THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

**MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016** 

**JAMADA ALTHANI 19, 1437 AH** 

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# ASSEMBLY PANEL REJECTS PROPOSAL TO RAISE CHARGES

Min 19° Max 29° High Tide

02:50 & 14:18

MP DASHTI'S IMMUNITY LIFTED AGAIN

**Low Tide** 08:38 & 20:16

# 65 KILLED IN PAKISTAN BLAST

**LAHORE:** At least 65 people were killed and more than 200 injured when an apparent suicide bomb ripped through the parking lot of a crowded park in the Pakistani city of Lahore where Christians were celebrating Easter Sunday, officials said. Dozens of ambulances were seen racing to the Gulshan-i-lqbal park, situated near the centre of the city of around eight million, with many women and children among the dead and wounded.

Lahore top administration official Muhammad Usman said the toll had reached 65 people. "The rescue operation is continuing," he said, adding that more than 50 children were among the injured. The army had been called in, he said, and soldiers were at the scene helping with rescue operations and security. Senior police official Haider Ashraf said the blast appeared to be a suicide attack, adding that ball bearings were found at the park.

A medical superintendent at Jinnah Hospital, who gave his name only as Dr Ashraf, told AFP the number of injured stands at more than 200 people, most of them are critical. "I fear the death toll will rise," he added. He described a nightmarish scene at the hospital, with staff treating casualties on floors and in corridors. Provincial health advisor Khawaja Salman Rafique told AFP meanwhile that authorities were asking citizens to donate blood.

Javed Ali, a 35-year-old resident who lives opposite park, said the force of the blast had shattered his home's windows. "Everything was shaking, there were cries and dust everywhere.

nere. LAHORE: A woman inju Continued on Page 13 Lahore yesterday. — AP



LAHORE: A woman injured in the bomb blast is comforted by a family member at a local hospital in

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly financial and economic affairs committee yesterday rejected a government proposal to amend a 21-year-old law to give the government the freedom to raise charges on public services. The law issued in 1995 stipulates that the government cannot raise charges on public services without the prior approval of the National Assembly. In its proposed amendment, the government sought to rest the decision to raise charges on public services entirely in its own hands without the participation of the National

Head of the panel MP Faisal Al-Shaye said the committee rejected the amendment because of suspicion that it violates the constitution as the Assembly's legal committee had said. The government's move was an attempt to increase charges on public services, mainly electricity and water, to boost non-oil revenues to finance a shortfall in the budget due to the slump in oil prices.

Shaye also said that the committee did not discuss the government economic reform program and the government's request to raise prices of electricity and water because the committee did not receive the two issues from the government. As a result, the two issues will not be debated at the assembly's next session tomorrow but likely on April 12, thus further delaying government measures to reduce subsidies on petrol and public services. The government has been discussing the sensitive issue with the National Assembly for the past two months. As part of a comprehensive economic reform program, the government wants to raise prices of petrol by more than 50 percent and has presented several scenarios for raising the prices of electricity and water.

Continued on Page 13

PALMYRA: A general view taken yesterday shows part of the ancient city of Palmyra with the citadel in the background, after government troops recaptured the UNESCO world heritage site from the Islamic State (IS) group. — AFP

# SYRIA FORCES DRIVE IS OUT OF PALMYRA

PALMYRA, Syria: Syrian troops recaptured the ancient city of Palmyra from the Islamic State group yesterday and pledged to build on the win with an advance against other jihadist strongholds. President Bashar Al-Assad hailed the victory as an "important achievement" as his Russian counterpart and key backer Vladimir Putin congratulated Damascus for retaking the UNESCO world heritage site.

An AFP correspondent inside Palmyra said monuments destroyed by the jihadists-like the iconic Temple of Belwere in pieces but that much of the ancient city was intact. Residential neighborhoods in the adjacent modern town were deserted and damage was widespread, the correspondent said.

A group of regime fighters took time off to celebrate their win and kicked

around a football in the middle of a street strewn with debris. The jihadists sparked a global outcry after seizing Palmyra in May 2015 and setting about destroying some of its treasured monuments.

But Syria's antiquities chief yesterday said the city's priceless artefacts were in much better shape than feared. "We were expecting the worst. But the landscape, in general, is in good shape," Maamun Abdulkarim told AFP from Damascus.

"We could have completely lost Palmyra... The joy I feel is indescribable." The Syrian army said that Sunday's victory meant the city would now serve as a base to "broaden operations" against IS, including in its stronghold of Raqa and Deir Ezzor further east.

Continued on Page 13

# AL-JAZEERA TO CUT AROUND 500 JOBS

work's Doha headquarters.

# UAE FINDS 38 GUILTY IN TERROR CASE

**DUBAI:** The top security court in the United Arab Emirates yesterday sentenced 38 people to prison in connection to a cell accused of plotting terrorist attacks and seeking to overthrow the government to create an Islamic state. Prosecutors said the "Minaret Youth" cell included Emirati as well as non-Emirati members, though the nationalities and names of all the accused have not been made public.

The group had also been charged with forming committees to recruit young Emiratis and of planning to assassinate top government officials in the UAE, which is home to the Western-friendly citystates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Some members had also been accused of being members of the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria and Al-Qaeda's branch in Syria, the Nusra Front.

The state-run WAM news agency reported that the Federal Supreme Court's state security chambers sentenced 11 of the defendants to life in prison, though two were tried in absentia. Another two were sentenced to 15 years, 13 were sentenced to 10 years, six to three years, two to five years, and four to six months in prison.

Seven others were acquitted, according to WAM. The official report did not give details on what the defendants had been found guilty of. The trial, which began late August, was not open to the public or members of the independent press.

Abu Dhabi-based The National reported on its website yesterday that only two defendants pleaded guilty in court.

Continued on Page 13

**DOHA:** Qatar's state-funded broadcaster Al-Jazeera yesterday announced a fresh round of job cuts with around 500 positions being lost, most of them at the net-

On top of existing losses of 700 jobs following an announcement earlier this year that Al-Jazeera America is to close, it means the broadcaster is set to shed more than 20 percent of its global workforce. In total, the job cuts will reduce Al-Jazeera's staff numbers from around 5,200 to 4,000.

The cuts come at a time when gas and oil-rich Qatar is readjusting its spending priorities as it grapples with the global slump in energy prices. Al-Jazeera said yesterday that after a management review it was "expected that around 500 positions worldwide will be impacted, the majority of which are in Qatar".

Announcing the job losses in a statement, acting Director General, Mostefa Souag, said the cuts would allow the network "to evolve our business operation in order to maintain a leading position and continue our recognized commitment to high quality, independent and hard-hitting journalism around the world.

"While our decision is consistent with those being made across the media industry worldwide, it was difficult to make nonetheless." He added: "However, we are confident it is the right step to ensure the network's long-term competitiveness and reach."

According to one Al-Jazeera official, up to 60 percent of the job cuts-300 positions-could come at the broadcaster's Doha base.

Continued on Page 13



DOHA: Al-Jazeera English Channel staff prepare for the broadcast inside the news room in Doha, Qatar. Al-Jazeera said yesterday it is slashing about 500 jobs worldwide little more than two months after shutting its US offshoot. — AP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Mongolian Foreign Minister Lundeg Purevsuren. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Mongolian Foreign Minister Lundeg Purevsuren.

# AMIR RECEIVES MONGOLIA'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Kuwait's Ambassador to Mongolia Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Mongolia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Lundeg Purevsuren. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting, which took place at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah also receiving the visiting minister, in the presence of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Undersecretary of His Highness the Prime Minister's Diwan Sheikha Itamad Khaled Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs Ambassador Ali Al-Saeed and

Khaled Al-Fadhli.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled discussed with his Mongolian counterpart means of promoting bilateral ties. The meeting, held at the Foreign Ministry's headquarters, also shed light on the recent regional and international developments. The meeting was attended Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah, Assistant Foreign Minister at the minister's office Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Ambassador Saeed and Ambassador Fadhli. Later, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled held a lunch banquet in the honor of the visiting

Earlier yesterday, His Highness

the Amir received His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, and Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince received Ghanem, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. — KUNA



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Mongolian Foreign Minister Lundeg Purevsuren.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Ministry of Interior's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad meets Al-Sabah meets with British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew Lodge and head of the British embassy's liaison office Lance Lindsay. — KUNA



with Japanese Ambassador in Kuwait Takashi Ashiki.

# INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS UK ENVOY, LIAISON OFFICER

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah has praised the deep-rooted cooperation ties with Britain. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled, British Ambassador to Kuwait Matthew James Lodge and head of the British embassy's liaison office Lance Lindsay also discussed a host of issues of common concern, the ministry's Security Media Department said in a statement yesterday.

Lodge handed over to Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled an official invitation from Home Secretary Theresa May to visit Britain, to enhance bilateral security cooperation, in light of regional and international developments. Date of the visit will be later set. The British envoy appreciated Kuwait's role supporting peace and security in the region.

# Japan

Meanwhile, means to boost bilateral security cooperation were the focus of talks held between Ministry of Interior's Undersecretary Lieutenant General

Suleiman Al-Fahad and the Japanese Ambassador in Kuwait Takashi Ashiki. Fahad and the Japanese envoy discussed bolstering ties, especially in training, the ministry's Security Media Department said in a statement, pointing to Japan's advanced expertise in the field.

The meeting also addressed regional and international security developments. During the meeting, ambassador Ashiki highly appreciated hospitality shown to the Japanese diplomatic mission and community, both on the official and the popular

# **United States**

Also yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah discussed with United States' Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman bilateral ties. The meeting, held yesterday, also shed light on the latest regional and international developments. Assistant Foreign Minister for North and South Americas' Affairs Reem Al-Khaled was present at the meeting. —KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah meets with US Ambassador to **Kuwait Douglas Silliman.** 

# VISA WAIVER PROGRAM/ESTA, TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES

he US Embassy wishes to remind all nationalities who are able to travel to the United States via the Visa Waiver Program that as of 1 April, 2016 they must have a valid electronic passport. This rule applies en to those who possess a valid Flectronic for Travel Authorization. The US Embassy strongly recommends that all travelers check to ensure their passports are valid electronic passports before they make arrangements to travel to the United States on the Visa Waiver program.

Electronic passports have this symbol on their cover:



You can check if your passport is valid for travel under the VWP by carefully reading the following page:https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/vis a-waiver-program.html.

Any traveler who does not have a valid electronic passport is still eligible to travel to the United States with a valid nonimmigrant visa issued by a US embassy or consulate. Such travelers will be required to appear for an interview and obtain a visa in their passports at a US embassy or consulate before traveling to the United States. Information on visa applications can be found at: http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html.

A full list of countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) can be found at the following http://ice2016orlando.org/host-travelhotel/visacustoms/vwp/

Citizen or National of a VWP Designated Country: The following 37 countries are Visa Waiver Program participants (as of 13 August 2015):

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan and United Kingdom.

# GCC CONFERENCE ENVISAGES BIGGER ROLE FOR YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

**KUWAIT:** The GCC Youth Conference concluded Saturday with a series of recommendations to boost youth contribution to policy decision-making and state development in Arab Gulf countries. Speaking to reporters following the closing session, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikha Zain Al-Sabah announced the conference has called for the foundation of GCC Youth Forum, to be affiliated to the GCC General Secretariat.

She stated that the forum is meant to allow youth to partake in drawing and enforcing development policies. She hoped the forum would be an effective partner to state institutions in materializing sustainable development goals. She added that the conference's outcome and recommendations would be referred to the GCC youth

ministers meeting, scheduled April 6 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, for discussion and approval. Sheikha Al-Zain thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his sponsorship of the conference.

# **New philosophy**

Meanwhile, Director of the Department of National Program for Preparing and Qualifying Young Leaders at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Dr Mashael Al-Janoubi said that the conferees have recommended working out a new philosophy for giving youth more spaces and opportunities to contribute to the development of education and culture. The conferees recommended a series of measures to expand partnership between the state institutions and youth entities, he said.

Jaboubi noted that the conference called for launching an interactive portal for Gulf youth to facilitate interaction and exchange of expertise in entrepreneurship and development projects. He added that the conferees underlined the need for new mechanisms to strengthen national identity and harnessing the skills of youth cadres through a sophisticated training courses and programs. They urged governments to embrace and offer all financial and technical support to youth initiatives to ensure their success. They called for enhancing dialogue with youth to help enhance their sense of belongingness to their countries.

# **Necessary measures**

The conferees also emphasized the

importance of taking to all necessary measures to empower youth and enable them to participate in the state building and society development. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah opened the first GCC Youth Conference on Wednesday evening. The four-day event was co-organized by the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs and the GCC Secretariat under the theme of 'Youth Spaces - Opportunities and Potential.'

In his inaugural speech, Sheikh Salman urged intensifying the effort to bring the youth of the GCC member countries close to each other and enable them to share experience for attaining the objectives of sustainable human development programs. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Sheikha Zain Al-Sabah speaks at the conference. — KUNA



# APPROVED MARKET OFFERS MULTIPLE CHOICES TO ORGANIC FOOD FANS



Fahad Al-Yahya (left) and US Ambassador Douglas Silliman inaugurate the event.

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: Eating healthy and organic food is becoming more popular by every passing day. The Approved Market, located at the Sanabil Tower is providing all kinds of healthy foodstuff. The grand opening of this store took place on Saturday and was attended by the American Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas Silliman, as well as people seeking healthy nutrition.



Visitors seen at Altco's booth at the exhibition.



George Sassine, Altco General Manager (left) with Fahad Al-Dhaher, General Manager of Approved Market (center).

The grand opening took place after nine months following the soft opening. "This is the first healthy store in the Gulf Cooperation Council region," Fahad Al-Dhaher, General Manager of Approved Market told the Kuwait Times.

"All the available products here are approved by diet consultant Fahad Al-Yahya. We have over 2,000 items available in the store, from which around 70 percent are brought from the United States, while the rest are brought from different countries."



Rabie Qansou, General Manager of Food Vision (right) with George Sassine, Altco General Manager



**Staff of the Approved Market** 

"Our wide range of products include snacks and beverages, dairy, breakfast cooking and healthy oils, spices, proteins, frozen seafood, and many others," Dhaher added. "This is our only branch in the present time, thus we are planning to expand by the end of this year." As part of this event, an exhibition was held in front of the store inside the tower, where many of the items were on display. Different agents of various brands offered visitors a chance to taste their products and get free samples, in addition to fitness challenges.



US Ambassador Douglas Silliman tests a product at the event.

# ZAIN STAFF DONATE OVER FIVE TONS OF CLOTHES TO REFUGEES

where the company's employees donated over five tons of unused clothes throughout three weeks to Syrian refugees in collaboration with Kuwait

Society for Relief. This initiative aimed at delivering on Zain's commitment to continually support charitable causes as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategies, as well as encourage Zain employees to take part in the spirit of giving and donate their unused clothes to refugees who are in need of support.

Zain believes in extending a helping hand to support those who are less advantaged. The company strongly believes that similar charitable programs help infuse a sense of responsibility into members of the society, to help support those who are in need of help.

Zain's core values are built to give to the less fortunate, and the company is keen on participating in various internal and external charitable initiatives that promote the culture of giving and highlight how people can exert little effort while making a huge difference in others'

The company's collaboration with Kuwait Society for Relief comes in line with its Corporate Social Responsibility strategy that seeks to contribute to the

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommuni- welfare of the society in several ways. cations company in Kuwait, launched an Zain prides itself on its long-track of internal Clothes Donation campaign, records and contributions it has put in philanthropic areas. The company strongly believes that such initiatives help infuse a sense of responsibility into members of the society, to help support those who are in need of help.





KUWAIT: (From left) Faisal Al-Drea', Jassem Al-Habib and Nabila Al-Anjari speak at the press conference. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

# CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS IMPORTANCE OF TOURISM FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT

**KUWAIT:** Leaders Group and the Information Ministry's Tourism Sector announced collaborating to organize a conference on tourism titled 'Tourism and Development: Reality and Outlook.' The event, held under the motto 'Tourism is a need and a purpose' takes place on 29-30 March at JW Marriott Hotel.

During a press conference held yesterday at KIPCO Tower, Jassem Al-Habib, Assistant Undersecretary for Tourism at the Ministry of Information, confirmed that the ministry's tourism sector is going to highlight in this conference the role of public and private sectors in promoting tourism in Kuwait. "Both sectors are interested in giving the best ways to deal with future challenges related to the future of Kuwait, about its economy and the process of development," he said. "Because of the drop in oil prices,

we believe that addressing this problem is not done by going and fixing the past, but by going forward toward the future and toward new resources.

"In the second half of the last century, Kuwait was a touristic destination for many of citizens of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries," he added. "It was seen known as the 'Pearl of the Gulf' at the time. Kuwait has a legacy in the field of tourism, and we can promote tourism again through the efforts of the public and private sectors, citizens and civil society."

**Dramatic impact** 

Nabila Al-Anjari, President of the Organizing Committee of the conference and General Manager of Leaders Group for Consulting and Development, said "The fluctuation of Oil prices worldwide left a direct and dramatic impact on national income, since oil represents more than

80 percent of Kuwait's income."

She added that Kuwait needs serious research and urgent solutions to diversify sources of income. "Tourism is a strategic option to achieve several national goals economically, financially and developmentally, not to mention the importance of tourism and the entertainment industry as an outlet for the social, cultural and local sectors," she said.

Anjari further stressed that this conference aims to take advantage of some of the leading touristic experiences and how to link tourism development plans, as well as discuss suggested ways and awareness campaigns on that regard. "We were keen to involve various agencies and most of bodies that have direct or indirect relations with tourism. A number of officials and representatives from these parties will participate to discuss the themes of the conference," she pointed out.

# TOURISM CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS NATIONAL VISION FOR DEVELOPED, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM





**Dr Khaled Mahdi** 

**MP Ahmad Lari** 

**KUWAIT:** The Tourism and Development: Reality and Outlook Conference takes place on March 29 and 30, 2016 under auspices of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. The conference has already attracted considerable attention from various sectors concerned with sustainable development, the organizing committee said in a statement.

The committee further stressed that officials from aviation, hospitality, recreation, services, culture, arts and media sectors have already confirmed their participation in the conference. The committee also stressed that speakers on the second day of the conference would include the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development Dr Khaled



Huda Al-Shayeji



Saad Al-Muhailbi

Mahdi, MP Ahmad Lari, Fatwa and Legislation Department Advisor Huda Al-Shayeji, Chairman of the Board of the National Fund for Small and Medium Entries Dr Mohammad Al-Zuhair, Manager of the structural plan Saad Al-Muhailbi and the Ministry of Youth Affairs' Assistant Undersecretary for Youth Projects Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayyed. The second session will be presided by Leaders Group's General Manager Nabila

The conference will be organized by the Leaders Group Company For Consultancy and Development in collaboration with the information ministry's tourism sector, the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as local, regional and international partners.

# KUWAIT SPARED THE WORST, THANKS TO THE CENTRAL BANK

the surface enormous difficulties facing Kuwait economic and financial decision-making authorities. Not only so, the hardships have also revealed the efforts exerted to keep ripples of the international financial crisis at bay.

During recent times, when the oil prices were bullish hitting above the 100-point level, the national decisionmaking quarters and strategists were conducting studies and forecasting possible hazards. Much of the international praise for prudence and foresightedness has been heaped upon the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) namely by World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and top rating agencies.

The CBK has won international quarters' confidence and acclamation for maintaining Kuwait financial stability, steadying the monetary policy, as well as the Kuwaiti dinar, the world's most valuable currency, trading at \$3.3.

Standard and Poor's rating agency, in a report issued on March 16, 2016, hinted that the CBK supervisory policy trimmed hazards facing the Kuwaiti banking sector, also noting amendments, introduced over the past

years, on investment and banking regulations. The CBK measures boosted the banks' ability to with-

**KUWAIT:** Drastic fall of crude oil prices has brought to stand negative repercussions of the sharp drop of oil prices. Standard and Poor's lowered rating for 10 regional banks, however it maintained a highly positive mark for the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK).

> Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service noted in a report on March 3rd that impact of Kuwait banking hazards on the State budget is very low noting that the Kuwaiti financial sector has trimmed debts since outbreak of the international financial crisis in 1988.

> The Kuwaiti banks are well monitored by the CBK and Kuwait enjoys high credibility in terms of the financial policy, where inflation has dropped after peaking in 2008. Moreover, according to Moody's, the exchange rating in Kuwait is much more flexible than the financial operations in other GCC countries.

Fitch Rating said in a recent report that the CBK prudent policy has improved capitalization, liquidity and profitability in the Kuwaiti banking sector. The IMF echoed the same views in a report issued on December 2nd, also noting that the banking sector has proven it is capable of withstanding impact of the bearish oil prices. The international fund reported that irregular loans recorded in the Kuwaiti banking sector amounted to 2.6 percent of the overall loan portfolio, and allocations for covering the loans stood at 172 percent. —KUNA



The congregation at the National Evangelical Church.





KUWAIT: Pastor Gerald Golbeck accompanied by Pastor The traditional ritual 'salubong' held at the Holy Family Cathedral in Kuwait City.

# CHRISTIANS IN KUWAIT CELEBRATE EASTER SUNDAY

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: As Christians all over the world celebrated Easter yesterday, the National Evangelical Church in Kuwait also held its traditional sunrise service, this time with visiting pastor Gerald Golbeck. The new American pastor urged congregation to crucify their own personal interest, self-desire and leave them in the grave and rise up in victory. "Put to death what we all want; like the messiah, deny self and follow Him, nail all your personal interest, seal them in the grave and roll over with the congregation of more than a thousand attendees. The attendees were noticeably smaller than previous sunrise services in the past where late pastor Jerry Zandstra was yet a pastor. The pre and post war (invasion) pastor died in 2011.

Meanwhile, Golbeck was invited to see how he could help to win back worshipers. He said just leave everything to God, because He knows what our needs and wants in life. "You know, self-interest, causes partial hearing loss, and that is synonymous to partial death," He

stone to locked them at the tomb," he told the said. The new pastor also recalled the time when Mary visited the grave and found the tomb empty. "Sir if you take the body away, please tell me where you put him so I will go and get him; but he did not realize that the person he was talking to was Jesus. She only recognized Him when he talked, only one word; Mary," he said.

"So He knows our name, and when he called Mary, who was at that time in deep sorrow so in second, her sorrows turned into joy, because God knows our names, and you know the joy when you are in deep sorrow and

names are called and when you will get unexpected call? He hears us even when we whisper and he hears us when we shout. If you are in the situation right now, just leave everything to God, call Him and He will hear you," he said. The service ended with the sharing of bags of breakfast complete with the traditional Easter eggs.

'Salubong'

In the Holy Family Cathedral in Kuwait City, the Filipino congregation also organized a traditional 'salubong' (encounter) to celebrate Easter Sunday rituals. It is usually held every year to commemorate the first meeting or the encounter between Virgin Mary, the mother of Christ, and the resurrected Christ. It was attended by thousands of Filipinos and people from other nationalities, officiated by Filipino priest Reverend Father Ramon 'Monching' Atanacio. The ritual was followed by Sunday Easter Mass. "The encounter is not just a mere ritual, it is an activity to remember the suffering of Jesus Christ and the sorrow of a mother," said Atanacio in the ceremony leading to the

# **Photo**

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti youngsters participate in a cultural activity to celebrate Kuwait's heritage. — KUNA

# GCC CULTURAL COMMITTEE **DISCUSSES MUTUAL TOPICS**

**RIYADH:** The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) General Cultural Committee discussed yesterday at its 43rd meeting some topics that interest mutual affairs of member states. On the sidelines of the meeting, Mohammad Abdel-Khaliq, a committee member and a senior at Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, said that the committee deals with a number of key cultural topics, including the program of enhancing the Gulf identity.

During the two-day meeting, conferees focus on steps and developments on regulations of the joint cultural action, in addition to executive procedures on organizing cultural activities and their plans for 2016/2017, he said. The meeting is expected also to discuss some other topics in this regard.

# Farm development

In other news, Saudi Minister of Agriculture Abdulrahman Al-Fadhli said that the agricultural sector is one of the key economic sectors that contribute to finding investment or productive

opportunities that enjoy GCC backing and stimulation. In a keynote speech at the 27th meeting of the Agricultural Cooperation Committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Saudi minister said the GCC member states are interested in the development and revamping of the agricultural sector. He wished that the meeting could come up with constructive recommendations to support and promote inter-GCC cooperation in the agricultural sector. Meanwhile, GCC Secretary General Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani said food security in the GCC enjoys attention of all the leaders of the GCC member states. Addressing the meeting, he emphasized that ensuring food security in the GCC is a fundamental element to the provision of secure, stable, prosperous and sustainable environment for the GCC citizens.

He added that the GCC Secretariat had conducted a draft study for water security in the GCC countries as part of ongoing efforts exerted by the GCC Agricultural Cooperation Committee to promote and develop agricultural, animal and fish resources. — KUNA



# DIVERS REMOVE WRECK FROM SOUQ SHARQ WATERS

# INSTITUTE HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING RIGHTS DURING CONFLICTS

**KUWAIT:** Protecting human rights during armed conflicts is of paramount significance, Director of Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (KIJS) Adel Abdullah Al-Essa said yesterday. In a speech at a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) course on international humanitarian law, Essa said "the issue of human rights is of chief importance, at a time where the world is beset with rampant conflict and turmoil." Essa noted that it is imperative, whilst in conflict, to choose certain modes of combat that would ensure the safety of civilians.

Moreover, Deputy Head of Operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Rania Mashlab said that Kuwait was amongst the first nations to contribute to humanitarian causes during the course of the last 50 years. Kuwait's humanitarian missions have always aimed to assist victims of armed conflicts and civilians, who bear the brunt of the ill effects of war, Mashlab added.

She also underscored the importance of adhering to international laws, at a time where violations of these laws have become the norm rather than the exception, Mashlab noted. It is incumbent upon nations to disseminate the tenets of international laws, so that to ensure strict adherence to these laws, she said.

The session is a by-product of years of cooperation between KIJS and the ICRC, one that has yielded a number of fruitful programs and courses, Mashlab said. The five-day course, to feature participation of representatives of GCC nations, will tackle international humanitarian laws and ways to implement

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team of the Environmental Voluntary Foundation succeeded yesterday in the removal of three tons of shipwrecks, two tons of fishing nets and wastes from 'Niqaat Al-Shamlan' or Shamlan harbor close to Soug sharg.

The team was able to lift the sinking boats by using lifting belts and crane from the Kuwait Municipality as well as water suction pumps in order to remove them without damage, the team's marine operations' officer Waleed Al-Shatti said. These wrecks and waste from boats and fishing vessels affect the fish stocks in Kuwait and harm the marine environment, he

Shatti called on boat owners and fishermen to preserve the environment of the area, noting the ongoing efforts of Kuwait Municipality, Fishermen Union, Kuwait's Port Authority, Coastguard, EQUATE Petrochemical Company and volunteer divers. — KUNA



### Legalese

# NOTICE PERIOD, TERMINATION INDEMNITY AND TRANSFERS

### **By Attorney Fajer Ahmed**

■oday I will be answering questions regarding the major concerns that I am receiving. I have discussed notice periods, termination indemnity and transfers on multiple occasions before and in more detail, but I still receive a lot of questions. So bear with me while I answer them.

But before I do so, before I lay out the law in front of you, I want to make one thing clear. No matter how many times I speak about these issues, you need to talk about them. You need to confront those that are not treating you right. I can always provide you with legal assistance and advice. The law is logical, it has no space for mistreatments. So I urge you to talk up to those that are mistreating you at the work field, peacefully of course.

### **Notice period**

Question: I have been working for a travel agency for two years, and now I want to leave. How many days' notice period do I have to give?

Fajer: The answer to your question depends on a few factors. I can see that you work for a private company, so Kuwait's Labor Law number 6 for 2010 is applicable to your situation. With that said, the law differentiates between two different work contracts; definite and indefinite term.

For definite term, you can leave once your contract is over (make sure it is not automatically renewable).

As for indefinite term, if your contract does not state otherwise, the notice period is three months. I should also make clear that your notice should be in writing, either via email or on paper (no texts or whatsapp)!

### **Termination indemnity**

Question: is there an easy way of calculating my termination indemnity? Can you please explain how I can calculate it?

Fajer: First of all, I would like to make it clear that it is not a lawyer's job to do the actual calculations. Even through the legal procedures, lawyers will not usually calculate. Instead, experts are called in to calculate the final amount (they are usually account-

With that said, the principle of the calculations is not that hard to master and I suggest that you calculate so you have a rough idea of your termination indemnity amount.

This will depend on whether you have been terminated or you have terminated the contract.

In the event where you are terminated: \* Less than 5 years of employment = 15 days' pay

of your salary. \* Between 5 to 10 years of employment = 30 days' pay of your salary.

The total amount should not exceed an amount that is more than one year and a half of salary.

In the event where you have terminated your contract and it is an indefinite term contract:

\* 3-5 years of employment - half of the indemnity mentioned above.

\* 5-10 years of - two thirds of the indemnity men-

tioned above. 10 plus years - you will be entitled to your entire

indemnity. Let me give an example. You ended your indefinite contract (with a three month notice period) and

your salary is KD 450 a month. You have been working for seven years with this company. How much is your termination indemnity? I have answered this question by breaking it down to simple steps, as fol-

1. Break down your salary into daily pay. You have 26 working days per month. Therefore, you should divide 450 by 26. That will average to KD 17.310

2. Calculate your termination indemnity as if you were being terminated. That is 15 days' pay for the first 5 years and one month pay for the remaining 2

15 x KD 17.310 x 5 = KD 1,298.10

 $30 \times KD 17.310 \times 2 = KD 1,038.6$ Total = KD 2336.7

3. Calculate your termination indemnity according to the fact that you have terminated the contract. For 7 years, that is 2/3 of the total above.

# Work transfer

Question: I have been hearing in the news and from word of mouth that you cannot transfer anymore from one employer to another, and that the government is being strict because they do not want expats to live in Kuwait anymore. Is this

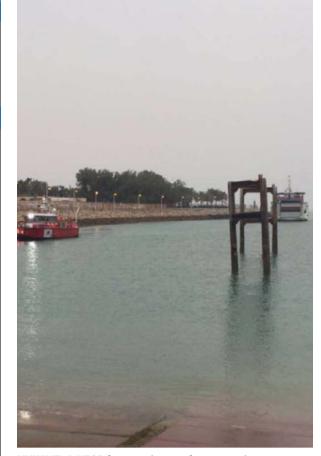
Fajer: Well, it is true that the procedures and requirements for a work transfer are becoming more and more strict, but it is not just for expatriates, it is for nationals as well. I had to do a lot of paper work a few months ago at the Ministry of Social Affairs and

Now that does not mean that you cannot transfer according to the law. Only those coming in as government contractors or for work at the Free Trade Zone will have difficulty transferring. They will need signatures from both employers and the papers will need to be submitted in their own certain area at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. Also, transfers will be difficult for those who have worked for less than a year in Kuwait.

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

# PUBLIC WORKS MINISTRY TO BUILD BRIDGE IN ARABIAN GULF STREET

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works will build a bridge linking Ta'awun and Balajat Streets with the major aim of addressing traffic, a ministry official said. The project, to cost KD 13.997 million (\$46 million), will reduce traffic congestion at the Bede' roundabout by building the 670-meter-long bridge over the roundabout and link Ta'awun and Balajat streets, Ahmad Al-Hassaan, Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering, said in a statement. He said the bridge will have four lanes in total in addition to safety lanes on both sides. Hassaan said the ministry was keen on maintaining safety of its projects. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A KFSD boat waits as a boat carrying a woman who entered labor while returning from a trip to Failaka arrives to Ras Al-Ardh.



A firefighter receives treatment after injuring his arm



Firemen extinguish a fire at a Failaka island chalet.

# **Woman rescued after entering** LABOR DURING BOAT CRUISE

### **By Hanan Al-Saadoun**

KUWAIT: A woman entered labor while she was in a boat in the middle of the sea as she was returning from Failaka island. The Kuwait Fire Services Department (KFSD) received a call about the incident, which happened as sea conditions were rough. Rescue men shortly arrived at the scene, but decided against transferring the woman from the boat as a safety precaution. Instead, they guided the boat to Ras Al-Ardh where paramedics were waiting to take the woman to the hospital. A fireman was injured when he fell in the boat and was taken to hospital.

# No injuries in fires

Firemen evacuated a house in Salwa following a fire in a first floor apartment. KFSD received a call about the fire, and south Salmiya and Mishrif centers responded. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Meanwhile, fire-



Firefighters tackle a blaze at a house in Salwa.

men tackled a blaze in a Failaka island chalet. The fire was contained, put out and kept from spreading.

# Suicide

Criminal evidence department person-

nel recovered the body of an Indian woman and sent it to the medical examiner for testing, in a case filed as suicide. A citizen had reported that his housemaid had committed suicide, so police were sent to the scene and found the woman hanging dead from a

rope tied to the ceiling of her room. Investigations are ongoing in the case.

### **Labor law violators**

Residency affairs detectives arrested 22 Ghanaian nationals for violation of article 20 of the labor law. The suspects were arrested inside a Fahaheel restaurant following a report that they were holding an 'illegal party' there. A total of six men and 16 women, mostly domestic helpers, were arrested and sent to the proper authorities for further action.

# Campaign

Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department said the Environment Affairs Department and Yarmouk Cleanliness Center participated in an awareness activity held in Yarmouk. The event took place as part of Kuwait Municipality's support of campaigns that are carried out by voluntary areas, government bodies and NGOs to protect Kuwait's environment.



# MAN SENTENCED TO **DEATH FOR EX-WIFE** STAB MURDER

# By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The criminal court vesterday sentenced a citizen to death for murdering his ex-wife in Salwa, said security sources. The man had stabbed the victim several times when she was inside her vehicle. He also caused hand injuries to his son while he was trying to stop him. The suspect had waited outside the house until the victim drove into the parking place and attacked her, according to investigations.

# **Medical error**

A court yesterday sentenced a doctor and a nurse to six months in prison for negligence and committing medical errors that caused the death of a female citizen at a public hospital where they worked.

# False news

The court of appeal yesterday acquitted a blogger who was accused by the state security department of posting false news about arresting a person and defusing a bomb in an oil facility.

# Slander

The criminal court yesterday acquitted an Egyptian man was charged with slandering His Highness the Amir. The ruling came after a mental assessment report indicated that the man was mentally unstable.

# Sit-in

Local activists plan to stage a sit-in this afternoon in protest against the government's failure to establish housing projects at two blocks that the government repossessed in Khaitan last year. The two blocks have enough room to build 1,200 houses in addition to basic infrastructure, said Meshaan Al-Hajri, official spokesperson of a public campaign titled 'When Will We Get a House.' In other news, the South Metla' residents' committee recently met to discuss the latest developments concerning the area's infrastructure contracts and priorities for the near future. Separately, Head of Ahmadi committee at the Municipal Council Adel Allumai said that the committee agreed to adjust the Northern and Eastern expansions at Wafra houses.



# الانباء

Al-Anbaa

# BUILDING THE GUARD

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

hen the ancient Chinese wanted to live in peace, they built the Great Wall of China, and believed that there will not be anyone who could climb it because of its height. But during the first 100 years following its construction, China was invaded three times. And each time, the land enemy legions were not in need to penetrate the wall or climb over it. Rather, they bribed the guard each time and entered through the gate. This was normal because the Chinese were busy building the wall and forgot to 'build the guard.'

Each one of us is a guard of his homeland. That short story inspired many people, and sets an example for the listener, viewer and reader. Today, I am going to rely on it for the purpose of relaying the message of this column. Our societies are losing many values and principles that we were supposed to have instilled in the society and children to be the best guards for their homes and countries.

Our societies have started to lose so much, and that is the game of those who seek the fall of Arab countries in the past, present, and future. Because if we wanted to destroy any civilization, we demolish three foundations, which are: the family, education, examples and references. This is what happened in the Arab World; the three foundations, which are essential for the building of its guards and for its civilization to remain, have collapsed.

The family is the first nucleus of the society. Family disintegration happens due to the absence of a parent and the presence of children who could not have someone to raise them right and correct their mistakes. The majority became considering the family just as a social front to appear with in front of the society as a cohesive and loving family, bearing in mind that this is contrary to the truth. There are cases today in which both the father and mother would not remember in which school stage the children are. Children became only a front for the fathers to show that they are positive elements in the society only. But as for values and education, they were not instilled in the country's guards.

Education is the second point in the human being's life and the process of building the guard, but how? And where? That is the dilemma, because education receives most children who are not raised correctly. So how can a teacher complete what parents planted so that he can harvest what is good for the country, while he did not plant anything in the soil of the guard? That is the sterile soil. But as for the farmer, and we mean the teacher, lately we find examples of teachers who do not know teachings basics!

Where is the teacher who the Prince of Poets Ahmad Shawqi wrote about: 'Stand up for the teacher and glorify him, for the teacher's status is almost as high as that of a Prophet. That was our civilization. But it became rare, in our reality and future, to find out who knows the meaning of education and how to build a guard. The example and reference is ours at this time, and it is only some tweets and snaps, and other destructive ideas that are instilled in the guards of the country!

In conclusion: My teacher 'Abu Mubarak' always told me: "if the one who loves you advices you strongly, do not feel bad. Rather, take benefit from his note, and him being adamant will not hurt you, and do not be like a person who broke many alarm clocks because they woke him up!"

— Translated by Kuwait Times



الانباء:

**Al-Anbaa** 

### **EXPATS BETWEEN SECURITY CAMPAIGNS AND SPONSORS**

By Adel Al-Ibrahim

he intense security campaigns being conducted by security departments and the social support they receive are not only directed at expatriate labor to make sure about their compliance with residency and work regulations. Rather, they are also directed at fugitives so that the citizen and expat feel that there is no place for any violator of the

Security statistics show that thousands of expats were detained, while some of them were released after making sure they are not in violation of residency and labor rules and regulations, while several were deported for violation of those regulations. And we have the right to ask where did those come from?

The answer is that the citizen is the one concerned in the first place with the presence of this large number of violators due advantages given to him, which gives him the right as an individual or owner of an establishment to bring in labor from abroad via the Manpower Public Authority or the Interior Ministry; the two areas were Kuwaiti citizens go to recruit labor either based on Article 18 or Article 20 of the labor law.

Yet, this right has unfortunately been misused, and it still is despite the strict rules in these two areas and the inspection tours made on labor locations. This is what led to having security campaigns in residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural areas to make sure about expat labors' compliance

with labor and residency laws. Yet, crackdowns uncovered many violators of those laws and sent them for deportation, which is the normal thing to do. But does the issue end here; by deporting the violating expat, and suspending the file of the company owned by the kafeel (sponsor)?

The truth of the matter is that the sponsor should be held to account before the expat, not only by marking the file of his company, but by referring him to court because he brought those laborers to Kuwait and left them in the street, which hurt the country's security and reputation. Those security campaigns happen under the eyes of international organization. Punishing the expat alone is a violation of the justice principle, and opens the door for some employers to continue to bring laborers and leave them in the street, instead of use them for the purpose they were brought for.

We are not talking about escaping and absconding cases, which have their own procedures and must be followed, so the sponsor releases himself from responsibility. So, will we see a serious move to evaluate the rules of bringing expat labor, and a strict system that will hold the sponsor to account, and activate measures against all those who harbor, hide or employ a violating expat? This is what we hope for. Or will matters be left as they are and we would only hear statements that do not change anything?

— Translated by Kuwait Times

# CLOUD SEEDING IN KUWAIT SOON

Affairs, Deputy Director Of The Civil in case the project succeeds, Kuwait source of fresh water in the country, an Aviation Department and Kuwait's would have to dig special channels to official said yesterday. There is no exact Envoy to the World Metrology collect rain water. He also denied any

> Shuaibi stressed that the project was still being studied jointly with German experts to decide on its feasibility. "The

the likelihood that the project would create any political problems with neighboring countries because it had been already used in Saudi Arabia, the

# **KUWAIT:** Kuwait plans to launch a Undersecretary for Aviation Services 2016," he underlined, pointing out that

cloud seeding project soon to provide a timetable for the project, which would Organization. be carried out in cooperation with the Environment Public Authority (EPA), said Khaled Al-Shuaibi, the Ministry of Communication's Assistant

# study is scheduled to be finished in UAE, Jordan and Syria. — Al-Qabas

# NO MENTION OF KAFEEL IN KUWAIT'S LAWS: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Official spokeswoman of the Manpower Public Authority (MPA) Aseel Al-Mazeed said the authority undertook the treatment of the market place situation since day one of its establishment, and preserves the rights of laborers, which confirms Kuwait's keenness on protecting workers in general. She said this is what the Kuwaiti laws and regulations confirmed, while Social Affairs and Labor Minister, State Minister for Planning and Development Affairs Hind Al-Subaih laid the correct wavs to deal with the labor market's imbalance since she took over.

Mazeed said "I want to confirm that there is nothing in Kuwait's laws what is called kafeel (sponsor), rather there is a job, based on a contract signed between two parties, employers and employees, and it is what links and regulates the relation between the two

# **Reform measures**

Mazeed said MPA took several reform measures in this regard in coordination with Acting Director Ahmad Al-Mousa and Deputy Directors General. These measures include: making new rules to transfer work permits, rationalizing the issuance of work permits in a way that meets true needs of the employer, placing a new mechanism to estimate the private sector's needs of labor, in addition to forming a committee with government authorities to place a new mechanism to estimate the labor of government projects which represents a large group of expatriate labor in the market, and the committee presented its recommendations and are being implemented based on a certain time schedule.

She added that MPA also issued several regulatory decisions for small and medium businesses, and designated Mubarak Al-Kabeer labor department as a model to register their files there, besides an inspection apparatus that is attached to MPA Director General's office, that is fast in inspecting files of employers.

Mazeed said that MPA also restored the committee of ruling on absconding complaints once again to quickly decide on cases in coordination with the interior ministry. MPA also formed the higher committee of labor transfer



of the Manpower Public Authority (MPA) Aseel Al-Mazeed. — Picture courtesy of Al-Anbaa

disputes for workers on government contracts to other government contracts in exchange of fees and were decided by a ministerial decision, preparing a model work contract that includes the rights and commitments of both sides (employer and employees), and it became effective since the

# **Amendments**

Mazeed said MPA prepared a draft law to amend some of the private sector labor law no, 6/2010, that includes amendment of article 57 related to transferring wages to banks, also amending some punishments mentioned in the labor law by stiffening punishments according to the grave violations committed by some employers. And in order to put an end to some of what was going on by some unethical workers at labor departments, and in coordination with the interior ministry, offices that belong to the interior ministry at labor departments were established to follow any manipulation by unethical persons, including employees, employers or mandoobs (company representatives). The MPA concentrates on dealing with work situation in departments and punish violators, she said, adding that violators are sent for questioning and face legal procedures.

As for the agricultural sector, she said a joint committee was formed between MPA and the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), to inspect agricultural lands and make sure that laborers registered on them are actually working there. Also, a joint committee was formed between MPA and the General Department of Investigations to examine files of violating employers and make sure they are in good standing before sending them to investigations department, as the case was with violators who were sent.

# Regulating the marketplace

Mazeed said that some of MPA's measures to regulate the marketplace, a decision on the condition of labor transfers from one employer to another, including:

# Article 1:

Labor brought in can be transferred to the private sector according to the following conditions:

1- Having one year elapsed on the work permit.

2- Employer's approval of transfer to another employer.

# Article 2

Laborers brought in with private sector work permits for government contracts and projects can be transferred to work for the private sector according to the following rules:

1- The end of the government contract for which the worker was

2- The transfer should be limited to another government contract for the same employer, if available, or another government contract for another employer, provided that the transfer is limited to technical labor decided by the government entity that owns the project.

3- The employer undertakes the cancellation of registered labor on the government contract, which is not allowed to transfer in order to leave the country when the contract is over.

# Article 3

Work permits for the laborer brought for sectors mentioned below can be transferred within the same sector he was brought for after the elapsing of one year from the work permit date and approval of the employer and they are: Industry, agriculture, shepherding, fishing. Transfer outside those sectors is prohibited.

# Article 4

Work permits for workers brought to work in the Free Trade Zone (FTZ), or with foreign investors who are practicing the economic activities mentioned in law 116/2013 in regards to encouraging direct investment in the state of Kuwait, and employers are committed to canceling work permits of those laborers to leave the country when the work relationship is ended.

# Article 5

Work permits can be transferred without the elapsed period condition and approval of the employer under the following conditions:

1- Transfer labor employed locally in all sectors, except for work permits of labor used locally in the sectors mentioned in article 3 of this decision, and labor used locally on government contracts, which must have one year elapse from the date of work permit issuance.

2- Dissolving, liquidating, bankruptcy or merging the business with another, or the change of its legal status, or its transfer through inheritance, will, gift, stale, or other legal means, provided that is proven with a judicial and administrative document.

3- Transfer workers in the government sector to the private sector and vice versa, taking into consideration regulations of interior ministry.

# Article 6

In cases when transfer is allowed according to the rules of this decision, the worker can ask for the transfer of his work permit after the elapsing of three years since the issuance of the work permit without referring the employer, while meeting the following conditions:

1- Allowing the employer the warning period stated in article 44 of the private sector labor law 6/2010.

2- The concerned labor department will make sure when it receives the application for the transfer of the work permit that a copy of the note sent by the employee to the employer telling him about the warning period.

In case it was not possible for the employee to prove granting the employer the warning period mentioned in article 44 of the said law, he should submit a work permit complaint at the labor relations department in which he informs the employer, and the complaint's date will be used as the start of the warning period, and the employer cannot submit a statement of not reporting to work during the warning period.

# Article 7

In cases which work permit transfer is allowed according to the rules of this decision, disputes of work permits will not be considered before one year elapses from the issuance date of the work permit, and the authority can approve the application of work permit transfer without the approval of the employer or reject the application submitted by the employee, after discussing the dispute by the concerned department.

# Article 8

Family visa can be transferred for work in the private sector for those who spent one continuous year in the country, with consideration of interior ministry procedures.

# Article 9

Labor brought with invitation to work in the private sector cannot be transferred, and labor brought by commercial visas to work with employers having contracts with the American military are excluded from this condition. The transfer should be done according to the following conditions:-

1-The transfer should be for the same contract the worker was brought for.

2- Payment of KD 200 extra fee. 3- Compliance with the national labor percentages decided by cabinet

# Article 10

Domestic help cannot be transferred to work in the private sector, and domestic help that is transferred to work in the private sector cannot be transferred before applying the rules of this decision until after the elapsing of three years from the date of issuing the work permit. — Al-Anbaa

# **Crime**

Report

# **Drug smuggling** attempt foiled

**KUWAIT:** Abdaly customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle 500 grams of shabu (methamphetamine) hidden in a salt container. A customs officer said the drugs were caught with possession of an Iraqi truck driver, who was taken to the relevant authorities to face charges. Meanwhile, Nuwaiseeb customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle two kilograms of hashish, caught with a passenger. The suspect was sent to concerned authorities.

# Theft

A contracting office owner accused his employee of stealing KD 1,500 in cash as well as documents that belong to the office. According to a security source, the Kuwaiti man told Fahaheel police station officers that his employee denied the theft when he questioned him about it, although another employee testified against him.

### Scam

A Saudi national was swindled by a citizen who tricked him into believing that he would help him buy vehicle spare parts and car accessories. The man took KD 3,000 from the victim then disappeared. The victim went to Mubarak Al-Kabeer police station afterwards and lodged a complaint. Detectives are working on the case.

# **Beggars caught**

Ahmadi state security asked police to deal with three female beggars and a child, who were caught begging for money in a famous Ahmadi governorate market. Patrols were sent to the area and the three Syrian women were arrested. Police discovered that the child who was with them is not related to them. Further investigations revealed that the women paid KD 15 per day for the time in which the kid was with them. The women and child are being processed for deportation. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

# **COURT BLAMES GOVT** FOR VISA TRAFFICKING

KUWAIT: The criminal court recently passed a sentence that implies indirect condemnation of the measures followed by the government in issuing residency visas. This came when the court acquitted a number of defendants who had been accused in a case described as the largest visa forgery case, because the charges pressed against them did not match with the actions actually did.

However, the court remarked that the documents presented to it indicated the presence of a 'huge administrative error' that allowed using some exceptions as general rules.

The court added that the abuse of some administrative measures and contradiction of specialties among Ministry of Interior departments was behind malpractices concerning the issue of touristic visa permits, which eventually raised suspicions and led to bringing the defendants to court. It added that the fact that over 10,000 visas had been issued for only eight of the suspects, support those suspicions.

Discussing the testimony of the first witness, a Brigadier in the police force, he told the court that laborers working in government projects are usually brought to Kuwait via tourist visas upon the approval of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL). The witness also noted that such measures disregarded Kuwait's greater good and posed clear violation of laws and regulations. Reconfirming that visa trafficking was a crime against ethics and humanity, the court urged concerned administrative bodies to fix the error in order to prevent it from happening against in the future, and sending innocent people to court or helping criminals escape justice. — Al-Qabas

# NO MEDIATION, KUWAIT ONLY CONVEYED IRAN'S WISH: ENVOY

MANAMA: Dean of the diplomatic corps, Kuwait's Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah stressed that Kuwait's recent efforts with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states came within His Highness the Amir's keenness on consulting with fellow GCC leaders. Responding to a question about the nature of Kuwaiti efforts with GCC states con-



**Ambassador** Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah

cerning Iran, Sabah explained that Kuwait had received an Iranian wish to 'turn a new leaf of relations' with GCC states, adding that out of HH the Amir's keenness on constant coordination with GCC leaders, the Iranian's wish was conveyed to them. "Nobody talked about mediation between Iran and GCC states at present," he stressed, noting that everybody knows HH the Amir's status and value and that it was normal that this or that party may seek his help. "Everybody knows that Kuwait leadership does not make compromises about matters of principle," he underlined. — Al-Rai

# Privatization bill READY IN TWO WEEKS

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousuf Al-Ali expects the privatization draft law to be ready in two weeks, adding that the ministry is preparing its final form to submit it to the National Assembly for discussion and approval. Ali said service sectors are closer to privatization, most notably electricity, water, mail, and ports.



**Dr Yousuf Al-Ali** 

Those sectors will be offered to the private sector in two years following studies of mechanism to offer them for privatization, he said. — Al-Anbaa

# International

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016

POPE CRITICIZES 'REJECTION' OF MIGRANTS IN EASTER MESSAGE

4.0



Taiwan's Nationalists elect their first female leader

Page 12



Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump

# TRUMP DETAILS FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS TO NYT

'AMERICA FIRST'

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump described his foreign policy as an "America first" approach that will stop the US from being systematically "ripped off," he said in a lengthy interview published Saturday.

The phone interview with the New York Times was the most in-depth discussion so far on foreign policy for the Republican frontrunner who has spent his entire career in business.

During the conversation, he detailed his views on issues ranging from East Asian security to Syria, the Islamic State group and relations with allies such as Saudi Arabia. Trump said he was not an isolationist, but described the United States as a poor debtor nation that disproportionately funds international alliances such as NATO and the United Nations.

Similarly lopsided relationships exist with allies such as Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia, he said. "We have been disrespected, mocked and ripped off for many many years by

people that were smarter, shrewder, tougher," he told the Times.

# His plan

"So America first, yes, we will not be ripped off anymore. We're going to be friendly with everybody, but we're not going to be taken advantage of by anybody," he said. Asked if Japan should be allowed to have nuclear weapons to protect itself from North Korea, Trump suggested that would be an acceptable situation. "Would I rather have North Korea have them with Japan sitting there having them also? You may very well be better off if that's the case." he said. Trump also said he would withdraw US troops from Japan and South Korea unless the two Asian countries significantly increased their contributions to Washington for the military presence.

"We cannot afford to be losing vast amounts of billions of dollars on all of this," he said. He then slammed President Barack Obama's admin-

istration for seeking a political exit for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad while simultaneously fighting the Islamic State group as "madness and idion."

idiocy."

"I'm not saying Assad is a good man, 'cause he's not, but our far greater problem is not Assad, it's ISIS," he said. The real estate developer said he would instead target the oil that provides a significant portion of the extremist group's funding, cracking down on underground

banking channels to cut off the flow of money.

Trump, who has repeatedly called for Middle Eastern allies to contribute boots on the ground in the fight against IS, said he would "probably" stop buying oil from countries like Saudi Arabia unless they did so or reimbursed the United States for its role in the fight. Trump added that he got most of his foreign policy information by reading various newspapers including the New York Times, which released a full transcript of the interview. —AFP

# OBAMA TELLS BELGIANS 'AMERICA HAS THEIR BACK'

**WASHINGTON:** President Barack Obama is offering his prayers for the families of the two Americans killed in the bombings in Brussels and telling Belgians that "America has their back" in the fight against terrorism. In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama is renewing his vow to continue the campaign against the Islamic State, which took credit for the attacks. He says U.S. officials are working with allies to root out the group's operations in Europe. Obama says US officials have ramped up intelligence cooperation and that FBI agents are in Belgium assisting with the investigation into the bombings. The president says he and allies will review the US-led air campaign and special operations against IS when world leaders gather in Washington next week for a summit on nuclear security. —AP



ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE: President Barack Obama waves as he exits Air Force on Friday. —AP

# SANDERS CLAIMS MOMENTUM, EYES PARTY POWER BROKERS

**WASHINGTON:** Fresh from Democratic presidential primary wins over the weekend in three US states, Bernie Sanders yesterday claimed political momentum he said could help him win the backing of Democratic power brokers in his race against Hillary Clinton. Sanders easily won nominating contests in Alaska, Washington and Hawaii on Saturday. His latest remarks reflect his plan to chip away at Clinton's commanding lead in the number of delegates needed to win the party's nomination. Interviewed yesterday by US broadcasters, Sanders said Democratic "super-delegates," who can change their allegiance, might rally behind him because some polls suggest he has a better chance than Clinton of beating a Republican candidate. "Momentum is with us. A lot of these super-delegates may rethink their position with Hillary Clinton," said Vermont Senator Sanders on CNN'S State of the Union news program.

About 85 percent of the votes at the July 25-28

Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, where a party nominee will be chosen to face the Republicans in the Nov. 8 election, are being determined by state nominating contests.

The other 15 percent is held by party power brokers who are free to vote as they like, meaning they could hold the key in a tight contest. Superdelegates include party leaders and elected senators, members of the US Congress, and governors.

After Saturday's contests, the former secretary of state led Sanders by just under 300 pledged delegates in the race for the 2,382 needed to be nominated. Adding in the support of super-delegates, Clinton had 1,712 delegates to 1,004 for Sanders, according to a tally by RealClearPolitics.com. The US senator from Vermont needs to win up to two-thirds of the remaining delegates to catch Clinton, who will keep piling up delegates even when she loses under a Democratic Party system that awards them proportionally in all states. —Reuters



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) and 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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# IRAQI CHRISTIANS FEAR EXTINCTION, SEE NO RELIEF FROM ISLAMIC STATE

Baghdad this weekend to mark Easter but celebrations were tempered by fears Islamic State would eradicate their shrinking community, even as the army launched a US-backed offensive to retake Mosul, their ancestral homeland.

In mid-2014, Christians in Mosul were forced to flee when Islamic State seized the northern city and began destroying centuries-old religious sites, ending a presence that once numbered in the tens of thousands and dates back to Christianity's earliest years.

US-backed Iraqi forces launched an offensive against Islamic State last week touted as the beginning of a broader campaign to clear areas around Mosul, though progress has been slow. "We are threatened with extinction. This is a harsh word but every day we are being depleted. Our people are travelling, migrating," said Father Muyessir al-Mukhalisi, a priest

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi Christians gathered in at Saint George's Chaldean Church in east Baghdad.

> Like millions of other Iraqis forced to leave home by the jihadist group's seizure of a third of the country, members of the Christian minority have moved from northern towns and villages to the capital or other cities, and many have joined the masses fleeing to Europe. Their numbers have fallen to a few hundred thousand from about 1.5 million before the US-led invasion in 2003.

> Around 250 worshippers packed the pews for a Good Friday mass at the Catholic church fortified with concrete blast walls, concertina wire and armed policemen. Boys reenacted the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the congregation sang hymns alternating between Arabic and a variant of the ancient Aramaic language spoken by Jesus.

> The church provides food and money to 45 families displaced from Mosul by

the ultra-hardline Sunni Muslim militants, who issued an ultimatum to Christians in 2014: pay a tax, convert to Islam, or die by the sword. The jihadists then stripped hundreds of Christian families of their possessions as they fled.

Huda Meti Saeed, 30, who attended weekend services with her husband and three young children, said her family left Mosul two years ago. An uncle living there was kidnapped and killed around the same time. "We cannot return. Our neighbours came and took our house. They wanted to take us hostage and take all our valuables," she said.

The family does not plan to emigrate but even if the militants are soon expelled, Saeed said she ruled out taking her family back to Mosul, the largest city in the north where Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, Christians and Yazidis once coexisted. "Very few people are thinking about returning to Mosul," she said.

### TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

Bishop Basilio Yaldo preached against retribution on Friday, telling worshippers that Jesus's message of forgiveness had never been more relevant than it is today

Some Christians fight with the security forces while others have taken up arms and formed militias to defend their lands against Islamic State on the plains of Nineveh near Mosul, but the cleric's message seemed to resonate with attendees.

"Since we were young, we were raised that there should be love and tolerance," Reem Paulis Saada, a 27-year-old church volunteer, said after the mass. "I will not seek revenge. What would I gain from revenge? It will come back to hurt me."

Saada, a pharmacist who devotes much of her free time to the church, added that although she was not hopeful about the future in Iraq, as one of the last members of her family still living in the country she felt bound to stay.

Christianity in Iraq dates back to the first century, when it was said the Apostles Thomas and Thaddeus brought the Gospel to the fertile flood plains of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. The country is traditionally home to many different Eastern Rite churches, both Catholic and Orthodox, and their presence was once a sign of Iraq's ethnic and religious diversity. But now Christians say they are often denied freedom of expression in the predominantly Muslim country, and like many Iraqis, lack security, basic services and economic opportunity.

"The issue is: what comes after the liberation of Mosul?" said Mukhalisi, the priest, suggesting the Baghdad government needed to do more to protect Christians in areas under its control. "Thinking only about liberating Mosul does not provide relief to Christians." — Reuters



MAKHMUR: Iraqi families fleeing the violence in the northern city of Mosul arrive at the Kurdish checkpoint on Saturday. — AFP

# THOUSANDS OF IRAQIS FLEE FIGHTING SOUTH OF MOSUL

'IS WILL NOT ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO FLEE

**MAKHMUR:** Thousands of desperate civilians were fleeing fighting yesterday on the new front opened by Iraqi forces against the Islamic State group south of the city of Mosul.

Families crammed in the back of pickup trucks sometimes bringing dead and wounded with them, emerged from the dust after crossing the front line and were met by Kurdish forces. Iraqi army troops and allied paramilitary fighters on Thursday launched a major offensive aimed at retaking the northern Nineveh province, the capital of which, Mosul, is the

main hub of IS in Iraq. The forces have been advancing from their base in Makhmur towards the town of Qayyarah, about 60 kilometers south of Mosul.

Growing numbers of civilians have been fleeing e advance to Makhmur where they are being assis ed by Kurdish peshmerga forces."So far we have received around 3,000 people and the numbers are growing every day," Ali Khodeir Ahmed, a member of Nineveh's provincial council, told AFP in Makhmur. "But there are no services offered to them by the Iraqi government, we have to put them up in a stadium in



MAKHMUR: Relatives sit next to the body of a girl who died during clashes between Iraqi forces and Islamic State group jihadists on Saturday. — AFP

Makhmur," he said. The Iraqi government has described the advance as the first phase of what is expected to be a long and difficult operation to retake Mosul, the country's second city and the largest urban centre in IS's cross-border "caliphate". In the desert west of Makhmur, dust storms were whipped up by the line of vehicles fleeing IS-held territory, including a pickup carrying four women and 10 children in the back.

# 'Entire families have died'

A bearded man in a yellow dishdasha traditional gown emerged from the dust, holding the body of a young girl wrapped in a blanket. "She is dead, she is dead," he cried, his face caked in dust. His daughter, whose back was riddled with shrapnel when shells rained down on their escape, was covered in blood. "Some entire families have died," the father said.

The battle has so far focused on four villages west of Makhmur. Qayyarah, an area that includes a former air base and an oil facility, lies to the west, on the other bank of the Tigris River. Smain Nuweis fled the village of Kharbardan with his family of seven squeezed into the back of his Opel. "We have seen a lot of suffering," the 28-year-old said. "And it got worse now with the shelling.""IS will not allow the people to flee, they want them to stay," said Nuweis, using an Arabic name for IS.

The provincial council official urged the government to do more for the flow of displaced people, who were given little more than water upon reaching the peshmerga. "We need to open camps and provide urgent assistance. These people's situation is very bad, they were barely able to take any belongings with them," said Ali Khodeir Ahmed. More than 3.3 million people have been displaced by conflict in Iraq since the start of 2014, according to figures from the United Nations. — AFP

# NETANYAHU AT ODDS OVER PROBE OF SOLDIER IN HEBRON SHOOTING

JERUSALEM: An Israeli army murder inquiry into a soldier's killing of a supine and wounded Palestinian assailant, the first such legal proceedings in six months of street violence, triggered friction yesterday within Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet.

Video taken by Israel's B'Tselem human rights group showed the infantryman firing on Thursday into the head of a Palestinian as he lay on the ground, still moving, in Hebron in the occupied West Bank. Minutes earlier, the Palestinian had stabbed and wounded another soldier.

The soldier has been arrested on suspicion of murder, the military said, and could become the first member of the Israeli armed forces to be charged with murder since a wave of Palestinian attacks, often met with lethal response, erupted in October.

Education Minister Naftali Bennett, who heads the far-right Jewish Home party in the coalition government, cautioned against murder charges. Israeli media said Bennett sparred with Netanyahu over the issue at Sunday's cabinet meeting.

The Hebron incident brought to the boil a debate in Israel over whether excessive force has been used against Palestinian assailants. Palestinian leaders have accused the Israelis of routine extra-judicial killings - a charge that Israel denies. According to Army Radio, the soldier arrived on the scene after other troops determined the Palestinian no longer posed any danger, and twice told comrades he "deserves to

The infantryman's family said he had feared the Palestinian might set off a hidden bomb. Supporters circulated an online petition demanding that he be decorated for bravery. "I state here that this soldier is murder clause would be a total loss of control," Bennett told Israel Radio in remarks echoed by other ministers, including from Netanyahu's rightist Likud.

"Someone got confused between the bad guys and good guys .. and I intend to ensure that the soldier has a just trial and not a show trial," Bennett said. Netanyahu, on Thursday, responded to the shooting with measured censure, saying the soldier's action "does not represent the values of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces)". He sounded even more circumspect on Sunday.

"IDF troops, our children, adhere to high moral standards as they bravely fight blood-thirsty murderers in tough operational circumstances," he told his cabinet in broadcast remarks. "I am certain that in any event, including the current incident, the inquiry takes all of the conditions into account."

The past six months has seen the worst period of sustained violence in the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Israeli interior since the second Palestinian uprising ended a decade ago. Palestinians have killed 28 Israelis and two US citizens in knife, carramming or gun assaults. At least 190 Palestinians, 129 of whom it says were assailants, have been killed by Israeli forces. Many others were shot during clashes and protests. Israel has stepped up training meant to keep troops' shooting accurate and restrained - including at nine hi-tech ranges where they respond with laser-firing rifles to simulated Palestinian attacks on an interactive screen.

"The first time the soldiers try it out, 30 percent fail - either by freezing up, or through improper shooting of bystanders or of terrorists who no longer pose a threat," Nadav Sheetrit, who runs the Bagira Systems Ltd simulator at Camp Tsur infantry training base, told a visiting not a murderer, and that prosecution on a Reuters reporter. By the second try, the pass rate is 99 percent, he said. — Reuters



HEBRON: Relatives mourn next to the body of Ramzi al-Qasrawi, 21, a Palestinian man who was killed in a reported stabbing attack, during his funeral in the West Bank. — AFP

# CAIRO 'BOWS TO PRESSURE FROM ROME' OVER STUDENT DEATH PROBE

**ROME:** Egyptian detectives probing the murder of Italian student Giulio Regeni have agreed to extend the investigation after pressure from Rome, Italian interior minister Angelino Alfano said yesterday.

The Italian government vocally objected to Egypt's insistence on Thursday that they had identified a criminal gang linked to Regeni's murder, after killing four members and finding the student's passport in one of the suspect's apartments. Italian media and Western diplomatic sources in Cairo have voiced suspicions that Egyptian security services kidnapped and tortured to death the 28-year-old Cambridge University graduate student.

"It is important that in the face of our emphasis on the quest for truth, the Egyptians changed tack in a few hours and told us that their investigations are continuing," Alfano told the Corriere della Sera newspaper. "Our investigators should be directly involved, participating in questioning and evidence gathering... Our input is essential."I repeat to Giulio's parents and to the Italian public that the Italian government will get the name of the murderers."

Regeni disappeared in central Cairo on January 25. His body was found nine days later on the side of a motorway, badly mutilated and showing signs of torture. According to Italian government sources, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi promised the student's parents that Rome will continue to put pressure on Egypt to establish the facts of his death.

Quoted by Italian press, Regeni's parents previously said they were "injured and bitter" at the Egyptian authorities' latest attempt to explain their son's murder. — AFP

# WORRIES, JOKES AS TRIPOLI AWAITS NEW GOVERNMENT

**TRIPOLI:** Sitting outdoors at a quiet Tripoli cafe, Libyans wonder how a third government could possibly take up residence in a capital controlled by armed groups who reject it. "The mood is tense and people are tired," says Abu Ehab, sipping a cup of green tea. "Having three governments is causing great prob-

Tripoli's capital has been relatively calm since a militia alliance including Islamists seized it in mid-2014, but the expected arrival of a disputed UN-backed unity government has raised fears of renewed violence.

Both of Libya's rival authoritiesthe one in the capital and the other that in 2014 fled to the country's far east-have refused to cede power to the new government under prime minister-designate Fayez al-Sarraj."If the (unity) government felt it had people's support here, it would come and things would get better," adds Abu Ehab, a 71-year-old biology professor. "But this will be difficult. We will have to be patient and pray."

Tripoli's unrecognised administration on Friday announced a "maximum state of emergency" after the Tunisia-based presidential council headed by Sarraj said the government would soon start working in the capital. In a coastal city whose airport is controlled by forces loyal to a hostile local administration. some residents fear fighting will break out and have stocked up on

Giant fan and parachute Others in the city can only imagine how Sarraj's government might



TRIPOLI: Libyans take part in a protest against the UN-backed unity government on Friday. — AFP

food in preparation."No more than will arrive by helicopter and set up 10 cans of tuna per person," a sign in one shop reads.

enter the capital. Some say Sarraj

his government in the Palm City beach resort in the west of the city. Others picture him arriving by sea backed by international military forces. Residents jokingly share the

"news flash" that militias have set up a giant fan in the desert to create a sandstorm to prevent Sarraj's plane from landing. One caricature circulating on Twitter shows the prime minister-designate arriving in a UNmarked parachute.

UN special envoy Martin Kobler was on Wednesday prevented from travelling to Tripoli to work on installing the power-sharing administration.Libya has descended into chaos since the 2011 ouster of longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi. allowing jihadists including the Islamic State group to gain ground.

Western countries have agreed that military action is needed to remove IS from Europe's doorstep, but they want an installed unity government to request help before formally intervening.

**Disputed legitimacy** 

But Libya's rival parliaments have

Around 100 protesters on Friday gathered in the capital's centre calling for a return to the monarchy that ruled the country before Kadhafi seized power in 1969."The Libyan monarchy unites us," reads one graffiti on the walls of the capital. — AFP

failed to endorse the new govern-

ment and observers question its

legitimacy. The council headed by

Sarraj earlier this month said it

would start working on the back of

a petition signed by a narrow major-

In Tripoli, the prospect of a work-

ing unity government has at least

raised hopes of a way out of a col-

lapsing economy. Queues have

formed in recent weeks from early

morning outside Tripoli's cash-

strapped banks and the cost of liv-

ing has increased. Begging is

increasingly common in the capital,

In one upper-class neighbour-

hood, Fathi hands money to a family

who pulled up in a car outside his house asking for help. "How did we

get here?" he asks. And even as the

disputed unity government adds to

the country's disarray, some Libyans

have suggested a fourth alternative.

much to the shock of its residents.

ity of Libya's elected lawmakers.



MEXICO CITY: Mexican's set fire to an effigy of US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump yesterday. —AFP

# TRUMP EFFIGY SET ABLAZE IN MEXICO EASTER RITUAL

**MEXICO CITY:** An effigy of US presidential contender Donald Trump-a hated figure for many in Mexico-was set ablaze late Saturday in a contemporary twist on a Holy Week ritual.

A smiling figure of the billionaire American businessman went up in flames during the Easter eve "Burning of Judas," a tradition in which Mexicans torch effigies of the devil-and of public figures they dislike.

In a neighborhood of the Mexican capital city, this year the devil took the form of Trump, who is notorious here for comments made during his presidential campaign accusing Mexican immigrants in the United States of being criminals and rapists.

About 200 people attended the event late Saturday, in which a six-foot (two-meter) papier-mache likeness of Trump wearing a blue suit, white shirt and red tie was torched. The figure was created by Felipe Linares, who has been making effigies for more than 50 years at a workshop founded by his father in the early 20th century.

This year he made likenesses of the devil, President Enrique Pena Nieto, Mexican goal-keeper Guillermo Ochoa and Trump-all of which went up in flames. Linares told AFP the likeness of Trump was chosen "because we don't like him. He speaks ill of Mexicans."

He was referring to the real estate tycoon's remarks on the campaign trail describing Mexican migrants as criminals and rapists. The Holy Week tradition of burning effigies is believed to symbolically dispel evil, while torching the Judas figure exacts revenge for the death of Jesus.

Since making his remarks, Trump has become a figure of scorn in Mexico. Some have made pinatas resembling the Republican frontrunner, while one artist produced shirts decorated with his image along with a vulgarity.

An opinion poll this month found some 61 percent of Mexicans hold a negative opinion of Trump, who has vowed to force Mexico to pay for a huge wall across the US border to stop illegal migration.—AFP

# SOMALI PIRATES ON TRIAL IN FRANCE FOR HIJACKING

PARIS: Seven suspected Somali pirates are due in court in Paris on Tuesday over the hijacking of a French yacht that left the owner dead and his wife facing a hellish kidnapping ordeal. Christian and Evelyne Colombo had sold everything to make their dream voyage around the world. But around lunchtime on September 8, 2011, naval authorities received a distress signal from their "Tribal Kat" catamaran. They had left the port of Aden in Yemen five days earlier and were heading for Oman, a jour-

ney that took them through notoriously pirate-infested waters.

A German frigate found the boat several hours later. There were bullet holes in the deck and a pool of blood with a pair of glasses floating in it. No one was onboard. Two days later, a Spanish warship located the skiff suspected to belong to the pirates. They tried to approach but turned away when the attackers dragged Evelyne Colombo into view, a gun to her head.—AFP

# ATTACKING CRUZ'S WIFE COULD HURT TRUMP'S FEMALE VOTES

# RIVALS ENGAGE IN INCREASINGLY BITTER, PERSONAL BATTLE

**OSHKOSH:** Donald Trump's latest rude comments about Ted Cruz's wife are raising new alarms among Republicans about the party front-runner's ability to win over women, especially in a potential fall presidential match-up with Hillary Clinton. Trump is under fire for jabs at Heidi Cruz, as the rivals engage in an increasingly bitter, personal battle for the GOP presidential nomination. Hostilities reached a new high Friday when Cruz accused Trump and "his henchmen" of stoking false rumors that he'd cheated on his wife. "We don't want a president who traffics in sleaze and slime," the Texas senator told reporters in Wisconsin. "We don't want a president who seems to have a real issue with strong women." Trump's history of sexist comments, from his "Apprentice" television program to racy interviews with radio host Howard Stern, have long been seen by Republicans as a potential vulnerability, especially in a general election match-up with Clinton, who would be the country's first female president. The issue took off in the first GOP debate when Fox News' Megyn Kelly asked Trump about calling women "fat pig," "dog" and other names. Her question sparked a continuing quarrel between Trump and the network.

### **Multiple backlashes**

Trump also faced a backlash after he was quoted in a "Rolling Stone" profile insulting businesswoman Carly Fiorina, who endorsed Cruz after she dropped out of the 2016 Republican race. "Look at that face!" Trump was quoted saying. "Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?!"

The issue reignited Wednesday after an anti-Trump super PAC released an ad featuring a risque photo of his wife, Melania, a former model, taken in a GQ photo shoot. "Meet Melania Trump. Your Next First Lady. Or, you could support Ted Cruz on Tuesday," it read. Trump responded by falsely accusing Cruz of running the ad and warning, "Be careful, Lyin'Ted, or I will spill the beans on your wife!" Cruz's wife is a former Goldman Sachs investment manager and White House aide, who served as economic policy adviser to President George W Bush.

On Wednesday night, Trump escalated things when he re-tweeted side byside images of Cruz's wife, with an

unflattering grimace, and Melania in a gauzy, glamorous pose. "No need to 'spill the beans'" read the caption. "The images are worth a thousand words." At an event Thursday in Wisconsin, Cruz responded by calling Trump "a sniveling coward" who has a problem with women - particularly "strong women." Cruz continued to dig in Friday, painting Trump's comments as part of a larger pattern of misogyny. "He's directed these attacks at Megyn Kelly. He's directed these attacks at Carly Fiorina. He's directed these attacks at Columba Bush, Jeb

said Republican pollster David Winston. "The potential for that to be bigger now looms on the horizon."

Katie Packer, a former top aide to 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney, and the founder of the anti-Trump Our Principles PAC, said all this spells trouble for the general election. Packer, whose group was behind a recent ad that features women of various ages reading comments Trump has made about women, said Clinton remains vulnerable among many women. However, she said, "If he loses women by 10 points"

pendent voters like her to Clinton. Cruz, meanwhile, worked to send a distinctly different signal Friday on a campaign trip ahead of Wisconsin's April 5 primary. At an Oshkosh manufacturing plant, Cruz was introduced by his wife, who praised him as her "best friend and partner." After the introduction, he gave her a long hug as the audience cheered. "In the last few days, Donald Trump has taken to attacking Heidi," Cruz told the group, sparking boos that echoed through the warehouse. "I'll tell you something," Cruz said. "I think Heidi is the most beautiful, brilliant,



DANE: Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas and wife Heidi walk on stage before the candidate spoke at a campaign stop. —AP

Bush's wife," he said. Though Trump continues to outdistance Cruz in the delegates that will decide the GOP nomination, recent polls have shown the billionaire's favorability on the decline, particularly among women.

### **Negative opinion**

In a recent NBC/Wall Street Journal poll, 70 percent of women had a negative opinion of Trump. Nearly three quarters of women overall, and 39 percent of Republican women, had an unfavorable view of him in a recent CNN poll. "He already had a gender gap prior to all this,"

more than Mitt Romney, it's not a question of whether or not he loses, it's a matter of who does he sweep out with

Indeed, Trump's latest tweeting struck a sour chord with some female suburban voters considered the key to victory in battleground states such as Colorado "He makes all kinds of derogatory statements against women, and I just don't like to hear that," said Ilse Lucas, 70, a retired teacher's aide who doesn't consider herself a Democrat or Republican. Shopping in a suburb west of Denver, Lucas said Trump's comments could drive inde-

amazing, fantastic, loving mom, an incredible wife and she's my best friend in the whole world and I love you with all of my heart." It was a message that, for some voters, couldn't cover up the nasty fight between the two candidates. "I don't know what to say except that I'm disappointed in both of them," said Jennifer Churchfield, a 52-year-old Republican from a suburb south of Denver. "The conversation needs to be about the economy, jobs, education, foreign policy. You know, things that matter. "This is a nondebate," she added. "What are they doing?"—AP



# AUSTRIAN MINISTER CALLS FOR TIGHTER BORDER CONTROLS FOR EU CITIZENS

called for tougher measures to protect the European Union's borders from returning jihadi fighters, Austrian newspaper Oesterreich reported yesterday.

"We know that more than 5,000 people traveled to Syria and Iraq to be trained or even to fight," Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner told the paper. "So it's more pressing than ever that EU citizens be systematically controlled at the

**ZURICH:** Austria's interior minister has outside borders in the future," she said. Disagreement over immigration and

border protection has divided the European bloc as suicide bombings in Brussels on Tuesday and attacks in Paris last November have heightened security concerns amidst a wave of incoming

Austria - the last stop before Germany, the top destination for migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and

beyond - has come under fire for its upholding Germany as an asylum magtough immigration stance. Vienna has said it will introduce tougher checks at its border with Italy and has urged the EU to send soldiers to Greece to police the bloc's frontiers.

In a separate interview with Austrian Oberoesterreichische newspaper Nachrichten yesterday Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann said German Chancellor Angela Merkel's policy of

net was unfair on Austria. He urged the German chancellor to speak out against migrants trying to break through various borders to access the country.

"Merkel's policy can cause damage to Austria. We don't want to be Germany's buffer zone," Faymann said. On Saturday, members of Merkel's conservatives said Europe urgently needed to improve the way its security agencies share informa-

tion, stoking a debate on how to tighten security while safeguarding data protec-

"Faster communication is important so that tips about possible attacks can be quickly assessed and terrorist acts can be prevented if possible before they take place or cleared up in a more focused way," Germany's EU Commissioner Guenther Oettinger told the daily Bild.—Reuters

# BELGIAN MINISTER SAYS NEGLECT HAMPERED ANTI-TERROR FIGHT

**BRUSSELS:** Belgium's government sought to contain criticism of its handling of the Brussels attacks yesterday but acknowledged that neglect over decades had caused deficiencies that have hampered an effective response to violent

Interior Minister Jan Jambon said the government has invested 600 million euros (\$670 million) into police and security services over the past two years but said its antiquated justice system and security services were still lagging behind. Jambon, whose offer to resign on Thursday was declined by the prime minister, said errors were made prior to the March 22 suicide bombing attacks in Brussels that killed at least 31 people and wounded 270 others.

But, speaking on the VRT network, Jambon said hiring anti-terror specialists and specialized equipment does not happen in weeks or months and insisted that new investments need time before they become visible to the public.

As international pressure on Belgium mounted for serving as an unwitting rear-base for extremist fighters who launched the Nov. 13 massacres that left 130 dead in Paris, the government has been forced to defend its choices and the actions of investigators. Lawmakers, meanwhile, are demanding an inquiry.

Belgian police and the army have been deployed, sometimes around the clock, at major buildings and sites in the capital in increasing numbers since November, when Brussels went into lockdown over fears that top Paris suspect Salah Abdeslam had returned and was hiding there.

As it turned out, Abdeslam did return, but police did not find and arrest him until March 18, four days before suspects from his network exploded suicide bombs in

Brussels. Belgian investigators have been slammed for not questioning Abdeslam long enough or hard enough after he was shot in the

leg during his arrest. Police have

also been criticized for taking too long to get to Zaventem airport on Tuesday morning after two suicide bombers blew themselves up there - and left an even bigger third suitcase full of explosives.

Bakraoui before he blew himself in the packed departure hall at Brussels Airport.

Turkey has said that Bakraoui whose brother Khalid was the sui-



BRUSSELS: People react as they gather at a memorial site at the Place de la Bourse on Saturday. —AP

"There have been errors," Jambon said yesterday, when questioned by VRT television about his offer to resign. Jambon and Justice Minister Keen Goens were grilled by lawmakers Friday over how authorities failed to cide bomber at the Maelbeek subway station on Tuesday - was caught near Turkey's border with Syria in 2015 and Ankara had warned Brussels and the Netherlands that he was "a foreign terrorist fighter." Belgian authori-

arrest suicide bomber Ibrahim El ties said they did not know he was suspected of terror-related activities until after he was deported to the Netherlands.

Jambon also said the Brussels subway network had been told to shut off services 20 minutes before the attack in the city's Maelbeek subway station - close to European Union headquarters and the U.S. embassy. He did not fully explain why it was not closed in time, raising more questions about the efficiency of Belgium's security services.

"It serves no purpose looking for polemics, considering the circumstances," Jambon said. Yesterday, Italian police in the southern city of Salerno said they had arrested an Algerian wanted in Belgium for an alleged false ID crime ring facilitating illegal migration linked to the attacks in

In the center of Brussels, a "march against fear" planned for yesterday was cancelled after Jambon asked people to stay away since police were too stretched to provide security and were needed for the ongoing investigations into the Brussels attacks.

At the Maelbeek subway station, messages of sadness, solidarity and grief left for victims of the bomb attack there were being collected for storage in the Belgian capital's archives. The messages were being laid out yesterday on absorbent paper to dry after overnight rain and carefully stacked for transport. Those that can't be taken for safekeeping were being photographed.

"We are trying to collect as many documents we can find and they will be preserved," promised head archivist Frederic Boquet. Marina Queralt, who often walks with her dog by the Maelbeek station, said the public response to the attacks has been spontaneous and focused on peace. "Every morning, every afternoon, (the site) was packed with people who wanted just one thing: that people stop killing each other," she



DUBLIN: Thousands of soldiers march solemnly through the streets yes-

# IRELAND RECALLS FATEFUL EASTER RISING AGAINST BRITISH RULE

**DUBLIN:** Thousands of soldiers marched solemnly yesterday through the crowded streets of Dublin to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Ireland's Easter Rising against Britain, a fateful rebellion that reduced parts of the capital to ruins and inspired the country's eventual independ-

The Easter parade through Dublin featured military ceremonies at key buildings seized in Easter 1916, when about 1,200 rebels sought to fuel a popular revolt against Ireland's place in the United

The planned five-hour procession paused at noon outside the colonnaded General Post Office on O'Connell Street, the rebel headquarters a century ago, where commander Padraig Pearse formally launched the revolt by proclaiming to bemused Dubliners the creation of a "provisional" Republic of Ireland.

A soldier in today's Irish Defence Forces, Capt. Peter Kelleher, stood in front of the restored post office yesterday to read the full, florid text of Pearse's 1916 proclamation.

"In the name of God and of the dead enerations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom," Kelleher said to an audience that included Ireland's leaders and scores of grandchildren of the rebels.

Many donned their ancestors' Easter Rising bronze service medals, which Ireland issued in 1941 on the rebellion's 25th anniversary.

British forces, among them many Irishmen focused on fighting Germany in World War I, were caught off guard by the seizure of largely unguarded buildings in 1916. Most officers were attending horse races in the Irish countryside. But Britain quickly deployed army reinforcements who were cheered by some locals as they marched into Dublin. Artillery based at Trinity College and a gunboat on the River Liffey which bisects the city shelled the post office and other rebel strongholds, forcing their surrender within six days.

The fighting left nearly 500 dead, most of them civilians caught in the crossfire or shot - by both sides - as suspected looters. Some 126 British soldiers, 82 rebels and 17 police were slain.

Many Dubliners opposed the insurrection as an act of treason in time of war, but public sentiment swiftly swung in the rebels' favor once a newly arrived British Army commander decided to execute Pearse and 14 other rebel leaders by firing squad in Dublin's Kilmainham Jail. A 16th figure, Roger Casement, who days before the Easter Rising was caught trying to smuggle German weapons by sea to Ireland, was hanged in London. —AP

# MIGRANTS RUSH TO GREEK CAMP ON RUMORS BORDER WILL OPEN

flooded back to Greece's overwhelmed Idomeni camp on the border with Macedonia yesterday following rumors that the closed frontier would be forced open.

The renewed influx came as Greek authorities were trying to evacuate an estimated 11,500 people who were stranded at the squalid camp after Balkan states slammed shut

**IDOMENI:** Hundreds of hopeful refugees movement is everybody's right." The wave of the fields towards the Idomeni crossing, an AFP new arrivals appeared to be triggered by a rumor that international journalists and Red Cross officials would help them force their way across the fence into Macedonia, a young Syrian refugee told the Athens News Agency.

"We heard today that the border will open and we came here to cross," he said. "They told us the Red Cross and 500 journalists from all

IDOMENI: Migrants protest in front of anti-riot police at the Greek-Macedonian border yesterday. —AFP

their borders, cutting off the migrant route to the European Union.

By late morning, around 250 people of all the border fence, singing and shouting slogans, an AFP correspondent said, in a largely peaceful demonstration watched by around 50 Greek policemen in riot gear.

"No violence, we just want to cross," read one banner, while another said: "Freedom of over the world will be with us," he said, without specifying the source.

Another young Syrian refugee said his sister, ages had gathered by the railway tracks and who is living in Germany, read the same claim on the Internet and alerted him. "People have been here for a long time. I think it's very dangerous to cross, especially for the children but what should we do?" 24-year-old Qasim Mosawy from Afghanistan told AFP. Dozens of other migrants could be seen heading through

# 'Creating false hope'

"We are trying to step up our information campaign to the refugees. Some people, for reasons we don't understand, are creating false hope," said Giorgos Kyritsis, spokesman of the SOMP agency which is coordinating Athens' response to the refugee crisis.

Using loudspeakers, Greek officials told those gathering that the crossing would remain closed, repeating the message in both Arabic and Farsi, the Athens News Agency said.

Two weeks ago, hundreds of people were stopped by Macedonian troops after crossing a surging river on the border. Bypassing the regular crossing, they tried to wade through the swift-flowing water, clinging to a rope strung between the banks in order to cross the frontier.

Three Afghan migrants, including a pregnant woman, drowned. The rest were stopped by Macedonian troops and sent back to Greece, along with journalists travelling with them.

"Macedonia will not allow (the) reopening of the Balkan route," said Ivica Bocevski, a representative of President Gjorge Ivanov in the wake of the incident.

The bottleneck has left a total of around 50,000 refugees and migrants stranded across Greece, which has stepped efforts to evacuate Idomeni.

On Friday and Saturday, 11 buses transported around 600 refugees from Idomeni to other camps in northern Greece. Those persuaded to board the first buses were mainly parents with children who can no longer tolerate the difficult conditions there.

But others are holding out at Idomeni. "People who have no hope or no money, maybe they will go," said 40-year-old Iragi Fatema Ahmed, who has a 13-year-old son in Germany and three daughters with her in the camp. "But I have hope, maybe something better will happen tomorrow," she added. —AFP



VATICAN CITY: This handout picture released by the Vatican press office shows Pope Francis addressing the crowd from the central loggia of St Peters' basilica during the "Urbi et Orbi" blessing for Rome and the world following the Easter Sunday mass yesterday at St Peter's square. —AFP

# POPE CRITICIZES 'REJECTION' OF MIGRANTS IN EASTER MESSAGE

spoke out against the "rejection" of migrants and refugees during his Easter message as Europe struggles with its biggest migration crisis since World War II.

'The Easter message of the risen Christ... invites us not to forget those men and women seeking a better future, an ever more numerous throng of migrants and refugees... fleeing from war, hunger, poverty and social injustice. "All too often, these brothers and sisters of ours meet along the way with death or,

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis yesterday in any event, rejection by those who could offer them welcome and assis-

> The pontiff referred to Syria's "lengthy conflict, with its sad wake of destruction, death, contempt for humanitarian law", stressing his hope for peace talks set to resume next month between the government and opposition forces. "Good will and the cooperation of all will bear fruit in peace and initiate the building of a fraternal society," he said to the crowds gathered below the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica. —AFP

# AGENCIES HUNTING EIGHT LINKED TO BRUSSELS AND PARIS ATTACKS

**BERLIN:** Europe's security agencies are hunting for at least eight suspects believed to have assisted with the Islamist attacks in Paris and Brussels, Die Welt am Sonntag newspaper reported.

Citing security sources, the paper said the suspects, most of whom are French and Belgium citizens, are believed to be either in Syria or on the run in Europe. Die Welt said the suspects had been in contact with Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the presumed ringleader of the Paris attacks who was killed by French police in a shootout on Nov. 18, and Salah Abdeslam, the prime surviving suspect of the Paris attacks who was captured in Brussels earlier this

Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) is involved in the manhunt, according to Die Welt. The BKA declined to comment. —Reuters

# PAKISTANI TEAM ARRIVES FOR AIR BASE ATTACK INVESTIGATION

**NEW DELHI:** A Pakistani team arrived in New Delhi yesterday to help investigate an attack on an Indian air force base that killed seven soldiers in January, a foreign ministry official

India has blamed Islamist militants from the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed for the assault on

Pathankot air base in the northern state of Punjab, which led to two days of gun battles. Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar told parliament earlier this month it could not have been carried out "without the (Pakistan) state's support".

It will be the first time Pakistan has taken part in a probe of this kind with

arch-rival India, an Indian foreign min- work on Monday. The Hindu newspaistry source has said. India's Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj announced plans for the visit after meeting Pakistan's foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz in Nepal earlier this month.

The foreign ministry official told AFP the five-member team had arrived from Pakistan and would start

per said they had been given 15-day visas.

Other local media reports said the team would be escorted by Indian investigators to the attack site and allowed to interview eyewitnesses. The rare targeting of an Indian military installation outside the disputed

region of Kashmir came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Pakistan in December as a gesture of friendship.

The assault led to the postponement of planned peace talks. Modi urged his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif to take "firm and immediate action" over the raid. — AFP



RAWALPINDI: Supporters of executed Islamist Mumtaz Qadri retreat from smoke after tear gas shelling by authorities during an anti-govern-

# PAKISTAN POLICE CLASH WITH AIDERS OF EXECUTED ISLAMIST ASSASSIN

'Will not let these fanatics prevail'

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani police fired tear gas yesterday at thousands of stone-throwing supporters of an Islamist assassin, a month after he was hanged for killing a provincial governor for alleged blasphemy.

The execution of Mumtaz Qadri on February 29 was described by analysts as a "key moment" in Pakistan's long battle against religious extremism, but it has also exposed deep religious divisions in the conservative Muslim country of 200 million.

An estimated 25,000 supporters of the former police bodyguard gathered in Islamabad's twin city Rawalpindi in the afternoon to offer prayers, before turning toward the heavily-barricaded capital which was patrolled by hundreds of police and paramilitary soldiers.

Riot police carrying batons and shields fired tear gas to try to prevent them pushing closer to the city center. The protest has been almost entirely ignored by the Pakistani media, which has increasingly become subject to government-ordered news blackouts designed to prevent unrest from spiraling out of control.

Qadri was working as a bodyguard for Punjab governor Salmaan Taseer when he shot

him 29 times in 2011 over the governor's call to reform the blasphemy law, which critics say is frequently misused to oppress religious minori-

On Saturday a group of angry men at a Pakistani airport assaulted a former pop star accused of insulting the Prophet Mohammed's youngest wife, in the latest case of vigilante violence linked to blasphemy.

Ex-singer Junaid Jamshed, who is now a prominent Sunni evangelist, was leaving Islamabad airport on Saturday night when he was set upon by a group of around six men who were waiting to attack him at the exit.

The incident was captured on mobile phone video and has ben widely viewed. The men, some wearing Western clothes and others in traditional shalwar kameez, were seen throwing punches at the 51-year-old, who in addition to his preaching work runs a chain of high-end clothing boutiques.

"You have committed blasphemy, hit him, hit him!" shouted one of the men. "We were looking for you," said another. "He has disrespected the companions of Prophet Mohammed. He has blasphemed against the Prophet."

# 'Enough madness'

Jamshed was forced to flee back into the airport. In a later Facebook posting, he said it was time for the nation to decide it "will not let these religious fanatics prevail amongst us".

A local police official confirmed the incident and said the ex-singer had filed a complaint. Most Internet users condemned the violence on social media. "Get hold of the culprits and make an example of them. Enough of this madness in the name of love," wrote Facebook user Karami Elahi. Many pointed to the fact that police and security seemingly failed to intervene, despite the outbreak of violence at one of the country's busiest airports. A spokesman for the Airport Security Force was not available for comment despite repeated attempts.

A blasphemy case was brought against Jamshed by the Sunni Tehreek religious organisation in December 2014, after a video of him appearing to make negative remarks about the Prophet Mohammed's youngest wife to make a broader point about women's inherent flaws was widely shared. He publicly apologised and sought forgiveness and the case did not proceed further. — AFP

# FOUR BANGLADESHIS SHOT DEAD IN LIBYA

**DHAKA:** Four Bangladeshis have been ers to the war-racked country. killed in gunfights between rival groups in the war-torn Libyan city of Benghazi, a minister said yesterday.

State minister for foreign affairs Shahriar Alam told AFP authorities did not yet have full details on the dead. Alam said embassy officials had received three bodies and they were being stored in a hospital in Libya. The fourth body had not yet been recovered.

"They died in clashes between two Libyan groups in Benghazi on Saturday," Alam said. An estimated 20,000 Bangladeshis are believed to be working in Libya even though Dhaka some six months ago banned the sending of work-

Last year two Bangladeshi workers were abducted by suspected Islamic State militants from a southern Libya oilfield. They were freed after more than two weeks. Libya has descended into chaos since the 2011 ousting of longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, allowing jihadists including the Islamic State group to gain ground in the oil-rich

The country has had two rival administrations since mid-2014 when an armed alliance overran the capital, setting up its own authority. The government backed by the internationally recognized parliament fled east. — AFP

# MOB ATTACK FORMER PAKISTAN SINGER ACCUSED OF BLASPHEMY

**ISLAMABAD:** A video showing a group of angry men at a Pakistani airport assaulting a former pop star accused of insulting the Prophet Mohammed's (PBUH) wife has gone viral, in the latest case of vigilante violence linked to blasphemy.

Junaid Jamshed, one of the pioneers of Pakistani pop in the 1980s, was leaving Islamabad airport on Saturday night when he was set upon by a group of around six men who were waiting to attack him at the exit.

The men, some wearing Western clothes while others are dressed in traditional shalwar kameez, are seen throwing punches at the 51-year-old, who is now a high-profile Muslim evangelist and also runs a chain of clothing boutiques. "You have committed blasphemy, hit him, hit him," shouts one of the men in the mobile phone footage.

"We were looking for you," says another. "He has disrespected the companions of Prophet Mohammed. He has blasphemed against the Prophet." Jamshed was forced to flee back into the airport, and later posted on Facebook: "Its about time v as a nation decide that v will not let these religious fanatics prevail amongst us. They will be exposed n brought to

A local police official in Rawalpindi confirmed the incident and said the ex-singer had filed a complaint. Most Internet users condemned the violence on social media. "Get hold of the culprits and make an example of them. Enough of this madness in the name of love," wrote Facebook user Karami Elahi.

Many pointed to the fact that police and security seemingly failed to intervene, despite the outbreak of violence at one of the country's busiest airports. A spokesman for the Airport Security Force was not available for comment despite repeated attempts.

Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in the mainly Muslim country. The law is often invoked against minorities and the poor by those wishing to settle personal scores, according to rights group.

Jamshed's case is more unusual. A video of him appearing to make negative remarks about the Prophet Mohammed's youngest wife to make a broader point about women's inherent flaws was widely shared in late 2014, which led to a blasphemy case being brought against him.

He publicly apologized and sought forgiveness, and the case did not proceed further. Jamshed was once one of Pakistan's best loved pop singers, famous for hits such as "Dil Dil Pakistan". Now bearded and seen in traditional attire, he often appears on TV adverts to give products religious endorsements. — AFP

# AFGHAN OFFICIAL SAYS TALEBAN GUN DOWN PROVINCIAL JUDGE



JALALABAD: Taleban fighters hold their weapons before surrendering them to Afghan authorities yesterday. — AP

KABUL: An Afghan official says insurgents have killed the top judge on a provincial appeals court. Jawed Salangi, spokesman for the governor of the eastern Ghazni province, said yesterday that Mohammad Anwar was ambushed and shot while in neighboring Wardak province the day before.

The Taleban claimed responsibility for the killing in an email sent to reporters. Insurgent attacks on Afghan security forces and officials have intensified across the country in the past year. Judicial officials have long been Taliban targets. Anwar's killing comes days after the nomination of a new attorney general, Farid Hamidi.

Hamidi is a former human rights commissioner whose appointment has to be approved by parliament. President Ashraf Ghani has struggled to fill key security posts, with ministers of defense and interior acting in their positions. —AP

# MAN RELEASED DUE TO FALSE IS ALARM

VIENNA: An Iraqi man hauled off an easy Jet flight in Vienna just before takeoff after a passenger thought he might be an Islamic extremist, has been released, officials said yesterday.

"There was nothing suspicious found and he has been allowed to continue his journey," interior ministry spokesman Karl-Heinz Grundboeck told AFP. "The only thing outstanding is a detailed analysis of his mobile phone," he said of the incident which took place on

A woman sitting next to him on the London-bound plane had alerted cabin crew after seeing what she thought could be messages related to the extremist Islamic State (IS) group on his phone.

All passengers had to disembark while the Airbus and all bags were checked. It finally took off three hours later but without the man or the woman, who were questioned. The incident comes as Europe steps up security following Tuesday's bombings in Brussels, which killed 31 people and were claimed by IS. — AFP

# CHINESE WRITER LINKED TO PRESIDENT RESIGNATION LETTER FREED

**BEIJING:** A Chinese writer linked to the investigation of an online petition calling for the Chinese president's resignation has been released, his lawyer confirmed on Saturday.

Jia Jia, who was taken away by police on March 15 from a Beijing airport, on Friday night informed friends in a private social media group of his safety. His lawyer Yan Xin confirmed that Jia was free, had met his wife and - although he was staying in a hotel - could return home any time.

'Thank you, everyone," Jia posted in the social media. "I dare not forget your concerns." Jia, who has declined media interviews, apparently is part of a highprofile investigation into an anonymous letter that criticized President Xi Jinping's rule and called for him to step down. It briefly appeared on the government-controlled news site Watching.cn in early March. "We don't think Comrade Xi Jinping has the ability to lead the party and the country into the future. We don't think he's suitable to be the general secretary of the party," said the letter, which was signed by "Loyal Communist Party Members" and dated March 2016. It went to demand Xi's resignation, criticizing him for consolidating too much power and making wrong decisions that led to China's stock turmoil.

The president of Watching.cn, Li Wanhui, two top editors - including Editor-in-Chief Ouyang Hongliang - and two site technicians have been reported to be out of contact for days and believed to be under investigation. Nine other technicians working for a technology firm that provides support to the site also are reported missing.

China's State Internet Information Office referred inquiries about the letter and Watching.cn to the ruling Communist Party's propaganda committee for the western region of Xinjiang, which directly supervises the news site, but the propaganda office there claimed



BEIJING: In this 2005 photo released by Mo Shangshan, Chinese writer Jia Jia sits on a horse at a resort. — AP

no knowledge of the matter.

Li, the president of Watching.cn, also is the chief editor of ts.cn, the news site run by Xinjiang's propaganda office. Chinese overseas media, quoting inside sources, say the news site is falling apart, but its newsroom in a downtown Beijing office building appeared to be operating normally this week. Its journalists declined to speak to The Associated Press about their editors and the future of the site, which was launched last year to promote Xi's economic plan of "One Belt, One Road." The plan is aimed at increasing China's overseas investment and trade.

Wen Yunchao, a prominent overseas Chinese activist, said he had come under pressure from Chinese authorities to admit his connection to the letter. The New York-based critic said that authorities in his southern Chinese home county of Jiexi have been holding his elderly parents and a younger brother since Tuesday in an apparent act of coercion.

"But I cannot admit things that have nothing to do with me," Wen wrote on his Twitter account. Calls to the local police were unanswered on Saturday. On Friday, Amnesty International called on Chinese authorities to stop harassing dissents' family members, saying such unlawful tactics made a mockery of China's claims to respect the rule of law.

Jia's friends believe the writer might have unwittingly implicated himself when he warned Ouyang, a close friend, about the publication of the letter. Yan said he hoped that Jia's release is proof that his client had nothing to do with the letter. For several days following Jia's disappearance, there was no word at all about the writer, adding to public anxiety about his whereabouts and raising questions over China's rule of law when authorities failed to account for Jia's situation in a timely manner. It was only five days later when Yan learned from airport police that Jia was taken away. — AP

# TAMPA OFFICER WOUNDED DURING SHOOTOUT EXPECTED TO SURVIVE

TAMPA: A police officer who was wounded during a shootout in a hotel parking lot in Florida is expected to survive. Tampa Police spokeswoman Andrea Davis said 53-year-old Jose Rodriguez likely owes his life to his bulletproof vest. The two suspects were both shot and killed. Rodriguez, who's been an officer for 13 years, was shot Saturday afternoon.

Officials received a 911 call from someone who saw two men fighting at a gas station. Police said Sunday that one of the suspects, 51-year-old Leroy King, was dead when officers arrived.

The other suspect, 46-year-old Patrick Matthew McManamon, fired at officers. They fired back. It wasn't known what started the initial altercation. — AP

# OPPONENTS OF MALAYSIAN PM STEP UP TO OUST HIM

'HE NO LONGER DESERVES TO BE THE PM'

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Leaders from across Malaysia's political spectrum said yesterday they plan to present a petition to the country's Islamic royalty seeking the removal of scandal-plagued Prime Minister Najib Razak over a corruption crisis.

The highly unusual grouping of heavyweights from the ruling party, the opposition and civil society groups was formed in early March, when it issued a call to "save" Malaysia from disaster by removing Najib.

A succession of speakers pressed that demand during a rally attended by several hundred supporters yesterday, accusing Najib of using his office to thwart scrutiny of the graft allegations and avoid justice.

"(Najib's) leadership undermines the very existence of our institutions," said former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, around whom the movement has coalesced. "We want the rule of law and the actions of Najib has destroyed it. He no longer deserves to be the prime minister," he said at the gathering near the capital.

The 90-year-old Mahathir, who dominat-

ed Malaysia as premier for 22 years before retiring in 2003, has for months spearheaded calls for Najib's removal. Najib, 62, is under pressure over allegations that billions of dollars were stolen from a state firm he founded, and over his own acceptance of a mysterious \$681 million payment from overseas. He denies accusations that the huge payment was siphoned off from the now-struggling state firm, 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), saying he is the victim of a political conspiracy.

### PM fuels anger

But Najib has fuelled anger and suspicion by curbing investigations, purging critics from the government and cracking down on media reporting on the subject. The outrage has been strong enough to unite formerly bitter political foes such as Mahathir and leaders of opposition parties in the push to remove Najib. There is as yet no indication that the movement will succeed. Najib has tightened his grip on the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), the powerful

party that has dominated Malaysia since independence in 1957, and there have been no major UMNO defectors to the movement since it was launched.

Swiss authorities said recently up to \$4 billion may have been stolen from Malaysian state firms, mainly 1MDB, and that they were investigating possible fraud and money-laundering. American, British, Singaporean and Hong Kong authorities are also scrutinizing 1MDB-related money flows.

Najib at first denied receiving the \$681 million payment in 2013. But his government now says it was a gift from the Saudi royal family and most was given back. The Saudis have not confirmed that claim, however, and a Wall Street Journal investigative report in early March said the payment likely originated from 1MDB. Mahathir said the anti-Najib coalition had obtained 100,000 signatures for a petition demanding his removal. It would seek one million and then present the petition to a council of the Islamic sultans who serve as the ceremonial rulers of nine Malaysian states. — AFP



SHAH ALAM: Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (C) stands for the national anthem during a rally yesterday. — AFP



HONG KONG: Former Indonesian maid Erwiana Sulistyaningsih (C) speaks during an event yesterday. — AFP

# 'NOTHING HAS CHANGED' SAYS ABUSED HK MAII

'I STILL HEAR STORIES OF ABUSE

**HONG KONG:** It is just over a year since Erwiana Sulistyaningsih's Hong Kong employer was jailed for horrific abuse of her maid in a case that made headlines around the world.

After pictures of Erwiana's extensive injuries went viral in 2014, the young Indonesian became the face of a movement determined to force change for the army of more than 300,000 migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong.

Although she never admitted her guilt, employer Law Wan-tung was jailed for six years, a triumph for quietly spoken Erwiana who was held up as a hero. Both she and migrant rights campaigners hoped the high-profile case would bring enough pressure on authorities in Hong Kong and Indonesia to improve conditions for migrant domestic workers, known locally as

A year on, they say it has not. Visiting Hong Kong for the launch of a documentary about her case and the plight of other maids in the city, Erwiana broke down in tears in front of the audience of mostly Indonesian women, some of whom also wept, as she spoke of her ongoing

"I hear stories of abuse, cheating and exploitation by recruitment agencies, many different cases, and not just women," Erwiana, 25, told AFP in an interview."We haven't seen any changes yet. There are still so many cases of migrants who never get justice." Most of Hong Kong's foreign domestic workers are from Indonesia and the Philippines.

Erwiana and fellow campaigners say workers' home countries and receiving countries must clamp down on the private recruitment agencies that extract exorbitant fees from migrants, plunging them into debt before they even start their jobs.

Workers' passports are routinely kept by their agencies or employers, to stop them from running away. Abolition of the hated "live-in" rule in Hong Kong, which forces migrant domestic workers to live with their employers, making it almost impossible to escape abusive households, is another key demand.

Campaigners have argued these points repeatedly, even before Erwiana's case, but they have fallen on deaf ears with authorities. A report released earlier this month by Hong Kong's Justice Centre said one in six migrant domestic workers in the city-around 50,000 people-were in "forced labor".

Its findings come after a report by the UN Committee Against Torture in December urged Hong Kong authorities to reform laws in order to protect victims of forced labor and trafficking. "I feel sad. I remember my experiences. The cases keep coming and coming," says Erwiana.

# 'There is hope'

The new film launched Sunday, entitled "Erwiana: Justice For All", was shot by Hong Kong-based US filmmaker Gabriel Ordaz and will initially be screened at universities in the city.

Ordaz says he is taking the movie to film festivals in the hope of getting the message out internationally. The documentary recounts tales of women who have been pushed by poverty to leave their home countries in a bid to create a better life for their families.

It also revisits the horrors of Erwiana's experi-

ence, revealed during her trial-she was imprisoned, starved and when her body was so weak that she could no longer control her bodily functions she was forced to wear a diaper.

Erwiana is now studying economics and business back home and is working as a counselor and advisor to migrant workers. She says she finds it difficult to breathe through a still broken nose, her feet are scarred and she receives counselina.

She is no longer frightened of loud noises as she was in the immediate aftermath of the abuse, but says she has trouble focusing for more than 20 minutes. "My mind just goes blank," she says. It is speaking about her mother, who also worked as a domestic worker in Brunei. which brings her to tears at Sunday's screening.

"Every day I wished she could return so she could raise us, her own children... my mother, and millions of women and men, were forced to work overseas because of poverty and no decent jobs in our home countries," she told the audience. But despite her frustrations, Erwiana says there is still hope.

Hundreds of supporters gathered in Hong Kong's Victoria Park Sunday afternoon to chat with Erwiana in the sunshine. Since her case came to light, she says many migrant domestic workers have contacted her to discuss their own situations. Erwiana helps put them in touch with a network of NGOs in various countries. "They (the workers) feel that there is a way to help them," she told AFP. And while there are still many hurdles to overcome, Erwiana says campaigners must not give up. "If we don't take care of ourselves, no one will," she says. — AFP

# PHILIPPINE MOUNTAIN FIRE FORCES HUNDREDS TO FLEE

**MANILA:** A raging fire on the Philippines highest mountain forced hundreds of people to flee from the peak by foot, officials said yesterday.

Firefighters dug ditches that were seven-feet (two meters) deep in their battle to contain the blaze, which began Saturday afternoon and was ongoing 24 hours later, to stop it from spreading on the tourist hotspot of Mount Apo.

There were no reported injuries and nearly all of the 1,000 tourists who were on the mountain were evacuated by noon Sunday, provincial disaster official Harry Camoro told AFP. Mount Apo towers over the main southern island of Mindanao, at 3,142 metres above sea level, and is home to forest reserves and the breeding ground for the Philippines' national bird, the endangered monkey-eating eagle.

It is common for searing summer temperatures to start fires on the mountain, Camoro said, however the cause of the blaze had not been determined. Air force helicopters were deployed on Sunday to survey the damage, he added. — AFP

# TAIWAN'S NATIONALISTS ELECT THEIR FIRST FEMALE LEADER

TAIPEI: Taiwan's China-friendly hoped the two parties would contin-Nationalist Party has elected its first female leader after ousting her as its presidential candidate ahead of January elections that were won by pro-independence rivals.

The Kuomintang had ditched Hung Hsiu-chu as her abrasive style and strongly pro-China positions were seen as alienating voters. The veteran legislator and former teacher was elected as leader over three other candidates yesterday and likely faces a difficult time rebuilding the party

after its January electoral defeat. Hung takes over from Eric Chu, who was the party's eventual presias party chairman after the defeat. ulated Hung from Beijing, saying he

ue to oppose "Taiwan independence," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Beijing claims the self-governing island of Taiwan as its own, and relations between the two improved under the Nationalists, which governed Taiwan over the last eight years and promoted pro-China policies.

independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party's candidate, Tsai Ing-wen, won the presidential election, and her party also gained a decisive parliamentary majority. Tsai, who will be inaugurated as president in May, has refused to dential candidate and who resigned meet Beijing's demand that she endorse its claim that Taiwan and the Chinese President Xi Jinping congrat- mainland are part of a single Chinese nation. — AP



TAIPEI: Then-Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party presidential candidate Hung Hsiu-chu delivers a speech during a press conference on Oct. 6, 2015. — AP

# **DEFENSE NO-SHOW DELAYS** QATAR MURDER RETRIAL

**DOHA:** The retrial in a high-profile case of a Qatari man accused of killing a British teacher was adjourned yesterday after the defense lawyer failed to show up in court.

The case of Badr Hashim Khamis Abdallah Al-Jabar was adjourned until May 1 because of the legal no-show, despite the victim's mother flying 5,200 (3,200 miles) kilometres to attend the brief hearing. Jabar told the court that no defence team was present as "my lawyer was not informed about today's hearing". The judge then pushed the case back a further five weeks.

Jabar was initially sentenced to death two years ago after being convicted of stabbing and killing Lauren Patterson, 24, in October 2013 and burning her remains in a desert location. The victim was also sexually assaulted, according to evidence given in court. Last February, however, Qatar's highest court, the Court of Cassation, threw out the conviction and sentence, ordering a retrial. Jabar maintained he had accidental-

ly stabbed Patterson after a row which she had started. Lauren's mother Alison told AFP she would attend the next hearing despite her disappointment yesterday. On her Facebook page, she described proceedings yesterday as "a joke". "Case deferred till the 1st May reason: the murderer turned up late spoke to judges saying he didn't realise he had to be here on this date and his legal counsel wasn't there," she posted

"Funnily enough I saw his lawyer in the corridor and this was confirmed by another party. Feeling upset, angry, frustrated yet again." She has raised more than \$37,000 (around 33,000 euros) through crowdfunding for her legal battle. — AFP

# NEW OPPOSITION PARTY LAUNCHED IN JAPAN AHEAD OF SUMMER ELECTION

**TOKYO:** Yesterday two Japanese opposition parties merged to form a new grouping intended to put pressure on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conservative ruling party before the upper house election this summer.

The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), the main opposition party, and the smaller Japan Innovation Party merged to create the "Minshinto" party, which will have a total of 156 lawmakers in the upper and lower house.

It will still be far smaller than the coalition led by Abe's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which controls a majority of the upper house and more than two-thirds of the lower house.

The new party's name in English will be the Democratic Party. The DPJ-a broad centreleft grouping-ousted the LDP after more than half a century of conservative dominance in a historic election landslide in 2009. But after coming to power it limped along under unpopular prime ministers and lost public support, with Abe's LDP regaining power in 2012.

"We must realize that this will be our last chance for a change in the regime," said Katsuya Okada, a former foreign minister who leads the new party — AFP



TOKYO: Katsuka Okada (C), leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, and the party's parliament members wave blue handkerchiefs during the party's inauguration ceremony yesterday. — AFP





DUBAI: Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the UAE Vice President and Ruler of Dubai presents an ancient ring discovered in UAE which inspired the new logo design for the Dubai Expo 2020, during an official ceremony in Dubai, United Arab Emirates yesterday. Reem Ebrahim Al-Hashimi, Emirati Minister of State and Managing Director for the Dubai World Expo 2020 Bid Committee stands at left. — AP

# Workers suffer in Saudi AS HARIRI FIRM FALTERS

RIYADH: He's had no salary for six months, he cannot pay his children's school fees and his permit to reside in Saudi Arabia has expired. But Robert still holds out hope that things might improve for him and thousands of other workers at Saudi Oger Ltd, the once-mighty construction giant led by Lebanon's billionaire former prime minister Saad Hariri.

Delayed receipts from a Saudi government whose oil revenues collapsed over the past two years have left employees of the company struggling to survive while they wait to be paid, Robert and other sources say. Other contractors are also affected, but sources say problems at the 38-year-old Saudi Oger go deeper than the kingdom's current economic strains.

"Already when I worked at Saudi Oger there were delays in salary payments to local employees," a former staffer told AFP. "It seems the situation got worse." Saudi Oger employs around 50,000 people of various nationalities, from managers to labourers, and Robert said the salaries of nearly all have been delayed. But at six months without a pay cheque, he is among the

"I don't have money," he said. "It's hard." The veteran employee of Saudi Oger says he has "no choice" but to stay with the firm because he cannot find another job. Robert, whose name has been changed because he asked for anonymity, said the company promised in a letter that salaries will flow at the end of March.

"It's a desperate situation," a well-informed source said, describing expatriate families facing a similar plight to Robert's. "They can't pay for the tickets" to even fly home, the source said, adding that many senior officers of Saudi Oger support families in Lebanon, meaning remittances to that country will be affected. He also noted the impact on Saudi Oger's lower-income workers. The informed source said poor management "is one of the main problems" at Saudi Oger, but this has been compounded by the economic challenges of a kingdom confronting a projected budget deficit of \$87 billion this year. France's embassy, concerned for the many French employees at the company, sent two letters to the firm, which responded with its promise to start

"The thing is, do they have the funds to keep their promises?" the informed source asked. "The group's treasury has for a long time been badly run," said a Lebanese businessman who works in

He said the plight of the Hariri family company raises two questions: "Will Saudi local banks continue to finance Saudi Oger, and secondly, will the Hariri clan manage to enlist an investor willing to provide new investment?"The Hariris have been a political and economic force in Lebanon for decades.

Saad Hariri, whose political bloc is close to Saudi Arabia and the West, was catapulted into Lebanese politics 11 years ago after the assassination of his father Rafiq. Longstanding problems at Saudi Oger peaked as tensions escalated this year between Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia and its Shiite rival Iran, which back opposing sides in wars in Syria and Yemen. Tehran also supports Hezbollah, the Shiite militant group leading a powerful Lebanese political bloc in opposition to Hariri's faction. — AFP

# AL-JAZEERA TO CUT AROUND 500 JOBS

# **Continued from Page 1**

The official told AFP that job losses could begin to be enforced within the next week, and most would be in non-editorial positions. Staff members were apparently told yesterday that Al-Jazeera English would be spared. One employee at the network, who did not wish to be named, told AFP that the job losses were expected but that had created "a lot of paranoia" among staff as they waited to be officially told. "We have been waiting for this announcement. Since the middle of January we were told next week, then next week, there was a lot of specu-

Al-Jazeera media network broadcasts in several languages. It has around 80 bureaus worldwide and Al-Jazeera English reaches 270 million homes every day, says the broadcaster. Al-Jazeera Arabic is watched by 27 million viewers daily while its online channel "AJ+" has received some 1.2 billion views since launching last

The latest job losses come at a time when Qatar, a major gas and oil producer, has seen its revenues drop sharply as energy prices nosedived. Qatar has already forecast a budget deficit of more than \$12 billion in 2016, its first in fifteen years.

In addition, the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani warned last December of "wasteful spending, overstaffing and a lack of accountability" across Qatar. The current financial issues are probably the greatest the network has faced since it began broadcasting 20 years ago. Khaled Hroub, professor of Middle East politics and Arab media at Northwestern University in Qatar, said the broadcaster needed a "shake-up" but the cuts sent out a "bold message". "I think by this decision, Qatari officials attempt to deliver a bold message to everyone, including their own citizens, that a current policy of huge cuts and vigilant spending is very serious, due to the continuation decline in oil prices. "Applying these cuts even to Al-Jazeera, one of the most cherished institutions in the country, sends a warning that

# nobody and no institution could be spared." — AFP

# SYRIA FORCES DRIVE IS OUT OF PALMYRA **Continued from Page 1**

Backed by a barrage of Russian air strikes, Syrian troops and allied militia launched a major offensive to retake Palmyra this month. The city is both a symbolic and strategic prize for Assad's forces, as it provides control of the surrounding desert extending all the way to the Iraqi border. At least 400 IS fighters were killed in the battle for the city, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. On the government side, 188 troops and militiamen were killed.

single battle since its creation" in 2013, the director of the Britain-based monitoring group, Rami Abdel Rahman, told AFP. He said two cars packed with explosives blew up in the afternoon, one west of Palmyra and the other northeast of the city.

After seizing Palmyra last year, IS blew up two of the site's treasured temples, its triumphal arch and a dozen tower tombs, in a campaign of destruction that UNESCO described as a war crime.

The jihadists used Palmyra's ancient theatre as a venue for public executions and also murdered the city's 82-year-old former antiquities chief. A military source told AFP on Sunday that IS militants had retreated towards the east as the army made its final push.

Army sappers defused roadside mines in both the modern part of the city and in the old ruins.

Syrian state television broadcast footage from inside Palmyra's famed museum, showing jagged pieces of sculptures on the ground and blanketed in dust. IS, behind a string of attacks in the West including last week's Brussels bombings, is under growing pressure

from Syrian and Iraqi forces determined to retake bastions of its self-proclaimed "caliphate".

On Thursday, the Iraqi army announced the launch of an offensive to eventually recapture second city Mosul, held by the jihadists since June 2014. United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon told reporters in neighboring Jordan that he was "encouraged" by the recapture of Palmyra.

Russian forces, which intervened in support of longtime ally Assad last September, were heavily involved in the Palmyra offensive despite a major drawdown last "That's the heaviest losses that IS has sustained in a week. Russian warplanes carried out 40 combat sorties around Palmyra in the last 24 hours, striking 117 "terrorist targets" and killing 80 IS fighters, Moscow's defence ministry said yesterday. Putin telephoned Assad to congratulate the Syrian leader, adding that "successes such as the liberation of Palmyra would be impossible without Russia's support," a Kremlin spokesman said. Assad said the victory was "fresh proof of the efficiency of the Syrian army and its allies in fighting terrorism".

IS and its jihadist rival, the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Al-Nusra Front, are not party to a landmark ceasefire in Syria since February 27. The month-long truce has brought relative quiet to many areas across Syria, where more than 270,000 have been killed and millions had fled their homes in the last five years.

Palmyra, northeast of Damascus, drew some 150,000 tourists a year before Syria's civil war and is known to Syrians as the "Pearl of the Desert". Syrian officials, including antiquities chief Abdulkarim, have vowed to rebuild the ancient monuments. "Palmyra will return to the way it was," he said. — AFP

# UAE FINDS 38 GUILTY IN TERROR CASE

### **Continued from Page 1**

The National said the group's leader, Khalid Abdulla Kalantar, had been a preacher at a mosque in Dubai who encouraged and promoted extremism. In recent State group in Syria and Iraq. — AP

years, the UAE has clamped down on even nonviolent Islamist groups, sentencing dozens of opposition figures to prison. The UAE is part of the US-led coalition carrying out airstrikes against extremists from Islamic

# 65 killed in Pakistan blast

### Continued from Page 1

"After ten minutes I went outside. There was human flesh on the walls of our house. People were crying, I could hear ambulances." He added: "It was overcrowded because of Easter, there were a lot of Christians there. It was so crowded I told my family not to go." Pakistan has been battling a homegrown Islamist insurgency since 2004, with groups such as the Pakistani Taliban routinely carrying out attacks as part of their struggle to overthrow the government.

But Lahore, Pakistan's cultural capital on the country's eastern border with India, has been relatively more peaceful in recent years. On social media Pakistanis were retweeting the call for blood donations, while Facebook activated its "Safety Check" for Lahore.

# Chaos in capital

Yesterday's blast came as the army was also deployed on the streets of the capital Islamabad after thousands of protesters clashed with police in chaotic scenes, throwing stones and setting a container on fire.

The demonstrators were supporters of Islamist assassin Mumtaz Qadri, who was hanged on February 29 for killing a Punjab governor over his call for blasphemy reform. Analysts called the execution a "key moment" in Pakistan's long battle against religious extremism. But it has also exposed deep religious divisions in the conservative Muslim country of 200 million.

Earlier yesterday an estimated 25,000 supporters of the former police bodyguard gathered in Islamabad's twin city Rawalpindi to offer prayers. They then turned toward the heavily-barricaded capital, which was patrolled by hundreds of police and paramilitary sol-

Riot police carrying batons and shields fired tear gas to try to prevent them pushing closer to the city centre. Some protesters set fire to a container while chanting A military spokesman said late yesterday evening

that the army had been deployed to secure the Red Zone around Parliament. Nationwide, overall levels of militant violence have fallen since the army began a major offensive against Taleban and Al-Qaeda strongholds in the country's northwest border areas in 2014. Last year saw the lowest number of civilian and secu-

rity forces casualties since 2007, the year the umbrella Pakistani Taleban group was formed. But militants are still able to carry out major attacks from time to time. At least 16 people were killed and more than two dozen wounded when a bomb blew up inside a bus in Peshawar, the main city of Pakistan's insurgencywracked northwest on March 16.

And yesterday's blast in Lahore saw the highest number of casualties since a suicide bomber blew himself up, killing 55 people at the main Pakistan-India border crossing at Wagah in an attack claimed by the Jamat-ul-Ahrar faction of the Taleban. — AFP

# ASSEMBLY PANEL REJECTS PROPOSAL TO RAISE...

# **Contined from Page 1**

In another key issue, the National Assembly's legal and legislative affairs yesterday approved a request by the public prosecution to lift the parliamentary immunity on controversial Shiite MP Abdulhameed Dashti. The committee agreed to lift the immunity of the lawmaker on two accounts, one for criticizing Bahrain, a member of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and the other for falsely accusing a foe in

The National Assembly will review the committee's recommendations and could approve or reject them. The Assembly has already lifted the immunity of Dashti on several occasions for the public prosecution to be able to interrogate him on various counts, mainly for criticizing Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Last week, the public prosecutor issued a warrant to arrest Dashti, who is currently outside the country, to be interrogated for criticizing Saudi Arabia, the biggest GCC state. Dashti is believed to be in Syria currently as he was seen among a delegation of supporters for Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

It is not immediately known whether or not Dashti will return to Kuwait where he is facing jail terms for several years on several charges, amid a debate on whether the National Assembly can expel him from the Assembly. Dashti's membership can be stripped if he fails to attend without a valid reason five consecutive Assembly sessions.





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# OBAMA SEES TIDE SHIFTING IN CUBA, BUT CAN IT LAST?

**By Josh Lederman** 

or a few short days, President Barack Obama was America's man in Havana, his challenges to President Raul Castro stunning Cuban citizens who mused openly in the streets about the possibility of political change.

Obama's public call for a more democratic Cuban future marked a watershed moment in a country where questioning the government's authority is not tolerated. Decades of bitterness between leaders seemed to fade as Obama and Castro laughed it up at a baseball game. US businesses were flocking in droves, touting new approval to bring Americans and their dollars to Cuba.

As Obama's aides jubilantly boarded Air Force One, Castro showed up on the tarmac to see Obama off. The White House saw it as an affirmation that the visit was a success, even by Castro's admittedly different standards. Yet a key question remained unanswered after Obama departed the communist island: How much of it will last?

"We shouldn't kid ourselves that they're going to all of a sudden tolerate dissent," said Michael Posner, Obama's former assistant secretary of state for human rights and democracy. "This is a very ostracized regime. They've been in power a long time. They don't really have any instincts for reform. It's going to be a struggle." The first clues could come next month during the Communist Party Congress meeting in Havana, a forum for unveiling major changes. An announcement of greater political freedoms or reformminded economic steps would suggest that Obama's strategy was starting to bear fruit.

egy was starting to bear fruit.

Under the glare of global attention, Castro did little to publicly undermine Obama. After all, Obama enjoys immense popularity in Cuba. Images of a young black president strolling through Old Havana seemed to resonate with Cuba's racially diverse people, forming a powerful contrast with the aging Castro. In the days ahead, though, that public spotlight will dim, giving Castro an opening to return to business as usual should he so choose. Though he's taking modest steps to open up Cuba's economy and relax certain social restrictions, there are still no indications Castro plans to make any of the changes to Cuba's single-party system that Obama advo-

"We will continue to speak out loudly on the things that we care about," Obama said near the end of his visit. Central to Obama's strategy is to raise the Cuban people's expectations, driving up pressure on Castro's government to accelerate the pace of change. Wary Cuban officials have picked up on the tactic, with some regarding Obama's entreaties as a post-Cold War attempt to coerce Cuba with diplomacy instead of the threat of force. Ahead of his trip, Obama's aides said a key goal was to make his rapprochement with Cuba irreversible. He left the island with plenty of indications that tipping point could be in sight.

could be in sight.

Soon, as many of 110 commercial flights between the US and Cuba will take off daily, bringing millions of Americans to the country and further exposing Cubans to the outside world. With Americans hungry for a taste of Havana, Obama is banking on the notion that it will be incredibly unpopular for the next president to tell them to cancel their vacations. Famed US hotel chains Starwood and Marriott are poised to take over hotels in Cuba after striking deals with Havana and getting permission from Washington, and Google is making a major play on the island as well. Brian Chesky, CEO of online lodging service Airbnb, told reporters in Havana that Cuba is his company's fastest-growing market.

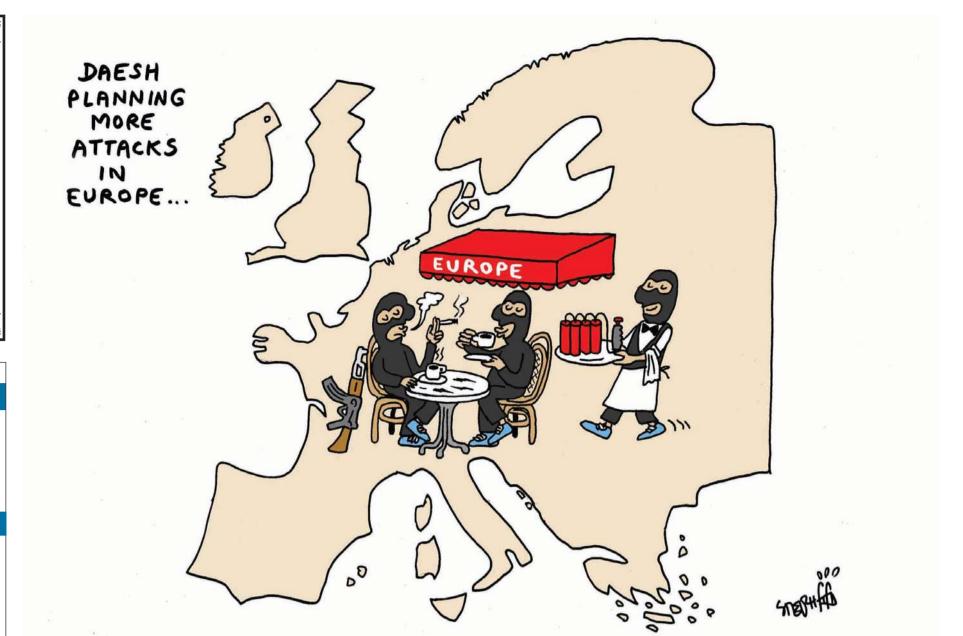
"There comes a point where reversing it will seem like a very crazy idea," said former Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, a Republican who left Cuba as an exile at age six. "I think we're just about at that stage." Though Obama advanced his goal of normalizing US-Cuba relations, it wasn't without political risk. His visit was roundly derided by supporters of the US trade embargo, who accused Obama of rewarding a repressive government. It's an issue with resonance in the presidential race, where Republican candidate Ted Cruz, whose father is Cuban, is livid about Obama's policy while front-runner Donald Trump vows to negotiate a better deal.

"Today is a sad day in American history," Cruz said while Obama was in Havana. Both Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, support Obama's

approach.

Obama has also been unable to remove the key irritant for Cuban officials and citizens alike: The US embargo, which has squeezed Cuba's economy for generations. There are few signs Congress will accede anytime soon to Obama's calls for repealing the sanctions. —AP

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# TERROR SUSPECT A STONE'S THROW FROM EU

By David Courbet and Claire Rosemberg

he sole person charged so far in Belgium's terror attacks, Faycal C, lived in a four-story townhouse on a quiet residential street a stone's throw from the EU's headquarters. Listed as an 'art nouveau' wonder by turn-of-the-19th-century Belgian architect Franz Tilley, it lies just a few hundred yards away from the huge European Commission buildings.

On a list of tenants by the door is scrawled the name "Faycal Cheffou", but no one answers the bell.

Until police showed up on Thursday to search the Cheffou flat, "it's always been calm around here," says a baker whose shop is a couple of doors away. "We'd never have imagined anything like this," she adds. It's all quiet otherwise "chez Cheffou" on this Easter Sunday. The neighbors are either out, on holidays or avoiding the press. A source close to the inquiry told AFP this weekend that Faycal Cheffou was the man charged with terrorist murder Saturday but named only as Faycal C. by the federal prosecutor. The source refused to comment however on whether he was the same man captured on video footage Tuesday in the company of the two airport suicide bombers, Ibrahim El Bakraoui and Najim

So the question in everyone's mind is whether Faycal is or isn't "the man in the hat", glasses and light-coloured coat seen wheeling a trolley with a large black bag like the other two, but whose device did not go off. He is however the first and only person yet to face terrorist charges over the bloodiest attacks ever to strike the symbolic capital of Europe.

In the Brussels media world, Faycal Cheffou claimed to be a freelance journalist who took a special interest in refugees. But he was accused last year by Brussels Mayor Yves Mayeur of trying to recruit jihadists among asylum-seekers and migrants living at a refugee centre set up by local charities and NGOs at Maximilien

park near the northern rail station. Mayeur considered him to be "dangerous" and repeatedly tried without success to have him legally expelled from the centre. Finally in September the mayor issued a ban to keep him out of the park.

A YouTube video from 2014 shows him

are celebrating the holy Ramadan month of fasting but that the authorities are refusing to provide them with food after nightfall, which is the only time when they can eat. "After 10:00 pm these people find themselves with nothing to eat, completely forgotten by the rest of the world,"

with two others after their car was tailed by police, and "has been charged with taking part in a terrorist group, terrorist murder and attempted terrorist murder."

Police found no explosives or weapons at his home. The baker says she never met him but she thinks that the man in the



BRUSSELS: People gather to pay a tribute outside the stock exchange in Brussels yesterday which has become an unofficial shrine to victims of the March 22, terror attacks, was invaded by some 200 far-right football hooligans.—AFP

presenting himself as a freelance reporter concerned with the plight of hungry Muslim asylum-seekers at the Steenokkerzeel migrant centre.

His head shaved, wearing a slight beard and glasses, he says the refugees close to the federal prosecutor's office

presenting himself as a freelance reporter concerned with the plight of hungry respect for human rights."

"I am concerned by the shouts and the noise I can hear as they are crying for help." Faycal was arrested late Thursday

middle of a picture the police showed her used to come regularly to the shop. Two of her customers who lived in the same building as the suspect told her he was "very nice" and that no one had any idea of what was going on. —AFP

# TERROR WAVE HITS FRAGILE TURKISH ECONOMY

By Clare Byrne

six suicide attacks in eight months and a spat with Russia have added to concerns for the Turkish economy as tourists flee, taking billions of dollars in spending elsewhere, and foreign investors skirt the troubled country. Days after a suspected Islamic State jihadist blew himself up on a top shopping street in Istanbul, hotels, restaurants and retailers in the city are counting their losses.

Shops and restaurants on Istiklal Street, the usually bustling two-kilometre-long pedestrian artery targeted in the March 19 attack, complain of a sharp drop in business since the bombing, which killed four foreigners and injured dozens. The attack on Istiklal-the beating heart of Turkey's biggest city-emphasised the security threat after three deadly suicide attacks in the capital Ankara.

While financial markets have so far reacted with relative sangfroid to the terror wave, analysts say the bloodshed is putting strain on Turkey which is already battling high inflation and mid-term economic uncertainty. "There could be large economic costs from these attacks, particularly in terms of long-investment and the tourism sector," William Jackson, senior emerging markets economist at Capital Economics in London, said.

# Tourism hit

Western tourist numbers have slowed since Turkey began to come under sustained attack from IS jihadists and Kurdish rebels last July. The industry's headaches worsened when Turkey shot down a Russian jet on its border with Syria in November, nearly eradicating the

key annual influx of Russian tourists.

Hikmet Eraslan, chairman of the upmarket Dosso Dossi hotel chain in Istanbul, told AFP he had been forced to halve room prices to try attract visitors. "We had to let people go to reduce costs. What else can you do? We have to live," Eraslan said.

The recently renovated Golden Age hotel, which lies just a few minutes walk from the scene of Saturday's blast, is also struggling to fill its 180 rooms, only half of which were occupied this week, mainly by Iranians celebrating New Year. "Our general manager just came back from (the International Tourism Trade Fair) in Berlin. He said no-one wanted to come to Turkey," an employee told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Inan Demir, an analyst at Turkey's Finansbank, said he expected tourism revenue to drop under 17 billion dollars in 2016, down from 21 billion in 2015 (3 percent of GDP), worsening Turkey's already gaping current account deficit and adding to unemployment of over 10 percent. Foreign arrivals in January were already down 20-percent year-on-year.

# Investor confidence shaken

Foreign investors, too, are likely to be "much warier about coming to Turkey, both physically and in terms of their portfolio allocations," Demir said, predicting "a significant adverse shock to the Turkish economy". Further tarnishing the image of the country of 78 million are concerns over the alleged authoritarian drift of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In dramatic scenes earlier this month, the authorities seized Zaman, a opposition newspaper linked to

Erdogan's arch-enemy the exiled cleric Fethullah Gulen while the military is battling the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the southeast.

Capital Economics' Jackson said the crackdown was likely to further dent already declining levels of foreign investment. "When business and legal decisions appear to be politically motivated it is obviously very concerning for foreign investors because it creates uncertainty," he said. Yet the economy has also showed signs of resilience, with energy importer Turkey helped by the persistently low price of oil and gas.

Industrial production surprised to the upside with a 5.6 percent increase in January, while economic confidence rose in March after a three-month decline. But there are many pitfalls ahead and Finansbank's Demir said he believed investors would be closely watching who replaces Turkey's respect outgoing central bank governor Erdem Basci when his term expires next month.

Erdogan has repeatedly called for interest rates to be lowered, ignoring economists' calls for rates to be hiked to rein in inflation which stood at 8.8 percent in February. Amplifying the concerns of markets, the bank pruned a key interest rate by 25 basis points at its latest monetary policy meeting.

For Demir, the bank's failure to raise rates "is illustrative of the impact of politics on macro-economic policy making in Turkey". The choice of new governor would be a key test of the bank's independence, he said, warning that appointing someone who "plays to the tune of Erdogan's advisors" would likely "change investor sentiment for the worse." —AFP

# BRITISH BOXER IN COMA AFTER BRAIN INJURY

LONDON: British boxer Nick Blackwell has been placed in an

induced coma after losing a domestic title fight. Saturday's British middleweight belt contest at London's Wembley Arena saw Blackwell stopped in the tenth round by Chris Eubank Jr, the son of former world champion Chris Eubank, after the ringside doctor ruled a closed left eye meant he could not continue. The 25-yearold Blackwell was subsequently carried out of the ring on a stretcher and was still in hospital, under observation, yesterday. British Boxing Board of Control general secretary Robert Smith said: I spoke to one of the doctors vesterday morning and he said there is a bleeding of the brain. "He's in intensive care, he's in an induced coma and he is resting and being looked after by the experts. "It's a very normal procedure. They put you in a coma to get the swelling to go down. There's no time-scale. Now it's just a matter of waiting and seeing." World heavyweight champion Tyson Fury tweeted his best wishes to Blackwell on Saturday: "Will u all pray for @nickblackwell02 please ASAP as he has been taken

to hospital, God be with him." —AFP

# COURT ORDERS EGYPT SOCCER BOARD CLOSE

CAIRO: Egypt's top administrative court yesterday ordered that the board of Egyptian Football Federation be dissolved following allegations of rigging during the 2012 election of its members.

The judgement, which is final and can not be appealed, ordered Egypt's minister of youth and sports to dissolve the board. Two candidates who had participated in the October 11, 2012 election for the federation's board had filed a case alleging that the results were rigged at that time. Election for the federation's next board is scheduled for September 2016.

The same court also ordered on Sunday the dissolution of Cairo-based Al-Ahly club's board over similar reasons. In November, a lower court had ordered Al-Ahly's board be dissolved, but an appeal was filed against that order. Yesterday, the higher court upheld the earlier verdict.— AFP

# **QUINTANA WINS TOUR OF CATALONIA**

BARCELONA: Nairo Quintana of Colombia held on to his lead over Alberto Contador to win the Tour of Catalonia for the first time yesterday. Quintana successfully defended his seven-second advantage over the Spaniard in yesterday's final stage, an eight-lap ride through 136.4 kilometers (84.7 miles) up and down the Montjuic hill overlooking Barcelona. Russian rider Aleksei Tsatevich won the seventh stage in a sprint with Primoz Roglic of Slovenia. Movistar rider Quintana stayed close to Contador from the start on Sunday and his lead was never in jeopardy. He finished with the same seven-second advantage he carried into the closing stage. Quintana took the overall lead in the Pyrenees on Thursday. Daniel Martin of Ireland, the 2013 winner, finished third overall - 17 seconds behind Quintana. Defending champion Richie Porte of Australia was fourth. The weeklong race in northeastern Spain attracted some of cycling's top riders, including Tour de France champion Chris Froome, who finished eighth overall, 46 seconds behind Quintana. — AP

# CRUSADERS, CHIEFS POST VICTORIES IN SUPER RUGBY

WELLINGTON: The Crusaders ended the Sharks' unbeaten record and the Chiefs overcame some serious travelrelated obstacles to firm as favorites for a Super Rugby title after the weekend's fifth round of matches.

The manner of their victories was starkly different: the Christchurchbased Crusaders needed a last-minute try to beat the Sharks' 19-14 in Durban while the Chiefs ran in seven secondhalf tries in Hamilton to take a bonus point from a 54-10 win over the Western Force.

The Crusaders' only loss this season was to the Chiefs in the first round and their wins since over the Blues, the Kings and the Sharks have shown a steady improvement, especially in their attacking game.

After beating the Crusaders, the Chiefs stumbled in a 36-32 home loss to South Africa's Lions, but have since achieved the immense feat of winning successive matches in South Africa, Argentina and New Zealand.

Those wins have placed them atop the overall table after five rounds, a point clear of compatriots the Highlanders and two ahead of the ACT Brumbies, who recovered from last week's loss to the Stormers with a 25-18 win over the Cheetahs in Bloemfontein.

The Chiefs face the Brumbies next weekend in a top-of-the-table clash. After their unexpected loss to the Lions the Chiefs had to travel to South Africa where they beat the Kings in Port Elizabeth, cross the Atlantic to beat the Jaguares in the first-ever Super Rugby match in Argentina, then return home to beat the Force.

In the course of those matches they traveled more than 20,000 kilometers (12,000 miles) and they achieved Saturday's win at home though they had 12 front-line players out with injury. That left them with a makeshift bench, incorporating several players who had yet to play a Super Rugby match and veteran flyhalf Stephen Donald, recalled to the colors after a five-year absence.

# **EARLY PENALTY**

The bench still made an impact in the second half. American-born winger Tony Pulu scored a try with his first touch in Super Rugby and Donald kicked the last conversion. "I suppose a couple of weeks around the world with a pretty tough travel schedule bonds the boys together," captain Sam Cane

All Blacks captain Kieran Read scored the try in the 71st minute which clinched the Crusaders' win over the Sharks in Durban. The Crusaders had been stung by two intercept tries to winger Lwazi Mvovo but took control of territory and possession and proceeded to wear down the Sharks.

The Brumbies opened a 17-point lead over the Cheetahs but tired in the last quarter and just held on to win as the home side, with a try to Sergeal Petersen and a late penalty, took a losing bonus point. Brumbies coach Stephen Larkham hailed the contribution to the win of flanker and Wallaby David Pocock.

"I thought David Pocock had a tremendous game, one of the best games I've seen him have," Larkham said. "Both his work at the breakdown and in the contact area was outstand-

The Highlanders had their second straight win in Australia, producing a superb defensive performance to beat the Melbourne Rebels 27-3.

Japan's Sunwolves were again narrowly denied their first win in Super Rugby, losing 30-27 to South Africa's Bulls in Singapore, two weeks after losing 32-31 to the Cheetahs at the same

The Hurricanes led by only two points at halftime, 19-17, before going on to take a bonus point from a 42-20 win over the Kings, who remain win-

less after five rounds. The Stormers took over in the South African conference lead with a 13-8 win over the Jaquares, handing the new Argentinian side its second home loss in a row at Buenos Aires. — AP



BUENOS AIRES: Jaguares' full back Joaquin Tuculet (2nd-L) vies for the ball with Stormers' centre Juan de Jongh (C), during their Super Rugby match at Jose Amalfitani stadium in Buenos Aires, Argentina on Saturday.—AFP

# JONES BRACED FOR ROUGH RIDE IN AUSTRALIA

time from his Australian compatriots when he returns in June aiming to lead England to more success.

But the tough-talking Tasmanian, who led the Wallabies for four years including a home World Cup final defeat by England before being ousted, is relishing the "intense" atmosphere of a tour down under and trying to build on England's recent Grand Slam success.

Jones knows all too well that while getting England to complete a Six Nations clean sweep in his first season in charge was a fairly difficult hill to climb, overcoming Australia in the first-ever three Test series there between the two nations will be considerably harder.

**BAGSHOT:** Eddie Jones is expecting a hard Australian media as a potential 'traitor', Jones with what they will see as a resurgent England replied: "I am a target here (England) so it is not going to make much difference!

"That's part of the game. If it does help take some of the pressure off the players then that can only be a good thing. It doesn't both-

"I think they will be respectful about what we have done regarding the Grand Slam. Well, as respectful as Australians can be! "It definitely sets things up for a fantastic series on June 11 (the date of the first Test, in Brisbane),

and that's very important." Jones, who took over after hosts England were knocked out of last year's World Cup in the pool phase following a 33-13 defeat by

team. "Australia had France out there two years

ago and, to be quite honest, the three Tests were quite morbid. They weren't great. France didn't front up at all. They were pretty poor events and the crowds were poor.

"But they are going to see an England side full of energy, full of life, that wants to play positive rugby and is going to take it to the Aussies. It is going to be a tough and intense tour but it will also be an exciting one."

With his England players back at their respective clubs for the run-in to the English Premiership season, Jones' biggest worry is avoiding any sort of injury crisis between now and the end of May when the squad fly out. Despite a first Grand Slam in 13 years, and installing a clinical winning attitude in a short time, Jones will not be happy unless he turns England into the global game's dominant

# **HARTLEY WARNING**

One man he both praises but warns is England captain Dylan Hartley, who must continue to prove his worth if he wishes to keep his place as the team's first-choice hooker.

Hartley must first complete his post-concussion protocol following the bang on the head that meant he missed the closing minutes of England's 31-21 Slam-clinching win against France in Paris on March 19 before he returns to club action with Northampton. The New Zealand-born front row missed the World Cup completely after former coach Stuart Lancaster kicked him out of the squad for the latest in a long line of disciplinary offences, only for Jones to make him captain.

"As a player he has been adequate but he has got to improve and keep improving," said Jones. "He's done very well as captain. It's not how well he speaks or what school he went to or can he write poetry. That has got nothing to do with leadership. It is all about the ability to influence people.

"When I took up the job, I spoke to people about Dylan and the captaincy and the general consensus was that he would be a positive

"It was obvious England missed Dylan a lot during the World Cup. "He's not the greatest player in the world but he plays with his heart on his sleeve and people follow him." — AFP

# AL ATTIYAH FLIES TO **ALGERIA TO HEAD** FIA MEETING - MENA

KUWAIT: Nasser Al Attiyah - FIA Vice President heads today for FIA meeting - MENA. The meeting will be attended by the presidents of federations and clubs of MENA, the meeting is expected to discuss many issues related to mechanic sport and the agenda of the 3 days meetings hosted by Algeria, in addition to a number of workshops pertaining the motorsport activities.

About the nature of the meeting, Al Attiyah praised the prominent role displayed by El Hady Weld Ali-Minister of Youth & Sport - Algeria and Chihab Baloul president of FASM - and the members of FASM for facilitating all possibilities in order to have a successful event, which is considered the first of its kind in North Africa, such event would highlight the prominent role displayed by MENA federations and clubs to push the wheel of motor sport in the region.

Al Attiyah said that such a meeting is considered the first of its kind in North Africa and also considered one of the most important meetings in MENA, such as the meeting held before in Qatar, Jounieh and Kuwait, its importance lies also in the attendance of Jean Todt -FIA president, and the volume of files to be discussed in the meeting especially in this critical time and the hard circumstances that the region is currently wit-

Al Attiyah added that there will practical discussions for the regulatory rules and articles of these events which are organized in MENA, aiming at better future for the motorsport, such discussions are mainly based on FIA regulations. It is worth saying that Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, Oman and Qatar have apologized for attending the meeting.



**Nasser Al Attiyah** 

# Asked if he expects to be targeted by the Australia, added: "It's nice to go down there

WARATAHS EDGE PAST

ARCH-RIVALS REDS

**BRISBANE:** The New South Wales Waratahs edged past arch-rivals Queensland Reds 15-13 in a dour Super Rugby clash in Brisbane yes-

The Waratahs scored two tries to one but trailed the Queenslanders until 12 minutes to go when Wallabies fly-half Bernard Foley kicked a penalty to put his side in front.

The win means the Waratahs stay in touch with runaway Australian conference leaders ACT Brumbies, but they had to use all their experience to see off a brave Queensland side that is yet to have a win this season.

The Reds have improved each week since they sacked coach Richard Graham and, on the back of a superior scrum and line-out. they almost pulled off an upset.

"It was a really tough grind," Waratahs captain Michael Hooper conceded. "We did some really good things but we were falling back on some poor things we've done previously. "We're rolling on but hopefully we can get a snowball effect and go from there."

Hooper said the Waratahs had adapted to the conditions better than their opponents. "We changed our game plan which worked really well for us-kicking to the corners and playing for position."

The Reds have had a dominant scrum all season and they quickly took control in the opening stages of yesterday's match.

They won a series of scrum penalties on the NSW line before New Zealand referee Ben O'Keefe eventually lost patience and awarded the home side a penalty try 10 minutes into the match. The Reds tried to push home the advantage but Waratahs fullback Israel Folau narrowed the gap with a try in the corner following a superb break up the middle from Waratahs No 8 Jed Holloway.

# **FOLEY SEALS IT**

The Reds looked like taking a 7-5 lead into half-time only to switch off while in attack and lose the ball at the back of the ruck.

Foley gathered the ball and set sail for the Queensland line. He was eventually brought down but NSW moved the ball quickly and Folau strolled over untouched to give the visitors a 12-7 lead at the break. The Reds continued to play through their forwards in the second half and caused some problems, but whenever they moved the ball to the backs the movement broke down. Jake McIntyre booted two penalties to put Queensland in front, but the experience of a NSW side featuring a host of Wallabies proved enough, and when the Reds forwards were penalised for failing to release a tackled player, Foley stepped up and made no mistake.—AFP

# NADAL RETIRES IN 3RD SET AT MIAMI OPEN

**KEY BISCAYNE:** Rafael Nadal slumped in a changeover chair, the blood pressure gauge strapped to his mighty left arm serving as a scoreboard. He was on the verge of defeat, and a few points later he retired from a match for the first time in six years.

Nadal faded in the subtropical heat and conceded after falling behind in the third set of his opening match Saturday at the Miami Open against Damir Dzumhur.

The No. 5-seeded Nadal trailed 2-6, 6-4, 3-0 when he called it quits after losing a point to fall behind 30-15. He had earlier consulted with a trainer between games three times, and had his blood pressure checked. Nadal said he started feeling badly at the end of the first set. "It was getting worse and worse and worse," the Spaniard said. "I get a little bit scared - too dizzy. I felt I was not safe, so I decided to go. I wanted to finish the match, but I seriously couldn't."

His departure left the draw without three of the five highest-seeded men. No. 4 Stan Wawrinka lost to Andrey Kuznetsov 6-4, 6-3, and No. 3 Roger Federer withdrew Friday because of a stomach virus.

In the night session, No. 2 Andy Murray won his opening match against Denis Istomin, 6-3, 7-5. Eight-time champion Serena Williams avoided the upset bug and seemed unfazed by the weather. The South Floridian earned her 20th consecutive victory at Key Biscayne and reached the fourth round by beating Zarina Diyas 7-5, 6-3."I live down the street, and I'm used to these conditions," she said. "Even though it was a little humid, I'm used to it and I love this

Nadal's match lasted less than two

hours, but the temperature approached 90 degrees and was even higher on the sunbaked stadium hardcourt.

Nadal said he felt fine before the match and wasn't sure whether he was contracting an illness. "Hopefully it's just the extreme conditions," he said. "It's tough for me, because I felt I was playing well. It's a hard accident. That's life."

Nadal later pulled out of doubles.

The 14-time Grand Slam champion hasn't won a tournament since August. But it had been 443 matches since he retired in the 2010 Australian Open quarterfinals against Andy Murray. Key Biscayne remains one of the biggest tournaments Nadal has never won. He's 0-4 in finals.

Dzumhur is a 23-year-old Bosnian who was a child actor before he decided to focus on tennis. Ranked 94th, he rallied with a variety of tactics, including half a dozen drop shots for winners and an occasional serve and volley.

Nadal had to work hard from the start, failing to convert nine break-point chances during a marathon second game before Dzumhur double-faulted to lose serve.

The heat also bothered the 154-pound Dzumhur, who consulted with a trainer following the first set.

"It was really tough to play," he said. "I felt really tired and heavy and in some moments dizzy." No. 30-seeded Thomaz Bellucci retired from his match after two sets because of dehydration. In other men's play, No. 13 John Isner doublefaulted on his final two service points and lost to qualifier Tim Smyczek 6-2, 2-6, 7-6 (5). — AP



KEY BISCAYNE: Andy Murray of Great Britain plays a match against Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan during Day 6 of the Miami Open presented by Itau at Crandon Park Tennis Center on March 26, 2016 in Key Biscayne, Florida. —AFP

# MURRAY GETS ON THE BALL TO ADVANCE AT MIAMI OPEN

**MIAMI:** Something didn't look right about the tennis ball in Andy Murray's grasp and when he looked at it he discovered it was from the women's tour, not the men's.

That second-set revelation, and taking the ball out of play, helped the British world number two finish off a 6-3, 7-5 triumph Saturday over Uzbekistan's 76th-ranked Denis Istomin at the ATP and WTA Miami Open.

Murray, the 2012 US Open and 2013 Wimbledon champion, seeks a third Miami title. He won in 2009 and 2013 and was runner-up to Novak Djokovic in 2012 and last year. The ball controversy began when Murray, trying to avoid being broken in the fifth game of the second set, noticed the ball in his hand bore a red logo used only on a WTA ball, not the black one on ATP balls. "I just saw it as I was about to bounce the ball," Murray said. "There was just a women's ball. I had just hit two balls long. They are smaller, livelier balls and when you are just about to serve at break point down, you don't want to use a completely different ball.

"I was a bit frustrated over that." Murray said he could not be certain that the women's ball was the one used when he hit two crucial shots long to set up Istomin's break chance.

But the 28-year-old Scotsman did complain to chair umpire Mohamed Lahyani of Sweden that he and Istomin likely had been playing with the improper ball, one designed to go farther, for at least a couple of points.

The ball was taken out of play but some spectators whistled their irritation, seeing Murray's talk as a delay tactic. "I felt like he should say something to the crowd because it looked like I was stalling intentionally. I did have an issue," he said. "It's not his fault. He can't see if it's a women's ball or not. It's difficult."

An upset Murray netted a forehand to give Istomin the break and a 3-2 lead. Murray gave Lahyani an earful when he came to sit down. "For me, that's not good enough," Murray said. "Unacceptable. It's not right."

"I'm hitting the ball long because it's the wrong ball. You know how different the balls are." "The point stands," Lahyani replied. "It's the same for both." Murray responded by breaking back in the next game, denying Istomin on a break point in the 11th game with a backhand

drop volley and breaking again in the final game, Istomin netting a forehand to end matters after 98 minutes.

But Murray still had no idea how the women's ball got mixed among those used by the men, speculating that it lurked in flower beds near the court after a women's match and was found and inserted by ballpersons.

"I don't know where it came from," he said. "Throughout the day a bunch of balls end up in the flower beds. It could have come from them."

# **DIMITROV NEXT FOR MURRAY**

Next to face Murray is Bulgarian 26th seed Grigor Dimitrov. Murray has a 6-2 career record against Dimitrov, having won their past three meetings, most recently in last year's round of 16 at Cincinnati. "He had a match point and a bunch of chances to win that one but I was able to turn it around," he said, "I'll have to be a little bit more disciplined than I was tonight. "It'll be a tough one. He's a top quality player." Dimitrov beat Murray in a 2014 Wimbledon guarter-final to end the Briton's reign as tournament champi-



KEY BISCAYNE: Serena Williams, of the United States, returns a shot from Zarina Diyas, of Kazakhstan, at the Miami Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Saturday. Williams defeated Diyas 7-5, 6-3. — AP

# SERENA TAKES ANOTHER STEP TO MIAMI TITLE

KO SEIZES KIA CLASSIC LEAD

FLORIDA: Serena Williams won her 750th career match to stay on track for her ninth Miami Open title when she beat Zarina Diyas of Kazakhstan 7-5 6-3 in the third round in Florida on Saturday.

The world number one improved her career record to 750-125, seventh on the all-time list and just three match wins behind Lindsay Davenport's 753. Martina Navratilova sits atop the all-time list with

The 34-year-old Williams will meet Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova in the fourth round. The 15th seed defeated France's Caroline Garcia 4-6 6-2 7-6(6).

Unlike the last time they met, when Williams required 54 minutes and Diyas won just two games, the 22-year-old Kazak gave the American some trouble in the heat and humidity of Miami.

Williams jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the second set, only to see Diyas rally and win three straight games. But the 21-times grand slam champion steadied to close out

"I think she called her coach and they used a different strategy," Williams said in a courtside interview.

"I was able to figure it out after a little bit. She played well, especially to be ranked 97th. She has a bright future because she's so young. But I really wanted to close it out." Williams and Kuznetsova were joined in the fourth round by Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska, Romanian Simona Halep, Swiss Timea Bacsinszky, Russian Ekaterina Makarova and wild-card Heather Watson of Great Britain. Makarova, the 30th seed, upset eighth seed Czech Petra Kvitova 6-4 6-4. —Reuters

# MCILROY BOOKS WGC MATCH PLAY S-FINAL AGAINST DAY

LOS ANGELES: Defending champion Rory McIlroy birdied four of the last six holes in a 4 and 3 win over Chris Kirk on Saturday to book a semifinal showdown with Jason Day at the WGC Match Play in Texas.

Day advanced with a 3 and 2 victory over Brooks Koepka. The victory means the Australian will regain the world number one ranking from American Jordan Spieth, who was ousted Saturday morning in the round of 16 by South African Louis Oosthuizen.

McIlroy, seeded third, reached the semi-finals of the elite event for the third time in his career. He took a quick lead over Kirk with an 11-foot birdie putt at the opening hole, but his three-putt bogey at the ninth let Kirk square the match. McIlroy responded emphatically, with birdies to win the 10th, 12th,

13th and 15th-all with putts from within 10 feet. "I was a little annoyed going from the ninth green to the 10th-letting Chris get back into it with a three-putt on nine," McIlroy said. "But after that I was four-under for my next six holes and that was

enough to get the job done." McIlroy, who edged Zach Johnson 1 up to reach the quarters, admitted he has more than a title repeat on his mind.

"It's great for my confidence, especially with the Masters only a couple of weeks away," he said. "To get a good run in this tournament, which is my last competitive start before Augusta is really pleasing."

# Day's amazing week

Day, the 2014 winner, had three birdies and an eagle against Koepka. He took the lead with a seven-footer at the third, but Koepka birdied the next two to grab the lead.

The American couldn't find another birdie, however, and Day regained the lead with a seven-foot birdie at the 10th and added an eagle at the 12th before winning the 15th with a par.

Day, who had downed Brandt Snedeker 3 and 2 on Saturday morning, said he expected the clash with McIlroy to be "a lot of fun" although he's hoping the weather will be warm for the benefit of his injured back.

"It's been a bit of an up and down week, especially emotionally," said Day, whose back was so bad after his first-round win on Wednesday he thought he might have to withdraw. "It's been quite amazing to be able to start the week and not really thinking I'm going to be able to play with what happened Wednesday. And turn around I'm number one in the world on Saturday.

"It's a strange feeling," he said. "I'm glad I stuck it out." The other semifinal pits Spain's' Rafael Cabrera Bello against Oosthuizen. Oosthuizen, seeded 16th, followed up his 4 and 2 win over Spieth with a 2 and 1 triumph over eighth-seeded American Dustin Johnson. Cabrera Bello, who advanced to the quarters when South Korea's An

Byeong-Hun retired with a sore neck while 4 down through 11, beat Ryan Moore 2 and 1 to reach the final four. The Spaniard, ranked 54th in the world and seeded 52nd, never trailed against Moore, who had just one birdie after producing four on the front nine in a 4 and 3 victory over Patton Kizzire in the morning.

Oosthuizen reached the semi-finals after losing in the quarters the last two years. He trailed Johnson much of their match, but sealed it with a 21-foot birdie putt at 17.

# **SWING STRUGGLES**

But it was Oosthuizen's morning match that made headlines. Spieth hadn't trailed in three round-robin matches. "I got to the range this morning and I was hitting some slices with my irons, which is bizarre," Spieth said. "I just tried to compensate somehow on the golf course. I got away with it on the first couple of holes and then it got the best of me." Spieth, who hadn't made bogey at the first six holes in his first three matches, bogeyed the fourth to fall 1 down. Oosthuizen held onto the lead as Spieth scrambled through a stretch that included two birdies, two bogeys and a double bogey, with the South African nabbing three birdies in the last five holes to seal it. — AFP



AUSTIN: Jason Day of Australia makes birdie on the first hole during his semifinal match with Rory McIlroy at the World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play at the Austin Country Club yesterday in Austin, Texas. — AFP

**CARLSBAD:** Lydia Ko took sole possession of the lead after shooting a bogey-free 67 and Lee Min-Jee aced a 275-yard par four in the third round of the Kia Classic. World number one Ko, of New Zealand, is at 14under overall and has a three shot lead over Park Sung-Hyun (68), Brittany Lang

event. "You don't get that many opportunities where you're going into the final round with a few-shot lead," Ko said. "But I'll take it. I'd rather be a couple shots ahead than a

(70), and Jenny Shin (71) in the LPGA Tour

couple shots behind." The day was special for Australia's Lee as she made a hole-in-one on the 16th at the Carlsbad course. Lee becomes just the second in history to hit a hole-in-one at a parfour on the LPGA Tour, following Jang Ha-Na's albatross earlier this year in the Bahamas. Park carded five birdies in a row before a stumble on the par-five 17th hole with a double bogey. Park rebounded and finished her round with a birdie on the 18th, putting her in a tie for second place. Ko holds the 54-hole lead for the 10th time in her career. She has won four of those tournaments.

If she holds on Sunday it will be her first title of 2016 and the 11th of her career. She has had two runner-up finishes this year. Lang is seeking her second career LPGA win. Second round leader Shin is looking for her first victory, as is Park.

World number two Park In-Bee shot a 70 and is in sole possession of fifth at 10under, four shots adrift of Ko. Norway's Suzann Pettersen climbed up the leaderboard with a 66. She is tied for seventh place and Candie Kung shot the low round of the day with a 65. Kung is in a tie for 10th



KEY BISCAYNE: Timea Bacsinszky, of Switzerland, celebrates after winning a point against Ana Ivanovic, of Serbia, at the Miami Open tennis tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., Saturday. Bacsinszky defeated Ivanovic 7-5, 6-4. — AP



# WICC WORLD TWENTY20

# AMLA INSISTS CURRENT SA STARS CAN STILL WIN A GLOBAL TITLE

Amla insisted his team's World Cup dream lives on, saying the top Proteas stars are still hoping for glory in the near future.

Apart from their Champions Trophy triumph in 1998, South Africa have never won a major International Cricket Council event

since their post-apartheid return in 1991. Faf du Plessis' side have already exited the World Twenty20, even before their final group game against Sri Lanka today, their World Cup

**NEW DELHI:** South Africa batsman Hashim jinx striking again. "Well listen, this team will win a World Cup or ICC tournament at some stage, I think we have won one in 1998," Amla told reporters at New Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla.

South Africa haven't enjoyed much success of late, with a T20 series loss against Australia heading into the world event, where the side

have lost two of their three matches so far.

"It's an unfortunate situation that we have found ourselves in. Certainly as a team we haven't played our best cricket," admitted

Steyn, the Proteas have seen the 'golden generation' fail to claim a global title. Amla assures the big boys will hang around for a

"Lot of us feel we have a few more years left in us, so the Champions Trophy is next year and it would be great if we could make to the next World Cup, that will be ideal," said

"We take it as it comes. As long as you are

Amla. With Amla, AB de VIlliers and Dale fit and healthy, scoring runs and the form is good and you want to perform for the team then you can make it," he added.

> With the chokers tag hanging around their necks after a series of narrow defeats in the last two decades, South Africa didn't do their reputation any good after going down in crunch games this time around.

> The Proteas' hopes of clinching a first international trophy were dented in their opening match, when England chased down a record

They survived a scare to beat minnows Afghanistan by 37 runs, but lost a thriller when the West Indies successfully chased 123 with just two balls to spare, and Sri Lanka's defeat to England on Saturday sealed their

"We haven't had a game where our batting and our bowling has clicked in the same game consistently enough and that has been our biggest downfall," Amla said. — AFP

# MATHEWS URGES PATIENCE AFTER S LANKA T20 EXIT

**NEW DELHI:** Skipper Angelo Mathews with in term of performances." pleaded for patience from Sri Lankan cricket fans and administrators after the reigning champions crashed out of the World Twenty20 at the group stages. Sri Lanka's surrender of the trophy they won in 2014 is further evidence of their decline in the last two years, a process accelerated by the retirements of batting legends Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene. Now down at eight in the T20 rankings, Sri Lanka had a disastrous showing at the recent Asia Cup and came into the sixth edition of the World T20 tournament after recently changing their coach and captain. Following a less than convincing win over minnows Afghanistan in their opening match, they were then badly beaten by the West Indies before Saturday's narrow 10run defeat to England.

Mathews, who is already Sri Lanka's Test captain, was appointed skipper of the T20 team on the eve of the tournament after veteran fast bowler Lasith Malinga failed to shake off a knee injury.

"It's been a disappointing few months for all of us. We have let down our fans, we let down the whole country. And we haven't played good cricket at all. We are really disappointed," he said at a press conference after Saturday's defeat.

"All we can do is stick to the combination, not try and change the team too much. Try to pick about 20 players and, you know, revalue then after six months, give them the opportunity to settle down and then try and see what they have come up

### **MALINGA IRREPLACEABLE**

Sri Lanka's selectors were all sacked just ahead of the tournament, adding to the sense of turmoil within Sri Lankan cricket after South African Graham Ford returned last month to take over as team coach. Ford has warned that Sri Lanka faces a "huge" rebuilding task with other veteran match-winners such as spinner Rangana Herath, 38, and opener Tillakaratne Dilshan, 39, also expected to step away in the near future. The retirements of Jayawardene and Sangakkara, the two highest run-scorers in the history of Sri Lankan Test cricket, have added to the burden on Mathews who is now the team's premier batsman.

After playing a brave innings of 73 in the defeat against England after seeing his side reduced to 15 for 4, Mathews said that everyone had to accept that it would take time to fill such a big void.

"Hasty decisions will not solve this matter, so we have got to try and be patient," he said. All-rounder Thisara Perera said on Friday that Sri Lanka could take years to get over the retirement of Sangakkara and Jayawardene while warning that Malinga was irreplaceable.

Perera described the slingy Malinga as a one of a kind, saying a player such as him would "never, never come" again. Although they are out of the running for the semifinals, Sri Lanka still have one last group match against South Africa, who are also eliminated in New Delhi. —AFP



NAGPUR: Afghanistan's cricketers celebrate their win over West Indies in the ICC World Twenty20 2016 cricket match in Nagpur, India, yester-

# AFGHANISTAN'S STANIKZAI HAILS HISTORIC WIN OVER WINDIES

NAGPUR: Afghanistan skipper Asghar Stanikzai hailed his underdog side after their historic six-run victory over the powerful West Indies at the World Twenty20 match in Nagpur yesterday. Afghanistan had failed to qualify for the semi-finals heading into Sunday's match, but were determined to take home a consolation victory against the West Indies, who had already made the final four.

Stanikzai paid credit to his never-say-die charges especially batsman Najibullah Zadran, named man-of-the-match, after Afghanistan notched up their first ever Super 10 victory at a World T20.

Stanikzai said his side, who had lost three straight group stage matches, had learnt "so much" at the T20 and would now head home and "work on our weaknesses".

"We knew the conditions but the bowlers and fielders played very well. We know about our team's strengths, we have experienced so much at this WT20." After being sent into bat, Stanikzai's side posted a respectable 123/7, with Najibullah smashing an unbeaten 48 against the 2012 World T20 champions. The West Indies, who had a perfect record heading into the match with three straight wins, warned that they were not going to let up against Afghanistan. But their run chase got off to a shaky start, with opener Evin Lewis dismissed for a duck, and some excellent Afghanistan spin bowling led by 17-year-old Rashid Khan (2-26) meant the wickets kept

# **SPECTACULAR, TUMBLING CATCH**

With the West Indies needing 10 runs from the final over, Najibullah sprinted several metres along the boundary to take a spectacular, tumbling catch and claim Carlos Braithwaite for 13, just when he looked like bringing the West Indies home, as he had done against South Africa on Friday. Samuel Badree and an injured Andre Fletcher could only manage to push the total to 117 in the three remaining deliveries.

Despite the loss, the West Indies still finished top of Group One, and will play either Australia or India, who clash later in Group Two, in the semi-finals.

Captain Darren Sammy said the loss would not derail his side's campaign for the title, describing the loss as a "banana skid" on the road to the finals. "Obviously we are disappointed but we are not going to let this dampen our spirits, we played well, we just need to find a way to chase down those small totals," he said.

"We have two more steps to take, and we just had a slight banana skid in the race, and we just have to regroup and come back again." After being sent in to bat, Najibullah top scored for Afghanistan, striking four fours and one six in his 40-ball knock to bring cheers from the small but vocal crowd.

Afghanistan had lost all of their previous Super 10 matches, but they have won new admirers in India with their aggressive and carefree brand of cricket that has caused some anxious moments for their opponents. Opener Mohammad Shahzad made a confident 24, but was caught off leg-spinner Badree, trying to heave over the infield, just as he was looking exciting. Asghar Stanikzai also

made a handy 16. The skipper shuffled down the wicket to smash a six over long on, but was caught the next ball by Dwayne Bravo off Badree attempting the same shot.

As the wickets started to tumble thanks to some strong fielding, 23-year-old Najibullah held his nerve, guiding Afghanistan past the 120 mark and to what proved a winning total.

# **SCOREBOARD**

NAGPUR, India: Scoreboard Sunday from the World Twenty20 Group 1 game between West Indies and Afghanistan at Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium

at vidaibila ciicket Association Stadium.	
Afghanistan	
Mohammad Shahzad c Benn b Badree	24
Usman Ghani b Badree	4
Asghar Stanikzai c Bravo b Badree	16
Gulbadin Naib c Bravo b Sammy	8
Samiullah Shenwari c Sammy b Benn	1
Najibullah Zadran not out	48
Mohammad Nabi c Samuels b Russell	9
Shafiqullah Shafaq c Fletcher b Russell	4
Rashid Khan not out	6
Extras: (2lb, 1w)	3
TOTAL: (for 7 wickets)	123
Overs: 20.	
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-33, 3-50, 4-52, 5-56, 6	-90, 7-103
Did not bat: Amir Hamza, Hamid Hassan.	
Rowling: Andre Russell 4-0-23-2 (1w) Sar	nual Radr

Bowling: Andre Russell 4-0-23-2 (1w), Samuel Badree 4-0-14-3, Carlos Brathwaite 2-0-21-0, Sulieman Benn 4-0-

18-1, Dwayne Bravo 4-0-28-0, Darren Sammy 2-0-17-1.

**West Indies** Johnson Charles b Hassan

22

Evin Lewis c Khan b Hamza Andre Fletcher not out 11 Marlon Samuels b Khan Denesh Ramdin st Shahzad b Khan 18 Dwayne Bravo Ibw b Nabi 28 Andre Russell run out 7 Darren Sammy c Sami b Naib Carlos Brathwaite c Zadran b Nabi Samuel Badree not out

Overs: 20. Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-33, 3-38, 4-79, 5-89, 6-98, 7-107, 8-

117

114. Did not bat: Sulieman Benn

Extras: (1lb, 2w, 2nb)

TOTAL: (for 8 wickets)

Bowling: Amir Hamza 4-0-9-1, Mohammad Nabi 4-0-26-2, Hamid Hassan 2.4-0-19-1 (2nb), Rashid Khan 4-0-26-2, Samiullah Shenwari 4-0-22-0 (1w), Gulbadin Naib 1.2-0-

Result: Afghanistan won by 6 runs.



WILLEY FINED **NEW DELHI:** England opener Jason Roy and fast bowler David Willey have been

spilled over during their win over Sri Lanka on Saturday. Both players gave solid performances during England's nailbiting 10-run victory over Sri Lanka in New Delhi to secure a

fined at the World Twenty20 after emotions

place in the semifinals. But Roy was fined 30 percent of his match fee for swearing and then throwing his bat and helmet upon leaving the field,

after being given out lbw for 42 off 39 balls. The International Cricket Council (ICC) said on Sunday that Roy had shown "dissent at an umpire's decision during an international match".

Willey, meanwhile, who took 2-26, was fined 15 percent of his fee after giving a colourful send-off to Milinda Siriwardana when the Sri Lankan was dismissed immediately after hitting the seamer for six.

The ICC said he breached the code of conduct for "actions or gestures which disparage or which could provoke an aggressive reaction" from a batsman on their dismissal.

Both players admitted the offences during a meeting with match referee Jeff Crowe, the ICC said in a statement.

England are now likely to face New Zealand in a semi-final encounter in Delhi on Wednesday, with the West Indies having already qualified from their group. —AFP



MOHALI: India's Smiriti Mandhana, center, walks back after being bowled out by Afy Fletcher of West Indies during their ICC Women's World Twenty20 2016 cricket match in Mohali, India, yesterday. — AP

# CAMBRIDGE END LOSING BOAT RACE STREAK

**LONDON:** Cambridge ended a run of 1829 to 82 wins to 79. three straight defeats by Oxford with victory in the 162nd edition of the University Boat Race in London on

The heavier and more experienced crew, Cambridge were the favourites for this year's renewal on the 4 miles, 374 yards (6.8 km) course between Putnev and Mortlake on the River Thames.

Victory saw the Light Blues extend their overall lead in a race first run in

On a day when rough water had played havoc with the preceding women's race, Cambridge were ahead almost from the start and although Oxford hung on grimly they never looked at any stage as if they would overtake their ancient rivals in this latest contest between England's two oldest universities. Cambridge, who won the toss, had the early advantage of the Surrey bend in their favour were suffi-

ciently far ahead of the Dark Blues to women's race had been run on the same make it across to the safety of the Middlesex riverbank in increasingly choppy water. Maintaining a good rhythm, Cambridge won in a time of 18 minutes and 38 seconds, finishing twoand-a-half lengths ahead of Oxford. By contrast, in the women's race Oxford won by a huge margin of 24 lengths after Cambridge almost sank in rough

This was only the second time the

course as the men's and gave Oxford their fourth win in a row and 13th victory in 17 years.

Oxford, recovering from a slow start, and by the time they reached Hammersmith Bridge, Cambridge were already starting to take on water that all but overwhelmed their boat's pumping system.

By contrast, the Dark Blues got out of the turbulent stream in time and headed for safety near the Middlesex riverbank.

Cambridge almost came to a standstill, the pumping system in their boat all but overwhelmed and it seemed they might emulate the unfortunate 1978 Light Blue men's crew in suffering an embarrassing sinking.

But although given the option of stopping by the race umpire, they carried on albeit they finished 71 seconds adrift of Oxford, who won in a time of 21:49. —AFP

# BROOK EYES GARCIA BOUT AFTER SPEEDY WORLD TITLE DEFENCE

LONDON: Britain's Kell Brook said he wanted a fight against rival world champion Danny Garcia after making short work of his International Boxing Federation welterweight title defence with a secondround stoppage of Canada's Kevin Bizier on Saturday.

Victory in front of his home crowd in Sheffield, northern England, saw Brook extend his perfect professional record to 36 wins from 36 bouts with 25 knockouts.

But the speed with which Brook stopped his game, if outclassed, opponent was sure to raise questions about how the IBF managed to select Bizier as a mandatory challenger for the title.

"I have been training a long, long time. I wanted to warm up into it and have an all out war, but he couldn't stand up to it," Brook told Sky Sports after victory by technical knock out in two minutes and 15 seconds of the second round.

"I want the big fights. I have my mandatory out of the way. I have power that can knock heavyweights out," he added after his third title defence. "That is what we have to do now-make a big fight."

Brook has yet to have a career-defining contest against a major name such as American fighter Garcia and, pressed on who he wanted to face next, the 29-yearold said: "I want that WBC (World Boxing Council) belt, Danny Garcia.

"Or Manny Pacquiao, or Timothy

KINGSTON UPON HULL: Nour El

Sherbini became the first Egyptian

woman to win the 94-year-old British

Open title when she overcome her com-

patriot Nouran Gohar in five tight games

to become the youngest women's win-

ner, but after a match full of unusually

hard hitting she was beaten 11-7, 9-11, 7-

For the second time in the tourna-

ment Gohar suffered a bleeding knee

which required treatment, and after a

nine-minute delay Sherbini produced a

brilliant forehand counter-hit and then

two more heavy, accurate forehand

champion," said Sherbini, who played in

the 2012 final but is still only 20. "The last

two points depended on such a small

(woman) to win. It's a huge thing and

"It's really weird to hear that I am

"I'm very proud be the first Egyptian

Gohar, aged only 18, had been trying

vesterday.

11, 11-6, 11-8.

drives to close it out.

margin.

Bradley," he added, with the latter two boxers facing each other in a couple of weeks' time. This was Brook's first fight since May last year after he suffered a broken rib following a traightforward win over compatriot Frankie Gavin. Brook stunned Shawn Porter of the United States to win the title in August 2014, but was out of action for more than a year following injuries sustained in a stabbing incident in Tenerife.

A routine victory over Romanian Jo Jo Dan followed before the defeat of Gavin. Bizier entered the ring having won 25 of his 27 professional bouts but, significantly, his record included two defeats by Dan, both via split decisions, in 2013 and 2014.

Right from the opening bell he demonstrated an alarming lack of head movement, with Brook landing some solid punches and causing a cut above his opponent's eye. By the early stages of the second round, blood was pouring from Bizier's nose and it was not long before Brook rocked him with a powerful head shot and then sent the 31-year-old to the canvas with a flurry of punches.

Bizier, never previously knocked out in his career, got back up only for Brook to floor him again moments later.

Midway through the second count, the referee stopped the contest with 45 seconds of the round remaining and Bizier in no position to continue. —AFP

hopefully other Egyptians will make us

proud." With the men's final later being

between two of her compatriots, that

sentiment was certain to be realised

champion, was taking on Ramy Ashour,

who became the first Egyptian in almost

50 years to take the title when he won

warned for a collision early on, and then

frustrated by a controversial "no let" deci-

sion which helped Gohar to reduce a

Sherbini pointed out that her already

badly cut knee had started bleeding

again, and she was obliged to leave the

holding back the tears while still on

court. "I was so close. But it was my first

final and I didn't quite have the experi-

ence to win it." — AFP

"I am very sad," Gohar said, bravely

It was still one point, at 7-8, when

three-point deficit to one at 6-7.

In a thrilling final game, Sherbini was

three years ago.

court.

Mohamed El Shorbagy, the defending



WASHINGTON: Petteri Lindbohm #48 of the St. Louis Blues passes the puck around Andre Burakovsky #65 of the Washington Capitals in the second period at Verizon Center on Saturday in Washington, DC. — AFP

# BLUES BEAT CAPITALS FOR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE SO

WASHINGTON: Jake Allen made 32 saves with regular starter Brian Elliott back home resting as the St. Louis Blues beat the NHL-leading Washington Capitals 4-0 on Saturday night for their fourth consecutive shutout. St. Louis won for the 10th time in 12 games and kept pace with the Dallas Stars atop the Central Division. Kyle Brodziak, Colton Parayko, Vladimir Tarasenko and Patrik Berglund scored for the Blues, who have their sights on the division title and the top seed in the Western Conference. With six games left, they're tied with the Stars, who beat the Sharks in San Jose. The Capitals would've clinched the Presidents' Trophy with a point but now must wait until at least Monday.

# PENGUINS 7, RED WINGS 2

Carl Hagelin scored twice and Phil Kessel had a goal and four assists to help Pittsburgh rout Detroit. Pittsburgh boosted its chances of earning a 10th straight trip to the playoffs and hurt Detroit's quest to extend its postseason streak to 25. The Penguins have won seven of eight, staying ahead of the New York Islanders for the third guaranteed spot from the Metropolitan Division. The Red Wings started the day a point behind Boston for third place in the Atlantic. Detroit is also in a closely contested race with the Islanders and Philadelphia to be the two wildcard teams that earn spots when the season ends in two weeks.

# **PANTHERS 5, LIGHTNING 2**

Jaromir Jagr had a goal and an assist while Roberto Luongo made 33 saves as Florida took over first place in the Atlantic Division by beating Tampa Bay. Vincent Trocheck, Jiri Hudler, Jonathan Huberdeau and Jussi Jokinen also scored for the Panthers, who have a two-point lead over the Lightning. Tampa Bay got goals from Tyler Johnson and Steven Stamkos. The Lightning were without right wing Nikita Kucherov, who took a shot off his foot in a 7-4 win over the New York Islanders on Friday night. Right wing Ryan Callahan, defenseman Anton Stralman and center Valtteri Filppula also sat for Tampa Bay with injuries.

# **STARS 4, SHARKS 2**

Mattias Janmark returned to the lineup from injury and got his first career two-goal game while Antti Niemi made 34 saves against his former team as Dallas beat San Jose. Patrick Sharp added a power-play goal and Jamie Benn scored an empty-netter to help the Stars remain in first place in the Central Division by winning for the fourth time in five games. Niemi, traded to Dallas last offseason after five seasons in San Jose, got the win in his first start in two weeks. Joel Ward scored a short-handed goal and Tomas Hertl also scored for San Jose. But the Sharks' late rally fell short in their third straight regulation loss at home, once again delaying their playoff clinching. Martin Jones made 13 saves. Janmark had missed six games with an upper-body injury and wasn't certain he'd return to the lineup until after taking the pregame skate against the Sharks. His return was welcomed by the Stars as he scored the first two goals of the game to help lead them to victory.

# **DUCKS 4, SENATORS 3, OT**

Rickard Rakell scored a power-play goal in overtime as Anaheim finished with four straight goals to beat Ottawa. Ryan Getzlaf, Jakob Silfverberg and Hampus Lindholm scored for the Ducks, who trailed 3-0 after two periods. Frederik Andersen made 29 saves. Mike Hoffman, Erik Karlsson and Chris Neil scored for the Senators, who have lost three straight. Craig Anderson stopped 35 shots. Hoffman was awarded a penalty shot early in the third period but lost the puck and never challenged Andersen. From that point on, it was all Anaheim. Getzlaf opened the scoring for the Ducks, tucking one under the crossbar at the 5minute mark, and Silfverberg made it a one-goal deficit after scoring at 11:31. Lindholm tied the

# **ISLANDERS 4, HURRICANES 3, OT**

game in the final minute of the third.

Cal Clutterbuck scored a deflected goal with 13.8 seconds left in overtime as New York beat Carolina. Clutterbuck had two goals, with his first tying it 30 seconds into the third period. Nikolay Kulemin had a goal and an assist and Kyle Okposo also scored for the Islanders, who have won two of three over a four-day span. Victor Rask, Jeff Skinner and Jeff McClement scored during a second-period flurry for the Hurricanes. Jean-Francois Berube made 33 saves for New York while Eddie Lack stopped 27 shots for Carolina in a matchup of desperate Metropolitan Division teams. Clutterbuck took a pass from Brock Nelson and unleashed a shot from between the circles that clipped off Carolina defenseman Jaccob Slavin's chest and got past Lack.

# **BRUINS 3, MAPLE LEAFS 1**

Zdeno Chara snapped a 20-game goal drought as Boston ended a season-long fivegame losing streak with a victory over Toronto. The win created some much-needed space in the Eastern Conference playoff race for Boston, currently third in the Atlantic Division with 88 points and now three points up on Detroit. Patrice Bergeron and Matt Beleskey also scored for the Bruins. Ben Smith found the back of the net for the Leafs. Tuukka Rask made 25 saves, topping Jonathan Bernier, who gave up two goals on 32 shots.

# **WILD 4, AVALANCHE 0**

Zach Parise scored twice and Devan Dubnyk made 29 saves for his 19th NHL shutout as Minnesota beat Colorado in a pivotal game between two teams contending for the final Western Conference playoff spot. Jordan Schroeder also scored and Mikael Granlund added a short-handed goal into an empty net to help the Wild move five points ahead of Colorado for eighth place in the playoff race. Parise remains red hot as he followed up his hat trick on Thursday night with two more goals, including one in the second period of a scoreless contest that sent the Wild on their way to their fifth straight win. This was a crushing blow to the playoff chances of the Avalanche. They have a tougher schedule with all seven of their remaining games against teams headed to the postseason. The Wild play three of their final six contests against teams with no postseason shot.

# **RANGERS 5, CANADIENS 2**

Chris Kreider had two goals and an assist as New York beat Montreal. Derick Brassard had a goal and two assists for the Rangers and J.T. Miller and Derek Stepan also scored. In his first game at the Bell Centre, Rangers backup goaltender Antti Raanta made 24 saves for his 10th win of the season. Lars Eller and Phillip Danault had goals for Montreal. Mike Condon stopped 14 of 19 shots before being pulled in the second intermission. Ben Scrivens made four saves in the third. The Rangers beat Montreal for the first

# PREDATORS 5, BLUE JACKETS 1

time since Nov. 23, 2014.

Shea Weber and James Neal each had a goal and an assist to lead Nashville over Columbus. Mattias Ekholm, Craig Smith and Calle Jarnkrok also scored for the Predators, who have won five of six. Roman Josi had three assists and has 44 this season, setting a franchise record for a defenseman. Pekka Rinne made 18 saves. Nashville is 32-5-4 at home against Columbus. Boone Jenner had the lone goal for the Jackets, who have lost three of four.

# **SABRES 3, JETS 2**

Sam Reinhart tied the game and then set up Jack Eichel's go-ahead goal 4:07 into the third period, rallying Buffalo over Winnipeg. The loss mathematically eliminated the Jets from playoff contention in a matchup of teams out of the postseason picture. The rebuilding Sabres drew on their youth movement, which produced all three goals. Newly signed forward Hudson Fasching rounded out the scoring. Nikolaj Ehlers and Andrew Copp scored for the Jets, who squandered a chance to win three straight for the first time this season. — AP

# **NHL Results/Standings**

Toronto 1, Boston 3; MontrÈal 2, NY Rangers 5; Ottawa 3, Anaheim 4 (OT); Tampa Bay 2, Florida 5; Washington 0, St. Louis 4; Carolina 3, NY Islanders 4 (OT); Calgary 1, Chicago 4; Nashville 5, Columbus 1; Arizona 2, Philadelphia 1; Los Angeles 6, Edmonton 4; Detroit 2, Pittsburgh 7; San Jose 2, Dallas 4; Colorado 0, Minnesota 4; Buffalo 3, Winnipeg 2.

	East	ern Co	nfere	nce				Wes	tern Co	onfere	nce			
	At	lantic I	Divisio	on				Pa	acific D	ivisio	n			
	W	L	OT	GF	GΑ	PTS	Dallas	45	22	9	247	218	99	
Florida	42	24	9	216	184	93	St. Louis	45	22	9	203	185	99	
Tampa Bay	43	27	5	211	182	91	Chicago	43	25	7	209	186	93	
Boston	40	28	8	222	207	88	Nashville	39	23	13	210	190	91	
Detroit	37	27	11	192	206	85	Minnesota	37	28	11	206	189	85	
Ottawa	34	33	9	217	234	77	Colorado	38	33	4	200	212	80	
	34	36	6	201	221	74				-				
										_			00	
Toronto					217	65	Los Angeles					175	95	
	Metro	opolita	n Div	ision			3			_				
Washington	53	16	5	232	174	111								
NY Rangers	43	24	8	217	196	94				_				
Pittsburgh	41	25	8	211	184	90	Arizona	34	34	7	197	221	75	
NY Islanders	40	25	9	208	192	89	Calgary	31	38	6	205	238	68	
Philadelphia	36	25	13	193	197	85	Vancouver	27	34	13	169	214	67	
New Jersey	36	31	8	169	190	80	Edmonton	30	41	7	193	232	67	
Carolina	32	28	15	183	204	79	Note: Overtime	e losses	(OT) w	orth 1	pt an	d not ii	nclude	b
Columbus	30	37	8	194	233	68	in loss column	(L).						
	Tampa Bay Boston Detroit Ottawa MontrÈal Buffalo Toronto  Washington NY Rangers Pittsburgh NY Islanders Philadelphia New Jersey Carolina	Florida 42 Tampa Bay 43 Boston 40 Detroit 37 Ottawa 34 Montrèal 34 Buffalo 31 Toronto 27 Metro Washington 53 NY Rangers 43 Pittsburgh 41 NY Islanders 40 Philadelphia 36 New Jersey 36 Carolina 32	NY Rangers	Atlantic Division           W         L         OT           Florida         42         24         9           Tampa Bay         43         27         5           Boston         40         28         8           Detroit         37         27         11           Ottawa         34         33         9           Montrèal         34         36         6           Buffalo         31         34         10           Toronto         27         36         11           Metropolitan Div           Washington         53         16         5           NY Rangers         43         24         8           Pittsburgh         41         25         8           NY Islanders         40         25         9           Philadelphia         36         25         13           New Jersey         36         31         8           Carolina         32         28         15	Florida 42 24 9 216 Tampa Bay 43 27 5 211 Boston 40 28 8 222 Detroit 37 27 11 192 Ottawa 34 33 9 217 MontrEal 34 36 6 201 Buffalo 31 34 10 179 Toronto 27 36 11 181  **Metropolitan Division** Washington 53 16 5 232 NY Rangers 43 24 8 217 Pittsburgh 41 25 8 211 NY Islanders 40 25 9 208 Philadelphia 36 25 13 193 New Jersey 36 31 8 169 Carolina 32 28 15 183	National	National N	National	Nation	Note: Overtime   Pacific Display   Pacific Dis	Nahington   Samples   Sa	National N	National Properties	National Pacific   National Pa



**Kell Brook** 

EL SHERBINI MAKES HISTORY FOR

EGYPT WITH BRITISH OPEN WIN

Nour El Sherbini (right) in action.

# CAMEROON AND MOROCCO CLOSER TO NATIONS CUP QUALIFICATION

came from behind on Saturday to take a giant step towards African Nations Cup qualification and Morocco are also on course for the finals after making a winning start under new coach Herve

Youssef El Arabi converted a 26thminute penalty as Morocco won 1-0 at Cape Verde Islands, the leading African team in the world rankings, to go three

100 percent record.

Renard, who has won two of the last three Nations Cup titles, was appointed Badou Ezaki's successor last month.

Leaders Cameroon maintained a fivepoint advantage over third-placed South Africa in Group M after the two former champions slugged it out for a 2-2 draw

Nicolas N'koulou scored the second

JOHANNESBURG: Cameroon twice points clear in Group F as they kept up a for Cameroon, playing their first game Seychelles. Jonathan Pitroipa's penalty under new coach Hugo Broos, after Hlompho Kekana had put South Africa 2-1 up early in the second period with a remarkable effort from inside his own half. Saturday's ties, marking the halfway point of qualifying for the 2017 finals in Gabon, also yielded victories for Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Senegal and small Indian Ocean island nations Mauritius and

handed Burkina Faso a 1-0 win over Uganda and a share of top spot in Group D alongside their opponents

Democratic Republic of Congo are first in Group B after beating Angola 2-1 in front of 90,000 fans in Kinshasa thanks to a first-half penalty by Cedric Bakambu and a second-half scorcher from substitute Elia Meschack.

Angola replied with a late penalty.

Senegal have a 100 percent record after overcoming Niger 2-0 in Dakar with goals from Mohamed Diame and Oumar Niasse while Group K rivals Namibia triumphed 3-1 in Burundi. Mauritius beat Rwanda 1-0 and Seychelles also had a rare victory, 2-0 at home to Lesotho.

Qualifiers continue on Sunday through until Tuesday by which time four of the six rounds of preliminaries will have been completed.—Reuters

# ROONEY FACES BATTLE TO REGAIN ENGLAND PLACE AFTER BERLIN WIN

**LONDON:** Outstanding performances by three attacking players in England's 3-2 comeback win over Germany on Saturday has sparked renewed debate about where injured captain Wayne Rooney fits in for the Euro 2016 finals

After Roy Hodgson's team fell 2-0 behind to the world champions in Berlin, the Premier League's two leading scorers this season, Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane and Leicester City's Jamie Vardy, brought England level with superb goals.

Many observers, including Germany's former World Cup-winning captain Lothar Matthaeus, made teenager Dele Alli the man of the match in what Hodgson called his best night as England manager.

Alli, 19, played in the 'No.10' role just behind the main striker, which is arguably Rooney's most effective position.

When playing as a lone striker, the Manchester United captain has often looked isolated and become frustrated by a lack of involvement, tending to drop too deep to seek the ball.

Before injuring a knee against Sunderland on Feb. 13 Rooney was on a good run, but still has only seven league goals this season-like Alli-compared to



**Wayne Rooney** 

**WASHINGTON:** The pressure is on coach

Jurgen Klinsmann and the United States as

they host Guatemala tomorrow aiming to

bounce back from an embarrassing 2-0

defeat in Guatemala City in 2018 World Cup

Klinsmann blamed "lack of focus" for the

defeat in Guatemala City, which left the

United States in third place in Group C in

the fourth round of qualifying in North and

Central America and the Caribbean (CON-

CACAF). Guatemala outplayed the visitors

throughout and took advantage of lethar-

of last year's semi-final Gold Cup exit and

Confederations Cup playoff defeat,

puzzling lineup choices as a contributing

Matt Besler, John Brooks and Fabian

Johnson, started Geoff Cameron at full-

back rather in the more central role he

with Sunderland, started in midfield and

DeAndre Yedlin, who plays at right-back

But plenty of pundits pointed to his own

Klinsmann, juggling after injuries to

appeared unhappy with his team's effort.

Klinsmann, already criticized in the wake

gic US defending to score both goals.

qualifying.

factor.

often plays for Stoke.

Kane's 21 and Vardy's 19. "I am a big fan of Wayne Rooney, but today we didn't miss him in the game," Matthaeus said during live television coverage.

### SURPRISE PACKAGE

Geoff Hurst, whose hat-trick won England the 1966 World Cup final against West Germany, believes Vardy could be a surprise package in the European Championship finals in France.

"He's come from nowhere, a very good level-headed guy who's very sensible, very intelligent," Hurst told the BBC on Sunday.

"Either Harry Kane or Vardy definitely deserve their place with the season they've had. "And Alli has made an impact not just at club level but in internationals."

Under-achievers at recent international tournaments, England have often been criticised for taking players who were not 100 per cent fit-including Rooney at the 2006 World Cup.

Trevor Brooking, the FA's director of football development from 2004-14, told the BBC the most important thing for Rooney was to be fully fit this time.

"The starting point is get himself fit because he's not an automatic choice to come back in, with the side as they have done without him," he said. "He's not quite cracked tournaments for England.

### **WARM-UP GAMES**

"You've got three warm-up games in May and June and Wayne's got to prove he's worth his place," added Brooking.

"It's very tempting to have Kane and Alli as automatic choices if they stay fit and continue playing like they are. Then you've got the option to bring Jamie Vardy on."

With 51 international goals, Rooney is England's record scorer and his 109 appearances make him the country's fourth most capped player. Solutions to the selection dilemma could include playing him on the left of the midfield three, where he has sometimes operated for United, or dropping Alli deeper, which might limit the Tottenham man's effectiveness.

Suddenly, however, the prospect of Rooney catching Steven Gerrard (114 caps) and David Beckham (115), let alone goalkeeper Peter Shilton (125) looks less than a formality. — Reuters

Mix Diskerud was in an unfamiliar defen-

sive midfield role. "I think it was a lack of

focus, concentration, and wrong decisions,"

Klinsmann said. "We have to take responsi-

bility for it, every one of us, coaches, play-

ers, and move on and get it done on

Tuesday. "We always said that World Cup

qualifying is a long road, a tricky road, a dif-

ward again when they host Guatemala in

Columbus, Ohio, needing a win to gain

ground on group leaders Trinidad and

Tobago, who with seven points lead

Guatemala by one-and are heavy favorites

hosting winless St. Vincent and the

Grenadines on Tuesday. In other matches

Tuesday, Group A leaders Mexico go for a

fourth win in as many matches when they

host Canada on the heels of their 3-0 victo-

rv in Vancouver on Friday. Honduras, bot-

tom of Group A, will try to gain ground

Jamaica and Panama host Haiti. The top

two teams from each of the three groups

advance to the final six-nation round of

In Group B, leaders Costa Rica host

when they host El Salvador.

qualifying. — AFP

They'll get a chance to start moving for-

KLINSMANN, USA UNDER SCRUTINY

AHEAD OF GUATEMALA REMATCH

ficult road."



In Berlin, a minute's silence was observed in memory of the victims of the Brussels terror attacks, with both sets of players wearing black armbands in honour of Dutch great Johan Cruyff who passed away on Thursday at the age of 68. Toni Kroos gave Joachim Loew's men a 43rd-minute lead at the Olympic Stadium with a crisp left-footed drive that beat Jack Butland, who was then immediately stretchered off with a leg injury, at his near post. After seeing a first-half effort incorrectly ruled out for offside, Mario Gomez doubled Germany's advantage on 57 minutes by heading home a Sami Khedira cross for his first international goal in almost four years. But Harry Kane halved the deficit four minutes later as the Tottenham striker produced a piece of skill befitting Cruyff to fire beyond a help-

less Manuel Neuer.

England should have gone ahead after Vardy pounced on a loose pass inside the Germany area, only for Dele Alli to blaze over with the goal gaping. But Dier ensured Roy Hodgson's side weren't left to rue that miss as the Tottenham midfielder powered home a header from Jordan Henderson's corner in the around. "We played brilliant today. I thought

we fully deserved the win," Kane told ITV.

Austria co-hosted the 2008 finals with

In Vienna, Marcel Koller's side defeated an Albania team heading to their first major tournament courtesy of early strikes from Marc Janko and Martin Harnik, with Ermir Lenjani

Hungary will also travel to France in June after a 30-year finals absence, and Balazs Dzsudzsak struck 11 minutes from time in Budapest to cancel out Mario Mandzukic's first-half opener in a 1-1 draw with Croatia. —AFP



BERLIN: England's Harry Kane, left, is challenged by Germany's Jonathan Tah during a friendly soccer match between Germany and England in Berlin, Germany, Saturday. — AP

# ENGLAND STUN GERMANY, RUSSIA, POLAND CRUISE

PARIS: Eric Dier scored a dramatic stoppagecame tournament newcomers Albania 2-1.

Substitute Jamie Vardy made an immediate impact after replacing Danny Welbeck, with the Leicester City forward superbly flicking home Nathaniel Clyne's right-wing cross on 74

91st minute to complete a remarkable turn-

"We had a lot of chances that on another day we probably could have scored two more. We're all buzzing. We never gave in and what a night." Earlier Russia, who will face England in their opening match of the European Championship, cruised to a 3-0 victory over Lithuania in Moscow with goals from Fedor Smolov, Aleksandr Golovin and Denis Glushakov. Poland have again been drawn alongside title frontrunners Germany at this summer's finals, having already faced them in qualifying, and strolled to a morale-boosting 5-0 demolition of Finland in Wroclaw. Rennes midfielder Kamil Grosicki and Verona winger Pawel Wszolek both netted twice apiece with Filip Starzynski also on target as star striker Robert Lewandowski came on for the final 27

Switzerland and booked their place at this year's edition after dropping just two points during qualifying in a group that also featured Sweden and Russia.

pulling one back for the visitors.

# POLICE FIRE TEAR GAS AS GUINEA-BISSAU STUN KENYA

JOHANNESBURG: Kenyan police fired tear gas to disperse protesting spectators after a stunning 1-0 home defeat by minnows Guinea-Bissau yesterday in a 2017 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier. Trouble erupted at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi when the visitors snatched a late lead through a disputed Sanchez Semedo goal. Harambee Stars players and supporters believed the ball did not cross the line and TV replays were inconclusive.

Play was temporarily halted by the Zimbabwean referee and Kenya are set to be punished by the African Football Confederation (CAF). Victory completed a double over Kenya for traditional whipping boys Guinea-Bissau, ranked 18 places lower in Africa, after a home 1-0 win four days ago.

Gaining maximum points lifted the team from the Portuguese-speaking West African country to the top of Group E, one point ahead of co-favourites Congo and Zambia, who drew 1-1 in Brazzaville.

The match produced the same result and the same scorers as the first meeting in Zambia last Wednesday.

Both goals came after goalmouth scrambles with Jordan Massengo giving Congo an early second-half lead and Winston Kalengo equalising. Zambia almost won at the death with a Christopher Katongo shot deflected on to the roof of the net.

Guinea-Bissau have seven points with two qualifying rounds to come in June and September, Congo and Zambia six each and Kenya one. All group winners are guaranteed places at the 2017 tournament in Gabon, but just the best two of 11 runners-up in the four-team groups join them. The withdrawal of cash-strapped Chad Sunday after three consecutive defeats has reduced Group G to three teams, meaning only one from Egypt, Nigeria and Tanzania can make it.

Egypt have four points, Nigeria two and Tanzania one in the revised standings ahead of a Tuesday clash between the Pharaohs and Super Eagles in Alexandria.

Should record seven-time African champions Egypt win, Nigeria will be eliminated and miss the finals for the third time in four editions. Ghana, runners-up to Ivory Coast in the last Cup of Nations, surrendered a perfect 2017 qualifying record when held 0-0 by Mozambique in Maputo. A sleep-inducing affair produced hardly any clearcut chances with both teams showing the effects of having to play twice in four days.

Botswana avenged a midweek Group D loss in the Comoros by winning 2-1 in Francistown and Benin went top of Group C by trouncing South Sudan 4-1 in Cotonou. —AFP



BRAZZAVILLE: Congolese defender Arnold Davy Bouka Moutou (L) and Congolese midfielder Sagesse Babele (R) try to contrast Zambian left winger Lubambo Musonda during the 2017 Africa Cup Nations qualification football match between Congo and Zambia at the Kintele Stadium in Brazzaville, yesterday. — AFP



HERNING: Denmark's Pierre Emile Hoejbjerg (L) and Ragnar Sigurdsson of Iceland vie for the ball during the friendly football match Denmark vs Iceland in Herning, Denmark. — AP

Murray gets on the ball to advance at Miami Open



Rooney faces battle to regain England place after Berlin win



MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016

AFGHANISTAN'S STANIKZAI HAILS HISTORIC WIN OVER WINDIES

Page 1



MOHALI: India's MS Dhoni, left, and Virat Kohli run between the wickets during their ICC World Twenty20 2016 cricket match against Australia in Mohali, India, yesterday. — AP

# KOHLI CARRIES INDIA TO WORLD T20 SEMIS

**MOHALI:** Virat Kohli smashed a masterful 82 to guide India to a six-wicket win against Australia in their final World Twenty20 Super 10 game yesterday and set up a semi-final against West Indies in Mumbai.

Kohli resurrected India with his unbeaten 51-ball knock from a seemingly tricky position as the hosts sprinted home in the end with five balls to spare.

"That performance certainly has to be in my top three but probably it is top right now because I'm a bit emotional," said Kohli. "A lot was riding on us playing at home and with the crowd you want to give them as much entertainment as possible." India's bowlers pulled Australia back from a blistering start to restrict them to 160 for six wickets after Australia won the

toss and opted to bat.

Hosts India, inaugural World T20 champions in 2007, and reigning 50-over title holders Australia had won two matches each, with their only loss coming against New Zealand in the Super 10 stage. New Zealand face England in the other semifinal. India needed 39 from the last three overs when Kohli decided to show his class which has earned him accolades as one of the world's best current batsmen.

He smashed James Faulkner, who took Australia's best T20 figures during a five-wicket haul in the last match, for two fours and a six as the left-arm paceman leaked 19 runs.

Kohli then hit Nathan Coulter-Nile for four boundaries in the

next over to bring down India's target to just four runs off the final six balls with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni finishing it off with another four off Faulkner.

Earlier, Australia's Aaron Finch (43) and Usman Khawaja (26) smashed the bowlers to all corners of the ground after Smith decided to bat on a pitch that was used for the women's game between India and West Indies earlier yesterday.

Left-handed Khawaja's first six scoring shots were all boundaries, four of them coming against paceman Jasprit Bumrah in one over, with Australia racing past 50 before the completion of the fourth over.

Finch, Australia's captain in the format before he was replaced by Smith shortly before the tournament, then launched into India's bowling mainstay Ravichandran Ashwin, hitting the off-spinner for two consecutive sixes over long-on.

But some smart bowling from left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja and part-timers Yuvraj Singh and Hardik Pandya, who picked up two wickets, in the middle overs halted Australia's progress as they struggled to hit the boundaries.

Dangerman Glenn Maxwell (31) took his time at the crease but got out just as he started opening his arms. Wicketkeeper Peter Nevill smashed Pandya for a four and a six off the last two balls as Australia, yet to win the World T20 title, took 15 runs in their final over to ensure India had to score more than eight runs an over in their chase. — Reuters

# **SCOREBOARD**

MOHALI, India: Scoreboard of the Australia and India World Twenty20 match at the Punjab Cricket Association

10

# Australia: Usman Khawaja c Dhoni b Nehra 26 Aaron Finch c Dhawan b Pandya 43 David Warner st Dhoni b Ashwin 6 Steve Smith c Dhoni b Singh 2 Glenn Maxwell b Bumrah 31 Shane Watsonnot out 18 James Faulkner c Kohli b Pandya

Extras (lb2, w11, nb1) 14
Total (6 wickets, 20 overs) 160
Did not bat: Adam Zampa, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Josh
Hazlewood

Peter Nevill not out

Fall of wickets: 1-54 (Khawaja), 2-72 (Warner), 3-74 (Smith), 4-100 (Finch), 5-130 (Maxwell), 6-145

(Faulkner) Bowling: Nehra 4-0-20-1, Bumrah 4-0-32-1, Ashwin, 2-0-31-1, Jadeja 3-0-20-0, Singh 3-0-19-1, Pandya 4-0-

# India: Rohit Sharma b Watson 12 Shikhar Dhawan c Khawaja b Coulter-Nile 13 Virat Kohli not out 82 Suresh Raina c Nevill b Watson 10

Mahendra Singh Dhoni not out

Extras: (lb3, w2)

Total: (4 wickets; 19.1 overs)

Did not bat: Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja,
Ravichandran Ashwin, Ashish Nehra, Jasprit Bumrah
Fall of wickets: 1-23 (Dhawan), 2-37 (Sharma), 3-49
(Raina), 4-94 (Singh)

21

Bowling: Hazlewood 4-0-38-0, Coulter-Nile 4-0-33-1, Watson 4-0-23-2, Faulkner 3.1-0-35-1, Maxwell 2-0-18-0, Zampa 2-0-11-0.

Result: India win by six wickets.

Yuvraj Singh c Watson b Faulkner

# RAPTORS TIE TEAM MARK WITH 49TH WIN, BEAT PELICANS 115-91

**NEW ORLEANS:** DeMar DeRozan scored 23 points and Patrick Patterson had 16 as the Toronto Raptors ended a two-game losing streak, beating the New Orleans Pelicans 115-91 on Saturday to tie a franchise record with their 49th victory of the season. Toronto was never pushed by the Pelicans, who were down to just nine players on the active roster because of injuries. The Raptors shot 53 percent from the floor and the defense was nearly as good, holding New Orleans to just 43 percent shooting. Norman Powell scored 15 points and Luis Scola 12 for the Raptors, who set the franchise mark for wins last season. With New Orleans' top five scorers on the bench due to injury, Alonzo Gee led the Pelicans with 18 points.

# CAVALIERS 107, KNICKS 93

LeBron James had 27 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double of the season while Kevin Love added 28 points and 12 rebounds as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the New York Knicks. James recorded his 42nd career triple-double and moved within three points of Dominique Wilkins for 12th place on the NBA's scoring list. Even with Kyrie Irving resting, the Cavaliers easily bounced back from a loss in Brooklyn on Thursday, shutting the Knicks down in the first half and pulling away when the lead got down to 10 in the fourth quarter. Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points after a brutal start for the Knicks, who were coming off a home-and-home sweep of Chicago. Kristaps Porzingis had 19.

# HAWKS 112, PISTONS 95

Paul Millsap had 23 points and nine rebounds as the Atlanta Hawks ended the Detroit Pistons' fivegame winning streak. The Hawks have won 13 of their last 16 and moved a game ahead of Miami atop the Southeast Division. Tobias Harris scored 21 points, and Andre Drummond had 19 points and 17 rebounds for Detroit but the Pistons couldn't recover from a poor first quarter. Atlanta never trailed and led by as many as 20 in the fourth. Jeff Teague had 12 points and 12 assists and Kent Bazemore added 17 points for Atlanta.

# NETS 120, PACERS 110

Brook Lopez scored 23 points and Bojan Bogdanovic added 18 as the Brooklyn Nets beat the Indiana Pacers. Sergey Karasev scored a career-high 17 points for the Nets, who took a 104-102 lead on Bogdanovic's 3-pointer with 5:41 remaining in the game. Lopez then scored nine consecutive points for Brooklyn before Bogdanovic nailed a contested 3-pointer to put Brooklyn ahead 116-110 with 39 seconds remaining. Paul George then missed a 3-pointer with 25 seconds remaining, sealing the win for Brooklyn. George finished with 27 points for the Pacers.

# MAGIC 111, BULLS 89

Orlando journeyman center Dewayne Dedmon scored a career-high 18 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while Jason Smith added 14 off the bench as the Magic dealt the Chicago Bulls a blow to their fading playoff hopes. Elfrid Payton scored 15 points and had 10 assists and Evan Fournier added 12 points for the Magic, who ended a six-game losing streak. The Bulls (36-36), fighting to climb back into the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, dropped their third straight game. Taj Gibson, who dominated in the paint, led the Bulls with 16 points on 8-of-9 shooting.

# JAZZ 93, TIMBERWOLVES 84

Gordon Hayward scored 16 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter as the Utah Jazz finished a five-game road trip with victory over the Minnesota

Timberwolves. Hayward had just two points on 1-of-6 shooting in the first three quarters. But he shot 6 of 9 in the fourth and Derrick Favors chipped in with 19 points and five rebounds to get the Jazz a muchneeded victory as they make a push for the playoffs. The Jazz (36-37) entered tied with Dallas for eighth in the Western Conference and have won seven of their last nine. Ricky Rubio scored 23 points on 9-of-12 shooting for the Timberwolves, who missed a chance for their first three-game winning streak since Nov. 27. The Wolves shot 38 percent and fell to 2-12 on the second night of a back-to-back.

# THUNDER 111, SPURS 92

Kevin Durant scored 31 points and Russell Westbrook added 29 to help the Thunder defeat the short-handed San Antonio Spurs. Enes Kanter had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Serge Ibaka added 15 points and eight rebounds for Oklahoma City, which won its seventh straight. It wasn't the late-season showdown that was anticipated when the schedule first came out - the Spurs rested Kawhi Leonard, LaMarcus Aldridge, Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker. David West and Jonathon Simmons each scored 17 points for the Spurs.

# HORNETS 115, BUCKS 91

Nicolas Batum scored 23 of his 25 points in the first half as the Charlotte Hornets used a 3-point barrage to rout the Milwaukee Bucks 115-91. Marvin Williams added 21 points and Kemba Walker had 18 for the Hornets, who won three of four games in the season series. Charlotte connected on 16 of 29 3-pointers against Milwaukee in this one, a 55 percent clip. John Henson had 19 points and Jabari Parker 15 for the Bucks, who have lost five straight and six of seven. Milwaukee made just four of 16 (25 percent) from 3-point range. — AP



NEW ORLEANS: New Orleans Pelicans guard Toney Douglas (16) goes to the basket against Toronto Raptors center Jonas Valanciunas (17) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Saturday. — AP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

**National Agencies Group receives Platinum Prestige Award** 

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strolls the other way

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**Mercedes-Benz** new SUV range

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# JOBS AT PRE-RECESSION LEVELS IN 10 US STATES

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DJIBOUTI: Casual laborers load goods in the port of Djibouti yesterday. The Port of Djibouti is located at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, at the intersection of major international shipping lines connecting Asia, Africa and Europe. —AFP

# MEET CHINA'S MOST AGGRESSIVE DEALMAKER

# Tycoon behind Syngenta bid keeps low profile

**BEIJING:** The tycoon who is offering \$43 billion for Swiss agrochemicals giant Syngenta keeps a low profile, but is China's most aggressive dealmaker. Ren Jianxin, chairman of state-owned ChemChina, is behind most of China's big foreign acquisitions, from Italian tire brand Pirelli to Norwegian chemical supplier Elkem and KraussMaffei, a German industrial machinery maker.

Since 2010, Ren has splashed out an eye-popping \$63.9 billion on foreign assets, some 60 percent more than the No 2 Chinese buyer, according to Dealogic, a financial data provider. It is unusually ambitious, but Ren is an unusual figure - a private entrepreneur who built an empire by gobbling up more than 100 state-owned enterprises. ChemChina, also known as China National Chemical Corp., already is one of China's biggest companies, with \$45 billion in 2015 revenue. Its 140,000 employees include 48,000 abroad in 140 countries. Its acquisitions reflect the appetite of cash-rich but young Chinese companies for foreign technology and brands. Some want to sharpen their competitive edge at home. Others want to get into more profitable global markets as Chinese economic growth slows.

**Drawing from experience** Chinese acquisitions include

tourism company Club Med and the American cinema chain AMC. Ren, 58, started out by founding a maker of solvents, Bluestar Co, with seven employees in 1984 in the northwestern city of Lanzhou, far from China's eastern industrial heartland. The Pirelli website calls him "the pioneer of China's modern cleaning industry."

Unlike other state industry managers who are career bureaucrats, Ren can draw on that experience to talk to foreign executives, said Andre Loesekrug-Pietri, chairman of A Capital, a private equity fund in Beijing. He said Ren also has recruited a handful of Western executives, bringing in knowledge of foreign business cultures.

At a news conference with Syngenta's president in February, Ren "looked like an investment banker. He talked to reporters. That makes a difference," said Loesekrug-Pietri. "They realize that today, money alone does not buy you love. It's the way you present your strategy that is key."

In the mid-'90s, Ren began taking control of a string of small government chemical producers. The state retained ownership while Ren was given management powers as the Communist Party tried to revive money-losing industries. According to

Swedish automaker Volvo, French news reports, he avoided layoffs by majority stake in Pirelli, ChemChina transferring idle employees to noodle restaurants owned by his company.

In 2004, the party bestowed on Bluestar's patchwork empire the elite status of a national-level state-owned enterprise. Today, it is one of 106 companies controlled directly by the Cabinet, alongside PetroChina Ltd. and China Mobile Ltd.

In another pioneering move, ChemChina sold 20 percent of a subsidiary, China National Bluestar Group, to US private equity fund Blackstone Group for \$600 million in 2007. The company said it was the first direct foreign investment in a Chinese stateowned enterprise. Ren lacks the fame of e-commerce pioneer Jack Ma of Alibaba Group or of Wang Jianlin, the Wanda Group chairman who agreed in January to pay \$3.5 billion for Hollywood film studio Legendary

Entertainment. Last month, Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper called Ren the "mystery man" behind ChemChina. He "may be the most important dealmaker you've never heard of," the newspaper said. Abroad, Ren's buying spree began in 2006 with Adisseo, a French maker of food additives, and Qenos, an Australian supplier of polyethylene. ChemChina bought France's Rhodia Global Silicone the next year, becoming the No. 3 producer of organic silicon.

In 2011, China National Bluestar Group paid \$2 billion for Elkem, a maker of silicon and carbon parts. In the United States, ChemChina has so far avoided major acquisitions. But China National Bluestar Group has manufacturing, sales or research sites in California, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and South Carolina. The company reported \$2.4 billion in US revenues last year.

# Premium brands

ChemChina's approach shows Chinese companies are increasingly willing to pay what it takes to obtain premium brands, instead of bargainshopping and possibly being stuck with underperforming assets. Last year, it stumped up \$7.7 billion for a already has its own tire brand, Aeolus, but it is low-priced and little-known abroad, while Pirelli commands premium prices.

Ren's first offer of 449 Swiss francs (\$460) per share for Syngenta, valuing the company at about \$42 billion, was rejected, according to the South China Morning Post. Citing unidentified sources, it said he raised that to 480 Swiss francs (\$491), which the board endorsed. To pay for it, ChemChina has lined up \$50 billion in lending from Chinese and foreign banks, according to the business magazine Caixin.

ChemChina would gain access to Syngenta's advanced fertilizer and other agrochemical technology at a time when rising Chinese incomes are boosting demand for food, creating new profit opportunities for suppliers. Also, taking on Syngenta could help Ren stay in charge as Beijing carries out plans to cut the total number of major state-owned companies to as few as 53 through mergers. That can end the careers of managers at companies that wind up being absorbed by bigger rivals. "There is a race for size," said Loesekrug-Pietri. "The bigger and more international you are, the bigger the chance you will be the acquirer, rather than the target, in these mergers."

In a possible hurdle to the deal, members of the US Senate agriculture committee called for a review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. Led by the Treasury Department, it looks at possible threats to national security. The lawmakers asked Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew to include the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration in the review.

"We believe that any foreign acquisition of an important US agricultural asset should be reviewed closely for potential risks to our food system," the senators said in a letter Thursday to Lew. They cited possible "consequences for food security, food safety, biosecurity and the highly competitive US farm sector as a whole." — AP

# BANGLADESH ASKS NY FED TO HELP RETRIEVE

**DHAKA:** The new governor of Bangladesh's central bank has sent formal letters to the New York Fed, as well as central bank and money laundering chiefs in the Philippines, asking them to help recover its stolen \$81 million, a senior central bank official said yesterday. The news came as Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said the government was waiting to hear the recommendations of an investigation committee to decide whether the central bank should file a suit against the Fed after one of the biggest cyber heists in history.

Unknown hackers breached the computer systems of Bangladesh Bank in early February and attempted to steal \$951 million from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which it uses for international settlements. Some attempted transfers were blocked, but \$81 million was transferred to accounts in the Philippines belonging to casino operators.

The central bank official told Reuters that Fazle Kabir, who became governor a week ago, had asked the NY Fed chief and the heads of the Philippines central bank and money laundering agency to assist Bangladesh in retrieving the funds. Kabir asked the Fed to investigate if there had been any lapses or whether it had any involvement in the heist, the official said.

Kabir sent separate letters to the ambassador of Bangladesh at the UN headquarters, and its permanent representative, urging them to pursue the NY Fed. The previous central bank governor, Atiur Rahman, resigned earlier this month after details emerged in the Philippines that \$30 million of the money was delivered in cash to a casino junket operator in Manila, while the rest went to two casinos.

"In his letters the new governor sought all kind of help from them to retrieve the stolen money as we are following multiple efforts for the sake of the country," the official said. Last week Bangladesh also formally sought assistance from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to track down the cyber crooks.

Bangladesh has appointed law firms to weigh its options vis-‡-vis the NY Fed. "We will wait till the recommendations of the government-formed investigation committee," Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith told Reuters yesterday, referring to a threemember committee headed by Mohammad Farash Uddin, a former central bank governor. "We will act as per its recommendations." Earlier this month Muhith said Dhaka might resort to suing the Fed to recover the money: "The Fed must take responsibility," he said. — Reuters

# OMAN TO INCREASE AIR TRAFFIC FEES IN STATE REVENUE PUSH

MUSCAT: Oman's Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) will raise fees charged for air traffic through the sultanate, the authority's chief executive Mohammed Al-Zaabi told the official Oman News Agency. The decision is part of a series of steps by Oman to strengthen state finances as it grapples with a big budget deficit caused by low oil prices. In January it cut domestic gasoline price subsidies; earlier this month it raised prices of water for state, commercial and industrial users, and it is about to cut liquefied petroleum gas subsidies for such

users. The new aviation tariff is expected to increase PACA's revenues by more than 25 percent, improving the sector's contribution to the state budget, Zaabi said in a statement. He told Reuters by telephone late on Saturday that the new tariff would be based not merely on the weight of aircraft, as at present, but also on other factors such as distance. "This year we were expecting revenues of 50 million Omani Rials (\$130 million). With the new tariff we expect to add around 30 percent more. We expect another 15 million Rials."—Reuters

# STOLEN MONEY



# AGILITY'S FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR FULL YEAR AND Q4 2015

**KUWAIT:** Agility yesterday announced its 2015 financial results, reporting a net profit of KD 53 million, or 46.41 fils per share, an increase of 5% over the same period in 2014. Revenue for the year stood at KD 1.3 billion. EBITDA stood at KD 100 million.

For fourth quarter 2015, Agility reported a net profit of KD 14 million with an earnings-per-share of 12.44 fils, an increase of 5% over the same period in 2014. Revenue for the quarter stood at KD 322 million and EBITDA at KD 27 million.

### **Board of Directors Recommendation**

The Agility Board of Directors has proposed a dividends distribution of 30% (30 fils per share) for the fiscal year 2015, subject to the approval of the Annual General Meeting. The Board also announced that Agility will pursue a treasury share buyback "program" to repurchase up to 10% of its share capital, in compliance with the rules and the regulations set forth by the CMA and other relevant regulatory authorities.

The Agility Board authorized repurchases, from time to time, at a price the Board believes to be well below the intrinsic value of the company. Agility CEO Tarek Sultan said: "Shareholders' returns are not limited to dividends. They also can be

enhanced through the acquisition of shares by the company. The decision to pursue a buyback program demonstrates our belief that the true value of the company is greater than the current market value and that repurchased shares will be accretive to remaining shareholders."

The buyback program will entail various mechanisms, such as a tender offer or purchases through the open market. The company will make the announcement of the price and the size of the share buyback at the time of the offer.

### **Agility consolidated results**

Sultan said: "Agility made good progress in 2015 but still has a demanding road ahead to make it the leading companv we all desire. In 2015, we were able to generate KD 105 million cash from operations, a 68% improvement from last year. We improved our free cash flow by KD 6 million to reach KD 31 million in 2015, despite challenging economic times. Our longer-term target is to reach an EBITDA of USD 800 million by 2020. Our efforts to define a clearer strategy and improve execution are paying off in stronger customer relationships, an expanding emerging market footprint, a sharper focus, and a more disciplined management approach."

Agility's Global Integrated Logistics (GIL) GIL revenue for 2015 was KD 997 mil-

lion, a 6% decline from 2014. Revenue was affected by challenging and volatile market conditions and by exposure to currency fluctuations. On a constant currency basis, revenue declined by 2%.

GIL net revenue on a constant currency basis improved by 3%, and margins expanded to 25% in 2015 from 23% in 2014. The improvement resulted from continued growth in contract logistics and better performance within the freight forwarding business, particularly ocean freight. Air freight volumes softened towards the end of 2015, but ocean freight volumes and yields improved, driven by better commercial discipline.

"GIL's roadmap remains the same. Its aim is to improve operational performance through technology-driven transformation, stronger commercial performance and better efficiency," Sultan said. "GIL's strategy and improved execution are paying off. The challenge is to further accelerate improvement to deliver results."

### **Agility's Infrastructure Group**

For 2015, revenue for Agility's Infrastructure Group increased 4% to KD 314 million, when compared with 2014. Revenue for Agility's Real Estate business grew 9% from 2014. Agility maintains a strong real estate platform in Kuwait, but is also actively developing holdings in other Gulf countries and Africa.

"Agility has made significant investments in the Infrastructure companies over the last two years in order to ensure the foundation for future growth. We continue to believe in the long-term opportunities that the Infrastructure companies have to tap into niche segments in emerging markets." Sultan said.

Agility's Real Estate business expects to open its first logistics and distribution park in Accra, Ghana shortly. National Aviation Services, Agility's aviation services company, recently secured a contract to provide services in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. UPAC, which specializes in real estate development and facilities management, has entered into a partnership to develop the Reem Mall on Abu Dhabi's Reem Island.

# Financial Performance for 2015

 Agility's net profit stood at KD 53 million, a 5% increase from KD 51 million in 2014. EPS was 46.41 fils, compared with 44.19 fils a year earlier.

• EBITDA stood at KD 100 million, virtually flat from 2014.

• Agility's revenue for 2015 stood at KD 1.3 billion, a decrease of 4% from KD 1.4 billion in 2014. Net revenue increased 4%

- from 2014. • GIL's revenue stood at KD 997 million, a 2% decrease from 2014 if adjusted for
- currency impact. • Infrastructure's revenue was KD 314 million compared with KD 303 million in 2014. a 4% increase from 2014.
- Agility enjoys a healthy balance sheet with a net cash position of KD 33 million as of Dec. 31, 2015 (KD 60 million in 2014) and free cash flow of KD 31 million for full year 2015 (KD 25 million in 2014).

### Closing

"For 2016, we see a mixed picture clouded by slower growth in emerging markets, ongoing sluggishness in the Eurozone, geopolitical instability in various parts of the world, and the continuation of low oil prices. Given those conditions, we know we have to stay focused and disciplined," Sultan said. "But in the medium to longer term, we believe in our ability to grow our market share and footprint in emerging markets to serve growing consumer demand. I am confident in our strategy and our ability to meet our 2020 EBIT-DA target of \$800 million."





# NATIONAL AGENCIES GROUP RECEIVES PLATINUM PRESTIGE AWARD FROM KIA

**KUWAIT:** KIA Motors Corporation has honored National Agencies Group, a subsidiary of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Al-Mutawa Group of Companies and the Authorized KIA Motors Distributor in Kuwait, with the renowned Platinum Prestige Award, placing it among the top 3% of KIA Dealerships& Business Partners available in 172 countries around the world.

The award, which is the highest recognition of its kind made available to KIA distributors, assesses the customer satisfaction experience in four major areas: the distributor's facilities, management, operations and performance. The assessment is carried out by KIA Motors Corporation in Korea using a

comprehensive evaluation method. "The Platinum Prestige Award is a great

source of pride for National Agencies Group. This honor would not have been possible without the confidence placed in us by our valued customers and the relentless effort of our team, who is committed to upholding the high service standards set by KIA Motors Corporation," said Mr. Ahmed Al-Mutawa, Chairman &CEO of Abdulaziz Al-Ali Group of Companies.

He added: "We know from experience that reaching the top is easy. The real challenge is staying there, and with God's help, we will work tirelessly to find new ways to continuously enhance the service experience for every KIA customer."

The aim of the Platinum Prestige Award is to motivate partners around the world to ensure excellence at every point of interac-

tion with customers, in-line with the KIA Motors slogan; "The Power to Surprise". For years, KIA Motors Corporation has been focused on consolidating its leadership position amongst automotive manufacturers by hiring top talent in the fields of car design, engineering and technology. As a result, over the past decade, KIA has become associated with distinctive design, excellent quality and outstanding perform-

National Agencies Group transmitted this success to the local market by placing KIA Motors as the 3rd best-selling automotive brand by adopting a strategy of putting the customer first, employing a highly-professional team & continuously upgrading its facilities.

# DEAL REACHED TO TAKE CALIFORNIA MINIMUM WAGE TO \$15 AN HOUR

**SACRAMENTO:** California legislators and labor unions have reached a tentative agreement that will take the state's minimum wage from \$10 to \$15 an hour, a state senator said, a move that would make for the largest statewide minimum in the nation by far. "This is not a done deal," Sen. Mark Leno, a Democrat from San Francisco, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "Everyone's been operating in good faith and we hope to get it through the Legislature."

Leno said if an agreement is finalized, it would go before the Legislature as part of his minimum-wage bill that stalled last year. If the Legislature approves a minimum-wage package, it would avoid taking the issue to the ballot. One union-backed initiative has already qualified for the ballot, and a second, competing measure is also trying to qualify.

Leno did not confirm specifics of the agreement, but most proposals have the wage increasing about a dollar per year until it reaches \$15 per hour. The Los Angeles Times, which first reported the deal, said the wage would rise to \$10.50 in 2017, to \$11 an hour in 2018, and one dollar per year to take it to \$15 by 2022. Businesses with fewer than 25 employees would have an extra year to comply.

At \$10 an hour, California already has one of the highest minimum wages in the nation along with Massachusetts. Only Washington, DC, at \$10.50 per hour is higher. The hike to \$15 would make it the highest statewide wage in the nation by far, though raises are in the works in other states that might change by the time the plateau is reached in



LOS ANGELES: In this Tuesday, July 21, 2015 file photo, workers hold a rally in Los Angeles in support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' proposed minimum wage ordinance. — AP

# EGYPT UP AFTER CENTRAL BANK DOLLAR INJECTION

**DUBAI:** Egypt's stock market edged up in early ing 50 minutes of trade, buoyed by property trade yesterday after central bank Governor Tarek Amer said he had pumped \$22 billion into the banking system to clear goods piled at ports, while Saudi Arabia's bourse fell on weak cement and telecommunications shares.

Amer's remarks on Saturday were taken as a positive sign that authorities were taking aggressive action to ease Egypt's hard currency shortage, though he did not give details of where he was obtaining the money or how he would resolve the shortage in the long term. The Egyptian index climbed 0.4 percent in the opendevelopers such as Emaar Misr, which added 2.6 percent.

But Arabian Cement dropped 2.2 percent after reporting a 26 percent fall in 2015 consolidated net profit. Commercial International Bank (CIB) slipped a further 1.1 percent; it had dropped 1.3 percent on Thursday after the central bank placed a time limit on the tenures of chief executives of commercial lenders, a decision which is expected to force managers including CIB's Hisham Ezz al-Arab to resign their positions. — Reuters

# **EXCHANGE RATES**

# AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

**GCC COUNTRIES** 

**ARAB COUNTRIES** 

2.160

	ASIAN COUNTRIES
Japanese Yen	2.680
Indian Rupees	4.554
Pakistani Rupees	2.892
Srilankan Rupees	2.077
Nepali Rupees	2.846
Singapore Dollar	222.390
Hongkong Dollar	403.540
Bangladesh Taka	3.862
Philippine Peso	6.549
Thai Baht	8.623

audi Riyal	80.816
atari Riyal	83.249
mani Riyal	787.162
ahraini Dinar	804.840
IAE Dirham	82.512

Egyptian Pound - Cash

Syrian Lira

### Egyptian Pound - Transfer 34.501 Yemen Riyal/for 1000 1.414 Tunisian Dinar 150.320 Jordanian Dinar 427.010 Lebanese Lira/for 1000 2.019

### Morocco Dirham 31.552 **EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

302.900
341.070
431.330
229.990
106.280
313.240
230.510
301.700

	GOLD
20 Gram	246.640
10 Gram	126.240
5 Gram	63.970

# **UAE EXCHANGE CENTRE WLL**

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

# DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.050
Canadian Dollar	230.175
Sterling Pound	429.250
Euro	339.545
Swiss Frank	296.880
Bahrain Dinar	801.730
UAE Dirhams	82.750
Qatari Riyals	83.695

Saudi Riyais	81.490
Jordanian Dinar	426.905
Egyptian Pound	34.030
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.075
Indian Rupees	4.536
Pakistani Rupees	2.887
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippines Pesso	6.536
Cyprus pound	577.215
Japanese Yen	3.675
Syrian Pound	2.375
Nepalese Rupees	3.835
Malaysian Ringgit	75.950
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.900
Thai Bhat	9.560
Turkish Lira	105.020

# BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

DATIKAIN	EXCHANGE C	JMPANI	
CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL	
Duitiel Deve	•	0.421066	
British Pound	0.422066	0.431066	
Czech Korune	0.004503	0.016503	
Danish Krone	0.041328	0.046328	
Euro	0.333313	0.341313	
Norwegian Krone	0.031739	0.036939	
Romanian Leu	0.086889	0.086889	
Slovakia	0.009030	0.019030	
Swedish Krona	0.032470	0.037470	
Swiss Franc	0.304108	0.314308	
Turkish Lira	0.099864	0.110164	
	Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.219557	0.231057	
New Zealand Dollar	0.196927	0.206427	
	America		
Canadian Dollar	0.222749	0.231249	
US Dollars	0.298800	0.303300	

### **US Dollars Mint** 0.299300 0.303300 0.003444 0.004018 Bangladesh Taka 0.045208 0.048708

Chinese Yuan Hong Kong Dollar 0.036981 0.039731 Indian Rupee 0.004316 0.004706 Indonesian Rupiah 0.000019 0.000025 0.002601 0.002781 Japanese Yen Kenyan Shilling 0.003106 0.003106 0.000249 0.000264 Korean Won Malaysian Ringgit 0.071174 0.077174 Nepalese Rupee 0.002871 0.003041 Pakistan Rupee 0.002686 0.002966 0.006433 0.006713 Philippine Peso 0.000067 0.000073 Sierra Leone Singapore Dollar 0.217777 0.223777 South African Rand 0.013612 0.022112 Sri Lankan Rupee 0.001714 0.002294 Taiwan 0.009184 0.009364 Thai Baht 0.008266 0.008816

IIIai baiit	0.006200	0.000010
	Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.796879	0.804879
Egyptian Pound	0.030721	0.035839
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000195	0.000255
Jordanian Dinar	0.423217	0.430717
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020670	0.044670
Nigerian Naira	0.001249	0.001884
Omani Riyal	0.780333	0.786013
Qatar Riyal	0.082488	0.083701
Saudi Riyal	0.079887	0.080837
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.146100	0.154100
Turkish Lira	0.099864	0.110164
UAE Dirhams	0.081487	0.082636
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449



Eram Group CMD Dr. Siddeek Ahmed along with Ambassadors H.E. Prof. in Law. Nguyen Hong Thao (Vietnam), H.E. Dr. Bakhromjon Aloev (Uzbekistan), H.E. Dr. Zubaydullo Zubaydov (Tajikistan), H.E. Mlondi S. Dlamini (Swaziland), H.E. Prof. Dr. S. Enkhbat (Mongolia), H.E. Mzolisa Bona (S. Africa), Eduardo Nino (Minister Mexican Embassy), Horace Mtalimanja (First Secretary Malawi), Dr Rashed Al-Adwani (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kuwait), H.E. Kujtim Morina (Albania), Angela Loan (Deputy Head of Mission - Australia), Colonel Thinley Dorji (Bhutan), Ondfej Karan (Deputy Head of Mission - Czech Republic), H.E. Sunil Jain (India), H.E. Phouangkeo Lagsy (Laos).

# ITL World entrenches its leading position with new office in Kuwait



ITL Team with the Ambassadors of Mexico, Australia, Albania, India and Uzbekistan in the newly opened Kuwait office.



ITL team with Eram Group CMD Dr. Siddeek Ahmed.

TL World, a leading travelmanagement company in the region, inaugurated their first office in Kuwait on 21 March at the Safat Center in Kuwait City. The new office was inaugurated by Dr. Siddeek Ahmed the Chairman and Managing Director of Eram Group, the parent company of ITL, in the presence of Ambassadors of Australia, Albania, India, Mexico and Uzbekistan, and country heads of leading airlines in Kuwait.

With the opening of their first office in Kuwait, and their 36th office in the region, ITL World is well on its way to achieving the company's ambitious plans of establishing a chain of fully owned and operated offices across the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Successively rated as the 5th most powerful travelmanagement company in the Middle-East by Arabian Travel News, ITL World has been catering to a wide portfolio of clientele across Asia and the Middle-East since the company's founding over thirty years ago.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to operate in Kuwait and offer ITL World's unique flavor of travel services to clients in both the corporate and leisure segments across Kuwait," said Dr. Ahmed at the inauguration.

A dinner reception to celebrate the inauguration was held later in the evening at the Al Hashemi II ballroom of the Radisson Blu Hotel. The event was attended by ambassadors of India, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Laos, South Albania Swaziland, Africa, and Uzbekistan, the Deputy Minister of Europe Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rashed Al-Adwani, diplomats from Australia, Czech Republic, Malawi, and Bhutan, as well as airline representatives and top management of ITL, media personnel and a large gathering of well-wishers

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ahmed said, "As a leading travel management company with presence across Asia, Middle East and Europe, we value



Dr. Rashid Al Adwani unveiling the Holiday Connoisseur brochure

this opportunity to begin our operations here in Kuwait."

"The Kuwait travel market is known for its high-value clients having distinct and discerning selections when it comes to travel destinations. With our new office in Kuwait offering ITL World's unique blend of travel products and services, we hope to attract clients from both the business and

leisure travel segments," he added. ITL World deploys cuttingdeveloped in-house travel technologies, as well as the industry's leading Global Distribution Systems, so as to facilitate an enhanced 360 degree client experience. Reiterating this, Daniel Naoumovitch, CEO of Sabre Travel Network Middle East, the technology provider for ITL in the

region, noted, "We are proud of our valued partner, ITL's regional and global phenomenal expansion and we are delighted to be part of this success."

"Since our partnership, and their expansion in the region, ITL has proven to be a powerful global player with sharp vision and a successful technology strategy. Their new office launch in Kuwait is another example showing that continuous adoption of technology is one of the main ingredients for steady growth.

We are committed to support ITL throughout their journey and to provide them with the most innovative and effective technologies to further their business goals, deliver high level of services to meet the expectations and diversity of the tech-savvy travelers of today's world and to compete in our fast evolving market place," added Mr. Naoumovitch.

ITL World, which recently inaugurated its Regional Contact Centre in Dubai, has been a preferred partner of several global travel brands and tourism boards in the region, including most recently by globally renowned corporate travel giant - CTM (Corporate Travel Management), which chose ITL World as their partner across the Middle-East.

During the dinner celebration, ITL World also unveiled its industry-leading travel product the 'Holiday Connoisseur', adding it to other valued travel and event management brands under its portfolio, such as the popular 'Miceminds', 'Arabian Experience' and 'EduVoyage' brands.

By establishing a strong presence across the Middle-East and Asia, ITL World is offering a bouquet of premium travel solutions to a wide range of clientele, from government entities and corporate travelers to Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Events (MICE) organizers, as well as to the luxury travel, sports travel, wellness travel, student travel and other niche segments of the travel









# ECB LEADS PARADE, FED STROLLS THE OTHER WAY

LONDON: When Morocco's central bank cut inter- the second month in a row. American exceptionest rates on March 22, it joined a parade of 46 others that have eased monetary policy at least once since the beginning of 2015. Perhaps more trenchantly, it was also the 15th time this year - still less than a quarter old - that a central bank has eased policy in some form. Taiwan and Turkey have since taken that up to 17. The parade is clearly still on the march, with the European Central Bank waving the baton somewhere out in front. The US Federal Reserve, however, is strolling the other way, having raised rates.

The coming week should underline why, in both cases The 19-nation euro zone will release inflation data for March on Thursday and it is expected to show prices fell on an annual basis for

alism should be on display the day after, with U.S. monthly jobs data showing continued, if perhaps not overwhelming, growth.

### Year-on-year inflation

For the euro zone, a Reuters poll shows yearon-year inflation coming in at -0.1 percent, a smaller fall than the -0.3 percent in February, but still an actual fall in prices. While some may argue that this is not real deflation - that is, it is neither deeply embedded nor yet deterring consumers from buying on the grounds that things will get cheaper - it is a far cry from what the European Central Bank wants it to be. The ECB seeks to have inflation running at just below 2.0 percent, something it has not had since early 2013. It is for that reason - as well as the fragility of growth - that the bank this month expanded its money-printing and cut rates.

The impact will for the most part not be seen in Thursday's data, but some are skeptical that anything will change soon, and another fall in prices will do little to encourage a belief that things are on the mend. "Most concerning (in the global outlook) is the renewed deterioration in the inflation outlook in the euro area and Japan," Barclays economist Christian Keller said in a note. "Oil and other transitory factors play a role, but second-round effects and worsening expectations can turn this into a persistent trend, moving the 2 percent inflation targets further out of reach."



ATLANTIC CITY: In this Sept 10, 2014 file photo, job seekers create resumes at the NJ Department of Labor's resume clinic in the Atlantic City Convention Center. Ten US states still have not regained all the jobs they lost in the Great Recession, even after six and a half years of recovery, while many more have seen only modest gains. — AP

# **Jobs and rates**

140,166,185

10.937.506

3,145

The US payroll figure, meanwhile, is expected to come in at 200,000 new jobs which is less than the previous month's 242,000 but still solid in terms of the past six years or so. The issue here is not so much jobs, given that the US unemployment rate is a relatively low 4.9 percent. Rather, it is whether the economic climate is conducive to another Fed interest rate hike.

There have been some mixed messages lately. Fed chair Janet Yellen sounded surprisingly dovish to some after the March 16

rate meeting but since then, other policy makers have been pretty forceful, leading to expectations of at least two more hikes this year. Philadelphia Fed President Patrick Harker, for example, has said his colleagues need to "get on with it" and raise rates again.

How the jobs data plays into that was clear from the Fed's last policy statement on March 16. "A range of recent indicators, including strong job gains, points to additional strengthening of the labor market," it said, adding that inflation had also picked up. The ECB should be so lucky. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report		Global 🚰
Sunday 27 March 2016		•

index	C	nange	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index		-26.43	5,242.02	5,268.45	5,268.28	5,233.24
Weighted Index		-3.35	355.62	358.97	358.88	355.47
KSX 15	▼	-9.76	831.03	840.79	840.45	829.15

				Trades				
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	CI	hange
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	_	0.0
IKARUS	82	77	5,010	386	3	82	_	0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	_	0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	_	0.0
ENERGYH	58	51	208,250	11,179	32	54		1.0
GPI	39.5	38.5	1,447,160	56,742	40	39.0	_	0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	_	0.0
Oil & Gas			1,660,420	68,307	75	796.75	A	4.75
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200		0.0
BPCC	480	470	70,297	33,043	6	470		-10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	_	0.0
ALQURAIN	194	192	372,338	72,107	17	192	_	0.0
Basic Materials			442,635	105,150	23	926.57	7	-6.73
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	375	_	0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	_	0.0
CABLE	320	320	11,936	3,820	5	320		-5.0
SHIP	144	142	140	20	3	142		-2.0
PCEM	1,020	1,020	1,300	1,326	2	1,020	_	0.0
PAPER	420	420	21,000	8,820	1	420	_	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	-	0.0
ACICO	285	275	40,010	11,403	3	275		-15.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	450	_	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	_	0.0
KPAK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	-	0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	100	0.0
NICBM	240	240	5,565	1,336	1	240	_	0.0
EQUIPMENT	52	51	21,200	1,082	3	51	_	0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	_	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	_	0.0
SALBOOKH	69	67	245,750	16.624	25	68		-1.0
AGLTY	485	475	3,925,632	1,876,920	102	485		-15.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	_	0.0
CLEANING	39.5	38.0	4,950	190	5	39.0		0.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	435	_	0.0
KGL	46.0	45.5	40,000	1,835	3	45.5	A	0.5
KCPC	218	202	10,040	2,110	4	218		8.0
HUMANSOFT	710	660	4,505	2,998	3	660		-100.0
NAFAIS	144	144	20,000	2,880	2	144	_	0.0
SAFWAN	260	260	10,885	2,830	2	260		-5.0
GFC	32.0	32.0	500	16	1	32.0		0.5
MAYADEEN	22.5	20.5	11,271,932	245,219	173	22.5		2.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	_	0.0
мтсс	82	81	70,900	5,794	5	82	_	0.0
UPAC	690	690	720	497	1	690		10.0
ALAFCO	216	210	425,260	91,020	28	216		4.0
MUBARRAD	59	59	381,000	22,479	25	59		-5.0
LOGISTICS	66	64	1,389,545	89,832	56	65	*	-1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	_	0.0

MTCC	82	81	70,900	5,794	5	82	1	0.0
UPAC	690	690	720	497	1	690		10.0
ALAFCO	216	210	425,260	91,020	28	216	•	4.0
MUBARRAD	59	59	381,000	22,479	25	59	•	-5.0
LOGISTICS	66	64	1,389,545	89,832	56	65	*	-1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	_	0.0
GCEM	78	77	269,878	20,901	6	77		-2.0
QCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	_	0.0
FCEM	73	71	400,010	28,601	6	73		2.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	97	_	0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	_	0.0
Industrials			18,572,658	2,438,553	465	977.11	▼	-13.64
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	_	0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	_	0.0
PAPCO	104	102	15,983	1,632	6	104	•	-2.0
CATTL	130	130	123,660	16,076	6	130	•	-2.0
DANAH	75	72	623,277	45,374	23	75	•	3.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	_	0.0
FOOD	2,500	2,460	606,839	1,511,987	50	2,500	_	0.0
Consumer Goods	3		1,369,759	1,575,069	85	1071.94	A	3.14
				_		212		_
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	-	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	_	0
YIACO	182	162	200 200	33 33	3	162	*	-10 -11.39
Health Care			200	33	3	935.51	M	-11.39
KCIN	1,020	960	12,000	11,850	6	1,020	_	0
кнот	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	_	0
SULTAN	67	66	25,500	1,684	5	66		-2
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.0	1	0
EYAS	385	385	130	50	1	385	_	0
IFAHR	190	190	10	2	1	190	A	10
OULAFUEL	112	110	29,436	3,258	9	110	-	0
MUNTAZAHAT	83	83	60,000	4,980	2	83		-2
JAZEERA	890	870	414,642	365,468	9	890		10
SOOR	112	112	9,161	1,026	6	112	_	0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	_	0
ALNAWADI	76	76	33,000	2,508	1	76		-1
ALRAI	144	142	6,100	868	3	144	_	0
ZIMAH	53	52	468,500	24,394	27	53	A	1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	_	0
Mezzan	1,100	1,080	816,502	897,583	6	1,100	•	20
Consumer Service	es	Milesee	1,874,981	1,313,671	76	929.95	7	-0.29
7411	250	245	070.050	220 400	40	250		
ZAIN	350	345	970,050	338,488	42	350	*	-5
OOREDOO	1,200	1,100	445	492	2	1,100	*	-80
HITSTELEC	29.0	28.5	733,350	20,943	14	28.5	*	-1
VIVA	990	990	52,595	52,069	53	990	_	0

EQUIPMENT	52	51	21,200	1,082	3	51	_	0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	711111	0.0
GYPSUM			0	0				
	0.0	0.0			0	102	-	0.0
SALBOOKH	69	67	245,750	16,624	25	68		-1.0
AGLTY	485	475	3,925,632	1,876,920	102	485		-15.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	-	0.0
CLEANING	39.5	38.0	4,950	190	5	39.0	A	0.5
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	435	-	0.0
KGL	46.0	45.5	40,000	1,835	3	45.5	A	0.5
KCPC	218	202	10,040	2,110	4	218		8.0
HUMANSOFT	710	660	4,505	2,998	3	660		-100.0
NAFAIS	144	144	20,000	2,880	2	144	_	0.0
SAFWAN	260	260	10,885	2,830	2	260		-5.0
3FC	32.0	32.0	500	16	1	32.0	A	0.5
					173	22.5		
MAYADEEN	22.5	20.5	11,271,932	245,219			A	2.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	800	_	0.0
итсс	82	81	70,900	5,794	5	82	0.777	0.0
JPAC	690	690	720	497	-1	690	A	10.0
LAFCO	216	210	425,260	91,020	28	216		4.0
MUBARRAD	59	59	381,000	22,479	25	59		-5.0
OGISTICS	66	64	1,389,545	89,832	56	65		-1.0
CEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	_	0.0
SCEM	78	77	269,878	20,901	6	77		-2.0
CEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	65	_	0.0
CEM	73	71	400,010	28,601	6	73	A	2.0
KWC	0.0	0.0			0	97		
			0	0			_	0.0
PEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	_	0.0
ndustrials			18,572,658	2,438,553	465	977.11	•	-13.64
	ANTONE							
SH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	-	0.0
SH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	_	0.0
APCO	104	102	15,983	1,632	6	104	•	-2.0
ATTL	130	130	123,660	16,076	6	130	•	-2.0
ANAH	75	72	623,277	45,374	23	75	•	3.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	_	0.0
OOD	2,500	2,460	606,839	1,511,987	50	2,500	_	0.0
Consumer Goods		2,400	1,369,759	1,511,987	85	1071.94	_	3.14
onsumer Goods	•		1,369,759	1,575,069	65	10/1.94		3.14
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	-	0
TC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	-	0
IACO	182	162	200	33	3	162	•	-10
lealth Care			200	33	3	935.51		-11.39
CIN	1,020	960	12,000	11,850	6	1,020	_	0
НОТ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	_	0
BULTAN	67	66	25,500	1,684	5	66		-2
ABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	26.0	2000	0
YAS	385	385	130	50	1	385	_	0
FAHR	190	190	10	2	1	190	A	10
DULAFUEL	112	110	29,436	3,258	9	110	-	0
MUNTAZAHAT	83	83	60,000	4,980	2	83		-2
AZEERA	890	870	414,642	365,468	9	890		10
OOR	112	112	9,161	1,026	6	112	_	0
UTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	_	0
LNAWADI	76	76	33,000	2,508	1	76		-1
							52.07	
LRAI	144	142	6,100	868	3	144	_	0
IMAH	53	52	468,500	24,394	27	53	A	_ 1
JFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	-	0
Mezzan	1,100	1,080	816,502	897,583	6	1,100	<b>A</b>	20
onsumer Servic	es		1,874,981	1,313,671	76	929.95		-0.29
AIN	350	345	970,050	338,488	42	350		-5
OREDOO	1,200	1,100	445	492	2	1,100		-80
IITSTELEC	29.0	28.5	733,350	20,943	14	28.5		-1
/IVA	990	990	52,595	52,069	53	990	_	0
elecommunicati			1,756,440	411,992	111	598.63	•	-9.95
	-115		., 33,110		To to			
IBK	700	680	729,873	502 625	23	680	7	-20
A Marketine	19900000			503,635				
BBK	210	208	101,362	21,109	10	210	*	-2
BK	465	465	10,179	4,733	2	465	*	-20
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	_	0
LMUTAHED	430	425	33,849	14,446	2	430	_	0
(IB	202	200	333,566	66,881	7	200	*	-2
BURG	335	335	219,244	73,447	3	335	-	0
	490	485	1,049,481	513,314	41	490	_	0
FIN	490		113,771	46,931	12	415	_	0
	415	410		102,733	11	202		-2
OUBYAN	415	Thirds -	70000 N COOK CO		150	35.5	A	2
OUBYAN	415 204	202	508,520	360,600				6
OUBYAN UB THMR	415 204 36.0	202 34.0	508,520 10,312,636	360,690		470		6
BOUBYAN AUB THMR VARBABANK	415 204	202	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638	178,372	106	178	A	
BOUBYAN AUB THMR VARBABANK	415 204 36.0	202 34.0	508,520 10,312,636			178 805.45	7	-2.10
BOUBYAN AUB THMR VARBABANK Banks	415 204 36.0 178	202 34.0 172	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119	178,372 1,886,292	106 <b>367</b>	805.45		-2.10
OUBYAN AUB ITHMR VARBABANK Banks	415 204 36.0	202 34.0	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638	178,372	106			
GUBYAN  GUBYAN  AUB  THMR  VARBABANK  Sanks  GINS	415 204 36.0 178	202 34.0 172	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119	178,372 1,886,292	106 <b>367</b>	805.45	*	-2.10
OUBYAN UB ITHMR VARBABANK Banks	415 204 36.0 178	202 34.0 172 335	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119	178,372 1,886,292	106 <b>367</b>	805.45 335	<b>*</b>	-2.10 15
OUBYAN NUB THMR VARBABANK Banks	415 204 36.0 178 335 700 480	34.0 172 335 700 480	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119 50 13,891 30,000	178,372 1,886,292 17 9,724 14,400	106 367 1 1	335 700 480	A -	-2.10 15 0.0 5.0
OUBYAN AUB THMR VARBABANK Banks LINS BINS BINS BINS BINS BINS BINS	335 700 480 102	335 700 480	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119 50 13,891 30,000 1,071	178,372 1,886,292 17 9,724 14,400 109	106 367 1 1 1 2	335 700 480 100	A	-2.10 15 0.0 5.0 -2.0
OUBYAN AUB THMR VARBABANK Sanks LINS LINS LINS VINS VINS LUWAITRE	415 204 36.0 178 335 700 480 102 0.0	335 700 480 100 0.0	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119 50 13,891 30,000 1,071 0	178,372 1,886,292 17 9,724 14,400 109 0	106 367 1 1 1 2 0	335 700 480 100 200	A	-2.10 15 0.0 5.0 -2.0 0.0
OUBYAN AUB THMR VARBABANK Sanks LINS SINS LINS VINS VINS CUWAITRE	415 204 36.0 178 335 700 480 102 0.0 0.0	335 700 480 100 0.0	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119 50 13,891 30,000 1,071 0	178,372 1,886,292 17 9,724 14,400 109 0	106 367 1 1 1 2 0	335 700 480 100 200 50	A	-2.10 15 0.0 5.0 -2.0 0.0
ROUBYAN AUB THMR VARBABANK Sanks KINS BINS KINS KINS KINS KINS KUWAITRE TI VETHAQ	335 700 480 102 0.0 0.0	335 700 480 100 0.0 0.0	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119 50 13,891 30,000 1,071 0 0	178,372 1,886,292 17 9,724 14,400 109 0 0	106 367 1 1 1 2 0 0	335 700 480 100 200 50 40.5	A	-2.10 15 0.0 5.0 -2.0 0.0 0.0
OUBYAN UB THMR VARBABANK JANKS JINS JINS JINS VINS UWAITRE TI	415 204 36.0 178 335 700 480 102 0.0 0.0	335 700 480 100 0.0	508,520 10,312,636 1,017,638 14,430,119 50 13,891 30,000 1,071 0	178,372 1,886,292 17 9,724 14,400 109 0	106 367 1 1 1 2 0	335 700 480 100 200 50	A	-2.10 15 0.0 5.0 -2.0 0.0

becurity	riigii	LOW	Totalite	Tuide (Itte)	110000	Last	- 01	lange
SOKOUK	34.0	33.5	1113693	37,614	28	34.0	A	0.5
KRE	52	51	1,176,097	60,105	24	52		1.0
JRC	0.0	0.0	0	0,105	0	92	_	0.0
NRE	94	91	1,148,838	106,223	27	93		0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	365		0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	560	_	0.0
AREEC	138	138	500	69	1	138	_	-2.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	09	0	51	_	0.0
ARABREC	29.0	28.5	602,000	17,408	6	29.0	_	0.0
		11-5577.55		500000000000000000000000000000000000000	3			PER INC.
ERESCO	50	49.0	710,010	35,150	0	50	<b>A</b>	0.5
MABANEE	0.0	0.0	0	0		870	_	0.0
NJAZZAT	75	71	2,410	172	5	71	*	-4.0
NVESTORS	21.0	20.5	12,798,851	268,159	108	20.5	-	0.0
RC	29.0	28.0	807,534	23,070		28.5	A .	0.5
ALTIJARIA	83	81	230,673	18,762	17	81	*	-1.0
SANAM	35.0	35.0	50	2	11	35.0	A	0.5
AAYANRE	70	68	493,300	34,161	11	70		-1.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	_	0.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	19.5	-	0.0
MAZAYA	108	108	35,000	3,780	5	108	_	0.0
ADNC	15.5	13.5	13,276,029	188,620	225	15.0	▼	-1.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	-	0.0
TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	36.0	-	0.0
TAAMEER	23.5	22.5	371,600	8,575	13	23.5	-	0.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	-	0.0
ARGAN	178	178	9,950	1,771	2	178		-2.0
ABYAAR	25.0	24.0	910,015	22,020	15	25.0	_	0.0
MUNSHAAT	47.0	47.0	25,000	1,175	1	47.0		-0.5
FIRSTDUBAI	42.0	41.0	55,000	2,260	4	42.0	A	1.0
KBT	42.5	41.5	941,700	39,205	22	42.0	-	0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	_	0.0
MENA	24.0	24.0	100	2	1	24.0	_	0.0
ALMUDON	32.5	31.0	830,210	26,093	17	31.0		-0.5
MARAKEZ	27.5	24.5	10,000	248	11	25.5		-1.5
REMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.5	_	0.0
MASHAER	95	95	1,350	128	1	95	_	0.0
Real Estate			35,549,910	894,774	571	828.15	Y	-2.70
/IN 0. /	00	0.4	01.101	7.007				

Value (KWD)

**Number of Trades** 

REMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.5	_	0.0
MASHAER	95	95	1,350	128	1	95	_	0.0
Real Estate			35,549,910	894,774	571	828.15		-2.70
KINV	88	84	84,484	7,297	5	88	A	1.0
FACIL	192	192	150	29	1	192		-2.0
IFA	31.0	29.5	2,864,336	86,941	75	30.5	A	1.0
NINV	91	89	2,009,421	180,955	78	91		3.0
KPROJ	530	530	10,000	5,300	1	530	_	0.0
COAST	35.0	33.0	1,613,397	54,861	45	34.5		1.5
SECH	41.5	39.5	879,829	35,650	25	41.0		0.5
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	-	0.0
ARZAN	31.0	30.0	997,400	30,582	26	31.0		0.5
MARKAZ	80	80	2,144	172	1	80	_	0.0
KMEFIC	25.0	25.0	500	13	1	25.0		-2.5
ALAMAN	58	56	493,335	28,084	18	57	_	0.0
ALOLA	50	48.5	290,028	14,096	22	49.5	_	0.0
ALMAL	33.5	33.0	2,149,356	71,513	54	33.5		0.5
GIH	24.5	23.5	503,978	12,162	17	24.5		1.0
AAYAN	40.5	40.0	138,100	5,527	6	40.5	_	0.0
BAYANINV	32.5	31.5	1,467,556	46,865	32	32.0		-0.5
OSOUL	39.5	38.0	150,558	5,913	11	38.0		-1.0
KFIC	38.0	38.0	500	19	1	38.0	A	0.5
KAMCO	104	104	2,500	260	1	104		-2.0
NIH	47.0	47.0	2,100	99	2	47.0		1.0
ISKAN	28.0	27.0	512,770	14.087	29	27.0	*	-1.0
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	_	0.0
ALDEERA	34.5	33.0	387,459	12,947	22	34.5		1.0
ALSALAM	34.5	33.0	2,908,977	98,694	51	34.0		-1.0
EKTTITAB	29.0	28.0	836,370	23,667	24	29.0	A	0.5
ALMADINA	31.5	30.5	1,297,528	39,575	24	30.5	7	-0.5
NOOR	46.0	43.5	86,000	3,854	8	46.0	A	1.5
TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	_	0.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	200	0.0
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	_	0.0
KSHC	34.5	33.0	916,133	30,747	34	34.0	_	0.0
ASIYA	38.5	37.5	460,047	17,505	18	38.5	<b>A</b>	0.5
GNAHC	36.0	34.0	8,679,308	303,573	162	35.5	*	-1.0
AMWAL	21.0	20.0	299,053	6.067	29	20.0	*	-2.0
ALIMTIAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0,007	0	74		0.0
MANAZEL	17.5	17.0	1,756,870	29,882	31	17.5	_	0.0
NIND	118	116	1,888,431	220,502	62	116	7	-2.0
BIIHC	30.0	29.5	3,116,850	92,170	56	30.0		0.5
SENERGY	16.0	14.0	19,118,156	286,909	197	15.0	Â	1.5
AGHC	66	65	9,000	589		66	Ŷ	-2.0
KPPC					10			
Marin harries	48.5	47.5	248,980	11,898	0	48.5	<b>A</b>	1.0
TAHSSILAT	0.0	0.0	0	0		59	_	0.0
JEERANH EKHOLDING	71	71	200	14	1	71	-	0.0
EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0 2 460 764	167 222	0	138	_	0.0
GFH INOVEST	69	67	2,460,764	167,332	43	68		-1.0
INOVEST	0.0	0.0	0	0		50	_	0.0
Financial Service	25		58,642,568	1,946,346	1,225	565.90		0.10

Investment Instru	ments		0	0	0	0.00	_	0.00
ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	_	0.0
osos	116	104	702,669	73,958	40	104		-10.0
FUTURE	100	100	7,500	750	2	100	_	0.0
HAYATCOMM	54	52	289,616	15,262	8	52		-3.0
Technology			999,785	89,970	50	917.67	•	-44.9
BAREEQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	_	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	182	_	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	-	0.0
EFFECT	40.5	36.5	4,404,787	171,450	84	40.5	A	2.5
AJWAN	28.5	27.5	416,911	11,650	5	28.5	A	0.5
MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	69	_	0.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	-	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	_	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	_	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	49.5	_	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	138	-	0.0
KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	_	0.0
AMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	63	_	0.0
Parallel Market			4,821,698	183,099	89	1278.72	A.	10.09

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

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~	1		Daily I					- 1
			02:00 PM					
		Glo	bal Sto	ock In	dices			
1.10	Condo						Daily	Yearly
Index		us Close	Last I			inge .	Performance %	%
Dow Jones NASDAQ		02.59 58.86	17,51 4,77		13.14	A A	0.08	0.57 -4.67
S&P 500	- 10	36.71	2,03		-0.77	-	-0.04	-0.39
Financial Times	6,19	99.11	6,10	16.48	-92.63	•	-1.49	-2.18
DAX		22.93		1.35	-171.58	▼	-1.71	-8.30
CAC 40	- 1	23.98	4,32	0.74	-94.30	<u> </u>	-2.13	-6.63
Swiss Nikkei 225		94.36	17,77	T 20 11 12 1	-118.78	<b>Y</b>	-1.50	-11.82
Nikkei 225 Topix		92.33 54.61	17,00		110.42	A	0.65	-10.68 -11.71
Hang Song		15.23	20,34	CONTRACTOR CO.	269.62	•	1.31	7.16
Straits Times	-	31.98	2,84		-34.59	•	-1.20	-1.23
		ME	NA Sto	ock In	dices			
	2- mile			3711	1000		Daily	Yearly
Index	Previou	us Close	Last I	Price	Ulla	inge	Performance %	Performanc %
Kuwait	- 10	58.45	10	2.02	26.43	•	0.50	6.58
Saudi Arabia	100	50.90	Contract	3.96	-76.94	•	-1.21	-8.11
Dubai Abu Dhabi		18.73		9.16	-39.57	<u> </u>	-1.19	5.32
Abu Dhabi Bahrain		31.91 58.95	1,15	7.47	-33.65 -1.53	· ·	-0.78	0.57 -4.68
Bahrain Qatar		85.50	- 10	29.02	-1.53	*	-0.13	-4.68
Oman		33.58	10.00	6.72	3.14	Å	0.06	2.36
Lebanon		72.82		4.47	1.65	1	0.14	0.28
Jordan	2,13	31.76	2,14		11.70	<b>A</b>	0.55	-0.21
Egypt	1000	48.22	1000000	9.77	1.55	<b>A</b>	0.02	7.74
Morocco		36.60	9,54		-46.57	•	-0.49	7.40
Tunisia	5,49	00.74	5,49	6.57	5.83	A	0.11	8.90
	Glob	oal Cui	rrenci	es Exc	change	Rate		
Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal			Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwait Dinar		12.3024	3.2938	2.9499	2.3294	3.2184	372.33	4.3853
Saudi Riyal	0.08129		0.26//	0.2398	0.1893	0.2616	30.27	0.3565
US Dollar	0.30360	3.7350		0.8956	0.7077	0.9771	113.04	1.3314
Euro Storling Dound	0.33900	4.1705	1.1166	244	0.7909	1.0918	126.32	1.4885
Sterling Pound Swiss Franc	0.42929	5.2813 3.8225	1.4140	1.2644 0.9159	0.7240	1.3812	159.81	1.8821
Swiss Franc  Japanese Yen	0.31072	0.0330	0.0088	0.9159	0.7240	0.0086	115.77	0.0118
Australian Dollar	0.00269	2.8054	0.7511	0.6718	0.5313	0.7339	84.90	0.0
		12 Table 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	rencie					
Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini	Qatari	Omani	Emirates	Egyptian
	05 05	Dollar		Dinar	Riyal	Riyal	Dirham	Pound
US Dollar Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2938	0.30360	3.7350 12.3024	0.3742 1.2325	3.6265 11.9450	0.3832	3.6572 12.0461	8.7700 28.886/
Saudi Riyal	0.2677	0.08129	12.502	0.1007	0.9710	0.1076	0.9792	7.3481
Bahraini Dinar	2.6724	0.81133	9.9813		9.6913	1.0240	9.7734	23.4367
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08372	1.0299	0.1032		0.1057	1.0085	2.4183
Omani Riyal	2.6098	0.79234	9.7476	0.9766	9.4645		9.5446	22.8880
Emirates Dirham	0.2734	0.08301	1.0213	0.1023	0.9916	0.1048		2.3980
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03462	0.4259	0.0427	0.4135	0.0437	0.4170	
		Glot	bal Int	erest	Rates			
Currency	1-Week	1-Month	3-Mc			onth		/ear
	0.00	1.19	-	44	1	63		.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	0 40		62	U.	91	_	.01
US Dollar	0.39	0.43		24	-0			.01
US Dollar Euro	-0.37	-0.32	-0.	.24	-0.			
US Dollar	1000	10 110000	-0. 0.:		0.	.13 74 .65	1.	.54
US Dollar Euro Sterling Pound	-0.37 0.48	-0.32 0.51	-0. 0.:	.72	-0.	74	1. -0.	.01
US Dollar Euro Sterling Pound Swiss Franc	-0.37 0.48 -0.82	-0.32 0.51 -0.78	-0. 0.5 -0.	58 .72 07	0. -0. 2.	74 .65	1. -0. 2.	.54
US Dollar Euro Sterling Pound Swiss Franc Australian Dollar	-0.37 0.48 -0.82 2.11	-0.32 0.51 -0.78 2.19 0.87	-0. 0.: -0. 2.0	58 .72 07 88	0. -0. 2.0	74 .65 05	1. -0. 2.	.54
US Dollar Euro Sterling Pound Swiss Franc Australian Dollar	-0.37 0.48 -0.82 2.11 0.00	-0.32 0.51 -0.78 2.19 0.87	-0. 0.: -0. 2.0	50 .72 07 88 ond Yi	0.: -0. 2.: 0.:	74 .65 05	1. -0. 2.	.54 .01

0.87

-0.50

0.47

**Previous Close** 

33.70

37.79

38.19

1216.10

15.15

1.38

-0.31

0.87

Last Price

33.70

37.77

38.09

1216.10

Commodities

1.90

0.18

1.47

Change

.

0.00

-0.02

-0.10

0.00

0.00

2.67

0.85

2.35

Yearly

14.69

0.53

2.78

12.73

8.58

Performan

Daily

0.00

-0.05

-0.26

0.00

0.00

**United States** 

Inited Kingdom

Index

Luwait Oil

West Texas

Brent

Gold

# KFH WINS 'BEST ISLAMIC BANK IN KUWAIT 2015' AWARD FROM IFN

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) won three awards from Islamic Finance News Magazine (IFN), which are "Best Islamic Bank in Kuwait 2015", "Kuwait Deal of the Year" for its participation in National Industries Holding KWD 85 million Commodity Murabaha where KFH's share of the deal amounted to KD 25 Mn, and Turkey Deal of the Year related to the KT Kira Sertifikalari Varlik Kiralama RM800 million Sukuk Wakalah.

Deputy General Manager Private Banking at KFH, Abdullah Al Mejhem stated on the sideline of receiving the awards in the awards ceremony held in Dubai, that KFH managed to offer an integrated system of technical, financial, and banking services, not to mention meeting the expectations of its clients. He added that the bank has vast experience in balancing Shariah requirements with the latest in banking technology.

He emphasized KFH's leadership in the field of Islamic banking, since it was the first Islamic bank in Kuwait, and highlighted the bank's fruitful efforts in expanding in various markets, which allowed it to become the best Islamic bank in the world.

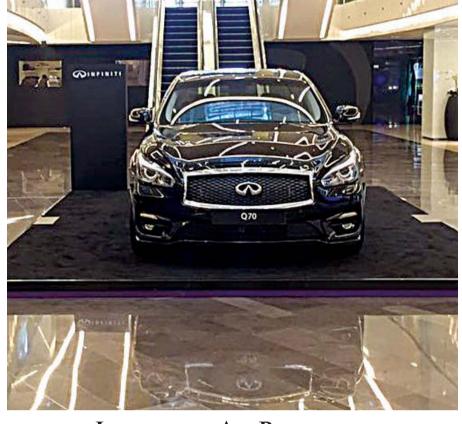
Al-Mejhem stressed the importance of operating as planned in all markets, while focusing on the local market, indicating that all of KFH's global success would have never been attainable, if the bank did not have a solid platform and high level of professionalism. KFH has an impeccable record in arranging sukuk deals and leading financing for develop-

ment projects in several vital sectors, which contributes in boosting the national economy.

It is noteworthy that KFH has been selected for the prizes by IFN's judging panel that groups a number of experts in the Islamic banking industry through an intensive evaluation process according to a set of principles and financial indicators. IFN is a well renowned institution in the Islamic banking industry which publishes various studies and articles around the banking sector. It is affiliated to RED money, the foremost global provider of specialized Islamic financial media services across three core divisions of events. publishing and training. Established in 2004, the firm has offices in Dubai and Kuala



Al Mejhem receiving the award



# INFINITI AL BABTAIN WELCOMES THE INFINITI SEDAN Q70 TO AL HAMRA MALL

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co, the authorized distributor of Infiniti in the State of Kuwait, showcased its most advanced flagship Infiniti Q70 Sedan at the Al Hamra Mall for five days to provide esteemed mall visitors to experience its bold design, meticulously crafted luxurious interior and instant opportunity to book an exclusive test drive.

Infiniti Q70 has always been a cornerstone for Infiniti Al Babtain catering to high-end luxury customers and strengthening the brand's image through HALO model status. The redesigned Infiniti Q70 was launched less than a year back in July 2015, and the uptake for the new model has been strong.

Promising performance, the new Q70 is equipped with the 3.7-liter V6 engine, rated at 329 hp @ 7,000 rpm and 363 Nm of torque. The refined aluminum-allov DOHC 24-valve engine is equipped with Variable Valve Event & Lift (VVEL(r)) that combines hydraulic-controlled variable valve timing and electronically controlled variable valve lift on the intake side to help improve performance and response. Also available is the 5.6-litre V8 engine that delivers 402 hp @ 6,000 rpm and 550 Nm of torque.

All the engines are matched to an advanced 7-speed automatic transmission, which allows for sportier shifts during spirited driving. Solid magnesium paddle shifters are also available. Further customization is obtained from the unique Infiniti Drive Mode Selector that allows drivers to select from varied driving modes - Standard, Eco or Sport - and the integrated control system will adjust throttle sensitivity and transmission mapping to help optimize performance with a starting price

The Infiniti portfolio offers an extensive line-up of vehicles that ranges from sedans, sports and specialty vehicles, crossovers to full size SUV to meet the diverse needs of premium customers. The entire portfolio shares a common DNA that blends aggressive bold styling with breath-taking presence and exhilarating drive performance.



# JOBS AT PRE-RECESSION LEVELS IN 10 US STATES

**WASHINGTON:** Ten US states still have not regained all the jobs they lost in the Great Recession, even after six and a half years of recovery, while many more have seen only modest gains. The figures help illustrate the uneven nature of the economic rebound since the Great Recession ended in June 2009.

They also suggest why many Americans feel the improvement has passed them by. Ongoing economic anxiety, despite some data suggesting the economy has recovered, is fueling much of the support for insurgent presidential candidates such as Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. Wyoming had 3 percent fewer jobs last month than it did in December 2007, when the recession began, the Labor Department said Friday. That is the biggest percentage decline among the states. Alabama's job total trails its pre-recession level by 2.7 percent, followed by New Mexico, where job totals are 2.6 percent lower.

Some larger states are also still behind. New Jersey has nearly 1 percent fewer jobs than it did at the end of 2007, and Missouri is just below its pre-recession level. The other five are: Mississippi, Nevada, Maine, Connecticut, and West Virginia. Other states have notched very small gains that likely trail population growth. Illinois has 8,600 more jobs than it did in December 2007, a gain of just 0.1 percent. Arizona's job count is up just 9,200, or 0.3 percent. And Ohio has added 58,100 jobs, or 1.1 percent.

# **Greater hiring**

All those gains are far below the 4 percent increase in jobs nationwide from December 2007 through February 2016, according to government figures. Threefifths of states have seen job gains below that national average. Some areas have seen much greater hiring. Four states have recorded double-digit increases in their total payrolls, along with Washington, DC: North Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Colorado.

The oil and gas drilling boom has lifted North Dakota's job count by more than 20 percent, even though falling energy prices have caused significant layoffs in the past year. Texas has also benefited from the energy boom, as well as greater high-tech hiring in cities like Austin. Utah and Colorado have also benefited from fast-growing information technology companies.

The data also shows how the decline in the unemployment rate in some states has exaggerated the improvement in their economies. The rate in Michigan, for example, fell to 4.8 percent last month, down from 5.9 percent a year ago and one-tenth of a point below the national average. Yet Michigan's job count has increased just 1.6 percent since the recession began, less than half the nationwide gain. Its unemployment rate has fallen in large part because many of those who lost jobs have since given up looking for work. When people stop job-hunting, they are no longer counted as unemployed. —AP

# FED RATE HIKE STILL ON THE TABLE FOR APRIL

### **UNITED STATES Fed Speakers cautiously** optimistic

After a fairly quiet week in terms of data and trading, markets turn their attention to Fed speakers, where both Atlanta Federal Reserve President Lockhart and Richmond President Lacker were on the wire. Both speakers took on an optimistic tone and maintained their confidence in US inflation reaching its target of 2% over the medium term.

Lockhart reasoned that the ongoing job market improvement would eventually drive price gains, and maintains that there is sufficient economic momentum to justify a rate hike at one of the coming FOMC meetings.

Lacker reasoned that current inflation is depressed by transitory factors such as falling oil prices and the rising dollar. Given that such drivers cannot continue indefinitely, he noted that headline and core inflation should start to move back toward the 2% targets and the FOMC should be ready to respond appropriately.

This week's US data was subdued across the board. Existing home sales numbers declined more than forecast, driven by a shortage of supply rather than demand, as low inventory and a limited selection of homes appear to have constrained sales. In China, PBoC governor Zhou Xiaochuan pointed out risks posed by excessive corporate leverage, stating that corporate lending as a ratio to GDP had become too high.

On the foreign exchange side, this week was relatively quiet mainly due to the major events taking place in Europe and the short trading Easter week. The Euro started the week at the 1.1268 level and dropped to reach a low of 1.1142. The currency ended the week near the low at

The Sterling Pound remains in a no man's land while the UK continues to face weak economic data and stream of UK political noises. Pro "Brexit" politicians argued that migration leaves Britain vulnerable to attack, while figures in the opposing camp, including Prime Minister David Cameron, said that being part of the economic and political union aids security. After starting the week near the high of 1.4476, the Pound spent the week dropping to close on Friday at 1.4135.

The Yen remains volatile trading between a low of 111.20 and a high of 113.30. The currency performance continues to be highly negatively correlated with the Japanese equity markets, and investors continue to sell the rally in the Dollar while awaiting potential further actions from the Bank

On the commodities side, after a strong four week's performance, commodities seem to reach an exhaustion point for now. Oil markets seem to find a stable phase around the current levels on hopes for an output freeze by major producers. Brent closed the week at \$41.03, while West Texas at \$39.46. Sentiment continue to swing on news of additional drop in the number of US operating rigs last month while expectations continue to build ahead of a potential meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC producers later this month.

On the precious metals front, Gold remains well supported in all this week's European events. Although the situation in China seems to have reached some calm for now, the latest Brussel's attack kept gold prices well supported. On the other side, the latest speeches from Fed members have put some pressure on the precious metal as investors seem to have started pricing a higher possibility of a Fed rate hike this year.

# **NBK WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT**

### Chicago national activity index paints a bleak picture

The Chicago Fed national overall activity index fell from +0.41 in January to -0.29 in February. All their major categories of the index from economic growth to production and employment dropped in February. According to the report, growth in national economic activity was slightly below its historical trend. The economic growth suggested subdued inflationary pressure from economic activity over the coming year.

Industrial Production decreased by 0.5% in February after increasing by 0.8% in January. Manufacturing on the other hand increased by 0.2% after rising by 0.5% in January. While employment increased by a small 0.03 points, lower from +0.19 in January, the contribution of personal consumption and housing category moved down to -0.09 in February from -0.05 in January.

### **Disappointing US PMI**

The latest figure from Markit shows that the US manufacturing sector is still in a slow-growth state. Manufacturing PMI released Tuesday came at 51.4 for March below economists' expectation of 51.9. While the report showed some improvement in the rate of output, new business and hiring, it remains that inventories fell at the steepest pace in over two years. According to the report, "US factories continue to endure their worst spell for three and a half years. quarter, growing at the fastest rate Sunday. Corporate lending as a

global weakness.

Another nonvoting member, Richmond Fed Lacker, was also on the wires this week stating that US inflation is likely to accelerate in coming years and move toward the Federal Reserve's 2%. According to the official, "the recent data on inflation, because they have come in firmer than expected, suggests that upside risks to inflation have increased maybe not significantly, but I think noticeably and materially." He added that he expected core inflation firmer this year than last year and close to 2% in 2017. He also said that the evidence indicates that inflation expectations remain "well-anchored".

### **Europe** ECB's Chief economist said additional negative rates still on the table Peter Praet, the member of the

ECB's executive board said last week, "If new negative shocks should worsen the outlook or if financing conditions should not adjust in the direction and to the extent that is necessary to boost the economy and inflation, a rate reduction remains in our armory." His view differs with that the European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi who has recently implied he doesn't expect further rate cuts.

### **Eurozone growth expands for** first time in three months

The Eurozone recovered some momentum at the end of the first Likewise, core CPI inflation was unchanged at 1.2%. The main downward contribution to change in the CPI yearly rate came from the transport sector where prices, overall, were unchanged between January and February this year compared with a rise of 0.4% between the same 2 months a year ago. The main upward contribution to the change in the CPI yearly rate between January and February 2016 came from food and beverages where prices, overall, rose by 0.1% between January and February 2016, compared with a fall of 0.2% between the same 2

# UK house prices on the rise

months a year ago.

UK House price growth improved during January 2016. According to the Office for National Statistics, the average UK house price rose 7.9% over the year, as the ongoing supply shortage in some areas drove prices even higher. Rising house prices, which are growing faster than incomes in most areas of the UK, have pushed owning a home beyond the affordability of many first-time buyers.

### **ASIA PBOC concerned about** high debt level

People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan sounded his concerns over rising debt levels in speech at the China Development Forum in Beijing on

Rates - 27 March 2016

	F	Previous W	eek Level	s	This Week's Rar	3-Mont	
Currencies	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	Forward
EUR	1.1268	1.1142	1.1284	1.1160	1.0990	1.1220	1.1192
GBP	1.4479	1.4055	1.4479	1.4135	1.3945	1.4280	1.4148
JPY	111.43	111.20	113.30	113.04	111.60	114.35	112.73
CHF	0.9694	0.9671	0.9786	0.9771	0.9595	0.9860	0.97410

Headwinds include reduced spending by the struggling energy sector, the strength of the dollar, persistent weak global demand and growing uncertainty caused by the looming presidential elec-

# Disappointing housing figures

The National Association of Realtors said that existing home sales dropped 7.1% to an annual rate of 5.08 million units, the lowest level since November. Economists had forecasted a drop by3% to a pace of 5.31 million units in February. The data has been volatile in recent months. However, housing continues to be supported by the overall state of the economy and a growing labor market, which is starting to push up wage growth. In February, the number of unsold homes on the market rose 3.3% from January to 1.88 million units 1.1% from a year ago.

### **Fed members** cautiously optimistic

"In my opinion, there is sufficient momentum evidenced by the economic data to justify a further step at one of the coming meetings, possibly as early as the meeting scheduled for end of April."

In a speech given this week, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Dennis Lockhart said that steady US economic growth could justify increasing short-term interest rates as soon as next month. Despite not holding a voting seat on the FOMC, Lockhart said that "the center of the committee is pretty uniform at the moment." He also supported the Fed's latest decision to leave interest rates unchanged given the recent financial-market volatility and signs of since December 2015. Eurozone PMI rose from 53.0 in February to 53.7 in March. The improvement was a welcomed reversal of the declines seen in the prior two months. However, the average PMI reading for the first quarter of 53.4 indicated a slight slowdown in the pace of economic activity. Additionally, France Composite Output Index posted 51.1, up from 49.3 in February; higher output was indicated across both the manufacturing and service sectors. However, Germany Composite Output Index was unchanged from February's five-month low. On the contrary, while solid growth of activity was maintained in the service sector; manufacturers reported the lowest rise in output since November 2014.

### **German economic** sentiment on the rise

German business and investor morale both rose in March as resilient consumer sentiment helped Europe's largest economy ride out concerns of a global slowdown. Ifo economic institute said its business climate index, rose to 106.7 from 105.7 in February. Additionally, the ZEW Indicator of **Economic Sentiment increased** slightly in March 2016. The index has improved by 3.3 points compared to the previous month. The head of the ZEW Research Department said, "The uncertainty linked with the future economic development and with the external value of the Euro continues to call for caution."

### **UK inflation rates unchanged** UK CPI inflation came in at 0.3%

year on year in February, unchanged from January's rate.

ratio to gross domestic product had become too high and the country must develop more robust capital markets he said. One option mentioned was to channel more savings into the capital markets, which would help reduce leverage in the corporate sector and boost equity financing. The overall message was that the PBoC would press ahead with necessary structural reforms even as economic growth slows.

### **Japan PMI pointing** to a weak GDP

Japan manufacturing PMI this week showed the first contraction in the industry since June 2015. The Index came back at a disappointing 49.1 after new export orders dropped sharply. The global slowdown is taking its toll on the economy as this marks the fifth straight decline in exports for Japan. Analysts expect growth to rebound modestly this current quarter but concerns about global demand has led some to predict another contraction will push Japan back into recession.

### Australia housing slowing down The Australian Bureau of

Statistics released its housing price index for the December quarter showing a 0.2% increase for the quarter and an 8.7% increase from a year earlier. The total value of Australia's 9.6 million residential homes increased \$31.6 billion to \$5.9 trillion. The modest increase shows that housing price growth is slowing in 2016. While Sydney was by far the best performing market for the year, it was one of the worst this quarter, falling 1.6% marking its first decline since March of









# MERCEDES-BENZ NEW SUV RANGE: EXTRAORDINARY OFF-ROAD ABILITY MEETS HANDCRAFTED LUXURY

**KUWAIT:** The name long synonymous with exceptional automotive achievement, Mercedes-Benz continues to bridge the gap between onroad excellence and off-road dominance with its extended new SUV family. AR Albisher and Z Alkazemi Co, the authorized general distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait welcomes the new spring season with a showcase of the full SUV range in its showroom.

Mercedes-Benz's legendary all-wheel-drive technology allows driver confidence and control in any season or road condition. From a sandy incline to a challenging corner, 4MATIC all-wheel drive makes the most of available traction by precisely engaging all four wheels. More than letting all four tires do the work equally, 4MATIC features a number of advanced and quick-thinking innovations to empower each wheel individually as conditions change.

"Promising the superior safety, craftsmanship and performance of Mercedes-Benz with the capabilities of an off-roader; Mercedes-Benz SUVs have long been a favorite across the region," said Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, AR Albisher and Z Alkazemi Co "From the compact GLA to the uncompromising G-Class, the entire Mercedes-Benz SUV range artfully combines luxury and performance with allround qualities of a tough, leisure-time companion. Now is the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors, and Mercedes-Benz SUVs and exploring go hand in hand," he added.

# G-Class: The legend lives on

Mercedes-Benz's classic off-roader is beginning another chapter in a success story that spans more than 35 years. With its continuously improved technology and high-class equipment specification, this all-terrain icon has consistently satisfied the highest expectations of off-road fans. True to this tradition, a new 4.0-litre directly injected V8 biturbo engine celebrated its world premiere in the G Class with all models now offering up to 16 percent more power and up to 17 percent lower fuel consumption

The 8-cylinder powerplant in the G 500 can

point to an exclusive heritage. It is based on the new generation of V8 engines developed by Mercedes-AMG that have already coaxed exceptional levels of performance out of the Mercedes-AMG GT and Mercedes-AMG C 63. For use in the G-Class, the V8 has been modified to deliver 310 kW (422 hp) with torque of 610 Nm. Other standout attributes include a spontaneous response and high tractive power made possible by two turbochargers, which instead of being configured on the outside of the cylinder banks, are now arranged between them in the V - the so-called "hot inside V". This layout allows a compact design and optimal response. Maximum strength with lowest possible weight is guaranteed by the aluminum crankcase of the V8 engine. The cylinder bore surfaces feature Daimler's NANOSLIDE(r) technology, which makes them twice as hard as conventional castiron liners. This minimizes both internal friction and fuel demand.

As is typical of the G-Class, the new models retain the familiar sturdy basis of body and ladder-type frame, which still offers generous reserves to cope with the increased power. Also retained is the unrivalled off-road performance with permanent all-wheel drive, low-range gearbox and three differential locks that can be engaged/disengaged while on the move.

# GLA: Fit for off-road excursions

Progressive in design, serene in day-to-day motoring and with good off road capability: a wanderer between automotive worlds, the Mercedes Benz GLA reinterprets the compact SUV segment in convincing style. It light footedly masters all day-to-day challenges and is also robust enough for off-road excursions.

The combination of powerful-distinctive design, exclusive appointments as well as superior engine power and driving performance is unique: the most powerful seriesproduction four-cylinder engine in the world puts 265 kW (360 hp) and 450 Newton meters on the road. The new GLA 45 AMG high-performance SUV also shines with low

emission and fuel consumption figures.

The first Mercedes-Benz in the fast-growing compact SUV segment is highly maneuverable around town (length x width x height: 4417 x 1804 x 1494 millimeters), lively on country and pass roads and dynamic and efficient on the motorway (Cd figure 0.29). The high-quality appointments, developed with a loving attention to detail, and the flexible interior clearly position the GLA as a compact premium SUV.

As a serene day-to-day companion the GLA has a flexible and variable interior. The rear seat backrests can not only be folded down completely, but are also adjustable for angle if required. The large luggage compartment (421-1235 liters) is well laid-out and can be loaded without difficulty thanks to the low loading sill and the wide tailgate, which opens and closes automatically as an option.

# GLC: Comfort and space

The GLC is in top form. Under all operating conditions the new mid size SUV excels with the outstanding safety that is a hallmark of the brand, the latest assistance systems and energy efficiency. Fuel consumption has been cut by up to 19 percent compared with the previous model. At the same time, the AIR BODY CONTROL multi-chamber air suspension that is without parallel in this segment, the extended range of DYNAMIC SELECT dynamic transmission modes and the 4MATIC permanent all-wheel drive increase not only the ride comfort, but also the vehicle's sporty agility - whatever surface it is driving on.

The GLC may represents a departure from its progenitor - the G-Class - in terms of appearance, however, on a technical level it sets new benchmarks in all disciplines and the mid-size SUV's off-road capabilities remain as outstanding as ever. The paradigm shift in the area of design affects not only the outside appearance. The model change also signals a marked upgrade for the interior. The new design idiom combines sensual purity with dynamic sportiness and embodies a new interpretation of modern luxury. In addi-

tion, a considerably more spacious interior awaits the occupants and their luggage.

Offering two engine variants, the GLC 250 4MATIC and the GLC 300 4MATIC offer a 4-cylinder petrol engine with direct injection and turbocharging. The former comes with the OFF ROAD Line exterior that includes 19-inch multispoke light alloy wheels, radiator grille with twin louvres and chrome inserts, bumpers with a chrome-plated underguard at front and rear, two chrome-plated tailpipes, polished aluminium trim and roof rails in anodized aluminum. The GLC 300 4MATIC comes with the sporty AMG Line exterior - with distinctive AMG body styling, 19-inch AMG wheels, chrome package, and enhanced performance and driving dynamics thanks to the sports. The nine-stage 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission comes as standard on the GLC 250 4MATIC and the GLC 300 4MATIC, offering an impressively high shift speed and perfect transitions for energetic sprinting as well as with gentle, barely perceptible gear changes for enjoyable cruising

# GLE: Driving performance for any terrain

Updated name, extended model range and even more power: the new Mercedes- GLE is an SUV prepared for any occasion. Celebrated for efficiency, performance and its incredible range of equipment, the new GLE is more attractive

Thanks to the 4MATIC permanent all-wheel drive system available as standard, the GLE delivers outstanding dynamics and precise handling, even in tough driving conditions. The advantages of the new GLE include best on-road and off-road handling, outstanding spaciousness and high levels of active and passive safety. The new GLE is available in four models: The GLE 400 4MATIC and the GLE 500 4MATIC and the highperformance SUV models, the Mercedes-AMG GLE 63 4MATIC and the GLE 63 S 4MATIC.

Providing added sportiness and dominance, the GLE 63 is also available with AMG power, with a 5.5-litre twin-turbo V8 engine guaranteeing its driver an exclusive experience. Reaching from 0-

100 km/h in 4.3 seconds, it offers sports car agility and spontaneous throttle response. In addition to the basic variant developing 410 kW (557 hp), there is also the highly sporty AMG GLE 63 S-Model to choose from, which is rated at 430 kW (585 hp)

The fusion of CoupÈ and SUV, the GLE CoupÈ impresses with expressive proportions. Available in two models, the AMG GLE 63 CoupÈ and AMG GLE 63 S CoupÈ offer a powerful, hand-built AMG 5.5-litre V8 biturbo engine and a wealth of AMG-tuned enhancements that add unrivalled performance to its sleek coupÈ styling.

# GLS: First class under all conditions

Successor to the GL, the new GLS (coming in April 2016) also sets standards in the world of SUVs as it confirms its position as the "S-Class among SUVs". The only full-fledged seven-seater in the premium SUV segment boasts ample spaciousness and combines luxury with impressive levels of comfort, agile dynamics and also best-in-class safety. Whether put to everyday use or venturing off the beaten track - the GLS meets all requirements effortlessly and comfortably.

Compared with its predecessor, the new generation features improved efficiency, extended DYNAMIC SELECT transmission modes, the latest evolutionary stage of the air suspension system AIRMATIC with enhanced damping system ADS. the nine-speed 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission, state-of-the-art assistance systems and the latest telematics generation with internet access. More power, more dynamics and more equipment are also offered by the new Mercedes-AMG GLS 63 4MATIC. With a peak output of 430 kW (585 hp), discrete suspension and the revised AMG SPEEDSHIFT PLUS 7G-TRONIC transmission, it represents the pinnacle of the GLS model series. Features which come as standard include the AMG DYNAMIC SELECT transmission modes which provide optimum flexibility and the rearbiased AMG Performance all-wheel drive. The GLS 63 4MATIC also shows strength of character with its updated design featuring the AMG brand look and high-quality interior.

# ONE DAY ONE LOCATION Salary

# 3 DAYS LEFT UNTIL THE QUARTERLY TRIO DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank has announced that its Trio Quarterly draw is scheduled to take place 3 days from today at 1pm, 31 March 2016, on Marina FM's Diwaniya Show. 3 Draws will take place at the same time and location. The Al Danah draw will be for cash prize of KD200,000. While the Salary & Red Account draws include a brand new Cadillac CTS and cash prizes up to KD1,000. The draw event will be held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

To participate in the Al Danah draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200. Customers can open a new Al Danah account at any one of the 55 Gulf Bank branches in Kuwait. Those who already have an account can increase their chances of winning by increasing their

deposits. This will also increase their chances of winning one of the two KD1,000 prizes, which are drawn each working day.

Furthermore, new Red Account or Salary account customers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac CTS.

For further information about the Al Danah, Salary and Red accounts and prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 55 branches, or call Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center on 1805805. General information about Gulf Bank's products and services, can also be found at the Bank's website at www.e-

# MALABAR GOLD & DIAMONDS CONTRIBUTES DH10 MILLION FUND TO AL JALILA FOUNDATION

**DUBAI:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one of the world's largest gold and diamond jewelry retailer, donated Dh10 million (US\$2.72 million) to Al Jalila Foundation to support research in genetic diseases and disorders, as part of the company's strong Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives.

Malabar Gold & Diamonds operation is spread across 9 countries in the world. As a CSR strategy, they spend 5% of their earnings from the business back to the same society. In the UAE, as the basic necessities are taken care of by the government, the Group sees the need is in the field of medical research. The contribution for research will ultimately reach to the entire world population, in particular to developing countries where genetic diseases are more severe.

Genetic diseases and disorders, coupled with rare diseases are a major cause of concern for mankind. More than 350 million people worldwide - that is more than the total population of the Middle East and higher than the US population - suffer from rare diseases, 80 per cent of which are linked to genetic disorders.

MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, handed over a cheque of Dh10 million to the Board of Trustees of Al Jalila Foundation at a ceremony. "It gives me immense pleasure to announce our small and humble contribution of Dh10 million (US\$2.72 million) to Al Jalila Foundation to support research in genetic diseases and disorders in the United Arab Emirates - a nation that has developed so much in such a short time," MP Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, said.

"The move reflects our gratitude to the United Arab Emirates - a great nation of great people that are blessed with visionary leadership. As a major retailer in gold and diamond jewelry, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has benefitted from the world-class infrastructure, ease in doing business, safety and security

provided by the government of the UAE.

"Needless to say that we are also blessed with and inspired by the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubaiwho has created a safe haven for businesses and people to live and work in harmony regardless of their cultural, religious and social differences."

so hospitable to us," he added. "The contribution is part of our corporate culture of sharing and caring with our stakeholders - the customers and the society - and our continuous efforts in giving back to the

society."

Al Jalila Foundation, a global philanthropic organization dedicated to transforming lives through medical education and research, was founded by His



Malabar Gold & Diamonds is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate. The company, owned by more than 1,700 shareholders, which excels in quality products and services, has more than 9,000 professionals working for its continued success. It was ranked among the top 5 jewelry retailers globally.

Dubai is a melting pot of cultures, societies and religions, Ahammed, himself a visionary entrepreneur, said. "This is our way of saying a big 'Thank you' to our brothers and sisters of the UAE - who have remained

Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ruler of Dubai in April 2013, to position Dubai and the UAE at the forefront of medical innovation.

Al Jalila Foundation promotes medical education and research by investing in the UAE's medical treatment capabilities; it provides scholarships to nurture a home-grown generation of medical professionals and supports ground-breaking research that addresses health challenges prevalent in the region.



DIMONDALE: Michigan State Police Sgt Matt Rogers and Trooper Don Zinz bring the Aeryon SkyRanger in for a landing during a demonstration of the new Unmanned Aircraft System at the State Police training track in Dimondale, Michigan. —AP

# TRAFFIC BACKED UP? BRIDGE OUT? MORE STATES DEPLOYING DRONES

**BOSTON:** That buzzing sound overhead may soon signal the arrival of the 21st-century version of a guy in a hardhat and bucket truck. State transportation departments are increasingly studying the use of drones for everything from inspecting bridges to clearing car accidents.

Michigan transportation officials are set to begin a two-year study. Minnesota has tested a drone to help conduct safety inspections of bridges. Vermont is using federal grant dollars to study the use of drones to monitor river flooding and figure out how much material is needed to fix roads.

And in Massachusetts, a group has also been looking at the pros and cons of drone use, from potential threats to their possible use surveying construction projects. The states are among 33 that have studied or used drones, helped develop drone polices, or aided in drone research. That's according to a new survey by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, which represents departments of transportation in all 50 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico.

The Michigan study is part of a longer review. In 2014, state transportation officials there conducted a study with the Michigan Tech Research Institute that found drones potentially useful for a range of transportation tasks, from assessing bridge decks and monitoring traffic to processing thermal data and inspecting confined spaces.

The first study determined that drones are safe, reliable, less expensive and help keep workers out of harm's way, said Steven Cook, a Michigan Department of Transportation engineer. "A traditional bridge inspection for example typically involves setting up work zones, detouring traffic and using heavy equipment," Cook said in a statement. "(Drones) can get in and get out quickly."

Michigan officials estimate that a standard bridge deck inspection takes eight hours, a crew of four people and heavy equipment at a cost of about \$4,600. The same inspection with a drone takes two people just two hours at an estimated cost of about \$250.

At the University of Vermont, researchers using federal grant money are developing

programs to letdrones estimate how much fill it will take to repair a damaged roadway by feeding images collected from above the site through a computer program. Drones aren't welcome everywhere. The Massachusetts group includes representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division, as well as the attorney general's office and the state highway division - an acknowledgement that drones and airplanes don't always mix.

Pilots are increasingly worried about drones operating too close to airports or in flight paths, fueling fears of a midair collision. A report released last year counted at least 241 reports of close encounters between drones and manned aircraft, including 28 in which pilots had to veer out of the way.

Massachusetts officials say that while they're exploring how to develop workplace applications for drones, they also need to work with the Federal Aviation Administration to resolve statutory and regulatory issues. All drone testing must be approved by the FAA.

According to the AASHTO survey, several states have said the application process to research drones can take months. The FAA has already been looking ahead to a time when drones are routinely employed for bridge inspections and other uses. Last year, the agency proposed rules to let small commercial unmanned aircraft - under 55 pounds - perform tasks like aerial photography and cell tower inspections. FAA Administrator Michael Huerta said at the time that the agency was trying to be flexible and maintain safety "without placing an undue regulatory burden on an emerging industry."

The proposed rules would require commercial operators to pass a knowledge test and federal security check. Operators would have to keep drones within eyesight. Cases of flyaway drones getting stuck in trees or hitting buildings have soared. Last year, a drone that its operator lost control of flew over the White House fence and crashed on the lawn before Secret Service agents could block it. New federal regulations for commercial drone testing could be released this summer.—AP



WASHINGTON: A pedestrians text messages while crossing the street in downtown Washington. A New Jersey lawmaker is targeting distracted walking. The proposed measure would ban walking while texting and bar pedestrians on public roads from using electronic devices unless they are hands-free. —AP

# NEW JERSEY LAWMAKER: PUNISH PEOPLE FOR TEXTING WHILE WALKING

**TRENTON, NJ:** Jared Schumacher is among the hundreds of thousands of New Jerseyans who routinely use electronic devices to text, listen to music or do other tasks as they walk outdoors.

But if a "distracted walking" measure recently proposed by a state assembly-woman eventually becomes law, the Trenton man and others like him could be facing fines or even jail time.

"I admit that I'm usually listening to music, talking on my phone or texting while I'm walking around," the 20-year-old said while responding to a text as he walked along a street in the state capital last weekend. "I've never hurt myself, but I've seen people walk into poles or trip over a big crack in the sidewalk."

Experts say distracted walking is a growing problem around the globe, as people of all ages become more dependent on electronic devices for personal and professional matters.

They also note pedestrian deaths have been rising in recent years. Eleven percent of all fatalities in 2005 involved pedestrians, but that number rose to 15 percent in 2014

The rise in deaths coincides with states introducing bills that target pedestrians and/or bicyclists. For instance, a bill pend-

ing in Hawaii would fine someone \$250 if he or she crossed the street with an electronic device. In recent years, similar bills have failed in states including Arkansas, Illinois, Nevada and New York.

"Thus far, no states have enacted a law specifically targeting distracted bicyclists or pedestrians," said Douglas Shinkle, transportation program director for the National Conference of State Legislatures. But he added that "a few states continue to introduce legislation every year."

The measure recently introduced by New Jersey Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt would ban walking while texting and bar pedestrians on public roads from using electronic communication devices unless they are hands-free. Violators would face fines of up to \$50, 15 days imprisonment or both, which is the same penalty as jaywalking. Half of the fine would be allocated to safety education about the dangers of walking and texting, Lampitt, a Democrat, said.

Some see the proposal as an unnecessary government overreach, while others say they understand Lampitt's reasoning. But most agree that people need to be made aware of the issue rather than taking for granted that nothing bad will happen to them.—AP

# US WEARABLE TECH TAKES AIM AT HEALTHCARE COSTS

# EMPLOYERS STEPPING UP USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN 'WELLNESS' PROGRAMS

**WASHINGTON:** Stroll around the office or neighborhood six times a day, and earn \$1.50 toward your health insurance. Step up activity a bit more and bring the total to \$1,400 annually.

The catch: you need to wear a special activity tracker that monitors steps taken, "intensity" levels and other physical indicators. That's the offer in a new insurance product marketed by UnitedHealthcare, the secondlargest US health insurer, one of many programs aimed at boosting physical fitness and reducing health insurance costs for employers and employees.

"One of the greatest challenges we have is how to incentivize and motivate individuals to be accountable for their own heath and well- being," said Steve Beecy of UnitedHealthcare. He called the Trio Tracker device, introduced with technology partner Qualcomm, "a game-changer."

Across the US, employers are stepping up the use of technology in "wellness" programs that encourage healthier lifestyles. Wellness programs aren't new, but technology like activity trackers has transformed them with more precise measurements and automated uploads to verify activity.

A survey of more than 200 large employers by the National Business Group on Health found 37 percent used activity trackers in 2015 and another 37 percent planned to adopt the technology in coming years.

"There is a strong interest (in the use of technology) because of the impact on an employer's longterm health care costs," said Scott Marcotte of Xerox Human Resources, which participated in the study. Makers of activity trackers such as Fitbit and Jawbone have been expanding their efforts to be part of corporate wellness programs. One of the biggest tieups was announced last year when US retail giant Target said it would offer free or discounted Fitbit trackers to its more than 300,000 employees.

# 'Gamification'

As a further incentive, Target said it would allow teams of employees which log the most average daily steps to collect more than \$1 million for local non-profit organizations. This strategy of providing financial incentives for healthy activity is known in the industry as "gamification."

Jimmy Fleming of the consulting group Healthy Wage said financial incentives can make a difference in spurring healthier behaviors. "We have a lot of clients who want to subsidize the program and make it free, but it's less effective," Fleming said. "There has

to be both a carrot and a stick."

One program being offered through health services firm Vitality Group provides an Apple Watch for \$25, a fraction of the retail cost. But employees must "pay" for the device by completing workouts and gym visits each month.

Growth in such programs over the past few years coincides with

protections in place," said Bradley Shear, a Washington lawyer specializing in privacy.

"While some employee wellness programs and the data collected may be protected under (federal privacy law), others may not be." A report this year by the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab warned of potential problems. For example, there have been situations where

although insurers cannot sell or disclose personal health data, "they can put a score on your head and sell that." "It's not about making you healthier in the long run, it's about collecting more data to sell and to score you with," she said. Also, some employees will feel compelled to participate because they cannot afford the financial penalties if they don't, Duck said. Sales of wearable



NEW YORK: United Healthcare executives Jean McGann and Chuck Cerniglia (right) pose wearing special activity trackers at their office in New York. —AFP



incentives to meet Obamacare goals on preventive care, and with new research suggesting that more activity can ward off many medical ailments.

# Data mining

But the new programs raise questions about private data collected and stored by insurers. While employers and insurers must comply with US privacy regulations so that health data cannot be seen or used by employers, critics still worry. "Technology is outpacing the legal

fitness tracker-related information was introduced in sexual assault cases or personal injury claims.

"Such data, if it can be manipulated, brings such evidence into question as well as the broader trustworthiness of fitness tracker data ... there are also concerns that the radios in fitness trackers could be used to monitor their wearers' movements," the report said. Barbara Duck, a technology consultant who writes a blog on health privacy, said the financial incentives are not worth it. Duck said that

tech devices surged nearly 200 percent in the third quarter of last year to 21 million units, according to the latest IDC survey. Some surveys show as many as 20 percent of Americans use a fitness tracker. IDC analyst Lynne Dunbrack said it will take time to see if fitness trackers take hold in the workplace and achieve their goals. "Part of the challenge with these programs is that the ones who tend to use it the most and stay with it are not the target population for the chronic problems," she said. —AFP

# HOW CHATBOT LEARNED A LITTLE TOO MUCH ONLINE

**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.

"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 state-

ment. 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 Sinders, 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, Sinders added, it appears Tay was mostly left to learn from whatever it was told. "This is a really good example of machine learning," said Sinders. "It's learning from input. That means it needs constant maintenance."

Sinders 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



The Microsoft Corp logo outside the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Washington.—AP

# FDA OUTLINES STANDARDS FOR ANTI-ABUSE GENERIC PAINKILLERS

WASHINGTON: Federal officials are encouraging generic drugmakers to reformulate their painkillers to make them harder to abuse, the latest in a string of steps designed to combat abuse of highly-addictive pain drugs like codeine and oxycodone. The Food and Drug Administration published draft guidelines outlining testing standards for harder-to-abuse generic painkillers. The agency has already approved five brandname opioid pain drugs which are designed to discourage abuse. The current version of OxyContin, for example, is difficult to crush, discouraging abusers from snorting or dissolving the tablets to get high.

But these abuse-deterrent painkillers represent a small fraction of the market for opioid pain drugs, which is dominated by low-cost generics. The FDA draft quidelines released Thursday outline studies needed to show that generic opioids have the same anti-abuse properties as their brand-name counterparts. Generic drugs receive a streamlined



WASHINGTON: Dr Robert Califf, President Barack Obama's nominee to lead the Food and Drug Administration, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Health, Education, **Labor and Pensions Committee hearing** on his nomination.

review process at the FDA, which helps speed their path to market and reduce the prices passed onto consumers. Generally, manufacturers only need show that their products are chemically equivalent to the original version, rather than conduct new clinical studies in patients.

Thursday's proposal comes just days after the FDA said it would add a new boxed warning - the most serious type - to some 175 immediate-release painkillers, including both branded and generics. That action is one in a series of measures promised by new FDA Commissioner Dr Robert Califf, who was confirmed by the Senate last month. Califf's confirmation was held up by Senate lawmakers who said the agency needed to do more to combat opioid abuse. For years, the agency only made modest changes to the drugs, emphasizing the need to keep medications accessible to patients with chronic pain.

In its announcement, the FDA acknowledged that evidence on the benefits of abuse-deterrent opioids is still emerging. "We recognize that abusedeterrent technology is still evolving and is only one piece of a much broader strat-



SILVER SPRING, Maryland: File photo shows the Food & Drug Administration campus in Silver Spring, Md. — AP photos

abuse," Califf said in a printed statement.

egy to combat the problem of opioid increase access to generic forms of abusedeterrent opioid medications is an impor-"But strongly encouraging innovation to tant element in that strategy." — AP



KFAR PINES: A woman works at the BOL (Breath Of Life) Pharma greenhouse in the country's second-largest medical cannabis plantation, near Kfar Pines in northern Israel. — AFP photos

# ISRAEL SEES HEADY FUTURE FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA

'FOR CANNABIS, WE HAVE A GOOD CLIMATE AND PERFECT LEVELS OF HUMIDITY

KFAR PINES, Israel: With its moat, wall, barbed wire, armed guards and security cameras, the facility could be mistaken for a military base if it weren't for the pungent odor of marijuana in the air. Here, on the outskirts of a quiet village in northern Israel, 50,000 plants of 230 varieties grow at the country's second-largest medical cannabis plantation. "For cannabis, we are in the promised land with a good climate, 300 days of sunshine each year and perfect levels of humidity," said Tamir Gedo, head of BOL Pharma, a company authorized by the Israeli health ministry to grow and distribute medical cannabis.

The recreational use of cannabis is illegal in the Jewish state, but for the past 10 years its therapeutic use has not only been permitted but also encouraged. Last year, doctors prescribed the herb to about 25,000 patients suffering from cancer, epilepsy, post-traumatic stress and degenerative diseases. The purpose is not to cure them but to alleviate their symptoms. The use of cannabis in medicine divides doctors around issues of addiction and behavioral problems such as aggression. Nevertheless, it has long been known to revive lost appetite and to help in treating sleep disorders, anxiety and inflammation, its supporters say.

They say much research remains to be done but it is advancing faster in Israel, where authorities allow human clinical trials, than in many oth-

Entrepreneurs, investors and researchers are increasingly entering the business and searching for the holy grail of medicinal marijuana: a purified form of the drug with minimal side-effects and which can be administered in accurate doses. Inside the fortified premises of BOL (Breath Of Life) Pharma are laboratories and greenhouses, with each plant monitored by software that remotely controls its biochemical parameters.

Growing cannabis for medical use demands careful supervision of active ingredients such as tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which gives recreational users their high but is not recommended for all patients, particularly children. "With the support of the (health) ministry, which has always had a pioneering attitude to this issue, we have built up expertise in clinical trials and we can



KFAR PINES: A woman works on the BOL (Breath Of Life) Pharma greenhouse.

share it with companies in the United States and Europe," said Gedo. He cites initial results of trials on patients with Crohn's disease, which is characterized by chronic inflammation of the intestine, diarrhea and recurrent abdominal pain.

# A world hash hub?

Forbidden to export its cannabis plants, Israel is concentrating instead on marketing its agronomic, medical and technological expertise in the hope of becoming a world hub in the field. The prestigious Hebrew University of Jerusalem has just opened a cannabis research center joining 19 other teams from local academic institutions. About 200 industry players gathered in Tel Aviv this month for Canna Tech, an international conference on the industry.

Suited salespeople, some a little red-eyed despite a ban on consumption laid down by the organizers, exhibited products including elec-

greenhouse.

tronic cannabis cigarettes, cannabis-based creams and ointments and a remedy for dry mouth. Some startups are focused on the plant's by-products, others on user accessories, but a few have bigger ideas. "Look at what has happened in the past two years, the speed at which legalization of cannabis is advancing," said Saul Kaye, head of the first Israeli incubator for cannabis industry startups.

"We're not going to miss this opportunity, and seeing what the first investors are putting on the table, we feel that it is going to be very big." In January, US tobacco giant Philip Morris ploughed \$20 million into Israeli company Syke, which produces precision inhalers for medical cannabis. At the same time, Israeli firm Eybna announced it had isolated therapeutic organic compounds from the plant without the psychoactive ingredients which make unprescribed use illegal. — AFP



KFAR PINES: A woman works at the BOL (Breath Of Life) Pharma

# CHILE REPORTS ITS FIRST SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED ZIKA CASE

**BUENOS AIRES:** Chile has confirmed its first case of the Zika virus having been sexually transmitted, the health ministry said in a statement on its website on Saturday. The virus is linked to thousands of suspected cases of birth defects in Brazil. The new case in Chile is that of a 46-year-old woman whose partner was infected while in Haiti. Chile, where the mosquitoes that transmit the virus are not found, has confirmed 10 cases of Zika involving people infected outside the country.

There is growing evidence that suggests a link between Zika and microcephaly in babies. The condition is defined by unusually small heads that can result in developmental problems. Brazil said it has confirmed more than 900 cases of microcephaly and considers most of them to be related to Zika infections in the mothers. US health officials recommend that women wait at least two months, and men at least six, before attempting to conceive after infection with Zika. — Reuters

# POPULAR MUSIC OFTEN TAKES **NEGATIVE VIEW OF AGING**

**NEW YORK:** Music can powerfully influence mood, and for older people, the negative depictions of aging in most popular music can be a downer, researchers say. They analyzed images of aging conveyed in 76 songs whose lyrics invoke the topic. Most images were negative, they found. "We're aware that the number of people over age 60 will probably double by 2050, and we're very keen that that aging experience is a positive one," said lead author Jacinta Kelly of Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, UK. In music, aging is often associated with dependency and frailty and physical decline rather than with attractiveness, Kelly told Reuters Health by

"What we're trying to get across is that this kind of bitterness or hostility is promoted or conveyed and it's not a trivial thing to explore," she said. "You can absorb negativity and it can have consequences for your health." Harboring hostile attitudes toward aging can have negative effects on cardiac health, while a positive outlook can actually improve longevity by five to seven years, she said. The researchers searched lyrics databases for English language songs relating to age or aging, settling on 76 relevant songs, mostly from the US and UK, with an average of nine songs recorded each decade between the 1930s and today. The number of relevant songs increased sharply in the 2000s.

They found three major categories of depictions of aging: "contented and celebrated," "pitiful and petulant" or "frail and flagging." Only 21 songs, including Dusty Springfield's "Goin' Back" and Bob Dylan's "Forever Young" took a positive view of aging, while 55 took a negative view, according to the results in the Journal of Advanced Nursing. The rest characterized older people as self-pitying and lacking in self-esteem, as in Kris Kristofferson's "Feeling Mortal" and Leonard Cohen's "Because Of" or with fear and loneliness, as in Celine Dion's "All By Myself."

The study "demonstrates one aspect of ageism in society and in popular culture," said Gerard M Fealy of the University College Dublin College of Health Sciences, who was not part of the new study. "We tend to identify older people with negative terms," Fealy told Reuters Health by phone. "And with chronological age as opposed to who they are as people."

Our society "valorizes youth" and marginalizes the aged, which can even shape public and social policy, he said, citing, for example, recent suggestions by economists in Ireland that older people whose children have left home could be incentivized to sell their homes to help ease the housing crisis, making more space available for younger people. "I would never wish to censor music lyrics, not in any way," Fealy said. "But we can create a counter discourse to redress some of the ageism." "Most older people had a past that was interesting, exciting, and valuable," and most young people, if they're lucky, will one day be old, Fealy said. — Reuters

# DRIVING TO WORK LINKED TO A FATTER MIDDLE AGE

**LONDON:** Choosing an active way to get to work could make a big difference in how much weight creeps on in middle age, a large UK study suggests. Studying tens of thousands of commuters over age 40, researchers found that people who drove to work weighed more and had a higher percentage of body fat than those who got to work by walking, biking or public transportation. Those who commuted by bicycle were the leanest of all, but even taking the train was linked to lower body weight and body fat, the authors report in The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology.

"We know that exercise protects against obesity and chronic diseases. However, we all struggle to fit enough of it into our busy lives," said lead author Ellen Flint of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. "This study shows that people who manage to build physical activity into their daily commute have significantly lower body weight and healthier body composition than those who commute by car," Flint told Reuters Health by email.

In the US, about one third of adults are obese and no more than about 18 percent commute to work by walking or biking, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To examine links between commuting mode and body weight, the study team used data from the UK Biobank on 157,000 middle-aged British adults, collected between 2006 and 2010. Body fat was assessed in two ways: body mass index (BMI), which is a ratio of weight to height, and body fat percentage.

Car travel was the most common method of commuting, with 64 percent of men and 61 percent of women reporting they drove for all or part of their commutes. Four percent of men and 7 percent of women exclusively walked to work, while 4 percent of men and 2 percent of women cycled or mixed cycling with walking. Overall, 23 percent of men and 24 percent of women used an active commuting method either exclusively or as part of a mix of transport methods. Men and women who commuted to work by any means other than driving had lower body fat percentage and BMI compared to adults who commuted by car, researchers found.

# **Cyclists and drivers**

Even after accounting for a wide range of characteristics and lifestyle information about the participants, active commuting methods were linked to lower body weight and body fat. The biggest difference was seen between cyclists and drivers. Men who biked to work averaged nearly two BMI points less and were about 11 pounds lighter than those who drove. Women who biked were about 1.65 BMI points less and 9.7 pounds lighter than those who commuted by car. Factors outside of individuals' control can influence their commuting choices, noted Dr Lars Bo Andersen of Sogn and Fjordane University College in Norway, who wrote a commentary on the study. But, he said, people need to know that everyday health choices make a difference in the long run.

"The average person gains 1-2 pounds each year after the age of 30 years," Andersen said by email. "This trend will be prevented by simple things such as choosing the active travel, small changes in nutrition, etc." In his commentary, Andersen emphasized that communities need to help people make healthier choices. "The community can provide the environment and especially the infrastructure which makes it possible to cycle and walk," Andersen told Reuters Health, "Switching from car commuting to a less sedentary routine allows us to build more habitual physical activity into the daily routine," said Flint. — Reuters



KFAR PINES: A woman prepares marijuana plants for smoking at the **BOL (Breath Of Life) Pharma laboratories.** 

# ARIZONA BRIDGE BECOMES FOCUS OF SUICIDE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

**FLAGSTAFF, Arizona:** A steel arch bridge amid a land-scape known for its red rock formations has become the focus of a mental health and suicide prevention campaign after an increase in jumpers. Four people died after jumping from the historic Midgely Bridge last year twice as many as any other year in the past decade. The parking lot next to the bridge now has a sign showing a hotline number for those contemplating suicide. The sign went up in September, and more are on the way.

City officials are urging the Arizona Department of Transportation to look into other options so that the site doesn't gain the same notoriety of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco or the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge in northern New Mexico. "What we're trying to do is throw a lifeline," Coconino County sheriff's Chief Deputy Jim Driscoll said. "If someone is there thinking about it, maybe they'll just stop and call the number. Maybe they just need someone to listen to them."

The bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is incorporated into Sedona's logo. It spans a chasm off Oak Creek Canyon with a rock formation that resembles a steamboat in the background. Local officials have been talking about ways to stem the

number of people who kill themselves at the bridge. The Mental Health Coalition Verde Valley formed a suicide prevention task force for increased awareness of mental health issues and training on crisis situations. The mayor and the fire district in Sedona reached out to the state, which owns the bridge, and suggested fencing along it or netting between it and the rocky ground below.

"There has to be some recognition at the state level that there is an absolute opportunity to mitigate the impact, whether it be as far reaching as expanding spending on mental health research or some sort of barrier device," Sedona Fire Division Chief Ed Mezulis said. Transportation spokesman Dustin Krugel said the department is committed to promoting safety but would have to consider the historical and structural limitations of the bridge in deciding what steps to take. Barbara Litrell, facilitator at the Mental Health Coalition, said the group is working with the community to talk to school children, residents and organizations about the effects of mental illness and warnings signs for suicide. "So much of the work has to happen before they get to the bridge," she said. "The bridge is almost like it's too late." — AP



ARIZONA: This undated photo shows Midgley Bridge in Sedona. — AP



CONNERSVILLE, Indiana: Paula Maupin, the public health nurse for eastern Indiana's Fayette County, holds one of the syringes provided to intravenous drug users taking part in the county's state-approved needle exchange program. —AP photos



CONNERSVILLE, Indiana: Paula Maupin discusses the county's stateapproved needle exchange program, in the county courthouse.

# INDIANA COUNTIES MUST FUND NEEDLE EXCHANGES SANS STATE HELP

**CONNERSVILLE, Indiana:** One of Indiana's four legal needle exchange programs operates out of a cramped 10 foot-by-10 foot office in the basement of the local courthouse in Fayette County, which is struggling with a hepatitis C outbreak amid the state's growing opioid-abuse crisis. Though just seven intravenous drug users addicted to heroin are enrolled in the program, Paula Maupin, Fayette County's public health nurse, expects that to grow to 75 to 100 participants in the next year or so. The problem is, lawmakers banned state funding for the exchanges when they legalized them last year, even as Indiana's worst-ever HIV outbreak struck in another county.

The four counties - Fayette, Madison, Monroe and Scott - that won state approval for their exchanges after that law took effect last May are cash-strapped and in largely rural areas. They had to scramble to find money from nonprofits, foundations, donations or county coffers to run the programs, which provide intravenous drug users with clean syringes and collect used ones to reduce needle-sharing and prevent the spread of HIV, hepatitis C and other diseases. But local officials are hoping federal funding can give them a boost.

Fayette County turned to the Comer Family Foundation and the Washington-based advocacy group AIDS United, which provided \$23,000. Although its exchange won state approval in August, it didn't open in Connersville, about 50 miles east of Indianapolis, until November. "What

we've got, it's fine for now," Maupin said Thursday as she stood next to baskets of clean syringes, packaged cotton balls and other supplies. "But when we have the amount of people I'm expecting, we're going to burn through that money pretty quick."

# Syringe exchanges

State Rep Ed Clere, a New Albany Republican, acknowledged that the state funding ban is "a real barrier" that counties must overcome, but that it's necessary to win the votes of lawmakers. "Without the change in law, syringe exchanges wouldn't have been possible, period," he said of the legislation he authored, which requires the state health commissioner to review and either approve or reject the creation of exchanges for counties that seek them.

Clere said he's hopeful that Congress' move in December to soften a longtime ban on federal funding for needle exchanges, made in response to the nation's opioid abuse crisis, will open a flow of federal dollars to help the county exchanges pay employees' salaries, rent office space and support other aspects. That money, however, can't be used to buy clean needles. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is still drafting rules for applications for federal funding. "The devil will be in the details" of the CDC's process to identify priority areas for funding, said Beth Meyerson, co-director of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention at Indiana University.

"Obviously they're not going to have funding for every county that wants to initiate a syringe exchange locally. And many of these counties are very poor," she said. Fayette County is among them, having seen several factories close in recent years. And Meyerson said she expects more than 20 other Indiana counties to seek approval for a needle exchange.

Scott County, about 30 miles north of Louisville, Kentucky, was at the heart of the HIV outbreak that spurred the change in Indiana's law. It's operated its exchange since April 2015 initially under an executive order signed by Gov Mike Pence and later under the new law. Two hundred people are actively participating in the county's exchange, public health nurse Brittany Combs said, and nearly 400 have signed up to take part.

Combs said the HIV outbreak - the worst in Indiana history with nearly 190 people infected and driven largely by people abusing a liquefied form of the prescription painkiller Opana - has "definitely been stopped" by the needle exchange and robust local education efforts targeting IV drug users. It has remained afloat with grants and donations from several groups, including \$10,000 from the Indiana Family Health Council, but will need much more in the years ahead. She hopes federal dollars can arrive sometime this year to boost the county's efforts. "That would really be great. We're kind of in a waiting game right now," Combs said. — AP

# TINIEST PREEMIES STRUGGLE WITH SCHOOL AND ADULT LIFE

**NEW YORK:** Although extremely preterm birth is no longer the death sentence it once was, many of the tiniest preemies still struggle in school and have a harder time as adults, two new studies suggest. One study focused on the most vulnerable subset of preemies: those born at no more than 28 weeks gestation. More than half of these infants went on to have moderate to severe cognitive deficits and had academic test scores well below average. The second study looked at babies born before 32 weeks gestation. By the time they reached adolescence and adulthood, these individuals were more likely than their peers born full term to think that health problems lowered their quality of life.

"In terms of extremely preterm infants, there are multiple reasons why we are seeing deficits and poor performance later," said Dr Margaret Kern, a researcher at the University of Melbourne who wasn't involved in the studies. "Biologically, there is a lot of key development that occurs across the cycle, and when that is cut off very early it raises risk - like an uncooked cake, there isn't enough time for things to come together fully," Kern said by email. Some of the same things that may have contributed to their early arrival may also make it harder for preemies to get help in overcoming developmental deficits, Kern added.

"There are a whole host of related issues involved, including less knowledge and education by the mother and father, if involved in the life at all, which often is not the case, and poor

nutrition and other health behaviors," Kern said. Soon after birth, premature infants often have difficulty breathing and digesting food. Some preemies also encounter longer-term challenges such as impaired vision, hearing, and cognitive skills as well as social and behavioral problems.

### Prolong pregnancy

The life-saving medical care these infants receive in neonatal intensive care units can contribute to developmental deficits, said Jill Zwicker, a pediatrics researcher at the University of British Columbia who wasn't involved in the studies. "At this time of rapid brain development, these infants are exposed to procedures for their medical care, such as heel pokes to draw blood, tube insertions to help them breathe, medications etc.," Zwicker said by email. "Exposure to these invasive procedures is associated with slower brain development and poorer cognitive outcomes."

Some drugs and procedures can prolong pregnancy to avoid early arrivals or at least help preterm infants arrive closer to full term, Robert Joseph, lead author of the study on academic outcomes, said by email. It's possible that inflammation may increase the risk of developmental problems, and scientists are working to understand how these things are connected and develop treatments to address the affects of inflammation after birth, Joseph added. The studies published in Pediatrics were not designed to prove cause and effect, however. — Reuters



FRANCE: Nikita, a 9-year-old Lion and his 3 white lions cub look at wrapped packages on Easter at the zoo in La Fleche, northwestern France yesterday. — AFP



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# FRIENDS ELEVEN KUWAIT TO FACE TEAM ABBASIYA IN 'AL MULLA EXCHANGE CHAMPIONS TROPHY' FINALS

s the T20 world cup heats up in the subcontinent, Kuwait is witness to another cricket fever - the Al Mulla Exchange Champions Trophy 2016. The tournament saw the semi-finals clashes on March 18 at the Sulabiya Cricket Ground. Friends Eleven Kuwait took on TCR to script a decisive win. After electing to bat, the TCR put on a competitive score of 93 from 15 overs. Friends Eleven replied in style spearheaded by an unbeaten 42 off 17 balls by man-of-the-match Umar. His blazing perform-

ance saw his team cruise to victory with 6 wickets to spare.

In the second match, tournament favorites, Team Abbasiya upended AMX Eleven. It was a dominating performance in all departments. In the first innings, Abbasiya bowlers made short work of AMX restricting them to 84 for 9 in 15 overs. Their reply was a stunning display of batting prowess by Abassiya captain, Sakeer. They scampered home with 8 wickets

in hand.
Following the wins, Team Abassiya will be

meeting Friends Eleven Kuwait in the much awaited finals. The tournament champions will receive a cash prize of KD 750. The runners up will get KD 500 and the second runners up KD 200. This is the biggest prize money given for any cricket tournament.







# GUST HOSTS EXPERT TO DISCUSS DECLINING OIL PRICES AND ITS REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

ulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST)
Global Studies Center (GSC) organized a lecture on
campus last week, entitled "Declining Oil Prices and
Regional Implications". The lecture, which was delivered by
Dr Bassam Fattouh, Professor at the School of Oriental and
African Studies (SOAS) in London, UK, provided insights to
GUST students, staff, faculty, and the public about this pertinent issue.

Director of the Global Studies Center, Dr Martin Rosenstock, said, "The GSC organizes talks by local and international experts on crucial and timely issues, and there are few matters of more importance for Kuwait today than the developments in the international oil market".

Dr Bassam Fattouh examined the latest developments in the oil market and their implications by placing them within a broader historical context. He then discussed the role of OPEC and its current position of uncertainty, as well as the potential resilience of GCC economies to weather the low-price environment in both the short and long-term. Time was allotted at the end of the lecture for a Q&A

session to open a dialogue and share information.

Dr Fattouh is one of the leading experts on the international oil market, and the social and political implications of fluctuations in the price of oil. He has published widely on oil, energy, and security in the Middle East including a variety of articles on the international oil pricing system, OPEC pricing power, security of Middle Eastern oil supplies, and the dynamics of oil prices and differentials which have appeared in notable publications such as Energy Economics, The Energy Journal, Journal of

Development Economics, Oxford Review of Economic Policy, among others.

The GSC regularly holds sessions with renowned speakers on a variety of different, culturally relevant topics, including recent talks by Dr Daniel Brumberg of Sciences Po on "US-Arab Relations in a Time of Crisis", and another by Professor Toby Dodge, Director of the Kuwait Program at the London School of Economics on the "Rise of the Islamic State, the Future of Iraq, and Risks to the Gulf States".













The Tajikistan dance group (Lola) enthralled the audience with their superb performance at a packed hall of Salmiya theatre over the weekend. The two hour performance was held under the patronage of Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Homoud with the cooperation of national council of culture arts & letters. The performance coincided with Tajikistan new year called (Nowruz Festival) which means beginning of Persian new year. The 56 member team of the group has performed in twenty countries. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

# APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ABOUT KUWAITI RESISTANCE FIGHTERS

To whom it may concern

This is an appeal on behalf of Marshal Byiers, a Scottish gentleman who lived in Kuwait during the 1980s. While here, he lived with his family in Fahaheel city, more specifically, in a building owned by Khalif Al-Fulaij.

Marshall worked for a company called EW Sable, and was trapped in Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion. He was held hostage by the Iraqi forces for a brief period of time. He was eventually put in contact with members of the Kuwait Resistance by Larry Banks at the British Embassy. While Mr Byiers never met the resistance fighters in person, they spoke over the phone and they provided him with food, cigarettes, and a small radio at great personal risk to them self. The men who knew him would likely be in their 50s now. His personal friend was a Kuwaiti gentleman names Sami Al Dabbous, who we're having trouble locating.

After the war, Marshall returned to Scotland. We are a group of filmmakers who are currently working on a documentary that narrates Marshall's story, and, after 26 years, we are flying him back to Kuwait for the first time, for what will probably be quite an emotional closure to his journey.

Marshall would really like to meet the person that helped him during the Iraqi occupation. Marshall is due to arrive to Kuwait on April 4-9. The documentary tells his story and we would like the opportunity to tell the story from the side of the man who helped him. If you or anybody else has any personal history with this story or anybody involved in it, please contact us at the following email Hamadaam@vcu.edu or phone number (965) 6668-0061.





# VISA WAIVER PROGRAM/ESTA AND TRAVEL TO THE US

■he US Embassy wishes to remind all nationalities who are able to travel to the United States via the Visa Waiver Program that as of 01 April, 2016 they must have a valid electronic passport. This rule applies even to those who possess a valid Electronic System for Travel Authorization. The US Embassy strongly recommends that all travelers check to ensure their passports are valid electronic passports before they make arrangements to travel to the United States on the Visa Waiver program.

# TSC CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL HAPPINESS DAY AT NBK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

# TSC PROMOTES HAPPINESS AND CELEBRATES WITH CUSTOMERS

s part of its ongoing commitment to the community, The Sultan Center organized a visit to NBK Children's Hospital to celebrate the International Happiness Day with children in hopes of spreading happiness, uplifting their spirits and putting smiles on their faces.

The visit, held on Mar 21st 2016, provided a memorable day for the children and the TSC team. A rich entertainment program was organized with various activities including games, contests, magic show, balloon twisting, along with the children's favorite cartoon characters and an exciting clown

show. The TSC team spent quality time with children including those who could not be part of the activities due to ongoing treatment.

The occasion was a true celebration for both children and parents who spent a memorable and fun-filled day. Commenting on TSC's initiative, Lisa Al Gharib, Marketing Manager at TSC expressed, "We wanted to bring the joys to the children, and we hope that with this visit we brightened their day with a gift of hope. They are an incredible group of children whose courage and determination inspire us all, she added. With its overall con-

tributions and efforts to the society, The Sultan Center has a long standing commitment to supporting the community in which it operates.

In accordance to its social corporate responsibility and on the occasion of the International Day of Happiness, The Sultan Center organized a series of events across its stores to share this day of Happiness with all its customers and staff and be part of the worldwide day of happiness.

TSC stores organized a variety of activities including, face painting, smiley characters, a selfie booth, balloons, and a 'Smiley Wall" where cus-

tomers had the opportunity to express themselves in terms of what makes them Happy, while the stores were themed for the occasion. TSC Head Office Staff also seized the opportunity to spend the day in the store helping and connecting with customers and staff, while joining in the festivities.

Lisa Al Gharib, Marketing Manager at TSC commented: "TSC organized this event to take part in the International Happiness Day while celebrating with customers and staff, it is a day to celebrate the happiness that exists within each of us and share it with those around us. Commenting on this initiative Hani Ismael Director of HR commented that this activity had a positive impact across the organization, staff was enthusiastic to participate fostering a true sense of team spirit".

TSC initiative stems from its commitment to share this day with the community while seizing the opportunity to inspire and uplift people and make them smile. TSC has been at the forefront in its social commitment by designing events and activities for the communication which is operates.











# KUWAIT SOCIETY FOR THE IDEAL FAMILY HOLDS AWARD CEREMONY FOR MOTHERS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

hairlady of Kuwait Society for the Ideal Family, Sheikha Fareeha Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stressed that the ideal mother award had come a long way in promoting its vision on family awareness and excluding all forms of violence and enhancing the concept of being a good citizen. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a special ceremony held to honor the ideal mothers for 2016 in the presence of HH the PM's spouse, Sheikh Sharifa Al-Jassim, Sheikha Fareeha said that the society showed a great deal of care for families by highlighting successful role models and encouraging related national initiatives made by NGOs with the ultimate goal of enhancing women's status.





15:15 China 24

News Update

News Update

World InSight

Culture Express

News Update

Spectrum Asia

Global Business

News Update

News Update

The Rundown

Asia Squawk Box

Asia Street Signs

CNBC Originals

Capital Connection

Squawk Box Europe

Europe Street Signs

U.S. Squawk Box

U.S. Power Lunch

crime

network

04:00 O.J. Speaks: The Hidden

The FBI Files

The FBI Files

13:00 The First 48

16:00 The FBI Files

00:20 Fast N' Loud

Killing Fields

The Liquidator

Garage Gold

The First 48

Homicide Hunter

Evil Up Close

Homicide Hunter

10:00 Evil Up Close 11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain

Homicide Hunter

Motive For Murder

The Haunting Of... Killers: Behind The Myth

Britain's Darkest Taboos

Beyond Scared Straight

Nightmare In Suburbia

Crimes That Shook Britain

Britain's Darkest Taboos Gangsters: America's Most

CHANNEL

Manhunt With Joel Lambert

Manhunt With Joel Lambert

What's In The Barn?

How Do They Do It?

Outback Truckers

Wheeler Dealers

What's In The Barn?

Chasing Classic Cars

Fast N' Loud

The Liquidator

Garage Gold

09:45 How Do They Do It?

12:15 Extreme Car Hoarders

The Liquidator

Garage Gold

Fast N' Loud

Gold Rush

Extreme Collectors

Outback Truckers

Wheeler Dealers

Chasing Classic Cars

Diamond River Hunters

Dynamo: Top Ten Moments

How Do They Do It?

10:35 Misfit Garage

11:25 Street Outlaws

Chasing Classic Cars

HD

Discoveru

Nightmare In Suburbia

&investigation

18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley 19:00 Fast Money: Half Time

22:00 U.S. Closing Bell

00:00 The Haunting Of...

Worldwide Exchange

Squawk On The Street

Asia Today

Africa Live

Dialogue

22:15 China 24

23:15 World InSight

Global Business

16:00

17:15

18:00

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Report

01:00

**Tapes** 

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21:30 The Nightly Show With Larry

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21:00 Hot In Cleveland

South Park

South Park

Wilmore

22:30

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04:00

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07:00 24

09:00 10:00

12:00

12:30

14:00

22:00 Married

23:30 Comedians

00:00 Bates Motel

Scandal

Bones

Suits

Bones

House Of Cards

The Night Shift

Coronation Street

Coronation Street

The Last Kingdom

Good Morning America

The Ellen DeGeneres Show

The Ellen DeGeneres Show

Live Good Morning America

- State Of Grace 02:45 Desperately Seeking Susan 04:30 Jakob The Liar 06:25 Nobody's Fool If It's Tuesday, This Must Be
- 09:50 One Summer Love 11:30 The Secret Of Santa Vittoria Big Screen 13:45
- 14:00 Hackers One More Time 17:20 It Runs In The Family 18:45 Seven Years In Tibet Night Manager Mortal Thoughts

23:45 Raging Bull

00:45 Gator Boys 01:40 Hunt For The Tasmanian

Tiger 02:35 Wildest India Bahama Blue Wildest Arctic 03:25 04:15 Sharks Under Glass 05:49 Biggest And Baddest 06:36 Meet The Sloths America's Cutest Pets

Big Fish Man

Treehouse Masters

08:15

09:10

Amboseli

Amboseli

Tanked 11:00 America's Cutest Pets 11:55 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet Big Fish Man 13:45 Gator Boys Treehouse Masters 14:40 Tanked 16:30 Echo And The Elephants Of

17:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5) 18:20 From WAGs To Riches Tanked 20:10 Echo And The Elephants Of

Treehouse Masters 22:00 From WAGs To Riches 22:55 Gator Bovs

# BBC **FIRST**

00:15 Eastenders Silent Witness 01:40 Silent Witness 02:35 Silent Witness 03:25 **Doctors** 03:55 Eastenders Stella 04:25 Father Brown 06:00 Doctors 06:30 Doctors Eastenders 07:30 Stella Call The Midwife 08:20 Doctor Who 10:05 Doctors 10:35 Eastenders **Father Brown** 11:55 Stella Call The Midwife 12:45 Doctor Who 14:30 Doctors Eastenders 15:05 Stella Call The Midwife 16:20 17:20 Doctor Who Casualty 19:10 Father Brown Prev 20:05 Happy Valley

# **Bloomberg**

Father Brown Casualty

High Flyers Bloomberg Businessweek 00:00 00:30 First Up With Angie Lau 02:00 First Up With Angie Lau **Trending Business** 03:00 Trending Business 05:00 Asia Edge Bloomberg Best 06:00 Charlie Rose 08:00 Countdown

Countdown

09:00

20:10 The Liquidator Garage Gold 21:00 Gold Rush Diamond River Hunters 21:50 Alaska: Battle On The Bay

Wheeler Dealers

00:30 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special 01:20 True Crime With Aphrodite

Jones Swamp Murders Tamron Hall Deadly Affairs 04:30 Missing In Maui: A Disappeared Special

Murder Shift 10:20 Deadly Affairs 11:10 The Will 12:00 12:50

California Investigator 14:05 Dr G: Medical Examiner 14:55 Fatal Encounters 15:45

7ahn 16:35 Murder Shift 19:05 Deadly Affairs True Crime With Aphrodite 19:55

California Investigator Who On Earth Did I Marry? 21:10 Swamp Murders 22:50 True Nightmares Who On Earth Did I Marry? 23:40

> DISCOVERY science

00:20 Sci-Trek Invent It Rich Da Vinci's Machines 01:55 02:42 Mighty Ships Mighty Ships Mega Builders Food Factory 04:16 05:03 Food Factory 05:50 Food Factory

06:13 Food Factory How Do They Do It? How Do They Do It? 07:00 07:23 Superhuman Showdown Sci-Trek Mighty Ships How It's Made 08:53 09:38 How It's Made

10:23

Design

Stephen Hawking's Grand 11:08 Mighty Ships Superhuman Showdown 11:53 12:38 How It's Made 13:46 How It's Made Sci-Trek 14:10 14:57 Da Vinci's Machines 15:44 Stephen Hawking's Grand

Da Vinci's Machines

**Building The Biggest** Sci-Trek Penn & Teller Tell A Lie 17:18 18:05 You Have Been Warned 19:40 Stephen Hawking's Grand Design

How It's Made 20:25 How It's Made Sci-Fi Science 20:50 21:15 Sci-Fi Science You Have Been Warned 22:00 22:45 Stephen Hawking's Grand 23:35 Penn & Teller Tell A Lie



00:30 Aircrash Confidential 03:35 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations 04:20 Anthony Bourdain: No 05:50 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations

06:35 Chasing Classic Cars 07:00 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations 07:50 Bush Pilots 08:40 Extreme Engineering 09:30 Gunslingers

Violetta

17:25 Austin & Ally 17:50 Dog With A Blog

18:40 Gravity Falls

Ladybug & Cat Noir

H2O

Teenage Witch

Teenage Witch

23:10 Hank Zipzer

00:05 Art Attack

Zou

Loopdidoo

Art Attack

Calimero

Loopdidoo

Art Attack

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Art Attack

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Art Attack

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Art Attack

Calimero

Sofia The First

Goldie & Bear

Sofia The First

Goldie & Bear

Sofia The First

Sofia The First

Jungle Cubs

Goldie & Bear

Sofia The First

Doc McStuffins

Goldie & Bear

Sofia The First

Bambi 2

Zou

Loopdidoo

Loopdidoo

Boyster

Super Matrak

Super Matrak

Supa Strikas

Kirby Buckets

Annedroids

Lab Rats

K.C. Undercover

Star vs The Forces Of Evil

Guardians Of The Galaxy

Lab Rats: Bionic Island

Miles From Tomorrow

Miles From Tomorrow

Zou Henry Hugglemonster

Jake And The Never Land

Bambi 2

09:10 The Lion Guard: Return Of

Miles From Tomorrow

Miles From Tomorrow

Jake And The Never Land

00:30

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The Roar

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The Roar 17:40 G

Violetta

The Next Step

Mako Mermaids

The Next Step

21:10 Good Luck Charlie

22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A

22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A

23:35 Binny And The Ghost

DISNEP &

Henry Hugglemonster

Henry Hugglemonster

Henry Hugglemonster

Henry Hugglemonster

Henry Hugglemonster

Loopdidoo Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

Jake And The Never Land

Miraculous Tales Of

Good Luck Charlie

Binny And The Ghost

16:10

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21:35

Origins Chasing Classic Cars 10:45 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations 12:00 Bush Pilots

Extreme Engineering Gunslingers 14:30 Origins Chasing Classic Cars

15:20 Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations 16:10 Bush Pilots Extreme Engineering 17:50 Gunslingers Origins

Chasing Classic Cars 19:05 19:30 Disaster On K2 20:20 Anthony Bourdain: No 21:10 Extreme Engineering 22:00 Disaster On K2

22:50 Gunslingers 23:40 Modern Sniper

00:00 Violetta 00:45 The Hive 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



# THE EXPENDABLES 3 ON OSN MOVIES HD

09:30 On The Move 10:00 On The Move The Pulse 11:00 Bloomberg Surveillance 12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance 14:00 Bloomberg Go 15:00 Bloomberg Go Bloomberg Markets 18:00 Bloomberg Markets

News Update

News Update

Americas Now

News Update

China InSight

News Update

News Update

Dialogue

News Hour

Americas Now

News Update

Sports Scene

Global Business

Culture Express

News Update

Africa Live

Dialogue

News Update

News Update

Assignment Asia

Dialogue

China 24

00:00

00:30

01:00

01:15

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11:00

12:00

12:30

13:00

14:00

European Close 19:00 Bloomberg Markets Bloomberg Markets 20:00 Bloomberg Markets 21:00 Bloomberg Markets 23:00 What'd You Miss?

**NEWS** 

03:00 Deadline: Crime With

06:10 The Will 07:00 Dr G: Medical Examiner On The Case With Paula Zahn 08:40

Fatal Encounters True Crime With Aphrodite I Almost Got Away With It

On The Case With Paula I Almost Got Away With It The Will

01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch Hank Zipzer 02:05 Binny And The Ghost

02:30 Violetta 03:15 The Hive Sabrina Secrets Of A 03:20 Teenage Witch Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch Hank Zipzer

04:10 04:35 Binny And The Ghost Violetta 05:45 The Hive 05:50 Mouk Lolirock

Sofia The First 06:25 Gravity Falls 06:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir 07:40 Jessie Shake It Up 08:30 Shake It Up That's So Raven 08:55 That's So Raven

09:45 Girl Meets World 10:10 Girl Meets World The Lion Guard: Return Of The Roar 11:20 Descendants Wicked World 11:25 Miraculous Tales Of

Ladybug & Cat Noir 11:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug & Cat Noir 12:15 Cars Toons 12:20 Jessie 12:45 Jessie 13:10 Austin & Allv Austin & Ally 13:35 Liv And Maddie

Descendants Wicked World

Liv And Maddie

14:25

10:25 Lab Rats: Bionic Island 10:50 K.C. Undercover K.C. Undercover 11:20 Supa Strikas 12:10 Supa Strikas

Much Everything 13:00 Disney's Descendants Cars Toons 15:10 16:05

16:30 Kirby Buckets Much Everything 17:25 K.C. Undercover 17:50 Supa Strikas 18:15 Lab Rats

18:40 Mighty Med 19:10 Annedroids 19:35 Phineas And Ferb 20:00 Kirby Buckets

22:25 Phineas And Ferb 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse 23:00 6:00am KSĂ

00:00 The Grace Helbig Show WAGs 00:30 02:20 E! News 03:15 Stewarts And Hamiltons

06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 06:55 Keeping Up With The . Kardashians 07:50 Style Star 08:20 E! News

Giuliana & Bill 09:15 10:15 Giuliana & Bill 11:10 11:35 E! News 12:05 13:05 Dash Dolls 14:05 Hollywood Cycle 15:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians

16:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 17:00 Stewarts And Hamiltons 18:00 E! News

19:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians 20:00 Botched

21:00 22:00 WAGs Sex With Brody 23:00 23:30 Fashion Bloggers

tood

00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Rev Run's Sunday Suppers Rev Run's Sunday Suppers 02:00 Tia Mowry At Home 02:30 Tia Mowry At Home 03:00 Cutthroat Kitchen Follow Donal... To Europe Follow Donal... To Europe Chopped Man Fire Food Man Fire Food

09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics 09:30 The Kitchen 10:00 Anna Olson: Bake 11:00

13:00 The Pioneer Woman 13:30 14:00 14:30 15:00 Man Fire Food 15:30 Man Fire Food 16:00 Chopped 17:00 The Kitchen Anna Olson: Bake 18:00

Anna Olson: Bake Chopped Iron Chef America Amazing Wedding Cakes Mystery Diners 22:30 Mystery Diners Save My Bakery

08:25 The Jonathan Ross Show Big Star's Little Star The Chase: Celebrity 09:20 11:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night

Takeawav 12:30 Who's Doing The Dishes? 13:25 Emmerdale

13:50 Eggheads Coronation Street 14:20 14:45 Big Star's Little Star Come Dine With Me 15:35

Couples

16:30 Tracey Ullman's Show Raised By Wolves 17:00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries 17:25 18:20 Emmerdale Coach Trip Coronation Street 19:10

Couples 20:30 Tracey Ullman's Show Raised By Wolves
The Doctor Blake Mysteries 21:00 Coronation Street 22:50 Emmerdale 23:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?

19:35 Come Dine With Me

# NAT GEO people m

00:10 Lee Chan's World Food Tour 00:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour East Bites West 01:25 My Sri Lanka With Peter

Kuruvita 01:50 Maximum Foodie 02:15 Eat Street 02:40 Eat Street Meat v Veg No Ordinary Women Top Tables, Top Cities Top Tables, Top Cities 03:30 04:20

05:10 Fearless Chef American Food Battle 06:00 Rustic Adventure Argentina 06:50 East Bites West 07:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter

07:40 Maximum Foodie 08:05 Eat Street Eat Street 08:55 Meat v Veg No Ordinary Women 09:20 Valentine Warner Eats

Scandinavia 10:35 Poh & Co. 11:00 Baking Good, Baking Bad 11:25 Baking Good, Baking Bad 11:50 American Food Battle Rustic Adventure Argentina 12:40 East Bites West

13:05 My Sri Lanka With Peter 13:35 Maximum Foodie Eat Street 14:00 Eat Street Meat v Veg No Ordinary Women 14:55 15:25

Top Tables, Top Cities Top Tables, Top Cities Fearless Chef 16:45 17:15 American Food Battle Rustic Adventure Argentina Meat v Veg 18:35 19:05 No Ordinary Women 19:30 Top Tables, Top Cities Top Tables, Top Cities 20:25 20:50

Fearless Chef American Food Battle 22:05 22:30 Rustic Adventure Argentina East Bites West 23:20 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita

23:45 Maximum Foodie

# OM FIRST LLD COMEDY

00:00 Community Hot In Cleveland 00:30 The Nightly Show With Larry 05:30 Wilmore 01:30 Family Guy 09:00 South Park 11:15 South Park Mad Love

02:30 03:00 The Goldbergs
Two And A Half Men
The Tonight Show Starring 04:00 04:30 Jimmy Fallon

05:30 My Name Is Earl The Bernie Mac Show 06:00 Community Late Night With Seth Meyers Two And A Half Men 07:00 08:00 My Name Is Earl 09:00 Mad Love

09:30 Grandfathered Brooklyn Nine-Nine Community
The Tonight Show Starring 10:30 11:00 Jimmy Fallon

12:00 The Bernie Mac Show 12:30 Two And A Half Men My Name Is Earl Community
The Goldbergs 13:30 14:00 Grandfathered 15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine Hot In Cleveland 15:30 The Nightly Show With Larry

Wilmore 16:30 The Bernie Mac Show Late Night With Seth Meyers 17:00 18:00 Mad Love The Goldbergs 18:30

The Grinder Brooklyn Nine-Nine Comedians Community

# OM SPORTS 1 HD The Boat Race

23:30 Dixie And The Zombie

Super Rugby Trans World Sport 03:00 Live NRL Premiership Live NRL Premiership 08:00 Golfing World 10:00 Live NRL Premiership 13:00 Trans World Sport 14:00 AFL Premiership

HSBC World Rugby Sevens 16:30 Highlights 17:00 Gillette World Sport World Rugby 17:30

Highlights Trans World Sport 20:00 21:00 Top 14 Highlights 21:30 NRL Premiership

23:30 World Golf Championships Highlights

# ON SPORTS 2 HD

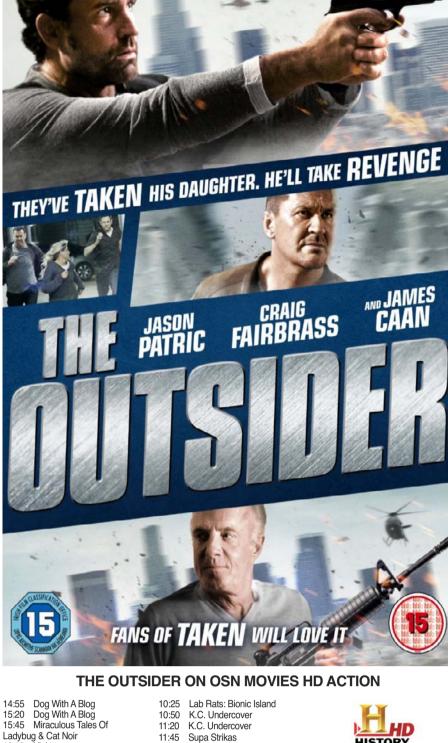
Gillette World Sport Live NHL World Rugby Gillette World Sport 07:00 Live AFL Premiership

### Gillette World Sport 10:00 World Rugby NHL

NRL Premiership Golfing World WWE Bottom Line WWE Superstars WWE Main Event

WWE Experience WWE Afterburn This Week In WWE

Highlights



12:35 Gamers Guide To Pretty

Guardians Of The Galaxy 15:15 Rocket Monkeys 15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy Star vs The Forces Of Evil

16:55 Gamers Guide To Pretty

20:25 Disney's Descendants

#RichKids Of Beverly Hills The E! True Hollywood Story 04:10 05:05 El Entertainment Special

#RichKids Of Beverly Hills #RichKids Of Beverly Hills

Christina Milian Turned Up

Sheriff Callie's Wild West Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Miles From Tomorrow Jake And The Never Land 00:30 01:30 The Lion Guard: Return Of

> 04:00 04:30 05:00 06:00 06:30 07:00 Man Fire Food 07:30 Man Fire Food 08:00 Chopped

> > Barefoot Contessa: Back To

11:30 Anna Olson: Bake Chopped The Pioneer Woman 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

18:30 19:00 20:00 21:00 22:00



Ax Men Storage Wars Swamp People

American Restoration American Restoration 07:40 American Pickers **Hunting Hitler** 

08:30 09:45 Down East Dickering 10:35 12:15 Pawn Stars 12:40 Pawn Stars Shipping Wars

13:30 Shipping Wars 13:55 Pawn Stars Pawn Stars 14:45 Pawn Stars Australia Pawn Stars Australia 15:10 Storage Wars

16:00 American Pickers 16:50 American Restoration American Restoration Counting Cars 17:40 18:30 Hunting Hitler 19:20 Duck Dynasty

19:45 **Duck Dynasty** 20:10 Pawn Stars Pawn Stars 20:35 21:00 Storage Wars Storage Wars 21:25 Aussie Pickers 22:40 The Curse Of Oak Island

23:30





02:00 Coronation Street Big Star's Little Star 02:30 Tracey Ullman's Show 03:55 04:20









THE SIGNAL ON OSN MOVIES HD

16:00 Suits The Ellen DeGeneres Show 18:00 The Night Shift 19:00 Scandal Recovery Road 21:00 Quantico Rosewood 22:00 23:00 Allegiance

# ON MOVIES HD

# **ACTION** U.F.O.

01:00 03:00 Battleship 05:30 Oblivion 07:45 The Hulk The Outside 12:00 Forget And Forgive 13:30 Oblivion

12 Rounds

The Hulk

17:45

# 20:15 Guardians Of The Galaxy Sin City: A Dame To Kill For **OM** MOVIES HD

COMEDY

The Best Man Holiday 02:30 I Love You Beth Cooper 04:15 The Love Punch Happy Gilmore 08:00 The Bounty Hunter 10:00 The Love Punch

Charlie And The Chocolate Factory Orange County 14:00 The Bounty Hunter John Tucker Must Die Cadillac Man The World's End



04:00 Bugsy 06:15 When A Man Loves A Woman Powder 08:30

October Sky

02:00

10:30 We Are Family 12:30 Ed Wood **Grand Central** 

17:00 Powder 19:00 Julie And Julia How I Live Now 23:00 Venus In Fur

# **ON MOVIES HID**

01:00 The Lovers 03:00 Divergent The Signal So Undercover 07:15 Divergent A Madea Christmas

The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies Some Girls 15:30 17:00 The Expendables 3 19:15 Lucy

21:00 Preservation 23:00 Home Sweet Hell

OM MOVIES HID **KIDS** 01:15 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure

02:45 Egon And Donci Blue Elephant 2 06:00 Tom And Jerry: Santa's Little Helpers 07:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's

Adventure 09:00 The Heart Of The Oak 10:45 Marco Macaco 12:30 Egon And Donci 14:15 Cher Ami

16:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion 18:00 The Heart Of The Oak 20:00 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monste Madness 22:00 Cher Ami

Rebellion

18:00 Golfing World 19:00 World Golf Championships

00:00 AFL Premiership 03:00 06:00

11:00 13:00 16:00 17:00

19:00 20:00 21:30 World Golf Championships

22:30 PGA Tour Highlights

# CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016





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

SHARQIA-1		FANAR-2		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:45 AM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:00 PM	THU+FRI+SAT+WED	12.137
KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	12:15 AM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	5:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	5:00 PM	SUN+MON+TUE	12.137
KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:00 PM	33.1	
THE INVITATION	9:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	9:00 PM	AVENUES-3	
THE INVITATION	11:00 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	11:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:00 PM
THE INVITATION	1:00 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:00 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:00 PM
				BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	6:00 PM
SHAROIA-2		FANAR-3		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:45 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:05 AM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	2:45 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:00 PM		
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	5:45 PM	ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	6:00 PM	360°- 1	
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:45 PM	ROCKY HANDSOME- Hindi	9:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE -3D	1:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:45 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:05 AM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:00 PM
				BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE -3D	4:00 PM
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-1		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE -3D	7:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	1:45 PM	TRIPLE 9	11:45 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE -3D	10:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	4:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	1:00 AM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	7:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:00 PM	TRIPLE 9	1:00 AM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:45 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:00 PM		
		KUNG FU PANDA 3	8:00 PM	360°- 2	
MUHALAB-1		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM	THE HALLOW	11:45 AM
THE INVITATION	12:00 PM	TRIPLE 9	1:00 AM	THE HALLOW	2:00 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	2:00 PM			THE HALLOW	4:15 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	4:00 PM	MARINA-2		THE HALLOW	6:30 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	6:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 PM	THE HALLOW	8:45 PM
KUNG FU PANDA 3	8:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:15 PM	THE HALLOW	11:00 PM
THE INVITATION	10:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	6:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	1:15 AM
THE INVITATION	12:05 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:15 PM	THE HALLOW	1:15 AM
		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 AM		
MUHALAB-2				360°- 3	
ZOOTOPIA	11:30 AM	MARINA-3		THE INVITATION	1:00 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	2:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	12:00 PM	THE INVITATION	3:15 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	5:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	2:15 PM	THE INVITATION	5:30 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	5:15 PM	THE INVITATION	7:45 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:00 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:15 PM	THE INVITATION	10:00 PM
		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:15 PM	THE INVITATION	12:15 AM
MUHALAB-3					
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 PM	AVENUES-1		AL-KOUT.1	
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	3:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	11:30 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:30 AM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	6:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	1:30 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	2:30 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	9:15 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	4:30 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	5:30 PM
BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:15 AM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	7:30 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	8:30 PM
		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:30 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	11:30 PM
FANAR-1		BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	1:30 AM		
THE INVITATION	12:45 PM	THU+FRI+SAT+WED		AL-KOUT.2	
THE INVITATION	2:45 PM			BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	12:45 PM
THE INVITATION	4:45 PM	AVENUES-2		KUNG FU PANDA 3	1:45 PM
THE INVITATION	6:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	1:00 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	3:45 PM
THE INVITATION	8:45 PM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	3:15 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	5:45 PM
THE INVITATION	10:45 PM	ZOOTOPIA	5:30 PM	KUNG FU PANDA 3	7:45 PM
THE INVITATION	12:45 AM	LONDON HAS FALLEN	7:45 PM	BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE	10:00 PM
		LONDON HAS FALLEN	10:00 PM	TRIPLE 9	1:00 AM



NOTICE March 16, 2016



Mr. Shashikant Sambre son of Mr. Nilkant Ramakanth Sambre, resident of Shivshankar Nagar, Buldana, Maharashtra State - 443001 and Miss Priyanka Ranjeet Verma daughter of Mr. Ranjeet Babulal Verma, resident of Near Lal School, Lodhipura Central Avenue Road, Nagpur, Maharashtra State, both Indian nationals presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Krishan Kumar Pahel) First Secretary (Consular) and Marriage Officer

Embassy of India, Kuwait. Ph.00965-22533315

# CHANGE OF NAME

Rashid holder of Indian Passport No. Z1845012 293, Saheli Nagar, Zainab Villa, Udaipur, Rajasthan, hereby change my name to Rashida Shoyab Hussain. (C 5154) 28-3-2016

### 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)

# 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

# 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



Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

# In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

	Arı	rival Flights on Monday 28/3/2016		FDB	057	Dubai	14:20		Ar	rival Flights on Monday 28/3/2016		UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
JZR	267	Beirut	00:20	KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	JAI	574	Mumbai	00:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40	KNE	381	Taif	15:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	MSC	404	Asyut	00:55	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
MSC	501	Alexandria	01:05	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	KAC	118	New York	16:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	02:20	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:05	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	ETD	920	Sharjah	04:20	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	SYR	341	Damascus	18:00	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	JZR	238	Amman	17:45
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	CEB	019	Manila	04:50	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	SYR	342	Damascus	19:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	104	London	19:00	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	07:20	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	BAW	156	London	08:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:45	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50	KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	156	Istanbul	19:45	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	154 352	Istanbul	08:00	FDB DLH	059	Dubai	19:50	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	362	Kochi	08:20	KNE	634	Frankfurt Taif	20:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC UAE	855	Colombo Dubai	08:20 08:25	MEA	382 402		20:10	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	OMA	647	Beirut Muscat	20:15 20:20	FDB QTR	056	Dubai	10:40	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	KAC	1072	Doha	10:45 11:00	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	501 155	Beirut Istanbul	11:00	KNE	234	Riyadh	21:10
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	KAC			11:20	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
QTR	1071	Doha	09:13	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	KAC	561 165	Amman Rome/Paris	11:20	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25	KAC	103	London	12:10	FDB	5054	Dubai	22:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	BBC	143	Dhaka	22:40	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	THY	764	Istanbul	22:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSC	403	Asyut	23:00	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	JZR	239	Amman	23:20	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:10	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
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**DIAL161** FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

# CROSSWORD 1209

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### **ACROSS**

- 1. Type genus of the family Myacidae.
- 4. An observation station that is set up to
- make sample observations of something. 11. An aggressive remark directed at a person like a missile and intended to have a telling effect.
- 15. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
- 16. A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
- 17. Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- 18. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
- 19. Letter carrier's shoulder bag.
- 20. God of death.
- 21. Greek poet who is said to have originated Greek tragedy (sixth century BC).
- 23. Small tree of dry open parts of southern Africa having erect angled branches suggest-
- ing candelabra. 25. A doctor's degree in theology. 28. Tropical American tree producing cacao
- beans. 31. Essential oil or perfume obtained from
- flowers.
- 32. Type genus of the Anatidae. 36. Absent without permission.
- 38. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled
- 39. Mercifulness as a consequence of being lenient or tolerant.
- 41. British slang.
- 44. (Norse mythology) One of the Aesir known for his beauty and skill with bow and skis.
- 45. A river in northeastern Brazil that flows generally northward to the Atlantic Ocean. 47. (the feminine of raja) A Hindu princess or the wife of a raja.
- 49. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
- 50. Relatively small fast-moving sloth. 51. Call before a court to answer an indictment.
- 53. Alcoholic drink from fermented cider ('cider' and 'cyder' are European (especially British) usage for the fermented beverage). 56. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equip-
- ment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communi-
- 57. Being one more than one hundred. 58. A white linen liturgical vestment with
- sleeves.
- 60. A lateen-rigged sailing vessel used by Arabs.
- 63. An ancient city on the Nile in Egypt. 66. United States musician (born in Japan)
- who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933). 68. Squash bugs.
- 71. Having a gradual increase in width.
- 73. Given or having a specified name. 75. A sharp projection on an edge or surface.
- 76. A disorderly crowd of people. 77. A member of an Indian people formerly
- living along the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
- 79. A nucleic acid consisting of large mole-

cules shaped like a double helix. 80. Look at with amorous intentions.

81. Of or relating to a basin.

82. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

### **DOWN**

- 1. A milkshake made with malt powder.
- 2. Not only so, but. 3. A dull persistent (usually moderately
- intense) pain. 4. The Greek lyric poet of Lesbos.
- 5. (botany) Relating to a plant of the family
- 6. A young woman.
- 7. A proportion multiplied by 100. 8. The mints.
- 9. A period marked by distinctive character
- or reckoned from a fixed point or event. 10. Myth about the ultimate destruction of
- the gods in a battle with evil. 11. Armor plate that protects legs below the
- 12. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
- 13. A pen that has a small metal ball as the
- point of transfer of ink to paper. 14. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- 22. Russian Soviet leader. 24. A soft white precious univalent metallic
- element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
- 26. Soviet physicist who worked on low temperature physics (1908-1968).
- 27. A state in the eastern United States.
- 29. Physically and mentally fatigued. 30. English novelist (born in Poland) noted for sea stories and for his narrative technique
- 33. A group of southern Bantu languages.
- 34. Report or maintain. 35. Any plant of the genus Silene.
- 37. The 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet. 40. Of or relating to or resembling a bull n.
- 42. English actor noted for his portrayals of Shakespeare's great tragic characters (1789-
- 43. Canadian hockey player (born 1948). 46. A small cake leavened with yeast.
- 48. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
- 52. A unit of absorbed ionizing radiation equal to 100 ergs per gram of irradiated material.
- 54. A card game for 2 players. 55. A member of the Algonquian people of Maine and southern Quebec.
- 59.1 species. 61. Relating to the deepest parts of the
- ocean (below 6000 meters).
- 62. Polish filmmaker (born in 1929). 64. Work doggedly or persistently.
- 65. Make high-pitched, whiney noises.
- 67. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
- 69. The capital and largest city of Yemen. 70. Any culture medium that uses agar as the gelling agent.
- 72. A light touch or stroke.
- 74. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- 78. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.

# Yesterday's Solution

S         C         A         D         A         L         B         E         R         T         A         A         N         A           H         E         R         O         V         O         L         T         A         I         C         R         E         B           E         D         D         O         R         E         A         D         A         C         C         H         O           D         E         E         D         S         F         T         Y         A         L         U         R         H           D         E         E         D         I         A         N         A         R         A         P         T         U         M																
E       D       D       O       R       E       A       D       A       C       C       H       O         D       E       E       D       S       F       T       Y       A       L       U       R       H         B       A       N       Z       A       I       E       L       Y       S       I       U       M         P       C       D       I       A       N       A       R       A       P       T       T       T       W       M       M       M       M       M       M       M       A       R       D       D       A       R       D       A       R       D       D       A       R       D       D       A       R       D       D       A       R       D       D       A       A       D       A       A       B       A       D       A       A       B       A       B       A       B       A       B       A       B       A       B       A       B       B       A       B       A       B       B       B       B       B       B </td <td>S</td> <td>С</td> <td>Α</td> <td>D</td> <td></td> <td>A</td> <td>L</td> <td>В</td> <td>Е</td> <td>R</td> <td>T</td> <td>A</td> <td></td> <td>A</td> <td>N</td> <td>Α</td>	S	С	Α	D		A	L	В	Е	R	T	A		A	N	Α
D E E D S F T Y A L U R H B A N Z A I E L Y S I U M P C D I A N A R A P T L O G D G G A H O A R D A N I S E B A A A D A M M A R G Y B E A K A K A B A T T E A E A S T E R L Y K L A V I E R D I S D A I N A K A B A R D A M B L I P A B A S I A R A V E	Н	Е	R	О		V	О	L	T	Α	I	С		R	Е	В
B A N Z A I E L Y S I U M P C D I A N A R A P T L O G D G G A H O A R D A N I S E B A A D A M M A R G Y B E A K A B A T E A B A B A T E A E A S T E R L Y K L A V I E R D I S D A I N A A B A Z E E D A M B L I P A B A S I A R A V E	Е	D	D	О		О	R	Е	Α	D		Α	С	С	Н	0
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L       O       G       D       G       A       H       O       A       R       D         A       N       I       S       E       B       A       A       D       A       M       M       A       R         G       Y       B       E       A       L       G       A       E       S       A       G       E         U       Z       B       A       K       A       K       A       B       A       T       E       A       G       E         U       Z       B       A       K       A       K       A       B       A       T       E       A       G       E         U       Z       B       A       K       A       B       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       F       A       F       B       F       B       A       B       A       B       A       B       A       B <td< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>В</td><td>Α</td><td>N</td><td>Z</td><td>Α</td><td>I</td><td></td><td>Е</td><td>L</td><td>Y</td><td>S</td><td>I</td><td>U</td><td>M</td></td<>			В	Α	N	Z	Α	I		Е	L	Y	S	I	U	M
A       N       I       S       E       B       A       A       D       A       M       M       A       R         G       Y       B       E       A       L       G       A       E       S       A       G       E         U       Z       B       A       K       A       A       B       A       T       E       A       G       E         E       A       S       T       E       R       L       Y       K       L       A       V       I       E       R         E       B       B       D       H       B       I	P	С		D	I	A	N	Α		R	A	P	T			
G Y B E A L G A E S A G E U Z B A K A K A B A T E A E A S T E R L Y K L A V I E R D I S D A I N A Y A P A N A A G A B A G A Z E E D A M B L I P A B A S I A R A V E	L	О	G		D	G			G	Α		Н	О	Α	R	D
U Z B A K A K A B A T E A E A S T E R L Y K L A V I E R D I S D A I N A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Α	N	I	S	Е		В	Α	Α		D	Α	M	M	Α	R
E       A       S       T       E       R       L       Y       K       L       A       V       I       E       R         D       I       S       D       A       I       N       A       Y       A       P       A       N       A         A       G       A       B       A       G       A       Z       E       E       D       A       M         B       L       I       P       A       B       A       S       I       A       R       A       V       E	G	Y	В	Е			A	L	G	Α	Е		S	Α	G	Е
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D I S D A I N A Y A P A N A A G A Z E E D A M B L I P A B A S I A R A V E	Е	Α	S	Т	Е	R	L	Y		K	L	Α	V	I	Е	R
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B L I P A B A S I A R A V E	D	I	S	D	Α	I	N			A	Y	Α	P	A	N	Α
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A U L D M U L L A H A D E N	В	L	I	P		A	В	Α	S	I	Α		R	Α	V	Е
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# **STAR TRACK**

# Aries (March 21-April 19)

As you gather the mail and sort through the bills this morning you remain cautiously optimistic. You are smart to consider the long haul. Wait a little while before you decide to buy yourself a present. Meditation today brings about some real insightpositive. Refinement and relationships are the keys to emotional satisfaction for you now. Harmony and beauty are deeply satisfying-you may want to plant flowers, plant herbs and hang curtains that will let in more light around your living quarters. Again, wait for a few days after your birthday and then you can attempt these things. Close personal ties to other people are a focal point for your afternoon. When the time of celebrations are over this afternoon, more begin tonight!

# Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A light heart begins the day and others may find you especially witty and eccentric. You may have insights or breakthroughs with regard to your living situation or life circumstances. You may have heard a few perfect jokes recently and just can't wait to try them out on others-laughter happens. Be willing to adjust to changes and offer to help your lover with some project today. There may be more to your romance than you know right now. The wait could be worth the time. This should be an amorous time, with a genuine desire to both give and receive. Neither of you will feel whole without the other. There could be a temptation, however, to make too much or too little of the relationship-keep a perspective and be patient.

# Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may want to discuss long-distance travel plans with your loved ones. If you ever had a day to make a great first impression-this is it. Additionally, this is a great day for working with others whether you are in a place of business, lecturing, performing or some other interesting activity. Your warmth can build confidence and helps solve problems. If anyone is watching, they could be favorably impressed. Spend more time this afternoon in making your relationship last. You have a lot to gain from a long-term commitment. You may need a big push to help this relationship meld together into one. This is not the best time to go looking for someone new.



### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Mental stimulation via a two-way communication should be a great deal of fun. You will have fun with any kind of repartee. You will feel especially close to a loved one, or any other kind of partner. You will find it easy to get something off your chest that may have been difficult before. Romance can make you a bit nervous. Come to think of it, romance can make us all nervous! You may discover the advantage of romance. You are ending a difficult time and a renewed love relationship can be a delightful way to become otherwise absorbed. It is amazing how the problems are very much thinned when a loved one is available for hugs and kind conversation. Things may not be as bad as you think. New skates will take you back to old and fun memories



# Leo (July 23-August 22)

There could be a disagreement concerning travel or home this morning; however, by this evening there will be compromises that make you happy. You could seek advice on any subject in question today and tomorrow. You can handle many subjects at once. Be wise however, in not extending your energies too far. You restrict your perspectives to areas of examination or study instead of action and you have a tendency to observe situations rather than actually doing anything about them. This opens you up to wonderful opportunities in some form of counseling. Success is available. Medicine, scientific research, psychology, psychiatry and electronics are good vocations for you to consider. Tonight you could consider adding to your music collection.



# Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Creative visualization is one of the most positive ways to deal with change and you could teach others to use some of your techniques. Energy-follows-thought is one way to think of your ability to reach your goals. Once you make up your mind to accomplish something, you can do anything. This is one reason schools have cheerleaders to lead the sports team forward to a winning result. Use your creative visualization when you want to create a better life or when you need to adapt to changes. This positive thinking could also be used to help you find ways to increase your income. You have plans to enlarge the area in which you live and it might involve a spa or a sunroom or some other light and enjoyable place.

# **Wordsearch Puzzle**

# Old TV Shows 4

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.

F	Α	L	L	G	U	Υ	Т	-	С	Ν	-	Р	S	L	Α	R	Т
1	Ν	Ρ	Е	R	R	Υ	Μ	А	S	0	Ν	Α	Т	А	D	0	Ν
Т	E	L	0	U	G	R	А	Ν	Т	В	G	Α	D	L	0	L	U
L	Μ	В	Α	Ν	Α	С	Е	K	Α	Е	L	Е	Е	L	Н	0	Н
L	Α	R	Α	Μ	-	Ε	Н	Υ	٧	- 1	Н	K	Α	Υ	R	С	Α
0	Υ	U	G	Е	S	-1	W	1	Е	С	С	0	R	М	K	G	Ε
S	Т	Υ	L	1	Μ	А	F	Ν	С	0	U	S	J	С	Т	Ν	S
Т	R	Ρ	Е	Υ	Т	0	Ν	Ρ	L	Α	С	Е	0	В	S	-	S
1	Α	Е	Ε	С	0	Α	D	Т	S	С	G	R	Н	Ε	Ε	٧	Ε
Ν	Н	L	Н	Ν	Т	Α	Α	Е	Н	Н	Ε	0	Ν	Α	Ν	-	G
S	0	L	Т	1	D	Μ	-1	1	Е	L	Н	Ε	Н	L	Υ	L	D
Ρ	Т	E	0	R	L	K	Ν	R	G	Ζ	0	R	R	0	Т	Ν	1
Α	Т	Ν	0	Е	0	Α	Е	G	F	Т	R	0	0	Ρ	Ρ	-	R
С	R	J	Ζ	0	В	S	Α	Μ	0	S	S	0	L	В	М	Ε	В
Е	Α	Α	R	Ε	L	R	Υ	Т	-1	С	-1	L	Ε	F	Е	Ρ	Н
М	Н	Ε	Α	U	F	R	Α	1	D	U	Ε	S	0	U	Т	Н	S
R	Н	С	С	1	Е	Е	R	Е	D	Е	V	L	Е	В	R	М	А
Т	Н	Υ	E	Ρ	0	Н	S	Ν	Α	Υ	R	М	А	R	Т	-	Ν

ALIEN NATION ALLY MCBEAL AMEN BANACEK BAYWATCH BLOSSOM CHICAGO HOPE CHINA BEACH

COACH

DEAR JOHN

EMPTY NEST F TROOP FALL GUY FELICITY FRAGGLE ROCK HART TO HART HAZEL

DUE SOUTH

**ELLEN** 

HERE'S LUCY IN LIVING COLOR LARAMIE LOST IN SPACE LOU GRANT MAJOR DAD MARTIN MATLOCK MR BELVEDERE NASH BRIDGES

PEYTON PLACE RHODA RYAN'S HOPE SEA HUNT SPIN CITY THE ROOKIES VEGAS WISEGUY **ZORRO** 

PERRY MASON

# **Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Close relationships have a big impact on your life. A partner has a mesmerizing impact on you . . . Very compelling. Encourage your partner to express his or her talents. You might be looking for ways to help a parent or loved one in an important way, or doing any number of wise and helpful things for others that eventually feels very, very good. After your responsibilities have been met and completed, it is likely that you will seek some fun activity that will include friends. You work and play hard and seem to go at a fast speed in whatever you choose to become involved. If you slow yourself just a bit, you will find loads of fun just waiting to happen. If you are married, it would be smart to invite your main squeeze along for the fun.



# **Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

This is another day that you will accomplish much, whether you are alone or with others. You are logical and can convince others of anything-almost. Strong-minded people are attracted to you because you are a winner in whatever you choose. You are very curious and enjoy challenges-today is a good day for new discoveries and new possibilities. This could mean travel, technical discoveries, hobby or entertainment, like magic or theater. Your influence on others will be phenomenal-a bit of a responsibility! You work as hard as you play and you can be angry as strongly as you are happy. Be wise now in your actions, as you are leading many. Careful, it would be easy to become impatient. Look for fun ways to relax.



# Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may decide to take a break from your chores this sunday to enjoy the great outdoors. Perhaps you would enjoy a short tripif you feel inclined to spend lots of money, don't. Wait a while longer before splurging-there are some forgotten or unexpected bills. You could be most persuasive with others at this time and you enjoy interacting with your friends. You are slow to judge and many of your friends appreciate and respect you. The situation is a natural for self-expression, allowing your particular thoughts and ideas to blossom. You show a great deal of interest in all family matters, particularly concerning your living environment. You may be encouraged to refinish some piece of furniture or to paint. You will have help.



### **Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

This easy, calm day should find everything running in a smooth manner. Interaction with an older person may occur today. Creating helpful activities for this young-at-heart individual is a wise contribution to this person's needs. You are at the end of a major, long-term cycle in your life and could be heading into some changes while still clinging onto past memories. Faith and love will steer you through this time. Your completeness genuinely depends upon somebody else and you do not want to be alone. You will find the perfect marriage when you set aside the games of youth. If you want to be taken seriously, express yourself outwardly and show a grateful heart. Keep a tight rein over your extra expenses.



# Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Others value you for your ability to make practical decisions, which means if you do not want to be volunteered to do something unpleasant, volunteer for something you will enjoy. Perhaps there are not enough teachers in your religious circle and you find yourself volunteering to help out today. Clear decisions affecting others could be made now. Your emotions or the feelings of those around you may be very clear-a nice time. You could find that you are appreciated or valued for your feelings or your ability to act and get things done. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you. A new romantic possibility is around the corner-perhaps today. Enjoy the company of friends tonight.

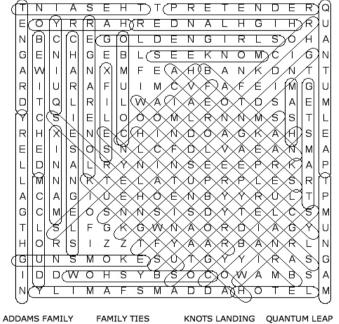


# Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Your emotional orientation is in working with people. Your expertise may put you in a bracket of your own. You have been busy in the workplace this last week. One would think you would want to take a day off from all the problem solving. You, however, seem as busy as ever-helping family members or friends or your favorite group to make money-charity perhaps. This may involve a food drive, a garage sale or any number of other ways to earn money in fun ways. The end results are successful. Try to keep an open mind with others. If your mind becomes totally preoccupied with one particular thought, try to shake it loose by reading the phone book out loud or singing one of your favorite tunes. Where you are is where you need to be.

# Yesterday's Solution

# Old TV Shows 3



ADDAMS FAMILY **AVENGERS** BATMAN BEWITCHED BRADY BUNCH CHARLIE'S ANGELS COACH COSBY SHOW CYBILL DRAGNET

GET SMART GOLDEN GIRLS GUNSMOKE HAPPY DAYS HARRY O HIGHLANDER HOGAN'S HEROES HOTEL I LOVE LUCY

KNOTS LANDING KUNG FU LONE RANGER MAGNUM P.I. MANNIX MASH MCCLOUD MONKEES NIGHT GALLERY PRETENDER

OUINCY ROCKFORD FILES ROSEANNE THE SAINT TWIN PEAKS WINGS WONDER YEARS X FILES

The hidden TV show is: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GRIZZLY ADAMS

Daily	Su	Do	ku

			Dui	iy sub				
5			6		9			
5 8								2
6				8	3	7		2 5
	5			3	1	2		
		7				4		
		8	2	4			7	
9 7		2	8	6				4
7								9
			9		2			7

# Yesterday's Solution

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

**Sabah Hospital** 

**Amiri Hospital** 

**Chest Hospital** 

**Adan Hospital** 

**Ibn Sina Hospital** 

**Al-Razi Hospital** 

Kaizen center

Rawda

**Adaliya** 

Kaifan

Shamiya

Shuwaikh

Nuzha

Qadsiya

Dasmah

Shaab

Qibla

Mirqab

Sharq

Salmiya

Jabriya

Bayan

Mishref

Sabah

Jahra

W Hawally

**New Jahra** 

**West Jahra** 

South Jahra

**North Jahra** 

**North Jleeb** 

**Ardhiya** 

**Firdous** 

**Omariya** 

**N** Khaitan

**Fintas** 

**Bneid Al-Gar** 

**Ayoun Al-Qibla** 

**Maidan Hawally** 

**Abdullah Salem** 

**Industrial Shuwaikh** 

Khaldiya

**Physiotherapy Hospital** 

**Maternity Hospital** 

Farwaniya Hospital

**Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital** 

INFORMATION

For labor-related inquiries and complaints:

Clinics

# Call MSAL hotline 128 **Hospitals**

24812000

22450005

24843100

25312700

24849400

24892010

23940620

24840300

24846000

24874330/9

25716707

22517733

22517144

24848075

24849807

24848913

24814507

22549134

22526804

24814764

22515088

22532265

22531908

22518752

22459381

22451082

22456536

22465401

25746401

25316254

25623444

25388462

25381200

22630786

24810221

24770319

24575755

24772608

24775066

24775992

24311795

24884079

24892674

24719048

24710044

23900322

Soor Center

Tel: 2290-1677

Fax: 2290 1688



# **PHARMACIES** ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

# STATE OF KUWAIT

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

Thunder Rain

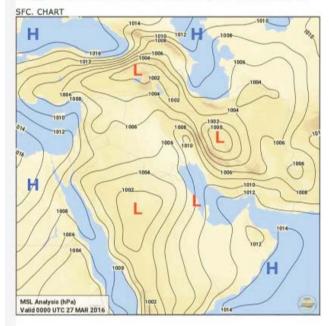


**Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours** Issued 27/03/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

# Max Temperature 32 °C

By Day: Unstable with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 25 - 50 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times

By Night: Unstable with moderate to fresh south easterly wind, with speed of 25 - 50 km/h causing raising dust with a chance for rain that might be thundery at times



Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	*	*	**	*
Expected Weather	partly cloudy+thunder rain +dust	Mostly sunny	partly cloudy	partly cloudy
Min Temp °C	19	17	18	17
Max Temp °C	31	27	28	28
Wind Direction	south easterly changing to north westerly	northerly to north easterly	northerly changing to north westerly	northerly to north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	25 - 50	12 - 35	10 - 30	10 - 30

Kuwait Forecast		
Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	23	28
KUWAIT AIRPORT	23	32
ABDALY	20	30
BUBYAN	21	25
JAHRA	23	34
FAILAKA ISLAND	21	25
SALMIYAH	21	23
AHMADI	21	24
JAL ALIYAH	22	32
QAROH ISLAND	21	23
UMM AL-MARADEM	21	24
NUWAISIB	21	30
WAFRA	20	33
MANAGISH	22	34
SALMY	23	35
MUTRIBA	20	34

Recorde	d Yesterday at Ku	wait Airport
Max Tem	p (°C)	29
Min Temp	(°C)	19
Max Rel I	lum (%)	44
Min Rel H	lum (%)	16
Max Wind	Speed (km/h)	57 SE
TOTAL RA	AINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
*	Sunrise	05:44
0	Sunset	18:03

Prayer Times	
Fajr	04:25
Sunrise	05:44
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:03
Isha	19:21



# **PRIVATE CLINICS**

Ophthalmologi:	sts
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat	(ENT)
<b>Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner</b>	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daaory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practition	
2	
General Practition	ners
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	ners 24555050 Ext 123
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	ners 24555050 Ext 123 24719312
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955
General Practition Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi Dr. Yousef Al-Omar Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem Dr. Kathem Maarafi Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae Urologists Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	24555050 Ext 123 24719312 23926920 25730465 25655528 24577781 25333501 22641534 22639955 ii 22616660

**Psychologists** 

/Psychotherapists

Plastic Surge	oons							
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272							
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700							
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60							
Family Doc	tor							
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581							
Psychiatris	sts							
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047							
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0							
Gynaecologists & O	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians							
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581							
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321							
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539							
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406							
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272							
Dr. Salem soso	22618787							
General Surg	eons							
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044							
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Bash	er 25327148							
Internists, Chest	& Heart							
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939							
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300							
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004							
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515							
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446							
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3							

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Paediatricians Paediatricians		
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898	
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300	
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444	
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099	
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514	
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100	
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282	
Dermatology		
Dr. Mohammed Salam		
Bern University	23845955	
Dentists		
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581	
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2	
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444	
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557	
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755	
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111	
Neurologists		
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324	
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875	
Gastrologists		
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030	
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135	

Kaizen center

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**Noor Clinic** 

23845955

	Endocrinologist		
_	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330	
	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888	1	
	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924	ļ.	
	Physiotherapists & VD		
	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291		
	Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288	
	Rheumatologists:		
	Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060	)	
	Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290	
	Internist, Chest & Heart		
	DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210	
	Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology		
	Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667	
	Consultant Cardio Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555	
	MD, PH.D, FACC		

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677

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Iran

Iraq

Italy

Latvia

Lebanon

Liberia

Lesotho

Libya

00371

00961

00231

00218

00266

Yemen

Zambia

Zimbabwe

Yugoslavia

00967

00381

00260

00263

### **INTERNATIONAL CALLS** Afghanistan 0093 Lithuania 00370 00355 00352 Albania Luxembourg 00213 Macau 00853 Algeria Andorra 00376 Macedonia 00389 Angola 00244 Madagascar 00261 001264 0034 Anguilla Majorca **Antiga** 001268 Malawi 00265 0054 Malaysia 0060 **Argentina Maldives** 00374 00960 Armenia Australia 0061 Mali 00223 0043 00356 Austria 00994 00692 Azerbaijan Marshall Islands **Bahamas** 001242 Martinique 00596 00222 00973 Mauritania Bahrain 00880 00230 Bangladesh Mauritius **Barbados** 001246 Mayotte 00269 **Belarus** 00375 Mexico 0052 0032 00691 Belgium Micronesia **Belize** 00501 Moldova 00373 00229 Benin Monaco 00377 001441 Mongolia 00976 Bermuda **Bhutan** 00975 Montserrat 001664 Bolivia 00591 Morocco 00212 00387 00258 **Bosnia** Mozambique Myanmar (Burma) **Botswana** 00267 0095 0055 00264 Brazil Namibia 00673 Brunei Nepal 00977 Bulgaria 00359 Netherlands 0031 **Burkina** 00226 Netherlands Antilles 00599 00257 **New Caledonia** Burundi 00687 Cambodia 00855 **New Zealand** 0064 Cameroon 00237 Nicaragua 00505 001 Nigar 00227 Canada Cape Verde 00238 Nigeria 00234 Cayman Islands 001345 00683 00236 00672 **Central African** Norfolk Island Chad 00235 N. Ireland (UK) 0044 Chile 00850 0056 **North Korea** 0086 China Norway 0047 Colombia 0057 Oman 00968 Comoros 00269 **Pakistan** 0092 00242 00680 Congo Palau **Cook Islands** 00682 **Panama** 00507 Costa Rica 00506 00675 Papua New Guinea 00385 Croatia **Paraguay** 00595 Cuba 0053 0051 00357 **Philippines** 0063 **Cyprus** 0090392 0048 Cyprus (Northern) **Poland Czech Republic** 00420 **Portugal** 00351 0045 001787 **Puerto Rico Denmark** 00246 Diego Garcia Qata 00974 Djibouti 00253 Romania 0040 **Dominica** 001767 **Russian Federation** 007 Dominican Republic 001809 Rwanda 00250 00593 Saint Helena 00290 **Ecuador** 0020 Saint Kitts 001869 Egypt El Salvador 00503 001758 Saint Lucia **Equatorial Guinea** 00240 Saint Vincent 001784 **Eritrea** 00291 Samoa US 00684 00372 00685 Estonia Samoa West 00251 San Marino 00378 **Ethiopia** Falkland Islands 00500 Sao Tone 00239 **Faroe Islands** 00298 Saudi Arabia 00966 00679 Scotland (UK) 0044 **Finland** 00358 Senegal 00221 0033 00284 France Seychelles Sierra Leone French Guiana 00594 00232 French Polynesia 00689 Singapore 0065 00241 Slovakia 00421 Gabon 00220 00386 Gambia Slovenia 00995 Solomon Islands 00677 Georgia Germany 0049 00252 Somalia 00233 **South Africa** 0027 Ghana Gibraltar 00350 South Korea 0082 0030 Spain 0034 Greece 00299 Greenland Sri Lanka 0094 Grenada 001473 Sudan 00249 00590 Suriname 00597 Guadeloupe Swaziland 001671 00268 Guam Guatemala 00502 Sweden 0046 00224 Switzerland 0041 00963 Guyana 00592 Syria Haiti 00509 Serbia 00381 00886 Holland (Netherlands) 0031 **Taiwan** 00255 00504 Tanzania Honduras **Hong Kong** 00852 Thailand 0066 0036 00228 Hungary Togo Ibiza (Spain) 0034 **Tonga** 00676 Iceland 00354 Tokelau 00690 0091 Trinidad 001868 India Tunisia Indian Ocean 00873 00216 Indonesia 0062 Turkey 0090 0098 Tuvalu 00688 00256 00964 Uganda Ireland 00353 Ukraine 00380 0039 United Arab Emirates 00976 00225 **United Kingdom** 0044 **Ivory Coast** Jamaica 001876 Uruguay 00598 0081 USA 001 Japan Uzbekistan Jordan 00962 00998 Kazakhstan 007 Vanuatu 00678 00254 00582 Venezuela Kenya Kiribati 00686 Vietnam 0084 Kuwait 00965 Virgin Islands UK 001284 00996 Virgin Islands US 001340 Kyrgyzstan Laos 00856 Wales (UK) 0044





# Fashion Week





Models parade creations from the d'nim Chen Wen Jeanswear Collection, designed by Chen Wen at China Fashion Week in Beijing yesterday.























US singer Janet Jackson performs during the Dubai World Cup horse racing event at the Meydan racecourse in the United Arab Emirate of

# Janet Jackson returns to stage in Dubai



stage after a four-month hiatus for mysterious health reasons, bringing her energetic dance show to Dubai. The pop superstar performed in the Gulf emirate as the entertainer to close the Dubai World Cup, the world's most lucrative horse race. She went ahead with the show following a series of cancellations which included an abrupt delay of the entire European portion of her "Unbreakable" tour.

With a troupe of choreographed dancers gliding behind her, Jackson put on a medley of hits including her classic "Control" and the more recent and funkier "All Nite (Don't Stop)." Jackson-whose 2004 performance at another sporting event, the Super Bowl, was marred by the exposure of her breast-left open no chance of a similar "wardrobe malfunction" in the Muslim emirate, wearing an arms-length black jumpsuit with an oversized necklace.

Jackson last year released "Unbreakable," her first album since the death of her brother Michael Jackson in 2009, and embarked on a

anet Jackson on Saturday returned to the  $\;\;$  major tour. But until Dubai, she had not performed since November 22 in Japan. On Christmas Eve, she announced a delay in her North American tour, saying that she needed an urgent operation.

The 49-year-old revealed no other details about her health but later issued a statement to deny speculation that she was suffering from cancer. With her European tour off, she is not due to perform again until May 14 in Las Vegas as she resumes performances in North America.

Jackson has ties to the Gulf as she married Wissam Al-Mana, a billionaire businessman from Qatar, in a private ceremony in 2012. Her late brother moved temporarily to Bahrain at the invitation of a prince as the King of Pop tried to evade the media glare following his 2005 acquittal on child molestation charges.

Janet Jackson helped reshape the concert landscape in the late 1980s with her "Control" and "Rhythm Nation" tours, considered landmarks for their elaborate dance routines and messages of empowerment. — AFP

# French rocker Johnny Hallyday brings musical solace to grieving Brussels



French singer Johnny Hallyday performs on stage in Brussels. — AFP photos

rench rocker Johnny Hallyday's decision
to press ahead with his concert in
Brussels on Saturday despite security Brussels on Saturday despite security concerns was met with a deafening roar of approval from fans seeking respite from a traumatic week. The 72-year-old singer, known as France's answer to Elvis Presley, highlighted his Belgian roots as he took to stage for the latest leg of his "Staying Alive" tour, delighting a sold-out crowd determined to have a good time after the horror of Tuesday's airport and metro attacks. "Part of my blood is French through my mother and the other part is Belgian through my father," he told the 11,000-strong audience, which responded with chants of "Johnny, Johnny, Johnny!"

In a still shell-shocked nation, fans said the concert was their way of showing they would not give in to fear. "If we give in to panic, we'd never go anywhere anymore. I'm not worried, I trust the security services and... Johnny!" said Lindsey, enjoying the music with a beer in her hand. Coming just four days after Belgium's worst-ever terror attacks, which left 31 dead, security at the gig was boosted significantly, with police and even soldiers deployed at the Palais 12 venue.

"We have tripled the number of staff and are have police and army reinforcements," Stefan Feldbusch, security coordinator at Palais 12, told AFP. "Everyone is being searched, which is not necessarily the case usually." In stark contrast to Hallyday, US pop star Mariah Carey has cancelled her upcoming gig in the wake of the attacks, citing security fears. Living up to the old adage that the show must go on, Hallyday kicked off his gig in typically flamboyant fashion, stepping out of a giant skull as red lasers and smoke filled the stage, to loud cheers from the audience. Clad in his trademark leather trousers

and wearing sunglasses, France's favorite rock 'n' roller then belted out some of his biggest hits, including "Gabrielle" and "Quelque chose de Tennessee". Brussels resident Michel, wearing a Johnny Hallyday T-



French singer Johnny Hallyday (left) performs on stage.

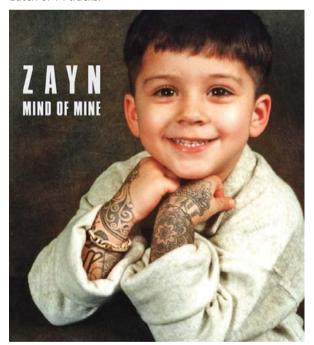
shirt, said he had come to the concert to "forget this terrible week". "When you see Johnny, you're not afraid anymore." While Hallyday has never achieved widespread fame abroad, he is a musical icon at home and has sold more than 100 million records in his decades-long career. In a sign of the ageing star's enduring appeal, Saturday's performance was broadcast live in some 300 cinemas in France. — AFP



Nathalie Loriot from French Lafayette rock band holds a Belgian flag as she performs on stage prior to the concert of French singer Johnny Hallyday.

# **Zayn, formerly of One Direction, is appealing** on solo debut

ait, Zayn was in One Direction? You'll ask yourself that question after listening to his solo album. "Mind of Mine" - which comes a year to the day he officially announced he was leaving 1D - is a mostly downbeat R&B-pop adventure that shows Zayn has some true star quality. It's a departure from the pop grooves One Direction have become known for, and Zayn's new songs - in the vein of Chris Brown, Frank Ocean and recent Justin Bieber - are appealing. There isn't a bad tune in the batch of 14 tracks.



"It's You" is a pretty, falsetto-heavy slow groove; "BeFour" is addictive and catchy; "Truth" feels like a neo-soul song of the early 2000s; and on "She" and "Fool for You," the singer reminds you why he did well on "The X Factor," where 1D formed in 2010. Malay, the producer who worked heavily on Ocean's Grammy-winning "channel ORANGE," also works his magic on Zayn's album, as do producers Levi Lennox, xyz, Alan Sampson and MakeYouKnowLove. It may be a group of names you don't recognize, but that's a good thing for Zayn. While his album's sound isn't particularly new, it's unique and tailor-made for Zayn. He's heading in the right direction. — AP

# **Film Review**

# 'Ants on a Shrimp'

question is deep-fried fish sperm, which Rene Redzepi-owner of one of the world's top restaurants, Noma-is ordering his apprentices to taste. That's about as tures into the Nagano forest to forage for wild sexy as the culinary documentary "Ants on a Shrimp" gets. Chronicling Redzepi's project to create a 14-course menu in Japan, Dutch helmer Maurice Dekkers devotes most of his film to the celebrity chef's extensive foraging, while his abstemious staff harps on about the onerous pursuit of perfection; one crucial missing ingredient, however, is the joy of eating or cooking. Although gourmands may complain about too much foreplay and not enough food porn, it'll still be devoured by tube and on-demand platforms.

The 42-year-old, El Bulli-trained Redzepi is credited with reinventing Nordic cuisine through his daring use of freshly foraged ingredients; a signature dish consists of raw langoustine sprinkled with ants. Under his stewardship, the Copenhagen-based Noma was ranked the best restaurant in the world in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014 by Restaurant magazine, despite having earned only two Michelin stars. At the start of 2015, Redzepi temporarily closed down Noma and decamped with his core team to Tokyo's Mandarin Oriental, his second stunt since running a pop-up restaurant at Claridge's in London in 2012.

# Claustrophobic dungeon

On the first day of setting up, the team is rattled to find the kitchen located three floors below ground, while the layout of the dining area is less than appealing. "This is unbelievable, and I mean it in a bad way," Redzepi says. For a large part of the film, audiences have to stick with the staff in this claustrophobic dungeon, watching Redzepi raking his chefs Lars Williams, Rosio Sanchez, Thomas Frebel, Dan Giusti and Kim Mikkola over the coals for not meeting his exacting standards. "Our work is not to succeed but to fail day after day," says Thomas, with more pride than frustration.

There's not much footage of food preparation; nor can lay audiences gauge what exquisite flavors the chefs are aiming for, given the Masonic way they communicate: "This tastes

ave you got a mouthful?" The dish in good but it's not working" is one of Redzepi's many cryptic pronouncements. Moments that open a window onto Noma's particularity over ingredients occur only during the team's venplants. However, watching them nibble on freshly picked leaves or mushrooms oozing slime-and licking bits of soil with the expression of someone fitted with new denturesdoesn't exactly fill one with wild anticipation to see them served a plate.

When you have one of the world's best chefs in a country where washoku (traditional Japanese cuisine) enjoys UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage status, one naturally wonders what synergy might emerge. However, when the chefs venture into the Tsukiji fish market, the results-ramen and fish grilled over an irori sunken hearth-are not exactly off the beaten path. Their interactions with locals. including restaurant patrons, gourmets and other chefs, are also kept to a minimum, and nothing said by Japanese individuals is granted enough significance to be subtitled.

# Okinawa wild roses

After so much anticipation, the presentation of the 14 courses flashes by in a hasty slideshow at the end. While all the dishes have a Japanese accent, such as cuttlefish soba with a dipping sauce of Nagano pine trees and Okinawa wild roses, few of them look mouth-watering-not even a tart piled with 45 freshwater clams that took 13 people four hours to shell. Others look and sound almost off-putting, like black garlic leather, birch cep and scallop fudge-the latter two looking like dry bark and a scrubbing sponge, respectively.

Apparently 50,000 bookings were received, though they were able to cater to only 3,000 over the five-week period-without a single shot of patrons' reactions as they savor the food, or any comments from food critics. One is supposed to just take it on good faith when Redzepi proclaims that responses are positive. It helps to have seen Pierre Deschamps' documentary "Noma: My Perfect Storm," which offers a more intimate picture of Redzepi's career and philosophy, depicting him as a sort of real-life version of Bradley Cooper's chef protagonist in "Burnt." — Reuters

# Niro's Tribeca festival pulls anti-vaccination film



File photo shows Robert De Niro attends a news conference in Macau. — AP

obert De Niro is removing the anti-vaccination documentary "Vaxxed" from the lineup of his Tribeca Film Festival, after initially defending its inclusion.

"Vaxxed: From Cover-up to Conspiracy," was set to be part of the film festival when it opened next month. The decision to include the film by anti-vaccination activist Andrew Wakefield came under fire, particularly since Wakefield's contention that the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine have a link to autism have been discredited.

While De Niro on Friday defended the decision to include the film, he released a statement Saturday saying he had reversed his decision. De Niro, who has a child with autism, said he had hoped to provide an opportunity for conversation around an issue "that is deeply personal to me and my family." However, he said after he and Tribeca organizers reviewed it, "We do not believe it contributes to or furthers the discussion I had hoped for." He said members of the scientific community also had reviewed it with him.

"The festival doesn't seek to avoid or shy away from controversy. However, we have concerns with certain things in this film that we feel prevent us from presenting it in the festival

program," he added. A statement from Wakefield, the film's director, and Del Bigtree, its producer, decried De Niro's decision, saying they didn't get a chance to defend themselves against critics of the film. "We have just witnessed yet another example of the power of corporate interests censoring free speech, art and truth," the statement read. "Tribeca's action will not succeed in denying the world access to the truth behind the film 'Vaxxed." The Tribeca Film Festival runs from April 13 to April 24. — AP

# 'Teenage Mutant Ninja **Turtles: Out of the** Shadows' debuts new trailer



e second trailer for "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows" has arrived with plenty of loud noise and feel-good brotherhood from the relentlessly upbeat terrapin crimefighters. Laura Linney's character asks at one point, "Who are you-superheroes?" The response: "Just four brothers who love this city." The trailer comes two months before Paramount releases the film on June 3, on the same day that the movie took to the stage at WonderCon in downtown Los Angeles. Combat plus wisecracks abound as Raphael, Donatello, Michelangelo, Leonardo and Megan Fox return with Stephen

Amell playing vigilante Casey Jones. "Bringing back the mohawk-good for you," one of the turtles deadpans to the villain Bebop, who does indeed sport a purple mohawk. Dave Green directs and Michael Bay, Andrew Form, Bradley Fuller, Scott Mednick and Galen Walker are producing. Will Arnett, William Fichtner, Brian Tee, Tyler Perry and Brittany Ishibashi also star. Form and Fuller took the stage at WonderCon along with Fox and Amell on Friday, where they debuted an extended look at Casey Jones' introduction, in which Fox's April finds herself cornered by Shredder's goons, only to be saved by a few well-aimed hockey pucks courtesy of a masked Casey. A fast-paced fight-sequence

ensues, in which Casey still manages to find time to flirt with April. Form and Fuller also revealed some news on the panel: the villainous Krang, who will make his debut in "Out of the Shadows," will be voiced by Fred Armisen. The seguel also will introduce Tyler Perry's Baxter Stockman, a character that the producers always wanted to have in the film franchise. As "the lead scientist of TCRI, he's working with Shredder, and he's responsible for helping mutate Bebop and Rocksteady," Form said. They also discussed what went into making Bebop and Rocksteady, the Turtles' longtime adversaries.

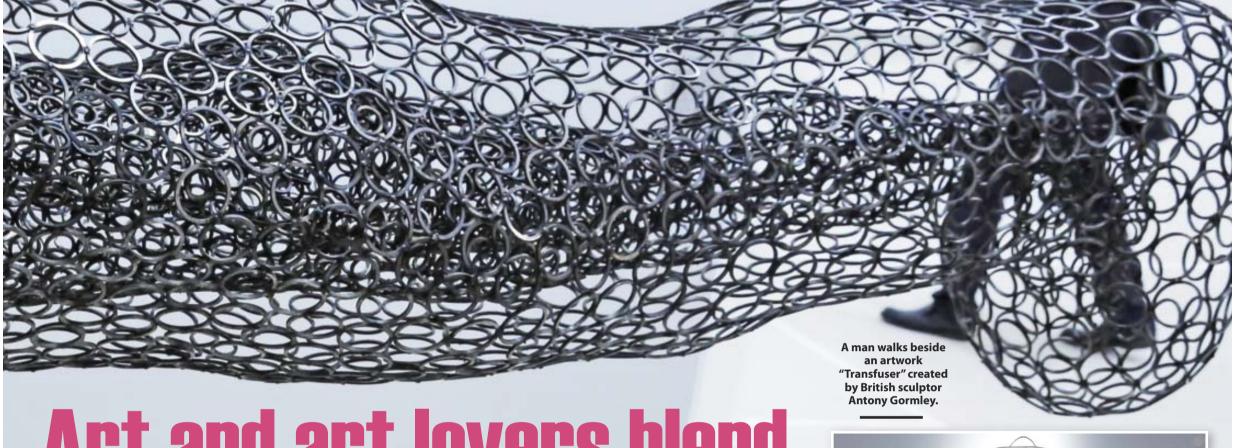
"They're dumb and fun, we call them the knuckleheads - they throw haymakers, that's it, it's easy to dodge them," Form said of Shredder's henchmen. Amell revealed that Casey "has beef to settle" with Bebop and Rocksteady, and that the vigilante is "a guy who feels like the system and doing things the right way have failed him, so he's lashing out." Since Casey is a corrections officer in the film, the producers eschewed the character's iconic long hair, but Amell assured fans that they have time to build towards all the Casey Jones iconography that fans have come to know and love over the years, and confirmed that he does get to wield a variety of sports equipment, from a hockey stick to cricket and baseball bats, over the course of the movie. — Reuters



A woman looks at an installation artwork created by Chinese artist Stella Zhang at Art Basel in Hong Kong. — AP photos



The artwork "Cloison a lames reflechissantes" created by Argentina artist Julio Le Parc is dismantled after the exhibition closing at Art Basel.



# Art and art lovers blend together in Hong Kong

sia's biggest exhibition of modern and contemporary art brought together 239 galleries from 35 countries and territories in Hong Kong, which has emerged as the region's top art trading hub. Organizers of Art Basel Hong Kong, which closed Saturday, shrugged off concerns about whether China's slowdown and a

shaky world economy are dampening global art contemporary art fair in Basel, Switzerland. The

"Maybe I think collectors will ask a lot more questions before they agree to a sale, but I think ... it just feels like everyone is very excited about the art world," said Adeline Ooi, Art Basel's Asia director. The show is an offshoot of the annual

snow began in 2008 as ART HK and was bought three years ago by the same group that runs the Art Basel and Art Basel Miami Beach fairs. It's the biggest of a week of art-related events in Hong Kong that has attracted celebrities and billionaires from around the world. —  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{AP}}$ 



A woman looks at the artwork "Monica Cross Legged with Beads" created by Tom Wesselmann.



A woman walks behind the artwork "Cloison a lames reflechissantes" created by Argentina artist Julio Le Parc.



A man looks at the artworks by Chinese artist Cai Lei.



A woman walks beside an artwork by Argentina artist Tomas Saraceno.



A man walks beside the artwork "Trans-Aimilios", bottom left, created by Japanese artist Kohei Nawa.



Two men walk beside an artwork "Laura" created by Spainish artist Jaume

# **Chocolate and drinks:**

# Belgians fear attacks will hurt tourism

t the aptly named Planete Chocolat, the shelves are laden with enticing Easter treasures for shoppers: bunnies with bows, pastel-wrapped eggs and elegant boxes of pralines. Swannee Vranckx, a clerk at the shop near Brussels' main square, said she would normally have seen 50 to 100 customers by midafternoon in the days before one of the biggest holidays of the Christian year. But after the bombing attacks that shattered the tranquility of Belgium's capital, only

and wounded 270 are only Brussels' latest brush with violence. Just days before the bombings, Belgian and French police arrested Salah Abdeslam, the chief suspect in the Nov 13 attacks that left 130 people dead in Paris, in his Brussels hideout. In May 2014, three people were killed when a gunman targeted the Jewish museum of Belgium. The notion that Belgium, a small Western European nation of 11 million, might become known for terrorism is shocking to many here. This is a place where



a handful had come in search of Easter treats.
While the city's chocolatiers are quick to offer condolences to the victims of the tragedy, they are equally fast to express their concerns about the future. Their livelihoods depend on people from around the globe streaming into their shops to indulge in their world-famous goodies - and they know that tourists don't go places they don't feel safe. "I'm sure it will happen - people will cancel their trips," Vranckx said. "They think it is a place for terrorists."

The March 22 attacks that killed 31 people

US. President Barack Obama says it was "easy to love a country known for chocolate and drink."

### Belgian chocolatiers ship

And at Easter, the nation's sweet tooth is on full display: shop windows are crammed with chocolate. Belgians are said to eat more than 8 kilograms (17.6 pounds) of the stuff every year - ranking them among the world's top consumers. The country traces its love affair with chocolate to King Leopold II's control of the Congo in the late 19th century, which provid-



Photos show Chocolate Easter Eggs on display in a shop near the EU Commission in Brussels. — AFP photos

ed the country with a ready supply of cocoa. Things really began to take off after 1912, when the son of a Swiss pharmacist created the first filled chocolates, which he called pralines, at his family's Brussels factory.

Today, Belgian chocolatiers ship their wares around the world and Brussels shopkeepers compete with artistic window displays in hopes of luring in tourists on their way to the art museums or the Grand Place, the UNESCO world heritage site. This year, not far from there, residents and visitors alike gathered to remember the victims and scrawl messages of sadness and hope in the aftermath of the attacks. The bombings will cut consumer spending on recreation, leisure and tourism

but they are likely to have only a short-term impact on the whole Belgian economy, according to Francesca Peck, an economist at IHS Global Insight in London. The losses may be magnified because the attacks occurred so close to the long Easter weekend, when restaurants and bars are typically busy.

### **Economic activity**

As a result, the Belgian economy is expected to grow 1.45 percent this year, down from a previous forecast of 1.6 percent, IHS estimated. But the slowdown will probably be temporary, as it was after the November attacks in Paris, where shoppers refused to change their habits in the face of terror threats, Peck said.

"As terrible as the events in Brussels have been, economic activity is typically pretty resilient to terrorist attacks," she wrote.

Belgians, though, are worried about what this means for the longer term - will people in Japan, the United States and China change their minds about visiting their beloved cobblestone streets and classic European cafes? Shopkeepers were just beginning to hope things were about to improve as the months after the Paris attacks had passed uneventfully. Now all bets are off. At the sleek Neuhas chocolate shop near from the Grand Place, manager Tim Verstraeten could only shake his head. "We don't know what is going to happen," he said. — AP

# History revealed in Italy Petral Index Petral Index Petral Index Petral Sun peaks out of rain clouds to light up the famous monasters southern Jordan. — AP photos

Recent heavy rains caused flash floods across the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, forcing authorities to close the gates of the famed Petra ruins to tourists who were soggy and surly from the downpour. The iconic site boasts gargantuan temples, canals and statues carved into red cliff walls nearly 2,000 years ago by Al-Anbat, an ancient Arab culture now known as the Nabateans. But on that day, water surged dangerously fast past the ruins. Yet still, a handful of adventurous tourists heard the siren call of the ancients, and struck out 9 kilometers north (5.6 miles) to Petra's smaller sister site, Little Petra.

Once, these sites were watering holes on the punishing desert route of traders laden with goods to the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. Now, tourists travel the world to see the temples and hike the Nabatean routes recently connected to a 600-

kilometer (372-mile) path called the Jordan Trail. At Little Petra's entrance, locals sold plastic ponchos and umbrellas to bands of shivering tourists. White mist poured over the mountains, obscuring the temples inside into "the cold canyon," Little Petra's name in Arabic, Siq Al-Barid. A thin, submerged footpath through a crack in the rock was the only way in. During the storm, a calm silence resounded but for the rain's patter, the howling wind and visitors' giggles and splashing.

A French family gingerly forded a gurgling gully swollen with mud. An elderly woman from Milan plodded down the canyon in shoes wrapped in plastic bags. The only warmth was the smoky hearth of Aouath Amarin's hot mint tea served at his trinket shop atop the slick staircase at the end of the canyon. "A lot of people never see it like this," said Ian Weir, standing out of the rain inside one of the

Nabatean temples next to friend Graeme Kinkead. With Petra rained out, the two 28-year olds from Belfast, Northern Ireland, were pleasantly surprised by Little Petra's damp grandeur. Wrapped in hot pink and bright blue ponchos, the pair beamed at the wellworn carved stones. Kinkaid said the rain revealed the Nabateans' long-lost secret.

They once carved channels and cisterns into the cliffs to catch and collect the arid region's scant rainfall, "so that life was possible here," he said. With this water-wealth, the Nabateans securely straddled trade routes until Romans conquered the area, and they began to fade into history.

What remains are ruins attracting tourists, roads used by hikers and locals, and cisterns still catching rain. Their desert adaptations still work today - if one knows where to look during a rainstorm. — AFP



Jordan Trail cartographer Amjad Shahrour sits atop a donkey on the footpath between Little Petra and the famous monastery in Petra southern Jordan.



Chinese artist Cui Ruzhao (second left) waits with other artists during a press conference in Beijing.

# Painting by numbers: What value in China's art market?

The serenity of Cui Ruzhuo's ink landscapes is a far cry from the turmoil of China's contemporary art market. But he can bank on his own status as the country's best-selling living artist. Cui's works reflect traditional Chinese forms and subjects, replete with largely monochrome mountains, lakes and trees. Little known in the West, his works fetched a total of more than \$120 million at public auctions last year, up 69 percent, even as the overall market plummeted, according to wealth publisher the Hurun Report's newlyreleased China art list.

"When an artist is creating, a very important point is to definitely be sincere and responsible towards your own art," Cui said at the launch of the document. "Do not just see your works as products," he added. Cui is in a position where he can afford to proclaim himself on the moral high ground. But he acknowledged that he watched the market "quite closely", before lauding multi-billionaire art collector Wang Jianlin as a man with "personal cultivation".

Connoisseurs fear that in a system where money dominates the conversation around value, artistic quality risks being sidelined. "China's art market is a chaotic mess. People are always looking for a standard by which to judge works, but art isn't like the Olympics," said artist, columnist and curator Xie Chunyan. "You measure a long jump in meters, but art isn't that simple-money is one metric, but it's not the only criteria." Hurun Report chairman Rupert Hoogewerf said that the art list was intended as a guide for someone like him, who loves "the idea of being interested in art" but "lacks a deep understanding of it". "These people are looking to become more educated and cultured and are looking to get into the art world," he said of China's nouveau riche entrepreneurs, "but where to start?"

# Flying in circles

China's contemporary art market is riddled with systemic flaws and inconsistencies, insiders say. The country's system of museums remains weak, and critics are regularly offered "red envelopes" of bribe money in exchange for positive reviews, aiding unchecked speculation. Hoogewerf admitted that the auction

The serenity of Cui Ruzhuo's ink landscapes is a far cry from the turmoil of China's contemporary art market. But he bank on his own status as the country's selling living artist. Cui's works reflect tra-

It is a phenomenon that threatens quality and development, according to artists and critics. "An art world that focuses on money can only spit out artists of high net worth-not profound or truly great artists," lamented Li Mo,



Chinese artist Cui Ruzhao poses in Beijing. — AFP photos

calligrapher and history researcher at Beijing University. "The art market and artistic creation are like two wings of a bird-if the creative wing is atrophied and the money-making one is strong, our art world can only fly in circles."

# Test of time

Auction sales for China's top 100 living artists totaled \$565 million last year, according to Hurun Report, down 45 percent on 2014. The fall was largely due to a collapse in volume, rather than average prices, with 6,863 works auctioned over the course of the year, compared to 15,921 in 2014. China's contemporary calligraphy and painting business remains immature and subject to individual distortions, said long-time art analyst Qi Jianqiu. The "deformed market" of years past, he said, was based heavily on gifting practices and had been hard hit by slowing economic growth and an anti-corruption campaign under President Xi Jinping. —AFP



Hikers gaze across a valley at sheep grazing on a steep slope near the village of Beit Edis and the Roman ruins of Pella along the Jordan Trail.



Colorful skull figures are displayed for sale during Holy Week celebrations in Mexico City on March 26, 2016. For many years Mexicans have made cardboard figures representing all forms of evil, which are then torched commemorating the "Burning of Judas," a tradition in which Mexicans torch effigies of the devil, politicians and others they dislike on the eve of Easter Sunday. An effigy of US presidential contender Donald Trump-a hated figure for many in Mexico-was set ablaze late on March 26 in a contemporary twist on a Holy Week ritual. — AFP

# Nigerian businesswoman: A cut above in macho world of diamonds



The NRA has taken its efforts-controversially-a step further by reworking some of the classics from children's literature. — nrafamily.org

# **Red Riding Hood packs heat in** US gun group's reinvented fairytale

ere is Little Red Riding Hood, rifle slung over her shoulder, confidently striding through the forest. Now we see her granny, taking aim with a shotgun at the Big Bad Wolf. What's that? You don't recall your favorite Brothers Grimm characters packing heat? Then you must not have read the versions of classic fairy tales that have been reworked by the National Rifle Association, to help empower children by teaching them that well-armed citizens-even in the world of storybooks and make-believe-can protect them-

selves from those who would do them harm. The powerful US gun lobby has long made initiatives for children-the next generation of future gun owners-a key part of its outreach. The NRA has taken its efforts-controversially-a step further by reworking some of the classics from children's literature. "Most of us probably grew up having fairy tales read to us as we drifted off to sleep. But how many times have you thought back and realized just how, well, grim some of them are? Did any of them ever make your rest a little bit uneasy?" the NRA wrote on its website. "Have you ever wondered what those same fairy tales might sound like if the hapless Red Riding Hoods, Hansels and Gretels had been taught about gun safety and how to use firearms?"

# 'Twist' on the classics

The NRA enlisted writer Amelia Hamilton "to present her twist on those classic tales." The girl in the story stands little risk of being devoured by a wolf, armed with a firearm as she traverses the forest en route to her grandmother's house. "Red felt the reassuring weight of the rifle on her shoulder," when she crosses paths with the wolf. "His wolfish smile disappeared for a moment when his eyes fell on her

rifle," however. When he tries to engage her in conversation, "she shifted her rifle so that it was in her hands and at the ready. The wolf became frightened and ran away."

The girl's grandmother finds that a gun affords protection not just in the deep dark forest, but at home too, when the wolf shows up there looking to make her his meal. "The wolf leaned in, jaws open wide, then stopped suddenly," the story reads. "Those big eyes looked down and saw that grandma had a scattergun aimed right at him. "I don't think I'll be eaten today," said Grandma, "and you won't be eating anyone again." Hamilton told US television that she was surprised that the tales have been criticized by some who fear they try to make guns seem appealing to children. "The stories are really also for adults and it's all about safety," the author told CBS television earlier this week. "I was surprised by the fact that it seems like a lot of people didn't read them before criticiz-

# Three Little Pistol-packin' Pigs?

"Little Red Riding Hood" was the first fairy tale to be reworked, back in January. Next in line is an upcoming retelling of "The Three Little Pigs." The NRA also has put online Hamilton's reimagined version of the Hansel and Gretel tale. In her retelling, the impoverished brother and sister, eager to help find food for the family, head off into the woods. "Fortunately, they had been taught how safely to use a gun and had been hunting with their parents most of their lives," the NRA version of the fable goes. "They knew that, deep in the forest, there were areas that had never been hunted where they may be able to hunt for food. They knew how to keep themselves safe should they find themselves in trouble." —AFP

igerian Thelma West is a rare gem in the diamond world as a woman in a male-dominated sector with few Africans, despite the continent being the main source of the precious rocks. The first in her family to work in diamonds, West is used to being an outsider, having been raised in a Jewish family in a country where Jews number fewer than 50,000 out of a population of around 180 million.

"I'm the only Nigerian Jewish woman in the trade, and I don't know of other African women in the business," the 32-year-old told AFP at her London-based business as she greeted customers with a broad smile and sparkling diamonds on her hands and wrists. Discretion and security are essential, with the anonymouslooking building guarded by an encrypted intercom system and a reinforced door, all under the gaze of a bank of security cameras.

# **Lagos to Antwerp**

After attending the most prestigious international school in Lagos, West travelled to Britain aged 16 to finish her education. "I wanted to become an engineer because at that time in Nigeria, you had to choose a solid career, such as doctor, lawyer, engineer," she told AFP. But, as the saying goes, "Diamonds Are Forever" and the sparkle of the stones, which had captivated West since childhood, was an irresistible allure. "My mum had loads of jewelry," said the daughter of a Guinness drinks company employee mother and a property developer and industrialist father.

"We were always playing with her jewelry box and she would always



Nigerian-Jewish diamond cutter and dealer, Thelma West, poses for a photograph with a selection of diamond encrusted rings in her office in London. — AFP photos

clean her jewels, and I would help." West headed for Antwerp, the world's diamond capital, aged 17 despite "not knowing anybody" in the Belgian city. There, she enrolled at the internationally renowned Hoge Raad Voor Diamant school to hone her skills. "Even though you go to school, most of your knowledge comes from working with diamonds day-to-day," she said.

After trying for six months in vain to secure an internship, she was eventually taken under the wing of an Orthodox Jew diamond dealer, who worked with her every evening after school for a year. She was then recruited by one of the biggest diamond suppliers in Europe based in Spain. "It was being sent in at the deep end," she recalled. "I was 19 and

I was responsible for every single diamond the company had". Teaming up with school friends from Lagos who had moved into investment banking, West set up her own business in London to trade the precious stone.

# **Exclusive client list**

Metal tongs in hand, West explained the secrets of some of her stock. "Diamonds have fire," said West. "That stone is too flat but it's got a lot of life in it, it was cut about 100 years ago," she said, pointing to one tiny rock.

"This one cost just over £100,000 (\$141,000, 126,000 euros), it's got a low color but it has been cut perfectly so it reflects light in such an amazing way." Fewer than 50 clients, 12 of whom are investors, have access to

West's knowledge. "I can find a diamond and call them and say 'we have to buy this diamond, trust me' and they follow me," she said.

Her multinational client base-introduced by word-of-mouth-includes Swiss, Russians, Ghanaians, Nigerians and "a handful of French". Helped by a 10-woman team, West creates all of her company's products, which come with a lifetime guarantee. Her most ambitious creation was a custommade necklace worth around £2 million. She plans to open a workshop in Nigeria, "where I'll train girls in the art of making jewelry". West gives little away but also said she is creating "a revolutionary tool" that will help people in her business. "That tool should be part of every diamond dealer and every shop". — AFP



Nigerian-Jewish diamond cutter and dealer, Thelma West, poses for a photograph holding a cut diamond, valued at GBP 100,000, in her office.



Nigerian-Jewish diamond cutter and dealer, Thelma West, poses for a photograph with a selection of diamond encrusted rings in her office.