

A glimpse inside the emergency call center



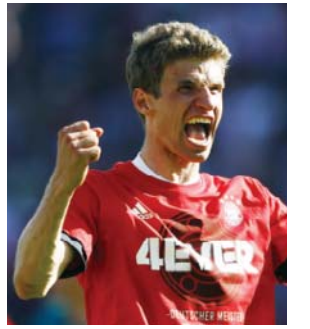
Historic Bosnian mosque reopens in move towards reconciliation



Philippine favorite Duterte to 'butcher' criminals



Lewandowski fires Bayern to fourth title in a row



## SAUDI SHAKE-UP ROLLS ON WITH BIG GOVT RESHUFFLE

VETERAN OIL MINISTER NAIMI REPLACED BY ARAMCO CHIEF



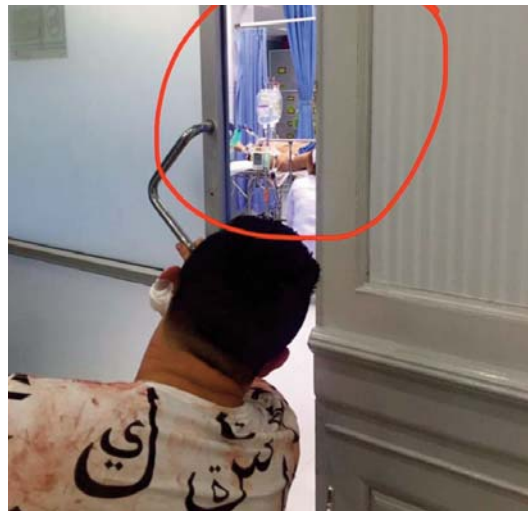
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High Tide 01:07 & 12:20  
Low Tide 06:52 & 19:35

### KUWAITI KILLED IN THAILAND CAFE FIGHT

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti army officer in his twenties was stabbed to death yesterday during a fight with two young bedoon (stateless) men in Thailand. Kuwaiti Ambassador to Thailand Abdullah Al-Sharhan said the embassy was closely monitoring the killing of the citizen in a bloody brawl in the Thai tourist city of Pattaya. Another Kuwaiti citizen was also wounded in the quarrel, he said, adding that he has received necessary medical treatment and has been discharged from hospital.

Diplomatic sources said that the fight took place at dawn in a cafe, and the deceased was rushed to hospital with several stab wounds but died at the hospital. The sources added that Thai security sources are currently investigating the case and that the Kuwaiti embassy was following up the process. The victim was identified as Ahmad Al-Tarakmah, a moral guidance officer in the Kuwaiti army. The suspects were identified as Adel Zain Owayed and Mohammad Habeeb Suwayer, both bedoons from Taima in Jahra.



**PATTAYA, Thailand:** (Left) The suspected killers of a Kuwaiti man are seen in handcuffs yesterday. (Right) A Kuwaiti who was injured in the fight looks at the body of the victim (encircled) at a local hospital, in these images from social media.

**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia's King Salman yesterday replaced his veteran oil minister and restructured some big ministries in a major reshuffle apparently intended to support a wide-ranging economic reform program unveiled last week. The most eye-catching move was the creation of a new Energy, Industry and Natural Resources Ministry under Khaled Al-Falih, chairman of the state oil company Aramco. He replaces the 80-year-old oil minister Ali Al-Naimi, in charge of energy policy at the world's biggest oil exporter since 1995.

But major changes were also made to the economic leadership, with Majed Al-Qusaibi named head of the new Commerce and Investment Ministry, and Ahmed Al-Kholifey made governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), the central bank. The changes, announced in a series of royal decrees, go far beyond Salman's previous reshuffles since he became king in January last year, and also put the stamp of his son, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, author of the Vision 2030 reform program, on the government.



Ali Al-Naimi

Continued on Page 13

### KUWAIT-PALESTINIAN TIES HAILED

#### OBAMA BLASTS TRUMP: 'NOT A REALITY SHOW'

**WASHINGTON:** US President Barack Obama on Friday warned the White House race is not a "reality show" and called for Donald Trump's record to be held to close scrutiny as the billionaire seeks to rally divided Republicans behind him. With Trump seizing the mantle of presumptive Republican nominee this week after his rivals exited the race, debate has turned to whether he will be able to rally the party faithful behind him between now and November.

Asked about Trump's candidacy and the resulting chaos on the Republican side, Obama offered some of his most pointed comments yet about the celebrity real estate mogul and longtime star of the TV show "The Apprentice", whose political rise has stunned the world. "We are in serious times and this is a really serious job," Obama told reporters at the White House. "This is not entertainment. This is not a reality show. Every candidate, every nominee needs to be subject to exacting standards and genuine scrutiny."

Trump has raised howls of protest within his own party with his harsh, free-wheeling speech and proposals ranging from banning Muslims from entering the United States to building a wall on the southern border to keep out Mexican migrants to slashing US funding for NATO so allies pay more.

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**RAMALLAH:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said his visit to Palestine attests to Kuwait's continuous support of the Palestinian cause, no matter what circumstances arise. Arriving at the presidential headquarters in Ramallah - heading a Kuwaiti delegation to attend the opening of the 10th Palestinian International Book Fair - he told KUNA "the Palestinian cause has always been a primary one in our collective conscience for which we have

assiduously worked toward realizing the rights of the Palestinian people".

He added that "we have come to let the Palestinian people know that we stand by them and hope that they surmount the difficulties in their lives". He voiced appreciation of the Kuwaiti people and leadership for the invitation extended by the Palestinian leadership to Kuwait to attend the book fair as a guest of honor and as the capital of Islamic culture for 2016.

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**AMMAN:** Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas meets Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah on Friday. — KUNA



**LONDON:** London's new mayor Sadiq Khan looks at his watch during the official signing ceremony in Southwark Cathedral yesterday. — AP

#### LONDON MAYOR VOWS TO BE LEADER FOR EVERYONE

**LONDON:** Sadiq Khan was sworn in as London mayor yesterday after being elected the first Muslim leader of a major Western capital, as the Conservatives defended attempts to link him to extremism during the campaign.

The opposition Labour lawmaker, the son of a Pakistani bus driver, broke from convention by taking his oath of office in a multi-faith ceremony at Southwark Cathedral. "My name is Sadiq Khan and I'm the mayor of London," the 45-year-old said to cheers from supporters, who had

earlier given him a standing ovation as he walked in. He added: "I'm determined to lead the most transparent, engaged and accessible administration London has ever seen, and to represent every single community, and every single part of our city, as mayor for all Londoners." Khan won 57 percent of the vote in Thursday's mayoral election, securing 1.3 million votes to see off multimillionaire Conservative Zac Goldsmith and make history as the city's first Muslim mayor.

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#### CANADA WILDFIRE EXPLODES IN SIZE

**LAC LA BICHE, Alberta:** A raging Canadian wildfire grew explosively yesterday as hot, dry winds pushed the blaze across the energy heartland of Alberta and smoke forced the shutdown of a major oil sands project. The fire that has already prompted the evacuation of 88,000 people from the city of Fort McMurray was on its way to doubling in size yesterday, the seventh day of what is expected to be the costliest natural disaster in Canada's history.

Police escorted another convoy of evacuees out of the oil sands region north of Fort McMurray, taking them on a harrowing journey through burned out parts of the city and billowing smoke. Some 1,600 structures are believed to have been lost. With temperatures yesterday expected to rise as high as 28 Celsius, officials said the weather was hindering efforts to fight the wildfire. "It is a dangerous, unpredictable fire, an absolutely vicious fire that is feeding off of an extremely dry boreal forest," Canadian Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale told a media briefing.

CBC News reported the fire had expanded southeast and grown to 156,000 hectares. Officials had warned late on Friday that the fire, which they then said was 101,000 hectares, could double in size by the end of yesterday. The Syncrude oil sands project said yesterday it will shut down its northern Alberta operation and remove all personnel from the site due to smoke. There was no imminent threat from the fire.

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**FORT MCMURRAY, Canada:** Police officers direct traffic under a cloud of smoke from a wildfire in Alberta on Friday. — AP



**LEICESTER:** Leicester City's Italian manager Claudio Ranieri (center) and Leicester City's English defender Wes Morgan hold up the Premier League trophy after winning the league and football match with Everton at King Power Stadium yesterday. — AFP (See Page 20)



# PM'S SOUTH KOREA VISIT TO FURTHER TIES: AMBASSADOR VISIT GIVES MOMENTUM TO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

**KUWAIT/SEOUL:** The anticipated visit of His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to Seoul today reflects mutual desire to further relations in all domains, Kuwait's Ambassador to South Korea Jassem Al-Bedaiwi said yesterday.

"The significant magnitude and variation of the Kuwaiti delegation accompanying His Highness the Premier embodies Kuwait's true will in developing relations with the Korean side in vital and important sectors that would serve interests of both," Ambassador Al-Bedaiwi said. During the visit, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak will hold talks with South Korean leaders on prospects bilateral relations, particularly in the economic, energy and investment fields. His Highness the Premier's visit is part of an Asian tour that already included Bangladesh and Vietnam, and will end with Japan. "South Korea is a role model that Kuwait seeks to learn from to execute its 2035 vision. The Korean side showed utmost readiness to cooperate with Kuwait in many areas and lend its experience in a clear and transparent manner," noted the Ambassador.

### Meeting the president

During the four-day visit, His Highness the Premier will meet with President Park Geun-hye, counterpart Hwang Kyo-ahn, as well as meeting chairpersons of Korean firms operating in Kuwait, noted Al-Bedaiwi. He added that the delegation will also visit Severance Hospital of the Yonsei University Health System; one of the oldest and biggest university hospitals in South Korea, as well as visiting the parliament.

Both sides are scheduled to sign a MoU on healthcare. "With Kuwait's desire to send patients to receive treatment in South Korea, as well as dispatching Kuwaiti doctors for medical training there," the Ambassador pointed out. Another MoU on education is expected to be inked, as Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Bader Al-Essa is scheduled to visit a number of educational and academic institutions, he said.

On the South Korean construction expertise, Al-Bedaiwi said a MoU on establishing 'smart cities' will be signed between the two countries. "The visit of Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yesser Abul to South Korea last March laid the foundation for this cooperation," he noted. On military cooperation, the Ambassador said the visit would represent "the first step in military training and technology." The business delegation accompanying His Highness the Premier will hold an expanded meeting with Korea International Trade Association to discuss potential investment ventures and build on outcomes of the March 2015 Kuwait economic forum and the November 2015 Seoul economic forum. Political regional and international issues are

also to be discussed during the visit, mainly Yemen, Syria, counterterrorism and North Korea's nuclear file

### Largest partner

His Highness the Premier, leading a senior-level delegation, starts an official visit to South Korea as part of a tour of four Asian countries including Bangladesh, Japan and Vietnam. The trip started with Bangladesh on Tuesday, May 3.

The bilateral trade volume between Kuwait and South Korea hit \$20 billion last year with Kuwait's exports to South Korea being mainly oil and oil by-products while its imports there from being electronic and electrical equipment, and cars. South Korea is Kuwait's largest trade partner and largest oil imports which amount-



His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

ed to over 400,000 barrels a day while it is the largest exporter to Kuwait, accounting for 70 percent of Kuwait's imports in 2013-2014.

Since 1970s, the South Korean companies have been playing a growing role in the development of infrastructure projects in Kuwait, including the construction of highways, flyovers, power stations, hospitals and power plants.

### Big stride

The bilateral ties, particularly in the hydrocarbon sector, made a big stride in the last four years after a South Korean firm was awarded a \$742 million-worth contract to build oil facilities at Burgan field. In March, 2015, the Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC) signed a MOU with the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) in order to seek joint business opportunities in the oil and gas sector and encourage the interchange of relevant human resources, knowledge and information.

In March 2016, Representatives of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) and three South Korean companies, notably the Hyundai Engineering and Construction

(HDEC) sealed a \$2.93 billion contract for the construction of the largest Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) at Al-Zour area, west Kuwait.

South Korean firms are implementing Mubarak Container Harbor in Boubyan Island, consisting of 60 terminals and costing up to \$1.13 billion. They are also building Jaber Bridge, one of the world's longest maritime bridges, costing over \$2.5 billion.

Last March, the two countries started cooperation in the field of healthcare and opened the door for South Korean companies to modernize the public health system in Kuwait with a view to help patients receive healthcare at home in Kuwait. In September, 2014, the then South Korean minister of land, infrastructure and transport visited Kuwait and signed MoU on cooperation in the areas of housing and infrastructure including the development of the Silk City project in Sabbiya area with a view to realizing the vision of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for turning Kuwait into a financial and commercial hub. In May, 2015, the two sides inked a MoU on cooperation in transport by virtue of which South Korean firms will take part in the implementation of subway project and the GCC railway project.

### Cultural field

The two countries are committed to promotion of the friendly ties in the cultural, educational, scientific, information and youth and sports fields under an agreement signed in 1984. Based on this agreement, Kuwait Embassy organized Kuwait Cultural Days in Seoul in mid-December, 2015.

Regarding the academic exchanges, dozens of Kuwaiti students pursue their higher education at South Korean universities while nearly one thousand South Korean students are studying Arabic at Kuwait University.

The political ties between the two countries have been growing steadily since the latter recognized Kuwait as an independent country in 1962 and sought to establish diplomatic relations with Kuwait in March, 1963; they established the diplomatic ties on the ambassadorial level in June, 1979. During the Iraq invasion of Kuwait in 1990, South Korea was one of the first countries that stood by Kuwait in the face of the brutal invasion and contributed \$500 million to the Kuwait liberation war. As non-permanent member of the UN Security Council in 1996-1997, South Korea supported Kuwait's quest for uncovering the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing in action during the Iraqi invasion; it reiterated the call for Iraq to implement the relevant UNSC resolutions. The 1,600 South Korean community in Kuwait, mainly skilled professionals and civil engineers, contribute to the comprehensive development of the oil-rich country. — KUNA



HANOI: Deputy President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan (right) is pictured with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dhang Dengkui. —KUNA

## KUWAITI-VIETNAMESE MEETING TACKLES BUSINESS COOPERATION

**HANOI:** As part of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's visit to Vietnam, an economic Kuwaiti-Vietnamese meeting took place in Hanoi, headed by Deputy President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Abdulwahab Al-Wazzan and Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Dhang Dengkui.

The meeting was also attended by Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Director General Sheikh Dr Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Kuwait Investment Authority's Executive Manager Farouq Bastaki, Kuwait Petroleum International's (KPI) Vice President Ghanem Al-Otaibi, and head of Vietnam Petrochemicals Project Nghi Son. During the meeting, Dengkui welcomed, in his opening speech, the Kuwaiti delegation and expressed pleasure for this opportunity to tackle a number of issues to boost economic cooperation between the two sides, including the latest developments that took place in Vietnam in recent years.

The Vietnamese official highlighted various economic prospects in his country, namely the modernization of its infrastructure, transportation, and commercial transit which paved the way for Vietnam to become one of the biggest

exporters to the global markets. The foreign ministry official also shed light on Vietnamese labor and vital cooperation that could benefit both sides, particularly in nursing and health sector.

Wazzan expressed in his speech on behalf of KCCI his keenness to enhance economic ties with Vietnam and its private sector. Wazzan also expressed hope that such level of cooperation would improve, recalling previous projects in Kuwait including the B.O.T and PPP, including discussion in details on Kuwait's development plan and targeted projects.

Later, an open discussion took place and a presentation on several projects in Vietnam was given by a number of Vietnamese investment officials, and finally a number of cooperation protocols between KCCI and Vietnam's chamber of commerce and industry were signed. Last night, Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) and PetroVietnam signed a cooperation agreement that aims at re-focusing on their refining and petrochemicals strategies. KPI's Chief Executive Officer Bakheet Al-Rashidi said on Friday that the agreement would enhance KPI's manufacturing and refining strategies in order to provide a safe venue for Kuwaiti crude. — KUNA

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Sara Akbar



Randi Zuckerberg

# 'WOMEN IN CORPORATE WORLD' DISCUSSES CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN IN WORKPLACE

ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES, GULF BANK UNVEIL NEW NATION-WIDE SURVEY RESEARCH

**KUWAIT:** Organized jointly by Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank, the 'Women in the Corporate World: Beyond the Glass Ceiling' conference brought the topic of 'diversity in the workplace' to the table for discussion by key influential international, regional, and local leaders. The discussion resonated with Kuwait, as the conference was well attended and the audience reflected a cross section of the country. It was open to the public and held on Wednesday, 4 May 2016 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel, and was carried out in partnership with KIPCO with Cadillac, and Everything Kuwait joining as supporting partners.

The 'Women in the Corporate World' conference included keynote addresses from distinguished international and local speakers, such as Randi Zuckerberg, Founder and CEO of Zuckerberg Media and Author of *Dot Compliant*; Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah, Undersecretary at Kuwait's Ministry of State for Youth Affairs; and Sara Akbar, Co-Founder and CEO of Kuwait Energy. The conference also featured two major discussion panels, the first themed 'The Work/Life Balance', the second entitled 'The Role Identity'. The conference was also networking platform for business people to exchange ideas on achieving success in the corporate environment. The results of a country-wide survey on key motivating factors for women in the workplace as were announced.

### Pressing problems

Omar Kutayba Alghanim, CEO of Alghanim Industries and Chairman of Gulf Bank, gave opening remarks to a capacity crowd. Alghanim said: "We are happy to host the first 'Women in the Corporate World: Beyond the Glass Ceiling' conference to address issues facing women in the workplace. We are talking about one of the most pressing problems facing our country, our region, and our time. Future generations will judge us on the degree to which we solve it, and it will take a lot of people working together to solve. In Kuwait, the 2014 female labour participation rate was 44 percent which is well below North America and the world and is unchanged since the year 2000; but is precisely double the rate in the Middle East and North Africa region. However, our male labour participation rate is 83 percent which means our gender participation gap is a mighty 39 percent. This rate has not changed in 14 years. None of this would matter if women in our country and in our region didn't want to work, but the fact is, they do."

Alghanim concluded by saying: We have a problem, a human problem with an enormous social cost. It is also a business problem, with enormous economic cost. We need to solve this because it is the right thing to do, and because it is in the interest of women, businesses, economy, society, and in the interests of women."

Then local keynote speaker Sheikha Al-Zain Al-Sabah discussed the importance of goal setting and the role of perseverance in achieving one's goals. She said: "I come from an organization which represents 72 percent of Kuwait is population and forms the future of this country, they need to be given the opportunity to build up a better one. Do we



The conference's attendees.

advise our young women to accept circumstances? It is a reality that females in our region constantly face challenges when excelling in their careers and my advice to them is not to accept these circumstances, not to surrender, add value to yourselves, take the initiative to move forward, fight for your dreams, take your anger and turn it into work that anybody would be proud of and you will definitely succeed. There will always be gaps around you, finding a way to bridge those gaps will give you a sense of purpose."

Sara Akbar, shared her life story and how she was able to set up one of the most successful companies: "When I started my career I did not enjoy the same opportunities as the male engineers, but I refused to accept this

### Nation-wide research

To highlight the issues, challenges, and motivating factor for women in the workplace, the results of new nation-wide research from Alghanim Industries and Gulf Bank were released. The survey aimed at improving understanding of the key motivating factors for women in Kuwait workforce. The survey interviewed over 2,000 students and professional women in Kuwait and the findings were presented to conference delegates for the first time. The majority of respondents were working women (83 percent) followed by students (17 percent).

The majority of women indicated their preference for jobs in the private sector. The reasons for this were noted as: challenging



Speakers at the first panel.

published. Randi Zuckerberg was the international keynote speaker. She shared her personal story of success in Silicon Valley and offered her expert insight into technology, business, and entrepreneurship in the digital age. She demonstrated how the Internet, social networks, and social media are being used and what it means for both entrepreneurs and citizens. She said: "You can look at my personal experience and see how you too can find your perspective and career path. But it is easy to be blinded when you work with people who think the same way you do. You need to seek out different perspective in order to find your own perspective." She also noted: "It is also important, especially in today's tech world, to occasionally unplug and recharge ourselves."

### First panel

The first panel was entitled "Work/Life Balance" and was moderated by Nima AbuWardah, Columnist and Award-Winning Journalist.

Kristin Engvig, Founder of Women's International Networking (WIN) commented: "In Norway 78 percent of women work and this figure also includes the highest rate of working women with children. This is possible because companies were forced to follow policies and legislation that allows things such as flexible time, among other things."

Dr Lubna Al-Kazi, Professor of Sociology at Kuwait University and Director of the Women's Research and Studies Center, added: "We need policy changes to encourage women to have flexible timings and the ability to work from home."

Eman Al-Ablani, General Manager of Group Human Resources at the National Bank of Kuwait, said: "Empowering women is key, we should do that by inspiring them at a young age, but our educational curriculum does not do that, not for women or men."

Salma Al-Hajjaj, General Manager of Human Resources at Gulf Bank noted: "At Gulf Bank 40 percent of our employees are women but oftentimes they don't stay long enough to make it into leadership positions. You should live your life in phases and give each phase the time it needs."

Mona Ataya, CEO and Founder of

Mumzworld.com and Co-Founder of Bayt.com, talked about balance saying: "Define what creates the most meaningful impact at any given time. Then you shift your daily balance to accommodate it. You keep shifting until you find your equilibrium."

Omar Alghanim also spoke about fostering the right corporate culture to accommodate career-minded women and gender diversity in the workplace. He said: "I see our corporate culture as a competitive advantage, we have access to a larger talent pool by seeking out qualified women."

### Second panel

The second panel addressed the "Gender Role Identity" and was moderated by Richard Moseley, Global VP of Strategy at Universum.

Eman Al-Awadhi, Group Communications Director of the KIPCO Group, said: "With women, you get more of a consensus type of leadership. This means that when working with a team they understand that for them to succeed, each one of them has to succeed."

Najla Al-Shirawi, CEO of Securities and Investment Company (SICO), said: "Women in leadership have a different style, Women are more likely to share information, credit, and power. They use persuasion more and power less. As women tend to climb the ladder for the lower levels, they cultivate teamwork."

Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh, Author and Academic, discussed leadership saying: "I think there is a consensus on what the qualities of a leader regardless of gender. At the end from, it is all about wanting to be a leader and having these qualities."

Khaled Al-Khudair, CEO and Founder of Glowork, talked about his company saying: "Since our company targets women, 95 percent of our employees are women. However, locally I find that interviewers don't ask women the right question, instead asking them about their age, marital status, and children." Lubna Qassim, Executive Vice President, Group Company Secretary and General Counsel for Emirates NBD, noted: "200 years ago women were allowed to participate in the workforce and today we are still assessing what it means for them to participate. There have been numerous studies that show the positive impact that women have in the workforce, but yet still ask that same question."



Speakers at the second panel.

situation and I insisted to proceed with my career the way I aimed to. Thankfully, I had an open minded manager who gave me the opportunity to do so and when I reached the glass ceiling, I decided to move on and start my own business.

My mission was to create the largest independent oil and gas company in the region, but we became the largest in the western hemisphere. My message to all young women out there is create your own vision, establish your business and start small but aim high. If I can do it, you can too."

work; room for learning and development; possibility for career advancement; a more healthy work environment; the reputation of the company; as well as salary and benefits. Results also noted that 7 out of 10 women noted that the top two key motivating factors behind employment choices were: possibility for career progression was the top factor in choosing employment followed by financial reward. For women who work in the public sector, they indicate their choice is due to more flexible working hours. A more in-depth summary of the survey results will soon be

## DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT WELCOMES AMIR'S ENVOY

**DJIBOUTI:** Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh received His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's envoy, Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Daifallah Sherar, at the presidential palace in Djibouti yesterday.

Following the meeting, His Highness the Amir's envoy said he was so happy to meet the president of Djibouti, noting that he

had conveyed greetings and congratulations from the Kuwaiti leadership and people to President Guelleh. He hoped that the distinguished relations between Kuwait and Djibouti would be further developed and promoted, and congratulated the people of Djibouti on this presidency which has run the country's affairs in a balanced manner that has safeguarded its interests. —KUNA



**DJIBOUTI:** Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh meets with Advisor at Kuwait's Amiri Diwan Mohammad Daifallah Sherar. — Amiri Diwan photo



**CAIRO:** Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi (second from right) attends a forum on global health diplomacy, organized by the regional east Mediterranean bureau of the World Health Organization. — KUNA

## KUWAIT CONDONES GLOBAL HEALTH DIPLOMACY: MINISTER

**CAIRO:** Kuwait's Minister of Health Dr Ali Al-Obaidi yesterday stressed Kuwait's eagerness to support development programs aimed at highlighting the importance of WHO-sponsored "global health diplomacy."

Addressing a forum on global health diplomacy (GHD), organized by the regional east Mediterranean bureau of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Obaidi said Kuwait realizes the merits of GHD and works with WHO to promote these merits in international arenas and forums. Recognizing the validity of GHD, he said Kuwait has launched the prize of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for excellence in scientific research into geriatric care and another prize for

research into heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. In fact, he said this year's prize in geriatric research will go to Dr Michael Novak from Slovenia for his work on the disease of Alzheimer's Dr Novak will receive the Kuwaiti accolade in Geneva.

Dr Obaidi indicated in his speech at the forum the progress GHD has achieved over the past few years linking local health issues with regional and international ones. This notion of linking health with foreign policy (which is the core of GHD) started in 2012 and has become an annual event since then bringing together more than 70 people at meetings and forums, including ministers of health, foreign ministry officials, ambassadors, lawmakers, and representatives of

missions at the UN. Global health diplomacy combines the disciplines of public health, international affairs, management, law, and economics and focuses on negotiations that shape and manage the global policy environment for health. The relationship between health, foreign policy and trade is at the cutting edge of global health diplomacy. The ultimate goal of GHD is to support the development of a more systematic and pro-active approach to identify and understand key current and future changes impacting global public health and to build capacity among Member States of the WHO to support the necessary collective action to take advantage of opportunities and mitigate the risks for health epidemics. —KUNA





# Inside the emergency call center

## Official talks about preparations, dealing with different cases

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** When in danger or facing an emergency, people need to call for help, so everyone should remember the number 112. This is the hotline of the emergency call center which replaced the earlier number 777, and it connects the police, fire and ambulance departments. A total of 293 employees work at the center in shifts, with 40-42 employees in each shift. Women always work the 7:00 am to 7:00 pm shifts, while male employees work during the other shifts. "All employees have passed special training courses in telecommunications and navigation. Recently, they received even more specialized and intensive training, as two years back our department in cooperation with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) launched a special program for the 112 call center. We are now employing graduates of this two-year training program to have professional staff," explained Colonel Ahmad Al-Azmi, Head of the Operations Department at the operations central headquarters, in an interview with Kuwait Times.



Colonel Ahmad Al-Azmi

### Thousands of calls

The center receives thousands of calls daily. "Two days back, we received around 11,000 calls, and usually the number ranges between 7,000 and 11,000 calls. Out of this figure, only between 800 to 1,000 are actual reports, while the rest vary between inquiries, repeat reports and children fooling around. We receive over 2,000 prank calls by children daily - the number was much higher in the past, but we decreased it after reporting these reckless callers. We filed cases against them and many were deported and the rest signed undertak-

ings to not repeat it, after calling the owner of the line to tell us who made that phone call," he added.

Employees of the emergency center receive reports or help in three languages. "The staff speak Arabic and English, and we have Urdu translators working in shifts," added Azmi. The most common reports are about traffic accidents. "These are followed by medical incidents, fights and attacks, and residential and commercial fires. The 112 hotline is connected with the fire department, ambulance and all the field sectors of the Ministry of Interior including rescue, public security and criminal investigations. We are also directly connected with the Ministry of Public Works, Municipality, Environment Public Authority and the Ministry of Electricity and Water," Azmi told Kuwait Times.

"Each report is diverted to the department in charge. So for instance, domestic violence cases are transferred to the social police, which is part of the public security division. We receive such reports daily. Reports about wild animals for instance are transferred to the environmental police, which is very active these days," stressed Azmi.

### Seven years

Shaima Dashti a 112 call center operator, has spent seven years working there. "Usually, the reports depend on the weather and workdays. So for instance, when it is raining, we receive many reports about reckless driving. Also, during the rush hours when people are heading to work or returning from work, we register a higher number of accidents, while during holidays, people usually start reporting accidents after 11:00 am," she noted.

"Regarding medical reports, the most common ones are for kidney dialysis, and most of these patients are known to the ambulance staff as they are frequent callers. The majority of reports we receive are about traffic accidents and medical cases for ambulance. During summer, fire reports increase due to the high temperatures. In addition, marine reports are related to drowning, sinking or water accidents," added Dashti.

Azmi concluded the interview with some advice for the public. "Drivers should not use the phone while driving, as this is the main reason for traffic accidents. Also, people should be careful, especially during summer, to always switch off exhaust fans and mobile phone chargers. These two devices are the reason for many fires as they melt at high temperatures. I also advise travelers to check their passports early, not take baggage from strangers and switch off the electricity in their houses when leaving for a vacation," he said.

- A total of 293 employees work at the center in shifts
- The number of calls ranges between 7,000 and 11,000 calls. Only between 800 to 1,000 are actual reports
- The staff speak Arabic and English, and we have Urdu translators working in shifts
- Most common reports are about traffic accidents, followed by medical incidents, fights, and fires
- Drivers should not use the phone while driving, as this is the main reason for traffic accidents



KUWAIT: Operators inside the emergency call center. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Local spotlight

## ABUSE OF EXPAT WOMEN



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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An Arab man locked up his wife for four days without food or water, but got away with it after he signed a pledge of good conduct at the police station, reported Al-Anbaa daily. I know for some this is just news that should not be given extra attention, but the truth of the matter is it is not. I've been in the field of journalism covering stories of expatriate women and I know for sure that expat women who are abused at the hands of their spouses, brothers and family members do not tend to call for help because they feel completely isolated and at a dead end.

A security source said the incident came to light when the wife screamed for help through the window of her apartment in South Surra, and someone informed the police. The police opened the door of the apartment where the wife was kept hostage, freed her and filed a complaint against her husband. The husband for sure tried to justify his behavior as an act of anger and possibly claimed he was in love with his wife and only wanted to frighten her. I cannot imagine him saying anything otherwise, and that is why he was freed and the wife maybe could not do anything but to accept his apology, until the second round!

I cannot blame her. Unfortunately, it is a typical reaction by abused expat wives here. The problem in Kuwait, like many Arab countries, is that expat women are left to the mercy of their dependents - the husband, the father and the male family man! When the man gets arrested, he uses 'wasta' (connections) of his Kuwaiti friends sometimes to get out or pretends to be under pressure or claims he simply lost his temper. For me, these are all excuses and should not justify the abuse of his wife or any other female.

The Ministry of Interior (Moi) officially announced 22 suicide cases since April - two cases per week. According to security officials, seven of these were female. According to the population, the rate of suicide is becoming high and it will continue to rise unless something serious is done. The expat woman feels alone, being away from family members, and this adds extra pressure on her and may lead to suicide. Some men use this as an advantage, because he is confident that no matter what he does, his wife will have no choice or way out but to accept her condition and keep her mouth shut for the sake of their kids.

Many differences between husbands and wives occur due to the wife's salary, and the same problem is seen in the Kuwaiti society too and causes a lot of problems between the couple, and sometimes leads to divorce. The problem of some expat men is that they think they have the right to use their wives' salaries because living expenses are too much. So the husband orders his wife to give him her income.

We must deal with this problem and a hotline linked with the Moi is needed to receive calls for help. This woman survived miraculously for four days without food and perhaps the goal was starving her to death. Such cases will not be the first or the last, but we must not pass them as just news.

## MP PROPOSES VOTERS' ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Kamel Al-Awadhi recently suggested adding a new article to law number 35/1962 pertaining with parliamentary elections, which would allow citizens to register on voting lists electronically. "The world is changing fast and new technologies are being used every day to facilitate government transactions by using e-portals," he underlined, noting that this would save much time, effort and money. Awadhi added that e-registration would encourage many citizens, especially women and those abroad, to register their names because the process would only take a few minutes within the convenience of their homes.

### No new items

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry strongly denied social media rumors speculating that new food-stuff items will be added to citizens' subsidized rations on the occasion of Ramadan.

## NO SUSPENSION TO YEMENI TALKS IN KUWAIT: UN SOURCE

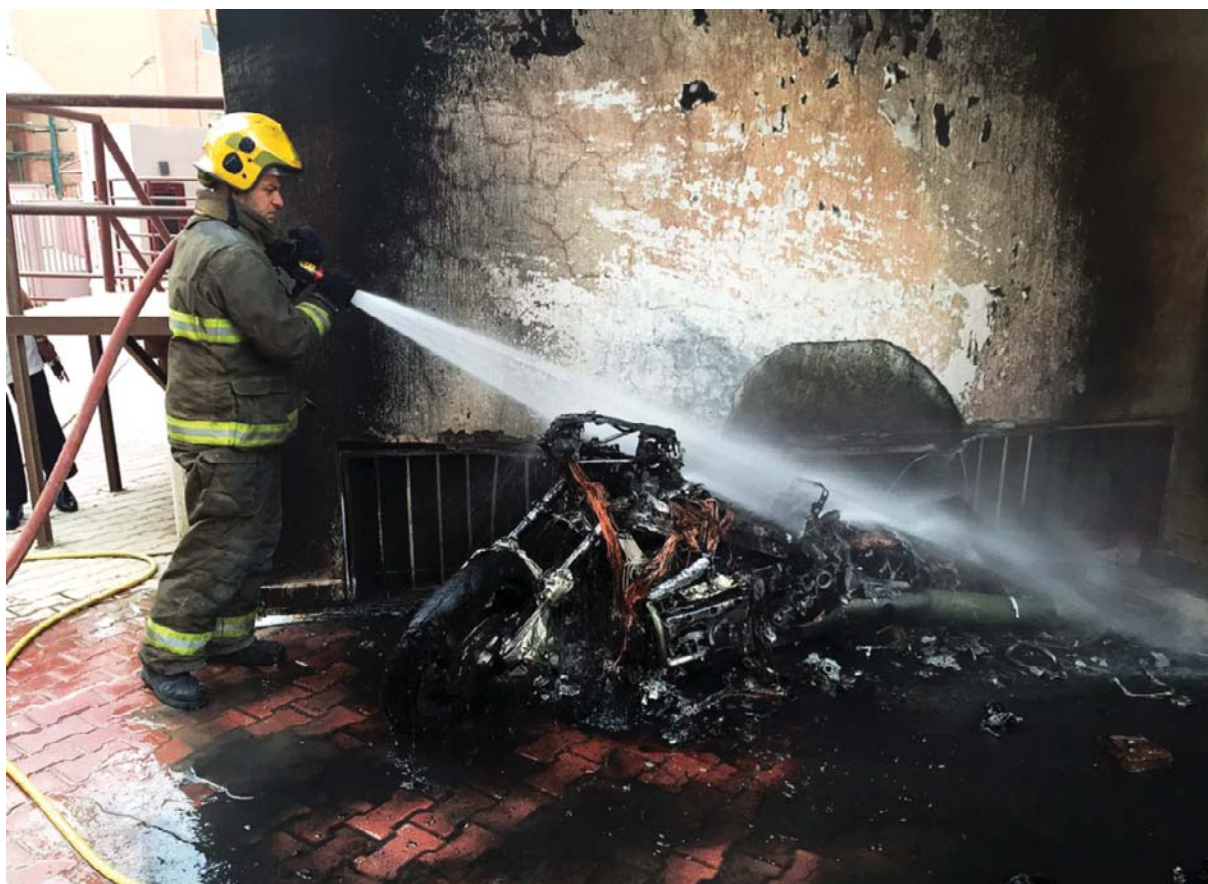
KUWAIT: A source close to the UN Special Envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed has denied reports about alleged suspension of Kuwait-hosted, UN-mediated Yemeni peace talks. The Yemeni peace consultations are proceeding, the source said, denying media reports about a decision to suspend the talks.

"It is normal that consultations sessions could undergo some difficulties, but they are

proceeding," he clarified. The statement came in response reports that the UN Envoy has decided to suspend the Intra-Yemeni talks over differences among negotiators over the issues on the agenda. Earlier, Yemeni negotiators held a second session of peace talks for the seventh day in row in a bid to find a solution to the Yemeni crisis.

The delegations, which represent the Yemeni

government, the General People's Congress and Ansarullah movement, focused on a host of political, security and economic issues and exchanged views on a UN-proposed general framework for a comprehensive peace settlement. Last week, the UN envoy for Yemen received two documents bearing on visions for security and political issues, militia withdrawal, weapons and prisoners. — KUNA



A firefighter extinguishes a motorbike flames near a Salmiya building yesterday.



Firemen tackle a blaze reported in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh yesterday.



Steel bars spilled out of a truck following an accident on Wafra highway yesterday.

## NO INJURIES IN JLEEB, SALMIYA FIRES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residents of a Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh building reported seeing smoke around the building and firemen from Jleeb station immediately rushed to the scene, where they evacuated the building and found that the fire started in a storage room. Firemen ventilated the building and managed to control the fire without reporting any casualties. Separately, a fire broke out in a Salmiya building where some items were wrongly stored in the basement, said security sources. They noted that when firemen rushed to

the scene, they found out that the fire had started in a motorbike parked near one of the basement's windows. They immediately dealt with it to prevent the flames from spreading into the basement. No casualties were reported.

### Accident

A truck loaded with steel overturned along Wafra highway, said security sources, noting that firemen rushed to the scene where they rescued the driver and his assistant and pulled the truck off the road since it was blocking traffic.

## 7,828 ILLEGAL RESIDENTS ADJUST THEIR STATUS

KUWAIT: Around 7,828 illegal residents have adjusted their status in Kuwait from 2011 and until end of April 2016, some, the Central Agency for Remedying of the Illegal Residents' Status said yesterday. A total of 5,523 illegal residents have adjusted their status and reverted back to their Saudi nationality, 842 to the Iraqi and 770 to the Syrian, Head of the status adjustment department of the apparatus Colonel Mohammad Al-Wohaib said. He called on illegal residents, who are yet to adjust their

status in the country, to visit the headquarters of the central apparatus to undertake the necessary measures needed.

Wohaib affirmed that those complying with the law will be given residency visas which could be renewed every five years in addition to healthcare, education and ration cards. Other privileges such as priority in employment after Kuwaiti nationals and facilitating procedures for obtaining driving licenses will also apply upon adjustment of their status, said the official. — KUNA

## UNAMI TO HELP ON KUWAIT MISSING PERSONS, PROPERTIES FILE: UN OFFICIAL

NEW YORK: UN official said that the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) will be reaching out to different stakeholders to seek their assistance in various aspects to achieve tangible progress concerning the issue of both Kuwait missing persons and properties.

April the Iraqi Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs again called on citizens of Iraq who have information about supposed graves of missing persons to inform them. Unfortunately, he added, stalemate still persists with respect to the missing Kuwaiti property.

Referring to his visit to Iraq, Kubis said that they have encouraged the Iraqi leadership to take every possible step to achieve tangible progress concerning the issue of both missing persons and property. However, Kubis underlined that the main responsibility in ensuring advancement lies with the Government of Iraq. "While we remain cognizant of the sheer volume of challenges that the Iraq is currently facing, its international obligations have to be fulfilled and this issue cannot fall by the wayside," he added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Ambassador Mohammad Al-Hakim that the Iraqi Government is committed to making extraordinary efforts to make progress in the missing Kuwaiti archives file. The Joint-National committees are working on potential witnesses, and affirmed that last March witnesses were interviewed on potential burials at Al-Jahra and Al-Khamisia regions.

That said, the Iraqi official emphasized the depth of the mutual relation with Kuwait, and appreciated the support of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the people of Kuwait, in Iraq's war against terrorism and providing the humanitarian assistance to those displaced. — KUNA



Secretary General Special Representative Jan Kubis

Speaking before the Security Council, the Secretary General Special Representative Jan Kubis said Iraq's Ministry of Defense has officially taken over the technical overview of the missing Kuwaiti persons file, resuming work and undertaking a number of activities since the transition. "This is an encouraging and welcome step, which I hope will add impetus to the Government of Iraq's efforts," he told the Egyptian-led Council.

The UN official confirmed that back in

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COULD DELAY PAYROLL ALTERNATIVE, SILK CITY

KUWAIT: The payroll strategic alternative might not be discussed in parliament during this term, well-informed sources said, adding that the reason is because the project is still being prepared after the parliament's human resources committee requested some amendments. The sources added that out of some election-focused considerations, some lawmakers had also been calling to postpone the project till the coming term.

Separately, the parliament's public facilities committee insists on delaying a draft law on establishing the public authority of the Silk City and Boubyan island projects, said parliament's sources, noting that it was too early to pass a law on the authority because the committee was still waiting for explanations it asked from the government about the project.

### Committees' meetings

In other news, parliament's public funds protection committee intends to refer more cases to the public prosecution, as declared by the committee chairman MP Abdullah Al-Turaji. Notably, the committee is due to discuss the procedures of selling Kuwait National Real Estate Company today in the presence of Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh and Kuwait Investment Authority officials because of suspected violations.

Meanwhile, Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousif Al-Ali will attend the parliament's financial affairs committee's meeting today to discuss a bill on auditing. Ali is expected to explain the new law that the ministry

deems important to correct some current malpractices.

### Dashti's immunity

The parliament's legislations committee is due to meet today to discuss the public prosecution's request to lift MP Abdulhameed Dashti's parliamentary immunity, adding a new article to law 17/1960, amending law 26/ 1961 about the Kuwait flag, establishing a public authority for food, changing clause 3 of article 33, law 7/2010 pertaining to the CMA's establishment and amending law 42/2014 about protecting the environment.

In other news, National Assembly supervisor MP Abdullah Al-Tamimi urged the government to take immediate measures against journalist Yousif Alawneh, whom he described as a mercenary and tumult promoter, over accusations of slandering the Prophet (PBUH) and his family. Tamimi threatened to grill the ministers of interior, information and awqaf unless they took actions against Alawneh, noting that the government's silence on him "reflects that he is either mightier than the government or that he is being used by others and nothing can be done about him".

### Budget cut

In a bid to cut its expenses, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs approved a few measures to help rationalize its budget through reducing the amounts allocated for holding conferences, said informed sources, noting that the ministry holds at least six or seven conferences every year.

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- Independent, well organized, information seeking, analytical

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Al-Anbaa

NATIONS' ASHES AND SMOKE

By Sami Al-Nisf

With the establishment of modern Iraq in the beginning of the 1920s, many people qualified to rule Iraq were ignored and preferences were made to King Faisal I, who came from Hejaz via Syria accompanied by pioneers of revolutions and Arab unity of senior Ottoman army officers, who later shifted loyalty to Sharif Hussein when he declared his major revolution in 1916. Those included Nouri Al-Saeed, Jaafar Al-Askari, Taha and Yaseen Al-Hashimi and others who had taken turns presiding Iraqi cabinets.

King Faisal was succeeded by his son Ghazi, who overdid unity tendencies, forgetting all about Iraq. During his reign, Bakr Sedqi, the one with a mixture of tendencies to Kurds, Turks, Fascists and Nazis, more than affiliation to Iraq, led a coup in 1936.

By the July 14, 1954 bloody coup, the sleepless leader Abdul Kareem Qassim came to power. He fought Arabism and Arab unity on behalf of Communist Marxism that is afflicted to Moscow. He was succeeded by field marshal Abdul Salam Aref who revived the Arabism project which made Iraqi citizens feel they were traitors if they had any pride of their Iraqi nationality and ancient history that dates back to Sumerians and Babylonians. According to that concept, Iraq is but one cog in the Arabism machine. This tendency continued during the rule of his brother Abdul Rahman after Abdul Salam fled and landed in flames when his flight was destroyed in the air in a terrorist operation arranged by the infiltrated conspiring Baath party.

With the succession of president Ahmed Hassan Al-Bakr and mandating him to hand over power to Saddam Hussein, a new stage of hate of Iraqi citizenship and the Iraqi people commenced under bright Arabism slogans that led to various local and foreign wars. It was not strange at all that Iraqis shifted loyalty to US, Iran, Turkey, Syria and other states after the 2003 war as a direct result of not enhancing Iraqi nationality affiliations in Iraqis' souls ever since modern Iraq was established.

This also applies for other countries like Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Libya and Yemen whose peoples are torn between affiliations to regional countries and the ideas of regional and international leaders. Loyalty to one's country was incriminated and considered treason. These Arab people adopted the worst policies and are currently paying the price.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

REGARDLESS OF SYKES OR PICOT

By Salah Al-Sayer

We have concerns that situations in regional countries might deteriorate, especially in the aftermath of the Arab Spring, the growing tension, foreign interference and the spread of terrorism in the region. However, what we fear most is the spread of malicious evil rumors that have been haunting us day and night in the form of pessimistic scenarios about the nearness of the end of the age of oil, lack of stability and dividing the region. Such reports are more like vicious wishes promoted by some people with the aim of harming GCC states.

Be it shale oil, cow oil or even gypsy oil, remapping a new Sykes-Picot agreement dividing the region and dozens of other scenarios keep falling on our ears as bad news similar to the folkloric GCC saying of "Here comes the wolf, here comes its puppy," which is usually said to intimidate people, frighten, confuse and distract them for a while. It is becoming evident that the only ones benefiting from such a state are GCC ene-

mies who are always after discouraging its people.

It is up to us to maintain our prosperity and development - it is not in the hands of others. GCC leaders surely have historic expertise with farsighted visions that can help make this dream come true.

Oil remains as a source of energy and prices will not stay down forever. We are working on finding alternative sources of income, industrial cities are increasing and industries are as well. Free trade zones, universities, railways, airports, harbors and various fields are vividly developing and growing. Saudi Arabia's 2030 vision will surely carry us way ahead into the future.

It is true that others have the illusion that we are but temporary communities, but we know better and we must work on enhancing our self-confidence on both public and official levels. We have been always here and will remain here regardless of Sykes or Picot.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait's (CBK) Assistant Manager for Advertisement and Public Relations Amani Al-Wer'a recently visited Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah at his office to discuss cooperation in various communal services. The visit comes as part of CBK's arrangements to provide support and care for various social activities, the bank said in a statement.

DISCOUNTS ON MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION WITH OOREDOO'S SHAMEL PLANS

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has recently announced adding new benefits and discounts to Shamel plans, where it enables customers to subscribe to Shamel without committing to paying monthly installments for a smart phone within the package.

The new offer enables customers who possess the latest handsets, or are content with the ones they already have to subscribe to Shamel plans without commitment on devices, to either commit to a 24-month contact to receive a 30 percent discount on their monthly bills, or opt for a 12-month contract and receive a 20 percent discount.

Commenting on the new offer, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate

Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "The new Shamel plans have witnessed great success, both customers' feedback and sales figures demonstrated this. Our main goal as a company is to meet our valued customers' needs; therefore, we have further revamped those plans, adding new benefits and special discounts which will apply for the different requirements of our customers"

Ooredoo subscribers can now enjoy the privilege of freezing their contract for up to 3 months a year when they travel, without worrying about paying bills for months that they don't use. Additionally, Ooredoo now allows customers to transfer contracts to other customers even during the contract period, with no

penalties or extra fees. Keeping up with the lifestyle of its customers, Ooredoo also allows customers to get an additional device on top of their current plan, in installments, without paying extra fees. Additionally, all Shamel subscribers can enjoy unlimited calls on the Ooredoo network, in addition to other perks such as minute and data rollover, to ensure that they are making full use of their package.

For more information about the Shamel Packages and the new benefits, visit one of Ooredoo's branches or dealers across Kuwait. You can also visit <http://shamel2.itp17.com/en/packages> or contact the customer care center on 1805 555 or 121 for Ooredoo subscribers.



GCC SERVICES WINS TOP HSE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

KUWAIT: GCC Services was named the Gold Award winner for the fourth consecutive year in the Facility and Maintenance category of the American Society of Safety Engineers Gulf Cooperation Council Health, Safety and Environment (ASSE-GCC HSE) Excellence Award 2016. GCC SERVICES has won this prestigious award in recognition of excellence in the fields of health and safety, CSR and the environment.

GCC Services also won for the second year in a row the Gold Award for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility in recognition of the Companies initiatives in CSR activities in 2015. In addition, the Company won the Gold Award for Excellence in Environmental initiatives, an Award that was introduced by ASSE for the first time this year.

The ASSE-GCC HSE Excellence Award recognizes

leadership and outstanding performance in the field of health, safety, and environment (HSE) efforts among private sector companies in the Gulf region by showcasing their successful business models on HSE management.

Saji Varghese, Director of Quality, Health, Safety and Environment at GCC Services, said: "Winning this prestigious award is a testament to GCC Services' emphasis on providing a safe and secure environment, and ensuring the health of employees throughout the organization. GCC Services is committed to protecting our people, property and environment and providing a high level of customer satisfaction. This award is dedicated to all GCC Services employees around the globe who have worked hard to achieve our excellent HSE track record."

AIRPORT NEEDS FEMALE SECURITY AGENTS: BRITISH DELEGATION

KUWAIT: A British security delegation that visited Kuwait International Airport last week made a few remarks and recommendations to ensure securing both the airport terminal and the planes. According to sources, the delegation, which was headed by the British Minister in charge of airport security and anti-terrorism in the British Ministry of Interior Lord Tareq Ahmad noticed a 'serious shortage' in female security agents needed to prevent possible female security breaches, and recommended providing the needed staff immediately.

The British delegation had met with the Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Border Security Major General Faisal Al-

Sineen. The Interior Ministry responded to the team's recommendation by saying that more female security agents would be appointed in the airport, adding that in case the appointed numbers were not enough, the private sector's help would be sought to fill in that security gap as soon as possible.

The delegation also recommended having civilians do airport administrative jobs leaving security agents to secure the airport. They also recommended using high-end technology and to take the need for 'threat zones' when designing the new airport terminal because the current one was too small to provide such zones needed in cases of emergency. — Al-Rai



Crime

Report

Toddler drowns in resort's pool

KUWAIT: A four-year-old child died when he sank in a resort's swimming pool, said security sources. According to the father's story, the child accidentally fell into the pool and he pulled him out, taking him to Adan Hospital where he died. Further investigations are in progress.

Fatal accident

A citizen was instantly killed and his 6-year-old son was seriously injured when the father lost control over his vehicle and it flipped over along Salmi highway. Investigations went underway to determine the circumstances that led to the accident happening. In another case, three citizens were rescued when they were trapped inside their wrecked vehicle in a collision along Fahahel Expressway, said security sources. A case was filed for investigations.

Overdose

A citizen was found dead in his vehicle with the engine running, said security sources, noting that policemen found drugs in the vehicle and initial reports suggest that the man might have died from an overdose. Further forensic examinations are in process to determine the cause of death.

Teen reported missing

A Syrian man reported that his 18-year-old daughter was missing. The father added that the girl had told her mother that she was visiting the neighbors' daughter, but when she was late to return, they inquired about her and the janitor told them that someone in a red car picked her up. Security sources added that on checking on the girl, they found that she had fled the family house twice and was found in Salmiya. A search is on for the girl to investigate why she has been repeatedly running away from home.

Ex-wife threatened

A divorced citizen recently reported finding a slip of paper with a threat written on it on her vehicle's windshield. When she examined the handwriting, she realized that it was from her ex-husband with whom she had been having some disputes and a case in court. Summoning the man, he admitted to writing the note. A case was filed.

Blackmail

A female citizen filed a complaint at Taima police station in Jahra asking police to protect her from a Syrian man she knows. The woman accused the man of blackmailing her using some of her photos and threatening to post them online. Arresting the blackmailer, he initially denied the charges, but later confessed. A case was filed.

Armed robberies

Jahra detectives managed to arrest a citizen wanted for several armed robberies who was identified by his victims in a lineup. The man was taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

Neighbor assaulted

An Egyptian woman filed a complaint against her two Kuwaiti female neighbors, accusing them of assaulting her, said security sources. According to the woman, the two assailants knocked her door and they had an argument. They then pulled her out of her apartment to start beating and kicking her before other neighbors rescued her. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Sexual harassment

An Indian man filed a case against his Pakistani neighbor accusing him of sexually harassing his wife, who verified the accusations. The woman noted that she had reprimanded the suspect several times but he kept persisting. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress.

Wives' row

A female citizen filed a case against her husband's other wife, accusing her of assaulting her and pouring boiling water on her in the absence of her husband. The suspected assailant is being summoned for further investigations.

Bootlegger arrested

A citizen was arrested with 11 liquor bottles he had been carrying to sell, said security sources. Case papers indicate that a police patrol suspected the man's vehicle while he was roaming in Farwaniya, and on stopping and searching his vehicle, policemen found the bottles.

Diver hurt

A Bahraini diver was injured when an arrow from his fishing gun accidentally hit his thigh while fishing near Garouh island, said security sources, noting that coastguards rushed the man to Adan Hospital for treatment. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

SCHOOLS WITNESS ONE CRIME EVERY 3 DAYS

KUWAIT: A study conducted recently by the Ministry of Education (MOE) revealed alarming statistics regarding the number of crimes committed within schools including violence, aggressiveness and even attempted murder.

According to the study, schools witnessed 110 crimes over the 10 months of the past school year. This means that a crime happens every three days in Kuwait in which the criminals are but young students.

This annual statistical report made by the social and psychological services department for the school year 2014-2015 showed that 99 crimes were committed by male students including, 58 Kuwaitis and 41 non-Kuwaitis. Meanwhile, girls' schools only witnessed 11 crimes committed by 10 Kuwaiti students and one non-Kuwaiti student, the statistics show.

Statistics also showed that the crimes committed included 68 assaults, 31 thefts, eight sexual harassments, one attempted murder and two kidnaps. The statistics also showed that Farwaniya schools came first with 40 crimes committed, followed by Ahmadi schools with 23 crimes, Jahra schools with 22, Hawally schools with 19, the capital schools with 5 crimes and Mubarak Al-Kabeer schools with only one crime.

Commenting on this phenomena, educational sources noted that MOE usually follows up juvenile students involved in crimes with the interior ministry. It then refers them to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor that places them in care houses and arranges with MOE to resume their studies while staying in those houses. — Al-Qabas

PROJECT TO HELP PRISONERS GET MARRIED

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior's Correctional Facilities Department is currently preparing a project to help Kuwaiti prisoners get married, namely those doing long times, said security sources. The department is currently working on setting the project's vision and determining the prisoners to benefit from it, the sources added.

After reviewing Saudi Arabia's experience in this regard and visiting some Saudi prisons, officials from the Correctional Facilities Department came back with the idea that the project was a suc-

cess there. The idea was also conveyed to GCC correctional facilities officials during their annual meeting.

The project helped reduce aggressive behavior of prisoners doing long times, the sources said. "The project is currently being prepared by experts in psychology, sociology and sharia and will be submitted to (Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah) once it is finished," explained the source, noting that the project would initially be applied for Kuwaitis. — Al-Jarida





Historic Bosnia mosque reopens in move towards reconciliation

## RESIDENTS RETURN HOME AS TRUCE EXTENDED IN ALEPPO



OREGON: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves after speaking to a rally. — AP

## ANGSTY CONSERVATIVES LICKING WOUNDS IN AGE OF TRUMP EGO RIPPING THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT AT ITS SEAMS

**WASHINGTON:** For a lot of angsty conservatives, there's more to worry about than just Donald Trump. There's the future of the conservative movement to consider. The soul-searching over what to do with the Republican Party's presumptive presidential nominee includes a broader debate over who gets to define conservatism.

An Iowa talk show host on the right talks of conservatism going into "temporary exile." A senator and self-described "movement conservative" still is casting about for an alternative to Trump and expected Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. The head of a grassroots conservative group in Texas wishes he could wake up from a dream and discover the Trump-as-nominee notion is nothing more than the product of indigestion from a bad burrito.

"The conservative movement, a movement I have been proud to be a part of, has been hijacked and twisted, and all the work we've done has been totally reversed," laments RedState columnist Joe Cunningham. The bitter irritation over Trump isn't just about ideology; there's ego in play, too.

"There are certain conservatives who view themselves as the brains and leadership of the movement who are somewhat offended that their call to action to stop Trump failed," says Matt Schlapp, chairman of the American Conservative Union, the oldest and largest conservative grassroots organization. "When they told people to go in a certain direction, the people didn't follow. And so there's a certain amount of ego and pride wrapped into the current state of affairs."

### Shake-up-the-system

For Schlapp, the answer to the what-now question is easy, although his organization hasn't made an endorsement. He's ready to "strongly, enthusiastically, full-throatedly" support Trump - given the Democratic alternative. "Look," he says, "Donald Trump is not on trial to determine whether or not he is an award-winning conservative. It is a choice between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton."

Further, says Schlapp, Republican voters didn't reject conservatism to vote for Trump. They simply put a higher priority on Trump's shake-up-the-system message than they did on evaluating how his positions jibe with their policy manuals. Some glass-half-full types say conservatives need to stop the gloom-and-doom over Trump, and use this as a teachable moment. Michael Quinn Sullivan, head of the grassroots group Empower Texans, says conservatives should be reflecting on how they underestimated the frustration of the electorate and consider how they can do a better job of communicating with the millions of first-time voters Trump is bringing into the system.

"A lot of folks on the elected side of the movement have been trying very hard to keep the lid on top of the frustration and the angst and the anger, and when it finally blows it gets a little messy," says Sullivan. "We need to be encouraging some of our elected officials and some of our politicians and party officials to be willing to let the steam off, and be willing to engage folks at the level where they really are."

Sullivan adds that based on his conversations with Texas voters, Trump's early supporters included plenty of frustrated conservative activists who decided, "I know he may not be necessarily exactly one of us, but he's going to go burn the place down. He's going to shake up the establishment."

For now, though, Sullivan is with House Speaker Paul Ryan - just not ready to support Trump. The speaker said Thursday: "Conservatives want to know, does he share our values and our principles on limited government, the proper role of the executive, adherence to the Constitution? There are a lot of questions that conservatives, I think, are going to want answers to, myself included."

### Fresh wounds

Gregory Angelo, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, which advocates for LGBT rights, says he hears from plenty of "died-in-the-wool conservatives who are splintered right now in terms of where they're going." "The wounds are still fresh, as it were, and I don't think people are going to digest where we're headed until several months have gone by," says Angelo, adding that his organization is "just as splintered and soul searching" as other GOP groups.

Exit polling in the primaries found Trump doing less well with people who are the most conservative. Across all states so far where exit polling data is available, Trump voters included 36 percent of those who are very conservative, 43 percent of those who are somewhat conservative and 41 percent of moderates.

Count Sen Ben Sasse of Nebraska among those who are most outspoken about the conservative dilemma. He used a Facebook post after Trump's last GOP rivals dropped out to hold out hope for another option, saying he was willing to set aside "an ideological purity test, because even a genuine consensus candidate would almost certainly be more conservative than either of the two dishonest liberals now leading the two national parties."

Syndicated talk show host Steve Deace in Iowa, in a column written for USA Today, was even more cutting about how the GOP has failed conservatives. "Conservatism's role in the 2016 election is now over while the idiocracy takes it from here," he wrote. — AP

## EGYPT COURT RECOMMENDS DEATH FOR CODEFENDANTS BUT NOT MORSI

**CAIRO:** An Egyptian court recommended death sentences yesterday for six codefendants of Mohamed Morsi but not for the ousted Islamist president in their trial on espionage charges. The presiding judge in the trial asked the mufti-the country's official interpreter of Islamic law-to consider death sentences for the six codefendants, saying the court would convene again on June 18 after the mufti's response.

It will then pronounce its verdict and sentence for the remaining five defendants, including Morsi, on charges of having supplied Qatar with classified documents. Egyptian law requires the mufti to sign off on death sentences. His opinion is not binding but is usually respected by courts.

Three of the defendants sentenced to death were tried in absentia and identified by the prosecution as journalists who helped relay the documents to Qatar. Qatar was a main backer of Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood movement while he was in power between 2012 and July 2013, when the military overthrew and detained him.

He has already received sentences in three separate trials. He has been sentenced to death for his alleged role in prison breaks and attacks on police stations during the 2011 uprising that overthrew veteran strongman Hosni Mubarak. Morsi was one of the leaders of the Brotherhood who had been jailed during the 18-day uprising, escaping with thousands of inmates who broke out of prison.

He was also sentenced to life in prison for espionage on behalf of Iran and militant groups Hezbollah and Hamas, and received a 20 year term for deadly clashes outside the presidential palace in 2012 between his supporters and opponents.

The Qatar espionage case stems from allegations that aides passed on classified state secrets to Doha using intermediaries. The six facing a death sentence include Ibrahim Mohamed Hilal, whom the prosecution had identified as a senior editor with the Qatar-based channel Al-Jazeera. He is not in Egypt and was tried in absentia. — AFP

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## US SENDS TROOPS TO YEMEN, STEPS UP ANTI-QAEDA STRIKES

**WASHINGTON:** The Pentagon acknowledged for the first time Friday it has deployed US troops to Yemen since the country's collapse last year to bolster government and Arab coalition forces battling Al-Qaeda. Spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis said the US military has also stepped up air strikes against fighters with Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

A "very small number" of American military personnel has been working from a "fixed location" with Yemeni and Arab coalition forces—especially the Emiratis—in recent weeks around Mukalla, a port city seized by AQAP a year ago, Davis said. "This is of great interest to us. It does not serve our interests to have a terrorist organization in charge of a port city, and so we are assisting in that," the spokesman added.

He said the troops were helping the Emiratis with "intelligence support," but declined to say if they are special operations forces. AQAP fighters have now fled Mukalla and other coastal areas, due to the government offensive. While the number of US personnel on the ground is limited, the United States is also offering an array of assistance to partners in Yemen, including air-to-air refueling capabilities, surveillance, planning, maritime security and medical help.

The Pentagon previously had more than 100 special operations forces advising the army in Yemen, but pulled them out early last year as the country collapsed. The US Navy also has several ships nearby, including an amphibious assault ship called the USS Boxer and two destroyers.

### Gathering intelligence

AQAP took advantage of the chaos of fighting between pro-government forces and Iran-backed Houthi rebels to expand its control in southern Yemen, including the seizure of Mukalla. The Houthis denounced the return of the US military "with their weapons in southern Yemen and Al-Anad airbase," the largest in the country.

American personnel had been deployed at the base gathering intelligence for drone strikes on Al-Qaeda until they pulled out in March last year, shortly before the Houthis overran the area. In a statement posted online, the Houthis threatened to "fight with all our means" the US and UAE presence in southern Yemen.

Pro-government forces backed by the Saudi-led coalition recaptured Al-Anad and other southern areas from the Houthis last year, but the rebels still control large parts of the country, including the capital Sanaa. The Pentagon announced it has carried out a string of strikes on Al-Qaeda in recent weeks, outside of Mukalla.

"We have conducted four counterterrorism strikes against AQAP since April 23, killing 10 Al-Qaeda operatives and injuring another," Davis said. As pro-government forces have battled the Houthis, there has been no let-up in the US air war against AQAP, which Washington regards as the network's most dangerous branch.

A March strike on an AQAP training camp west of Mukalla killed more than 70 fighters. The group, which has long been entrenched in Yemen, claimed



**ADEN:** Yemenis re-enact on May 7, 2016 the aftermath of a shelling that hit and killed civilians who were trying to escape Yemen by sea to flee the country's ongoing conflict, at a small fishing port. — AFP

responsibility for last year's deadly attack in Paris on the staff of satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, and has been linked to more than one attempt to blow up

aircraft bound for the United States. The Yemen conflict has killed more than 6,400 people and displaced 2.8 million since March last year. — AFP



**SHAAR:** Syrian girls arrive at their school in Aleppo's rebel-held eastern district. — AFP

## RESIDENTS RETURN HOME AS TRUCE EXTENDED IN ALEPPO

MORE THAN 300 CIVILIANS KILLED IN TWO WEEKS

**ALEPPO:** Displaced families returned home and schools reopened in rebel-held districts of Syria's Aleppo yesterday after a truce was extended for 72 hours in the battleground northern city. Residents trickled back into eastern areas of Aleppo, encouraged by a halt in the deadly violence that hit last month, an AFP reporter said.

More than 300 civilians were killed in two weeks of fighting in the divided city before the truce took hold on Thursday, with regime air strikes on its opposition-held east and rebel shelling on its regime-controlled west. "I decided to come home after relatives told me it was calm," father-of-six Abu Mohammed said. "We left because it was carnage here. The air strikes were incredible," said the resident of the rebel-held Kalaseh neighborhood.

The international community hopes that a drop in fighting can revive faltering peace talks to end a five-year war that has killed more than 270,000 people and displaced millions. Schools in Aleppo's east reopened yesterday after staying

closed for more than two weeks, the AFP reporter said.

"Almost all students have come back, apart from those who fled their neighborhoods," a primary school teacher in the Shaar district said. Russia's defense ministry said the truce had been extended "in order to prevent the situation from worsening" just minutes before the initial 48-hour truce for the city was due to expire. "The regime of silence in the province of Latakia and in the city of Aleppo has been extended from 00:01 (local time) on May 7 (2101 GMT Friday) for 72 hours," the ministry said in a statement.

### Other battle fronts

Violence in the city last month severely threatened a nationwide ceasefire between President Bashar Al-Assad's regime and non-jihadist rebels. The United States—which has been working with Moscow to pressure the regime to stop the violence and revive the February 27 cessation of hostilities — also confirmed the extension.

"While we welcome this recent extension, our

goal is to get to a point where we no longer have to count the hours and that the cessation of hostilities is fully respected across Syria," US State Department spokesman John Kirby said. But fighting rages on in other parts of Syria including in the rebel bastion of Eastern Ghouta outside Damascus and on the outskirts of Aleppo city, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

In the north of Aleppo province, six people including women and children were killed in night air raids—apparently by the US-led coalition—two Islamic State (IS) group strongholds, the British-based monitor said. Twelve IS fighters were also reported to have died in a battle against rebels.

In the central city of Hama, a raid by Syrian security forces on a prison failed to end a mutiny there involving around 800 mostly political detainees. Ten guards were taken hostage after the violence broke out on Monday following an attempt to transfer detainees to another prison near Damascus where numerous executions of inmates have been reported.

IS fighters meanwhile clashed with regime forces near the divided eastern city of Deir Ezzor on Friday, the Observatory said. The violence killed five jihadists and around 10 pro-regime fighters, whose bodies IS displayed on the walls of a public garden in the city, the monitor said.

### Denial over Idlib attack

An international outcry has grown over air strikes Thursday on a camp for the displaced near the Turkish border that left at least 28 dead including women and children. Anti-regime activists have blamed the regime, but the Syrian military has denied the accusation.

Russia's military insisted no aircraft flew over the camp on Thursday, suggesting Syria's Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front could have shelled it. The United States has said that the circumstances are unclear.

"We're still gathering information right now and are not in a position to definitively say exactly what happened there," Kirby said. Regime aircraft have previously targeted rebels other than Al-Nusra and IS, which are not covered by the February 27 ceasefire.

Russia also launched air raids in support of Damascus in September, and a US-led coalition has conducted air strikes against IS in Syria since 2014. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he was "outraged" by the attack on the camp and those responsible must face justice. Ban demanded once again that the UN Security Council refer Syria to the International Criminal Court so that the tribunal based in The Hague can open investigations into possible war crimes. — AFP

## IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS KILLED IN SYRIA

**TEHRAN:** Thirteen military advisers with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards have been killed in Syria in recent days and 21 others wounded, Iranian media reported yesterday. All were from Iran's northern province of Mazandaran, Hossein Ali Rezaei, a Guards spokesman in the region, told the ISNA and Fars news agencies.

The casualties happened in Khan Tuman village some 10 kilometers southwest of the battleground city of Aleppo, according to a Guards statement, the official IRNA news agency reported. Pro-regime troops had driven jihadists out of Khan Tuman in December, but fighting between regime forces and Al-Qaeda-affiliated jihadists and their allies killed more than 70 people south of Aleppo, a monitor said on Friday.

Al-Nusra Front and allied Islamists seized Khan Tuman and surrounding villages after less than 24 hours of clashes, the Syrian

Observatory for Human Rights said. Around 30 pro-regime troops were killed in the battle, said the Britain-based Observatory which relies on a network of sources in Syria. Russia said on Friday that a temporary truce in Aleppo had been extended for 72 hours "in order to prevent the situation from worsening". More than 300 civilians were killed in two weeks of fighting in the divided city before the truce took hold on Thursday, in regime air strikes on its opposition-held east and rebel shelling of the regime-controlled west.

Iran is Syria's main regional ally, sending financial and military aid, including military advisers and volunteer forces from Iran, Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, to prop up President Bashar al-Assad's regime. Dozens of Iranian "advisers" have been killed in Syria since late 2015, including Revolutionary Guards commanders. — AFP

## LEBANESE HOPES FOR CHANGE IN FIRST VOTE AFTER TRASH CRISIS

**BEIRUT:** Lebanon's capital today will hold its first elections since a months-long trash crisis have left mountains of garbage festering in the streets, with an outsider group of candidates challenging a political establishment widely seen as corrupt and incompetent.

Beirut Madinati, Arabic for "Beirut, My City," has vowed to clean up the city's streets and its politics. "We will go to the polls and throw out the corrupt politicians," declared list leader Ibrahim Mneihmeh, a 40-year-old architect, at a recent rally attended by hundreds of people. "We will no longer whine about the trash, traffic, or corruption."

Polling stations for the municipal election will be open on Sunday from 7 am to 7 pm (0400 GMT to 1600 GMT). Results are expected as early tomorrow. Madinati hopes to channel the energy of the "You Stink" protest movement, which emerged in response to the trash crisis and went on to challenge the political class that has governed Lebanon since the end of its 1975-1990 civil war.

The leaders behind the "You Stink" movement, which brought thousands of protesters

into the streets at the height of the trash crisis, have not formally endorsed Madinati but have attended its rallies. Since the end of the war, Lebanon has been governed by a power-sharing arrangement among political blocs—many led by former warlords—that represent its various religious sects. That has led to widespread patronage and corruption, and more recently to the breakdown of public services.

The trash crisis began last summer when the government closed the city's main landfill without agreeing on a replacement. For eight months trash piled up across the city. An agreement was reached in March to open a new disposal facility, but critics cast it as simply another backroom deal that failed to address the root of the problem.

And the stench grew even worse in April, as excavators dismantled the piles of garbage to carry it out of the city. "When you talk about Beirut, you say she's a beautiful woman," said the well-known Lebanese director Nadine Labaki, who is a candidate on the Madinati list. "Unfortunately, this is not what I'm seeing now." — AP



**BEIRUT:** In this Saturday, April 30, 2016, members of Beirut Madinati, an electoral list for the upcoming Beirut municipality polls, clapping during an election rally. — AP

## TWO MORE HELD OVER ATTEMPT TO SHOOT TURKISH JOURNALIST

**ISTANBUL:** Two more people were detained yesterday in connection with the attempted shooting of a Turkish opposition journalist outside an Istanbul courthouse where he was standing trial, the Dogan news agency reported yesterday.

Branding a pistol, an attacker fired several times on Friday at Can Dundar, editor-in-chief of leading opposition daily Cumhuriyet before being detained by police. Dundar was unhurt in the attack, although another journalist covering the trial was lightly injured.

"You are (a) traitor. You will pay a price," the attacker, identified by Turkish media as 40-year-old Murat Sahin, reportedly shouted.

CNN-Turk reported him as saying he had wanted to teach Dundar "a lesson" and that he had acted alone. "I did not want to kill him, but I could have done it,"

he was quoted as saying. Plainclothes police drew their weapons and ordered the man to lie chest down on the ground before detaining him.

"Two other people were detained today (yesterday) after the gun attack that targeted Can Dundar yesterday in front of the Istanbul courthouse," Dogan said. The attack occurred just before Dundar was sentenced to five years and 10 months on charges of revealing state secrets. Cumhuriyet's Ankara bureau chief, Erdem Gul, was handed a five-year jail sentence.

"We know very well who showed me as a target," Dundar said after the attack, accusing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and pro-government media of whipping up a climate of hatred against him. RSF ranks Turkey 151st out of 180 countries in its latest World Press Freedom Index. — AFP

## ISRAEL RAIDS HIT GAZA AS VIOLENCE CONTINUES

**GAZA CITY:** Israeli aircraft hit two Hamas targets in Gaza early yesterday in response to rocket fire as the worst flare-up of violence since a 2014 war entered a fourth day. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the rocket launch and most such fire since 2014 has been carried out by fringe Islamist groups but Israel holds Hamas responsible for all such attacks.

"Earlier today (yesterday)... a rocket was fired from the Gaza Strip at southern Israel," the army said in a statement. "In response... aircraft targeted two Hamas terror infrastructures in the southern Gaza Strip."

Hamas security sources said the retaliatory raid hit two brickworks in the southern city of Khan Yunis, causing damage but no casualties. But witnesses said two missiles hit a base of Hamas's military wing east of the city, causing significant damage. It was the fourth day of the worst cross-border violence since the 50-day war between Israel and Hamas which left 2,251 Palestinians and 73 Israelis dead in 2014.

Mortar fire by Palestinian militants and Israeli air strikes and shelling have raised concerns for the future of an informal truce that has held since the conflict ended. An Israeli tank round killed a Palestinian woman when it hit her home east of Khan Yunis on Thursday.

Since Wednesday, Hamas and other militant groups have fired at least 12 mortar rounds at Israeli forces searching along the border, and short distances inside Gaza, for infiltration tunnels leading into Israel. Such tunnels were among the most feared weapons of Hamas fighters during the 2014 conflict and one was uncovered by the army on Thursday.

### Military escalation

The Israeli army said it had "no interest whatsoever" in a military escalation, but would continue to act against Hamas as "it continues to breach Israeli sovereignty and build tunnels." Hamas's Gaza leader, Ismail Haniya, said on Friday that the group was "not calling for a new war", but would not accept Israeli incursions into Palestinian territory.

A former head of Israel's Shin Bet internal security agency, Yaakov Perry, said that Hamas was fearful of losing the tunnel network, which was one of its proudest military achievements. Hamas "is using mortar fire to communicate that fear to Israel," he said. Perry, who is now a member of parliament for the centrist opposition Yesh Atid party, urged the government to avoid adopting a purely military response and to take steps to improve the lives of Gaza's residents. — AFP





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## FRENCH PRESIDENT PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE RE-ELECTION BID

**PARIS:** The most unpopular president in France's modern history, Francois Hollande, is preparing the ground for a potential re-election bid. His leftist base is in open revolt, protesting youth are clashing with police nearly every night, and France is in a six-month state of emergency - yet he is on a new mission to convince the French that "things are getting better."

One critic compared it to trying to save the Titanic, but Hollande's supporters are counting on glimmers of good economic news to regain the confidence of left-wing voters who brought him to office. The government set the dates this week for the next election - two rounds on April 23 and May 7, 2017. The 61-year-old Socialist president has not formally announced his intention to run, but more and more signs are emerging that he's in campaign mode. Hollande's term has been tarnished from the beginning by a high unemployment rate, stagnant economy and tax increases. Two years ago, the government adopted a more pro-business policy that triggered opposition from the far left and even some mainstream Socialists. The

government now faces hard times defending a labor reform that has prompted protests across France. Yet Hollande and his entourage keep repeating, like a slogan, that "things are getting better."

Since coming into office in 2012, "we had to modernize the country to ensure its place in a globalized world," Hollande said in a speech this week meant to defend his leftist record. Many critics from the left and the right have pointed out the government's inability to implement major economic reform. "Major changes are gained through ... gradual reforms. There is no clean slate, no finishing line, there a constant, persisting motion," he said.

### 'SOS from the Titanic'

In the last few weeks, the government announced popular measures: an 800-euro (\$920) bonus per year to primary school teachers and salary increases for all civil servants. Hollande also suggested that taxes could decrease next year for modest households. "I hope and I believe that Francois Hollande will be a candidate," the president of the Socialist group in the

Senate, Didier Guillaume, said Wednesday on LCI television.

A group of members of the government - including Hollande's closest friends - launched a support campaign last month called "He on the left." Stephane Le Foll, government spokesman and leader of the movement, explained the goal is to show that the government "has achieved things." Conservative politicians mocked the initiative. "This operation rings out like a SOS from the Titanic," said the head of the conservative Republicans group at the lower house of parliament Christian Jacob.

In March, France's jobless total saw its biggest monthly drop in 16 years, according to government statistics. The unemployment rate has hovered over 10 percent for years. The state statistics agency Insee said France's economy grew 0.5 percent in the first quarter of 2016, slightly more than initial previsions.

To promote his economic policy, Hollande visits almost one business per week. France "is able to create, to produce in France, to export and we must have confidence," he recently said during a visit to defense group Thales.



**PARIS:** In this April 24, 2013 file photo, French President Francois Hollande talks to the media after the weekly cabinet meeting. — AP

The latest economic forecasts of the European commission - the EU executive body - confirm "France's economy is expected to slightly accelerate" this year. "Unemployment, however, looks unlikely

to improve until 2017," the commission stressed. All recent polls show a majority of French people does not want Hollande to run again and his approval rate remains under 20 percent. — AP



**BANJA LUKA:** People gather on the main square, during the inauguration ceremony of the Ferhat-Pasha mosque, in Banja Luka, on May 7, 2016. — AFP

## HISTORIC BOSNIA MOSQUE REOPENS IN MOVE TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

### CEREMONY SEEN AS ENCOURAGING RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

**BANJA LUKA:** Thousands of Muslims flocked to the capital of Bosnia's Serb region yesterday for the reopening of a historic mosque destroyed during wartime, a ceremony seen as encouraging religious tolerance among deeply divided communities. Twenty years after the devastating war between its Muslim Bosniaks, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats, Bosnia remains split along ethnic lines, with rival groups blocking reconciliation and reform needed to join the European Union.

The return of Muslim believers to the rebuilt Ferhadija mosque in the largely Serb city of Banja Luka, capital of Bosnia's autonomous Serb Republic, offered hope for change to many, although some were more cautious. Amid tight security, about 1,000 police officers patrolled the streets as buses arrived with Muslims from across the country. Traffic was barred from the city centre and alcohol banned.

Turkey's outgoing Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, whose country contributed to the cost of rebuilding, reopened the mosque in front of a congregation of up to 10,000, saying the new building sent a message of peace.

"Bosnia-Herzegovina, with its Muslims, Catholics,

Orthodox and Jews, is one body, one heart. If there is any attempt to split it up, it means that this one heart would be split," he said, apparently referring to secessionist threats by Bosnian Serbs. The 16th-century mosque, under UNESCO protection as an outstanding example of Ottoman architecture, was blown up 23 years ago. A parking lot was built where it had stood. Many believe its destruction was ordered by Bosnian Serbs aiming to erase any traces of Muslim heritage in the once multi-ethnic city.

### Ethnic cleansing

During a ceremony to lay a foundation stone for the mosque in 2001, Serb nationalists attacked visitors and dignitaries, wounding dozens and killing one Muslim. It took another 15 years for Bosnia's Muslims to obtain construction permits and funds to rebuild the mosque. Thousands of pieces of rubble from the original building were used after being recovered from the Vrbas River and a garbage site where they were dumped.

The day it was leveled, May 7, is now the Day of the Mosques in Bosnia, where 614 mosques were destroyed during the 1992-95 war. Today, only 10

percent of Banja Luka's pre-war Muslim and Croat population remains in the city following a wartime Serb campaign of ethnic cleansing. Bosnian Serb President Milorad Dodik said representatives of Islamic, Orthodox, Catholic and Jewish communities "have gathered here and sent messages of peace."

Efendi Husein Kavazovic, head of Bosnia's Islamic community, spoke of a "triumph of light over darkness", although he had earlier expressed doubts that reconciliation was close at hand. Bakir Izetbegovic, the Muslim chairman of Bosnia's three-man inter-ethnic presidency, said the rebuilt mosque was sign that Bosnia's Muslims could return to the region.

Some residents were less sanguine, with many of Banja Luka's Serbs apparently staying away from the ceremony. "I only want this opening to pass peacefully and without any incident as tensions still run high," said Tatjana Kecman, a Serb from Banja Luka. War casts a long shadow here, with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic jailed for genocide only in March. The United Nations says Bosnian Serb backing for secession from the fragile Bosnian state is a challenge to the 1995 peace settlement. — Reuters

## BRAZIL SENATE PROPOSES ROUSSEFF IMPEACHMENT

**BRASOLIA:** A Brazilian Senate committee voted Friday to recommend starting an impeachment trial against President Dilma Rousseff, who now faces being suspended from office in less than a week. The special committee's decision was non-binding but marked the last formal stage before the full Senate votes Wednesday on whether to put the leftist leader on trial. "The case now goes to the full federal Senate," announced opposition Senator Raimundo Lira following the one-sided vote, which passed 15 to five.

With the Senate considered almost certain to open the trial next week, Rousseff is preparing to step aside for up to six months while the 81 senators decide her fate, plunging Brazil into ever deeper political infighting.

As soon as Rousseff is suspended Vice President Michel Temer, a center-right politician whose party recently broke off its shaky alliance with Rousseff's Workers' Party, would become interim president. At the end of the trial, which could take months, a two thirds majority would be needed to remove Rousseff from office.

The impeachment battle, a crumbling economy, and corruption probes against dozens of leading politicians and business executives have left Latin America's biggest country in turmoil ahead of the Rio Olympics this August.

The impeachment is based on accusations that Rousseff made illegal accounting maneuvers to mask the depth of Brazil's economic troubles during her tight 2014 reelection victory. The country's first female president says the charges are trumped up to turn the impeachment process into a coup d'etat and that she will not give in. "I have the nature of someone who resists and I will resist to the last day," she said Friday at a ceremony where she handed over housing to the poor, one of the Workers' Party's signature policies and one she claimed would be threatened by her departure.

### Corruption whirlpool

The Senate vote and debate next week is expected to take more than 20 hours, likely stretching into Thursday, Brazilian media reports said. Rousseff's suspension could take effect Friday, according to current estimates.

She would be allowed to remain in her presidential residence but will lose access

to the executive offices and will be on half pay. There are still questions over her exact status, including whether she will be able to use Air Force planes for travel. While Rousseff fights for her political survival, both her closest allies and some of her most bitter enemies are being sucked into an ever deepening corruption scandal centered on state oil company Petrobras.

On Thursday, the architect of the impeachment drive, lawmaker Eduardo Cunha, was suspended by the Supreme Court from his post as speaker of the lower house on grounds that he was obstructing a Petrobras-related corruption probe against him. Cunha was one of Brazil's most powerful political operators and allied to Temer. His probable replacement in the speaker's post is another lawmaker accused of participating in the Petrobras embezzlement ring.

Temer himself is not being probed in the Petrobras affair, the chief prosecutor said this week, despite allegations made against him by a key witness in the government's case. However, in yet another twist Thursday it emerged that Temer could be barred from participating in any elections for eight years because he has been found guilty of violating campaign finance rules. The ban would not affect Temer's ability to take the presidency next week since no election is involved.

### Government paralysis

Meanwhile, the government and Congress have all but come to a standstill, with measures to try to drag the economy out of its worst recession in decades abandoned. On Thursday, Fitch followed other rating agencies in downgrading Brazil's credit score. It was already classed as speculative or "junk" grade and on Thursday Fitch shifted the rating down to BB from BB+.

The economy shrank 3.8 percent last year and is forecast to wither away at the same rate this year before flattening out with zero growth in 2017. That's a huge drop from the 7.5 percent growth Rousseff inherited when she first took office in 2010, although a big reason for the decline was the end of high commodity prices around the world. Markets are betting on a Temer presidency breaking the deadlock in Congress and ushering Brazil back out of the red. — AFP

## COLOMBIA TO EXTRADITE PANAMA DRUG-MONEY SUSPECT TO THE US

**BOGOTA:** Colombia will extradite a leader of a prominent Panamanian business family to the United States, where he is charged with laundering money for ruthless drug gangs, authorities said Friday. Police branded the suspect, Nidal Ahmed Waked Hatum, the most-wanted money launderer in the world.

They arrested the 44-year-old at Bogota's airport upon arrival from Panama on Wednesday, Colombian officials said, after US authorities blacklisted him and seven associates. "Procedures have been launched via the state prosecution service to carry out the protocol to extradite him to the United States," the vice head of the Colombian police's drug squad, Ricardo Alarcon, told a news conference.

A court in Florida has charged Waked on money laundering and bank fraud charges. His family runs at least 68 companies with activities including luxury goods and duty-free shops, real estate and newspapers. The US Treasury Department said it had put the family's Grupo Wisa on a sanctions list, classing it as a major drug money laundering organization.

Wisa includes companies such as the La Riviera luxury goods chain, the Balboa Bank and Trust and two top newspapers. It reportedly employs thousands of people. The Treasury said the co-leaders of the laundering operations were Waked Hatum and a man identified by Panamanian media as his uncle, Abdul Mohamed Waked Fares, 66.

It said they used "false commercial invoicing, bulk cash smuggling and other money laundering methods to launder drug proceeds on behalf of multiple international drug traffickers." Waked Fares said the accusations against him and his company were "false and unfounded." "We have instructed our lawyers to cooperate fully with the state prosecutors so that this regrettable confusion can be cleared up as soon as possible," a statement read.

In separate comments quoted by one of the

Panamanian newspapers his company owns, La Estrella, Waked Fares distanced himself from his nephew, saying Waked Hatum was not involved in the business.

### Pressure on Panama

According to the US Treasury, Waked Fares is a national of Panama, Colombia and Lebanon. His nephew is a national of Spain, Colombia and Panama. Panama has been in the spotlight over suspect finance operations since the Panama Papers tax evasion scandal that broke last month.

Leaked documents revealed how a Panamanian law firm helped the wealthy stash their assets in offshore firms. Panama's President Juan Carlos Varela moved to calm concerns about the impact of the Waked affair on the country's finance sector, after authorities seized control of Balboa Bank.

He said the country's state prosecutors were investigating. "Our banking and stock regulators have taken immediate measures to protect the integrity of our stock market and of account holders," Varela said in a statement.

### Duty-free shops

The United States named six other suspects accused of participating in the money laundering operations, including three brothers of Waked Hatum and a son of Waked Fares. The Waked family is well-known across Latin America for its airport duty-free shops. It also operates boutiques for top European brands such as Mango, Burberry and YSL.

It has developed a new \$350 million luxury shopping, residential and hotel complex, Soho Panama, in downtown Panama City, which was to include a Ritz Carlton hotel. Colombian police said Waked Hatum was accused of laundering drug money by investing it in his shops in duty-free zones. — AFP

## SANDERS WANTS SUPPORTERS REPRESENTED AT CONVENTION

**LOS ANGELES:** Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders on Friday threatened a floor fight over rules and platform planks at the party's summer convention on Friday, warning the Democratic National Committee not to stack the convention's standing committees with supporters of Hillary Clinton.

The prospect of a procedural wrench thrown into the party's flagship event is likely to cause headaches for Democratic leaders trying to forge a united front against Donald Trump, the likely Republican nominee. Sanders has amassed some 9 million votes during the nation's primaries and caucuses, and has said even if he fails at getting the final nomination, he wants to shape the party's agenda on issues like wealth disparity, financial reform and the role of big money in politics. He says the standing committees that consider the party's platform and rules should reflect the number of votes he received in the 2016 primaries and caucuses.

"I will not allow them to be silenced at the Democratic National Convention," Sanders wrote of his supporters in a letter to Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The platform committee considers the party's stance on a wide range of policy issues while the rules committee sets the guidelines governing the convention. Sanders' letter came after the candidate spoke with the chairwoman by phone earlier this week.

"If the process is set up to produce an unfair, one-sided result, we are prepared to mobilize our delegates to force as many votes as necessary to amend the platform and rules on the floor of the convention," Sanders wrote.

### 'Statement of our values'

Luis Miranda, a spokesman for the Democratic National Committee, said "because the party's platform is a statement of our values, the DNC is committed to an open, inclusive and representative process. Both of our campaigns will be represented on the drafting committee, and just as we did in 2008 and 2012, the public will have opportunities to participate."

Clinton holds a sizable lead of more than 300 pledged delegates and has received about 3 mil-

lion more votes than Sanders during the primaries. Including superdelegates - the elected party leaders and officials who can choose the candidate of their choice - Clinton is more than 90 percent of the way to clinching the nomination.

In the letter, Sanders notes that Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy will be in charge of the convention's platform committee and former Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank will run the rules committee. He calls both "aggressive attack surrogates on the campaign trail" for Clinton. — AP



**LEXINGTON:** Democratic presidential candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt, is cheered by supporters during a campaign rally at the Lexington Convention Center. — AP





VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis is given a present during an audience with members of the 'CUAMM, Doctors with Africa' organization, in the Pope Paul IV hall. — AP

## POPE ASKS MISSIONARY DOCTORS TO PRAY HE BECOMES 'POORER'

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis, in the modest style he has become known for, spoke yesterday to members of an Italian medical charity working in Africa and evoked his desire to show unity with the poor. "I ask you please to pray for me too, so that the Lord will make me each day become poorer," he told the organization "Doctors with Africa," as he praised their work in the poorest "last mile" of healthcare systems in seven African countries.

The pontiff also stressed that health was "not a consumer good, but rather a universal right, and therefore access to healthcare services cannot be a privilege." But he also acknowledged that healthcare is still in many countries the privilege of the rich.

"Healthcare, especially at the most basic level, is indeed denied in many parts of the world and many regions of Africa. It is not a right for all, but rather it is still a privilege reserved to the few, to those who

can afford it," he said according to a Vatican statement. He noted that the situation in Africa was particularly critical.

"In Africa too many mothers die in child birth and too many children do not survive beyond their first month of life due to malnutrition and illnesses," he told the audience of 9,000 doctors and volunteers. He said the medical charity was carrying out its work "with courage as the expression of a Church that is not a 'super clinic for VIPs' but rather a 'field hospital'." A Church with a great heart, close to the many wounded and humiliated of history, in the service of the poorest."

The Doctors with Africa group, also known by its Italian initials CUAMM, was founded in Italy 65 years ago by a doctor and a priest and has missions in Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Angola, South Sudan and Sierra Leone. — AFP

## BANGLADESH SUFI MUSLIM KILLED IN SUSPECTED ISLAMIST ATTACK

DHAKA: A local Sufi Muslim leader has been found hacked to death in Bangladesh in a suspected Islamist killing, police said yesterday, two weeks after the Islamic State group claimed the murder of a liberal professor in the same northwestern district.

Mohammad Shahidullah, 65, had been missing since leaving home on Friday morning before villagers last night found his body in a pool of blood in a mango grove in Rajshahi. It comes amid a troubling rise in violence against religious minorities, liberal activists and foreigners in Bangladesh, with six murders since the start of last month alone. "He was not a famous Sufi. But there could be a possibility that he was killed by Islamist militants," Rajshahi district police chief Nisharul Arif told AFP. The police officer said the killing of the self-proclaimed Sufi master was "similar" to other recent hacking deaths of religious minorities carried out by attackers with machetes or cleavers.

"He was slaughtered from his neck and there are also some deep gashes in his throat," Abdur Razzak, a local police official said, adding that "he had scores of followers in a nearby district". Sufi Islam is a mystical form of Islam popular in rural Bangladesh but considered deviant by many of the country's majority Sunni Muslims.

They include the Saudi Arabia-inspired Salafis and Wahabis, who are gaining strength in the country. Suspected Islamists have been blamed for or claimed dozens of murders of atheist bloggers, liberal voices

and religious minorities in recent years including Sufi, Shiite and Ahmadi Muslims, Hindus, Christians and foreigners.

In the past five weeks, two gay activists, a liberal professor, an atheist activist and a Hindu tailor who allegedly made derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammed were hacked to death. The Islamic State group and a Bangladeshi branch of Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for several of the killings. However the secular government in Dhaka denies that IS and Al-Qaeda are behind the attacks, saying they have no known presence in Bangladesh, and blames the killings on homegrown militants.

Sufis have been targeted in several of the 37 suspected Islamist attacks recorded by police in the past three years. In September the custodian of a Sufi shrine and his assistant were murdered in the port city of Chittagong.

A long-running political crisis in officially secular Bangladesh has radicalised opponents of the government and analysts say Islamist extremists pose a growing danger. The country has been on high alert in recent days after the country's top court upheld the death sentence of a leader of Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami.

Motiur Rahman Nizami, who was convicted of murder, rape and orchestrating the killing of intellectuals during the country's 1971 war of independence, is expected to hang within days following the Supreme Court's verdict. — AFP



KABUL: Afghan security forces inspect the site of a Taliban-claimed deadly suicide attack. — AP

## AFGHANISTAN FACES TOUGH BATTLE AS HAQQANIS UNIFY THE TALEBAN

PLAYING KEY ROLE IN UNIFYING FRACTURED INSURGENCY

ISLAMABAD: A shadowy, Pakistan-based militant faction is on the rise within the Taliban after its leader was appointed deputy and played a key role in unifying the fractured insurgency. The ascendancy of the Haqqani network, a US-designated terrorist organization, could significantly strengthen the Taliban and herald another summer of fierce fighting in Afghanistan.

The firepower it brings to the Taliban was shown by a Kabul bombing last month that killed 64 people, the deadliest in the Afghan capital in years, which experts say was too sophisticated for the insurgents to have carried out without the Haqqanis. The network's role could also further poison already tainted relations between Islamabad and Kabul. Afghanistan is pressing Pakistan to crack down on the Haqqanis, accusing it of tolerating the group, a charge the Pakistanis deny.

An audio recording of a recent meeting of the top Taliban leadership, obtained by The Associated Press, offers a glimpse into the influence the Haqqani network now holds within the movement. Sirajuddin Haqqani, the network's leader and newly elevated deputy head of the Taliban, tells the gathering that they must end differences and focus on fighting. "It is time to work. The mujahideen (Islamic holy warriors) are happily going to the battlefield," he is heard saying. The voice is recognizable as Haqqani's.

### Direct role

Haqqani's rise to the deputy post is the highest, most direct role that the network is known to have taken in the Taliban leadership. The network pledged allegiance to the Taliban years ago but has traditionally operated independently.

The network was founded by Jalaluddin Haqqani, a one-time ally of the United States who achieved fame fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1980s and who developed close ties to the slain al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden. After his death, his son Sirajuddin Haqqani took over.

The elder Haqqani aligned his group with the Taliban after the insurgents were driven from power in the US-led invasion that followed the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. He was a formidable militant financier, traveling to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to raise money. The network maintained close ties to al-Qaida and is believed to have large numbers of Arab and other foreign fighters.

The network is believed to command thousands of fighters on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistan border. Over the years, the Haqqanis emerged as the Taliban's strongest asset because of their battle-hardened fighters and traditional links to Pakistan's security agencies. Both US and Afghan intelligence agencies say Pakistan's intelligence network, known as ISI, has allowed the Haqqanis to live freely for decades in Pakistan's tribal regions, a claim Islamabad denies.

"There's no one sole source of the Haqqani network's strength, though three places you can point to are its personnel, its links to Pakistan, and its ties to the Gulf region," said Michael Kugelman, senior associate for South and Southeast Asia at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

The Taliban leadership meeting, held early last month at an undisclosed location, focused on strategies and battles ahead, the audio recording shows. During the meeting, Sirajuddin Haqqani called on the Taliban to close ranks, reminding them their enemy is the "foreign infidel" and not each other.

### 'Service to religion'

"Our objectives should be service to religion and we should end our differences and complaints," he says in Pashtu, the language of Afghan and Pakistani Pashtuns, the ethnic group that makes up the backbone of the Taliban movement.

Since last summer, Sirajuddin Haqqani has been instrumental in reconciling differences among Taliban commanders, who balked at recognizing Mullah Akhtar Mansoor as the supreme Taliban chief following the announcement that the insurgency's reclusive leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, was dead.

As soon as Mansoor became leader, he announced that he had named Haqqani as his deputy. Haqqani quickly set about uniting the fractured Taliban, first by bringing Mullah Omar's son, Mullah Yaqoob, and his brother, Mullah Abdul Manan Omari, into the fold, according to a Taliban official who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to talk to the press.

Haqqani then coaxed Zakir Qayyum, a

Taliban strongman in the battleground southern Afghan province of Helmand and the former head of the Taliban military committee under Mullah Omar, to swear allegiance to Mansoor, healing some of the biggest divisions within the Taliban, the Taliban official said. Fahd Humayun, program and research manager at the Jinnah Institute, a think-tank in the Pakistani capital, who closely follows Taliban developments, also said Haqqani was key to healing the divisions.

The rise of the Haqqanis comes at a critical juncture in relations between Kabul and Islamabad. In the off-and-on effort for negotiations over the years, Pakistan has hosted past meetings between the Kabul government and the Taliban, whose leaders are widely believed to be based in the Pakistani cities of Quetta and Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan.

A four-nation group that included Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the United States launched efforts earlier this year to try to bring Afghanistan's protracted war to a negotiated end but the push fell apart amid recent Taliban battlefield gains.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani now says he is no longer interested in having Pakistan bring the Taliban to the negotiating table. Instead, he demands Islamabad stop harboring the Taliban and take up the fight against the Haqqanis. The US State Department has also repeated its demand that Pakistan take action. — AP

## BEAUTY THE BEASTS: INDIA TOWN HOLDS BOVINE BEAUTY PAGEANT

ROHTAK: Even beasts can be beautiful. Hundreds of cows and bulls walked the ramp in a north Indian town yesterday in a bovine beauty pageant aimed at promoting domestic cattle breeds and raising awareness about animal health.

As farmers led their animals, the panel of experts judged the beasts for their size and overall looks, the length of their horns and, for the cows, their milk-yielding capacities. The judges selected 18 winners in various categories, choosing the healthiest and best-looking cows and bulls from more than 630 animals in the contest, held in the farming town of Rohtak in Haryana state.

The winners, representing three different breeds, carried home prizes and a winner's sash. The farmers led their prize cows with pride at the sprawling grounds of the International Institute of Veterinary Education and Research. "I have brought my best cow for the show and she has won a

prize," Randhir Singh, a farmer from nearby Dwarka village, said as he pointed to a red ribbon tied around the head of his well-groomed cow, which won first place in its category. "I wanted my cow to win and she has done me proud."

Prem Singh, the Haryana official in charge of animal husbandry, said only indigenous breeds were allowed to take part in the contest because the state government was trying to popularize local breeds of cows. Farmers from all 21 districts of Haryana participated in the cattle show and pageant, the official said.

In recent years, India has emerged as one of the world's largest producers of milk, although yields from Indian cows are low compared to those in Europe or America. The government is trying to improve milk yields of domestic cows by offering better veterinary support and counseling to cattle farmers. — AP



ROHTAK: An Indian man leads a cow on a ramp during a bovine beauty pageant. — AP

## CLASHES IN KASHMIR AFTER THREE MILITANTS KILLED

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of villagers clashed with police in restive Indian-administered Kashmir yesterday after three armed militants were killed in an early morning gun-battle with government forces, the army and witnesses said. Soldiers and special operations officers cordoned off Panzgam village, about 35 kilometers south of the main city of Srinagar, before dawn after receiving a tip off that militants were hiding inside a house. "The operation started in the night in which three terrorists were killed," Colonel NN Joshi, an army spokesman, told AFP. As word of the killings spread, hundreds of villagers came out onto the streets, throwing stones at police who fired tear gas to disperse the crowd, an officer said on condition of anonymity.

Police later identified the deceased as members of Hizbul Mujahideen, a local rebel group opposed to Indian rule of

Kashmir. Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since the end of British colonial rule in 1947. Both claim the Himalayan territory in its entirety.

Hizbul Mujahideen is one of several rebel groups that have since 1989 been fighting Indian forces deployed in the disputed region, calling for independence or a merger of the region with Pakistan. The fighting has left tens of thousands dead, mostly civilians. Since the beginning of the year, residents have frequently taken to the streets to support rebels following gunbattles with government forces. Two civilians have died in the resultant clashes and scores have been injured since February. Civil and military authorities have issued repeated warnings asking people within a two kilometer-radius of a gunbattle to stay indoors, but the warnings have mostly been ignored. — AFP

## NEPAL RECALLS INDIA ENVOY, CANCELS PRESIDENT'S VISIT

KATHMANDU: Nepal has recalled its ambassador to India and cancelled an upcoming visit by its president to New Delhi, officials said yesterday, further straining ties between the two neighbors after months of tension.

Deep Kumar Upadhyay was recalled to Kathmandu late Friday after allegedly siding with the Nepali Congress opposition in supporting a threat by the Maoist party to topple Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's government, sources said.

Nepal's parliament was thrown into chaos last week after the Maoists threatened to pull out of the ruling coalition and dislodge the prime minister — a move reportedly also backed by India. The Maoists later decided to continue supporting the government.

"He (Upadhyay) is close to Nepali Congress and seemed to play an internal role in the exercise to change the government, that was the main reason (for his recall)," an official source told AFP on condition of anonymity. Upadhyay was appointed by the former Nepali Congress-led government in April 2015.

A foreign affairs adviser to Prime Minister Oli did not give a specific reason for the envoy's recall. "A government has the right to recall an envoy if he does not correctly represent the country, and the decision was taken accordingly," Gopal Khanal said. It came as President Bidhya Devi Bhandari was forced to suspend her first official visit to India, scheduled to start Monday, after the Nepali government Friday failed to endorse the visit.

Nepal's relationship with India—which is often accused of acting as a "big brother" to its smaller, impoverished neighbor—has been strained since a months-long border blockade last year. The blockade, by Nepal's Madhesi ethnic minority, came in protest at a new constitution which they said left them politically marginalized, with more than 50 people dying in clashes with police.

Kathmandu accused India of imposing an "unofficial blockade" on the landlocked nation in support of the Madhesi, who share close cultural, linguistic and family links with Indians across the border. Prime Minister Oli visited India in February in a bid to smooth ties. But Guna Raj Luitel, editor of the Nepali daily Nagarik, said the latest developments suggested relations between the two countries had not improved as much as previously thought. "Nepal should be engaged with India to strengthen our ties right now, but recent developments show diplomatic immaturity on our part," he said. The new constitution, the first drawn up by elected representatives, was meant to cement peace and bolster Nepal's transformation to a democratic republic after decades of political instability and a 10-year Maoist insurgency. But ongoing discussions between the government and protesting parties over the charter have failed to yield an agreement. — AFP



## JAPAN PM HAILS 'BREAKTHROUGH' IN ISLAND DISPUTE AT PUTIN TALKS

**SOCHI:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday hailed a potential breakthrough in a decades-long territorial dispute with Russia, after talks with President Vladimir Putin, Japan's foreign ministry spokesman said. "The prime minister said that today he could feel a breakthrough, he could make a breakthrough in the currently stagnated negotiation," Japanese foreign ministry press secretary Yasuhisa Kawamura said. Tokyo-Moscow relations are hamstrung by a row dating back to the end of World War II when Soviet troops seized the four southernmost islands in the Pacific Kuril chain, known as the Northern Territories in Japan.

Japan and Russia's lingering tensions have prevented them ever signing a peace treaty to formally end World War II hostilities, hindering trade and investment ties. Abe, in a rare visit by a G7 leader to Russia, met Putin for

talks at his holiday residence in the Black Sea resort of Sochi with their talks focusing on the dispute. "The prime minister said that Mr Putin also shared ... the same feeling" and the leaders "agreed today that they themselves directly get involved in the negotiation," Kawamura said. Putin and Abe agreed to "promote negotiations by employing a new approach without being bothered by the old previous thinking," Kawamura said.

"This is literally a new element," he said, without giving more detail. "Japan is not just our neighbor, it is a very important partner for us in the Asian-Pacific region," Putin told Abe at the start of the meeting. "We have certain questions that demand special attention, maybe for this reason we must devote special attention to building relationships," the Russian leader added.

### Symbol of warming ties

The Kremlin had dismissed hopes of any major breakthrough towards resolving the dispute at Friday's meeting, while playing up Abe's visit as a symbol of warming ties despite Western attempts to isolate Putin. The leaders held talks lasting more than three hours, including a tete-a-tete session, in what Abe called "an extensive, frank and candid exchange of views," Kawamura said.

Both sides had earlier mooted the possibility of starting negotiations on signing a peace treaty, with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida saying in April that they could begin "as soon as possible" after the leaders met.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said briefly after the talks Friday that the sides "discussed the problem of the peace treaty," giving few details but announcing another round of foreign ministry consultations in June. While in

Tokyo last month, Lavrov said Russia wants to "move forward" but is not prepared to budge on the "result of World War II". Russia has angered Japan recently by building new modern compounds for its troops stationed on two of the disputed islands. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev also infuriated Tokyo last year by visiting one of the islands, home to some 19,000 Russians. The two leaders on Friday discussed a long-planned visit by Putin to Japan this year, but did not announce a date. "we agreed in principle that Mr Putin will visit Japan. We will continue to discuss this," Kawamura said.

### Lingering tensions

Despite the warmer words from both sides, tensions between the two sides continue to surface and Japan has hit Russia with sanctions over the Ukraine crisis. Though the situation in Ukraine was raised, Lavrov said Putin and Abe did

not discuss a potential lifting of sanctions by Tokyo, imposed over Russia's support for separatists there.

Putin said last month he welcomed Abe's visit as it comes despite "pressure from (Japan's) partners, particularly the United States". Abe will later this month host a summit of the Group of Seven advanced industrial countries, from which Russia has been excluded over its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

"Evidently Japan will try to act as a kind of middleman in the talks process between Russia and the US," Russia's government newspaper the Rossiiskaya Gazeta said Thursday. US President Barack Obama reportedly asked Abe in February to postpone his trip to Russia, according to sources quoted by Japan's Kyodo news agency. Japanese foreign ministry spokesman Kawamura insisted Friday that Abe's visit "has been well explained to the United States side." — AFP



**MANILA:** A supporter of Presidential candidate and Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte walks in front of banners during an election campaign rally ahead of the presidential and vice presidential elections. — AFP

## PHILIPPINE CAMPAIGN ENDS IN PANIC AS TRUMP-LIKE CANDIDATE IN FRONT

### MAYOR PERCEIVED AS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

**MANILA:** A bruising presidential campaign was drawing to a close in the Philippines yesterday after the president made a failed last-minute attempt to unify candidates against a front-running mayor perceived as a threat to democracy.

After crisscrossing the archipelago nation for three months, most of the five presidential candidates, led by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, converged in the vote-rich capital Manila for their final rallies ahead of tomorrow's election.

Thousands came for the star-studded rallies despite the broiling summer heat. Duterte held his gathering at a historic grandstand by Manila Bay where presidential inaugurations have been held, with his followers in a jubilant mood. "The

election is over," Duterte ally Sen. Coco Pimentel told the crowd. "It's just a matter of counting, so let's guard our votes."

### Closely fought

Ronald Holmes, president of independent pollster Pulse Asia, however, said the race, one of the most closely fought in the country's electoral history, remained too tight to call. Duterte's lead of 11 percentage points over former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas and Sen Grace Poe in Pulse Asia's final poll would be difficult to overtake, but it can still be "wiped out" depending on sudden loyalty shifts by voters, Holmes said by phone. On the eve of the final day of campaign-

ing, President Benigno Aquino III made a desperate call on candidates to agree to an alliance to defeat the brash Duterte, who has been likened to US Republican presumptive presidential nominee Donald Trump for his controversial remarks but has topped election polls.

Duterte's lead in the polls can be overcome if his trailing rivals - mainly Roxas and Poe - join hands, Aquino said, implying that some of them should back out and support a single aspirant. Under the Philippine electoral system, a candidate who gets the most votes is proclaimed the winner, even if no one gets a majority.

Poe, however, refused an invitation by Roxas, who is backed by Aquino, to meet and discuss an arrangement where she would be forced to back out. Vice President Jejomar Binay also said he would not step aside. Sen Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who has trailed far behind in the polls, said she would never surrender.

Duterte's camp said calls for an alliance against him "reeks of stench of defeat." "It's an admission that a victory by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has virtually become inevitable," said the mayor's national campaign manager, Leoncio Evasco Jr. A longtime mayor of southern Davao city, Duterte, 71, courted controversy with his profanity-laden speeches, vulgar jokes and devil-may-care irreverence, but has successfully tapped into public insecurities with a bold promise to wipe out crime and corruption in three to six months if he is elected.

### 'Batman and Superman combined'

The national police chief has doubted that campaign promise. Police have issued statistics showing Davao city, where Duterte has served as mayor for more than 22 years, placed fourth among 15 major Philippine cities with the highest number of crimes from 2010 to 2015. "I thought he was like Batman and Superman combined," Aquino said sarcastically of Duterte's anti-crime pledge.

Aquino, business executives and church leaders felt that Duterte crossed the line when he joked about wanting to have been the first to rape an Australian missionary who was gang-raped and brutally killed by inmates in a 1989 jail riot. When the Australian and US ambassadors sniped at his joke, Duterte asked them to shut up and expressed openness at the possibility of severing ties with major Western allies if he wins the presidency. He also has threatened to close Congress if lawmakers try to impeach him if he wins next week and has said he would allow Marxist guerrillas to play a political role in his government. Duterte also once cursed Pope Francis, who had caused a huge traffic jam during a visit to Manila last year that trapped the mayor for hours. When stunned bishops reacted, Duterte apologized.

A senator has threatened to immediately try to impeach Duterte if he becomes president. Sen Antonio Trillanes IV has filed a corruption complaint alleging the mayor hired nonexistent employees and kept a huge amount in a joint bank account with his daughter that he did not declare publicly in 2014, as required by law. Duterte denied any wrongdoing, but he and his camp initially issued differing explanations that set off confusion. — AP

## NORTH KOREA PARTY TO GIVE KIM TOP TITLE AT CONGRESS

**PYONGYANG:** North Korea's ruling party is preparing to bestow its top title on leader Kim Jong Un, another sign that the third heir to North Korea's dynasty of Kims is firmly in control despite his country's deepening international isolation over one of his key ambitions: to keep developing more and better nuclear weapons.

The state-run Korean Central News Agency said yesterday that the agenda for the congress included reviewing the works of the party's Central Committee and Central Audit Commission, revising party rules, electing Kim to the top party post and electing a new central leadership for the party.

The decision to formally install - or perhaps simply reinstall - Kim at the top is a step along the lines of his late father and grandfather, who held the title of general secretary of the Workers' Party and is a mostly symbolic move to demonstrate the young leader is in full control and ready to begin a new era of his own.

### 'Eternal president'

Kim is already head of the party, but with the title of first secretary. It wasn't immediately clear whether he would be elected to the same post, or an unspecified new one. His father, Kim Jong Il, holds the posthumous title of "eternal general secretary" and his grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung, is "eternal president."

Kim opened the lavish congress with a brief speech on Friday that singled out North Korea's advances in developing nuclear weapons and rockets capable of putting satellites into orbit, as examples of the country's progress in the face of international criticism and tough sanctions that threaten to further stifle its struggling economy.

Along with being high political theater filled with pomp and ceremony - the congress is being held in a lavishly decorated hall decked out with bright red banners and flags bearing the party's hammer, sickle and pen symbol - the gathering is a major milestone for the young North Korean leader, who was not yet born when the previous congress was held in 1980.

Kim called the congress a "historic" milestone in a grand struggle pitting the North against "all manner of threats and desperate challenges by the imperialists." He said it would "put forward the strategic line and tasks to keep ushering in a great golden age of socialist construction and the direction of advance of our revolution."

The reference to what the North claims

was a successful hydrogen bomb test in January brought a standing ovation from the more than 3,400 delegates at the congress. To put a finer point on his defiant message, outside observers believe, the North may be preparing to conduct another nuclear test soon, possibly before the congress is over.

### 'Really emotional'

An analysis released by the respected 38 North website, which follows developments in North Korea, said commercial satellite imagery of North Korea's Punggye-ri Nuclear test site from May 5 suggests Pyongyang may be preparing for a nuclear test "in the near future." The analysis said that overall activity at the site is low, but vehicles have been spotted at what is believed to be the Command Center, located approximately 6 kilometers south of the test site. Some North Koreans said they were following the congress on television. "I saw the congress last night on TV when I was at home with my family," Pyongyang resident An Myong Hui said yesterday. "Because it's the first one in 36 years and because Marshal Kim Jong Un was there, it made me feel really emotional."

Since assuming power after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, in 2011, Kim has pushed a "byonjin" guns-and-butter policy of developing North Korea's nuclear weapons while also building its domestic economy.

Though the dual strategy is his trademark policy, many outside economists believe it is unlikely to succeed because of the heavy price the nuclear program brings in international sanctions that keep the country's economy from achieving sustainable growth.

All of the previous six congresses were convened by Kim's grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung. The previous one was used as the stage to formally announce Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, as the second heir to power. Kim Il Sung died in 1994, and Kim Jong Il - who rarely spoke in public - never called for the convening of a congress, though they were on paper supposed to be held every five years.

This one is clearly designed to put the spotlight on Kim Jong Un, who has yet to travel abroad or meet any world leaders. With that in mind, the North has invited over 100 foreign journalists in to cover the event, though none have been let inside the convention hall. Instead, they have been kept busy touring showcase factories, hospitals and historic sites.



**PYONGYANG:** This photo taken on May 6, 2016 and released on May 7 by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) shows North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un making an opening speech during the 7th Workers Party Congress at the 'April 25 Palace'. — AFP

## THAI POLICE DEFEND ARRESTING ANTI-JUNTA ACTIVIST'S MOTHER

**BANGKOK:** Thai police yesterday defended arresting the mother of a prominent student activist, following public outcry over a case rights groups described as a "new low" for the junta's crackdown on dissent. Patnaree Chankij, 40, was charged Friday with violating Thailand's severe royal defamation law, which bans disparaging the monarchy with up to 15 years in prison.

Her detention followed a sweep of arrests over the past two weeks that saw at least nine people detained for criticizing the junta or monarchy on Facebook. Patnaree's lawyers said she was charged for simply writing "ja"-the Thai equivalent of "yeah"-in response to private Facebook messages that allegedly insulted the royal family. "I saw the conversation and I can say that at no point did she share any opinions [of her own] about the royal family,"

Poonsuk Poonsukcharoen, a member of the team of human rights lawyers assisting Patnaree, told AFP. But the police officer behind the case insisted Patnaree-whose son is one of Thailand's most vocal junta critics-had breached the law.

"There are also other actions involved, but we cannot reveal them," Olan Sukkasem told reporters at a press conference. He added that "implying agreement" to unlawful web comments, through 'likes' or other means, is grounds for legal action.

The activist accused of sending the messages to Patnaree has also been detained. Both were denied bail. Lese majeste prosecutions have sky rocketed under the royalist generals who seized power two years ago, as authorities broaden their interpretation of the crime to include even vague references to the monarchy. — AFP

## NOBEL LAUREATES CALL FOR EASING KOREA SANCTIONS

**BEIJING:** Sanctions that have pinched North Korea's health care system should be eased, a group of Nobel laureates said yesterday, after a rare visit to the nuclear armed state that coincided with its ruling party congress. Embargoes on the flow of goods into the isolated country have squeezed the quality of medical care and research, they said, following visits to hospitals and labs in Pyongyang.

"You cannot turn penicillin into a nuclear bomb," Aaron Ciechanover, who won the top prize for chemistry, told a media conference in Beijing a day after returning from the visit. "You don't pressurize via making people sicker," he said. "That's not the right way to go."

The three prize winners from Norway, Britain and Israel spent a week in the country on a humanitarian trip organizers said would be an exercise in "silent diplomacy." Their visit came as North Korean leader Kim Jong-un opened the country's first ruling party congress since 1980 by hailing its "magnificent... and thrilling" nuclear weapons program.

World powers have tightened sanctions on the isolated state this year after Pyongyang carried out several ballistic missile launches and its fourth nuclear bomb test-and analysts predict another could be in the works. While the sanctions do not target medical aide, tough South Korean restrictions have stopped

some medicines from reaching its northern neighbor, according to a recent report in the Washington Post.

"Many of the things the doctors would like, the professors would like, they just can't have them because of the embargo," said Richard Roberts, who won the prize for medicine. The trio of Nobel prize winners, which also includes economics laureate Finn Kydland, visited a children's hospital, science facilities and a farm, among other sights.

The laureates described clean, modern facilities-a stark contrast to other accounts of the country as brutally impoverished-and two said they had invited young researchers to work in their labs. The few opportunities for foreigners to visit the country are tightly stage-managed, with the government carefully controlling most interactions with the North Korean people.

Planning for the trip began more than two years ago after the Vienna-based International Peace Foundation (IPF) received an unsolicited email from the Korean National Peace Committee. South Korea's government asked the group to postpone the trip when it emerged that it would coincide with the congress, citing fears it could be "misused," IPF chairman Uwe Morawetz said, but scheduling restrictions made it impossible. — AFP



**BEIJING:** (From left to right) Professor Aaron Ciechanover from Israel, Nobel laureate for Chemistry, Dr Sir Richard J Roberts from Britain, Nobel laureate for Medicine, Chairman of the board of directors of the International Peace Foundation Uwe Morawetz, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the International Peace Foundation Prince Alfred of Liechtenstein and Professor Finn E Kydland from Norway, Nobel laureate for Economics attend a press conference at a hotel. — AFP



## LONDON MAYOR VOWS TO BE LEADER...

Continued from Page 1

In his victory speech in the early hours of yesterday morning, Khan had referenced the negative campaign against him by saying London had chosen "unity over division". Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron had led the attacks against Khan for sharing platforms with radical Muslims at public events, and Goldsmith said he was "radical and divisive". Khan admitted representing some "pretty unsavoury characters" during his previous job as a human rights lawyer but said their views were "abhorrent" and condemned the Conservatives' "desperate" attacks.

There was criticism from across the political spectrum yesterday at the tone of the Tory campaign, but Defense Secretary Michael Fallon insisted it was legitimate. "Both candidates were asked questions about their backgrounds, their personalities, their judgment, the people they associate with," he told BBC radio. "That's the nature of our democracy and the rough-and-tumble of politics."

News of the win was applauded in Pakistan, with Bilawal Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party and son of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, and rival opposition leader Imran Khan tweeting congratulations. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said he was looking to working with his "fellow affordable-housing advocate" while Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo tweeted that Khan's "humanity (and) progressivism will benefit Londoners". "Son of a Pakistani bus driver, champion of workers' rights and human rights, and now Mayor of London. Congrats, @SadiqKhan," US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton said on Twitter.

Former Conservative government minister Sayeeda Warsi also offered her congratulations "from this daughter of a Pakistani bus driver to the son of a Pakistani bus driver", and condemned her party's campaign. "Our appalling dog-whistle campaign lost us the election, our reputation and credibility on issues of race and religion," she said. Sajid Javid, Britain's business secretary and a Conservative, also said on Twitter: "From one son of a Pakistani bus driver to another, congratulations."

Goldsmith's sister Jemima, the ex-wife of Pakistani cricketer and politician Imran Khan, said the tone of her brother's campaign "did not reflect who I know him to be". Cameron's former adviser, Steve Hilton, said Goldsmith had brought back the "nasty party label". In the audience at Southwark Cathedral was Doreen Lawrence, an anti-racism campaigner

whose teenage son Stephen was killed by a gang of white youths. "I never imagined in my lifetime I could have a mayor of London from an ethnic minority," she said.

Many criticized Goldsmith's final published appeal in a rightwing Sunday newspaper warning that London stood "on the brink of a catastrophe" if it elected Khan. The article claimed that Khan and Labour considered terrorists their friends and would handicap police efforts to prevent another attack on London, 11 years after 52 Londoners died in suicide blasts on three subway trains and a bus committed by British-born Muslims. Goldsmith's appeal was accompanied by a picture of the bomb-ravaged bus.

Mohammed Amin, chairman of the Conservative Muslim Forum, said he had been disgusted by the Goldsmith campaign tactics. "We were meant to understand that Khan kept bad company with extremist Muslims and could not be trusted with the safety of London. On top of that, leaflets were targeted specifically at London Hindus and Sikhs ... seeking to divide Londoners along religious and ethnic lines," Amin wrote on a Conservative blog. He said the Conservative campaign sought to frighten non-Muslim voters "about Khan, the alleged Muslim extremist." Amin said he voted for Goldsmith because he opposes Labour policies, but could not stomach campaigning actively for him - and instead took pride in seeing Londoners vote so strongly for a fellow Muslim of Pakistani background.

Khan has broken the eight-year hold of the Conservatives on City Hall, succeeding the charismatic Boris Johnson in a prestigious post that has responsibility for transport, housing, policing and promoting economic development. His success was a boost for Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a veteran socialist who has been battling a row over anti-Semitism and growing criticism from the moderate wing of his party since his election in September.

But Labour fared less well in other regional elections on Thursday. The party was beaten into third place in Scotland, once a Labour stronghold, as the Conservatives became the official opposition to the Scottish National Party (SNP), which won a third term in office. Labour maintained control of the Welsh assembly and lost only a handful of local council seats in England. But critics warned it should have done better against a government that has lost support over welfare reforms and is deeply divided ahead of the referendum on Britain's membership of the EU on June 23. — Agencies

## SAUDI SHAKE-UP ROLLS ON WITH BIG GOVT...

Continued from Page 1

Prince Mohammed's program has been presented as a sweeping rethink of the entire way that Saudi Arabia's government and economy will function to prepare for a future that is less dependent on oil income. Some of the most important elements of the plan, which will be fleshed out in coming weeks, involve creating a massive sovereign wealth fund, privatizing Aramco, cutting energy subsidies, expanding investment and streamlining government. The plan also seeks to boost revenues by increasing the number of foreign pilgrims outside the main annual haj, and encouraging Saudis to spend money at home by creating more entertainment opportunities.

Naimi has for two decades been the most influential man in world energy, able to move oil markets with a mere word, but his influence had appeared to decline sharply under King Salman. He has been appointed as an adviser to the royal court. Falih has long been seen as a leading contender to replace him. Like Naimi a career Aramco man, he was chief executive of the oil giant from 2009 until last year, when he was made company chairman and health minister.

Naimi was born in 1935, two years before the first commercial quantities of oil were discovered in the kingdom's east. He obtained a master's degree in geology from Stanford University and then joined Aramco, according to an official biography. He was a supervisor at an oilfield before rising through a series of management roles to become president of Saudi Aramco in 1983 and oil minister 12 years later. He had kept his post despite two major cabinet shakeups last year under King Salman, who acceded to the throne in Jan 2015 after the decade-long reign of King Abdullah ended.

According to an official biography, Falih, whose date of birth was not given, in 1982 earned a mechanical engineering degree from Texas A&M University in the United States. In 1991 he graduated with an MBA from King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in his homeland. Whether he will play the same role as Naimi did in the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC),

or in crafting Saudi oil policy, remains unclear, however.

The new SAMA governor, Kholifey, is promoted from deputy governor for research and international affairs. He replaces Fahd Al-Mubarak, who has held the post since Dec 2011. A veteran of SAMA and graduate of King Saud University in Riyadh and Colorado State University, Kholifey had also served from 2011 to 2013 as executive director for Saudi Arabia at the International Monetary Fund in Washington. He is set to take over a central bank with more limited functions than it had under his predecessor. While SAMA remains responsible for monetary policy, it will no longer act as the country's biggest sovereign wealth fund because a larger one is being created under the Vision 2030 reforms.

Finance Minister Ibrahim Alassaf, who has held the post since 1996, remains in place. However, other economic departments have over the past year taken over some of his ministry's responsibilities. Yesterday's decrees broke up the Water and Electricity Ministry, with the water portfolio added to a new Environment, Water and Agriculture Ministry, and electricity added to the new energy ministry.

Those changes may help Saudi Arabia to cut subsidies, reduce domestic power and water consumption, make sure that energy pricing meshes clearly with industrial development goals, and that nuclear and solar policy are more carefully integrated. "The merging of ministries is opening the door to efficiency gains that the government is keen to enforce," said John Sfakianakis, a former adviser to the government and head of economy at the Jeddah and Geneva-based Gulf Research Centre.

Two other senior economic figures, royal court adviser Yasir Al-Rumayyan and former SAMA governor Mohammed Al-Jasser, were appointed advisers to the Secretariat General of the Cabinet. Tawfiq Al-Rabeeah, formerly commerce minister, was appointed health minister in place of Falih, Suleiman Al-Hamdan was appointed transport minister, and the Pilgrimage Ministry was renamed the Haj and Umrah Ministry. The royal decrees also merged the ministries of labor and of social affairs into a new department, and created a new Commission for Recreation and Culture. — Agencies

## KUWAIT-PALESTINIAN TIES HAILED

Continued from Page 1

"We are happy and proud to take part in the book fair along with our Palestinian friends and affirm the continuation of Kuwaiti-Palestinian relations under all circumstances, as the two peoples harbor love and respect for each other," said the minister.

Regarding his meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Amman, the Kuwaiti minister said he discussed with the president important Palestinian issues including dedicating all resources to establishing a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital city. Sheikh Salman noted that he would be meeting with a number of Palestinian officials to discuss with them issues of bilateral concern, among them those dealing with youth, culture and media. He stressed that Kuwait was open to cooperation with Palestinians in all fields of interest.

Referring to the city of Al-Quds or Jerusalem, he said: "Undoubtedly, Al-Quds bears a significant Arab, Islamic and worldwide cachet and is part of our collective Arab conscience and we never cease to support it in all ways and means and look forward to having east Al-Quds or east Jerusalem become the capital city of a Palestinian state." He said his visit, along with the delegation accompanying him, to the city of Al-Quds or Jerusalem and praying in the Al-Aqsa Mosque left an indelible impression on him and those with him, stressing his aspiration that the rights of the Palestinians be restored and that the city of Al-Quds or Jerusalem becomes a city for "all people."

Secretary-General of the Palestinian Presidency Al-Tayeb Abdulrahim told KUNA that such visits as that of the Kuwaiti minister and the delegation with him mean that "communication between us Palestinians and Arab officials is ongoing and continuous and that the Palestinian cause remains a rallying cry for all Arabs". He emphasized that Kuwaiti-Palestinian relations go back numerous decades and that Kuwait has a special place in the hearts of the Palestinian people. He thanked the Kuwaiti leadership and people for their formidable support of the Palestinian cause and people over the years.

Abbas on Friday spoke highly of the long-standing supportive stance of the Kuwaiti leaders, government and people towards the fair question of Palestine. "The frequent visits by the sons of Kuwait to Palestine signal their solidarity with their Palestinian brothers, a noble sentiment that we hold in high esteem," Abbas said during his meeting with Sheikh Salman in Amman.

In statements to KUNA and Kuwait TV, the Palestinian leader extolled HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his instructions to support the Palestine cause. He stressed the need for all Arab countries to adopt robust and crystal clear stances at all international forums in support of the Palestinian people in their quest for a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Sheikh Salman said he conveyed to Abbas and the Palestinian people a message of fraternity and appreciation from HH the Amir. He expressed gratitude for the invitation to attend the Palestinian book fair, saying this fair provides a new chance to strengthen the cultural cooperation. — KUNA

## CANADA WILDFIRE EXPLODES IN SIZE

Continued from Page 1

At least 10 oil sand operators have cut production due to evacuations and other emergency measures that complicated delivery of petroleum by rail, pipeline and highway. About half of Canada's oil sands production capacity has been taken offline by the conflagration, according to a Reuters estimate. Earlier in the week most evacuees headed south by car on Alberta Highway 63, the only land route out of the area, in a slow-moving exodus that left many temporarily stranded on the roadside as they ran out of gasoline.

But other residents who initially sought shelter in oil camps and settlements north of the city found themselves cut off in overcrowded conditions. They were forced on Friday and Saturday to retrace their route back through Fort McMurray on Highway 63 as flames continued to spread. Goodale said it was important to move those people south, given the risk that winds could shift and push the fire to the northwest of its current location.

## OBAMA BLASTS TRUMP: 'NOT A REALITY SHOW'

Continued from Page 1

"He has a long record that needs to be examined, and I think it's important for us to take seriously the statements he's made in the past," Obama said.

Secretary of State John Kerry piled on, telling a diverse and international graduating class at Northeastern University that they were "Donald Trump's worst nightmare". "We will never come out on top if we accept advice from soundbite salesmen and carnival barkers who pretend the most powerful country on Earth can remain great by looking inward and hiding behind walls," he said.

The words of warning came a day after the nation's top elected Republican official, House Speaker Paul Ryan, refused to support the presumptive nominee, saying Trump has "some work to do" to win over skeptics within his camp. Possibly offering an olive branch, Ryan invited Trump to meet with him and fellow party leaders in the House next Thursday. Trump said he planned to tell Ryan, third in line to the presidency, "Look, this is what the people want. I really think I earned the support from the people," he told ABC's "This Week" in excerpts released ahead of today's broadcast.

Trump said earlier he was taken aback by Ryan's rebuke. Ryan's warning to Trump threw the Grand Old Party deeper into soul-searching over how to mount a viable campaign against Democrat Hillary Clinton in November. Several party elders - including the last two Republican presidents, George W Bush and George H W Bush - have refused outright to endorse Trump. Senator Lindsey Graham became the latest establishment Republican to join the growing "anything but Trump" chorus.

He joined Jeb Bush in saying he would support neither Trump nor Clinton. The pair - both dropped out of the race against Trump - stressed that they will focus on the key goal of helping Republicans maintain their majorities in

the House and Senate. But other GOP figures have pledged their support, including former senator Bob Dole, who was the Republican nominee in an unsuccessful campaign against Bill Clinton. Trump, Dole said, "is our party's presumptive nominee and our best chance at taking back the White House this November."

Ryan, the 2012 Republican vice presidential nominee, has stressed the burden is on Trump to begin the healing process within his fractured party. But Trump's clumsy effort to reach out to one alienated group of voters triggered an immediate backlash after he tweeted a photograph of himself eating a taco bowl, adding "I love Hispanics!" "Honestly, he's trying," said Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, who has urged conservatives to back Trump. "I honestly think he understands that building and unifying and growing the party is the only way we're going to win."

Democrats, buoyed by polls that show Clinton leading Trump head-to-head, seized on the Ryan clash to highlight the GOP turmoil. "Trump has gone radioactive," Democratic National Committee spokesman Mark Paustenbach said. Clinton, who leads a resilient Bernie Sanders in their Democratic nomination battle but has yet to seal the deal, has already pivoted to attacking Trump, calling him a "loose cannon" and saying Americans can't risk electing him commander in chief.

Her campaign and its supporters have also begun reaching out to Republicans disillusioned with Trump, according to The New York Times. Some conservatives, including Senator Ben Sasse, have made waves by arguing that a third candidate should challenge Trump and Clinton. Speaking about the Republican Party's Trump conundrum, Obama said its voters will ultimately have to "make a decision as to whether this is the guy who speaks for them and represents their values." "I'll leave it up to the Republicans to figure out how they square their circle." — AFP

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## Washington Watch

SOME RESPITE FOR  
LABOUR LEADER  
AFTER UK POLLS

By Ouerdya Ait Abdelmalek

Britain's opposition Labour party held its ground and won back the London mayoralty Friday following regional elections, offering some respite for embattled leader Jeremy Corbyn. Thursday's polls were not the disaster predicted by some critics in the media and perhaps even wished for by a section of the party that remains unhappy with the veteran socialist's election in September and would like to see him go. With results from 118 of 124 councils in England, Labour had lost control of one, shedding 17 seats, while Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives lost 23 seats and kept its tally of councils steady at 34.

In Wales, Labour lost one seat in the 60-seat assembly but maintained its grip on power - although the story of the night was the election of the first assembly member for the anti-immigration UK Independence Party (UKIP). In the most symbolic victory, Labour won back London's City Hall, with Sadiq Khan, the 45-year-old son of a Pakistani bus driver and a practicing Muslim, ending eight years of Conservative rule under Boris Johnson.

Khan's win was well-trailed in opinion polls and for many, unsurprising in a city that has tended towards the centre-left of politics for decades and voted Conservative mainly because of Johnson's personal appeal. "London is natural Labour territory, so it's a return to a post-Boris Johnson normal," said Iain Begg, professorial research fellow at the London School of Economics (LSE) European Institute.

## Boost for Scottish Tories

By contrast in Scotland, one of Labour's traditional heartlands, the party was knocked into third place behind the Conservatives and the Scottish National Party, which secured a third term in government. Losing the role of official opposition to the Tories, which once held pariah status in Scotland, proved Labour had done little to address the decline that saw it punished in general elections in May 2015.

Corbyn insisted that despite Scotland, in which Labour lost 13 seats to hold 24 in the 129-seat parliament, "we hung on and we grew support in a lot of places". But his optimism was not shared by some members of his party, who warned Labour has much to do to win the next general election in 2020. "Jeremy needs to set out more clearly his vision for the country, but also how he is going to reach out to those voters who we have lost to the Tories and UKIP and the SNP," said Labour MP Emma Reynolds.

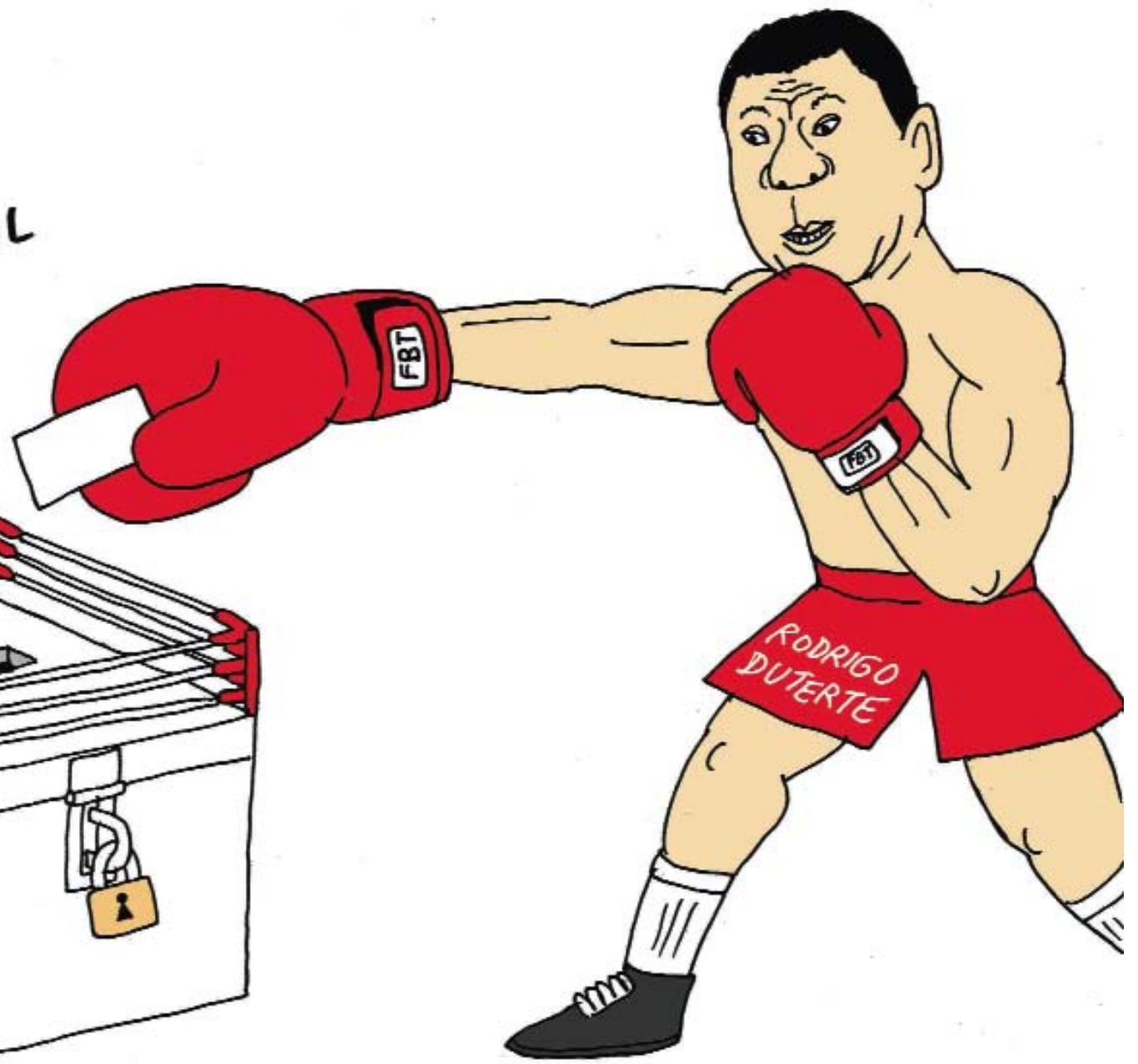
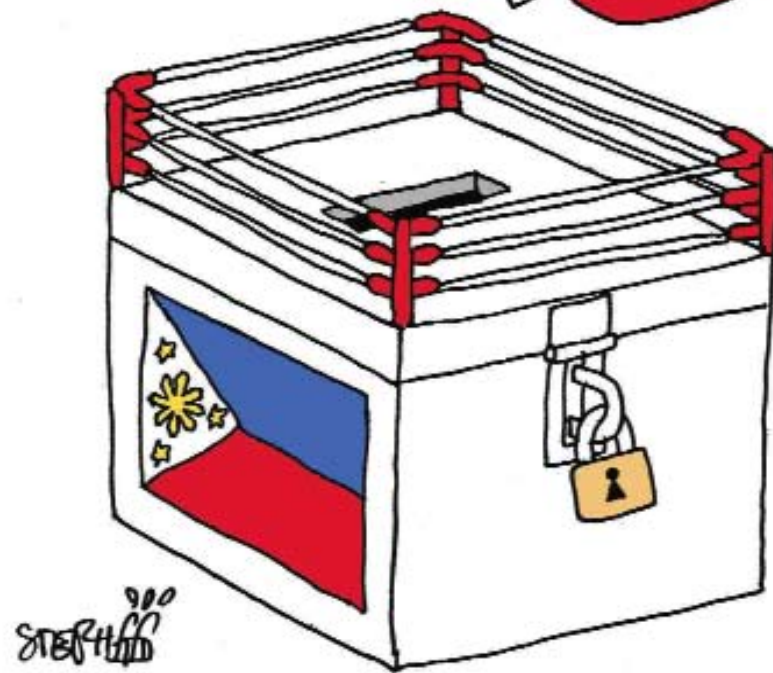
For Begg too, Labour should have done better against a Conservative government that is divided over the forthcoming referendum on European Union membership on June 23 and has imposed unpopular spending cuts. "The government should have been in difficulty because of the debate over Europe, over reform in social security benefits, maybe a slight slowdown on economic growth," he said.

## Leadership Challenge Unlikely

If the results of Thursday's elections did not strengthen Corbyn's position, neither did they damage him enough to spark a leadership challenge, according to centre-left The Guardian newspaper. "There's no more pressure on Jeremy Corbyn than there was yesterday," said Tony Travers, another political expert from the LSE. For all that the Scottish result was bad for Labour, it was also not entirely good news for the SNP. Despite winning a third term in office, Nicola Sturgeon's party lost its overall majority.

The result will perhaps reduce slightly the likelihood that the nationalists will organize a second independence vote, after Scots voted to stay in the United Kingdom in a 2014 referendum. "The SNP may well be interpreted to have peaked," said Travers. — AFP

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PHILIPPINE  
PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION  
2016

## SCANDALS DEAL BLOW TO PANAMA'S IMAGE

By Juan Jose Rodriguez

Panama's reputation as a world-class financial hub is being torn apart from the double scandals of the Panama Papers and now the US designating one of its most prominent families as top money launderers for drug cartels. "This is like a magnitude-10 earthquake for Panama's economic system and society, but it shouldn't be a surprise," said Miguel Antonio Bernal, a professor in constitutional law at the University of Panama. "The country's image has been damaged by these scandals," said Francisco Bustamante, who used to work for the Inter-American Development Bank.

They and other analysts believe that, far from putting the scandals behind it, Panama could see them grow in the weeks and months ahead, subjecting the Central American nation to further international scrutiny and spooking investors. The US announcement this week declaring members and associates of the Wakeds, a prominent family of Lebanese descent, to be among "the world's most significant drug money launderers and criminal facilitators" was a bad blow on top of the Panama Papers revelations that emerged a month ago.

The US Treasury Department froze the US

assets of Nidal Ahmed Waked Hatum and Abdul Mohamed Waked Fares and those of many of their businesses, which span real estate, luxury shops, hotels, a bank, media and duty-free outlets. Colombia arrested Waked Hatum on Wednesday and said it would extradite him to the United States, where he faces money laundering and bank fraud charges.

Meanwhile, the Panama Papers revelations about how many of the world's wealthy shoved assets into offshore entities look set to deepen. A US-based journalists' collective that has been poring over the 11.5 million documents plundered from the servers of a secretive Panamanian law firm is to release many of them online tomorrow. And the US government and European countries are stepping up measures against countries seen to be "havens" for tax avoiders and money-launderers.

## Financial Sector Hit

Panama's authorities have been trying to emphasize that they are committed to "transparency" and stamping out illegal activity. But there is little doubt that its financial services sector - a nexus of banks and law firms catering to clients around the world - has been hit hard, and will struggle to recover. As a sign of its seri-

ousness, Panama has created a committee of international experts, headed by Joseph Stiglitz, an American economist who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2011, to recommend further reforms to the sector.

In the last couple of years, it has already cracked down on bearer shares and other instruments that helped obscure ownership of companies. Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela last month also announced that his government was willing to adopt OECD standards on sharing tax information it had long resisted. But last week he said Panama still needed "a little more time" to comply.

The financial scandals will hang heavy over the country as it finally inaugurates next month a costly and behind-schedule expansion of the lucrative Panama Canal. Varela has invited 70 heads of state and government to the ceremony, which will see a Chinese super-freighter be the first to navigate through the bigger waterway. The canal, along with free economic zones, ports, tourism and recognized logistics and banking sectors have underpinned economic growth of more than six percent annually in recent years - one of the highest in the region. Nevertheless, Panama has found it hard to shake a perception that it

is a shady nest of illicit transactions. "We can't go on as if we are privateers or pirates of the 18th century," Bernal said.

## 'Opportunity' for Panama

The professor agreed that Panama needed to bring in changes to stop money laundering. "But the government can't do it because most of the people in it have interests in these types of operations," he said. Analysts said the scandals could instead provide impetus for officials to ensure new reforms fall in line with international transparency standards. "This is a golden opportunity for Panama," Bustamante said. "No need for it to talk, it just needs to show that the law exists, that it works, and that's that," he said.

Annette Planells, head of the Independent Movement for Panama, an association fighting for better citizens' rights, said: "Panama needs to bear its share of the sacrifice to stop our institutions being used for these illegal activities." Still, the experts said Panama's institutions were relatively weak and often riddled with corruption, and the much-criticized justice system has shown itself unwilling or unable to convict senior officials or top businessmen. "Panama really needs to adapt to this new global reality, and we can't isolate ourselves," Planells said. — AFP

## BILLIONAIRE, MILLIONAIRE IN YEAR OF POPULISM

By Bill Barrow

Pick a president: New York multimillionaire or New York multibillionaire. In Ohio River coal country, retiree Nelson Travis says he begrudgingly will choose the billionaire: Donald Trump. Nonetheless, Travis argues, neither the presumptive Republican nominee nor Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton actually gets people like him. "They're both out of touch with people's everyday reality," the 64-year-old Republican says, dismissing Clinton's talk of "breaking down barriers" and Trump's "make America great again" motto.

The likely November rivals' personal portfolios don't exactly square with the populist wave defining 2016. Trump, lifelong New Yorker and multimillionaire's son, is worth about \$4.5 billion according to Forbes, though he claims more. Forbes estimates Clinton to be worth about \$45 million, a fortune built entirely since she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, left the White House in 2001. But the candidate who connects with the widest swath of "average Americans" (median household income of about \$54,000) will find the clearest path to the Oval Office.

That connection will prove particularly important in Rust Belt, Great Lakes and Midwestern states stretching from Pennsylvania to Iowa, where Democrats have prevailed in recent presidential elections but by narrow enough margins to give Trump hope. "We are in a new age of eco-

nomism," says Dave "Mudcat" Saunders, a Democratic strategist who helped craft Democrat John Edwards' "Two Americas" presidential campaign in 2004. "People are hurting. They're mad, and they want somebody who'll do something about it."

## Personal Wealth

Trump and Clinton are addressing their personal wealth differently. Unlike previous wealthy nominees, such as Republican Mitt Romney in 2012 and Democrat John Kerry in 2004, Trump plays up - and boasts about - his riches. Clinton is more likely to talk about her middle-class childhood than her current accounts. She took heat for saying she and her husband were "flat broke" when his second term ended, and she has struggled against her Democratic rival Bernie Sanders, who has made income inequality his core issue.

Going into a general election matchup, Trump appears to have the initial upper hand with the most vocally frustrated voters, who powered him past a gaggle of career politicians in the GOP primary. Throngs roar at his calls to build a wall at the Mexican border, close all US borders to noncitizen Muslims, and "bring back the jobs" from China and Mexico. Atypical of Republicans, he promises to "take care of people" and not cut Social Security or Medicare. It's enough to convince Terri Reschley, 62, of Indianola in Iowa, a competitive general-election state. "Even though he's rich, and he's always been rich, he's just like Bob in the country," she says.

Clinton offers a more muted approach, not traditional populism, but aimed at the same voters. She talks about raising minimum wages, improving education, creating jobs, and lifting up working people. She peppers her remarks with anecdotes of people she meets campaigning. Though she's yet to contrast her biography with Trump, Clinton recalls her father, who ran a small business, and her mother, who had a rough childhood. She's spoken of her grandfather laboring in a Scranton, Pennsylvania, lace mill and her father preaching "that if he scrimped and saved" he "could provide us with a middle-class life."

Clinton also frames issues such as gun violence, police brutality and criminal justice as matters of fundamental economic opportunity for urban and minority communities, perhaps redefining populism in 2016 to include more than traditional pitches to white voters. Although nearly a sure bet to clinch the

Democratic nomination, she's still being dogged by Sanders, who rails against the "millionaire and billionaire class" embodied in Wall Street banks and a "campaign finance system that is corrupt." Setting the stage for Trump, Sanders harangues Clinton as a prime offender.

## Divide

Sanders consistently has topped Clinton in small towns and rural areas, while Trump romps among Republicans from the same locales. Primary results aren't necessarily predictive of November outcomes, but the divide was on display recently in Appalachia, where Clinton was met by miners protesting her statement in March that "we're going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business."

Clinton said she chose the wrong words to explain wider market forces, such as increasing consumer preference for solar energy, that reduce coal demand. But in Kentucky, West Virginia and Ohio, many residents heard a rejection of their way of life. "I raised my family, and now my family is raising their families" on coal jobs, said 59-year-old Ed Boston of Beallsville, Ohio. "I pack a bucket every day," he said. "She doesn't even know what a bucket is. ... Anybody understands us better than Hillary." Clinton tried to turn the mistake to some advantage by pointing out that visited the increasingly

Republican region to listen to the people she had offended. "Whether you vote for me or not," she said, "I will be your partner, and I will not for one minute give up on Appalachia." She also called out Trump for relying on mass rallies instead of one-on-one conversation with people. A recent barb in Delaware: "If you want to be president of the United States ... don't just fly that big jet in and land it and go make a big speech and insult everybody you can think of, and then go back, get on that big jet, and go back to your country club house in Florida or your penthouse in New York." She's also telling people that the biggest beneficiaries of Trump's tax proposals are the wealthiest. The approach is working with voters such as Chira Corwin, 42, from Des Moines, Iowa, who said Clinton has "been in the field, so to speak, working with people, as opposed to Trump, who has been a millionaire his whole life."

## Populist Mood

Winning over voters in a populist mood is an inexact science, but political observers recognize it as a necessity. Four years ago, President Barack Obama and Democrats painted Romney as out of step after he said his wife drove a "couple of Cadillacs" and because he tried to make a \$10,000 bet on a primary debate stage. In Democratic ads, Romney was criticized by workers who were laid off at businesses taken over by the private equity firm he co-founded. He was particularly hurt by a remark, captured on video at a private fundraiser, that 47 percent of voters don't pay income taxes and support Democrats because they're dependent on public programs.

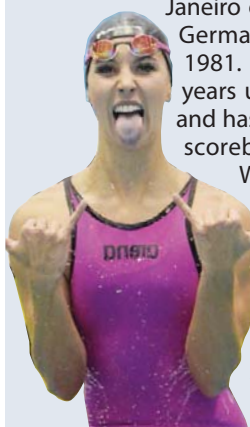
Republican consultant Katie Packer, a former Romney aide now running an anti-Trump political committee, said it was tough for Romney to overcome that. Exit polls in 2012 indicated that about one-fifth of the electorate gave priority to choosing a president who "cares about people like me," and Obama won that group 81 percent to 18 percent for Romney. That was enough to help tip the popular vote to Obama. Trump's wealth, and how he built it, could be a Democratic line of attack again, Packer said. But she cautioned that Clinton is not the same messenger as Obama, who was still paying off student loans when he stepped onto the national stage with a prominent speech at the 2004 convention. "Nobody could say he didn't understand the problems of working people," Packer said. "Clinton is somebody who hasn't driven her own car in three decades." — AP





### WENK BREAKS 35-YEAR-OLD GERMAN 200M IM RECORD

**BERLIN:** Germany's Alexandra Wenk broke the 35-year-old national record, previously held by a former East German swimmer, for the women's 200m individual medley (IM) at the Olympic trials in Berlin yesterday. Wenk, from Munich, clocked 2:11.41 minutes, well under the qualifying mark of 2:14.12 needed for the Rio de Janeiro games, to shave three tenths of a second off the previous German record set by former GDR swimmer Ute Geweniger in 1981. Geweniger's time of 2:11.73 was the world record for 11 years until it was broken by China's Li Lin at the 1992 Olympics and has been lowered a further six times since. "I looked up at the scoreboard and thought: 'I don't understand,'" said a shocked Wenk, who won a bronze medal at the 4x100m mixed medley relay at the world championships last year in Kazan, Russia. "It's nice to get the German record, but to keep up at international level, you have to go even faster." Wenk's new personal best is short of the current world record, set by Hungary's 'Iron Lady' Katinka Hosszu last year in Kazan, who swam 2:06.12 in winning gold last August at the world championships.—AFP

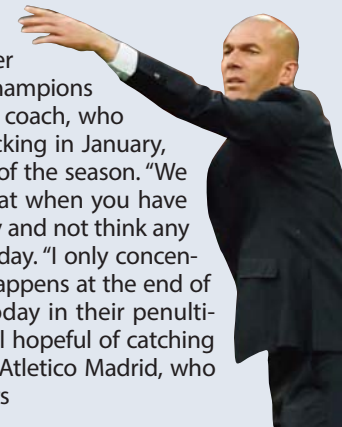


### MANAGER RIGA QUILTS RELEGATED CHARLTON

**LONDON:** Jose Riga resigned as Charlton manager after a 3-0 defeat against Burnley featuring more fan protests against the relegated Championship club's ownership yesterday. Riga's side were already guaranteed to drop into League One several weeks ago and they said farewell to the second tier in suitably chaotic fashion as Burnley romped to a win that gave them the Championship title. Each of Burnley's goals at the Valley was greeted with a chant of 'We want Roland out' from the home supporters, who also threw flares onto the pitch as they showed their disgust at the regime of much-maligned Belgian owner Roland Duchatelet. Riga, in his second spell at Charlton, informed his players of his decision to quit immediately after the match and told the press he had made up his mind several days ago. "It's not necessarily about going down to League One and I am not a liar," Riga said. "I have taken this decision a few days ago. Even before that it was down to what I saw and could feel. 'Everybody can recognise my investment in Charlton the first time I was here and this time. 'It's not that I think I'm better than League One.—AFP

### ZIDANE UNSURE OF REAL FUTURE DESPITE SUCCESS

**MADRID:** Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane says he is unsure of his future at the club despite leading them to the Champions League final. Spanish media reports this week claimed Real's president Florentino Perez wants Zidane, who has a contract until 2017, to stay at the club next season. Real have a history of changing their coaches frequently, but Zidane's position looked more secure after they beat Manchester City on Wednesday to set up an all-Spanish Champions League final with Atletico Madrid. The French coach, who was given the job following Rafa Benitez's sacking in January, said nothing would be decided until the end of the season. "We haven't won anything yet and my belief is that when you have this job you have to give everything, every day and not think any further," Zidane told a news conference yesterday. "I only concentrate on what we have to do, we'll see what happens at the end of the season." Third place Real host Valencia today in their penultimate league game of the season. They are still hopeful of catching La Liga leaders Barcelona and second-placed Atletico Madrid, who both have 85 points, one clear of Real.—Reuters



ANAHEIM: Andrelton Simmons #2 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim leaps for a single hit by Curt Casali #19 of the Tampa Bay Rays during the fourth inning of a baseball game between the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and Tampa Bay Rays on May 6, 2016 in Anaheim, California.— AFP

# YANKEES HOLD OFF BOSTON RED SOX

## ORTIZ, FARRELL EJECTED IN WILD 9TH

**NEW YORK:** David Ortiz went wild and got ejected after being called out on strikes with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, then Yankees closer Andrew Miller fanned Hanley Ramirez to preserve New York's 3-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Friday night. Aaron Hicks hit a tiebreaking home run off Rick Porcello (5-1) leading off the seventh inning. The game turned tense and testy in the ninth. The Red Sox loaded the bases with three singles off Miller, bringing up Ortiz, who had homered earlier. Ortiz took a 3-1 breaking ball that catcher Brian McCann awkwardly gloved, and plate umpire Ron Kulpa called it a strike. Big Papi argued and manager John Farrell quickly came from the dugout to protect his slugger and got tossed. Ortiz then took a called third strike, went to the dugout and slammed down his equipment. He got ejected, too, and stormed back to the plate as teammates rushed to restrain him. Miller fanned Ramirez to finish off a four-out save, his sixth save this season. Kirby Yates (1-0) wound up with the win.

game and Cincinnati's bullpen finally ended its historic streak of giving up runs, closing out a victory over Milwaukee. Cincinnati's relievers had allowed at least one run in a major league-record 23 consecutive games. They put together four scoreless innings to end a streak that started on April 11. The Reds have won three in a row for the first time since sweeping the season-opening series against Philadelphia. Tim Adleman (1-0) got his first major league victory in his second career start, holding the Brewers to Alex Presley's solo homer in five innings. Phillips' three-run shot in the third off Tyler Cravy (0-1) made it 5-0. It's the second time that Phillips has homered in three straight games - he also did it in 2012. Joey Votto also had a solo shot off Cravy, who was called up from Triple-A when Willy Peralta went on the paternity list earlier in the day.

one inning for the win and Drew Storen survived a shaky ninth to earn his second save as the Blue Jays recorded their season-best fourth straight win. Edwin Encarnacion doubled off Joe Blanton (2-2) with one out in the eighth and was replaced by pinch-runner Ezequiel Carrera. The Dodgers intentionally walked Justin Smoak to face Pillar, who lined a 1-2 pitch into the bullpen in left.

and save. The Marlins won seven in a row before losing 14-5 at Milwaukee on May 1 and have won the first four games of their nine-game homestand to improve to 16-12. Maikel Franco homered and drove in two runs, and Peter Bourjos drove in a pair for Philadelphia. Miami's Christian Yelich opened the scoring with a two-run upper-deck homer to right-center field in the first inning.

multi-run homer of his career. The first 25 homers in his five-year career were solo shots. Houston starter Doug Fister (3-3) allowed three hits and three runs with two walks in 6 1/3 innings for his second straight win. Luke Gregerson pitched a scoreless ninth for his seventh save.

### CUBS 8, NATIONALS 6

Ben Zobrist homered twice, Anthony Rizzo added a towering solo shot and Chicago beat Washington for its fifth straight victory. Zobrist has homered in three straight games. He drove in four runs for the second consecutive day against the Nationals. Tommy La Stella also homered to help the Cubs win for the ninth time in 10 games and improve to 22-6, the best record in the majors. John Lackey (4-1) struck out 11, one shy of his career high, in seven innings. Hector Rondon pitched a scoreless ninth for his fifth save in as many chances. Max Scherzer (3-2) was tagged for seven runs and seven hits in five innings. Anthony Rendon and Wilson Ramos homered for Washington.

### WHITE SOX 10, TWINS 4

Melky Cabrera had four hits and three RBIs, Jose Abreu hit a solo homer, and Chicago beat Minnesota to become the second major league team to reach 20 wins. Adam Eaton drove in two runs and made one of three fine defensive plays for the White Sox (20-10), who trail only the crosstown Cubs (22-6) for most victories. Mat Latos (5-0) labored through five innings before four relievers combined for four scoreless innings as the White Sox snapped a scoreless skid. Benches cleared in the eighth when Trevor May hit Abreu with a 97 mph fastball. That came after Minnesota's Byung Ho Park was hit by a pitch in the top of the inning. White Sox manager Robin Ventura was ejected, but no players were tossed. Ricky Nolasco (1-1) gave up seven runs, five earned, and nine hits in five innings, and Oswaldo Garcia hit a two-run homer for the Twins. They fell to an AL-worst 8-21.

### REDS 5, BREWERS 1

Brandon Phillips homered for the third straight

MLB Results/Standings									
Chicago Cubs 8, Washington 6; NY Yankees 3, Boston 2; Toronto 5, LA Dodgers 2; Texas 5, Detroit 1; Cleveland 7, Kansas City 1; Cincinnati 5, Milwaukee 1; Miami 6, Philadelphia 4; Arizona 7, Atlanta 2; Chicago White Sox 10, Minnesota 4; Houston 6, Seattle 3; Pittsburgh 4, St. Louis 2; Tampa Bay 5, LA Angels 2; San Francisco 6, Colorado 4; San Diego 2, NY Mets 0.									
American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	Washington	NY Mets	NY Mets	NY Mets	NY Mets	NY Mets
Baltimore	16	11	.593	-	Washington	19	10	.655	-
Boston	17	12	.586	-	NY Mets	17	11	.607	1.5
Toronto	16	15	.516	2	Miami	16	12	.571	2.5
Tampa Bay	13	14	.481	3	Philadelphia	16	14	.533	3.5
NY Yankees	10	17	.370	6	Atlanta	7	21	.250	11.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	20	10	.667	-	Chicago Cubs	22	6	.786	-
Cleveland	14	12	.538	4	Pittsburgh	16	13	.552	6.5
Detroit	14	14	.500	5	St. Louis	15	15	.500	8
Kansas City	14	14	.500	5	Cincinnati	13	17	.433	10
Minnesota	8	21	.276	11.5	Milwaukee	11	18	.379	11.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Seattle	17	12	.586	-	San Francisco	16	15	.516	-
Texas	16	14	.533	1.5	Colorado	14	15	.483	1
LA Angels	13	16	.448	4	LA Dodgers	14	15	.483	1
Oakland	13	16	.448	4	San Diego	13	17	.433	2.5
Houston	11	19	.367	6.5	Arizona	13	18	.419	3

### INDIANS 7, ROYALS 1

Jose Ramirez got three hits and drove in a career-high five runs to help Cleveland beat reeling Kansas City for its fourth straight victory. The World Series champion Royals have lost eight of 10. Ramirez delivered a bases-loaded double in the third and a two-run double in the fifth. He singled in the second, walked in the eighth and raised his batting average to .324. Danny Salazar (3-2) held the Royals to four hits and struck out nine in 7 2/3 innings. Yordano Ventura (2-2) allowed five runs and threw 97 pitches in four innings. The right-hander walked five, increasing his AL-leading total to 25.

### BLUE JAYS 5, DODGERS 2

Kevin Pillar hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning. Jose Bautista also connected and Toronto beat Los Angeles. Gavin Floyd (1-2) worked

a couple walks off Hamels, but he struck out nine and won his 11th straight decision. He hasn't lost since Aug 7. Zimmermann (5-1) allowed two runs in the second - after giving up only two earned runs all season prior to that. He also allowed a solo homer to Rowned Odor in the fifth, and by the end of the night, his ERA had doubled from 0.55 to 1.10.

### MARLINS 6, PHILLIES 4

Giancarlo Stanton hit a tie-breaking two-run homer in the eighth inning and Miami beat Philadelphia for its 11th victory in 12 games. Stanton's 10th home run of the season was a deep shot to left-center field off Hector Neris (0-1). Kyle Barraclough (2-0) earned the win by pitching a scoreless inning in relief and David Phelps came on for the ninth for his sec-

### RANGERS 5, TIGERS 1

Cole Hamels held Detroit to one hit in seven scoreless innings, and Texas became the first team this season to beat Jordan Zimmermann. Hamels (4-0) allowed a bloop single to right by Ian Kinsler - the first batter he faced - and that was Detroit's only hit until Kinsler doubled to lead off the bottom of the ninth. The Tigers managed

### PIRATES 4, CARDINALS 2

Jung Ho Kang homered twice and Francisco Liriano continued his dominance at Busch Stadium to help Pittsburgh beat St. Louis. Kang, who was activated from the disabled list before the game, ripped the first pitch he saw from Tyler Lyons into the right field bullpen for a two-run homer to give the Pirates a 3-0 lead in the sixth. Kang followed with a 427-foot homer into the upper deck in left in the eighth. Liriano (3-1) improved to 4-0 with a 2.07 ERA in six career starts at Busch Stadium. Liriano fanned 10 through seven innings for his 24th career double-digit strikeout performance of his career. Mark Melancon got his eighth save for Pittsburgh. The Pirates won their fifth straight road game and improved to 4-0 against the Cardinals this season. Cardinals starter Carlos Martinez (4-2) left with one out in the fourth due to fatigue.

### DIAMONDBACKS 7, BRAVES 2

Zack Greinke allowed two runs in six innings, Brandon Drury hit a homer and Arizona beat Atlanta to snap a six-game losing streak. David Peralta had three hits and drove in a run, and Wellington Castillo had a two-run single for Arizona in its highest-scoring game in almost two weeks. The Diamondbacks had been held to no more than four runs in each of their last nine games. The Braves (7-21) have the worst record through 28 games in their Atlanta history. They are 1-13 at home. Greinke (3-2) had eight strikeouts, matching his season high, while giving up seven hits and one walk. He is 5-0 in his last seven road starts. He earned his first win in three career starts at Turner Field. Atlanta rookie Aaron Blair (0-2) allowed three runs, two earned, in five innings.

### ASTROS 6, MARINERS 3

Carlos Correa homered and finished with three hits and two RBIs to lead Houston past Seattle. Marwin Gonzalez had a two-run homer and also doubled to help the Astros win for the third time in four games. Correa's homer came off Tajuan Walker (2-2) with two outs in the first inning. It was his second home run in three games after not homering in the previous 24 games. Evan Gattis reached on an error by shortstop Ketel Marte with no outs in the second. The Astros made it 3-0 when Gonzalez sent one into the seats in right field for the first

### RAYS 5, ANGELS 2

Chris Archer pitched six scoreless innings and Corey Dickerson snapped out of a career-worst, 0-for-23 drought with a three-run homer to lead Tampa Bay over Los Angeles. Brad Miller added four hits, including a home run. Archer (2-4) scattered five hits, struck out six and stranded four runners in scoring position during his 100th major league start. The right-hander, who fanned a franchise-record 252 batters last season and pitched in his first All-Star Game, is 5-1 with a 2.48 ERA in six career starts against the Angels. Cory Rasmus (1-1) gave up five runs and five hits in 2 1/3 innings in place of right-hander Garrett Richards, who was placed on the 15-day disabled list earlier in the day because of a torn ligament in his elbow and is done for the season.

### PADRES 2, METS 0

Drew Pomeranz and four relievers combined on a three-hitter. Jon Jay had three hits and an RBI, and San Diego beat New York for the second straight game. The Padres, who have been blanked eight times this year, pitched their first shutout of 2016. They've held the defending NL champion Mets to three runs and seven hits in the first two games of a four-game series. Pomeranz (3-3) allowed only a single to Asdrubal Cabrera with two outs in the fourth while striking out five and walking three in five innings. His effort came a night after Colin Rea took a no-hitter into the seventh in San Diego's 5-3 victory. Noah Syndergaard (2-2) took the loss after allowing two runs and six hits in six innings. He struck out five and walked two.

### GIANTS 6, ROCKIES 4

Brandon Crawford hit a three-run homer, Madison Bumgarner survived a shaky second inning and San Francisco ended a three-game losing streak to Colorado. Hunter Pence, who had three hits, Matt Duffy and Brandon Belt also drove in runs for the Giants, who ended a two-game slide. Bumgarner (4-2) won his third straight start, retiring 15 of 17 after giving up all four runs in the second. He allowed seven hits, walked one and struck out 10 in 7 1/3 innings. Mark Reynolds collected three hits and an RBI for the Rockies, who had won five of their previous seven. Dustin Garneau also drove in a run. Chad Bettis (3-2) lasted six innings, giving up five runs on eight hits. He walked two and struck out four. He also drove in a run with a squeeze bunt.—AP



# LIGHTNING STRIKE IN OVERTIME TO BEAT ISLANDERS

**LOS ANGELES:** The Tampa Bay Lightning led for less than seven minutes combined in Games 3 and 4 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the New York Islanders. But a "quality, not quantity" approach to hockey has the Lightning heading home with a chance to close the series out Sunday afternoon. Jason Garrison scored 1:34 into overtime Friday night as the Lightning beat the Islanders 2-1 at Barclays Center to take a three games to one series lead. Tampa Bay the reigning Eastern Conference champions, can move on to the Eastern Conference Final by winning Game 5, which is scheduled for Sunday afternoon at Amalie Arena in Tampa. The Lightning are on the verge of advancing despite leading for just 66 minutes and 21 seconds in the first four games.

"That experience last year, going to the final, really helped this group," Lightning right winger Ryan Callahan said. "We just continue to go out there and work and we know we'll get those opportunities eventually with the amount of skill we have. Hopefully one of them goes in. Tonight's no different." Games 3 and 4 weren't that much different for either team. Garrison's goal gave the Lightning its only lead of Friday night. Tampa Bay trailed for more than 47 minutes before right winger Nikita Kucherov tied the game 7:49 into the third.

In Game 3 on Tuesday, the Lightning led for just 6:40 but forced overtime on a last-minute third period goal by Kucherov. Center Brian Boyle then gave Tampa Bay a 5-4 win by scoring 2:48 into overtime. "There's no real panic button anymore," Lightning head coach Jon Cooper said. "You don't know whether it's the first period or the third period on our bench. They're just positive about the job they have ahead of them until the last buzzer. It's been a lot of fun being around this group."

The Islanders, meanwhile, are on the verge of suffering the same fate they handed to the Florida Panthers in the Eastern Conference quarterfinals. New York won that series in six games despite leading the Panthers for just 45 minutes and 54 seconds and won two overtime games in which it didn't lead until scoring the game-winning goal. "The last two games have been good hockey games—that's how close these two teams are, it's one shot away from taking the (series) lead or not," Islanders head coach Jack Capuano said. "You can't ask our guys for too much more."

But if their season ends in this series, the Islanders will likely lament their inability to generate more offense Friday. Kyle Okposo scored a power play goal 4:20 into the first and nearly doubled the lead with 10:49 left, when Ryan Strome's shot from in front of the net disappeared beneath squatting Lightning goalie Ben Bishop (27 saves). The call of no goal stood because replays couldn't show if the puck ever crossed the line. The Islanders ended up outshooting the Lightning 16-6 in the first but got just one shot during a four-minute power play following a pair of roughing penalties on Callahan.

"You've got to tip your hat to 'Bish,' because he saved us in the first," Cooper said. "That could have kind of changed the tide of the game, especially when we didn't have too much going." The Lightning outshot the Islanders 17-11 over the next two periods and finally produced the equalizer on a broken play behind the New York net. Tampa Bay center Tyler Johnson picked up a puck lost by Nick Leddy and passed to Kucherov, whose shot fluttered over the right arm of goalie Thomas Greiss (20 saves). "When we got that one, you could tell on our bench we had a good feeling of what could happen," Cooper said. "And it happened." Garrison's game-winner capped a chaotic sequence that included Islanders defenseman Calvin De Haan losing his stick. New York could not clear the puck, which eventually found its way to Garrison in front of the Stanley Cup Playoffs logo. De Haan eventually picked up a stick but accidentally screened goalie Thomas Greiss (20 saves) as Garrison's slap shot sailed into the net. "We had chances to get the puck out on the wall, we didn't get it out," Capuano said. "And then after that, we had pretty good D-zone coverage. You give that shot up all day long. But it had eyes."—Reuters



**NEW YORK:** An overtime goal by Jason Garrison #5 of the Tampa Bay Lightning against Thomas Greiss #1 of the New York Islanders results in a 2-1 victory for the Lightning in Game Four of the Eastern Conference Second Round. —AFP

## WESTERN FORCE AWAKENED TO MUZZLE SUNWOLVES IN TOKYO

### JAPAN MADE TO WORK FOR WIN IN STEAMY HONG KONG

**TOKYO:** Marcel Brache scored an explosive early hat-trick as the Western Force thrashed the Sunwolves 40-22 in Tokyo yesterday in a battle between two Super Rugby strugglers. The Sunwolves, who posted a historic first victory in the southern hemisphere's premier provincial competition against Argentina's Jaguares in their last outing, burst from the blocks with a try from Akihito Yamada in the opening moments.

But from the restart a sharp interception from Brache left him an easy run-in, before a spectacular try after a slick move and another bulldozing finish gave the winger his hat-trick inside 20 minutes. The Force, who had won just one of their previous nine matches, never looked back and further tries from Byrnard Stander, Ben McCalman and Angus Cottrell secured a second win of the season for the Perth-based visitors.

"Obviously it wasn't the start we were after but the way we rebounded was superb," said Force captain Matt Hodgson after his side snapped a seven-game losing run. "I asked the team to be tough in those moments and I was happy we got the momentum back." Trailing 26-5 after a low-energy first half, the Sunwolves awoke from their slumber following the break with Samoan fly-half Tusi Pisi and Kiwi centre Derek Carpenter crashing over. Yamada, who failed to make an impact at the Force last season, grabbed a late second-half seventh try of the season to cap an impressive return from injury and deny the Australians a bonus point.

"When their tails are up, they're hard to defend against," Hodgson said of the Japanese expansion side. "I was just rapt we got away with a win." However, a plucky second-half display proved scant consolation for Sunwolves captain Shota Horie. "We started well but then we started giving away penalties and got pushed back," he shrugged as Sunwolves players posed for photographs with Japanese fans. "We need to be more aggressive in enemy territory. There's a lot of things we have to go away and think about. It's a good lesson for the future," Horie added.

The Sunwolves have endured a torrid first season in Super Rugby, hitting rock bottom in last month's 92-17 humiliation by South Africa's Cheetahs before ending their own seven-match losing skid against the Jaguares. The Tokyo-based side joined the competition on the back of Japan's astonishing performance at the World Cup where the Brave Blossoms won three pool games, including a 34-32 shock upset over two-time champions South Africa. But delays bringing in players and coaching staff sabotaged the team's preparations while a lack of depth prompted



**TOKYO:** John Stewart of Japan's Sunwolves (in red) is tackled by players of Australia's Force, in white, during the Super Rugby match in Tokyo yesterday. Force won over Sunwolves 40-22. — AP

former Japan coach Eddie Jones, now in charge of England, to slam the Sunwolves as "embarrassing".

#### Asia Rugby Championship

In another development, Japan maintained their perfect start to the Asia Rugby Championship yesterday with a hard-fought 38-3 win over a resilient Hong Kong. The 2019 World Cup hosts ran in six tries, with fly-half Ryohei Yamanaka adding four conversions during play in humid weather at the Hong Kong Football Club. The match was a stark contrast to their storming 12-try, 85-0 win over South Korea in last week's tournament opener in Yokohama. Benjamin Rimene posted Hong Kong's only score with a first-half penalty, ahead of Leigh Jones' side's trip to Incheon next week to face South Korea as the three-team round-robin tournament continues.

Japan quickly established a 12-0 lead following tries from flanker Shokei Kin and scrum-half Keisuke Uchida, although a penalty from Hong Kong fly-half Rimene reduced the deficit for the hosts. But a try from winger Kentaro Kodama soon extended the

advantage for the 10-time defending Asian champions to 19-3 at half-time. Last week, Japan had led 47-0 after 40 minutes of play. Hong Kong enjoyed significant time in their opponent's territory at the end of the first half, albeit without reward, and fought to stay in the contest after the break. But Japan finally broke the home side's resistance with a try in the corner from centre Ryota Nakamura just under 15 minutes into the second half.

And replacement Hiroki Yamamoto added a pair of tries inside the final 20 minutes as Ryuji Nakatake's Japan sealed the victory. "There was big differences between the Korea game and today's game, especially Hong Kong's pressure in the breakdown," said Japan interim coach Nakatake. "We had a lot of mistakes and penalties, which at the moment is one of our weaknesses." "It is a step forward from last week as there were some good links between the forwards and the backs, so I think the quality is getting better, but today Hong Kong's pressure at the breakdown and good chasing after the kick was the reason it was a close game."—Agencies

## WARATAHS SHINE - BUT MISS TOP CHANCE TO GO

**SYDNEY:** The New South Wales Waratahs missed a chance to go top of the Australian Super Rugby conference when they beat the Central Cheetahs 21-6 in Sydney yesterday. The Waratahs needed a bonus point win to go ahead of the ACT Brumbies, but fell just short in an error-ridden clash. The home side scored two tries to none and thought they had a third, which would have secured the bonus point, when Israel Folau crossed in the corner right on full time. But the television match official ruled that NSW captain Michael Hooper had thrown a forward pass in the lead up and the try was disallowed. "It was a tough game, back and forth, back and forth," Hooper said. "But we shut them out and had no tries scored against us for the first time this year, so it was a really huge effort in that regard."

The Waratahs always looked in control against a disappointing Cheetahs, who made five changes to the side that lost to Queensland last week. Three of those were in the front row, but that move backfired as the Cheetahs scrum struggled badly throughout the first half. The visitors opened the scoring after just three minutes with a penalty to Fred Zeilenga, but the Waratahs hit back with two of their own from Bernard Foley. Despite being under huge pressure the Cheetahs were hanging in for much of the first half, but two tries in seven minutes to winger Reece Robinson and Foley put the home side in control at the break 18-6.

Foley kicked his third penalty three minutes after the restart and the Waratahs looked like running away with the match. But NSW appeared to fatigue badly after flying home from South Africa during the week and they couldn't secure the crucial third try. Cheetahs captain Francois Venter said his young team was building for next year. "I'm proud of the guys, they were always fighting hard," he said. "There's a lot of our guys who are on tour for the first time. It's always difficult to travel and we must adapt for next year. "We're still building a team and hopefully we can do better."—AFP

## RUSSIA DISMISSES SOCHI GAMES DOPING CLAIMS

**MOSCOW:** Russia's sports minister yesterday dismissed claims that four Russian gold medalists at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics were drug cheats. The allegations—the latest in a string of doping accusations to rock Russian sport—are made by whistleblower Vitaly Stepanov in an upcoming edition of American channel CBS' "60 Minutes". In an interview to air in full today, Stepanov, a former official with the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA), cites Grigor Rodchenkov, former head of Russia's now-discredited drug testing lab, as telling him that FSB state security service officers "tried to control every single step of the anti-doping process in Sochi".

Hosts Russia won 13 gold medals at the Sochi Winter Olympics. A brief preview of the interview released by CBS reveals no names of suspected dope cheats. Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, however, shrugged off the latest allegations as "speculation" and accused Stepanov of trying to tarnish the country's image.

"All his so-called revelations are based on speculation," Mutko told Russia's TASS news agency. "It is obvious that someone wants to harm Russian sport," Mutko said. "What facts does he have, what lists, why has he decided to come out with the latest claims now?" Stepanov and his wife, banned athlete Yuliya Stepanova, appeared in a German television documentary claiming systematic doping in Russian athletics in 2014 - allegations later supported by an investigation by a World Anti-Doping Agency independent commission which found evidence of "state-sponsored" doping and widespread corruption.

The International Association of Athletics Federations suspended Russia in November, with the IAAF council due to decide in June if the country's track and field team can compete in Rio. In the "60 Minutes" program, US Anti-Doping Agency chief Travis Tygart says he doesn't believe Russian athletics has done enough to warrant reinstatement and USADA is "not in favor" of Russian athletes competing in Rio. "They can't come at the expense of clean athletes' rights," he tells "60 Minutes".— AFP



**Angelo Mathews**

## MATHEWS HOPES TO GAIN FROM JAYAWARDENE'S KNOWLEDGE

**LONDON:** Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews hopes to utilize Mahela Jayawardene's inside knowledge of the England set-up when the two teams meet in a Test series later this month. Jayawardene, one of Sri Lanka's greatest batsmen but retired from international cricket since last year's 50-over World Cup, recently acted as a batting consultant to England including at the World Twenty20 in India where his 'adopted' team reached the final.

Jayawardene, who is due to have a stint playing for county side Somerset in English domestic cricket's Twenty20 competition later this season, no longer has any official role with the England set-up ahead of the start of a three-Test series at Headingley on May 19. But according to Mathews, he will be close at hand for advice in his new role as a television commentator. Mathews could also tap into the experience of another Sri Lankan batting star in Kumar Sangakkara, no longer on the international scene but now playing for London-based county side Surrey.

"When it comes to international cricket there are no secrets to be honest," Mathews told reporters at Lord's, where Sri Lanka were training ahead of this weekend's tour opener against Essex. "I think we have a lot of video footage, they have video footage of us as well, so there are no real secrets. When you get on the park you know what they are up to and the plan for this, and we get to know it. "But there might be a couple of tactical ideas that Mahela can predict." "I'm pretty sure that guys like Mahela and Sangakkara will always come and help us."

#### No problem

Earlier this year, Sri Lanka Cricket president Thilanga Sumathipala criticized Jayawardene when he started his

second stint with England at the World Twenty20. But Mathews was far more relaxed about his former team-mate working with a rival nation. "There's no problem with guys like that working with other countries," said the all-rounder. "They have the freedom to go anywhere and work and we have the luxury of asking them and inviting them to come and help us out as well. So it doesn't really matter."

Such is the ebb and flow of coaches in modern international cricket that both England boss Trevor Bayliss and assistant Paul Farbrace have previously enjoyed spells with Sri Lanka. It was at Headingley two years ago, on the back of a commanding century by Mathews, that Sri Lanka sealed their first Test series win in England after a thrilling match went all the way to the penultimate ball on the last day. "We don't have Sangakkara and Mahela anymore, but we've got to move on, we've got to take on the challenge," said Mathews. "I believe we can still win if we play to our potential. "We've got some fearless players in our side and that can be a plus for us."

We'll have to play really good cricket to beat England though. "The 2014 series is one moment we'll cherish for the rest of our lives. We'd never won a Test series here before, so to do that was fantastic. "If we can repeat that once again it would be ideal." The first task for many of Mathews's squad will be adjusting to the unpredictable English climate. Early season Tests in England can often take place in bitterly cold conditions although as Mathews was speaking temperatures on a sunny day in London topped 23C (73F). Asked if he realized some county matches in England had been interrupted by snow last week, Mathews replied: "Yes! We've brought a lot of jumpers. It's absolutely brilliant to have this weather (the sunshine)."—AFP



# HAWKS SUCCUMB AGAIN TO CAVALIERS JINX

## CAVALIERS SITTING PRETTY WITH 3-0 SERIES LEAD

**WASHINGTON:** LeBron James and Kyrie Irving took over in the fourth quarter as the Cleveland Cavaliers seized a 3-0 stranglehold lead over Atlanta on Friday to move within one win of advancing to the NBA semi-finals. James and Kevin Love each posted a double-double for the Cavaliers who drained 21 three-pointers against the Hawks in a 121-108 victory. Cleveland is the first team in NBA history to hit at least 20 three-pointers in back-to-back games. The Cavaliers made an NBA-record 25 three-pointers in their game two hammering of the Hawks. They came close to that number again, shooting 53 percent from beyond the arc in front of a crowd of 19,000 at Atlanta's Philips Arena.

"If you make a small mistake, they can make you pay," Atlanta coach Mike Budenholzer said of Cleveland. "If someone is open, they find them. And right now that guy is shooting it and making it at a high percentage." In the late game, Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 100-96 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder in game three of their Western Conference series. Cleveland has all but assured themselves of reaching the Eastern Conference finals as no NBA team has ever come back from an 0-3 deficit in a best-of-seven playoff. Game four is today in Atlanta.

The Miami Heat and Toronto Raptors are tied 1-1 in the other best-of-seven East series. Irving finished with 24 points, James had 24 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists and

Channing Frye came off the bench to nail seven shots from beyond the arc. Love finished with 21 points and 15 rebounds. Frye was acquired from the Orlando Magic in February. He's played sparingly, but was ready Friday night and took some advice from James Jones to heart. "James Jones was like, 'Channing, you got to quit passing. You just go to shoot,'" Frye said with a laugh. "That makes it simple, so I was just trying to be aggressive."

Atlanta's Al Horford finished with 24 points and Kyle Korver came off the bench to add 18 points, including five three-pointers for the Hawks, who led 91-85 heading into the fourth quarter. Irving and Frye each connected on two three-pointers early in the fourth quarter and James made his only three-point shot of the game with six minutes remaining, giving Cleveland its first lead since the second quarter. The Cavaliers pulled away from there and now find themselves in the driver's seat. Atlanta's game three had it all with spectacular dunks, relentless work ethic, physical play and a bunch of three-pointers. Atlanta closed the second quarter on a 20-5 point surge and led 63-55 at halftime.

### Spurs grab series lead

At Chesapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma, Leonard shot nine of 17 from the field to go along with 11 rebounds and three assists. LaMarcus Aldridge added 24 points and eight rebounds. Tony Parker posted 19 points as the Spurs took a 2-1 lead in their best-of-



**ATLANTA:** Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) goes up for a shot against Atlanta Hawks forward Thabo Sefolosha (25) in Game 3 of the second-round NBA basketball playoff series on Friday, May 6, 2016. — AP

seven second round series. Russell Westbrook paced the Thunder with 31 points on 10 of 31 shooting. He also tal-

ied nine rebounds and eight assists. Kevin Durant finished with 26 points, five rebounds and three assists. Serge

Ibaka scored 15 points on five of six shooting from beyond the three-point line.— AFP

## SOUTH KOREA'S RYU GRABS THE LPGA LEAD

**LOS ANGELES:** South Korea's Ryu So-Yeon had seven birdies and no bogeys in a seven-under 65 yesterday to seize a two-shot lead in the LPGA Classic at Prattville, Alabama. At nine-under par 135, Ryu led Australian Minjee Lee and Americans Ryann O'Toole and Morgan Pressel. Lee had three birdies and a bogey in her two-under 70, while O'Toole carded a 67 and Pressel signed for a 68. Ryu said putting made the difference in her round, which was five strokes better than her opening 70. "Actually, even yesterday my shots were really great, but I couldn't make a lot of putts, but today I pretty much made everything," said the South Korean, who needed just 27 putts. "It was a bit windy, but we played with a lot of wind the last few weeks, so it wasn't a really big difference," added Ryu, who captured the most recent of her three LPGA wins at the 204 Canadian Pacific Women's Open.

"I've been working on my long game really hard and actually having a better ball trajectory since I'm working with my new coach, so I feel more comfortable to play in the wind," Ryu said. Ryu, currently ranked 10th in the world, picked up five of her birdies in her last nine holes, but said she didn't get caught up with the leaderboard. "I think what I was really good at today was I didn't really think about the whole round," she said. "I'm just thinking about each shot, and I didn't really look at the leaderboard I didn't think about where I am, where I should be. I was really good at focusing on one shot at the one moment."

From O'Toole, Pressel and Lee it was a further stroke back to Germany's Caroline Masson (68), American Annie Park (71) and Israel's Laetitia Beck (73) on 138. Beck admitted that she felt some nerves after holding the first-round lead. They didn't show as she birdied her first two holes, but she faded with three bogeys in her next four holes. "I knew it was going to be there," Beck said of the butterflies. "So I just came into the day with the purpose of enjoying and learning from this experi-

ence and embracing the fact that I am going to be extremely nervous and try to learn from it. "I'm going to learn from today and hopefully handle the pressure a little better tomorrow," she said.

### Fan favorite Daly

Meanwhile, two-time major champion John Daly brought his unique brand of golf to the Champions circuit for the first time on Friday—and said he was surprised at just how well it went. The American, whose out-sized personality and mammoth drives have made him a fan favorite, turned 50 on April 28, and made his debut on the PGA Tour Champions series for the 50 and overs at the Insuperity Invitational in Woodlands, Texas, near Houston. Daly's arrival on the tour was an event.

The first 1,000 spectators to arrive at the course received Daly bobblehead dolls, and fans sporting his brightly patterned "Loudmouth" clothing line received prizes. Daly himself marked the occasion with an outfit of red and turquoise trousers, firing a two-under 70 that left him tied for 12th, four shots behind first-round leader Mike Goodes. He played alongside Peter Jacobsen and buddy Fuzzy Zoeller—who once vowed to give the famously hard-living Daly \$150,000 if he made it to 50 years of age.

Daly said this week he wouldn't make Zoeller pay up. Daly said his game was "really solid" admitting he had expected some rust after playing just twice this year. "I was surprised how good I hit the ball," Daly said. "I hit a lot of fairways, and that one-iron was a blessing today for me. I mean, even when I didn't hit it good, it was going in the fairway, and I gave myself a lot of chances." He admitted to some "rookie" nerves. "It was like starting all over," Daly said. "The nerves were good, but it's cool coming out here and having positive nerves, and I just fed off Fuzzy and Jake. You know, I couldn't have asked to play with two better people. For my first round on the Champions Tour, we just had a blast." — Agencies

## MICKELSON'S SHORT GAME MAGIC LIFTS HIM AT WELLS

### LOUPE HOLDS ONE-STROKE LEAD; DEFENDING CHAMP MCILROY SIX BACK

**CHARLOTTE:** Veteran Phil Mickelson used his short game magic to claw his way within three strokes of halfway leader Andrew Loupe after the second round of the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow on Friday. On a day when defending champion Rory McIlroy roared into contention before a bogey-bogey finish left him trailing by six, Mickelson hit only nine greens in regulation but used his vaunted touch around the greens to card a two-under-par 70.

Mickelson, a five-times major champion who needs only to win the US Open next month to complete the elusive career Grand Slam, got up-and-down to save par eight times, his lone bogey coming at his final hole, where he drove into a fairway bunker. "I scrapped it around," said Mickelson, adding that poor driving, rather than suspect iron play, had put him in danger of dropping shots. "My short game was sharp. I hit a lot of good iron shots, but I had to play for a little too many times because I didn't put it in play off the tee," he said. "I've been driving the ball really well heading into this week, so I'm a little disappointed with the driver."

Mickelson above all covets a US Open championship and he is using this week as the start of his serious preparation for the June event at Oakmont outside Pittsburgh. He is a record six-times Open runner-up, with several of those second-placings coming in heartbreaking fashion. Loupe, who shared the first-round lead with fellow American Steve Wheatcroft, had a chance to build a substantial advantage, only to bogey two of his final three holes for a 71.

"It's halftime," said the long-hitting Loupe, who is without a win in 53 starts on the PGA Tour and understands a 36-hole lead counts for little. He posted an eight-under 136 total to lead compatriot Roberto Castro (66) by one stroke. Castro vaulted into second place with the help of a rare eagle at the tough par-four 18th, where he holed out with a five-iron from the rough from 220 yards. McIlroy, meanwhile, picked up four shots on the easier front nine, including a chip-in, 80-foot birdie at the par-five seventh, but his charge stalled with two closing bogeys on the difficult finishing holes. "It felt a little better for me today, a lot of shots of much better quality than yesterday," said the Northern Irishman after a 69. "It's a step in the right direc-



**CHARLOTTE:** Phil Mickelson hits a shot on the fourth hole during the second round of the 2016 Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, North Carolina. — AFP

tion. Last year as well, I had a 14-under weekend. I'll need to do something similar this year."

American Zac Blair was disqualified in unusual circumstances for using a non-conforming club, in this case his putter. Blair bent his putter when he banged it against his head in frustration after missing a putt at the fifth hole. He putted out the hole before subsequently inform-

ing an official on the next hole of the situation. He was disqualified for violating rule 4-3b, which states: "If, during a stipulate round, a player's club is damaged other than in the normal course of play rendering it non-conforming or changing its playing characteristics, the club subsequently must not be used or replaced during the round." — Reuters

## MURRAY DOWNS NADAL TO BOOK MASTERS FINAL

**MADRID:** Defending champion Andy Murray registered just his second ever win over Rafael Nadal on clay to reach the Madrid Masters final 7-5, 6-4 yesterday. Murray also beat Nadal on home soil to win his first ever Masters event on clay in Madrid last year. The Scot will face world number one Novak Djokovic or Japan's Kei Nishikori in Sunday's final. Defeat brings to an end Nadal's 13-match winning run on the European clay this season after looking back to his best on his favoured surface with victories in Monte Carlo and Barcelona in recent weeks.

"I think it was a better win for me this year than last year," said Murray. "Not loads of players have won against Rafa on clay throughout his career. To beat him in Spain on a clay court is obviously a big, big challenge for any player. I'm very pleased to have beaten him, it's a big step for me from where I was four or five weeks ago. I'm going back in the right direction again."

Nadal admitted Murray had been the better player on the big points after missing out on 11 of 13 break points. "It was an open, competitive match which in the end was decided by a few points. The one that played the big points better won," said Nadal. "He made the difference with his serve. I didn't play my best, but I also didn't play badly. I was at a middling level which wasn't enough to beat Murray." Nadal had come from a set down to beat Murray in the semi-finals of Monte Carlo and was forced to try to do the same again as the Scot edged a tight first set.

The world number two surrendered a 5-2 lead, but responded perfectly by breaking the Nadal serve to love with a searing forehand return winner to take the set 7-5. The second set was a tale of break points as Murray saved eight of the nine he faced and pounced on his two opportunities to leave the home crowd silenced. "When he had opportunities, I think I served pretty well in a lot

of them, and also was trying to play sort of aggressive, offensive tennis at those moments. "I wasn't backing off at all. So I was very pleased with that. Obviously when you play the best players they are going to create chances. "You have to be able to respond when they do create the chances positively and I think I did that today."

Nadal missed out on three break points in the opening game of the set and two more as Murray held to lead 3-2. Murray then moved to within a game of victory as he broke with his first chance of the second set. However, Nadal battled back from match point down as Murray fired a forehand long to finally break serve on his ninth break point of the set. The Spaniard couldn't back up the break, though, as he dumped a smash into the net to bring up two more match points and then also found the net with a regulation forehand to hand Murray victory in just over two hours on court.—AFP



**MADRID:** Rafael Nadal, from Spain, serves to Andy Murray, from Britain, during the semifinal Madrid Open tennis tournament match in Madrid, Spain yesterday. Murray won 7-5, 6-4 and will play the final today. —AP



## CAMEROON'S EKENG DIES DURING ROMANIAN LEAGUE GAME

**BUCHAREST:** Cameroon international Patrick Ekeng has died after collapsing on the pitch playing a first division match on Friday with his Romanian side Dinamo Bucharest. The 26-year-old midfielder fell to the ground without any contact with another player in the 70th minute of the game against Viitorul, just seven minutes after coming on as a substitute. Ekeng, who joined the Romanian club in January, was rushed to hospital where staff were unable to resuscitate him.

"Resuscitation attempts were made for an hour and half without success," Dinamo team doctor Liviu Batineanu told journalists. Fans of the Bucharest club gathered outside the hospital late into the night to express their grief at the player's death. Club executive director Lionel Danciulescu expressed his shock after a death which recalled that of another club player Catalin Haldan who died playing a friendly in October 2000. "I can't believe it. It's a nightmare. For me, for the team and for all Dinamo supporters. It's too much," said Danciulescu. "It's as if we are cursed"

Before arriving in Romania, Ekeng played for several European clubs, spending four seasons with French Ligue 2 side Le Mans from 2009 to 2013. The player from Yaounde then transferred to Lausanne in Switzerland from 2013-2014 and Spanish side Cúrdoba from 2014-2015 before joining Dinamo. "We will love you forever, Patrick Ekeng!" the

Bucharest club wrote on Facebook, adding the player had "gone to a better world wearing the white-red shirt to join Catalin Haldan and other players who have written the history" of the club.

Ekeng made his debut for Cameroon in January 2015 and was named in the squad for the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations from which Indomitable Lions' were eliminated in the group stage. His death also echoed that of his countryman Marc-Vivien Foe, who died of a heart attack in 2003 playing an Confederations Cup match against Colombia at the Gerland Stadium in Lyon, France. More recently defender Gregory Mertens died three days after suffering a heart attack playing for his Belgian side Lokeren in April 2015. Cameroon international midfielder and captain Stephane Mbia tweeted his shock.

"Our Cameroon football family has lost a brother. I cannot believe this. Condolences to his family. RIP Patrick Ekeng." Spanish club Cordoba also tweeted: "There are no words to express our sorrow over the death of Patrick Ekeng. We mourn your loss. We will never forget you friend. RIP." The Spanish La Liga also took to Twitter to express their condolences alongside a photo of the player in his Cordoba shirt, who last season played in the first division. "La Liga expresses its regret at the death of Patrick Ekeng and sends its condolences to his loved ones." — AFP



**BUCHAREST:** Dinamo's Patrick Ekeng of Cameroon lies on the pitch after collapsing during a league game in Bucharest, Romania. Dinamo Bucharest player Patrick Ekeng (inset) died after he collapsed during a match in the Romanian capital on Friday, doctors said. He was 26. — AP

MIDDLESBROUGH RETURN  
BACK TO PREMIER LEAGUE

BURNLEY SEAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

**LONDON:** Middlesbrough are back in the Premier League after a 1-1 draw with 10-man Brighton & Hove Albion in their multi-million pound promotion decider yesterday while Burnley sealed the Championship title with a 3-0 victory at Charlton Athletic. Middlesbrough needed just one point and Brighton had to win in the last game of the season to secure automatic promotion to the top flight in a game estimated to be worth 170 million pounds (\$245.28 million) to the side that prevailed.

Boro's Riverside Stadium became a sea of celebratory red after they earned their crucial point despite Christian Stuani's 19th-minute goal being answered by Dale Stephens' second-half header for the Seagulls. Yet Stephens went from hero to villain within three minutes, being then shown a straight red card for a late studs-up challenge which left Gaston Ramirez having to be taken off on a stretcher with what looked a serious leg injury.

The draw left both sides on 89 points but Aitor Karanka's Boro will be back in the Premier League for the first time in seven years thanks to a superior goal difference by a mere two goals. Brighton will now have to take their chances in the playoffs with Hull City, Derby County and Sheffield Wednesday. Meanwhile, already-promoted Burnley bounce straight back into the Premier League following last season's relegation as champions.

They took the crown with 93 points, four clear of their pursuers, thanks to a handsome win at Charlton secured through goals from Sam Vokes, George Boyd and Andre Gray. Middlesbrough's Spanish manager Karanka was left feeling emotional as the Riverside pitch was engulfed by fans afterwards. "When I arrived here, some people said I was crazy when I said my aim was to take this club back to the



**MIDDLESBROUGH:** Middlesbrough manager Aitor Karanka (right) lifts the cup with Grant Leadbeter as they celebrate returning to the English Premier League after the Championship match against Brighton and Hove Albion at the Riverside Stadium yesterday. — AP

Premier League. Two and a half years later, we are in the Premier League," said the man who had been Jose Mourinho's assistant at Real Madrid.

Middlesbrough's joy was a far cry from their despair last season when they were beaten in the Championship playoff final by Norwich City at Wembley. This season they had been sailing towards the Premier League but their form

slumped and Karanka ended up in a major bust-up with his players that briefly appeared to threaten his future at the club. Burnley, who secured their promotion on Monday with a 1-0 win over Queens Park Rangers, hammered the already-relegated Charlton, whose manager Jose Riga resigned five months into his 18-month contract soon after the end of the game. — Reuters

CITY HOPES ON KNIFE-EDGE  
AS PELLEGRINI BOWS OUT

**LONDON:** Pep Guardiola's plans for Manchester City in next season's Champions League are at stake today as his predecessor Manuel Pellegrini faces a make-or-break final home game against Arsenal. City limped out of the Champions League in the semi-finals on Wednesday after an insipid 1-0 defeat at Real Madrid that emphasized why the club's hierarchy were so eager to acquire Guardiola's services. But with Manchester United and West Ham United snapping at their heels, City's hold on the fourth and final Champions League berth is tenuous and defeat by third-place Arsenal could leave Guardiola facing the ignominy of a Europa League campaign in his first season at the Etihad Stadium.

Pellegrini was criticized for resting several players in last weekend's damaging 4-2 defeat at Southampton, but he said: "I think it is very, very important to arrive to the Champions League next year. 'I finish my contract here, but that is not a thing I am worried about.' The 62-year-old Chilean has experienced soaring highs and shattering lows in his three-year Etihad tenure, with Premier League success in 2014 and two League Cup triumphs in 2014 and this year-offset by modest returns in Europe and this year's listless league campaign.

On the prospect of his 57th and final home league match as manager, Pellegrini said: "Of course it is a very special game because we finish at home after very intensive years." But as a manager you must try to dominate your emotions. Of course I have feelings, but I don't want to show them in an external way." Ahead of the weekend's fixtures, City trail Arsenal by three points, with Manchester United and West Ham, who face off at the Boleyn Ground on Tuesday in their game in hand, four and five points further

back respectively. Arsenal have won their last two league games against City and a third victory today will secure a third-place finish at the very least, taking Arsene Wenger's men into the Champions League for the 19th season running.

## Cazorla comeback

Wenger faced protests from his own fans during last weekend's 1-0 win over Norwich City, but also received voluble backing from the majority of the Emirates Stadium crowd. While the title has gone to Leicester City, Arsenal can still pip Tottenham Hotspur to second place and although his side were top of the table on January 1, Wenger suggested that City's lavish investing meant missing out on the title should be an even bigger disappointment for them. "It is still a very important game because part of the responsibility of being professional is to prepare the future," said the Frenchman, whose side finish their campaign at home to long-relegated Aston Villa.

"The future of Arsenal Football Club depends on this game. "We have regrets because we had the chance to finish top of the league, but apart from that it is difficult to compare with City, you know. "They are a team who is expected to win the league every year with the investment they have, so they must be in a similar position." Wenger revealed on Friday that midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's season has been ended by a knee injury and centre-back Per Mertesacker will also not play again this term due to a hamstring problem.

However, Santi Cazorla is in line to make his first appearance since a five-month lay-off with a knee injury, while fellow midfielders Mikel Arteta (ankle), the club captain, and Tomas Rosicky (thigh) could feature for the first time since January. — AFP

POCHETTINO DEFENDS  
SPURS STREET FIGHTERS

**LONDON:** Mauricio Pochettino insists Tottenham's ugly response to the end of their Premier League title challenge is actually a good omen for the future. Pochettino will be without key midfielders Mousa Dembele and Dele Alli for Tottenham's final home game of the season against Southampton on Sunday as the pair serve suspensions accrued during the tense conclusion to their team's unsuccessful bid to catch champions Leicester.

Dembele was hit with a six-game ban for gouging the eye of Chelsea's Diego Costa during Monday's costly 2-2 draw, while Alli is sidelined after being caught on camera punching West Bromwich Albion's Claudio Jacob in the stomach in a 1-1 draw a week earlier. Even the urbane Pochettino seemed to lose his cool as Tottenham's title hopes faded and at one stage he charged onto the pitch in an unusually aggressive attempt to break up a row between Tottenham defender Danny Rose and Chelsea's Willian.

Those incidents and Tottenham's ill-tempered response to blowing a two-goal lead at Chelsea, a result which handed Leicester the title, has prompted criticism of Pochettino's handling of his second placed squad. To make matters worse for Pochettino, his team's petulant side showed up during their failure to hold onto leads against West Brom and Chelsea as the pressure of chasing Leicester caused them to crack up. But Pochettino took a more positive view of Tottenham's feisty antics, insisting his young team were developing a streetwise mentality that will help them deal with future opponents intent on bullying them.

"I hear in the last two years always people say 'Tottenham was soft'. But now we start to show character," Pochettino said. "Maybe we crossed the line, I can recognise this, I am not stupid. It is important to manage better our energy for the next season and ensure we learn a lot about this game. "But this season we have shown we are not a nice team to play, not anymore. I think our opponents don't like to play against us because we show passion. "Maybe we show too much passion but we need to take this in a positive way." — AFP

## Spanish La Liga table

**MADRID:** Spanish La Liga table before today's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):

Barcelona	36	27	4	5	104	29	85	Eibar	36	11	9	16	46	56	42
Atletico	36	27	4	5	60	16	85	Real Betis	36	10	11	15	31	50	41
Real Madrid	36	26	6	4	105	32	84	Espanyol	36	11	7	18	36	67	40
Villarreal	36	18	10	8	44	31	64	Deportivo L.C.	36	7	18	11	43	59	39
Athletic Bilbao	36	17	7	12	55	44	58	Granada	36	9	9	18	42	65	36
Celta Vigo	36	16	9	11	50	57	57	Rayo Vallecano	36	8	11	17	48	70	35
Sevilla	36	14	10	12	49	43	52	Sporting Gijon	36	9	8	19	37	61	35
Malaga	36	11	12	13	34	33	45	Getafe	36	9	8	19	35	64	35
Valencia	36	11	11	14	44	44	44	Levante	36	7	8	21	34	66	29
Las Palmas	36	12	7	17	44	49	43								- relegated
Real Sociedad	36	11	9	16	42	47	42								

## SPANISH LEAGUE PREVIEW

ESPANYOL EYE BURSTING  
BARCA'S BUBBLE AGAIN

**MADRID:** Espanyol travel to La Liga leaders Barcelona today aiming to repeat their feat of denying their bitter local rivals the title in 2007. Barca hold the slenderest of advantages in the title race with two games remaining as they lead Atletico Madrid thanks to their better head-to-head record with Real Madrid a point behind in third. In eerily similar circumstances Barca were embroiled in a three-way title race with Sevilla and Real when Espanyol travelled to the Camp Nou on the penultimate day of the season nine years ago.

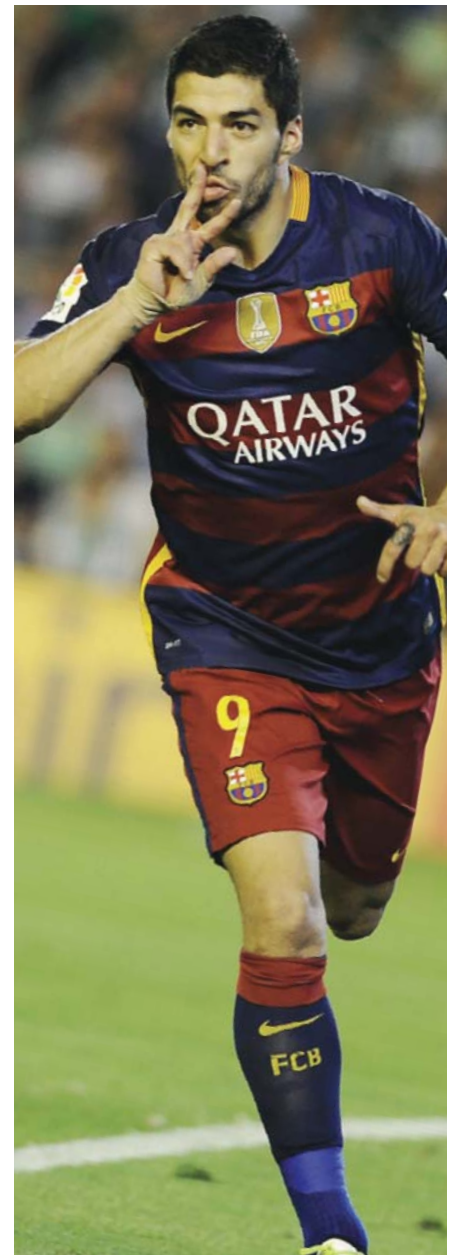
Then a last minute equalizer from Raul Tamudo snatched the title from Barca's grasp and allowed Real to be crowned champions the following weekend. Tamudo's strike has gone down in Espanyol folklore as the "Tamudazo" and has become more popular than even the goals he hit to land the club their last two trophies in the Copa del Rey finals of 2000 and 2006.

After a 1-0 win over Sevilla last weekend to move to the brink of mathematically sealing their survival in the top flight, Espanyol fans chanted "we want another Tamudazo" whilst the players celebrated. "I am dreaming about that," said Espanyol striker Felipe Caicedo when asked about the possibility of repeating Tamudo's strike. "We know the difficulties of playing there, but I am a striker and I live to score. "The dressing room is thinking about mathematically securing survival. If we achieve that the consequence will be taking the title from Barcelona."

However, Barcelona have recovered from their alarming dip of three consecutive league defeats last month to stay on top by scoring 16 goals without reply in their three games since. "We don't fear a Tamudazo. With the fans behind us we expect to get the job done," said Barca defender Jordi Alba. "We never thought the league was won. It is very tight, our rivals aren't slipping up and it is in our hands." Barca boss Luis Enrique is expected to make just one change from the side that started the 2-0 win over Real Betis last weekend with Marc-Andre ter Stegen replacing the injured Claudio Bravo in goal.

In contrast to Atletico and Real, Barca also have the advantage of having had a free midweek to prepare, whilst the sides from the capital were busy booking their places in the Champions League final. However, only a Barca win allied to an Atletico defeat and Real dropping points will allow the Catalans to be proclaimed champions today. Atletico were involved in a far more intense European tie as they clung on despite a 2-1 defeat to Bayern Munich on Tuesday to qualify on away goals. Coach Diego Simeone at least has a fully-fit squad to choose from for their visit to already relegated Levante.

However, Atletico haven't won in their last five trips to Levante, including a 2-0 defeat when they were going for the title in 2014. "Levante are professional and will be playing for pride," said Atletico defender Filipe Luis. "I have bad memories of that stadium and I hope to settle the score. "Winning that match and next week means we will have done our part." Real Madrid have bigger injury concerns as the in-form Gareth Bale has been ruled out for Valencia's visit to the Santiago Bernabeu



**Barcelona's** Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring a goal during the Spanish league football match Real Betis Balompie vs FC Barcelona at the Benito Villamarin stadium. — AFP



## NEWCASTLE ON THE BRINK AFTER VILLA STALEMATE



**BIRMINGHAM:** Newcastle United suffered a serious setback in their battle for Premier League survival as they failed to find a breakthrough in a 0-0 draw with relegated Aston Villa yesterday. Rafa Benitez's side dominated for long spells at Villa Park, but squandered several good chances as the hosts avoided a club record 12th successive league defeat with a rare resolute display. And with Sunderland defeating Chelsea 3-2, Newcastle are back in the relegation zone and sit one point behind their hated local rivals, who can condemn the Magpies to the Championship with a victory over Everton in their game in hand on Wednesday.

Newcastle's fate is out of their hands as they prepare to host Tottenham on what could prove to be a depressing final day of the season on Tyneside next weekend. The game began in an almost carnival atmosphere inside Villa Park, with Villa fans tossing beach balls around as they continued to boo their own players. Home fans had salt rubbed into their wounds in the opening stages when a plane circled Villa Park trailing a banner which was apparently arranged by fans of Birmingham City, their local rivals. It claimed unpopular Villa owner Randy Lerner 'is a blue'.

Meanwhile, Ashley Westwood had the first attempt at goal for Villa but his long-range shot flew well wide. It was Newcastle, however, who made all of the running early on with the home side struggling to escape their own half. They had their first chance on 23 minutes when Papiss Cisse raced onto a curling pass from Andros Townsend.

But the young striker failed to make a clean connection with his shot and Mark Bunn in the Villa goal made a comfortable save.

### Disappointing

A promising Newcastle break-away brought the next chance in a disappointing game, but Moussa Sissoko sent a tame shot straight at Mark Bunn in the Villa goal after a useful cross by Vernon Anita. Newcastle ought to have led just a minute into the second half after a powerful run and dangerous cross from Townsend. The ball ricocheted off Ciaran Clark, Cisse failed to make contact with his shot and it ran for Jack Colback, who blasted over from 15 yards when he should have tested Bunn. And the general standard of the game was encapsulated on 58 minutes after Paul Dummett won a corner for Newcastle.

It was taken by Georgino Wijnaldum from the left and misdirected so poorly it went for a throw-in on the opposite side of the field. Then came the best chance of the game so far as Villa switched off having initially cleared a corner. It was helped acrobatically back into the penalty area by Cheick Tiote for substitute Aleksandar Mitrovic, who lifted an attempted chip over the advancing Bunn but cleared the crossbar with his effort. Karl Darlow in the Newcastle goal then made a smart save from a shot by Jordan Ayew, but the offside flag had already been raised. As news of Sunderland going ahead against Chelsea filtered through to the Newcastle fans, their side missed another excellent chance to lead. Colback's cross from the left found the head of Mitrovic, who sent a header well wide when he should have hit the target. The visitors had another opening from a cross by Sissoko but Mitrovic sent a difficult header over the bar. In stoppage time a fierce drive by Wijnaldum struck Clark in the face and bounced to safety. And then Wijnaldum's free-kick was saved easily by Bunn as Newcastle's frustration was compounded. — AFP



**SUNDERLAND:** Sunderland's German defender Jan Kirchhoff (centre right) climbs to head the ball as Chelsea's English defender John Terry (3rd left) defends during the English Premier League football match between Sunderland and Chelsea yesterday. — AFP

## SUNDERLAND STUN CHELSEA



**SUNDERLAND:** Two goals in the space of three minutes midway through the second half, including a winner by the prolific Jermain Defoe, clinched a 3-2 win for Sunderland over Chelsea as the Black Cats moved out of the Premier League relegation zone yesterday. After Diego Costa and Nemanja Matic had scored, either side of Wahbi Khazri's superb equalizer, to hand visitors Chelsea a 2-1 half-time lead at the Stadium of Light, Sam Allardyce's team equalized for the second time in the 67th minute when Fabio Borini turned in Patrick van Aanholt's left-wing pull back.

Worse was to follow for Chelsea just three minutes later, with goalkeeper Thibault Courtois again only able to help a shot into the net, this time from Defoe. DeAndre Yedlin attacked energetically down the right and his cross was helped into the path of Defoe by John Obi Mikel and the forward struck his 15th goal of the season from 12 yards. To compound matters for the London club, Chelsea captain

John Terry was dismissed late in injury-time for a second bookable offence following the central defender's foul on Khazri.

If Sunderland win at home to Everton on Wednesday, they will stay up and relegation both Newcastle United, their arch north-east rivals, and Norwich City in the process. Costa opened the scoring after 14 minutes with an impressive finish from a wide angle after Gary Cahill had enjoyed a fortunate bounce off defender Yedlin and the ball broke kindly for the Chelsea forward.

### Khazri strike

The lead lasted until four minutes before the interval when Mikel headed clear a Yann M'Vila free-kick, Lamine Kone returned the ball into the visitors' area and, after Cahill nodded to the edge of the box, Khazri sent a spectacular 20-yard, right-foot volley flying into the back of the goal. But Sunderland's defense then gifted Chelsea a second goal in the third minute of added first-half time. Cesc Fabregas's speculative punt forward was headed on by Cesar Azpilicueta and Matic, who had scored just twice before in his Chelsea career, slipped the ball under the advancing Vito Mannone.

Chelsea weathered a spirited start by Sunderland and, with Eden Hazard and Fabregas increasingly influential, continued where they had left off in the second half of Monday's 2-2 draw with second-placed Tottenham Hotspur

that assured Leicester City of the Premier League title. After nine minutes, Hazard pulled the ball back for Willian whose low shot was straight at Mannone and shortly after, a darting run to the by-line by Fabregas ended with a dangerous cross which was well defended by Kone.

That was part of a passage of play that included Hazard sparking the move that led to Cahill setting up Costa for the opener and, given their record of not having beaten Chelsea at home for 16 years, Sunderland appeared in trouble. Sunderland had a glimmer of hope as Yedlin started a move which ended with Defoe crossing to the far post where the full-back's downward header was blocked by Courtois. But, in a swift response, Costa came within inches of doubling his and Chelsea's tally as he slid in to try to meet Branislav Ivanovic's low cross, just failing to make contact in front of an open net.

Costa might have wrapped up victory for Chelsea early in the second half, following a defense-splitting pass from Hazard, but he shot directly at Sunderland goalkeeper Mannone. The Spain international was guilty of a similarly bad miss just after the hour when Fabregas and Hazard combined to play him into an unmarked position only for the striker to hurry his shot straight at Mannone. The key Sunderland goals soon followed and, while Mannone had to make an excellent one-handed save to keep out a Willian free-kick in the 74th minute, there was little else to trouble the home side. — AFP



**BIRMINGHAM:** Newcastle United's Dutch midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum (right) vies with Aston Villa's Senegalese midfielder Idrissa Gueye during the English Premier League football match between Aston Villa and Newcastle United yesterday. The game finished 0-0. — AFP

## GAYLE'S DOUBLE ENSURES CRYSTAL PALACE SURVIVAL



**LONDON:** Crystal Palace forward Dwight Gayle struck twice to clinch a 2-1 win over Stoke yesterday that guaranteed the FA Cup finalists will avoid relegation from the Premier League. Alan Pardew's side knew a draw would be enough to secure their top-flight status and allow them to focus on their first FA Cup final appearance for 26 years against Manchester United at Wembley later this month. Initially it seemed they might have to wait until the last weekend of the season to ensure their survival as Charlie Adam opened the scoring for Stoke in the first half at Selhurst Park. But Gayle equalized two minutes after the interval and struck again midway through the half to secure only Palace's second win in 20 league games.

Palace began in lively fashion and Yohan Cabaye's deflected free-kick fell just wide. But Stoke, now winless in their last six matches, absorbed the pressure and former Liverpool midfielder Adam stunned opened the scoring in the 26th minute. Giannelli Imbula picked out Marko Arnautovic and he laid the ball on for Adam, who slotted past Palace goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey for his first goal of the season. Palace had little response and a ripple of boos rang out at the half-time whistle, but the home fans were in better spirits two minutes into the second half.

Joe Ledley replaced injured French midfielder Cabaye and the hosts were back on level terms when Yannick Bolasie twisted one way then the other before the ball fell kindly for Gayle to fire home. Palace were suddenly back in charge and Jason Puncheon shot just over after a neat flick from Gayle before Connor Wickham's header grazed the woodwork. They took the lead in the 68th minute

after Gayle, fouled by Ryan Shawcross, dusted himself down to curl a fine free-kick past Stoke goalkeeper Jakob Haugaard. Stoke's best chance of an equalizer fell to Arnautovic, but after he rounded Hennessey, he blasted over the bar with the goal at his mercy. — AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE		
Tottenham v Southampton	15:30	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Manchester City v Arsenal	18:00	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Liverpool v Watford	18:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
SPANISH LEAGUE		
Barcelona v RCD Espanyol	18:00	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Celta de Vigo v Malaga	18:00	beIN SPORTS
Las Palmas v Athletic de Bilbao	18:00	beIN SPORTS
Real Madrid v Valencia	18:00	beIN SPORTS 7 HD
Real Sociedad v Rayo Vallecano	18:00	beIN SPORTS
Villarreal v Deportivo La Coruna	18:00	beIN SPORTS 5 HD
Sevilla v Granada	18:00	beIN SPORTS 13 HD EN
Getafe v Sporting Gijon	18:00	beIN SPORTS
Levante v Atletico de Madrid	18:00	beIN SPORTS 9 HD
SD Eibar v Real Betis	18:00	beIN SPORTS
ITALIAN LEAGUE		
Roma v Chievo Verona	13:30	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Atalanta v Udinese Calcio	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Fiorentina v Citta di Palermo	16:00	beIN SPORTS 4 HD
Sampdoria v Genoa	16:00	beIN SPORTS 10 HD
Frosinone Calcio v Sassuolo	16:00	beIN SPORTS 9 HD
Carpi v SS Lazio	16:00	beIN SPORTS
Hellas Verona v Juventus	21:45	beIN SPORTS 2 HD
Torino v Napoli	21:45	beIN SPORTS 4 HD

## BOURNEMOUTH, WEST BROM LIMP OUT OF RELEGATION ZONE



**BOURNEMOUTH:** Matt Ritchie scored eight minutes from time as Bournemouth came back to draw 1-1 with West Bromwich Albion at the Vitality Stadium yesterday. Salomon Rondon put the visitors ahead but Craig Gardner had a

penalty saved and Ritchie came off the bench to ensure a share of the spoils. Both teams are safe from the threat of relegation and end the weekend level on points with West Brom, in 15th place, above the Cherries on goal difference.

Bournemouth won away to Tony Pulis's side earlier this season but they came into this, their penultimate match of the campaign, having suffered five defeats in six games. And it was West Brom who went in front in the 16th minute, Venezuelan forward Rondon using his strength to hold off Steve Cook and head home a cross by Jonny Evans. They were handed a glorious chance to double their lead shortly before half-time when Tommy Elphick was adjudged to

have fouled Gareth McAuley in the box but Gardner's resulting spot-kick was turned onto the bar by Artur Boruc.

The Polish goalkeeper then saved from Cook's attempted clearance as Bournemouth scrambled the ball clear. That proved to be a pivotal moment in the game as Eddie Howe's men fought back to secure a draw in the second half thanks to Ritchie's intervention. Not long on, the Scotland winger headed in after Albion's Claudio Yacob had helped on a throw in. Craig Dawson struck the woodwork as the Baggies went in search of a winner, but they have now collected just three points from a possible 24 since beating Manchester United in early March. — AFP

## FOUR-GOAL SWANSEA TROUNCE WEST HAM



**LONDON:** Swansea City all but ended West Ham United's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League with a stunning 4-1 away win at Upton Park yesterday. The Welsh club, hit by injuries and with little to play for having long been assured of Premier League survival, were 3-0 up inside 51 minutes courtesy of goals from Wayne Routledge, Andre Ayew and Ki Sung-Yeung. West Ham, in their penultimate match at Upton Park before moving to the Olympic Stadium next season, pulled a goal back when Diafra Sakho's effort was finally put through his own goal by Swansea's Stephen Kingsley. Yet far from being the cue for a Hammers revival, it was Swansea who scored again courtesy of substitute Bafetimbi Gomis's stoppage-time effort.

Defeat left sixth-placed West Ham, now just two points in front of Southampton, with a pair of tricky season-ending matches against Manchester United and Stoke City in their quest to assure themselves of at least a place in next term's Europa League. Hammers playmaker Dimitri Payet was narrowly off target with two free-kicks and it was Swansea who opened the scoring in the 25th minute. Ki collected the ball on the left and passed to Kyle Naughton on the right and, with the Hammers defense out of position, his cross was turned in by the unmarked Routledge. West Ham should have equalized when Lukasz Fabianski flapped at a

Payet corner but Angelo Ogbonna shot over the top from in front of an open goal.

Worse followed for the home side when Swansea, six minutes after going 1-0 up, scored a second goal that was similar in its creation to their opener. This time Kingsley raced past Victor Moses and his cross gave Ayew a tap-in. Six minutes after half-time Swansea made it 3-0, Modou

Barrow cutting the ball back for South Korea's Ki to slot home. West Ham eventually had a goal in the 69th minute when Sakho, via a deflection off Kingsley, stabbed in the rebound at the second attempt after Fabianski had saved Michail Antonio's header. But the Hammers conceded another goal late on when Gomis, after good work by Ayew, beat Darren Randolph. — AFP



**LONDON:** West Ham United's Senegalese midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate (left) vies in the air with Swansea City's Dutch midfielder Leroy Fer during the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Swansea City yesterday. — AFP



# Sports

Murray downs Nadal to book Masters final



Middlesbrough return back to Premier League



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CAMEROON'S EKENG DIES DURING ROMANIAN LEAGUE GAME Page 18



LEICESTER: Leicester players pose with the Premier League trophy after winning the league and the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and Everton at the King Power Stadium central England yesterday. — AFP

## VARDY BRACE CROWNS LEICESTER TITLE PARTY



**LEICESTER:** Jamie Vardy scored a brace and missed a penalty as new Premier League champions Leicester City comfortably defeated Everton 3-1 yesterday ahead of their trophy presentation ceremony. Vardy, banned for Leicester's two previous games, struck in each half at a jubilant King Power Stadium, with Andy King also on target, and

would have had a hat-trick had he not blazed a second-half penalty over the bar. But personal milestones were of secondary importance on a day when players, staff and supporters of the modest east Midlands club, who narrowly escaped relegation last season, united in joyous celebration of their 5,000-1 title triumph.

Fans were treated to a pre-match performance by renowned Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli, who prompted roars of approval from the flag-waving home support by removing his jacket to reveal a blue Leicester shirt as he sang. Steve Worthy, a lifelong Leicester fan, was due to present the trophy to captain Wes Morgan following the game after winning a competition arranged by league sponsors Barclays. The 25kg trophy

has been decorated with ribbons of blue, for Leicester, and yellow, representing the royal house of Thailand, home country of club owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha.

Leicester play their final game of the season next Sunday at outgoing champions Chelsea, the former club of inspirational manager Claudio Ranieri, before an open-top bus parade in Leicester on May 16. Second-place Tottenham Hotspur's 2-2 draw at Chelsea last Monday, which gave Leicester the title, sparked a week of celebrations in the city and fans arrived at the stadium several hours before kick-off yesterday to drink in the moment. Supporters formed a snake-like queue for blue team jerseys stamped with a gold and white "Premier League Champions 2015-16" sleeve badge, while

souvenir scarves, flags and programs were eagerly snapped up from stalls around the ground.

### Vardy closes on Kane

Bright sunshine gave way to heavy spring downpours as kick-off approached, but the atmosphere inside the stadium remained fervent. The sell-out 32,140 crowd witnessed a stirring pre-match performance by Bocelli, who fulfilled a promise to Ranieri by singing 'Nessun Dorma' and 'Time to Say Goodbye'. Everton's players gave their opponents a guard of honor as they emerged onto the pitch and it took Leicester less than five minutes to go ahead as Vardy converted King's lofted cross for his 23rd goal of the campaign. King made it 2-0 in the 33rd minute,

sweeping home right-footed after Riyad Mahrez's jinking run into the box was halted by Leighton Baines.

Vardy added a third 20 minutes after the interval, drilling a penalty past Joel Robles after he had been fouled by Matthew Pennington. It would have been a hat-trick, but after Jeff Schlupp had been poleaxed by fellow substitute Darron Gibson, Vardy blazed his second penalty into the stand, prompting a shake of the head and a rueful smile. Kevin Mirallas replied late on for Roberto Martinez's Everton, who slipped one place to 12th in the table. Vardy now has 24 goals for the campaign, one behind Tottenham's Harry Kane in the race for the Golden Boot, while Leicester lead Spurs by 10 points ahead of the London club's meeting with Southampton today. — AFP

## BAYERN WIN RECORD FOURTH STRAIGHT BUNDESLIGA TITLE

**BERLIN:** Robert Lewandowski netted twice as Bayern Munich became the first club to win four German league titles in a row yesterday with a 2-1 victory at Ingolstadt. The result means Bayern have now won the Bundesliga title in each of Pep Guardiola's three years in charge in Munich before he leaves to coach Manchester City next season. Second-placed Borussia Dortmund's 1-0 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt left Bayern an insurmountable eight points clear at the top of the table with one game left.

Bayern's title triumph comes just four days after the heartbreak of their Champions League semi-final exit at the hands of Atletico Madrid. Bayern took the lead at Ingolstadt's Audi-Sport Park when Franck Ribery was fouled by home captain Marvin Matip in the area and Lewandowski drilled home the resulting spot-kick on 15 minutes. The Poland hot-shot, the Bundesliga's leading scorer, then added his second when he drilled home Xabi Alonso's superb pass from a tight angle for his 29th league goal of the season.

Ingolstadt's Australia striker Mathew Leckie was denied by Manuel Neuer but the hosts pulled a goal back on 42 minutes when Moritz Hartmann converted a penalty after a push from behind from Alonso. Meanwhile, Dortmund suffered their first league defeat of 2016 as they lost at relegation-threatened Frankfurt, who climbed out of the bottom three. Eintracht took a deserved lead when Stefan Aigner headed home a cross from Japan's Makoto Hasebe on 14 minutes after Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Buerki had already pulled off two reflex saves.

Fourth-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach are set to qualify for next season's Champions League after their 2-1 comeback win at home to Bayer Leverkusen as Andre Hahn scored both of their goals. Chile midfielder Charles Aranguiz, who has spent most of the season out with an Achilles tendon injury, put Leverkusen ahead in the first half



INGOLSTADT: Bayern Munich's Brazilian defender Rafinha (center) and his teammate celebrate with a paper mock up of the Bundesliga trophy after the German first division Bundesliga football match between FC Ingolstadt 04 and FC Bayern Munich yesterday. — AFP

before Andre Hahn struck either side of the break for Gladbach. Sixth-placed Hertha Berlin lost ground in their fight for the Champions League when they lost 2-1 at home to Darmstadt, whose striker Sandro Wagner scored the winner against his ex-club and was then sent off for a second booking.

Schalke stay on course for a Europa League place after their 1-1 draw at home to Augsburg while Wolfsburg broke their seven-match winless streak, dating back to March, Luiz Gustavo heading

in the only goal in the 1-0 victory over Hamburg. At the other end of the table, VfB Stuttgart are in pole position to join Hanover 96 in the second tier after their 3-1 defeat at home to European hopefuls Mainz left them second from bottom. Werder Bremen dropped to 16th, which means a promotion-relegation play-off at the end of the season, after their goalless draw with Cologne. Relegated Hanover picked up only their seventh win of the season when Japan midfielder Hiroshi Kiyotake slotted home to sink Hoffenheim 1-0. — AFP

## UNITED EYE TOP FOUR



**NORWICH:** Juan Mata's second-half strike secured Manchester United's 1-0 win at Norwich City yesterday to keep the visitors' top-four hopes alive and severely dent the Canaries' chances of retaining their Premier League status. A cagey match at Carrow Road was settled by Mata's side-foot finish in the 72nd minute after a pass from Wayne Rooney. Victory kept United in fifth place, a point behind Manchester City, who welcome third-placed Arsenal to Eastlands on Sunday.

Norwich though are in serious trouble. They have lost four games in a row, without scoring in any of them, and it is that lack of goals which could ultimately prove costly. The Canaries have faltered at the worst possible time, winning just two of their last 16 league games and losing 12. Norwich next face Watford at home before a season-closing trip to Everton a week on Sunday, while FA Cup finalists United finish their league program against West Ham United and Bournemouth. United were dealt a blow ahead of kick-off as 15-goal striker Anthony Martial suffered an injury in the warm-up and was replaced by Ander Herrera. Rooney was the focal point in a re-shaped United attack as Van Gaal deployed a 4-2-3-1 formation. But Norwich, who had previously won just one of their last seven home league games, began at break-neck speed.

Roared on by thunderous support at Carrow Road, the hosts created the first chance of the match. With just three minutes on the clock, lively winger Nathan Redmond tricked his way beyond Michael Carrick and his perfect cross was headed firmly towards goal by Cameron Jerome but saved by the legs of United goalkeeper David de Gea. United, already without midfielder Marouane Fellaini following his violent conduct suspension for elbowing Leicester City's Robert Huth, were forced into another change when left-back Matteo Darmian was stretched off and replaced by teenager Cameron Borthwick-Jackson following a clash with Norwich's Ivo Pinto.

Darmian's injury looked serious and the Italian could be a doubt for the European Championship in France starting in June. Redmond has only scored once for Norwich this season but the former Birmingham City winger was easily their most creative player and provided the crucial link between an ultra defense-minded midfield and striker Jerome. The Norwich duo though couldn't penetrate the United rearguard and for large parts Van Gaal's men were comfortable in the East Anglian sunshine.

United didn't offer too much going forward. The excellent Carrick probed from deep while Mata flitted in and out of the game and Rooney was mostly shackled by Norwich defenders Sebastian Bassong and Russell Martin. Norwich struggled in the second half as United cranked up the pressure and squeezed Alex Neil's team deeper towards their own penalty area. Neil made his tactical move just after the hour as he introduced striker Dieumerci Mbokani to partner Jerome up front in a 4-4-2 formation. — AFP



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Zimbabwe to print local 'US dollar' as cash crunch bites

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Oil market bullish on supply disruptions

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KFH bags 'International Volume Growth Cross Border 2015' award

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## RENAULT AL-BABTAIN SPONSORS FRENCH SCHOOL CARNIVAL

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OAKLAND: A sailboat makes its way past the container ship MSC Ivana as she is unloaded at the Port of Oakland in Oakland, Calif. — AP

## BURGAN BANK GROUP ANNOUNCES 2016 Q1 EARNINGS

CONTINUOUS SOLID GROWTH IN ALL BUSINESS LINES • UNDERLYING NET INCOME REACHES KD19.1M

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank Group announced yesterday its first quarter of financial year 2016 results. A solid underlying performance, balance sheet growth and asset quality improvement characterized the group's performance in the first quarter amid the complexity in the regional operating environment. During the first quarter, underlying net income (net income excluding precautionary provisions) reached KD19.1 million despite complex regional operating environment. Reported net income for the first quarter attributed to equity holders of the bank is KD14.3 million and earnings per share is 4.4 fils.

During the first quarter and compared to the same period last year, net interest

income grew 7.4 percent to reach KD40.6 million from KD37.8 million reported. Non-interest income dropped mainly due to the reduction in net gains from foreign currencies which dropped to KD1.7 million from KD 7.7 million. As a result, operating income and operating profit before provisions remained flat and reported at KD57.1 million and KD30.2 million respectively. Balance sheet continued to grow, total Assets grew to KD 7.1 billion from KD6.8 billion in 2015. Capital position is strong where CET1 is 10.7 percent while Capital adequacy ratio under Basel III is percent16.4 as of March 31, 2016.

Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of Burgan Bank Group said: "2016 started with high volatility in capital markets that negatively

affected the sentiment across all levels, despite this, we see Burgan Bank group again emerging as a resilient organization with a solid business performance"

"The solid underlying performance of Burgan Bank group despite the slowdown in its two subsidiaries in Algeria and Iraq proves the diversifications benefits that Burgan Bank Group is reaping," added Al-Ajeel.

"Asset quality continued to improve, non-performing assets (net of collateral) at 1.4 percent while coverage ratio (net of collateral) reached 328 percent," added Al-Ajeel. Al-Ajeel also said: "Our leading financial indicators continue to point to the right direction. I remain confident and optimistic of the

group's strong performance going forward." "On behalf of the board, I take this opportunity to thank our customers and shareholders for their confidence in our capabilities and our regulators; the Central Bank of Kuwait, for their support. I would also like to thank our executive management team for their leadership and the excellent execution of the corporate strategy, and to our staff for their continued support and commitment," concluded Al Ajeel.

The consolidated financials encompass the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, and its share from its regional subsidiaries, namely Burgan Bank Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad and Tunis International Bank.



Chairman of Burgan Bank Group Majed Essa Al-Ajeel

## TRUMP RECOVERY PLAN A RECKLESS IDEA: EXPERTS

**WASHINGTON:** In the event that the US economy crashed, Donald Trump has floated a recovery plan based on his own experience with corporate bankruptcy: Pay America's creditors less than full value on the US Treasuries they hold.

Experts see it as a reckless idea that would send interest rates soaring, derail economic growth and undermine confidence in the world's most trusted financial asset.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee suggested in a phone interview Thursday with CNBC that he would stimulate growth through borrowing. If trouble arose, he added, he could get investors to accept reduced payments for their Treasury holdings. Trump later clarified that comment to say he would offer to buy the bonds back at a discount from investors in hopes of refinancing them at lower rates. "I would borrow, knowing that if the economy crashed, you could make a deal," Trump told CNBC.

Such a move, never before attempted by the US government, would likely spook investors whose trust in Treasury notes keeps global financial markets operating. The need to refinance would likely cause interest rates to spike as investors demanded a greater return for the perceived risks of non-payment. More tax dollars would have to go toward repaying the debt. Many investors would shift their money elsewhere. And the economy could endure a traumatic blow.

"It seems Trump is planning to try to run the country like one of his failed business ventures, and that does not bode well," said Megan Greene,



HARTFORD: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign event in Hartford, Connecticut. — AP

chief economist at Manulife.

The move would also end a policy introduced during the presidency of George Washington - and celebrated in the Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway musical "Hamilton" - to pay full face value on the debts incurred by the country. The government's unflinching payments of its debt have long pleased investors and supported the economy because the country can borrow at lower rates than it otherwise could. "Defaulting on our debt would cause creditors to rightly question the 'full faith' commitment we make," said Tony Fratto, a former Treasury Department official in George W. Bush's administration. "This isn't a serious idea - it's an insane idea."

Trump has touted his acumen for restructuring

four of his companies under bankruptcy laws. When Trump Hotels & Casinos finished a 2004 bankruptcy reorganization, it cut \$500 million off \$1.8 billion in debt and reduced the interest rate to 8 percent from 15 percent.

### Risk of default

"I don't think it's a failure; it's a success," Trump told The Associated Press at the time. But countries function differently from businesses. Nations usually print their own money and service their debt through taxes, unlike corporations that can sell off assets and equity stakes to manage debt or close up shop. Interest rates would spike if a government refused to pay what it owed as investors priced in the risk of default and became resistant toward lending.

"It would make a bad situation worse and increase US borrowing costs on its debt going forward because we would have lost our credit rating," said Chad Stone, chief economist at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Publicly held US debt is \$13.8 trillion, and taxpayers will devote likely \$255 billion to interest payments this year. The market largely sets interest rates on the debt, based in part on Federal Reserve policy. The yield on a 10-year Treasury note is about 1.8 percent, a figure that would shoot up if Trump pursued this strategy. This would cause debt payments to climb at a precarious moment for the federal budget when Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid costs will likely increase the need to borrow. — AP

## GREECE CALLS FOR EUROZONE APPROVAL OF REFORM PACKAGE

**ATHENS:** Greek Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos called on eurozone countries yesterday to approve his economic reforms and warned of the price of a "failed state" if crucial talks next week ran aground.

"Nobody should believe that another Greek crisis, leading perhaps to another failed state in the region, could be beneficial to anyone," Tsakalotos said in a letter seen by AFP. His move came ahead of Monday's meeting of eurozone finance ministers which Athens hopes will help unlock the next tranche of its 86 billion euros (\$95 billion) bailout agreed in July.

"What Greece now needs is a clear statement, of measures... which will help investor confidence that Greece has turned the corner, and that country risk has (finally!) been removed from the agenda," Tsakalotos said in a letter to the eurozone finance chiefs. Despite months of discussions, Greece's reforms have yet to win the backing of all its creditors largely due to differences between the European Union (EU) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has sought to push through a controversial package of pension and tax reforms ahead of Monday's meeting as part of a number of painful measures demanded by the EU and IMF in exchange for the bailout. "The reform on pensions, currently in parliament, addresses in a radical way the sustainability of the system

over the long run," said Tsakalotos. Greece has been paralysed since Friday by a 48-hour general strike called by trade unions to protest the government's reforms.

"My government has kept to both the spirit and the letter of our summer agreement," wrote Tsakalotos, referring to the July deal. Next week's meeting was initially scheduled for last month but was cancelled amid disagreements between Athens and the IMF, which has demanded more reforms.

Tensions between Greece's creditors were also exposed on Friday in a letter obtained by AFP from IMF chief Christine Lagarde urging eurozone finance ministers to move the much-stalled talks on to the question of debt reduction. The issue is pressing ahead of a huge Greek payment to the European Central Bank (ECB) due in July, with fears growing that it could default if the issue is not resolved.

Lagarde stressed the need to revise down the goal of Greece achieving a primary budget surplus of 3.5 percent of GDP in 2018, saying it was "counterproductive" to expect Athens to meet the target.

The IMF also warned there were "significant gaps" in Greece's reform offers. Greece's budget deficit has ballooned as it struggles to keep up with mammoth debt payments, which the IMF believes is unsustainable. — Agencies





**HARARE:** Zimbabweans wait in a long line to withdraw cash in Harare. Severe shortages of US dollars that are used as local currency have forced many residents into cash hunter-gatherers. Long lines are frequent outside banks where tellers limit daily withdrawals to \$200. — AP

## ZIMBABWE TO PRINT LOCAL 'US DOLLAR' AS CASH CRUNCH BITES

PLAN TO REINTRODUCE TARNISHED ZIMBABWEAN DOLLAR DENIED

**HARARE:** Zimbabweans formed long queues outside banks as a cash shortage prompted the government to announce plans to print a local version of the US dollar and limit withdrawals.

The government adopted US and South African currencies in 2009 after hyperinflation which peaked at 231 million percent rendered the national currency unusable as the country's economy collapsed. A recent shortage of foreign notes led Reserve Bank Governor John Mangudya to unveil a raft of radical measures on Wednesday, including limiting withdrawals to \$1,000 or 20,000 South African rand per day. Mangudya said that the central bank would also print its own dollar-equivalent bond notes "which are currently at the design stage" to ease the cash crunch.

Mangudya denied the new banknotes

were a step towards re-introducing the tarnished Zimbabwe dollar, but the plan was still criticized by some experts.

"This is extremely damaging to the interests of everyone and very dangerous to the economy," independent economist John Robertson told AFP in Harare.

"It won't be long before this becomes another inflation story. People will refuse to be paid their wages in bond notes. Shops will not accept them as they cannot be used to restock (from abroad). I am hoping that the government can be talked out of it."

Bond coins were introduced in Zimbabwe in 2014 to tackle the problem of small change.

The new notes in denominations of \$2, \$5, \$10 and \$20 will play a similar role, acting as tokens.

### Zim dollar to return?

They will be backed by a \$200-million support facility provided by Afreximbank (Africa Export-Import Bank), the government said. "This does not signal the reintroduction of the Zimbabwe currency," Mangudya said. "The fundamentals are not yet right for its comeback. This is just a measure to curb illicit flows out of the country." Economists blame the cash shortage on a trade deficit which saw the country's import bills standing at \$490 million in the first quarter against \$167 million in exports. Apart from limits on withdrawals, the amount of cash that can be taken out of the country per trip has been cut from \$5,000 to \$1,000.

In the queues outside the banks, tempers were running high. "I am supposed to be at work but here I am queuing since yesterday," said Monique Fore, 39, a bursar at a school in Harare. "It's becoming embarrassing explaining to my landlord that I can't withdraw money to pay rent."

In some cases, banks have limited the amount that can be taken out to \$200 well below the maximum set by the government.

Shadreck Mafukeni, a 57-year-old carpenter working for a furniture manufacturer, said his salary had been deposited in the bank on Tuesday but he had been unable to withdraw any money.

"I need to pay rent, my children's school fees and I also need to repay debts to several people I owe money. I have used the little money I had at home on the bus fare. If I don't get money today, I will walk back home."

Zimbabwe once removed 12 zeros from its battered currency at the height of hyperinflation in 2009 when the largest note was the \$100 trillion denomination. State-sanctioned seizure of white-owned farms starting in 2000 left the agricultural sector in ruin, and triggered a sharp economic slowdown, with mass unemployment, emigration and many business closures.

President Robert Mugabe, 90, has ruled the country, which relies on imports for even basic commodities, since independence in 1980. — AFP

## SPAIN'S RAJOY ASKS BRUSSELS TO FORGO DEFICIT FINE: REPORT

**MADRID:** Spain's acting prime minister Mariano Rajoy has asked Brussels to waive a fine that could be imposed on the country for missing its deficit target in 2015, El Pais newspaper reported yesterday.

Citing a letter sent to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, El Pais said Rajoy had stressed Spain's efforts in the past four years to halve the public deficit, and offered up additional measures to control spending next year. A source with the Spanish government confirmed the existence of the letter, though said it contained information that had already been sent to Brussels on Spain's latest plans to bring the deficit down.

The European Commission declined to comment. The Commission is in charge of policing the budgets of the EU's 28 members to make sure they improve each year in line with recommendations set by finance ministers. The rules were sharpened in 2011 to make financial sanctions for rule-breakers more automatic and harder to circumvent through political alliance-building as had happened in the past.

Spain missed its 2015 target of cutting the deficit to 4.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), after overspending by regions and a social security revenue shortfall pushed it up to 5 percent.

The Commission is considering penalising Spain as well as Portugal for missing their goals. Officials have told Reuters the fines - which would be unprecedented -

could be symbolic and be set at zero percent of GDP, though even that would ramp up political pressure. Spain's deficit tussle comes at a sensitive time for Rajoy's acting centre-right government, which faces a second election in six months after an inconclusive ballot last December which stripped the People's Party (PP) of its majority.

The PP has tried to sell itself as a safe pair of hands on the economy, after the country emerged from a deep recession under its administration. The new election is now set for June 26. The Commission is due to issue its recommendations on whether or not to fine Spain and Portugal later this month, though the size of any fine may not be announced until after the vote, El Pais said.

The maximum penalty is up to 0.2 percent of GDP, or 2.16 billion euros (\$180 million) in the case of Spain. Brussels is also expected to give Spain more leeway to whittle its public deficit below its recommended 3 percent threshold, through an extension of one or even two years, sources have said. By exercising better controls on regional spending and helped by an economic rebound, Spain aims to bring the deficit down to 3.6 percent this year - instead of the 2.8 percent originally envisaged - and sees it standing at 2.9 percent in 2017. Brussels has projected the deficit will reach 3.8 percent of GDP this year and 3.1 percent in 2017. — Reuters

## S&P UPGRADES TURKEY OUTLOOK

**PARIS:** Standard and Poor's upgraded its outlook for Turkey's credit rating on Friday, judging the prospects for the nation's economy to be stable despite political instability that may dampen growth and reform plans. The end to the negative outlook on the BB+ foreign currency rating, one rung below an investment grade, came a day after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's plans to consolidate power advanced with the resignation of Ahmet Davutoglu as prime minister.

"The stable outlook reflects our expectation that Turkey's economic growth prospects will remain resilient to external shocks and domestic political risks," Standard and Poor's said in a statement.

It noted the Turkish economy has weathered several challenges including increased domestic violence after the collapse of the peace process with

Kurdish militants, two general elections and a sharp drop in the value of the lira.

Standard and Poor's said it expects Turkey's economy to grow by 3.4 percent this year, down from 4.0 percent in 2015. It raised the rating outlook despite acknowledging it expects "heightened political uncertainty in 2015 to spill over into 2016, and this could also dampen economic growth prospects this year."

The ratings agency said it also expects that "the implementation of the ambitious medium-term economic program for 2016-2018 is likely to stall in 2016, in our view, due to the president's focus being directed more toward bringing about constitutional change with the end goal of achieving an executive presidency." Among the risks to the Turkish economy it identified are weak tourism, an increase in oil prices, and a rise in the deficit. — AFP

## KUWAIT OIL PRICE DOWN 75 CENTS TO \$38.71PB

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait oil price went down 75 cents on Friday, reaching \$38.71 per barrel (pb) against \$39.46 pb last Thursday, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) said yesterday. In

international markets, oil prices also jumped associated with investors' worries over shortage of supplies on the short term following Canada wildfires in Oil-Sands Region. — KUNA

## ABE: YEN SURGE THREATENS JAPANESE COMPANIES

**LONDON:** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that "drastic fluctuations" in the yen's value risked having a major impact on the trade prospects of Japanese companies. Abe said the current situation was "not desirable", during a visit to London. The yen surged to an 18-month high against the dollar after the Bank of Japan decided last week not to unveil any fresh stimulus.

On Thursday afternoon, the dollar was at 107.13 yen, still way down from above 111 yen before the BoJ announcement. A strong currency is damaging for Japan's exporting giants, such as Toyota and Sony, as it makes their goods more expensive overseas and shrinks the value of repatriated profits.

"Any drastic fluctuation on the exchange rate will have a major impact on the trade of Japanese companies, which is not desirable," Abe told a press conference in London.

Such trade-reliant companies "will receive a lot of impact if abrupt change in the rate occurs. It is not favorable. At the forex market, excessive volatility or disorderly moves could give adverse impact and therefore the stability in the currency rate is important.

"We need to carefully watch these movements of exchange rate and as necessary we would like to respond." Abe is on a tour of European capitals ahead of hosting the Group of Seven summit on May 26 and 27 in the Ise-Shima region between Tokyo and Osaka. "There may be discussion as necessary" at the G7 summit on exchange rates, he said. Japan last intervened in currency markets around November 2011, when it tried to stem the yen's rise against the dollar to keep an economic recovery on track after the quake-tsunami disaster earlier that year. — AFP

## EGYPT EXTENDS SUSPENSION OF CAPITAL GAINS TAX

**CAIRO:** Egypt has extended the suspension of a capital gains tax on the stock market until May 2017. The decision, announced Wednesday on state news agency MENA, was attributed to Deputy Finance Minister Amr Munir, who said the move was to improve investor confidence and maintain tax stability.

The government suspended the tax last May, saying the move was part of economic reforms aimed at improving the investment climate. The 10 percent tax on capital gains had been approved in a law a year earlier by President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sissi, fueling a sell-off by investors. — AP

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.815
Indian Rupees	4.546
Pakistani Rupees	2.876
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.071
Nepali Rupees	2.837
Singapore Dollar	223.610
Hongkong Dollar	38.867
Bangladesh Taka	3.846
Philippine Peso	6.418
Thai Baht	8.607
Malaysian Ringgit	75.887

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.483
Qatari Riyal	82.905
ani Riyal	783.914
Bahraini Dinar	801.510
UAE Dirham	82.175

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.250
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.359
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	2.111
Tunisian Dinar	151.960
Jordanian Dinar	425.040
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.011
Syrian Lira	2.151
Morocco Dirham	32.090

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	301.650
Euro	348.100

Sterling Pound	440.110
Canadian dollar	238.180
Turkish lira	106.400
Swiss Franc	317.190
US Dollar Buying	300.450

#### GOLD

20 Gram	260.220
10 Gram	133.025
5 Gram	57.970

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	301.900
Canadian Dollar	234.060
Sterling Pound	436.275
Euro	345.405
Swiss Frank	294.660
Bahrain Dinar	798.680
UAE Dirhams	82.435
Qatari Riyals	83.650
Saudi Riyals	81.185
Jordanian Dinar	425.285
Egyptian Pound	33.901
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.072
Indian Rupees	4.528
Pakistani Rupees	2.878
Bangladesh Taka	3.840
Philippines Peso	6.369
Cyprus pound	575.020
Japanese Yen	3.810
Syrian Pound	2.370
Nepalese Rupees	3.825

Malaysian Ringgit	76.225
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.795
Thai Bhat	9.570
Turkish Lira	103.200

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.431882	0.440882
Czech Korune	0.004790	0.016790
Danish Krone	0.042469	0.047469
Euro	0.0340852	0.0348852
Norwegian Krone	0.033057	0.038527
Romanian Leu	0.076969	0.076969
Slovakia	0.008972	0.018972
Swedish Krona	0.033353	0.038353
Swiss Franc	0.308604	0.318804
Turkish Lira	0.100543	0.110843
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.217953	0.229453
New Zealand Dollar	0.201625	0.211125
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.231745	0.240245
US Dollars	0.297550	0.302050
US Dollars Mint	0.298050	0.302050
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003427	0.004001
Chinese Yuan	0.045015	0.048515
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036778	0.039528

Indian Rupee	0.004305	0.004695
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002729	0.002909
Kenyan Shilling	0.002989	0.002989
Korean Won	0.000251	0.000266
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072578	0.078578
Nepalese Rupee	0.002874	0.003044
Pakistan Rupee	0.002659	0.002939
Philippine Peso	0.006361	0.006641
Sierra Leone	0.000073	0.000079
Singapore Dollar	0.219267	0.225267
South African Rand	0.014520	0.0232020
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001689	0.002269
Taiwan	0.009203	0.009383
Thai Baht	0.008267	0.008817

<b>Arab</b>		
Bahraini Dinar	0.793564	0.801564
Egyptian Pound	0.029677	0.034795
Iranian Riyal	0.000083	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000191	0.000251
Jordanian Dinar	0.421446	0.428946
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000149	0.000249
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020712	0.044712
Nigerian Naira	0.001242	0.001877
Omani Riyal	0.777087	0.782767
Qatar Riyal	0.082145	0.083358
Saudi Riyal	0.079553	0.080503
Syrian Pound	0.001278	0.001498
Tunisian Dinar	0.148155	0.156155
Turkish Lira	0.100543	0.110843
UAE Dirhams	0.081147	0.082296
Yemeni Riyal	0.001363	0.001443



# HOW TO MAKE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JOB SEARCH WORK FOR YOU

## BAYT.COM WEEKLY REPORT

**O**ne effect of any economic downswing is the overwhelming surge of working professionals attempting to migrate towards countries that are economically and politically stable in their hunt for job security, competitive salaries, career progression, and an overall better quality of life. But what is the right way to go about finding a job and relocating to your preferred country when you live in another?

Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give you five tips to make a long-distance relationship with job search work for you:

### 1. Identify the countries you should target

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region comprises of over 20 countries with different climates, socio-

political structures, rules and regulations. Allot the time to look closely at the values, background and culture of these countries, and pick the ones where you think you would best acclimate to in the short and long run. Bear in mind your relocation purposes should not only be centered on your professional growth and development, but also your personal development and well-being. Bayt.com has a wellspring of research reports that can give you an idea of how suitable each MENA country would be for you, such as the Top Cities in the MENA survey and the biannual Middle East Job Index survey.

### 2. Apply for the right industries

Economic situations differ from country to country. The Bayt.com Middle East Salary Survey 2015 shows

that professionals working in Kuwait, for example, are amongst the highest paid in the region but that does not necessarily apply to all industries in Kuwait. On the other hand, the Bayt.com Middle East Job Index Survey (February 2016) reveals that the 'construction' industry (33%) attracts and retains the best talents in Kuwait. The bottom line is: Make sure you are on top of regional HR news and all happenings in the regional job market by consulting relevant HR research reports regularly. Bayt.com offers a plethora of detailed HR reports on a regular basis, check [www.bayt.com](http://www.bayt.com) for more.

### 3. Network wisely and make connections

Not being in your desired country of employment does not imply you cannot

network with professionals who are living and working there. Bayt.com Specialties is the perfect place to not only boost your professional status, but also network and share information with an online community of over 24 million job seekers and 40,000 employers (many of whom could be based in your targeted country of employment).

### 4. Opt for a smart follow-up strategy

You've applied for the job and fired away your CV and cover letter, and the waiting game has started. Now what? Here's what you need to do: Call your targeted employer and ask the operator very politely for the contact details of the HR person concerned, and then invest in the time and effort to call/email the HR person in order to follow up on your application and express your

interest in a phone or video interview at their convenience.

### 5. Prepare for your phone/Skype interview

A phone/ video interview is no different than a face-to-face interview. Once your interview date and time are set, make sure you take the time to research the company, its products and the job itself. Chances are you'll probably get asked by your prospective employer why they would want to hire you. So make sure you have a list of what differentiates you, and what you could immediately and uniquely bring on board that someone else can't. Be on time, be truthful and professional and do not shy away from asking questions that help you better understand the nature of the job and the employer's expectations.

## CANADA OIL OUTPUT SLASHED DUE TO ALBERTA WILDFIRE

**MONTREAL:** The Alberta forest fire has forced Canadian oil producers to slash output by one million barrels a day, dealing a fresh blow to the oil-dependent economy, analysts said Friday.

The immense fire ravaging the area around Fort McMurray, the center of the country's massive oil sands deposits, has sent tens of thousands of workers and their families fleeing and compelled the producers in the region to shut down operations. The production cuts correspond to about a quarter of the country's entire production, and a third of Alberta's, and mean a loss of tens of millions of dollars per day in income.

The fire disaster adds another blow to the economy after the crash in the price of oil, Canada's principal export. "It is now estimated that up to one million barrels a day of Canadian production has been taken offline," said oil analyst Matt Smith of ClipperData.

An estimated 100,000 people have been evacuated from Fort McMurray, a city built up on the oil sands mining industry.

Suncor, which produces more than 400,000 barrels a day in the area, has closed its principal operations north of Fort McMurray. Shell Canada, with 250,000 barrels a day of production in Albion, 95 kilometers (55 miles) north of Fort McMurray, has also

shut production. Mark Ward, the chief executive of Syncrude, said that the group had completely shut down operations north of the city. "The safety of our people and facilities is our greatest priority as we deal with the devastating effects of the forest fires," he said in a statement. "That's why Syncrude and all the oil sands operators in northern Alberta are safely reducing operations and staffing to minimum levels."

The forest fires have spread since the beginning of the week to surround the oil operations and Fort McMurray, a city of 100,000. Rachel Notley, the Alberta premier, said Thursday that the infrastructure for the industry had not been destroyed. The industry will be well-positioned to restore production once the fire has been brought under control, she said.

Jackie Forrest, vice president of energy research at Arc Financial, told CBC television that she expected that production could be ramped up "fairly quickly." "You have the facility and there's a lot of incentive to get the production back online," she said.

But the fire has destroyed office buildings and homes in and around the city, so many support businesses and services for the oil industry could be lost. "Many people will not have jobs to go back to," said Forrest. — AFP



MasterCard handing over the award to KFH.

## KFH BAGS 'INTERNATIONAL VOLUME GROWTH CROSS BORDER 2015' AWARD

MASTERCARD RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has won the "International Volume Growth Cross Border 2015" award from MasterCard for demonstrating outstanding performance in promoting innovative electronic payment solutions. This is in continuation of an award received last year from MasterCard for "Outstanding Performance".

The award was presented to the bank by Raghu Malhotra, President, Middle East and Africa, MasterCard, at a ceremony held recently in Kuwait, which was attended by KFH's executive team including Mohammed Nasser Al-Fouzan, Consultant to Group Chief Executive Officer; David Power, Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer; and Julio Lobo, Group Deputy General Manager Cards.

Lauding KFH for its efforts in promoting payment cards usage locally and worldwide, Raghu Malhotra said, "KFH has demonstrated a consistent keenness for embracing the latest technology and innovation in the world of payments, backed by a robust commitment to bring the benefits of cashless payments to consumers across Kuwait through targeted marketing and

customer outreach programs." Noting that the world is fast moving towards a digital future, Malhotra said that KFH has a proven track record in driving electronic payments adoption in Kuwait. "KFH has launched a plethora of innovative marketing campaigns aimed at encouraging customers to use their electronic payment cards when making purchases locally or overseas," he added.

Meanwhile, Consultant to Group Chief Executive Officer at KFH Mohammad Nasser Al-Fouzan said that the award from MasterCard confirms the efficacy of KFH's products and services in line with the latest technology. He said, "KFH spares no effort to keep up with the evolution of payment technology and is committed to employing every available innovation to further the interests of the bank and its customers. Technology is a key pillar for our growth and plays an important role in providing us with the ability to optimally serve our customers and deliver services that match the highest international standards in terms of speed, security and accuracy."

He added that it is part of KFH's strategy to

support the needs of retail businesses while enabling customers to conduct all their transactions online. For his part, David Power, Group Chief Retail and Private Banking Officer stressed KFH's keenness to continuously reinforce the value of its banking cards and utilize technology to more efficiently meet changing client requirements. He added that KFH is delighted to continue its collaboration with MasterCard to jointly explore innovative solutions that deliver a superior payment experience for customers.

He continued, "KFH prepaid and credit cards allow customers to enjoy unprecedented discounts and benefit from a nation-wide banking network, not to mention 24/7 service and support. With KFH, credit and prepaid cardholders enjoy 3D Secure for safe and secure online transactions, as well as other features such as SMS service and E-statements for cards."

It is worth noting that the criteria of awarding KFH is based on the volume growth of KFH cards usage cross border, embracing the latest technology and innovation in the world of payments and the efficacy of KFH's products and services in line with the latest technology.

## ABK WINS AFRICA REGIONAL 'DEAL OF THE YEAR' AWARD

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait's (ABK) was recently awarded the prestigious regional 'Deal of the Year' by The Banker, an FT affiliate, for the strategic acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt (PBE).

ABK completed its acquisition of PBE in November 2015; a transformational milestone in the history of the Bank and a major investment in its growth, which expanded ABK's presence to a core market in the region, with 39 established branches in Egypt.

Commenting on this prestigious award, Michel Accad, ABK's Chief Executive Officer, said: "It is a great honor to receive the 'Deal of the Year' award for the acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt. We are proud of this strategic step, which is helping transform ABK into a regional player, and we are grateful that this transaction has been recognized by such a distinguished financial publication".

"I would like to thank the judging panel for this outstanding recognition. Very special thanks go to our colleagues and associates at both Banks for their diligence and hard work in making this acquisition a success". ABK's expansion to Egypt is one major step forward towards diversifying the Banks business profile and extending its regional connectivity. The new identity will be rolled-out over the



entire 39 branch network in the first half of 2016. For more information on Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait please visit [www.eahli.com](http://www.eahli.com) or contact an ABK a customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

## HOW CLINTON, TRUMP MADE THEIR FORTUNES AND SPEND THEM

**WASHINGTON:** A look at the personal wealth portfolios of Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican candidate Donald Trump, how they earned their money over the years and the lifestyles they spend it on.

### CLINTON:

Clinton and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, left the White House in 2000, a year that she later described as so financially perilous they were "dead broke." The Clintons cited legal bills and other liabilities between \$2 million and nearly \$11 million. But within just one year, according to tax and disclosure records, they had wiped out all that debt, earning nearly \$12 million. It was the start of an infusion of wealth that enriched the couple by more than \$200 million over 15 years - and nearly \$140 million since 2007.

The Clintons leveraged public service, celebrity status, book-writing, consulting and a whirlwind of lucrative speeches that took them across the country and around the world on behalf of corporations, foundations, trade groups and even some foreign governments. Bill Clinton blended private appearances and consulting with his work promoting the family's global charity, the Clinton Foundation. Hillary Clinton ran for the presidency in 2008, lost to Barack Obama, became his secretary of state for four years then joined her husband at the foundation and on the lecture circuit, earning \$22 million by herself in three years.

Their largesse has provided the trappings of a glamorous life. The Clintons own well-appointed houses in the suburbs of New York and in the nation's capital. They hold a sole mutual fund worth

between \$5 million and \$25 million. They are regulars at Caribbean resorts and New York's exclusive Hamptons beachfront. Hillary Clinton's three-year speaking tours often came with premium travel - flights on private jets, luxury "presidential" hotel suites and transportation and accommodations for the retinue of loyal aides who traveled with her, according to her contract demands.

### TRUMP:

Though Trump's \$10 billion estimate of his own fortune is viewed skeptically by outside appraisers, he's a safe bet to be the wealthiest American ever to

be the presumptive nominee from a major political party, richer even than Republican Mitt Romney. Just as surely: He won't let anyone forget it.

"I'm really rich," Trump said last June in announcing his presidency. Trump has also made the entirely plausible claim last year that, "I have a Gucci store that's worth more than Romney."

Trump has described himself as a largely self-made man who parlayed a \$1 million loan from his father into an empire worth billions. Trump's eventual inheritance was far larger than that, however, and Trump relied on his father's loan guarantees for his formative real estate and casino deals. — AP



**NEW YORK:** Bill and Hillary Clinton stand in the driveway of their new home in Chappaqua, NY. Pick a president: New York multimillionaire or New York multibillionaire. — AP

## SURVEY: GROWTH AT US SERVICES FIRMS STRENGTHENED IN APRIL

**WASHINGTON:** A private survey says growth accelerated in April at US services companies, a potential positive for the economy after a sluggish start to 2016. The Institute for Supply Management said Wednesday that its services index climbed to 55.7 in April, the highest level this year. The increase follows a reading of 54.5 in March. Any level above 50 signals growth.

New orders and employment measures all advanced last month, showing a stronger pace of expansion. The rate of business activity slipped in April, although that measure also pointed to continued gains. The services index suggests that the economy might be improving slightly after an anemic opening to 2016. The US economy expanded at an annual rate of just 0.5 percent during the first three months of the year, the government reported last week.

"The increase in the ISM non-manufacturing index in April suggests that growth in the much larger service sector continues to strengthen," said Andrew Hunter, an assistant economist at Capital Economics, who said recent indicators point to the economy growing at a decent but unspectacular 2 percent this year.

In the first quarter, the pace of consumer spending slipped compared with the end of 2015, while business investment fell and the trade deficit subtracted

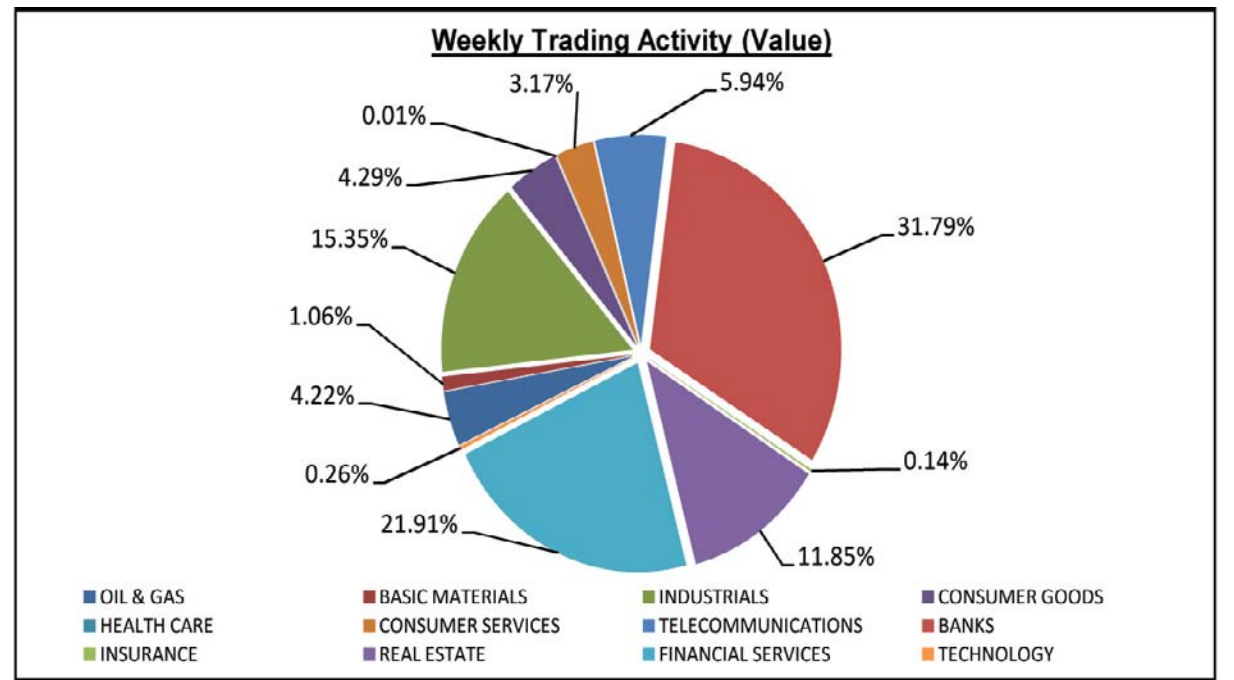
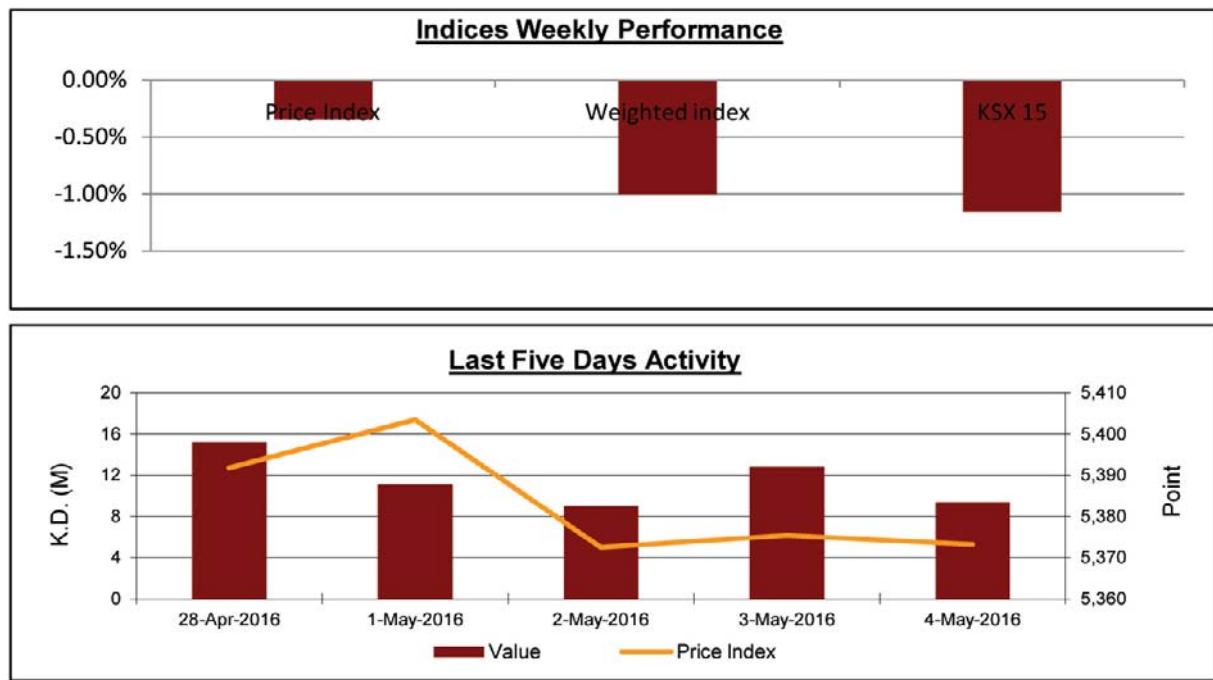
from growth. But steady job gains have prevented fears about the economy succumbing to the same level of financial turmoil that has recently gripped China, Japan, Brazil and parts of Europe. Employers have added 2.8 million jobs during the past 12 months, the hiring helping to provide a modest boost to household incomes that should support economic growth.

The employment report to be released Friday released by the government is expected to show job growth of 200,000 in April with the unemployment rate staying at 5 percent, according to a survey of economists. Still, payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that businesses added just 156,000 jobs in April, a slowdown from recent months.

There are signs that manufacturing has become less of a drag on growth, after factory activity contracted due to falling oil prices and a stronger dollar making American-made goods so expensive that exports were hurt.

ISM said in a separate report this week that manufacturing expanded in April, the second straight monthly improvement. The manufacturing index registered at 50.8 in April and 51.8 in March, after activity had been declining in the prior five months. The Commerce Department seconded these gains, reporting Wednesday that factory orders rose 1.1 percent in March. — AP





# KUWAIT STOCKS DROP ON PROFIT-TAKING

## BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,373.17 points, down by 0.35 percent from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 1 percent after closing at 362.61 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 853.35 points down by 1.16 percent. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 18.22 percent, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 10.55 million, whereas trading volume average was 124.71 million shares, recording a decrease of 22.33 percent.

The stock market indicators ended last week's activity, which were limited to four sessions, with different losses, under the control of the selling operations over the trading activity during most of the daily sessions of the week. The losses came in light of a fluctuated performance due to the active speculations and profit collection operations that were executed on many stocks, especially the large-cap ones, which caused the main indicators of the market to decline noticeably, especially the Weighted and KSX-15 indices. In addition, the losses recorded by the market indicators during last week, were expected after the increases realized by the market during the previous weeks.

As per the daily trading activity for Kuwait Stock Exchange for the last week, the three market indicators closings were mixed in the first session of the week, accompanied by a noticeable decline in the trading activity, especially the value, which recorded a drop of more than 25 percent, and the Price Index was able to increase by the end of the session supported by the continued speculative operations and the random purchasing operations executed on the small-cap stocks, especially the stocks of the companies that are expected to realize good gains for the first quarter period, while the Weighted and KSX-15 indices decreased as a result to the selling pressures that concentrated on a number of the leading stocks, which were made for profit collection purposes.

On the second session, the market performance was similar to the previous session, with changing positions, as the Price Index closed in the red zone affected by the quick profit collection operations that targeted some small-cap stocks, however the Weighted and KSX-15 indices were able to increase and compensate a part of its previous losses due to the random purchasing operations that included some leading stocks, among a continued contraction in the liquidity for the second consecutive session. On Tuesday's session, the Price Index returned to the green zone again and was able to realize limited increase supported by the quick speculations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks, whilst the Weighted and KSX-15 indices

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted Index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,373.17	362.61	853.35
	Previous week	5,391.81	366.28	863.33
	Change (Point)	-18.64	-3.67	-9.98
	Change (%)	-0.35%	-1.00%	-1.16%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-241.95	-19.09	-47.08
	Change (%)	-4.31%	-5.00%	-5.23%

declined affected by the profit collection operations, among a noticeable increase in the liquidity levels in the market, whereas it grew by 42.61 percent by the end of the session. Also, the three stock market indicators witnessed in the end of week session a mixed performance too, whereas the Price and Weighted indices declined to increase its weekly losses, and KSX-15 Index was able to realize limited increase to lighten its losses made since the beginning of the week, accompanied by a decreased trading activity.

The market capitalization for the KSE reached by the end of last week to KD 23.61 billion, down by 0.98 percent from its level in a week earlier, whereas it recorded KD 23.84 billion; on an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 6.55 percent from its value at end of 2015, where it recorded then KD 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 4.31 percent annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 5 percent, and the KSX-15 recorded 5.23 percent loss.

### Sectors' indices

Seven of KSE's sectors ended last week in the red zone, while the other five recorded increases. The Insurance sector headed the

losers list as its index declined by 3.44 percent to end the week's activity at 998.32 points. The Telecommunications sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 2.78 percent, closing at 613.66 points, followed by the Health Care sector, as its index closed at 966.69 points at a loss of 2.75 percent. The Financial Services sector was the least declining as its index closed at 586.71 points with a 0.10 percent decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 2.50 percent growth rate as its index closed at 992.55 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Oil & Gas sector's index closed at 794.24 points recording 1.50 percent increase. The Basic Materials sector came in third as its index achieved 0.93 percent growth, ending the week at 995.04 points.

### Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 196.12 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 39.32 percent of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 22.31 percent of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 111.29 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	498,823,721	802,796,428	-37.86%
Value (K.D)	42,209,890	64,518,269	-34.58%
Deals	12,508	18,846	-33.63%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
23,611,300,000	23,844,300,000	-0.98%	-6.55%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ENERGYH	55.00	43.00	12.00	27.91%
HUMANSOFT	1,060.00	930.00	130.00	13.98%
NINV	120.00	110.00	10.00	9.09%
MARAKEZ	26.00	24.00	2.00	8.33%
KFIC	38.00	35.50	2.50	7.04%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
YIACO	182.00	220.00	-38.00	-17.27%
FTI	40.00	48.00	-8.00	-16.67%
WETHAQ	33.00	38.00	-5.00	-13.16%
CABLETV	27.00	30.50	-3.50	-11.48%
ALIMTIAZ	69.00	77.00	-8.00	-10.39%

stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 13.42 million or 31.79 percent of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week

turnover was approx. KD 9.25 million representing 21.91 percent of the total market trading value.

—Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	40,775,225	8.17%	1,783,310	4.22%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,471,332	0.29%	449,469	1.06%
INDUSTRIALS	45,080,792	9.04%	6,481,163	15.35%
CONSUMER GOODS	15,256,014	3.06%	1,809,555	4.29%
HEALTH CARE	13,350	0.00%	2,379	0.01%
CONSUMER SERVICES	11,390,702	2.28%	1,338,663	3.17%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	32,900,060	6.60%	2,507,257	5.94%
BANKS	42,174,175	8.45%	13,419,984	31.79%
INSURANCE	1,002,571	0.20%	57,491	0.14%
REAL ESTATE	111,293,648	22.31%	5,000,650	11.85%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	196,123,583	39.32%	9,248,486	21.91%
TECHNOLOGY	1,342,269	0.27%	111,483	0.26%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	794.24	782.54	1.50%	-2.99%
BASIC MATERIALS	995.04	985.86	0.93%	0.88%
INDUSTRIALS	1,018.28	1,009.11	0.91%	-2.37%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,075.34	1,073.99	0.13%	-1.79%
HEALTH CARE	966.69	994.00	-2.75%	4.47%
CONSUMER SERVICES	911.40	924.43	-1.41%	-9.64%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	613.66	631.20	-2.78%	2.51%
BANKS	827.84	829.72	-0.23%	-8.74%
INSURANCE	998.32	1,033.92	-3.44%	-11.42%
REAL ESTATE	860.36	871.84	-1.32%	-8.55%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	586.71	587.27	-0.10%	-1.46%
TECHNOLOGY	992.55	968.30	2.50%	21.02%

# STOCKS SHAKE OFF EARLIER LOSSES TO CLOSE HIGHER

**NEW YORK:** US stocks closed modestly higher on Friday, ending three days of losses, after the US government's disappointing jobs report added to speculation that the Federal Reserve might keep interest rates low for another year.

Investors were also weighing tepid US earnings reports and persistent weakness in the global economy. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 79.92 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,740.63. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.51 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,057.14 and the Nasdaq composite rose 19.06 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,736.16.

The three major indexes ended the week slightly lower, despite Friday's gains. Stocks started the day lower after the Labor Department said US employers created just 160,000 jobs last month, significantly below the 200,000 that economists were expecting.

While one month does not make a trend, there have been a few reports this week from around the world that suggested weakness in the global economy. A closely watched Chinese manufacturing survey showed production contracted last month, and European Union officials trimmed their forecasts for growth across the 19 countries that use the euro.

### Evidence

"Once again, we received evidence that the US economy is just bumbling along and will most likely remain so until after the US presidential election," said Tom di Galoma, a managing director of fixed income at Seaport Global. As the day progressed, stocks turned higher in the early afternoon and stayed there the rest of the day. In a way, the bad news of the jobs report is good

news for stock market investors, who have benefited from more than seven years of extremely low interest rates. Low interest rates make stocks look cheaper when compared to bonds.

### WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

Di Galoma and others said that the April jobs report significantly reduces the possibility that the Federal Reserve will interest rates

in June or even later this year.

"In my view, a rate hike potential this year is nearing zero probability," he said. That view appears to be widely held. Fed fund futures, which are securities that allow traders to bet

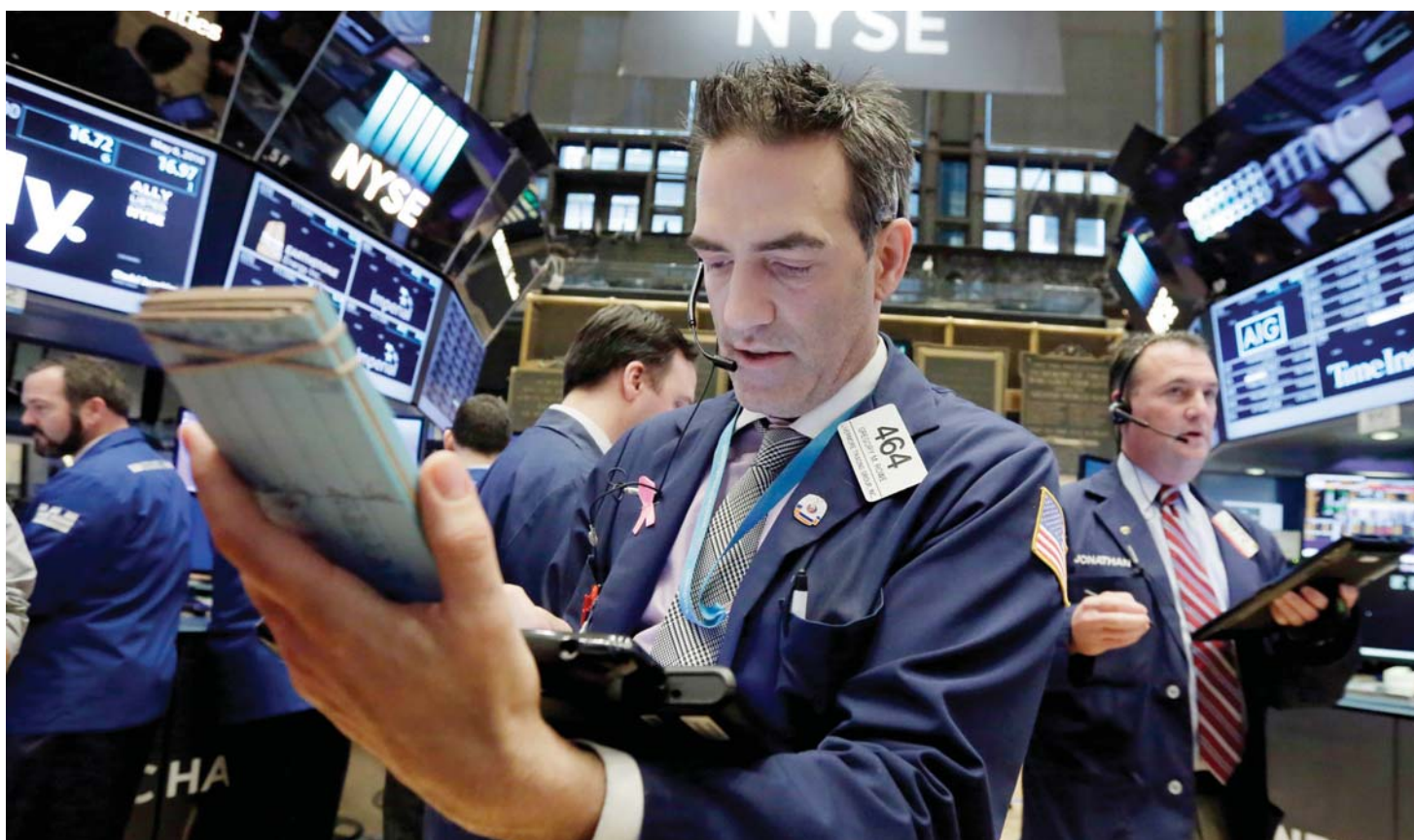
on which way the Fed will move interest rates, show that a majority of investors do not expect the Fed to raise rates until February 2017.

"The weakening of jobs growth, should it persist as we think it will, will make the Fed's job more challenging this year, and any rate hikes will occur at a much slower pace than originally anticipated at the start of the year, and may not happen at all," said Rick Rieder, BlackRock's chief investment officer of fixed income. Immediately after the release of the jobs report, bond prices jumped and interest rates moved sharply lower, but as the day wore on, the market reversed course. US government bond prices ended lower, and the yield on the benchmark US 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.78 percent from 1.74 percent the day before.

The euro rose to \$1.1401 from \$1.1398 and the dollar declined to 107.13 yen from 107.25 yen. In company news, payment processor Square sank \$2.83, or 22 percent, to \$10.22. The company, run by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey, reported a larger than expected quarterly loss and reported sharply higher expenses.

In commodities, benchmark US crude oil rose 34 cents to close at \$44.66 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, climbed 36 cents to close at \$45.37 a barrel in London. Wholesale gasoline rose less than 1 cent to \$1.496 a gallon, heating oil rose 1 cent to \$1.337 a gallon and natural gas rose 2.5 cents to \$2.101 per thousand cubic feet.

Gold rose \$21.70 to \$1,294 an ounce, silver rose 20 cents to \$17.53 an ounce and copper was unchanged at \$2.15 a pound. — AP



**NEW YORK:** Trader Gregory Rowe (center) works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday. Stocks were slightly lower in early trading on Friday after a report on the US economy showed a significant slowdown in hiring last month, echoing weakness seen earlier in the week in Europe and Asia. — AP



# OIL MARKET BULLISH ON SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS

**KUWAIT:** April saw oil markets shrug off the failed OPEC/Russia output freeze accord and propel prices to their biggest monthly gain since 2009.

April may come to be known as the month in which oil market sentiment turned perceptibly bullish. Shrugging off the failure of OPEC and Russia to agree on a production freeze, oil prices posted their largest monthly gain in 7 years in April. By the end of the

production at the 17 April meeting in Doha, markets took their cues from the supply disruptions that have come thick and fast since February. Among the largest oil producers to witness falls in output were Iraq (pipeline explosion), Nigeria (pipeline explosion/force majeure), Ghana (unplanned maintenance) and Kuwait (oil workers' strike).

The geopolitical risk premium, seemingly absent during oil's rapid descent from

## NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

under international sanctions. Temporary supply disruptions notwithstanding, upside potential is limited while crude supplies exceed demand, and US and developed world crude stocks continue to rise to record levels. Also, the onset of the refining season in the northern hemisphere could exert downward pressure on prices as refinery runs are scaled back and crude inventories accumulate further. Recent price trends bear a striking resemblance to the behavior of the oil markets this time last year, when prices embarked on a bull run to hit a 2015-high of \$67/bbl on 5 May only to fall back to \$42/bbl by the end of August.

### Demand and supply to balance

A more meaningful adjustment to the demand/supply dynamic is likely to come about after oil consumption peaks during the third and fourth quarters of the year and when non-OPEC production, especially US light tight oil production (shale), records further declines in output. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the market should reach equilibrium in 3Q16. The agency also estimates that by 4Q16, non-OPEC supply will have contracted by around 800,000 barrels per day (b/d). US shale production is expected to account for much of the fall.

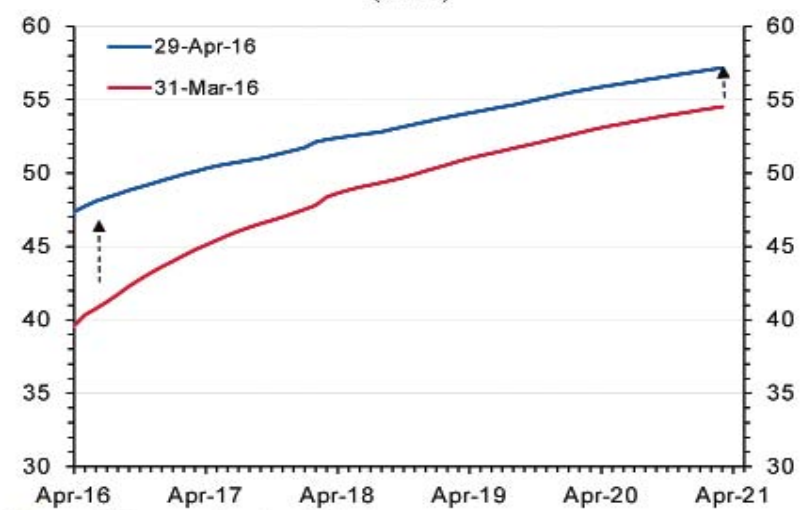
US crude production, which fell by 1 percent in 2015, was already down 3 percent, or 280,000 b/d, at 8.9 mb/d by 22 April of this year, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) noted. The increase in production efficiency that has come about despite sizable falls in drilling activity and capital spending by oil firms looks to be finally tapering off.

### Rising Iranian output

Overall OPEC production held steady at 32.2 mb/d for the second consecutive month in March, according to OPEC secondary source data. Output declines in

## Chart 2: ICE Brent forward price curve

(\$/bbl)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

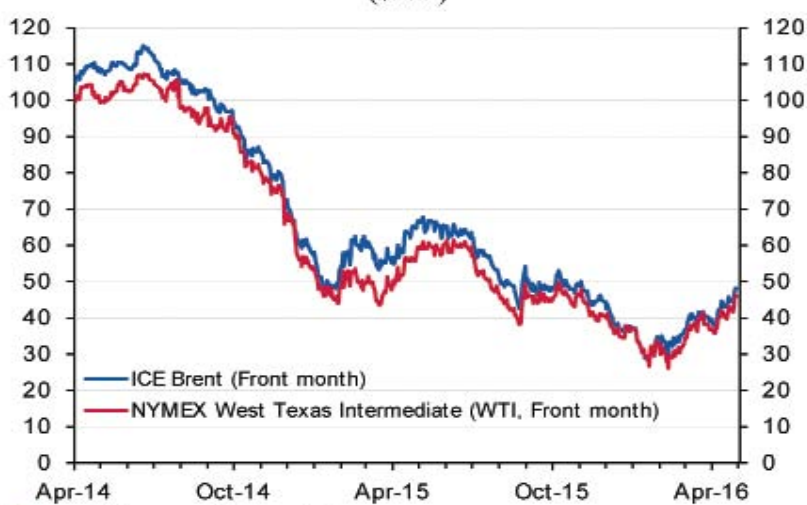
Nigeria and Libya due to supply disruptions and in the UAE as a result of maintenance were broadly offset by output gains in Iran and Iraq. Production in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait was unchanged from the previous month. (Note that official OPEC figures for April, the month in which Kuwait experienced its oil workers' strike, are yet to be published; they are expected to show a decline of around 100,000 b/d for Kuwaiti crude output in April.)

Unshackled by sanctions, Iranian production has been increasing at the rate of about 135,000 b/d a month in 2016. Output reached 3.3 mb/d in March, an impressive rise of 405,000 b/d year-to-date. This is still short of the 500,000 b/d that Iranian officials boasted could be brought online immediately post-sanctions. Nevertheless, Iran is only a few months away from reaching its pre-sanctions production capacity level of 3.6 mb/d. Its target of 4 mb/d, however, is unlikely to be attained without significant investment in view of the weakened state of the country's oil infrastructure.

Iran's refusal to countenance capping production before reaching its target of 4 mb/d proved decisive in the Doha negotiations. Iran, which did not attend the meeting, has consistently maintained that it would not be a party to any restrictions on its output while it presses ahead with its expansion plan. This has been its position since the temporary freeze agreement was first announced in February by Saudi Arabia and Russia. Yet, to the surprise of many, the meeting unraveled after Saudi Arabia refused to cap its production without assurances that regional rival Iran would follow suit. It was reported in the press that the Saudi delegation, led by former Saudi Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi, had failed to secure the approval of Deputy Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Salman. Only days earlier, the prince had given an interview stating that Saudi Arabia would not sign off on any output freeze that did not include Iran. Attention now shifts to OPEC's biannual meeting in June, when members will likely resume their discussion of production ceilings.

## Chart 1: Crude oil prices

(\$/bbl)



Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream

month, Brent crude, the international benchmark, had surged by almost 22 percent to close at \$48.1 per barrel (bbl)-its highest level since November 2015. Similarly, West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the US crude marker, ended the month 20 percent higher at \$45.9/bbl.

Since hitting 13-year lows in mid-January, oil prices have rallied by a remarkable 72 percent on the back of several bullish signals including the production freeze talks, supply outages among OPEC members, falling US shale production and a depreciating US dollar. Rather than dwell on the inability of OPEC and Russia to agree on restricting oil

\$115/bbl in mid-2014, appears to have surfaced as a factor in the projections of the oil market. The risk is all the more acute given the limited spare capacity available among oil producers. Otherwise, the collapse of the Doha talks and the prospect of unfettered crude supplies would have almost certainly led to a price rout.

While few expect a price collapse to be on the cards now, prices could, nevertheless, experience downward pressure over the next few months as OPEC production and exports rise over the summer and Iran continues to ramp up its output in order to reclaim the market share it lost while it was

# HIRING SLOWDOWN SIGNALS CAUTION FOR US ECONOMY

## COMPANIES RAISE PAY, EMPLOYEES WORK MORE HOURS

**WASHINGTON:** American employers signaled their caution about a sluggish economy by slowing their pace of hiring in April after months of robust job growth.

At the same time, companies raised pay, and their employees worked more hours - a combination that lifted income and, if sustained, could quicken the US expansion. As a whole, the government's report Friday pointed to an American job market that continues to generate steady hiring, though at a rate that may be starting to slow. Employers added 160,000 jobs in April, well below the average gain of 243,000 in the prior six months. But the unemployment rate remained a low 5 percent, roughly where it's been since last fall.

"Employment was never going to continue rising at more than 200,000 a month indefinitely," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, a consulting firm. "Those monthly gains are simply unsustainable" at a time of tepid economic growth. Over the past six months, the economy has expanded at an annual pace of just 1 percent. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some employers have become concerned that sluggish growth could weaken customer demand and limit the need for more employees.

Still, most economists said they were not worried about the weaker hiring in April. In large part, it reflected declines in retail and construction hiring, an expected pullback after hiring in those areas surged in the first quarter of 2016. And job gains have slipped before - most recently in January - without signaling any persistent slump.

"The figures are a yellow light, not a red flag," said Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at Glassdoor, an employment website. April's hiring slowdown may also reflect a long-expected shift to a more sustainable pace of job creation. The

job market has added 200,000-plus jobs a month for more than three years. That's harder to achieve once unemployment falls to 5 percent, consistent with a nearly recovered economy.

"The good news is that more people were employed, they worked longer hours and got paid more for it," said Robert Dye, chief economist at Comerica Bank.

The slowdown in economies in the United States and overseas has led to volatility in financial markets and complicated the Federal Reserve's plans to gradually raise interest rates.

Many analysts had expected the Fed to raise the short-term rate it controls as early as June. But Friday's figures may make that less likely. Market-based measures suggest that the Fed will raise rates just once this year. Its first hike in nine years occurred in December.

Jon Cooper, president of Spectronics, a maker of fluorescent dyes and ultraviolet equipment based in Westbury, New York, says weakness in China and Europe has posed problems for his business.

The company makes ultraviolet lights used in counterfeit detection and crime-scene investigations. Its dyes are used by automotive and industrial companies to detect leaks. Half of its sales are overseas.

"There's certainly headwinds blowing at us as the global economy slows," he said.

But the company still wants to hire more engineers, machinists and customer-service workers because newer products are offsetting losses overseas. Most of the economy's new jobs require higher education or skilled training. In April, workers without college degrees suffered job losses.

The unemployment rate for college graduates is now just 2.4 percent, less than half the national average. Employers have hired 2.3 million college graduates in the past 12 months

while letting go of 425,000 workers with a high school diploma or less. Despite last month's pull-back, hiring at April's pace should over time be enough to keep up with population growth and lower the unemployment rate, economists said.

It should also help heal some underlying scars from the Great Recession in part by encouraging people who had stopped looking for work to resume their job hunts, Chamberlain said.

For four straight months, strong hiring increased the proportion of adults who either had a job or were looking for one. That was an encouraging sign because it meant Americans were more optimistic about their prospects. But that figure dipped to 62.8 percent last month from 63 percent in March.

Higher-paying industries led the way in job growth in April. Professional and business services, which includes engineers, accountants and management consultants, added 65,000 jobs. Financial services added 20,000. That helped boost incomes: Average hourly pay rose 2.5 percent in April from a year earlier, above the sluggish 2 percent annual pace that has been typical for the past six years.

Iric Wexler, an executive at The Cleaning Authority in Columbia, Maryland, said lower unemployment has forced his company to raise pay to attract and keep workers. So far, the company has managed to raise prices to offset the costs.

In the meantime, the US job market is outperforming most of its counterparts overseas. The overall unemployment rate in the 19 European nations that share the euro currency, for example, is 10.3 percent. Japan's economy contracted in the final quarter of last year, though its jobless rate is also below that of the United States. China's growth slowed last year, but has shown signs of leveling off in 2016. — AP



Fozan Saud Al-Fozan



Faisal Al-Hamad

## NBK CAPITAL ADVISOR ON THE SALE OF MULTIBRANDS

**KUWAIT:** NBK Capital acted as the financial advisor on the sale of 100 percent of Multibrands Trading Company. Multibrands was established in Saudi Arabia in 2006 and is owned by Kuwaiti entrepreneur Fozan Saud Al-Fozan who has been active in the food and beverage (F&B) sector since 1982. Multibrands is considered one of the most successful F&B distributors in Saudi Arabia with over 50 premium brands and an annual turnover in excess of \$100 million. Multibrands was acquired by Gulf Capital, a leading alternative asset management firm based in Abu Dhabi.

Faisal Al-Hamad, Chief Executive Officer of NBK Capital, said: "this deal represents an important achievement that meets our client's strategy. We are thrilled to have contributed to the successful closing of this deal." Al-Hamad also added that "this transaction is in line with the strategy of Fozan Saud Al-Fozan and his group of companies which has been a leader in the F&B sector in MENA for 36 years, and is considered a successful model for other companies in the sector".

Fozan Saud Al-Fozan said: "We are very

pleased with the outcome of the transaction which has achieved the required returns and which represents an opportunity for us to tap into different sectors and international markets". He also added "we would like to thank NBK Capital for their exceptional role in completing this transaction, and for providing ongoing support to our strategic initiatives".

### About NBK CAPITAL

NBK CAPITAL is a leading regional investment company with offices in Kuwait, Dubai, Istanbul and Cairo. Established in 2005 as a wholly owned subsidiary of National Bank of Kuwait, the largest Kuwaiti bank and the highest-rated in the Middle East, NBK CAPITAL focuses on providing the highest quality products and services to its clients and investors. Through its dedicated team of more than 200 professionals, NBK CAPITAL offers a broad range of services including asset management, investment banking and brokerage and prides itself on a reach and scale that is global, a focus that is regional and a service level that always remains personal.

# JOB MARKET SLOWDOWN, RISING WAGES MAY FIT FED'S PLAYBOOK

**WASHINGTON:** A slowdown in US hiring coupled with a jump in wages last month dovetails with what the Federal Reserve expected as the economy approaches full employment and is not likely to alter its interest rate hike trajectory. The Labor Department reported on Friday that 160,000 jobs were added in April, short of the 215,000 expected by economists and below the recent monthly average of 200,000, tempering hopes of a strong economic rebound in the second quarter.

Although not a few investors viewed the report as a red flag for the Fed, some analysts said the data, especially if the rise in wages triggered higher inflation, could push the US central bank closer to hiking rates, perhaps as soon as June. Employment was never going to continue rising at more than 200,000 a month indefinitely. Those monthly gains are simply unsustainable," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist for consulting firm Capital Economics.

Indeed, Fed officials had since late last year warned of a slowdown in hiring, noting that monthly gains of 100,000 jobs would be adequate to keep the pace of economic growth aligned with population growth. Fed Chair Janet Yellen made that point in December.

Anything over that level would mean that labor market "slack" is still being absorbed. April's employment report, however, indicates remaining slack may be running out.

The labor force participation rate edged down, consistent with what Fed policymakers feel is a longer-term trend given the country's aging population. A recent rise in the labor participation rate had underpinned Yellen's argument that interest rates should be kept low to give sidelined workers more time to return to jobs, but was also viewed as likely to stall or reverse at some point.

### FOCUS ON INFLATION

The number of people working part-time for economic reasons, at just over 6 million, remains 50 percent above what it was before the 2007-2009 financial crisis and recession. But it has been stuck around that level for more than half a year, a sign that progress may have stopped or that employers have shifted some jobs permanently away from full-time status. Economic Policy Institute analyst Elise Gould is among those who believe that Friday's report should prompt the Fed to keep its powder dry until it is certain that the job market recovery

has been completed. The Fed raised rates in December for the first time in nearly a decade and its current projections call for another two hikes this year.

"There's no incentive for a rate increase in the near future," Gould wrote. The focus now turns to US inflation data due to be released at the end of this month. Yellen has said she is not yet convinced that recent signs of rising prices are evidence of a durable trend.

But some of the main "headwinds" holding back inflation, which remains below the Fed's 2 percent target, have seemingly begun to clear - oil prices are back above \$40 a barrel, the dollar has weakened against a basket of global currencies, and there are indications of wage growth.

Average hourly earnings rose eight cents, or 0.3 percent, in April, according to the Labor Department. "The 0.3 percent wage growth does say the pressures from the job growth we've seen are beginning to show up in wages and becoming more consistent from month to month," said Kate Warne, an investment strategist at Edward Jones in St. Louis. "If we are looking for reasons why the Fed is potentially still going in June, it is that wages really are starting to pick up." — Reuters

## FRENCH MISTRUSTFUL OF GOVT IN EU-US TRADE DEAL TALKS

**PARIS:** Nearly two thirds of French people say they don't trust the government to defend the country's interests in negotiations on a vast new EU-US trade deal, a poll published Friday showed.

Even more — 69 percent-lack confidence in the European Commission in the thorny talks with Washington aimed at sealing a pact that would create a free-trade zone covering 850 million people, according to the survey by the Ifop institute.

But over half of those questioned said they believed that unions, non-governmental organizations and associations were credible in fighting for their interests, the poll for Atlantic news website showed. Carried out between April 28 and May 2 among 1,003 people, the polling wrapped up the day before President Francois Hollande warned that Paris would reject the trade deal "at this stage" because the country opposes "unregulated free trade."

Washington and Brussels want the Transatlantic Trade and Investment

Partnership (TTIP) completed this year before US President Barack Obama leaves office, but it has faced mounting opposition on both sides of the Atlantic.

Environmental pressure group Greenpeace on Monday released a trove of leaked documents about the closed-door negotiations, claiming that a deal would inflict a dangerous lack of standards on US and European consumers. The French survey indicated that 68 percent of those questioned believed that US companies would be the big winners of the mega-deal, while only 32 percent judge it will be an asset for French firms.

Some 48 percent said a TTIP deal constitutes a threat for French workers. A poll in neighboring Germany earlier this week also showed that people in the eurozone's biggest economy were increasingly wary of the trade pact, with some 70 percent saying it would bring "mostly disadvantages". Chancellor Angela Merkel has voiced hopes for a deal by year-end. — AFP





## RENAULT AL-BABTAIN SPONSORS ANNUAL CARNIVAL FOR FRENCH SCHOOL IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, the authorized dealer of Renault in the state of Kuwait, was determined to sponsor the annual carnival La Kermesse which was organized by the French school of Kuwait.

This sponsorship is proof of Renault Al-Babtain's diligent efforts in making a mark in various activities in the country and for it to be well placed within all segments of the Kuwaiti society.

The carnival included approximately 30 games and activities for all age groups, including interactive and fun attractions. The French schools' students participated in the yearly event and won rewards for their participation in the raffles included in the carnival.

This is not the first time Renault Al-Babtain has sponsored this carnival, but has taken the same steps multiple times in past years, and is the only car dealership in Kuwait that has participated in the event alongside other sponsors from different sectors.

Through this sponsorship Al-Babtain emphasizes their continuation in the implementation of a road map drawn up for itself since the start, and that is to look for any possibility of social responsibility that's

long been considered a part of its slogans. For its part, Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain is keen to interact with the Kuwaiti society, not only through the different types of events, but also through the launch of the best deals to give their customers the utmost satisfaction. In addition to the central purpose of being in continuous communication with them, this is reflected in the best of forms in the after-sales service, especially that the company is aware that its relationship with its customers is not only limited to sales, but extending beyond that.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948 to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication and to gain bright reputation in Kuwait and the Middle East area.

Today Al-Babtain Group Today Al-Babtain Group has licensing rights for some of the world's leading brands stretching the globe from the USA to the Far East.

For more than 60 years Al-Babtain Group has experienced continued success, and large measure of this success came from the Group's advanced flexible management style and long term vision. These astounding results were achieved due to a versatile strategic for-

mula focusing on growth amongst its sphere of activities; including automotive, technology, investment, information, industrial and Finance.

The automotive sector is the main structure of the Al Babtain Group's business, which owns some of the best selling and demanded brands in Kuwait, in addition to heavy equipments.

The Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co. and Trading and Contracting Company is proud to be the exclusive agent and distributor of many Japanese, Chinese, and European (French) vehicles in Kuwait such as Nissan, Renault, Citroen, Infiniti.

For more information about Al Babtain Group please visit: [www.babtain.com](http://www.babtain.com)

Please visit the Instagram: @renaultkw

For more press information on Renault please call:

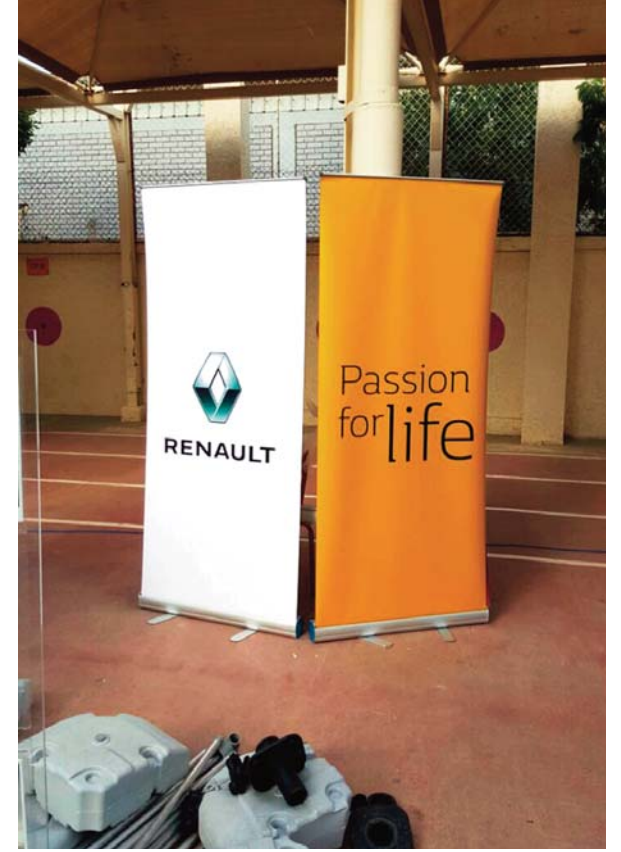
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Top KSE Islamic Stocks in terms of Market Capitalization (MC)						
Stocks	Current Week	Previous Week	Chg.	% of MUDX	Weekly Volume	YTD-Gain
Kuwait Finance House @	2,401.58	2,451.61	-2.0%	37.4%	11,277,445	-3.5%
Boubyan Bank @	877.40	899.06	-2.4%	13.7%	1,810,784	-2.2%
Ahli United Bank @	727.59	727.59	0.0%	11.3%	269,440	-11.9%
Kuwait Telecommunications Co. @	494.41	509.39	-2.9%	7.7%	426,324	0.0%
Kuwait International Bank @	215.76	203.32	6.1%	3.4%	3,805,065	-4.0%

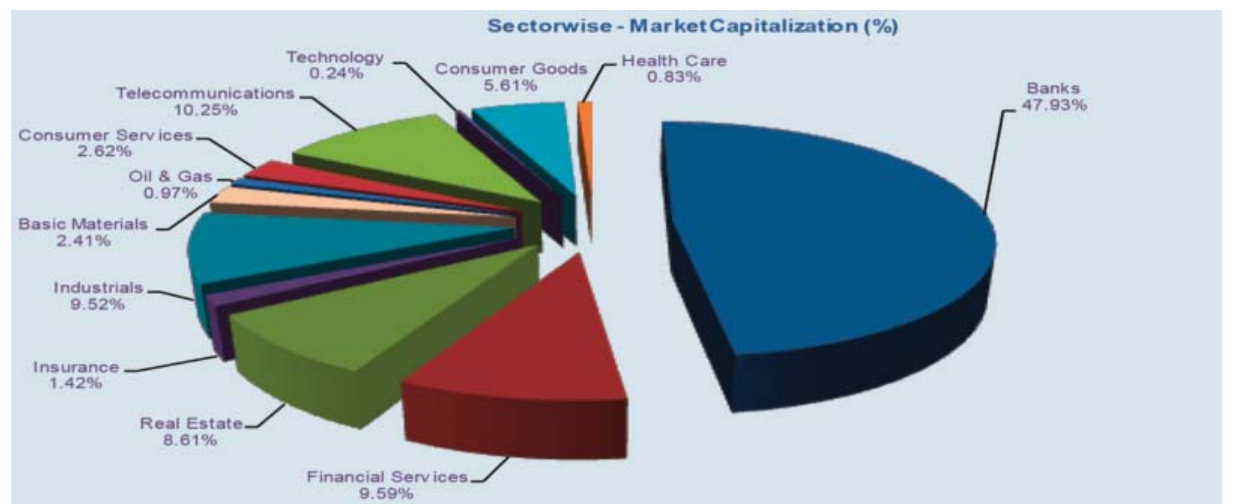
Most Active Stocks	Current Week ('000 Share)	Prev. Week ('000 Share)	Chng	% Total Mkt	YTD-Turnover	Price Stats- Weekly		
						Current	Prev.	Chng
Sokouk Holding Co. @	31,197	30,403	2.6%	6.25%	63.3%	0.038	0.041	-7.3%
Hits Telecom Holding Co. @	29,714	21,746	36.6%	5.96%	25.7%	0.037	0.037	1.4%
Gulf Petroleum Investment Co. @	28,737	15,935	80.3%	5.76%	69.0%	0.042	0.043	-2.4%
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	22,065	30,843	-28.5%	4.42%	44.0%	0.049	0.047	3.2%
Boubyan International Industries Holding	18,923	18,171	4.1%	3.79%	115.9%	0.031	0.030	1.7%

Weekly KSE Statistics				
Key Parameters	Current	Previous	Chg.	%
Volume (Million Share)	498.82	802.61	(303.79)	-37.9%
Value (KD Million)	42.21	64.50	(22.29)	-34.6%
Deals ('000)	12.51	18.84	(6.33)	-33.6%
Market Cap (KD Bln)	24.87	25.12	(0.25)	-1.0%

Market Movers			
Advance	Decline	Unchanged	Not Traded
51	62	33	41



Note: Indices are re-based on 1,000 as of last week's closing.



Weekly Indices Performance & their Volatility						
Indices	Current	Week-end Stats		Chg (%)	Volatility	
		Previous	Change		Current	Previous
KSE Price Index	5,373.17	5,391.81	(18.64)	-0.35%	4.68%	7.22%
MUDX	523.87	529.72	(5.85)	-1.10%	1.76%	3.99%
KSE Weighted	362.61	366.28	(3.67)	-1.00%	5.69%	6.06%
KSX15	853.35	863.33	(9.98)	-1.16%	11.62%	8.21%

Top 3 Gainers	C. Mkt Cap	Pr. Mkt Cap	Change %	% Total Mkt	Price Stats- Weekly	
					Current	Previous
The Energy House Co. @	41.25	32.25	27.91%	0.166%	0.055	0.043
Human Soft Holding Co. @	129.57	113.68	13.98%	0.521%	1.060	0.930
National Investment Co.	105.15	96.38	9.09%	0.423%	0.120	0.110

Islamic Stock @ Compatible Islamic Stock Market Cap is in KWD million. Market Prices are in KWD

## KSE WITNESSES A BUOYANT WEEK

### KFH Capital Weekly Market Report

**KUWAIT:** This has not been a positive week for the indices as KSE price index closed down 0.35 percent, 5,373.17 down 18.64 points compared to the week before. As for the MUDX it also decreased 1.10 percent to close at 523.87 for the week down 5.85 points. KSE Weighted was also down decreasing 3.67 points to close at 362.61 down 1 percent to the previous week. While the market blue-chip index the KSX15 witnessed a decrease of 9.98 points to close at 853.35 down 1.16 percent.

Stock markets in the Gulf traded with a weak bias after oil prices slipped again and global markets pulled back because of concern about lackluster growth and creeping deflation. Brent crude oil witnessed a decrease to reach \$45.03.

The reported weekly volumes were 498.82 million shares compared to 802.80 million shares in previous week a decrease of 37.9 percent in share trading. Among the major contributors again the Financial Services Sector (contributing 39.34 percent) witnessed 196.12 million shares of trading compared to 318.28 million shares in the previous week down 38.38 percent on a weekly basis, while Real Estate Sector (contributing 22.32 percent) witnessed 111.29 million shares of trading compared to 257.04 million shares in the previous week was also down 56.70 percent on a weekly basis.

The overall Market Cap was down by 1 percent as it stood at KD 24.87 billion. As for the blue chips National Bank of Kuwait - NBK (Mcap - KD 3.54 billion) saw its market cap stable for the week. Moreover, Kuwait Food Co - Americana (Mcap - KD 964.80 million) saw its market cap move down by 0.83 percent. While Kuwait Projects Co - KIPCO (Mcap - KD 795.72 million) saw its market cap decrease by 1.82 percent.

On a positive note, Human Soft Holding Co - HUMAN-SOFT (Mcap - KD 129.57 million) saw an increase of 13.98 percent following three weeks of above average gains. The Energy House Co - ENERGYH (Mcap - KD 41.25 million) was up 27.91 percent on a weekly basis having published positive financial result.

On the total market breadth, of the 56 Islamic companies, 18 advanced while 20 declined during the week. The Islamic universe market cap witnessed a decrease of 1.29 percent in its market cap to close at KD 6.42 billion. The universe heavyweights like Kuwait Finance House - KFH (Mcap - KD 2.40 billion) saw a decrease of 2.04 percent in its market cap. While Boubyan Bank (Mcap - KD 877.40 million) also saw a decrease of 2.41 percent in its market cap. Ahli United Bank - AUB (Mcap - KD 727.59 million) was stable during the week. Kuwait Telecommunications Co (Mcap - KD 494.41 million) was down 2.94 percent.



## MEET THE NEXT SPORT OF THE MODERN AGE: DRONE RACING

**HAWTHORNE:** Decked out in high-tech goggles, pilot Steve Zoumas dives low and sees the final gate zooming toward him: a 20-foot-tall metal-framed box ringed with neon. Boom! His sight goes black. The crowd lets out a collective "Whoa!" as pieces of his aircraft, which has just smashed into a concrete barrier, go flying. Zoumas is just fine, though; it's his drone that's toast. The pilot takes off his goggles and crosses to the pilots' lounge for the replay.

Once again his quadcopter drone, a buzzing machine roughly the size of a loaf of bread, zooms daringly around obstacles and through hairpin turns; once again, it meets its demise. "I was pushing it that lap," says Zoumas, a 31-year-old construction company owner. "I just wanted to put on a show for the crowd." Welcome to drone racing, a would-be sport in which men, and a few women, fly remote-controlled drones against competitors at up to 80 miles per hour along looping courses with hairpin curves and drops.

Many races take place in open fields, but here, racers and spectators have gathered in an abandoned, rubble-strewn mall set up with course-marking gates across two floors. Fans sit on bleachers behind protective mesh, passing around antenna-equipped goggles to see the pilot's view. Big-screen TVs show off unique camera angles while glowing copters whizz by, emitting the high-pitched hum of weed whackers on steroids.

## 'Flying Bear'

Racing is a labor of love for many pilots. Many are born tinkers, and spend hours customizing their drones with new parts or building them from scratch. Some say they've spent more than \$10,000 on frames, motors, batteries, propellers and camera mounts. Ken Loo, a 31-year-old pilot known as "Flying Bear," says he and his wife even put off having kids so he can spend more time racing. He says he'd give up his high-paying Silicon Valley job in a heartbeat if he could figure out how to fly drones for a living.

Of course, that's the sticking point. Drone racing is still something of a guerrilla sport, even though ESPN has agreed to air a drone special on its ESPN3 channel this fall. Money is tight, and most pilots have to keep their day jobs. While high-profile races such as the World Drone Prix, held in Dubai last March, pay out as much as \$250,000 to the winning pilot, such affluence feels very distant here in the shell of the Hawthorne Plaza mall. That could change if drone racing hits it big, attracting a mass audience and the sponsors who want to sell them stuff. Serial entrepreneur Nick Horbaczewski, who founded the Drone Racing League last year, thinks he knows how to pull that off.

## 'Rekre and Zoomas'

The trick, he says, is making the audience feel the same thrill as the pilots. That's why his league lights up each quadcopter and its pilot's goggles with matching colored LEDs, which help spectators track the tiny speeding drones. It's



**CALIFORNIA:** Ken 'Flying Bear' Loo watches a drone race with other pilots during a Drone Racing League event in Hawthorne, Calif. Loo, an engineer for a Silicon Valley technology giant, says he's burned through vacation days, lunch hours and weekends flying drones. — AP

also why pilots wear T-shirts emblazoned with nicknames like "KittyCopter," "Rekre" and "Zoomas." Pilot backstories and slick editing build up the drama for videos put online. The fast-talking 35-year-old helped turn "Tough Mudders," a quirky half marathon in which people pay to slog through artificial quagmires, into a \$100-million-plus business as its chief revenue officer. He sank his own money into the drone league last year, though he also raised \$8 million from the likes of Miami

Dolphins' owner Steve Ross, the talent business Creative Artists Agency and media giant Hearst.

But there's plenty of turbulence ahead. Similarly promising quasi-athletic leagues have crashed and burned before. Take professional paintball, which seemed like a sure-fire winner at its peak in 2005. A sport in which combatants shoot at one another across an obstacle-strewn field promised a built-in audience of gun enthusiasts and video-gamers. Paintball

thrived for several years, airing its own show on ESPN3 and drawing sponsors like Budweiser, Monster energy drinks and the US Army. Then manufacturers of paintball equipment consolidated and cut back on ad spending. Interest in the sport dwindled, and its main league folded in 2014.

Further complicating things, multiple drone-racing leagues are vying for attention. Horbaczewski's major competition is the International Drone Racing Association, which last month announced it'll have a special on ESPN3 in the fall. There are a handful of other big leagues around the world, and grassroots races pop up all the time. The hodgepodge of organizations has bewildered would-be sponsors, frustrating some who found the experience of backing a race a sinkhole for time and money. Multirotor Superstore, a Santa Cruz, California-based online retailer of drone parts, already sponsors pilots like Loo with discounts and access to new gear at grassroots events.

But owner Michael Silveira says he spent \$20,000 sponsoring the IDRA's US National Drone Racing Championships last year, to disappointing results. His company's logos weren't displayed as agreed at an after-party he helped pay for, he says. That would have stung more had promised crowds actually turned up for the event. Attendance was less than 100, although he'd been told to expect 10,000 fans. "That hurt quite a bit," Silveira says. "Now we're a little hesitant about doing things." — AP

## 4 'CYBER HYGIENE' TIPS TO STAY SAFE DIGITAL SPRING CLEANING

**NEW YORK:** Spring cleaning isn't just about tossing old furniture and torn clothing: It's a great time to clear out your digital clutter and make sure you're protected against hackers. That means evaluating all your passwords - and changing them if you haven't in a while. You'll also want to update your software and take stock of your personal information on devices and online. A little "cyber hygiene" can go a long way in guarding yourself from identity theft or other Internet attacks. Earlier, we shared some tips on securing your smartphone and protecting yourself against phishing attacks. Now, you can keep the rest of your digital life clean.

## Check (change) your passwords

The more complicated and lengthy a password is, the harder it will be for hackers to guess. Long and random combinations of letters, numbers and other characters work best. Don't include your kids' names, birthdays or references to any other personal details that people might find on social media. Hackers routinely troll Facebook and Twitter looking for clues to passwords like these. Obvious and default passwords such as "Password123" are also bad, though experts say it's surprising how often they get used.

Regardless of how tough your password is to crack, it's important to change it at least every few months. And don't be tempted to recycle an old one. The longer a password sits around, the more likely it is to fall into the

wrong hands. You should also avoid using the same password for multiple sites, so that a break of your school's PTA site wouldn't lead hackers to your online banking account. Multi-factor identification - which asks users to enter a second form of identification, such as a code texted to their phone - will provide additional protections at services that offer it. Think that's too hard? Many experts recommend password-manager services such as LastPass or DashLane. They remember complex passwords for you - but you have to trust them. Last June, LastPass disclosed "suspicious activity" and told users to change their master passwords.

## Back it up

There's a growing threat of ransomware, where a hacker locks down a computer and threatens to wipe the data if the owner doesn't pay up. The attacks often stem from malicious software, which can result from clicking on a link in a phishing email or fake online ads. Because you have little recourse when this happens, it's more important than ever to back up your data. You can automate this. Services such as Carbonite let you continuously back up your files to the Internet for a monthly fee. Mac and Windows PCs come with tools for backing up to external drives. It's called Time Machine on Macs. On Windows 10, look under "Update & security" in the settings. On Windows 7, try "System and Security" or "System and Maintenance." Make sure you unplug the drive after each backup, so that malware doesn't creep into those copies as well.

## Software up to date

Whether it's a new iPhone or an ancient PC, software updates are critical, as they fix flaws that could otherwise give hackers a way into your device. This applies not just to operating systems but to common apps like browsers and media players. Better yet, turn on the auto-updating feature that most software now comes with. Dump software that you no longer use or that's no longer updated. That includes Apple's QuickTime player for Windows, as Apple no longer supports it. Don't forget about your wireless router and your assorted "Internet of things" devices such as smart TVs and thermostats. While some devices may automatically do this or let you do so through a phone app, consult your manufacturer's website for older devices.

## The truth is out there

Lock down your social media accounts by restricting your posts to just your actual friends. You can adjust that in the settings. Nonetheless, assume that everyone everywhere can see what you're posting - even if you restrict your audience. As mentioned before, personal tidbits can help hackers crack easy passwords. They also can be used to answer supposedly personal questions to reset passwords for many services. Beyond security, Facebook and Twitter are among the first places employers look when researching a job candidate. You don't want anything embarrassing to pop up. Woe to those who attended college after the advent of social media. Bet you're regretting all those keg-stand selfies now. — AP



**CALIFORNIA:** In this file photo, Christopher David uses a Robocoin kiosk to sell bitcoins outside of the 500 Startups' Bitcoinance in Mountain View, Calif. Bitcoin is an online currency that allows people to make one-to-one transactions, buy goods and services and exchange money across borders without involving banks, credit card issuers or other third parties. — AP

WHO CREATED BITCOIN?  
THE LONG SEARCH MAY NOT BE OVER

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Who is Satoshi Nakamoto? For many in the tech world, the identity of bitcoin's elusive creator has been a long-running parlor game. And the speculation might not be over. Australian entrepreneur Craig Steven Wright, who announced Monday that he founded the digital currency, convinced at least one longtime bitcoin contributor that he's the real deal.

He managed that feat via a technical demonstration involving Nakamoto's secret bitcoin keys. But Wright's public documentation, which he posted online Monday, underwhelmed others and left the question of Nakamoto's true identity far from settled. "There's no way you can conclusively prove that you are the creator of bitcoin," said Jerry Brito, executive director of Coin Center, a Washington, DC-based crypto-currency think tank, who is skeptical of Wright's claims.

Tracking a pseudonymous cryptographic genius would be challenging under the best circumstances. And here we're talking someone who invented a way for people to send money around the world anonymously, without banks or national currencies. Someone who apparently disappeared five years ago for unknown reasons. None of that has stopped people from trying. Journalists, researchers and amateur detectives have scoured Nakamoto's emails and online posts, plus the original bitcoin code, for unusual phrases, cultural references and other potential clues to their author.

One of the most celebrated candidates - to his own dismay - was an unassuming Japanese American engineer who found himself in the cross-hairs of Newsweek magazine in 2014. A Newsweek cover story fingered Dorian Satoshi Nakamoto, a retired resident of suburban Los Angeles County, after citing circumstantial clues and a vague comment that Nakamoto made when confronted briefly on his front doorstep. The article sparked a media frenzy and a car chase with reporters that ended at the Los Angeles offices of The Associated Press - where Dorian Nakamoto emphatically denied any involvement with bitcoin.

An earlier contender named in a 2011 New Yorker magazine piece was Michael Clear, then a graduate student in cryptography at Trinity College in Dublin. The New Yorker cited some of Nakamoto's writings, which used British slang such as

"maths" for mathematics and "flat" for an apartment. It also noted that Clear had worked on currency-trading software for an Irish bank and co-authored a paper on "peer-to-peer" technology similar to that used in bitcoin.

At first, according to the New Yorker, Clear was evasive when asked at a cryptography conference if he had created bitcoin. But he later denied it repeatedly. He also suggested another candidate to the New Yorker reporter, naming Finnish researcher Vili Lehdonvirta, who studied virtual currencies and created video games. "I would love to say that I'm Satoshi, because bitcoin is very clever," Lehdonvirta told the New Yorker, after laughing for several seconds. "But it's not me." Speculation has also focused on a Hungarian-American computer scientist named Nick Szabo, who was called a likely candidate by linguistic experts who conducted their own "reverse textual analysis" - essentially, looking for distinctive phrases or word patterns - on an early white paper by the bitcoin creator.

## The only problem?

Szabo, who has worked on other digital currencies, has repeatedly denied creating bitcoin. Other scientists' names have surfaced over the years; some theories pose the notion of two or three working together. But denials have usually followed each new mention. At one point, two Israeli mathematicians floated, and later retracted, the notion that bitcoin was created by the founder of Silk Road, an online bazaar known for trade in various illicit goods.

Conspiracy theorists have even speculated it could have been the work of some shadowy government agency - no one's saying which government - to undermine established currencies or somehow monitor online transactions. (That theory depends on the unproved notion that the creator retained the ability to decode bitcoin's encryption.) Vice magazine once suggested Nakamoto might be Gavin Andresen, an American software expert and early bitcoin enthusiast who has helped push bitcoin forward in Nakamoto's absence. Andresen has denied it - and on Monday declared that he believes Wright is Nakamoto. But other cryptocurrency enthusiasts aren't convinced it's Wright. The truth, they say, is still out there. — AP

POWER TO THE PEOPLE:  
ELECTRIC BIKES TAKE  
OFF IN NORTH KOREA

**PYONGYANG:** Wheels have long been a sign of economic status for both individuals and nations, and on the lightly trafficked streets of Pyongyang, capital of impoverished and isolated North Korea, electric bicycles are the hottest new ride on the road. Almost unseen two years ago, the Chinese-made two-wheelers are a common sight this week in the city, which hosts the first congress of the country's ruling Workers' Party in 36 years. Kim Jong Un, whose family has run the country for nearly 70 years, is expected to consolidate his leadership at the congress.

While pedal-powered bikes still predominate on Pyongyang's wide avenues, the electric bike trend began in the last year, locals and foreign residents of the North Korean capital said. Yesterday, a Reuters journalist covering the congress saw six of the bikes in the space of 10 minutes. "You can carry luggage," said Kim Chol Jin, a computer science student at Kim Chaek University of Technology, who was riding his electric bike along Mirae Scientists Street. "My wife bought me this to help shorten my commute," he told Reuters journalists, who were accompanied by a government guide. The proliferation of electric bicycles follows another recent local consumer trend: a surge in residential usage of LED light bulbs and solar panels, to get around the country's chronic electricity shortage. A bike made by a Chinese company called Anqi was for sale this week in Pyongyang's Kwangbok Department Store for 2.62 million won - around \$330 at the unofficial exchange rate of 8,000 won to the dollar. While that is well beyond the reach of the average North Korean, an expanding grey market economy has given rise to a growing consumer class known as "donju", or "masters of money."

Most residents still commute by foot or on the city's crowded buses. Ou Xiongfei, sales manager at another company, Benling Cycle Tech Limited Co in Dongguan, China, said its electric bikes and motorbikes are exported via trading companies to countries including Argentina, Iran and North Korea. "Lots of our e-bikes and e-motorcycles are exported to North Korea," she told Reuters by phone. Traffic is getting busier in Pyongyang, which last year began laying out its first dedicated bicycle lanes.

To ease congestion, authorities have even introduced a system to alternate the days vehicles are allowed on the once all-but empty roads. Traffic is still far from gridlock, but electric bikes have now joined the taxis, a growing fleet of private cars, and the Soviet-era trolleybuses that have plied the capital for decades. — Reuters



**CALIFORNIA:** File photo shows a Google self-driving car traversing a parking lot at Google's headquarters in Mountain View, California. Google parent Alphabet has announced that it has partnered with Fiat Chrysler to expand its fleet of self-driving vehicles. The Google autonomous test fleet would be more than doubled with the addition of 100 new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivans, with the companies aiming to have some on the road by the end of this year. — AFP

SELF-DRIVING CARS IN A FAST  
LANE: FIAT CHRYSLER CHIEF

**DETROIT:** Self-driving cars could hit roads within five years, the head of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles said Friday, days after the company announced an alliance with Google parent Alphabet. Chief executive Sergio Marchionne declined to disclose financial details of the partnership or a timetable for building minivans that will expand the Internet company's test fleet of autonomous vehicles. "It's not sort of 'pie-in-the-sky'; the thing is real and it's coming," Marchionne said. "People are talking about 20 years, I think we'll have it here in the next five years." Alphabet this week announced an alliance with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) in a major expansion of its fleet of self-driving vehicles.

The company's test fleet will be more than doubled with the addition of 100 new 2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid minivans, with the companies aiming to have some on the road by the end of this year. The collaboration with FCA marks the first time that the California-based Internet giant has worked directly with an automaker to build

self-driving vehicles. "FCA will design the minivans, so it's easy for us to install our self-driving systems, including the computers that hold our self-driving software, and the sensors that enable our software to see what's on the road around the vehicle," the car team said in a post at the Google+ social network.

The minivan design also paves a road to explore the potential of large self-driving vehicles that could be used mass-transit style with features such as hands-free sliding doors for getting in or out, according to the post. Alphabet said it was not licensing its autonomous car technology, and won't sell the self-driving minivans. Marchionne noted that there are many unresolved issues, including how self-driving cars will be priced and what kinds of features will be built into them. "But, if we don't explore it, we will never know," Marchionne told reporters during the official launch of the 2017 Chrysler Pacifica minivan at an 88-year-old plant in Ontario just across the Canadian border from Detroit. — AFP



## CHIMP VICTIM HOSPITALIZED WITH FACE-TRANSPLANT COMPLICATIONS

**HARTFORD:** The Connecticut woman who underwent a face transplant five years ago after being attacked by a chimpanzee is back in a Boston hospital after doctors discovered her body is rejecting tissue from the transplant.

Dr Bohdan Pomahac, director of plastic surgery transplantation at Brigham and Women's Hospital, said Wednesday that Charla Nash is experiencing a "moderate rejection episode" and the transplant is not in jeopardy.

Nash was taking part in an experiment in which doctors had tried to wean her off the anti-rejection drugs she had been taking since the 2011 operation. Anti-rejection drugs can have serious side effects, and the military had funded the experiment in hopes of using the findings to help soldiers who had transplants after returning from war.

Pomahac said doctors have removed Nash from the experiment and put her back on her original medication. He said she will most likely leave the hospital in the next day

or two. "We expect this rejection episode to be resolved within the coming week," he said in a statement. Nash, 62, recently discovered several unusual patches on her face, said Shelly Sindland, her publicist. Doctors did a biopsy and determined her body was rejecting the transplant, she said.

"I gave it my all and know my participation in the study will still be beneficial," Nash said in a statement to The Associated Press. "I'd do it all over again, if I could. The men and women serving our country are the true heroes." The immunosuppression drugs that transplant patients are typically given for the rest of their lives carry such risks as cancer, viral infections and kidney damage. Because of those dangers, many transplants of non-vital body parts, such as thumbs, are not considered worth doing. But doctors say that could change if the drugs don't have to be a lifelong commitment.

The Pentagon, which also paid for Nash's transplant, has provided grants to 14 medical facilities across the US through its hand

and face transplantation program. The face and the extremities are the most frequently injured parts of the body in war.

"I'm just happy I had the chance to help," said Nash, adding that she feels fine. "I wish I could have done more. I believe in the power of prayer and appreciate everyone who is praying for me." Nash lost her nose, lips, eyelids and hands when she was mauled in 2009 by her employer's 200-pound pet chimpanzee in Stamford, Connecticut. Doctors also had to remove her eyes because of a disease transmitted by the chimp.

She later received new facial features taken from a dead woman. She also underwent a double hand transplant, but it failed when her body rejected the tissue. When she began the experiment involving the suspension of anti-rejection drugs in March, 2015, doctors said it would eventually include other patients and its findings could potentially affect hundreds of thousands of people, military and civilian alike. — AP



**BOSTON:** In this Feb 20, 2015 file photo, Charla Nash smiles as her care worker washes her face at her apartment. — AP



**SYDNEY:** In this April 17, 2005, file photo, the replica of the ship, the Endeavour, lies at anchor after it was removed from a sandbar in Botany Bay. — AP

## RESEARCHERS CLOSING IN ON CAPTAIN COOK'S SHIP

ENDEAVOUR CONSIDERED AS THE FOUNDING VESSEL FOR AUSTRALIA

**PROVIDENCE:** Researchers say they believe the ship that 18th century explorer Capt James Cook used to sail around the world is still submerged somewhere in Rhode Island's Newport Harbor, but it'll take a lot of work and money to identify it.

The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project, which is leading the search effort, said at a news conference in Providence on Wednesday that it has narrowed its search to a group of five sunken wrecks. Kevin Sumption, director of the Australian National Maritime Museum, said he's "thrilled" the search has reached this point. "This isn't a process that can be rushed," he said. "People would love us to have an instant result, but there is no such thing as instant results in maritime archaeology."

### The vessel

Nearly 250 years ago, Capt James Cook ran aground on Australia's Great Barrier Reef during a voyage to the South Pacific to observe the planet Venus. His ship was the Endeavour, an ugly and awkward little vessel that improbably helped him become the first European to chart Australia's east coast.

Cook used the Endeavour to claim Australia

for the British during his historic 1768-71 voyage. "The Endeavour is considered to be the founding vessel for Australia," said Kathy Abbass, founder and executive director of the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project. "She's important in all of the Pacific Rim countries, she's important to England and she's important as well to the whole world because of the scientific information brought back."

### The demise

The Endeavour was part of a fleet of 13 ships the British scuttled during the Revolutionary War in 1778 to blockade Newport Harbor from the French, Abbass said. It was listed in the records under a different name, the Lord Sandwich. In 2014, the Australian National Maritime Museum signed an agreement to help the Rhode Island group find the lost vessel. The museum hopes to locate the wreck in time for the 250th anniversary celebrations of Cook's voyage.

### What researchers know

The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project recently used a grant from the

Australian National Maritime Museum to locate documents in London identifying the groups of ships in that fleet and where each was scuttled. The nonprofit thinks the Endeavour is part of a group of five sunken wrecks. It already has mapped nine of the 13 sites in the harbor, including four of the five sites in that group, Abbass said. "We know there were five. We know we mapped four. We think we can find the fifth one," Abbass said. "That's for this year, to find the fifth one."

### What they don't know

Remote sensing data appears to show the fifth site, but it could be badly disturbed, Abbass said. She said she won't know for sure until divers investigate. Even if all five sites are located, Abbass said she may not find enough conclusive evidence to say that one of them is the Endeavour. Abbass said she'll need to raise millions for archaeological field work and to build a facility for artifacts. She estimates the field work would cost about \$1 million and the facility would cost \$7.5 million. If the Endeavour is found, it will belong to Rhode Island, she added. — AP

## FIGHT AGAINST AIDS THREATENED BY LACK OF MONEY, LEADERSHIP

**NEW YORK:** Global progress fighting AIDS could be lost because prevention programs are suffering from a lack of leadership, accountability and funding, the head of the United Nations warned on Friday. Headway in tackling the epidemic has been "inspiring," with a 42 percent decline in AIDS-related deaths since a peak in 2004, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a report.

The progress has caused life expectancy in countries most affected by HIV to rise sharply, he added. But those gains could be lost without more and better investment in the next five years, Ban warned. "If we accept the status quo unchanged, the epidemic will rebound in several low- and middle-income countries," he said in a statement.

A commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030 was included in the Sustainable Development Goals, an ambitious plan to end poverty and inequality

which was adopted by UN member states in September. Over the next four years, an estimated \$26.2 billion will be needed to achieve that 2030 target, the report said.

Citing gains, it said antiretroviral therapy had been made available to 15 million people in the last 15 years. During that time the number of people newly infected by HIV each year has dropped to 2 million from 3.1 million, according to UN data. But inadequate leadership, poor accountability and declining funding have weakened HIV prevention programs in recent years, Ban said.

New HIV infections declined just 8 percent between 2010 and 2014 and continue to rise in eastern Europe, central Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, the report added. Some 22 million people do not have access to treatment, it said, and around half of all people living with HIV are unaware of their HIV status. — Reuters

## FISHERMEN STAGE PROTEST DUE TO TOXIC ALGAE BLOOM

**CHILOE ISLAND:** Food and gasoline were running dangerously low Friday on this Chilean island that has been blocked from the mainland by desperate fishermen demanding compensation for losing their livelihood to a toxic algae bloom.

Small-scale fishermen have lit flaming barricades for days, restricting access to the island that is best known for its wildlife, stilt houses and historic churches. That has strangled supplies to tens of thousands of people - though most appear to support the neighbors who produce shellfish and other seafood.

The government has offered about \$220 a month to some 5,000 local fishermen as compensation. But they're demanding twice that, saying the offer isn't enough to cover basic needs. The food scarcity has forced some to gather at common pots in order to feed their families.

"We're in short supply of everything. We're lacking flour, oil, cereals, and milk to feed our babies. But we can still resist for a few days more," said fisherman and diver Oscar Miranda. President Michelle Bachelet on Friday asked the fishermen to lift the blockade so supplies

can be sent to Chiloe and to keep talking with her government to resolve the dispute.

"We won't leave the fishermen behind, but we need them to collaborate with us," Bachelet said. The government has declared an emergency zone along Chile's south as it deals with the algae known as red tide, which kills fish with a toxin that paralyzes the central nervous system. Consumption of shellfish from red tide areas can poison humans as well.

Some local residents have blamed commercial salmon farms for the red tide that has affected seven major cities and dozens of fishing towns.

But most experts say it's linked to high temperatures stemming from the El Nino weather pattern, and say the red tide could linger for two more months. Chile is among the world's top suppliers of salmon and fishing is the backbone of the economy for many communities along the country's long coast. Millions of salmon died earlier this year due to algae that asphyxiates fish by decreasing oxygen in the water. More than 500 tons of sardines also recently washed ashore on Chilean beaches. — AP

## LEOPARDS HAVE LOST 75% OF HISTORIC RANGE: STUDY

**LAGOS:** Leopards have lost 75 percent of their historic range across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, with three Asian subspecies in danger of eradication, a new study says. A three-year review of data published in the scientific journal *PeerJ* this week challenges the conventional assumption that the iconic and famously elusive spotted cats are thriving in the wild.

It finds leopards have almost disappeared from vast ranges in China, Southeast Asia and the Arabian peninsula while African leopards confront mounting challenges in the north and west. The big cats are threatened by spreading farmlands, declining prey, conflict with livestock owners, trophy hunting and illegal trade in their skins and teeth. Their skins are sometimes worn as a symbol of power by African chiefs, including South Africa's President Jacob Zuma. Their rangelands have shrunk from 35 million square kilometers in 1750 - before the colonization of Africa and the spread of firearms - to about 8.5 million square kilometers, the study estimates.

It will be used to update the endangered species list curated by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, among several groups that conducted the study. Others include the National Geographic Society's Big Cats Initiative, the wild cat conservation organization Panthera and the Zoological Society of London.

It is "the single most authoritative and exhaustive review of this kind," said Guillaume Chapron, associate professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science. Its findings are "a shock as leopards were often believed to be more adaptable to human impacts ... than other species such as tigers and lions." — AP

## CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVT SET TO DEPLOY GENETICALLY MODIFIED MOSQUITOES

**MIAMI:** British biotech company Oxitec and the Cayman Islands government announced plans Thursday to release millions of genetically modified mosquitoes in the fight against a species that spreads Zika and other diseases.

Deployment of the mosquitoes against the *Aedes aegypti* species in the Cayman Islands is a major advance for Oxitec,

which has promoted the method heavily as an environmentally safe way to combat the vectors of mosquito-borne illnesses while confronting public concerns about the technology.

The company has deployed its mosquitoes to fight Zika in Brazil following initial trials there and previously conducted tests in the Cayman Islands and Panama. Oxitec

and officials in the Florida Keys have proposed testing there as well and are awaiting U.S. regulatory approval.

The Cayman government approved the full deployment after what they called a successful, peer-reviewed trial in 2010, Bill Petrie, the director of the British territory's Mosquito Research and Control Unit, said in a statement.

"We have wanted to remove this invasive pest for a long time but this has proven very difficult using currently available tools on an island the size of Grand Cayman, so we have been looking for new approaches," Petrie said.

### Massive drop

Male mosquitoes don't bite. The company says its modified males will mate with females and produce offspring that will not survive to adulthood, which should dramatically reduce the population of the non-native, disease-spreading *Aedes aegypti* species in the territory.

Oxitec will begin releasing hundreds of thousands of modified mosquitoes per week on the island of Grand Cayman, home to about 50,000 people, starting in June and continue for at least nine months, said Glen Slade, the company's head of business development. The mosquitoes will not be used on the two smaller islands of the British territory, Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, which do not have the *Aedes aegypti*. The company

insists it's not possible for the mosquitoes to fly to other islands or to survive long in the environment if they were to be inadvertently transferred elsewhere. They predict a massive drop in the number of the targeted species on Grand Cayman.

"It's not unreasonable to think we might achieve elimination," Slade said. The company has started outreach on Grand Cayman to address any public concerns. In Key West, Florida, public meetings about Oxitec's proposed trial there became so contentious that mosquito control officials requested law enforcement protection at an April meeting to discuss the issue.

Phil Goodman, chairman of the five-member Florida Keys Mosquito Control District board of commissioners, said the decision to use Oxitec's mosquitoes on Grand Cayman was good news for the prospects of a similar trial in Florida if it is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration.

"If everything continues to look good with this and we do get approval and the citizens agree to this, it's what would work here in the Keys," he said. In February, the World Health Organization said it is encouraging countries to conduct further trials of genetically modified mosquitoes to help tackle emerging illnesses such as Zika. The virus has been linked to the birth defect microcephaly and to a temporary paralysis condition known as Guillain-Barre. — AP



**CAMPINAS:** In this Feb 1, 2016 file photo, a technician from the British biotech company Oxitec, inspects the pupae of genetically modified *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, a vector for transmitting the Zika virus. — AP



## ACIDIC SEAWATER DISSOLVING BITS OF FLORIDA KEYS REEF

**WASHINGTON:** Seawater - increasingly acidic due to global warming - is eating away the limestone framework for the coral reef of the upper Florida Keys, according to a new study. It's something that scientists had expected, but not so soon.

This is one of the first times scientists have documented long-term effects of ocean acidification on the foundation of the reefs, said study author Chris Langdon, a biological oceanographer at the University of Miami.

"This is what I would call a leading indicator; it's telling us about something happening early on before it's a crisis," Langdon said. "By the time you observe the corals actually crumbling, disappearing, things have pretty much gone to hell by that point."

The northern part of the Florida Keys reef has lost about 12 pounds per square yard (6.5 kilograms

per square meter) of limestone over the past six years, according to the study published in the journal *Global Biogeochemical Cycles*. Over the length of the reef, that's more than 6 million tons. The water eats away at the nooks and crannies of the limestone foundation, making them more porous and weaker, Langdon said.

### Increasing acidification

So far the effect is subtle, not noticeable to the eye, and can only be detected by intricate chemical tests. But as ocean acidification increases, scientists expect more reefs to dissolve and become flatter, and that fish will leave, Langdon said. Also, increasing acidity eats away at the shells of the shellfish, making them easier prey for other fish and harder for humans to harvest.

Acidification occurs when oceans absorb more carbon dioxide from the air, altering seawater chemistry. Scientists expected limestone to dissolve, but not until the second half of this century. It's about 40 years early, Langdon said.

"This is another one of those cases where we're finding that we're underestimate the level of damage caused by excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere," said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reef watch coordinator Mark Eakin, who wasn't part of the research.

Eakin and two other outside experts said the study made sense. But NOAA's Derek Manzello, a scientist in the ocean acidification program who studied the same area earlier, said it is difficult to blame the foundation loss just on ocean acidification, because long-term coral bleaching and death will

also cause the limestone to dissolve. There's a natural cycle of limestone production on reefs. Limestone generally grows faster in the summer as the water become less acidic and ocean life absorbs carbon from the ocean. But in the winter and fall, life dies off, carbon is released and the water becomes more acidic naturally, slowing or stopping limestone growth.

But "to actually see a negative was a big surprise," Langdon said. Extra, man-made carbon dioxide is being absorbed by the water and adding to its acidity. And it's worse in the northern parts of the Keys, because the colder the water, the more carbon dioxide dissolves into it, Langdon said. Reefs provide \$2.8 billion a year to the Florida economy, mostly from tourists who come to dive and fish but also from commercial fishing, Langdon said. — AP



In this undated photo provided by the American Bald Eagle Foundation, a bald eagle feeds on a salmon carcass in the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve outside Haines, Alaska. — AP

## CRITICS QUESTION MINE EXPLORATION NEAR ALASKA BALD EAGLE PRESERVE

### UNNECESSARY RISKS TAKEN FOR LIMITED ECONOMIC GAIN

**ANCHORAGE:** In early winter, after most tourists have fled Alaska, another kind of visitor flies in: bald eagles, up to 4,000 of them. In the world's largest congregation of bald eagles, they gather along the Chilkat River in southeast Alaska to feast on salmon carcasses washed downstream after spawning. Well after other rivers have frozen, the river remains open.

Wildlife advocates are concerned that a possible mining project near a major tributary of the river could threaten the eagles. A Canadian company, backed by a Japanese metals firm, is spending millions to explore a copper and zinc deposit that might someday turn into a hard rock mine about 10 miles upriver of the preserve.

"That just seems like a very foolish thing to do, to risk everything we have for a few years of economic development," said environmental activist Gershon Cohen, who lives in nearby Haines. Mine advocates say mining and wildlife can co-exist, noting that the state's strict mining regulations will require measures protecting salmon and eagles. But long before the specifics of a mine are designed, wildlife advocates question why a development with the potential for a deadly spill would ever be considered on a site close to salmon habitat that nourishes the eagles.

### Huge draw

Haines is a commercial fishing and tourism

town of 2,500 with an asset missing in most other southeast Alaska towns: a highway that climbs through nearby mountains to connect to the continental road system.

The highway and port are a huge draw for Vancouver, British Columbia-based Constantine Metal Resources Ltd, a company formed in 2006 to explore for copper, zinc, gold and silver in the project on five acres about 35 miles northwest of the city.

"We have a promising project that's growing, that we've been investing in for a long time, but it requires more work," said Darwin Green, vice president of exploration, in a phone interview. Japan's Dow Metals & Mining Co in 2013 agreed to invest \$22 million in what's being called the Palmer Project over four years in exchange for a 49 percent interest. The Bureau of Land Management is reviewing Constantine's application to build roads and expand exploration to 40 acres.

But a decision on production is years off, Green said. "The question everyone wants to know - 'When will it be a mine - is one I can't answer,'" he said. The project ultimately could take the form of a medium-size underground mine, with high grade ore extracted and trucked to port, loaded on ships and moved to overseas smelters. Baseline information collected during exploration would shape mine design.

But it's much too early, he said, to provide

meaningful details about what processing would entail. "What we do know is that Alaska has incredibly stringent regulations and laws that are very protective of the environment we operate in," Green said.

Cohen, a sponsor of the 2006 cruise ship ballot initiative that required the vessels to get state pollution discharge permits for wastewater, is frustrated by a system in which debate about a mine that could damage a world-class natural attraction does not begin until after millions of dollars have been spent.

"If you wait until it's later in the process, then they turn that around and say, 'Where were you years ago when we first started this?'" he said. No matter what Constantine promises, he said, it ultimately is an exploration company. "Once they find a major mining company that wants to buy the prospect, they will have little to nothing to say about how the mine actually gets developed," he said. "It will be the major mining partner who will bring in their engineers and they will decide how the mine needs to be developed."

The specifics of a future mine are not needed to know that it will produce millions of gallons of wastewater contaminated with heavy metals in a location prone to earthquakes and heavy rainfall, Cohen said. "There is a long history of dams for tailings ponds failing under these conditions," he said. — AP

## ARIZONA JOINS NATION WITH CHILDREN'S INSURANCE PLAN

**PHOENIX:** Arizona has joined 49 other states that offer a federal health insurance program for low-income children after backers of the plan pushed it through the Legislature on Friday and Republican Gov. Doug Ducey almost immediately signed it into law.

Known as KidsCare in Arizona, the state's version of the federal Children's Health Insurance Program has been frozen since 2010, when lawmakers closed it because of a state budget crunch. It's expected to provide insurance to 30,000 children whose parents earn between 138 and 200 percent of the federal poverty line, and will do so at no cost to the state at least through 2017.

The effort to restore the program was one of the most contentious of the legislative session, which was poised to end as soon as Friday night. Ducey had remained uncommitted to the legislation despite increasing pressure from many in his own party.

### Low-income families

Republican opponents said low-income families would become dependent on hand-outs if the program was restored. They said the Affordable Care Act was supposed to cover these families, who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, and rejected backers' argument that the federal government is paying for the entire cost, noting the large federal deficit.

"We will see the negative consequences happen, because we cannot live our lives on borrowed dollars, we will have to face that sooner or later," said Sen. Sylvia Allen, R-Snowflake. "And our grandchildren will be the ones to face it and will be the ones who suffer, because we cannot sustain what we are doing."

But Sen Bob Worsley, R-Mesa, one of five

Senate Republicans who backed the measure, said it was important to make sure that children can get medical care. "These are children who need health care, who are in the most needy situation," Worsley said. "And at least currently, this is not costing us anything here in the state. And so I think it made sense and I was passionate about making sure we got it for those sick kids."

In the end, the bill's supporters used procedural maneuvers to get the plan passed, tacking it onto a bill in the House and then circumventing Republican Senate President Andy Biggs, who has blocked the legislation since March because he opposes the federal program. The House approved the plan Thursday and Senate on Friday.

The fight was reminiscent of the 2013 effort to embrace Medicaid expansion, a major component of the Affordable Care Act, that left the Republican majority badly split and left lasting damage. This week's effort, like the 2013 plan, will leave a mark, lawmakers acknowledge.

"It will take some time to get over again, I'm sure," said Sen. Bob Worsley, R-Mesa, who backed the plan. "We wanted to do it in a more orderly fashion, but it was being fought at every turn." Sen Steve Yarbrough, R-Chandler, the majority leader, railed against the process backers used in the House and Senate to suspend normal rules and force a vote. He joined 11 other Senate Republicans in opposition.

"I don't even think it matters how you feel about KidsCare, frankly, because that's not the issue," Yarbrough said. "What we are faced with now is frankly great harm to the institution, to the process. To the way the Legislature works. That's what is being harmed here." — AP



PHOENIX: Republican Arizona state Sen Sylvia Allen explains her opposition to a children's health insurance bill that was headed to approval. — AP

# CLINIC PAGE



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# ONCOST INAUGURATES 3RD BRANCH IN FAHAHEEL

**O**NCOST Cash and Carry, the first and only Cash and Carry concept in Kuwait has successfully inaugurated its 3rd store in Fahaheel on May 4th at 5pm. The store was inaugurated by Talal Al-Bahar, Chairman of IFA, Marzouq Al-Bahar, IFA Food General Manager, Mohammad Al-Radwan, Vice Chairman, IFA Food and ONCOST senior executives including Saleh Al-Tunaib, Chief Executive Officer, Remesh T A, Chief Operations Officer and a large number of industry professionals. As the previous two stores have demonstrated, the Fahaheel branch is again offering customers the experience of wholesale shopping in a modern environment supported by highly professional staff and international standards of hygiene and cleanliness. ONCOST has entered the market to offer a new professional model in the form of a wholesale shopping experience. The extent

of goods and services offered under one roof is unparalleled in the traditional wholesale market, which has resulted in both HORECA customers and large households being attracted to the concept. ONCOST is flexible and amenable enough to adapt to the needs of the market, and this has been their goal since the establishment of the company and the opening of their first store. ONCOST offers an array of basic consumer categories comprising dry groceries, confectionary, beverages, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and poultry, fish, and dairy. The new store is conveniently located in Fahaheel, Industrial Area, opposite Mina Al-Ahmadi Refinery, Block 5 Khalid Al-Safih street-213, Building 40. Ample parking is available providing easy access. Working hours are from 6:30 am to 11:00 pm daily.



# AQUA PARK WELCOMES THE KUWAIT TV TEAM

**A**qua Park recently welcomed a team from Kuwait TV (KTV) to express gratitude for their efforts in providing live broadcasting for its activities every Friday between 1:30 pm and 2:30 pm. General Manager and Member of the Board Mohammed Khorshid expressed his satisfaction of the cooperation between KTV and the management of the

Aqua Park, and for broadcasting live from the Aqua Park every Friday afternoon. He also stated that the Aqua Park prepared many special prizes for the winners in these competitions, adding that the park is always welcoming the families and providing best services for them.



It was an awesome moment at the Life Abundant International Church NECK Compound Kuwait City as family, friends and well-wishers gathered to celebrate with the family of Mr/Mrs Patrick during their baby dedication on Friday. 'May God guide and protect Divine, as she grows to be a blessing to your family Amen.'





## DR RAGAM DELIVERS LECTURE AT DAR AL-ATHAR AL-ISLAMIYAH

**D**r Asseel Al-Ragam delivered a lecture titled 'Creative Preservation and Adaptive Reuse' recently at the Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiyyah. During the lecture, Dr Ragam said that in Kuwait, recent efforts to hasten a post-oil economy have resulted in a second wave of historical erasure of Kuwait City, this time of its modernist urban land-

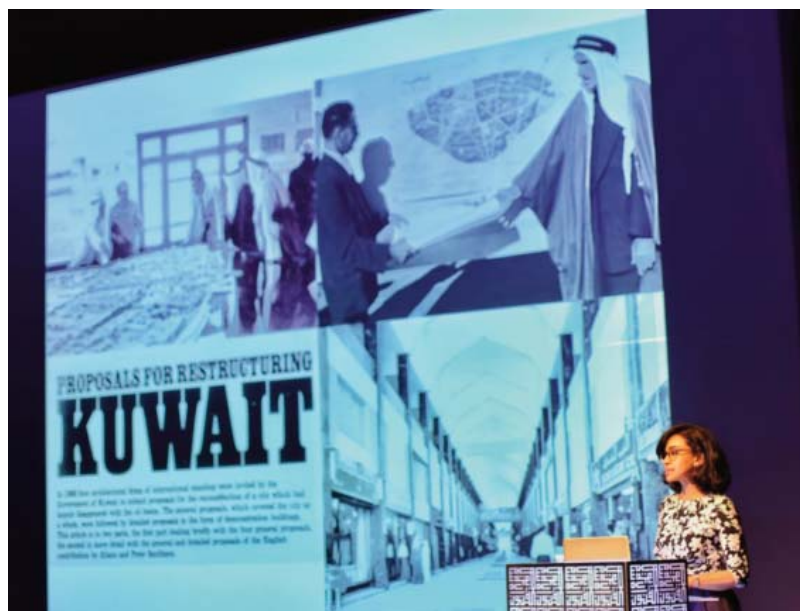
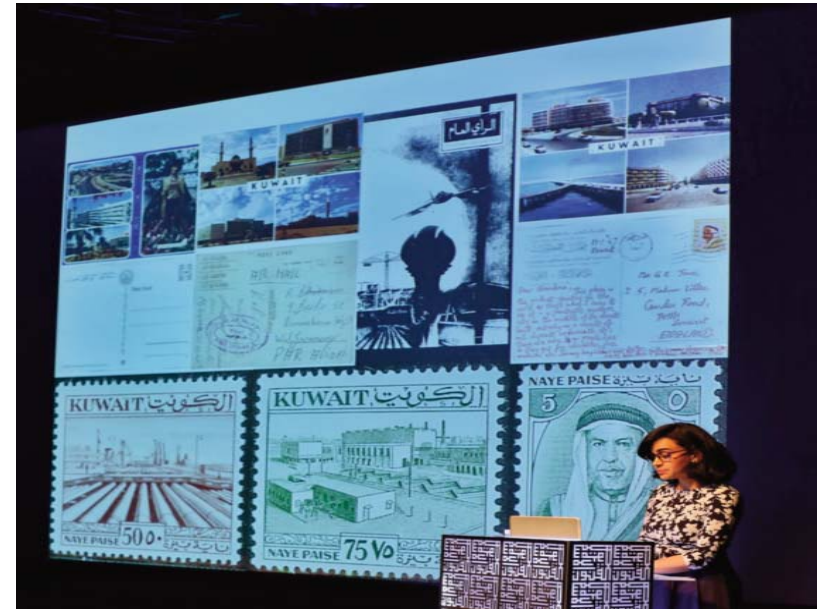
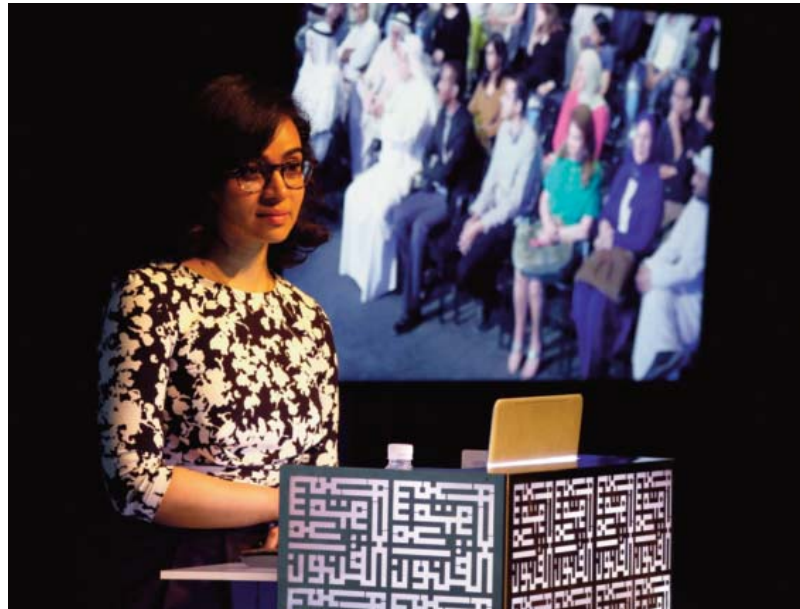
scape. "While in many cities an urban palimpsest promotes a discursive relationship between memory, history and the built environment, in Kuwait the rapid cancellation of historical urban layers has created a wide social and cultural gulf between residents and the 'urban,'" she said. The presentation proposed an alternative planning approach that

takes into account the idea of creative preservation and adaptive reuse during periods of redevelopment. It argued that modernist and postcolonial tropes of loss, hybridity and ambivalence are universal urban phenomena that are not exclusive to European or North American narratives.

Dr Asseel Al-Ragam is currently an Assistant

Professor at the College of Architecture at Kuwait University. She was a visiting researcher at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Malaquais and Sciences Po Paris, France and her published work in international journals focuses on urban and architectural modernity, heritage production and the politics of urban and architecture repre-

sentation and preservation in Kuwait. Her dissertation 'Towards a Critique of an Architectural Nahdha: A Kuwaiti Example' explored the relationship between a cultural renaissance and the built environment.



# WIN

## Nissan 370Z

Only at TSC Salmiya Store

AND

x4 ATV's

400 CC, 4 WD

## THE SULTAN CENTER AWARDS WINNER OF SALMIYA CAR DRAW CAMPAIGN

In its most recent promotional campaign The Sultan Center has awarded the lucky winner of the Salmiya campaign with a spectacular prize of a Nissan 370Z.

During the promotion, any TSC Rewards Card customer who spent KD 10 or more at Salmiya store had an opportunity to enter a draw to win 4 ATV bikes and to participate in the final grand prize draw of a Nissan 370Z.

The winner of The Sultan Center Salmiya promotion Amal Awad Ibrahim was handed over the car by representative from Nissan Al-Babtain. According

to Mohamad Jalloul TCS Rewards Card Manger, The Sultan Center will continuously strive to bring new and valuable promotions in cooperation with our partners and suppliers to demonstrate appreciation to our loyal customers.

This promotion was exclusives to TSC Rewards card holders. TSC customers who are not already a member of TSC Rewards Card Program can sign-up for free and receive their card immediately at any TSC Sultan Center or TSC Wholesale Center store.



The mechanical engineering sector at Kuwait University's College of Engineering and Petroleum opened a dewaniya for female students in order to give them the opportunity to communicate with teaching staff members as well as meet some faculty alumni.





- 00:30 Stevie
02:15 Madhouse
03:45 Doubt
05:30 The Apartment
07:35 Follow That Dream
09:25 Big Screen
09:40 Manchu Eagle Murder
Caper Mystery
11:05 Little Sister
12:40 Solarbabies
14:15 The Apartment
16:20 Movers And Shakers
17:40 Sharks' Treasure
19:15 Cannon For Cordoba
21:00 Breaking Bad
22:00 The Real Howard Spitz
23:45 Madhouse

- 12:30 Culture Express
13:00 Africa Live
14:00 News Update
14:30 Dialogue
15:00 News Update
15:15 China 24
16:00 News Update
16:15 Global Business
17:00 News Update
17:15 World InSight
18:00 Asia Today
18:30 Culture Express
19:00 News Update
19:30 The Heat
20:00 Africa Live
21:00 Global Business
21:30 Dialogue
22:00 News Update
22:15 China 24
23:00 News Update
23:15 World InSight

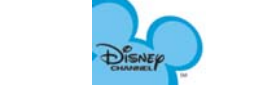
- 08:53 Kings Of Construction
09:38 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
10:23 Invent It Rich
11:08 How The Universe Works
11:53 Kings Of Construction
12:38 Mythbusters
13:23 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
14:10 How It's Made
14:33 How It's Made
14:57 Food Factory USA
15:20 Food Factory USA
15:44 How The Universe Works
16:31 Kings Of Construction
17:18 How It's Made
17:41 How It's Made
18:05 Mythbusters
18:50 Secret Space Escapes
19:40 How The Universe Works
20:25 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



- 00:45 Mountain Monsters
01:40 Village Vets
02:10 Village Vets
02:35 Tanked
03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Village Vets
06:13 Village Vets
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 My Cat From Hell
08:15 Village Vets
08:45 Village Vets
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 My Cat From Hell
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:25 Bondi Vet
12:50 Village Vets
13:20 Village Vets
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Africa's Trees Of Life
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Animal Cops South Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven



- 00:00 Sustainable Energy
00:30 The Edge
01:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
02:00 Asia Squawk Box
05:00 Asia Street Signs
07:00 Capital Connection
08:00 Squawk Box Europe
11:00 Europe Street Signs
12:00 Worldwide Exchange
13:00 U.S. Squawk Box
16:00 Squawk On The Street
18:00 U.S. Squawk Alley
19:00 Fast Money: Half Time Report
20:00 U.S. Power Lunch
22:00 U.S. Closing Bell



- 00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
06:00 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Cars Toons
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Alex And Co
17:40 Dog With A Blog
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Liv And Maddie
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Violetta
20:20 The Next Step
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 H2O
22:20 Binny And The Ghost
22:55 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 00:00 My Haunted House
01:00 The Haunting Of...
02:00 The Haunting Of...
03:00 The Haunting Of...
04:00 The Haunting Of...
05:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
06:00 The FBI Files
07:00 Beyond Scared Straight
08:00 The FBI Files
09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
11:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
12:00 Surveillance Oz
12:30 Surveillance Oz
13:00 Homicide Hunter
14:00 The First 48
15:00 Beyond Scared Straight
16:00 The FBI Files
17:00 Crimes That Shook Australia
18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
19:00 Homicide Hunter
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia
21:00 Monster In My Family
22:00 I Married My Killer
23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In

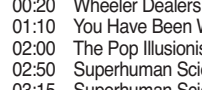


- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:10 You Have Been Warned
02:00 The Pop Illusionist
02:50 Superhuman Science
03:15 Superhuman Science
03:40 Game Of Pawns
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Auction Hunters
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 Fifth Gear
06:00 Yukon Men
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Game Of Pawns
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Auction Hunters
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Fifth Gear
10:35 You Have Been Warned
11:25 The Pop Illusionist

- 00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
06:00 Mouk
06:00 Lolirock
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Gravity Falls
07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:40 Jessie
08:05 Shake It Up
08:30 Shake It Up
08:55 Hannah Montana
09:20 Hannah Montana
09:45 Girl Meets World
10:10 Girl Meets World
10:35 A.N.T. Farm
11:00 A.N.T. Farm
11:25 Jessie
11:50 Jessie
12:15 Whisker Haven Tales With The Palace Pets
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Fish Hooks
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Cars Toons
14:30 Liv And Maddie
14:55 Dog With A Blog
15:20 Dog With A Blog
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 The Next Step
17:25 Alex And Co
17:40 Dog With A Blog
18:15 Best Friends Whenever
18:40 Liv And Maddie
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Violetta
20:20 The Next Step
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 Good Luck Charlie
21:35 H2O
22:20 Binny And The Ghost
22:55 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:00 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



- 00:15 Eastenders
00:55 New Tricks
01:50 New Tricks
02:45 Silent Witness
03:45 Orphan Black
04:35 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:00 Death In Paradise
08:55 Upstairs Downstairs
09:50 Doctor Who
10:40 Doctors
11:10 Eastenders
11:40 Death In Paradise
12:35 Upstairs Downstairs
13:30 Doctor Who
14:20 Doctors
14:50 Eastenders
15:25 Death In Paradise
16:20 Dickensian
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Hobbit
21:00 Stella
21:55 Silent Witness
22:55 Orphan Black
23:40 Doctors



- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
01:10 You Have Been Warned
02:00 The Pop Illusionist
02:50 Superhuman Science
03:15 Superhuman Science
03:40 Game Of Pawns
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Auction Hunters
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 Fifth Gear
06:00 Yukon Men
06:50 Wheeler Dealers
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Game Of Pawns
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Auction Hunters
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 Fifth Gear
10:35 You Have Been Warned
11:25 The Pop Illusionist



- 00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopedidoo
01:30 Art Attack
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster



- 00:00 Charlie Rose
01:00 Bloomberg West
02:00 First Up With Angle Lau
03:00 First Up With Angle Lau
04:00 Trending Business
05:00 Trending Business
06:00 Asia Edge



ARMAGEDDON ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

- 07:00 Bloomberg Markets: Middle East
08:00 Countdown
09:00 Countdown
09:30 On The Move
10:00 On The Move
11:00 The Pulse
12:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
13:00 Bloomberg Surveillance
14:00 Bloomberg Go
15:00 Bloomberg Go
16:00 Bloomberg Go
17:00 Bloomberg Markets
18:00 Bloomberg Markets: European Close
19:00 Bloomberg Markets
20:00 Bloomberg Markets
21:00 Bloomberg Markets
22:00 Bloomberg Markets
23:00 What'd You Miss?

- 12:15 Superhuman Science
12:40 Superhuman Science
13:05 Game Of Pawns
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Auction Hunters
14:20 Yukon Men
15:10 Wheeler Dealers
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 Fifth Gear
17:40 How Do They Do It?
18:30 For The Love Of Cars
19:20 Diamond River Hunters
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Auction Hunters
21:00 Salvage Hunters
21:50 For The Love Of Cars
22:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
23:30 Fast N' Loud

- 02:05 Calimero
02:20 Zou
02:30 Loopedidoo
02:45 Art Attack
03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Goldie & Bear
08:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:20 Doc McStuffins
09:30 Doc McStuffins
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Handy Manny
12:15 Jungle Junction
12:30 Special Agent Oso
12:45 The Hive
13:00 Sofia The First
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow



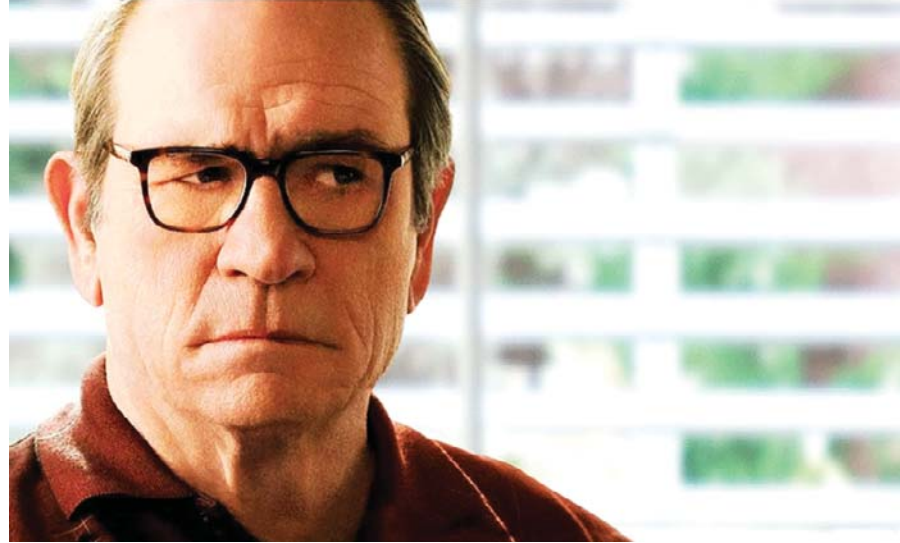
- 00:00 News Update
00:30 Dialogue
01:00 News Update
01:15 China 24
02:00 The Heat
02:30 News Update
03:00 Global Business
04:00 News Update
05:00 News Update
06:30 Dialogue
07:00 News Hour
08:00 Global Business
09:00 News Update
10:30 Sports Scene
11:00 Global Business
12:00 News Update



- 00:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
01:08 Invent It Rich
01:55 How The Universe Works
02:42 How It's Made
03:05 How It's Made
03:29 Mythbusters
04:16 Invent It Rich
05:03 How The Universe Works
05:50 Kings Of Construction
06:37 How Do They Do It?
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:23 Mythbusters
08:08 How It's Made
08:30 How It's Made



Hope Springs



HOPE SPRINGS ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

- 13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
14:15 The Lion Guard
14:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:10 Miles From Tomorrow
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sofia The First
16:25 Jungle Cubs
16:50 Aladdin
17:15 The Lion Guard
17:40 Goldie & Bear
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
18:30 Sofia The First
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:30 The Lion Guard
20:00 Goldie & Bear
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jungle Cubs
21:25 Aladdin
21:50 Gummi Bears
22:20 Lilo And Stitch
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopedidoo

- 18:00 E! News
19:00 House Of DVF
20:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Chopped
02:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
03:00 Man Fire Food
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Chopped
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
10:10 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 The Pioneer Woman
13:30 The Pioneer Woman
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Guy's Grocery Games
21:00 Private Chef
21:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
22:30 Valerie's Home Cooking
23:00 Iron Chef America

- 10:10 Get Your Act Together
11:05 Coach Trip
11:35 Harry's South Pole Heroes
12:30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Coach Trip
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show
15:35 The Queen's Worst Year
16:30 Black Work
17:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coach Trip
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 The Queen's Worst Year
20:30 Black Work
21:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
22:20 Coronation Street
Emmerdale
23:15 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover



- 00:10 Brain Games
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue
02:00 Supercar Megabuild
02:55 Secrets Of The King Cobra
03:50 Brain Games
04:45 24 Hours In A&E
05:40 Filthy Riches
06:35 Mega Factories
07:30 Showdown Of The Unbeatables
08:25 Building Wild
09:20 24 Hours In A&E
10:15 Supercar Megabuild
11:10 The Yard
12:05 Dirty Rotten Survival
13:00 Building Wild
14:00 Showdown Of The Unbeatables
15:00 Megastructures
16:00 Supercar Megabuild
17:00 The Yard
18:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
19:00 Mine Kings
20:00 Supercar Megabuild
20:50 The Yard
21:40 Dirty Rotten Survival
22:30 Megastructures
23:20 Filthy Riches



- 00:10 Dream Cruises
01:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces



- 00:00 Once Upon A Time
01:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
02:00 The Flash
03:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Once Upon A Time
07:00 24
08:00 Prison Break
09:00 The Voice
10:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
11:00 24
12:00 Prison Break
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Prison Break
19:00 Minority Report
20:00 The Flash
21:00 Blindspot
22:00 Empire
23:00 Mr. Robot



- 01:30 Truth Or Die
03:30 Snow White And The Huntsman
06:00 Turbulence
08:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
10:00 Snow White And The Huntsman
12:15 388 Aletta Avenue
13:45 Armageddon
16:30 Flightplan
18:15 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
20:15 Sabotage
22:15 Duplicity



- 00:00 We'll Never Have Paris
02:00 Orange County
03:00 Bad Parents
06:00 Man Of The House
08:00 Chef
10:00 Bad Parents
12:00 Orange County
14:00 Hope Springs
15:45 Chef
17:45 Mystery Men
20:00 Textuality
22:00 Hot Tub Time Machine 2



- 01:00 One Last Look
03:00 Short Term 12
05:00 Foreverland
07:00 1917
09:00 The Truth About Emanuel
11:00 Foreverland
13:00 Short Term 12
15:00 Barefoot
17:00 The Truth About Emanuel
19:00 Nightcrawler
21:00 Blood Ties
23:30 Suite Francaise



- 01:00 Eight Below
03:00 Mulan
04:45 The Mighty Ducks
06:45 Oz The Great And Powerful
09:00 Ice Princess
11:00 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The Never-Best
13:00 The Shaggy Dog
15:00 The Gabby Douglas Story
17:00 Merchants Of Doubt
19:00 Jersey Boys
21:30 The Sixth Sense
23:30 The Gabby Douglas Story



- 00:00 The People vs Larry Flynt
02:30 A Beautiful Mind
05:00 Boyhood
08:00 Belle
10:00 Evita
12:30 A Beautiful Mind
15:00 Dr. Strangelove
17:00 Merchants Of Doubt
19:00 Jersey Boys
21:30 The Sixth Sense
23:30 Jayne Mansfield's Car



- 01:00 What If
03:00 Persecuted
05:00 Drumline: A New Beat
07:00 Stonehearst Asylum
09:00 Paddington
11:00 Sallinger
13:15 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse
15:00 Son Of Batman
16:30 The Hundred-Foot Journey
18:45 Jupiter Ascending
21:00 The Forger
23:00 The Necessary Death Of



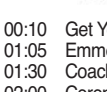
- 01:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
03:00 Marco Macaco
04:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
06:00 Miffy The Movie
08:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
10:00 Worms
11:30 Saving Santa
13:00 Marco Macaco
14:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
16:00 The Heart Of The Oak
18:00 Worms
20:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
22:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
23:30 The Heart Of The Oak



- 01:00 Premier League Darts
04:30 Golfing World
05:30 Live PGA European Tour
07:30 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights
08:30 Inside The PGA Tour
09:00 European Tour Weekly
09:30 Live PGA European Tour
12:30 Golfing World
13:30 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights
14:30 Inside The PGA Tour
15:00 Live Snooker World Championship
19:00 The PGA Tour Champions Highlights
20:00 Inside The PGA Tour
20:30 European Tour Weekly
21:00 Live Snooker World Championship



SON OF BATMAN ON OSN MOVIES HD



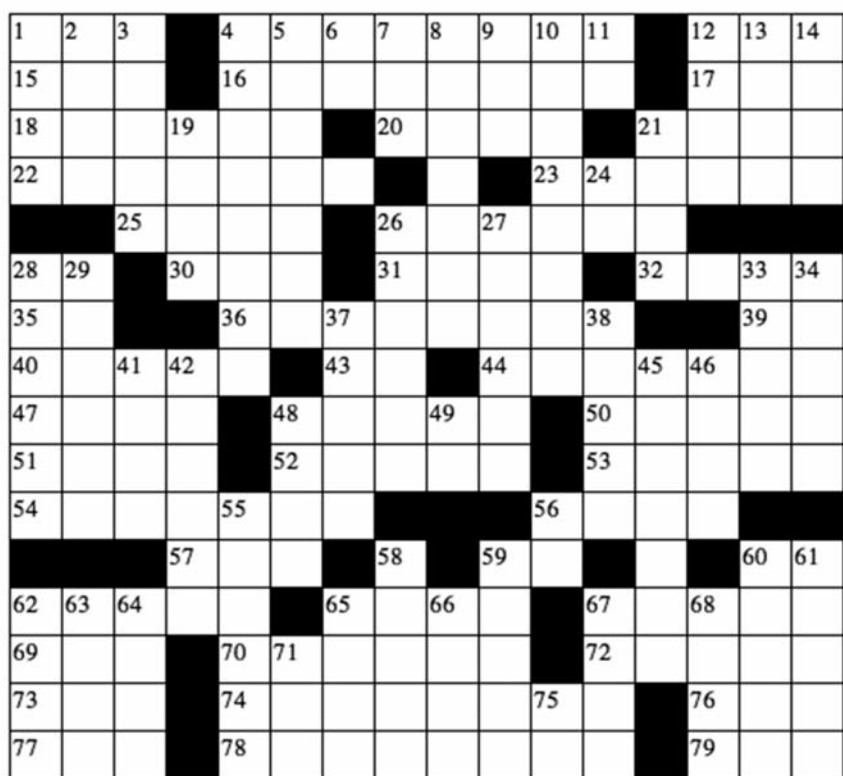
- 00:10 Get Your Act Together
01:05 Emmerdale
01:30 Coach Trip
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show
03:25 Murdoch Mysteries
04:20 Murdoch Mysteries
05:15 Harry's South Pole Heroes
06:10 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover
07:00 Coach Trip
07:30 Murdoch Mysteries
08:25 Murdoch Mysteries
09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show







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ACROSS

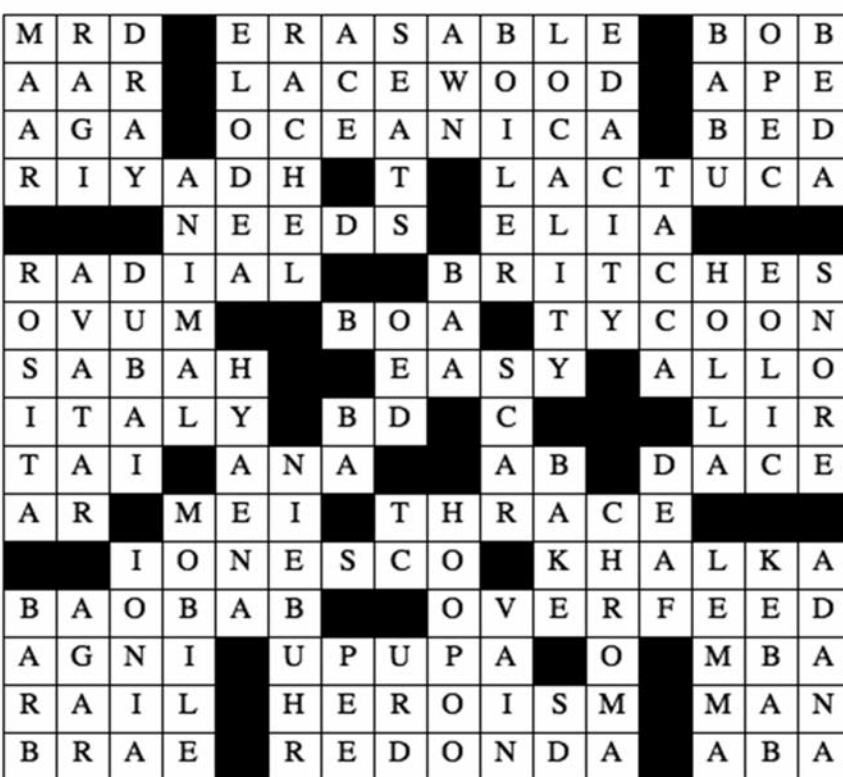
1. A watery solution of sugars, salts, and minerals that circulates through the vascular system of a plant.
4. A sheath for a sword or dagger or bayonet.
12. A human limb.
15. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
16. Belonging to or inherited from one's father.
17. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
18. A record in which commercial accounts are recorded.
20. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
22. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
23. Having tucked or being tucked.
25. A white crystalline double sulfate of aluminum.
28. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
30. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
31. A coffin along with its stand.
32. Amino acid that is formed in the liver and converted into dopamine in the brain.
35. A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
36. A cephalosporin antibiotic (trade name Ultracel).
39. The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.
40. A medieval oboe.
43. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
44. Not capable of being swayed or diverted from a course.
47. A hazy or indistinct representation.
50. Ask for and get free.
51. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
52. A spoon-shaped vessel with a long handle.
53. (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
54. The father of your father or mother.
57. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
62. A hidden storage space (for money or provisions or weapons).
69. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
70. A fighter who batters the opponent.
72. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
73. One millionth of a gram.
74. The act of contributing to the funds of a church or charity.
76. Goddess of the dead and queen of the underworld.
77. Something that remunerates.
78. A naval spectacle.
79. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.

DOWN

1. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
2. American novelist (1909-1955).
3. A genus of Ploceidae.
4. A mirror (especially one made of polished metal) for use in an optical instrument.
5. Having the color of caramel.
6. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
7. A piece of furniture that provides a place to sleep.

8. A ruddy rock consisting of sharp fragments embedded in clay or sand.
9. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
10. Having the rafters especially having them visible.
11. A metric unit of volume equal to one tenth of a liter.
12. An accidental hole that allows something (fluid or light etc.) to enter or escape.
13. A river in central Europe that arises in northwestern Czechoslovakia and flows northward through Germany to empty into the North Sea.
14. Showing or causing joy and pleasure.
19. A river that rises in western New Mexico and flows westward through southern Arizona to become a tributary of the Colorado River.
21. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
24. The local time at the 0 meridian passing through Greenwich, England.
26. In a foreign country.
27. (Greek mythology) Greek goddess of fertility who later became associated with Persephone as goddess of the underworld and protector of witches.
29. A rectangular block of hewn stone used for building purposes.
33. A large heavy knife used in Central and South America as a weapon or for cutting vegetation.
34. A member of the Nahuatl people who established an empire in Mexico that was overthrown by Cortes in 1519.
37. A landlocked desert republic in north-central Africa.
38. A sheet or band of fibrous connective tissue separating or binding together muscles and organs etc.
41. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
42. A sharp strain on muscles or ligaments.
45. The holy city of Shiite Muslims.
46. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
48. Wearing or provided with clothing.
49. Being nine more than forty.
55. One of the evil spirits of traditional Jewish and Christian belief.
56. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
58. A member of a formerly tribal people now living in south central India.
59. Of or relating to or containing cerium especially with valence 4.
60. French psychologist remembered for his studies of the intellectual development of children (1857-1911).
61. A river that rises in central Germany and flows north to join the Elbe River.
63. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
64. Showing self-interest and shrewdness in dealing with others.
65. A very attractive or seductive looking woman.
66. The 2nd letter of the Greek alphabet.
67. (informal terms) "gave me a cockamamie reason for not going".
68. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
71. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
75. A midwestern state in north central United States in the Great Lakes region.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

At this time you will be inclined to dig deep into some mysterious subject. You will enjoy the success that is coming your way. You will learn much from a boss or mentor today. Take your time and study what is presented. Conversations have the potential to profoundly affect your belief system. Viewpoints depend upon experience, family traditions, news source and all sorts of input. Today you may decide to accept that invitation to a social function. Absorb and remember the rules of order. If you have recently been involved in a dispute with someone close, you will tend to make positive compromises now. This evening you enjoy spending time with your sweetheart. Balance and harmony are present.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Whether you are working in a place of business or being productive at home, you will find this day is one of your best days for productivity and accomplishments. Patience will bring rewards. You are a lover that enjoys being expressive in art. When someone asks you to become actively involved in some community issue, you may want to remind him or her that your way of expression is through your art. You could be quite the healer in this way. Any path a person takes has pros and cons and you will probably be active in suggesting a meditative activity before any force be taken. You enjoy interactions with friends and family and may become the main attraction of a party before you even realize there is a party!



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a lucky day. You should be successful in most any undertaking. Stimulating conversations begin before you even have time to begin your own project. Participation in group activities is favored-you could learn something of value from others. Spend time in review of your plans for the future. Perhaps while listening to other people's ideas of where they want to be in a few years, you will form your own goals, personal or professional. Projects that you have already begun will come to a completion by the end of the day. You could be knitting a sweater or tutoring a child; all is good. Watch your spending habits this evening; you could become a bit more generous than the checkbook would allow. Music fills the air tonight; enjoy.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are likely to feel restless and bored with normal routine matters today but you are good to follow through with a promise you have made to yourself. Today you will make sure other projects are completed before going ahead with new ones. You will probably introduce some new personal guidelines into your fun activities. This may mean that the people in your life want to be included in your activities and vice versa. You have the power to break out of any rut from the past. You are good at respecting others and you should easily be able to achieve your objectives at this time. Creative ventures can be quite successful. An unexpected visitor brings good news this afternoon. This news may save you a lot of money.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are apt to spend a great deal of time communicating with neighbors today. This is a good time to take stock of the neighborhood and decide on whether you want to help contribute to a few improvements around the area. Once you begin, others will follow. Who knows, you might be able to get some money donated for a covered bus stop or request that the city create some sort of wall to keep loud noises out of the neighborhood. This is the type of creative idea coming into your life; there is improvement. There are volunteer programs that interest you and you want to make a positive difference. If positive changes are not needed on the home front, it could be the community would benefit from your abilities. Consider attending the next town meeting.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your mind is stimulated and there is great wit at hand today. Your inclination and ability to solve complex problems and puzzles amaze others. If you are able to channel this mental enthusiasm productively, you will accomplish much. You display an urge to be recognized and if you are patient, you will hear the praises. Perseverance is crucial during this, fortunately, short period. Your disposition is open and welcomes all you meet. You are in tune with your own convictions and beliefs as well as those of your friends. If you accept loved ones for the people they really are, you will greatly enjoy the company, now and in the future. Interactions with the opposite sex are stimulating and delightful this evening. Be prepared to dress to the max tonight.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are at your mental best today and may enjoy working with word puzzles, helping someone with his or her homework, or involving yourself in some construction project. You add creative and unusual touches to whatever you are working with today. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of any loose ends. You are motivated when it comes to possessions and material things; shopping for a special item or just what you want that is going to be a good investment may be on your mind this afternoon. When you purchase a gift, your attitude is the very same and you always look for that very special item that fits a person's personality. A short journey with friends or family could be in your plans for this evening-perhaps stargazing.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a good time to initiate a feeling or sense of going with the flow. There is a definite need for security. This strong desire encompasses most areas of your life at this time. Try to see that respect and true understanding of others will achieve the positive responses you are looking for now. You may find a volunteer service most beneficial as a means to express your talents and help others at the same time. Some of the ways in which you could feel quite useful in a volunteer situation would be in a medical, counseling or clergy type of organization. You will be teaching someone techniques of a sensible diet as well. This evening you will be popular with your friends and someone will help you learn a new game-you are in for hours of fun.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There may be an occasion today when you could experience hurt feelings. It could be difficult to let go of these feelings. However, it would be best to express to another that his or her actions are not acceptable. Perhaps it was only a tone of voice, unfounded criticisms or a personal slight. Accusations are unnecessary but acknowledgment of hurt feelings brings a better understanding of how someone can treat you. If you do this, you will not experience this problem from this person again. A new person will enter your life today and you may find some common beliefs or ideas that will promote good friendship. Now is a good time to begin making changes for some ethnic cause in your community. Remember to consider your time and do not go overboard.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Quick answers, great wit and a surplus of insights and solutions are ready for you to use. This is a good time to write and communicate with real originality. Perhaps you have a viewpoint or a unique technique that is important to share. If you are good at several tips or tricks, you will certainly want to share and gain the respect that comes with helping others to make life easier. It is important to speak up and let your voice be heard. Insert your good sense of humor to get through some of the more sensitive subjects and people that may have been a problem in the past. If you give your best effort now, you may unconsciously become a go-to type of individual. A loved one needs your support this evening. Make yourself available to listen.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Work issues are particularly easy to manipulate today. You work with the public quite a lot and you give people more than they expect and with a cheerful attitude. This is a good time to get many things accomplished. As soon as you can take a break with some friends, a philosophical subject grabs your interest. What you learn could be the answer to a special problem you have been working on lately. Later this afternoon you will find an opportunity to invest or purchase items that could increase in worth. This is a good time to be judicious in your personal decisions about finances. However, you should spend great zest in your moneymaking abilities. Your money can go a long way if you plan. You are ready for more weekend fun.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

There is definitely a romantic atmosphere on the job today. You will not have to deal with it unless you want to, but if you act too quickly, there may be repercussions-careful. You may also need to make a conscious effort to keep play and work in balance. You will seem to be a bit sloppy with details on projects at this time. Work hard now to remain in focus. You will strive to become more dedicated to your work... Play time will come-count on it. Let both your own feelings and the reaction of others guide you when seeking a balance. Now is a good time to set long-range goals. Whether the evening works out as you planned or not, being flexible is the key to the good times. You enjoy the company of friends. Tell or hear a new joke this evening.

WORD SEARCH

Hanukkah

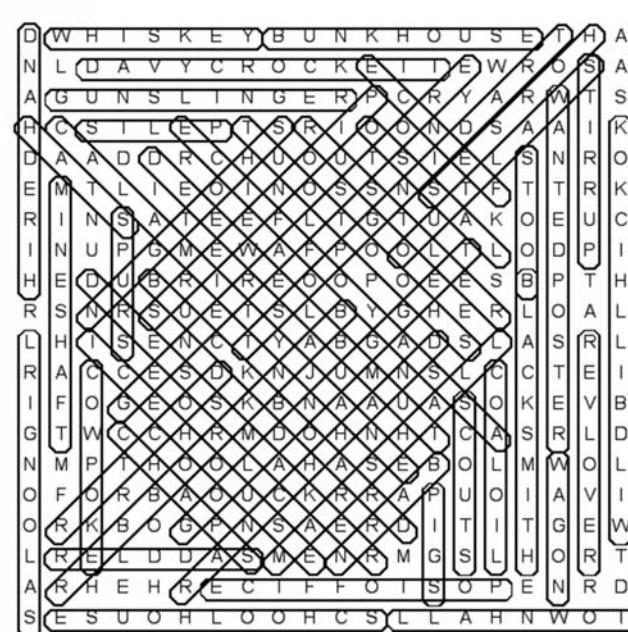
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 42 letters spell a secret message.



- |             |                |            |            |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| BIMUELOS    | FESTIVAL       | LATKE      | PSALMS     |
| BLESSINGS   | GAMES          | LEVIVOT    | SEVIVON    |
| CANDLES     | GELT           | LIGHTS     | SHAMASH    |
| CHANUKIAH   | GIFTS          | MA'OZ TZUR | SONGS      |
| CHARITY     | HALLEL         | MACCABEES  | SULFANIYOT |
| CUSTOMS     | HANEROT HALALU | MATTSAHU   | TALMUD     |
| DAIRY FOODS | HEBREW         | MENORAH    | TORAH      |
| DREIDEL     | HOLIDAY        | MIRACLE    | TRADITION  |
| EIGHT DAYS  | HOLY TEMPLE    | OLIVE OIL  | YEARLY     |
| FAMILY      | JERUSALEM      | PONTSHKES  | YEHUDIT    |
| FEAST       | KISLEV         | PRAYERS    |            |

Yesterday Solution

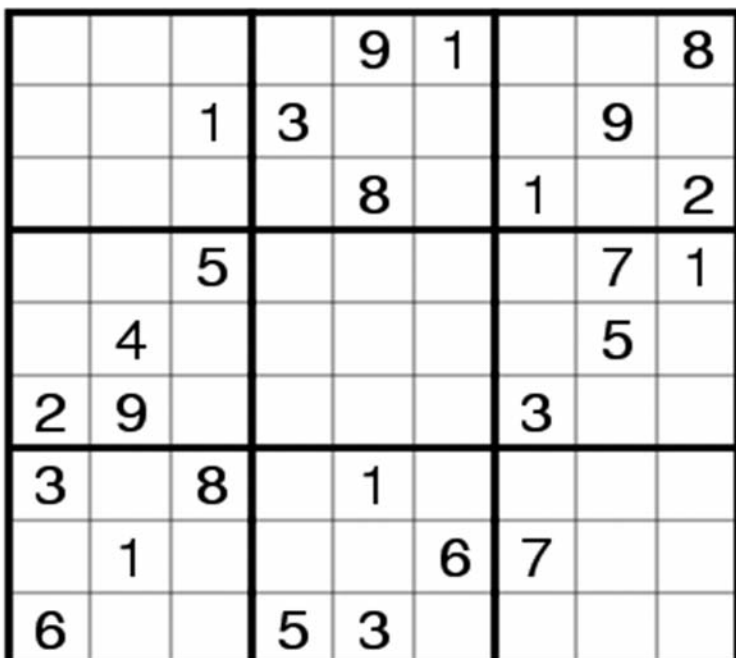
Old West 2



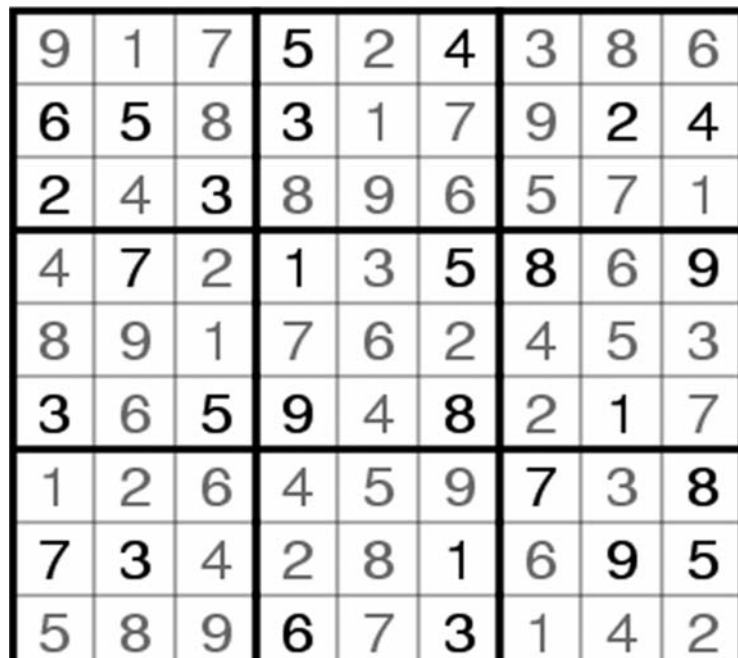
- |               |               |             |                  |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| ASSAY OFFICE  | DOCTOR        | MINE SHAFT  | SCOUTS           |
| BANK ROBBER   | DRESSMAKER    | OUTLAWS     | SHOOTOUT         |
| BARN          | FENCE         | PELTS       | SHOTGUN          |
| BLACKSMITH    | GENERAL STORE | PIGS        | SPURS            |
| BOOTS         | GOLD NUGGET   | PIONEERS    | STIRRUP          |
| BUCKBOARD     | GUNSLINGER    | POST OFFICE | TOWN HALL        |
| BUNKHOUSE     | HATS          | RANCH HAND  | TRADING POST     |
| CALAMITY JANE | HIRE HAND     | REVOLVER    | TUMBLEWEED       |
| CHAPS         | HORSES        | RUSTLER     | WAGON            |
| COAL OIL      | ICE HOUSE     | SADDLER     | WANTED POSTER    |
| COWPOKE       | LIASSO        | SALOON GIRL | WHISKEY          |
| DAVY CROCKETT | MARSHALL      | SCHOOLHOUSE | WILD BILL HICKOK |

The hidden message is: ALWAYS DRINK UPSTREAM FROM THE HERD

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution

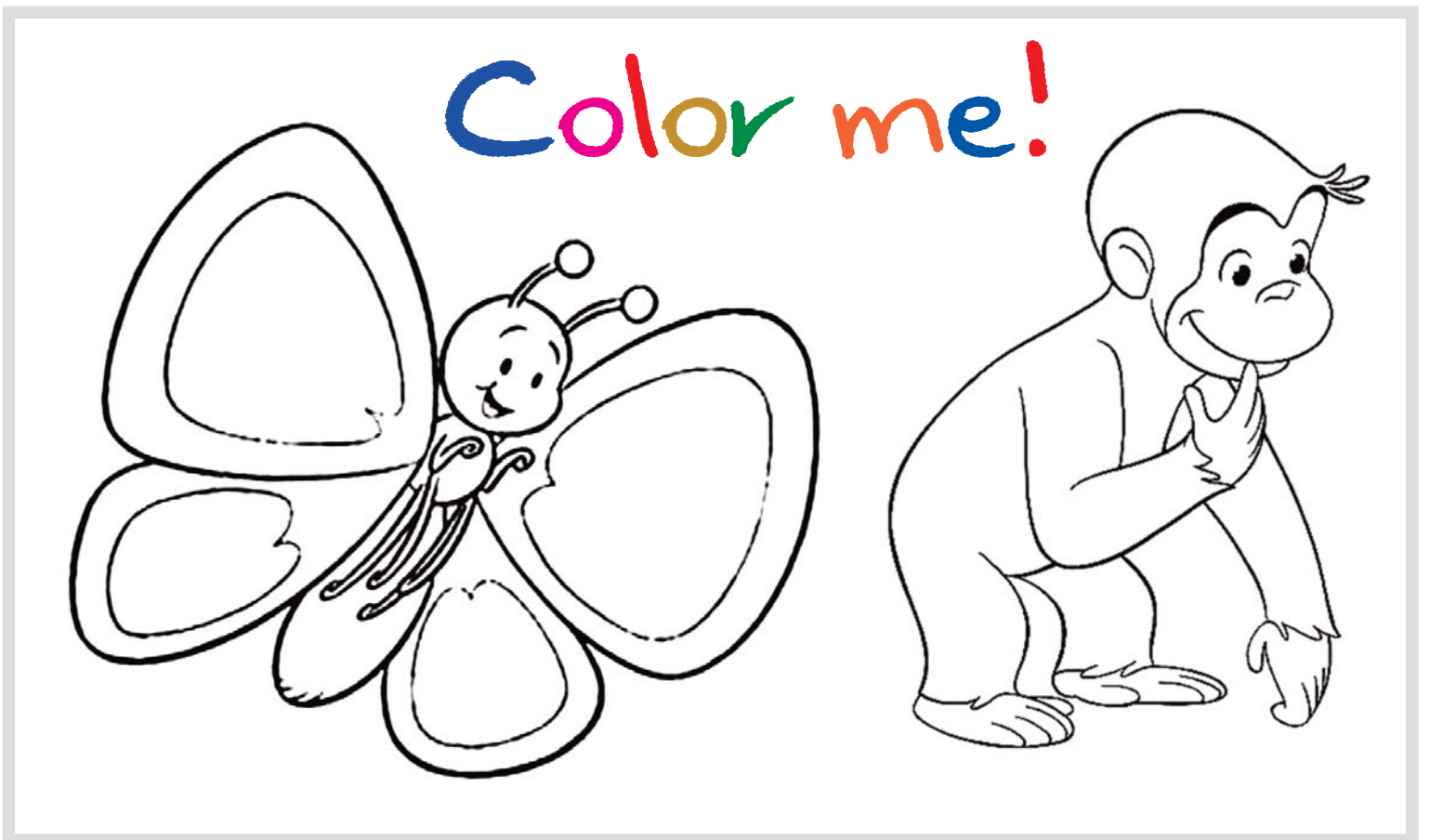
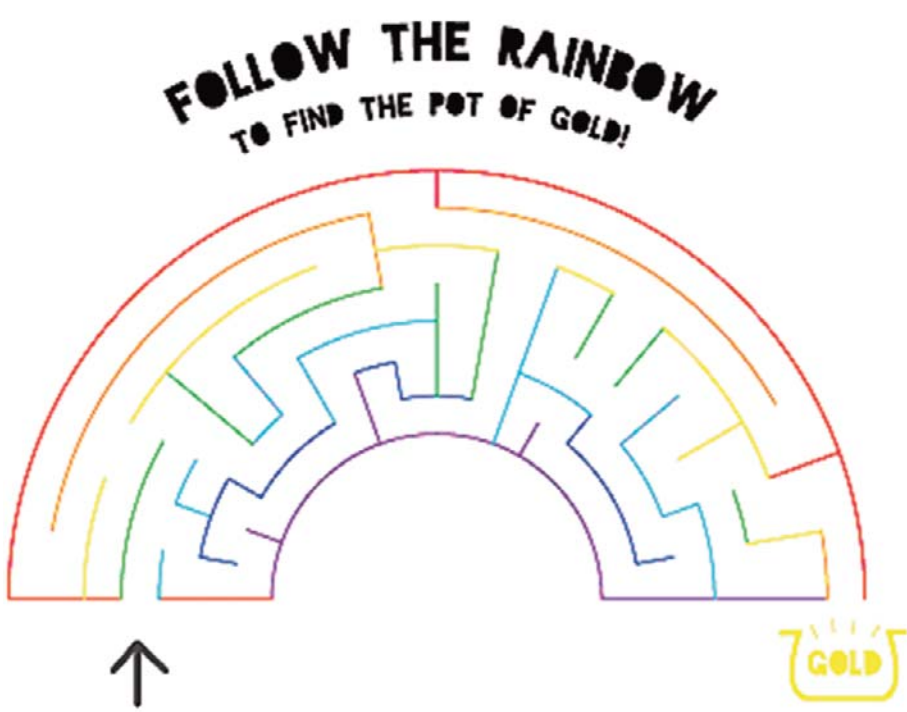




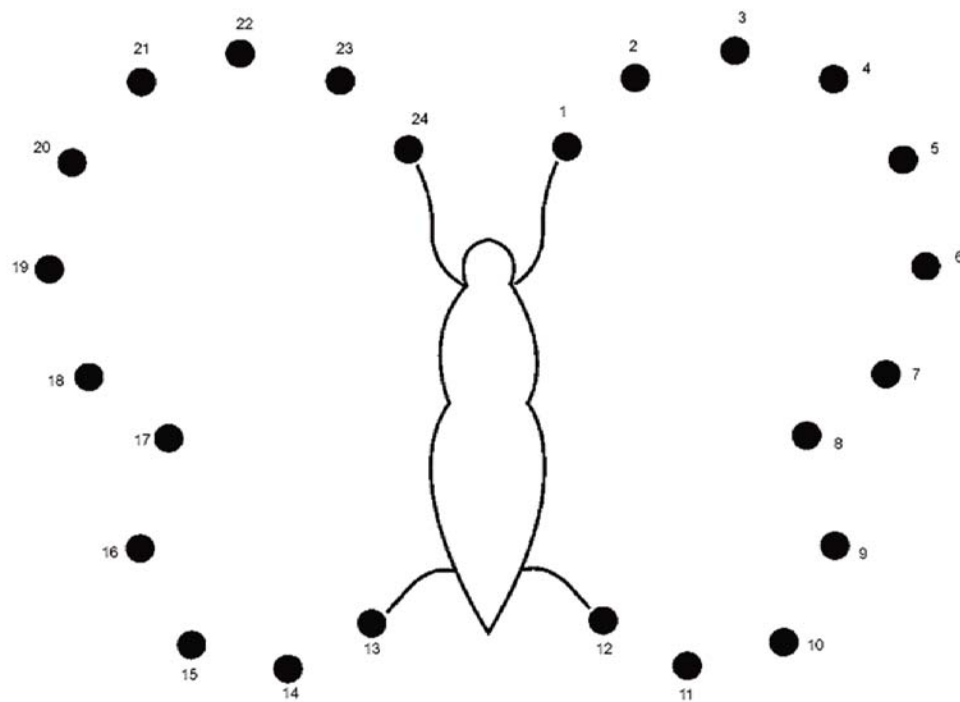


# DID YOU KNOW..?

- Around 75% of the volcanoes on Earth are found in the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area around the Pacific Ocean where tectonic plates meet.
- Giant water lilies in the Amazon can grow over 6 feet in diameter.
- Although Polar Bears have white, fluffy fur, their skin is actually black.
- The largest land based mammals on Earth are elephants.
- Female lions are better hunters than male lions and do most of the hunting for a pride.
- Unlike humans, cows and horses sleep while standing up.
- The largest ocean on Earth is the Pacific Ocean.



Spot 10 differences between the pictures!



Follow the dots from 1 to 24!

## Kiwi-apple yogurt smoothie!

This summer, you kids need to stay cool and healthy! So here's a quick and easy way to make your day better.

- You'll need:
- 2 fresh cut kiwis
  - 2 fresh cut apples
  - 1 cup of Greek yogurt
  - 2 teaspoon of honey

(Tip: Freeze the fruits a day prior to making the smoothie. If frozen fruits aren't available use ice instead.)

Instructions:

Grab the fresh kiwis and apples along with the Greek yogurt (along with some ice) and put it inside the blender and let it blend for a few seconds. After that open up the blender and add some honey to taste. Let it blend for a few seconds again. Once that's done grab a glass and fill it up with your smoothie! YUM!







MINNEAPOLIS: A star honoring Prince, now painted gold, stands out on the wall, Thursday at a memorial for the singer at First Avenue, a venue where he often performed. — AP

# How Prince 'lifesaving mission' turned tragic for doctor's son

Andrew Kornfeld's red-eye flight to bring a prescription drug to Prince has been described by his attorney as a "lifesaving mission" to persuade the superstar to start treatment for addiction.

Instead, the 26-year-old Californian found Prince collapsed in an elevator at his Paisley Park home. Neither Andrew Kornfeld nor his father, an addiction and pain doctor, has been accused of wrongdoing. But a law enforcement official said on Friday investigators want to interview both of them about the drug that was never administered to Prince. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Kornfeld helped in his father's medical practice by teaching surfing to young drug users in recovery. In college, his studies in neuroscience sparked a fascination with consciousness and psychedelic drugs such as LSD.

Jim Fadiman, a psychologist who popularized the notion of using micro-doses of LSD to enhance workplace productivity, considers the younger Kornfeld "a brilliant man."

Kornfeld's father sent his son to Prince's Minneapolis-area home, a decision that has raised questions about whether the doctor was acting legally at the time. The elder Kornfeld was not licensed to practice medicine in Minnesota and was not registered to care for patients there via telemedicine, as the state requires. His son was not a licensed prescriber.

Since his connection with Prince became known, the younger Kornfeld has been stalked by celebrity photographers and has avoided talking publicly about the musician's death. Reached by phone Friday, he said simply, "Sorry. I'm not making a comment at this time."

Andrew Kornfeld's social media accounts show him smiling with a surfboard and list him as CEO of a Bay Area marketing company for health professionals. A University of California Santa Cruz spokesman confirmed that he graduated in 2013 with bachelor's degrees in psychology and neuroscience.

But perhaps the most intriguing detail about Kornfeld is his connection with Fadiman, author of "The Psychedelic Explorer's Guide," which collects stories of people experimenting with LSD, including professionals who took a fraction of a normal dose and reported boosts in their creativity at work.

Fadiman and Kornfeld co-authored a chapter titled "Psychedelic-Induced Experiences" for "The Wiley-Blackwell Handbook of Transpersonal Psychology," a textbook dealing with spirituality and transcendent human experience.

Their chapter lauds LSD's potential for out-of-body experiences and "seemingly spontaneous healing" from allergies, cluster headaches and even alcoholism.

"Andrew and I are friends and colleagues," Fadiman said in an email to The Associated Press. A portion of the chapter they wrote together proposes that LSD may activate

adaptive processes that form new, lasting connections in the brain. "That section was entirely Andrew's," Fadiman said.

The book's editor, Glenn Hartelius, an associate professor at California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, praised Kornfeld's contribution. "I have not met Andrew, but I found his thesis on how psychedelics create personal transformation to be original, elegant and potentially researchable - perhaps offering a step forward in understanding the impact of these substances," Hartelius said in an email.

The passage attributed to Kornfeld suggests psychedelic drugs could be "neuroplasticity activators." It states: "If a single psychedelic experience is able to create durable changes in personality and mental and emotional health, as has been reported, then it seems that these substances may be able to uniquely catalyze the formation of new brain maps."

Kornfeld's father, Dr. Howard Kornfeld, has published research that has been more mainstream than his son's work, although it too has pushed the envelope.

Last year, Howard Kornfeld published a paper on the use of buprenorphine, which can be used to treat opioid addiction by easing cravings and withdrawal symptoms. He wrote about using a buprenorphine patch to avoid "the painful abstinence period" before standard buprenorphine treatment for addiction. In a 2011 letter to a medical jour-

nal, he praised buprenorphine's potential for pain patients, saying believers in opioid therapy "need not lose faith."

On Friday, college friends described Kornfeld as charismatic and smart, a helpful person with the rare ability to get people to work together. "He really knows how to get people motivated, and he's a good organizer," said Kyle Boyar, 25, who met Kornfeld in a neuroscience course at the University of California at Santa Cruz in 2009.

Michelle Dick was in a student group that Kornfeld started on campus called the "Brain, Mind and Consciousness Society." "It's not many people you meet who make you feel like they have the potential to change people's lives for the better on a massive scale," she said in an email.

Kornfeld's father was called by Prince's staff on April 20 as they sought help for the musician's addiction to painkillers, according to the Kornfelds' attorney, William Mauzy. The doctor sent his son on an overnight flight with a small amount of buprenorphine for Prince. The musician never took the drug.

After finding Prince in the elevator, Andrew Kornfeld called 911 because two of his staffers were shocked and screaming, Mauzy said. "That he seemed to be the person who was most able to deal with the situation instead of people who knew Prince for years would imply that he was more level-headed than star-struck," Fadiman said. — AP

## Michael Shannon in Talks for Guillermo del Toro's Romance Movie



NEW YORK: Actor Michael Shannon. — AFP

Michael Shannon is in talks to star in Guillermo del Toro's untitled supernatural romance for Fox Searchlight. The project, which has been rumored to be titled "The Shape of Water," is set in 1963 with Shannon playing the villain of the story. A mute laboratory worker, to be played by Sally Hawkins, falls in love with an amphibious man who's being held captive.

Richard Jenkins, Octavia Spencer and Michael Stuhlbarg will co-star. Del Toro is directing and producing with Callum Greene, who worked with him on both "Pacific Rim" and "Crimson Peak." Shannon stars in Jeff Nichols' "Midnight Special," Liza Johnson's "Elvis & Nixon" and as General Zod in Zack Snyder's "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice." He also starred in Nichols' interracial marriage drama "Loving" and Tom Ford's "Nocturnal Animals."

Universal bought the rights to his drama "Frank & Lola" for \$2 million at Sundance. Shannon is represented by CAA, Wetzel Entertainment and Morris Yorn.



NEW YORK: Actor Idris Elba wearing Tom Ford while co-hosting this year's Met Gala. — AFP

## Idris Elba in Talks to Join Jessica Chastain in Aaron Sorkin's 'Molly's Game'

Idris Elba is in talks to star alongside Jessica Chastain in Aaron Sorkin's directorial debut "Molly's Game." Chastain is in negotiations for the lead role of Molly Bloom. Stung after failing to make the Olympic team, Bloom decided to take a year off before law school and get a job as a waitress in Los Angeles. Through a bizarre set of circumstances as well as untapped entrepreneurial skills, she ended up making millions by running, for eight years, the most exclusive high-stakes poker game in the world. Her life came crashing down when 17 FBI agents armed with automatic weapons rang her doorbell. Sorkin is also penning the script, based on Bloom's memoir. Mark Gordon will produce with Amy Pascal. "The casting of Jessica and Idris in the two lead roles is any filmmaker's dream come true," Sorkin said. "They're two of the greatest actors of their generation, paired for the first time, and their chemistry will be electric."

Elba starred in Netflix's critically acclaimed "Beasts of No Nation," which earned him the SAG Award for best supporting actor. Since then, Elba has landed the lead role opposite Matthew McConaughey in Sony's "The Dark Tower" as well as the Fox 2000 pic "The Mountains Between Us." Elba was most recently seen in "The Jungle Book," where he voiced the villain Shere Khan. He'll play another baddie in "Star Trek Beyond."

Chastain most recently starred in "The Huntsman: Winter's War" and is currently filming the gun-control thriller "Miss Sloane." Elba is repped by WME, the Headshell Management and The Artists Partnership. CAA and WME are co-repping rights at Cannes. — Reuters



# John von Soosten, TV Exec and Former NATPE President, Dies at 71

John von Soosten, a veteran programming exec for New York TV and radio stations and former president of NATPE, died April 13 on Long Island after a short illness. He was 71.

A native of New York, Von Soosten began his career as an engineer at what was then WOR-TV. He moved to what is now WNYW-TV in the era when the station was owned by John Kluge's MetroMedia. He rose through the ranks from assistant production manager to working in the programming department to the post of VP and director of programming for the station that became the flagship O&O of Rupert Murdoch's Fox network.

In 1985, von Soosten was elected president of the National Association of Television Program Executives, just

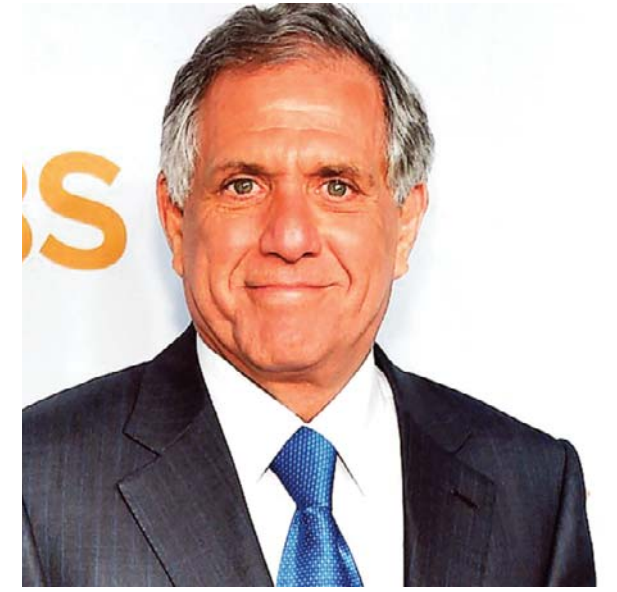
as the organization set off on a growth spurt with the expansion of the national first-run syndication business. He also served on NATPE's board of directors and on its executive committee.

After WNYW, Von Soosten moved to Katz Television as senior VP and director of programming for the national advertising rep firm, which works with local TV stations around the country. Von Soosten also worked for New York radio stations WQEW and WNSW, and he hosted the pop music programs "Frank's Place" and "On Broadway" for XM Satellite Radio.

For the past three years, von Soosten hosted "The Great American Songbook" program for Nantucket's NPR affiliate, WNCK. Von Soosten divided his time between homes in

West Hempstead, N.Y., and Nantucket.

"He had a deep passion the music and artists, and spent his life sharing that passion with us throughout his illustrious broadcasting career," the station said in a statement. Survivors include his wife of 45 years, Linda Baron, and two nephews. — Reuters



NEW YORK: Television Executive John von Soosten. — AFP

# Annette Bening Starring in Romance for Bond Producer Barbara Broccoli

Annette Bening, Jamie Bell and Julie Walters will star in the romance "Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool" for James Bond producer Barbara Broccoli and Colin Vaines.

IM Global is co-financing the film, which has acquired international distribution rights. It will launch sales next week at the Cannes Film Festival. Shooting will begin in the UK on June 27 with Paul McGuigan ("Sherlock") directing. The production will take place at Pinewood Studios and on loca-

tion in London and Liverpool. The story is based on the memoir by British actor Peter Turner and follows the playful but passionate relationship between Turner and the eccentric Academy Award-winning actress Gloria Grahame. What starts as a vibrant affair between a legendary femme fatale and her young lover grows into a deeper relationship.

Graham won an Oscar for her performance in "The Bad and the Beautiful." The book focuses on Graham turning to Turner

for support when she reached the terminal stage of stomach cancer in 1981. The screenplay is written by Matt Greenhalgh, whose credits include "Control" and "Nowhere Boy." Broccoli and her brother Michael G. Wilson own EON Productions and have produced the last eight Bond films together, including "Skyfall" and "Spectre." Pan Macmillan will republish the book in June in the UK The news was first reported by Screen. — Reuters



Actress Annette Bening

# 'The Revenant' Exec Producers Form Facing East, Back 'Inversion'

Markus Barmettler and Philip Lee, exec producers of "The Revenant," have formed production-financing company Facing East and are backing sci-fi adventure "Inversion."

The company, which plans three to four major productions every two years, is based in Beijing and Hong Kong. It announced Friday that "Inversion" has attached Peter Segal as director with Segal working on the screenplay with "Casino Royale" scribe Paul Haggis. Principal photography is set to commence in August. The story follows a street-wise American con man and a young Chinese physicist as they race against the clock to save the earth from a terrifying loss of gravity.

Michael Nozik is also set to produce, with the screenplay credited to Bragi Schut, David Arata and Paul Haggis. Mark Damon's Foresight Unlimited has been handling pre-sales and will sell the film in Cannes next week. "The Revenant" grossed \$60 million in China. Barmettler and Lee have also been involved in "Cloud Atlas," "Forbidden Kingdom" and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

They helped develop the multi-picture agreement between Guangdong Alpha Animation and Culture Company, Catchplay Inc. and New Regency. Facing East also has profit participation in "Assassins Creed" and "Splinter Cell."

Facing East is also developing "Chinatown" with Ronny Yu directing from a screenplay with James Dilapo about Chang Apana, who fought the systemic corruption of the Honolulu elite at the turn of the 20th Century and became the first Chinese police detective in Hawaii. — Reuters

# Nia Vardalos, Meg Ryan, Geena Davis Talk Sexism in Hollywood

Working together on "Tootsie," Dustin Hoffman gave Geena Davis wise career advice that she has followed ever since. "One of the things he told me was 'Work on getting your own material. Read books. Read articles, get the rights,'" says Davis. "So from the very beginning that was in my mind. In fact, I tried to get the rights to 'The Accidental Tourist' when I read it and somebody bought the rights a long time ago and I was so bummed because I thought somebody is going to get to play that part."

Davis, of course, ultimately did get to play that role in Lawrence Kasdan's 1988 drama, "The Accidental Tourist," winning the Academy Award for best supporting actress. But snagging an Oscar didn't preclude Davis from encountering sexism in Hollywood, a topic up for discussion at Friday's "In Control of Her Own Destiny" panel held during the second annual Bentonville Film Festival, which Davis co-founded and that aims to increase diversity and gender parity in media.

Meg Ryan, Nia Vardalos and Kimberly Williams-Paisley joined Davis for the spirited event, which took place at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Ark. "One day (on the set of 'Thelma & Louise') as we're walking to lunch, Ridley (Scott) says, 'Hey, Geena, I'm thinking later in the scene today, what if you were to just sit up in the back of the chair in your car and just take your shirt off?'" Davis told the crowd. "And I run over and find Susan (Sarandon) and I tell her there's a scene this afternoon and Ridley wants me to take my top off and she says, 'Oh, for heaven's sake! She throws her silverware down and goes over to Ridley and says, 'Ridley, Geena's not taking her top off.' It was like, oh, wait a minute. Women are actually allowed to say what they think and express what they want."

Vardalos, whose new comedy "My Big Fat Greek

Wedding 2" screened at Bentonville, encountered similar experiences while starting out in Hollywood. "I had worked for ten years in theater, I had worked at Second City in Chicago. Then I got to Hollywood and I was like, naively, 'Where's my pilot?'" she said. "And I went to my agent, who also represented my husband, who was going out for nine to ten auditions a week, and I said to her, 'Why am I not getting auditions?' And she said, 'Because you're not pretty enough to be a leading lady and you're not fat enough to be a character actress.' I held off for a bit to see if she was going to say, 'Just kidding!' But no, she was not kidding, not one bit. And I had real sadness for this woman because I realized she was hating on her own gender and that years of Hollywood had turned her so jaded."

In response, Vardalos borrowed a friend's computer and penned the semi-autobiographical "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," which went on to earn over \$368 million dollars at the U.S. box office. "I called myself with a job offer," said Vardalos of her decision to take matters into her own hands. "I jumped on stage and started to do that material as a one woman show. The agents never came. But Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks and Tom Hank's partner Gary Goetzman came. And they said, this should be a movie."

While new inroads have been made for women and minorities in TV and film, all four panelists agreed that gender inequality continues to pervade the entertainment business. "I've had lots of moments in development of my scripts where a director doesn't quite understand that I'm trying to be a voice for all women," said Vardalos. "Quite often they will suggest a scene where my character is going lingerie shopping and wearing a bra. And I'll say, 'Listen, when a woman is not feeling sexy the last thing we're going to do is subject ourselves to that fluorescent

lighting! I don't temper how I feel. I'm Greek. I've got emotions. I just say it: 'No.'"

"I remember when I got 'Father of the Bride and I first hired 'people' (to help me) and I was trying to find out who I was-I was 19," said Williams-Paisley. "One of the people I hired suggested, maybe your character is obsessed with trashy lingerie. I was like, 'Really? That's my thing?' And she was a woman. I didn't do that."

Per Ryan, there's also this notion in Hollywood that actresses simply aren't as smart as their male counterparts—that they just can't take care of themselves. "I'm come across more infantilization than sexism," says Ryan, whose directorial effort "Ithaca," also screened at Bentonville. "It's more likely for an actress to be considered dumb. It's much more convenient. I did a movie once that a lot of people didn't like, and I went to England to do press for it, and the interviewer hated it so much, he kept saying that I shouldn't have played such a sexualized character. Like a dad who was incredibly disappointed that his daughter had had sex. When I directed 'Ithaca' I got really aware of that idea that actresses just aren't supposed to be smart."

But producing your own projects is one of the best ways to maintain creative control, said Vardalos. "During the focus group process for 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2' the teenage girl character wasn't testing well and the studio said, 'can you make her more likeable?'" she said. "And we said absolutely not. I will not make her more likeable. This is an actual depiction of a female girl and look how well she's been received. So they can suck it!" — Reuters

# Kiefer Sutherland's 'Designated Survivor' to Premiere This Fall on ABC

Kiefer Sutherland will return to television with ABC's "Designated Survivor," a political conspiracy thriller in which he will play the President. Though Variety reported last year that "Designated Survivor" landed a straight-to-series order, ABC confirmed for the first time today that the series has officially been picked up with an initial order of 13 episodes. "Designated Survivor" is set to premiere this fall. Related Kiefer Sutherland Returning to TV in ABC Political Conspiracy Thriller Amy B. Harris, who was originally set as show runner on the series, has departed and the search for a new show runner is underway.

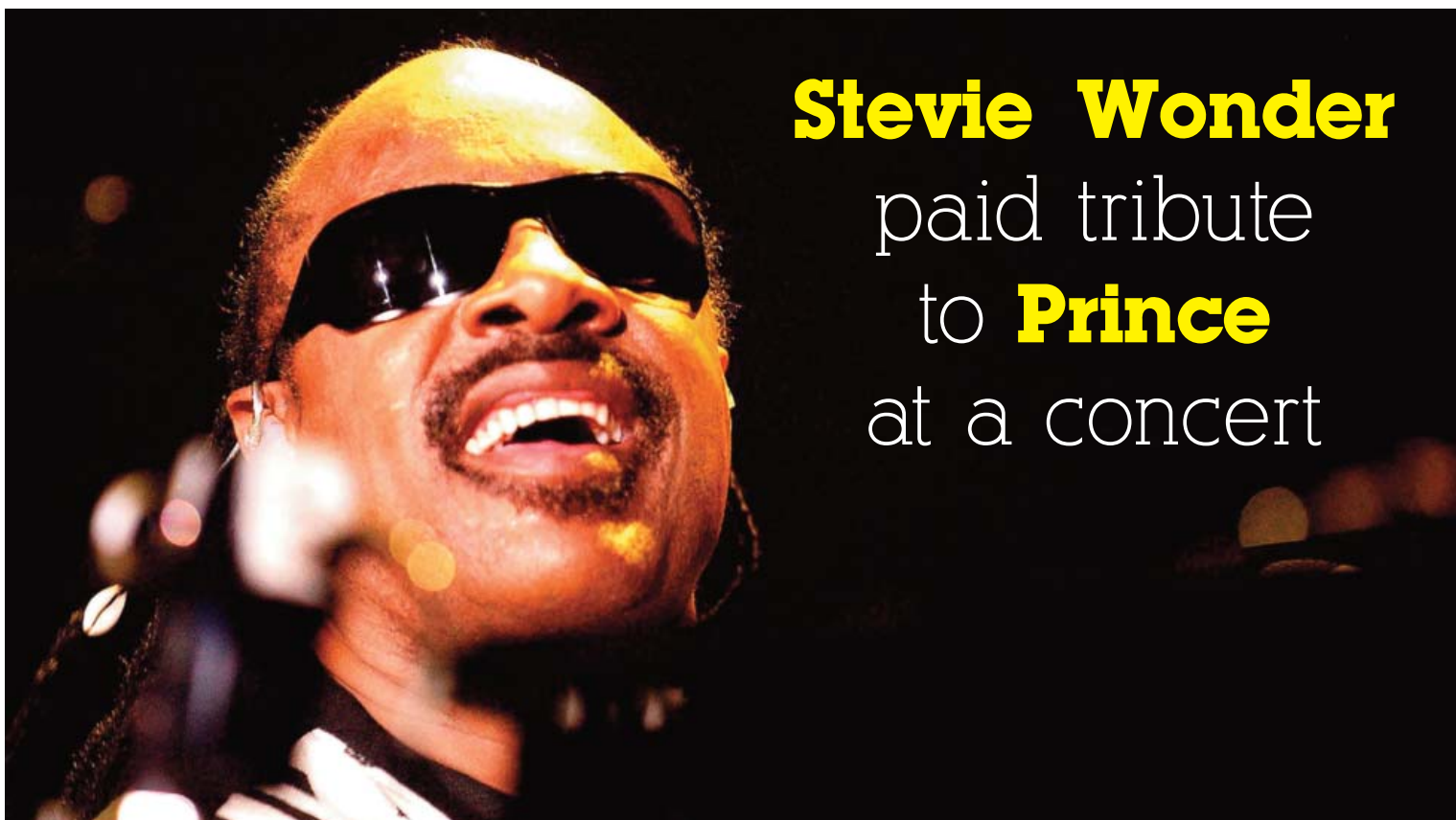
In the first teaser, released Friday by ABC, Sutherland is back in action as leading man. The "24" alum plays Tom Kirkman, a lower cabinet member who unexpectedly becomes president after a devastating attack on Washington. He will struggle to prevent the country and his own family from falling into chaos, as he is thrust into one of the most difficult presidencies in history.

"I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of the President of the United States—so help me God," Sutherland says in the trailer. Along with Sutherland, "Designated Survivor" stars Natascha McElhone, Maggie Q, Kal Penn, Adan Canto, Italia Ricci, LaMonica Garrett and Tanner Buchanan. The Mark Gordon Company and ABC Studios is behind "Designated Survivor" with creator David Guggenheim exec producing with Simon Kinberg who developed the show with Guggenheim. Mark Gordon, Nick Pepper, Suzan Bymel, Aditya Sood and Sutherland are also exec producers. Paul McGuigan directed the first episode. Sutherland is gearing up for a busy 2016-2017 season. Though he has no on-screen role at this point, he is attached to Fox's "24" spinoff "24: Legacy" as an exec producer. — Reuters



NEW YORK: Geena Davis, Meg Ryan, Nia Vardalos and Kimberly Williams at a press conference promoting their latest joint movie project. — AFP





## Stevie Wonder paid tribute to Prince at a concert

Legendary recording artist Stevie Wonder.

The 'I Just Called to Say I Love You' hit maker was joined by Faith Hill, Eric Benet, Aloe Blacc and Deirick Haddon as they performed for thousands of fans - all adorned in purple in honour of the fallen star - at the City Hall in California as a token of remembrance for the 'Purple Rain' hitmaker.

The 65-year-old singer closed with show with his very own version of Prince's 1984 hit before telling the emotional concert-goers, "In the spirit of Prince, we gotta love one another. And we can't just talk about it, we gotta be about it." Fans had tears rolling down their faces as Eric belted out the lyrics to the legendary performer's

'Wanna Be Your Lover' before teaming up with Deirick to sing 'Raspberry Beret'.

Speaking to USA Today afterwards, Eric said: "There's all this love out there for him. I know Prince is probably sitting on top of that building right now, we can't see him, but he's looking down and he's like, 'I'm feeling y'all for this.'" Although the three-hour long concert was mainly a celebration of Prince's life, the event did take an emotional turn when a flock of doves were released during a performance of 'When Doves Cry' towards the end.

Despite the memorial service, the legendary singer - who tragically passed away at the age of

57 on April 21 at his home in Minnesota - is still yet to be laid to rest, although preparations for the funeral have started to get underway.

Speaking in a statement, the family said recently: "We would like everyone to know that, contrary to previous and current reports, there has been no memorial, funeral or tribute service for Prince that was organized or authorized by the family or Paisley Park representatives. Together, the family is planning an official memorial service and public event to take place in the near future."

## Khloe Kardashian had 'anxiety' over Lamar Odom's first public appearance since he was hospitalized

The 31-year-old reality TV star has admitted she was apprehensive for her estranged husband to attend Kanye West's Yeezy 3 fashion show in Madison Square Gardens, New York, after his near-fatal drugs and alcohol overdose in October - although the former Los Angeles Lakers basketball player remained calm.

Speaking on 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' during the forthcoming episode on Sunday the 'Strong Looks Better Naked' author quizzed Lamar, 36, about his nerves. She said: "How was therapy today?"

"You're just chilling right? You don't have anxiety only I do, great. 'I've decided to go to New York with Lamar because I think this is something he truly wants to do, and at the end of the day I want Lamar to be happy. I still feel a ton of anxiety and pressure but if this makes him happy and I can keep him safe, then that's a match made in heaven. 'I'm nervous like this is nerve-wracking you [Lamar] haven't been in public ever. I have more anxiety than you do I'm sure but it's because I don't think you understand."

However, Kourtney's ex-partner, Scott Disick, 32, with who she has children Mason, six, Penelope, three and 16-month-old Reign, failed to attend the event in February and fed the mother-of-three "a million excuses". The 37-year-old brunette beauty - who ended her nine-year relationship with the entrepreneur in July 2015 - said: "I think Kim will be disappointed that Scott isn't coming to Kanye's show "He always has a million excuses, and sometimes it's like, 'It's too overwhelming.' And I get it that it's a huge day, but we're all here to support Kanye."

Meanwhile, Kim Kardashian West, Kourtney and Khloé have begun filming season 13 of their hit reality show in Cuba this week after first spending time in Miami.



Khloe Kardashian Odom.



Actor James McAvoy.

## James McAvoy thinks his bald head has boosted his career

The 37-year-old actor was forced to chop off his hair for his role in 'X-Men: Apocalypse' but, despite his new look initially dropping jaws, it seems his new bad boy shell has attracted the attention of more directors as he's been asked to appear in more movies since he made the dramatic cut.

He explained: "I was in San Diego, at Comic Con, promoting 'X-Men' and I got f\*\*\*ing blind drunk and stumbled into M Night Shyamalan and he was like, 'Heeeeey! I've never seen you like this before! And he gave me a part in his next movie. And the next director I met was like, 'I really like you bald. I'm going to give you this part!' It seems that everyone likes me bald right now." But it might not just be his bald head that's been catching the eye of movie bosses, as he's also been working up a sweat powerlifting in the gym every day.

Speaking to The Times newspaper, he said: "It's f\*\*\*ing brilliant, I love it, man! I Never thought I would be into that sh\*t but it's so much fun, really technical, and quite Zen."

## Selena Gomez didn't want Taylor Swift to join her on her Revival tour

The 23-year-old songstress rejected the idea of being accompanied by her best friends Cara Delevingne, Hailee Steinfeld, Gigi Hadid and the 'Bad Blood' hit maker on stage, because she doesn't want her association with celebrity pals to detract from her as a musician.

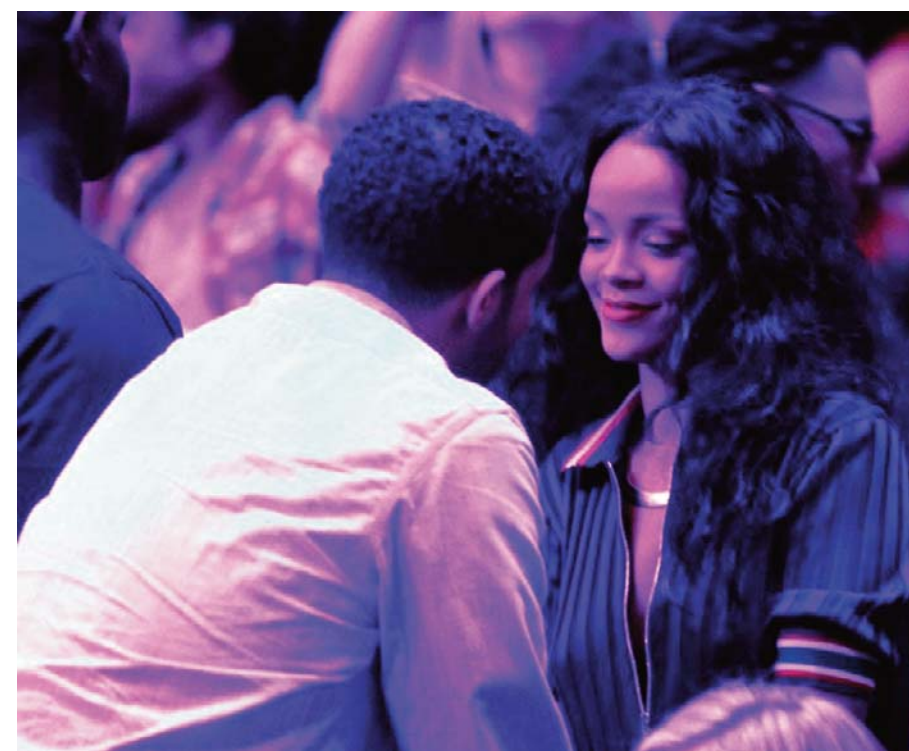
Speaking to Entertainment Weekly online about having a re-run of Taylor's The 1989 Tour - which saw Selena and Lisa Kudrow emerge on stage during her Los Angeles performance for a duet - the brunette beauty said: "I made a joke about this [getting her friends to join her on tour], Taylor was in the room, and she looked at me like, 'You should totally do that!' I was like, 'I can't have all those people come on my stage!' She's like, 'Why not?' 'Because I'm not Taylor Swift!' 'I've worked for my whole career, and I've always wanted it to be about that. 'I've been in

so many situations where it's like, 'Oh, you're friends with this person? You're with that person?' All this credibility s\*\*t that drives me crazy."

However, the 'Hands To Myself' hit maker has revealed she does enjoy collaborating with other artists, although her solo career is her main priority for now. She explained: "I love being able to work with other artists I admire. 'But I have a lot to do on my own before I am willing to make it all about embracing other people.'" Meanwhile, the former 'Wizards of Waverley Place' actress is balancing rehearsals for her second solo concert, which begins in Las Vegas on Friday (06.05.16), with creating a new album. She said: "I'm in rehearsals during the day and in the studio at night. You hit those points in your life where you're super inspired."



Pop Stars and Bestfriends Selena Gomez and Taylor Swift.



## Rihanna has reportedly been dating Drake 'for months'

The pair - whose love lives have been the hot topic of conversation for years - set tongues wagging on Wednesday night (04.05.16) when they flaunted their undeniable chemistry while performing their sexy track 'Work' on stage at The Forum in Los Angeles as part of her Anti World Tour, before dancing the night away at The Nice Guy nightclub.

A source told People.com: "They've [Rihanna and Drake] been secretly dating for months. They were dancing all night together [at the club]. They were very affectionate." This isn't the first time the brunette beauty has been romantically linked to the 29-year-old rapper as it was thought they also dated briefly a few years ago.

The insider added: "They have been keeping it [their relationship] a secret because this time around, they want to do it right and keep their relationship private." Drake previously boasted about the "genuine energy" he has with the 28-year-old singer after he was pressed on their friendship and collaboration on his track 'Too Good'.

He said at the time: "We're not forcing some story on people. A lot of the music and energy we have is genuine. We have a genuine energy. [I was like] I think I have one that would follow this one [Work] up really nicely. It was like a flawless victory when she sent it back. Every nuance, every cadence was perfect ... That's what makes the record."

Meanwhile, the duo's new relationship status will no doubt come as somewhat of a surprise to fans as just a few months ago Rihanna declared she was very much single.

She said: "I'm single right now. And it's not that I'm like, 'Oh, pro single. Yes, I hate men.' I just think that I just have so much on my plate that I can't even find the time to entertain a steady relationship or anything serious ... [I don't even have time to send] a text. Right now it's just crazy."

## Justin Timberlake has confirmed he is working on a new album

The 35-year-old singer has announced on Friday (06.05.16) he will "definitely" be following up his latest solo single 'Can't Stop The Feeling!', following a three-year hiatus, with a full album, although he doesn't know "exactly" what it will feature.

Speaking to Carson Daly's morning show on '97.1 AMP Radio' today about his recent release and his future projects, the American heartthrob said: "I don't know exactly when I'm going to put it out but yeah, I'm definitely working on a new album."

However, the former 'NSYNC star - who has a 12-month-old son Silas Randall with his wife Jessica Biel - has teased the South East American sound, which he grew up listening to, has influenced his recent record. He explained: "I think where I grew up in America has a

lot of influence. "Growing up in Tennessee - very central of the country - Memphis is known as the birthplace of rock and roll, but also the home of the blues, but Nashville's right down the street so there's a lot of country music."

The 'Friends with Benefits' actor took to Twitter to unveil the exciting news about his return to the music industry earlier today, he wrote: "Friday starts NOWWWW! #CantStopTheFeeling #DreamWorksTrolls (sic)."

The song is classically Justin, with its infectious beat and falsetto chorus and it gives his supporters a chance to hear what kind of music he plans to make for the soundtrack, which he is executive producing, to the upcoming animation film 'Trolls'. For the film, which

is slated for release on November 4, Justin will also be voicing a character named Branch.

Justin admitted Pharrell and producer Chad Hugo inspired him to release a solo album. Speaking previously he said: "I remember feeling like, I was like, 'I have to do my own record and I have to go solo.' "And I knew that when I walked in and I heard that, it was a confirmation that these two guys were the answer to everything that I wanted to do."



Justin Timberlake



## Jay Z is reportedly making his own version of Beyoncé's 'Lemonade'

The couple recently found their marriage under scrutiny when lyrics from the 'Crazy in Love' singer's new record appeared to suggest her husband of eight years - with whom she has four-year-old daughter Blue Ivy - had cheated on her, but they have worked through their problems.

And though neither of them have directly addressed the claims, the 46-year-old rapper is said to be planning to make a record of his own which will chronicle his side of the story.

A source said: "Jay is working on an album telling his side of things." In one hard-hitting clip on Beyoncé's visual LP - which debuted on HBO - a couple were seen cuddling up to one another, as the brunette beauty sings: "Looking at my watch he should have been home. I regret the day I put that ring on."

And to add even more fuel to the fire, the curvaceous star belted out the lyrics: "This is your final warning, You know I give you life, If you try this s\*\*t again, You gon' lose your wife" A source close to the couple insisted the album - which was split into themes starting with Intuition, Denial, Anger, Apathy, Emptiness and ended on Forgiveness, Hope and Redemption - "says it all" and retells how they recovered from a difficult patch in their marriage.

They told Us Weekly: "The album says it all. It explains how she and Jay got through their problems. The good outweighed the bad, so she gave him a second chance." And some believe that Beyoncé's 'Lemonade' is directly linked to an incident that took place in an elevator at a Met Gala afterparty in 2014, where her younger sister Solange, 29, appeared to kick Jay Z, reportedly because she found out he had cheated on her sibling.

Rapper Jay Z



## Rob Kardashian was involved in a car crash this week

The 29-year-old sock designer - who owns a number of luxury motors - was left a little shaken up when another vehicle ploughed into his lavish Bentley as he merged onto the 101 freeway in Los Angeles, California.

The former 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star - who appeared to be travelling alone at the time - managed to escape the smash unscathed but his expensive car wasn't so lucky and, according to video footage obtained by the Mirror Online, the rear bumper caved in from the impact.

It's not known if anyone else was injured during the crash. Meanwhile, it seems Rob won't come into any financial difficulty if he's forced to cough up for the damage - despite the other vehicle allegedly hitting him - as he recently splashed out a reported \$200,000 on a luxury purple Lamborghini for his fiancée Blac Chyna, 27. He also made sure he pushed the boat out when he got down on one knee and popped the question to the blonde model last month as well, as he presented her with a huge diamond sparkler worth an estimated \$325,000. The loved-up couple - who only started dating at the beginning of this year - are also keen to splurge when it comes to their upcoming nuptials.

A source said recently: "She [Blac] wants the location to be exotic. She wants the finest wine, spirits and cuisine. And she wants her family and her entire crew present! She and Rob are hashing out all the details as they go."

But the pair haven't had an easy time of late as Rob's famous family - including Kim Kardashian West, Khloe Kardashian and his mother Kris Jenner - were reportedly furious when they heard he was dating the model. The family locked horns with the model when she fell out with Rob's half-sister Kylie Jenner after she started dating her ex-fiancé Tyga, who is the father of her three-year-old son King Cairo. However, they've since managed to put their feud to bed.

Reality Star Rob



## Mythical Morrison cave closed over Doors-inspired graffiti

As the Doors song goes, this is the end. Fans of the band who have marked up a scenic cave on the California coast with psychedelic graffiti will have to find another place to spray out their love for frontman Jim Morrison. It has closed indefinitely for cleanup.

The trend began with a social media myth that the singer wrote songs in Corral Canyon Cave in Malibu Creek State Park. It was always a popular hiking spot for nature lovers seeking

sweeping views of the surrounding scenery and always had some vandalism, but it has spiraled out of control in the past year.

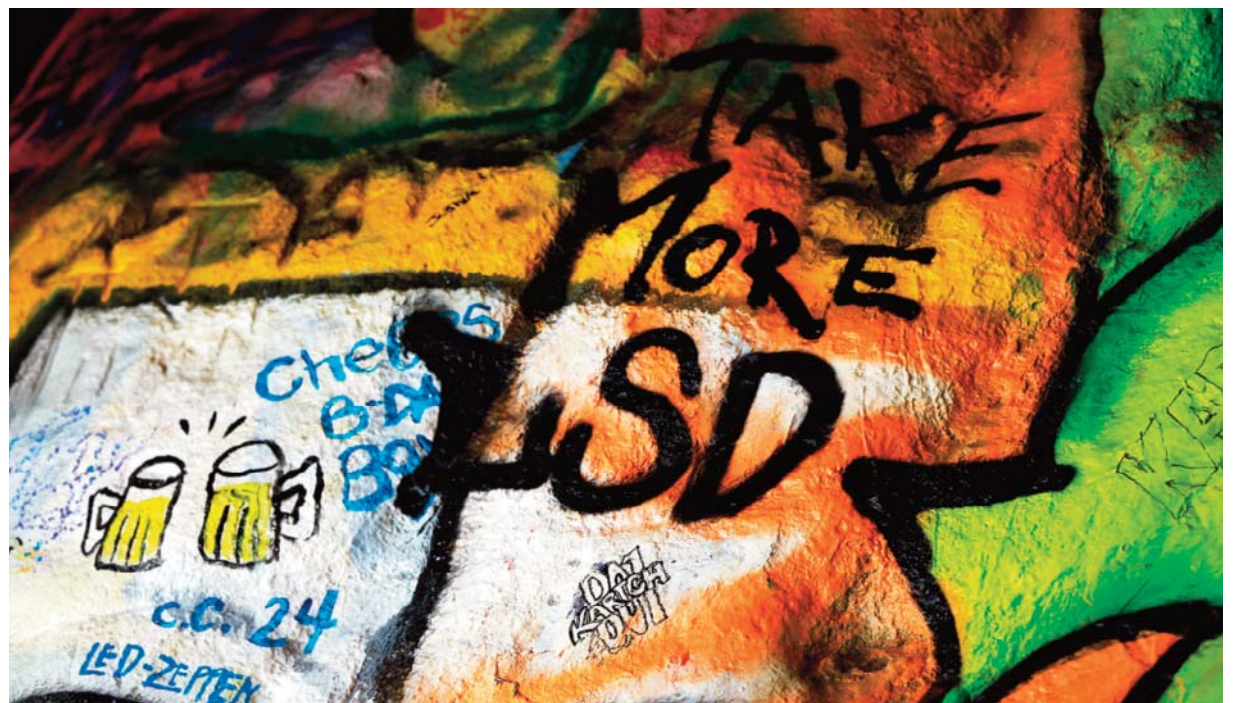
The cave now looks almost tie-dyed with multicolored swirls inside and out. Doors lyrics such as "love me 2 times" and "try to set the night on fire" are scrawled on its walls. There also are declarations like "Use your third eye" and "Try LSD," along with more crude tags. The problem is the combination of tags and hashtags, with people putting pictures of the "Jim Morrison cave" on

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook, though he never wrote a known word there.

"It exploded over last summer, and graffiti has been increasing ever since," California State Parks District Superintendent Craig Sap told the Los Angeles Times. "People are posting pictures of the cave 30 or 40 times a day."

Approaching the cave, you can almost expect to catch someone ready to mark it, Supervising Ranger Lindsey Templeton said.

"We come in and we hear shaking cans," Templeton said. "It's like fish in a barrel!" The now-closed cave will be blasted with walnut shells, which will clean off the graffiti without damaging the rock walls. The cleanup will cost \$40,000, and there's no word on when hikers can head back to it. It's a misdemeanor to go to the cave, with a fine of nearly \$400, and a felony to spray-paint on it. — AP



MALIBU: Graffiti as seen inside the Corral Canyon Cave on Friday. — AP photos



Mythical Morrison  
cave closed over  
Doors-inspired graffiti

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Pigeons wearing LED lights fly over the East River after they were released from their coops on board the Baylander, a decommissioned naval ship docked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard on Thursday. — AP

## 2,000 LED-tagged pigeons stage show in NYC sky

New York is staging a show with 2,000 pigeons tagged with LED lights illuminating the city's night sky. For its premiere Thursday, the birds were released at sunset from coops aboard a former aircraft carrier docked at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Improvising their own choreography, the flock swooped, twirled and glided through the sky above the East River for the show called "Fly by Night." "It's almost like this shooting star going across the skyline," said artist Duke Riley, who created the 30-minute spectacle on the Brooklyn waterfront.

LED light bands are attached to a bird's leg and remote-controlled from the Baylander, a decommissioned Navy ship from the Vietnam era. Spectators lined a grandstand on land, surrounded by taped sounds of birds cooing and flapping their wings as the pigeons perched atop the warship, waiting

for the sky to darken. Then a hush descended on the scene as Riley and several assistants, hollering and blowing whistles, waved garbage bags - simulating hawks - over the vessel to start the flock flying around. The spectacle, which runs each weekend through June 12, is free of charge but requires online reservations. There's already a waiting list.

Riley selected the Brooklyn Navy Yard for his light show because nearby, on an artificial island, the Navy housed its first messenger-pigeon fleet in the early 20th century.

The project by the 43-year-old artist and Boston native is presented by Creative Time, a New York-based nonprofit that sponsors public art. He says he was inspired for "Fly by Night" after reading an old military manual on training pigeons for night missions.

About two-thirds of the birds were donated by people

from New York's pigeon community who were forced to give up their birds because of their housing situations. Others are on loan from friends. They come in an array of colors, some with silver heads, others with black stripes, and one with a red beak.

Equipping thousands of pigeons with LED lights was a project unto itself - a team effort led by a company called 10xBETA based at the Navy Yard. It took a technician in China to create a pigeon-light circuit. And an American manufacturer made containers for the equipment that volunteers snapped into the leg bands. The cost of the project was not disclosed.

The show also celebrates the vanishing hobby of keeping pigeons on the rooftops of Brooklyn's historic waterfront. In the 1960s, thousands of people did that, but now, there are

fewer than 200 raising pigeons in New York. When the show is over in June, many of the birds will go to a Brooklyn man who lost hundreds of his pigeons in a fire earlier this year.

It's not the first time Riley has used homing pigeons for his performance art. He says he smuggled cigars from Havana to Key West, Florida, in a 2013 project called "Trading With the Enemy."

"Pigeons suffer a PR problem," said Creative Time curator Meredith Johnson. "People have this sense that they're rats with wings. But pigeons are incredibly complex." "He wants to bring them out of the shadows," she said of Riley. — AP

## Clive Owen, Jessica Biel Starring in Drama 'Invisible'

Danis Tanovic's upcoming drama "Invisible," which will begin shooting in London in October. Good Films is financing and Miriam Segal is producing. Good Universe is handling worldwide sales on the project and will introduce it to buyers next week in Cannes.

Tena Stivicic ("The World's Greatest Monster") is writing the script, adapting her original play of the same name. Owen and Biel will play a couple who, despite their perfect lives, find themselves wanting more. The story will also examine several people on the other side of London, who have each travelled from faraway lands and put their lives on the line to seek out better opportunities than their homeland can offer.

The vastly separate lives collide in interweaving stories of class, identity and belonging in "Invisible," which examines the true cost that the pursuit of happiness can take. Owen can next be seen in Luc Besson's "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," while Biel recently starred in "The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea."

Tanovic won the Fipresci Prize and Silver Bear for his film "Death in Sarajevo" at the Berlin International Film Festival in February. Good Films recently announced that Dakota Fanning is attached to star in Janusz Kaminski's upcoming thriller "The Postcard Killings," which Good Universe will also begin selling in Cannes. — Reuters

Clive Owen and Jessica Biel have come on board



Clive Owen and Jessica Biel

## Judge Close to Throwing Out Summer Redstone Case

Just as the much anticipated trial over Sumner Redstone's mental capacity got underway on Friday, Judge David Cowan suggested he was close to dismissing the case. Cowan said he relied heavily on Redstone's videotaped testimony, in which he strongly said he wanted his former health agent, Manuela Herzer, out of his life. Herzer is suing to block that decision, saying that Redstone was incapacitated when he threw her out.

"How can I sit here and say after listening to that video, 'No you can't have what you want?'" Cowan said. Cowan said he would take the weekend to think about it, and would decide whether to dismiss the case on Monday. 'Severely Compromised,' Mogul Suffers From Dementia, Doctor

Tells Court Pierce O'Donnell, Herzer's attorney, said he intends to put on several more witnesses to show that Redstone did not fully appreciate what he was doing when he removed Herzer. O'Donnell's case was not helped, however, when his own expert, Dr. Stephen Read, suggested it would not be a good idea to return Herzer to the role of Redstone's health care agent.

On cross examination, Redstone's attorney, Robert Klieger, noted that Redstone has clearly stated that he does not want Herzer in his life, and asked whether that made it difficult for her to act as his health agent. "The principal should have some trust in the agent," Read testified. — Reuters