

Nearly 500 people a year die in traffic accidents



Obama to pay historic visit to Hiroshima this month



Emirates annual profit soars 56% as fuel costs fall



Curry back with a bang, named MVP for second straight year



## 30 HOUSEWIVES, 'EMPLOYER' GET JAIL OVER LABOR FRAUD

### MASSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY VIOLATIONS EXPOSED



Min 26°  
Max 38°  
High Tide 03:40 & 14:14  
Low Tide 08:59 & 21:52

## YEMEN FOES AGREE MAJOR PRISONER SWAP

**KUWAIT:** Yemen's government and Iran-backed rebels agreed yesterday to free half of the prisoners and detainees held by both sides, in the first breakthrough in peace talks that began last month. The deal came during a meeting of the joint working group on prisoners and detainees formed by UN special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. There has been mounting international pressure to end the Yemen conflict, which the United Nations estimates has killed more than 6,400 people and displaced 2.8 million since March last year.

"It was agreed during the meeting to release 50 percent of the prisoners and detainees within the next 20 days," Mane Al-Matari, media adviser to Yemen's foreign minister who heads the government delegation, told AFP. A source close to the Houthi rebel delegation confirmed the agreement to release half of those held by both sides, describing it as "an exchange of prisoners". The two sides will meet again today to finalize the mechanism on how and when the exchange will take place, Matari said. "The Yemeni government is committed to release all the prisoners as per the agreement," he said. Matari estimated that their number is in the "thousands", but the rebel source said there may be only hundreds of prisoners involved.

Continued on Page 13



**KUWAIT:** UN special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed (center left) is seen at a meeting of a joint Yemeni working group yesterday. — KUNA

By Meshal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The criminal court yesterday sentenced 30 Kuwaiti women, mainly housewives, to one year with labor and a KD 1,000 fine each for unlawfully claiming national labor support allowance (known locally as dam amala) for two years. The ruling also included repaying all the sums they received. The accused had nominally registered their names as employees in a private sector company without actually working for it. The company owner was also sentenced to one year with labor. The sentence is not final as it can be challenged.

Around 80 percent of Kuwait's national workforce of 360,000 is employed by the government, which offers higher pay and fewer working hours. Under the national labor support program, the government pays a monthly salary to all Kuwaitis who take up jobs in the private sector. The state spends more than \$700 million a year on the scheme.

Meanwhile, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih revealed social security violations involving 51,697 citizens who had been unlawfully getting millions in public funds. Subaih stressed strict measures would be taken against violators, starting with the immediate suspension of social aid allowances they had been getting and ending with prosecuting them to reclaim the sums involved, in addition to holding ministry officials involved in facilitating such violations legally accountable. "A special team investigating social aid detected the violations and is still working on unearthing new cases," Subaih added, noting that statistics on these violations were "scary" and involved various forms of manipulations of public funds.

Continued on Page 13

## MPS DEFER DEBATE ON OIL STRIKE

### RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED OVER FLYING GRAVEL

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly yesterday decided to postpone a scheduled debate on last month's strike by thousands of Kuwaiti oil workers for two weeks until the return of acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh, who is travelling with the prime minister. Thousands of Kuwaiti oil workers observed work stoppages for three days last month to demand that authorities do not cut any of their salaries, benefits and incentives. The oil sector trade union officials are still discussing the issue with the government.

The Assembly also agreed to delay a probe request into the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's overtime policy demanded by the head of the budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad, claiming deliberate squandering of public funds. He also threatened not to pass the authority's budget for the current fiscal year unless the probe is launched to establish if financial violations had been committed. The delay came at the request of the government, which said it wants to study the issue before agreeing to the probe.

Continued on Page 13



**DHAHRAN:** Aramco President and CEO Amin Nasser chats with colleagues before addressing visiting journalists at the company headquarters yesterday. — AFP

## ARAMCO TO EXPAND AS OIL DEMAND GROWING

**DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia:** State oil giant Saudi Aramco, which could soon become the world's largest listed company, will keep expanding despite low crude prices, its president said yesterday. "Saudi Aramco will continue to expand," Amin Al-Nasser told reporters during a tour of the company's headquarters on Saudi Arabia's Gulf coast in Dhahran, where it drilled its first test well in 1935. Even though the current situation "is challenging, it is an excellent opportunity for growth," said Nasser, as the industry worldwide reels from the collapse in oil prices.

As part of the Saudi Vision 2030 plan unveiled last month, the OPEC kingpin announced it will sell less than five percent of Aramco in what officials say will be the world's largest ever initial public offering. Proceeds from the sale will contribute to creating the biggest government investment fund in the world, with a value of \$2 trillion, whose profits can provide an alternative to plunging oil revenues. "We are still doing a lot of analysis" related to commercial and legal issues and "the options available for us in terms of listing", whether in the kingdom or internationally, Nasser said, adding that this "will take time".

A public listing by Saudi Aramco would make it the first flotation of a major state-owned oil firm in the Gulf. The company is seen as having a key role in Riyadh's ambitious Vision 2030 plan to diversify its economy, and King Salman on Saturday chose longtime Aramco chairman Khaled Al-Falih to head a new super ministry of

energy, industry and mineral resources. Now, with oil demand "increasing", Nasser said Saudi Aramco "will meet the call", noting that the company which has a monopoly on the kingdom's production pumped an average of 10.2 million barrels per day (bpd) last year. Production at Shaybah oilfield is increasing, he said. "We are putting 250,000 barrels (per day) on stream" at the field in the east.

Bloomberg News reported last month that Aramco will complete an expansion of the Shaybah field by the end of May, allowing the world's largest exporter to maintain total capacity at 12 million bpd. The move will see Shaybah's capacity rise to one million bpd from 750,000. Nasser said he expected a balance in supply and demand in world markets "toward the end of the year, (or the) first quarter next year". "There will be a requirement for major producers" to increase output in line with "the prospect of additional demand", he said.

Asked what concern he had about a return of US shale to the market as prices near \$50 a barrel, he said that "of course" as the price rises, additional production will come on stream, either conventional or not. "But it will take time," he said. Globally, Saudi Aramco is seeking new joint ventures abroad, said Nasser, naming Indonesia, Vietnam, India and China. Asked to elaborate, he said: "Right now we're looking at refining, integrated petrochemicals."

Continued on Page 13

## B'DESH HANGS TOP ISLAMIST FOR WAR CRIMES

**DHAKA:** Bangladesh hanged Islamist party leader Motiur Rahman Nizami today for war crimes committed during the 1971 war of independence to break away from Pakistan, the law minister said, in a move that could draw an angry reaction from his supporters. Nizami, head of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was hanged at Dhaka Central jail after the Supreme Court rejected his final plea against a death sentence imposed by a special tribunal for genocide, rape and orchestrating the massacre of top intellectuals during the war.

Nizami, 73, a former legislator and minister, was hanged at 12.01 am local time, Law Minister Anisul Haq told Reuters. Thousands of extra police and border guards were deployed in Dhaka and other major cities to tighten security. Officials formally read the verdict to Nizami on Monday night after he was brought to Dhaka Central Jail from a prison outside the capital, senior jailor Jahangir Kabir told reporters. The Islamist leader did not say then whether he would seek any clemency, Kabir said, and prisoners are normally given a 24-hour window after verdict publication to formally apply.

Continued on Page 13



Motiur Nizami



**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Minister of Public Works Ali Al-Omair are seen during a parliamentary session yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## TRUMP: LONDON MAYOR EXCEPTION TO BAN

### KHAN SLAMS 'IGNORANT' VIEWS



**LONDON:** Mayor of London Sadiq Khan speaks with Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo as they meet at St Pancras Station yesterday. — AFP

**WASHINGTON:** US presidential hopeful Donald Trump has said he would make an exception for London's new Muslim mayor after he proposed banning all Muslims from entering the United States, the New York Times reported, but an unconvinced Sadiq Khan yesterday slammed Trump's "ignorant" view of Islam. Trump, the presumed Republican presidential candidate, proposed a ban on Muslims entering the country in December, days after terrorists killed 14 people in San Bernardino, California.

Khan, elected London mayor on Saturday, had expressed worries that he would not be able to visit the United States were Trump elected in November. "There will always be exceptions," Trump told the Times in an interview published Monday. The brash real estate billionaire - who has alienated many Americans with insults against immigrants, Muslims and women - welcomed Khan's election. "I was happy to see that," he said.

Continued on Page 13



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih, accompanied by members of the tenth GCC forum for social leagues, held in Kuwait. Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah attended the meeting. — KUNA

## PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES SOUTH KOREAN COMPANIES' CHIEFS



**SEOUL:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with top chiefs of South Korean companies yesterday. — KUNA

**SEOUL:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received chiefs of SK Group, Hyundai Heavy Industries and Daewoo EC at his place of residency in the South Korean Capital of Seoul yesterday.

The meeting discussed means of cooperation and exchange of training between Kuwait and these major industrial companies. Having cooperation with these companies comes in line with Kuwait's vision of 2035 that focuses on creating an inviting environment for investment that would, hence, diversify Kuwaiti sources of income. Later, His Highness the Prime Minister also received head of Kuwaiti-South Korean Friendship Committee President. — KUNA

## KUWAIT LOOKS TO BENEFIT FROM SOUTH KOREA'S EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE: MINISTER

KUWAIT, SOUTH KOREA TO ESTABLISH JOINT CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

**SEOUL:** Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Al-Essa met yesterday with Korean Minister of Education Lee Joon-sik, discussing bilateral ties. During the meeting, Essa expressed Kuwait's keenness to benefit from the South Korean experience as having one of the best educational systems in the world.

The two ministers also discussed cooperation on schools and educational institutions development. They also tackled development of education in Kuwait through enhanced cooperation and exchange of educational research, in addition to training programs to support workers and researchers in the educational field in order to develop human resources, noted the minister. Essa also expressed Kuwait's hope to allocate

fields of education and sciences with a number of universities in South Korea. One of the main issues that were touched on was sending Kuwaiti students on scholarships to South Korea to complete their education.

The Kuwaiti minister, and his delegation, toured a number of high schools and universities in South Korea and got familiarized with the advanced education processes and systems that are being followed in the East Asian country.

The Kuwaiti delegation also visited Kookmin University, one of the country's leading universities in technology and computer, where they discussed the possibility of sending Kuwaiti students to finish their post-graduate studies.

Hanyang University, one of the nation's top

ing institute. Hanyang University has an alumni network of 300,000 that is not limited to the field of engineering but also to other fields. It enrolls over 2,000 foreign students each year and more than 3,000 students study abroad annually.

### Hospital tour

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh paid a visit to Severance Hospital, one of the oldest and biggest university hospitals in South Korea. The Minister and his accompanying delegation, which consisted of Minister of State for Housing Yasser Abul, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah and Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Khaled Al-Sahlawi, toured the hospital's various highly advanced departments.

During the tour, Saleh discussed means of health cooperation and exchange of expertise in management and treatment, with the hospital's director and some senior health staff. They also tackled the possibility of sending Kuwaiti patients, of emergency cases, over to the hospital to receive proper treatment.

Severance Hospital affiliated with Yonsei University College of Medicine. It has 3,700 beds, approximately 3,000,000 outpatients and 1,000,000 inpatients annually. The hospital is part of the Yonsei University Health System which has 7,000 employees, including 2,000 physicians and 5,000 other personnel. 24,000 students have graduated from its medical schools.

### Construction company

In the meantime, Director General of the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) Bader Al-Wugayyan signed late Monday a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with South Korea's Land and Housing Corporation (LH), to establish a joint construction company.

The signed MoU comes under the agreement between Kuwait government and the government of South Korea, which was signed by Abul and South Korean Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Kang Hoin, during the visit of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to South Korea, said Wugayyan.

The company's incorporation procedures will be taken in accordance with the systems and the laws in Kuwait, and it will operate in the planning, design and implementing road construction works for about 30,000 housing units in south of Saad Al-Abdullah City, the statement added. Saad Al-Abdullah city will be the first smart and environment-friendly city in Kuwait and in line with international standards.

### Joint committee

Separately, Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) announced the formation of a Kuwaiti-South Korean joint committee, tasked with inspecting investment opportunities in both countries. The announcement was made in a meeting of delegations of KPC and South Korean conglomerate SK Group, which coincided with His Highness the Prime Minister's visit to the South Korean capital, Seoul.

In a press statement, KPC said that the meeting between the company's delegation, headed by Minister Saleh, and the SK Group, tackled ways to boost cooperation between both nations, particularly, in the investment field. Moreover, both sides have agreed to form a joint committee to inspect investment opportunities in both nations, the statement added. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Ambassador of Pakistan to Kuwait Ghulam Dastgir visited Kuwait Times yesterday and discussed matters of mutual concern with Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## PM'S VISIT TO JAPAN TO FURTHER CEMENT TIES: SOCIETY CHAIRMAN

DISTINGUISHED TIES GO BACK OVER HALF CENTURY

**TOKYO/KUWAIT:** Japan-Kuwait Society Chairman Yasushi Kimurasaid His Highness the Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah's upcoming visit to Japan will further cement bilateral ties.

"His visit, which followed reciprocal visits by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in 2012 and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Kuwait in 2013, will surely play a significant role in further advancing friendly relationship and building a stronger bond between the two countries," Kimura said in an interview with Kuwait News Agency (KUNA).

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak is scheduled to arrive in Tokyo today for a four-day visit, the first since he assumed the post, during which he will meet with Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other leaders.

Ever since Japan and Kuwait established diplomatic relations in 1961, the two countries have steadily deepened friendly relations. "Japan made a contribution to liberation and reconstruction of Kuwait during the Gulf War in 1991. After 20 years, this time, Kuwait offered us substantial support in the aftermath of the unprecedented earthquake-tsunami disaster in March 2011 by donating five million barrels of crude oil," said Kimura. "Such a mutual assistance cannot possibly be achieved overnight and it much owes to longtime amicable relations cultivated by our predecessors," he commented firm and longstanding friendly ties between Japan and Kuwait. "Constant contact and mutual consideration are important for cultivating and maintaining friendships, same as people-to-people exchange."

Kimura, who also serves as Chairman of Japan's top oil refiner JX Holdings Inc., voiced expectation for a greater economic and technological partnership between the two countries, underlining Kuwait's ambitious Second Five-Year National Development Plan (2015-2020) launched in April last year. State Minister of Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih visited Japan in October 2014, and Director-General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority Sheikh Dr Mishaal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah came here in March last year, with both expressing continued expectation for Japanese firms and technology, which contributed to infrastructure improvement in Kuwait in the early days.

### Foreign investment

The two countries have signed a bilateral double-taxation avoidance agreement, as well as an investment promotion and protection agreement. Furthermore, Kuwait's Cabinet has resolved the total abolishment of its offset program that had long been an obstacle for foreign investment in Kuwait. "Kuwait has improved a favorable investment climate. In the process of implementing many giant infrastructural projects, such as water, power and transportation network listed in the development plan, I expect that bilateral economic and technological cooperation between the two countries will make further progress," Kimura said.

The chairman expressed gratitude to the Kuwaiti leadership and people for their heart-warming support and encouragement following the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated northeastern region. "Soon after the disaster, Kuwait announced contribution of five million barrels of crude oil, which greatly encouraged the Japanese people. I was amazed at the scale of the donation that surpassed Japan's daily consumption and valued at some JPY 45 billion (\$425 million)," he said.

Kimura also offered appreciation to Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdulrahman Al-Otaibi for his active support activities to help the disaster-stricken people. Ambassador Al-Otaibi rushed to the affected areas immediately after the catastrophe to deliver food, daily necessities and school supplies, as well as soccer balls for children. In addition, the ambassador also organized and hosted a charity bazaar at the Embassy, of which proceeds were donated to the affected areas.

"I was deeply moved by Ambassador's words on the arrival of a tanker carrying the first shipment of the Kuwaiti aid oil," said Kimura. In his speech at a commemorative ceremony in October that year, Al-Otaibi said, "It doesn't matter what and how much assistance we provide Japan. The most important thing is my country's solidarity toward Japan and its people." Looking back over the past five years, Kimura shed light on Kuwait's tremendous assistance, which he said "deeply engraved into the heart of Japanese people."

"The generous Kuwaiti aid was effectively utilized for the projects related to post-disaster reconstruction work, such as the completed recovery of the Sanriku Railway and refurbishment of the marine science museum Aquamarine Fukushima."

Meanwhile, Kimura renewed Japan-Kuwait Society's commitment to continue to be a bridge of friendship and cultural exchanges between the two countries. The Japan-Kuwait Society, which 18 leading Japanese companies deeply linked to Kuwait register as members, marked the 50th anniversary of its foundation last year. Since its establishment in 1965, the society has promoted cultural exchanges and deepened understanding of Kuwait and Arab-Islam among the Japanese people through a number of publications, including the 'Danah' newsletter introducing Kuwait as well as Arab-Islamic-related books. Moreover, it regularly offers Arabic lessons to promote Arabic in Japan.

### Economic ties

His Highness the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Japan is of special importance. Japan will be the last leg of His Highness the Premier's Asian tour that has included Bangladesh, Vietnam and South Korea. Bilateral economic ties date back to 1958, when the late Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah granted Arabian Oil Company, Ltd. oil and gas concessions in the offshore Neutral Zone (now Divided Zone).

Japan was among the first world countries to recognize Kuwait's independence, through a resolution adopted



Yasushi Kimura

by the Japanese cabinet on December 8, 1961. Baghdad soon banned Japanese goods from Iraqi markets. Japan's decision was based on balanced interests, especially after Tokyo obtained a concession to manage Kuwait's share in the joint oilfields with Saudi Arabia. The concession ended in 2001.

In February 1962, Kuwait's first ambassador to Japan Sulaiman Al-Sanae arrived in Tokyo. Then a Japanese embassy was opened in Kuwait in March 1963. Japanese teams were in Kuwait since 1961 to study the Gulf markets. Bilateral trade ties have flourished the past years, as Japan is among the major importers of Kuwait's oil, at the time when the Japanese products flowed into the Kuwaiti markets.

### Iraqi Invasion

In the aftermath of the Iraqi brutal invasion in 1990, Japan backed Kuwait's right and resolutions of international legitimacy. It condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, providing \$13 billion for efforts to liberate it. Japan committed itself to the UNSC resolutions of economic boycotting of Iraq, despite the huge losses of the Japanese companies as a result.

Following the destructive quake that hit the Pacific coast of Japan's Fukushima prefecture in 2011, followed by a Tsunami, Kuwait offered the country 5 million oil barrels, worth \$500 million, as aid. In addition, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah offered \$3 million for the rehabilitation of the marine science in Fukushima, besides \$2 million for the Japanese Red Cross Society. The year 1995 is considered a significant one for bilateral relations, as Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako visited Kuwait in January of the year.

During the visit, late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah awarded the Crown Prince the Mubarak Al-Kabeer medal, Kuwait's highest honorary one, in appreciation of Japan's support to the country throughout the Iraqi invasion.

Then Sheikh Jaber visited Tokyo in October 1995 to express appreciation over Japan's role in the Liberation. The two countries share views toward the international issues and this was manifested in several major votes at the UNSC. On the economic level, Kuwait always views Japan a distinguished partner, seeking to enhance bilateral trade and investments. — KUNA



**SEOUL:** Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Al-Essa visits a high school for sciences and technology in Seoul, South Korea yesterday. — KUNA

numbers of seats for Kuwaiti students in Korean universities through a Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries.

The South Korean Minister meanwhile stressed importance of cooperation between the two countries and his country's readiness to provide expertise in this regard. He also hoped to increase the number of scholarships for Kuwaiti students in South Korea, as well as increasing the number of seats for Korean students in Kuwait University to study the history of Arab and Islamic civilizations. Later, Essa discussed means of boosting cooperation in the

ranking institutions, was one of the educational institutions that were visited by the Kuwaiti delegation. Essa discussed with Hanyang University President Young Moo Lee means of collaboration in all academic and scientific domains.

In March, Hanyang University announced the establishment of 'Kuwait Center', which aimed at transforming the university into a focal point of academic interaction between South Korea and the Gulf nations. This initiative was the product of cooperation with Kuwait Public Authority for Applied Education (PAAET). Hanyang University, established in 1939, is the nation's first engineer-



**SEOUL:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh visits Severance Hospital in Seoul.



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Justice Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane and Electricity and Water Minister Ahmad Al-Jassar attend a parliament session yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## PARLIAMENT AGREES TO ENACT COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP LAW

**KUWAIT:** The National Assembly has unanimously agreed during a session yesterday to enact a law on copyright ownership, and to refer it to the government. Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah thanked the parliament for its agreement to approve the law, saying it will help showcase Kuwait's civil and cultural image. "Kuwait has now joined a series of regional and international agreements on the rights of intellectual ownership," an explanatory note to the law said.

Moreover, the note explained that the law covers 45 items and encompasses "all literary, artistic and scientific works irrespective of its form." Meanwhile, the note clarified that there are cases where the law is not applicable, such as national folklore, which is owned, sponsored and supported by the nation. The note also explained that the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) has the right to claim a literary work in the event of the death of the author of the work. The law also supports full legal action in cases dealing with copyright infringement. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received former Sudanese President Field Marshal Abdel Rahman Suwar al-Dahab yesterday. Deputy National Assembly Speaker Mubarak Al-Khurainij was present at the meeting. Meanwhile, Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem received the Sudanese guest, in presence of Khurainij, MP Jamal Al-Omar, and Sudanis ambassador to Kuwait Mohi Al-Deen Salim Ahmed. — KUNA

## DRAFT LAW TO ENSHRINE OUT OF COURT SETTLEMENTS: MINISTER

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane said his ministry is working on a draft law enshrining the idea of settlements out of court in civil and commercial lawsuits. Speaking at the opening of the third annual conference on issues of the law organized by the Kuwait International Law College, the minister said the conference will deal over a two-day period with, among other things, corporate governance and Islamic funding, both of which are closely associated with corporate investment activities. Experts in law and economics will proffer their research papers and ideas dealing with the



**Justice Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane**

theme of the conference Globalization and Organizing Capital Markets, said the minister. Dean of the Kuwait International Law College, Dr Mohammad Al-Moqatea, indicated at today's opening of the conference that it provides a platform for discussing scientific papers, among this year's collection of papers dealing with the nexus between the law and economic issues. He said up to 80 researchers and experts from 14 universities and countries are participating in this year's conference, noting that Kuwait International Law College has a staff of 85 teachers and a student body reaching 1,600 students. — KUNA

## MAN GETS JAIL SENTENCE FOR KD 200,000 IN FAKE DINARS

**DUBAI:** Two hundred thousand fake Kuwaiti dinars was discovered on a man visiting Dubai on a tourist visa. The man, from Singapore, has been sentenced to one year in jail after being arrested last November following a tip-off to police. Dubai Criminal Court sentenced the man to

the jail term of 12 months, a Dh 10,000 (KD 820) fine and deportation. The man claimed he planned to give the fake Kuwaiti currency to a contact in Dubai in exchange for \$10,000. He reportedly brought the money from Bangkok, reported The National.

# MINISTER, UNIONISTS DISCUSS OIL WORKERS' DEMANDS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah yesterday met a delegation from the Oil and Petrochemical Industries Workers Confederation (OPIWC) headed by Chairman Saif Al-Qahtani. The delegation also included Mohammad Al-Hajri, Chairman of Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) workers syndicate and Anas Al-Marzouq, Chairman of Kuwait Oil Company's (KOC) workers syndicate. The meeting, which was held at the Cabinet's general secretariat office, was dedicated to discussing OPIWC demands. Sheikh Mohammed Al-Abdullah chairs a ministerial committee formed by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to study oil sector employees' demands. Oil workers staged a strike for a few days last month in protest against alleged government plans to cut their benefits.

holding the seminar was to increase awareness regarding the importance of cutting water and electricity consumption rates. The association's chairman Saad Al-Muhailbi stressed the need of practical scientific solutions regardless of any political effects of the price increase decision.

Member Nasser Al-Zamanan made a presentation about the reasons behind the decision, noting that exempting citizens' houses was a political solution because they were only 40 percent of the consumers. He also noted that the new tariff increases included both water and electricity because water was not less important. "Water prices will be increased more than those of electricity," he underlined, pointing that the smart gauges MEW intends to install must be two-way to allow citizens who use renewable energy sources like solar power to provide the main grid with excess power beyond their consumption.



**Cabinet Affairs Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah**

### Energy consumption

Participants at a seminar titled 'Electricity Fares: Between Efficiency and Rationalization' held at the Kuwait Engineers Association stressed the necessity to use modern and smart technology and renewable energy applications in generating and distributing electricity. "We need to create communal awareness of increasing electricity and water consumption tariffs, especially since the project excludes citizens," they said.

Member of the association's energy committee Salem Al-Ajmi said that the aim of

### Health services

The Ministry of Health's (MoH) Acting Undersecretary Dr Jamal Al-Harbi stressed the ministry's keenness to develop health services according to the highest levels and international standards. He said that the ministry strives to provide utmost safety and security for patients as an integral part of the ministry's general development plan. Harbi was speaking to reporters yesterday on the sidelines of an event held to inaugurate the ministry's engineering and projects affairs sector's first exhibition. Harbi said

that the aim of the exhibition is to present brief reviews of health projects carried out by the ministry including new hospitals and their bed capacity. "Jaber Hospital will provide 1,196 beds, Adan Hospital has 637 beds, Jahra Hospital has 955 beds, the new Amiri Hospital has 415 beds, the new Sabah Hospital has 617 beds, KCCC has 618 beds, the new Razi Hospital has 240 and the infectious diseases hospital has 224 beds," he explained, adding that each hospital would be equipped with an air ambulance helipad while Jaber Hospital would have more than one.

# NEARLY 500 PEOPLE A YEAR DIE IN KUWAIT TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

MORE THAN 80,000 ACCIDENTS IN 2015

**KUWAIT:** A total of 2,437 people died in traffic accidents in five years, ending 26th April 2016, the Ministry of Interior (Moi) has announced. In a statistical report, the Moi stated yesterday that the number of road deaths have dropped from 493 in 2011 and 461 in 2014 to 429 in 2015. The data also showed that the number of traffic fatalities reached 454 in 2012 compared with 445 in 2013.

Some 155 people died in road accidents in the first four months of the year, exactly till April 26th, 2016, noted the report. It stated that the highest number of fatalities recorded this year in Al-Ahmadi Governorate, 53 cases; followed by Jahra 52 cases; Hawally 20 cases; Farwaniya 13 cases; the Capital 12 cases and Mubarak Al-Kaber only five cases.

In 2015, Al-Ahmadi Governorate also topped the list with 167 deaths, followed by Jahra with 122 cases; Al-Farwaniyah with 54 cases; Hawally 31 cases; Mubarak Al-Kaber with 28 cases; and the Capital 27.

About the age group of the victims, the

report revealed that that youth, aged between 21-30 years, recorded the highest percentage of deaths in 2015 nearly 119 cases out of 429. Moreover, 90 victims belong to the age group of 31-40 years, 73 to the 41-50 age group; 40 to the 51-60 years age group; 25 cases to the plus-61 age group. 19 cases aged between 11-10 and 60 cases for 11-20 age group in addition to 3 unknown cases, clarified the report.

Data also showed that 80,827 accidents were registered in 2015. The cause of 95 percent of these accidents was lack of due attention while driving, stated the report. Surprisingly, exceeding speed limits was blamed for a small fraction of the deaths in 2015, only 0.46 percent.

The report added that 6,338,066 traffic violations were registered in 2015, including 3,523,241 over-speed violations; 1.1 million parking violations; 533,931 driving licenses-related violations; 363,584 red light jumping and 205,872 safety measures violations.

Acting Director of the Criminal Affairs Department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier



**Brigadier Hamad Al-Enezi**

Hamad Al-Enezi said that the main cause of the accidents was the use of smart phones and other electronic devices during driving. Enezi urged drivers to concentrate while driving and to abide by traffic laws and regulations for their safety. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Commander of Support at Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Brigadier Staff Talal Al-Qadeeri attended a graduation ceremony officers serving at KNG's Fire Station. Major General Khalid Al-Tarkeet, Deputy General Director for Human Development at Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFS) attended the event. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

In Brief

GERMANY HAILS KUWAIT'S HOSTING OF YEMENI TALKS

**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call yesterday from his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who hailed Kuwait's efforts to host the UN-mediated Yemeni peace talks. Steinmeier expressed hope that the talks will end the war in Yemen and bring peace and stability to the country. Moreover, the two sides also discussed topics of mutual concern and the recent regional and international development. — KUNA



MAN WINS COURT ORDER TO WAIVE PHONE BILL

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** The appeals court yesterday upheld a first instance ruling acquitting a citizen in a case filed by the Ministry of Communications demanding payment of KD 15,281 over an overdue landline telephone bill because the claim was outdated. The court said that the bill was due 15 years ago, but the ministry did not claim it then.



CBK FUNDS CANCER PATIENTS' OMRA TRIPS

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) provided Kuwait Society For Smoking and Cancer Prevention (KSS-CP) with financial support needed to send cancer patients for Omra trips. Commenting on the program, Assistant General Manager for Media and Public Relations Affairs, Amani Al-Wer'a said that CBK is keen on maintaining good relationships with NGOs serving all sectors of the community, namely patients, in order to support and help them get through their ordeals. Meanwhile, KSSCP Chairman Dr Khaled Al-Saleh hailed CBK's initiative and support.



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Restoration works at the Grand Mosque's dome, which are set to finish before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. — KUNA

MINISTER STRESSES SPORT MEDIA'S IMPORTANCE



KUWAIT: Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah with the head and members of the sport media committee. — KUNA

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, stressed yesterday the importance of sport media role in highlighting achievements and covering activities and events.

After his meeting with the head and members of the sport media committee, Sheikh Salman praised, in a statement, Kuwaiti Journalists Association's step in forming a special committee concerned with sport media. The Ministry of Information is keen to support the committee's activities in a bid to raise the level of sport media, he said.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Kuwaiti Journalists Society Faisal Al-Qinaee praised the ministry's role in supporting the media movement. The committee has set a program for the development of journalistic and media skills of Kuwaitis working in the sports field, especially young people, through workshops and specialized courses, Qinaee said. He added that the committee will develop its relationship on the regional and international levels for the benefit for those working in sport jour-



KUWAIT: Secretary General of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO) Dr Saleh Al-Suhaibani meets with KRCS chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer. — KUNA

ARCO EXTOLLS KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS

**KUWAIT:** Secretary General of the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO) Dr Saleh Al-Suhaibani yesterday extolled Kuwait's support of humanitarian causes, through the efforts of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS).

In a statement after meeting with KRCS chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer, Suhaibani said that Kuwait's relief and aid efforts have garnered the country international adulation. Moreover, Suhaibani noted that Kuwait has excelled in the humanitarian arena, having lent a helping hand to a myriad of needy nations.

The Secretary General of ARCO also highlighted the need for continuous cooperation amongst Arab humanitarian organizations, in efforts to better cope with the region's disasters. Suhaibani also noted that there are a number of locations in the Arab region in dire need of humanitarian assistance, naming Syria as a case in point. Meanwhile, Sayer said that KRCS will spare no efforts to assist those affected by conflict, adding that Kuwaiti humanitarian aid all across the globe is a bright addition to the country's humanitarian track record. — KUNA

WRITER HIGHLIGHTS PALESTINE IN KUWAITI LITERATURE

**RAMALLAH:** Writer Fahad Al-Hindal highlighted Palestine's presence in Kuwaiti literature during a seminar late Monday on the sidelines of Palestine International Book Fair. Hindal said that the current Kuwaiti and Palestinian generations should further communicate in light of historical and deep-rooted ties. He also shed light on presence of Palestine in Kuwaiti literature in a paper he presented with the attendance of tens of intellectuals, reviewing the Palestinian writings in Kuwaiti magazines.

He called on thinkers in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf region to visit Palestine and take part in various cultural activities there. He also expressed hope that he would have the opportunity to visit Palestine again in the near future. Meanwhile, Palestinian writer Hafeth Al-Bargouthi said that continuing to communicate with the Kuwaiti side on various levels is essential. The relationship between Palestine and Kuwait has stopped during a dark era; meanwhile both sides share a strong and old connection in the domain of literature. — KUNA



CAIRO: Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain (second from left) attends a cultural event held at Kuwait Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. — KUNA

SPREADING ARABIC LANGUAGE VITAL FOR UNITY: BABBAIN

**CAIRO:** Chairman of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Cultural Foundation poet Abdulaziz Al-Babtain stressed the importance of spreading the Arabic Language as means to uniting the Arab World. Poets mirror the concerns and hopes of their nations, said Babbain during a cultural event held at Kuwait Embassy in Cairo on late on Monday. He pointed to different conferences organized by the Foundation in different countries, aiming to encourage dialogue between cultures, translation and tolerance among different nations. In this context, he noted the recent 'Ibn Zaydoun' poetry conference held in Spain and attended by 450 international figures.

The Foundation is exerting huge efforts to spread the Arabic Language and literature on a wider range, through providing awards and prizes for poets with prominent works, he added. Moreover, Babbain also said that the Foundation is cooperating with 59 Arab universities to hold specialized training courses in Arabic Language skills, reading and understanding poetry and other topics in the field, while it is also working on developing Arabic learning in Iran, Pakistan, India, Turkey, USA and African countries. — KUNA

kuwait digest

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



By Labeed Abdal

The UN's confirmation that fighting poverty will achieve sustainable development goals surely places considerable responsibilities on international projects and various governments through cooperation between public and private sectors to achieve the millennium development goals. True experience shows that countries that have successfully achieved these goals did so by teamwork, combining the efforts of citizens, communities, NGOs, governments and other partners. This calls for exchanging trust between the public and the private sector.

We should prioritize integration to achieve success in various international programs and projects, through seeking help of the international private sector that is capable of doing a lot in spreading education, child protection and other issues. What matters is projects' success and achievements, especially with the presence of youth potentials and belief in the goals set by UN organizations.

Despite the humane goals of many programs and activities, some directed and oriented media has been racing to describe Islam and Muslims as groups of terrorists in general who plotted and executed the 9/11 attacks, which is not true. One should not generalize and point to unproved accusations at random. Such media also criticized Muslim women's attire and the veil, though it is part of people's personal freedom that protects them from sexual harassment.

In Islam, male circumcision is mandated to protect women during sexual intercourse while females are not circumcised in Islam, and this only happens in some Muslim and African countries as a habit and tradition.

Many friends from other faiths do realize such irresponsible media disfiguration and defaming of Islam, but many of the radical extreme youth believe that Syrian refugees flowing into Europe are radicals and are the reason behind lack of job opportunities, without knowing that these refugees include Muslims and non-Muslims from Syria and other parts of the world who have lost their homes and loved ones because of wars and that they need the international community's cooperation regardless of any media disfiguration!



DOHA: Kuwait's pavilion at the exhibition. - KUNA

## PARTICIPATION IN FOREIGN EXHIBITIONS LEADS TO SURGE IN EXPORTS: OFFICIAL

DOHA: Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry (PAI) yesterday urged Kuwaiti industries to participate in foreign exhibitions, saying it leads to a surge in the country's exports and maximizes job opportunities for youth.

Head of the marketing department at PAI Nasser Al-Mutairi said during the four-day 'Project Qatar' exhibition, that participation in foreign exhibitions would help propel Kuwait into international markets. Moreover, Mutairi underscored the importance of the exhibition, saying the scope of investment projects will lure businessmen from all across the globe.

Meanwhile, Director of Exports at Al-Hasawi Group Nael Ibrahim Bedas said that the company's participation in the exhibition would present the company with the opportunity to enter the Qatari market.

Head of the marketing and exports department at the National Ceramic Industries Mamdouh Dahman said that participating in international exhibitions is a tool to market products on regional and international levels.

Similarly, Director of Sales at the International Powder Coating Company Osama Fowzi spoke of the importance of these foreign exhibitions, saying they create opportunities to boost the volume of exports.

'Project Qatar' exhibition, sponsored by Qatari Prime Minister and Interior Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani, covers an area of 30 thousand square meters and consists of 18 pavilions from 37 nations. Kuwait's pavilion at the exhibition stretches on 315 square meters, with participation of a plethora of companies and industries. — KUNA

# KUWAIT CEMENT COMPANY HOLDS CEMENT CONFERENCE, WORKSHOP

KUWAIT: Under the patronage of the Ministry of Public Works and Public Authority for Housing Welfare, Kuwait, Kuwait Cement Company conducted the '2nd ASTM Cement Conference and Workshop' in partnership and co-operation with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International and Sesam Business Consultants, UAE with the assistance of media coordinator Eventiq-Kuwait, under the support of Public Authority of Industry, Ministry of Defense, Kuwait Society of Engineers, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait University and Kuwait TV, with scientific, academic and media partners. The conference was held yesterday at the Radisson Blu Hotel - at Al Hashmi Ballroom. ASTM conducted this workshop on testing standards and quality control for the Cement and Concrete industry.

The event was Kuwait Cement Company's contribution to continue the dissemination and promotion of technical development for those who are interested and involved in understanding the latest developments in methods of Testing Cement and Concrete by the top most global organization in this field, the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) International, which has been involved in providing laboratory inspections, proficiency testing programs and test procedure development for the cement and concrete industry internationally since 1929. The workshop is free of charge and targets Government Authorities, Testing Laboratories, Cement and Concrete Professionals as well as Engineers and Consultants.

Ali Al-Kandari, Marketing and Sales Manager of Kuwait Cement Company stated: "The commitment to global and Kuwaiti standards of quality is one of the most important elements of the development of local indus-

try. From this point of view, Kuwait Cement Company is holding this conference and invites participation of all stakeholders in cement and concrete: Professional, Technical, Academic, Consultant and Engineering, to unite in performance in testing operations of cement and concrete, which is certainly reflected on the upgrading of quality required for the national products."

### Quality standards

The event comes from the vision of Kuwait Cement Company since its inception the importance of adherence to the quality standards and production control in Kuwait

industry in general, and for all of its products from cement in particular, which characterizes the company's products of cement for more than four decades, at the local and regional level.

Kandari noted by stating "That Kuwait Cement Company is to hold and organize this conference for the second year in co-ordination with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), and communicate with all stakeholders and invite them to share a desire to provide an opportunity for all those interested in testing cement and concrete, whether from the government or private organizations as well as individuals to gain the

necessary expertise in this field."

Nick Ecart, Director of Business Development, Europe, Middle East & Africa, ASTM International explains: "We are delighted to build on the success of the inaugural event last year, with this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Conference, two days training, education and awareness of the key ASTM standards supporting construction across Kuwait delivered by top global experts. ASTM and Kuwait Cement Company share the mutual objective of raising quality so we look forward to welcoming attendees from across the industry including government, manufacturers, contractors, consultants and academia."



KUWAIT: A general view of officials in attendance at the 2nd ASTM Cement Conference and Workshop. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

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Al-Anbaa

## LOYAC AND FREEMASONRY

By Saleh Al-Shayegi

Societies' minarets are like fortified forts that belong to all society members. They are not private property. This exactly applies to the Kuwaiti NGO LOYAC. In less than a decade and a half of its age, LOYAC managed to become a Kuwaiti minaret of which every Kuwaiti is very proud of. It has been uniquely active in humane constructive charitable activities and positively changed the lives of many Kuwaiti young men and women.

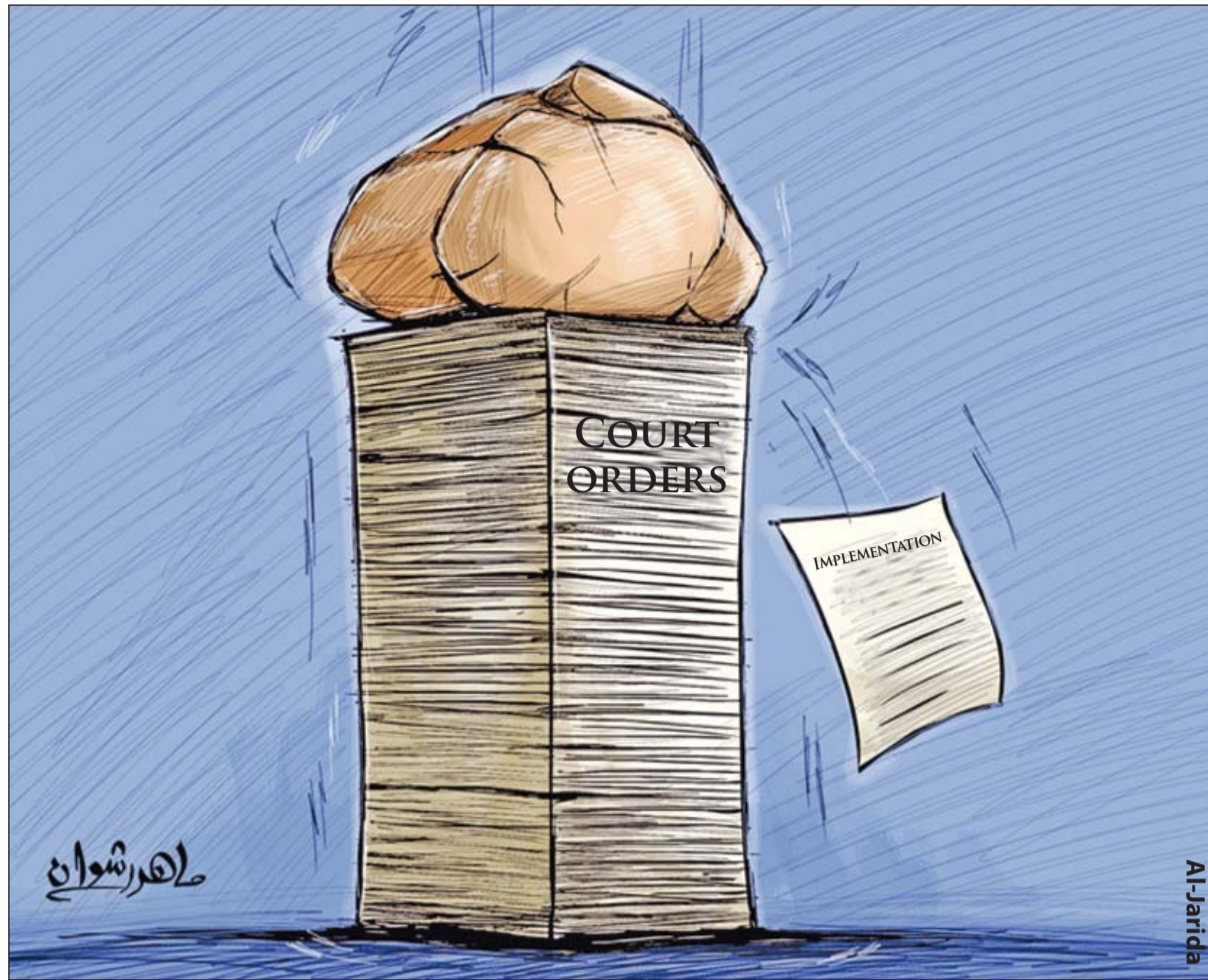
LOYAC realized the danger of youth heading into the world of terrorism, brainwashing, insanity or even being over-indulged in trivial activities that would kill their minds and innocence, creativity, culture and science. Accordingly, LOYAC started from scratch in a society that is not used to such initiatives nor to establishments doing good for the sake of good itself, regardless of any interests or goals that would serve certain categories of people, and unfortunately, would use all their potentials in supporting terrorism, help start wars, create tumults and enhance hate amongst people of the same country.

LOYAC has avoided such dangerous and harmful practices and opted for providing real community service in many creative ways. Its activities extended way beyond Kuwait and it now has branches in many parts of the world, namely in places where people are underprivileged or suffer from wars.

However, when someone starts pointing accusations at LOYAC describing it as Masonic, this is absolutely very weird and I wonder whether he, who said so, wanted to praise Freemasonry or insult LOYAC! Without realizing what he did, this person has praised Freemasonry if it could really be represented by LOYAC's charity, humane and intellectual developmental projects that are after building human beings, reviving individual will and developing creativity. It is not like others who had misled young people and thrown them into wars here and there. Others who, whenever a war stops, start a new one.

LOYAC belongs to all Kuwaitis and it is our responsibility to defend it and refuse questioning its goals with the aim of limiting its effects because this is exactly what those 'others' want to do, as its mere presence and activity exposed them all without even attempting to do so!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

## DIPLOMACY AMIR AND THE NEW GCC

Al-Anbaa

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

The Arabian Gulf region is coming to the 'new GCC era', but unlike its elder brother, the Middle East, the new GCC will be made locally and not by the West like the new Middle East that the US has been trying to form after launching the so-called new world order. The new GCC is 100 percent locally made and was launched shortly before the 'Decisive Storm' operation led by Saudi Arabia, and all GCC states have unanimously approved the decision.

The new system is based on self-decisions following long decades of GCC moves that were mainly done through consultations amongst brotherly countries, allies and neighbors. Today, GCC states own their own decision-making process and this was manifested in launching the 'Decisive Storm' operation that came as a surprise to the West.

Full independence of political decision-making gave

regional countries political power and weight that changed them from countries only reacting to international developments to ones that actually act, and other countries, including the mightiest, react accordingly. Following 'Decisive Storm', Riyadh turned into GCC's decision-making capital and Kuwait turned into GCC's diplomacy capital that currently hosts the Yemeni peace talks that have been going on for over 10 days now to put an end to inter-Yemeni conflicts, which will eventually happen even if it takes another round of talks, that is apparently going to take longer than expected.

Logically speaking, the agreement in Kuwait between Yemeni rivals will be more like that made in Taif that ended the Lebanese civil war in 1991.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

## KFH PATRONIZES CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House participated in collaboration with 'Al-Nuwaier initiative' in a conference for the youth. The conference hosted a huge number of experts who delivered their insights to enrich the youth's experience and widen their horizons.

KFH's sponsorship of the conference stems from its social responsibility and efforts to support the youth, yet to reinforce the values of initiatives and motivation.

The two-day conference convened at the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) witnessed a huge specialists and experts participation. The conference represented a steppingstone for improving the youth's capabilities while honing their skills by identifying the weaknesses and beating

the odds. It is worth noting that KFH held a seminar themed "Kuwait Sun Shines over the World" hosting distinguished galaxy of champions at the college of Business Administration at Kuwait University. KFH honored a group of national champions who hoisted Kuwait flag in international forums in recognition of their achievements, and as part of KFH's social responsibility and interest in highlighting the achievements of Kuwaiti talent.

The seminar brought together the Rider in Kuwait Motocross Meshari Bu Shayba, the Jost Ski World Champion Mohammad Bu Rubaiea, the Skydiver Mohammad Alrefaei, the inventor who received international recognitions Mohammad Bin Awad and the Disabled Diver Faisal Almousawi.



## ZAIN SPONSORS YOUNG MERCHANT INITIATIVE FOR SECOND YEAR

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its sponsorship of the 'Young Merchant' initiative for the second consecutive year. The educational initiative was organized by the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) and the Ministry of Education.

Zain's support to this initiative for the second time running came in line with the company's Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability strategies that aim at contributing towards the education and youth sectors. By collaborating with public and private educational institutions in Kuwait, Zain is committed to the further progress of youth development in the country. The "Young Merchant" initiative aimed at encouraging the entrepreneurship spirit within middle and high school

students, and witnessed the participation of a great number of students who attended workshops and presented their ideas and projects to a judging panel.

Zain's sponsorship sprung from the company's core belief that social responsibility is a significant corporate element. The company believes that supporting initiatives such as this one provides young people with skills and tools necessary to help them highlight and develop their skills, ultimately contributing to the further progress of national economy.

Zain believes that education is a core element in the community development process, and the company's support to the "Young Merchant" initiative for the second year running showcases its utmost keenness to contribute to the further progress of the education sector.



KUWAIT: Mubarak Al-Kabeer Governor Ahmad Al-Rujaib yesterday honored a number of police, traffic and investigation department officers for their contributions in service of the local community.



## Crime

Report

### Multiple robberies reported

KUWAIT: Several robberies took place in various areas of Kuwait over the past 48 hours. An Indian man told Jahra police that while he was near a fast food restaurant, a person forced him to get into his car. He then drove around before demanding his wallet, took KD 130 and pushed him out. Another Indian man told Saad Al-Abdullah police that three persons stopped him and pulled a knife, while one of them beat him and took KD 100 from his wallet, along with his driving license and civil ID. Meanwhile, a citizen told Qashaniya police 20 sheep were stolen at dawn from his Abdaly farm. Also, an Indian man was stopped by four persons who pulled him out of his car, searched him and took his wallet with KD 30, his ID and mobile, then beat him before escaping. Detectives are investigating.

### No permission

A citizen in his thirties detained maintenance workers in his house and beat one of them. When police brought the citizen to the station, he said he was surprised to find the workers inside his house without permission, and admitted that he detained them until police arrived. The case was referred to concerned authorities.

### Parking dispute

A Syrian man told Salmiya police that a person beat him over a parking spot. The man submitted a medical report stating that he had a broken finger. Police are investigating.

### Family row

A bedoon (stateless) man threatened his daughter with a firearm following a heated dispute. A security source said a patrol responded to a call, and when they arrived, they found the bedoon had beaten his daughter and she claimed he had threatened her with a weapon. The man was arrested and police are investigating. — Al-Anbaa

## News

in brief

### ICM to participate in elections: Report

KUWAIT: The Islamic Constitutional Movement (ICM) is expected to announce plans to participate in the next parliamentary elections on May 29, 2016, Al-Qabas reported yesterday quoting sources familiar with the opposition group's thinking. ICM's board had previously set that date to hold a press conference, which is expected to include an announcement pertaining with the elections. The group, widely believed to be the Muslim Brotherhood's representative among political groups in Kuwait, is also expected during the press conference to announce former MP Mohammad Al-Dallal as chairman of its political office. — Al-Qabas

### Conscription in mid-2017

KUWAIT: Kuwait plans to enforce conscription by the middle of next year, a senior Kuwaiti Army official announced. The conscription law which the parliament passed and was ratified last year has already been in effect since it was promulgated, but the army is currently working on the process of implementing it, said Staff Lieutenant General Ibrahim Al-Omairi, Kuwait Army Chief of Staff's Assistant for Management and Manpower. — Al-Jarida

### Emergency supply

KUWAIT: The Cabinet asked the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to increase the state's strategic food reserve with enough commodities to serve the public in cases of disasters for an entire year, instead of six months. That does not include commodities which the private sector can provide in that case, and can cover consumers' needs for an extra seven months, Al-Rai reported yesterday quoting sources. The Minister of Commerce and Industry has the authority by law to take over the private sector's supply during emergency times, and set prices for certain commodities that guarantee acceptable margin of profit for merchants. — Al-Rai

### Teachers fail

KUWAIT: Seventy Arabic language teachers failed tests necessary for promotion which the Ministry of Education conducted on Sunday, a ministry insider said. This is the second time that the teachers have failed the same tests. Education Minister Dr Bader Al-Essa had agreed to re-test the teachers after none of them passed the first time they were tested, said the source who spoke on the condition of anonymity. After the results were released, some of the teachers headed to the Arabic language division at the ministry to inquire about the situation. According to the sources, most of the teachers were 'furious' and questioned the credibility of testing procedures, saying that it was impossible that seventy teachers would take the same exam simultaneously and no one would pass. — Al-Rai

## DEGREES' FORGERY SUSPECT EARNED KD 3 MILLION

KUWAIT: A man suspected of forging university degrees told the court that he collected nearly KD 3 million in exchange of around 600 certificates he sold to people. The 32-year-old Kuwaiti man said during a recent hearing at the Criminal Court that he sold each forged certificate for KD 4,500, adding that he received the payments in installments and that each degree took three years to be issued from an Arab country, Al-Qabas reported yesterday without naming that state. The man further explained that he cooperates with a person living outside Kuwait who helped them carry out each transaction, adding that he made his deals with the certificates' buyers at his office in Kuwait. Meanwhile, a source familiar with the case said that some of the people who bought fake degrees from the suspect have been able to continue their higher studies, while others were employed in the public sector. Those employees will be summoned, questioned and if found guilty, will be released and ordered to pay back all salaries they have received. The main suspect faces multiple swindling and forgery charges. — Al-Qabas



Philippine leader seen as emancipator, looming dictator



HIROSHIMA: In this April 11, 2016, file photo, US Secretary of State John Kerry (fourth from left) puts his arm around Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida after they and fellow G7 foreign ministers laid wreaths at the cenotaph at Hiroshima Peace Memorial. — AP

# OBAMA TO PAY HISTORIC VISIT TO HIROSHIMA

## PRESIDENT WILL NOT APOLOGIZE FOR THE BOMBING

**WASHINGTON:** In a moment seven decades in the making, President Barack Obama this month will become the first sitting American president to visit Hiroshima, where the US dropped an atomic bomb during World War II, decimating a city and exploding the world into the Atomic Age.

Obama will visit the site with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during a previously scheduled trip to Japan, the White House announced yesterday. The president intends to "highlight his continued commitment to pursuing the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

Obama will not apologize for the bombing, the White House made clear. And Abe said none was expected nor necessary, suggesting the visit itself would send a powerful message. "The prime minister of the world's only nation to have suffered atomic attacks, and the leader of the world's only nation to have used the atomic weapons at war will together pay respects for the victims," Abe told reporters late yesterday. "I believe that would be a way to respond to the victims of the atomic bombings and the survivors who are still in pain."

### Widely anticipated

The president's visit has been widely anticipated since US Secretary of State John Kerry's trip to the Hiroshima

memorial in April. Kerry toured the peace museum with other foreign ministers of the Group of Seven industrialized nations and participated in an annual memorial service just steps from the site's ground zero.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui praised Obama's plan to visit as a "bold decision based on conscience and rationality," adding that he hopes Obama will have a chance to hear the survivors' stories. He also expressed hope the visit would be "a historic first step toward an international effort toward abolishing nuclear weapons, which is a wish of all mankind."

The US attack on Hiroshima on Aug 6, 1945, in the final days of World War II, killed 140,000 people and badly burned many thousands more. While it scarred a generation of Japanese, both physically and mentally, many Americans believe the bombing, along with another Aug. 9 on the city of Nagasaki, hastened the end of the war and saved countless other lives. Japan announced it would surrender on Aug 15.

### Risky move

Diverging views about an act that forever changed war have made a visit from a sitting US president a delicate and arguably politically risky move. Former President Jimmy Carter did visit, in 1984, three years after he left office. It took 65 years for a US ambassador to

attend the annual memorial service. In the US, officials remain wary that a presidential visit could be perceived as an apology for an act believed to have saved American lives.

Sunao Tsuboi, 91, a survivor of the bombing and head of a survivors' group in the western Japanese city, welcomed the decision. "The day has finally come," Tsuboi told Japan's NHK national television. "We are not asking for an apology," Tsuboi said. "All we want is to see him lay flowers at the peace park and lower his head in silence. This would be a first step toward abolishing nuclear weapons."

Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue said he respected Obama for what he saw as a tough decision. "I expect that the president will send a powerful message, in his own words, toward achieving a world without nuclear weapons," Taue said in a statement.

Kevin Martin, president of Peace Action, a US-based group, said Obama should use the visit to announce specific steps to "bring the world closer to being free of nuclear weapons," such as reducing the number of nuclear warheads in reserve. "Obama will look insincere if his words espouse ridding the world of nuclear weapons while at the same time his administration continues its plan to spend a trillion dollars over 30 years to upgrade nuclear weapons," Martin said in a statement.

Early in his presidency, Obama said he would be honored to make the trip, and the White House has said it often consid-

ered a visit on previous trips to Asia. It has not explained why a visit there has never come together. Asked last week

whether the president believes an apology is warranted, Earnest was direct: "No, he does not." — AP

# GERMAN KNIFE ATTACKER KILLS ONE, WOUNDS THREE

**GRAFING:** A mentally disturbed German man carrying a survival knife yesterday stabbed to death one person and slashed three others in a bloody dawn attack at a railway station. The assault initially sparked fears of a jihadist attack because the 27-year-old had yelled "Allahu akbar" (God is greatest) and threatened to kill "non-believers".

However, police said the man named locally as Paul H.-appeared incoherent and may be sent to a psychiatric hospital, while stressing he had no known links to Islamist militant groups. "He's a crazed psychopath," one police investigator told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. The man, who had spent the night outside Munich railway station, launched his apparently random knifing spree around 5:00 am (0300 GMT) in the small town of Grafing, 30 kilometers east of the Bavarian state capital.

In the attack, he stabbed one man on the platform, another on a stopped train, then ran outside the station to slash two more men on bicycles. One victim, a 56-year-old man, died of his injuries in hospital. A 58-year-old man was badly injured, while two other men aged 43 and 55 suffered non-life threatening injuries.

The assailant, an unmarried carpenter who had been on unemployment bene-

fits for the past two years, acted alone, said Bavaria state police deputy chief Petra Sandles. "We have no information to suggest he was part of an Islamist network," she told a press conference, adding that he was also not known to domestic security agencies.

The detainee "appeared to be in a rather confused mental state," added a police spokesman, saying the suspect had briefly been in psychiatric care the previous day after coming to the attention of police in central Hesse state.

Before the attack, the man, who apparently had a history of drug abuse, had taken off his shoes because he believed them to be infested with bugs which he blamed for the blisters on his feet. "The fact that he yelled 'Allahu akbar' was reported by a witness and by the assailant himself... and the phrase... 'you non-believers, you must die' was also heard by a witness," he said. Prosecutors' office spokesman Ken Heidenreich said it was not yet clear whether the suspect would be detained in a jail cell or a psychiatric hospital.

### Jihadist threats

In Grafing, bloody footprints could be seen on the platform where police forensic officers in white plastic suits were gathering evidence at the cordoned-off

railway station. Town mayor Angelika Obermayr expressed shock at the crime in the sleepy town of 13,000 people. "We are an absolutely peaceful Bavarian small town in the greater Munich region," she said on NTV. "Something like this is absolutely new and has deeply shocked the people here who only know things like that from television."

"That something like that happened here is absolutely unbelievable." The violence came at a time of heightened public fears about jihadist attacks. Last August, the Islamic State group threatened Germany with attacks in an online execution video. In the rare German-language video, two jihadists urged their "brothers and sisters" in Germany and Austria to commit attacks against "unbelievers" at home.

Since then Germany has seen two knife assaults blamed on Islamists. In February a 15-year-old girl identified as Safia S. stabbed a policeman in the neck with a kitchen knife at Hanover train station in what prosecutors later said was an IS-inspired attack. Last September, a 41-year-old Iraqi man identified as Rafik Y. who had previously been jailed for membership of a banned Islamist group stabbed and seriously wounded a policeman in Berlin before another officer shot him dead. — AFP

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## SUICIDE BOMBING KILLS AT LEAST 13 NEAR BAGHDAD

**BAGHDAD:** An evening suicide bombing in a commercial area in a city northeast of Baghdad killed at least 13 people, Iraqi officials said yesterday as the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack. The bomber blew up his explosives-laden minibus shortly before sunset Monday near a bakery and a falafel restaurant in a Shiite neighborhood of the city of Baqouba, a police officer said. The explosion in the neighborhood of Shifta also wounded at least 60 others, he added.

Baqouba, the provincial capital of Iraq's Diyala province, is 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. A medical official confirmed casualty figures. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to release the information.

In an online statement, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the

target was a Shiite mosque. The Associated Press could not immediately verify the authenticity of the claim but it appeared on a website commonly used by the Sunni extremist group. The group controls large stretches of territory in the country's west and north, as well as Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul. Commercial and public places in Shiite-dominated areas are among the most frequent targets for the Sunni militants seeking to undermine the Iraqi government efforts to maintain security inside the capital.

IS has claimed responsibility for deadly attacks in Shiite sections of Diyala in the past months. In February, the province was the scene of one of the area's deadliest attacks, when an IS-affiliated suicide bomber struck mourners in a crowded funeral reception hall, killing up to 40 people and wounding dozens. — AP



**BAQUBA:** Iraqis gather on May 10, 2016 at the site of a car bomb explosion which hit the Shifta area in the city of Baqouba. — AFP

## SYRIA JIHADISTS HOLD BODIES OF 12 IRANIANS, SAYS OFFICIAL

**TEHRAN:** Jihadists are withholding the bodies of 12 Iranian Revolutionary Guards killed last week in Syria, an Iranian military official said yesterday, quoted by ISNA news agency. According to Iranian media, 13 Revolutionary Guards military advisers died last week in fighting in Khan Tuman, southwest of the battleground city of Aleppo, and 21 others were wounded.

It was Iran's biggest loss of forces within a very short period, based on official figures. All were from Iran's northern province of Mazandaran. "The Takfiris (extremists) are holding 12 bodies of the Mazandaran martyrs," said Hossein Ali Rezayi, a Guards spokesman in the region. "As fighting is still ongoing in this region, the repatriation will be possible only after the liberation of those areas."

Rezayi said that all other members of the forces from Mazandaran, as well as nine of the injured, had now returned to Iran. Pro-regime troops had driven jihadists out of Khan Tuman in December, but on Friday Al-Qaeda-affiliated jihadists of the Al-Nusra Front and their allies retook the area, with dozens killed from both sides.

Five or six members of the Iranian forces

were captured in the battle, Iranian conservative lawmaker Esmail Kossari told the judiciary's official news service Mizan Online yesterday. No senior military official or politician has confirmed the capture. Fars news agency yesterday reported the deaths of four other Iranians, including a general, Shafi Shafiei.

The commander was killed on Friday in Khan Tuman, Mizan said. Three Afghan volunteers killed in Syria were buried Monday in the northeast Iranian city of Mashhad, papers reported. Iran, Syria's main ally in the region, is involved militarily and financially in Syria's war, trying to prop President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. President Hassan Rouhani heaped praise on the Revolutionary Guards in a speech yesterday in southeast Iran.

"Today the Revolutionary Guards not only have a responsibility to ensure the safety of the country alongside the army, police and basijis (militias linked to the Guards), but also bear the burden of safety in other countries that ask our help," Rouhani said. They are present there "to defend our sacred mausoleums in Iraq, Syria, the oppressed (people) in Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan and elsewhere where they have requested help," he added. — AFP

## MILLIONS IN US AID TO SYRIANS SUSPENDED OVER GRAFT PROBE

**WASHINGTON:** The US government has suspended millions of dollars in funding to several organizations providing aid for Syria after discovering they were systematically overpaying Turkish companies for basic goods with the collusion of some of their staff. The US Agency for International Development's independent government auditor said it had "established grounds resulting in the suspension of 14 entities and individuals involved with aid programs from Turkey."

Among the revelations, it said in a statement on Friday, was "a network of commercial vendors, NGO employees, and others who have colluded to engage in bid-rigging and multiple bribery and kickback schemes related to contracts to deliver humanitarian aid in Syria." USAID did not identify any of the charities, but among those affected are the International Medical Corps (IMC), the Irish charity Goal and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), headed by former British foreign minister David Miliband, humanitarian sources said. All the allegations relate to buying goods in Turkey, with NGOs systematically overpaying.

A senior USAID official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said among the largest problems was product substitution with Turkish private companies selling goods to NGOs at inflated prices and then providing vastly cheaper quality goods and pocketing the difference. Examples included blankets and other basic materials for Syrians, humanitarian sources said. The NGOs are accused of failing to monitor their procurement, while

some NGO staff are accused of direct involvement in the overcharging. The IMC confirmed to AFP it had fired a number of staff after the allegations emerged. "What became clear in the course of this investigation was this was a pretty sophisticated operation," the USAID official said.

In 2015, the US donated \$397 million to aid groups working in Syria, according to the UN's Financial Tracking Service. USAID did not say how much the suspended aid was worth, but a source within one of the NGOs put the figure at tens of millions of dollars.

### Syrians hurt

War-torn Syria is among the hardest places in the world for aid organizations to work, with a plethora of armed groups including the Islamic State organization and its jihadist rival Al-Qaeda constant threats. The Syrian government has also been accused of bombing hospitals in rebel-held areas. However the USAID allegations concern only the way goods were purchased inside Turkey, before being delivered to Syrian refugees or to those still inside Syria. USAID's Office of the Inspector General confirmed 14 "entities and individuals" had been suspended. "As a result of the suspensions, these parties are no longer able to receive US government awards." International Medical Corps is among the largest providers of medical aid to Syrians, both inside the country and to refugees in neighboring countries, with the NGO saying more than six million patients have been treated in the past five years in the 430 health facilities it supports. — AFP



**PARIS:** French lawyer Richard Gisagara, defending Constance Mukabazayire of Rwanda, talks with French gendarme to enter at the court. — AP

## RWANDAN MAYORS ON TRIAL IN FRANCE OVER 1994 GENOCIDE

'MASSIVE AND SYSTEMATIC SUMMARY EXECUTIONS'

**PARIS:** Two former Rwandan mayors went on trial in Paris yesterday, accused of orchestrating "massive and systematic summary executions" during the central African country's 1994 genocide. Octavien Ngenzi, 58, and Tito Barahira, 64, are alleged to have played a direct role in the massacre of hundreds of minority Tutsis who had taken refuge in a church in the eastern town of Kabarondo on April 13, 1994.

It is the second trial for crimes against humanity and genocide by a special Paris court set up to go after suspected Rwandan killers who fled to France. Memories of the genocide, in which at least 800,000 people died over 100 days of slaughter, continue to strain relations between the two countries.

Rwanda accuses France of complicity and even direct involvement in the violence because of its support for the Hutu nationalist government at the time. Ngenzi and Barahira deny the charges against them, which include a "concerted plan aimed at the annihilation" of the Tutsi minority. They appeared calm and attentive as the trial opened and waived their right to remain silent. They were sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by Rwandan peo-

ple's courts, known as gacaca, in 2009. Both were mayors of Kabarondo, Ngenzi having succeeded Barahira in 1986. Witnesses have said that on the morning of April 13, they saw Barahira wielding a spear at a rally at a football field where he called for "work"-code for killing Tutsis. Soon afterwards, hundreds of refugees who had arrived in recent days were hacked or beaten to death or blown up with hand grenades, according to survivors.

### Diplomatic freeze

The killings in Kabarondo, a town near the border with Tanzania, took place with great speed. The bloodshed was over by the end of April, when Tutsi rebels in the armed wing of what is now the ruling Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) took control of the area. Elsewhere in the former Belgian colony, the slaughter continued until the RPF fighters finally prevailed in July.

The mayors' trial, which is set to last eight weeks, will be adjourned on Monday and Wednesday afternoons so that Barahira, who suffers from kidney failure, can undergo dialysis. It comes two years after Pascal Simbikangwa, a former Rwandan army captain,

was tried in Paris and jailed for 25 years for his role in the genocide. His lawyers have denounced that verdict as "political" and are appealing it.

The Rwandan government has welcomed prosecutions when they target Hutus, but has reacted angrily to other efforts by the French authorities. Kigali broke off ties with Paris in 2006 after a French judge issued arrest warrants against nine Rwandan officials over the assassination of Hutu president Juvénal Habyarimana.

The shooting down of the presidential plane on April 6, 1994, was blamed on the Tutsis and is considered to be the event that sparked the genocide. The diplomatic freeze lasted for three years. Marking the 20th anniversary of the mass killings in 2014, Rwanda's Tutsi president, Paul Kagame, accused French soldiers not only of complicity in the genocide, but of actually taking part.

Last year, charges were thrown out against a priest, Wenceslas Munyeshyaka, the first Rwandan to be prosecuted in France in what had also been viewed by his defense lawyers as a politically motivated case. — AFP

## ISRAEL CHARGES TEEN TUNNELER

**JERUSALEM:** Israel yesterday charged a Gaza teenager who crossed into the Jewish state with attempted murder and membership of the military wing of Hamas, the Shin Bet security service said. In a statement released days after a spike in cross-border violence centered around Israeli operations against Hamas attack tunnels, Shin Bet said that since his arrest last month, the suspect had given interrogators valuable intelligence on Hamas operations. The 17-year-old suspect, from Jabalia in northern Gaza, had provided "extensive information" on "Hamas activity in digging tunnels for the infiltration of Hamas fighters into Israel," said Shin Bet.

The suspect was indicted at a court in the southern Israeli city of BeerSheva with attempted murder, being a Hamas member and harming Israel's security, the justice ministry said. Shin Bet said that after receiving Hamas training he took part in "extensive military activity including ambushes and surveillance against Israeli army forces, patrols and excavation of tunnels toward Israel."

Interrogators had also learned details about ways tunnel diggers "disguise their activity, such as a prohibition on exiting tunnels in work clothes," it said. "Excavators are required to shower and change clothes inside the tunnels." Clashes broke out on the Gaza border last week as Israel revealed a new tunnel reaching into its territory from the Palestinian enclave, after

a first one was discovered mid-April. The violence was the worst flare-up between the army and Hamas since the devastating 2014 war, with Hamas attacking forces operating nearby with mortar rounds and Israel responding with air raids and tank fire, which resulted in the death of a Gaza woman. 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.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Yaalon said yesterday the flare-up was over Israel's hunt for tunnels inside Gaza. "When Hamas realised we were systematically beginning to discover tunnels, they tried to deter us from finding more on their side of the fence," he said of the 100-metre "buffer zone" on Gaza's side of the border where Israel claims the right to operate.

Shin Bet said the arrested teen was one of "several militants" currently in custody "revealing updated internal information about Hamas's intensive tunnel digging activity." On Thursday, the agency said it had detained and interrogated another Hamas operative who was active in the tunnel network, also from Jabalia. Hamas has an extensive network of tunnels inside the Gaza Strip, including those reaching into Israel and Egypt. Israel sees them as a strategic threat and authorities have announced technological breakthroughs in finding them. — AFP

## TURKEY ACCUSED OF VIOLATING RIGHTS OF KURDS AND SYRIANS

**ANKARA:** Turkey came under scrutiny yesterday for alleged human rights violations committed by security forces against Kurds in the southeast and Syrian refugees trying to enter the country, with two organizations calling for investigations.

Human Rights Watch claimed that Turkish border guards have in the past two months killed five Syrians who were trying to cross into Turkey, and called on the country to investigate the reported use of excessive force by soldiers. Separately, the UN human rights chief urged Turkey to allow investigators to probe allegations of violations committed by Turkish security forces in their campaign against Kurdish rebels.

New York-based Human Rights Watch accused border guards of shooting and beating asylum-seekers and at least one smuggler. It said that five refugees - including a child - were killed and 14 others were wounded in March and April.

A Turkish Interior Ministry official denied that the incidents cited by Human Rights Watch had occurred and insisted that the country, which is home to 2.7 million Syrian refugees, does not shoot at asylum-seekers. The official cannot be named because of regulations that bar civil servants from speaking to journalists without authorization.

Human Rights Watch also urged Turkey to reopen its border to all Syrian asylum-seekers, claiming that Turkish border guards blocked thousands of fleeing displaced Syrians after their camps near the Turkish border had been attacked on April 13 and 15.

### 'Truly appalling'

The report could not independently be verified by The Associated Press. Turkey maintains that it has an open-door policy toward migrants, although new arrivals are rare. "Firing at traumatized men, women, and children fleeing fighting and indiscriminate warfare is truly appalling," said Gerry Simpson, senior refugee researcher at Human Rights Watch.

The UN human rights chief, Zeid Raad al-Husseini, said he has received reports of unarmed civilians, including women and children, being deliberately shot by snipers or from military vehicles in the course of security operations in southeastern Turkey. Those operations focused on mainly Kurdish towns where militants and youths linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party are active. — AP



**ATHENS:** Afghan children play at the old baseball venue of the former Helleniko Olympic complex, which is used as a shelter for almost 1,000 people in southern Athens. — AP



## CLINTON, SANDERS FACE OFF IN WEST VIRGINIA

**WEST VIRGINIA:** Bernie Sanders has another chance to slow Hillary Clinton's march to the Democratic presidential nomination as West Virginians vote in their state's primary, a week after Donald Trump became the presumptive Republican nominee.

Clinton, a former secretary of state and US senator from New York, has a commanding lead in the pledged delegates needed to clinch her party's nomination for the Nov 8 election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama. The outcome in West Virginia, where only 29 delegates are at stake and opinion polls show Sanders with a slight lead, is unlikely to alter the course of the Democratic race.

But Clinton's battle with Sanders, who defied pollsters to win in Indiana last week, has become a source of gloating for Trump. The New York real estate developer has taunted Clinton in recent days by saying she "can't close the deal" with Sanders, her only rival since Feb 1. Clinton has said she will ignore Trump's personal insults and instead criticize his policy pronouncements.

Clinton apologized in West Virginia last week after being confronted by angry voters for her remark in March

that she would "put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business" with her plans to increase renewable energy sources. She said her comment had been taken out of context and that she wanted to help retrain people who worked in the industry, one of the state's biggest employers.

Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, has reminded his supporters at crowded rallies that most polls show him beating Trump by a larger margin than does Clinton. A win would bolster his decision to keep fighting for votes through June 7, when nearly 700 delegates are at stake, including 475 in California where Sanders is now focusing his efforts.

Sanders, who has been embraced in particular by younger, more left-leaning Democratic voters, has vowed to take his campaign to the party's nominating convention in Philadelphia at the end of July, and wants a say in shaping the party's platform. Although Trump is the last man standing in what was once a 17-candidate Republican field, Republican voters in West Virginia and Nebraska will get a chance to register their preferences, with the names of most of his vanquished rivals still appearing on ballots. — Reuters



**FAIRFAX:** Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton reacts as a 3-year-old presents her with her artwork at Lee Highway KinderCare. — AP

# CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS GRAPPLE WITH TRUMP REALITY

### STATE OF AFFAIRS CREATING A TRICKY SITUATION

**WASHINGTON:** Congressional Republicans are returning to Capitol Hill to confront an awkward new reality: Donald Trump is their presumptive presidential nominee, but instead of uniting behind him, leading figures like House Speaker Paul Ryan are withholding their support.

That highly unusual state of affairs is creating a tricky situation for Republicans in the House and Senate, some of whom fear Trump could prove a drag on their own re-election chances in a year when the GOP is fighting to hang onto its slim Senate majority.

"He's our nominee and there's no reason for me not to be happy about it," asserted South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, who is up for re-election. Asked if he could say he's endorsing Trump, Scott replied: "I can say that that's a ridiculous question. Obviously if I'm endorsing the nominee I'm endorsing the candidate, right?"

Yet the question might not be so ridiculous in an election year where the GOP has been set against itself, perhaps irrevocably, by a divisive billionaire who spent years as a registered Democrat and has managed to insult women, Hispanics, disabled people and others. Many leading Republicans can bring themselves to support Trump only reluctantly, if at all. And that posture is irritating to others in the party who insist that it's time for the GOP to get behind Trump and start preparing for a likely contest against Democrat Hillary Clinton in November.

"They have to just kind of get it through their heads that he's our nominee," Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma said as lawmakers returned to Washington Monday from a weeklong recess that saw Trump effectively clinch the nomination. Trump will meet tomorrow with Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has offered his guarded support, and other GOP leaders in the House and Senate.

#### Stunning decision

Ahead of the meeting, Ryan struck a conciliatory tone in interviews with home-state reporters Monday, while defending his stunning decision to refuse to back Trump. Ryan denounced the idea of any Republican launching a third-party or independent candidacy to challenge Trump, telling the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel it "would be a disaster for our party."

And Ryan said he'd step aside from the House speaker's traditional role as chairman of the Republican National Convention if Trump wants him to, a scenario that Trump left open over the weekend. "He's the nominee. I'll do whatever he wants in respect to the convention," Ryan said, insisting that the party must strive to unify, and Trump must lead the effort.

Trump himself shrugged off the need for unity. "I think this is a time for unity. And if there's



**LYNDEN:** In this May 7, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a rally. — AP

not going to be unity, I think that's OK, too," Trump said on Fox Business Network. "I mean, I'll go out and I think I'll do very well. I think I'm going to win the race either way."

But Ryan's reluctance seemed to embolden others to withhold their support. Pennsylvania Sen Pat Toomey, one of the most endangered Senate Republicans, wrote an opinion piece in The Philadelphia Inquirer drawing back from his long-stated intent to back the GOP nominee. "His vulgarity, particularly toward women, is appalling. His lack of appreciation for constitutional limits on executive powers is deeply concerning. ... In short, I find his candidacy highly problematic," Toomey wrote of Trump. "There could come a point at which the differences are so great as to be irreconcilable."

#### 'Unite the party'

Sen Steve Daines of Montana said Monday of Trump: "I want to see him lead and unite the party and the nation," but wouldn't endorse him. Even in the House, where Republicans command the largest majority in decades and are unlikely to lose control, vulnerable members are visibly nervous. Several newly elected

lawmakers who could face difficulty in November, including Martha McSally of Arizona, Will Hurd of Texas and Barbara Comstock of Virginia, have told local publications they are not ready to back Trump.

"Donald Trump has a great deal of work to do to convince many Americans, including myself, that he's prepared and able to lead this great country," said Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa., another congressman from a closely divided district.

Ever confident, Trump announced that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a former foe but now an enthusiastic supporter, would head his transition team as he heads for the White House if he wins the election. Another former opponent, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, who's been mentioned by Trump as a potential vice presidential pick, issued a statement saying he wasn't interested because Trump "will be best served by a running mate and by surrogates who fully embrace his campaign." Ben Carson is another former opponent who's now backing Trump and positioning himself as an emissary; Ryan's office confirmed that Carson has requested to meet with Ryan ahead of the Trump meeting, a move first reported in The Washington Post. — AP

## TORNADOES HIT PLAINS; 2 DEAD, HOMES RUINED IN OKLAHOMA

**OKLAHOMA CITY:** Tornadoes destroyed homes, overturned vehicles and stripped the bark from trees as they churned across Oklahoma, part of a strong series of storms that hit the Plains. At least two people died Monday in weather so violent that forecasters declared a "tornado emergency" for communities in the path of one of the twisters. The Storm Prediction Center said 23 tornadoes were reported across five states.

"You are in a life-threatening situation," forecasters declared while warning the communities of Roff, population 725, and Hickory, population 71, which were ultimately spared major damage. "Flying debris will be deadly to those caught without shelter."

Dana Lance was driving through the community of Roff, about 85 miles southeast of Oklahoma City, on her way home from work Monday when the skies grew ominous, sirens wailed and forecasters on the radio told people to take cover. "I parked and went into the school, which has a safe room," Lance said. "There were kids and elderly people, dogs and cats, babies. It was like the whole town was there."

In nearby Murray County, where Hickory is located, emergency management director Gary Ligon said one person was injured. Garvin County officials said a man believed to be in his upper 70s died when another tor-

nado hit a home near Wynnewood, south of Oklahoma City. That storm, caught on video by several storm chasers, appeared white against the dark clouds of a supercell storm. In Johnston County, the sheriff's office said a man was killed by a tornado near Connerville.

#### 'We're really lucky'

The Oklahoma Office of Emergency Management reported the storms destroyed a radio station building in Coal County and an undetermined number of homes in Murray, Garvin and Johnston counties.

The bad weather should settle Tuesday in the Ohio and Tennessee valleys, where hail, strong winds and tornadoes are possible. A separate system is poised to move through north Texas, including the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In all, about 44 million people live in areas that could see storms Tuesday, the Storm Prediction Center said.

Another storm system should bring storms to the area from north Texas to near St Louis on Wednesday. In Hugo, Oklahoma, near the Red River, Charles Webb piled one of his dogs and one of his cats in the laundry room Monday and hunkered down as the storm came over his house, clipping trees and spinning up debris. Webb said he emerged from his home minutes later to see blue skies.

"We're real lucky, but we've been lucky for a lot of years, fortunately," Webb said Monday. In the rolling hills between Oklahoma City and Dallas, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol closed Interstate 35 near Wynnewood for 15 minutes Monday so the storm could pass. Jessica Randolph, a cashier at the Love's Travel Stop in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, said the tornado came so close that managers ordered employees and customers to take shelter.

"They put us in the showers," Randolph said. "I drove in when all of that was going on. All we had was pea-sized hail." Despite the danger, Randolph said she has seen severe weather before and wasn't frightened by the experience. "Not for me. I'm used to it," she said.

The National Weather Service said a tornado touched down in central Iowa, with no immediate reports of damage, and another hit near Nehawka, Nebraska, about 30 miles south of Omaha. Massive hail fell in parts of Lincoln, damaging cars and other property.

Sandy Weyers, the director of the Cass County Emergency Management office, said a homeowner didn't make it inside by the time the tornado arrived so he grabbed onto a tree and "rode it out." Weyers said the man suffered only cuts and scrapes, while the home was a total loss after the roof and four outer walls gave way. — AP



**OKLAHOMA:** A tornado rips through a residential area after touching down south of Wynnewood. — AFP

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## FRENCH MP ACCUSED OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT FACES LEGAL PROBE

**PARIS:** French judges opened an investigation yesterday into allegations that deputy parliamentary speaker Denis Baupin sexually harassed four women within his party. His wife, Housing Minister Emmanuelle Cosse, told French radio earlier in the day that she was shocked by allegations made Monday by four members of their ecologist EELV party. "We are talking about acts of

extreme seriousness and if they are proven, it must be dealt with by the courts," she told France Info. She said she still had faith in her husband and had heard nothing of the accusations until they appeared in the media on Monday. "I was very affected as a woman, as a wife, as a mother and also as a minister," she said.

Baupin, 53, resigned his post as a deputy speaker on Monday, saying he

wanted to focus on fighting the allegations, which he vehemently denies. Paris prosecutors said their investigation would focus on gathering statements from the alleged victims and that no criminal complaint had been lodged against Baupin.

The statute of limitations for harassment in France is only three years, which would exclude most of the incidents alleged by the four

women, some of which date back 15 years. EELV spokeswoman Sandrine Rousseau told the Mediapart website and France Inter radio that Baupin made an aggressive pass at her in October 2011 outside a party meeting.

"Denis Baupin appeared in the corridor outside... He pinned me against the wall with his chest and tried to kiss me. I pushed him away vigorously," she said. Elen Debost, deputy mayor of the central city of Le Mans, said she received sexually explicit text messages for several months in 2011. She said she did not realize the scale of the problem until approached by the media, and that "a lot of people kept quiet so as not to harm his campaign". Baupin's lawyer described the allegations as "mendacious, defamatory and baseless". — AFP



**MULTAN:** Abdul Qadir Gilani (C), elder brother of freed Ali Haider Gilani, son of former Pakistani premier Yousuf Raza Gilani, receives flowers from supporters outside his residence. — AFP

## AFGHAN, INTERNATIONAL FORCES FREE EX-PAKISTAN PM'S SON

### JOINT RAID RELEASES THREE YEAR LONG HOSTAGE

**ISLAMABAD:** Afghan and international forces freed the kidnapped son of a former Pakistani prime minister during a raid on an Al-Qaeda cell in Afghanistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan said yesterday, three years after he was kidnapped in a hail of bullets.

Ali Haider Gilani, son of Yousaf Raza Gilani, was "released from the terrorists" during the raid in eastern Afghanistan, the Afghan presidency said, adding that he is now at the Pakistani embassy in Kabul. Pakistan's foreign ministry also said in a statement that Gilani had been recovered "today in a joint operation carried out by the Afghan and US security forces".

Preparations are being made to return him to Pakistan following a medical check-up, it said, but offered no further detail. Yousaf Raza Gilani broke the news to a cheering crowd at a political rally in Pakistani-held Kashmir yesterday. "This rally has proved fortunate for me," he said.

"When I was about to board the helicopter (to come) I received the information that my son Ali Haider Gilani, who was kidnapped three years ago, has been recovered." Hundreds of people converged on the family's home in Multan in central Punjab province as the news broke, dancing to drumbeats and passing around sweets in celebration. The brother of kidnapped Ali Haider,

Abdul Qadir Gilani, told media he was "so happy today that I can't explain it in words." "He is still in Afghanistan and soon he will be among us," he said of his brother.

Earlier, Abdul Qadir said he believed his father had gone to Afghanistan on learning the news. "God has accepted somebody's prayer. The prayer of those who love us," a third brother, Ali Musa Gilani, told media. NATO officials in Kabul were unable to immediately confirm the Pakistani statement.

"We are aware of the report," a spokesman for the NATO-led international coalition in Afghanistan told AFP, adding that more details would be provided once they were "available for release". There were conflicting statements from Pakistani and Afghan officials over where the raid took place, whether in the eastern province of Ghazni or in neighboring Paktia. Provincial officials in Ghazni were also unable to provide immediate confirmation or details.

#### 'Welcome back'

Gilani was kidnapped by militants in the outskirts of Multan on May 9, 2013, just two days before a bitterly contested national election in which he was campaigning. Gunmen on a motorbike opened fire before abducting him in a black

Honda car. His secretary and a bodyguard were killed, and four people wounded.

In May last year he was able to phone his father to tell him he was well. The ex-premier's family is one of the most powerful in Multan and a key clan in the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which lost the 2013 election. The foreign ministry statement comes two months after the kidnapped son of another Pakistani politician was also freed.

Shahbaz Taseer, son of slain Punjab governor Salman Taseer, spent five years in militant captivity before his abrupt release in March. "Welcome back @haidergilani," Shahbaz Taseer tweeted yesterday, adding an image of the Pakistani flag. Bilawal Bhutto, chairman of the opposition Pakistan People's Party and son of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, also tweeted about the release.

"PM @YR\_Gillani received call from ambassador of Afghanistan. His son @haidergilani has been recovered in a successful operation," he wrote. Gilani senior was prime minister from March 2008 until he was sacked and indicted by the Supreme Court in April 2012 for refusing to re-open corruption cases against the then-president. He had complained after the kidnapping that his family was not given security, despite being threatened. — AFP

## ITALY ARRESTS AFGHAN NATIONAL SUSPECTED OF PLOTTING ATTACKS

**ROME:** Italian police yesterday arrested an Afghan suspected of plotting attacks in Italy, Britain and France after finding incriminating evidence on his mobile phone. A second Afghan has been arrested for alleged people trafficking while warrants have been issued for three other people, two Afghans and a Pakistani man, police said.

The investigation began in December after four Afghans were spotted taking videos inside a shopping centre in Bari in southern Italy, and a police search of their phones uncovered other images of the city's airport and port, as well as sites in Rome, Paris and London. "It was clear these were not tourist images. They appear to have been scouting sensitive sites," prosecutor Roberto Rossi said at a press conference in Bari.

The phones also contained images of Italian

and Afghan military vehicles and weapons, as well as Taliban propaganda videos and "a series of chants traditionally sung in preparation for martyrdom", he said. One of the defendants was also seen in a photograph posing with an MS16 semi automatic rifle, which Rossi said was "not an easy weapon to find on the market".

He also had links on his smartphone to websites "only accessible to those with connections to the international jihadist network". The suspects had been taking expensive trips around Europe, which they had paid for in cash, Rossi said. Investigators also uncovered details of trafficking prices and routes of migrants into Italy, but also through Hungary or Calais. But they were unable to pull information from one of the phones recovered: a locked iPhone. — AFP

## US STILL CALLING MYANMAR'S MUSLIM MINORITY 'ROHINGYA'

**YANGON:** Myanmar and the United States appeared to agree to disagree yesterday on what to call the Southeast Asian nation's beleaguered Muslim minority that Washington and most of the world know as Rohingya.

Many Buddhists inside Myanmar prefer to call them "Bengalis", arguing that the 1 million or so members of the minority are mostly illegal immigrants and not a native ethnic group. In fact, the families of many Rohingyas have lived in Myanmar for generations.

US Ambassador Scot Marciel said the U.S. calls communities by the name they themselves prefer. "The normal US practice and the normal international practice is that communities anywhere have the right, or have the ability to decide what they are going to be called. And normally when that happens, we would call them what they asked to be called. It's not a political decision, it's just a normal practice."

Because Myanmar does not officially recognize the Rohingya as an ethnic group, it denies most of them citizenship and basic rights. Conflict over land and resources in the western state of Rakhine, where most of the estimated 1 million Rohingya live, caused deadly violence between Buddhists and Muslims which later spread to other parts of the country. More than 100,000 Rohingyas were forced to flee their homes and now live in poor conditions in decrepit camps. Marciel declined to say

whether, as reported, the country's foreign minister and de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi had personally asked him not to use the term. "I prefer not to publicly talk about private diplomatic conversations," he said.

#### Rohingya's plight

Suu Kyi, who won international admiration and a Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent struggle for democracy during Myanmar's years of military rule, has in recent years disappointed many former fans by failing to speak on behalf of the Rohingya. Despite international expressions of concern, Myanmar's previous military-backed government, which handed over power this year to Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, did nothing to ease the Rohingya's plight. Myanmar foreign ministry official Aye Aye Soe acknowledged yesterday that her office had asked Marciel not to use the term "Rohingya". She said Marciel has the right to call the minority whatever he likes, but calling them Rohingya could enflame communal tensions.

"Yes, it is true that we told Ambassador Scot Marciel when he came to (Myanmar's capital) Naypyitaw not to use the term 'Rohingya' because it is not supportive in solving the problem that is happening in Rakhine state," said Aye Aye Soe, deputy director general of the ministry's political department. "And it can even worsen the situation there." — AP



**YANGON:** US Ambassador Scot Marciel delivers his address on Myanmar-US relations. — AFP

## SOUL-SEARCHING FOR AUSTRIAN CENTRE-LEFT AS LEADER QUILTS

**VIENNA:** Austria's centre-left began yesterday the tricky search for a new chancellor as speculation grew that it might take the high-stakes gamble of dropping opposition to a tie-up with the surging far-right. Werner Faymann, 56, who quit on Monday as chancellor and leader of the centre-left Social Democrats (SPOe), was strictly against any cooperation with the anti-immigration Freedom Party (FPOe).

But with Faymann gone and the SPOe and their coalition partners since 2008, the centre-right People's Party (OeVP), trailing in the polls the taboo may be broken, experts said. "It's not going to happen overnight, but the party has to agree a common position on the main issue facing it: how to deal with the FPOe," Karin Cvrtila from the OGM polling institute said. "It would be smart not to shut out the FPOe," Cvrtila said. "It needs to leave open the option of working with someone else because right now combining with the OeVP won't be enough."

Such a move has been backed by party grandee and former chancellor Franz Vranitzky, among others. The two parties are already in coalition in the eastern state of Burgenland and elsewhere at local level. Political analyst Anton Pelinka from Innsbruck University said however that flirting with the FPOe could be "very dangerous", potentially tearing the party apart and driving voters towards the Greens. History also serves as a warning. When in 2000, the OeVP formed a government with the FPOe under the late Joerg Haider, the result was Austria being ostracised in Europe.

#### Presidential debacle

The two centrist parties have dominated Austrian politics since World War II but the writing has long been on the wall, only just managing to scratch together a majority at the last elections in 2013. Like

elsewhere in Europe, they have been bleeding support to fringe groups, in particular to the anti-immigration Freedom Party (FPOe) after almost a million migrants passed through Austria last year.

Also hitting support has been rising unemployment-Austria no longer has the lowest job rate in the European Union and the coalition's inability to agree reforms. Ahead of the next general election due in 2018, the FPOe is leading opinion polls with more than 30 percent of the vote, with the SPOe and the OeVP scoring under 50 percent between them.

Two weeks ago, in a severe blow to Faymann, candidates from the two centrist parties were knocked out of the first round of elections for the largely ceremonial post of president. Scoring a dismal 11 percent of the vote each, it meant that for the first time since 1945, Austria will not have a head of state from either of these two parties. Instead the May 22 runoff is between the FPOe's Norbert Hofer, 45, who presents a friendly and moderate FPOe face, and Alexander van der Bellen, 72, a professorial former head of the Greens. — AFP

## UK POLICE SORRY FOR MUSLIM PHRASE IN TERROR EXERCISE

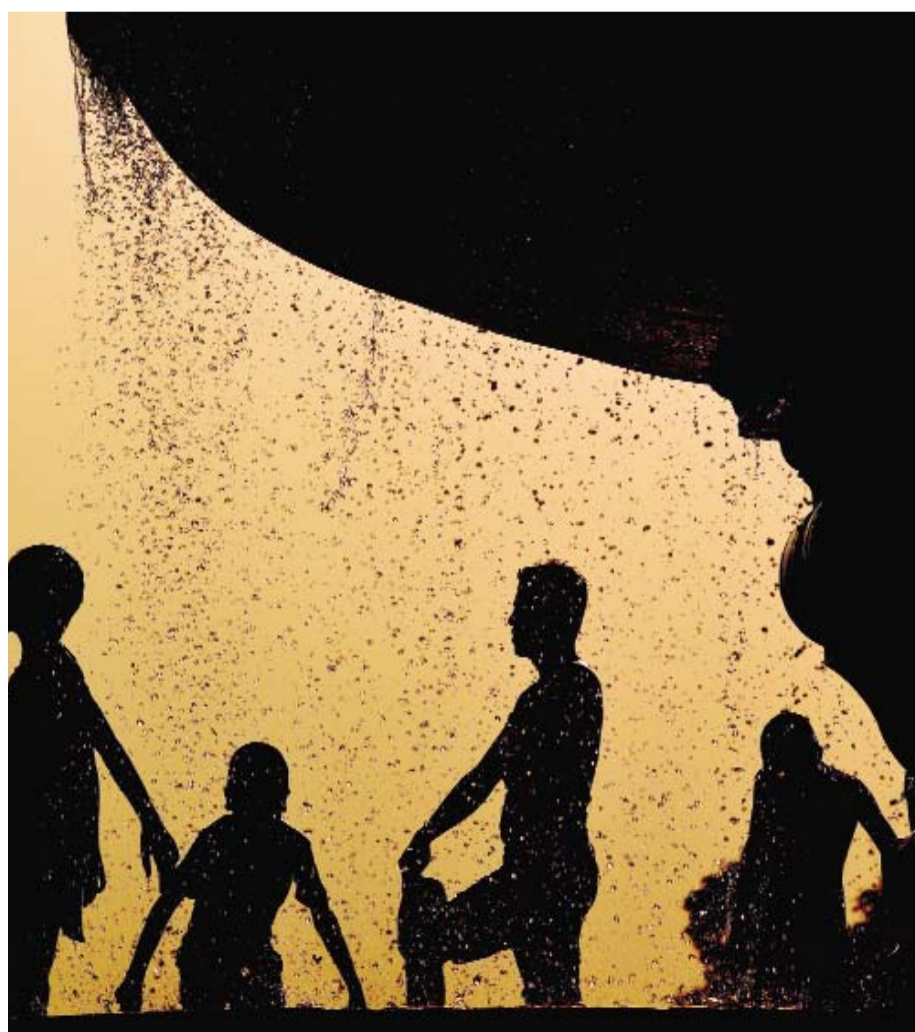
**LONDON:** British police apologized yesterday after officers shouted the Arabic phrase "Allahu akbar!" during a terror training exercise in a shopping centre in northern England. In video footage of the exercise broadcast on British television, a masked man dressed in black could be seen running into the complex in Manchester shouting the words before setting off a bomb and falling to the floor.

"On reflection, we acknowledge that it was unacceptable to use this religious phrase immediately before the mock suicide bombing, which so vocally linked this exercise with Islam," said Garry Shewan, a senior officer at Greater Manchester Police.

In a statement, Shewan said the scenario had been based on "a suicide attack by an extremist Daesh-style organization"—Daesh being an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group—but added:

"We recognize and apologize for the offence that this has caused." The phrase is Arabic for "God is greatest." Tony Lloyd, mayor of Greater Manchester, said using the phrase was "ill-judged, unnecessary and unacceptable".

"It didn't add anything to the event, but has the potential to undermine the great community relations we have in Greater Manchester," he said. The role play exercise on the outskirts of Manchester involved 800 people, including actors made up to resemble gunshot victims with horrific injuries. Police said there was no specific threat in Manchester and that the exercise was devised in December a month after the Paris attacks which killed 130 people and were claimed by Islamic State jihadists. Britain's terror threat level remains at severe, which means the security services consider an attack to be "highly likely". — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** Indian children cool themselves at a fountain near India Gate in New Delhi on May 9, 2016. India is officially in the grip of its worst water crisis in years, with the government saying that about 330 million people, or a quarter of the population, are suffering from drought after the last two monsoons failed. — AFP

# 2016 Sixth Generation Camaro Now in Alghanim Showrooms

## Five-year segment leader is lighter, more powerful, with more advanced technology



KUWAIT – Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to announce the arrival of the new 2016 Chevrolet Camaro to its showroom. The sixth-generation Chevrolet Camaro offers higher levels of performance, technology and refinement and is designed to maintain the sporty car segment leadership earned over the past five years.

The Gen Six Camaro provides a faster, more nimble driving experience, enabled by an all-new, lighter architecture and a broader powertrain range. An all-new 3.6L V-6 and the 6.2L V-8, which is SAE-certified at 455 horsepower (339 kW) and 455 lb-ft of torque (617 Nm) – for the most powerful Camaro SS ever. Each engine is available with an eight-speed automatic transmission.

Camaro's leaner, stiffer platform and slightly smaller dimensions are accentuated by a dramatic, sculpted exterior. Meticulously tuned in the wind tunnel, the exterior contributes to performance through reduced aerodynamic lift for better handling while enhancing efficiency.

A driver-focused interior integrates class-leading control technologies, including a new Driver Mode Selector, configurable instrument cluster and a customizable ambient lighting feature. Only two parts carry over from the fifth-generation Camaro to the new Gen Six: the rear bowtie emblem and the SS badge. The Gen Six Camaro will be offered in LT and SS models.

### Lightweight architecture and chassis systems

Approximately 70 percent of the architectural components are unique to Camaro. Through extensive computer-aided engineering, structural rigidity was increased by 28 percent, while the body-in-white mass was reduced by 133 pounds (60.5 kg).

In their quest to make the 2016 Camaro as lean as possible, engineers and designers evaluated every aspect of its architecture – already the most mass-efficient ever created by GM – and supporting elements, saving grams here and pounds there that contribute to the car's lower curb weight. As a result, the total curb weight for Camaro has been reduced by more than 200 pounds (90 kg).

Significant weight savings came from using an aluminum instrument panel frame instead of steel, which saved 9.2 pounds (4.2 kg). The use of lightweight components, including aluminum front suspension links and steel rear suspension links with lightening holes, in the new five-link rear suspension system contributed to a 26-pound (12

An all-new 3.6L V-6 is available in the Camaro LT, producing and SAE-certified 335 horsepower (250 kW) and 284 lb-ft of torque (385 Nm), for the highest specific output of any naturally aspirated V-6 in the segment. The engine incorporates a trio of technologies for uncompromised efficiency and performance, including direct injection, variable valve timing and, for the first time, Active Fuel Management (cylinder deactivation), which disables two cylinders under light throttle applications to enhance efficiency.

The 3.6L V-6 engine is offered with a Hydra-Matic 8L45 paddle-shift eight-speed automatic transmission. It's

### Compact, athletic design

The exterior of the Camaro is more sculpted and more muscular, making the new car look significantly lower and wider than before, even though it is within two inches of the exterior dimensions of the current Camaro.

The front of the Camaro is defined by a cross-car grille/headlamp aperture, a signature cue that dates to the first generation. The new, expressive execution gives the Camaro a stronger, more determined face. It also displays a new, nearly fastback profile that flows into the

that improves the structural rigidity of the roof for greater refinement. The roof is assembled using laser brazing, eliminating the need for "ditch channel" seams and cover trim, giving the car a sleeker appearance while saving half a kilogram compared to traditional spot welding.

There's also a new interpretation of the Camaro's iconic red, white and blue "banner" insignia, displayed on the front fenders.



based on the Hydra-Matic 8L90 eight-speed, but scaled for the performance envelope of the smaller engines and offering an estimated 5-percent efficiency improvement over a comparable six-speed automatic.

Camaro SS is powered by the 6.2L LT1 V-8 engine introduced on the Corvette Stingray. About 20 percent of the components are specific for the Camaro's architecture, including new, tubular "bi-Y"-type exhaust manifolds. It also offers advanced technologies such as variable valve

pronounced haunches of the rear fenders, enhancing the wider, more aggressive stance.

A more expressive take on the taillamps blends the horizontal aesthetic of the first generation with a dual-element theme and aggressive tapers for a contemporary appearance.

Standard lighting includes halogen projector beam headlamps and taillamps. RS and SS models add high-

### Driver-focused interior and technologies

Like the exterior, the interior is completely new yet instantly recognizable. The instrument panel, for example, is a departure from the previous model, but retains the Camaro's familiar dual-binnacle-style instrument cluster hood.

The instrument cluster features analog instruments to provide the driver with essential performance information, as well as an available eight-inch-diagonal high-definition center screen that can be configured to provide additional information including navigation, performance, and infotainment features.

Another eight-inch screen, integrated in the center of the instrument panel, serves as the interface for the enhanced, next-generation MyLink system.

The new center console and center stack are designed with high performance driving in mind. For example, the heating and cooling controls are integrated into rings surrounding the air ducts. Eliminating the associated buttons makes the cabin feel more spacious, and makes adjusting the temperature easy while keeping your eyes on the road.

An electronic parking brake replaces the previous mechanical parking brake handle.

An available, segment-first LED ambient lighting system, integrated in the dash, door panels and center console, offers 24 different colors, as well as fade and transition effects that spread across the interior. There's even a theatrical "car show" mode that cycles randomly through the entire color spectrum when the Camaro is parked.

### After Sale Services

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24x7 roadside assistance.



kg) reduction in the overall suspension weight. With the lighter, stiffer architecture and more powerful engines, the Gen Six Camaro SS delivers better lap times than the fifth-generation's track-focused Camaro 1LE package.

The Camaro features a new, multi-link MacPherson strut front suspension with Camaro-specific geometry. The double-pivot design provides a more precise feeling of control, including more linear and communicative feel from the quick-ratio electric power steering system. At the rear, a new five-link independent suspension yields outstanding wheel control and reduces "squat" during acceleration.

In addition, the Magnetic Ride Control is available on the Camaro SS for the first time. Previously limited to the Camaro ZL1, the active suspension reads road and driving conditions 1,000 times per second, and automatically adjusts the damper settings to optimize ride comfort and control.

Goodyear tires are used on all models: The LT features standard 20-inch wheels wrapped with Goodyear Eagle Sport all-season tires and available 20-inch wheels matched with Eagle F1 Asymmetric all-season run-flat tires. Camaro SS features standard 20-inch aluminum wheels with Eagle F1 Asymmetric 3 run-flat tires.

### More powerful and efficient

The new Camaro will be offered with powertrain combinations, each designed to deliver improved performance and efficiency.



timing, direct injection and Active Fuel Management (on automatic-equipped models) to help balance efficiency and performance. Output is SAE-certified at 455 horsepower (339 kW) and 455 lb-ft of torque (617 Nm), making it the most-powerful Camaro SS ever.

The LT1 engine is available with a standard six-speed manual transmission – with new Active Rev Match technology that "blips" the throttle for perfectly timed downshifts – or the Hydra-Matic 8L90 paddle-shift eight-speed automatic.

Each engine has been carefully tuned for a distinctive performance sound.

Both the 3.6L V-6 and 6.2L V-8 feature mechanical sound enhancers – resonators that direct induction noise from the engine bay into the cabin. Both engines are available with a dual-mode exhaust, which features electronically controlled valves that bypass the mufflers under acceleration, delivering improved performance and greater sound levels. With the dual-mode exhaust, drivers can personalize the exhaust sound, from a "stealth" mode to the most aggressive "track" mode.



intensity discharge, or HID, projector-beam headlamps and LED "signature lighting" daytime running lights – including a sweeping LED lightpipe integrated in the headlamp and an LED light pipe integrated into the front fascia. RS and SS models also feature LED lighting for the rear taillamps, including auxiliary LED light guides that mirror the shape of the front signature lighting.

In many cases, the exterior design not only communicates the performance capabilities of the new Camaro, but contributes to them. For example, the teams spent more than 350 hours testing the Camaro in the wind tunnel, meticulously tailoring the exterior to improve cooling and reduce aerodynamic lift and drag.

Aerodynamic details include a subtle "air curtain" on the front fascia, which guides air around the wheels rather than into the wheelhouses, reducing drag. Also, the Camaro SS has a unique front fascia with integrated brake cooling ducts and a unique hood with functional air vents, which improve engine cooling and reduce front lift.

All models share a more pronounced, sculpted roof panel

## MISSING THAI ACTIVIST'S WIFE URGES POLICE TO INVESTIGATE

**BANGKOK:** The wife of a Thai activist feared dead after he went missing last month said yesterday police have failed to properly investigate his case, which threatens to add to the country's dismal record of unsolved disappearances. The United Nations has recorded at least 82 open cases of enforced disappearance in Thailand dating back to the 1980s.

The latest to vanish is Den Kamlae. The 65-year-old activist had been leading a long-running battle to secure a land deed for his community in north-eastern Chaiyaphum province, which authorities accuse of encroaching on protected forest. His wife and other villagers are convinced his disappearance is linked to his activism.

"There is no other reason why he could be missing," said Supap Kamlae, who has travelled to Bangkok to petition government agencies and rights groups for help. But the chief police officer behind the investigation dismissed the theory that Den had been murdered. "We suspect he may have suffered heat stroke or was attacked by wild animals," Phan Yosrungruang, from Huay Yang district police station, told AFP.

Supap last saw her husband on 16 April, when he headed off to forage for bamboo shoots in the forest near their home. Den's friends and relatives told AFP they mounted their own search after police hastily wrapped up their hunt for him. But

they have not found his body despite scouring the forest every day for weeks-including using diving equipment to search ponds.

"We want help. We are poor and we need help...We feel powerless," Supap told AFP. Pornpen Khongkachonkiet, the director of the Cross Cultural Foundation, an NGO publicizing Den's case, said Thailand's poor face a steep hill to justice in a legal system biased towards the rich and influential. "We don't have equality in the law," she told AFP, adding that local police often do not take reports of missing people seriously. The community's plea for help follows the two-year anniversary of the disappearance of another land activist. Por Cha Lee Rakcharoen, an

ethnic Karen activist known as Billy, vanished in 2014 after he was ostensibly arrested by officials in Kaeng Krachan National Park for carrying illegal honey.

Two years later his disappearance remains shrouded in mystery, despite his family's efforts to prosecute park authorities they believe killed the activist over his efforts to sue them for allegedly torching the homes of 20 families in the park in 2011. In January the UN called on the Thai government to do more to uncover the fates of the country's disappeared. It also criticized the recent acquittal of five police officers accused of abducting Somchai Neelapaijit, a Muslim human rights lawyer who has been missing for 12 years. — AFP

## TRANSGENDER POLITICIAN CELEBRATES HISTORIC WIN

**MANILA:** Geraldine Roman yesterday celebrated overcoming "bigotry, hatred and discrimination" as results showed she had become the first transgender politician to win a congressional seat in the predominantly Catholic Philippines.

After her victory in Monday's election, Roman, 49, is being seen by the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community as a source of hope in a country where Church influence means divorce, abortion and same-sex marriage are banned.

"The politics of bigotry, hatred and discrimination did not triumph. What triumphed was the politics of love, acceptance and respect," Roman told AFP after her victory for a seat in Congress representing the farming province of Bataan just north-west of Manila. Roman, a Catholic, said she was looking forward to becoming a lawmaker so she could respond to critics who dismissed her as a one-issue politician not to be taken seriously. "I'm elated, very, very happy. I'm also excited to work. I realize that the burden is bigger because the stereotype of people about the LGBT is we are frivolous, that we have nothing substantial to say, so I have to prove them wrong," she said. Roman will be the highest-ranking openly LGBT politician in the Philippines, where other lawmakers have refused to come out for fear of losing support from the Catholic Church and other religious groups.

A political neophyte, Roman will succeed her mother as representative of Bataan, where her family has been a political force for three generations. Her mother had to stand down after serving the maximum number of three terms. Roman's father was a former congressman whose death in 2014 prompted her to consider continuing the family legacy. Political families dominate Philippine politics, from the local to the national level, and belonging to such a dynasty was widely regarded as being crucial to Roman's success. Still the

constituents of Bataan overwhelmingly endorsed Roman, with the vote count showing she had secured 62 percent support. "She is also a human being. We all have rights. It's not an issue to me that she is transgender," farmer Bern Salenga, 49, told AFP during a campaign sortie in Roman's home town before the election.

Roman has been living as a woman for two decades, and proudly wore a pearl necklace and pink lipstick while campaigning. She had a successful career as senior editor at the Spanish News Agency. She speaks Spanish, French and Italian and won a scholarship to study in Spain, where she met her partner of 18 years. She underwent sex reassignment surgery, and legally changed her name and gender, in the 1990s — a recognition she wants other transgender people to have.

In 2001, a law was passed making it impossible for transgender Filipinos to change their name and sex. Roman has vowed to campaign to lift those restrictions, and to push for an anti-discrimination bill that ensures equal treatment in the workplace, schools, commercial establishments and government offices.

Despite the focus on her gender, Roman said her priority was the people of Bataan, and to help more poor students nationwide get scholarships. "Equality (is) not only in terms of gender but also in terms of socio-economic status. To be rich or poor should not matter. Whether educated or not, people should have the same opportunities so I'm going beyond gender to include more issues," she said.

With her historic victory, Roman said she hoped more LGBT Filipinos would be inspired to join government. "I want to inspire everybody. There are many factors for discrimination: on the basis of gender, age, educational attainment, creed. So to all people who experience discrimination, I want to inspire them." — AFP



**DAVAO CITY:** A resident walks past election tarapaulins featuring Philippine presidential candidate and Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte displayed on a street. — AFP

## NEW PHILIPPINE LEADER SEEN AS EMANCIPATOR, LOOMING DICTATOR

'YOUR VICTORY IS THE VICTORY OF OUR PEOPLE'

**MANILA:** Rodrigo Duterte, the bombastic mayor of a major southern city, was heralded yesterday as president-elect of the Philippines after an incendiary and populist campaign that projected him alternatively as an emancipator and a looming dictator.

"Our people have spoken and their verdict is accepted and respected," outgoing President Benigno Aquino III's spokesman Sonny Coloma said in a statement. "The path of good governance... is already established as all presidential candidates spoke out against corruption."

Former Interior Secretary Mar Roxas, who was running second behind Duterte in the unofficial vote count following Monday's election, conceded defeat. "Digong, I wish you success," Roxas said at a news conference, using Duterte's nickname. "Your victory is the victory of our people and our country." Duterte's harshest critic also conceded that the mayor, known for his off-color sexual remarks and pledges to kill criminal suspects, had emerged the unquestioned winner. "I will not be the party pooper at this time of a festive mood," Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who has filed a plunder complaint against Duterte, told The Associated Press. "I will step back, listen to his policy pronouncements. This time we don't expect a stand-up comedy act but a president who will address the nation."

### 'Duterte Harry'

Duterte, 71, himself has not spoken since casting his vote Monday, and remained at his home in Davao, on the southern main island of Mindanao. Results from a semi-official count gave Duterte an unassailable lead, thrusting him into national politics for the first time after 22 years as mayor of Davao and a government prosecutor before that. In those two jobs, Duterte gained notoriety by going after criminals, although he was accused of carrying out hundreds of extra-judicial killings.

This earned him the nickname "Duterte Harry," a reference to the Clint Eastwood movie character with little regard for rules. He has also been compared to Donald Trump, the US Republican presumptive presidential nominee, for his propensity for inflammatory statements. In the election for vice president, who is separately elected in the Philippines, the son of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was trailing by a hair to a political neophyte, Rep. Leni Robredo, who is backed by outgoing President Benigno Aquino III.

During the three-month campaign, Duterte made audacious promises to eradicate crime and corruption within six months. His explosive outbursts and curses against the inequality and social ills that bedevil the Filipino everyman resonated among different class levels of the people that his big political rivals clearly underestimated until he began to take a strong lead in opinion polls in the final weeks of the campaign.

### International attention

He captured domestic and international attention with speeches peppered with obscene jokes about sex and rape and anecdotes about his Viagra-fueled sexual escapades, and for undiplomatic remarks about Australia, the United States and China, all key players in the country's politics. He has not articulated an overall foreign policy, but has described himself as a socialist wary of the US-Philippine security alliance. He has worried members of the armed forces by saying that communist rebels could

play a role in his government. When the Australian and American ambassadors criticized a joke he made about wanting to be the first to have raped an Australian missionary who was gang-raped and killed by inmates in a 1989 jail riot, he told them to shut up. He said he would talk with China about territorial disputes in the South China Sea but if nothing happened, he would sail to an artificial island newly created by China and plant the Philippine flag there. China, he said, could shoot him and turn him into a national hero.

He has also threatened to form a one-man rule if legislators in the Congress oppose him. President Aquino went public against Duterte late in the campaign, saying the mayor may

endanger the country's hard-fought democracy and squander economic gains of the last six years, when the Philippine economy grew at an average of 6.2 percent, one of the best rates in Asia.

Aquino, whose parents were democracy champions who helped topple the senior Marcos, also campaigned against Marcos Jr., who has never clearly apologized for economic plunder and widespread human rights abuses under his father. Filipinos have been hypersensitive to potential threats to democracy since they ousted the elder Marcos. On Monday, Duterte was asked to comment about his image as a mass-murder advocate. He replied without elaborating, "I'm sure that there will be a resurrection one of these days." — AP



**BATAAN PROVINCE:** This photo taken on April 30, 2016 shows transgender legislator candidate Geraldine Roman campaigning in a village in Orani town. — AFP

## MASS RALLY IN N KOREA AS CONGRESS BOLSTERS LEADER

**PYONGYANG:** After a ruling-party congress in which leader Kim Jong Un enshrined his hold on power and his commitment to developing nuclear weapons, hundreds of thousands of North Koreans celebrated with a massive civilian parade yesterday featuring floats bearing patriotic slogans and marchers with flags and pompoms.

Kim presided over the parade and waved down to the crowd from his "tribune of honor" on a balcony of the Grand People's Study House, which overlooks the square. North Koreans had been practicing roles in the parade and other events for weeks, and participation is considered mandatory.

"We had been practicing every other day for this event," said Yun Song Hua, a 25-year-old medical student at Kim Il Sung University. "I'm proud to be able to participate in an event like this with our leader here with us." The two-hour parade started off with a 30-minute speech by Kim Jong Nam, the head of North Korea's parliament and nominal head of state. Foreign journalists in Pyongyang for the congress had to gather hours earlier, at 5:30 am, to go through strict security screening. They had to surrender all telephones and communication devices, which is typical whenever foreign media cover an event where Kim Jong Un is present.

The four-day congress completed Monday was the authoritarian country's first since 1980, before Kim was even born. The body of more than 3,400 delegates endorsed his nuclear and economic policies, promoted his favored officials and gave him a new title of party chairman. Kim told delegates the North would not use its nuclear weapons first unless its sovereignty is threatened and hinted he was willing to

work with countries that had previously been hostile toward the North if they are willing to work with him.

### Solidify and formalize

Though big on pomp and visuals intended to inspire awe, the congress was first and foremost a means for Kim to solidify his standing as the sole leader of the party and formalize the positions of those he trusts. Those include Ri Yong Gil, a senior official South Korea's intelligence agency had previously said had been executed.

But by calling a congress — something his father, Kim Jong Il, never did — Kim demonstrated what may also be a leadership style more like that of his charismatic grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung. Kim Il Sung worked through party organs more than Kim Jong Il, who preferred using his own network of trusted individuals to get things done.

Kim Jong Un spoke several times during the congress — including one speech that lasted three hours and has aired repeatedly on the North's state-run television. He announced a new five-year plan for the economy, the first made public since the 1980s, to show that improving the nation's standard of living, which has fallen far behind its neighboring China and rival South Korea, is one of his top priorities.

To do that, he stressed that North Korea must strive to build better trade relations with other countries, though he also remained firm on what the North claims is its right to develop and possess a nuclear arsenal for self-defense. How North Korea can do both is a question mark. Its nuclear program has brought a heavy price in sanctions that stifle growth. — AP



**CURUP:** Indonesian policemen escort teenage suspects prior to their trial. — AFP

## INDONESIAN TEENS JAILED FOR BRUTAL MURDER, GANG RAPE

**CURUP:** Seven Indonesian teenagers were jailed yesterday for the brutal murder and gang rape of a 14-year-old girl that sparked a national debate on sexual violence. They were among a gang who set upon the schoolgirl while she was on her way home in a small village on the western island of Sumatra. Her battered body was found three days later in woods, tied up and naked, and 12 people were arrested over the attack.

Yesterday seven attackers, aged 16 and 17, were found guilty at a court in the Curup district of Sumatra and sentenced to 10 years in jail each. "This is in line with our demands," said Eko Hening Wardhono, an official from the attorney-general's office, adding that police were still investigating the other five.

A further two suspects are still on the run. The crime took place in early April but it only caught the attention of the nation a month later, as reports of the incident went viral on

social media and tens of thousands signed online petitions. The case led activists to call for harsher punishments for sex attackers and sparked protests in the capital Jakarta. It also prompted President Joko Widodo to call for better protection for women.

It has drawn comparisons with the fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in Delhi in 2012, which sparked mass protests and led to an overhaul of India's rape laws. Activist Rita Pranawati, from government-backed rights group the Indonesian Child Protection Commission, welcomed yesterday's jail terms but said more needed to be done to tackle the root causes of sexual violence. "Cases like this happen due to various reasons, from parenting problems, to bad education and drinking problems," she said. Sexual violence against women is rampant in Indonesia, according to the National Commission on Violence Against Women. — AFP



Vehicles stop on the side of a road as a tornado rips through a residential area after touching down south of Wynnewood, Oklahoma on Monday. The tornado touched down quickly and destroyed an unknown number of structures before a series of other twisters riddled the area. One person is confirmed dead. — AFP

### TRUMP: LONDON MAYOR EXCEPTION...

Continued from Page 1

"I think it's a very good thing, and I hope he does a very good job because frankly that would be very, very good. If he does a good job, and frankly if he does a great job, that would be a terrific thing," he added. But the mayor declined to lend Trump his support. "I'll be backing the Democratic candidate - Hillary Clinton, who I suspect it will be - and I hope that she trounces him," Khan told the BBC.

Khan, whose parents are Pakistani immigrants, is London's first Muslim mayor. "I want to go to America to meet with and engage with American mayors," he told Time magazine. "If Donald Trump becomes the president I'll be stopped from going there by virtue of my faith," he

said, adding he was confident "Donald Trump's approach to politics" would not win.

Khan doubled down on his criticism of Trump, even after learning that the presumed Republican presidential candidate would probably exempt him from it. "This isn't just about me - it's about my friends, my family and everyone who comes from a background similar to mine, anywhere in the world," Khan said. He added: "Donald Trump's ignorant view of Islam could make both of our countries less safe - it risks alienating mainstream Muslims around the world and plays into the hands of extremists. Donald Trump and those around him think that Western liberal values are incompatible with mainstream Islam. London has proved him wrong." — Agencies

### YEMEN FOES AGREE MAJOR PRISONER SWAP

Continued from Page 1

Following a two-day interruption, the two delegations resumed face-to-face talks on Monday after mediation efforts and an appeal by the UN envoy. Two other working groups, spanning military, security and political issues, also met yesterday but failed to make any progress on the thorny issues facing them, sources close to the two delegations said. Those issues include implementing a UN Security Council resolution which orders the Houthis to pull out of territory they occupied in a 2014 offensive and surrender heavy arms they captured.

The two delegations remained far apart as the rebels demanded the formation of a consensus transitional government to handle other issues and the delegation of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi insisted he is the legitimate head of state, the sources said. The Yemen conflict pits the pro-Iranian Houthis and their allies loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh against forces fighting to defend Hadi's internationally recognized government, supported by a Saudi-led Arab coalition.

Pro-government forces pushed the rebels out of five

southern provinces last year with air and ground support from the coalition. But the Houthis continue to control the capital Sanaa as well as large parts of the country's north and west, and the Saudi-led coalition has drawn strong criticism over heavy civilian casualties. Ould Cheikh Ahmed warned on Monday that the conflict was at a critical juncture. "There is no doubt that we are at a true crossroads. We are either moving towards peace or going back to square one," he said.

Hours after the talks resumed on Monday, Saudi air defences intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Yemen, the coalition said. Before that, coalition aircraft hit a military base captured by rebels north of Sanaa, killing at least 11, a military official said. Coalition spokesman Ahmed Assiri told Egyptian Dream television late Monday that if Kuwait peace talks fail "we will storm the capital Sanaa and decide the battle in Yemen" by military means. The talks follow two failed peace attempts in June and December last year in Switzerland. The Houthis exchanged prisoners with Saudi Arabia in March after unprecedented talks mediated by tribes along the frontier, where dozens have been killed in cross-border shelling. — AFP

## FALCONER TWEAKS DRONES TO GIVE PREY'S EYE VIEW

DUBAI: A South African falconer in Dubai's desert is shaking up the ancient sport of falconry, marrying one of Arabia's most cherished customs with the cutting edge world of drones and tiny cameras. Few foreigners are accepted into this traditional realm, which served as a means of survival in the barren wastes before the era of abundant oil and glassy skyscrapers. But tour operator and trainer Peter Bergh has honed his skills for more than a decade, winning the trust of Dubai's falconing elite.

Bergh puts their flocks through an aerial "gym" he has fine-tuned to give them a 21-century workout. Chasing specially-modified quadcopters and remote control planes painted to look like their turkey-sized quarry, the peregrine falcons must snatch in their claws blobs of feathery quail meat born aloft via rope by the miniature flying machines. Teaming up with creators of the rising sport of drone racing, Bergh tinkers with aerodynamic bullet-shaped cameras and superfast air-

craft to give guests attending his tours a futuristic view into the primal experience of being devoured.

"Over the years we've progressively changed the cameras, gone smaller, adapted and modified aeroplanes to fit these cameras, and some of the footage we're achieving is radical and we can now put ourselves in the prey's perspective," Bergh said. He and his team at Royal Shaheen tours bristle at efforts, most recently by the Dutch police, to put the beaked raptors to work taking down the flying machines, which they warn could slice up and even decapitate the birds.

Operating from Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve's rolling dunes and gnarled trees, the group cling to the educational uses of drones and seek to capture the action for the sake of its beauty alone. "Filming it and capturing the style, the flight the aggression, the movement of the body of the birds - it's fascinating. The technology of the cameras is improving every day, so the future looks really bright," Bergh added. — Reuters

### MPS DEFER DEBATE ON OIL STRIKE...

Continued from Page 1

The Assembly also called on the government to finalize its priority issues to be debated in the Assembly as MP Jamal Al-Omar strongly criticized the government, saying he does not trust the government's ability to perform. MPs also decided to delay approving a probe into Kuwait Investment Authority.

MPs, during the listless session, also passed a set of recommendations they did not approve in the previous session for a lack of quorum after debating the impact of flying road gravel and criticizing the ministry of public works. The recommendations call on the ministry to use a new asphalt mix formulated by a British lab after passing the necessary tests and to halt the use of the previous materials in a bid to eliminate flying gravel and save public funds.

They also call for strictly inspecting asphalt factories dealing with the ministry to ensure they are qualified to produce high quality materials. They lawmakers called on the ministry to hold accountable those officials responsible for the development of appropriate asphalt mixes because they have failed to carry out their job. They called on the ministry to submit a financial program and a timetable for the repairs on the roads, provided it must be done as soon as possible to reduce the negative impact on motorists.

The recommendations urged the ministry to guarantee that the phenomenon will not be repeated after the use of the materials found appropriate by the ministry. They also called on the finance ministry to provide the necessary funding for the repairs of the roads, along with banning companies and contractors that caused the problem from participating in future road projects to prevent the reoccurrence of the problem.

### 30 HOUSEWIVES, 'EMPLOYER' GET JAIL OVER...

Continued from Page 1

Subaih explained that violations involved 5,324 families, including 1,283 Kuwaiti women who claimed to be married to bedoons but their husbands turned out to be Kuwaiti citizens, 1,479 women who claimed to be unmarried, 492 citizens who were already receiving social security, 389 citizens already getting allowances for taking care of disabled people, 360 people working in the public sector, 224 dead people who had been getting KD 117 monthly, 105 who are working in the

private sector and others including non-Kuwaitis, senior citizens who turned out to be below 20, divorced women who had got married and business owners. She added that the citizens involved would be summoned for investigations.

Kuwait, which has a generous welfare system, spends hundreds of millions of dinars a year on social aid to low-income families. But since the sharp decline in the price of oil, its main source of income, the state has begun applying austerity measures aimed at cutting spending and raising non-oil income.

### ARAMCO TO EXPAND AS OIL DEMAND GROWING

Continued from Page 1

Aramco has meanwhile begun work on a "world class" maritime complex which would conservatively create 80,000 direct and indirect jobs and have a \$17-billion impact on gross domestic product. The complex in Ras Al-Khair - on the eastern coast - would provide engineering, manufacturing and repair services for off-

shore rigs, commercial vessels and offshore service vessels. It will be fully operational by 2021, Nasser said. The company which has its own entrepreneurship center also wants to create 200 small and medium-sized enterprises as part of the Vision 2030. "This is a very important program," Nasser said. "There will be major expansions in all aspects of Saudi Aramco," he told reporters. — AFP

### B'DESH HANGS TOP ISLAMIST FOR WAR CRIMES

Continued from Page 1

Nizami's lawyer told AFP last week that he would not seek any pardon as it would require him to admit crimes he was convicted of.

Jamaat has said the charges against Nizami are false and aimed at eliminating the leadership of the party. Nizami took over as party leader in 2000 and played a key role in the victory of an Islamist-allied government in the 2001 general election. The 1971 conflict, one of the bloodiest in world history, led to the creation of an independent Bangladesh from what was then East Pakistan.

Prosecutors said Nizami was responsible for setting up

the pro-Pakistani Al-Badr militia, which killed top writers, doctors and journalists in the most gruesome chapter of the war. Their bodies were found blindfolded with their hands tied and dumped in a marsh on the outskirts of the capital. The trial heard Nizami ordered the killings, designed to "intellectually cripple" the fledgling nation.

He was convicted in Oct 2014 by the International Crimes Tribunal, which was established in 2010 by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government and has sentenced more than a dozen opposition leaders for war crimes. Rights groups say the trials fall short of global standards and lack international oversight, while the government says they are needed to heal the wounds of the conflict. — Agencies

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## Washington Watch

'KLEPTOCRACY TOUR':  
LONDON SIGHTSEEING  
WITH A DIFFERENCE

By Dario Thuburn

A black bus winds its way through some of London's most expensive neighbourhoods for a sightseeing tour with a difference - a guided visit around luxury houses bought by shady international tycoons and officials. The "Kleptocracy Tour" was set up by anti-corruption campaigner Roman Borisovich, who aims to expose dirty money fuelling the high-end London property market and the teams of British "enablers" who make it happen.

"The idea behind the tour is to attract public attention to the fact of massive money laundering through properties in London," Borisovich told AFP on the tour this week, ahead of an international anti-corruption summit being hosted by Prime Minister David Cameron. With a group of British lawmakers, campaigners and media on board, the bus drove past prime London real estate - from mansions in leafy, gated complexes to hotels to luxury pads in tourist hotspots.

One of the stops is a six-bedroom house with an indoor pool on a private road near Hampstead Heath in north London that used to belong to James Ibori, the ex-governor of Nigeria's oil-rich Delta State. Ibori pleaded guilty to 10 counts of money laundering and conspiracy to defraud in a British court in 2012 and is serving a 13-year sentence. "The view of corruption is that it's a problem of developing countries," said Saira O'Mallie from the ONE Campaign set up by U2 frontman Bono, which co-organized the bus tour. "But actually we realise that the UK and many European countries and the US facilitate that corruption... It's right under our noses."

## 'No Place for Dirty Money'

More than 36,000 properties in London are owned through offshore firms, which own a total £122 billion (\$176 billion) worth of property across England and Wales. Buying properties through offshore companies can be a way of hiding the true owners and avoiding taxes. The system - laid bare last month in the leaked so-called Panama Papers, a portion of which was released online Monday - has been used by the world's super-rich to buy tracts of London real estate.

In a speech last year in Singapore, Cameron promised to crack down on the use of London property to launder money, saying: "There is no place for dirty money in Britain." The government subsequently launched a consultation on proposals to require foreign companies to provide information on their beneficial ownership before buying land or property in England and Wales. There is speculation that Cameron will announce measures to this effect at Thursday's anti-corruption summit - a move that campaigners and the industry alike would welcome.

"The government's proposals for property ownership transparency could mean that it's no longer possible to secretly own property in the UK," said Eleanor Nichol of campaign group Global Witness. "If properly implemented, this will be a big problem for anyone wanting to launder money here." However, she warned the measures must be introduced soon - within a year - and apply to all existing properties, as well as future purchases.

## 'Monaco with Fog'

More than £180 million worth of property in Britain was investigated as suspected proceeds of corruption between 2004 and 2014, according to Transparency International, which says this figure is just the "tip of the iceberg". Luke Harding, a journalist with The Guardian newspaper who helped analyse the Panama Papers, said the shock for him was the realization of the extent of the enabling role played by British intermediaries. "The UK has become Monaco with fog," he said, after addressing the bus tour. The leaks "reveal a kind of fundamental truth that was hidden in plain sight - that the global rich stopped paying taxes a long time ago", Harding said. — AFP

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## GLOBAL POPULISM WAVE HITS PHILIPPINES

By Mynardo Macaraig

The election of Rodrigo Duterte as Philippine president marks the latest victory for populist politics, as voters around the world reward candidates offering simple solutions to complex problems. In a country beset by crime, poverty and corruption, Duterte promised voters a raft of quick fixes that many analysts believe will remain empty promises. One of his main campaign pledges was to completely eradicate crime within six months.

Foul-mouthed tirades have only added to the appeal of his plug-and-play solutions for a broken economy and a bankrupt society, echoing in some ways the simplistic sloganeering of presidential hopeful Donald Trump in the United States. In Europe, iconoclast politicians revel in anti-immigrant rhetoric, capitalizing on voters' disquiet over rising unemployment and an elite they think is out of touch. "People want some kind of change. They want to break from the past. They are exasperated, aggravated," said Earl Parreno of the Manila-based Institute for Political and Economic Reform. "They want someone like Duterte who promises everything will be solved in three to six months."

Duterte's victory over establishment candidate Mar Roxas was founded on simplistic brutality. The 71-year-old vowed he would end crime by ordering security forces to kill tens of thousands of suspect-

ed criminals, then pardon himself if he was found guilty of mass murder. Despite six years of stable economic growth under President Benigno Aquino, one in four Filipinos still lives on less than \$1.30 a day and a devastating rich-poor divide has worsened. "People want change. They are happy to take risks to get this change," said Parreno. "Whether the change is better or worse, that's not the issue. They want a new platform, even if they don't know what is next."

## Colorful

Even in a country that has a track record of controversial presidents - dictators and movie stars jostle in the pages of recent history books - Duterte's hustings have been colorful affairs. Supporters have delighted in their candidate's willingness to shoot from the hip, like when he called the pope a "son of a whore" and made jokes about raping an Australian missionary. His coarse ascent mirrors that of Trump, the presumptive presidential candidate for the Republican Party.

The real estate mogul has similarly shown willingness to offend, luxuriating in name-calling at rallies that have at times teetered on the hysterical. Trump - who, like Duterte, has drawn comparisons with Adolf Hitler - is regularly accused of demagoguery, the populism-plus-one of a politician who plays to the baying mob. "Demagogues do not reassure the elec-

torate with a rational assessment of risk as mainstream politicians tend to do," says Richard Ashby Wilson, professor of anthropology and law at the University of Connecticut. "Instead, they play up existing threats, embrace a narrative of victimhood and sow despair," he wrote on theconversation.com earlier this year.

While Duterte has focused on criminals, Trump has trained his fire on Muslims and Mexicans. He has threatened to build a wall along the southern US border to keep out immigrants - Mexicans are "rapists" in Trump's world - and says he will ban all non-American Muslims entering the United States in his bid to combat the perceived threat of terrorism. This scapegoating of minorities finds a less extreme form in Europe, a continent staggering under the weight of its worst migrant crisis since World War II. Geert Wilders in the Netherlands, Marine Le Pen in France and Nigel Farage in Britain have all enjoyed electoral success to one degree or another, espousing anti-immigrant nationalisms that until a few years ago seemed consigned to Europe's past.

## Cookie-Cutter Politicians

For Francisco Magno, president of the Philippine Political Science Association, the intolerance of modern day populists is magnified by social media. The short soundbites and use of imagery favored on the medium "is used to emphasize some

kind of purity. It makes things black and white: strong and weak, purity vs. inclusiveness," he told AFP in Manila. That also translates to the stump; Trump and Duterte make speeches filled with incomplete sentences and unfiltered thoughts that quickly segue from one topic to another, both claiming simply to be telling it like it is.

Ian McAllister, a political scientist at the Australian National University, said this reflected voters' widespread disillusionment with cookie-cutter candidates. "We have increasingly seen over the last 10 to 15 years the rise of what are popularly known as anti-politician politicians - people who speak their mind," he said.

While Duterte may have triumphed in Monday's poll, pundits expect Trump will come unstuck in November's US general election, losing to his Democratic Party rival Hillary Clinton. But even if he were to win, Trump, like Duterte, would likely be tamed by the political system he is fighting against, says Simon Torney at the University of Sydney. "It's often like walking through treacle being in government. They get all the populist energy beaten out of them as they are trampled on by vested interests and the flood of political bureaucracy," he said. "There are no real examples anywhere of a populist politician making any radical change from within. Either their behavior changes or they are booted out." — AFP

## UNDER REFORM MANTLE, SADR FRACTURES POLITICS

By Susannah George

After more than a decade of dipping in and out of Iraqi politics, Muqtada Al-Sadr, the young Shiite cleric who first made his name fighting US forces in post-2003 Iraq, is leveraging his enduring popular appeal to again roll Iraq's political order. On April 30, when his supporters invaded the highly fortified Green Zone in the Iraqi capital and overran the parliament building to demand political reforms, it marked a dramatic escalation of a long-simmering standoff between Iraq's powerful political blocs.

While Sadr's most recent show of force has been playing out in central Baghdad, the core of support that fuels his power lies on the city's northeastern edge. In Sadr City - the Shiite dominated neighborhood renamed after the cleric's family in 2003 - Sadr's support doesn't stem from how he's played his political hand but from his lineage.

Born to a prominent Iraqi family, Sadr's uncle Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir Al-Sadr was executed by Saddam Hussein in 1980. In 1999, Sadr's father Mohammed Sadiq Al-Sadr was shot dead along with two of his sons in Najaf. On the streets of Sadr City, images of Sadr, his father, and uncle are ubiquitous behind tangles of electrical wires along densely packed roads.

Abdul-Khaliq Hussein Akhlati's sitting room is lined with larger-than-life portraits of Sadr and his father. "Honestly, I can't explain my love for him, I can't describe it," Akhlati said, gesturing to the pictures on his wall. "For us the most important thing is that he fought Saddam and then he fought the Americans and now he's fighting all the corrupt (politicians)."

However Akhlati admitted that life for him and his family hasn't improved since the 2003 US-led invasion that overthrew Saddam. Conditions in Sadr City have largely deteriorated, government electricity is only provided a few hours a day, most of Akhlati's sons are out of work and the prices of food have steadily risen. But he doesn't blame Sadr, saying it's the fault of the corrupt Green Zone lawmakers that al-Sadr opposes. "That is just the fault of the thieves," Akhlati said.

From 2003 to 2011 Sadr's Mahdi Army fought multiple battles with US forces - on the streets of Sadr City and most notably in Aug 2004, when they waged a protracted battle with American troops in Najaf. In 2011, when US forces withdrew from Iraq, Sadr technically disbanded the militia.

## Peace Brigades

When Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, fell to the Islamic State group in 2014, Sadr resurrected his militia under a new name: The Peace Brigades. However, his forces have been in many ways sidelined in the fight against IS while militias with

closer ties to Iran such as the Badr Brigades, Asaib Ahl Haq and Kataib Hezbollah rose in prominence. Maintaining their own chain of command, the Peace Brigades secured Samarra, home to one of Shiite Islam's holiest shrines.

As the fight against IS in Iraq dragged on and an economic crisis in the country deepened, discontent rapidly spread across the country, erupting in protests last summer that mobilized millions to demand sweeping government reforms to remove corrupt and incompetent officials. But Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi's efforts to address those demands have been stymied by a lack of consensus in parliament.

The initial protest movement was largely civic and secular in tone, but that changed dramatically once Sadr entered the fray and mobilized his supporters. Suddenly the thousands chanting for change were

also chanting Sadr's name. Stands on the protests' edges sold baseball caps printed with Sadr's face and the Peace Brigades emblem. "When I joined you at Tahrir Square ... I wanted to preserve the reputation of Islam and the sect (Shiism) by seeking reforms on the path of Imam Hussein," Sadr told supporters in late March, linking his self-appointed role as "Overseer of Reform" to the seventh century struggle of Imam Hussein, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and a revered Shiite martyr.

In the days before the Green Zone breach, the crowds gathered outside the fortified compound at the heart of Baghdad ranged between 55,000 and 70,000 people, according to satellite image analysis done by Stratfor, a private intelligence firm. The occupation of the Green Zone itself lasted just over a day. Sadr's supporters knocked down concrete walls and trashed the parliament building, even physically assaulting some parliamentarians. But the unprecedented show of force ended just as quickly as it began. Following a call to disband, Sadr's supporters left the same way they entered in orderly fashion, a testament to his organizational control.

## Populist

"Ever since that day I have been getting messages on Facebook thanking me for what happened," Hakim Al-Zamili, a legislator and longtime Sadr ally, said of the Green Zone breach. Zamili, the head of the parliament's defense and security committee who formerly led the Peace Brigades, painted Sadr as a populist, working on behalf of all Iraqis and willing to do what's necessary to get things done. Sadr only began demanding reform, Zamili said, because "he knew that (the people) cannot liberate themselves alone and without his helping hand."

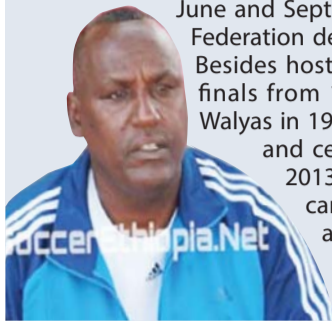
However, Sadr's effort to pressure the country's political leadership may only have thrown Iraqi politics further into disarray. Parliament has been unable to meet since its compound was breached, further delaying the approval process of the prime minister's new Cabinet. Dozens of Iraqi lawmakers continue to boycott sessions, citing security concerns. Some have even suggested convening the parliament in another location.

Ominously, Sadr's power move may have also raised the prospect of a clash between Iraq's various Shiite militias. In the wake of the Green Zone breach, thousands of fighters from rival Shiite militias deployed across Baghdad as a bulwark against protesters and Sadr's own militia. Zamili, Sadr's close ally and former militia commander, said such a move would not be tolerated a second time. "I told the security forces, if the militias deploy like that again to shoot them," he said. — AP



**ETHIOPIA APPOINTS FORMER STRIKER GEBREMEDHIN AS NATIONAL COACH**

**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopia have appointed former striker Gebremedhin Haile as national coach in the hope he can salvage their faint chances of qualifying for the finals of the African Nations Cup next year. Ethiopia, nicknamed the Walyas after a native antelope, dismissed Yohannes Sahile last week after conceding 10 goals in two consecutive qualifiers against Algeria. They lie second in Group J, five points behind Algeria. Gebremedhin, previously manager of Ethiopian Premier League side Defense Forces, signed a five-month deal on Tuesday and needs to ensure maximum points against Lesotho and Seychelles in June and September to hold on to what the Ethiopian Football Federation described as a "mathematical chance" of qualifying. Besides hosts Gabon, 15 other teams will go through to the finals from 13 groups. As a forward, Gebremedhin led the Walyas in 1987 to their first victory in the CECAFA Cup of east and central African nations. After sealing a spot in the 2013 Nations Cup, their first in three decades, Ethiopia came within two matches of a first-ever World Cup appearance in Brazil two years ago, but their form has since slumped.—Reuters



**HIDDINK BACKS TERRY TO CONTINUE AT TOP LEVEL**

**LONDON:** Defender John Terry is fit enough to continue at the highest level, Chelsea interim manager Guus Hiddink said amid growing uncertainty surrounding his captain's future. The 35-year-old's illustrious Chelsea career appears to be nearing an end as his contract expires at the end of the season and he is yet to be offered a new deal. Terry could have made his last appearance for the London club as he will be suspended for the final two Premier League games of the season after he was sent off in Chelsea's 3-2 loss at Sunderland on Saturday. "When I make a judgment on how he plays and his fitness he is able to continue," Hiddink told reporters. "(But the decision is) up to the club and not for me to make declarations on that." Fan favorite Terry, who made his senior debut in 1998, is Chelsea's most successful captain, having led them to four league titles, four FA Cups, three League Cups and one Champions League crown since 2004. Terry has previously suggested that he may not retire at Chelsea, but Hiddink called for more transparency from the club's hierarchy regarding the situation.—Reuters

**BERLUSCONI DEALING WITH CHINESE FOR AC MILAN SALE**

**MILAN:** Silvio Berlusconi's holding company Fininvest has agreed to negotiate exclusively with a group of Chinese investors for the possible sale of a stake in AC Milan. Without naming the Chinese investors, a statement on Milan's website yesterday said that a "memorandum of understanding" had been signed between the parties to open the negotiations. The exclusive negotiating deal will last for 45 days, and a 500 million euro (\$570 million) offer for 70 percent of Milan is being discussed, the Gazzetta dello Sport reported. The 79-year-old Berlusconi has discussed selling Milan with several parties recently. Last year, he came close to selling a 48 percent stake in the club to a Thai investor, Bee Taechaubol. With the Serie A season ending this weekend, Milan is languishing in seventh place. Berlusconi took over Milan in February 1986 and presided over its most successful era as the team won 28 trophies, including eight Serie A titles and five European Cups. However, Milan's form has dipped in recent years and the Rossoneri have not won Serie A since 2011. Unless Milan passes sixth-place Sassuolo this weekend, the squad will fail to qualify for Europe for a third consecutive year.—AP



LOS ANGELES: New York Mets' Juan Lagares (left) and Curtis Granderson celebrates after the Mets defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-2 in a baseball game on Monday, May 9, 2016. — AP

**NATIONALS OVERPOWER DETROIT TIGERS**

**WASHINGTON:** Moments after Bryce Harper was ejected from the dugout, pinch hitter Clint Robinson hit a game-ending homer to give the Washington Nationals a 5-4 comeback victory over the Detroit Tigers on Monday night. As he joined his teammates in racing to the plate to greet Robinson for a celebration, Harper yelled something in the direction of umpire Brian Knight. Knight pointed toward the dugout and signaled Harper's ejection after the batter before Robinson, Danny Espinosa, was called out on strikes. Then Robinson connected with a 1-0 pitch from Mark Lowe (1-2).

**RED SOX 14, ATHLETICS 7**  
Jackie Bradley Jr extended his career-high hitting streak to 15 games with a two-run single in Boston's six-run fourth and added a grand slam two innings later, carrying the Red Sox over the struggling Athletics. Brock Holt hit a two-run homer, and David Ortiz had three hits and two RBIs for Boston, which has won seven of its last 10 games. Khris Davis hit his seventh homer and drove in two runs for Oakland, which has lost 12 of 16 and fell to 1-7 this month. Josh Reddick's club-record streak of hits in eight consecutive at-bats was stopped when he grounded out his first time up.

**REDS 3, PIRATES 2**  
Tucker Barnhart hit the last of Cincinnati's three solo homers off Jonathon Niese, and Reds relievers threw three scoreless innings - a rarity for the major leagues' worst bullpen - to close out a victory over the Pirates. Zack Cozart, Joey Votto and Barnhart connected off Jonathon Niese (3-2), with all three homers barely reaching the stands in left field. Barnhart's tiebreaking homer in the seventh was upheld on review. Barnhart's first homer since last May 27 ended the seventh-longest active streak without a homer in the major leagues - 270 at-bats. It was the first time this season that Niese allowed three homers in a game.

**ASTROS 7, INDIANS 1**  
Jose Altuve had three RBIs and Colby Rasmus added two as the Astros jumped on Corey Kluber for five runs in the third and cruised to a win over the Indians. Altuve drove in two with a double in the third and Rasmus had a two-run single later in the inning to make it 4-0. Kluber (2-4), coming off the second shutout of his career in his last outing against the Tigers, was chased after just 2 2/3 innings. He entered with a 1.48 ERA in five career appearances against the Astros, and had allowed just five earned runs in 30 1/3 innings against them. On Monday he gave up five hits and five runs in his first loss since April 17. Houston starter Mike Fiers (3-1) allowed season lows of one run and three hits in seven innings for his third straight win.

**MARIENRS 5, RAYS 2**  
Ketel Marte hit a tiebreaking three-run homer off Steve Geltz and had a career-high four hits to lead the Mariners to a victory over the Rays. Felix Hernandez (3-2) allowed just two runs on four hits over seven innings to pick up the win. Steve Cishek earned his 10th save of the season. Dana Eveland (0-1) was saddled with the loss. Marte went 4 for 5 with two doubles, three RBIs and three runs scored. With the game tied at 2 in the sixth inning, Marte hammered the first offering from reliever Geltz over the right field wall to give the Mariners a 5-2 cushion.

**BLUE JAYS 3, GIANTS 1**  
Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run homer, Aaron Sanchez struck out five over seven innings, and the Blue Jays beat the Giants in their first visit to AT&T Park in nearly three years. Encarnacion connected in the third off Jake Peavy (1-4), who has given up five homers in his last two outings and lost his third straight start. Toronto had gone back-to-back games without a home run for the third time this season, but Encarnacion's deep third-inning drive into the left-field bleachers kept the Blue Jays from doing so in three straight for the first time since Sept 26-28, 2014. Sanchez (3-1) allowed one run and three hits and walked one in a strong 105-pitch performance.—AP

**YANKEES 6, ROYALS 3**  
Carlos Beltran hit two of New York's five solo homers in the first three innings off an ineffective Chris Young, and Aroldis Chapman allowed a run in his Yankees debut before closing out a victory over the slumping Royals. Brian McCann, Brett Gardner and Aaron Hicks also went deep to help the Yankees win the opener of a four-game series against the defending World Series champions. Alex Gordon and Eric Hosmer homered for the Royals, who have lost 10 of 13. Ivan Nova gave the Yankees a good effort in his first start of the season, pitching in place of injured lefty CC Sabathia. Nova was pulled after 81 pitches - one out short of qualifying for a win - but New York's fortified bullpen held Kansas City at bay.

**MARLINS 4, BREWERS 1**  
Jose Fernandez pitched well enough to overcome a teammate's home run that was negated due to a baserunning blunder, and the Marlins beat the Brewers. Fernandez (4-2) allowed four hits and pitched around four walks in seven shutout innings, his longest start this season. He improved to 20-1 at Marlins Park. With the game scoreless in the second inning, a home run by JT Realmuto was negated when he passed teammate Marcell Ozuna after rounding first base, costing Miami a run. Realmuto's hit struck the home run sculpture in center field. Ozuna, who was on first base, misjudged the fly and retreated to first, and Realmuto trotted past him.

**WHITE SOX 8, RANGERS 4, 12 innings**  
Todd Frazier hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the 12th inning for his second homer of the game, powering the White Sox over the Rangers. Frazier had four hits and a career-high six RBIs to help the White Sox win after the bullpen blew leads in the eighth and ninth innings despite a majors-leading 1.82 ERA coming in. Last year's All-Star home run derby winner in front of the home crowd in Cincinnati, Frazier has 10 homers with Chicago after an offseason trade. His go-ahead blast to left came off left-hander Cesar Ramos (0-2). Dan Jennings (1-0) pitched a scoreless 10th and 11th as the White Sox won their fourth straight in a series opener between teams coming off three-game sweeps.

**METS 4, DODGERS 2**  
Steven Matz won his fifth straight start, Curtis Granderson homered on the first pitch of the game, and Kevin Plawewcki also went



ARLINGTON: Rongned Odor #12 of the Texas Rangers slides into third base after hitting a triple against the Chicago White Sox in the bottom of the eighth inning at Globe Life Park on May 9, 2016 in Arlington, Texas. — AFP

**MLB Results/Standings**

Washington 5, Detroit 4; NY Yankees 6, Kansas City 3; Miami 4, Milwaukee 1; Boston 14, Oakland 7; Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 2; Chicago White Sox 8, Texas 4 (12 innings); Houston 7, Cleveland 1; Arizona 10, Colorado 5; NY Mets 4, LA Dodgers 2; Seattle 5, Tampa Bay 2; Toronto 3, San Francisco 1.

American League					National League				
Eastern Division					Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	NY Mets	W	L	PCT	GB	
Baltimore	18	12	.600	-	Washington	20	12	.625	0.5
Boston	19	13	.594	-	Philadelphia	18	14	.563	2.5
Toronto	17	17	.500	3	Miami	17	14	.548	3
Tampa Bay	15	15	.500	3	Atlanta	7	23	.233	12.5
NY Yankees	12	18	.400	6					
Central Division					Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	23	10	.697	-	Chicago Cubs	24	6	.800	-
Cleveland	15	14	.517	6	Pittsburgh	17	15	.531	8
Kansas City	15	16	.484	7	St. Louis	16	16	.500	9
Detroit	14	17	.452	8	Cincinnati	14	19	.424	11.5
Minnesota	8	23	.258	14	Milwaukee	13	19	.406	12
Western Division					Western Division				
Seattle	19	13	.594	-	San Francisco	17	17	.500	-
Texas	18	15	.545	1.5	LA Dodgers	16	16	.500	-
Oakland	14	19	.424	5.5	Arizona	16	18	.471	1
LA Angels	13	18	.419	5.5	Colorado	15	17	.469	1
Houston	13	20	.394	6.5	San Diego	13	19	.406	3

## RUGBYL - EX-ALL BLACKS COACH HENRY SWITCHES CODES

**WELLINGTON:** World Cup-winning former All Blacks coach Graham Henry is taking his talents to rugby league, announcing yesterday he has teamed up with the struggling Warriors in the Australian National Rugby League (NRL). Henry, who guided the All Blacks to victory in the 2011 World Cup, will be with the Warriors for the next month working with coach Andrew McFadden, the New Zealand-based club said. "I've got a lot of time for him as a coach and I also really enjoy his company," Henry said. "We've had some

healthy discussions about coaching previously and I'm thrilled to have the chance to be able to work with him, to observe the organisation and to provide some feedback." The Warriors have had a chequered history in the NRL and this season lie 10th of 16 teams with four wins from nine matches. Six players were recently dropped for breaching team protocols, amid allegations five of them drank a mixture of prescription drugs and energy drinks on a night out after a 42-0 hiding by the Melbourne Storm. The

cocktail reportedly achieves an amphetamine-like high without breaching doping rules. Three of the players, with international pedigree, were subsequently left out of the New Zealand team beaten 16-0 by Australia last Friday. McFadden said he had considered a number of options before calling on Henry, who has also coached Wales and the British and Irish Lions. "In the end we were really fortunate to be able to secure (Henry's) services," McFadden said. "It's a real privilege to have him involved and I know it's going

to be hugely beneficial not only for me personally but for the squad as a whole." It was the first of two overtures to All Blacks legends, with New Zealand Football also calling on Wayne Smith and John Kirwan to help the All Whites prepare for this month's Oceania Nations Cup in Papua New Guinea.

All Whites coach Anthony Hudson said the appearance of Kirwan and Smith at a New Zealand team training camp on Tuesday had a significant impact on his players. Kirwan and Smith have won

three Rugby World Cups between them as a player and assistant coach respectively, and White said he hoped they could help further develop the All Whites' team culture. "There are some common traits of what it means to be a Kiwi, like the never-say-die attitude, work ethic and pride, and we don't want to go away from that," he said. "I'm just trying to gain from their experience because it's two men who really understand what it means to represent New Zealand. That has to be at the heart of what we do." — AFP



**MADRID:** Romania's Simona Halep poses with her trophy after the women final of Madrid Open tournament at the Caja Magica (Magic Box) sports complex in Madrid. — AFP

## HALEP BRINGS THE MADRID CONFIDENCE TO ROMAN CLAY

**ROME:** Madrid champion Simona Halep hopes to trade further on her Spanish success this week in Rome, with the sixth seed confirming yesterday her confidence is high for the WTA Italian Open. Halep owns two semi-finals at the Foro Italico, with losses to Carla Suarez Navarro a year ago and to Serena Williams in 2013. But Romania's top player is currently bursting with confidence after beating Dominika Cibulkova for the Madrid title on clay at the weekend. Halep has turned her season prospects around after a poor start to 2016. "I didn't play the same at the beginning of the year, it was a tough period for me as I started the year a bit sick. I couldn't train like I do now. "But I came back very strong, in my opinion, and played good tennis in Madrid. I have more confidence - I believe in my game.

"I've started to work much more than before, so I'm all good. I feel good. The most important thing: I don't have injuries. I'm able to practise, I'm able to play matches. "That makes me feel more confident on court." Halep played the 2014 Roland Garros final but lost in a second-round dis-

appointment at the ensuing edition. She is hoping to change that scenario in a few weeks in Paris through continued hard work. "It's tough to stay at the top, but now I'm used to being there, I've been almost three years to be in the top 10. "But I have to keep working every day the same. It's different tennis. I have to get used to it. I just need few days. "I have to play and to get better on these conditions, because they are similar to the French Open."

In the women's first round, ninth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russian beat France's Caroline Garcia 7-5, 6-4 while unseeded former Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard advanced over Serbia's former number one Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 2-6, 6-3. Briton Johanna Konta put out Sweden's Johanna Larsson 6-1, 6-2. On the men's side, Czech eighth seed Tomas Berdych booked the first of the third-round spots through his defeat of Spaniard Albert Ramos-Vinolas 6-3, 6-4. In the first round, there were wins for Nicolas Mahut of France and German Philipp Kohlschreiber. — AFP

## MANOHAR QUILTS AS INDIA CRICKET BOARD PRESIDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Shashank Manohar resigned as the president of the Indian cricket board yesterday, as the embattled organization comes under growing pressure from the country's top court to introduce wide-ranging reforms. Manohar wrote to board secretary Anurag Thakur to announce his resignation "with immediate effect", in a move expected to trigger his bid for re-election as chairman of the International Cricket Council.

"The BCCI confirms that Shashank Manohar has resigned from the post of President, BCCI," Thakur said in a statement. "He has also resigned as the BCCI representative on the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Asian Cricket Council. "The BCCI places on record its deep appreciation of the immense contribution to Indian cricket made by Manohar." Manohar had only been in his post since October last year, when he returned for a second stint as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the wake of the death of Jagmohan Dalmiya. The 58-year-old lawyer had been widely regarded as a safe pair of hands who could bring some much needed stability to a board whose reputation has been tarnished by several scandals.

Manohar had pledged to clean up the board after being unanimously elected as head of what is the most powerful body in world cricket. After becoming BCCI president, Manohar swiftly moved to topple another of his predecessors, Narayanaswami Srinivasan, from the ICC chairmanship and reverse some of the recent rule

changes that had been designed to give greater power to India, England and Australia. Manohar had publicly blamed Srinivasan for bringing the BCCI into disrepute following a Supreme Court probe that found Srinivasan's son-in-law guilty of corruption in the Indian Premier League.

Indian newspapers have been reporting for several days that Manohar would resign his post at the BCCI in order to stand for re-election as ICC head. Under reforms that Manohar had himself supported, it will soon no longer be possible to be chairman of the ICC and head up the national board of one of its member countries. "I think it's his personal decision to contest the ICC's independent chairman position. The reasons why he stepped down only he can tell you," former India captain Sunil Gavaskar told NDTV. "I think it will be terrific to have an Indian as the first ever independent chairman of the ICC," Gavaskar added.

In the wake of the IPL corruption scandal, India's Supreme Court commissioned retired judge Rajendra Mal Lodha to draw up a report on the BCCI's governance in a bid to avoid future conflicts of interest. The Lodha Committee recommended that the board introduce term and age limits for its office bearers and a ban on television adverts in between overs during live broadcasts. Its mega rights deals with Indian broadcasters, including for the IPL, have helped make the BCCI by far the wealthiest board in world cricket. Many of the game's smaller Test-



**MUMBAI:** Chief Shashank Manohar leaves after attending a special meeting at BCCI headquarters in Mumbai. Manohar resigned yesterday as president of the Indian cricket board, reports and a senior source within the organization said. — AFP

playing nations have been accused of bending to India's demands in the ICC, desperate to attract tours by India which can ensure their financial security. — AFP



**MELBOURNE:** This file photo shows Britain's Andy Murray (left) talking to his coach Amelie Mauresmo during a training session in Melbourne. —AFP

## FAILURE TO WIN MAJOR TITLE LED TO MURRAY-MAURESMO SPLIT

**ROME:** Andy Murray confirmed yesterday that a failure to win a third Grand Slam title was among the factors which finally caused him and coach Amelie Mauresmo to end their relationship on the eve of the French Open. The Scot world number three is now playing a final Roland Garros tune-up at the Rome Masters this week without two-time Grand Slam winner Mauresmo in his corner. Murray, the first major men's player to choose a female as coach when he and Frenchwoman Mauresmo got together in spring, 2014, said the pair made it work through the end of last season.

The Scot, who turns 29 at the weekend, said he was at a low ebb in his game when Mauresmo began helping him in 2014. The relationship produced seven ATP titles and a pair of Australian Open finals. "When she first came into the team, I was really struggling. I was not doing well, my confidence was low and I was going the wrong direction," Murray said. "For two years, I think the results that we had were good. But unless I win a Grand Slam, then ultimately that's how people judge whether it worked or not.

"When she came on board, my results really picked up. The time we spent together was positive. It's just a shame I wasn't able to win one of the major events, because that's what both of us wanted. "Obviously in Australia (January final) it started well, but between the Australian Open and Rome, we only spent 10 days together, in Miami. "It became difficult with the amount of time required to do the job and the amount of time we were able to work together. "It (the post-Australian period) was just such a long period of the year, an important period where I was struggling, as well, where we weren't getting to work through that together. "It's unfortunate but those things happen."

Murray arrived in Rome after losing the

Madrid final as defending champion against Novak Djokovic. The Scot was quick to add that Mauresmo's sex had nothing to do with the parting of ways. "It's nothing to do with Amelie being a woman. It just takes a lot of time to do the job (as an ex-player) well and properly. It's not easy to do that for four, five years in a row. "We certainly could have tried through to the

end of Wimbledon, but longer term and medium term the same thing was going to continue happening. It just made more sense to stop now. "I haven't really thought too much about a new coach. But it's something that I will speak to my team about over the next few weeks and try and, you know, find something that works." — AFP

## VI MARKETS COMPANY SPONSORS MANCHESTER UNITED FANS CLUB

**KUWAIT:** VI Markets Company has announced its patronage of Manchester United Fans Club in Kuwait (MUSK) - sponsoring its activities for the next season 2016/2017 as it signs a strategic partnership with the Fan Club. The announcement was made during a press conference held to announce the partnership that shows the company's efforts in supporting the youths in all fields. Head of the Fan Club Abdelaziz Al-Hardan and CEO of VI Markets Talal Al-Ajmi signed the contract during the press conference.

Manchester United Fan Club President Abdelaziz Al-Hardan said "we realize the extent of the Kuwaiti youth love for football. That is why we are keen on creating a partnership with Man U fans. He said that the weekly meetings will be continually developed, and the company will present several activities to serve the club members. "Signing the treaty is a pride for us. We are the first trading company in Kuwait that presents such sponsorship. The company had given youth special care since its establishment," VI Markets CEO Talal Al-Ajmi said.



**KUWAIT:** VI Markets Company officials and Manchester United Fans Club members pose for a photograph after signing a strategic partnership deal. —Photo by Joseph Shagra

## OWEN FARRELL SEEKS TO EMULATE CARTER'S CALM

**ST ALBANS:** Owen Farrell said Dan Carter's "calm and control" are the qualities he most admires in his rival fly-half as he prepares to face the All Blacks great in Saturday's Champions Cup final. Farrell will try to steer London side Saracens to victory as Carter, bidding for a clean sweep of rugby union's major prizes, tries to do the same for Paris-based Racing 92. "He's been there and done it so many times," said Farrell, speaking at Saracens' training ground, of Carter.

"People talked about whether he could do it or not going into the World Cup. That's not for me to take notice of, but a player of his class was always going to play like he did," said Farrell, deployed as a centre during England's recent Six Nations grand slam. "It's just how calm he is, how much he is in control of what he does that stands out," added Farrell when asked what he most admired about World Cup-winner Carter. "Trying to be calmer on the pitch, it's definitely something I'm always trying to do. "The more you're calm, the more you're in control and the more you're thinking

about the right things. That's definitely something I've taken into account." Farrell has a fiery side and he had to serve a two-week ban for a dangerous tackle on Dan Robson during Saracens' European semi-final win over domestic rivals Wasps.

But he insisted this was not a sign of a lack of calm, but demonstrated an aggressive approach to defense that he was keen to maintain. "Rugby is a physical game and you have to play in a physical way. You can't be hesitant in what you do or you... end up in trouble yourself," said Farrell. "The collision that you're talking about was unfortunate but going forward you have to be decisive in what you do." Two years ago, Saracens' first major European final ended in a 23-6 defeat by a Jonny Wilkinson-inspired Toulon. The following week saw Saracens also lose the English Premiership final after an extra-time defeat by Northampton.

For the 24-year-old Farrell, now a veteran of 40 England Tests, those losses were a lesson in staying composed. —AFP





GUANGZHOU: Children take part in a football training session in the suburbs of Guangzhou in southern China's Guangdong province. China is in the midst of a national football boom - investing billions of dollars in an effort to realize President Xi Jinping's dreams of hosting, and one day winning, the World Cup. — AFP



GUANGZHOU: Children attend a football training session in the suburbs of Guangzhou in southern China's Guangdong province. — AFP

## CHINA'S FOOTBALL BOOM MISSING KEY INGREDIENT WHERE'S THE PASSION?

**GUANGZHOU:** When Kin Chai was a boy in 1990s China, his rural school had no football team. Or pitch. Or even a ball. Instead, the children kicked an empty plastic jug around in the street. "It was a small village," he said, "not that developed... we tried to put together village competitions, but the school didn't have the resources." Fast-forward 20 years and China is in the midst of a national football boom, investing billions of dollars in an effort to realize President Xi Jinping's dreams of hosting, and one day winning, the World Cup. China, long an avid consumer of foreign football such as the English Premier League, is now attracting expensive talent to its domestic competition and has plans to build thousands of academies to create a new generation of players.

But it is finding there is one thing money cannot buy: a love of playing the game, the simple ingredient that many experts see as critical for creating elite performers. Kin is now one of a small group of people working to inspire that enthusiasm in Chinese children, who are often too busy studying to play sport.

With a university degree in physical education, the 27-year-old coaches for Dreams Come True, a not-for-profit organization trying to build a national network of after-school soccer programs aimed at encouraging kids' passion for the sport. "We're giving students a little training in their spare time," said its chairman Zhou Weihao.

The main goal of the program, based in the teeming southern metropolis of Guangzhou, is to keep children active and make them "useful to society," he said. If they show talent, "then we give them more training". This relaxed approach is unusual for China, and contrasts sharply with the industrial-style efforts of real estate behemoth Evergrande, the majority owner of Guangzhou Evergrande, the current Asian and Chinese champions. It has built a football academy in conjunction with Spanish giants Real Madrid, reputedly the biggest in the world, where more than 2,000 students train for hours every day in the hope of making it as professionals.

The facility, which boasts a huge replica World Cup trophy, mirrors the communist

state's notoriously intensive sports development machine, which has helped turn China into an Olympic titan while its football teams lag far behind. But Mark Dreyer, a sports analyst in Beijing, warned: "The methods that China has used to great effect to become dominant in other sports cannot be transferred to football." "Simply forcing kids to play against their will won't solve anything," he said, adding that a "total overhaul of its grassroots system" and a "proper footballing pyramid" were crucial.

### Political football

The Evergrande academy's size and ambition show how the cash-rich corporations which bankroll Chinese teams are spending big to achieve Xi's goal of soccer supremacy. Business tycoons openly acknowledge that their footballing investments are an opportunity to gain political favor, after China's leaders made it clear that the sport was a priority. Last year, Chinese billionaire Wang Jianlin's Wanda Group bought a 20 percent stake in Spain's Atletico Madrid, and in March it signed a spon-

sorship deal with FIFA, football's troubled world body. In a recent book, Wang wrote: "The government leaders care about it very much, and the Chinese administration of sports made several appeals, so I came back and am offering support for Chinese football."

China's soccer skills have long lagged behind other indicators of national power: FIFA ranks China a lowly 81st, their only World Cup appearance was in 2002, and in March they needed a big dose of luck to reach the final round of qualifying for the 2018 tournament in Russia. The government's top economic planning body last month outlined a development plan to make the world's most populous nation a global football leader by 2050. Within the next four years, it said, China will have 20,000 soccer academies and 30 million elementary and middle school pupils playing the sport, among more than 50 million Chinese active in the game.

### 'The Chinese dream'

But specialists say China has cultural issues - including a high-pressure university entrance

examination or 'gaokao' - that will make it hard to grow a mass youth football craze. The educational system "leaves very little space or time for sports", said Mary Gallagher, of the University of Michigan. "Will parents risk points on the gaokao for the chance to play soccer every day?" Chinese media editorials and articles have called for a "grassroots" revolution in the sport, but until now there have been few green shoots. Former England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson, now coaching Shanghai SIPG in the Chinese Super League, has complained that football participation is almost non-existent in the country. "That is a pity because young people - boys, girls - they play badminton, they play ping-pong, they play basketball," he told AFP in an interview last year. But a mother watching her son show off his ball skills at a Dreams Come True session said the organization's low-key approach had fed his passion for the game. "He doesn't watch TV. He doesn't read comics. All he thinks about is soccer," she said. "Raising his level of play is his dream. It's our dream." She paused, then smiled: "It's the Chinese dream." — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Cooks prepare meals during one of many food-testing exercises of the Olympic menu in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AP

## RIO OLYMPIC SPREAD - ANYTHING FROM HALAL TO KOSHER, KIMCHI

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** The dining room for the athletes village at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics will be bigger than two football fields, and the kitchen being built in the same massive tent will be as large as one. The setting hints at quite a spread when the games open in just under three months. "We want to make sure when there is a medal or a record, part of that record also goes to our food team," said Marcello Cordeiro, Rio's director of food and beverages, in an interview with The Associated Press. At its peak, the athletes village kitchen will prepare 60,000 meals daily, produced from daily shipments of 210,000 kilograms of raw ingredients - all served up on 4 million biodegradable plates for 18,000 athletes, coaches and staff. Diners will choose from five different buffets - Brazilian, Asian, International, Pasta and Pizza, Halal and Kosher. Food for Muslim and Jewish athletes will adhere to their specific religious dietary laws. Koreans will even get spicy kimchee - the nation's famous fermented cabbage, scallions and assorted vegetables - shipped directly from home.

And everyone can try 40 varieties of Brazil's exotic fruits like caju, acai, carambola, caqui, goiaba and maracuja, often squeezed into Brazil's famously delicious juices (sucos in Portuguese). The subsequent Paralympics will offer the same variety, though the numbers will be smaller. "We are confident our Brazilian food is going to be a success, we'll make a bit more to be safe," Cordeiro said. "We are doing our best to bring the world to Brazil." He listed key ingredients of the basic Brazilian diet: rice, black beans, farofa (flour from toasted cassava often sprinkled on top of food) and meat. But the regional specialties are as large as the continent-size country itself.

### 'They can eat all they want'

Buffet-style eateries are popular in Brazil, where they charge by the weight - so-called "Kilo Restaurants." There will be no charge for the athletes. "They can eat all they want," Cordeiro said. "No scales. We know athletes know exactly what they need to eat." To prepare the final menus, Cordeiro and colleagues

are holding about 20 food testings before the Olympics open Aug. 5. They've been through seven or eight already, including one a few days ago. "Imagine you start eating at 10 a.m. and you finish 8 p.m.," Cordeiro said. "Everyone thinks that food-tasting is super-duper, but this is how you eat."

He demonstrated, lifting a tiny sandwich slice up to his nose, one made of ham, mozzarella, cream cheese and lettuce. He checked for texture and presentation, and finally took a small bite. Next he graded the offering on a checklist. "I'll tell you the truth, I can't stand the testing," he said. "This means eating the whole day. Actually, not eating. Tasting. You bite and you leave it." Rio will also offer different breakfast styles. For the Japanese palette there might be rice and miso soup, or fish and natto, the gooey, pungent paste made from fermented soybeans. "We're also very careful with the spice," Cordeiro said.

The athletes village consists of 31 apartment towers containing 10,160 bedrooms. It is just one part of the Olympic food operation. Deborah Cordiner is handling most of the rest, including athletes' food at venues, and support centers for volunteers and accredited guests. "We always face the same challenges, the transport, the volume of food," said Cordiner, a Scot who has worked at all but two Olympics - Salt Lake City and Sochi - since the 2000 games in Sydney.

### 'Tens of thousands'

She said athletes at venues will munch on "tens of thousands" of sandwiches. A spokesman for the organizing committee declined to give the names of catering companies under contract, saying they "are not sponsors, so they don't have a right to be associated with the games." The International Olympic Committee and organizers receive billions from sponsors like McDonald's. Cordeiro said he is worried less about the menu - he has about 20 chefs, several from outside Brazil - than he is about food safety. He must guarantee the food is free from steroids or other ingredients that might cause an athlete to test positive on a doping test. — AP

## FIFA MEMBERSHIP GOAL SETS UP NEW SOCCER POLITICS PROBLEM

**GENEVA:** Despite FIFA's ongoing image crisis fueled by corruption cases, membership of the organization remains a goal being pursued with passion. Still, joining soccer's world body - gaining entry to World Cup qualifying and million-dollar FIFA funding - can create new political problems on and off the field, including for players. On Friday, the 209 national soccer federations who make up FIFA should add two more members at a meeting in Mexico City. Kosovo and Gibraltar can expect to join the club, and then be fast-tracked into the 2018 World Cup qualifying groups which kick off in September.

Kosovo's case is the more complex, posing the question of who is able to play for the largely ethnic Albanian former enclave of Serbia. "There are many players in Europe (that) Kosovo may call, and they have expressed the desire to choose Kosovo colors," the national federation spokesman Fazli Berisha told The Associated Press in an email reply. It could see a wave of transfer requests to FIFA from players who opted to represent countries, including Albania and Switzerland, before Kosovo started to get international soccer recognition just two years ago.

The player eligibility issue was raised, and not resolved, when Kosovo was elected a member of UEFA last week. That win cleared the way for FIFA's vote. The Swiss federation led calls to delay taking Kosovo into UEFA. Its European Championship squad next month should have several Kosovo-eligible players, including midfield stars Xherdan Shaqiri and Granit Xhaka, aged 24 and 23, respectively. It would be unfair to put players on the spot of having to choose, Swiss federation secretary general Alex Miescher said. "Whatever they decide upon will not be for a nation, but against a nation," Miescher told UEFA's congress. "This will create a lot, a lot of problems."

FIFA declined to comment in detail ahead of meetings in Mexico City, but noted that its player status committee decides if players can switch allegiance. That panel is on new ground. Typically, players who are eligible for more than one country are allowed to move once, and only if their appearance for initial country was not in a senior competitive international match. Now, FIFA must consider what to do with established senior internationals who previously did not have Kosovo as an option.

"We've asked (FIFA) the question in a very direct way, and we'd like to receive a clear answer," UEFA legal director Alasdair Bell said last week. Assuming Kosovo joins FIFA, all parties seem to agree decisions should wait until the European Championship, in France, finishes in July. The Albania v Switzerland match on June 11 in Lens has an extra angle since the Group A draw was made in December. "I will be there to be Swiss, like all my teammates," Valon Behrami, the 31-year-old, Kosovoborn Switzerland midfielder, told the Tribune de Geneve daily. "We will see after the Euro. This is such a personal choice that you should not interfere."

Albania soccer leader Armand Duka has been more positive than his Swiss counterparts. "We might be afraid we could be losing (players) but this is not the issue," Duka said, urging a vote for UEFA membership to develop the game in Kosovo. Serbia refuses to recognize Kosovo's declaration of political independence in 2008 - which is accepted by more than 100 United Nations member states - and has pledged to challenge its neighbor's soccer recognition at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

It is likely FIFA and UEFA will need to separate the Serbia and Kosovo national teams and clubs in competition draws for several years. Similarly, Gibraltar and Spain teams have been kept apart since the British territory joined UEFA in 2013. Swiss official Miescher suggested to UEFA members that where Kosovo plays its home matches could also be a security issue. Less than four months before 2018 World Cup qualifying groups in Europe kick off, FIFA and UEFA must work quickly if the new members join on Friday. — AP



LIMA: Peruvian FIFA referee Melany Bermejo (right) warms-up with a colleague before a match at a stadium in Lima, Peru. From the 65 Peruvian acting referees, 22 are subscribed to FIFA and eight of them are women, none of them with activities in the first division football due to the FIFA physical requirements. — AFP

## AMID SCANDAL, FIFA DESERVES CREDIT FOR REFORMS: GOSPER

**MELBOURNE:** The "arrogance" of senior officials brought corruption-related turmoil to world soccer but important governance reforms could restore its credibility, according to influential sports administrator Kevan Gosper. Former International Olympic Committee Vice President Gosper served last year on FIFA's reform committee, which was formed as part of the governing body's response to US authorities indicting a raft of senior soccer officials and marketing executives for corruption. The committee recommended a slew of sweeping reforms, including term limits on top executives and the disclosure of their salaries, which were later endorsed at a special Congress in February. The corruption scandal has since rumbled on, however, with announcements of new probes, extraditions and punishments of tainted officials a near-daily occurrence.

With that backdrop, FIFA holds its first annual Congress under new president Gianni Infantino in Mexico this week, hoping to bring its 209 member associations up to speed on reforms to clean up the game. Gosper said FIFA deserved credit for its commitment to reforming itself, even if those efforts had been largely overshadowed by the corruption investigations. "I think what they have done, which is to take on all the recommendations that we made in terms of changes to statutes and regulations, integrity and their agreements on more transparency on what people have been paid, on limits to office, they're going

in the right direction and I think they can build on that," the 82-year-old Australian told Reuters.

"There are a lot of elements of the management of FIFA, the bureaucracy of FIFA where they've done some good work. "And that really didn't come to the surface when everything went wrong as a result of the law enforcement authorities rightfully moving in on the corrupt side. "(Soccer) has a great history, the downside of the history is that a certain degree of arrogance had emerged in the top level in some regions which led onto corruption and that's very sad. "But I do believe they've had a big wake-up call. "I'm optimistic for the new FIFA administration. This has been a big shakeup for them." Gosper worked on the reform committee with Infantino, who was elected president in February after former boss Sepp Blatter was banned from soccer activities last year for ethics violations.

Infantino has pledged to continue driving governance reforms but was forced last month to deny any wrongdoing related to the signing of a TV rights contract with two indicted Argentine businessmen under his watch while at European soccer governing body UEFA. Gosper maintained that Infantino was the right man for FIFA's top job. "I was very pleased to see Infantino get (it). I didn't know him well before (the reform committee) but I found him to be one of the straightest and smartest contributors," he said. "I saw him as a very straight man and a guy with integrity." — Reuters





# Sports

China football boom missing key ingredient



Euro 2016: Rooney fighting to prove England's worth



WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

BAYERN SPLASH 73 MILLION EUROS FOR HUMMELS, SANCHES Page 19



PORTLAND: Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut (top) and Portland Trail Blazers guard Gerald Henderson (bottom) dive for a loose ball during the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series on Monday, May 9, 2016. — AP

## CURRY BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO WARRIORS

### WADE POWERS HEAT PAST RAPTORS IN OVERTIME

**LOS ANGELES:** Stephen Curry returned from injury to deliver an overtime performance for the ages Monday, scoring 17 points in the extra session to lift Golden State to a 132-125 win over Portland in game four of their playoff series. Curry reminded everyone why he is the reigning league MVP, coming off the bench to finish with 40 points in 37 minutes of playing time as the Warriors moved to within one victory of the NBA Western Conference finals. Curry, who sat out the past four post-season games with a knee injury, bagged all but four of Golden State's overtime points as he outscored the Trail Blazers by himself in the extra session. "It took me a while to get in the groove but it finally happened," said Curry, who also had nine rebounds and eight assists.

Warrior coach Steve Kerr started his news conference Monday by joking, "Steph will start on Wednesday night," referring to game five. Kerr said he expected to have to limit Curry's minutes Monday to about 25. But

after watching the way Curry rallied the troops, he threw that plan out the window. "The guy has played one game in three weeks," Kerr said. "I expected a lot of rust. Nobody could have predicted that explosion. I figured he would find his stroke and make a few shots, but that was crazy." Curry didn't enter the game until halfway through the first quarter, with the Warriors trailing 16-2 in front of a crowd of 19,500 at Portland's Moda Center arena. "I been through a lot in the last three weeks," Curry said. "A lot of people helped me to come back and play." Klay Thompson scored 23 points and Draymond Green collected 21 points, nine rebounds, seven blocked shots and five assists for the Warriors. Damian Lillard scored 36 points and handed out 10 assists, CJ McCollum added 24 points, and Al-Farouq Aminu chipped in 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Blazers, who will attempt to extend the series by winning Wednesday at Oracle Arena.

Curry scored the Warriors' first 12 points of overtime for a 123-118 lead with 1:51 to go. Harrison Barnes' fastbreak layup extended the lead to 125-118 with 1:23 to play. Lillard made a pair of free throws to cut the difference to 125-120 with 1:18 to go, but Curry drained another three-pointer and it was 128-120 with 65 seconds left. The Blazers got no closer than seven points the rest of the way.

Meanwhile in the Eastern Conference game Monday, Dwyane Wade scored 30 points and had a clutch steal and dunk in overtime as the Miami Heat evened their second-round playoff series with a 94-87 win over Toronto. "This is one heck of a series," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Was there any doubt this was going to overtime?" The Heat stepped it up in overtime as Joe Johnson blocked two shots, Justise Winslow produced a tip-in basket and Goran Dragic had a key layup as Miami levelled the best-of-seven

series at two games each. "That is just him being D Wade," Dragic said.

"Unbelievable. He is unstoppable." Game five is Wednesday in Toronto, where Wade will be public enemy number one after Toronto fans accused the Chicago native of being disrespectful in game three for shooting baskets during the Canadian national anthem. On Monday, Wade tied the score with 12 seconds left by driving to the rim for a basket. Toronto had a chance to ice the victory in regulation but Cory Joseph missed a 15-foot jump shot at the buzzer in front of a crowd of 19,600 fans at Miami's AmericanAirlines arena. Toronto, who played without injured center Jonas Valanciunas, got scoring from some unexpected sources - 14 points each from DeMarre Carroll and Joseph. Bismack Biyombo started in place of Valanciunas and tallied a double-double with 13 points and 13 rebounds. Valanciunas is out for the rest of the series. — AFP

## PREDATORS, STARS FORCE GAME SEVEN

**LOS ANGELES:** The Nashville Predators and Dallas Stars stayed alive in the NHL playoffs with a pair of hard-fought victories on Monday to send both second round Western Conference series to a game seven. Kari Lehtonen stopped 35 shots to lead Dallas to a 3-2 win over the St Louis Blues in game six of their best-of-seven series. "We took advantage of some early opportunities," Stars coach Lindy Ruff said. "We got the start we wanted." The Stars' win tied the series at three games each and forces a deciding game seven Wednesday in the Lone Star state to see who will punch their ticket to the NHL semi-finals.

In the other West series in Nashville, Tennessee, Swedish forward Viktor Arvidsson scored just 2:03 into the extra session as the Predators sank the San Jose Sharks 4-3 in a tight series in which the home team has won all six games. St Louis is seeking to reach their first NHL semi-final since 2001 while Dallas got to the final four in 2008. The Blues will be playing their second game seven in this year's playoffs, having eliminated the defend-

ing Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks in round one.

Trailing 3-0 after the first period, the Blues scored once in the second period and then cut the lead to 3-2 on a goal by Patrik Berglund off a pass from Jori Lehtera at 8:59 of the third period. St Louis was done in by their poor start to Monday's game. Dallas scored on two of their first three shots on goal, with Mattias Janmark and Vernon Fiddler getting the goals just 20 seconds apart in the first five minutes of the opening period. Fiddler was celebrating his 36th birthday. Jason Spezza increased the lead to 3-0 with a power-play goal at 16:49 after Troy Brouwer was called for cross-checking. It was the first goal of the series for Canadian Spezza and only the Stars' second power-play goal in 17 opportunities in the series.

The Blues pulled goalie Jake Allen with 1:48 to go for an extra attacker but could not beat Lehtonen for the tying goal. The Blues outshot the Stars 37-14 overall, including a 14-2 in the third period. Meanwhile in Nashville, Miika Salomaki sent Arvidsson



ST LOUIS: Alexander Steen #20 of the St Louis Blues beats Radek Faska #12 of the Dallas Stars to the puck in Game Six of the Western Conference Second Round during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs on May 9, 2016. — AFP

down the left wing and the Swede backhanded a perfect shot to the top corner past goaltender Martin Jones. It was Arvidsson's first playoff goal. Jones made 28 stops for San Jose, while Pekka Rinne saved 15 of

18 shots. Game seven is Thursday night in San Jose. It was the series' second overtime win for Nashville, which captured game four on Mike Fisher's goal at 11:12 of the third overtime. — AFP

## BANNED INDONESIA EYEING MOURINHO

**JAKARTA:** As former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho mulls his next move, an unlikely suitor has emerged in the form of the beleaguered Indonesian national team, which is banned from international football. Indonesian Sports Minister Imam Nahravi has announced that he wants Mourinho, who has been out of work since December after being sacked by Chelsea, to train the country's national side. Mourinho has been widely linked to Manchester United where Louis van Gaal has spent most of the season under siege, but Nahravi hopes the 53-year-old Portuguese might pick sun-kissed, tropical Indonesia over chilly northwest England. "This has been discussed with President Joko Widodo," Nahravi was quoted as saying by state-run news agency Antara on Monday in Jakarta.

However Nahravi conceded that it was "not an easy thing to do," particularly given the high cost of hiring Mourinho. In addition, Mourinho would be landed with a team that currently cannot even compete internationally after FIFA suspended Indonesia in May last year over allegations of government interference. The crisis began when the government sought to remove the football association due to a row over which teams could participate in the country's top league, and the domestic game ground to a halt soon afterwards.

An interim league kicked off at the end of last month, but authorities and the football association are still at loggerheads and the FIFA suspension remains in place. The national side is ranked 185th by FIFA. If efforts to net Mourinho fails, Indonesia has a plan B-they will go after Chelsea's interim manager, Guus Hiddink. "Hiddink costs a little less," Nahravi said. The approach to Mourinho came after Indonesia last month threw its hat into the ring to host the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, despite the FIFA ban. The Indonesian proposition is the second unusual offer for Mourinho in recent times after war-ravaged Syria sounded him out about managing their national team. Mourinho insisted he would be back in management by summer-but not with Syria. — AFP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016

## THE LUXURY OF CADILLAC WITHIN YOUR REACH

Egypt's urban consumer inflation jumps to 10.3%

Page 22

ECB asks eurozone banks to detail Brexit preparations

Page 23



Infiniti unveils QX60, QX50 premium crossovers

Page 25

# accelerating



DUBAI: Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, president of the UAE Department of Civil Aviation, CEO and chairman of The Emirates Group and Chairman of Dubai World walks to the podium for the Emirates Airline annual results news conference in Dubai yesterday. The Middle East's biggest airline, Emirates, said yesterday its profits were up by about 56 percent to \$1.9 billion in the last fiscal year largely due to lower oil prices that drove down fuel operating costs. — AP

## EMIRATES PROFITS SOAR 56% ON LOWER OIL PRICES

### PROFITS JUMP TO \$1.9BN IN LAST FISCAL YEAR AS FUEL COSTS DROP

DUBAI: The Middle East's biggest airline, Emirates, said yesterday its profits were up by about 56 percent to \$1.9 billion in the last fiscal year largely due to lower oil prices that drove down fuel operating costs.

The Dubai government-owned airline said revenue, however, fell in 2015-2016 by four percent to \$23.2 billion from \$24.2 billion in 2014, mostly because of a stronger US dollar that impacted currencies in many markets where the Emirates operates, including in its base in the United Arab Emirates where the dirham is pegged to the dollar.

Emirates President Tim Clark told The Associated Press that despite the drop in revenue, the airline's fuel bill decreased to \$5.4 billion over the last year, comprising around 26 percent of operating costs, compared to 35 per-

cent the year before. Still, fuel remains the airline's biggest cost. "The revenue fall has been well managed, let me say that. It could have been a lot worse," said Clark, who added that the company was also able to save on its supply costs.

The airline, which marked its 30th anniversary last year, has posted profits for 28 consecutive years. Its parent company, Emirates Group, which includes the Dnata ground and travel services provider, reported that profits also climbed to \$2.2 billion from \$1.5 billion in the previous fiscal year, though revenue fell three percent to \$25.3 billion. Emirates Group employs some 95,000 people, with 61,000 working for the airline.

Emirates carried nearly 52 million passengers in 2015-2016. That's helped its hub at Dubai International Airport

claim the mantle as the world's busiest for international passengers, handling some 78 million passengers last year. The world's overall busiest, however, remains Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. In addition to Emirates, other Gulf carriers such as the Abu-Dhabi based Etihad Airways and Doha's Qatar Airways, have increasingly challenged Western airlines in long-haul flights.

US carriers - including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines - have criticized the three major Gulf carriers, saying they are aggressively expanding services to the United States while receiving unfair subsidies from their governments. They have pressed Washington to renegotiate treaties that allow Gulf airlines to fly to the US. Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Airways

deny they are subsidized. Emirates, which flies to 10 US cities, has made it no secret it wants to expand to more. "That will not sound very good. It won't resonate well in certain quarters in the US. But we have stated that's what we're going to do," Clark said.

When asked if Emirates would be open to codeshares with more US airlines, he said that would be the sensible thing to do given the amount of travel through Dubai as a global hub for passengers connecting between Europe, Asia and Africa. The airline currently has a codeshare agreement with US carrier Jetblue Airways. "It would make sense for them to engage with us rather throw bricks at us and there will be a commercial benefit, a mutual commercial benefit," he said. — AP

## MOST GULF BOURSES RETREAT; KUWAIT FALLS

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Most bourses in the Gulf edged lower yesterday after oil prices pulled back overnight, while Egypt's Palm Hills Development tumbled in response to a drop in its profits. Brent oil futures were trading at \$44.11 a barrel, near two-week lows, while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was near one-month lows. The Kuwait index edged down 0.2 percent to 5,352 points.

Petrochemical shares were the main drag on Saudi Arabia's stock index, with bellwether Saudi Basic Industries dropping 0.9 percent. The index fell 0.7 percent. Saudi Airlines Catering climbed 2.3 percent after saying it had renewed a contract with Oman Air. The three-year contract has a total value of 35 million riyals (\$9.33 million) and will be reflected in third-quarter results, the firm said. First-quarter 2016 revenue was 559.2 million riyals.

Earnings at real estate firms have been mixed in the United Arab Emirates but the latest to report, Abu Dhabi's Aldar Properties, posted results above analysts' expectations. The builder of Abu Dhabi's Formula One circuit reported a 14.1 percent rise in first-quarter net profit to 649.0 million dirhams (\$176.7 million); analysts at SICO Bahrain had forecast 453.6 million dirhams. However, the stock fell 1.9 percent.

Abu Dhabi's index pulled back 1.1 percent, also dragged down by a 1.3 percent drop in Etisalat, the largest telecommunications operator. Etisalat's rival, Dubai-listed du, weighed on Dubai's index, which edged down 0.1 percent. Shares in du retreated 1.4 percent. But builder Arabtec, which has not yet reported first-quarter earnings, rose 2.1 percent.

#### QATAR, EGYPT

In Doha, the main index reversed course and ended 0.3 percent higher, lifted by heavyweight property developer Ezzan Holding, which added 2.3 percent. The company released initial price thoughts for an

Islamic bond issue of five years duration, a lead manager said on Tuesday. "Companies are tapping the bond market more and more to raise capital and this bodes well in an environment of still-low interest rates," said a Dubai-based fund manager, adding that appetite for investment-grade bond issues might dwarf institutional fund flows into Gulf equity markets in the next few months. Egypt's main index gave up early, small gains and edged down 0.3 percent as local traders sold, bourse data showed.

Palm Hills Development tumbled 3.5 percent after reporting on Monday a 40 percent drop in first-quarter net profit to 105 million Egyptian pounds (\$11.82 million). But revenue rose to 1.072 billion pounds from 743 million pounds a year earlier; the company said January's adoption of amendments to Egyptian accounting standards had deferred some profit. — Reuters

## KUWAIT RAISES JUNE OIL PRICE FOR ASIA

LONDON: Kuwait set its June official selling price (OSP) for crude sales to Asia at \$1.80 a barrel below the average of Oman/Dubai crude, up \$1.10 a barrel from May and reaching a nine-month high, trading sources said yesterday.

This is the highest selling price for Asian buyers since September last year. The OPEC producer also raised its June OSP for crude sales to Northwest Europe by 30 cents to a discount of \$5.80 a barrel to dated Brent. Prices for sales to the Mediterranean rose by 35 cents to dated Brent minus \$5.40 a barrel, while the price for Sidi Kerir was up 25 cents at dated Brent minus \$5.15 a barrel. Kuwait's crude price formula is loosely linked to that of Saudi Arabia's Arab Medium grade. — Reuters



Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed, Boubyan Bank's Vice Chairman and CEO



Saleh Al-Ateeqi, Chief Executive Officer of Boubyan Capital

## BOUBYAN BANK'S SUKUK ISSUANCE OVERSUBSCRIBED, REACHES \$1.3BN

KUWAIT: Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Majed, Boubyan Bank's Vice Chairman and CEO, stated: "Thanks to God, the Bank succeeded locally and internationally in covering the subscription in its capital enhancement sukuk which was oversubscribed by more than five times the targeted amount, reaching \$1.3 billion. This was achieved during a marketing period that did not exceed two weeks from the date of obtaining the regulatory approvals from the Capital Markets Authority and the Central Bank of Kuwait. The marketing campaign was launched by the Bank in Kuwait as well as the international financial capitals and Boubyan Bank issued \$250 million sukuk, priced at 100%, which will bear profit at a rate of 6.75 percent."

"Succeeding in covering the sukuk issuance which aims at enhancing the capital base via Tier 1 capital instruments reflects the trust of local and international investors in the future of Boubyan Bank in light of the Bank's achievements during the past years and its successes which encouraged such investors", Al-Majed added.

Al-Majed went on to add: "We take pride in our achievement not only because this represents a success for Boubyan Bank, but also because this success is similarly attributed to the Islamic financial industry, and as it highlights the investment environment in the state of Kuwait, in general, being one of the countries that enjoy the necessary elements to attract global investors in light of the availability of new

opportunities such as Boubyan Bank's sukuk." Al-Majed did not forget to praise the role played by Boubyan Capital, Boubyan Bank's investment arm, whose efforts were crowned by success in managing the sukuk issuance which represented the company's first and most important test on the international arena where the company succeeded in arranging, managing and marketing Boubyan Bank's sukuk within record time for this important issuance and in a very professional manner.

Saleh Al-Ateeqi, Chief Executive Officer of Boubyan Capital, stated: "Boubyan Capital believed that the first sukuk issuance to be managed by the company should be the one of Boubyan Bank because this is a very unique event, being the first issuance of sukuk in the world for the enhancement of Tier 1 Capital in compliance with the requirements of Basel III. The importance of this sukuk issuance emanates from the fact that it is the first one in Kuwait since 2007 in addition to being the first sukuk issued by a Kuwaiti Bank to enhance Tier 1 Capital."

"Despite the circumstances surrounding the international economy and the concerns of investors which drive them away from entering into investment opportunities, the company managed, thanks to God, with its young national cadres and expertise, to market the sukuk within a record time and succeeded in managing the issuance", he added.

OIL RALLY LOSES MOMENTUM: EXPERT

LONDON: The rally that carried oil prices up by more than \$20 per barrel between the middle of January and the end of April seems to have run out of steam for the time being.

Spot crude prices, time spreads and refining margins have all showed signs of weakening since the start of this month. Crude prices are struggling to rise further despite signs of continued growth in consumption.

Prices for both WTI and Brent futures with delivery dates in July peaked at the end of April and have been gradually falling.

after tightening progressively since the start of the year. Short-term interruptions to crude output, ranging from the wildfires in Alberta to problems with Libya's exports, have failed to provide a sustained boost to either spot prices or timespreads.

Refining margins have also started to soften which could be a bad sign for oil demand if they encourage refiners to cut crude processing. In the United States, the generic 3-2-1 crack spread, which measures the gross revenue from turning three barrels of crude into two barrels of gasoline and one barrel of diesel, has fallen from \$19 to around \$15.50.

After firming progressively since February,

indicative margins for refineries in the mid-continent area slipped last week from almost \$13 to less than \$11 ("Key commodity prices and differentials", Valero, May 2). In the last couple of weeks, US refinery throughput has slipped below the record rates reported at the same time a year ago.

Hedge funds seem to sense the rally may be running out of momentum, and have closed some bullish long positions, taking profits. Hedge funds and other money managers reduced their record net long position in WTI and Brent futures and options from 663 million barrels on April 26 to 620 million barrels on May 3.

Profit taking was especially pronounced in Brent, where hedge funds and other money managers cut

their long positions by 28 million barrels, or around 6 percent. Across the three major WTI and Brent contracts, hedge funds cut their net long position by 43 million barrels, the largest one-week decline since November 2015.

The concentration of hedge fund positions on the long side of the market has increased the risk of a price reversal as a result of long liquidation ("Risks rise as hedge funds place record bet on oil").

The oil market is heading into the strongest period of demand in the year as the US driving season begins at the end of the month which should provide some support to prices. But at the moment attention has shifted away from the decline in crude production and growth in demand to the overhang of refined products such as gasoline and diesel, causing the rally to stall. — Reuters

News

in brief

Abu Dhabi sees demand for \$5bn bond offer

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi said yesterday that it had seen strong investor interest in a \$5 billion issuance of sovereign bonds, the first by the oil-rich emirate in seven years.

Egypt sets price for local cotton and corn crop

CAIRO: Egypt said yesterday it will pay 1,250 Egyptian pounds (\$140.77) per qintar (160 kg) for its cotton, a small drop from the 1,300 offered last year, and 2,100 pounds per ton for yellow corn.

Iraq sells \$1.3bn in local bonds to plug deficit

BAGHDAD: Iraq's central bank yesterday said it started selling local bonds worth 1.5 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$1.29 billion), as part of an effort to plug a government deficit caused by tumbling oil prices and the costs of fighting an Islamic State insurgency.

Suez Canal revenue rises to 3.477bn pounds

CAIRO: Revenue for Egypt's Suez Canal rose to 3.477 billion Egyptian pounds (\$396 million) in March from 3.108 billion pounds in February, the Suez Canal Authority said yesterday.

Turkey's Ziraat Bank Q1 net profit rises 46%

ISTANBUL: State-run Ziraat Bank, Turkey's biggest lender, posted a 46 percent rise in first-quarter net profit to 1.6 billion lira (\$545.1 million), it said in a statement yesterday.

RAJAA FADHILI WINS KD 125,000 IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA DRAW FOR APRIL

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announces the winner for April's KD 125,000 Al-Jawhara monthly prize, Rajaa Ibrahim Fadhili.

NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly.



money in an account means more chances into each draw. This new added feature enables Al-Jawhara Account holders' to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing.

Al-Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws.

Al-Jawhara account is available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's numerous branches around Kuwait, or safely and easily through NBK's website for existing customers.

EGYPT'S URBAN CONSUMER INFLATION JUMPS TO 10.3%

HEAT ON GOVT TO EASE PRICES FOR THE POOR

CAIRO: Egypt's annual urban consumer inflation jumped for the first time this year in April, its statistics agency said yesterday, putting pressure on the government to ease prices for the poor with Ramadan approaching in June.

Inflation may rise further as food demand normally spikes during the holy month because of heavy night-time consumption following the dawn to dusk fasting period.

The government said in November that it would control prices of 10 essential commodities to help restrain inflation with the country short of foreign hard currency, and price movements subsequently eased.

The bank later hiked interest rates by 150 basis points at its MPC meeting on March 17 to curb expected inflationary pressures.

"Businesses generally are likely to gradually increase their prices to maintain their margins after the devaluation," he said.

Abu Basha expects inflation to stabilize around 10 percent next month.

Egypt has been struggling to revive its economy since a 2011 uprising drove away tourists and foreign investors who are major sources of hard currency, eroding its foreign reserves.

Abu Basha said the weakness of the pound on the parallel market was another factor in the surge in inflation. The dollar sold at a range of 10.85-10.95 pounds on the black market yesterday.

"I think rates will remain on hold until we get news from the budget," Abu Basha said. Egypt's 2016/17 fiscal year starts in July.

OIL RISES AS CANADA, NIGERIA WOES COUNTER STOCKPILE FEARS

LONDON: Oil rose yesterday, boosted by supply disruptions in Canada and elsewhere that have knocked out 2.5 million barrels of daily production and temporarily eclipsed concern over high global inventories and a looming surplus of refined products.

Brent crude futures were up 39 cents on the day at \$44.02 per barrel by 1200 GMT, while US crude futures were virtually flat at \$43.38 per barrel.

In spite of output outages from Canada to Nigeria, oil prices are down by more than 2 percent so far this week, hampered by worries that even hefty dents to production will have little effect

on the growth of stocks of unwanted crude. Weekly data on speculative holdings of crude futures has shown investors are cooling a little towards oil.

"We've seen the market slump 10 pct from the highs since this (Canada) news came in, which suggests that there are other fish to fry at the moment," Saxo Bank senior manager Ole Hansen said.

"The big reaction yesterday to the change in Canada gave an indication that the market has become a bit more focused on selling into rallies..." Oil prices fell on Monday by as much as 3.8 percent at one point, after the wildfire moved away from the oil sounds town of Fort

McMurray in the western Canadian province of Alberta. Outages in Canada, which consultancy Energy Aspects said now totalled 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd), have brought global disruptions to more than 2.5 million bpd since the beginning of the year.

"Despite some significant supply disruptions, most notably in Canada, ongoing

bearish fundamentals precipitated a modest retracement in prices," Societe Generale said in a weekly note to clients. With plenty of crude available, refiners have produced large volumes of gasoline and diesel, threatening to swamp demand despite the coming US summer driving season.

"Crude cannot go up without support from products, and that support is not there at the moment, and more refineries are coming out of turnarounds so there will be more products and tanks are getting full," said Oystein Berentsen, managing director for crude at Strong Petroleum in Singapore. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Table listing exchange rates for Asian countries including Japanese Yen, Indian Rupees, Pakistani Rupees, Sri Lankan Rupees, Nepali Rupees, Singapore Dollar, Hongkong Dollar, Bangladesh Taka, Philippine Peso, Thai Baht, Malaysian Ringgit.

GCC COUNTRIES

Table listing exchange rates for GCC countries including Saudi Riyal, Qatari Riyal, Bahraini Dinar, UAE Dirham.

ARAB COUNTRIES

Table listing exchange rates for Arab countries including Egyptian Pound - Cash, Egyptian Pound - Transfer, Yemen Riyal/for 1000, Tunisian Dinar, Jordanian Dinar, Lebanese Lira/for 1000, Syrian Lira, Morocco Dirham.

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Table listing exchange rates for European and American countries including US Dollar Transfer, Euro, Sterling Pound, Canadian dollar.

Table listing exchange rates for Turkish lira, Swiss Franc, Australian Dollar, US Dollar Buying.

GOLD

Table listing gold prices for 20 Gram, 10 Gram, 5 Gram.

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

Table listing rates for transfer for various currencies including US Dollar, Canadian Dollar, Sterling Pound, Euro, Swiss Frank, Bahrain Dinar, UAE Dirhams, Qatari Riyals, Saudi Riyals, Jordanian Dinar, Egyptian Pound, Sri Lankan Rupees, Indian Rupees, Pakistani Rupees, Bangladesh Taka, Philippines Peso, Cyprus pound, Japanese Yen, Syrian Pound.

Table listing exchange rates for Nepalese Rupees, Malaysian Ringgit, Chinese Yuan Renminbi, Thai Bhat, Turkish Lira.

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

COUNTRY

Table listing exchange rates for various countries under Sell Cash and Sell Draft categories, including Europe, Australasia, America, and Asia.

Table listing exchange rates for Indian Rupee, Indonesian Rupiah, Japanese Yen, Kenyan Shilling, Korean Won, Malaysian Ringgit, Nepalese Rupee, Pakistan Rupee, Philippine Peso, Sierra Leone, Singapore Dollar, South African Rand, Sri Lankan Rupee, Taiwan, Thai Baht.

Arab

Table listing exchange rates for Arab countries including Bahraini Dinar, Egyptian Pound, Iranian Riyal, Iraqi Dinar, Jordanian Dinar, Kuwaiti Dinar, Lebanese Pound, Moroccan Dirhams, Nigerian Naira, Omani Riyal, Qatar Riyal, Saudi Riyal, Syrian Pound, Tunisian Dinar, Turkish Lira, UAE Dirhams, Yemeni Riyal.

## AFRICA EYES DIGITAL AGE TO REVIVE GROWTH

**KIGALI:** Hammered by plunging commodity prices, Africa's political and business leaders meet for three days from today to discuss diversification and entering the digital economy to kickstart growth.

The World Economic Forum on Africa opens in the Rwandan capital Kigali on the heels of its bigger avatar in the chic Swiss resort of Davos which stressed the need to shift to the digital era. "This is an opportunity for us also to consider what this means in the context of Africa, with ongoing opportunities and challenges," said Elsie Kanza, WEF's Africa head.

Africa, the world's poorest continent, is a major source of raw materials for more developed economies, including China which has tapped its resources to power its economic juggernaut.

"The key question here is what are the new industries that can be created by Africans?" Kanza said. Sub-

Saharan Africa has been hit by slower growth partly caused by plummeting commodity prices. Growth is predicted to fall to around three percent in 2016, the lowest in nearly two decades.

Among the most affected countries are oil producing giants such as Angola and Nigeria and mineral-rich Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. But according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ivory Coast, Kenya and Senegal were among the nations recording strong growth above five percent, benefiting from cheaper oil, infrastructure investment and consumer demand.

The so-called 'digital era' has been dubbed the Fourth Industrial Revolution by WEF founder and head Klaus Schwab who wrote a book on the theme and spoke of an age of artificial intelligence, 3D printing, self-driving cars, genetic editing and other sweeping

changes. Schwab's book says the new technologies will affect all disciplines, economies and industries and argues that the world must gear up to meet the challenge. But for Africa, this will be an uphill struggle against woefully inadequate infrastructure, poor power supply and weak internet penetration.

### Huge challenges

"You can't just become a high-tech hub without the fibre-optic cables, without sufficient power supply, and that is what is critical for a number of African economies that are looking to transform," said Natnet Tesfay, an analyst at advisory firm IHS Country Risk.

"If anything, the low commodity price environment just shows the greater need for Africa to transform its 54 markets to facilitate more industrial growth," Tesfay said. Another pressing issue for Africa is developing the

need to thrive in a digital age. According to experts, this will take time. "I believe there will be an adjustment period, a lot of investors were in Africa for raw materials," said Roger Nord, deputy director for Africa at the IMF. Rwandan Finance Minister Claver Gatete said his country wants to become a "knowledge-based economy." "As a country that doesn't have much natural resources, as a country that is landlocked we believe that IT can become something that is going to become very, very useful in terms of driving the economy."

Some countries have already begun to diversify, including Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer which recently opened its first cocoa processing plant. The theme of the 26th WEF for Africa is "Connecting Africa's Resources through Digital Transformation" and is expected to draw more than 1,200 participants, including at least 10 heads of state. — AFP

## CHINA PRODUCER PRICES DECLINE IN APRIL

**BEIJING:** Chinese producer prices declined at their slowest rate in 16 months in April, official data showed yesterday, a positive sign for the world's second-largest economy. The producer price index (PPI), which measures prices of goods at the factory gate and is a leading indicator of consumer inflation, fell by 3.4 percent from a year ago, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said in a statement. The figure was ahead of the median estimate of a 3.7 percent decline in a Bloomberg News survey of economists, and the indicator's best performance since December 2014.

Moderate inflation can be a boon to consumption as it pushes buyers to act before prices go up, while falling prices encourage shoppers to delay purchases and companies to put off investment, both of which can hurt growth.

The "significant moderation" of the PPI falls was largely due to rising commodity prices and higher production driven by infrastructure investment, Nomura analysts said in a note, adding: "PPI deflation may continue to narrow."

China's economy, a vital driver of global expansion, grew 6.9 percent last year, the slowest in a quarter of a century. Producer prices in the Asian giant have been falling for years, and low consumer inflation had stoked fears of deflation until recently. The consumer price index rose 2.3 percent year-on-year in April, the NBS said in a separate statement, in line with expectations and the same figure as the previous two months.

The figures may bring some cheer to the Chinese economy, which is grappling with slowing growth, huge overcapacity and mounting debt problems. Month-on-month, the PPI increased by 0.7 percent, the second rise in a row. NBS analyst Yu Qiumei said in a statement: "Price increases in some industrial sectors accelerated", including in natural resource extraction.

Beijing is seeking to retool China's economy away from the investment- and export-led growth of the past to one more driven by consumer demand. It is also trying to reform lumbering, loss-making state-owned enterprises to make the sector more efficient. But the transition is proving bumpy, raising fears of a hard landing, and global markets have been alarmed by slowing expansion.

The government has been loosening monetary policies since late 2014 and more recently has been stepping up investment, but growth in the first three months of the year still slid to 6.7 percent.

A source identified only as an "authoritative person" was on Monday quoted by the People's Daily, the Communist Party's mouthpiece, as saying that China was likely to have an "L-shaped" growth pattern, suggesting it will remain flat rather than rising in a U- or V-shape. The "L-shaped" economy "will not end in one or two years" due to entrenched sluggish demand and overcapacity, the interviewee said, in a prominent article that started on the front of the broadsheet paper and took up the entirety of page two. "Unlike what was the case in the past, economic growth will not continue to pick up and post high rates for several consecutive years once it rebounds," said the source. The government must wean the economy from reliance on credit, said the article, warning of a possible financial crisis and adding: "High leverage is the original sin and the origin of high financial risks." The comments have led some analysts to caution that the current boost in investment growth, which is fuelled by debt, may be short-lived.

Shen Jianguang, a Hong Kong-based analyst with Mizuho Securities, said in a report yesterday: "The bottom line is that there appears to be sharp disagreement among top policy makers on future policy direction in China." — AFP



**ANHUI:** A customer selects green soy beans at a market in Fuyang, in eastern China's Anhui province yesterday. Chinese producer prices declined at their slowest rate in 16 months in April, official data showed yesterday, a positive sign for the world's second-largest economy. — AFP

## ECB ASKS EUROZONE BANKS TO DETAIL BREXIT PREPARATIONS

### EXPOSURE TO STERLING, STOCK MARKETS BEING GAUGED

**FRANKFURT:** The European Central Bank has asked large eurozone banks to detail how they are preparing for a British exit from the EU, including how they would deal with the shock to markets and any changes they would have to make to their business models.

The ECB, which supervises the 129 eurozone banks it deems most systemically important, has sent letters to banks with a large exposure to Britain, according to several people familiar with the matter. The watchdog is taking stock of what specific exposure banks have to Britain and what contingency plans they have drawn up to prepare for all possible scenarios. "ECB Banking Supervision is engaging with the relevant banks to ensure they are adequately assessing the risks and are prepared for all possible outcomes," an ECB spokesman said. Britain is the world's fifth-biggest economy, and the EU's second largest. Many eurozone banks have large operations in London, home to the world's biggest foreign exchange market and a major global investment

banking hub. A source at a large German bank said the ECB had asked about its exposure to sterling, as well as its wider exposure to Britain in its fixed income, equities and loans portfolios.

"They also questioned us about how a Brexit may affect our business model," the person said. The source added that his bank saw only negligible Brexit-related impact and had so far taken no specific action beyond making sure trading desks would be able to handle the high volatility expected on June 24 - the day after Britain's referendum on EU membership.

### HEDGING

The ECB is able to be more open in asking banks about preparations for a possible Brexit than it could be on the prospect of Greece leaving the euro zone, given Britain is not a member of that bloc. During the Greek debt crisis the central bank played down having a contingency plan for a 'Grexit', mindful of the political implications this would have on the currency union.

Ralph Hamers, chief executive of Dutch lender ING said yesterday that the ECB had been in touch with his bank over the Brexit issue. He said a British exit would not necessarily lead to a review of its London-based financial markets and structured finance business - although it caused other banks to move some trade out of Britain, ING might have to follow.

"But if the larger banks in the markets would move and with that the flow in the markets would move, we would move as well, clearly," he said during a results news conference. People involved in Brexit preparations at some other German banks said issues like export-import financing and loans to British companies or German firms with a large UK business were also part of the discussions with the ECB.

Nils Beier, head of banking at consultant Accenture, who has had many discussions with banks about Brexit, said that most were vetting and hedging their positions to make sure they avoided trading losses. — Reuters



**MANILA:** A Filipino carries buckets with groceries in suburban Manila yesterday a day after the country went to the polls in the presidential election. — AFP

## IMF TEAM ARRIVES IN UKRAINE TO CHECK ON NEW GOVERNMENT

**KIEV:** An International Monetary Fund team arrived in Kiev yesterday after the formation of a new Ukrainian government resolved a prolonged political crisis that had stalled the release of vital aid.

The mission's visit was long awaited in the cash-strapped former Soviet country as it grapples with the costs of a two-year conflict in the pro-Russian separatist east and attempts to dig out of a dramatic economic swoon. The Fund approved a new \$17.5-billion (15.4-billion-euro) loan program in March 2015 that included an initial lump payment of \$5 billion and provided for the subsequent release of \$1.7 billion every three months.

But Ukraine has so far only received \$6.7 billion and seen no new disbursements since the second half of last year. The IMF has been frustrated by the slow adoption of painful belt-tightening measures that were being resisted by populist parties and damaged the approval ratings of leaders who rose to power in the wake of Ukraine's February 2014 pro-EU revolt. Political mayhem spurred by allegations of state-level corruption and the influence of powerful tycoons over key decisions and appointments also put the breaks on the resumption of lending.

That conflict was settled when prime minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk submitted his resignation and was replaced by Volodymyr Groysman in April. The protege

of pro-Western President Petro Poroshenko has since vowed to keep strictly to the measures prescribed by the IMF. Groysman last month crucially met one of the Fund's key demands by pushing through parliament legislation that nearly doubled average household gas tariffs - an unpopular reversal of the Soviet-era practise of spending vast sums on state subsidies.

But the government overhaul also cost US-born finance minister Natalie Jaresko her job. The former State Department worker and private banker was highly regarded in Western financial circles and seen as a key interlocutor in talks with the Fund. Her replacement Oleksandr Danylyuk, a relatively unknown figure outside Ukraine, previously served as the deputy head of Poroshenko's administration.

The Fund said in a statement issued before the team's arrival that the "mission will continue policy discussions with the Ukrainian authorities" but gave no hint about the possible release of further aid. Deputy Prime Minister Stepan Kubiv said last month that he expected the Fund to approve a new tranche payment by June.

A resumption of IMF lending would also trigger the release of billions of dollars of other foreign aid. The IMF last month lowered Ukraine's 2016 economic growth forecast to 1.5 percent from 2.0 percent. Ukraine's economy shrank by 9.9 percent last year and 6.8 percent in 2014. — AFP

## US COMPANIES BRIGHTEN THEIR EARNINGS OUTLOOK

**NEW YORK:** The profit recession that has weighed on large-cap stocks on Wall Street for the past three quarters may be loosening its grip as US companies allow a hint of blue sky to poke through the gloom. As companies share their expectations for coming months, the proportion of raised forecasts to those that are lowered is the healthiest it has been since 2011, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Technology and healthcare sectors are leading the way with forecasts that are even rosier than those of most analysts, including from Adobe Stryker and Baxter International. But they are not alone. Moreover, some companies like Pfizer, which last week raised its full-year forecasts, are citing a benefit from the dollar. When it was rising, the dollar had been among the biggest profit drags for US multinationals in recent quarters. There have been some big negatives, however, most notably Apple Inc, whose weaker-than-expected sales forecast was particularly worrying because of its potential impact on the market. Apple is the largest component of the S&P 500.

But overall, companies are bolstering analysts' view that the first quarter, on track for a 5.5 percent decline in S&P 500 earnings, will prove to be the bottom of the current earnings recession. "We think people are too bearish on earnings, and we're much closer to the end of the profit recession than to the beginning," said Richard Bernstein, chief executive and chief investment officer of Richard Bernstein Advisors in New York. "It doesn't mean profits are going to be booming ... but it's better than it was, and why you're seeing some of the rotation into more cyclical stocks now."

For instance, the S&P energy sector, last year's worst-performing group, is up 7.4 percent for the year so far. Analysts are still expecting a 3.3-percent decline in second-quarter S&P 500 earnings. But that would mark an improvement from the

previous quarter and would reverse the deterioration in earnings that began in the third quarter of 2015. The so-called earnings recession - at least three quarters of declining earnings from a year earlier - has made stocks more expensive. The S&P 500 index is trading at about 16.7 times its components' estimated earnings over the next 12 months, above the long-term average of about 15. Bullish investors have hoped a pick-up in profits would make prices more attractive.

To be sure, most companies' forecasts for the second quarter are below analysts' expectations,

which is typical and sets the bar low to make it easier to beat expectations. For the second quarter so far, 44 forecasts have come in below analysts' expectations, while 21 have come in above, a negative-to-positive guidance ratio of 2.1 to 1. That ratio for the first quarter was at 4.7 to 1 at a comparable point in the earnings reporting season, Thomson Reuters data shows. The weakening dollar and recovering oil prices should help forecasts a lot, said Brad McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial in Waltham, Massachusetts. — Reuters



**JAKARTA:** Indonesian jobseekers line up to register on a company list during a job exhibition in Jakarta yesterday. Indonesia's unemployment rate dropped to 5.50 percent in the first quarter of 2016, down from 6.18 percent in the third quarter of 2015, according to a report by the country's Central Agency on Statistics. — AFP

WORLD STOCKS RISE, YEN FALLS BACK, MANILA SWINGS

LONDON: World stock markets rose yesterday, helped by solid corporate earnings in Europe, progress on Greek debt talks, and a new pledge by Japan that it was prepared to weaken its currency.

after euro zone finance ministers offered to grant Greece some debt relief, with the move causing Greek 10-year bond yields to fall below 8 percent for the first time in more than six months.

been very well received by investors," said Nick Stamenkovic, bond strategist at RIA Capital Markets. European stock markets built on positive momentum from earlier on in Japan, where the Nikkei rose 2.2 percent after Japan's Finance Minister Taro Aso reiterated his resolve to intervene in the currency market if the yen's gains last long enough to hurt Japan's fragile economic recovery.

British no-frills airline EasyJet hiked its dividend despite falling into a loss, while Dubai's carrier Emirates posted a 56-percent jump in annual profits. In London, shares in EasyJet jumped 2.0 percent to 1,499 pence, helping to boost its rivals' stock value.

firms after a slump in crude prices as the wildfires sweeping Canada's oil-sands region abated.

Japanese stocks advanced for a second day as the dollar made up more ground against the yen after Friday's US jobs report provided hope for the economy but was weak enough to suggest any Federal Reserve interest rate hike would be gradual.

Manila swings

In Asia, Tokyo led markets higher yesterday as exporters were lifted by a weakening yen, while tighter Chinese inflation data also provided some cheer, dealers said. Aso's comments sent the yen to its lowest level in almost two weeks against the dollar, and reinforced the backdrop of central banks around the world looking for ways to boost the global economy.

Among other markets, Sydney ended up 0.4 percent and Seoul added 0.8 percent. Hong Kong climbed 0.4 percent. Manila's stock market ended 2.6 percent higher after a volatile day as anti-establishment politician Rodrigo Duterte claimed victory as the new president of the Philippines.

The 71-year-old stormed to victory with a landslide in Monday's election after an incendiary campaign dominated by his profanity-laced vows to kill criminals. Philippine shares had fallen more than five percent over the past six weeks as Duterte looked set for victory, with traders concerned about his economic plans. But despite uncertainty over policies, the peso rose 0.7 percent against the dollar. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report. Tuesday 10 May 2016. Table showing market indices (Price Index, Weighted Index, KXSX 15), trades, and individual stock prices with their respective changes.

British no-frills airline EasyJet hiked its dividend despite falling into a loss, while Dubai's carrier Emirates posted a 56-percent jump in annual profits. In London, shares in EasyJet jumped 2.0 percent to 1,499 pence, helping to boost its rivals' stock value.

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Includes Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities.





# Infiniti unveils QX60, QX50 premium crossovers

- QX60 FEATURES ENHANCED INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DESIGN
- QX50 FEATURES A NEW APPEARANCE WITH A UNIQUE PERSONALITY

**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co, the exclusive agent of Infiniti in the State of Kuwait unveiled the Infiniti QX60 and QX50 premium crossovers. Infiniti is in the midst of a massive product offensive. The introduction of these two models builds on this story with many more announcements in the pipeline.

The new Infiniti QX60 is completely redesigned from the exterior and also features a host of new features and technologies that enhance comfort, convenience and safety. At the front, the redesigned double-arch grille is flanked by standard-fit bi-xenon headlamps. There is greater use of LED lighting, including new LED Daytime Running Lights as well as front fog lamps which feature LED lighting and chrome finishers. It also features the signature brand design cues such as double-wave bonnet, and crescent-cut D-pillar. On the interior, Infiniti's QX60 offers the signature driver-oriented cockpit, highlighted by thin chrome accents as well as an upper instrument panel has been wrapped in soft-touch material with contrast stitching.

On this occasion, Mohammed Shalaby, COO, Al Babtain Group said: "The totally new model of Infiniti QX60 & QX50 is the ideal choice for the passionate drivers due to its unique features on the roads in its category. It set new criteria with its creative design and great performance in addition to the modern technology of the premium crossovers vehicles".

The attendees admired the new Infiniti QX60 & QX50 arriving in Kuwait, for its new and different design of the previous generation equipped with new technology that makes it well deserved to rank on top of the premium crossovers vehicles category.

Shalaby added saying that: "The new Infiniti QX60 & QX50 with its all new design are one of the most significant in their category's as it's powered with sports performance, which results in a mixture beating all levels". Shalaby also spoke about the systematic efforts of the Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al



**KUWAIT:** Saleh Al Babtain, CEO of Al Babtain Group, Mohammed Shalaby, COO, Al Babtain Group Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babtain Co and other management team during unveiling of the Infiniti QX60 and QX50 premium crossovers.

Babtain Co, in presenting its promotions and services to preserve its leading position among the car agents in Kuwait.

Infiniti's QX60 continues to deliver in spades on the technology front. Added in for 2016, is Forward Emergency Braking (FEB) with Pedestrian Detection. When combined with the already existing industry first features like Predictive Forward Collision Warning, Backup Collision Intervention and Around View Monitor, it makes for one of the safest 7 seat crossovers in its segment from a technology perspective.

The 2016 QX60's new suspension compo-

nents and settings combine to deliver superior levels of both comfort and agility, while a revised steering system delivers greater feedback for a more rewarding drive. Featuring

Intelligent All-Wheel Drive, the QX60 is offered with a powerful and efficient 3.5-liter V6 gasoline engine. The 2016 Infiniti QX60 is available across the Middle East and Kuwait.

On the other hand the QX50 from an exterior design perspective the QX50 LWB has been enhanced for 2016 with a new front and rear bumper and lower front and rear fascia, new LED Daytime Running Lights, new signature Infiniti-style double-arch front

grille, new side mirrors with integrated LED turn signals and updated side sill styling. Significant inroads have also been made on its size. The wheelbase increases by 81mm whilst overall length is boosted by 114 mm. The result is an increased interior volume by 235 litres as well as increased 2nd row - rear legroom by 109 mm.

The QX50 LWB also features a host of technological advancements that include; Streaming Audio via Bluetooth wireless technology, Advanced Around View Monitor (AVM) which includes front and rear sonar, 7-inch colour display with Infiniti Controller.



**Saleh Al Babtain, Chief Executive Officer of Al-Babtain Group.**



**Mohammed Shalaby, COO, Al Babtain Group.**

Also available is the optional Infiniti Hard Drive navigation System with a colour touch-screen display that is additionally complemented with the Bose Premium Audio System with 11 speakers.



# THE LUXURY OF CADILLAC WITHIN YOUR REACH

## INCREDIBLE OFFERS ON THE FULL RANGE OF CADILLAC MASTERPIECE VEHICLES

**KUWAIT:** In a move that demonstrates its commitment to offering luxury fans the best cars they deserve, Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to present an incredible offer on selected vehicles including the exuberantly elegant, Cadillac ATS, the remarkably powerful, Cadillac CTS, the breathtakingly luxurious, Cadillac SRX, and the technologically sophisticated Cadillac Escalade. In collaboration with Al Amana Investment Company, customers who purchase the new ATS and CTS will benefit from 0% interest for 5 years with zero down payments. SRX fans, meanwhile, will enjoy the above benefit plus a full comprehensive insurance for 1 year upon purchase.

Regardless of the model, all Cadillac owners will enjoy the Cadillac User Experience (CUE), a comprehensive in-vehicle experience that merges intuitive design with auto industry-first controls while providing connectivity, control and convenience to the driver and passengers alike. It pairs entertainment and information data from up to 10 Bluetooth-enabled mobile devices, USBs, SD cards and MP3 players with a vehicle infotainment system - a setup that will reduce complexity through natural voice commands, customized information, fewer buttons and larger icons. CUE is operated from a vibrant 8-inch LCD touch screen that resembles a smart phone's screen by using large, easy to see icons to control commands and functions. The screen is seamlessly integrated into the top of the central instrument panel, and a motorized fully capacitive faceplate at the bottom conceals a large storage area.

### Cadillac ATS

If you are looking for a luxury drive that performs excellently on all terrains, look no further than the 2016 Cadillac ATS. Now priced at an attractive price of only KD 10,999, the Cadillac ATS compact luxury sports sedan challenges the world's best premium cars with an acclaimed balance of performance and refinement, effectively wrapped in a progressive expression of Cadillac's Art & Science design philosophy. With one of the lowest

curb weights in the segment-less than 1,542 kg-the ATS's driving dynamics are rooted in mass efficiency, which helps make it Cadillac's lightest and most agile sedan. Cadillac proprietary computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis techniques were used to develop an all-new combustion system with a higher compression ratio, which also helps boost efficiency. The award-winning 3.6L V-6 collection is rated at 321 horsepower and 373 Nm of torque, and comes equipped with Magnetic Ride Control, Brembo(r) Brakes and Cadillac's advanced crash-avoidance systems that can pre-fill and automatically apply braking in response to potential hazards.

The Cadillac 2.0L Turbo returns in the CTS for 2016, adding the fuel-saving Stop/Start feature. It also is matched with the new 8L45 eight-speed automatic transmission and an unbelievable starting attractive price of KD 13,699 only. Also new for 2016 is an 18-inch polished wheel design and three premium exterior colors: Cocoa Bronze Metallic, Moonstone Metallic and Stellar Black Metallic. Inside, a Surround Vision 360 degree camera provides a "bird's eye" view of the entire vehicle, Cadillac CUE is enhanced and includes phone integration capability - including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility (Android Auto to be offered later in the 2016 model year) - and several interior color/trim options enhance the ambience of the design. Linear elements, including an uninterrupted feature line that runs from the headlamps to the taillamps, emphasize the CTS's long, lean proportion and contribute three-dimensional qualities to its surface. The sense of flow over the CTS sedan is furthered, too, with a "trapped" hood design - surrounded completely by sheet metal - that eliminates the forward cut lines between the grille and headlamps. Cadillac's signature bold vertical lighting elements - including LED front signature lighting details - evolve with headlamps that flow up and with the hood line. The headlamp housings incorporate crystalline LED light guides in the upper and lower forward corners, bringing uniform white illumination without hot spots and serving as the daytime running lamps.

### Cadillac SRX

Next is the unbelievably elegant and powerful 2016 Cadillac SRX, now available at KD 12,999. One look at the high end car will reveal the opulent doses of luxury that touch every corner of the vehicle, from the high performance powertrain and technology drenched dashboard to the exclusive comfort and convenience features designed to surpass expectations. In addition to its roomy interior with seating for five and a large cargo area, the 2016 SRX is also beautifully sculpted; its exterior design is distinguished by striking angles and refined detail while its signature shield grille offers expressive depth and refinement. Performance is integral in the SRX, which is powered by a 3.6L direct-injected V-6 engine rated at a SAE-certified 308 horsepower (230 kW) and 359 Nm of torque. Lightweight features help reduce overall weight for greater efficiency and a more favorable front-to-rear weight balance. Examples include a composite intake manifold that saves approximately 2.5 kg over the weight of a comparable aluminum intake and an integrated cylinder head/exhaust manifold design that saves approximately 6 kg per engine. An all-wheel drive is offered on all models.

### Cadillac Escalade

Last but not least is the 2016 Cadillac Escalade, the benchmark of luxurious craftsmanship. Designed to provide passengers with unsurpassed comfort and convenience, the new Escalade is equipped with Heated and cooled 18-way power front seats and include a massaging function on the driver's seat and a pair of seven-inch LCD screens embedded in the front head rests. In addition, the new Escalade comes with a powerful 6.2L V8 with Active Fuel Management, Spark Ignition Direct Injection (SIDI) and Variable Valve Timing (VVT), which also includes aluminum block construction. Customers who purchase the new Escalade will benefit a full comprehensive insurance for 1 year, thus securing their safety and peace of mind.

The greatest form of luxury ever driven



ESCALADE



FREE Comprehensive Insurance for 1 Year



The lobby of the Oberoi Al-Zorah, Ajman.

# THE OBEROI AL-ZORAH SET TO OPEN THIS YEAR IN AJMAN

**KUWAIT:** The Oberoi Al-Zorah is set to open this year as one of three new luxury properties for The Oberoi Group with two others including The Oberoi Marrakech, Morocco and The Oberoi Sukhvilas, Chandigarh.

The Oberoi Al-Zorah, a luxury eco-destination resort, only 30 minutes from Dubai International Airport, will be nestled in Al-Zorah which boasts a beautiful long beachfront, azure lagoon, lush mangrove sand, 247 acres of natural forest with exceptional biodiversity.

All three of The Oberoi Group's luxury hotel openings this year will be located in stunning natural environments and offer impeccable standards of luxury and service associated with

the group's worldwide portfolio.

The Oberoi, Al-Zorah, nestled alongside a coastline, boasts an ultra-modern layout that harmonizes with the natural environment. Each of the 113 villas, suites and penthouse are elegant and provide breathtaking sea views. The spacious and luxuriously appointed rooms and suites all have private balconies, while the villas offer terraces and temperature-controlled private pools. The Oberoi, Al-Zorah in Ajman offers al-fresco, beachside and indoor dining venues all serving the finest cuisine. Also, the spa at Oberoi offers signature therapies as well as a traditional hammam, an 80-metre pool, a fully equipped gymnasium, and daycare facilities for families.

Earlier this year, the Group announced two new properties in Qatar - a 250 key luxury hotel in the West Bay area of Doha, and a 148 key luxury serviced apartment located in Lusail, Doha.

The Oberoi Group's legendary service delivered by an attentive and caring team will make the upcoming luxury hotels the preferred choice for the discerning traveler.

The Oberoi Group, which was founded in 1934, operates 30 luxury hotels in several countries, two luxury Nile Cruisers, and a Motor Vessel in the backwaters of Kerala under the luxury 'Oberoi' brand. The Group is also engaged in flight catering, airport restaurants, travel and tour services, car rentals, project management and corporate air charters.

## MEZZAN HOLDING NAMED ARABIAN BUSINESS CONSUMER GOODS COMPANY OF THE YEAR

**KUWAIT:** Mezzan Holding KSC, one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of food, beverage, FMCG and pharmaceutical products in the Gulf, has been named Consumer Goods Company of the Year in the 2016 Arabian Business Achievement Kuwait Awards.

The Arabian Business Achievement Awards have been held annually across the Gulf region to celebrate the very best in business achievement, both on a corporate and individual level. The 2016 Kuwait Awards included twelve companies and individuals from various sectors, recognizing them for their outstanding performances over the past year.

Mezzan Holding CEO, Garry Walsh said: "We are honored to have been chosen as the Consumer Goods Company of the Year by Arabian Business. On behalf of everyone at Mezzan Holding, we thank Arabian Business for recognizing our efforts in serving customers across seven countries."

Mezzan Holding is 70-year old company that was listed on Kuwait Stock Exchange in the second quarter of 2015.

The company headquartered in Kuwait with direct operational activities in Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, and Afghanistan.

Mezzan Holding operates in seven countries through 29 subsidiaries with 7,500 employees.

It distributes over 25,000 Stock Keeping Units (SKU), making it one of the largest operators in terms of SKUs, unit sales, market share and in terms of share of revenues of total consumer spending in consumer categories served by the company.

The company is active in various segments of the consumer staple industry supported by long-standing relationships with Johnson & Johnson, Olayen Kimberly-Clark, Reckitt Benckiser, General Mills, Arla Foods, Sara Lee and many other leading brands and manufacturers.

It serves over 100,000 meals a day in Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE through its catering business and has a total of 130,000 square meters in food, beverage and FMCG manufacturing facilities in Kuwait, Qatar, UAE and Afghanistan.



## BURGAN BANK 'FIRST IN KUWAIT' TO RECEIVE ISO 20000 CERTIFICATION

**KUWAIT:** Borgan Bank announced yesterday that it is the first local bank in Kuwait to have been successfully certified with the prestigious ISO 20000 certificate, in acknowledgment of its attainment of best Information Technology service management standards and global best practices in service management. With this current achievement, the bank is proud to independently demonstrate to its customers that it has met best practice in Information Technology service management.

The ISO/IEC 20000 certificate is an international standard for IT service management, applicable to any organization from all types of business sectors and activities, and is based on and replaces BS 15000, the internationally recognized British Standard. The bank achieved this certificate by meeting international best practice standards of IT service management in developing IT services that are supported and driven by different business objectives, integrating people, processes and technology to support business goals, and placing controls to measure and maintain consistent levels of service.

Commenting on this token of achievement, Fahad Al-Menayes, Group Chief Information Technology Officer at Borgan Bank said: "We are proud to be the first bank in Kuwait certified with the 'ISO 20000' certificate, which is an acknowledgement of our well defined policies and procedures streamlined to meet the bank's overall business objectives and functions in accordance to worldwide criteria. Complying international standards helps reassure our clients that our services are efficient to meet their needs."

Al-Menayes added: "Today's announcement drives us to continue our journey of pro-



Fahad Al-Menayes, Group Chief Information Technology Officer at Borgan Bank.

viding best-in-class IT service management that are aligned with the needs of our business and clients, while ensuring that our business operations are carried out as efficiently as possible." Al-Menayes noted that the bank's latest achievement signifies the hard work and dedication of Borgan Bank's staff along with the support of Protiviti; the bank's global consulting firm.

Borgan Bank's achievement of the ISO 20000 certificate further builds on its string of accolades, and is a clear indication of its constant pursuit of excellence through embracing international quality standards, a step that marks its strong position across the banking sector. Additionally, the certification demonstrates that Borgan Bank has adequate controls and procedures in place to consistently deliver a cost effective, quality IT service.

## AUB WINS PRESTIGIOUS ANNUAL AWARD FROM COMMERZBANK

**KUWAIT:** For the fifth year in a row, Ahli United Bank has received the prestigious annual Award from Commerzbank for outstanding performance in straight-through-processing (STP) of payments. This award recognizes the high level of operational efficiency at Ahli United Bank.

Jehad Al-Humaidhi, Ahli United Bank's Senior General Manager for Information Technology and Operations, said: "We are delighted to receive this award from Commerzbank for the fifth year running. The award is based on Ahli United Bank's robust, state-of-the-art in-house payments architecture infrastructure and reflects the Bank's high internal standards, which facilitate automated processing throughout the payment process."

Al-Humaidhi added: "With our experienced personnel and our strong IT infrastructure and delivery channels, we are set to continue providing a high quality service to all our individual and institutional customers." Needless to say, Commerzbank is a leading international commercial bank with branches and offices in more than 50 countries.



Richard Groves, Ahli United Bank's CEO receives Commerzbank award.

## 4 MILLION EMIRATES SKYWARDS MILES WITH ABK'S LATEST SUMMER PROMOTION

**KUWAIT:** Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently announced its latest summer promotion, which enables cardholders to enter a series of draws where ABK will be giving out 1 million Emirates Skywards Miles every month during the promotion period, which will run from 1st May to 31st August, 2016. Emirates Skywards is the award-winning frequent flyer program of Emirates Airline.

To take part in one of the four monthly draws, ABK Credit & Prepaid cardholders need to spend a minimum of KD 100 during the transaction periods specified below to win the first, second or third place prize of 500,000; 300,000 or 200,000 Skywards Miles respectively each month. A total of 4 Million Skywards Miles to be won during the promotion

period. For ABK Credit cardholders, local and international transactions through POS and/or cash withdrawals qualify to enter the draws, whereas for ABK Debit cardholders only international transactions through POS and/or cash withdrawals qualify to enter the draws. ABK Prepaid cardholders' local and international transactions through POS only qualify to enter the draws.

ABK cardholders interested in taking part in this promotion will gain 1 draw point for every KD 10 spent locally and 3 draw points for every KD 10 spent overseas. For purchases made on the emirates.com website using a valid ABK Prepaid, Credit or Debit card during the campaign period will allow the cardholder to earn double the draw points.

AUSTIN VOTERS KEEP FINGERPRINTING FOR UBER, LYFT DRIVERS



AUSTIN: In a May 7, 2016 photo, volunteer Alex Berringer, a political science major at Austin Community College, walks the Allandale neighborhood canvassing for anti-prop group, Our City, Our Safety, Our Choice, in Austin, Texas. — AP

AUSTIN: Fingerprinting drivers for ride-hailing companies must continue in Texas' capital city after voters rejected a \$9 million campaign by Uber and Lyft to overturn the safety measure.

"Lyft and Austin are a perfect match and we want to stay in the city," Lyft spokeswoman Chelsea Wilson said in a statement.

Voters decided to keep city rules that require ride-hailing company drivers to undergo fingerprint-based background checks by Feb. 1, 2017.

Austin appeared to be the chosen battleground for ride-hailing companies that are facing similar restrictions in major cities across the country.

Advocates for fingerprinting say it's the best way to weed out drivers with criminal records.

companies have said their background checks suffice and that fingerprint databases can be out of date.

"Uber, I think, decided they were going to make Austin an example to the nation," said political consultant David Butts.

State Senator Charles Schwertner, a Republican, announced Sunday he will file legislation to create statewide regulations of ride-hailing companies.

Austin Mayor Steve Adler, who had urged defeat of the ordinance repeal, said he hopes to get Uber and Lyft back to the city's negotiating table.

'SPACE INVADERS,' 'GRAND THEFT AUTO III' HALL OF FAME GAMES

ROCHESTER, NY: A video game that allowed players to zap marching aliens with dot lasers and another that gave them flamethrowers and put them in the driver's seat in a violent 3-D world are among six games inducted into the World Video Game Hall of Fame.

"Space Invaders" and "Grand Theft Auto III," along with "The Oregon Trail," "Sonic the Hedgehog," "The Legend of Zelda" and "The Sims," were honored Thursday for their influence on gaming and pop culture at the hall inside The Strong museum in Rochester.

"Space Invaders" wasn't the first shooter game when it was introduced in Japan in 1978, but it spurred many imitators and a craze for arcade games.

A virtual universe away, "Grand Theft Auto III" armed players with flamethrowers and assault rifles.

The hall of fame inductees were chosen from among 15 finalists culled from thousands of nominations from around the world.

The Strong, which also houses the National Toy Hall of Fame, opened the World Video Game Hall of Fame last year to recognize electronic games of all types - arcade, console, computer, hand-held and mobile.

About this year's honorees: 'GRAND THEFT AUTO III'

The first 3-D open-ended game that let players control the action became a model for the "sandbox-style" games that followed.

the influence of video game violence.

"SPACE INVADERS"

The high score display at the top of "Space Invaders" quickly became a standard feature in arcade games.

"THE OREGON TRAIL"

"The Oregon Trail" was developed by three student teachers in 1971 and gave many players their first introduction to computers.

"SONIC THE HEDGEHOG"

"Sonic the Hedgehog" was Sega's answer to Nintendo's Mario character, and was launched in 1991.

"THE LEGEND OF ZELDA"

"The Legend of Zelda" of 1986 also spun off sequels, comic books and a television series.

"THE SIMS"

"The Sims" provided a digital dollhouse setting for endless domestic dramas and gave players flexibility to tell stories in an open-ended environment.



CISCO DRIVES GENDER INCLUSION IN ICT THROUGH ITS GIRLS POWER TECH INITIATIVE

DUBAI: In a global effort to raise awareness around the necessity for girls to consider a career in ICT, Cisco is once again supporting Girls in ICT Day through its Girls Power Tech initiative.

"Globally, women comprise a mere 27 percent of the computer science, engineering and physics fields and remain a largely untapped resource.

Original ideas

During the event, students will also be presenting original ideas they have developed with the aim of creating a positive impact and addressing day to day challenges and inconveniences.

ted will be based on the use of technological innovation around the Internet of Things and align to Cisco's vision of 'Changing the way we work, live, play, and learn'.

"Students attending the event will have an opportunity to meet women role models and men who are advocates for women in technology.

Cisco will be contributing to the Girls Power Tech initiative by hosting young girls from 50 countries in 90 locations and providing them with career advice, personal career anecdotes and demos in Cisco technology.

individuals worldwide, are expected to attend the event.

The speakers

Speakers at the local edition of Girls Power Tech include Mike Weston, Voce President, Cisco Middle East; Frida Kleimert, Head of Channel and Commercial Sales - Cisco UAE; Den Sullivan, Cisco's EMEAR Leader Software Sales; Manal Al-Ansari, Innovation Manager, Emirates NBD and Mohammed Khamis, Consulting Systems Engineer, Cisco.

Through its networking academies, Cisco has helped over 220,000 students in the Middle East graduate from the program since its inception.

SWIFT REJECTS BANGLADESHI CLAIMS IN CYBER HEIST, POLICE STAND FIRM

DHAKA: SWIFT has rejected allegations by officials in Bangladesh that technicians with the global messaging system made the nation's central bank more vulnerable to hacking before an \$81 million cyber heist in February.

The comments were in response to a Reuters story that cited Bangladesh police and a central bank official as saying that SWIFT technicians introduced security holes into the bank's network while connecting SWIFT to Bangladesh's first real-time gross settlement (RTGS) system.

"SWIFT was not responsible for any of the issues cited by the officials, or party to the related decisions," the Brussels-based bank-owned cooperative said in a statement posted on its website on Monday.

"As a SWIFT user like any other, Bangladesh Bank is responsible for the security of its own systems interfacing with the SWIFT network and their related environment - starting with basic password protection practices - in much the same way as they are responsible for their other internal security considerations," the statement said.

But Bangladesh's main police investigator maintained there were loopholes in the way SWIFT carried out the integration of its network with the RTGS platform that left the central bank's computer systems vulnerable to hackers.

Mohammad Shah Alam, the head of the criminal investigation department of the Bangladesh police, said the probe had identified specific deviations from set procedures that compromised Bangladesh Bank's security.

"We stand by our investigation," he said in response to the comments by SWIFT. But he added he did not want to engage in a debate and urged greater international cooperation to identify the culprits behind one of the world's biggest cyber thefts.

WARNER MUSIC SAYS STREAMING REVENUE BIGGER THAN DOWNLOADS

LOS ANGELES: In a further sign that the download era is waning, Warner Music Group says it made more money from streaming platforms than any other single source of recorded music revenue in the latest quarter.

streaming revenue globally grew 45 percent last year, while the number of subscribers who paid for services like Spotify and Apple Music leapt 66 percent to 68 million.

GOOGLE FRONT PAGE CELEBRATES SIGMUND FREUD'S 160TH BIRTHDAY

MOUNTAIN VIEW: Google is celebrating Sigmund Freud's 160th birthday with a special doodle. Instead of a Google logo, visitors to its home page in much of the world Friday saw an image of Freud's head nestled between a pair of icebergs with a passing ship going by.

of psychoanalysis. Google says an image of a leather couch "might be the typical visual associated with Freud and other therapists."



FACEBOOK'S NUMBER 2 EXEC PAYS TRIBUTE TO SINGLE MOTHERS

MENLO PARK: Facebook's number 2 executive Sheryl Sandberg says she never realized how hard it is to be a single parent until her husband died a year ago.



SAN FRANCISCO: In this November 3, 2015 file photo, Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg speaks during a forum in San Francisco. — AP

"I did not really get how hard it is to succeed at work when you are overwhelmed at home," Sandberg wrote. She called on leaders to rethink public and corporate policies to better support single mothers.

Sandberg's husband, Dave, died in a treadmill accident a year ago while on vacation in Mexico. Here are other thoughts she shared on single parenting, leave policies and her book:

Being a single mom:

Sandberg says she never realized how often situations come up where she's unable to stop her son or daughter from crying.

Leave policies

The US, Sandberg says, is the only developed economy in the world that does not provide workers paid maternity

leave. She says we need to rethink policies to better support single mothers. The post doesn't address Facebook's own policies. Facebook does offer US employees up to four months of paid parental leave. It's among several high-tech companies that offer benefits around childbirth.

Lean in

Sandberg concedes she's fortunate not to have the financial worries that many single moms face. She admits that in her 2013 book "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead," she should have written more about women raising children without a partner.

## ADOLESCENT HEALTH NEGLECTED WORLDWIDE: REPORT

**PARIS:** Decades of neglect and underinvestment have damaged the health of 10-to-24-year olds worldwide and could hold back future generations, according to a major report published yesterday.

Even as global efforts have significantly improved the wellbeing of children aged five and under, adolescents-defined in the study as people aged between 10 and 24 — have fared less well. Mortality rates in this age group-numbering 1.8 billion, one in four people on the planet-have declined more slowly, and the leading causes of death, including traffic accidents, suicide, violence, tuberculosis and drowning, have remained stubbornly persistent. Nor has there been much change in the top risk

factors for death, including disease-ridden drinking water and inadequate sanitation. The fastest-growing health risk from 1990 to 2013, the period covered by the study published in medical journal *The Lancet*, is unsafe sex. Nine out of ten adolescents live in developing countries, where these dangers loom larger. "Two-thirds of young people are growing up in countries where preventable and treatable health problems like HIV/AIDS, early pregnancy, depression, injury and violence remain a daily threat," concluded the report.

Alcohol tops the list of risk factors for 20-24 year olds-accounting for an estimated seven percent of health costs worldwide for the age group-followed by drug use.

### Untapped resource

The report, led by a consortium of four major research centres, said the findings-the first of their kind-should be a wake-call to governments and policy-makers. Led by George Patton of the University of Melbourne, the authors call for massive investment they say will yield triple benefits: for young people today, for their later years as adults, and for their children.

"This generation of young people can transform all our futures," Patton said in a statement. "There is no more pressing task in global health than ensuring they have the resources to do so." Investment should target not just health directly, but also education, Patton's commission concluded.

Adolescence is a critical time of growth, both biologically and socially. "Puberty triggers a cascading process of brain development and emotional change that continues through the mid-20s," Patton explained.

"It profoundly shapes health and wellbeing across the life-course." In a companion study, also in *The Lancet*, researchers at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington provide detailed metrics on what afflicts and kills young people today. HIV/AIDS, road accidents and drowning cause a quarter of all deaths in 10-14 year olds, they found, with intestinal diseases, respiratory infections and malaria

accounting for another 21 percent. Accidents are also the top killer among both 15-19 year-olds and 20-24 year-olds, followed by suicide and violence.

Tackling these problems "will bring huge social and economic benefits," said Ali Mokdad, lead author of the statistical study. In a comment on the report, also in *The Lancet*, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described young people as "the world's greatest untapped resource".

Improving their health is crucial to fulfilling the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, long-term targets adopted the world's nations last year to end poverty, promote health and protect the environment, he said. — AFP

## 70-YEAR-OLD INDIAN WOMAN GIVES BIRTH TO FIRST BABY

'MY LIFE FEELS COMPLETE NOW'

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian woman who gave birth at the age of 70 said yesterday she was not too old to become a first-time mother, adding that her life was now complete. Daljinder Kaur gave birth last month to a boy following two years of IVF treatment at a fertility clinic in the northern state of Haryana with her 79-year-old husband.

Kaur said the couple, married for 46 years, had almost lost hope of ever having a child and had faced ridicule in a country where infertility is sometimes seen as a curse from God. "God heard our prayers. My life feels complete now. I am looking after the baby all by myself, I feel so full of energy. My husband is also very caring and helps me as much as he can," Kaur told AFP from the northern city of Amritsar.

"When we saw the (IVF) advert, we thought we should also give it a try as I badly wanted to have a baby of my own," she said. Kaur put her age at about 70, a common scenario in India where many people don't have birth certificates, while the clinic said in a statement that she was 72. The baby was con-



**HISSAR:** Indian couple Mohinder Singh Gill (left) poses with his wife Daljinder Kaur and their newly born baby at The National Fertility Centre in Hissar. — AFP

ceived using the couple's own egg and sperm and was now "healthy and hearty" after weighing just two kilograms (4.4 pounds) at birth on April 19, the National Fertility and Test Tube centre said. Kaur's husband, Mohinder Singh Gill, who owns a farm outside Amritsar, said he was unfazed about their age, saying God would watch over their child whom they named Armaan.

"People say what will happen to the child once we die. But I have full faith in God. God is omnipotent and omnipresent, he will take care of everything," he told AFP.

Anurag Bishnoi, who runs the fertility clinic, said he was initially skeptical about going ahead with in vitro fertilisation (IVF), but tests showed Kaur was able to carry the unborn baby. "I first tried to avoid the case because she looked very frail. Then we made her undergo all the tests and once all the results were okay we went ahead," the doctor said. The case is not the first in India, with a 72-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh state reportedly giving birth to twins in 2008, also through IVF. — AFP



**MIAMI:** Locatel pharmacy manager Tania Faife talks over the phone with a customer in Miami, Florida. Locatel is one of the pharmacies in South Florida that accept prescriptions from doctors in Venezuela and ships medicines to the South American country, suffering from shortages of medicines and basic foods. — AFP

## FLORIDA PHARMACIES TAKING ORDERS FROM CRISIS-HIT VENEZUELA

**MIAMI:** The phone rings off the hook these days at some pharmacies in Florida and the calls are long-distance: from Venezuelans desperate for everything from diapers to cancer medication.

Venezuela, though sitting atop the world's largest proven oil reserves, is enduring an acute economic crisis due in part to the global drop in crude prices and just about everything is in short supply, including medicine. So people are phoning in prescriptions to a handful of pharmacies in south Florida that are willing to help, although a shortage of dollars in Venezuela means most of the orders cannot be filled: Venezuelans cannot pay for the medicine with local currency, just greenbacks, which they do not have.

Still, the pharmacies are doing what they can. The flood of calls is so great that one pharmacy set up a phone line just to take calls from Venezuela, said Walter Cohen, head of international sales for Locatel, a Venezuelan pharmacy chain that has two outlets in south Florida.

In the five years that these pharmacies have been accepting prescriptions from abroad and offering to send medicine to Venezuela "the increase has been exponential," Cohen said. Every week the pharmacy receives about 1,000 orders for things such as medicine, vitamins and even medical equipment. Besides Locatel, some other pharmacies, courier services and civil society organizations have stepped up to try to make it easier to send medicine to the hard-pressed people of Venezuela.

The opposition in Venezuela has gone so far as to say the country is suffering a full-blown humanitarian crisis. But the leftist government of President Nicolas Maduro defends itself by blaming the crisis on what it says are conservative business interests maneuvering to topple him. And as that fight grinds on, pharmacy telephones in Florida ring and ring and ring.

### Basic stuff

"We receive countless calls at the pharmacy, each with a different story, people asking for such little things as anti-inflammatories, catheters, basic things that people simply cannot get a hold of," said Miguel Gonzalez, one of the owners of Pharm Aid, in the town of Pembroke Pines.

The medicines most commonly requested are for chronic diseases such as high blood pressure or diabetes, or to battle cancer. But Venezuelans also call in for birth control pills and even diapers, pharmacy employees said. This is happening because Florida law allows pharmacies to accept medical prescriptions from abroad. The

actual paperwork is usually sent by fax. If the medicine requested is not available in the United States, the Venezuela-friendly pharmacies are good at suggesting alternatives or medicines with the same active ingredient as in the ones being ordered.

But payment is indeed a problem. The pharmacies only accept dollars, and they are hard to come by in Venezuela because of strict currency controls.

"We pay our suppliers in dollars, we sell for dollars. We have no other way to do it," said Cohen, who is Venezuelan himself. His company works with private foundations to try to make medicine more affordable for people back home. Because of the currency pitfall only about 10 percent of the orders received are actually filled, Cohen said. So this kind of business "is not really economically viable for us."

### Family support

Venezuelans are also relying on relatives in south Florida, where Venezuelan emigrants tend to settle. "Here is where I buy my mother's medicine for high blood pressure," Venezuelan Oralia Martinez said while shopping at Locatel. She arrived in Florida a year ago on a student visa, and sends medicine home to her 72-year-old mother and other relatives. Courier companies that send things from Florida to Venezuela report that more and more they are sending packages with medicine. Because of Venezuela's economic crisis-in which goods in short supply include essentials such as toilet paper and soap, besides food-one of the couriers, Terra Overseas, does not charge for shipping medicine. "At first we sent a lot of appliances, a lot of clothing. But now with the crisis in Venezuela we mainly send medicine and basic necessities, such as food and soap," said Lady Guillen-Rivera, vice president of Terra Overseas.

It is based in Doral, near Miami and with a large Venezuelan community. Since the company stopped charging for shipping medication, orders have skyrocketed and its employees are working overtime. "We have family there and every day we hear about the hardships they are enduring. So it is no longer a matter of doing business. It is not about money, but rather we need to help," said Guillen-Rivera. — AFP



**NEW DELHI:** A poor man scavenges for plastic bottles in a dustbin as activists and people affected with HIV hold a rally to urge China, Germany and Japan to step up their contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in New Delhi yesterday. Poor people from developing countries like India are heavily dependent on the GFATM for their medical checkups and care. — AP

## ROMANIA'S HEALTH MINISTER QUILTS OVER DISINFECTANT ROW

**BUCHAREST:** Romania's health minister resigned Monday amid public outrage over the use of sub-standard disinfectants in dozens of

hospitals. Patriciu Achimas-Cadariu stepped down after authorities announced an investigation into how the disinfectants were used at 50

hospitals. Prime Minister Dacian Cioloș accepted his resignation and announced he would take on the job as interim health minister.

He said he wanted to increase security in the health sector, tackle infections that patients contract in hospitals and carry out administrative reforms in the health system.

Authorities on Saturday conducted searches at hospitals and the offices of drug company Hexi Pharma, which supplied dozens of hospitals with the disinfectants for use on surfaces and hands, according to media reports. Hexi Pharma has said it's cooperating with the investigation.

Hexi Pharma spokeswoman Loredana Albu said production had been halted pending the inquiry, adding the public would soon find out the company's products were "the best on the market." "From our point of view, patients were safe," she said after police took away documents and samples from 25 hospitals, where tests revealed there were problems with the disinfectants. Media reports said the disinfectant was diluted. About 500 people protested Friday in Bucharest over the latest scandal to hit the underfunded health care system. Thousands of medics emigrate annually, and bribery and informal payments are rife in the system. — AP



**BUCHAREST:** Women wear masks that read 'Corruption Kills' during a protest joined by hundreds against irregularities in the country's health system. — AP

## GAULOISES MAKER APPEALS FRENCH PLAIN PACKAGE LAW

**PARIS:** Seita, the French subsidiary of Britain's Imperial Tobacco and the maker of the iconic Gauloises and Gitanes cigarettes, said yesterday it would appeal to France's top court against regulations imposing plain packaging. The appeal to the Council of State, France's top administrative court, won't suspend the regulation from entering force on January 1.

"Our rights to use our brands, several of which were created more than 100 years ago in France, should be respected," Seita's director for global corporate affairs Axel Gietz said in a statement.

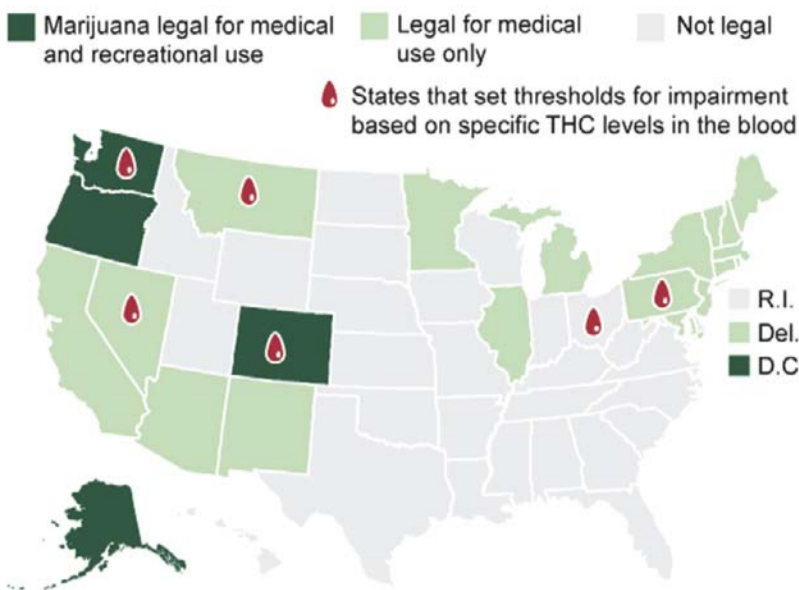
France published in March a decree introducing plain packages, the culmination of efforts launched by the government in 2014 to require tobacco firms to

sell cigarettes in packages that contain neither logos nor distinctive colouring. Seita said the decree suppresses four out of five distinctive elements of a brand under French intellectual property laws, thus depriving businesses owners of their rights under the French constitution.

Japan Tobacco International (JTI) said it had filed an appeal immediately after the publication of the decree in March. In 2012, Australia became the first country to mandate plain packaging for cigarettes in a bid to reduce smoking rates, and tobacco companies have so far failed to overturn it using intellectual property arguments. Tobacco firms also failed to have the matter accepted for international arbitration.

### Marijuana and driving

A study by the AAA Foundation for Safety says that it is not possible to judge a driver's impairment by the level of THC, marijuana's high-inducing ingredient, in the driver's blood.



### SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR LAWS ON MARIJUANA, DRIVING QUESTIONED

**WASHINGTON:** Six states that allow marijuana use have legal tests to determine driving while impaired by the drug that have no scientific basis, according to a study by the nation's largest automobile club that calls for scrapping those laws.

The study commissioned by AAA's safety foundation said it's not possible to set a blood-test threshold for THC, the chemical in marijuana that makes people high, that can reliably determine impairment. Yet the laws in five of the six states automatically presume a driver guilty if that person tests higher than the limit, and not guilty if it's lower. As a result, drivers who are unsafe may be going free while others may be wrongly convicted, the foundation said. The foundation recommends replacing the laws with ones that rely on specially trained police officers to determine if a driver is impaired, backed up by a test for the presence of THC rather than a specific threshold. The officers are supposed to screen for dozens of indicators of drug use, from pupil dilation and tongue color to behavior.

The foundation's recommendation to scrap the laws in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington comes as legislatures in several more states consider adopting similar laws. At least three states, and possibly as many as eleven, will also vote this fall on ballot measures to legalize marijuana for either recreational or medicinal use, or both. Several legislatures are also considering legalization bills.

"There is understandably a strong desire by both lawmakers and the public to create legal limits for marijuana impairment in the same manner we do alcohol," said Marshall Doney, AAA's president and CEO. "In the case of marijuana, this approach is flawed and not supported by scientific research."

Determining whether someone is impaired by marijuana, as opposed to having merely used the drug at some time, is far more complex than the simple and reliable tests that have been developed for alcohol impairment. There's no science that shows drivers become impaired at a specific level of THC in the blood. A lot depends upon the individual. Drivers with relatively high levels of THC in their systems might not be impaired, especially if they are regular users, while others with relatively low levels may be unsafe behind the wheel. Some drivers may be impaired when they

are stopped by police, but by the time their blood is tested they have fallen below the legal threshold because active THC dissipates rapidly. The average time to collect blood from a suspected driver is often more than two hours because taking a blood sample typically requires a warrant and transport to a police station or hospital, the foundation said.

In addition, frequent marijuana users can exhibit persistent levels of the drug long after use, while THC levels can decline more rapidly among occasional users. Nine states, including some that have legalized marijuana for medicinal use, have zero-tolerance laws for driving and marijuana that make not only the presence of THC in a driver's blood illegal, but also the presence of its metabolites, which can linger for weeks after use. That makes no sense, said Mark A R Kleiman, a New York University professor specializing in issues involving drugs and criminal policy. "A law against driving with THC in your bloodstream is not a law you can know you are obeying except by never smoking marijuana or never driving," he said.

He said rather than switching to a new kind of law as AAA recommends, states should consider simply making it a traffic violation. Studies show that using marijuana and driving roughly doubles the risk of a crash, Kleiman said. By comparison, talking on a hands-free cellphone while driving - legal in all states - quadruples crash risk, he said. A blood alcohol content of .12, which is about the median amount in drunken driving cases, increases crash risk by about 15 times, he said.

Driving with "a noisy child in the back of the car" is about as dangerous as using marijuana and driving, Kleiman said. The exception is when a driver has both been using marijuana and drinking alcohol because the two substances together greatly heighten impairment, he said.

The foundation also released a second study that found the share of drivers in fatal crashes who had recently used marijuana doubled in Washington after the state legalized it for recreational use in December 2012. From 2013 to 2014, the share of drivers who had recently used marijuana rose from 8 percent to 17 percent. While it stopped short of blaming the crashes on that increase, AAA traffic safety director Jake Nelson said traffic fatalities went up 6 percent in Washington during that same period while the fatalities nationally declined. — AP

# PLANET RAVAGED BY CHANGING LAND USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A REPORT ON WORLD'S PLANTS BY ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS



**LONDON:** Carlos Magdalena, botanical horticulturist looks towards the flower of *Paphiopedilum Rothschildianum*, an endangered plant, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in London. — AP



**LONDON:** Carlos Magdalena, botanical horticulturist looks towards the flower of *Ramosmania Rodriguezii*, as he holds a young specimen, right, an endangered plant, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London.

**LONDON:** A report billed as the first comprehensive look at world's plants finds a planet slowly being ravaged by changing land use, mostly conversion of forests to agriculture to feed a growing population, and climate change.

The "State of the World's Plants" study is designed to provide a baseline for annual reports that will measure how many plant species are being discovered, and how many are being lost forever.

"The positive is we're still discovering lots of new plants, about 2,000 each year, new plants for food, for fuel, for drugs," said Kathy Willis, science director at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. "On the negative, we've seen a huge change in land cover, mainly driven by cultural activity, with a little bit of climate change in there as well."

The goal, she said, is to better understand the factors driving these negative changes - and to change them to protect more plants from extinction. The report by one of the world's leading research institutions involved more than 80 scientists. Here are some of its findings:

**HOW MANY PLANTS ARE OUT THERE?**  
The report estimates there are 391,000 vascular plant species known to science, with an average of 2,000 new ones being discovered and named each year. Brazil, with its vast rainforests, has led the way in the last decade with the highest number of newly discovered species. That sounds encouraging, but a daunting 21 percent of global plant species are currently threatened with extinction, the report finds, as habitat is gobbled up for human use.

**WHY DOES IT MATTER?**  
The new study documents 31,128 plant types put to a specific use, mostly for medicine (17,810 plant species used in the pursuit of good health), but also for human food, animal food, fuel, materials and other things. Plants provide many of the building blocks used for textiles and construction materials.

The study found "significant gaps" in the collection of DNA data and specimens from many parts of the world that would hinder efforts to preserve plant diversity in the face of changing climate and land-use patterns. It also seeks to pinpoint locations where botanists should focus collection efforts to boost food security and find plants that can adapt.

**HOW BAD IS CLIMATE CHANGE?**  
It is too early to accurately judge the impact of climate change, Willis says, but the report finds most of the world's ecosystems have experienced a greater than 10 percent change in land-cover in the last 10 years, due to changes in land use and climate change. Studies by a research institute in Colombia included in the report establish timelines for the loss of certain foods in Africa, finding that up to

30 percent of land used for growing maize and bananas won't be viable by the end of the century. The figures for beans are even higher, with 60 percent of the land likely to be unfit for that purpose. But some crops - particularly yams and cassava - are found to be much more resilient, making them important candidates for more research and investment as the world copes with mounting food insecurity as population rises and productive land dwindles.

#### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The obscure process of discovering, describing and naming a new species may seem of little practical value, but Timothy M A Utteridge, head of identification and naming at the Royal Botanic Gardens, says the information is vital if scientists are to protect plants.

He helped name 12 new species last year and sees a remarkable number of new plants pinpointed in Australia, Brazil and China, all of

which are developing new computer databases with nearly comprehensive details about their plants. That's step one in protecting those plants, he said. "If this plant doesn't have a name, and it falls over in the forest, no one knows," he said. "Once we have a specimen, and a name, we put that on the map," he said, adding that it's important for "conservation assessment."

#### WHO COLLECTED THAT?

Lest anyone doubt Kew's bona fides, consider the origin of some of the samples hidden away in the vast herbarium - including the ones collected in the Galapagos Islands by Charles Darwin. The scientist, whose theory of evolution has helped shape modern thinking, enjoyed a long, intense friendship with William Hooker, who was an early director at the botanical gardens, and Darwin used Hooker's son Joseph as a taxonomist to work on the plants Darwin had brought back from his travels. — AP



**LONDON:** A *Nymphaea Thermarum*, an endangered plant, grows at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London, Monday. Kew Gardens held the launch of the first ever State of the Worlds, Plants report. The report is the first of its kind in the plant world. — AP

## ARGENTINA ZOO WORRIED ABOUT DECAYING HEALTH OF POLAR BEAR

**BUENOS AIRES:** The director of the Mendoza zoo in western Argentina says she has concerns about the health of the country's last captive polar bear. Zoo director Mariana Caram said Monday that the bear named Arturo is losing his appetite and is showing signs of decline. Animal rights activists circulated a petition in 2014 that was signed by more than a half million people asking that Arturo be moved to

Canada. Caram said then that the bear was too old to be safely relocated.

Activists say Arturo paces nervously in his concrete enclosure and suggest the animal suffers from depression. Arturo's partner, a polar bear named Pelusa or Fuzz, died of cancer in 2012. The last polar bear at the Buenos Aires zoo died in late December 2012 amid a heat wave. — AP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
248 33 199

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



## LULUA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS FREE COPIES OF LATEST PUBLICATION

Lulua Productions presented free copies of its latest publication 'Coloring Your Way to

Happiness' to students at Gulf University for Science and Technology, as well as shoppers at

Avenues Mall and Shaheed Park visitors. The idea of the book is to allow grownups to color paintings; an

activity that positively affects their psychological and mental health, said Sheikhha Intisar Salem Al-Ali Al-

Sabah, Chairperson of Lulua Productions.



## NSH TAKES PART IN THE COASTAL CLEAN UP DRIVE

To keep the coast clean for the benefit of the public, a coast clean up drive was undertaken in Fahheel by the Nasser S Al Hajri Corporation (NSH Corporation). As a part of NSH's Corporate Social Responsibility, the initiative, "zero harm to environment" was earlier implemented by the company's Vice President Sabu.

Several NSH employees participated in the event, which aimed at cleaning and preserving one of Kuwait's best spots. The program was organized by the HR (Welfare) Department of NSH. The employee volunteers collected wastes mainly plastics which were

sent to the waste dumps.

"The coastal areas are the lifeline, as the shore houses the beautiful beaches in Kuwait", said Corporate HR Manager Pani J Anthony. "The beach needs to be kept very clean. The campaign was aimed to clean the seashore stressing the importance of preserving both marine and coastal environment in general. Plastic and other solid wastes on the seashore become lethal to the ecosystem. They mainly affect the cleanliness of the beach. Besides, such wastes obstruct the growth of marine plants important to the coastal ecosystem," he added.

Venu who took part in the drive said, "the initiative in cleaning the environment is a small step and it gives us satisfaction in extending our service to make the surroundings clean and also spread the message of cleanliness among the public". Harikumar said similar activities should be continued at regular intervals and the public should be made aware of. The initiative should come from the people to keep their environment clean by dumping wastes at appropriate places.

## GUST ANNOUNCES THE SECOND ANNUAL ABDULRAHMAN AL-RUSHAID AL-BADER SCHOLARSHIP

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) announced today the Abdulrahman Al-Rushaid Al-Bader Scholarship for all first-time GUST students thanks to the generosity of Abdulrahman's family. The scholarship aims to assist any new university student to attend and enjoy their educational experience and focus on excelling in their academic study, without financial strain.

The Abdulrahman Al-Rushaid Al-Bader Scholarship covers the entire four year of study, with a maximum of 120 credits, and will be awarded annually to an incoming Business Administration freshman at GUST. GUST President, Professor Donald Bates, "This scholarship is one of a kind, and in the spirit of a student who was also one of a kind. The university is humbled and privileged to offer this scholarship to its students, and those in receipt of it should cherish the opportunity."

Students applying for the scholarship can be from any nationality, with a GPA of 3.00 upon graduation from high school. The student must also attain a score of 61 in the TOEFL, six on IELTS, or pass the GUST Math and English placement tests to be able to enroll. The selected student cannot be awarded another scholarship during their period of study and must abide by the GUST Code of Conduct at all times. To maintain



**GUST President Professor Donald Bates** the scholarship, the student must maintain a CGPA of 3.00, register for a minimum of 12 credits per semester, and must not withdraw or transfer from GUST. The application process includes the completion of a form for the specified scholarship period which must be submitted with all supporting documents. For further information, please visit: [https://www.gust.edu.kw/event/abdulrahman\\_al\\_rushaid\\_al\\_bader\\_scholarship](https://www.gust.edu.kw/event/abdulrahman_al_rushaid_al_bader_scholarship).



Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attended an operetta organized by the educational activities department at the Ahmadi Educational District. The operetta, which took place at the Mangal Kindergarten's theater, concluded the governorate's 22nd annual educational cultural season.

## ACK'S FIRST ANNUAL COMPETITION FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) recently hosted its "First Annual Competition for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Small and Medium Enterprises". The event took place at ACK and was sponsored by the Arab Planning Institute (API) and Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). In attendance were Mr Abdullah Al-Sharhan, Chairman of ACK, Dr Bader Mallalah, Chairman of API, Mr Sulaiman Al-Ayoubi on behalf of Mr Majid Al-Ajeel, Chairman of KBA, and Dr Redha Behbehani, Founder and Director General of Global Center.

Participating projects covered a wide range of industries, such as food and beverage, IT, Social Media and Communications, Tourism, Industrial and more. The judging panel of the competition consisted of Dr Sam Toglwa, Manager of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Dr Ehab Moqagal, Director of SME Center at (API), and Mr Wael Dabbousi, Director of Engineering and R&D at the Renewable Energy Startup in Montreal,

Canada. The Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at ACK aims to support students in building their entrepreneurial skills, up-skilling idea-owners to transform business ideas into feasible and viable business activities, creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, fostering excellence in innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting commercialization of academic intellectual property as well as supporting networking and outreach initiatives.

At the end of the competition "Green Rubber Corp." The project was announced as the 1st winner, with the team consisting of Mohammad Al-Eidani, Ali Mohammed, Mohammed Ali, Addeb Peerkhan, Aftab Sawhney, and Mustafa Al-Jasem. "Open Table" took 2nd place, with their team consisting of: Fatema Al Ghanim, Hajar Arab, Loulwa Boodai, Menna Abdulmajeed, Nada Khalaf, and Tabia Al Nasser. 3rd place went to "In Radius" with their team consisting of: Mohammad Abdulrazzak, and Ali Abdulsoul.



## SEMSOM RESTAURANT WINS THE PRESTIGIOUS Q-PLATINUM AWARD

Standard Arabian Business and Enterprises Company W.L.L have been recently honored to receive an outstanding Award from BOECKER, which is considered the most international certification System for food establishments in the Middle East.

The valuable Award was offered to SEMSOM Restaurant - Kuwait Branch, located in Arabella Complex - due to the huge and

extensive efforts made by its staff and directors. Semsom Restaurant Manager, Chefs and Staff followed strict training regimes by BOECKER, on high levels of food safety and hygiene standards and on food handling from receiving raw materials to the delivery of end products to the customers.

The entire team was in process of following international recognized rules by accredited

trainers whom are certified by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, CIEH of the United Kingdom. Standard Arabian Business and Enterprises Company being one of the best strenuous teams in the region operated a tremendous task considered to be Unique in its adaptation and in business discipline concerning food innovations and high Quality services to be always in practice. They proved

to deserve the valuable Q- PLATINUM Award that is ultimately assured by CIEH: the chartered institute of Environmental Health in the UK. Semsom Restaurant of Standard Arabian Business and Enterprises Company, was delighted to obtain the prize of providing high quality food to the Kuwait market. The aim is to evolve the food and beverage sector in Kuwait and to maintain their safety and their

hygiene system. Standard Arabian Business and Enterprises Company with its growing vision, in all their endeavors, including retail, contracting and architectural sectors, are working towards high successful standards in all its scope of businesses.



## JABER AL-ALI SCHOOL HONORS OUTSTANDING OFFICE BOYS

Represented by assistant managers, Fadhel Ghadanfar and Mohammed Al-Hudhainah and Social Worker, Hani Hassan, Jaber Al-Ali Secondary School, of Muabark Al-Kabeer educational area

recently honored five of its 'office boys' staff for their outstanding performance. Honorees included Ibrahim Al-Melegi, Ibrahim Al-Moghazi, Sayyed Sha'ban, Shawqi Ameen abd Amjad Hafez.



## AL MULLA GROUP HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF SEISMIC BRACING SYSTEMS

As the exclusive agent for EATON's BLINE support system, the Engineering Products Trading Division of Al Mulla Group organized a seminar at Radisson BLU Hotel on 26th April 2016 to highlight the latest development and need for Seismic Bracing Engineering Solutions which has been mandated by NFPA for all projects regardless of seismic zones or any other parameters.

Mr Tapas Bhattacharya, General Manager-Engineering Products, Al Mulla Group, delivered the Introductory speech followed by Mr George Samuel-Manager Direct Sales who welcomed the guests and gave a brief introduction of BLINE products. Mr Greg Shaughnessy- Global Product Line Manager- TOLCO Seismic Bracing & Fire Protection, USA and Mr Binish Mammen, UAE delivered complete technical presentation to explain in detail the growing complexity of the seismic bracing standards and how the seismic bracing is becoming more common in diverse areas of the world.

The event was attended by senior Dignitaries & Engineers from various government organizations such as MPW, MEW, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Awqaf, KNPC, KFD and Kuwait University. The 120 plus attendees included several senior engineers from various major consultants and contractors attended the Seminar.

During the seminar along with the latest developments in seismic bracing industry, the attendees were also informed about the importance and the latest standards set by IBC for seismic bracing systems for all projects especially

hospitals, schools, universities, refineries, government agencies, etc.

With each and every earthquake around the world, the seismic bracing industry has evolved learnt more of its effects on non-structural elements of buildings. For over 40 years EATON's BLINE has been a leading manufacturer and supplier of TOLCO Seismic Bracing components to the mechanical, electrical and fire protection industries. Known for innovative designs, their bracing products include break away bolt and nut features to provide the installer the ease of a proper installation 100% of the time.

TOLCO by EATON's BLINE has supported in the engineering and supply of Seismic bracing material for a number of prestigious projects in Middle East such as APS-5 Warehouses-Arifan US Army Camp in Kuwait, The Burj Al Arab hotel & Emersons Warehouses in UAE the King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah Saudi Arabia to name a few.

Towards the end of the seminar the Q&A segment was filled with a number of queries from the audience who found the presentation highly interesting and informative. The evening ended with a sumptuous dinner for the guests.

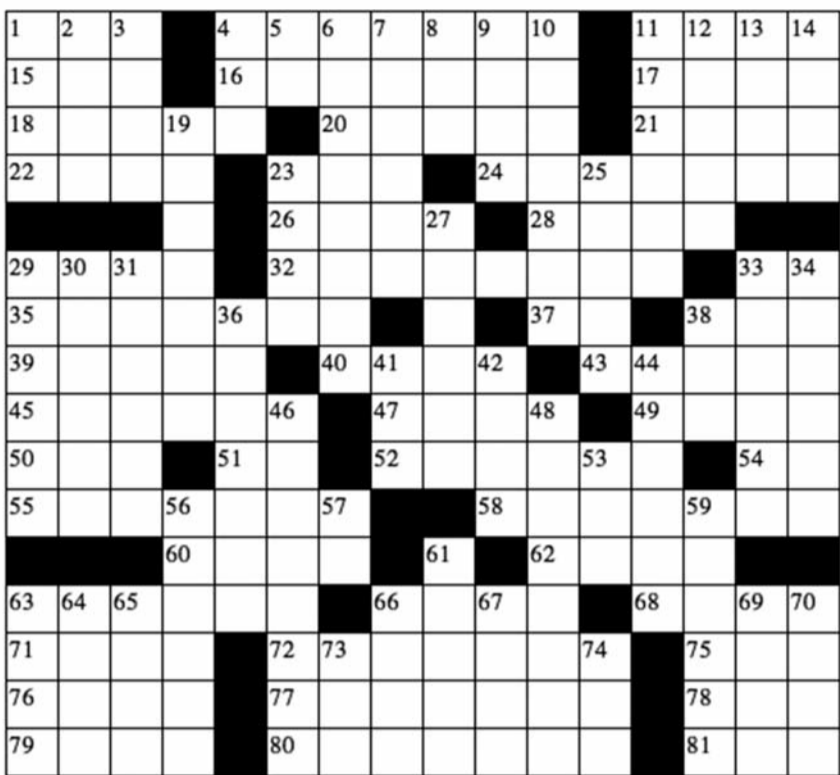








CROSSWORD 1250



ACROSS

- 1. A graphical record of electric currents associated with muscle contractions.
4. Bar from attention or consideration.
11. A river in central Italy rising in the Apennines and flowing through Florence and Pisa to the Ligurian Sea.
15. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
16. Obtain from someone after their death.
17. Pass gradually or leak through or as if through small openings.
18. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
20. A republic in southern Europe on the Italian Peninsula.
21. (Polynesian) An alcoholic drink made from the aromatic roots of the kava shrub.
22. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
24. Relating to or using sight.
26. A group of countries in special alliance.
28. A portable shelter (usually of canvas stretched over supporting poles and fastened to the ground with ropes and pegs).
29. Fine powdery material such as dry earth or pollen that can be blown about in the air.
32. A severe rebuke.
35. Unarmed feather palms of central and northern South America.
37. Being one more than one hundred.
39. Full of or showing high-spirited merriment.
40. Emblem usually consisting of a rectangular piece of cloth of distinctive design.
43. A line spoken by an actor to the audience but not intended for others on the stage.
45. A river that rises in northern Colombia and flows generally eastward to the Orinoco in central Venezuela.
47. By bad luck.
49. Horny plate covering and protecting part of the dorsal surface of the digits.
50. A user interface based on graphics (icons and pictures and menus) instead of text.
51. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
52. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
54. Being one hundred more than three hundred.
55. One who professes great sensitivity to the beauty of art and nature.
58. Kauri pine.
60. Type genus of the Anatidae.
62. A ruler of the Inca Empire (or a member of his family).
63. A high-crowned black cap (usually made of felt or sheepskin) worn by men in Turkey and Iran and the Caucasus.
68. A television system that has more than the usual number of lines per frame so its pictures show more detail.
71. A city in northwestern Syria.
72. Genus of widely distributed agarics that have white spores and are poisonous with few exceptions.
75. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
76. Something causes misery or death.
77. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
78. Black tropical American cuckoo.
79. The mother of your father or mother.
80. Genus of beetles whose grubs feed mainly on roots of plants.
81. (British) Your grandmother.

DOWN

- 1. Informal terms for a meal.
2. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
3. Taken or to be taken at random.
4. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
5. Not out.
6. North American evergreen with small pinkish bell-shaped flowers and oblong leaves used formerly for shinplasters.
7. A streak of light in the sky at night that results when a meteoroid hits the earth's atmosphere and air friction causes the meteoroid to melt or vaporize or explode.
8. A self-funded retirement plan that allows you to contribute a limited yearly sum toward your retirement.
9. A cylindrical tower used for storing silage.
10. Tending to check bleeding by contracting the tissues or blood vessels.
11. Relating to the use of or having the nature of an interrogation.
12. Show a response or a reaction to something.
13. A river in northwestern Russia flowing generally west into the Gulf of Finland.
14. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
19. (Sumerian and Akkadian) A demon personifying death.
23. A French abbot.
25. A narrow headband or strip of ribbon worn as a headband.
27. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
30. A hollow muscular organ in the pelvic cavity of females.
31. (archaic) Strict and severe.
33. Aristocratic Italian family of powerful merchants and bankers who ruled Florence in the 15th century.
34. United States comedian and film actor (1880-1946).
36. Type genus of the Lycaenidae.
38. Perennial herb of East India to Polynesia and Australia cultivated for its large edible root yielding Otaheite arrowroot starch.
41. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.
42. Offering fun and gaiety.
44. A small fragment.
46. A language spoken by the Atakapa people of the Gulf coast of Louisiana and Texas.
48. Located in a plane that is parallel to the central plane of the sagittal suture.
53. A decree that prohibits something.
56. Come to pass.
57. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
59. Of or relating to or characteristic of Hades or Tartarus.
61. Close-fitting pants of heavy denim for casual wear (usually in the plural).
64. (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
65. A Russian river.
66. Panel forming the lower part of an interior wall when it is finished differently from the rest.
67. A tax on employees and employers that is used to fund the Social Security system.
69. The form of RNA that attaches the correct amino acid to the protein chain that is being synthesized at the ribosome of the cell (according to directions coded in the mRNA).
70. Characteristic of false pride.
73. The force of workers available.
74. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Circumstances may help to create some negative moods-careful. It would be easy to find an argument if you are looking. Keep your sense of humor and do not push your point of view too strongly. There may be some serious decisions made about the future of a project, investment or term of employment with your business at this time. You are in the mood to conquer just about anything you set out to do. Stay away from the negative verbiage to calm others and find some inside point of view. You may perceive how to proceed with plans and decisions regarding your own life situation. This evening you will have the opportunity to enjoy new music; perhaps a concert or a new group of songs has your attention.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

With positive fervor to burn today you could promote yourself, your company, a product or your best friend with successful results. Answering to a boss may not be what you consider the job for you and today there may be insights into having your own business. Keeping this quiet may be difficult just now, but important. Ask questions, do your research and let a few days go by before making the necessary appointment to delve deeper into this possible new business. Today is for planning. Frustrations this afternoon are of short duration. In order to keep the frustrations down to a low growl... Expect interruptions and criticisms from others. You will particularly enjoy the company of family and friends this afternoon. Enjoy the celebrations.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a very lucky day for making plans or decisions and finding your way through just about any problem you may discover. Positive energies are available with respect to love and money. You feel successful and able to handle difficult situations. Good advice from a guide or older person may be forthcoming. There is a growing sense of self-confidence and even a pride of ownership. You could do well in politics, if that is your choice. Your social life is active at this time. New social contacts will boost career prospects now. Social and community endeavors are also open to you where the need for basic fairness and evenhandedness is helpful. You can be direct, candid and to the point. This passion is about truth. There are positive results today.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is an excellent time to plan a trip or take a vacation. You are likely to hear some good news regarding something of importance to you. Your sensitivity to others is increased but there are possibilities of being deluded-pay close attention. There is great achievement now through your profession. Being in the spotlight is common to you just now. It may be a good idea to be humble and see where your work can best help others. You may look to the social setting to improve your professional standing. Interactions with the opposite sex on the professional level may occur a great deal during this time. There is inner harmony and a deepening of a love relationship. This romantic partner may want your undivided attention.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a period of personal growth. This attitude is contagious and you may find others have questions and inquiries as to the latest self-help book or mentor that you have been gaining information from lately. This mindset is carried over into the workplace so that whatever you do, you do it with enthusiasm and look for ways to improve the workplace. You want to reshape the world and help others. You may expend a great deal of effort to secure finances at this time. This may come about through associations you have with people in important positions. The simple things in life bring you much pleasure. Besides being creative, you are very sociable and magnetic to the opposite sex. This feeling will extend to a love interest later.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Someone could challenge your sense of identity today, but you will remain calm and clear in your reporting of the details that are needed. There is someone watching you that appreciates your struggle. Now is the time to initiate any changes that will create the most positive results, whether it is regarding some project or some goal of yours. Financial gain through speculation looks positive-you will eventually need to take care in how you allocate the benefits or money received. Study and mental self-control are hard to achieve today, but not impossible! The time is ripe for family changes and this may be in a marriage, birth or reunion. This is a great evening for socializing with friends or just enjoying some quality time with a loved one.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have good choices from a career standpoint. Your work is progressing well and you will probably complete projects way ahead of time. The knowledge you have regarding some hobby or some recent home project will come in handy when you solve problems in the workplace this afternoon. It is good that you pull on all your resources when you or those around you are in a quandary. You may feel like socializing this evening. This is an excellent time to socialize and enjoy life. If you are single, go out to all those gatherings where you might really find that dream partner. At the very least, you will meet compatible people who share your love of life. Enjoy some time with friends who tend to make many appealing invitations.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Your work could come under the scrutiny of people in authority. This is a good thing for now because you can show off how much you have learned either recently or from your past experiences. Those that doubted your talents will no longer be doubtful. Now you will need to be ready to respond when the requests come in for you to contribute your very own expertise. There are indications that this is a good time to finish up any unresolved business. You are filled with an urge to work hard and get things done. Do not push yourself beyond what is comfortable with regard to time limitations. Go easy on yourself and enjoy a few breaks each day. This evening there is an opportunity to enjoy and relax with loved ones.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There may be a return of some old mechanical problems so take your time and make sure all mechanical defects are serviced properly. All forms of communication are possible. A family member that lives some distance from you may enjoy communication by telephone. There is a strong emphasis on community participation-perhaps a block party is being planned, etc. You, a friend and a loved one or a few family members will enjoy a group get together soon... Plans are in the making. There is lots of laughter and interaction between neighbors. You feel most comfortable in these surroundings and may find yourself in a storytelling mood. Your dreams are worth exploring this evening-consider keeping a dream diary.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

This time is perfect for focused and detailed mental work, though you may resist some of those dull routine tasks. Complete unfinished business today. You have a sharp mind and your awareness of the overview of a situation is strong. Your ambition is strong and you have the right amount of discipline to get you where you want to go. You develop a keen appreciation for the value of things, including the money it takes to buy them. Take the social opportunities that are open to you now and network with people that share your same job interests or talents. A love of music and an appreciation for sensual pleasures are strong. You may find the right romantic interest for you, or you may find an existing romance will deepen.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Consciously take and plan for extra time to stay organized with projects the rest of this month. A strong instinct to be powerful and in control may lead to a greater interest in investing. There are all sorts of interaction through some form of lecturing, teaching or learning a new technique. You could resist someone's ideas and it might be a good idea to look at your reasoning. This is an artistic time when you are more aware of the beauty that surrounds you; it is also a practical and materialistic time. You may decide to keep a sketch pad handy for those times you are in repose with a cup of tea or chatting on the phone. You will have a grasp for abstract and spiritual ideas and the ability to present or convey these things to others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Interactions with co-workers may create a desire to plan a get together at the noon meal. Be careful to arrange an additional day for those that need to stay behind. This is a great time to be with others and to work together as a team. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. Your management abilities are in high focus. There has been a lot of overtime lately and it probably will not be the last of the overtime for a while. You will enjoy a relaxing evening. There is a sense of support and harmony around you, making this a productive and happy time. Place a notepad, flashlight and pen next to the bed and put your worries on paper so you don't fidget all night... They will be waiting tomorrow; you will have better insight.

WORD SEARCH

Nursing Home 1

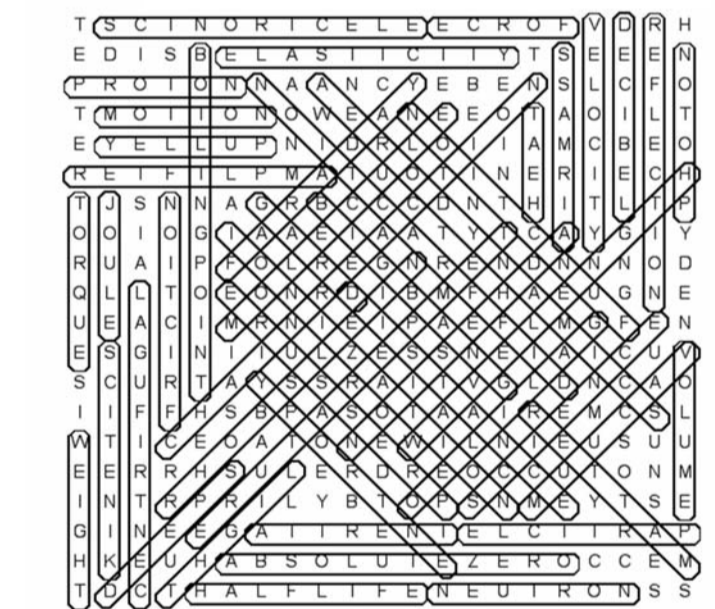
Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 47 letters spell a Mother Theresa quotation.



- ACTIVITIES: AIDES, ASPIRIN, BATHROOM, BEDRILL, BEDS, BOARD GAMES, BULLETIN BOARD, CANE, CARE, CASE MEETING, CHARTS, COMFORT, DENTURES, DINING ROOM, DOCTOR, DRUGS, EXERCISE, FALLS, FLU SHOT, FRAIL, GLUCOSE METER, HAIRDRESSER, HALLWAYS, HELP, INCONTINENCE, LAUNDRY, LINERS, MAGAZINES, MEDICAL GLOVES, MEMORY LOSS, MOISTURIZER, MUSIC, NAIL CLIPPERS, NEEDLE, NURSES, OUTINGS, PET THERAPY, PHYSIOTHERAPIST, PUZZLES, READING, RESIDENTS, ROUNDS, SCRABBLE, SCRUBS, SENIORS, SHAVE, SHOWER, SING ALONG, SLEEPING PILL, STAFF MEETINGS, SUPPER, TABLES, TELEVISION, TRANSFER BELT, URINAL, VOLUNTEERS, WANDERING, WHEELCHAIR

Yesterday Solution

Physics 2



- ABSOLUTE ZERO, ADHESION, AERODYNAMICS, AIR MASS, AMPLIFIER, BIG BANG, BOILING POINT, CENTRIFUGAL, CHAIN REACTION, DECIBEL, DIFFRACTION, DISTANCE, DRAG, ELASTICITY, ELECTRONICS, ENTROPY, FARADAY, FORCE, FRICTION, FUNCTION, GALLILEO, HALF LIFE, HEAT, INERTIA, IONIZATION, JOULE, KINETICS, LIGHT, MATTER, MOLECULE, MOTION, NEUTRON, NIELS BOHR, PARTICLE, PHOTON, PRESSURE, PROTON, PULLEY, REFLECTION, SCIENCE, SPEED, TEMPERATURE, TORQUE, VACUUM, VELOCITY, VOLUME, WAVELENGTH, WEIGHT

The hidden message is: THE DISTANCE BETWEEN INSANITY AND GENIUS IS MEASURED ONLY BY SUCCESS

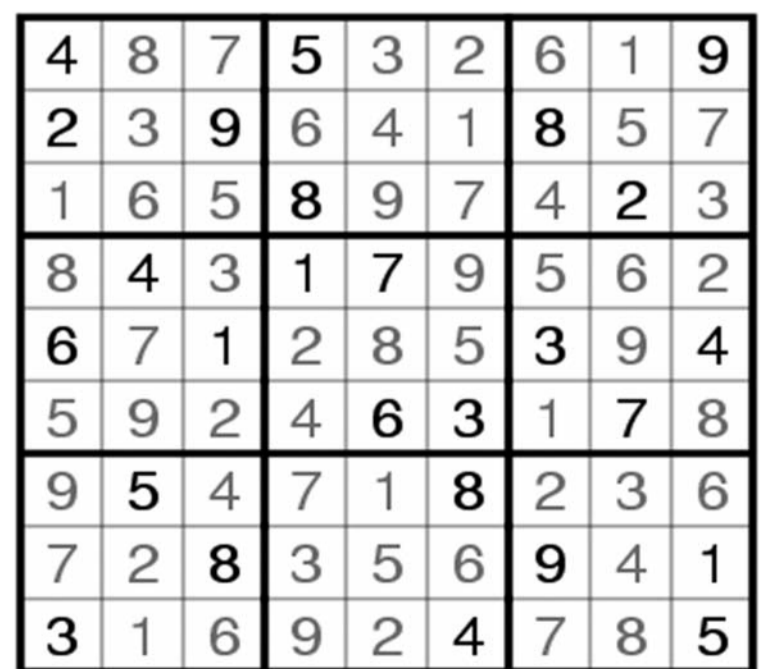
Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution

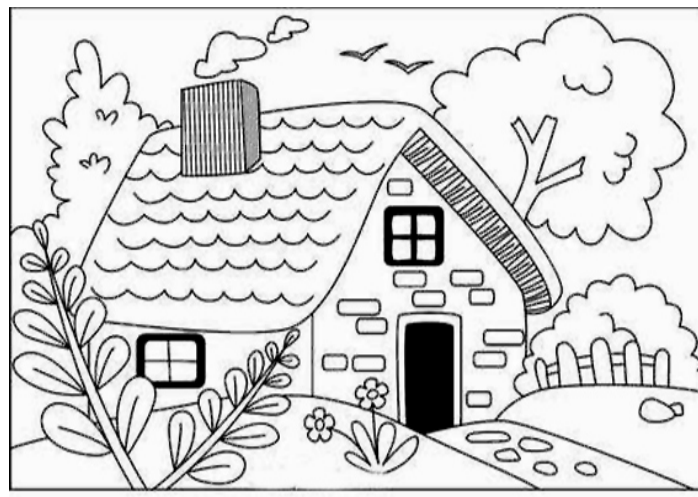




# Color me!



Spot the differences



## Make a Leaf Collection



### What You Need:

- \* A collection of leaves from outside
- \* White paper
- \* Stack of heavy books
- \* Heavy paper
- \* Glue



### Instructions:

1. Collect many types of leaves. The Fall season is perfect for the most beautiful colors of leaves.
2. Lay the leaves between sheets of paper.
3. Lay a heavy stack of books on the paper and press for one week.
4. Glue the leaves onto sheets of heavy paper for a wonderful collection of leaves that will last a very long time! Try to identify the leaves you collect and try to do some research as well!

**Practice:** Add words to make the fragments complete sentences. Use proper capitalization and punctuation.

1. I can't find my homework
2. underneath the basement stairs
3. The children didn't know the answer
4. scratched his head with suspicion
5. Luz and Jon knew the answer

1. at the end of class
2. the missing toys
3. a strange ringing sound
4. my mother's cell phone
5. picked up the envelope



# The Colosseum

The Colosseum or Coliseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre is an oval amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome, Italy. Built of concrete and sand, it is the largest amphitheatre ever built. The Colosseum is situated just east of the Roman Forum. Construction began under the emperor Vespasian in AD 72, and was completed in AD 80 under his successor and heir Titus.

The Colosseum could hold, it is estimated, between 50,000 and 80,000 spectators, having an average audience of some 65,000; it was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles such as mock sea battles, animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles, and dramas based on Classical mythology. The building ceased to be used for entertainment in the early medieval era. It was later reused for such purposes as housing, workshops, quarters for a religious order, a fortress, a quarry, etc.

Although partially ruined because of damage caused by earthquakes and stone-robbers, the Colosseum is still an iconic symbol of Imperial Rome. It is one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions. The Colosseum is also depicted on the Italian version of the five-cent euro coin.

The Colosseum's original Latin name was Amphitheatrum Flavium, often anglicized as Flavian Amphitheater. The building was constructed by emperors of the Flavian dynasty, following the reign of Nero. This name is still used in modern English, but generally the structure is better known as the Colosseum.

The Colosseum underwent several radical changes of use during the medieval period. By the late 6th century a small chapel had been built into the structure of the amphitheater, though this apparently did not confer any particular religious significance on the building as a whole. The arena was converted into a cemetery. The numerous vaulted spaces in the arcades under the seating were converted into housing and workshops, and are recorded as still being rented out as late as the 12th century. Severe damage was inflicted on the Colosseum by the great earthquake in 1349, causing the outer south side, lying on a less stable alluvial terrain, to collapse. Much of the tumbled stone was reused to build palaces, churches, hospitals and other buildings elsewhere in Rome. A religious order moved into the northern third of the Colosseum in the mid-14th century and continued to inhabit it until as late as the early 19th century. The interior of the amphitheater was extensively stripped of stone, which was reused elsewhere, or (in the case of the marble faAade) was burned to make quicklime. The bronze clamps which

held the stonework together were pried or hacked out of the walls, leaving numerous pockmarks which still scar the building today.

In recent years the Colosseum has become a symbol of the international campaign against capital punishment, which was abolished in Italy in 1948. Several anti-death penalty demonstrations took place in front of the Colosseum in 2000. Since that time, as a gesture against the death penalty, the local authorities of Rome change the color of the Colosseum's night time illumination from white to gold whenever a person condemned to the death penalty anywhere in the world gets their sentence commuted or is released, or if a jurisdiction abolishes the death penalty. Most recently, the Colosseum was illuminated in gold in November 2012 following the abolishment of capital punishment in the American state of Connecticut in April 2012.

Because of the ruined state of the interior, it is impractical to use the Colosseum to host large events; only a few hundred spectators can be accommodated in temporary seating. However, much larger concerts have been held just outside, using the Colosseum as a backdrop. Performers who have played at the Colosseum in recent years have included Ray Charles (May 2002), Paul McCartney (May 2003), Elton John (September 2005), and Billy Joel (July 2006).

The Colosseum was used to host gladiatorial shows as well as a variety of other events. Another popular type of show was the animal hunt. This utilized a great variety of wild beasts, mainly imported from Africa and the Middle East, and included creatures such as rhinoceros, hippopotamuses, elephants, giraffes, aurochs, wisents, Barbary lions, panthers, leopards, bears, Caspian tigers, crocodiles and ostriches. Battles and hunts were often staged amid elaborate sets with movable trees and buildings. Other performances would also take place by acrobats and magicians, typically during the intervals.

The Colosseum today is now a major tourist attraction in Rome with thousands of tourists each year paying to view the interior arena, though entrance for citizens of the European Union (EU) is partially subsidised, and entrance is free for EU citizens under eighteen or over sixty-five years of age. There is now a museum dedicated to Eros located in the upper floor of the outer wall of the building. Part of the arena floor has been re-floored. Beneath the Colosseum, a network of subterranean passageways once used to transport wild animals and gladiators to the arena opened to the public in summer 2010.

## SUDOKU

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

## DID YOU KNOW..?

- Russia has a larger surface area than Pluto.
- Oxford University is older than the Aztec Empire.
- France was still executing people by the guillotine when Star Wars: A New Hope hit the theatres.
- Nintendo was originally a trading card company.
- If the sun were the size of a white blood cell then the Milky Way galaxy would be the size of United States.
- There are more stars in space than there are grains of sand on every beach in the world.
- For every human on Earth there are 1.6 million ants.
- An eagle can kill a young deer and get away with it.
- A flock of crows is called a murder.

## WORD SEARCH

### Directions

Find and circle all of the direction words that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

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

- |          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| ABOVE    | EAST    | SIDWAYS |
| AHEAD    | FORWARD | SKYWARD |
| AWAY     | LEFT    | SOUTH   |
| BACKWARD | NORTH   | TOWARD  |
| BEHIND   | REVERSE | UP      |
| BELOW    | RIGHT   | WEST    |
| DOWN     |         |         |

## KIDS RECIPES

### CHOCOLATE COVERED PRETZELS



### What You Need:

- Pretzels
- Semi-sweet chocolate chips
- Bowl
- Cookie sheet
- Wax paper

### Instructions:

1. Melt chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl.
2. Remove bowl from microwave and dip pretzels into chocolate, making sure that they are covered. This is easiest to do using a fork.
3. Place pretzels on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper.
4. Put cookie sheet in the refrigerator until chocolate covered pretzels harden.





## Lewis staying off drugs has been a struggle

Juliette Lewis has admitted it's been a "struggle" to stay off drugs since she got clean at the age of 22. The 'From Dusk till Dawn' star began experimenting with illegal substances when she was a young adult as a form of escapism, however, she quickly learned that using drugs was only making her problems worse. Juliette made the brave decision to quit all "street drugs" when in her early 20s, but she admits 20 years later she still finds it tough to not relapse. Speaking to website Team Rock, she said: "I used drugs when I was younger specifically to escape overwhelming feelings and problems that I didn't know how to handle ... I only ever used drugs specifically to escape my problems and in the long run they only served to make them bigger, so by the age of 22 I had a big problem on my hands. That was when I made the decision to quit all street drugs for good, and life from that moment on has been a real struggle. I'm 42 and every day is a struggle. Thankfully, I have different priorities and experience and wisdom guiding me now." Juliette never had a mind-expanding experience with drugs like so many other artists claim to have had. Instead, the thing that has given her a spiritual awakening, is the death of her actor father Geoffrey Lewis who passed away in April at the age of 79. Since he died, Juliette has felt as though she has been hit by a "lightning rod of spiritualism" and she can now hear him speak to her and guide her on her journey in the world. She shared: "I know there's a generation every generation that says they're expanding their horizons and becoming spiritual beings by taking drugs, but when I lost my father that was like a lightning rod of spiritualism for me: I'd hear him talk to me and remind me of the beauty of life and the now."



## Turner really did believe that Snow was dead

Sophie Turner wrote her 'Game of Thrones' co-star Kit Harington a goodbye letter when she thought his character Jon Snow had been killed off. The 20-year-old actress has revealed that the details of every character's death on the HBO fantasy TV series - based on George R. R. Martin's novels of the same name - is kept top secret from the rest of the cast, with only those due to be murdered being told of their exit. So when Kit, 29, confessed to her that he was facing being killed, Sophie - who plays Sansa Stark - decided to pen him a message telling him how much she had loved working with him on the program. And when Kit made his surprise return to set he couldn't help but tease her about her kind written words. During an interview on UK TV show 'This Morning', she revealed: "It was kept from me. Kit told me in the fifth season that he was going, that was it, and so I wrote him a really long heartfelt letter about how much I was going to miss him, how much I loved working with him. And then he came back the next season and was like, 'Your letter is so funny I've still got it.' He does it just to take the mickey out of me now. He shows it to people. I was really gullible. Everyone dies (in the show) so I was just like, 'Another one bites the dust.'" Sophie - who can currently be seen on the big screen as Jean Grey in 'X-Men: Apocalypse' - is relieved that the secret of Jon Snow's survival is now out because she always gets nervous about spilling secrets from 'Game of Thrones'. She said: "Most of the time people keep it (who's leaving) a secret. There's a lot of secrets to keep but luckily the Jon Snow secret is out now." Snow was thought to be dead after he was repeatedly stabbed in the courtyard of the castle in the Mutiny at Castle Black and left to bleed out in the frost, however, a day later he is brought back to life by Melisandre (Carice van Houten).

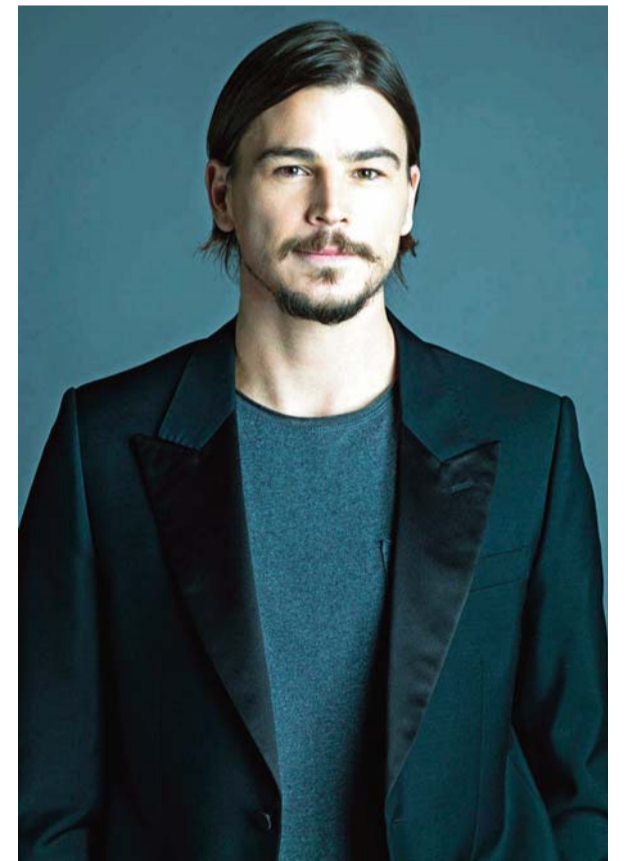
## Bella Hadid is a 'typical middle child'

The 19-year-old model has opened up about her famous family, which includes her supermodel sister Gigi, 21, and brother Anwar, 16, and admits she's the person who likes to be the one who makes sure everyone is "happy" and "satisfied". She explained: "I am definitely the typical middle child. I love making sure everybody around me is happy, peaceful, and satisfied." Bella has followed her older sibling Gigi into modeling and was taught early on by her mother Yolanda Foster - who divorced their father Mohamed Hadid in 2000 - that she should be "happy" when working because the audience can see how you're feeling in the finished photos. Asked for her advice for taking the best photo on set, she said: "My mom always taught me to think about something happy when I'm working, because it kind of shows through your face. I used to think about my horses, but now I think about other things." Bella is in a relationship with Abel Tesfaye, better known as The Weeknd, and says starring in the music video for his song 'In The Night' allowed her to witness her boyfriend's "passion" for his "art" and she loved being able to work with him by combining her modeling and the 26-year-old star's music. She told Elle magazine: "I love seeing him happy and passionate about his art. Being able to see how he works, and put both of our workplaces together, turned out to be really beautiful." And things seem to be moving quickly for the couple who have reportedly decided to move in together after dating for just over a year. A source previously said: "Bella and Abel have decided to take the next step in their romance and move in with one another."



## Josh Hartnett wants to meet Mary Berry

The Hollywood heartthrob is a massive fan of Mary's TV show 'The Great British Bake Off' and was gutted he didn't get to meet the 81-year-old food expert at the TV BAFTA Awards on Sunday, but has made it his mission to meet her in the future. Speaking on UK TV show 'Good Morning Britain', he gushed: "I do watch 'Bake Off' and I do eat a lot of cake as well. I would love to meet Mary Berry, that would be great." The 37-year-old actor binge watched the BBC cooking program whilst shooting his TV series 'Penny Dreadful' in the UK and was astonished by the "ruthlessness" of the baking competition's contestants. He added: "In my opinion 'Bake Off' brings this competitive atmosphere and then layers frosting on top. Then everyone is really sweet but underneath you can tell there's some ruthlessness there and I love seeing that." Josh loves Mary - who co-presents 'GBBO' with Paul Hollywood - so much he could imagine hanging a poster of her on his wall. In an interview on Nick Grimshaw's Breakfast Show on BBC Radio 1, he said: "If I could have a post of anyone on my wall now it would have to be Mary, why not?" 'The Great British Bake Off' is not the only British television show Hartnett enjoys watching. The 37-year-old star currently splits his time between the UK and the US after having a daughter with British actress Tamsin Egerton and he also likes to catch Channel 4's 'First Dates' when he's in Britain. Hartnett - who has been in a relationship with 27-year-old beauty Egerton since 2012 - said: "First Dates" as well that has absolutely blown my mind. I think you get a real sense of how people are when they're nervous."



## Meghan Trainor pulls video over photoshopping

Meghan Trainor removed her latest music video after realizing it had been "photoshopped". The 22-year-old singer has admitted she took down the 'Me Too' promo on Monday because she had been edited "the crap out of" and is "embarrassed" her team decided to cinch in her waist as much. Speaking on Snapchat about why she pulled the track after it was digitally modified, the 'All about That Bass' hitmaker said: "Hey guys, I took down the 'Me Too' music video because they photoshopped the crap out of me and I'm so sick of it and I'm over it. So I took it down until they fix it. "My waist is not that teeny. I had a bomb waist that night. I don't know why they didn't like my waist but I didn't approve of that video and it went out for the world so I'm embarrassed. "The video is still one of my favorite videos I've ever done, I'm very proud of it. I just as p\*\*\*\*ed off that they broke my ribs, you know?" The Grammy-award winning musician had planned to release the video on Monday evening with a showing at Times Square in New York City. However, American songstress Meghan revealed to Andy Cohen on Bravo's 'Watch What Happens: Live' show she is intending to release a new version of the video on Tuesday.



## Anderson aged '20 years' by Salomon divorce



Pamela Anderson aged "20 years" after her divorce to Rick Salomon. The 48-year-old actress says happiness keeps her looking young, although she felt she aged by two decades after the grueling second divorce from her ex-husband Rick - which was finalized last year following their attempt at a second union that lasted only one year. Speaking to W Magazine about maturing, the blonde beauty said: "Ageing is something we all deal with. I look back at pictures of myself when I was in this awful relationship, and I looked 20 years older. Calm, peacefulness and not-constant stress are very, very important to feeling beautiful and confident. And that comes across whether you're wearing make-up or not." The former 'Baywatch' star - who is set to play the role of a woman insecure about her appearance in the short science fiction film 'Connected' - enjoys ageing because she has older female role models who she looks up to, although she feels at a "loss" now her two sons Brandon, 19, and Dylan, 18, have grown up. She explained: "I actually like ageing. I have great older female role models in my life, including my amazing mom, who have glitz, glamour and all sorts of fun. Getting older isn't the end. I know I have so much to look forward to. "At a certain age, you can find yourself at a loss. Your children are grown. You may have gone through a divorce. You're trying to find meaning. What's your purpose now? You've raised your kids, and now they think you're a little crazy, because you're trying to do all these self-help things. You become distant from everybody. You're searching for answers."

## Hamilton getting on well with Neville

Natasha Hamilton is "getting on the best" she has with Ritchie Neville since they split up. The Atomic Kitten singer and the Sive star ended their engagement in March, and though they are now forging a friendship for the sake of their 18-month-old daughter Ella, the 33-year-old pop beauty insists they won't be getting back together as a romantic couple. Writing in her Star magazine column, she said: "I constantly get asked about what's going on between Ritchie and me. But nothing has really changed. "If anything, we're now getting on the best we have since splitting up. We're on friendly terms and hopefully that's how it will stay." Natasha - who also has son Josh, 13, with Fran Cosgrave, son Harry, 11, with Gavin Hatcher and five-year-old boy Alfie from her marriage to Riad Erraji - recently revealed she and Ritchie are still living together, a situation she is finding very "stressful". She said: "We're still living with each other at the moment. It's stressful. Anyone who has been in the same situation can understand that. It's hard to move on with your life when you see that person every day." Asked if she is looking for a new home, she added: "It's all still very up in the air at the moment, it's not decided. "I'm just weighing up my options and seeing what will be best for all of us." Adding to Natasha's stress is cancelling all the plans she and Ritchie had made for their wedding, which had been planned to take place this summer. She said: "I'm not feeling sorry for myself, it just feels like a bereavement because what you almost had has gone... "The wedding was going to be this summer. That's a nightmare. You've booked a wedding and then you've got to cancel it all. You just feel, oh God. It's also quite stressful."



In this May 29, 2015 photo provided by Jennifer Goodwin, Catherine Malatesta, center, poses with Lauren Hourican, left, and Molly Mahoney, right, before the junior prom at Arlington High School in Arlington, Mass.



Emma Schambers, 18, of East Greenwich, RI, wears a prom dress once belonging to her late friend Catherine Malatesta, in front of Schambers' home in East Greenwich.



Jennifer Goodwin, Jillian Dalton wears Catherine Malatesta's prom dress at her home in Arlington, Mass. — AP photos

## Traveling prom dress sisterhood honors friend lost to cancer

**T**he Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" now has a real-life version: The Sisterhood of the Traveling Prom Dress. The last time many of Catherine Malatesta's friends saw her, she was wearing a huge smile and the deep blue, shimmering dress at her junior prom. Four days later, battling a rare cancer, she went into the hospital and never left. Now, four of Catherine's friends are honoring her by wearing that dress to their own proms, a gracious gesture her mother named after "Traveling Pants." And, like the pair of jeans in the books and movies that magically fits four teenage girls of different shapes and sizes, Catherine's dress works for all of them, with only temporary hemming for two of the girls.

"When each girl tried it on, it fit each one of them beautifully despite all having very different body types," said Catherine's mother, Jennifer Goodwin. "It is uncanny." There won't be any scheduling conflicts; the girls go to different schools, and their proms are on different dates. Another friend of Catherine's already has asked to wear the dress to her prom next year, while Catherine's seventh-grade cousin has asked Goodwin to save it for her prom, years down the road.

### Self-confidence

"It's a way of keeping her with me," said Jillian Danton, 17, who wore the dress to her junior prom at Arlington High School in April. "All of us being able to have this piece of her is healing." Catherine was a bubbly girl with an easy



Emma Schambers, 18, of East Greenwich, RI, displays a bracelet with a charm and beads she wears in memory of her late friend Catherine Malatesta.

self-confidence and a silly sense of humor. She loved to act in school plays, taught religious education to first-graders, gladly debated anyone on any topic, and was the life of the party. "Everyone knew her as the nice girl who made people laugh," said Carly Blau, a friend from summer camp who plans to wear the dress to her senior prom next month at Beverly High.

Catherine played field hockey and was on the Arlington

High crew team. In autumn 2014, she told her parents she was having some pain in her shoulder. They thought it was an athletic injury, but after doctors' visits, they got the diagnosis: Catherine, 16, had epithelioid sarcoma, an aggressive cancer. She started chemotherapy the day after Christmas, then had radiation, then simultaneous courses of both. She also participated in a clinical trial. But the cancer had spread to her lungs and spine. She died Aug. 2, a little over two months after her prom.

The idea for the traveling prom dress was born when Catherine's mother called Jillian about three months after Catherine died and asked if she would like to wear it to her prom. Two months later, Goodwin invited some of Catherine's other friends over to pick out something to remember her by. The girls saw the sleek blue prom dress hanging on her closet door. "One of us said, 'We should wear it to our proms,' and we all said, 'Catherine would love that,'" said Emma Schambers, who plans to wear the dress to her senior prom in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, on May 13. The gown has a halter-style neckline that covered the port Catherine had for her medications.

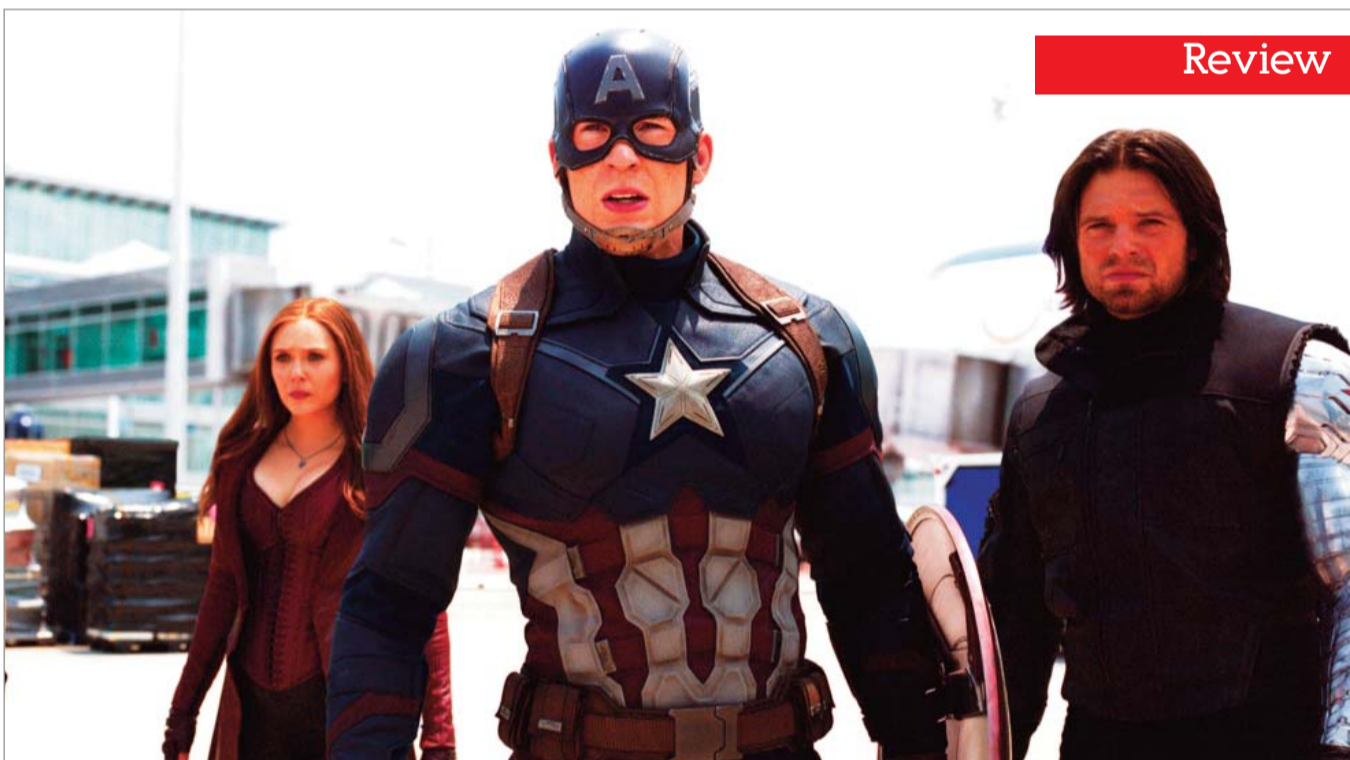
### Blissful-looking girl

Catherine had lost her hair, so her mother bought a wig that a hairdresser styled into an updo that framed her face with a braid. A makeup artist evened out her skin tone, which had been dotted by acne caused by her treatments. Photos from that night show a blissful-looking girl with a

glowing smile, even though she was frail after being released from the hospital just the night before.

"She looked at me and said, 'Mom, for the first time in a long time, I actually feel beautiful,'" Goodwin said. Through months of grueling cancer treatments, she had been forced to miss out on some important things in her life: the lead in a school play, a choral trip to Italy and a counselor's job at summer camp. She pushed through, never complaining, her mother said.

Some weeks, her mother drove her to school for a 7 am chorus practice, then picked her up to take her to Boston for cancer treatments. After a nap, she'd head back to school for afternoon classes. She ran for student council president and won. Lauren Hourican, a close friend from Arlington, recalled going to school dances with Catherine and watching her do "an absolutely insane kind of dancing." She plans to wear the dress to her senior prom May 20. "She'll be back out on the dance floor where she belongs," she said. — AP



This image released by Disney shows Elizabeth Olsen, left, Chris Evans and Sebastian Stan in a scene from Marvel's 'Captain America: Civil War,' opening in theaters nationwide on May 6, 2016. — AP

## The Avengers divide in revitalizing 'Civil War'

**C**onventional movie wisdom would suggest that there can only be diminishing returns with long-running franchises. There must be a breaking point, right? Especially at movie four, five, six and beyond. There are exceptions, sure, but even the painstakingly plotted Marvel films have had low points. And yet in the ashes of "Avengers: Age of Ultron," the brain trust behind Marvel Studios and directors Joe and Anthony Russo have built what is easily one of the strongest films of their so-called cinematic universe with "Captain America: Civil War," an engaging, lively and just flat out fun use of the characters we've gotten to know across the last eight years and 12 films.

As our interest waned in the prospect of yet another supervillain threatening to destroy an entire city or planet, Marvel smartly pivoted and turned the conflict inward. With the near inevitability of a civilian death toll any time the Avengers are involved in an incident, the UN steps in with an accord proposing regulation and oversight. Essentially now, the Avengers need permission before they jump into action.

### Chance and coincidence

Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr) is for it. Steve Rogers/Captain America (Chris Evans) is against it. And the rest of the Avengers must decide where they side, leading to some interesting alliances - like Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) going against her pal Cap, Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) positioning against his friend

Black Widow, and so on. Some of it is rather silly, especially the villain Zemo, whose somewhat nonsense plan leaves a lot to chance and coincidence. Daniel Br,hl, as always, is great in the role, but still little more than a plot device - as though the screenwriters thought that it would be too dark for the good guys to fracture without a push from a manipulative outsider. The good news is that this Avengers movie in disguise keeps everything rather intimate for a superhero movie.

There are only so many times these films can get away with scenes of massive destruction - the thrill (and horror) of the spectacle starts to dull. In "Civil War" the combat is mostly hand-to-hand, the stakes are personal, and the set pieces small. The showdown of the superhero teams is confined to an airport runway, for instance. That airport sequence, by the way, is exceptionally entertaining. It's both witty and visually engaging and worth the price of admission. Cap, Falcon (Anthony Mackie), Scarlet Witch (Elizabeth Olsen), Hawkeye, Ant-Man (Paul Rudd) and the Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan) face off against Iron Man, Black Widow, War Machine (Don Cheadle), Vision (Paul Bettany) and the two newbies, Spider-Man (Tom Holland) and Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman).

### Comedic charm

It's also hard not to be a little cynical about the obvious corporate machinations of "Civil War," like the introduction of Spider-Man and

Black Panther - two characters who we already know are getting their own movies. Every moment with them feels like a trailer, and like the best trailers, we see only the finest stuff. "Civil War" dares you to not be won over by Holland's youthful comedic charm and Boseman's depth as the stoic prince in the killer suit. We also can conjecture, for instance, that Spider-Man doesn't ultimately have much of an impact on the plot because the actual Spider-Man movie will eventually come from Sony, not Disney. Does any of this really matter if the movies are good? No, of course not. We just know too much about the roadmap to make any of it seem spontaneous, surprising and organic.

Characters can't just break out from the pack on their own merits. If they could, Marvel probably would have resurrected the idea for a Black Widow movie by now. The thing is, Marvel makes it funny, and that charm and care is what has and will keep audiences coming back over and over again. "Captain America: Civil War," a Walt Disney Studios release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "extended sequences of violence, action and mayhem." Running time: 147 minutes. Three stars out of four. MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13. — AP

## Refugees-as-guides a hit at Berlin's museums

**M**ohamed Al-Subeeh was a senior restorer at Syria's best-known mosaic museum, but as war swept deeper into his province, destroying artefacts and threatening his and his family's lives, he was forced to flee. The 64-year-old from Idlib province never dreamt that he would ever work in a museum again, certainly not in Germany, to which he had fled in a 23-day journey that involved a rubber boat ride across the Mediterranean, endless bus and train rides and hours of trekking on foot.

But when he heard about a project at some of Berlin's top museums that trains newcomers to become Arabic-language guides for fellow refugees, he leapt at the opportunity. "I loved my work in Syria. Being a guide here today makes me feel like I'm getting a bit of my life back," Subeeh, who used to work at Maaret Al-Numan museum, told AFP. Subeeh, who arrived in Germany last August, now takes groups of Syrian, Iraqi and other Arabic-speaking refugees on tours through the Bode Museum, where artefacts include a large mosaic piece from Ravenna, Italy.

As part of a bid to integrate refugees into Germany, several museums run by the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, which administers the capital's state museums, came up with the unique project. Nineteen new arrivals were selected to participate in the program, which entailed taking a course about the artefacts or art works that they would be introducing to fellow refugees.

"We also learnt about how to capture their interest, so that they don't get bored during the one-hour tour," said another guide Kefah Ali Deeb, a Syrian opposition activist who says she was jailed four times by the regime before she fled. Deeb, who now conducts tours at the Pergamon Museum, said she is grateful for the opportunity to "meet other Syrians and Iraqis and to tell them about our own heritage."

### 'Feels like coming home'

Every Wednesday and Saturday, a tour takes visitors to see one of the participating collections - the Museum for Islamic Art, the Near East Museum, the Sculpture Collection, the Byzantium Art Museum as well as the German History Museum. Since December, 3,000 refugees have joined such sessions to view artefacts from their own heritage, and to learn about Germany's tumultuous history. The tours have proved so popular that the organizers are looking at expanding the program to include "intercultural workshops, which the Berlin public can also participate in".

Graphic designer Shadi Zayab, who arrived in Germany just four months ago after fleeing Syria to avoid military conscription, was on his second visit to the Pergamon Museum. "I really enjoy this. It's important to me to see this art, these colors, materials, everything here. It feels like coming home," he said, after a tour that included an ornately decorated wall alcove which comes from a Damascus house. After taking in more than 1.1 million asylum seekers in 2015 alone, Germany is shifting gears

from its emergency refugee relief work to integrating the newcomers. Key cultural institutions in the country have also chipped in, including Berlin's world-renowned orchestras which this year organised a special concert for refugees and volunteers.



This file photo shows Mohamed Al-Subeeh, who used to work in the Mosaics Museum at Maaret Al-Numan in Idlib province, and is now a guide at Berlin's Bode Museum poses for a photo at a ceremony. — AFP

### Lessons from history

Hermann Parzinger, president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, underlined the significance of the collections included in the Multaka project. The project, whose name translates into "meeting point", includes Arabic and Islamic art collections as they are "particularly important for people who have lost their homeland and who now find themselves in a foreign land", Parzinger said. Christian art is also in the mix as it shows newcomers "the society in which they now live and which they need to understand". The participation of the German history museum meanwhile showcases "the complete destruction in the 20th century, but despite that, the rebuilding - that is a vision for people to take courage and be confident in their future," said Parzinger.

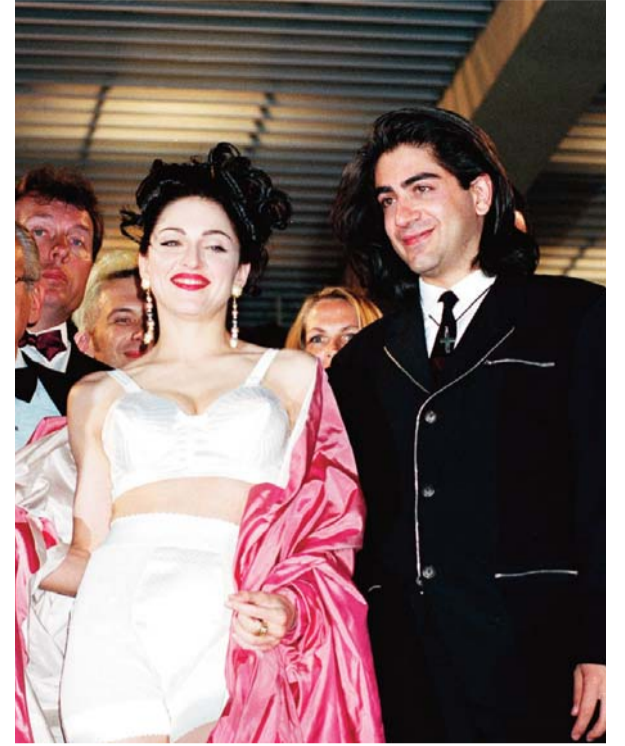
That was also a message that Bashar al-Mohammad al-Shahin, who used to work as a museum guide in Syria, wanted to give to fellow citizens he was taking on tours in Berlin. "In the First World War, the Second World War, millions of people were killed here, there was a lot of destruction. "But Germany became the top country in democracy, technology and economy, so we have to learn. One day when we come back home, we have to do the same, we have to build our homeland," he told AFP. — AFP



In this Sunday, May 18, 2008 file photo, American producer George Lucas, left, American actor Harrison Ford, center, and American director Steven Spielberg pose for photographers at the "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" photo call during the 61st International film festival in Cannes, France. — AP photos



In this Saturday, May 24, 2014 file photo, actress Uma Thurman, left, and director Quentin Tarantino dance as they arrive for the awards ceremony at the 67th international film festival, Cannes, France.



In this May 14, 1991 file photo, Madonna leaves the screening of her movie 'In Bed with Madonna' with director Alek Keshishian, right, at the 44th Cannes Film Festival in France.



In this May 13, 1986 file photo, singer Grace Jones is photographed in Cannes, France during the the 39th film festival.

# The glitz and glamour of Cannes through the years

The Cannes Film Festival officially gets underway Wednesday and as usual it's set to be one of the most dazzling events in the European calendar. The festival, in its 69th year, brings a mix of Hollywood A-listers and world cinema auteurs to the French Riviera.

This year, films by Pedro Almodovar, Sean Penn, Keanu Reeves and Asghar Farhadi are among those competing for the coveted Palme d'Or. Stars including George Clooney, Kristen Stewart, Charlize Theron, Julia Roberts and Gerard Depardieu are due to climb the famous red-carpeted steps outside the Palais, Cannes' main movie venue.

Away from the glare of the competition, thousands of celeb-spotters will throng the boutique-lined Boulevard de la Croisette, one of Europe's glitziest seafront promenades. Looking out to sea, the super-yachts on display will no doubt get their fair share of attention as well. The Associated Press has been on the French Riviera for years chronicling the serious business of the festival as well as the accompanying stardust. Here are some moments captured by photographers from The AP over the years that illustrate some of Cannes' trademark style and glamour. — AP



In this Thursday, May 24, 2007 file photo, American actors, from left, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and George Clooney arrive for the screening of the film 'Ocean's Thirteen,' at the 60th International film festival in Cannes, France.



In this May 13, 1979 file photo, British actress Joan Collins poses for the media before the presentation of her film 'The B\*\*h' at the 32nd International Film Festival in Cannes, France.



In this May 20, 1977 file photo, Arnold Schwarzenegger shows off his body for an appreciative beach audience in Cannes, France, ahead of the presentation of his film "Pumping Iron" at the Cannes Film Festival.



In this May 7, 1972 file photo, from left, actor Robert Redford and wife Lola, and director Sydney Pollack and wife, Claire Griswold arrive at Festival Palace for the presentation of American film 'Jeremiah Johnson' in Cannes, France.



In this May 9, 1963 file photo, director Alfred Hitchcock and American actress Tippi Hedren arrive at the Carlton Hotel in Cannes, France for the presentation of their film "The Birds" at the Festival Palace.



In this May 13, 1976 file photo, Gene Kelly, left, and Fred Astaire arrive at the Festival Palace for the presentation of 'That's Entertainment Part 2,' which opened the 30th Cannes International Film Festival in Cannes, France.



In this May 7, 1962 file photo, Italian actress Sophia Loren, center right, and her company are protected by police as they arrive at Festival Palace for the opening of the Cannes film festival.



In this May 13, 1959 file photo, American actress Kim Novak dances with Cary Grant after the presentation of the American film entry 'Middle of the Night,' at a US reception at the Cannes Film Festival.



In this May 16, 1956 file photo Ingrid Bergman is snapped from all sides by a crowd of photographers at Cannes, France.



This combination of file pictures created on April 14, 2016 shows (from top left) New Zealand-born Australian actor Russell Crowe, South African and US actress Charlize Theron, US actress Kristen Stewart, French actor Vincent Cassel, French actress Adele Exarchopoulos, French actress Juliette Binoche, French actress Marion Cotillard, Spanish actor Javier Bardem, French actress Adele Haenel, Canadian actor Ryan Gosling, French actress Lea Seydoux, US actor Adam Driver, Italian actress and director Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, French actor Fabrice Luchini, French actress Isabelle Huppert. — AFP

## Kristen Stewart, Marion Cotillard: Queens of Cannes 2016

There will be no shortage of movie star royalty at the Cannes film festival, but the true queens of this year's red carpet will be "Twilight" megastar turned indie darling Kristen Stewart and French film siren Marion Cotillard. Both actresses are sweeping into the French resort town with two films in the official selection. Cotillard, 40, who has become a transatlantic celebrity with an Oscar and several Hollywood blockbusters under her belt, will appear in two films in the running for the top prize, the Palme d'Or.

In "From the Land of the Moon", set just after World War II, Cotillard stars as a woman caught in an unhappy marriage who falls in love again. She also stars in "It's Only the End of the World" by French Canadian wunderkind Xavier Dolan, about a writer who returns home to tell his family he is dying. While Cotillard was the first French actress since 1960 to win America's highest acting award in 2008, Kristen Stewart became the first American actress ever to win France's equivalent, the Cesar, in 2015, for her supporting role in

### 'Clouds of Sils Maria'

Stewart, 26, became a celebrity icon for an entire generation as Bella in the blockbuster vampire romance-thriller trilogy "Twilight" but has gained a reputation for taking on passion projects, sometimes for little pay. "I take part in successful productions to facilitate the existence of more modest films," she told France's Le Monde magazine. This year she appears in the out-of-competition opening film, Woody Allen's "Cafe Society", about a young couple who fall in love in 1930s Hollywood.

She is also starring in "Personal Shopper", a ghost story set in the Paris fashion world which is in the running for the Palme d'Or, teaming up again with "Sils Maria" director, France's Olivier Assayas. Stewart, a Los Angeles native, was first discovered by a talent scout who spotted her in a school play at the age of eight. Her breakout role came opposite Jodie Foster in the 2002 thriller "Panic Room" and at 17 her career rocketed into the stratosphere when she landed the role of Bella Swan in "Twilight". Her relationship with "Twilight" co-star Robert Pattinson made her a tabloid favorite, particularly after she was pictured cheating on him with then-married director Rupert Sanders in 2012.



This file photo shows French actor Jean-Pierre Leaud smiling as he arrives for the screening of the film 'The Search' at the 67th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

## Cannes to award Truffaut's muse honorary Palme d'Or

Jean-Pierre Leaud, the actor regarded by French New Wave great Francois Truffaut as his double, is to be given an honorary Palme d'Or, the organisers of the Cannes film festival said yesterday on the eve of its opening. Leaud, 71, made his debut at Cannes at just 14 in 1959 in Truffaut's semi-autobiographical masterpiece "The 400 Blows", with the director later admitting that the actor was effectively playing him.

He later went on to star in other Truffaut classics such as "Stolen Kisses" and "Bed and Board". But the director's untimely death aged 54 in 1984 was a disaster for the actor who was so closely associated with the master. "Jean-Pierre Leaud is part of Cannes legend," the festival said in a statement. "His spontaneity was representative of the wind of freedom that the French New Wave brought to cinema." Although Leaud also worked with the other great New Wave director Jean-Luc Godard, his career never quite recovered. The Palme d'Or is the highest prize at Cannes and will be awarded just before the close of the festival on May 22. —AFP

The festival will also feature young up-and-comers with plenty of celebrity blood in their veins, Lily-Rose Depp and Elle Fanning. With parents like Hollywood superstar Johnny Depp and French singer and actress Vanessa Paradis, Lily-Rose was never going to fly under the radar, and the 16-year-old has already turned to acting and become the teenage face of Chanel. She makes her Cannes debut as legendary American dance prodigy Isadora Duncan in "La Danseuse" (The Dancer) which will be shown in the "Un Certain Regard" section of the festival.

The young Depp made her cinema debut alongside her famous father in Kevin Smith's 2014 horror comedy "Tusk". She also stars in the upcoming French drama "Planetarium" alongside Natalie Portman. Another Cannes teen star is American actress Ellie Fanning, 18, who features in Danish director Nicolas Winding Refn's horror thriller "The Neon Demon" about cannibalistic models. The film is being shown in competition and is Refn's first at Cannes since his "Only God Forgives" was booted three years ago.

Elle Fanning is the younger sister of former child star Dakota Fanning. Her ascent into stardom began when she was just two years old, playing a younger version of her sister's character in the 2001 Michelle Pfeiffer/Sean Penn film "I am Sam". She has also appeared in Sofia Coppola's "Somewhere" and Francis Ford Coppola's "Twixt".

### Dunst on jury duty

Another Cannes queen is American film star Kirsten Dunst, one of four women on the nine-member jury who will decide who wins the Palme d'Or, the top prize at the world's most prestigious film festival. Dunst, 34, lifted the best actress award at Cannes five years ago for her part in Lars von Trier's "Melancholia". Like some of her fellow Cannes royalty, she was a child star before building a glittering career by mixing arthouse hits like "Interview with the Vampire" and "The Virgin Suicides" with the "Spider-Man" films. She will soon be seen in "Woodstock", a first foray into film-making for Los Angeles fashion designers Kate and Laura Mulleavy. — AFP

## Taylor to donate money to fire-ravaged Fort McMurray

James Taylor is using his music to help people evacuated from a huge wildfire in Canada. The "Carolina in My Mind" singer has turned two Alberta concerts next month into benefits. Proceeds from tickets to his shows in Calgary on June 7 and Edmonton on June 8 will be donated to the Canadian Red Cross to help victims of what Taylor says is a major national catastrophe that's just impossible to ignore. "It's really a part of human nature to respond to things like this by wanting to lend a hand if you can. You'd like to feel as though people would be there for you if you were in a similar situation," Taylor told The Associated Press by phone on Monday.

Taylor says the idea came from conversations with his Canadian manager Sam Feldman as he arrived for a 15-concert tour of Canadian cities over the next month. He said the two shows would raise "at least a quarter of a million, maybe a \$100,000 more than that." —AP



In this July 9, 2015 file photo, singer-songwriter James Taylor performs in concert at the Giant Center in Hershey, Pa. — AP

## Team player Russell Crowe shines in private eye bromance

Russell Crowe was preparing on set to shoot Ridley Scott's 2010 epic "Robin Hood" when word reached him that his co-star, stage and screen legend William Hurt, was freaking out. Crowe rushed to the side of his fellow Oscar winner, who had been hired to play William Marshal, first earl of Pembroke, but was in emotional turmoil over his inability to get into character. "I realized he simply just wanted to know what we were doing. So I started to talk to him about his character and he didn't realize his character was an actual historical figure of great importance," Crowe recalled.

"So I just started to go out to my trailer and bring him pages and pages of research, and things to think about and talk about. We had a 25- to 30-minute conversation in a car park." The chat, said Crowe, was transformative: Hurt found his mojo and cast aside his worries to give one of his best performances and become an inspiration to the cast. Crowe, a veteran of more than 40 movies, recounted this episode not to show off, but to demonstrate that teamwork is one of the most important aspects of the job.

Perhaps he was showing off a little. The star was warming up toward the end of a roundtable interview to promote comedy-thriller "The Nice Guys," and appeared to be enjoying himself. Crowe won a best actor Oscar in 2000 for "Gladiator" and followed it with a BAFTA and Golden Globe for his stunning portrayal of schizophrenic mathematician John Nash in "A Beautiful Mind."

### 'Illiterate plonker'

Still one of the most recognizable actors in the world, the famously short-tempered Hollywood A-lister cuts an intimidating figure, despite being polite and jovial. Even at his fighting weight, the lifelong smoker is a stocky six-footer (1.8 meters) but now, aged 52, he doesn't look like he's paused at the salads and soups section of the menu for a good number of years. Crowe has generated his fair share of negative headlines through a number of public altercations, and is famously sensitive about criticism.

He enthused about how much the cast and crew of his latest movie care about their craft but then, unprompted, seamlessly turned what ought to have been a positive point into an unquotably swearsy swipe at his critics. Catherine Shoard, a film writer from the London-based Guardian newspaper, recalled being upbraided for her lukewarm review of "Les Miserables" by an irate Crowe, who tweeted that she was "an illiterate plonker." "It made me like him more: here is a man of passion and engagement, unafraid to speak out," she wrote, despite describing him as having "the heart of a sappy 11-year-old girl inside the body of a 50-year-old bruiser."

Born in New Zealand, Crowe has lived in his beloved Australia since he was a small child and owns a \$10 million house in Sydney as well as a 790-acre (320-hectare) country estate. From modest beginnings in a Wellington suburb, he has done rather well and,



This file photo shows actor/director Russell Crowe attends the premiere of 'The Water Diviner' at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, California. — AFP

unlike many of his contemporaries, has never really suffered a falloff period in a career studded with blockbusters.

### Deep connection

There was little need for the father of two to risk tying himself to "The Nice Guys," a smart but obscure private eye story-part noir thriller, part laugh-a-minute farce-set in the smog of 1970s Los Angeles. Crowe revealed he had planned to turn down the role of battle-scarred enforcer Jackson Healy by getting director Shane Black drunk and letting him down gently. But he quickly changed his mind after discovering the filmmaker doesn't drink—and that he had persuaded Ryan Gosling to join the movie, which gets its US release through Warner Bros. on May 20.

The chemistry between the pair elevates "The Nice Guys" from a clever piece of counter programming for moviegoers who aren't interested in superheroes into an early contender for Oscars. "Ryan is a cineaste, he has a knowledge of the history of film," Crowe said. "So if you're seeing things in his performance that feel like it stretches between Harold Lloyd and Gene Wilder... he knows where he's going with that stuff." "The Nice Guys" sees Crowe sharing his first scenes with Kim Basinger since they co-starred in another noir thriller 19 years ago.

"The relationship we had on 'LA Confidential' was so intimate, the scenes we had to do were so intimate. We connected so deeply and I loved it," Crowe said. But he added that the pair have not spoken for more than a decade and that their relationship on "The Nice Guys" was "not the same thing—it's not like we were connected the same way we were in that film." — AFP



Workers install a part of the red carpet yesterday at the Festival Palace in Cannes, on the eve of the beginning of the 69th Cannes film festival. — AFP photos

## Finishing touches to Cannes before red carpet unfurls

An army of workers built giant screens and tested spotlights in Cannes yesterday as the rich and famous were set to invade the French Riviera town for two weeks of film and fun—all under maximum security. A lone cleaner painstakingly mopped the staircase to the Palais des Festivals, the main venue for the world's top film festival, before the red carpet is unrolled to welcome a host of Hollywood stars when the cinema extravaganza gets underway tonight.

"Is this where the red carpet goes? Really?" an excited Chinese tourist breathlessly asks a fellow traveller, joining dozens others walking up and down the Croisette beach strip snapping selfies. The population of the picturesque Mediterranean town is set to nearly triple to some 200,000 people as film producers, industry workers, actors and tourists roll in to soak up the glamour, sell films, network and party. The 69th Cannes film festival has created a security headache worthy of a movie script for French authorities who have highlighted an unprecedented terror threat six months after a series of attacks left 130 people dead in Paris.

"We must keep in mind as we prepare to open this festival, that we are faced with a risk which has never been as high, and faced with an enemy determined to strike us at any moment," Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said on a visit to Cannes Monday. As a result an "extraordinary mobilization" of security forces has been put in place, with 400 private security agents deployed around the Palais des Festivals to control who goes in and out and check the bags of those entering. Cazeneuve said bomb experts would carry out daily sweeps before film screenings at the venue. Hundreds more police officers and specialized units will be on duty in the city, whose lure for the rich and famous makes it equally attractive to jewelry thieves—with several multi-million dollar heists in recent years.

### Balancing security and fun

Just along the coast from Nice on the French Riviera, Cannes is home to 500 CCTV cameras, making it the most closely monitored town in France, said mayor David Lisnard. He dismissed concerns that the tight security will throw a wet blanket over the parties, glitter and glamour of the event. "Do you think an attack brings merriment? We have succeeded in preserving the festival atmosphere. The public will be at the foot of the (red-carpeted) steps. All the parties will be authorized, but, security must be taken care of,"

he told AFP. "Cannes must be protected not because of the cocktail parties, but because it is a professional event of a high level which brings honor to France." Last month elite police forces staged a simulated terror attack at the Palais des Festivals, where the films in the running for the main Palme d'Or prize are shown. As part of the tight security, air and sea exclusion zones have been declared, as well as a ban on drones, and Lisnard has said random searches will be conducted in the streets of Cannes.

### Will rain soak red carpet?

The film festival is likely to get off to a rain-drenched start with a downpour predicted for Wednesday night when Woody Allen's "Cafe Society" starring Kristen Stewart will open the event. The movie, about a young couple who fall in love in 1930s Hollywood, is being screened out of competition. With the clock ticking down to festival time, cranes, production trucks and construction equipment lined the Croisette where seaside dancefloors were hammered into place, and a giant screen erected on the beach.

In the Cannes port, crew members scrubbed and shined the sleek yachts where many of the festival's parties take place. Several billionaires have parked their superyachts along the Riviera for the festival: Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen's "Octopus" was in Nice and director Steven Spielberg's "Seven Seas" in Antibes, according to Forbes.com. Among the stars expected on the red carpet during the festival are Julia Roberts, Jodi Foster, Sean Penn, Robert De Niro, Kirsten Dunst, Charlize Theron and George Clooney. — AFP



A picture taken yesterday in Cannes shows a statue holding a golden palm two days ahead of the 69th Cannes film festival.

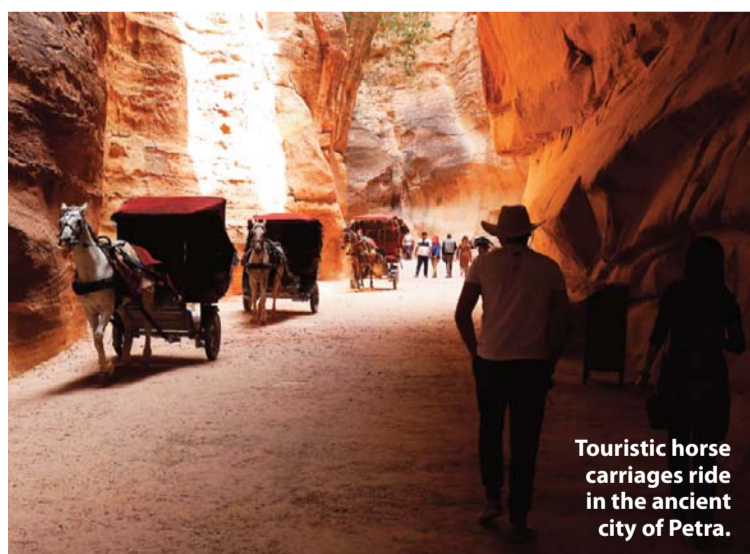


A Jordanian Bedouin sits on a camel in front of the Treasury Building in the ancient city of Petra in Jordan yesterday. Established as the capital city of the Nabataeans, the rose rock city is Jordan's most popular touristic site and was chosen as one of the seven New Wonders of the World in 2007. — AFP photos

## Behind picture postcard, life is tough for Petra's animals



Tourists visit the ancient city of Petra.



Touristic horse carriages ride in the ancient city of Petra.



Tourists visit the ancient city of Petra.

On a hot sunny day in Jordan's Petra, two tourists in the back of a horse-drawn carriage gaze over the picturesque lost city. The horse is reluctant to move forward - it has been a long and grueling day transporting tourists on tricky, rocky terrain. The oblivious passengers don't notice when the frustrated coach driver unleashes a frenzied lashing of his horse. A short distance away next to the visitor center, dozens of horses, donkeys, mules and camels stand idle under the blistering sun without shade.

They are some of the 1,350 animals put to work ferrying tourists at one of the most famous and beautiful landmarks in the Middle East, renowned worldwide for its unique giant rock-cut architecture. For years the only professional care for the animals came from a small and ageing veterinary clinic. But now two charities have joined forces with Jordan's government to improve the welfare of the animals who walk the trails of a UNESCO World Heritage site that in 2007 was elected one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. "There was no treatment here. A few months ago I had to kill a horse because I couldn't offer him the appropriate treatment," said Imad Hlalet, a veterinarian at the Petra clinic, where seven to 15 animals are treated per day. The animals transport visitors on their backs or in carriages over 10-kilometer (six-mile) treks through the ancient city of the Nabataeans, which dates back to 400 BC.

### Exhaustion, Lameness, Colic

The trails through towering canyons once carried frankincense, myrrh, silk and slaves but today the traffic is tourists - more than half a million a year according to the Petra National Trust. The animals are kept in poor conditions and forced to carry or pull weights that are often far too heavy for their size, activists say. The working days are far too long and many of the animals also have no shade, insufficient food and water and no quiet places to rest.

With limited access to veterinary care, many suffer from exhaustion, lameness and colic. Concerned over their treatment, the Four Paws Animal Welfare group and the Princess Alia Foundation are working with the ministry of tourism to usher in a program aimed at halting

abuse and improving living conditions. Vienna-based Four Paws will start providing the clinic with much-needed supplies of drugs and equipment. It will also train local veterinarians, project leader Robert Hengl said.

Stables, rest areas to protect horses from the sun and troughs are also planned before the summer, when temperatures soar above 40 degrees Celsius. "The first advice we give is to avoid overworking animals," Hengl said, adding that an awareness campaign underway is as important as the treatment. At the clinic a team from Four Paws is already in action.

### Syria War Knock-On Effect

Abbayah, a mare, is being seen for the first time. "I cleaned the wound and administered an antibiotic. She must rest for a few weeks and she will be much better," Rosu tells Abbayah's owner, Ahmed Mchaalia. Local guides have welcomed the new initiative, complaining that the current medical center is ill-equipped and cannot cope with the number of animals requiring medical treatment. Petra's animals are regularly victims of injury as they work over rough and slippery trails - especially the Siq path, a winding and narrow gorge between sandstone mountains that many of the animals cross several times a day.

Activists and veterinarians say animals drawing carriages are especially vulnerable. "We have asked the ministry of tourism to ban horse-drawn carriages, but they told us that this method of transport was essential for tourists who can't handle the long walk," Hlalet said. The conflict in Jordan's neighbor Syria has also had a knock-on effect on the animals. Guides - often oblivious to their animals' welfare - are pushing their animals harder to make ends meet due to a significant drop in tourists since the start of Syria's civil conflict four years ago.

About 975,000 people visited Petra in 2010. Last year the number was about 596,600. Waiting for clients with his horse at the entrance to Petra, Tarek echoes the complaints of many of his fellow guides. "Tourism is dead at the moment in Jordan." — AFP



A tourist takes a ride on a horse carriage in the ancient city of Petra.



Camels are seen in front of a souvenirs shop in the ancient city of Petra in Jordan.



Touristic horse carriages ride in the ancient city of Petra in Jordan. They are some of the 1,350 animals put to work ferrying tourists at one of the most famous and beautiful landmarks in the Middle East, renowned worldwide for its unique giant rock-cut architecture. A new law was passed at the end of March 2016 which will regulate the working conditions of the horse owners and horses in the Petra park.



A horse and a dog are seen next to Jordanian national flags in the ancient city of Petra in Jordan.