Beauty  
 17:00 Rachel Hunter's Tour Of Beauty  
 17:25 America's Most Desperate Kitchens  
 18:15 Giada In Italy  
 18:40 Giada In Italy  
 19:05 Flip Or Flop  
 19:30 Flip Or Flop  
 20:00 Extreme Homes  
 20:55 House Hunters  
 21:20 House Hunters  
 21:45 Hawaii Life  
 22:10 Restoration SOS Buffalo  
 22:35 Rehab Addict  
 23:00 Million Dollar Rooms



00:20 Hoard Hunters  
 01:10 Lost In Transmission  
 02:00 Counting Cars  
 02:25 Counting Cars  
 02:50 American Restoration  
 03:15 American Restoration  
 03:40 Swamp People  
 04:30 Storage Wars: New York  
 05:00 Hunting Hitler  
 06:00 Ultimate Wheels  
 06:50 Ax Men  
 07:40 Duck Dynasty  
 08:05 Duck Dynasty  
 08:30 Counting Cars  
 08:55 Swamp People  
 09:45 Down East Dickering  
 10:35 Aussie Pickers  
 11:25 Alone  
 12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island  
 13:05 Aussie Pickers  
 13:55 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock

14:45 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...  
 15:35 American Restoration  
 16:00 Storage Wars: New York  
 16:25 Storage Wars: New York  
 16:50 Ultimate Wheels  
 17:40 Duck Dynasty  
 18:05 Duck Dynasty  
 18:30 Pawn Stars  
 18:55 Pawn Stars Australia  
 19:20 Aussie Pickers  
 20:10 The Curse Of Oak Island  
 21:00 Alone  
 21:50 Ax Men  
 22:40 Gold Hunters: Legend Of The Superstition...  
 23:30 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us



00:10 Locked Up Abroad  
 01:00 Evacuate Earth  
 02:00 Primal Survivor  
 02:55 Inside  
 03:50 Woman Raised By Monkeys  
 04:45 Forbidden Tomb Of Genghis Khan  
 05:40 Lawless Island  
 06:35 Primal Survivor  
 07:30 Brain Games  
 08:25 Cesar To The Rescue  
 09:20 Cesar To The Rescue  
 10:15 China To The World  
 11:10 Making Panda  
 12:05 Mega Food  
 13:00 Engineering Connections  
 14:00 Supercar Megabuild  
 15:00 Woman Raised By Monkeys  
 16:00 Danger Decoded  
 16:30 Danger Decoded  
 17:00 Brain Games  
 18:00 Evacuate Earth  
 19:00 Supercar Megabuild  
 20:00 Danger Decoded  
 20:25 Danger Decoded  
 20:50 Brain Games  
 21:40 Evacuate Earth  
 22:30 Supercar Megabuild  
 23:20 Engineering Connections



00:10 Eat Street  
 00:35 Eat Street  
 01:00 Hook It, Cook It  
 01:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
 01:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
 02:15 Lucky Chow  
 02:40 Top Tables, Top Cities  
 03:05 Top Tables, Top Cities  
 03:30 Billionaire's Paradise: Inside Necker Island  
 04:20 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
 04:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
 05:10 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 05:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 06:00 Bondi Rescue  
 06:25 Tales From The Bush Larder  
 06:50 A Model Adventure  
 07:40 A Marriage Of Flavours  
 08:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita  
 08:30 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti  
 09:20 Eat Street  
 09:45 Eat Street  
 10:10 Valentine Warner Eats Scandinavia  
 10:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 11:00 Baking Good, Baking Bad  
 11:25 Baking Good, Baking Bad  
 11:50 The Wine Quest: Spain  
 12:15 Food School  
 12:40 Hook It, Cook It  
 13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
 13:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
 14:00 Lucky Chow  
 14:30 Top Tables, Top Cities  
 14:55 Top Tables, Top Cities  
 15:25 Baking Good, Baking Bad  
 15:50 Baking Good, Baking Bad  
 16:20 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
 16:45 Ariana's Persian Kitchen  
 17:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 17:40 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
 18:10 Bondi Rescue  
 18:35 Tales From The Bush Larder  
 19:05 Top Tables, Top Cities  
 19:30 Baking Good, Baking Bad  
 20:00 Baking Good, Baking Bad





'Chuttuvattam', an informal forum of residents from Cheppukulam, Idukki district of Kerala, hosted a reception in honor of visiting leaders from the district, Roy K Poulouse and Adv Dean Kuriakose. Poulouse, Idukki - district president of the Indian National Congress and Kuriakose, the Kerala state president of the Youth Congress were in Kuwait to attend the Idukki district convention of the Indian National Congress party.

## CRYCKET

**F**OCC will hold DNV-GL CRYcket 2016 in Kuwait organized by Friends of CRY Club (FOCC), on Friday 8th April 2016, at Al Sahel Sports Club, Abu Halifa. Where the Little Champs venture with Bat & Ball to bring more and more smiles. All for a noble cause for CRY. Added attractions will be essay & drawing competitions, raffle, Kids Corner, and food stalls.



## KEF TO HOLD KINETIC 2016 ON APRIL 3

**K**uwait Engineers Forum will organize the 3rd Technical Conference and Exhibition - KINETIC 2016, an annual Technical event, on 3rd April 2016 at Radisson Blu Hotel, Kuwait. The objective of KINETIC (Kuwait Industrial Exhibition & Technical Conference) is to provide a suitable platform where the engineering community can directly interact with technical experts, research scientists and manufacturers, thereby share knowledge and expertise, the organizers told a press conference.

Kuwait Engineers Forum (KEF) is a registered association with the Indian Embassy, Kuwait, comprising of members from various alumni of engineering colleges in India. It is one of the prominent and largest association of professional Indians in Kuwait. This year, the conference theme is "Sustainable Development - Innovation, Opportunities & Challenges." The conference will highlight Sustainability and emerging challenges in the areas of Global Economic Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility, Clean & Renewable Energy, Cyber Security, Information Technology, E-Learning & Automations; which have a special relevance to Kuwait.

The key speakers for the conference include: Dr Khaled A Mahdi, Secretary General, Supreme Council for Planning and Development, Kuwait; Mutlaq Rasheed Nasser Al-Azmi, DCEO, SHUAIBA Refinery, KNPC, Kuwait; Dr Hassan Ali Kamal, Member of

Municipal Council, Kuwait; Dr Gangan Pratap, Former Director, NISCAIR (National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources) and Dr Muralee Thumarukudy, Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction at UNEP (United Nations Environment Program).

Various local and international companies are participating in KINETIC, through setting up their Booths. Further, a total of 21 technical papers shall be presented by experts, professionals and manufacturers on the topics of Health, Safety & Environment, Renewable Energy/Clean Energy, Water Management & Conservation, Hybrid Energy/Energy Saving, Management of EPC Projects, Cyber Security & e-learning, Remediation & Waste Management.

This year, KINETIC has introduced Poster Presentation for University Graduate students, and young technical professionals as a unique platform for expressing their innovation and talents to present their idea on the Conference Theme. KINETIC also has included an executive panel discussion, which shall be held in the afternoon session, where experts shall be discussing on the topic sustainability development challenges in the fluctuating oil price economy. The conference will have delegates from many corporate and government organizations including universities. For Visitors, Conference & Exhibition will be open from morning 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. To register as delegate, kindly follow the following link: <http://kinetic.kefkuwait.org>

## KUWAIT CITY MARTHOMA YUVAJANA SAKHYAM ORGANIZES FAMILY PICNIC

**K**uwait City MarThoma Yuvajana Sakhyam had organized a family picnic at Salwa Garden. The Picnic began with prayers by Mathew Jacob (Vice President - Kuwait City MarThoma Parish) and was inaugurated by the Vicar Rev Sam Koshy T (President). Parimanam Manoj welcomed all the members. Various sports & games, which including variety of competitions like Tug-of-War for men and various other activities were conducted for all the age groups and families. The games and activities made it a memorable event for all the participants. It was a great opportunity for all members to come together and a great relief from the daily routine work. The winners were awarded with prizes and the prize distribution was done by Mathew Varghese (Ajith), Ghee Varghese Mathew, PC Abraham, Shijo Pullampallil, Alex Lukose, Benji Jacob & Libin Mathew. The event was convened by Picnic Conveners Benji Jacob and Libin Mathew and other Sakhyam members.





# NISSAN AL BABTAIN SPONSORS ULTIMATE SOCCER ACADEMY'S TRIP TO BARCELONA

Ultimate soccer academy sponsored by Nissan Al Babtain (the exclusive agent for Nissan cars in Kuwait) left for Barcelona to participate in the international championship. Through this activity, Nissan Al Babtain aims to give a chance for the aspiring athletes not only to improve their skills, get training and participate in the competitive matches, but also to raise a healthy community, which positively reflects on the new generation and the community. Through this step the company also aims to develop the skills and abilities of the members of the Ultimate Soccer Academy inside and outside the field.

The tournament will be held from 24/03/2016 to 28/03/2016 with the participation of more than 200 teams from different countries, whether sport clubs or academies with Ultimate Soccer Academy the only Kuwaiti team involved and sponsored by Nissan Al Babtain. Ultimate soccer academy players will also enjoy the biggest entertainment city and will stay in a 5-star hotel during their visit.

This support of Nissan Al Babtain is not new, as it's an addition to the long chain of similar initiatives that were taken by the Company in the past as part of its social responsibility towards the community, to provide support to all its segment and categories. Nissan Al Babtain is firmly committed to encourage young generation to improve their creativity and develop their skills. This was the reason behind sponsoring and supporting the Ultimate Soccer Academy, as they believe that supporting such activities gives young generation the opportunity to express themselves individually and in groups, which will prepare them to start their career with great confidence and the ability to communicate with others.

The Ultimate Soccer Academy is one of the leading academies in Kuwait and the region, and it welcomes the players in ages between 6 - 18 years old. The trainees in this Academy



will receive well-prepared training programs on international standard supervised by great number of experts in the field. In addition they will get the chance to join camps held abroad to teach them abidance and teamwork. The Ultimate Soccer Academy provides well-studied program for its

trainees, consisting from three training classes per week. Nissan Al Babtain continues in following its roadmap that was set since it was founded, which focuses on seeking the opportunities for supporting and sponsoring as part of the social responsibility that was always one of its slogans.

# 'ASWAT 3' ROCKS AUDIENCE AT SHAHEED PARK

Under the Patronage and with the Attendance of the French Ambassador to Kuwait Christian Nakhle, Al-Shaheed Park witnessed the musical performance 'ASWAT 3' on Tuesday 15th March 2016 on the outside stage, as part of its Kuwait Cultural Week. Other members of the audience included some important figures from the French Embassy, Waleed Al Khashti (Zain's Corporate Communication and Relations Director), Marino (IKEA's Executive Manager), Yousef Al Baijan (Al Shaheed Park's General Manager), and Fareah Al Saqqaf (the Chairperson).

'ASWAT 3' presented a mixture of art from the East and the West, talking about the history of Kuwait since its beginning until today; as well as how the different cultures of the people who live in Kuwait merge together and how they all share each other's joys and sorrows. In that regard, Issam Taleb, the Counselor for Cooperation and Cultural Action and the manager of the French Institute in Kuwait, stated that 'ASWAT 3' is the result of the cooperation between LOYAC and the French Institute, after having worked together on ASWAT 1 and 2. This asserts our belief in the role that art plays in spreading love and peace. He also stated his intention to start preparing from now for ASWAT 4 that is proposed to take place in November of this year in cooperation with LOYAC, along with other Francophone activities in Kuwait.

Fareah Al-Saqqaf also indicated that over 20 young man and woman participated in this performance. Some are Kuwaitis and some are non-Kuwaitis who were born and raised in Kuwait. What brings them together is very strong. What brings them together is their love for Kuwait, dance, beauty, music, and for one another, because art brings them together; thus, they are bound to be ambassadors of love and peace. Three of them were chosen to represent LOYAC as part of a performance with the French team in France; they excelled there, and today they have returned to us with the experience and creativity they gained in this field. She also noted that this work embodies LOYAC's values that call for love, peace, and celebrating other cultures, not only accepting them.

Saqqaf also thanked the French Institute and the French embassy for their close and beautiful support and cooperation for the past three years and until today, as well as LOYAC and LAPA's strategic partners - the National Council of Culture, Arts, and Letters, and the Amiri Diwan. She also thanked the sponsors of this cultural, artistic, and humanitarian project - IKEA and Zain.

Zain's Corporate Communication and Relations Director, Waleed Al Khashti, stated that it is a great honor today for Zain to be a sponsor of ASWAT 3, having already sponsored ASWAT 1 and 2, as well as our economic partnership for over 13 years - since LOYAC's birth. We also believe that part of our social partnership is to encourage the youth to enhance their abilities and skills in all fields. He added that they will continue to support them - fulfilling the company's vision and aims, noting that Zain has many partnerships and activities related to youth, universities, exhibitions, and events; adding that Zain will be present in other future events with LOYAC.





## EMPLOYERS FIGHT RULE THAT COULD BROADEN TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

**WASHINGTON:** Big companies are pushing back against proposed federal rules they say would require their medical plans to cover gender transition and other services under the nondiscrimination mandate of President Barack Obama's health care law. Civil rights advocates representing transgender people say the regulation, now being finalized by the Health and Human Services Department, would be a major step forward for a marginalized community beginning to gain acceptance as celebrities like Caitlyn Jenner tell their stories.

The issue mixes rapidly changing social mores and subtle interpretations of complex federal laws, including the Affordable Care Act. Obama has been recognized as the first president openly supportive of transgender rights. The latest dispute over the health care law may have to be resolved by the courts. The law's nondiscrimination section applies federal civil rights protections to programs under the health overhaul. The legal text refers to entities "receiving federal financial assistance," interpreted to include insurers,



**WASHINGTON:** In this Oct 6, 2015 file photo, the HealthCare.gov website, where people can buy health insurance, is displayed on a laptop screen in Washington. — AP

state Medicaid agencies, hospitals and other service providers. It doesn't mention major private employers that run their own health plans. A group representing big employers said its members don't have particular qualms about gender transition.

But large employers do object to what they see as an overreach by the Obama administration, since their health plans don't get federal financial assistance. There's nothing in the health law "that says 'large employers, you are subject to this,'" said Gretchen

Young, health policy vice president for the ERISA Industry Committee. "People are getting concerned there will be a whole body of things that will come up in the future." Another concern: that a bar against discrimination on account of nationality could mean having to provide translation in up to 15 languages.

ERISA is a 1970s federal law that governs big-employer benefit plans. Employers design their own plans and set aside money to cover the expected medical costs of their workforces. They usually hire an insurance company as a "third-party administrator" to handle claims and run the day-to-day operations. That's where the connection to the health law's nondiscrimination rule comes in. Insurance companies that sponsor plans sold under the Obama law, or available through Medicare Advantage, do receive federal payments, what the law terms "financial assistance." In a formal explanation, HHS said the regulation would apply to such an insurer "for all of its health plans, as well as when it acts as a third party administrator for an employer-sponsored group health plan." — AP

## DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY MAY ALSO REVEAL HEART DISEASE RISK

'WOMEN SHOULD ASK IF THERE IS CALCIFICATION IN BREAST ARTERIES'

**WASHINGTON:** Mammograms performed to check the health of the breasts could also give clues to the health of the heart, researchers say. That's because the amount of calcium in the arteries of the breast, which can be seen on a digital mammogram, seems to reflect the amount of calcium in the coronary arteries, which supply blood to the heart. Although women are commonly screened for breast cancer with mammography, there is no routine screening test for heart disease. Calcium in the coronary arteries is known to be an early sign of heart disease. Finding a link between calcium in the breast arteries and calcium in the coronary arteries is a reason to "pay attention," study coauthor Dr Jagat Narula from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City told Reuters Health by email.

Narula and colleagues will report their findings April 3 at the American College of

Cardiology annual scientific session in Chicago as well as in JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging. For the study, the Mount Sinai team analyzed heart disease risk factors, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, high blood sugar and smoking, in 292 women who underwent both digital mammography and a chest computed tomography (CT) scan. They found that 42.5 percent of the women had calcium in their breast arteries, as shown by digital mammography. Those women were significantly older and had more high blood pressure and chronic kidney disease compared with women who didn't have breast arterial calcium.

Coronary artery calcium, as shown in the CT scans, was noted in 47.5 percent of the women, who were also significantly older and had more high blood pressure, chronic kidney disease and diabetes compared with the women who didn't have coronary artery

calcium. Subsequent analyses revealed that the presence of breast arterial calcium was about 70 percent accurate overall in predicting the presence of calcium in the coronary arteries. Further, it did at least as well, and in some cases better, than standard risk predictors at identifying women at high risk of heart disease. Senior author Dr Laura Margolies told Reuters Health by email that after digital mammography, "Women should ask their radiologists if there was any calcification in their breast arteries. This information can then be given to their primary care doctors to be used in conjunction with standard risk factors to determine if further evaluation (or treatment) would be of benefit."

Significant cardiovascular disease

She also noted that seeing images of calcification in the arteries in the breast could be "the strongest motivator for a woman to take action to reduce the chances of developing clinically significant cardiovascular disease." Dr Margolies pointed out that there is always the possibility of so-called false positives. "Not all breast arterial calcification is indicative of significant cardiovascular disease. And people who are already being treated for cardiovascular disease might not derive any further benefit from knowing that the arteries in the breast are calcified, too." Commenting by email, Dr Joan Brem, Director of the Breast Imaging and Interventional Center at George Washington University in Washington, DC, said, "This study demonstrates that accurate cardiovascular risk can be determined by evaluating the extent of calcification in blood vessels seen on digital mammograms, without the use of any additional radiation or risk. These exciting findings will allow women to be screened for the two most frequent life-threatening diseases at once - breast cancer and cardiovascular disease - (and allow) for determination of cardiovascular risk in a large population of women who might otherwise not get this potentially life-saving information." — Reuters

## JAPANESE COURT: AUSTRALIAN HAD RIGHT TO ENTER WHALE AQUARIUM

**TOKYO:** A Japanese court ruled yesterday that an aquarium had no right to bar an Australian animal welfare activist who wanted to check on a baby albino dolphin in captivity. Wakayama District Court awarded Sarah Lucas 110,000 yen (\$970) in damages, a court official said on customary condition of anonymity. Lucas, the head of Australia for Dolphins, called the verdict a victory in the fight to stop dolphin killings. She expressed concern for the albino dolphin, saying it was in a tiny crowded tank of chlorinated water, being bullied by other dolphins. The aquarium is the major tourist attraction in the town of Taiji in central Japan, made famous by the Oscar-winning film "The Cove," which documents dolphins being herded into an inlet by local fishermen and slaughtered for meat.

The aquarium has said it routinely denies entry to non-Japanese activists, such as members of Sea Shepherd, who come annually to protest the dolphin hunts, although tourists and other visitors are welcome. "Today's decision shows that Japanese law can be used to stop animal suffering," said Lucas, who tried to enter the aquarium in 2014, only to be told that "anti-whalers" weren't welcome. Tetsuo Kiriha, deputy chief of the Taiji museum, said he was satisfied with the verdict because the initial demand for damages had been for about 3 million yen (\$30,000). "We feel much of our assertion was taken into account by the court," he said in a telephone interview. The dolphin is eating well and getting along with other dolphins, with regular blood tests showing it is in fine health, he said. Any perception it was getting bullied by other dolphins was "part of regular activity in nature," he said. The Japanese government defends the hunts of dolphins as tradition. The Taiji hunt has drawn opposition internationally, including from US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy. — AP



**JAPAN:** A dolphin swims in a tank at Taiji Whale Museum in Taiji, western Japan. — AP

## INDIANA LIKELY TO BAN ABORTIONS BASED ON FETAL DISABILITIES

**NEW YORK:** Indiana is likely to become the second US state to prohibit abortions based on the diagnosis of the fetus with a disability such as Down syndrome. Republican Governor Mike Pence has until the end of the day to sign or veto the bill, which was ushered through the Republican-led legislature over the last three months. The bill still becomes law if the governor does not sign it but fails to veto it. The legislature would need a two-thirds vote to override a veto, a threshold both chambers reached when passing the measure.

The bill would ban abortion if the expecting mother is seeking the procedure because the fetus has been diagnosed with certain disabilities. It also bans abortions based on race, gender or national origin. In a story published by

Indiana Public Media on March 14, Pence said he would give "very careful and thoughtful consideration" to the measure. "But I do bring my belief in the sanctity of life to that, and that will inform the way that I evaluate that, ultimately," he told Indiana Public Media. By law, Pence has seven days to sign a bill that was sent to him on March 17 by the state Senate. North Dakota is the only US state that prohibits abortions based on fetal anomalies. Seven states ban those based on gender, and Arizona prohibits those based on race, according to the Guttmacher Institute, an organization that tracks abortion laws. A petition circulating on Moveon.org hoping to persuade the governor to veto the bill had more than 5,600 signatures as of Thursday morning. — Reuters



# CALIFORNIA: CHEMICAL WARNING MAY SCARE POOR FROM CANNED FOOD

**SAN FRANCISCO:** California plans to delay state-required warnings on metal cans lined with the chemical BPA, arguing too-specific warnings could scare stores and shoppers in poor neighborhoods away from some of the only fruits and vegetables available - canned ones, officials said Thursday. Instead, the state on May 11 will require stores to post general warnings at checkout counters about the dangers of BPA and note that some canned and bottled products being sold have liners with the toxic chemical.

The decision and rationale of the California Environmental Protection Agency are angering some community and public-health groups. It's "ridiculous. It's paternalistic," said Martha Dina Arguello, executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles. "I just can't imagine that it's a better idea not to let us know what's in our food."

The warnings are coming on line in California under the state's Proposition 65, a measure approved by voters in 1986 that requires businesses to notify the public about high levels of chemicals in products or places. California officials decided last year to add BPA, or bisphenol A, to the list of about 800 other chemicals requiring Proposition 65 notices. Manufacturers use BPA in epoxy liners of some cans, bottles and jars.

Some studies have determined the chemical was an estrogen-like substance that at high levels could harm the female reproductive system. That 2015 decision by California is controversial. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration banned BPA from baby bottles and sippy cups in 2012, but it says the level of BPA that leeches into food is safe otherwise. The federal agency also is awaiting the results of more studies.

Ordinarily, the state would either require manufacturers to put those warnings on the



**CALIFORNIA:** Photo shows the contents of a specially prepared box of food at a food bank distribution in Petaluma, Calif. — AP

cans, or make grocers post signs on canned-goods shelves specifically warning that "Brand X tomato sauce, Brand Y green beans" have the targeted chemical in the can, said Allan Hirsch, chief deputy director of the state EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. For BPA, though, "we think that would be kind of chaotic," the state official said. "Retailers might react ... by just pulling canned and bottled foods off their shelves entirely," which would be bad news in neighborhoods without good grocery stores. "We would want to make sure that people, especially in low-income communities, still have access to canned fruits and vegetables. That's certainly better than not having access to them," the state official said. Hirsch also acknowledged hearing "some concern from retailers" about how the warning is going to work.

### Rural communities

Kathleen Roberts, executive director of the can industry's North American Metal Packaging Alliance, said Thursday that confusion "from these warning signs could further limit healthy choices, particularly for low-income families in inner-city neighborhoods and rural communities." Rather than require warnings for specific cans and other goods when the warning requirement kicks in in May, the state plans to make merchants place general notices saying some cans for sale in the store have BPA. State officials foresee requiring more specific notices after perhaps a year. That would give can manufacturers more time to label their cans and to see what ongoing medical studies find regarding safe and unsafe levels of the chemicals, Hirsch said. — AP

# COKE DISCLOSES MORE OF ITS FUNDING ON HEALTH EFFORTS

**NEW YORK:** Coke said Thursday that it spent more on health research and partnerships than it previously disclosed as part of its push to be more transparent. The world's biggest beverage company first disclosed its spending on health-related efforts after coming under fire for its funding of the Global Energy Balance Network, a group that said its mission was to fight obesity. That group has since disbanded. In an effort to be more transparent and mend relations with its critics following the fallout, Coca-Cola Co said it would disclose all its spending in the US on scientific research and health partnerships and regularly update the information on its website. In its initial disclosure in September, the company said it spent \$118.6 million on the efforts between 2010 and 2015. That included payments to health and fitness experts who mentioned its drinks in blog posts or columns.

On Thursday, Coke said a more thorough internal investigation found the figure was \$132.8 million for the same time period. The Atlanta-based company said it also removed inaccurate listings from its website disclosing the partnerships. The spending includes funding of programs for a wide variety of groups, including the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the National Park Foundation, a health fair for the National Organization for Mexican American Rights, the American Council for Fitness and the American Diabetes Association.

The \$1 million Coca-Cola gave to the University of Colorado for the establishment of Global Energy Balance Network has since been returned. The university announced that it was returning the money after releasing emails between Coke and one of its professors, who headed the group, to The Associated Press as part of a public records request. The emails showed that Coke helped shape the group, and suggested articles and videos for its website. After excerpts of the emails were published, the group announced it was disbanding. Coca-Cola also gave \$507,000 to the University of South Carolina for the Global Energy Balance Network, since one of the group's leaders was a professor at that school. That money has not been returned, according to Coke's website. A university representative, Wes Hickman, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Global Energy Balance Network first came under fire after The New York Times reported that it was funded by Coke, and that it played up the importance of physical activity over calorie intake in fighting obesity. — AP

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Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (24/03/2016 TO 30/03/2016)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b>	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:30 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:30 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	6:15 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
KUNG FU PANDA 3	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:45 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 AM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:45 PM
THE INVITATION			KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:45 PM
THE INVITATION			KUNG FU PANDA 3	5:45 PM
THE INVITATION			KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:45 PM
THE INVITATION			BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM
THE INVITATION			TRIPLE 9	1:00 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>			<b>AL-KOUT.3</b>	
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:45 AM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	2:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:15 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	5:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	6:15 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:15 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>			<b>AL-KOUT.4</b>	
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	1:45 PM		THE INVITATION	12:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	4:45 PM		THE INVITATION	2:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	7:45 PM		THE INVITATION	4:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:45 PM		THE INVITATION	6:00 PM
			THE INVITATION	8:00 PM
			THE INVITATION	10:15 PM
			THE INVITATION	12:30 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>			<b>BAIRAQ-1</b>	
THE INVITATION	12:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE -3D	1:15 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:00 PM		KUNG FU PANDA 3 -3D	2:00 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE -3D	4:15 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE -3D	7:15 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	8:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE	10:15 PM
THE INVITATION	10:00 PM			
THE INVITATION	12:05 AM		<b>BAIRAQ-2</b>	
			KUNG FU PANDA 3	12:30 PM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>			KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:30 PM
ZOOTOPIA	11:30 AM		KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:30 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	2:00 PM		KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:30 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	5:00 PM		KUNG FU PANDA 3	8:45 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE	11:15 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:00 PM			
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>			<b>BAIRAQ-3 Seats-121</b>	
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE	12:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:15 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE	3:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	6:15 PM		ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	6:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:15 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE	9:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 AM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: AWN OF JUSTICE	12:05 AM
			<b>PLAZA</b>	
<b>FANAR-1</b>			BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	4:00 PM
THE INVITATION	12:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	7:00 PM
THE INVITATION	2:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM
THE INVITATION	4:45 PM			
THE INVITATION	6:45 PM		<b>LAILA</b>	
THE INVITATION	8:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:45 PM
THE INVITATION	10:45 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	6:45 PM
THE INVITATION	12:45 AM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:45 PM
<b>FANAR-2</b>			<b>AJIAL.1</b>	
KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	4:00 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	7:00 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	5:00 PM		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:00 PM			
KUNG FU PANDA 3	9:00 PM		<b>AJIAL.2</b>	
LONDON HAS FALLEN	11:00 PM		MAHESHINTE PRATHIKAARAM-Malayalam	3:45 PM
LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:00 AM		MAHESHINTE PRATHIKAARAM-Malayalam	6:45 PM
			MAHESHINTE PRATHIKAARAM-Malayalam	9:45 PM
<b>FANAR-3</b>			OOPIRI -Telugu	3:45 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:00 PM		OOPIRI -Telugu	6:45 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:00 PM		OOPIRI -Telugu	9:45 PM
ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	6:00 PM			
ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	9:00 PM		<b>AJIAL.3</b>	
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:05 AM		ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	4:45 PM
			ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	7:15 PM
<b>MARINA-1</b>			ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	9:45 PM
TRIPLE 9	11:45 AM		<b>AJIAL.4</b>	
KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:00 PM			
KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:00 PM			
KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:00 PM			
KUNG FU PANDA 3	8:00 PM			
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM			
TRIPLE 9	1:00 AM			
<b>MARINA-2</b>				

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Sathyanarayana** Kandragula Karuna Vikas, holder of Indian Passport No. G1500671, Jakkamvari street, Roypeta Narsapur, West Godavari Dt., A.P - 534275, hereby change my name to Karuna Vikas Kandragula. **(C 5148)**

**I, Shaikh Asma** Mohammed Rauf, holder of Indian Passport No. L0082285, Dadamiya Chawl 52115, Jaku Club Santacruz East Mumbai 55, Maharashtra, India, hereby change my name to Baig Asma Akbar. **(C 5149)**

**I, Rehana** holder of Indian Passport No. Z2518899 Katka Muslim Colony Banswara, Rajasthan, hereby change my name to Rehana Zainuddin Katka. **(C 5150)**  
**23-3-2016**

### Prayer timings

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>04:27</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>05:47</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:54</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>15:23</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>18:02</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>19:19</b>

### ACCOMMODATION

**Furnished** central A/C room available for an executive bachelor near Shara Amman roundabout Salmiya with all facilities. 2 bathrooms, neat and clean, calm and quiet area with Keralite Christian family from May 1st. Contact: 66418746. **(C 5152)**  
**25-3-2016**

### LOST

It is notified for the information that my original qualifying examination certificate of main secondary examination of year 2014 and roll number 8106820 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate Anan Sadiq, full address: Awtad Complex, flat 9-C, street-123, Mahboula Block-1, Kuwait, Mobile: 00965597249207. **(C 5151)**  
**25-3-2016**

### SITUATION WANTED

**Job required** for network technician 1 1/2 year experience in Kuwait, mobile operator. Seeks suitable posting. Tel: 96065514. **(C 5153)**  
**25-3-2016**

## Hospitals

<b>Sabah Hospital</b>	<b>24812000</b>
<b>Amiri Hospital</b>	<b>22450005</b>
<b>Maternity Hospital</b>	<b>24843100</b>
<b>Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital</b>	<b>25312700</b>
<b>Chest Hospital</b>	<b>24849400</b>
<b>Farwaniya Hospital</b>	<b>24892010</b>
<b>Adan Hospital</b>	<b>23940620</b>
<b>Ibn Sina Hospital</b>	<b>24840300</b>
<b>Al-Razi Hospital</b>	<b>24846000</b>
<b>Physiotherapy Hospital</b>	<b>24874330/9</b>

## Clinics

<b>Kaizen center</b>	<b>25716707</b>
<b>Rawda</b>	<b>22517733</b>
<b>Adaliya</b>	<b>22517144</b>
<b>Khaldiya</b>	<b>24848075</b>
<b>Kaifan</b>	<b>24849807</b>
<b>Shamiya</b>	<b>24848913</b>
<b>Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814507</b>
<b>Abdullah Salem</b>	<b>22549134</b>
<b>Nuzha</b>	<b>22526804</b>
<b>Industrial Shuwaikh</b>	<b>24814764</b>
<b>Qadsiya</b>	<b>22515088</b>
<b>Dasmah</b>	<b>22532265</b>
<b>Bneid Al-Gar</b>	<b>22531908</b>
<b>Shaab</b>	<b>22518752</b>
<b>Qibla</b>	<b>22459381</b>





# Flight Schedule

**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**  
In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers use seats

**Arrival Flights on Saturday 26/3/2016**

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:05
KLM	413	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
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
JZR	503	Luxor	04:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:40
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:50
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:55
KAC	416	Jakarta/Kuala Lumpur	07:15
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
KAC	382	Delhi	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	08:25
KAC	352	Kochi	08:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40
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
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
SAW	701	Dammam	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	11:05
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:50
NIA	151	Cairo	11:55
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
JZR	241	Amman	12:50
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:30
JZR	779	Jeddah	13:35
KNE	460	Riyadh	13:50
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10
FDB	057	Dubai	14:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40
JZR	175	Dubai	14:45
KAC	788	Jeddah	14:50
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:50
KNE	462	Madinah	14:55
KNE	472	Jeddah	15:05
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:30
OMA	645	Muscat	15:30
KAC	562	Amman	15:40
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:45
JAD	301	Amman	15:55
JZR	535	Cairo	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:10
FDB	051	Dubai	16:30
JZR	357	Mashhad	16:30
KNE	474	Jeddah	16:35
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	16:40
RJA	640	Amman	16:55
KAC	542	Cairo	16:55
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KNE	470	Jeddah	17:45
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:45
MSR	614	Cairo	17:50
JZR	325	Al Najaf	17:50
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:55
KAC	118	New York	17:55
SVA	500	Jeddah	18:00

UAE	875	Dubai	18:00
KAC	502	Beirut	18:00
FDB	063	Dubai	18:05
JZR	177	Dubai	18:20
ABY	123	Sharjah	18:45
QTR	1080	Doha	18:55
IRA	669	Mashhad	18:55
KAC	742	Dammam	19:05
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	774	Riyadh	19:25
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:30
CLX	856	Luxembourg	19:35
KAC	618	Doha	19:35
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	19:35
KAC	104	London	19:40
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
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
KAC	786	Jeddah	20:30
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:35
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
KAC	676	Dubai	21:45
QTR	1082	Doha	22:00
KLM	415	Amsterdam	22:05
AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:25
KAC	564	Amman	22:25
FDB	059	Dubai	22:30
JZR	185	Dubai	23:15
FDB	071	Dubai	23:45
THY	764	Istanbul	23:50
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:55
MSC	403	Asyut	23:55
JZR	125	Bahrain	23:55

**Departure Flights on Saturday 26/3/2016**

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
JZR	528	Asyut	00:05
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40
FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
MSC	502	Alexandria	00:55
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:55
MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	02:30
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:35
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
FDB	068	Dubai	04:00
MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:15
KKK	6508	Istanbul	04:20
QTR	1077	Doha	05:00
THY	765	Istanbul	05:15
FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
RJA	643	Amman	07:05
THY	771	Istanbul	07:05
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:10
GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
JZR	240	Amman	07:15
JZR	778	Jeddah	07:55
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:30
QTR	1087	Doha	08:40
BAW	156	London	08:45
KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	534	Cairo	09:15
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:25
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40
UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
KAC	101	London/New York	09:55
KAC	541	Cairo	09:55
KAC	561	Amman	10:00
JZR	174	Dubai	10:10
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:25

JZR	356	Mashhad	10:30
KAC	501	Beirut	10:30
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
QTR	1071	Doha	11:00
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:00
OMA	642	Muscat	11:05
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	11:25
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:00
SAW	702	Dammam	12:00
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:20
UAE	874	Dubai	12:30
NIA	152	Cairo	12:55
IAW	158	Al Najaf	13:05
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	324	Al Najaf	14:25
FBA	832	Al Najaf	14:40
KNE	481	Taif	14:50
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:55
KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
KAC	785	Jeddah	15:00
FDB	058	Dubai	15:10
QTR	1079	Doha	15:10
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
JZR	188	Dubai	15:40
KAC	617	Doha	15:45
KAC	613	Bahrain	15:50
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:50
KAC	741	Dammam	15:55
KNE	463	Madinah	16:00
KNE	473	Jeddah	16:05
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
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
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
KNE	471	Jeddah	18:45
JZR	238	Amman	18:50
MSR	615	Cairo	18:50
JZR	554	Alexandria	19:10
FDB	064	Dubai	19:20
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:25
UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
SVA	505	Jeddah	19:30
IRA	666	Esfahan	19:55
GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
KAC	283	Dhaka	20:35
KAC	353	BLR	20:40
KAC	361D	Colombo	20:45
QTR	1081	Doha	20:50
KAC	351	Kochi	20:50
JZR	124	Bahrain	21:05
CLX	856	Hong Kong	21:05
MSR	607	Luxor	21:05
KNE	461	Riyadh	21:10
KAC	331	Trivandrum	21:10
ABY	122	Sharjah	21:15
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
QTR	1089	Doha	22:00
KAC	381	Delhi	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
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	23:00
QTR	1083	Doha	23:05
KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	23:05
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:10
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:15
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:35
FDB	060	Dubai	23:35



WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

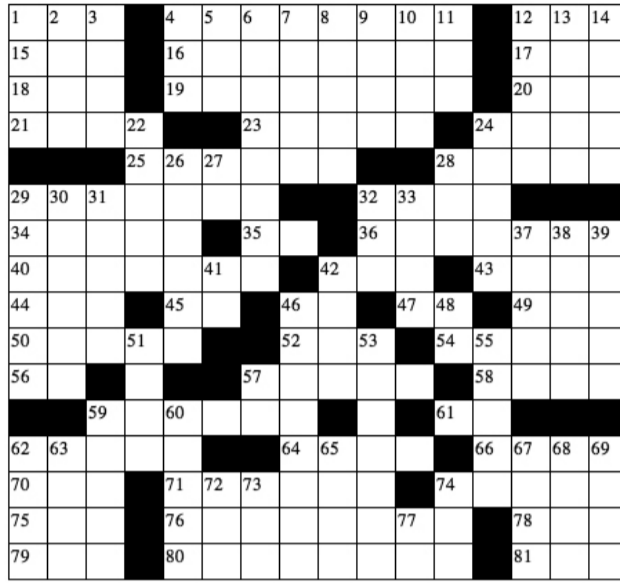
Old TV Shows 2

Find and circle all of the old TV shows that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of an additional old TV show.

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

- A-TEAM
- ALF
- AIRWOLF
- BARETTA
- BARNABY JONES
- BENSON
- BIG VALLEY
- BONANZA
- CHEERS
- COACH
- DALLAS
- DOCTOR WHO
- DYNASTY
- EQUALIZER
- FALCON CREST
- FAME
- FANTASY ISLAND
- FISH
- FLINTSTONES
- FULL HOUSE
- GROWING PAINS
- HAWAII FIVE-O
- HEE HAW
- HUNTER
- JEFFERSONS
- KNIGHT RIDER
- MACGYVER
- MAVERICK
- MAYBERRY R.F.D.
- MISTER ED
- MUNSTERS
- NANNY
- NEWHART
- NIGHT COURT
- OUTER LIMITS
- PRISONER
- S.W.A.T.
- SILVER SPOONS
- T.J. HOOKER
- TWILIGHT ZONE
- VIRGINIAN
- WEBSTER

CROSSWORD 1207



ACROSS

1. Edible tuber of any of several yams.
4. A state of refreshing tranquility.
12. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
15. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
16. Lacking gonads.
17. 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
18. The residue that remains when something is burned.
19. In a tastelessly garish manner.
20. The first month of the year.
21. A collection of objects laid on top of each other.
23. The young of a herring or sprat or similar fish.
25. Large short-tailed lemur of Madagascar having thick silky fur in black and white and fawn.
29. A case used to carry belongings when traveling.
34. A unit of current equal to 10 amperes.
35. A public promotion of some product or service.
36. Characteristic of a baby.
40. A rope for raising or lowering a sail or flag.
43. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
44. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
45. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
47. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
49. The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
50. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
52. Having undesirable or negative qualities.
54. Look forward to the probable occurrence of.
56. An associate degree in nursing.
58. The highest level or degree attainable.
61. A linear unit of length equal to 12 inches or a third of a yard.
62. Jordan's port.
64. Informal terms for a (young) woman.
66. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
70. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.
71. The occurrence of a change for the worse.
75. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
76. A senior clergyman.
78. A hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland.
79. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
80. (sports) With hand brought forward and up from below shoulder level.
81. Serving as an essential component.

DOWN

1. Not only so, but.
2. A domed or vaulted recess or projection on a building especially the east end of a church.
3. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE

- Nebraska.
4. Take in solid food.
5. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
6. Common wild European cyclamen with pink flowers.
7. Large short-tailed lemur of Madagascar having thick silky fur in black and white and fawn.
8. Any of the openings to the nasal cavities that allow air to flow through the cavities to the pharynx.
9. Make editorial changes (in a text).
10. Containing or filled with salt.
11. Marked by skill in deception.
12. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
13. A means of serving.
14. English clergyman and metaphysical poet celebrated as a preacher (1572-1631).
22. An unusually small individual.
24. Genus of large deciduous nut-bearing trees.
26. 1 species.
27. 1/10 gram.
28. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.
30. A port city in southwestern Iran.
31. Greek anatomist whose theories formed the basis of European medicine until the Renaissance (circa 130-200).
32. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
33. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.
37. (anatomy) Of or relating to the ilium.
38. A firm open-weave fabric used for a curtain in the theater.
39. Overly eager speed (and possible carelessness).
41. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
42. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
46. A mining town in southern Wales.
48. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
51. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
53. 1 species.
55. A small portable timepiece.
57. Unknown god.
59. (folklore) A corpse that rises at night to drink the blood of the living.
60. (Hinduism) An ascetic holy man.
63. Informal terms for money.
65. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
67. A city in the Asian part of Russia.
68. Make reference to.
69. Causing a dull and steady pain.
72. Belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself).
73. A master's degree in education.
74. A unit of electrical resistance equal to the resistance between two points on a conductor when a potential difference of one volt between them produces a current of one ampere.
77. A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution

Old TV Shows 1

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

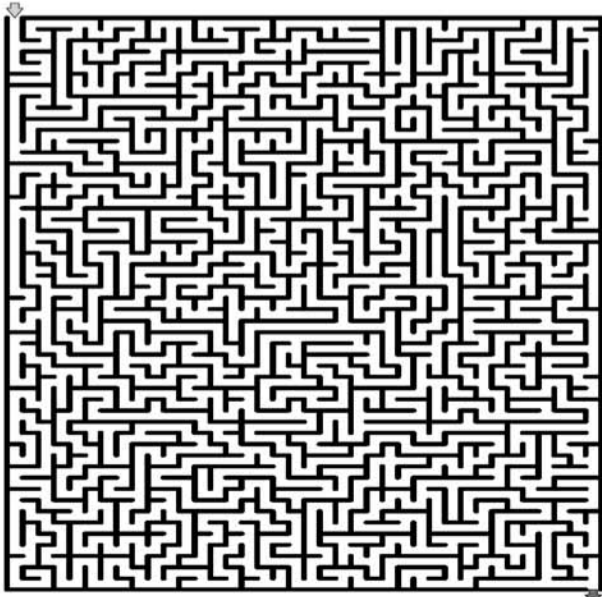
- ALICE
- BEN CASEY
- BEVERLY HILLBILLIES
- CHIPS
- CANNON
- CAPTAIN KANGAROO
- DOBIE GILLIS
- DONNA REED
- DR. KILDARE
- EMERGENCY
- FLIPPER
- FLYING NUN
- FUGITIVE
- GOMER PYLE
- GOOD TIMES
- GREEN ACRES
- GREEN HORNET
- HOWDY DOODY
- I SPY
- IRONSIDE
- JETSONS
- KOJAK
- L.A. LAW
- LASSIE
- LOVE BOAT
- MAD ABOUT YOU
- MAUDE
- MEDICAL CENTER
- MIAMI VICE
- MOD SQUAD
- MOONLIGHTING
- MURPHY BROWN
- ODD COUPLE
- PEYTON PLACE
- RAWHIDE
- RIFLEMAN
- RIN TIN TIN
- SOAP
- ST. ELSEWHERE
- TAXI
- THREE'S COMPANY
- WALTONS

The hidden TV show is: THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW

Yesterday's Solution

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

CHALLENGING MAZE



Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



## CALIFORNIA CHROME FAVORITE AGAIN AT DUBAI WORLD CUP

**DUBAI:** California Chrome has prepared well, the jockey feels good about their chances, and the trainer is confident. Both men believe the outside draw won't hinder the U.S. horse from winning the Dubai World Cup today, and thus finishing one place better than last year in the world's richest horse race. Last year, California Chrome started from Stall 9 and never threatened surprise winner Prince Bishop in finishing second. The Art Sherman-trained stallion will start from an even wider Stall 11 this weekend, but his connections have no doubt his quality will prevail. "In a way it is kind of good," jockey Victor Espinoza said. "I can see how all the

other horses are going to do out of the gates, and I can control the race a little bit.

"I am very pleased with how he is shaping up. So far, so good. I have watched him the last couple of days and he is looking good." To enhance the chances of the heavy favorite for the second straight year, California Chrome

has been in Dubai since January to acclimate, and won a 2,000-meter handicap race by two lengths a month ago at the same Meydan Racecourse.

After a bruised bone in his leg sidelined Chrome for 10 months last year, the 2014 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner has taken both of his comeback races

this year. "I have been in the game for 55 years and seen a lot of things, but California Chrome is bigger and better than any of them," Sherman said.

"If you have the right horse, an outside draw is good, and we think we have the right horse. He normally races prominently and is pretty versatile."

Art's son, Alan, the assistant trainer, added: "He missed a lot of last year but he returned to training a far bigger, stronger horse. We could not be more happy with him. We just felt he would have longer to acclimatize and it would be to his benefit."

Chrome is one of five American horses in the field of 12 for the feature race, over

2,000 meters on dirt. Frosted, the four-year-old son of Tapit and home stable Godolphin's big hope, valiantly chased American Pharoah in the U.S. Triple Crown races last year. He and Keen Ice, the only horse to beat Pharoah last year, are expected to be the main challengers for Chrome. Apart from the \$10 million Dubai World Cup, there are eight other races on the card, with two of them offering \$6 million each - the 1,800-meter Dubai Turf, and the 2,410-meter Dubai Sheema Classic. Another top-rated American horse, Postponed, starts as favorite in the Dubai Sheema Classic, and Godolphin's Tryster is the preferred choice in the Dubai Turf. — AP

## ITALY NAME O'SHEA AS COACH IN 'CRUCIAL TURNING POINT'

**ROME:** Former Ireland full-back Conor O'Shea was yesterday named as the new Italy coach, taking over from Frenchman Jacques Brunel in a move described as a "crucial turning point" for Italian rugby. Coach of Harlequins since 2010, the 45-year-old O'Shea will join up with Italy in June when his contract with the London club expires at the end of this season.

"As I said when I announced that I would be leaving, I feel the end of this season is the right time for me to take on a new challenge and I am honoured, humbled and excited that I will be working with everyone in Italian Rugby to ensure they can achieve on the undoubted potential they have as a rugby nation," said O'Shea.

"I spent many years in the 1990s playing against a great Italian side and I know there is the ability and will within this current group of players and the FIR to ensure that the current team can become the best Italian team in its history, but that is for another time.

"For me now there is a job to finish here at Harlequins and to ensure we finish this season as well as we can and see if we can add some more silverware to the trophy cabinet at this great club."

O'Shea will be assisted by former England back Mike Catt, who will oversee the backline, and Stephen Aboud, former technical director at the Irish federation.

He faces a real challenge in Italy, with the team having leaked 29 tries in the recently-finished Six Nations in which they took home the wooden spoon after five straight defeats.

Italy have won just 12 out of 85 matches since becoming the 'sixth' nation in 2000, finishing bottom for an 11th time in 17 seasons, and this year saw repeated talk of introducing relegation to the tournament, notably after the showings of second-tier Georgia and Romania at last year's World Cup. Under Brunel's four-year term, Italy won just four matches in the Six Nations and his reign finished with a dispiriting 67-14 hammering at the hands of Wales.

Italian federation president Alfredo Gavazzi said: "The appointment of this new head coach, his assistant and the head of training is a crucial turning point for the Italian Rugby Federation.

"We have identified three of the highest-profile figures, three men who are in possession of what we believe are the most suitable qualities that can contribute to the development of our team."

Catt returns to rugby after leaving his post as an England assistant coach in December following the host nation's spectacular 2015 World Cup flop when they failed to progress beyond the pool stage.

Catt, Andy Farrell and Graham Rowntree all departed the Rugby Football Union, with new England head coach Eddie Jones recruiting Steve Borthwick and Paul Gustard to work with him. — AFP



New Zealand's fly-half Dan Carter, newly recruited player of Racing Metro 92 rugby union club takes part in a training session at the club training centre .

## TOULON BID TO BOUNCE BACK AGAINST RACING IN WARM-UP

**PARIS:** Racing 92 recalled their big guns for a top billing Top 14 match against Toulon today, two weeks before the two teams meet again in the European Champions Cup quarter-final.

Racing, fielding a largely second XV, suffered a 60-7 hammering by Montpellier last weekend, and will be keen to get things back in order at Lille's Stade Pierre-Mauroy, with an almost capacity 40,000 expected.

"It's up to us to bounce back," said Racing's ex-All Black No 8 Chris Masoe, the Parisian club sitting second and Toulon third.

"Our performance last week wasn't worthy of our level. But real champions know how to bounce back. In a season as long as this one, you have to know how to digest losses, forget them and move on to something else." Racing will be boosted by the return of a number of players from international duty including Maxime Machenaud, Camille Chat, Bernard Le Roux, Wenceslas Lauret, Martin Castrogianni and Luke Charteris.

Toulon, however, have opted to rest their French internationals Guilhem Guirado, Maxime Mermoz and Xavier Chiocci along with a host of other regulars, although Bryan Habana and Quade Cooper return after stints on the international sevens circuit.

One to benefit from Bernard Laporte's rotation policy will be young scrum-half Anthony Meric. "After the reverse last week against Montpellier, Toulon will be doing everything to get back on the right footing before the European Cup quarter-final," Meric said in reference to the April 10 at Racing's normal home ground of Stade Yves-du-Manoir," said Meric.

### JEALOUS OR SCARED

With leaders Clermont playing fifth-placed Bordeaux-Begles, Montpellier stand the best chance of advancing further up the table, with an away match against rock-bottom Agen, now looking consigned to relegation back to the ProD2. Montpellier president Mohamed Altrad has spoken out against claims his club are the least liked in France, saying his rivals were "perhaps jealous, or scared".

"We've been stigmatised, it's true, and I don't know why," Altrad was quoted by L'Equipe as saying. "I don't understand the basis of this criticism."

Altrad, a self-made billionaire businessman born into a bedouin family in the Syrian desert, also baulked at critics of Montpellier's style of play under South African coach Jake White, who led the Springboks to 2007 World Cup glory. "The club comes under attack for its

gameplan, but firstly for the number of South African players in the team," he railed. "This concentration of players is tied to the origin of the coach and the links he has created in his country.

"We could consider 13 South Africans to be a lot, but the history of each one of them is different."

Montpellier, who have racked up 51 tries this season at an average of 2.88 per game - second only to Toulon's 66, were once hailed as a model for the players it churned out of its youth system, but fears have been expressed that the South African domination of the squad could offset that.

According to L'Equipe, the club is currently the sole team in the Top 14 not to have respected league rules on the number of home-grown players (joueurs issus des filieres de formation - JIFF) to be listed on a teamsheet, set at 12. A "JIFF" player must have been registered with the French federation for at least five years before turning 21 or have spent three seasons in a federation-approved training centre if they are currently under 21.

"They've set up a South African armada but what happens when White leaves in three years' time? Will they stay?" asked scrum-half Julien Tomas, formerly with Montpellier and now plying his trade with Stade Francais.—AFP



## NHL results/standings

San Jose 3, Edmonton 6; Toronto 6, Anaheim 5 (OT); Detroit 4, Montreal 3; Boston 1, Florida 4; Pittsburgh 0, New Jersey 3; Columbus 2, Carolina 3; Arizona 3, Dallas 1; Colorado 2, Philadelphia 4; Nashville 3, Vancouver 2 (SO); Minnesota 6, Calgary 2; Winnipeg 4, Los Angeles 1.

### Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

	PL	W	L	OT	GF	GA	PTS
Florida	74	41	24	9	211	182	91
Tampa Bay	73	42	26	5	202	173	89
Boston	75	39	28	8	219	206	86
Detroit	74	37	26	11	190	199	85
Ottawa	75	34	33	8	214	230	76
Montreal	75	34	35	6	199	216	74
Buffalo	74	30	34	10	176	200	70
Toronto	73	27	35	11	180	214	65

### Metropolitan Division

Washington	72	52	15	5	231	170	109
NY Rangers	74	42	24	8	212	194	92
Pittsburgh	73	40	25	8	204	182	88
NY Islanders	72	39	24	9	200	182	87
Philadelphia	73	36	24	13	192	195	85
New Jersey	74	36	31	7	169	189	79
Carolina	74	32	28	14	180	200	78
Columbus	74	30	36	8	193	228	68

### Western Conference Pacific Division

Dallas	75	44	22	9	243	216	97
St. Louis	74	43	22	9	195	185	95
Chicago	74	42	25	7	205	185	91
Nashville	74	38	23	13	205	189	89
Minnesota	75	36	28	11	202	189	83
Colorado	74	38	32	4	200	208	80
Winnipeg	74	31	37	6	190	217	68

### Central Division

Los Angeles	74	44	25	5	200	171	93
Anaheim	73	40	23	10	190	174	90
San Jose	74	41	27	6	217	192	88
Arizona	74	33	34	7	195	220	73
Calgary	74	31	37	6	204	234	68
Vancouver	73	27	33	13	169	210	67
Edmonton	77	30	40	7	189	226	67

Note: Overtime losses (OT) worth 1 pt and not included in loss column (L).



**BOSTON:** Patrice Bergeron #37 of the Boston Bruins faces off against Aleksander Barkov #16 of the Florida Panthers during the first period at TD Garden yesterday in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

# PANTHERS CLIMB INTO FIRST IN ATLANTIC WITH WIN OVER BRUINS

**BOSTON:** The veteran goaltender, who lived through a nightmare for the Vancouver Canucks in the 2011 Stanley Cup finals and came in 14-15-1 lifetime against Boston in the regular season, made 34 saves and backstopped the Florida Panthers into first place in the Atlantic Division with a 4-1 victory over the sliding Bruins.

### DEVILS 3, PENGUINS 0

Devils goalie Scott Wedgewood stopped 39 shots to shut out the NHL's hottest team in only his second career game, Kyle Palmieri scored twice in the first period and New Jersey beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 3-0 on Thursday night. Wedgewood, who allowed only one goal in his first two starts, halted two streaks: the Penguins' six-game winning streak and captain Sidney Crosby's 12-game scoring run.

### HURRICANES 3, BLUE JACKETS 2

The Carolina Hurricanes broke out of a two-period malaise with a flurry of goals early in the third, jumping the Columbus Blue Jackets for a 3-2 win on Thursday in Nationwide Arena. Viktor Rask, Chris Terry and Elias Lindholm scored for the Hurricanes, all in a 98-second span, with Lindholm's goal giving Carolina a 3-1 lead only 2:30 into the period.

### MAPLE LEAFS 6, DUCKS 5 (OT)

Nazem Kadri scored twice, including the overtime winner, as the Toronto Maple Leafs edged the Anaheim Ducks 6-5 at Air Canada Centre on Thursday. After Toronto blew a 4-1 lead in a 9:23 span and fell behind by a goal, Connor Brown tied the game 5-5 with his first career NHL

goal at 15:37 of the third period.

### RED WINGS 4 CANADIENS 3

Riley Sheahan scored two goals and the Detroit Red Wings held off the Montreal Canadiens for a 4-3 win Thursday night at Joe Louis Arena. Luke Glendening also scored and Anthony Mantha got his first career goal for Detroit. Mike Green had two assists and Petr Mrazek made 26 saves.

### WILD 6, FLAMES 2

Zach Parise ended a monthlong slump with a first-period hat trick, and that was all the offense the Minnesota Wild needed Thursday. Minnesota jumped out to an early lead and held off the Calgary Flames, winning 6-2 to gain a critical two points in the race for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

### JETS 4, KINGS 1

Defensemen Dustin Byfuglien and Paul Postma scored less than three minutes apart on nearly identical point shots early in the third period to power the Winnipeg Jets to an improbable 4-1 victory over the Los Angeles Kings on Thursday. Only 15 seconds into the final frame and the game tied 1-1, Byfuglien's hard drive from just inside the blue line near the wall eluded goaltender Jonathan Quick, whose view of the shot might have been blocked when right winger Nikolaj Ehlers cruised in front of him.

### PREDATORS 3, CANUCKS 2 (SO)

Rallying from a two-goal, third-period deficit, the Nashville Predators beat the Vancouver Canucks 3-2 Thursday in a shootout. Craig Smith scored the deci-

sive goal in the fourth round of the shootout. James Neal and Filip Forsberg scored for the Predators in the third period, with Forsberg tying the game at 13:08.

### FLYERS 4, AVALANCHE 2

Radko Gudas and Claude Giroux scored 19 seconds apart late in the third period and the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Colorado Avalanche 4-2 on Thursday in a battle of teams fighting for playoff spots. Pierre-Edouard Bellemare also scored for the Flyers, who kept pace with Detroit in the battle for the second wild card in the Eastern Conference. The Red Wings nearly blew a four-goal lead against Montreal but held on to win 4-3 and stay even in points with 85.

### COYOTES 3, STARS 1

Net presence is one of the many assets Arizona Coyotes center Martin Hanzal brings to the table. On Thursday against the Dallas Stars, that asset paid off in production. Hanzal had a pair of goals, including his first short-handed tally since Dec. 4, 2008, and goaltender Louis Domingue made 37 saves as the Coyotes defeated the Stars 3-1 at Gila River Arena to record their second win over the Central Division leaders in as many games this season.

### OILERS 6, SHARKS 3

The San Jose Sharks were sitting pretty with a 2-0 lead after one period. Unfortunately for them, the Edmonton Oilers didn't stop playing. The Oilers stormed back with five unanswered goals over the final 40 minutes to beat the Sharks 6-3 in front of 16,570 fans at SAP Center. — Reuters

# OLYMPIC CHAMP FARAH HAPPY WITH RIO RUN-IN

**LONDON:** Britain's Mo Farah is confident preparations for this year's Olympic Games in Rio remain on course. Farah will run in the World Half Marathon Championship in Cardiff today as he continues his build-up to the defence of both the 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres Olympic titles he won on home soil at London 2012.

"Training has gone well, I'm pretty happy how it's gone," Farah said told a press conference in Cardiff yesterday. "Rio is looking good and, as long as I can stay injury-free, I should be good for Rio.

"I'm really excited to be competing here, it's part of my journey to Rio. "It was a no-brainer to say yes to this race because I love the support of the home crowd.

"Ever since I ran at (London) 2012 in front of 80,000 people I want to run at home. "It's going to be a tough race, but hopefully having the home crowd behind me will make a difference."

Not for the first time in his career, Farah is set to have contend with group tactics by a posse of Kenyan runners on Saturday, with defending World Half Marathon champion Geoffrey Kamworor leading a strong contingent on the streets of the Welsh capital.

"A lot of things will be happening tomorrow," said Farah. "When it's a longer race and there are more people in the team then you can work better.

"So it works to their advantage-but I'm a lot more ahead than I was last year. I always set goals and targets and I want to get a good result.

"It's a chance to win another title and come away with a win, but the target for all of us this year is Rio." —AFP



## WOMEN NEED FIVE-SETS TENNIS TO WIN EQUALITY BATTLE

**PARIS:** After a bruising start, this ultimately morphed into a points-scoring week for women's tennis. Quick recap: Novak Djokovic put both feet in his mouth by suggesting that male players should be paid more, and by condescendingly praising women athletes for overcoming "a lot of different things that we don't have to go through. You know, the hormones and different stuff."

Sigh. Hardly the sort of forward-looking, 21st century leadership one wants to hear from the top-ranked man. Billie Jean King, Chris Evert, and a few days of reflection subsequently helped to put him right. Djokovic backpedaled with a qualified apology. Then, Raymond Moore resigned as the Indian Wells tournament director, falling on his sword for suggesting that women players should fall to their knees in thanks for male counterparts who have "carried this sport."

Sexism coming back to bite men who should know better. Count this week as a

6-4, 6-4 victory for women players in their unfinished battle for equality. And it will remain unfinished just so long as tennis continues to make women play a different game from the men.

Not having women play best-of-five-set matches, like men, at major tournaments is core to tennis' equality problem, because it hardwires gender inequality into the sport.

At the Olympic Games, the equivalent would be 80-meter sprints for women, while men run 100. Or 40-meter pools. Or, in football, 60-minute matches.

Truncated Grand Slam tennis for women perpetuates offensive myths about weaker and superior sexes. It suggests that women aren't physically and mentally strong enough to play five sets, even though that is patently false. It fuels noxious arguments that women don't deserve the equal prize

money at majors they fought long and successfully for, because they play fewer sets than men to win it. In short, it is plain

wrong. There will always be those who feel that men's matches offer better value for money because they are more likely to run longer. That ignores the fact that a hard-fought 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 - to cite just the example of Serena Williams against Victoria Azarenka in the French Open third round last year - can be more memorable than a men's 6-3, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 - the score of Rafael Nadal's fourth-round win at Roland Garros against Jack Sock.

The quantity-trumps-quality mindset is impossible for women to beat completely when they are not playing the same format as men, and not being allowed to sell the same product. Best-of-five tennis can be more dramatic, because the additional length can encourage more momentum swings, comebacks, collapses, and epic marathons. Women are being deprived of that stage. Cheaper tickets for best-of-three major finals than for best-of-five also send the message,

even before women have played, that

they're not worth forking out for like the men. At the French Open in June, hospitality packages for the men's final will cost twice as much as for the women's final. Organizers say that is because there is greater public demand to watch the men. Djokovic followed similar logic in arguing that male players should get more money.

"We have much more spectators," he said. But popularity is cyclical. As the golden era of Roger vs. Rafa comes to an end, Djokovic cannot be sure that audiences won't shift from the men's game. It wasn't that long ago that Steffi Graf vs. Martina Navratilova was a more intriguing rivalry than Djokovic against Andy Murray is now. Forget the argument that best-of-five matches for women couldn't be shoe-horned into cramped Grand Slam schedules. That assumes that men can't make space. Best-of-three for both men and women in early rounds of the showcase tournaments, followed by best-of-five for both in the later stages might work. — AP

## FEDERER TO RETURN FROM 2-MONTH LAYOFF FRIDAY AT KEY BISCAYNE

**KEY BISCAYNE:** Roger Federer wasn't playing tennis when he hurt his knee two months ago. He was playing Dad. Federer said he was preparing a bath for his twin daughters when he turned and heard a click in his left knee, leading to the first surgery of his career Feb 3.

"It was a very simple movement, probably a movement I've done a million times in my life," Federer said Thursday. "I didn't think much of it when it did happen." Soon his knee was swollen and required arthroscopic surgery to repair torn cartilage. He's scheduled to return from his layoff Friday against longtime rival Juan Martin del Potro at the Miami Open.

The 34-year-old Swiss star has been a model of durability throughout his career. He's playing Key Biscayne for the 16th time, although he did skip the tournament last year for scheduling reasons.

Federer made a late decision to enter the event this month, surprised and pleased by his speedy recovery. He was on crutches for 12 days and has trained without restrictions for the past nine days.

"Expectations are really low, which is nice for a change - just see where I am," the 17-time Grand Slam champion said. "I'm just really pleased I'm back. I didn't expect myself to be back here, to be quite honest, after the surgery." Winners on the women's side included No. 1-seeded Serena Williams, who began her bid for a ninth Key Biscayne title by beating fellow American Christina McHale 6-3, 5-7, 6-2. Williams earned her 19th consecutive victory in the tournament and hasn't lost since the 2012 quarterfinals.

Facing McHale for the first time, Williams converted only five of 17 break-point chances. She let a match point get away in the second set and had to play for an additional 50 minutes, losing five consecutive games before she regrouped.

"Christina just started playing better, and playing tennis she has never played before," Williams said. "I made a few mistakes and then I just had to pull myself back together." Wild-card Heather Watson beat 20th-seeded Sloane Stephens 6-3, 6-0. No. 3 Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 7 Petra Kvitova also advanced.

Federer, who is seeded third, had a first-round bye. His recent layoff came during an eventful stretch for his sport, with Maria Sharapova's career in jeopardy following a failed a doping test, and renewed debate about equal prize money for men and women.

Federer offered his thoughts on each subject and said he was "completely surprised" by Sharapova's suspension. He said he doesn't believe tennis has a doping problem but would like to see more consistency in testing.

"I've been in Dubai now for 10 years there and been tested once," he said. "That's not OK for me. I get tested more in Switzerland because the guy from Switzerland lives in my village. He comes and sees me the day after my surgery, and one week later."

As for equal prize money, Federer said he's all for it. "I'm happy that tennis has produced some of the greatest female athletes in the world," he said. "Equal prize money is a good thing."

The first marquee match at Key Biscayne will be on the men's side, with Federer facing another Grand Slam champion mounting a comeback from an injury. Del Potro returned to the tour in February after an 11-month layoff during which he twice had surgery on his left wrist. — AP



**KEY BISCAYNE:** Barbora Strycova of the Czech Republic plays a backhand against Angelique Kerber of Germany in their second round match during the Miami Open Presented by Itau at Crandon Park Tennis Center yesterday in Key Biscayne, Florida. — AFP

## SERENA WITHSTANDS FIGHTBACK TO ADVANCE AT MIAMI OPEN

**MIAMI:** World number one Serena Williams launched her bid for a ninth Miami Open crown Thursday by outlasting US compatriot Christina McHale 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 to reach the third round.

The 34-year-old defending champion, who like all seeds received a first-round bye, will next face Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan, who ousted Australian Daria Gavrilova 7-5, 6-3. Williams, who watched tournaments at the combined WTA and ATP hardcourt event as a child, seeks her fourth consecutive title. "To play here is always special to me," she said.

But Williams, whose back-to-back finals losses at the Australian Open and Indian Wells were her first since 2004, had to withstand a fightback from her 23-year-old rival with the match on her racquet.

"She definitely started fighting back," Williams said. "And she's clearly capable of playing great tennis."

Williams served for the match in the 10th game of the second set but netted a backhand to surrender a break. McHale held and won the first three points of the 12th game off Williams' serve. The top seed pulled back two but swatted a forehand wide to force a third set.

McHale denied Williams on three break points to hold the first game of the final set but the defending champion broke in the third and smashed a backhand service return winner to break again in the seventh game.

Williams had to fight off two break points in the final game, saving one with her 12th ace and the other with a service winner, and she blasted her 13th ace on match point to finally end matters after two hours and seven minutes. Williams fired 13 aces and 36 winners with 43 unforced errors while McHale managed seven aces and 26 winners against 31 unforced errors.

Two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova reached the third round with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over 83rd-ranked American Irina Falconi.

Kvitova next faces Russian 30th seed Ekaterina Makarova, who ousted Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

"I served pretty well," the Czech eighth seed said. "She played better in the second set and that's what made it tougher. It's always a little bit tricky when it's someone you have never played before."

Kvitova next faces Russian 30th seed Ekaterina Makarova, who ousted Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Uzbek Denis Istomin rallied to beat Croatia's Borna Coric 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 in a first-round match to book a Saturday matchup with British second seed Andy Murray, who won their first two meetings back in 2013.

"He hasn't lost to me but I will try my best to beat him," Istomin said. — AFP





Kuwait Times  
ICC WORLD TWENTY20

## FLAWLESS KIWIS BID TO COMPOUND BANGLADESH MISERY

**KOLKATA:** A buoyant New Zealand will look to maintain their perfect record in cricket's World Twenty20 in Kolkata today as they take on a demoralised Bangladesh team who have already booked their tickets home.

The Black Caps are guaranteed a place in next week's semi-finals after defeating India, Australia and Pakistan in their first three matches in the group stages.

But Kane Williamson's side, who are yet to win either of cricket's premier short-form trophies, will want to keep their momentum going before they enter the tournament's last four.

Williamson has so far relied on spin, with Trent Boult and Tim Southee-New Zealand's

main strike bowlers in ODIs and Tests-left to kick their heels on the bench. Martin Guptill, who top-scored with 80 in Tuesday's win over Pakistan, said the Black Caps would not necessarily stick to the same line-up but would wait to see what the Eden Gardens pitch had in store.

Guptill said New Zealand were enjoying their cricket and there was no reason why they couldn't finish the group with a 100 per cent record. "We've got a mindset of being aggressive and just going out to have a bit of fun," he said.

"At the moment, everyone is having fun playing cricket, and we are playing some good cricket together, putting in some good

performances. "If we can do that again against Bangladesh, who knows, we can go through unbeaten." The match represents Bangladesh's last chance at returning home with something after three straight defeats, including a heartbreaking last-ball loss to India on Wednesday night.

After his team took India right to the wire, Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Mortaza now has to pick his team up off the floor. "It's always difficult to take something from it (a close defeat) to another match," he said after the India game.

"But obviously being professional players we have to take it and play hard cricket in the last match. Obviously if we can do something

there then we can take something back home."

**Teams:**

New Zealand (from): Kane Williamson (captain), Corey Anderson, Trent Boult, Martin Guptill, Grant Elliott, Colin Munro, Mitchell McClenaghan, Nathan McCullum, Adam Milne, Henry Nicholls, Luke Ronchi, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor.

Bangladesh (from): Mashrafe Mortaza (capt), Shakib Al Hasan, Abu Hider, Al-Amin Hossain, Mahmudullah, Mohammad Mithun, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mustafizur Rahman, Nasir Hossain, Nurul Hasan (wicketkeeper), Sabbir Rahman, Soumya Sarkar, Tamim Iqbal, Shuvagata Hom, Saqlain Sajib. —AFP

### World Twenty20 standings

**MOHALI, India:** World Twenty20 standings in the group stage after yesterday's match between Australia and Pakistan (played, won, lost, tied, no result, points, run rate):

**Super 10**

**Group 1**

West Indies	2	2	0	0	0	4	+0.893
England	3	2	1	0	0	4	+0.018
South Africa	2	1	1	0	0	2	+0.816
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	0	2	-0.171
Afghanistan	3	0	3	0	0	0	-1.067

**Group 2**

New Zealand	3	3	0	0	0	6	+1.283
Australia	3	2	1	0	0	4	+0.440
India	3	2	1	0	0	4	-0.546
Pakistan	4	1	3	0	0	2	-0.093
Bangladesh	3	0	3	0	0	0	-1.165

Note: Top two teams in each group qualify for the semi-finals.



**NEW DELHI:** England's Jason Roy (R) plays a shot as James Vince waits for his turn to bat in the nets during a training session on the eve of the World T20 cricket tournament match between England and Sri Lanka at The Feroz Shah Kotla cricket ground in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP

## ENGLAND'S BEST YET TO COME: ROOT

**NEW DELHI:** England's contrasting batting displays in their last two World Twenty20 matches did little to enhance their title credentials but batting mainstay Joe Root said the team's best is yet to come in the tournament.

Blown away by Chris Gayle's blistering century in their first game, the 2010 champions bounced back with Root leading a thrilling 230-run chase against South Africa. Eoin Morgan's men eked out their second win against Afghanistan but not before the associate nation had exposed their frailty against spin by reducing them to 57-6.

Root conceded his team could not adapt to the conditions but the 25-year-old was not fretting about the nature of a win that kept his team on course for the semi-finals. "We've obviously not performed at our best throughout the whole competition yet which, in a way, is quite exciting because we know that's

still to come," Root said ahead of Saturday's match against champions Sri Lanka at Feroz Shah Kotla.

"Really pleasing to me is that we are finding ways of winning games which is really important in this format of the game." Root was run out against Afghanistan and the other six wickets to fall were claimed by the spinners.

It was quite in keeping with the trend in a tournament in which spinners occupied the top four places in the wicket-takers' list going into Friday's matches.

England are set to face a trial by spin against Sri Lanka at Kotla and Root believes the best approach is to mix aggression with caution.

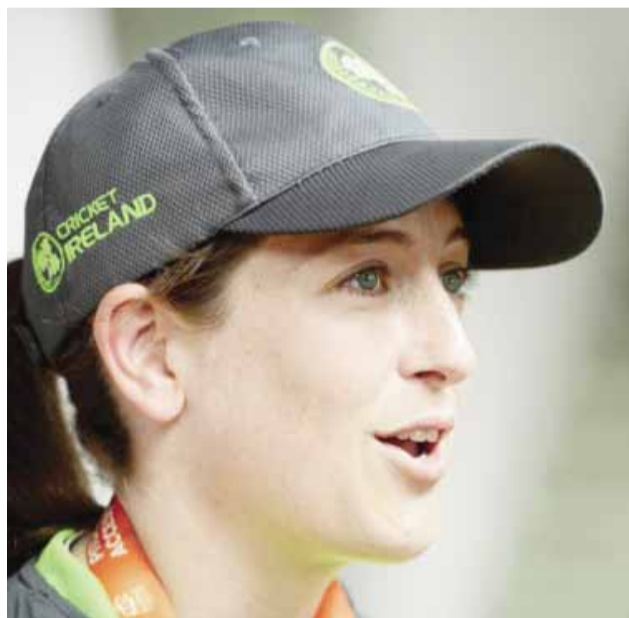
"There is no right or wrong way of doing it. For me it's about trying to play as few dot balls as possible and try and cash in on the boundaries when they are available," said Root, who visited the Taj Mahal in Agra on Thursday.

Sri Lanka have had six days to recover from their defeat by group leaders West Indies but wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal admitted the middle order remained a worry.

"We are struggling with our batting, especially the middle order," the 26-year-old said. "We don't have experienced guys in the middle but we are working hard in practice and looking forward to do well in the next two games."

Rangana Herath has been subdued in a spin-dominated tournament but Chandimal predicted the left-arter, aided by off-spinner Sachithra Senanayake and leggie Jeffrey Vandersay, would trouble England.

"We all know he is a world-class bowler and can do (a lot of) damage in the next two games..." Chandimal said. "They are struggling against the spinners." — Reuters



**NEW DELHI:** Ireland's women cricket captain Isobel Joyce interacts with media representatives on the eve of the World T20 cricket tournament match between Australia and Ireland at The Feroz Shah Kotla cricket ground in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP





Kuwait Times  
**ICC WORLD TWENTY20**

**SCOREBOARD**

**MOHALI:** Scoreboard yesterday from the World Twenty20 Group 2 game between Australia and Pakistan at Punjab Cricket Association Stadium:

<b>Australia</b>	
Usman Khawaja b Riaz	21
Aaron Finch b Wasim	15
David Warner b Riaz	9
Steven Smith not out	61
Glenn Maxwell c Shehzad b Wasim	30
Shane Watson not out	44
Extras: (8lb, 5w)	13
TOTAL: (for 4 wickets)	193
Overs: 20	
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-42, 3-57, 4-119.	
Did not bat: James Faulkner, Peter Nevill, Adam Zampa, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Josh Hazlewood	
Bowling: Mohammad Amir 4-0-39-0 (1w), Mohammad Sami 4-0-53-0 (3w), Wahab Riaz 4-0-35-2, Shahid Afridi 4-0-27-0, Imad Wasim 4-0-31-2.	

<b>Pakistan</b>	
Sharjeel Khan b Faulkner	30
Ahmed Shehzad c Coulter-Nile b Hazlewood 1	
Khalid Latif b Faulkner	46
Umar Akmal b Zampa	32
Shahid Afridi st Neville b Zampa	14
Shoaib Malik not out	40
Imad Wasim c Coulter-Nile b Faulkner	0
Sarfraz Ahmed c Khawaja b Faulkner	2
Wahab Riaz c Hazlewood b Faulkner	0
Mohammad Sami not out	4
Extras: (1b, 1lb, 1w)	3
TOTAL: (for 8 wickets)	172
Overs: 20	
Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-40, 3-85, 4-110, 5-147, 7-164, 8-164.	
Did not bat: Mohammad Amir.	
Bowling: Josh Hazlewood 4-0-26-1 (1w), Nathan Coulter-Nile 4-0-45-0, James Faulkner 4-0-27-5, Shane Watson 2-0-27-0, Adam Zampa 4-0-32-2, Glenn Maxwell 2-0-13-0.	
Result: Australia won by 21 runs.	



**MOHALI:** Pakistan's Khalid Latif dives to make his ground as Australia's Shane Watson catches the ball during their ICC World Twenty20 2016 cricket match in Mohali, India, yesterday. — AP

# AUSTRALIA HAND PAKISTAN KNOCKOUT PUNCH AT WT20

## YOUNIS LAMENTS DECLINE OF PAKISTAN AFTER EXIT

**MOHALI:** Coach Waqar Younis yesterday lamented the decline of Pakistan cricket after his team were knocked out of the World Twenty20 with a disappointing 21-run defeat against Australia.

A wayward Pakistan let Australia off the hook after having them in early trouble at 57-3 in the must-win group tie at Mohali. The Aussies were quick to capitalise on some shoddy bowling and fielding, posting a commanding 193-4 before restricting Shahid Afridi's men to 172-8.

The early ouster of the 2009 champions from the tournament has put skipper Afridi as well as Younis under pressure, with both likely to lose their jobs sooner than later.

Younis, a dreaded fast bowler in his playing days, did not mince his words as he called for an overhaul back home. "We have just lost the match and whatever I say will look like an excuse," Younis, 44, said at a post-match press conference.

"If we think deeply we will see that Pakistan hasn't seen any international cricket for last seven-eight years and that has hurt us. "And that has started showing now. Earlier we had match winners like Saeed Ajmal and Mohammad Hafeez who could bowl.

"Yes, I would say that Pakistan cricket is in a bit of a decline and we need to control it. We will have to look at our domestic cricket and infrastructure."

Pakistan finished their campaign with three defeats from four outings, including a loss at the hands of arch foes India in Kolkata.

Their preparations were not helped by their late departure in a row over security and Pakistan have not been able to play a major cricket nation since a deadly attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in 2009. There were flashes of individual brilliance from players like Sharjeel Khan and Mohammad Amir during the tournament in India but the team failed to fire as a unit, prompting speculation of a rift in the dressing room.—AFP

**MOHALI:** James Faulkner said Australia's quest for the elusive World Twenty20 trophy was back on track yesterday after his record-breaking bowling performance knocked out Pakistan and set up a must-win showdown against India.

Faulkner took 5-27 against Shahid Afridi's team, including four wickets in the final over, to seal a 21-run victory after Australian skipper Steve Smith had earlier made an unbeaten 61 in Mohali.

It was a clinical performance by Australia who posted 193-4 before restricting Afridi's men to 172-8 off their 20 overs on a docile track.

Australia are world champions in 50 over cricket and the number one Test team but have yet to win the World T20 in five previous attempts.

Faulkner, the first Australian to take five wickets in a T20 international, admitted his figures were flattered by some desperate lower-order Pakistani batting.

But he relished the prospect of what is now effectively a quarter-final against the hosts on Sunday as whoever wins will enter the semi-finals.

"I was lucky there at the end. More importantly, we are back on track," he said.

"We have played well all summer back home. We showed what we can do with the bat. Looking forward to the next game against India, who are a

tough opponent at home. We should be up for the challenge."

A dejected Afridi, who will now decide on his international future, congratulated Australia and admitted the former champions had been outplayed.

"Honestly, we were simply not good enough," Afridi, 36, conceded after the game.

"In the last four overs, we gave away 40 runs," said Afridi who went wicketless in the match and made just 14 runs.

The stage for the Australian win was set by an unbeaten 61-run knock from Smith who shared key stands with Shane Watson (44 not out) and Glenn Maxwell (30) to rescue his side from a shaky 57-3.

Apart from Faulkner, whose victims included the dangerous Sharjeel Khan (30), rookie leg-spinner Adam Zampa chipped in with two wickets.

### LACKLUSTRE PAKISTAN

Pakistan lost wickets at regular intervals and were never really in the hunt despite a valiant counter-attack by Khalid Latif (46).

After losing opener Ahmed Shehzad (one) cheaply in the third over, Sharjeel tried to speed things up before chopping on to his stumps off Faulkner.

Umar Akmal (32) lost his wicket to Zampa and Afridi was stumped after he danced down the track to attempt an ambitious shot off the same bowler.

The Australians were in early trouble but Smith, 26, batted sensibly to ensure his side did not squander the advantage of batting first.

Smith hit seven boundaries in his 43-ball knock and completed his second half-century in T20 internationals in the process.

Watson, who has announced he will quit international cricket after the tournament, came in lower down the order and provided some late fireworks in a 21-ball knock which included three sixes.

Australia opted for a new opening pair in Aaron Finch and Usman Khawaja for the crunch tie at the Punjab Cricket Association ground.

Khawaja, enjoying a purple patch with the bat, showed his aggressive intent early as he hit an off-colour Mohammad Sami (53-0) for two fours in the first over of the innings.

The left-hander then lofted Riaz over the fence for a six but he was out one ball later, losing his middle-stump to the fast bowler.

Riaz then dismissed David Warner (nine) with a ball that knocked off the stumps in a spectacular fashion. Finch (15) was the next to go, failing to read a slow and low ball from Wasim.

Smith and Maxwell then steadied the innings, with a quick-fire 62-run partnership before Wasim made the breakthrough. — AFP



## SOCCKER IN THE DOCK AGAIN AS JOHNSON JAILED

**LONDON:** Football was accused of having a "cultural problem" as former England international Adam Johnson was sentenced to six years in prison after engaging in unlawful sexual activity with a 15-year-old fan.

Johnson, once a winger with Sunderland and Manchester City, was found guilty on Thursday following an incident in his Range Rover car in County Durham, northeast England, last year.

It has become increasingly commonplace to hear English football fans voicing their disillusionment with the cash-rich Premier League.

One criticism is that in paying the likes of Johnson a weekly wage of £60,000

(\$84,675, 75,909 euros), more than three times the average annual salary in the town where they play, clubs such as north-east side Sunderland have created a generation of spoilt players, who then expect to be indulged off the field as well. It was a view that found echoes in a letter sent by Britain's NSPCC children's charity to the chairman of England's governing Football Association, Greg Dyke, on Thursday.

"The NSPCC's concern lies not in the behaviour of a single individual-although that is horrifying-but in the approach taken by Sunderland... We are worried this could be a cultural problem within football as a whole," wrote Peter Wanless, the charity's chief executive.

### 'DANGER ZONES'

Johnson, 28, was sacked by struggling Premier League side Sunderland straight after his guilty plea.

But the fallout saw the club's chief executive, Margaret Byrne, resign on March 8 after she accepted making a "serious mistake" in being party to letting Johnson play on for nearly a year despite knowing he had admitted to kissing a 15-year-old girl.

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of England's Professional Footballers' Association, insisted his organisation took child protection seriously and that his members were aware of "danger zones" involving young female fans. — AFP

# NETS BLOWN BY LEBRON, CAVS IN 4TH, WIN 104-95

**NEW YORK:** Brook Lopez scored 22 points and the Brooklyn Nets blew by LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the fourth quarter for a 104-95 victory Thursday night. James was scoreless and missed both shots in the fourth quarter after he scored 30 points on 13-for-14 shooting through three. Lopez had the final five points in a 14-0 run down the stretch as the Nets surged past the Eastern Conference leaders. Shane Larkin added 16 points and seven assists for the Nets in his return to the starting lineup. Bojan Bogdanovic had 12 points. The Cavaliers finished 10 of 38 on 3-pointers, needing a make by Jordan McRae after the Nets had taken control to extend their franchise-record streak to 10 games with 10 or more makes. But they misfired way too often, with Kyrie Irving finishing 6 for 22 from the field and Kevin Love going 5 for 14.

### THUNDER 113, JAZZ 91

Kevin Durant had 20 points, nine assists and eight rebounds to help Oklahoma City beat Utah for its sixth straight victory. Russell Westbrook's streak of triple-doubles ended at three. He had 15 points, nine assists and seven rebounds before sitting out the fourth quarter because the game was in hand. Dion Waiters scored 17 points, Enes Kanter add 16, and the Thunder shot 54 percent from the field. They will take the NBA's longest current winning streak into their home game Saturday against San Antonio. Trey Burke scored 17 points, and Trey Lyles added 14 for the Jazz.

### KNICKS 106, BULLS 94

Carmelo Anthony scored 26 points, Kristaps Porzingis had 19 and New York beat Chicago to sweep the home-and-home series. Derrick Williams added 13 points, Jose Calderon 12, and Arron Afflalo 11 for New York. The Knicks beat the Bulls 115-107 on Wednesday night in Chicago. Derrick Rose led Chicago with 30 points. Jimmy Butler had 19, and Taj Gibson 10. The Bulls dropped 1 1/2 games behind Detroit for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

### PACERS 92, PELICANS 84

Myles Turner scored 24 points and had a career-high 16 rebounds on his 20th birthday, and C.J. Miles added 19 points in Indiana's victory over New Orleans. The Pacers have won two straight but lost Paul George in the third quarter with what was initially described as a bruised right leg. The



**NEW YORK:** Brook Lopez #11 of the Brooklyn Nets battles for the ball against Timofey Mozgov #20 and Kevin Love #0 of the Cleveland Cavaliers during their game at the Barclays Center yesterday in New York City. — AFP

three-time All-Star did not return. Alexis Ajinca led New Orleans with 22 points, and Tim Frazier had a career-high 18.

### CLIPPERS 96, TRAIL BLAZERS 94

J.J. Redick hit a 21-foot jumper as time expired to lift Los Angeles past Portland. With 1.1 seconds left, Chris Paul inbounded the ball to Redick cutting off a screen, and he made the basket from just inside the arc. Paul and Jamal Crawford each scored 25 points

for the Clippers. DeAndre Jordan added 12 points and 13 rebounds for Los Angeles. Damian Lillard scored 18 points and C.J. McCollum added 17 to lead the Trail Blazers, who lost for the eighth time in 12 games. Ed Davis scored 12 points, Mason Plumlee had 11, and Maurice Harkless added 10 points and eight rebounds for Portland. The loss cut the Blazers' lead to one game over Dallas and Utah for sixth place in the Western Conference with nine games to play. — AP

## NBA results/standings

Indiana 92, New Orleans 84; Brooklyn 104, Cleveland 95; NY Knicks 106, Chicago 94; Oklahoma City 113, Utah 91.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Toronto	48	22	.686	-	Oklahoma City	50	22	.694	-
Boston	42	30	.583	7	Portland	37	36	.507	13.5
NY Knicks	30	43	.411	19.5	Utah	35	37	.486	15
Brooklyn	20	51	.282	28.5	Denver	30	42	.417	20
Philadelphia	9	63	.125	40	Minnesota	23	48	.324	26.5
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	51	21	.708	-	Golden State	64	7	.901	-
Indiana	38	33	.535	12.5	LA Clippers	44	27	.620	20
Detroit	38	34	.528	13	Sacramento	27	44	.380	37
Chicago	36	35	.507	14.5	Phoenix	20	51	.282	44
Milwaukee	30	42	.417	21	LA Lakers	15	56	.211	49
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	42	30	.583	-	San Antonio	60	11	.845	-
Miami	41	30	.577	0.5	Memphis	41	31	.569	19.5
Charlotte	41	30	.577	0.5	Dallas	35	36	.493	25
Washington	35	36	.493	6.5	Houston	35	37	.486	25.5
Orlando	29	42	.408	12.5	New Orleans	26	45	.366	34

## FIVE HISTORIC ENGLAND VERSUS GERMANY CLASHES

**BERLIN:** World champions Germany host England at Berlin's Olympic Stadium in an international friendly today. AFP Sports looks at five historic clashes between the rivals:

**July 30 1966,** World Cup final, Wembley stadium, London.

England 4 (Hurst 18, 101, 120, Peters 78) West Germany 2 (Haller 12, Weber 89) - after extra-time.

Geoff Hurst wrote himself into footballing folklore by becoming the only player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final as England lifted the Jules Rimet trophy in controversial fashion.

After Germany had taken an early lead through Helmut Haller, Hurst levelled with a header then Martin Peters put England 2-1 up thirteen minutes from time.

Germany took the game to extra-time with a goal from Wolfgang Weber just 15 seconds from the end of 90 minutes.

Hurst's second goal in the 101st minute has been the subject of hot debate after it bounced on the line, but was given by the Soviet linesman.

**June 14 1970,** World Cup quarter-final, Estadio Nou Camp, Leon, Mexico West Germany 3 (Beckenbauer 68, Sella 82, Mueller 108) England 2 (Mullery 31, Peters 49) — after extra-time

The Germans avenged their Wembley defeat by coming back from two-goals down to reach the 1970 World Cup semi-finals where they lost to Italy.

Missing goalkeeper Gordon Banks, who was laid low by a stomach upset, England went 2-0 up just after the break thanks to goals from Alan Mullery and Martin Peters, before disaster struck.

**July 4 1990,** World Cup semi-final, Stadio delle Alpi, Turin, Italy

West Germany 1 (Brehme 60) England (Lineker 80) — after extra-time. West Germany won 4-3 on penalties. There were Tears in Turin as England crashed out in the penalty shoot-out and Paul Gascoigne was left sobbing after his yellow card in extra time meant he would have missed the final.

With an hour gone, Germany defender Andreas Brehme fired in a free kick which took a deflection off Paul Parker and looped over England goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

England equalised when Gary Lineker capitalised on a mistake in the German defence to take the game to extra time and penalties.

**September 1 2001,** World Cup qualifier, Olympiastadion, Munich, Germany Germany 1 (Jancker 6) England 5 (Owen 12, 48, 66, Gerrard 45+3, Heskey 74)

After Germany had again got the better of England on penalties in the semi-finals of Euro '96, Michael Owen became the first Englishman since Hurst to score a hat-trick as the Germans were humbled in Munich on the path to the 2002 World Cup. Carsten Jancker gave Germany the lead after six minutes, but it was all England as David Beckham's free-kick was tapped home by Owen on 12 minutes before Steven Gerrard put England 2-1 up at the break.

Owen grabbed his second on 48 after a Beckham cross and wrapped up his hat-trick after Gerrard won the ball and put in a pass which Owen floated over Germany goalkeeper Oliver Kahn on 66 minutes. Emile Heskey hit England's fifth after a move started by Beckham and Paul Scholes on 74 minutes to gap a glorious night for the English and Merseyside as all five goals were scored by Liverpool players.

**June 27 2010,** World Cup Round of 16, Free State Stadium, Bloemfontein, South Africa. Germany 4 (Klose 20, Podolski 32, Mueller 67, 70) England 1 (Upson 37). A youthful Germany team won a classic shoot-out in Bloemfontein in a match which generated yet more goal-line controversy.

Joachim Low's side built a two-goal lead through early goals from Miroslav Klose and Lukas Podolski.

Matthew Upson reduced the deficit before the break and 60 seconds later Frank Lampard was denied an equaliser for England amidst more goal-line controversy.

His shot from the edge of the box beat Manuel Neuer, struck the underside of the crossbar and bounced down, clearly over the line, but Uruguay referee Jorge Larrionda waved play on.

Germany decided the fixture in impressive style when Thomas Mueller finished off a break by Bastian Schweinsteiger on 67 minutes, then converted a chance created by Mesut Ozil three minutes later. — AFP



## NETHERLANDS LEADS TRIBUTE TO CRUYFF

**AMSTERDAM:** The Netherlands led global tributes to football legend Johan Cruyff and was to halt their international against France yesterday in the 14th minute in a powerful silent homage to the Dutch master.

Pictures of Cruyff in his familiar 14 shirt playing for Ajax Amsterdam and Barcelona covered front pages around the world following his death on Thursday from lung cancer.

Fans have flocked to the Cruyff statue in his home city of Amsterdam to leave flowers, portraits and footballs honouring the Total Football innovator who died in Barcelona at the age of 68. The ArenaA stadium and his family's home in the city also became a draw for football pilgrims.

The Netherlands v France friendly international will be halted in the 14th minute for one minute of silence—the first time such a gesture has been made during an international.

At a number of international games on Thursday, a minute's silence was held in Cruyff's honour. A friendly between Feyenoord and Sparta in Rotterdam was halted in the 14th minute for a minute's applause. "We have lost our best soccer player ever, our number 14 and our football friend. We are devastated by Johan's death, he brought Dutch football to greater heights," said Dutch Football Association president Michael van Praag.

"Dutch Master" said the popular Dutch tabloid *Algemeen Dagblad* with a picture of a young Cruyff in full flight in the Ajax Amsterdam colours. "Immortal" said *De Telegraaf* daily which carried a picture of Cruyff, taken from behind featuring his famous Number 14 jersey.

"Heaven has a new playmaker," headlined the British tabloid, *The Sun*. In Spain, the *El Pais* daily said "football has lost its great revolutionary".

### FANS CAMPAIGN FOR NAME CHANGE

A one-time heavy smoker who gave up after double heart by-pass surgery in 1991, Cruyff revealed in October last year that he had lung cancer.

Cruyff "died peacefully in Barcelona, surrounded by his family after a hard-fought battle with cancer", said a family statement. Cruyff won three European Cups as a player with Ajax Amsterdam and Ballon d'Or titles in 1971 with Ajax and 1973 and 1974 with Barcelona, where he starred from 1973 to 1978. As a coach, Cruyff led Barcelona to their first European Cup title in 1992. Football greats around the world paid individual tributes to Cruyff and his dazzling football artistry. "We have lost a great man. May we carry on his example of excellence," said Brazil's Pele.

"Johan Cruyff was a great player and coach. He leaves a very important legacy for our family of football." "He was the best player of all time," French legend Michel Platini told AFP. "I have lost a friend, the world has lost a great man. I admired him." "Between two drags on his cigarettes, he always spoke of the young, coaching, and education through football," Platini, the UEFA president now suspended from football, added.

"We will never forget you skinny," said Maradona in his tribute.

Franz Beckenbauer, who captained Germany when they beat the Netherlands in Cruyff's only World Cup final in 1974, said: "He was not only a very good friend, but also a brother to me." With his precision passes, speed, technique and goalscoring ability, Cruyff set new standards as a player.—AFP



**LIMA:** Peru's Christian Cueva (C) is marked by Venezuelan players during their Russia 2018 FIFA World Cup South American Qualifiers' football match, in Lima on Thursday. —AFP



**SANTIAGO:** Argentina's Lionel Messi (L) and Chile's Eugenio Mena vie for the ball during their Russia 2018 FIFA World Cup South American Qualifiers' football match, in Santiago on Thursday. — AFP

## REVENGE FOR ARGENTINA, ECUADOR LEAVE IT LATE

**MONTEVIDEO:** Argentina avenged their Copa America final defeat to Chile with a 2-1 victory on Thursday as Ecuador scrambled a late draw with Paraguay to preserve their unbeaten start to South America's 2018 World Cup qualifying competition.

Goals from Angel Di Maria and defender Gabriel Mercado secured a vital three points for Argentina in Santiago after Chile had taken an 11th-minute lead through Felipe Gutierrez at the National Stadium.

Victory was sweet for Argentina, who were beaten on penalties by Chile at the same venue in the final of last year's Copa America, extending the two-time world champions title drought.

More importantly, the win got Argentina's 2018 qualification bid firmly back on the road after a shaky start last year which saw them win only one of their opening four games.

"I'm very happy with the three points as it was important to come here and get a win," said Argentina's returning captain Lionel Messi, who had missed the first four matches of qualifying last year because of injury.

"I missed being with my team-mates. I felt really good in the first half but I was a bit tired in the second half," the Barcelona superstar added.

Argentina recovered after a rocky opening spell which culminated with Gutierrez's header opener after 11 minutes.

Yet Argentina got back on level terms after 20 minutes Paris Saint-Germain star Di Maria exchanged passes with Ever Banega inside the penalty area

and curled home a right-footed strike past Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo.

Five minutes later Argentina took the lead. Di Maria lofted a speculative pass into the Chilean penalty area and when

Nicolas Otamendi's knock-down found Messi, the striker held off the attentions of Chile defender Mauricio Isla to square for Mercado, who volleyed home from close range.

Chile upped the tempo after the break and created the better chances, with Arsenal's Alexis Sanchez causing nervous moments in the Argentina defence with a 52nd minute lob that drifted wide.

Chile's Fabian Orellana and Mauricio Pinilla both had good chances in the closing minutes but Argentina held on.

### PARAGUAY COACH FUMING

Elsewhere on Thursday, Ecuador scrambled a 2-2 draw with Paraguay in Quito thanks to a controversial injury-time equaliser from Angel Mena.

Ecuador, looking to extend their 100 percent record from the opening four matches, had looked to be heading for their first defeat after Paraguay recovered from Enner Valencia's 19th minute effort to lead through two goals from Dario Lezcano.

But when Mena latched onto a through ball from what looked like an offside position, Ecuador grabbed a share of the spoils.

The late blow left Paraguay coach Ramon Diaz distraught. "Every journalist knows that the second goal was offside," Diaz said. "It's a shame because Ecuador has a great team and a great

coach. They don't need to get help like this. We deserved the three points."

An injury-time goal also proved decisive in La Paz, where Colombia snaffled a 3-2 win over Bolivia thanks to Edwin Cardona's strike in the second minute of stoppage time.

The Colombians looked to have squandered a straightforward victory after Bolivia fought back from 2-0 down to level at 2-2 at the Estadio Hernando Siles. But just when the Bolivians were preparing to celebrate a well-earned point, Colombia swept forward.

Teenage winger Marlos Moreno broke down the left flank and picked out Mexico-based midfielder Cardona, who rifled a low shot into the bottom right-hand corner.

Colombia took the lead after goals from Real Madrid star James Rodriguez and AC Milan striker Carlos Bacca after 41 minutes. However Bolivia were thrown a lifeline when Brazilian referee Wilton Pereira Sampaio harshly adjudged that Jeison Murillo had hand-balled inside the area early in the second half.

Juan Carlos Arce duly stepped up to blast the penalty into the top corner and it got better in the 62nd minute when Alejandro Chumacero lashed in the equaliser for 2-2.

In Lima, Peru needed an injury-time equaliser from substitute Raul Ruidiaz to salvage a 2-2 draw with Venezuela. Venezuela, rooted to the bottom of the standings with no points after four games, looked poised for their first win after taking a 2-0 lead through Romulo Otero and Mikel Villanueva.—AFP



# Sports



Panthers climb into first in Atlantic with win over Bruins

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NAGPUR: South Africa's Quinton de Kock dives to make his ground as West Indies player Carlos Brathwaite tries to collect the ball during their ICC World Twenty20 2016 cricket match in Nagpur, India, yesterday. — AP

## WINDIES INTO SEMIS AFTER WIN OVER S AFRICA

**NAGPUR:** The West Indies clinched a spot in the World Twenty20 semi-finals with a thrilling three-wicket win over South Africa at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday. Darren Sammy's side successfully chased down a target of 123 with just two balls to spare for a third consecutive Group One victory, becoming the second team to qualify for the last four after New Zealand.

It was South Africa's second defeat of the tournament and means England can secure a berth in the semis at their expense with a win against Sri Lanka today. The Windies rode on a gritty 44 from Marlon Samuels to prevail in a tense finish.

They had earlier restricted South Africa to 122 for eight after Sammy opted to field first. It looked like the Windies would canter home but Imran Tahir grabbed two wickets in the 17th over and the Caribbean side ended up going into the final over requiring nine to win. Carlos Brathwaite hit a massive six before precocious fast bowler Kagiso Rabada bowled a wide. Brathwaite then grabbed a quick run before Denesh Ramdin carried the Windies over the line with a single.

Samuels' 32-run partnership for the third wicket with Johnson Charles (32) set up the chase only for the team to lose their way in the

middle overs. Andre Fletcher made 11 while Chris Gayle surprisingly shone with the ball rather than the bat. The big-hitting left hander smashed a four off his first ball but was clean bowled by Rabada off his second.

Gayle had earlier claimed two wickets as South Africa suffered from lack of partnerships in a crucial game for their survival in the tournament. Left-hander Quinton de Kock top-scored for the Proteas with 47 while David Wiese, batting at number seven, notched 28.

Hashim Amla was run out for one on just the third ball of the innings. Captain Faf du Plessis came in and didn't last long, scoring nine off seven balls before being caught by Sulieman Benn off paceman Andre Russell.

It quickly got worse for the Proteas when Gayle, who has barely turned his arm over in recent years, grabbed the wicket of Rilee Rossouw. Rossouw's dismissal, which the dreadlocked Gayle celebrated with a little jig, left South Africa reeling on 20 for three after three overs. South Africa needed AB de Villiers to put a big score on the board but the classy stroke-player could only manage 10 before being cleaned up by Dwayne Bravo.

David Miller then came in but lasted only four balls, bowled by Gayle. Chris Morris made 16. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**NAGPUR, India:** Scoreboard of the World Twenty20 match between South Africa and the West Indies at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium in Nagpur yesterday:

South Africa:		West Indies:	
H. Amla run out	1	J. Charles c du Plessis b Wiese	32
Q. de Kock b Russell	47	C. Gayle b Rabada	4
F. du Plessis c Benn b Russell	9	A. Fletcher run out (Rossouw)	11
R. Rossouw c Russell b Gayle	0	M. Samuels c de Villiers b Morris	44
AB. de Villiers b Bravo	10	D. Bravo c Wiese b Phangiso	8
D. Miller b Gayle	1	A. Russell c Miller b Tahir	4
D. Wiese c Sammy b Bravo	28	D. Sammy b Tahir	0
C. Morris not out	16	C. Brathwaite not out	10
A. Phangiso run out	4	D. Ramdin not out	1
Extras (b 4, w 2)	6	Extras (lb 1, w 8)	9
Total (for 8 wickets, 20 overs)	122	Total (for 7 wickets, 19.4 overs)	123
Did not bat: K. Rabada, I. Tahir		Did not bat: S. Badree, S. Benn	
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Amla), 2-13 (du Plessis), 3-20 (Rossouw), 4-46 (de Villiers), 5-47 (Miller), 6-97 (de Kock), 7-112 (Wiese), 8-122 (Phangiso)		Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Gayle), 2-34 (Fletcher), 3-66 (Charles), 4-87 (Bravo), 5-100 (Russell), 6-100 (Sammy), 7-113 (Samuels)	
Bowling: Badree 3-0-22-0, Russell 4-0-28-2, Gayle 3-0-17-2, Brathwaite 2-0-11-0, Benn 4-0-20-0, Bravo 4-0-20-2.		Bowling: Rabada 3.4-0-38-1, Morris 4-0-33-1, Tahir 4-0-13-2, Wiese 4-0-19-1, Phangiso 4-0-19-1.	
		Result: West Indies won by three wickets.	