

**Abolish 153 founder speaks about campaign's goals, progress**

**ABOLISH ARTICLE 153**

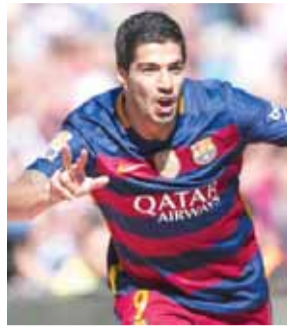
**Dragic on fire as Heat scorch Raptors**



**Guardiola signs off at Bayern with German league title**



**Barcelona win La Liga title with Suarez hat-trick**



## KUWAIT'S CREDIT RATING CONFIRMED BY MOODY'S

AGENCY ASSIGNS NEGATIVE OUTLOOK OVER CONCERNS



Min 25°  
Max 42°  
High Tide 07:33 & 18:12  
Low Tide 00:38 & 12:55

## ANTI-ISRAEL CARTOON CONTEST OPENS IN TEHRAN

**TEHRAN:** Iranians staged an international contest for cartoons depicting the Holocaust yesterday but insisted the event was aimed at criticizing alleged Western double standards regarding free expression and not at denying the Nazi genocide. The event was nevertheless likely to shock many around the world and could embarrass Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and other moderates who have tried to improve ties with the West following last year's landmark nuclear deal.

Iran has long backed armed groups committed to Israel's destruction and its leaders have called for it to be wiped off the map. Iran has also criticized depictions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), arguing that Western countries tolerate expression deemed offensive to Islam but not the questioning or denial of the Holocaust. "We have never been after denying of the Holocaust or ridiculing its victims," contest organizer Masuod Shojai Tabatabaei said in a speech opening the event. "If you find a single design that ridicules victims or denies, we are ready to close the exhibition," he said. "Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust were subject to oppression by Nazis."

Nazi Germany and its collaborators killed 6 million Jews during the World War II-era genocide. The denial or questioning of the genocide is widespread in the Middle East, where many believe it has been used as a pretext for the creation of Israel and to excuse Israel's

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**TEHRAN:** An Iranian woman looks at anti-Israel cartoons displayed at the second international exhibition of drawings and cartoons on the Holocaust yesterday. — AFP

**KUWAIT:** Moody's has confirmed the Aa2 ratings of Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar but assigned negative rating outlooks, while it downgraded the ratings of Saudi Arabia (to A1 stable), Bahrain (to Ba2 negative) and Oman (to Baa1 stable). In its online ratings for the GCC countries, the rating agency said the confirmation of Kuwait's Aa2 rating reflects Moody's view that, despite the negative effect of a protracted period of low oil prices on the economy, government finances and external strength, the state's overall credit profile remains consistent with an Aa2 rating.

The decision to assign a negative outlook reflects Moody's view that there remain material uncertainties around the Kuwaiti government's ability to effectively implement its fiscal and economic reform program, which has the stated objective of diversifying and enhancing the economic base and its budgetary revenues. According to Moody's, the Kuwaiti government's inability to do so would be a signal of a level of institutional weakness that is inconsistent with an Aa2 rating.

Kuwait's long-term and short-term foreign-currency bond and deposit ceilings remain at Aa2 and Prime-1, respectively. Kuwait's long-term local-currency country risk ceilings also remain at Aa2. The decision to confirm the government of Kuwait's Aa2 rating reflects Moody's assessment that the negative impact of the low oil price is manageable because of Kuwait's very robust government balance sheet, characterized by low levels of government debt and large domestic and external assets; its very high per capita wealth; and its very low fiscal and external breakeven oil prices, which limit the deterioration in fiscal and current account balances.

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### News

in brief

#### Kuwait: Iran, others must freeze output

**DUBAI:** Kuwait's deputy foreign minister Khaled Jarallah said oil exporting countries must freeze production and the market could not support a production increase from Iran, state news agency KUNA reported yesterday. "There is no choice but to freeze production," KUNA quoted Jarallah as telling Japanese news agency Jiji press while he and acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh attend a Kuwait-Japan business seminar in Tokyo. Asked about Iranian production policy, Jarallah said, "Iran should learn from the market ... the market does not give an opportunity to increase production." OPEC members and other oil exporters failed in a meeting in the Qatari capital Doha on April 17 to reach an agreement on freezing their output to rebalance the global oil market.



Khaled Al-Jarallah

#### 64 killed by lightning across Bangladesh

**DHAKA:** More than 60 people have been killed by lightning over the past two days during tropical storms across Bangladesh, local media said yesterday. Most of the 64 lightning deaths since Thursday have occurred in rural Bangladesh, where farmers are busy with the current harvesting season, leading Bengali-language newspapers Prothom Alo and Samakal reported. The reports of casualties could not be verified independently, with lightning deaths not usually monitored by government agencies. Experts say increased deforestation and people's exposure to metal equipment like cellphones are the reasons behind lightning deaths in Bangladesh.

#### Menem tells court son was killed by Hezbollah

**BUENOS AIRES:** Former Argentine President Carlos Menem said Friday he believes his son was killed by the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which prosecutors also suspect was behind two 1990s bombings in Buenos Aires. In testimony to a judge overseeing the investigation of his son's death 21 years ago, Menem said that then-Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella had told him he heard through foreign embassies of Hezbollah's alleged involvement. But Menem, who was president from 1989-1999 and is currently a senator, did not give further details or any evidence for the claim. Carlos Facundo Menem was 26 when the helicopter he was piloting crashed on March 15, 1995. Menem and his ex-wife have long said they believed their son was slain, but had not previously specified who they thought killed him.

## SYKES-PICOT STILL VILIFIED 100 YEARS ON

### DEAL THAT FOREVER CHANGED MIDEAST

**PARIS:** On May 16, 1916, a secret pact carved up the floundering Ottoman Empire into spheres of British and French interest, foreshadowing the future map of the Middle East and, say critics, sowing the seeds of many of its problems. The Sykes-Picot agreement between the British and French governments for partitioning the empire's Arab provinces was struck at the height of World War I, as the two allies and Russia grappled with Turkey and its backers, Germany and Austria-Hungary. In legal terms, the deal - named after a pair of British and French diplomats, Sir Mark Sykes and Francois Georges-Picot - only remained on paper. But its geopolitical impact would resound for decades. Clandestine negotiations started in Nov 1915, amid parallel moves to establish a new front during the war and counter the declaration of a holy war, or jihad, by the German-backed Ottoman sultan-caliph. As part of those moves negotiations took place with the then ruler of Makkah, Sharif

Hussein, in which Britain's High Commissioner in Egypt, Henry McMahon, dangled the prospect of an independent Arab state.

Britain and France were well established in the region - France through economic and cultural influence in the area known as the Levant, and Britain in Egypt, which London had occupied since 1882. Pointing to a map before him to designate areas of interest, Sykes said: "I should like to draw a line from the 'e' in Acre (on the Mediterranean coast) to the last 'k' in Kirkuk (in modern-day Iraq)." Territory north of the line would come under French protection, directly or indirectly, and territory to the south would be controlled directly or indirectly by the British.

France would take control of a "Blue Zone" that included Lebanon, the Syrian coast and parts of what is now Turkey. Within a "Red Zone," Britain would get southern Mesopotamia, or Iraq including Baghdad, along with the Mediterranean ports of Haifa and Acre.

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Mark Sykes



Francois Georges-Picot

**PARIS:** The Sykes-Picot Agreement, signed a century ago on Monday, drew the borders of the modern-day Middle East from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire, but has often been blamed for many of the region's problems. Two historians, in interviews with AFP, address questions about the secret deal that are still being asked today. Is the modern-day Middle East the direct descendant of this agreement?

Henry Laurens, a professor at the prestigious College de France university, said the Sykes-Picot borders were largely renegotiated between 1916 and 1922, so the initial map "bears no resemblance" to the current situation. Sykes-Picot is often accused of having divided up the Arab world, but in fact the original text only

foresaw the creation of "one or several Arab states" in the shared areas under French and British influence. The agreement makes no mention of "a Jewish state or of Lebanon", the researcher said.

Palestine and Mosul - seized by the Islamic State jihadist group in Iraq - were supposed to be part of the areas under French influence. But France renounced those areas in 1918 under pressure from Britain. It also renounced Cilicia (modern-day Turkey) when nationalist Turks liberated Anatolia between 1919 and 1922. The original agreement was named after the two diplomats who drew them up, Britain's Mark Sykes and Francois Georges-Picot of France.

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**BEIRUT:** Adnan Badreddine (second left), brother of slain top Hezbollah commander Mustafa Badreddine who was killed in an attack in Syria, is seen during the funeral of Mustafa in the Ghoheiry neighborhood of southern Beirut on Friday. — AFP

## HEZBOLLAH SAYS EXTREMISTS KILLED COMMANDER IN SYRIA

**BEIRUT:** Hezbollah said yesterday its top military commander, whose death it announced on Friday, was killed in Syria by Islamist artillery fire and not by an Israeli air strike as one member of the Lebanese movement had said. "Investigations have showed that the explosion, which targeted one of our bases near Damascus International Airport, and which led to the martyrdom of commander Mustafa Badreddine, was the result of artillery bombardment carried out by takfiri groups in the area," Hezbollah said in a statement.

Hezbollah is fighting in Syria, backing President Bashar Al-Assad against a range of groups including Islamic State and the Al-Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front. But a war monitoring group cast doubt on its version of Badreddine's death, saying there had been no shelling by rebels in that area for more than a week. Damascus airport and its surroundings are controlled by the Syrian government and allied forces. Between it and government-held central

Damascus, rebels control a portion of the Eastern Ghouta suburb, which has experienced fighting for most of the conflict now in its sixth year.

"There has been no recorded shelling or firing from the Eastern Ghouta area onto Damascus International Airport for more than a week," Syrian Observatory for Human Rights director Rami Abdulrahman told Reuters. Hezbollah's statement did not say when the attack took place or when Badreddine died. Badreddine was given a military funeral in Hezbollah's stronghold in southern Beirut on Friday. "The outcome of the investigation (into Badreddine's death) will increase our determination ... to continue the fight against these criminal gangs and defeat them," Hezbollah said.

Iran-backed Hezbollah, considered a terrorist group by the United States and Gulf Arab states, wields enormous political influence in Lebanon alongside its powerful military wing.

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**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah leaves to Cairo yesterday. — KUNA

## SHEIKH SALMAN IN CAIRO FOR ARAB YOUTH MINISTERS' MEETING

**CAIRO:** Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah arrived in the Egyptian capital Cairo yesterday, to take part in the 39th meeting of the council of Arab sports and youth ministers, slated for today. Also today, Sheikh Salman is expected to participate in a campaign designed to encourage youth to stave off extremist ideologies espoused by radical groups. Upon his arrival at the airport, Sheikh

Salman was received by deputy acting charge d'affaires of Kuwait's permanent mission to the Arab League Mohammad Al-Allati and the mission's diplomatic attach Mharab Al-Enezi.

In a statement before his departure, Sheikh Salman underscored the importance of the meeting, saying it is expected to yield much needed progress on issues related to the youth. Moreover, Sheikh Salman said that Kuwait is hard at work to prop up support of Arab youth, as he noted that

the status quo calls for increased commitment to youth-related issues.

The meeting will also feature a special campaign highlighting the perils of terrorism and its ill effects on many Arab societies, Sheikh Salman added. Kuwait's delegation to the meeting include Assistant Undersecretary of the Supportive Services sector at the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Yousef Al-Yatama and Sheikh Salman's advisor Dr Abdulaziz Al-Duaij. — KUNA

## AMIR'S HUMANITARIAN ROLE EXTOLLED

**MANAMA:** Director of the United Nations Information Centre for Arab Gulf countries Amin Al-Sharqawi yesterday praised the role of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in supporting humanitarian issues in various parts of the world. According to a press release issued by the Kuwaiti embassy in Bahrain, Sharqawi praised during a

meeting with the dean of the diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah, the "noble humanitarian stances" of His Highness the Amir, which had a very positive impact on everyone. Sheikh Azzam meanwhile said that His Highness the Amir has a bright and unprecedented humanitarian record in the modern era. — KUNA



**MANAMA:** Director of the United Nations Information Centre for Arab Gulf countries Amin Al-Sharqawi meets with the dean of the diplomatic corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah. — KUNA

## KFH APPRAISES RED CRESCENT SUPPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) CEO Mazen Al-Saad Al-Nahedh stated that KFH works on supporting and reinforcing the State plans to alleviate services level and support official authorities, corporations, ministries and public benefit societies in their activities and projects. He reiterated that priority is given to effective participation in projects compatible with Kuwaiti Society values and deeds. KFH success emanates from its compliance with Sharia regulations in all activities and fields, thus supporting its leading role in society.

Nahedh added during the reception of the Head of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Dr Hilal Musaad Al-Sayer that there is continuous cooperation among the two parties. Cooperation has increased after signing an agreement of strategic partnership and cooperation aiming to reinforce and develop all means of cooperation and

joint coordination between KFH and Red Crescent Society in various human projects and programs. KFH has also participated in the society's charity works in its capacity as "Diamond Human Partner" on several ordinary and extraordinary occasions based on KFH deep rooted belief in the development of projects aimed to achieve the best interest of man and society. KFH has played this role since inception. KFH role gets bigger and bigger where these projects are deeply related to the daily life and interests of society members.

Dr Sayer said that KFH is one of the major supporters of the society and its activities locally and abroad. The society activities have given a bright and positive image about Kuwait and Kuwaiti people. He expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to KFH for its social role and human participations.



**KUWAIT:** KFH CEO Mazen Al-Saad Al-Nahedh and Head of KRCS Dr Hilal Musaad Al-Sayer are pictured during the meeting.

## KUWAITI RELIEF TEAM OFFERS SUPPORT TO SYRIAN REFUGEES

**URFA:** A volunteering team from the International Islamic Charitable Organization (IICO) and Ataa relief society met yesterday a number of kids who have been injured by the bombardment in Syria. Many have been paralyzed as a result of such savage attacks on their towns and cities including Razan, 18, who has been hit by a car eight years ago, which left her totally paralyzed. She said that she was happy to receive a wheelchair from the Kuwaiti delegation, adding that such visits soothe them a lot.

The Kuwaiti team organized on Friday a concert for children of Syrian refugees in the city of Urfa southeast Turkey. The event aimed to celebrate the renewal of sponsorship and care for 30 orphan children and the distribution of 300 toys for the Ataa School students, as well as food parcels to the families of orphans along with booking a hall for 200 children.

The team visited Urfa yesterday, where about a hundred families have been living for seven months with no shelter. The team members

distributed 280 food parcels for each family, which is enough for a month, a matter which was applauded by those families.

Chairwoman of the women's team Noura Al-Bassam said that the team was established under the supervision of the IICO to have a legal umbrella and has so far organized 35 volunteer trip since 2012. She stressed keenness of team members to provide psychological support, especially for women and orphans. — KUNA

## KUWAIT HOSTS 19TH MEETING OF GCC SECRETARIES GENERAL

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait is due to host tomorrow the 19th meeting of the GCC Secretaries General of Shura and Parliamentary councils which will last for two days. National Assembly's Secretary General Allam Ali Al-Kanderi said in a statement yesterday that the meeting, which will be held under the auspices of National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem, will discuss a number of reports, programs, projects, and joint ventures between GCC secretariats and will be presented to the coordinating and training committees to exchange information prior to approval.



**National Assembly's Secretary General Allam Ali Al-Kanderi**

Kanderi said that the meeting will discuss parliamentary diplomacy and its important role in serving the interests of Gulf States, and contribution to building bridges of communication with foreign parliaments as well as promoting Gulf cooperation in international parliamentary arenas. The Secretary General stressed that such periodic meetings for the secretariats aim at developing work processes and to pursue integration through joint parliamentary projects for studies and research. Kanderi added the event will also honor former Secretary General of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU) Nour Al-Din Bouchkouj by Ghanem in recognition of his efforts during his tenure over the past years. — KUNA

kuwait digest

## COOPERATION TO END WAR IN SYRIA

By Labeed Abdal

Assertions made by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his American counterpart John Kerry about the need to enhance both countries' cooperation to ensure a ceasefire in Syria is an important and urgent development. Both major countries should take the responsibility to end the war in Syria that has become a clear example of proxy wars. Efforts to enhance the campaign against terrorist groups in Syria and taking extra measures to prevent support to extremist insurgents with fighters and weapons is necessary to stop "below the belt" blows. Especially since blasts at worship places like mosques and churches, not to mention hospitals and clinics, were meant to create tumult and turn all parties against each other over fake disputes amongst people who had peacefully coexisted as loving neighbors for long decades.

International talks aiming to reach a political settlement of the Syrian crisis needs a push by the UN to prevent parties outside the government and opposition from intervening in solving the problem and place it in the hands of Syrians themselves, regardless of any regional or international considerations.

The previous talks probably failed because of the so many parties who expressed their own views and those they acted through. This made everybody forget the main cause of resolving the Syrian crisis instead of providing more funding and arming this or that sect of young people misled by hypocrisy and fake promises.

Syrians are capable of solving their own domestic problems and the international community has to stop interventions that have so far prolonged the crisis, widened the gap, increased the number of injured and killed and multiplied the numbers of migrants and refugees who lost their homes, jobs, schools and children.

## COMMERCE MINISTER HONORS KFH DURING 10TH ACCOUNTING FORUM

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousuf Al-Ali has honored Kuwait Finance House (KFH) during the 10th Annual Forum of Accounting and Auditing Organizations organized by Kuwaiti Accountants and Auditors Society. He praised and appreciated KFH role in sponsoring these significant forums and conferences that participate in the alleviation of performance level and expresses KFH endeavor to develop the performance of these professional organizations.

The Group Executive Public Relations Manager Youssef Abdullah Al-Ruwayeh received the shield from the Minister Al-Ali. Ruwayeh reiterated KFH's keenness to par-

ticipate and cooperate in the success of these events which are beneficiary to participants. These events enable participants to view the latest ideas and applications concerning various cases and analysis discussed in the forum. This would reflect positively on the market in general and on companies and their employees. He indicated that KFH has patronized this forum due to the significant relevance between the subject of the forum and KFH significant role as an Islamic financial institution in the national economy. KFH supports national economy by bearing its responsibilities towards society as part of its coordination and cooperation with the official entities and authorities.



**KUWAIT:** KFH Group Executive Public Relations Manager Youssef Abdullah Al-Ruwayeh receives the shield from Commerce Minister Yousuf Al-Ali.

# ZALZALAH TO GRILL KANDARI OVER KUWAIT AIRWAYS' 'VIOLATIONS'

## GOVT PANEL TO PUSH LEGISLATIONS FOR REFORM PLAN

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Chairman of the parliament's priorities committee MP Yousuf Al-Zalzalah vowed that he would grill Communications and Municipality Affairs Minister Essa Al-Kandari within two weeks over violations at Kuwait Airways Company (KAC). "KAC has reached a disastrous financial and administrative situation," he said, noting that he had been filing parliamentary inquiries for three years without getting straight answers so far. Zalzalah added that his grilling motion would include four elements.

### Economic reform

The government is currently preparing to discuss its economic reform plan in parliament through a statement on the government programs concerning privatization and diversifying sources of income, Well-informed sources said. They added that the statement will be delivered to parliament by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh. The sources added that the parliament's session in which the government would discuss the plan might be postponed till June, when His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah returns home from his current Asian tour.

The sources added that the government will also have a ministerial committee headed by Saleh determine the legislations needed to put the plan into practice, since each of the projects it includes needs a law. Meanwhile, the sources added that

lawmakers agreed to allocate a session to discuss the State Audit Bureau's reports concerning various government bodies.



MP Yousuf Al-Zalzalah

### Residential cities

The government plans to repeat its agreement with South Korea to build South Saad Al-Abdullah City with other international companies to build more residential cities, including South Sabah Al-Ahmad City, sources said. The government is currently considering signing such agreements with Korean, Chinese and other companies to accelerate executing the project to help resolve the housing problem, the sources added. Further, the sources said that a Korean delegation would soon visit Kuwait to discuss the

agreement's details and prepare the South Saad Al-Abdullah site to commence construction.



Minister Essa Al-Kandari

### Bedoon students

Kuwait University's supreme council, headed by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Bader Al-Essa, is due to hold its monthly meeting soon to discuss the university's admission policy for the coming academic year. Academic sources stressed that the admission policy for next year would not be changed and that the minimum grades needed for admission would be increased in the following year. The sources added that council would also discuss appointing new deans as well as

a proposal made by the central apparatus for illegal residents requesting allocating five seats for bedoons (stateless) in post-graduate courses.

### Cash donations banned in Ramadan

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MSAL) has finished preparing its 13th Ramadan donations program, Director of the Charities Department Munira Al-Kandari said, adding that the ministry started contacting charities requesting names of official representatives authorized to collect donations during Ramadan. Kandari added that the ministry has received lists of the names to examine their legal status and provide them with special IDs with microchips including information like name, civil ID number and the charity each of them works for. She added that all representatives would have to wear the IDs while working.

Kandari added that this year's donations would only be collected electronically using K-Net payment, bank deductions, online payments, e-payments and by smartphone apps. "Cash donations at charity centers of mosques are completely banned," she stressed, noting that special inspection teams would work for two months at various mosques, markets and malls to track and prevent any violations. Kandari stressed that charities would have to report after Ramadan on the total donations they collected and the projects those donations were used for. Charities would also have to provide a bank statement for the Ramadan month.

### Local Spotlight

## FIFA AND KUWAIT



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The FIFA Congress announced on Friday in Mexico City the continuation of the suspension of Kuwait's football activities and rejected a proposal to lift the ban. At the gathering, 176 members voted yes to the continuation of the suspension, while only 13 members supported lifting the ban.

This result indicates that the world is completely convinced that the FIFA executive committee's decision to ban Kuwait is a correct and proper decision. It was supported by 93 percent of the voters. Let's remember that the decision to suspend Kuwait's membership happened because local laws conflict with international laws.

Stopping Kuwaiti football's activity internationally means that Kuwaiti teams of various categories, as well as clubs, will be forced to have no contacts with other teams, nor can the Kuwait Football Association take advantage of development and training programs provided by international and Asian bodies. The decision will stop Kuwait from participating in the qualifiers for the World Cup in Russia in 2018 and the Asian Cup in 2019 in the UAE, and also will freeze participation in the AFC Cup.

Once the decision was announced, many in the local community seemed surprised and upset, and started blaming some sheikhs for the failure, but no one seems to have the desire to ask why Kuwait got suspended in the first place. The ban has previously been endorsed twice by the FIFA executive committee, most recently in February. I believe we need to evaluate and assess the reasons for the failure in order to convince the world that the Kuwaiti sports law does not conflict with the Olympic Charter and stop trying to blame others for the government's failure in setting rules.

Members of the FIFA Congress are not naive or hold personal grudges, which pushed them to vote against Kuwait. FIFA had also suspended Kuwait in 2007 and 2009 because it was considered that there was a direct violation of regulations, and FIFA is committed to the deadline set by the Kuwaiti FA to amend its laws. The International Olympic Committee has also given Kuwait a period of time to amend the law in accordance to international Olympic principles and respect the autonomy of sporting activities without any government interference. There is no doubt that what happened at the FIFA Congress was a tough defeat for the government, and perhaps the strategy to deal with the matter was not enough. But blaming FIFA and accusing its members is a haphazard reaction and not acceptable. Resolving the crisis is simple and easy. It requires two courageous and transparent decisions. The first is to stop accusing individuals for being behind the failure and collapse of Kuwaiti sports, because this is not true.

The second is rewording articles of the law conflicting with the Olympic Charter, and this is not prejudicial to the sovereignty or independence of Kuwait. The text will be changed by legal experts. Many countries were forced to change several legal materials to conform to international law, and there is nothing wrong in this. What is important is to support the athletes to be present at all international forums and tournaments.



## NBK 2016 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ONLINE REGISTRATION STARTS JUNE 17

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) opens the online registration in the first in a series of the 2016 Summer Internship Program, which will be launched on the 17th of June, 2016. The two-week courses are specially designed for high school and college students between 14 and 21 years old.

The Online registration for the Summer Internship Program will be open during the whole month of Ramadan

through www.nbk.com. Also, students can communicate with NBK social media team through NBK official page on Facebook, on Twitter and Instagram @NBKPage for more information about the program.

NBK views the Summer Internship Program as an extension to its educative initiatives and as part of its corporate social responsibility. This annual program demonstrates NBK's long-standing social

involvement as well as its national commitment towards providing young generations with the appropriate opportunities to experience how the actual professional banking issues and transactions are handled and processed.

The Summer Internship Program is made up of five different sessions, five-hour daily over two weeks each. The first session starts on the 17th of July, while the following sessions start on 31st of

July, 14th and 28th of August respectively. The Summer Internship Program features a mixture of theoretical and practical training dedicated to providing the interns with invaluable knowledge on a variety of subjects such as: the teamwork, creative thinking, means of self-expression and modern banking, in addition to helping them to have greater exposure to daily banking work procedures.

## KUWAIT TIMES ART COMPETITION'S CONCLUSION CEREMONY HELD TODAY

### 'KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL AND GREEN'

**KUWAIT:** Under the patronage of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and with attendance of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah, the conclusion ceremony of Kuwait Times' Students Art

Competition 'Kuwait Beautiful and Green' takes place this afternoon, on May 15, 2016 at JW Marriott Hotel, starting from 4:30 pm. The competition was organized by Kuwait Times with sponsorship of JW Marriott, Zain, Al-Batel and Arabian Business Machines Company.



## KUWAIT ELECTED TO ICDO'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SEAT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The State of Kuwait was recently elected as member of the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO)'s executive council.

The ICDO's 22nd general assembly meeting was recently held in Kyrgyzstan, featuring participation of a Kuwaiti delegation headed by Lieutenant General Yousuf Al-Ansari, Director of Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD). The delegation also includes other KFSD officials including Colonel Mohammed Al-Qahtani,

Information Technology Director, Captain Abdullah Al-Saleem, International Relations Officer and First Lieutenant Mohammad Al-Yaseen, Public Relations and Media Officer.

Speaking on the occasion, Ansari thanked member states for their trust and stressed that Kuwait earned the seat due to its effective contributions and support of humane and technical activities. He added that Kuwait provides protection and prevention through unifying international efforts to fight disasters and crises, which require constant training and development.



KFSD Director Lieutenant General Yousuf Al-Ansari is pictured with officials attending the ICDO's 22nd general assembly meeting.

## 'NEW WRITERS COPYRIGHT LAW OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT FOR MEDIA, CULTURE IN KUWAIT'

**KUWAIT:** National Library of Kuwait's Director General Kamil Abduljalil said yesterday that National Assembly's adoption of a new law on writers copyright and other similar rights is an outstanding achievement for Kuwaiti media and tremendous support to cultural, literary and artistic movement in the country.

Abduljalil said the new law embodies constitutional rules which provide protection by the state to universal freedoms, the rule of social justice and care for science, literature and arts, and encourages scientific research and the preservation of private property.

The director also praised the National Assembly's unanimous decision and the passing of the law after two readings and then forwarded it to the government, pointing out that the draft law was proposed first by the Ministry of Information and the parliamentary education committee for Culture and Guidance Affairs contributed significantly in examining the bill thoroughly.

Abduljalil added that the new law promotes harmony and integration in already established laws, but in particular to copyright and related rights, such as freedom of the press, publications, and the protection of competition among others.

Abduljalil noted that the new law granted continuity to Kuwait National Library and its role in terms of intellectual property protection and cultural, literary and artistic works of all kinds and forms at the Library based on the international normative figure. — KUNA

## MONTENEGRO EXEMPTS KUWAITIS FROM VISA

**KUWAIT:** Montenegro Government announced visa exemption on all types of passports (diplomats, special, normal) for Kuwaiti nationals if they wish to visit and stay less than 90 days since day of entry, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Serbia and non-resident to Montenegro Yusef Ahmad Abdulsamad said yesterday. The ambassador said Kuwaiti Embassy in Serbia received an official memorandum from Montenegro Embassy about the government's decision to exempt entry visa on all Kuwaiti nationals, adding that last year, Montenegro adopted a similar decision but it was only during the summer period. Abdulsamad noted that last year also, the Serbian government made a similar decision regarding visa exemption on Kuwaiti nationals, adding that the decision has been effective since June 30, 2015. — KUNA

# Abolish 153 campaign founder speaks out: Provision form of indirect, structural violence against women

ABOLISH  
ARTICLE  
153

Sheikha Lulu Al-Sabah, founding member of the Abolish 153 campaign, spoke to Kuwait Times about the movement, its goals and progress. Here are some excerpts:

## Kuwait Times: What is Abolish 153 and what is the main goal of this campaign?

**Sheikha Lulu Al-Sabah:** The main objective of this campaign is to raise awareness about and ultimately abolish Article 153 of the Kuwaiti penal code, which allows for the killing of mothers, daughters, sisters and wives based on honor. While lobbying for changing the law in Kuwait, the campaign hopes to form coalitions across Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Arab countries where similar laws exist and transform the Abolish movement into a regional demand.

## Kuwait Times: To what extent is honor killing prevalent in Kuwait? Is it true that it has a reduced sentence?

**Sheikha Lulu:** Many people believe that we have far fewer cases than in other Arab countries such as Jordan. However, there has been a 20-year campaign in Jordan to report these cases in the crime section of the newspapers, which means that such cases are better reported than they are in Kuwait. This campaign was spearheaded by award-winning journalist and human rights activist Rana Al-Husseini, who spoke at our symposium at the American University of Kuwait (AUK) in November.

Kuwait has signed a number of significant human rights conventions and treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966); the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979); and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). There are many laws that exist in

lawmakers in their decision to assist us. Therefore, conducting a survey in Kuwait around attitudes to Article 153 will help us both in terms of data and numerical evidence.

## Domestic violence

**Kuwait Times: Why do you think domestic violence is widespread in Kuwait despite a high degree of education, along with the fact that women have obtained many civil rights and reached high vocational positions?**

**Sheikha Lulu:** We live in a patriarchal environment, where several laws exist that are highly discriminatory towards women. When a system legalizes the dominance of one gender over another, violence in society becomes inevitable. A man can beat his wife for disciplinary purposes, and if the wife contacts the police, they cannot and will not interfere. Until last year, when they passed a law to protect abused children, health workers had to send children back to their abusive parents with bruises and scratches on their bodies. The problem is that child abuse, domestic violence and honor killings are not discussed within society. It is a place where taboo topics are swept under the carpet. These are serious problems that need to be addressed on a community level and at a judicial level.

- Article 153 is both unconstitutional and against Islamic sharia law
- No country can call itself progressive in the 21st century with such a law
- When a system legalizes the dominance of one gender over another, violence in society becomes inevitable
- Education is the most important thing, because we are fighting a mindset
- Our campaign hosts an annual exhibition in Kuwait on May 16 to raise awareness and fundraise for our cause

## Kuwait Times: Why this particular time to talk about this Article?

**Sheikha Lulu:** Despite obtaining our political rights in Kuwait in 2005, there are no female MPs in parliament. Maybe there would have been a push to abolish this law earlier if we had more female representation. This Article suddenly garnered attention because we started this campaign in late 2014. The campaign commenced with an awareness campaign through social media channels and incorporated a variety of activities to increase our outreach. These activities include art exhibitions, lectures, panel discussions, fundraising dinners and outreach programs within local communities.

The fundamental belief behind the Abolish 153 campaign is that violence against women, and violence legislation, are ultimately cultural products, and therefore our advocacy and lobbying work must be accompanied by activities that culturally

challenge the rhetoric of violence and provide an alternative dialogue. Our aim is to create a safe environment where mothers, daughters, sisters and wives are legally protected from all forms of violence, and raise awareness around the existence of these violent practices and the legislation that sanctions them.

## Kuwait Times: The law identifies the fine value in the old Indian rupee currency. What is the equivalent value in dinars?

**Sheikha Lulu:** Article 153 was added to Kuwait's penal code in 1960. At that time, it was the equivalent to KD 225. At current conversion rates, it is KD 14. I find it very disturbing that there is a monetary value placed on a woman's life.

## Kuwait Times: What is the similarity of this Article in the Kuwaiti penal code with other countries in the Arab world?

**Sheikha Lulu:** Tunisia and Lebanon abolished this law, while Syria and Morocco amended theirs. Other countries that have such a law include Algeria (Article 279), Egypt (Article 237), Iraq (Article 409), Jordan (Article 340), Libya (Article 375), Oman (Article 252), United Arab Emirates (Article 334) and Yemen (Article 232).

## Double standards

## Kuwait Times: What made you decide to start this campaign? What provoked you?

**Sheikha Lulu:** I grew up in Kuwait, and as a young woman, I was very angered by the double standards that exist in this region. I have always strongly believed in gender equality. Dr Alanoud Al-Sharekh made me aware of the existence of this law and its ramifications. I was eager to get involved as I understood that we cannot raise girls in this country while such violent laws exist, nor can we protect girls and women by building shelters until this law is abolished.

## Kuwait Times: Are there any other people in this campaign?

**Sheikha Lulu:** Alanoud Al-Sharekh, Sundus Hamza, Sheikha Al-Nafisi and Amira Behbehani. All their bios are on our website [www.abolish153.org](http://www.abolish153.org)

## Kuwait Times: We know that education is an integral tool to disprove such ideas. What are your plans to raise awareness?



Artworks displayed during an art exhibition that the Abolish 153 campaign held recently at the JAMM Art Gallery in Dubai.

**Sheikha Lulu:** Education is the most important thing, because we are fighting a mindset, a way of thinking. To reach the women that are most affected by this law, we will initiate a social outreach program that will target female tribal leaders. We will visit these women in their own communities in the outer districts and empower them to educate their communities about this law and its implications.

**Kuwait Times: In every country there is a mix of contradictions. We see, for example, in Kuwait, a contradiction in the law that could threaten the lives of many innocent women, while on the other hand, the government is keen to burnish the role of women in the society and highlight it to the world!**



**Sheikha Lulu:** It is for this reason that our campaign hosts an annual exhibition in Kuwait on May 16 to raise awareness and fundraise for our cause. Last year we held an exhibition at the Contemporary Art Platform on May 16 to mark 10 years since women obtained their political rights. This year we will host our exhibition at the FA gallery on May 16 and it will include artists from Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Syria and Iran. We also hosted an exhibition at the JAMM Art Gallery in Dubai in late April, which included works by seven Kuwaiti artists among others from the GCC.

## Kuwait Times: What has the Abolish 153 campaign achieved so far? Are you progressing?

**Sheikha Lulu:** Yes, we have seen some progress. We have a number of MPs, judges, lawyers and activists on our side and this

will help us enormously in our fight to abolish this law.

## Kuwait Times: Tell us about your latest fundraising exhibition in Dubai.

**Sheikha Lulu:** Abolish 153 hosted an art exhibition at the JAMM Art Gallery in Dubai from April 28 to May 8 to fundraise for the campaign. The exhibition included 40 artworks in various media by 11 emerging artists from the GCC and Iran. The seven Kuwaiti artists include photographers Maha Al-Asaker and Farah Salem, as well as artists Thuraya Lynn Al-Jasem, Zahra (Zouz the Bird) Al-Mahdi, Amani Althuwaini, Deena (Machina) Qabazard and Tarek Sultan. Other artists included Iranian painter Mehdi Darvishi, Bahraini multimedia artist Zuhair Alsaedi and Iraqi artist Musa Al-Shadeedi. Fifty percent of the proceeds from the sales benefited the campaign.

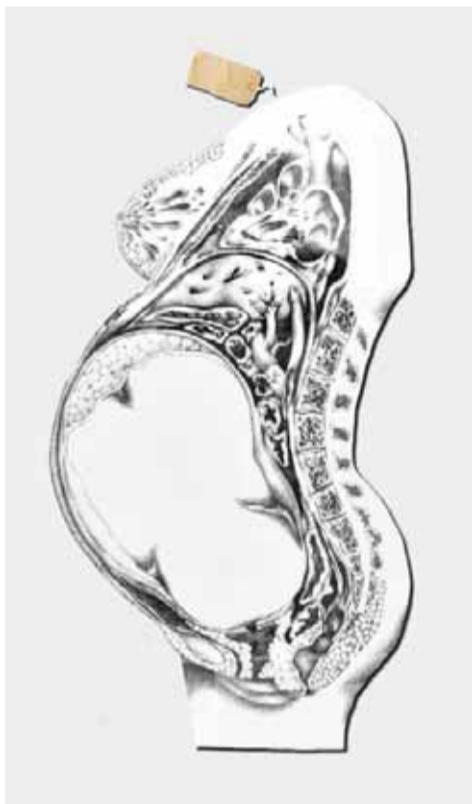
**Kuwait Times: Of all the artworks that we noticed in the exhibition, an illustration by Zahra Mahdi indicates the depth of understanding and the ability to get the message across. Can we hope to see more Arab artists become peaceful pressure tools that change history, as some artists did in the West?**

**Sheikha Lulu:** Yes, I do believe this to be true. The works by Kuwaiti artist Zahra Al-Mahdi (aka Zouz the Bird) were very strong. She created three pregnant bodies with price tags attached, underlining the right of women to control their own bodies, sexuality and reproductive organs. I believe that art is an effective medium to instigate social change, especially in environments where taboo topics are swept under the carpet.

Issues such as gender inequality, domestic violence, murder, adultery, etc can be portrayed in what appears to be a 'safe field' (art), yet it allows for conversations, increased awareness and serious debate. We are using art to question the status quo. By hosting exhibitions with artworks that tackle the issue of honor killing, we create a valid reason to have this issue brought up in the media. As such, art is a tool to reach our goal of abolishing these laws across the GCC and beyond.

## Kuwait Times: Are you satisfied with the results of the last fundraising drive?

**Sheikha Lulu:** We were very happy with the turnout and the exhibition. We hope that the next two exhibitions will be more successful in raising awareness and funds for our campaign. We are grateful for the artists who contributed to these exhibitions.



An artwork by Kuwaiti artist Zahra Al-Mahdi.

Kuwait that violate the conventions that Kuwait has signed. Article 153 is both unconstitutional and against Islamic sharia law. This legislation is a form of indirect and structural violence against women.

No country can call itself progressive in the 21st century with such a law. We believe that even one case is one case too many. Unfortunately, we do not have access to the exact number of reported cases per year. We do know that this Article was used successfully in court in 2011. We will be conducting a survey to gauge attitudes across various segments of the society. We are missing empirical evidence to support abolishing this law, which would help influence



## ADVERTISEMENT

**Surrah Cooperative Society announces job opportunity for cashiers and sale representatives (men and female), preferably from Philippines and India.**

**Application conditions:**

1. The applicant should possess a high school certificate or equivalent certificate to that.
2. The applicant should be bilingual (Arabic and English)
3. Experience in cooperative societies field if possible
4. Transferable residency

**Note:**  
Applications should be submitted to the Coop's administration affairs department during official working hours between (15/05/2016) until (22/05/2016); attached with recent photo, copies of each of the passport, academic qualification, civil ID, experience letter and CV.

Board of Directors

# CENTER USES NEW TREATMENT FOR LUNG CANCER PATIENTS



KUWAIT: A general view of attendees at a medical conference organized by the Health Ministry's Sheikhha Badria center for lung cancer treatment on the merits of the new treatment method. — KUNA

KUWAIT: The Health Ministry's Sheikhha Badria center for lung cancer treatment is poised to use 'immunotherapy'-which is a new treatment for lung cancer patients-with proven results, announced chief of the center's lung cancer division Dr Fahad Al-Enezi yesterday.

Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment designed to boost the body's natural defenses to fight cancer. It uses materials either made by the body or in a laboratory to improve, target, or restore immune systems' function, said Dr Enezi in a statement on the sideline of a one day medical conference organized by the center on the merits of the new treatment of immunotherapy. He explained that immunotherapy activates a part of the patient's immune system to fight cancer, helping it to work better to destroy cancer cells.

The idea is that immunotherapy can stop or slow the growth of cancer cells and keep cancer from spreading to other parts of the body. Treatments can do this by stimulating the immune system to attack cancer cells, said Dr Enezi.

The center he heads began using immunotherapy last September and proved to be successful on patients with acceptable levels of side effects, he said, noting that the new treatment was preferable to the standard treatment using chemotherapy. Regarding yesterday's conference, he said a visiting American cancer specialist would address the conference on the benefits of immunotherapy. — KUNA

## HIGH TEMPERATURE, CHANCE OF DUST STORM FORECAST TODAY

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Temperature is expected to rise up to 41 C degrees today with chances of active wind, dust storms and low visibility, according to the Kuwait Meteorological Department at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Kuwait is currently experiencing the 'sarayat' season which is characterized by unstable weather, high temperature, strong winds, occasional dust storms and chances of rain.

### Jleeb's vendors

Municipal Council member and head of Hawally committee Yousif Al-Ghareeb urged security forces to clear street markets on Mohammed Ibn Al-Qassim street in Jleeb Al-Shuyukh, noting that the market is run by number of 'loose and marginal' Asian laborers. Ghareeb warned that the market sells vegetables, fruits, supply goods (whose sale is only restricted to the ministry of commerce), secondhand clothes, cigarettes and tobacco. "These street vendors must be dealt with very strictly because they have been occupying the polyclinic and the mosque parking spaces on a daily basis," he said, pointing out that vendors keep coming back to the market despite repeated municipal raids, and a fixed security presence is needed there at all times.



## AI-SAYER GROUP HOLDING receives TOP AWARDS for Performance & Customer Experience Excellence

Toyota Motor Corporation has bestowed Al-Sayer with 3 prestigious awards in recognition of the unparalleled commitment towards achieving excellence in customer care.

This year's award is even more special. Outstanding Customer Service Award – 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row marks a record achievement.

This reflects our primary goal of delivering the best customer care in the industry to all our valued customers.



**"OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD" – 8<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN A ROW.**

**"GOLD DISTRIBUTOR MARKETING AWARD" – 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN A ROW.**

**"DIAMOND MARKETING AWARD" – 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN A ROW.**



Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.  
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES.

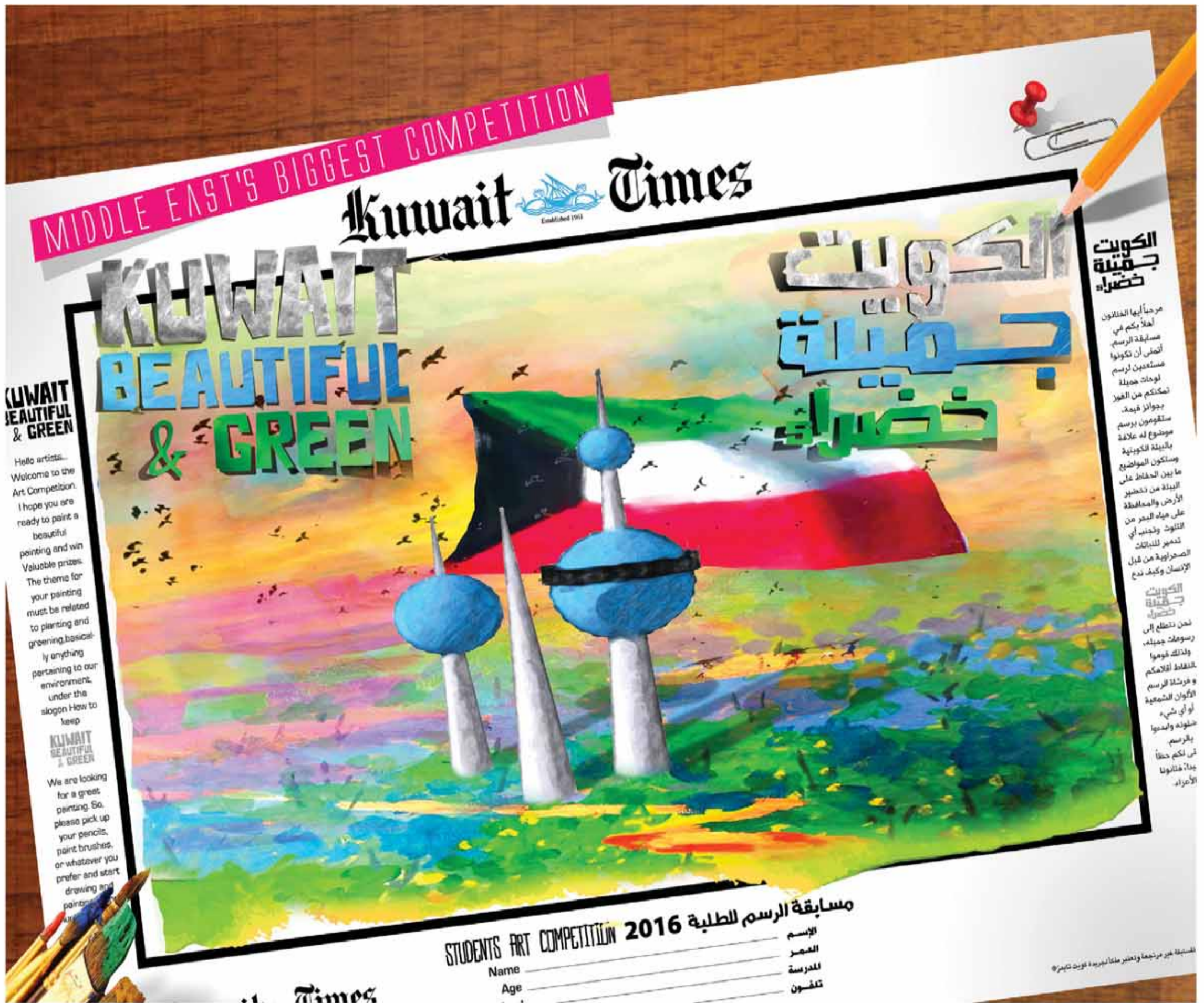


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Would like to extend its sincere gratitude and appreciation to  
**H.E. Shiekh Salman Sabah Al Salem Al-Hamoud Al-Sabah**  
**Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth**  
**Shiekha Al Zain Sabah Al Naser Al Saoud Al-Sabah,**  
**Undersecretary for Ministry of State for Youth**

Zain Communication, JW Marriott Hotel, Al Batel Co., Arabian Business Machine, Jury members  
**Mr. Abdul Kareem Al Enezi, Mr. Abed Aziz Arti, Mrs. Ameera Ashkanani, Mrs. Svitlana Arndt**  
 People worked behind the screen, schools and students who participated

## 2016 ART COMPETITIONS WINNERS



Special needs	Winners 2016	Winners 2016	Winners 2016
Kuwait Academy Educational School	<b>6 - 8 years</b>	Sulaibekhat Elementary School	AlSama Intermediate school
Abdulla Carl Yakolom r up 15	Alruya Educational school	Sara Abdulatif Al-Shamary r up 6	<b>Malak Hmoud Mahmoud First Winner</b>
Manarat school	Ghanima Abdulla r up 10	Al Naser AlAhleya school	
Haya Solaiman Al-Shayee r up 14	Fajer AlSabah School	Maryam Wadee Atteya r up 5	<b>Winners 2016</b>
Kuwait English School	Rayan Fouad Abed Alrazeq r up 9	Carmel school	<b>15 - 17</b>
Farah Abdulsalam r up 13	Al-Qotof school	Nawoda Dilshani r up 4	Bayan Secondary School
Hope School	Nema Hamza Abu Ein r up 8	Mushref Elementary School	Fatema Abed Al-Wahab r up 10
Abed Alteef Anwar r up 12	Mishref Elementary School	<b>Maryam Ahmed AlAsfor third winner</b>	Fatema Al-Hashmeya School
Kuwait Academy Educational School	Fatema Hamed Ashkinani r up 7	<b>Suzana Abdulateef second winner</b>	Safiya Hadi r up 9
Narges Ebrahim Essa r up 11	Indian Education School	Maeath AlAdawya	Al-Doha Secondary School
KhalifaSchol	Fida Ancy r up 6	<b>Fatema Abedaziz Essa Ali first Winner</b>	Hajer Rustom r up 8
Al-Shafeih Mohammed Osman r up 10	Al-Ghanim Bilingual school		Khalifa Talal AlJari
Kuwait Academy School	Habiba Ali Fadel r up 5	<b>Winners 2016</b>	Nwaf Faisal r up 7
Anfal Naser Ahmed Al-Sekhan r up 9	Arwa Bent AL-Hareth School	<b>12 - 14</b>	Fatema Al-Sarawi Secondary School
Manarat School	Zaneb Nader Taqi r up 4	Al Jabrya Indian school	Duha Khalil Yasser Al-Ali r up 6
Fares Bassam Al-Khalfan r up 8	Al Najah Elementary School	Verina Raed Najeeb r up 10	Al-Salma Secondary School
Fawzeya Al-Sultan r up 7	<b>Abdulla Nasser Abdulla Third Winner</b>	Mishref Intermediate School	Jumana Fahed Al-Bloshi r up 5
Amena Al-Khalfan r up 7	Maeatha Al-Adaweyah	Fatema Al-Rdwan r up 9	<b>Farea Bent Abi AlSalt</b>
Khalifa School	<b>Narjis Abdulaziz Essa Ali Second Winner</b>	Fatema bent AlYaman school	Rwan Hashim Al-Failakawi r up 4
Faisal Hameed Naji r up 6	Carmel school	Teaba Abdulla Al-Abdalla r up 8	Al-Rawda Secondary School
Manarat School	<b>Niranjana Krishna First Winner</b>	Hind Intermediate school	<b>Nada Abed Al-Hakeem Hatem Third Winner</b>
Albatool Nour Aldeen r up 5		Naema Ali Mahmoud r up 7	Indian Central School
Manarat School	<b>Winners 2016</b>	Indian Educational Center	<b>Abu Amaan Pal Second winner</b>
Jenan Safar r up 4	<b>9 - 11</b>	Meghna Palliserry Ravindran r up 6	Al Ekhlas School
Kuwait English school	Al-Ekhlash School	Jabriya Indian school	<b>Aya Karem Mohammed First Winner</b>
<b>Mishari Abel Third Winner</b>	Yousif Essam Ebrahim r up 10	Lumini Kumarage r up 5	<b>Best of the Best</b>
Khalifa School	Indian Learning Academy	Indian learning school	The British School of Kuwait
<b>Ahmed Mubarak Second Winner</b>	Jessica Mary Dias r up 9	Saranghi Smtha Sunil r up 4	Roseanne Ismail
Anfal Talented Group	Indian Educational School	Khalifa Talal Al-Jari	Al-Ekhlash school
<b>Anfal Basel Bo Hamed First Winner</b>	Helen Mariam Biju r up 8	<b>Mohammed Hamed Al-Hajri Third Winner</b>	Juman Kamal Al-Jahed
	Kuwait Academy School	Gulf English School	
	Zahrae Ahmed Hassan r up 7	<b>Nouran Ashref Al-Kady Second Winners</b>	



**Nigeria hosts a summit on Boko Haram, terror**

ANOTHER SYRIA PEACE PUSH, HAS US PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN RUSSIA?



SADR CITY: Street vendors try to rescue their goods at the scene after a car bomb explosion at a crowded outdoor market in the Iraqi capital's eastern district of Sadr City, Iraq. - AP

**IRAQ POLITICAL CRISIS FUELS ISLAMIC STATE ATTACK**

**PM'S BID TO OVERHAUL POLITICAL SYSTEM IN DISARRAY**

**BAGHDAD:** A political crisis in Iraq is hampering the fight against Islamic State, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said yesterday after some of the bloodiest attacks on Baghdad this year. Abadi's government has been crippled for weeks since parties resisted a cabinet reshuffle aimed at fighting corruption. In a televised speech, he said a "climate of dispute" had given the militants space to operate in areas under nominal government control.

"The political conflict among politicians and their impact on the brave security forces permits acts of terrorism to occur," he said. Hours earlier, an attack by Islamic State on a town near Baghdad killed five members of the security forces and wounded 13. On Wednesday, suicide bombers killed at least 80 people, the highest daily toll in the capital this year. Seventeen soldiers died in blasts on Thursday in the western city of Ramadi and 16 people, mostly civilians,

were killed north of Baghdad on Friday. Yesterday's attack in Amiriyyat Falluja, just west of Baghdad, began around 4 am (0100 GMT) when at least nine Islamic State militants, including four suicide attackers, infiltrated the town, police sources said. The fighters took up positions in a disused residential complex and exchanged fire with army, police and Sunni tribal fighters charged with holding areas retaken from Islamic State. A police colonel said the attack was

aimed at distracting security forces from closing in on the nearby city of Falluja, which Iraqi forces have ringed for more than six months. The police sources said all the assailants were killed in a battle lasting about three hours, but Mayor Shakir Al-Essawi told Reuters that security forces were searching for one militant they suspected was still hiding out. A separate explosion in southern Baghdad's farm district of Madain killed two people and wounded seven,

police sources said. Prime Minister Abadi dismissed claims that rival political parties were behind the violence and pinned the blame squarely on Islamic State, which has been pushed out of key cities in recent months but still controls large areas it seized in 2014. "This enemy is like an epidemic: no matter how hard you fight it, one or two cases remain that may show up and cause injury. This is what is happening today." — Reuters

**STATES DIG IN AGAINST DIRECTIVE ON TRANSGENDER BATHROOM USE**

**RALEIGH:** Politicians in Texas, Arkansas and elsewhere vowed defiance - and other conservative states could follow suit - after the Obama administration told public schools across the US on Friday to let transgender students use the bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity. The federal government's guidance was met with tearful praise from parents of transgender students. "It's heartbreaking that these kids are losing their lives because they can't be accepted," Hope Tyler, who has a transgender son at a Raleigh high school, said in reference to suicides among transgender people. "Somebody has to speak for the kids."

The directive from the US Justice and Education Departments represents an escalation in the fast-moving dispute over what is becoming the civil rights issue of the day. One by one, conservative political leaders thundered against it and President Barack Obama. "This is the most outrageous example yet of the Obama administration forcing its liberal agenda on states that roundly reject it," said Mississippi Republican Gov Phil Bryant. The guidance was issued just days after the Justice Department and North Carolina sued each other a state law requiring transgender people to use the public bathroom that corresponds to the sex on their birth certificate. The law applies to schools and many other places.

Sexual predators  
 While supporters say the measure is needed to protect women and children from sexual predators, the Justice Department and others argue the threat is practically nonexistent and the law discriminatory. The guidance issued on Friday is not legally binding, since the question of whether federal civil rights law protects transgender people has not been definitively answered by the courts and may ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court. But schools that refuse to comply could be hit with civil rights lawsuits from the government and could face a cutoff of

**Bathroom access**  
 The federal guidance may portend more court fights over transgender bathroom access. Already, officials from eight states - West Virginia, Arizona, Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Maine and North Carolina - signed on to a brief in recent days asking a federal appeals court to re-hear a case in which it sided with a Virginia transgender student seeking to use the boys' bathroom. The new guidance says public schools must treat transgender students in a way that matches their gender identity, even if their education records indicate a different sex. Some

school systems around the country already accommodate transgender students when it comes to bathroom use. Nearly half the high schools in the 53,000-student Seattle district have gender-neutral restrooms, and students can also use the bathrooms in the nurses' office, spokeswoman Stacy Howard said. The National School Boards Association has published guidelines for its members in dealing with transgender students. It stops short of telling them exactly what to do, instead advising them to work with their attorneys to determine the best course amid a "shifting legal landscape." Francisco Negron, chief attorney for the organization, said there is a "disconnect" between what is happening in various states and what the federal government is demanding, "and school districts are caught in the middle."

Tyler, whose 15-year-old transgender son attends the Raleigh high school, said she cried when she heard about the Obama administration directive. "It means a lot to our kid. People don't realize that these kids in schools weren't having any bathroom issues before," she said. Since the passage of North Carolina's bathroom law, Tyler's son has been doing his schoolwork under a special arrangement that allows him to take classes mostly from home. Before the new law, Hunter Schafer, 17, had no problems being accepted by her peers at the UNC School of the Arts, a residential high school in Winston-Salem where she has lived in the girls' dormitory.

With the passage of the law, Schafer said she found herself "just having to decide do I break the law, or do I put myself in this highly uncomfortable or highly dangerous situation in the men's restroom?" Eventually, the school gave her her own private restroom. Her father, Mac Schafer of Raleigh, was elated to hear the new guidance from the Obama administration. "As a parent, some of your core instincts are protection for your child," he said. "To know that the federal government is pushing for respect and safe space and rights for Hunter is thrilling." — AP

**KUWAIT AIRWAYS** منذ عام 1954  
 ايجلوطا ايجورستة الكويتية  
**Announcement for bid invitation ( No. KAC /PP/2/ 2016) to solicit offers for leasing (3) Nos. residential buildings for Kuwait Airways Staff in the State of Kuwait.**

Kuwait Airways hereby announces its desire to solicit bids from individuals and companies specializing in real estate business. The bids should comprise offers for leasing (3) Nos. buildings next to each other or in several locations in Farwaniyah Governorate which shall be used as residence for Kuwait Airways staff.

Therefore, those interested in presenting their price offers in relation thereto, must accompany with them a copy of this announcement and refer to the office of the Secretary of Tenders and Auctions Committee, located on the ground floor of Kuwait Airways Corporation's main office in Dajj area, next to Kuwait International Airport. They should attend at the above office starting from the date of publishing this announcement, for purchasing the said bid invitation documents against cash payment of KD 50/- ( Kuwaiti Dinar Fifty only) to be paid to the Treasurer at Kuwait Airways headquarters during office hours. The said amount shall be unrefundable and shall be receipted.

The receipt, together with a copy of this announcement and the bidder's offer must be inserted in a closed and sealed envelope and submitted to the office of the Secretary of Tenders Committee at Kuwait Airways Corporation before the deadline which shall be at 2 p.m., Monday 30.5.2016.

Bids submitted beyond the aforementioned deadline shall not be entertained whatsoever.

A preliminary meeting shall be convened at exactly 10 a.m. of Sunday 22.5.2016 at the meeting room of Housing and Furnishing Department, which is located on the ground floor of Kuwait Airways Corporation's main office in Dajj area, next to Kuwait International Airport. This preliminary meeting will be devoted to replying to the queries raised by the participants responding to the bid invitation stated in this announcement. In case the bidder fails to attend the said meeting, he shall fully comply with the discussions taking place, as well as the decisions and recommendations contained in the minutes of the meeting.

**For Inquiries kindly contact Tel. no. 24345555 Extension 2249 or Fax no. 24722431**



WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama wait for Nordic leaders to arrive for a state dinner at the White House in Washington, DC. — AFP

## OBAMA TOASTS NORDIC NATIONS AFTER RUSSIA-FOCUSED SUMMIT

WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama toasted Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland at a star-studded state dinner on Friday, lauding the nations for their global influence on civil rights, humanitarian issues and curbing climate change. The red carpet glamour followed a White House summit where Obama and the leaders of the five nations presented a united front against Moscow's recent military aggression in Ukraine and the Baltic region. But the meeting was more about soft diplomacy than launching ambitious foreign policy endeavors, given that Obama's second and final term ends in January. Americans will vote in presidential elections on Nov 8. "I thought this was a very useful and important conversation, although there was probably too much agreement to make for as exciting a multilateral meeting as I sometimes participate in," Obama said.

More than 300 guests including rapper Common, comedian Will Farrell and actress Tracee Ellis Ross mingled with diplomats, tech and Fortune 500 CEOs, White House officials, and political donors in a glass-ceiling tent built around a tree on the South Lawn. Hand-rolled beeswax candles and strings of lights reflected off ten-foot pillars of ice, an homage to the northern lights. Pop star Demi Lovato, known for her support of liberal causes, was set to perform after a Nordic-inspired meal of ahi tuna,

tomato tartare and red wine-braised beef short ribs. "It's a great opportunity to drink wine and make progress on the most serious issues of our time," Samantha Power, the US Ambassador to the United States, told reporters on her way into the dinner.

### Russia

The summit was aimed in part at sending a message to a nation not on the guest list: Russia, which annexed Ukraine's Crimea region in 2014 and has stepped up its military posture. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is planning its biggest build-up in eastern Europe since the Cold War to try to deter further Russian aggression, and Denmark and Norway said on Friday they would contribute to the "enhanced allied forward presence" with NATO. "We will be maintaining ongoing dialogue and seek cooperation with Russia, but we also want to make sure that we are prepared and strong, and we want to encourage Russia to keep its military activities in full compliance with international obligations," Obama said after the summit. Obama has long expressed admiration for the pragmatic and liberal-leaning politics of the Nordic nations. "There have been times where I've said, why don't we just put all these small countries in charge for a while? And they could clean things up," Obama said.—Reuters

## ANOTHER SYRIA PEACE PUSH, BUT HAS US PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN RUSSIA?

WASHINGTON: First a ceasefire in Syria, then aid and then who knows—perhaps a political transition? Don't bet on it, analysts warn, saying Washington has put too much faith in Moscow. Efforts to end Syria's brutal five-year civil war may hang by a thread, but Washington's top diplomat will once again throw himself into the fray. Secretary of State John Kerry set off on Friday for Saudi Arabia to consult with his Arab ally before talks on Syria in Vienna on Tuesday.

Once again, senior officials from the 17-nation International Syria Support Group (ISSG) will meet to reaffirm their support for peace. But will they have any more success than they have had so far? Or will Bashar Al-Assad and his rebel foes fight on as Syria drowns in blood? "Obviously, not all the trend lines in Syria are going in the right direction," Kerry's spokesman John Kirby admitted on Friday. "There's plenty of work to be done in the ISSG," he added. "And the secretary is still mindful of the challenges ahead." But many of the US administration's critics think the plan is doomed by a fundamental flaw—it relies on Russia's good graces.

### Regional paranoia

Kerry and his Kremlin counterpart Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the odd couple of great power diplomacy, are co-chairs of the ISSG. Moscow has undertaken to pressure its ally Assad to respect the shaky truce that Washington hopes will smooth the path to political talks. And the US, with regional ally Saudi Arabia, is working to reassure an opposition coalition that a ceasefire will lead to a political transition.

But what if, reassured by the military and diplomatic support of Russia and Iran, Assad and his regime have no intention of standing

aside? "Regardless of what the Russians might want, they are effectively supporting a victory operation on behalf of Syria and the Iranians," said Jim Jeffrey, a former top diplomat and senior adviser to president George W. Bush. "And all we have against this is to meet with the Russians and plead with them to adhere to all of these agreements," he told AFP, arguing that Moscow has already backtracked.

"The Russians agreed to a clear political transition they have not delivered on." And it is not just former senior officials from Republican administrations who feel Kerry's Russian outreach will not be enough to dislodge Assad. "Keep in mind we're not asking the regime to come to the table," said Philip Gordon, a former member of President Barack Obama's National Security Council. "We're asking them not to exist. We're asking them to get rid of their leader," he told reporters this week at the Council on Foreign Relations. Kerry's response to this obvious flaw in the ISSG strategy is to hope that Russia will grow tired of propping up its friend in Damascus. Gordon, Jeffrey and many others—including serving diplomats from US allies speaking privately—find this naive. "I think many have consistently underestimated Russia's determination to prevent this regime from falling," Gordon said. In Jeddah before the full ISSG meeting, Kerry will seek to reassure the Saudis—and through them the Syrian opposition—that Assad's days are numbered. But it is not clear what will happen if he holds on beyond the supposed August 1 cut-off that the ISSG has agreed must be the start of a process of transition. Obama, still proud of his record as the president who extricated the United States from Iraq, shows no sign of wanting deeper military involvement in Syria.—AFP

# ACTING PRESIDENT VOWS TO GET BRAZIL 'BACK ON RAILS'

TEMER SETS OUT ITS PRIORITIES: CREATING A LEANER GOVERNMENT

BRASILIA: Brazil's acting president Michel Temer vowed Friday to get Latin America's largest economy back on track after a cascade of crises put an end to 13 years of leftist rule. Temer presided over the first meeting of his new business-friendly cabinet, setting out its priorities: creating a leaner government, balancing finances to address a crippling recession, and rooting out the corruption that a huge judicial probe has uncovered at the highest levels of Brazilian politics and business. "I want to get the country back on the rails," Temer told weekly magazine Epoca in his first interview as president after taking over from suspended predecessor Dilma Rousseff, who faces an impeachment trial in the Senate.

Temer's chief of staff, Eliseu Padilha, said the new government faced a challenging to-do list. "We're living through the worst economic crisis in the history of Brazil," he told a press conference. The solution, he said, is "out with corruption and in with efficiency." Finance Minister Henrique Meirelles, the man tasked with restoring confidence in Brazil's economy, said his priority would be cutting spending. He pledged not to cut the popular social programs launched under the sidelined Workers' Party (PT) — initiatives credited with helping lift tens of millions of people out of poverty—as long as beneficiaries really need them. But he warned: "Maintaining a social program doesn't mean maintaining the misuse of a social program."

### Leadership limbo

Temer asked for patience as his team works to turn around an economy stuck in its worst recession in decades. "I'm not going to be able to work miracles in two years," he said. That timeframe belies the strange leadership limbo in which Brazil finds itself pending an impeachment trial that could last up to six months. Political analysts say Rousseff will likely be removed from office for good by a two-thirds vote in the Senate—and Temer is clearly betting he will hold power until the next presidential election in 2018.

But for now he is stuck coexisting with his running mate-turned-enemy, who is holed up in the presidential residence planning her defense and attacking the new government. Underlining the tension in the corridors of power, workers began removing portraits of Rousseff from the presidential palace Friday, only to be told to put them back because, as Temer himself said, Rousseff is still technically president.

### Cabinet controversy

Temer faces many of the same stumbling blocks as his predecessor-plus a few of his own. Political analysts warned his honeymoon may not even last until he opens the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on August 5, South America's first. Temer is just about as disliked as the deeply unpopular Rousseff. A recent poll found he would receive just two percent of the vote in a presidential election.

The acting president will also face a deeply hostile left, resentful over what it calls the "coup" against Brazil's first woman president. Temer stoked opponents' outrage with his cabinet appointments: all 23 of his ministers are white men. "We tried to search for women but because of the timetable... it was not possible," Padilha said. Another controversy erupted over the decision to axe the culture ministry and lump it together with education. The minister who got the portfolio, Mendonca Filho, was raucously booed by culture ministry employees when he went to address them. Some held signs reading "Yes to culture, no to coups" and "We don't recognize the putschist government." The merger of the two ministries was also attacked in an open letter from an association of well-known artists including renowned singers Chico Buarque, Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil—who was himself culture minister from 2003 to 2008.

### Vulnerable to scandal

Temer is also vulnerable to the swirling scandal at state oil company Petrobras, which has snared top members of both his party, the PMDB, and Rousseff's PT. Temer, 75, is not under investigation himself. But three of his ministers are, and witnesses have implicated several others. Opponents have warned that Temer could try to choke off the probe. Those suspicions were fueled late Thursday when the Supreme Court suspended its decision to open an investigation into Senator Acio Neves, the leader of the center-right PSDB party and a key Temer ally. Rousseff, a one-time Marxist guerrilla tor-



Brazilian acting President Michel Temer

tured under Brazil's military dictatorship in the 1970s, has vowed not to go quietly. "Today Brazil has an interim, illegitimate government and a president elected by 54 million people," she told journalists. "We will fight to come back." While most Latin American leaders watched the crisis unfold with little comment, the leftist governments of Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua criticized Rousseff's ouster.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro late Friday decried the "coup d'etat" against Rousseff, and said that he called his ambassador in "to evaluate this painful page in the history of Brazil." Venezuela takes over the rotating presidency of Mercosur in one month, and Maduro warned that Rousseff's ouster "will affect" the South American trade bloc, without giving specifics.—AFP

## MADURO ISSUES EMERGENCY DECREES AMID OPPOSITION

CARACAS: Embattled Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro declared a three-month state of emergency late Friday to face "threats from abroad," as his emboldened opposition geared for a vote to oust him from office. In an address to the nation, Maduro said he had signed a new state of emergency decree "to neutralize and defeat foreign aggression," which he says is closing in on the country. Maduro said the measures will likely last through 2017, but he did not specify if they will limit civil rights. The announcement, made with his full cabinet at his side, broadens the scope of an economic emergency decree in effect since January that was set to expire on Saturday.

The new decree, he said, is "a fuller, more comprehensive protection for our people," which "guarantees peace, guarantees stability, that will allow us during the months of May, June, July" to "recover the country's productive capacity." It will be extended "constitutionally" and last for the rest of the year "and likely throughout the year 2017," he said. Maduro first issued a 60-day decree for emergency powers on January 14, which was extended in March, to deal with Venezuela's out of control economic crisis.

The economic decree authorized the president to take over private business assets in order to guarantee the supply of basic household products to the public. Maduro's political

opposition says this opens the door to new expropriations. The president is widely blamed for a crisis in which Venezuelans are having to queue for hours for rations of basic food and other goods. Maduro has also imposed daily electricity blackouts and has public employees working just two days a week due to power shortages. In 2015 Venezuela's economy contracted 5.7 percent and its official inflation rate topped 180 percent—one of the highest in the world. Non-government economists estimate the real inflation rate is several times higher.

### Blame Washington

Maduro regularly blames US and local business interests for what his administration sees as a conspiracy against Venezuela amid low oil prices. Washington has had a rocky relationship with the leftist government in Caracas for years, and the two countries have not exchanged ambassadors since 2010.

Despite the acrimony the United States is Venezuela's main trading partner and the biggest customer for oil, the South American country's main export. Caracas depends overwhelmingly on oil revenue, and has suffered mightily since the plunge in world oil prices. Two senior government officials, lawmaker Diosdado Cabello and Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez, expressed support for Maduro on Twitter.—AFP



SAN CRISTOBAL: Venezuelan opposition activists clash with the police during a demonstration in San Cristobal. — AFP

## ROUSSEFF'S GONE BUT HER PORTRAITS REMAIN—OR DO THEY?



BRASILIA: Indigenous supporters of Dilma Rousseff march to Congress in Brasilia, Brazil. On Thursday, President Dilma Rousseff was impeached on allegations she violated fiscal laws.—AP

BRASILIA: When suspended Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff cleared her desk, said goodbye to staff and surrendered her office to her bitter enemy Michel Temer, Brazil's traumatic power shift was complete. Except for one niggling issue: What to do with all the Rousseff portraits on presidential palace walls? On Friday, 24 hours after Rousseff's exit from the Palacio do Planalto in Brasilia, the initial answer seemed to be to take them all down.

An AFP correspondent saw a maintenance man struggling to remove a particularly large portrait of Rousseff, Brazil's first female president, from the communications department early in the morning. Folha newspaper's website published a picture of smaller portraits—featuring a smiling Rousseff in her presidential sash—stacked on a desk. But by midday Temer's new government—already dealing with accusations of illegitimacy, not to mention responsibility for tackling Brazil's huge economic problems—reassured the public. Rousseff, after all, has only been sus-

pending for six months pending judgment in her impeachment trial on charges of breaking government accounting laws. That means Temer, who had been her vice president, automatically gets full presidential powers but can't call the job his to keep unless she is completely removed. As rumors of the portrait drama spread, his chief of staff Eliseu Padilha told a press conference that Temer himself had intervened. "Portraits of president (Rousseff) must not be changed in any public administration building," Padilha said in the Planalto room where just one day earlier Rousseff had said her goodbyes. Temer "understands that for now his government is temporary."

### 'Coup plotter'

The issue was sensitive because Rousseff has repeatedly called Temer a coup plotter who engineered impeachment on false charges to seize power half way through her second term. Forcing her from office for a trial in the Senate was one thing, but pulling her

picture, as if already deciding that she'd never come back, was another. After the government's statement on leaving the Rousseff portraits, officials insisted they'd never had any other intention.

"It's not true they were being taken down," said Fabio Rocha Frederico in the communications department. "Look in there," he said, pointing to a small picture of the departed president on the wall. But down in the bowels of the Planalto building, where offices line the corridors, confusion persisted. "What we've heard is that someone could come to collect them, but that they'll be put in a safe place until it's known if she's coming back," said one government worker, who like others in his office spoke on condition of anonymity. "My guess is it will stay up there for one or two days more. They'll take it away on Monday," a colleague added. "I don't know," said a third worker, expressing her sadness at Rousseff's departure and distaste for Temer. "For me the portrait should stay there — right until 2018 when she finishes her mandate."—AFP





NEW YORK: Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton speaks with a coalition of HIV/AIDS activists at her Brooklyn Campaign Headquarters in New York City. —AFP

## IS CLINTON LOW ON ENTHUSIASM? BIG RALLIES OR QUIET VOTERS?

**DES MOINES:** Rock concert rallies versus intimate town halls. Adoring groupies versus dutiful voters. Sweeping promises versus targeted proposals. Whether Hillary Clinton is competing against Democratic rival Bernie Sanders or presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, one concern is much the same. They are outsider candidates riding a wave of populist excitement, while she is viewed as a traditional, establishment choice. As a result, her campaign sometimes just looks a little less exciting. Clinton has won far more votes than any other 2016 candidate. But if she moves into a general election matchup with Trump, she may continue to be dogged by questions about voter enthusiasm, especially as Trump pledges to continue his raucous rallies. Clinton's supporters say they are not worried.

"Big crowds mean nothing," said former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell. "You don't get extra points for an enthusiastic vote versus a moderately enthusiastic vote." Still, the differences are clear. In recent days, Sanders rallied with roughly 4,000 in Salem, Oregon, and Trump drew thousands in Bellingham, Washington. Clinton held a rally with over 1,000 people in New Jersey, but also spoke about family issues at a gathering with about 15 in northern Virginia. Trump's large crowds were good for more than his ego. They helped him power past his numerous rivals and to the verge of clinching the nomination as Clinton continues mopping up against her last remaining challenger.

"I think the rallies for Trump are the demonstration of his appeal as I think the rallies for Sanders are the demon-

stration of his appeal," said Republican pollster Greg Strimple. He added that Sanders' crowds have exposed some of Clinton's weaknesses and he would not have generated that energy "if the Democrats were so enamored of her candidacy." Republican strategist Sara Fagen, who has not backed Trump, says Clinton "doesn't have a movement. She has a base of people that will show up, but they're not overly energized." Still, Fagen said a general election may be more challenging for Trump, noting that his success so far has been in a crowded primary.

"There's no doubt Trump is energizing an element of the electorate," she said. "But some people are showing up not to support him as well. He's divisive." Crowd counts are just one measure of excitement. Polling suggests that the competitive Democratic race has energized voters, and exit polls find enthusiasm for Clinton as well as Sanders. About 2 in 5 primary voters were enthusiastic about their party's front-runner in a recent CNN poll. Both Clinton and Trump have negative favorability ratings among general election voters. But Trump's negatives with people of all backgrounds are at historic highs, suggesting he may have difficulty connecting with a broad cross-section of voters in November. Sanders and Trump have revealed in their large crowds as evidence of the power of their message. During a recent interview with The Associated Press, Trump said the huge rallies would continue to be a centerpiece of his campaign. He argued that the excitement and momentum were more important than spending heavily in a sophisticated data operation to turn out voters. "My coalition of voters

is amazing," Trump said. "You know, we don't get enough credit. First of all, I have the biggest crowds by far. I have the most loyal voters by far."

Clinton, who shines in more intimate interactions, stressed early in the campaign that she wanted to engage with voters at smaller venues. She is on track to wrap up the nomination within weeks and is increasingly focusing on Trump as she tries to replicate the kind of data-heavy approach that helped Barack Obama win presidential elections in 2008 and 2012. Clinton also struggled with the enthusiasm gap when she ran against Obama in the 2008 primary. Obama held huge rallies and captured much of the popular imagination and enthusiasm. Rendell said he did not think 2016 would pose the same problems because the "fear and loathing" of anti-Trump voters will drive turnout.

Democratic pollster Geoff Garin, a strategist for a super political action committee supporting Clinton's candidacy, acknowledged "there is a lot of emotion around Donald Trump's candidacy" but contended that cuts both ways. Trump will be a "lightning rod for motivating Democratic voters to engage in the race and turn out in November in a way that counters whatever enthusiasm he creates on the other side," Garin said. Whatever happens, Democratic consultant Joe Trippi said dealing with Sanders and his rallies may help Clinton. "They may just have to get used to hearing everybody whine about 'but he'd got all these crowds,'" Trippi said. "Maybe this is good practice, the primary. There's no evidence that any of this matters." — AP

## PHOTO CONTROVERSY HIGHLIGHTS BLACK WOMEN IN LONG GRAY LINE

**WASHINGTON:** Self-expression is hardly a part of life for cadets at the United States Military Academy. So it was far from ordinary when 16 black women put their own spin on the traditional graduation photo, hoisting their fists in the air while posing in their dress uniforms, swords at their sides. A social media firestorm followed. So did an internal inquiry at the school. Some viewed the cadets' pose as a gesture of racial solidarity and strength. Others questioned whether it was a statement of support for Black Lives Matter.

West Point officials decided last week that the photo was not politically motivated and no punishment was warranted. Still, that outcome left some black female graduates confused: Why would anyone see controversy in how those 16 women celebrated their experience in the Long Gray Line? "When I saw it, I said, 'I wish me and my classmates had taken a picture like that,'" said Shalela Dowdy, a 2012 graduate and a friend of some of the women in the photograph. "But some-

thing clicked in my mind that not too many people would be happy about that picture. The fist stands for unity and solidarity, but some people are going to take this the wrong way."

None of the 16 women would agree to be interviewed for this story. Speaking through black alumnae, they cited a need to focus on their graduation next Saturday, when Vice President Joe Biden will give the commencement address, and life after West Point. For some, that will mean active duty service in the Army. They will become Army officers after leaving the academy. The picture was one of several the women took in their traditional dress uniforms. A different photo, without the raised fists, was tweeted by the chairwoman of West Point's Board of Visitors.

### Your blackness

Mary Tobin, who has mentored other black female cadets since graduating in 2003, said few are inclined to discuss their experiences publicly. "To be a

black woman at West Point is essentially to make a choice going in... that the majority of the time, you can never fully express your womanhood or your blackness," Tobin said. "We're told we're all green. We don't ever talk about it, because it's hard enough for everyone at West Point to graduate." The cadets pictured are joining a rare but proud group of black women who have broken barriers on dual fronts at West Point. In interviews with The Associated Press, black alumnae describe a rewarding experience with challenges that included navigating racial incidents.

Established in 1802, West Point went co-ed in 1976. Four years later, there were 62 female graduates. In that class were the first black female graduates, Joy Dallas and Priscilla "Pat" Walker Locke. West Point has graduated 357 black women in its 114-year history, and the Class of 2016 includes 18 black women. Blacks have contributed to West Point's legacy for centuries, from the first African-American cadet, Henry O. Flipper, who graduated in 1877, to 2nd Lt Emily Perez, a black woman who was the first member of the "Class of 9/11" to die in combat, in 2006.

According to admissions director Col Deborah McDonald, about 15,000 students apply to West Point each year, and about 9 percent enroll. There were 1,859 black applicants for the incoming freshman class, and 14 percent of them were accepted, McDonald said. West Point's numbers are mirrored at the other US military service academies. The Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, counts 20 women who identify as African-American in its 2016 graduating class of 1,215. The Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, has a graduating class of 827, of whom 11 are African-American women. The Coast Guard Academy, in New London, Connecticut, didn't have a gender breakdown by race, but said three students identifying as African-American are in the graduating class of 186. — AP



WASHINGTON: Mary Tobin, wearing her West Point class ring, poses for picture in Washington on Friday, May 13, 2016. Self-expression is hardly a part of life for cadets at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Tobin, who has mentored other black women cadets since graduating in 2003, said the experience is one rarely discussed publicly. — AP

## ARGENTINA'S KIRCHNER CHARGED WITH FRAUD, ASSETS FROZEN

**BUENOS AIRES:** Assets belonging to former Argentine president Cristina Kirchner were frozen Friday after she was charged with damaging national finances by manipulating the Central Bank's exchange operations during her last months in office. Federal Judge Claudio Bonadio said it was "evident that the then president gave instructions-which without a doubt were developed jointly-to her economy minister to carry out the financial operation," according to a statement released on the Supreme Court's website.

Bonadio ordered assets worth 15 million pesos (\$1 million) held by Kirchner to be frozen. He delivered the same charge and asset freeze against Axel Kicillof, Kirchner's minister of the economy from 2013 to 2015, and against former Central Bank president Alejandro Vanoli and 12 other former members of its board. Kirchner, who held office from 2007 to 2015, is accused of having caused a loss in monetary authority through speculative dollar sales by the Central Bank at the end of 2015, just before the election of center-right President Mauricio Macri.

According to the current government, which opposed Kirchner, the operation caused a loss of hundreds of millions of dollars to Latin America's third-largest economy. Kirchner's defenders say that the issue cannot be taken to court as it concerns disagreements over monetary policy aimed at maintaining the value of the peso. On December 16, just six days after taking office, Macri ordered measures that led to a 34-percent devaluation of the Argentine peso, resulting in an exchange rate of one dollar per 15 pesos.

Kirchner, 63, left office in December after two consecutive terms and is no longer protected by political immunity. The leftist former leader appeared in court in mid-April, where she refused to answer questions and instead presented a document demanding Judge Bonadio's dismissal. Bonadio is an open critic of Kirchner, who in the past tried to have him dismissed from his post. Kirchner has also been implicated in an embezzlement case, and along with her son, has been swept up in legal proceedings over irregularities in family real-estate activities.

### Bipartisan allegations

Several former Kirchner administration officials have been tainted by allegations of corruption, but the Macri administration also faces problems. Former planning minister Julio De Vido faces criminal negligence charges for his poor administration of the railroad system, which resulted in a 2012 train crash that killed 51 people and injured 700.

In April two former transportation secretaries, Ricardo Jaime and Juan Pablo Schiavi, were indicted on bribery and fraud charges relating to the purchase of used train stock from Spain and Portugal. Lazaro Baez, a wealthy entrepreneur close to the Kirchners who obtained lucrative public works contracts, is in prison while he is investigated on money laundering charges. President Macri himself is being investigated for alleged links to offshore companies named in the Panama Papers tax evasion revelations. Nestor Grindetti, a mayor and Macri confidant, is being probed for links to offshore tax havens and was earlier linked to a case of tax evasion in Brazil. — AFP



EL CALAFATE: Argentina's former President Cristina Fernandez arrives at the airport in El Calafate, Argentina, as she travels to the capital to face questions about her government's handling of the futures dollar market. — AP

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## UGANDAN OPPN LEADER CHARGED WITH TREASON OVER PROTESTS

**KAMPALA:** Uganda's main opposition leader has been charged with treason and jailed in a remote area in the country's northeast, a judiciary spokesman said yesterday. Kizza Besigye was handed charges late Friday stemming from his public attacks on the legitimacy of President Yoweri Museveni, who won a disputed election in February, said Solomon Muyita.

Besigye, a qualified physician, was Museveni's personal doctor during the guerrilla war that launched Museveni into power in 1986. He held various government positions and rose to become a colonel in the army, but then broke ranks with Museveni in 1999.

Besigye ran for president in 2001, promising a more democratic government, and has challenged Museveni in elections since then. He claims he won the February vote and has repeatedly urged his supporters to wage a defiance campaign against the authorities.

There is a video online purportedly showing

Besigye being sworn in as Uganda's president as part of a mock exercise. The Associated Press couldn't independently verify the authenticity of the video, but Besigye's party, the Forum for Democratic Change, reported on Twitter that the event took place on the eve of Museveni's inauguration for a fifth term.

Muyita cited the alleged mock inauguration of Besigye as one of the reasons for the treason charge, which carries a maximum penalty of death on conviction. Ladislaus Rwakafuuzi, a lawyer for Besigye, said the treason charges "are only intended to annoy Besigye and to depict him as a person who is interested in unlawfully overthrowing the government."

He said the state would have to prove that Besigye intended to use force of arms to overthrow the government in order to have him convicted over treason. Besigye was charged in the district of Moroto, where he had been flown after being arrested on Wednesday in the capital Kampala. — AP



**KASANGATI:** In this Monday, Feb 22, 2016 file photo, Uganda's main opposition leader Kizza Besigye, center, is arrested by police and thrown into the back of a blacked-out police van, outside his home. — AP



**ABUJA:** Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari (R) and French President Francois Hollande (L) look on during a meeting at the presidential Palace. — AFP

## NIGERIA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON BOKO HARAM

### UN WARNS OF THREAT TO AFRICAN SECURITY

**ABUJA:** Regional and Western powers gathered in Nigeria yesterday for talks on quelling the threat from Boko Haram as the UN warned of the militants' threat to African security and ties to the Islamic State group.

French President Francois Hollande told reporters after meeting his Nigerian counterpart Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja that "impressive" gains had been made against the Islamists by greater cooperation. But he warned: "This terrorist group nevertheless remains a threat."

Buhari has invited leaders from Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, whose troops will make up a new regional force against Boko Haram, which has been pushed to northeast Nigeria's borders around Lake Chad. The 8,500-member force, which has African Union backing and is based in Chad's capital, N'Djamena under a Nigerian general, was supposed to have deployed last July.

#### UN warning

Plugging gaps and improving coordination between armies that are currently operating largely independently is seen as vital in the remote region where borders are notoriously porous. The waters of Lake Chad form the border between Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, which have all been attacked by the militants in raids and suicide bombings.

Nigeria is seeking closer military cooperation

to bring to an end nearly seven years of violence, which has left at least 20,000 dead and displaced more than 2.6 million people in the northeast. The UN Security Council on Friday said talks should help develop "a comprehensive strategy to address the governance, security, development, socio-economic and humanitarian dimensions of the crisis".

But it also expressed "deep concern" at Boko Haram's threat to security in West and Central Africa and "alarm at... linkages with the Islamic State", which operates in Syria, Iraq and Libya. Boko Haram's shadow leader Abubakar Shekau pledged allegiance to his IS counterpart Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi last year, although there has since been little evidence so far of direct support on the ground.

#### 'Defeat' caution

The summit-two years after a first such high-level gathering in Paris-comes as Nigeria's military pushes deep into Boko Haram's Sambisa Forest stronghold after recapturing swathes of territory. Former military ruler Buhari has vowed to defeat Boko Haram before the end of his first year in office later this month and the army has portrayed the Islamists as in disarray.

But there have been warnings against any premature declaration of victory. Deputy US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Washington, which is flying surveillance

drones over northeast Nigeria from a base in northern Cameroon, did not see Boko Haram as defeated. But he conceded "they have been degraded" and said the US was "extremely vigilant" about the connections, amid reports of Boko Haram rebels fighting in lawless Libya and the group's ties to Al-Qaeda affiliates in the wider Sahel region.

"This is again something we are looking at very, very carefully because we want to cut it off," he told reporters in Abuja on Friday. British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond also warned on Boko Haram's ties to IS and said progress was being made against the group with help from London, Paris and Washington. "But we must maintain the momentum to win the war, and build the right conditions for post-conflict stability in the region," he added in a statement.

With Boko Haram on the back foot, attention has turned to the plight of the displaced. Two million Nigerians have been internally displaced and are living in host communities or camps. The government of Borno state-the worst-hit by the violence-has said the displaced face a "food crisis" and \$5.9 billion (5.1 billion euros) was needed to rebuild shattered infrastructure. US ambassador to the UN Samantha Power, who visited northeast Nigeria and northern Cameroon last month, said 9.2 million people in the wider region were affected by the conflict. — AFP

## IN SEASIDE RESORT, REFUGEES FIND DREAMS PUT ON HOLD

**MYRSINI:** At the end of a long, straight road on the coastal flats between the southern Greek village of Myrsini and the Ionian Sea sits a refugee shelter that could have popped out of a travel brochure. The 338 Syrians and Iraqis who have been living there since March say they're grateful to be safe in seaside bungalows, but getting restless, eager to continue journeys they hope will take them to the more prosperous nations of Western Europe.

Local authorities volunteered the resort, which had been abandoned for years, to a Greek government that encountered strong opposition from some other communities as it quickly tried to build camps for tens of thousands of stranded refugees.

About a million people fleeing war or poverty in the Middle East and Africa arrived in Greece from neighboring Turkey between January 2015 and March 2016, when a series of countries further north closed their borders. New arrivals have since dropped to a few thousand, mainly because of a new European Union deal for Turkey to host people who otherwise would have arrived by boat, but about 54,000 remain stranded in dozens of official camps - and two makeshift tent cities - across Greece, awaiting asylum in the financially broken country or relocation elsewhere on the continent.

Most of the organized camps consist of boxy prefabricated units or canvas tents, set up hurriedly by the military. About 1,300 people live in the former arrivals area of the old Athens airport, and another 2,100 in defunct sports venues built for the 2004 Olympics. In several cases, local communities bucked sharply at their selection to host migrant shelters, some ploughing the appointed sites overnight or fighting for days with riot police.

#### 'Place is a mess'

Not so in Myrsini, part of the municipality of Andravida and Kyllini. Municipality Mayor Nampil Morant is a Syrian immigrant himself, who married a Greek woman and settled in nearby Lechaina almost three decades ago. But he says that wasn't what motivated his municipal council's decision.

"We could see the dramatic situation of

these refugees, the children that drowned at sea, the difficulties they face - and that can't leave you untouched," said Morant, a Paris- and Brussels-educated doctor born in Homs, a city ravaged by Syria's civil war. In 2014 he became the first immigrant to win a Greek local election.

"The site was useless to us, it had been abandoned and was in the middle of a court process," he said. "So we told the central government: 'Look, this place is in a mess. If you want, you can have it, fix it up and put them there.'"

The Syrians and Iraqis, mostly families of women and children, moved there from a squalid encampment of thousands that sprang up on the quays of Piraeus, the port of Athens where Aegean island ferries dock. Morant says he believes things have worked well so far, so much so that refugees from other parts of Greece are turning up on their own. But they're sent away because Morant wants people to live in proper facilities, not in tents.

In the camp, men play volleyball, children through a playground, mothers hang washing outside the ochre-painted bungalows and young women chat on the beach. At least one baby has been born here and was entered by Morant in the local birth register. It's a carefree, sheltered existence. But the refugees are antsy. They risked their lives to reach Greece in flimsy boats, paying a small fortune to smuggling gangs, with the ultimate aim of starting a new life. Now that's been suspended, with no clear indication of how long they may have to wait.

Heba Algafer, an English student from Damascus, says it's time to move on. "We don't need a place to live or OK food, we don't need this life," she said. "We need to travel, to find a place to stay, and work, and learn." Algafer and her fiancé, Damascus car mechanic Ahmed Qasem, crossed to the island of Samos on a boat crammed with nearly 70 people on March 19, a day before the cut-off date after which any refugees reaching Greece are liable for deportation to Turkey, under the agreement with the European Union. They landed destitute, as smugglers forced them to dump their bags with all their cash and belongings into the sea, to make space for more passengers. — AP



**MYRSINI:** In this photo taken on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, Syrian refugees walk at a former bungalow resort. — AP

## UKRAINE'S INTERIOR MINISTER SLAMS JOURNALISTS ACCREDITED WITH REBELS

**KIEV:** Ukraine's interior minister yesterday lambasted reporters who were accredited by pro-Russian rebels to cover fighting in the country's east, after their details were leaked by hackers. Journalist groups have slammed a group of pro-Kiev hackers for this week revealing details of thousands of reporters who got accredited with the insurgents to work in territory they control.

The list includes journalists from Agence France-Presse and other global media organizations and contains the email addresses and phone numbers. Journalists who entered the war zone needed to receive special permits from the separatist authorities to work in the territory the rebels have controlled since the start of the conflict in April 2014.

But Interior Minister Arsen Avakov lashed out at those who had worked with permission from the rebels. "I find it impossible to have any contact with the self-appointed occupying authorities-impossible and immoral," Avakov wrote on his Facebook page. "This is your choice to cooperate with occupying authorities... Don't hide it," he added, addressing journalists.

Since the information was revealed the only Ukrainian official to support the journalists has been deputy minister of information policy Tetiana Popova, who said that she does not understand why it was necessary. "This has led to massive threats to journalists and me," she wrote on her Facebook page.

A letter co-signed by reporters from The New York Times as well as The Economist and a Ukrainian representative of the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) media rights organization said the security breach put their lives at risk. The website that published the information has been shut down. The rebel revolt has claimed the lives of more than 9,300 people and plunged Moscow's relations with the West to their lowest point since the Cold War. — AFP

## FIVE YEARS ON, INDIGNADOS SHAKE UP SPANISH POLITICS

**MADRID:** Five years ago, a small group of angry activists launched Spain's anti-austerity Indignados movement, likely never imagining it would grow so big, spreading beyond the country and shaking the very core of politics. In the spring of 2011, as an economic crisis tore through Spain leaving countless jobless and homeless in its wake, a dozen bloggers and online activists decided to write a manifesto titled "real democracy now" and called for a demonstration.

Under a clear blue sky on May 15, thousands responded to the call, gathering on the Puerta del Sol square in Madrid where they set up camp, refusing to budge for weeks just like Egyptian youth had done on Cairo's Tahrir square.

With more than 20 percent unemployment, floods of exasperated people around the country followed suit, taking to the streets and organizing meetings in what became known as the Indignados-or 15-M, short for May 15 - movement. "It was a major event, which resulted in a new political and historical era in Spain," says sociologist Jaime Pastor.

#### 'Instrument for change'

Initiated when the Socialists were still in power, the Indignados claimed to transcend political cleavages. "Some of us are more progressive, others more conservative... But we are all worried and 'indignant' about the political, economic and social situation," read their manifesto.

That year, 21,000 protests took place throughout Spain. And the movement quickly spread beyond Spain, inspiring Occupy Wall Street protests in New York as well as gatherings in other European cities.

As the crisis deepened, Spaniards chose to vote in the conservative Popular Party (PP) in November 2011, chasing away the Socialists.

The PP continued and deepened a policy of spending cuts and tax rises put in place by the previous government in a bid to steer the country away from economic collapse. They achieved that, bringing Spain back to growth, but at a cost. Austerity measures increased inequalities and a string of corruption scandals that hit the PP only deepened resentment of the elite.

And so it was that Podemos, a far-left, anti-austerity party inspired by the Indignados movement, was born in January

2014. Criticized as a populist, anti-establishment grouping by its detractors, the ally of Greece's Syriza leftists nevertheless swept into third place in general elections less than two years later.

In a historic move, the December 2015 polls put an end to Spain's long-standing two-party system thanks to the rise of Podemos as well as that of Ciudadanos, another new grouping considered more to the right, leading to a hung parliament.

A new political generation was born: out of 350 lawmakers, 211 had never held a parliamentary seat-suited men and women contrasting with those sporting jeans and

dreadlocks. The Indignados movement also filtered into city halls in major cities like Madrid and Barcelona, with activists now holding prominent positions after municipal elections in May last year.

Ada Colau, the current mayor of Barcelona, rose to prominence as an activist who protested against forced evictions. "Politics has once again become an instrument for change," says Podemos lawmaker Jantxo Lopez de Uralde, the former head of Greenpeace in Spain.

#### 'Still a lot to do'

But this sweeping change has yet to make an impact. Coalition talks to form a government collapsed after bickering parties failed to come to any form of agreement, leaving the country in political limbo. As a result, Spaniards are having to go back to the polls in June in the first repeat elections since the country returned to democracy following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

In the meantime, Spain is still being ruled by a caretaker conservative government blamed for the very austerity that the Indignados movement wants to quash. "There is still a lot to do," acknowledges Fabio Gandara, one of the founders of the movement. "The majority of our demands have yet to be fulfilled."

Still, according to Podemos activist Tristan Duanel, there have been some achievements. "Young people have joined parties," he says, adding that some themes advocated by the Indignados-such as transparency - have now become mainstream. "But change is slow," he adds. "We have to do something at a European level." — AFP



**MADRID:** This file photo taken on May 19, 2011 shows a general view of the Puerta del Sol square in Madrid during a protest against Spain's economic crisis and its sky-high jobless rate. — AFP



SIWAN, India: Indian journalists shout slogans during a protest following the killing of journalist Rajdeo Ranjan yesterday. — AFP

## TWO INDIAN REPORTERS SHOT DEAD IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS

**NEW DELHI:** Gunmen shot dead two journalists in 24 hours in separate incidents in eastern India, police and local reports said yesterday, the latest media killing in Asia's deadliest country for reporters. Rajdeo Ranjan, the local bureau chief for Hindi-language daily Hindustan, was travelling on his motorcycle late Friday in Bihar state when a group of unknown assailants shot him five times. "He was shot from very close range. We rushed him to a hospital where he was declared dead on arrival last night," local Siwan district police chief, Saurabh Kumar Sah, told AFP by telephone. Sah said police were yet to ascertain the motive behind the killing, but two people have been detailed for questioning. "We are focusing more on the professional angle since he may have written some things about certain people, which may have led to this," he said. Television footage showed villagers collecting firewood to prepare Ranjan's funeral pyre as family members and women sat on the ground wailing, holding their heads in their hands. Late on Thursday, television journalist Akhilesh Pratap Singh was also shot dead by unknown assailants as he returned home on a motorbike in restive Jharkhand state,

which neighbors Bihar, according to local reports. "We have no eyewitnesses yet. But we suspect that the assailants too were on motorcycle," the Indian Express newspaper quoted Upendra Prasad, a senior state police official, as saying. "It is not immediately clear if the journalist had (received) any threat from anybody." Singh's family members and supporters held a protest Friday, blocking roads and demanding compensation and swift police action against the perpetrators. India was Asia's deadliest country for journalists in 2015, according to Paris-based Reporters Without Borders. It is also one of the most restrictive countries for the press, ranked 133 out of 180 nations by the group. Journalists in the world's largest democracy often face harassment and intimidation by police, politicians, bureaucrats and criminal gangs, while scores work in hostile conditions in conflict-ridden pockets of the country. In October gunmen on a motorbike shot dead a television journalist in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh as he returned home from a market. A freelance reporter also died after being doused with petrol and set on fire in Uttar Pradesh in June. — AFP

# PEACE DEAL EXPECTED WITH AFGHAN'S HEZB-I-ISLAMI

### BREAKTHROUGH IN ATTEMPTS TO END 15-YEAR WAR

**KABUL:** The Afghan government is expected to finalize a peace deal with a notorious militant insurgent group within days, marking a breakthrough in attempts to end the 15-year war, an official and a representative of the group said yesterday.

Ataul Rahman Saleem, deputy head of Kabul's High Peace Council, told The Associated Press that the deal with the armed wing of Hezb-i-Islami could be completed today, after two years of negotiations. A senior representative of Hezb-i-Islami, Amin Karim, also said he expected President Ashraf Ghani to approve the final version of the agreement today.

Such a deal would mark a much-needed success for Ghani in forging peace with insurgent groups fighting to overthrow the Kabul administration. His attempts to open a dialogue with the Taliban, mainly via overtures to the Pakistan government which is believed to support it, have failed.

While Hezb-i-Islami has been a largely dormant force in recent years, and has little political relevance in Afghanistan, the deal with the Afghan government could be a template for any future deal with the Taliban. It commits the group to ending its war against Kabul, respecting the Afghan constitution, and ceasing all contact with other armed, anti-government groups.

#### 'Global terrorist'

Hezb-i-Islami is led by warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, best known for killing thousands of people in Kabul during the 1992-1996 civil war. He is believed to be in Pakistan, though Karim has said he is in an unspecified location in Afghanistan. Under the terms of the 25-point agreement, a draft of which has been seen by AP, he could soon return to Kabul to sign a formal peace deal and take up residence.

Hekmatyar, in his late 60s, is designated a "global terrorist" by the United States and blacklisted by the United Nations along with Osama bin Laden. The agreement obliges the Afghan government to work to have the restrictions lifted. Hezb-i-Islami has only intermittently been active on the battlefield for some time; its last known major attack was in 2013, when at least 15 people, including six American soldiers, were killed in Kabul. Saleem said Hekmatyar's associates, including his family, all appeared united behind him and "are not dissenting with their leader." He said a few points in the agreement were still to be thrashed out, and added: "It is strongly possible that we get to the final points tomorrow and finalize the peace negotiations."



KABUL: In this Thursday, March 17, 2016 photo, Amin Karim, second right, an official of the Hezb-i-Islami Party, speaks as he leaves after a press conference. — AP

Ghani is due to return to Kabul today from an official visit to London. Karim said he expected the president to give his final approval to the content of the truce agreement soon after his return. Negotiations began in July 2014, Karim said, when Hekmatyar received a letter from Ghani, then campaigning to become president, noting that one of Hekmatyar's key conditions for peace - the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan - was about to be met.

"That was the beginning," Karim said. Progress stalled after President Barack Obama decided to leave a 10,000-strong force in the country through to the end of 2016 until Hekmatyar dropped the condition and renamed it "a goal" earlier this year. Karim and a number of Afghan officials have said that a peace agreement with Hekmatyar's group could encourage Taliban fighters to end their participation in the war, and eventually lead to a full-blown peace. Others, however, regard Hekmatyar as politically irrelevant and lacking any real influence. Spokesmen for the Taliban were not immediately available for comment. The agreement covers a wide range of points, including a guarantee of equality between men and women and respect for the Afghan constitution, both points of contention with the Taliban, whose 1996-2001 rule of Afghanistan was characterized by extremist atti-

tudes that cloistered women in their houses and mandated strict religious education, to the exclusion of almost all else, for boys. Brokered under the auspices of the High Peace Council - a government body charged with negotiating an end to almost 40 years of war - the agreement allows Hezb-i-Islami to operate as a bona fide political party and participate in elections at every level. It gives legal immunity for "all past political and military proceedings" by Hezb-i-Islami members and mandates the release of all prisoners within three months. Karim said there are about 2,000 Hezb-i-Islami prisoners in jails across Afghanistan. The Afghan government undertakes to provide housing and security for Hekmatyar at two or three residences in places of his choosing. One point that could attract opposition from sections of society that fear Ghani's government is prepared to cede ground to the Taliban in return for peace - including any rollback in rights for women - is a clause that gives Hekmatyar a "consultant" role on "important political and national decisions" facing the government. For its part, Hezb-i-Islami pledges to end the war, function as an "active political party," stop all military activity and dissolve all its military organizations, and cease all contact with other anti-government organizations. — AP



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri village girls walk back home after attending school in the outskirts of Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir yesterday. The girls from this village walk miles every day to reach school and to return home. — AP

## PAKISTAN OPPN LEADER ADMITS TO USING OFF-SHORE COMPANY

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistani opposition leader Imran Khan, who tried to oust Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a row over off-shore wealth, has acknowledged using an off-shore company to avoid paying British tax on a London property sale. Analysts say the admission is likely to ease the pressure on Sharif's government from a Panama Papers data leak that showed Sharif's children had used off-shore companies to buy London properties. Last month the government bowed to opposition demands for a review by an independent commission. Khan's PTI party initially denied media claims that he bought a property in London through an off-shore company in 1983, when he was playing cricket in England. But late on Friday, Khan said he set up the company to legally avoid paying British taxes. "Because I was not a British citizen, an offshore flat was bought. When I sold that flat in 2003, I did not have to pay the taxes in UK," Khan told reporters at London's Heathrow Airport. "There is nothing illegal in it." PTI and Khan did not respond to requests for comment. Khan, long revered as a cricketer hero, had relentlessly needled Sharif over the Panama Papers revelations and railed against people who use off-shore companies to dodge tax. Media commentators and Nawaz supporters quoted back at him his Twitter comment from last month: "Only reason ppl open offshore accts through Panama is to either hide wealth, esp ill-gotten wealth, or to evade tax or both." Umar Cheema, a Pakistani reporter who collaborated with the International Committee of Journalists (ICJ) on the Panama Papers leak, said Khan's use of an off-shore company in 1983 pre-dates anything found in the Panama Papers about other Pakistanis. Khan "is pioneer in offshore company formation, among Pakistanis. Not only the oldest, his company remained operational for the longest period," Cheema said on Twitter. Mohammad Zubair, the privatisation minister, said Khan should prepare to face a parliamentary grilling. He added Sharif does not own any off-shore companies. Sharif's daughter Maryam, who is alleged to have owned an off-shore company used to buy a flat in London, also waded in.

"The 'PIONEER' of offshore companies ..... The TRAILBLAZER award goes to Mr Khan. #Hypocrisy," she said on Twitter. One political analyst said the opposition was likely to keep using the Panama Papers to pillor Sharif but Khan's revelations will help blunt those attacks. — Reuters

## TALEBAN BOMBER KILLS THREE AT POLICE TRAINING CENTRE

**KANDAHAR:** A Taliban suicide bomber detonated an explosive-laden car at a police training centre in the opium-rich southern province of Helmand yesterday, killing at least three people and wounding nine others, officials said. The attack in Nad Ali district comes in the midst of the Taliban's annual spring offensive launched last month, in what is expected to be the worst fighting season in 15 years of war. "Three policemen were killed in a suicide car bombing in Nad Ali," Helmand police chief Abdul Rahman Sarjang told AFP. "Seven police and two civilians were among the wounded," he added. Eyewitnesses said the powerful bombing left a huge crater outside the training centre. The attack comes after a period of relative calm in Helmand, a Taliban hotbed, for more than a month when many militants left the frontlines to assist in harvesting poppies for opium - the group's main source of revenue. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said the militants were behind the bombing and claimed that dozens of policemen were killed in the attack. The militant group is known to exaggerate death toll figures in attacks on government or Western targets. The insurgents have frequently used roadside bombs, ambushes and suicide assaults in nearly 15 years of war. The Taliban have vowed "large-scale attacks" across Afghanistan in this year's spring offensive - dubbed Operation Omari in honor of its late founder Mullah Omar, whose death was announced last year. — AFP

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## CHINA USING 'COERCIVE TACTICS' IN MARITIME CLAIMS: PENTAGON

**WASHINGTON:** China is using "coercive tactics" and fostering regional tensions as it expands its maritime presence in the South China Sea and elsewhere, but is avoiding triggering an armed conflict, the Pentagon said Friday.

In an annual report to Congress, the Defense Department outlined China's rapid military growth and described how it is assertively defending sovereignty claims across the contested East China Sea and South China Sea. Last year for instance, China deployed coast guard and PLA Navy ships in the South China Sea to maintain a "near-continuous" presence there.

And in the East China Sea, Beijing deployed planes and maritime law-enforcement ships to patrol near a chain of islands known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. "China is using coercive tactics... to advance their interests in ways that are calculated to fall below the threshold of provoking conflict," the report states.

When asked to describe China's coercive tactics, Abraham Denmark, a deputy assistant secretary of defense for East Asia, told reporters that Chinese coast guard and fishing vessels sometimes act in an "unprofessional" manner. They do so "in the vicinity of the military forces or fishing vessels of other countries in a way that's designed to attempt to establish a degree of control around disputed features," Denmark told reporters.

"These activities are designed to stay below the threshold of conflict, but gradually demonstrate and assert claims that other countries dispute," he added. China claims nearly all of the strategically vital South China Sea, even waters close to Southeast Asian neighbors including Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, which have competing claims.

### 3,200 acres of new land

Central to China's claims are its land-reclamation efforts that have seen tiny islets, reefs and other maritime features

built into military facilities. The Pentagon report included dramatic photos of these contentious islands, including the Fiery Cross Reef Outpost, located between the Philippines and Vietnam.

Since 2014, China has turned a sandy blip in the ocean into an island stretching more than two miles complete with a lengthy runway. China's land reclamation efforts in an area known as the Spratly Islands have added 3,200 acres of land to the seven features it occupies, the report states.

Beijing last year paused land-reclamation efforts and began focusing on "infrastructure development" of the islets. The United States insists China's claims have no basis under international law, and the US military has conducted several "freedom of navigation" operations, where ships and planes pass close to the sites claimed by China.

Such missions have drawn howls of anger from Beijing, which accuses the

United States of provocation and of increasing the risk of a military mishap. The US Navy maintains a strong presence in the South China Sea, and Defense Secretary Ashton Carter has twice in recent months pointedly visited US aircraft carriers deployed in the waterway. "Recent land reclamation activity has little legal effect, but will support China's ability to sustain longer patrols in the South China Sea," the report notes.

### Rapidly evolving military

China's ambitions extend far beyond its immediate region. In November, Beijing announced it was establishing a military facility in Djibouti. This "likely reflects (a) more global outlook, as it will be utilized to sustain the PLA Navy's operations at greater distances from China," the report notes.

Additionally, China is "expanding its access to foreign ports to pre-position the necessary logistics support to regularize and sustain deployments in the 'far seas.'"

China has the second-largest military budget after the United States, and over the past two decades has increased spending annually. In 2015, its official military budget was \$144 billion, though the true number is thought to be even higher. The Pentagon's 2016 budget is about \$585 billion.

Much of China's military money is going towards the development of its conventionally armed missile capability, "as well as ground- and air-launched land-attack cruise missiles, special operations forces, and cyber warfare capabilities to hold targets at risk throughout the region," the report states. While critical of some of China's military tactics, the Pentagon said it hopes to continue building a "sustained and substantive" military-to-military relationship with China. The United States "will continue to focus on enhancing risk-reduction measures that diminish the potential for incidents or miscalculation, and encourage China to contribute constructively to efforts to maintain peace and stability." — AFP



**YANGON:** In this Nov 14, 2014 file photo, Aung San Suu Kyi, walks with President Barack Obama for their joint news conference at her home. — AP

## US SET TO RENEW, BUT TWEAK SANCTIONS AGAINST MYANMAR

### MILITARY CONTINUES TO WIELD CONSIDERABLE POWER

**WASHINGTON:** The US business lobby says it is high time to drop the remaining US sanctions on Myanmar, but human rights activists and US lawmakers say not so fast. Former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi is now running the government after winning elections. Still, the military continues to wield considerable power.

That poses a dilemma for President Barack Obama, who wants to encourage investment but not lose leverage to encourage further reforms. So next week, Obama is expected to renew sanctions for another year. The administration could take some state-run companies off a US Treasury blacklist. Secretary of State John Kerry will be traveling to Myanmar on May 22 to signal support for the civilian-led government that took power last month and for further democratic and economic reforms, the State Department said Friday.

The US waived its longstanding bans on investment and trade in 2012 after the country also known as Burma began shifting from a half-century of repressive military rule. The US still forbids business dealings with companies majority-owned by the military and dozens of companies and individuals designated by Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control. The US also bans arms trading and imports of rubies and jade, one of Myanmar's most lucrative industries.

The authority under which sanctions are imposed is the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, which empowers the

president to regulate commerce with another country in response to "an unusual and extraordinary threat" to the United States. Some 20 countries are subject to such a declared emergency.

"Does an emergency still exist as it did in Burma five or 10 years ago?" said John Goyer, senior director for Southeast Asia for the US Chamber of Commerce, which is pushing lifting of Myanmar-specific sanctions that it says create uncertainty for investors. He said that where necessary, the US could blacklist companies and individuals under different sanctions programs.

### Internment camps

Although several major US firms like Coca-Cola, General Electric, Chevron and Caterpillar are now operating in Myanmar, US investment of \$248 million represents less than 1 percent of total foreign investment there, a much lower proportion than in other Southeast Asian countries, Goyer said.

Human rights activists see matters through a different prism. They cite continuing repression of 140,000 stateless Rohingya Muslims confined to squalid internment camps, and abuses by Myanmar's army in long-running hostilities against ethnic armies. "The current sanctions regime is deliberately limited and creates incentives for human rights abusers to clean up their act," said Matthew Smith, executive director of the group Fortify Rights. "These measures are sensible and should remain in place. Known

human rights abusers shouldn't profit from improved bilateral relations."

US lawmakers of both parties have also urged Obama to renew the sanctions authority that expires on May 20. In a letter to the president this week, seven House members said that despite the electoral success of Suu Kyi's party, "there is no path toward ending the military's extraordinary and powerful role in civilian politics." Under the current, junta-era constitution, the military controls three key government ministries and 25 percent of parliamentary seats.

Congressional aides briefed by the administration this week said they expect the sanctions authority to be renewed but for some non-military state-owned enterprises to be either removed from the Treasury blacklist, or get waivers. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to discuss the matter before the announcement. The aides said that the administration is also considering the duty-free trade benefits for Myanmar, but it's unclear when that might happen.

Tin Htut Oo, former chairman of Myanmar's National Economic and Social Advisory Council, said sanctions were slowing down trade. He stressed the importance of the US restoring duty-free trade benefits to help the economy grow. "The US can still put some particular sanction on Myanmar but the unnecessary ones, especially (ones) that affect the people, farmers and poor people, should be lifted," he said. — AP

## TAJIKISTAN LEADER CREATES HOLIDAY IN HIS OWN HONOR

**DUSHANBE:** Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon yesterday signed a law to create a holiday honoring his autocratic rule in a move that fuels fears of a burgeoning personality cult in the Central Asian state.

Amendments to the Law on Holidays were passed without opposition last month in a parliament packed with Rahmon loyalists who agreed that November 16 would be the date the 'President's Day' holiday will be celebrated.

The law was accepted "taking into account the significant political experience and huge contribution" to peace and national unity in Tajikistan made by Rahmon, according to a statement from the presidential press service.

The date was chosen because the former collective farm boss was elected head of parliament on November 16, 1992, as the ex-Soviet state reeled from the outbreak of a civil war won five years later by pro-government forces. Rahmon was later elected president in 1994.

A referendum scheduled for May 22 is

likely to trigger constitutional changes allowing Rahmon to run for office an unlimited number of times. Authorities have recently pushed through a growing number of initiatives celebrating Rahmon's reign, which is regularly lambasted by rights organizations as corrupt and repressive.

In February Tajikistan's youth affairs committee launched a contest for the best essays by schoolchildren in praise of strongman Rahmon's "heroic" rule. The competition called for children to submit their essays on the topic: "Young People: Followers of the Leader of the Nation", which is Rahmon's official title.

The former Soviet-ruled Central Asian region is dominated by aging autocrats—some of whom have been in power since the collapse of the USSR—and has seen the emergence of often bizarre cults of personality. The former president of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov—who died in 2006 renamed one of the months of the year after his mother. — AFP

## RUSSIA SAYS YACHT DETAINED BY NORTH KOREA OFFICIALS

**MOSCOW:** A Russian yacht has been detained by North Korean coastguards in the Sea of Japan with five crew on board and towed in to land, Russian officials said yesterday. "The North Korean side has communicated that the yacht has been taken to the port of Kimchaek," Igor Agafonov, a foreign ministry official in the far-eastern city of Vladivostok told state-run RIA Novosti news agency. "The crew is alive and well. We are still waiting for an explanation from North Korea as to the reasons for the detention," Agafonov said, adding that diplomats were seeking permission to visit the crew.

Earlier an unnamed official at the Russian embassy in Pyongyang told TASS news agency that the sailboat Eflin was detained by North Korean coastguards late

Friday with five people on board as it was sailing from a competition in the South Korean port of Busan to Vladivostok. "The embassy... has handed over a note to the North Korean side demanding the immediate release of the crew," Denis Samsonov, a spokesman for the Russian mission in North Korea, told RIA Novosti.

On Friday the vice president of the regional sailing federation Yevgeny Khromchenko wrote on Facebook that the vessel had been stopped by "North Korean fishermen" 85 nautical miles from shore and was being towed in to land. Russia shares a short land border with North Korea and enjoys relatively friendly ties with the country's reclusive Stalinist regime. — AFP



**PYONGYANG:** Portraits of the late North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il hang in a subway car above commuters. — AP

## AILING THAI KING TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS FOR INFLAMMATION

**BANGKOK:** Thailand's hospital-bound monarch Bhumibol Adulyadej is being treated with antibiotics for inflammation in his knees, the palace said in a statement yesterday. The king is the object of an intense personality cult and his frail health is a subject of significant public concern.

He has spent most of the past two years hospitalized for a series of ailments, with very few public appearances and speeches. The Royal Household Bureau said in a statement yesterday night that he had a fever, low blood pressure, and inflammation in his right lung and knees earlier this week.

His temperature and blood pressure have since returned to normal but doctors are "still administering antibiotics to mitigate the inflammation in his knees, as well as medicine to dissolve phlegm," the statement said. The king is also receiving physical therapy, according to the palace, which tightly controls information about the royal family.

Bhumibol is the world's longest-reigning monarch and most Thais have never known life under another king. Anxiety over what will happen after his reign comes to an end is considered an aggravating factor in the country's past decade of tumultuous politics. Bhumibol last left Bangkok's Siriraj hospital in early January for an hour-long trip by car to visit his palace and other royal projects, according to palace officials.

He was last seen in an official photograph distributed in mid-December. The kingdom has one of the world's strictest lese majeste laws, punishing any criticism of the monarchy with up to 15 years in prison. The law has been wielded with renewed vigor ever since royalist army generals seized power in a May 2014 coup. — AFP



**SEOUL:** Buddhists take a rest under lanterns to celebrate the birthday of Buddha at the Chogye Temple, yesterday. Buddhists prayed for the unification between South and North Korea at the service. — AP

## ESCAPED TIGERS RETURNED TO DUTCH REFUGE: POLICE

**THE HAGUE:** Two Bengal tigers that escaped yesterday from a big cat shelter in the Netherlands have been recaptured after about four hours on the loose, Dutch authorities said. The two tigers named Radja and Delhi were found roaming the wooded area near the refuge from which they escaped by crawling under a fence, ANP news agency reported, citing local police. Veterinarians equipped with tranquilizer guns and police helicopters had launched an urgent search around the northern village of Oldeberkoop for the felines.

After several attempts to capture them, the animals were anaesthetized and confirmed to be "in a very deep sleep," Jan Graafstra, a police officer involved in the operation, wrote on Twitter. Several men then carried the two big cats, each weighing around 150 kilos, back to their cages in the refuge in big cloth sacks with carrying handles, Dutch public television NOS reported.

"There was never any danger for local residents," who had been warned about the escaped tigers, local mayor Harry Oosterman told ANP. The Felida big cat rescue centre takes in animals in need of protection from possible abuse or neglect as those of advanced years. Radja and Delhi originally came from a private German zoo, whose cash-strapped owner could no longer afford to feed them. The goal is to eventually transfer them to a sanctuary in South Africa. — AFP

## KUWAIT'S CREDIT RATING CONFIRMED...

Continued from Page 1

In addition, Kuwait has extraordinarily large hydrocarbon reserves at very low production costs. As a result, Moody's expects that Kuwait's economic and fiscal strength are likely to remain consistent with a Aa2 rating. Although the drop in oil prices from their mid-2014 peaks has resulted in a drop of over 30% in Kuwait's nominal GDP in 2015 compared to 2013, with a further 13 percent reduction expected in 2016, Moody's expects the country's nominal GDP to reach its pre-oil price shock level by 2021, in line with the rating agency's anticipated gradual recovery of oil prices.

Moody's also notes that, despite the sharp economic contraction, Kuwait's GDP per capita - estimated at USD 70,166 in purchasing power parity terms in 2015 by the IMF - remains extremely high by international standards, and that this level of wealth continues to provide a significant economic buffer in terms of social stability.

While government finances have deteriorated, with a deficit of 1.1 percent of GDP in fiscal year 2015/16 (down sharply from a surplus of nearly 30 percent the year before), and an even wider deficit of nearly 10 percent of GDP forecast for the current fiscal year, Moody's believes that Kuwait's very low levels of government indebtedness and its very large reserve buffers provide enough space to accommodate the deterioration in its fiscal balance within the Aa2 rating level.

General government debt was only KD 3.8 billion or 11 percent of GDP in 2015, and Moody's estimates that total assets managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) reached about KD 180 billion (USD 597 billion) that year, of which Moody's estimates around 27 percent to be in the General Reserve Fund (GRF) which is available for funding government spending. At this level, total assets in the GRF would cover almost three years of government spending.

Going forward, Moody's expects Kuwait's government debt to rise to about 22 percent of GDP by 2020, as the government will increasingly use debt issuance as a source of funding for its fiscal deficits. At these levels, Kuwait's government debt ratio would stay at about 70 percent of the Aa2-rated median, and Kuwait's government debt affordability indicators would remain significantly stronger than those of most Aa-rated peers.

For instance, government debt as a share of revenues would be around 35 percent of the Aa2-rated median, and interest payments would be at 16 percent of the Aa2-rated median. Furthermore, Moody's expects that the total assets managed by KIA at the end of the forecast period will continue to represent a high multiple of the accumulated debt by 2020.

The negative rating outlook for Kuwait reflects Moody's view that there remain material uncertainties around the government's ability to effectively implement its fiscal and economic reform program with a view to diversifying and enhancing its economic base and budgetary revenues. Despite Kuwait's very significant financial buffers, the oil price shock appears to have lent urgency to the government's reform efforts. Given that Kuwait's economic and fiscal institutions were not severely tested during the period of high oil prices, the coming years will provide insights into the capacity of Kuwait's government to articulate and implement a credible policy strategy, it said.

However, the effectiveness of Kuwait's policy making and implementation and the strength of its business environment are materially weaker than those of its Aa2 peers. As a result, slow or only very limited implementation of fiscal and economic reforms could over time erode Kuwait's medium-term economic and fiscal prospects and lead to a deterioration of the country's credit profile beyond the current baseline scenario.

In a simple no-reform scenario, with government expenditure fixed at 60 percent of GDP from 2016, and no changes to Moody's other baseline assumptions (oil price production, growth, inflation), the fiscal deficit would average 10 percent of GDP between 2016 and 2020, government debt would rise to about 40 percent of GDP by 2020, and the current account would stay in deficit until 2020. The government started implementing some fiscal reform measures in 2015, and further expenditure rationalization is planned through 2018, including public sector salary and wage reform. Proposed measures on the revenue side include a uniform 10 percent corporate income tax, introduction of a 5 percent value-added tax from 2018, re-pricing of government service fees, and improved revenue collection.

However, the country's plans to

diversify the economic base and reduce, at least to some degree, the reliance on oil are at a much earlier stage of development. Moreover, obstacles have arisen even in relation to the limited initiatives the government has introduced. The National Assembly recently watered down government plans to include citizens in the utility tariff adjustments. In addition, a strike by workers at state-owned Kuwait Oil Company in late April highlighted public opposition to deeper public sector reforms. Parliamentary elections are due by July 2017, carrying the risk of re-election concerns dominating decision-making.

Given the negative outlook, the likelihood of upward movement for Kuwait's rating is very limited at this point in time and would depend on significant improvements in the country's institutional strength, as would be evidenced by sustained fiscal and economic diversification. In Moody's view, a more rapid-than-expected increase in the oil price is unlikely to bring about a reversal in the rating trajectory on its own, given the uncertainty over whether a rise in oil prices could be sustained.

Moody's would consider moving the rating outlook back to stable if the government were to successfully implement its economic and fiscal reform plan, particularly by reforming current spending and improving its revenue composition. Conversely, Moody's would consider a downgrade of Kuwait's rating if the rating agency were to conclude, over the next 12-18 months, that Kuwait's institutional strength was indeed inconsistent with a Aa2 rating - for example, in the event of broad and sustained delays in developing a policy agenda consistent with the government's consolidation and diversification objectives, or in implementing planned reforms related to government finances and the management of government debt.

In addition, a further sustained fall in the price of oil, a further marked worsening in the fiscal balance for which there was no clear reversal, and/or signs of falling government financial assets would also exert downward pressure on the rating. A deterioration in the domestic or regional political environment resulting in disruptions to oil production and/or a deterioration in the business climate would also be credit negative. — KUNA



An Indian villager transports water on his bullock cart after collecting a supply of potable water from a well after a tanker made its daily delivery in Shahapur, some 130 km southwest of Mumbai, on Friday. 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

## HEZBOLLAH SAYS EXTREMISTS KILLED...

Continued from Page 1

Around 1,200 Hezbollah fighters are estimated to have been killed in the Syrian conflict. Badreddine had many enemies. He was sentenced to death in Kuwait for his role in bomb attacks there in 1983 and escaped from a Kuwaiti jail after Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded in 1990.

His release from jail in Kuwait was one of the demands made by the hijackers of a TWA flight in 1985, and of the hijackers of a Kuwait Airways flight in 1988. For years, Badreddine masterminded military operations against Israel from Lebanon and overseas and managed to escape capture by Arab and Western governments. "The martyred commander spent years of his life on the front line of the jihad

(struggle) against the Zionist entity," Iran's parliament speaker Ali Larijani said in a telegram to Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah reported by the group's media outlet Al Manar. Israel declined to comment on speculation it was behind Badreddine's death, but a former Israeli official said his country would be glad of the news. Badreddine was one of five Hezbollah members indicted by the UN-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon in the 2005 killing of statesman Rafik al-Hariri, one of Lebanon's most prominent Sunni Muslim figures. Hezbollah denied any involvement and said the charges were politically motivated. A Special Tribunal prosecutor described Badreddine as an elusive character who passed as an "unnoticed and virtually untraceable ghost through Lebanon". — Reuters

## DEAL THAT FOREVER CHANGED MIDEAST

Continued from Page 1

Between the two, an Arab state or a confederation of Arab states was to be created under French and British protection. Palestine, including Jerusalem, was designated by the color brown and was to be under an international administration. Imperial Russia and Italy rallied to the accord, but later on it was the revolutionary Russian government that had taken over that leaked news of the deal in 1917.

The accord actually negated British promises made to Hussein for an Arab homeland in the area of Greater Syria in exchange for their support for British forces against the Ottoman Empire. "The two men paid lip service to the promise of Arab independence... but then divided in two the region that the British high commissioner had offered to Hussein," author James Barr noted in his book "A Line in the Sand". In addition, the line traced by Sykes-Picot split the Middle East, flouting regional, ethnic and religious ties, creating nations but reviving rivalries.

In the years that followed, the Sykes-Picot agreement became the target of bitter criticism, both from Arabs who dreamt of a unified homeland and from Kurds who had their

hopes for autonomy dashed. The accord was struck a year before the so-called Balfour Declaration promised a "national home for the Jewish people."

The Russian revolution and the entry into WWI of the United States in 1917 changed the rules of the game, according to French historian Henry Laurens. The war had hardly ended when a brief conversation between the French and British prime ministers, George Clemenceau and David Lloyd George, changed the Sykes-Picot accord. Oil had become a strategic issue in the meantime. Their discussion, in which France gave up on Palestine and the region of Mosul, where it claimed part of the oil reserves, was the decisive moment in the Middle East's division, Laurens said.

Even so, when the Allies gathered at the San Remo Conference in April 1920, the accord's broad outlines were approved, with a mandate for Palestine and Mesopotamia - now Iraq - conferred upon Britain. France received a mandate for Lebanon and Syria but in 1921, withdrew from Cilicia in what is now Turkey amid a conflict with the forces of Turkish nationalist Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. In 1922, after subduing revolts in Palestine, Syria and Iraq, the two powers had their mandates confirmed by the League of Nations. — AFP

## SYKES-PICOT STILL VILIFIED 100 YEARS ON

Continued from Page 1

Laurens said the choice of the name Sykes-Picot "was a British invention to diminish the importance of the agreement because they no longer wanted to respect it", especially when it came to Palestine. In 1922, the League of Nations confirmed the mandates of Britain over Palestine, Transjordan and Iraq while France was given mandates over Syria and Lebanon. The modern-day countries of the region were born.

Is the Middle East still paying the price for these arbitrary borders? "In some ways, yes," said Jean-Paul Chagnollaud, a historian and author of a recently published French-language book about the roots of conflict in the Middle East called "Atlas du Moyen-Orient" (Atlas of the Middle East). "On a symbolic level, the Sykes-Picot Agreement evokes a strong sensation in the collective memories of the peoples of the region, and that is humiliation... Decades later they have different problems but they all have their root, in some way or another, in the Sykes-Picot Agreement."

Laurens disagrees, saying those countries should "stop having a feeling of victimhood". Even if Arab nationalists denounced these arbitrary borders, "they were never seriously questioned because they actually suited everyone", he argued. He said the current instability in the region "is mainly linked to a perverse political system which keeps the region's political life locked in a game of interference and involvement from regional and international powers" that has ancient roots.

Who were the big losers in Sykes-Picot? Mainly the

Palestinians and the Kurds, says Jean-Paul Chagnollaud. "Two arbitrary territorial divisions were imposed on populations, and the people and their identities were forgotten," he said. That led to "states without a nation", such as Jordan, or "nations without states". "The Kurds almost got a state. They obtained one in the Treaty of Sevres in August 1920, but the balance of power on the ground changed all that," he said. For the Palestinians, it was not Sykes-Picot but Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour's letter on Nov 2, 1917, expressing the British government's support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, that sounded the death knell at that time for their ambitions.

Is it still possible to redraw the borders? "Sykes-Picot imposed borders on peoples and things need to be put right - now it's up to peoples to impose their will to create a state," said Jean-Paul Chagnollaud. He defends the Palestinians' right to have their own state, and that of the Iraqi Kurds to exercise their right to self-determination "even if the conditions have not yet been met for the creation of a Kurdish state".

When the Islamic State group unilaterally proclaimed a caliphate in 2014 spanning Syria and Iraq in 2014, it showed the jihadists were destroying a wall between the two countries and they talked about "breaking down the Sykes-Picot border". But as far as Henry Laurens is concerned, "IS did not abolish Sykes-Picot, on the contrary, it reinforced it" because the territory held by the extremist group now corresponds to the former zone under French influence which encircled Badiyat al-Sham, the Syrian desert. — AFP

## ANTI-ISRAEL CARTOON CONTEST OPENS...

Continued from Page 1

actions toward the Palestinians. "Holocaust means mass killing," Tabatabaei said. "We are witnessing the biggest killings by the Zionist regime in Gaza and Palestine." Israeli officials could not immediately be reached for comment on the event.

Some 150 works from 50 countries are on display in the contest, which opened on the anniversary of Israel's creation in 1948. Many of the works portrayed Israel as using the Holocaust to distract from the suffering of the Palestinians, and many compared Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Adolf Hitler. The contest was organized by non-governmental bodies with strong support from Iran's hardliners, who were opposed to the nuclear deal and are against taking further steps to improve ties with the West. Some 550,000 in prize money will go to 16 finalists, with the top winner receiving \$12,000. The exhibition runs through May 30.

A previous contest was held in 2006 during the presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a hardliner who referred to the Holocaust as a "myth" and repeatedly predicted Israel's demise. Tabatabaei also depicted the contest as a response to depictions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by the French satirical magazine

Charlie Hebdo and others, saying Western countries have a "double standard" when it comes to free speech. Holocaust denial and hate speech are illegal in some European countries.

There was no immediate comment from the Iranian government on the contest. But Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who played a central role in the nuclear negotiations, told The New Yorker magazine in April that the contest was organized by a group "that is not controlled by the Iranian government. Nor is it endorsed by the Iranian government."

Asked why Iran has allowed the exhibition to go ahead, Zarif said: "Why does the United States have the Ku Klux Klan? Is the government of the United States responsible for the fact that there are racially hateful organizations in the United States? Don't consider Iran a monolith. The Iranian government does not support, nor does it organize, any cartoon festival of the nature that you're talking about."

Israel marked Holocaust Remembrance Day earlier this month as well as the 68th anniversary of its foundation. Last year Tabatabaei also organized an international exhibition of anti-Islamic State group cartoons in which caricatures of Arab and Western leaders were displayed besides those of top jihadists. — Agencies

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## Washington Watch

DOUBLE STANDARD IN  
DEFENDING CHRISTIANS

By Dr James J Zogby

Christians in the Levant, especially those in Syria, Iraq, and Palestine, are facing grave challenges that are either misunderstood or ignored in the West. In recent years, protecting them or even acknowledging their existence has only been a concern of policy-makers or advocacy groups when it has fit their accepted narratives or political agendas for the region. The Christians of Palestine, for example, are for the most part ignored. They are an uncomfortable burden to right-wing evangelicals who will only allow themselves to see Israel through ideological blinders. They view the in-gathering of the Jews to Israel as a necessary prerequisite for "the end of days": the battle of Armageddon, the conversion of the Jews to Christianity, the return of the Messiah, and all that follows.

These evangelicals come to the Holy Land as pilgrims to the places where Jesus walked. They visit the holy sites, all the while ignoring the existence of a Christian community whose presence in Palestine dates back two thousand years. Because rightwing evangelicals have become fervent defenders of Israeli policies, they not only refuse to acknowledge the grave injustices suffered by their co-religionists, they render them invisible.

## Blindness

Unfortunately, this same blindness also affects politicians from the right and the left. Because criticism of Israeli behavior is considered a taboo, most politicians have cultivated a willful ignorance about Palestinian victims, whether Christian or Muslim. As a result, they have remained silent as Palestinian religious properties have been confiscated or vandalized and as Israel has imposed a political system that entitles one group, Jews, while Christians and Muslims are subjected to a variety of harsh discriminatory practices.

The Christians of Iraq and Syria have endured a different, though no less problematic, fate at the hands of the West. In the lead up to the US invasion of Iraq, no one in Washington even considered what the impact of the war might be on that country's substantial though vulnerable Christian community. In the years that followed, as the Iraq was being torn apart by sectarian conflict, American political and religious leaders largely ignored the fate of Iraq's minorities. The Bush Administration, for example, remained silent while Christian businesses were looted, homes confiscated, and families forced into exile - resulting in the decline of Iraq's Christians from 1.4 million to 400,000. Saving this ancient Christian community didn't fit the US political agenda, and so their cries for recognition and protection were not heard.

Only in the face of the barbaric behavior of ISIS has the West begun to pay attention to what remains of the Christians of Iraq. Only now, it appears, does their fate fit a political agenda - a partisan attack against the President and a way for right-wing anti-Muslim advocacy groups to belatedly shed some tears.

In like manner, the voices of the Christians of Syria were ignored in the beginning of that bloody conflict. Many Christians, though not supporters of the regime in Damascus, expressed deep discomfort with, and even fear of, the "opposition". Because the Assad government had adopted a secular approach that provided some protections for Christians, they were sometimes called collaborators and were shut out of political discussions about the future of their country - especially in the West.

## Arab Christians

Only now, with the rise of ISIS, have Western churchmen and politicians begun to pay attention to Syrian Christians - but, as has been the case in Iraq, it is too little, too late. The bottom line is that these Arab Christians ought to matter and their voices need to be heard - and not only when what they are saying fits our agenda. They are more than just refugees or victims of religious extremism who provide a useful tool for Islamophobes to warn of the dangers posed by Islam.

Arab Christians are communities of long-standing who have been an integral part of the development of the culture and social fabric of the Levant. Their survival is critical to that region. Recognizing their rights, listening to their concerns, and attending to their needs can provide lessons for policy-makers. And the very vulnerability of Arab Christians of the Levant has made them a litmus test for our policies.

For example, the silence of the West in the face of Israel's continued strangulation of the Palestinian Christian community indicts our human rights policies as self-serving, flawed, and infected by a fatal double-standard. The fate of Iraqi Christians should have served as an early warning for Americans that the sectarian-based system of governance that was being imposed on Iraq was fraught with danger.

NOTE: Dr James J Zogby is the President of the Arab American Institute



## LATAM LEADERS WATCHED AS ROUSSEFF FELL

By Ramon Sahnkwo

So much for having good neighbors. South American leaders basically sat back and watched as Brazil's president Dilma Rousseff failed and fumed and fought for her political life and ultimately lost, at least the first round. Rousseff was suspended from office Thursday to face an impeachment trial on charges she cooked the government's books in an election year to make her budget look better. Leaders in other South American countries had no interest in meddling. They were focused more on domestic issues than in helping Rousseff in a months-long political battle that laid bare grassroots fury over corruption and recession in the continent's biggest economy.

These leaders had an eye on her likely successor and wanted to be on good terms, because Brazil is, well, Brazil - an economic powerhouse, albeit an ailing one. Plus, Rousseff is certainly no Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva - her charismatic predecessor and political mentor, a towering figure of the Latin American left and wildly popular to this day. Rousseff never enjoyed such an aura, and as the Brazil economy tanked and the impeachment drive gathered pace, her approval ratings hit single digits.

As that noose tightened around Rousseff in recent months, the leftist governments of Uruguay, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia expressed explicit support for

her. Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro and Evo Morales of Bolivia adopted her terminology, calling the proceeding a parliamentary coup. Rousseff argues that her accounting practices were nothing new in Brazil and while not strictly above board, they were certainly not grounds for removing her from office.

But the support from her neighbors stopped there, with words. Four years ago, when the president of Paraguay was impeached in a matter of days over a deadly clash between farmers and police, the whole region rose up in arms. Paraguay was suspended from a regional trade organization called Mercosur. Brazil and Venezuela were vocal supporters of that dumped president, Fernando Lugo. The case was taken up by the Organization of American States, in Washington DC.

But this time no consensus emerged to get regional organizations involved. The reaction, or lack thereof, from Argentina, Brazil's main partner in the region, was particularly stinging for Rousseff. Its new conservative president simply said he respected the government institutions of his neighbor. There is a "tradition in diplomacy of not interfering in other countries' domestic affairs," said Joao Augusto de Castro Neves, director of Latin America issues at Eurasia Group, a consultancy.

## Cautious Approach

"Overall what prevails is a certain cau-

tious approach not to pick fights," he said. Although the impeachment proceedings are widely supported at the grassroots level in Brazil, they are controversial because so many lawmakers in both chambers of the legislature have been convicted of corruption or face charges.

Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington think tank focusing on Latin American issues, said many countries were uncomfortable with the process and thought it had become politicized. "Brazil is not just any old country. Because of its size and importance, the countries cannot afford to show strong support for Dilma at the cost of not being able to work with the Temer government," Shifter said.

The OAS said it would ask the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to examine what happened to Rousseff. OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro has given clear signs of support for Rousseff, visiting her twice over the past month. But her case has not been taken up by the OAS Permanent Council, the body's top panel.

## Keep Peace with Successor

There are also practical concerns in the neighbors' failure to come to Rousseff's aid. They are looking ahead to dealing with her successor as acting president, ally-turned-enemy Michel Temer, until now the vice president. When dust settles Brazil will still be Latin America's largest economy, despite an acute recession and a corrup-

tion scandal centered around state-owned oil company Petrobras that has ensnared many in the political and economic elite. Rousseff, however, seems unlikely to return to power. If she is removed from office at the end of her Senate trial, which has yet to begin, Temer will serve out her term until 2018. Other countries "do not want to antagonize Temer because he may be around until 2018," said Shifter.

## Dilma is No Lula

No one would have expected all this a decade ago. That was a golden era for the Latin American left, which enjoyed strong support for its anti-poverty social welfare policies. And commodity prices were high, which helped pay for them. Lula made Brazil a household name around the world. With support from Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador, he won Brazil a seat at the global negotiating table. But economic conditions are worse now, and many leftist leaders are no longer so popular. "Domestic problems are demanding more attention from these leaders," said Castro Neves.

Ten years ago, Rousseff would have received much more support from her neighbors, said Shifter. Others point to the widespread feeling that Dilma, a technocrat seen sometimes as stiff and distant, is not in the same league as the plain-talking hero that Lula was, the former labor leader who took the Workers' Party to power for the first time in Brazil's history. — AFP

## RICH, WHITE, CONSERVATIVE AND IN LEGAL TROUBLE

By Sebastian Smith

The two dozen ministers in Brazil's new government have a lot in common: They're white, male, conservative, often wealthy and in numerous cases face legal problems. The question - after coming to power through the suspension of leftist president Dilma Rousseff rather than a presidential election - is whether they have enough in common with their country of 204 million. Interim President Michel Temer held his first cabinet meeting Friday, 24 hours after assuming power in the wake of a Senate vote opening a trial against Rousseff on charges that she broke government accounting rules.

And his government vowed immediately to turn the page on the Rousseff era, saying that opposition street protests over the last year demanded an end to corruption, political paralysis and recession. "People went on the street to seek two things: they wanted a state without corruption and they wanted an efficient state," chief of staff Eliseu Padilha said. "Out with corruption and in with efficiency."

Team Temer's business-friendly credentials might suggest efficiency but on corruption the new government is hardly a model. At least three ministers are being investigated in the vast probe into an embezzlement and bribery ring at state oil company Petrobras, perhaps the biggest corruption scandal in Brazilian history. They include key player Romero Juca, the planning minister and head of Temer's party the PMDB.

Another three new ministers are facing other criminal probes, the specialist website Congresso em Foco, which tracks lawmakers' legal troubles, reported Friday. And two more ministers are the sons of politicians being investigated in the Petrobras probe.

## Male Only Club

Coming after a government lead by Brazil's first female president, Temer's cabinet resembles a throwback to the mid-20th century - or further. There are no women, no blacks and no one with a profile likely to appeal to the poor masses in a country suffer-

ing huge wealth disparities. Women and blacks were represented in Rousseff's inner circle, with 15 women serving as ministers during her first and second terms. One of those was Nilma Lino Gomes, Rousseff's minister for women, human rights and racial equality - a post now axed by Temer.

Some of Temer's choices seem designed to demonstrate the shift to conservative values. Agriculture Minister Blairo Maggi, is the vastly wealthy "soya king" whom Greenpeace labels one of the biggest destroyers of Brazil's majestic Amazon rainforest. The industry minister, Marcos Pereira, is an evangelical preacher from the powerful Universal Church organization and was even considered for the science post before the scientific community went up in arms.

Then there's Justice Minister Alexandre de Moraes, who until now was security chief for Sao Paulo, where he oversaw a police force accused of frequent human rights abuses, including the use of death squads to confront suspected criminal groups. In an extra twist, the man a Brazilian newspaper dubbed "Temer's pit bull," will also have responsibility over the now disbanded Rousseff-

era ministry protecting the rights of women and racial equality.

The culture portfolio was also eliminated and folded into the education ministry, prompting an angry reaction from luminaries like musician Chico Buarque and actor Wagner Moura - as well as a flash protest at the new minister's first public event Friday. The absence of women has also prompted an outcry in some quarters. But the new government is not apologizing. "We tried to search for women but because of the timetable... it was not possible," Padilha, said, promising that non-ministerial jobs but with "a similar importance" would soon be filled by women.

## Rubbing Each Other's Backs

Politically speaking the most important factor in the Brazilian government's make-up is the heavy presence of former members of Congress. Congress - where about 60 percent of lawmakers have current or past brushes with the law - might be hugely discredited with Brazilians in general. But the two houses of the legislature were responsible for opening the impeachment trial against Rousseff, leading to then vice president Temer's rise to power. He has been quick to pay that debt.



Brazilian interim President Michel Temer (center) presides the first ministers' meeting at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia on Friday. — AFP

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**WARNER WARNING ON PINK BALL FOR DAY-NIGHT TESTS**

**SYDNEY:** Australia vice-captain David Warner has voiced concerns about the pink ball used for day-night Tests, a report said yesterday, amid a stand-off with South Africa over a proposed fixture. Cricket Australia want day-night Tests against South Africa and Pakistan in their 2016-17 home season but have admitted that player concerns about the experimental format mean the Proteas' match has not been locked in. Aggressive opening batsman Warner reportedly told The Australian newspaper that players want the pink ball improved. "The concept is fantastic and it is a great spectacle, but for those of us who play it, the most important thing is getting the ball right," he said from India where he is playing for the Sunrisers Hyderabad. "It's always going to be an issue because it is not a red ball. You can't shine it up like you do a red ball and Test cricket has always been about using the red ball properly when you're in the field. "Looking after it to get swing is a key and we can't do that with a pink ball because it will not shine up." Warner, who played in the inaugural day-night Test against New Zealand in Adelaide last year, said batsmen and fielders struggled to see the pink ball at times. —AFP



**REYES BANNED UNDER MLB DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY**

**DENVER:** Jose Reyes now knows when he can return. His role - and perhaps his future - with the Colorado Rockies remain as murky as ever, especially given the emergence of rookie shortstop Trevor Story.

Reyes was suspended through May 31 on Friday, the second player penalized under Major League Baseball's new domestic violence policy. Reyes agreed to the punishment and won't appeal, the commissioner's office said. The penalty stemmed from an alleged altercation with his wife at a Hawaii resort last October. In Reyes' absence, Story has taken his job and become one of baseball's big surprises this season. Story ranks among the big league leaders with 11 homers and 28 RBIs and is batting .275.

"I don't worry myself too much in the future or what's going to happen when Jose comes back," Story said. "Take it day by day and things will work out." The Rockies are still formulating a plan with Reyes - whether he will head to Arizona for extended spring training or maybe on a minor league rehab assignment. —AP

**VAN GAAL ADMITS FUTURE UNCERTAIN**

**MANCHESTER:** Louis van Gaal claims it was unrealistic to expect Manchester United to win the Premier League and admits his job security is uncertain heading into the final game of the season. United can still qualify for the Champions League with a top four finish, but only if fourth placed Manchester City fail to collect a point at Swansea and van Gaal's fifth placed team beat Bournemouth at Old Trafford today. Defeat at West Ham in mid-week took the chase for fourth place out of United's hands and left them facing the prospect of a season out of Europe's top tier competition.

But, frustrated by United's long injury list, van Gaal feels their run to next week's FA Cup Final against Crystal Palace and involvement in the battle for a European berth should be enough to keep him in his job for the third and final year of his contract. "We can win the FA Cup," said van Gaal. "How many are still in the race? It's not so many, so of course if we don't qualify ourselves, then we haven't reached our aim. That is true because our aim was to qualify, but we are in the final of the FA Cup and we are in the race in the last match - mathematically, we can qualify ourselves still. —AP



**NEW YORK:** Chicago White Sox's Adam Eaton doubles to center field to drive in two runs against the New York Yankees as Yankees catcher Austin Romine watches during the third inning of a baseball game Friday. — AP

**SALE PITCHES 6-HITTER AS WHITE SOX TRASH YANKEES**

**NEW YORK:** Chris Sale became the major leagues' first eight-game winner, working quickly and efficiently in a six-hitter that led the Chicago White Sox over the New York Yankees 7-1 Friday night.

Jimmy Rollins hit a two-run homer in the third inning off Luis Severino (0-6), who left one pitch later with soreness on the back of his right elbow and was sent to a hospital for an MRI. Sale (8-0), the first White Sox pitcher to win his opening eight starts since Jon Garland in 2005, retired 15 consecutive batters from the fourth through the eighth innings. He struck out six and walked none.

**ASTROS 7, RED SOX 6**

George Springer homered off former University of Connecticut teammate Matt Barnes and drove in four runs as Houston ended Boston's five-game winning streak. Springer's two-run drive over the Green Monster against Barnes (2-2) broke a 5-all tie in the sixth inning. Jackie Bradley Jr got three hits for the Red Sox and extended the longest hitting streak in the majors this season to 19 games. Scott Feldman (2-2) won in relief. He gave up Travis Shaw's homer to straightaway center to start the sixth. Luke Gregerson struck out two in the ninth while picking up his eighth save.

**ROCKIES 5, METS 2**

Hard-throwing righty Jon Gray picked up his first major league victory and base hit, helping Colorado snap an 11-game skid to New York. Gray (1-1) went seven stellar innings and struck out eight in his 14th career start. Jake McGee pitched a perfect ninth to earn his 10th save. Rookie shortstop Trevor Story had two doubles, including one that brought in the go-ahead run in the fifth, on a day when the Rockies found out that veteran shortstop Jose Reyes will be suspended through May 31. The penalty stemmed from an alleged altercation with his wife at a Hawaii resort last October. Matt Harvey (3-5) struggled in his first start at Coors Field, allowing five runs and a season-high 11 hits in 5 2/3 innings.

**NATIONALS 5, MARLINS 3**

Bryce Harper hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning, sending Washington over Miami. Harper, playing while he appeals a one-game suspension for his behavior following an ejection on Monday, walked his first two times up and singled in the fifth. It was 2-all in the Washington seventh when Anthony

Rendon drew a leadoff walk. Harper followed by working the count full against Kyle Barraclough (2-1), then hitting his 11th home run. Stephen Drew hit a two-run homer in the Nationals sixth that made it 2-all. Pinch hitter Chris Heisey added a solo homer in the eighth. Blake Treinen (3-1) pitched two innings and Jonathan Papelbon got the final two outs for his 10th save.

**ROYALS 5, BRAVES 1**

Edinson Volquez pitched seven effective innings and Alcides Escobar had two hits, scored a run and drove in a run as Kansas City beat Atlanta to open a six-game

**BLUE JAYS 5, RANGERS 0**

RA Dickey tossed eight innings and Edwin Encarnacion and Troy Tulowitzki homered to lift Toronto past Texas. Dickey (2-4), a knuckleballer who broke into the majors with Texas in 2001, struck out six and walked one while allowing only three singles. Chad Gironi finished the three-hitter. Rangers starter Martin Perez (1-3) gave up two runs, one earned in 6 1/3 innings in the loss. Matt Bush made his major league debut with a perfect ninth for the Rangers, seven months after getting released from a 3 1/2-year prison sentence for a drunken-driving accident that seriously injured a man. It was 12 years after he was the No. 1

Padres debut after being called up from Triple-A El Paso. Friedrich (0-1) lost his 11th straight decision, a streak that dates to 2012. It was his first start in the majors since July 2014.

**CUBS 9, PIRATES 4**

Addison Russell, David Ross and Kris Bryant homered to lead Jason Hammel and Chicago over Pittsburgh. The Cubs stopped their first losing streak of the season - a two-game skid, both in a doubleheader sweep by San Diego on Wednesday. Chicago leads the majors with a 26-8 record. Russell and Ross connected for three-run shots and Bryant hit a two-run drive. That was plenty for Hammel (5-0), who struck out a season-best eight over 6 2/3 innings, giving up one earned run and eight hits. Francisco Liriano (3-2) surrendered all three Cubs homers in 4 2/3 innings. Andrew McCutchen had three hits, including a two-run homer in the ninth as the Pirates fell eight games behind the Cubs in the NL Central.

**ORIOLES 1, TIGERS 0**

Chris Tillman pitched seven innings of five-hit ball and Adam Jones broke up a scoreless duel with a sixth-inning homer off Justin Verlander as Baltimore beat skidding Detroit. Tillman (5-1) struck out seven and walked two to win his fourth straight start and provide Baltimore with its second six-game winning streak of the season. Darren O'Day worked the eighth and Zach Britton got three straight outs for his 10th save. Verlander (2-4) went the distance, allowing four hits, striking out eight and walking two in eight innings.

**INDIANS 7, TWINS 6**

Marlon Byrd's two-run double in the eighth inning helped send Minnesota to its eighth straight loss. Eduardo Nunez hit a leadoff home run in the eighth to break a 4-all tie, but Cleveland rallied for three runs in the eighth off Trevor May (0-2). Cody Allen allowed a run in the ninth, but stranded two runners to record his ninth save. Byrd also had a sacrifice fly in the sixth, while Yan Gomes and Jason Kipnis homered for Cleveland. Zach McAllister (2-1) struck out two with the bases loaded in the eighth for the win.

**ATHLETICS 6, RAYS 3**

Danny Valencia hit his first two home runs of the season in his first game back

from a hamstring injury as Oakland ended a five-game skid. Valencia sat for two games this week after reinjuring the left hamstring that had landed him on the disabled list. He had two of Oakland's four homers in this one. Rich Hill (5-3) pitched six innings to win for the fourth time in his last five starts. Khris Davis and Valencia homered off Rays starter Jake Odorizzi (0-2) in the first inning, driving in all four runs in a 42-pitch inning. Davis' three-run homer was his eighth of the season.

**PHILLIES 3, REDS 2**

Jeremy Hellickson struck out nine in seven innings and drove in the go-ahead run on a suicide squeeze to help Philadelphia beat Cincinnati. Hellickson (3-2) allowed two unearned runs and four hits. David Hernandez worked the eighth and Jeanmar Gomez finished for his 14th save in 15 chances. Reds starter Brandon Finnegan (1-2) gave up three runs and four hits in four innings. Phillies rookie Tyler Goeddel hit his first career triple in the fourth, tying it at 2.

**DODGERS 8, CARDINALS 4**

Ross Stripling earned his first victory in his seventh major league start by beating his former college roommate and Yasiel Puig homered as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the St Louis Cardinals. Stripling (1-2) allowed four runs and eight hits in five-plus innings, struck out two and walked three. He had two wild pitches, including one that led to a run in the sixth. Stripling squared off against Michael Wacha (2-4), his former teammate at Texas A&M. Wacha (2-4) gave up six runs - two earned - and eight hits in four innings, struck out two and walked three. Kenley Jansen retired two batters in the ninth to earn his 12th save.

**ANGELS 7, MARINERS 6**

CJ Cron homered in the eighth inning and hit a two-run bloop single with the bases loaded in the ninth to lead the Los Angeles Angels to a comeback win against the Seattle Mariners. The Angels snapped a six-game losing streak despite being down four runs after six innings and trailing 6-3 going into the eighth. Joe Smith (1-2) got out of a bases-loaded jam to pitch a scoreless eighth and earn the win, and Fernando Salas came on in the ninth for his first save. The Angels loaded the bases with one out against Seattle closer Steve Cishek (2-2) in the ninth, and Cron's short fly dropped in behind shortstop to score two runs. — AP

**MLB Results/Standings**

Chicago Cubs 9, Pittsburgh 4; Chicago White Sox 7, NY Yankees 1; Philadelphia 3, Cincinnati 2; Baltimore 1, Detroit 0; Washington 5, Miami 3; Houston 7, Boston 6; Cleveland 7, Minnesota 6; Oakland 6, Tampa Bay 3; Toronto 5, Texas 0; Milwaukee 1, San Diego 0; Kansas City 5, Atlanta 1; Colorado 5, NY Mets 2; San Francisco 3, Arizona 1; LA Angels 7, Seattle 6; LA Dodgers 8, St. Louis 4.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Baltimore	22	12	.647	-	Washington	22	13	.629	-
Boston	22	14	.611	1	NY Mets	21	14	.600	1
Toronto	19	18	.514	4.5	Philadelphia	21	15	.583	1.5
Tampa Bay	15	18	.455	6.5	Miami	18	16	.529	3.5
NY Yankees	14	20	.412	8	Atlanta	8	26	.235	13.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Chicago White Sox	24	12	.667	-	Chicago Cubs	26	8	.765	-
Cleveland	17	15	.531	5	Pittsburgh	18	16	.529	8
Kansas City	17	18	.486	6.5	St. Louis	19	17	.528	8
Detroit	15	20	.429	8.5	Milwaukee	15	21	.417	12
Minnesota	8	26	.235	15	Cincinnati	14	21	.400	12.5
Western Division					Western Division				
Seattle	21	14	.600	-	LA Dodgers	19	17	.528	-
Texas	20	16	.556	1.5	San Francisco	20	18	.526	-
Oakland	15	21	.417	6.5	Colorado	17	18	.486	1.5
Houston	15	22	.405	7	Arizona	17	21	.447	3
LA Angels	14	21	.400	7	San Diego	16	21	.432	3.5

homestand. The World Series champion Royals had dropped 12 of their previous 16 games, while the Braves, who have the worst record in the National League, lost for the 17th time in 25 games. Volquez (4-3) picked up his first victory since April 21, snapping a three-game winless streak. Erick Aybar's sacrifice fly in the seventh scored Jeff Francoeur, who led off the inning with a single, for the only run Volquez allowed. Julio Teheran (0-4) is winless in eight starts this season, the longest winless streak of his career, despite a 1.48 ERA in his past five starts. Teheran held the Royals to two runs, one unearned, and four hits over seven innings.

overall pick by his hometown San Diego Padres, when he was still a shortstop.

**BREWERS 1, PADRES 0**

Junior Guerra pitched six innings of two-hit ball to help Milwaukee beat San Diego. Making his third career major league start, Guerra (2-0) shut down one of the National League's lighter-hitting teams. The right-hander struck out four and walked two before three relievers finished the three-hitter. The Brewers scored on Chris Carter's sacrifice fly in the first, snapping a 23-inning scoreless streak by Padres pitching. Christian Friedrich allowed four hits and walked six in six innings in his

## WARRIORS REST UP TO FACE THUNDER IN WEST FINALS

**OAKLAND:** Stephen Curry surprised coach Steve Kerr with how quickly he found his groove the past two games after returning from a right knee injury, even with a few more misses than usual for the MVP. Now, Curry and the Golden State Warriors push into the Western Conference finals against Oklahoma City counting on their superstar to be fully healthy for an entire round for the first time this postseason as they chase a repeat title.

"Hopefully, it will be close to 100 percent by Monday night," Curry said after Friday's practice. Fellow Splash Brother Klay Thompson, who carried the load on both ends of the floor during Curry's absence for much of the first two rounds, is counting on it. So far, Curry's return has been seamless - even more so than Kerr had foreseen. The Coach of the Year figured there might be a transition period as everybody got comfortable again.

"It has (been smooth)," Thompson said. "Anyone can see that. He hasn't missed a beat." Draymond Green practiced after injuring his left ankle during Wednesday's series clincher against Portland, while 7-foot center Andrew Bogut sat out Friday's workout with a strained muscle in his right leg. The hope is that Bogut will return to practice Saturday and be ready for Monday night's Game 1 of the best-of-seven series against the Thunder at Oracle Arena. An MRI wasn't in the plans for Bogut's injury, Kerr said.

### Whirlwind week

After a whirlwind week that included becoming the NBA's first unanimous MVP on Tuesday, Curry looked forward to taking some much-needed downtime between now and the next round to rest his body and mind.

"You go from missing three weeks, two and a half weeks to playing significant minutes in 48 hours, especially with what the day in between was like, it kind of shocks

your body," Curry said. "So you've got to take advantage of these three days we have off to get refreshed and rejuvenated mentally and physically, and get ready to play." Curry came off the bench and overcame a slow start to score 40 points in a 132-125 Game 4 overtime win at Portland on Monday night, including an NBA-record 17 in overtime. He then started and scored 29 in Wednesday's clincher against the Trail Blazers. "It went really well, obviously. He was much better than we could have ever hoped or expected given the length of time that he was out," Kerr said. "He was phenomenal in both games, showing why he was the MVP. Now it's great to get him a few days of practice, a few more days to treat the injury. Hopefully we can put this injury behind him by the time we start this next series."

Golden State won all three meetings with the Thunder, who eliminated San Antonio in Game 6 on Thursday night after dropping the series opener, during its remarkable regular season that ended with 73 wins to top the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls for the best regular-season record ever. That included a 121-118 overtime win Feb. 27 at Oklahoma City in which Curry hit a 3-pointer a few feet in from halfcourt to win it. He knows it will be far tougher on the pressure-packed playoff stage. "After Game 1 it's pretty impressive how OKC turned it around and put that behind them, which is a lesson for the playoffs as a whole," Curry said. "Each game takes its own identity." The do-everything point guard still expects more from himself, saying he can improve his consistency over the course of 48 minutes - which will be needed against Russell Westbrook, Kevin Durant and the aggressive, hard-nosed rebounding Thunder. "I've finished both games strong but over the course of the entire game I haven't been as in sync as I want to," he said. "It's obviously good things to look forward to hopefully the next series." — AP



**MIAMI:** Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, right, moves the ball past Toronto Raptors' Cory Joseph during the second half of Game 6 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals. — AP

## DRAGIC AND WADE LEAD HEAT PAST RAPTORS 103-91 AND INTO GAME 7

**MIAMI:** The Miami Heat went small, and came up big. With that, another Game 7 awaits. Goran Dragic scored a postseason career-high 30 points, Dwyane Wade added 22 and the Heat rode a small lineup to a 103-91 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Friday night, tying their Eastern Conference semifinal series 3-3.

"Last year at this time we were all on vacation," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "So often in this business people tend to want to search for the easy route. There's usually not an easy way in a seven-game series, certainly not with a second and third seed going against each other. This is the path ... and now we've pushed it to a Game 7."

It comes today in Toronto. The winner will head to Cleveland for Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Tuesday night. Both the Heat and the Raptors won a Game 7 in the first round. Kyle Lowry scored 36 points for Toronto, on 12-for-27 shooting. DeMar DeRozan added 23 for the Raptors, but their teammates combined to shoot 14 of 34 from the floor and manage 32 points.

"We came here to try to win the game," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "We didn't come here with a seven-game series in mind. It's been a great series, they're a championship-caliber team, well-coached team, but we came in

here to try to win the game. We didn't come in here wanting a Game 7."

### On the brink

Joe Johnson had 13 points, Justise Winslow added 12, and Josh McRoberts scored 10 for the Heat. But now they need a win on the road, or else the season ends today. "We played all year to get 56 wins and be the No. 2 seed in the East and get home court in this type of situation," Lowry said. "It's going to be fun. Game 7, two versus three, get an opportunity to play on one of the biggest stages there is."

Dragic shot 12 of 21, Wade blocked a game-high three shots and the Heat - despite some serious size deficiencies with injured starting center Hassan Whiteside still out - only lost the rebounding battle 43-41. "I knew this guy to my left was going to have an amazing performance tonight," Wade said, sitting alongside Dragic postgame. "You could tell he was on the brink of one."

Neither team divulged its starting lineup until warmups were under way. The Heat had reason for subterfuge, after choosing a super-small starting five of Dragic, Wade, Johnson, Luol Deng and Winslow. Desperation? Maybe. The results? Splendid.

The Heat used eight players - the tallest being

McRoberts, at 6-foot-10. The average height of the others was just under 6-6. "They made a great adjustment," DeRozan said. "Give them credit." Deng jumped center and Winslow got his first playoff start, three games after sitting out Game 3 entirely. The Heat like using the term "positionless basketball" and Winslow epitomized it early - in a 60-second span, the rookie guarded Raptors center Bismack Biyombo ("that's what we lift weights for," Winslow quipped afterward), brought the ball up like a point guard and made a corner 3.

"Justise did an amazing job," Dragic said. Whiteside, watching from the locker room, was thrilled. "The guys played really well," said Whiteside, who will fly with the Heat to Toronto but said he will not play Sunday. "Goran got in the paint a lot and made it tough on their guys and D-Wade did D-Wade stuff."

Dragic scored 14 in the second quarter, helping Miami take a 53-44 lead at the half. The lead got to 13 in the third, Dragic again coming up big with a three-point play followed by a jumper. And when Toronto got within six early in the fourth, Dragic and Wade scored the next six points to keep Miami in control. "I didn't want to go home to Europe," Dragic said. "Still want to be here." Europe can wait. Canada comes next. And then, he hopes, Cleveland. — AP



**OAKLAND:** Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, speaks with assistant coach Ron Adams during NBA basketball practice on Friday. — AP

## SPURS UNSURE IF DUNCAN OR GINOBILI WILL RETURN

**SAN ANTONIO:** San Antonio's unexpected and abrupt end to the season brings on another stressful summer that begins with what has become an annual quandary. Will Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili return? "I really don't know what they're going to do," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said Friday, a day after the Spurs' season-ending loss at Oklahoma City. "But when they do decide to move on, sometime between now and the next five years - that's a little bit of a joke - it will feel a little differently walking into the gym." Anything less than having both Duncan and Ginobili in uniform next season will be even more jarring for the Spurs than losing to the Thunder in six games in the Western Conference semifinals. "We'll see," said Tony Parker, the other member of San Antonio's Big Three. "It's going to be a long summer for us."

### Franchise's best players

The Spurs did not expect their offseason to begin so early. San Antonio appeared revived and renewed after re-signing Kawhi Leonard and adding marquee free agent LaMarcus Aldridge during the offseason. But after winning the series opener by 32 points, the Spurs suddenly looked old and thin in comparison to the Thunder's size inside and athleticism on the wings.

Still, the Spurs hope for the return of two of the franchise's greatest ever players.

Duncan, 40, and Ginobili, 38, both have player options on the two-year contracts they signed last summer, but neither has given any indication what he plans to do. Duncan said he would "get to that after I get out of here and figure out life" when asked about his future following San Antonio's 113-99 Game 6 loss. Ginobili said he would "take my time as always." Duncan has played 19 seasons, leading the Spurs to each of the franchise's five championships. Ginobili has been a part of four of those titles over 14 seasons. Popovich joked one thing is certain, the veterans won't be turning to him for advice. "I haven't talked to Timmy in about 11 years and Manu stopped talking to me about three or four years ago," Popovich said. "So, I doubt it highly. They are just going to come in and say, 'Pop, this is what I'm doing.' And then whatever they say, that's what I'll do."

It would officially mark the end of an era if either one retires, although San Antonio's reliance on its Big Three came to a close this season. Aldridge and Leonard became the focal point of the Spurs, helping the team transition for the future with All-Star seasons. Leonard led the team in scoring for the first time in his five-year career, averaging 21.2 points and 6.8 rebounds. The 6-foot-7 forward also won Defensive Player of the Year, becoming the first non-center to win the award in consecutive seasons since Dennis Rodman in 1989-91. — AP



**OAKLAHOMA CITY:** San Antonio Spurs center Tim Duncan (21) talks with Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant, right, during the fourth quarter of Game 6 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series. — AP

## PAGENAUD ADDS ANOTHER POLE WIN TO DOMINANT START AT INDY GP

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Simon Pagenaud keeps finding ways to stay ahead of the IndyCar pack. On Friday, the French driver added another chapter to his early season dominance by claiming the pole for the Grand Prix of Indianapolis with a fast lap of 1 minute, 6.868 seconds on the 2.439-mile, 14-turn road course. American Charlie Kimball will start a career-best second after going 1:08.9816.

Pagenaud has two straight pole wins and will try to reach victory lane for the third straight time yesterday. "It's pretty fun right now, let me tell you," the Team Penske driver said after winning his fourth career pole. "Ben Bretzman, my engineer, gives me a monster car every time I'm out there."

This time, he may not have much margin for error. Kimball, who drives for Chip Ganassi Racing, was just a tick off Pagenaud's pace. Another American, Graham Rahal, who drives for his father's team, posted the best lap of any Honda driver at 1:09.1816.

Rahal will start third - right next to another Honda driver, Canadian James Hinchcliffe, who will start a season-best fourth. Hinchcliffe drives for Schmidt Peterson Motorsports. But Pagenaud, who already holds a 48-point lead over defending series champ Scott Dixon, isn't ready to give up any ground. Instead, Pagenaud is looking to expand his lead by becoming the first two-time winner of Indy's road race. "You're always trying to push the limits and finding that zone is key," he said. "It's a lot about concentration and having everything go right for you in your head."

### Being flagged

It was a tough day for some of IndyCar's big-name drivers. Three-time Indianapolis 500 champion Helio Castroneves of Brazil and American Ryan Hunter-Reay, the 2014 Indy winner, were eliminated in the first round of qualifying. Alex Tagliani, the 2011 Indy pole-winner; Marco Andretti, the 2006 Indy runner-up; and JR Hildebrand, the 2011 Indy runner-up, also were knocked out in the first round. Defending Indy GP winner Will Power and defending 500 champ Juan Pablo Montoya were eliminated in the second round.

Tagliani served one penalty in Friday's morning practice, then picked up another for again ignoring the checkered flag. That forced the Canadian to sit in the pits for the first five minutes of qualifying and left him with the slowest lap in qualifying. Montoya ran into similar trouble. The Colombian was assessed a five-minute penalty in the second round of qualifying after taking an extra lap when the checkered waved to end the first round.

The two group leaders of the first round of qualifying, Jack Hawksworth of A.J. Foyt Enterprises and Power from Team Penske, set track records. When they did, track officials delivered a throwback moment when they played a tape of the late Tom Carnegie announcing "a new track record." Power, the previous record-holder, took it away from England's Hawksworth with a time of 1:08.6746. Honda has three of the top six spots in Saturday's 25-car field, as well as the final seven. In between are 12 Chevrolets and three more Hondas. — AP



**INDIANAPOLIS:** Simon Pagenaud, of France, steers his car during qualifications for the Grand Prix of Indianapolis auto race at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. — AP

## RAIN HAMPERS ROME MASTERS SCHEDULE

**ROME:** Britain's Andy Murray and world number one Novak Djokovic were among the players left patiently sitting it out on yesterday as rain delayed the Rome Masters semi-finals. Murray, the second seed, is set to face French lucky loser Lucas Pouille as he bids to reach his first final in Rome, where he could meet top seed Djokovic for the second time in a week if the Serbian beats Kei Nishikori in their last-four match-up.

But intermittent rain throughout the morning in the Italian capital has upset the entire schedule, forcing organizers to pull the covers onto the courts. Spain's Garbine Muguruza was due to meet American Madison Keys on Centre Court at midday local time (1000 GMT), although they had

yet to hit a ball in anger over 90 minutes after the scheduled start of their match.

A statement from organizers said: "The start of yesterday's play has been delayed due to light rain at the Foro Italico. "Garbine Muguruza was due to get underway against Madison Keys in the women's semi-final at midday local time. "Further updates to follow where possible."

Murray lost to Djokovic last week in the final of the Madrid Masters, and the Serbian underlined his form less than two weeks from the start of the French Open at Roland Garros with a hard-fought two-set win over Spanish rival Rafael Nadal late on Friday. In the other women's semi-final, world number one Serena Williams faces Irina-Camelia Begu of Romania. — AFP



## EX-WRESTLER SUPERFLY MENTALLY INCOMPETENT

**ALLENTOWN:** Professional wrestler Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka suffered so many blows to the head during his long career - even getting a coconut smashed on his skull - that he now suffers from dementia and is mentally incompetent to stand trial in the death of his girlfriend more than three decades ago, a psychologist testified Friday.

Snuka's severe mental impairment also stems from a history of abusing alcohol and cocaine. Dr. Frank Dattilio testified at the wrestling star's competency hearing. Snuka was charged with murder and involuntary manslaughter last year in the 1983 death of 23-year-old Nancy Argentino, who was from New York. Snuka's lawyer asserts he doesn't understand the charges or even know he was arrested.

Lehigh County Judge Kelly Banach,

after hearing from prosecution and defense experts, will decide if Snuka is competent to stand trial. Snuka, who was in the courtroom for Friday's hearing in Allentown, has pleaded not guilty and is free on bail. His attorney, Robert Kirwan II, has called Argentino's death an "unfortunate accident."

Dattilio, testifying for the defense Friday, said he had a "hell of a time" trying to get even basic background information from Snuka. The psychologist said Snuka can't assist in his own defense and quoted one of Snuka's doctors as saying he's a "shell of a man." "This is permanent damage, and he's not likely to be restored to competence," Dattilio said.

He recounted an infamous televised scene from 1984 in which another wrestler, Roddy Piper, broke a coconut

over Snuka's head. He said one side of the coconut had been shaved down so that it would easily break, but Piper inadvertently used the hard side of the fruit on Snuka's skull. The hearing was adjourned until Wednesday, when a prosecution expert will testify.

### Trademark moves

Prosecutors assert Snuka is well enough to stand trial. During cross-examination Friday, they played a video that showed him in the ring as recently as last year - even doing his trademark move, the Superfly Splash, albeit from the second turnbuckle instead of the top.

Another video showed him giving an interview recently in which he appeared lucid and in character. Snuka is trying to avoid trial in a case that was long-

mant. The wrestler had been at a World Wrestling Federation taping at the Allentown Fairgrounds, and he told police shortly after Argentino's death that he had returned to their Whitehall Township hotel room to find her unresponsive in bed. She was pronounced dead at a hospital several hours later.

An autopsy determined she died of traumatic brain injuries and had more than three dozen cuts and bruises, and it concluded her injuries were consistent with being hit with a stationary object. But the probe went cold, and Snuka continued his high-profile pro wrestling career.

After a 2013 story by The Morning Call newspaper raised questions about the case, Argentino's sisters approached Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin, who reopened the investigation.

A grand jury report said Snuka, a Fiji native who lives in Waterford Township, New Jersey, had provided more than a half-dozen shifting accounts of Argentino's injuries, at first telling paramedics he hit her during an argument outside their hotel room and she struck her head on concrete, then saying to police she slipped and fell during a bathroom break on their way to the hotel.

The grand jury also said it heard evidence that Snuka beat Argentino four months before her death and repeatedly assaulted his wife, Sharon Snuka, in the fall of 1993. Snuka has long maintained his innocence. Snuka was known for diving from the ropes in a career that spanned four decades. He was admitted into the World Wrestling Entertainment Hall of Fame in 1996, according to the organization's website. —AP



**PITTSBURGH:** Andrei Vasilevskiy #88 of the Tampa Bay Lightning tends goal against the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game One of the Eastern Conference Final during the 2016 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs. — AFP

## LIGHTNING LOSE BISHOP BUT TOP PENGUINS IN GAME 1

**PITTSBURGH:** The sight of their franchise goalie writhing in agony did little to slow down the Tampa Bay Lightning. How could it? Watching the bold-faced names on their roster taken off the ice with their long-term status unknown has become commonplace for perhaps the NHL's most resilient team. When Vezina Trophy finalist Ben Bishop left Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Friday night in the first period with a left leg injury, the Lightning wished him well and went right back to work. Andrei Vasilevskiy made 25 stops filling in and Tampa Bay bottled up the Pittsburgh Penguins for a 3-1 victory to seize home-ice advantage in the best-of-seven series. "I think we played well even before (Bishop's injury) and we kept going," said forward Ondrej Palat, who scored his third goal of the postseason. "We know Vasi is a really good goalie." He's also One Tampa Bay may have to rely on with Bishop's situation uncertain.

The massive 6-foot-7 anchor at the back end of the Lightning defense left on a stretcher 12:25 into the series after his left leg wrenched awkwardly underneath him as he tried to scramble back into position. Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper said X-rays were negative and there appears to be no structural damage to Bishop's leg, though Cooper offered no indication on whether Bishop will be available for Game 2 tomorrow night in Pittsburgh.

The Lightning dropped just two games while sprinting to their second straight appearance in the conference finals despite missing franchise center Steven Stamkos and top defenseman Anton Stralman, both of whom remain out indefinitely with health issues. If Bishop can't go, they'll rely on Vasilevskiy, a 21-year-old who was thrust into a similar position during last spring's Stanley Cup finals against Chicago, winning Game 2 in relief.

Nearly a year later Vasilevskiy finds

himself in a similar spot. He hardly looked overwhelmed by the big stage or shaky from rust. Having his teammates grab a three-goal lead and block 15 shots in front of him helped Vasilevskiy get comfortable in his first extended action in more than a month. "The first two periods felt not good," Vasilevskiy said. "I was cold and tough mentally but when we scored three goals. I got some confidence and third period I felt pretty well."

The meeting between two of the fastest teams in the league was supposed to play in stark contrast to Pittsburgh's physical six-game series with Washington. The anticipated track meet never materialized, and the scoring chances created off the rush were one-sided in favor of the Lightning.

Tampa Bay struck 18:46 into the first when Alex Killorn slipped behind struggling Pittsburgh defenseman Olli Maatta and slotted a shot between Matt Murray's legs. Palat doubled the lead 2:33 into the second when Valtteri Filppula's slap shot smacked off Murray's pads and - with no Penguins around to get in his way - Palat reached out and slammed home the rebound. Jonathan Drouin finished off a 3-on-2 by burying a feed from Palat into the open net 18:25 into the second period to give the Lightning complete command.

Facing just their second three-goal deficit of the playoffs, Pittsburgh drew within two on Patric Hornqvist's power-play goal with just 55 seconds left in the second, a shot from the right circle set up by a pretty between-the-legs flick by Sidney Crosby. While the score seemed to give the Penguins a decided lift - they carried the play over much of the final 20 minutes - the Lightning and Vasilevskiy held on to grab the early momentum in a series that looks far more contentious going forward than it appeared going in. "I don't think they saw our best today," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. — AP

## TRI-SERIES IN CARIBBEAN TO MAKE FLOODLIGHT HISTORY

**BRIDGETOWN, Barbados:** The upcoming tri-series between the West Indies, South Africa and Australia will be the first series in history to see all matches played under floodlights, the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) announced yesterday.

All 10 of the one-day internationals will be day/night affairs, with the first match on June 3. "This is a major series with three very attractive teams featuring some of the world's best players," WICB Operations manager Roland Holder said. "They are accustomed to playing under lights all over the world so we look forward to some very entertaining cricket.

"We looked at ways to enhance the appeal and the spectator experience and it is accepted that fans like the day/night matches." International cricket will return to Guyana for the first time in two years, to coincide with the country's 50th anniversary of independence, for the opening fixtures. After three matches in St Kitts, the last group games and the final will be held at the Kensington Oval, Barbados. The announcement comes at a time when South Africa have raised concerns about Australia's proposal to play a Test match on their tour this summer under lights. —AFP

## DELIGHTED HAMILTON REDISCOVERS MOJO, ROARS INTO POLE POSITION

**BARCELONA:** Lewis Hamilton rediscovered his mojo and his smile yesterday when he roared to pole position for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix ahead of his Mercedes team-mate Nico Rosberg. The defending world champion, who is without a victory in seven races since clinching his third title in Texas last October, grabbed the prime starting spot with a thrilling demonstration of stunning speed in warm sunshine at the Circuit de Catalunya.

It was his third pole this year, his second in Spain and the 52nd of his career, a statistic that meant less to him than the knowledge that he had overcome a variety of setbacks to regain his once-routine supremacy over a single lap.

"I am very, very happy with that and with those laps," said Hamilton. "Nico has been really strong here all weekend so, bit by bit, I have been trying to put the pace together. I really want to thank the guys back at the factory who have been working so hard to try and rectify the problems that we've had over the last few weeks."

He insisted it was "three out of three" for him after he was unable to compete in final qualifying for the Chinese and Russian Grands Prix due to technical problems. "This is now three out of three for me so, obviously, I am delighted. We had a problem on the car yesterday and this is a great response."

For Hamilton, who has taken pole each time he has had a trouble-free day, it may prove to be a significant return to form and good fortune after a run of four races blighted by incidents and engine failures that have seen some critics question his motivation and others suggest he was considering taking a sabbatical next year. To that, he had an immediate riposte. "What? Take a year off? No way! Whoever wrote that must be smoking something-pretty good stuff."

### Rosberg 'disappointed'

In that time, Rosberg has reeled off four wins-extending his sequence to seven in all-to take charge of the title race with a 43-point lead. But, as both men know, the Spanish race has been won 18 times out of 25 from pole position since 1991, a fact that may give the 31-



**BARCELONA:** Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain gives a thumbs up after clocking the fastest lap Saturday, May 14, 2016, during the qualifying session for today's Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Barcelona Catalunya racetrack in Montmeló. —AP

year-old Briton a clear opportunity to end Rosberg's run of triumphs and rekindle his own defence of the drivers' title.

"I'm disappointed, but Lewis was just quicker today and that's it," said Rosberg. "Fortunately, it's the race that counts so I'll try to take my chances at the start. Strategy-wise, it's not going to be an easy race." Hamilton ended up with a best lap in one minute, 22 seconds, 0.28 seconds ahead of Rosberg's fastest on a day when teenager Max Verstappen demonstrated why he was promoted, so unexpectedly, by Red Bull, from Toro Rosso.

The 18-year-old Dutchman was second-fastest at one time and his speed inspired Red Bull team-mate Daniel Ricciardo, who responded by qualifying third ahead of him on the grid. This meant the two Red Bulls separated Mercedes from their main rivals Ferrari, who were pushed

back to fifth and sixth, Finn Kimi Raikkonen edging ahead of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel in the final seconds.

"I am really happy to be in front of both Ferraris and Max, as well," said Ricciardo. "For us, that's pretty awesome. I knew I had the pace." Finn Valtteri Bottas was seventh for Williams - who had lost Brazilian Felipe Massa in Q1 - ahead of Spaniard Carlos Sainz in the leading Toro Rosso, Mexican Sergio Perez of Force India and two-time champion Fernando Alonso of McLaren Honda.

On a circuit that puts great emphasis on the aerodynamic efficiency of a car and which "eats tires", according to Hamilton, the weather conditions may play a part in the outcome of today's contest. Rain has been forecast, but the Englishman will be determined to claim his first victory in seven months. — AFP



**PONTE VEDRA BEACH:** Jason Day of Australia tee's off at the 18th during the resumption of the weather delayed second round of THE PLAYERS Championship at the TPC Stadium course. — AFP

## RECORD-SETTING JASON DAY LEADS BY FOUR AT PLAYERS

**MIAMI:** World number one Jason Day of Australia completed a 36-hole course record effort yesterday to seize a four-stroke lead entering the third round of the US PGA Players Championship. Day, a winner of six of his prior 16 starts, birdied the 15th hole and added three pars to finish a second-round 66, six-under par, to stand on 15-under 129 after 36 holes at the TPC Sawgrass layout.

Another Australian, Greg Norman, had established the 36-hole Players record of 130 in 1994. "(Got) the 36-hole scoring record, which is nice, but I can't lose focus," Day said. "I've got to knuckle down and keep scoring well." Day's four-shot halfway lead over Ireland's Shane Lowry was also a new mark for the event, one shot lower than the old record margin set by Norman in 1994 and American Lanny Wadkins five years earlier. "I'd like to say I'm confident but I'm trying to focus and get the right things done out there," Day said. "I've got a pretty sizeable lead now. I'm going to do my best to try and stretch that lead." World number two Jordan Spieth, who defends his US Open crown next month at Oakmont, missed the cut for the second year in a row in his first event since a Sunday back-nine fade cost him a second consecutive Masters title last month.

"I don't think there's much of a connection to

the Masters. I just didn't putt well," Spieth said. "Augusta seems like a long time ago to me." The tournament was set to get back on schedule Saturday by playing the third round in threesomes off the front and back nines. "It's going to get tricky out there," Day said. "We're not going to score as well as we have the first two days."

### Day sinks early birdie

Day could match Norman and Tiger Woods as the only golfers to win the Players while atop the rankings, but he has only two wins in nine tries with a 36-hole PGA lead-last year's BMW and this year's Arnold Palmer Invitational.

After matching the 18-hole course record with a 63 Thursday, Day went five-under for 14 holes Friday before a storm delay and darkness left him in the 15th fairway on 14-under overall. When play resumed Saturday morning, Day dropped his approach 15 feet from the cup and curled in the putt for his third birdie in a row on the round.

"I'm actually glad I stopped halfway down the fairway at 15 before hitting my wedge shot," Day said. "I don't think I would have stopped it where it was." Day, who won his first major title at last year's PGA Championship, missed a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-5 16th and at 17 two-putted from 53 feet for another par. Seeking his

first career bogey-free 36-hole start, Day found the right rough off the 18th tee, was just short of the green with his approach, then pitched the ball inches from the cup and tapped in for par. "I'm very happy to go through that stretch of 16, 17 and 18 at par," Day said.

### Spieth in misery again

Spieth, 22, was a playing partner of Day, 28, and looked as miserable watching the Aussie sink his birdies the first two rounds as he did handing over the green jacket to England's Danny Willett last month at Augusta National.

"It's tough when you are getting shellacked by 15 shots in the same group," Spieth said. "You see all those birdies going in and you wonder why you aren't making any of them. It's tough seeing every hole being birdied and not being able to do much about it." "I'm striking the ball great. I just need to grind on my short game. If I putt anywhere near the standard I normally putt I'm at 6- or 7-under just on the greens."

Spieth also said he needs to have more fun during rounds and change his attitude if he hopes to approach the success he enjoyed last season. "I'm beating myself up a little too much on the course and it's affecting me," Spieth said. "I need to lower my expectations a little bit. It seems I'm a little tense." — AFP

## BENITEZ'S FUTURE UP FOR GRABS, POCCHETTINO STICKS WITH SPURS

**NEWCASTLE:** While Rafael Benitez's future at Newcastle United remains uncertain, Mauricio Pochettino confirmed his commitment to Tottenham Hotspur this week by agreeing a new deal that will keep him at the club until 2021.

The two managers meet at St James' Park this weekend when Pochettino will attempt to cap a fine season by seeing his side confirmed as runners-up behind Premier League champions Leicester City, while Benitez's target is to ensure Newcastle restore at least some pride before dropping down into the Championship.

Pochettino sparked some concerns among Spurs' fans when he was spotted leaving a restaurant with Alex Ferguson, the former Manchester United manager,

earlier this week. But the Argentinian confirmed Ferguson was not attempting to persuade him to move to Old Trafford and stressed he was now focused on making sure Tottenham finish above north London rivals Arsenal for the first time in over 20 years.

"When I was young, when I started my career as a manager, he (Ferguson) was always my inspiration, my reference and when you can share two hours with a person who, for me, was the greatest manager in the world, the history of football, only you can enjoy," said Pochettino. "Did he ask about Manchester United? No. If you know Sir Alex Ferguson, he is a person we can all learn from because he has a fantastic history about football and about life."

Turning to the table, Pochettino said:

"I can understand it, for our supporters it's special to be above Arsenal, but I want to be second not because we'll be above our enemy, our opponent, but because we are ambitious. "Maybe one day Arsenal finish eighth, we finish seventh, yes we're above but it's not a success for us."

### Too little, too late

Newcastle are set for further talks with Benitez in an effort to persuade the Spaniard to remain as manager. After initial talks on Thursday, Benitez will meet Newcastle managing director Lee Charnley again early next week, with the club hoping those discussions will see the 56-year-old stay in place to lead the north-east club's efforts to return to the Premier League at the first attempt.

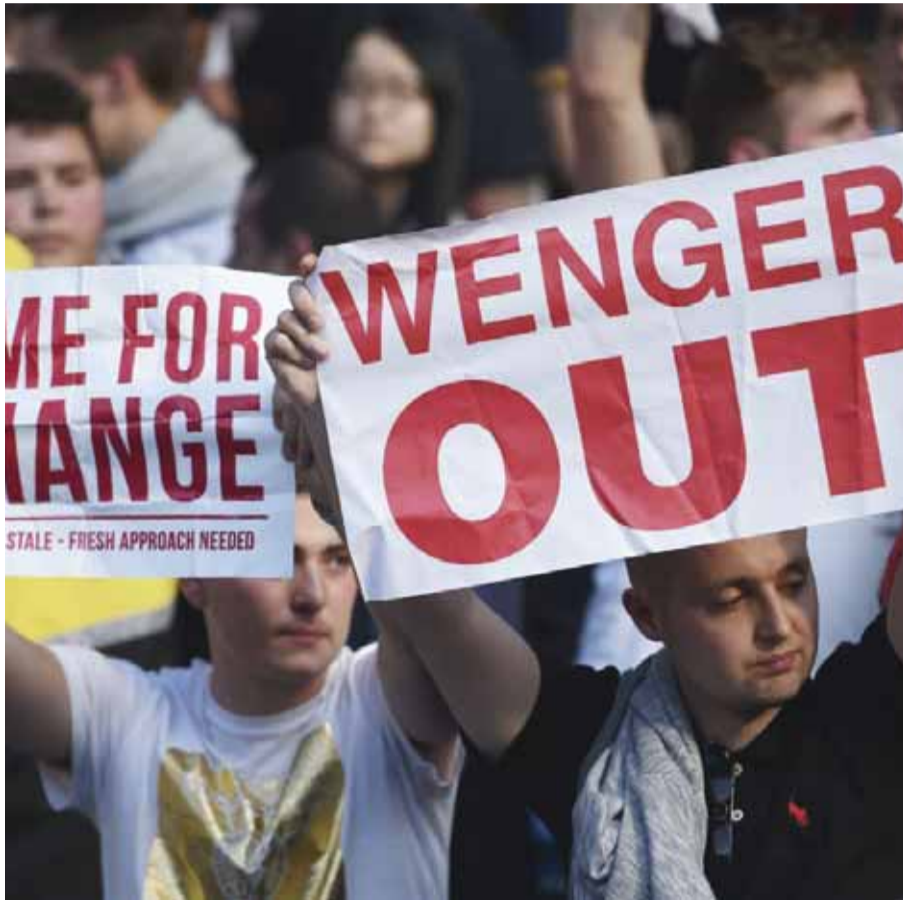
Benitez, who failed to prevent the club falling into the Championship for the second time in seven seasons after taking charge for the final 10 games, has a relegation release clause in his current short-term deal.

But he could well agree to remain at St James' Park, providing he receives assurances about the transfer budget available, and the amount of control he will have at his disposal. The former Liverpool manager is said to be open to an approach from his old club's local rivals Everton regarding their vacant manager's role, but Newcastle hope to tie him down to a long-term deal.

Despite their relegation fate being sealed by north-east neighbors Sunderland's 3-0 victory over the Toffees in midweek, Benitez will resist the temp-

tation to make sweeping changes for the final top flight game at St James' Park for at least 15 months. Newcastle are unbeaten in five games, but can still be overtaken for 18th place by Norwich.

Benitez is aware his side need to give a good account of themselves given Arsenal can still overtake Tottenham to finish runners-up should Newcastle win today. Fabricio Colocchini is again set to miss out with a calf injury that has kept the Argentinian defender out since February. The Newcastle skipper believes Benitez, who replaced Steve McClaren in March, could have saved the club from the drop had he been given more time. "He's changed things in the right way, but maybe it was too late and that's why we're in this position," said Colocchini. —AFP



**MANCHESTER:** Arsenal fans hold up signs calling for the resignation of Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger after the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Arsenal at the Etihad Stadium. — AFP

## ARSENAL STRUGGLES LEAVE WENGER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**LONDON:** Arsene Wenger again found his future was the focus of attention ahead of Arsenal's final game of the season against Aston Villa at the Emirates Stadium today. At the Gunners' last home game, some supporters staged a protest urging Wenger to quit and two weeks on, the Arsenal manager's contract was again at issue, with the Frenchman insisting he would not consider extending his current deal until it is due to expire at the end of next season.

Wenger admitted he would see how next term pans out before deciding on his next move and the same no doubt applies to the club, although the 66-year-old enjoys strong backing from the board. A repeat of this season's frustration will leave Wenger in a similar position, but it is a measure of the consistency he has brought to the club that a likely third place finish in the Premier League is viewed as a disappointment.

They could even finish second if Tottenham lose at Newcastle and Arsenal beat bottom club Villa. But the main difference this season is the widely held belief this was the best chance Arsenal had of winning the title in years. "It was a strange season. We've finished the season disappointed because we felt we had the chance to win the championship," Wenger said. "Of course we are frustrated but Leicester have had consistent results and the rest of the division have had ups and downs. "Everybody else can be frustrated but Leicester only lost three games this season. Nobody else had the same consistency. "Is it down to the fact that Leicester were a surprise package? Is it down to the fact that they only played one competition? "Certainly there's some explanation there, but if you only analyze the technical numbers, there's no rationale. "That's why you have to say they have been absolutely remarkable and you have to congratulate them."

### Dismal season

The possibility of finishing behind bitter rivals Tottenham for the first time in Wenger's 20-year tenure also hurts. "We want to finish as high as possible and, if possible, in front of Spurs," Wenger added. "We want to finish second, because Leicester are now champions, so we will fight until the end. "If we are not second, then hopefully we will finish third, but ideally we want to finish in front of Spurs."

Arsenal will be without England forward Danny Welbeck, who has been ruled out for nine months after picking up a knee injury at Manchester City last weekend. Aston Villa will look to end their dismal season with just their fourth victory in the league, with their fate of relegation having been sealed mathematically almost a month ago.

Their players will depart for their holidays after the final whistle at the Emirates Stadium, not knowing who will own the club or who will manage the team into next season. But caretaker boss Eric Black has ordered the players not to repeat the mistakes of this campaign in their future careers.

"The only discussions I have had with them is 'try to ensure that you're never part of anything like this again,'" he said. "Don't allow any standards to drop and don't drop to other people's standards. "I know it's a team sport but you've got to be single-minded to have the best career you can possibly have in football and that was the only advice I gave them."

"It's about personal pride and your career so they have to learn from what's happened and don't allow it to ever happen again. "I think Aston Villa will come again. I really do. I am confident we will see a very strong Aston Villa next year and very soon they will be back in the Premier League." — AFP

## MANCHESTER DUO FIGHT FOR 4TH AS CURTAIN FALLS ON CHAMPIONS

**LONDON:** Manuel Pellegrini has warned his Manchester City stars to keep their eyes on the prize as they aim to secure a Champions League place at the expense of Manchester United, while champions Leicester will bring down the curtain on their astonishing season at Chelsea yesterday.

With a memorable Premier League campaign coming to a conclusion with the final round of fixtures this weekend, the focus is split between the Manchester rivals' battle for the last spot in Europe's elite club competition and a fitting finale for Leicester as the fairytale champions bow out at the home of last year's winners.

For City manager Pellegrini, his side's trip to Swansea offers an opportunity to leave on a high note as the Chilean prepares to clear his desk ahead of the arrival of Pep Guardiola, who moves to Eastlands from Bayern Munich in the close-season.

Fourth placed City are two points clear of United and, with their goal difference at +30 compared to their fifth placed rivals' +12, Pellegrini's side need only to draw in south Wales to qualify for the Champions League and consign their neighbors to the drudgery of the Europa League. But Pellegrini knows a complacent attitude from his team could lead to a calamity at the Liberty Stadium.

"This Premier League is not easy. Swansea are a difficult team when you play away," he said. "They have done well in the last two games. We must play a very good game to qualify. "If we play the way we did against Arsenal (last weekend) and we win, it will be a good finish."

United's 3-2 defeat at West Ham in midweek took their European fate out of their hands and they host Bournemouth knowing only a victory, combined with a City defeat at Swansea, will be enough to snatch a top four finish. Despite the unpromising situation, United midfielder Michael Carrick, whose side face Crystal Palace in the FA Cup final on May 21, urged his team-mates not to coast through the Bournemouth game.

### Last hurrah

"We have to stay focused, that's the situation that has presented itself now," Carrick said. "We were in control of it going into the West Ham game but we've let it slip. We have to win our last league game now and then see what hap-



**LONDON:** Manchester United's English striker Wayne Rooney reacts after losing the English Premier League football match between West Ham United and Manchester United at the Boleyn Ground in Upton Park. — AFP

pens." Just 10 months after being installed as 5,000-1 outsiders for the title, Leicester bid farewell to the most remarkable season in the club's 132-year history with a trip to Stamford Bridge to face Chelsea.

It is an appropriate last hurrah for Claudio Ranieri's side because the team-spirit and desire that played such a significant role in their title triumph stands in marked contrast to the lethargic efforts of Chelsea's sullen superstars.

While Eden Hazard, Diego Costa and company showed little commitment to the cause in a desultory title defense, the likes of N'Golo Kante and Jamie Vardy rose from obscurity to reach the pinnacle of the English game. Leicester midfielder Kante, a £5.6 million (\$8 million, 7.1 million Euros) signing from Caen, summed up that never-say-die spirit with more tackles and interceptions than other Premier League player this season. "I am not a star player," Kante said. "I think it was the spirit of the team. "When I came here I

could not imagine this, winning the title. But we fight all the time and this is why we have done it." Despite missing out on a first top-flight title for 55 years, Tottenham would have the consolation of finishing above north London rivals Arsenal for the first time since 1994-95 if they take a first runners-up berth since 1963.

Mauricio Pochettino's second placed side are two points ahead of Arsenal with a far superior goal difference, meaning a draw or win at Newcastle would make it irrelevant how the third placed Gunners fare in their home fixture against bottom club Aston Villa.

"Finishing third would be hard to stomach," Tottenham striker Harry Kane said. "It would be good for the fans to have the bragging rights for the first time in a long time. It's in our hands." West Ham, Southampton and Liverpool are all in contention for Europa League spots, although qualification may not be decided until after the FA Cup final. — AFP

## LIVERPOOL FOCUSED ON EUROPA AS WEST BROM PAYS FINAL VISIT

**WEST BROMWICH:** Jurgen Klopp has tried to say all the right things, but Liverpool's Premier League trip to West Bromwich Albion will be overshadowed by their looming Europa League final appearance. Reds boss Klopp is likely to rotate significantly at the Hawthorns today in order to keep players fresh for the following Wednesday, when his side travel to Basel for the Europa League showpiece against holders Sevilla.

The general consensus is that the team Klopp picked for the midweek league match at home to Chelsea will start Liverpool's first European final since 2007, although the German may be hav-

ing second thoughts about that after a rather wobbly performance in a 1-1 draw. Not that the visit to West Brom is completely meaningless because Liverpool could still secure a place in Europe through their league position.

Klopp's team, who go into the final round of league fixtures in eighth place, are three points behind West Ham, in sixth, and one adrift of Southampton in seventh. Sixth place would guarantee a Europa League spot, while seventh would do so as long as Manchester United win the FA Cup final against Crystal Palace.

That will all be academic if Liverpool beat Sevilla as that would

ensure qualification for next season's Champions League. All the same, Klopp is aware that a win today could come in very useful. "It's very important because we can still move up two positions in the table," he said. "In this moment, today afternoon is the most important game in the world."

### Final decisions

Klopp has three key players on the way back from injury, and all may yet play some part against Sevilla even if the West Brom fixture comes too soon. Danny Ings is close to full fitness after battling back from cruciate knee ligament damage sustained soon after Klopp

took charge at Anfield last October.

Fellow striker Divock Origi is also back in training, having been out since suffering an ankle injury in the 4-0 league win over Everton on April 20. Captain Jordan Henderson is making good progress in his recovery from the knee injury sustained against Borussia Dortmund in the Europa League on April 7.

Of the three, Ings has the greatest chance of featuring today and Klopp appears to be keeping his fingers crossed that Origi and Henderson will be ready to face Sevilla. "We have to see," Klopp said. "I haven't made final decisions. We will see about Danny Ings and if he's ready for West Brom. "With Divock and Hendo, they are both in a good way. Hendo has done a bit more. "They are pretty close. If the final was one week later, now we'd be talking. But it will be close."

In a season when the Liverpool fans who were present at the Hillsborough disaster were cleared by an inquest of any blame for the tragedy, West Brom will pay their own tribute on Saturday to the 96 supporters who died. The West Midlands club have replaced 96 blue seats in the away section of the Smethwick End with 96 seats in Liverpool red. The seats will remain unoccupied for the game and each will bear the name of one of the victims. West Brom captain Darren Fletcher and former Liverpool striker Rickie Lambert, now with West Brom but born on Merseyside, will lay flowers in front of the away fans. West Brom chairman Jeremy Peace said: "Albion and Liverpool have a rivalry which dates back to 1894 since when we have contested nearly 150 games. "For a few moments today we will be as one and remember the context Hillsborough makes of our daily struggles." — AFP



**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool's Spanish defender Alberto Moreno (C) attends a team training session at their Melwood training complex. — AFP

## INDONESIA APPLAUDS LIFTING OF FIFA BAN

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia yesterday welcomed FIFA's decision to end the country's year-long ban from world football over government interference, saying it hoped for more transparency in the sport. FIFA president Gianni Infantino announced Friday that Indonesia had been reinstated after Jakarta sent a letter notifying that it had lifted sanctions on national football body, the PSSI. Indonesia has been without a national football competition for the better part of a year, after a feud between the PSSI and its sports ministry saw the top-grade tournament suspended.

"We hope the lifting of the ban will push the nation to improve its national football, especially in regards to revamping its organizational management, increasing transparency, accountability and enhancing a more harmonious relationship with the various stakeholders," Indonesia's sports min-

istry said in a statement. It suggested that FIFA's decision was the result of the "good relationship" that has developed between Indonesia and football's world governing body since Infantino took charge.

Asian Football Confederation president Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa also applauded the move. "We welcome them (Indonesia) back into the Asian football family," he said in a statement. "However, the AFC executive committee reiterated this week their continued stand against government intervention in sport generally and football in particular."

AFC officials will meet their Indonesian counterparts to discuss next steps regarding competition matters, the statement said. Indonesia launched an interim eight-month competition in April, but the sports ministry said this was not a replacement for its top-flight league. — AFP



MUNICH: Bayern Munich celebrate their Bundesliga title after the German first division Bundestags football match between FC Bayern Munich and Hannover 96. — AFP

## GUARDIOLA SIGNS OFF AT BAYERN WITH GERMAN BUNDESLIGA TITLE

**BERLIN:** Pep Guardiola signed off his three years in the Bundesliga yesterday as Bayern Munich lifted a fourth straight German league title after yesterday's 3-1 win over bottom-side Hannover. Bayern's 28th win in 34 league games triggered party scenes at the Allianz Arena as the Bavarians celebrated their 26th German league title.

This was Guardiola's 20th trophy as a coach after 14 in four years with Barcelona and now six in three years in Munich before leaving to coach Manchester City next season. It was only a matter of minutes after the final whistle before he was soaked in beer as his players emptied over-sized glasses over the Spaniard in the traditional title celebrations.

"It's been a great day," said Guardiola. "Normally games like this are unpleasant and

boring, because the concentration is lacking a bit, but that was a great game with lots of intensity. "Now we'll celebrate for a day before getting ready to play Borussia Dortmund next Saturday." Guardiola's final game as Bayern coach is next Saturday's German Cup final against Borussia Dortmund in Berlin where his side could send him off with the domestic double.

### Standing ovation

The Spaniard received a standing ovation after a presentation from the 75,000 sold-out crowd at the Allianz Arena as Bayern became the first club to win the German league four times in a row. Poland hot-shot Robert Lewandowski finished as the Bundesliga's top scorer after claiming his 30th league goal of the

season. No other foreign striker has ever scored so many goals in a single Bundesliga season. Mario Goetze then netted twice in what could be his last Bundesliga game for Bayern. According to reports, the German World Cup winner has been told to find a new club by Bayern's in-coming coach Carlo Ancelotti, who will replace Guardiola next season. Lewandowski opened the scoring on seven minutes before Goetze doubled the hosts' lead on 28 minutes when he beat the Hannover defense, then chipped home to get the party started. He claimed his second after the break after Hannover made a hash of defending a corner. Hannover, playing their last game before relegation, pulled a goal back when Poland international Artur Sobiech got in behind the Bayern defense on 66 minutes. Bayern finish 10

points clear after second-placed Dortmund drew 2-2 at home to Cologne, with Germany winger Marco Reus equalizing for the hosts.

### Stuttgart go down

VfB Stuttgart, the 2007 champions, were relegated, joining Hannover in the second division next season, after their 3-1 defeat at Wolfsburg. Andre Schuerrle boosted his chances of making Germany's Euro 2016 squad on Tuesday with two goals as Wolfsburg caught Stuttgart on the counter-attack.

Stuttgart forward Daniel Didavi sparked a late fightback with a 78th minute goal but his side finished 17th-second from bottom. Werder Bremen stay up after Senegal defender Papy Djilobodji, on loan from Chelsea, scored their dramatic 88th-minute goal to seal a 1-0 win at

home to Eintracht Frankfurt. It marked the end to a turbulent week for the Senegal international, who is being investigated by state prosecutors for making a cut-throat gesture at an opponent during a Bundesliga game in March. The result saw Bremen move up to 13th while Frankfurt finish 16th and now face a two-legged play-off against Nuremberg, who finished third in the second division. The first leg will be held in Frankfurt on Thursday with the return leg on Monday May 23 in Nuremberg. Schalke will play in next season's Europa League, along with Mainz and Hertha Berlin who drew 0-0, after their 4-1 thumping of hosts Hoffenheim. It was Andre Breitenreiter's final game as Schalke coach, after only one season in charge, as he announced before kick-off that he is leaving a year before his contract ends. — AFP

## QATAR TO PLAY THREE EUROPEAN FRIENDLIES

**DOHA:** Qatar will play three European friendlies this year, the first against Albania, ahead of crucial 2018 World Cup qualifiers, coach Jose Daniel Carreno announced yesterday. The match against Albania will take place in Austria on May 29.

That is just 13 days before Albania play their first game at the European Championship in France. Qatar's European opponents for the two other friendlies are yet to be fixed but are likely to take place in mid-August. Qatar, 2022 World Cup hosts, have also announced a friendly in Doha against Thailand in August, and are looking to secure another home fixture early in the same month. "We will play two games in Europe in August, between August 14th and 18th," Carreno told reporters at a press conference at national team headquarters in Doha.

Both games would be against European opponents, confirmed the Uruguayan. "For August 24th we will have a game against Thailand in Doha and also we will play a game which we will believe will be in Doha at the beginning of August. "We are currently working on a specific team we will play but we cannot confirm the team at the moment."

Qatar's last match on European soil came in June last year when they lost 1-0 to Scotland in a friendly in Edinburgh. The matches will all be played in the weeks running up to Qatar's first AFC round three group game in 2018 World Cup qualification away to Iran on September 1. They will also play qualifiers against South Korea and Uzbekistan in September as they bid to qualify for Russia.

Qatar have so far breezed through qualification, losing only their final game out of six in round two and that when they had already assured they would play this next stage. But the pressure on the team is now likely to intensify. In round three they will be one of 12 AFC teams contesting just four guaranteed places to secure passage to Russia.

Qatar though are only ranked by FIFA eighth-highest out of those dozen teams which have been placed into two separate groups and to reach Russia will have to see off regional powerhouses Iran and South Korea as well as the challenge from a resurgent China. The international spotlight is also set to intensify as the current team seeks to become the first from Qatar to qualify for the World Cup finals and spare the country the indignity of being the first nation since Italy 1934 to host football's biggest tournament having never previously qualified. — AFP

### Live Matches on TV (Local Timings)

#### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

<b>Arsenal v Aston Villa</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
<b>Chelsea v Leicester City</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
<b>Everton FC v Norwich City</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN	
<b>Man United v Bournemouth</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
<b>Newcastle United v Tottenham</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
<b>Southampton v Crystal Palace</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
<b>Watford v Sunderland</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
<b>West Bromwich v Liverpool</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
<b>Stoke City v West Ham United</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 13 HD EN	
<b>Swansea City v Man City</b>	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	

#### SPANISH LEAGUE

<b>Malaga CF v Las Palmas</b>	13:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
<b>Sporting Gijon v Villarreal</b>	18:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
<b>Rayo Vallecano v Levante</b>	18:00
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Real Betis v Getafe CF</b>	18:00
beIN SPORTS	
<b>RCD Espanyol v SD Eibar</b>	20:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	

#### ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

<b>SS Lazio v AC Fiorentina</b>	16:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
<b>Udinese Calcio v Carpi</b>	16:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
<b>Chievo Verona v Bologna FC</b>	16:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
<b>Genoa CFC v Atalanta</b>	16:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
<b>Empoli v Torino FC</b>	16:00
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
<b>Citta v Hellas Verona</b>	16:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

## FIFA AUDIT CHIEF QUILTS OVER REFORM THREATS

**MEXICO CITY:** The head of FIFA's independent audit committee, Domenico Scala quit yesterday in protest at what he called attacks on reforms of the scandal-tainted world football governing body by its leadership. Scala is angry at a FIFA Council move to control the nomination of members of independent oversight bodies such as its ethics committee and audit and compliance committee.

The measure was approved on Friday by a FIFA congress, the first under new president Gianni Infantino, who was elected in February promising a new era of transparency. Scala said the committees had been "deprived of their independence and are in danger of becoming auxiliary agents of those whom they should actually supervise".

The Swiss official has played a key role drawing up reforms after the scandals that claimed the heads of former president Sepp Blatter and UEFA president Michel Platini. "It will henceforth be possible for the council to impede investigations against single members at any time, by dismissing the responsible committee members or by keeping them acquiescent through the threat of a dismissal," Scala warned.

Scala said he was "consternated about this decision, because it undermines a central pillar of the good governance of FIFA and it destroys a substantial achievement of the reforms". FIFA released a statement in response claiming Scala had misunderstood the measures taken. "FIFA regrets that Mr. Scala has misinterpreted the purpose of the decision taken by the FIFA Congress," said the statement.

"The decision was made to permit the Council to appoint members on an interim basis to the vacant positions of the new committees so they can start fulfilling their roles as part of the ongoing reform process until the next FIFA Congress in 2017. "In addition, the measure allows for the swift removal of members who have breached their obligations.

"The Council fully respects the independence of the Audit and Compliance and the Ethics committees, and any suggestions to the contrary are without merit. "Mr Scala has made unfounded claims which are baseless. FIFA is focused on reform and the path forward as evidenced by the appointment of a new FIFA Secretary General."

The FIFA council's request to take control of nominations to the committees was not part of the reforms agreed at a special congress in February when Infantino was elected. The ethics committee ordered the six-year suspension against Blatter and a similar punishment against Platini, whose ban has since been reduced to four years.

The committee has also ordered lengthy bans against officials such as Chuck Blazer of the United States and Jack Warner of Trinidad and Tobago after they were implicated in bribe-taking.

### Tough job for Samoura

Scala's resignation came a day after Infantino named Fatma Samoura as secretary general, the first woman and first non-European to become



ZURICH: This file photo taken on October 20, 2015 shows chairman of the FIFA independent audit and compliance committee Domenico Scala speaks on his mobile phone at the end of an extraordinary FIFA executive committee at football's world body headquarters. — AFP

FIFA's number two. Samoura, from Senegal, will take over from Frenchman Jerome Valcke, who was sacked last year after being implicated in a scandal over black market World Cup tickets.

With FIFA still the subject of a Swiss criminal investigation and former senior officials facing trial in the United States over huge bribes for television deals, world football's governing body faces a major task to restore its credibility. "My goal is to support the programme of president Gianni (Infantino) and to help football restore its tarnished image," Samoura, a top UN diplomat, told AFP in an interview yesterday.

Infantino said that Samoura was the "most competent" person to run FIFA's administration. Almost a year after police raids that led to the arrest of seven FIFA officials at a congress in

Switzerland, Samoura does not face an easy job, made more complicated by Scala's protest resignation. Instead of dealing with humanitarian crises for the United Nations, she will now have to make sure that FIFA's reforms and Infantino's promises of greater transparency are implemented throughout the organisation.

Tokyo Sexwale, the South African politician and tycoon who was a candidate for the FIFA presidency, said Samoura's appointment was important more for her ability than for her being African. "She's someone who has worked in the system of the United Nations and understands what is required in terms of an executive," Sexwale told AFP. "The fact that she is a woman is not number one for me, number one, she must be a human who can be capable." — AFP

## ARSENAL WOMEN WIN 14TH STRAIGHT FA CUP

**LONDON:** Arsenal Ladies beat London rivals Chelsea Ladies 1-0 in the final of the Women's FA Cup in front of a competition record crowd of 32,912 at Wembley yesterday. Danielle Carter scored the only goal of the game with an excellent first-half shot as Arsenal overcame a Chelsea side who kicked-off having won four successive matches in the Women's Super League. Carter, 22, went past Hannah Blundell on the left corner of the penalty area

before curling a shot beyond the reach of Chelsea goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl after 18 minutes. Lindahl made several good saves as Arsenal failed to get the second goal that would have helped put the result beyond doubt. Chelsea had a number of chances to equalize and their best opportunity of the second half came with 20 minutes left when South Korean midfielder Ji So-Yun shot narrowly wide. — AFP

Manchester duo  
fight for 4th  
as curtain falls on  
champions



Guardiola signs off  
at Bayern  
with German  
Bundesliga title



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DELIGHTED HAMILTON REDISCOVERS MOJO

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GRANADA: FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi from Argentina celebrates after scoring against Granada during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Granada and Barcelona at Los Carmenes stadium. — AP

## SUAREZ HAT-TRICK FIRES BARCA TO LA LIGA TITLE

### MADRID CAPS OFF LATE SEASON SURGE WITH 3-0 WIN

**MADRID:** Barcelona sealed their 24th La Liga title as Luis Suarez took his tally for the season to 59 goals with a hat-trick in a 3-0 win at Granada to hold off Real Madrid's late-season surge. Real registered their 12th consecutive La Liga win, 2-0 at Deportivo La Coruna thanks to Cristiano Ronaldo's double, but finished a point behind their bitter rivals.

Suarez's treble also sees him become the first player in seven years other than Ronaldo and Barca teammate Lionel Messi to win the Pichichi award for La Liga's top goalscorer with 40. Barca had seemed set to cruise to the title until a run of three consecutive defeats for the first time in 13 years last month.

However, they bounced back like champions as, inspired by Suarez's 14 goals, they scored 24 times without reply in the last five games to win the title. "We played very well over the course of the season. We were top for many weeks and the most consistent team wins the title," said Barca boss Luis Enrique.

"We have won six of the last eight titles, which

shows the club has a winning mentality. We must value each title win because each one is very difficult." Barca were put under pressure early on as Ronaldo struck after just seven minutes to put Madrid in front in La Coruna.

Gerard Pique was twice denied by Andres Fernandez from corners, whilst the Granada goalkeeper also tipped over Messi's driven effort from the edge of the area. Barca's nerves were settled by a brilliant team move on 22 minutes as Neymar freed Jordi Alba down the left and his low cross was turned into an empty net by Suarez at the back post.

#### Stunning season

Suarez then doubled Barca's advantage when he nipped in ahead of Fernandez to head in Dani Alves's cross at the near post. Fernandez made excellent saves from a Messi free-kick that was arrowing towards the top corner and Neymar to keep Granada in the game after the break. And the Andalusians had the chance to set up a nervy finish but former

Barca winger Isaac Cuenca's shot was beaten away by Marc-Andre ter Stegen. However, fittingly Suarez sealed a stunning season when he completed his hat-trick from Neymar's unselfish square pass. "Six leagues from the last eight speaks of the cycle of success we continue to maintain and have to try to extend as long as possible," added Barca captain Andres Iniesta.

Madrid's record 12-game winning streak to end the season wasn't enough to overcome the 12-point deficit they faced to Barca back in March. "I am very proud of the players and what we have done," said Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane. "We never gave up and we fought until the end."

However, victory secured second place ahead of Champions League final opponents Atletico Madrid, whilst Ronaldo moved past the 50 goal mark for the sixth consecutive season. The three-time World Player of the Year opened the scoring as he swept home Karim Benzema's mishit effort at the back post. Ronaldo's second was slightly fortuitous as his head-

er was deflected past the helpless Stipe Pletikosa by Pedro Mosquera. However, the Portuguese could have had four before he was replaced at half-time with one eye on the Champions League final on May 28 as he also hit the post and the crossbar before the break. Zidane also withdrew Gareth Bale 15 minutes from time to keep the Welshman fresh as the visitors played out the second-half in the knowledge Barca were in command in Granada. — AFP

## HOW LA LIGA WAS WON AND LOST

**BARCELONA:** After Barcelona pipped Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid in a thrilling three-way race to claim their 24th La Liga crown, Reuters looks at the five games that defined the title race:

#### Real Madrid 0-4 Barcelona, Nov 21

With talisman Lionel Messi watching from the bench, Neymar and Luis Suarez exposed in devastating fashion the weaknesses in Rafa Benitez's side that had been bubbling under the surface. The Argentine came off the bench to lay on a pass for Suarez to deal the final blow to a seething Bernabeu crowd who turned their fire on president Florentino Perez.

#### Barcelona 2-1 Atletico Madrid, Jan 30

Diego Simeone's side took an early lead through Koke in this top-of-the-table clash but quick-fire strikes from Messi and Suarez turned the game in Barca's favor. Atletico shot themselves in the foot as Filipe Luis and Diego Godin were both sent off yet still created chances to equalize. Barca hung on, however, moving three points clear with a game in hand, and, crucially securing a superior head-to-head record which kept them top after their form fell off a cliff.

#### Real Madrid 0-1 Atletico Madrid, Feb 29

Antoine Griezmann's second-half strike inflicted a first defeat on Zinedine Zidane, successor to the sacked Benitez, and appeared to be the final nail in the coffin for Real's title bid, the coach remarking afterwards "La Liga is over for us." In fact, it proved to be the result that kicked his side into action, preceding a run of 12 straight wins. Barca's April stutter gave Real hope of a charge to the top but Real had taken too long to get their act together.

#### Sporting Gijon 2-1 Atletico Madrid, March 19

Atletico conceded two late goals in the final 11 minutes at struggling Sporting to end a streak of seven wins in eight games and it looked to have derailed their title bid, evidenced by Diego Simeone's spiky performance in front of the media. Atletico must have regretted their careless late display even more a month later when Barcelona lost three games in a row yet remained top.

#### Deportivo 0-8 Barcelona, April 20

Three successive defeats to Real Madrid, Real Sociedad and Valencia had left Barca's once secure title hopes hanging on a knife edge but they responded with a ruthless attacking display at Deportivo, with Suarez scoring four. The defensive holes were still on display but Barca survived unscathed and showed no mercy at the other end, putting their title bid back on track. — Reuters

## FIVE-STAR JUVE ROUT SAMPDORIA

**ROME:** Paulo Dybala hit a brace and provided an assist as Italian champions Juventus capped their sterling Serie A season with a 5-0 rout of 10-man Sampdoria yesterday. Juventus secured a record-equalling fifth successive title without kicking a ball last month thanks to Roma's late 1-0 win at home to Napoli.

In their final home match of the league campaign, Massimiliano Allegri's men were looking to put the cherry on the cake and the Bianconeri delivered in style. Sampdoria, missing striker Antonio Cassano amid reports he'd been sacked following a row with management, came close in the early stages but second-choice Juve keeper Norberto Neto got down low to stop Ricky Alvarez's volley.

Minutes later, Juve got in front when French wing-back Patrice Evra sent a diving header into the top corner from Dybala's free-kick, despite appearing to be in an offside position. Dybala opened his account from the penalty spot on the quarter-hour when Mario Mandzukic was hauled down by Martin Skriniar, who saw red as he was the last man.

It was the Argentine's 22nd goal of the season and meant he overtook the 21-goal tally set by compatriot Carlos Tevez in his debut season with the Turin giants. Juve could have had more, Dybala forcing Serie A debutant keeper Alberto Brignoli into action before Stephan Lichtsteiner's glancing header came off the crossbar.

A Mandzukic shot was deflected just wide of Brignoli's upright and after sending a great chance over the bar Dybala hit his second, and 23rd of the season, with a great left-foot strike from outside the box. It was all one-way traffic and after Paul Pogba shot wide, Juve's celebrations were complete when defenders Giorgio



TURIN: Juventus' goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (C) from Italy and Juventus' players celebrate their Serie A title after the Italian Serie A football match Juventus vs Sampdoria on May 14, 2016 at the "Juventus Stadium". — AFP

Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci added their names to the scoresheet in the final quarter hour.

Chiellini, making his first start since April 2, sent a half-volley from a deflected corner past Brignoli in the 77th minute, with Bonucci tapping home from close range three minutes from the end after striker Alvaro Morata nodded on a corner.

Juventus, who finish the season on 91 points, hold a 12-point lead on second-placed Napoli.

Napoli are two points ahead of Roma in third and will look to hold on to the league's second automatic Champions League qualifying place when they host already-relegated Frosinone later. Maurizio Sarri's men have extra incentive

as they failed to qualify for Europe's premier club competition this season after a summer play-off defeat to Athletic Bilbao.

A slip-up at the San Paolo would be welcomed by Roma, who face Europa League-chasing AC Milan at the San Siro. Yesterday's other match Sassuolo, in sixth place with a one-point lead on Milan, host Inter Milan. — AFP

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## NIGERIA CHEVRON FACILITY BOMBED; EXXONMOBIL CUTS EXPORTS

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**BUENOS AIRES:** People eat a free dinner at a soup kitchen outside the government house in Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Inflation has reached 6.5 percent, according to the Buenos Aires statistics office, the highest in 14 years. — AP

## MOODY'S CUTS SAUDI, OMAN, BAHRAIN RATINGS

### BAHRAIN SINKING DEEPER IN JUNK TERRITORY

**DUBAI:** Moody's Investors Service cut its debt ratings for Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain yesterday while assigning negative outlooks to three neighboring states, as low oil prices continue to undermine government finances in the region. The rating agency downgraded Saudi Arabia's long-term issuer rating by one notch to A1 but gave the kingdom a stable outlook, saying sweeping economic reforms announced by the government last month might stabilize the state budget.

In late April, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman revealed Saudi Arabia's biggest policy shake-up in decades, including tax rises, an efficiency drive and plans to give a bigger role to the private sector. "The government has ambitious and comprehensive plans to diversify both the economy and its balance sheet which, if even partly successful, should stabilize its credit profile and which could, if achieved, offer a route back to a higher rating level over time," Moody's said.

However, the agency said it was still uncertain how Saudi Arabia would fund a massive budget deficit averaging 9.5 percent of gross domestic product between 2016 and 2020, which would require total financing of \$324 billion. "It is not yet clear how this cumulative financing need will be met: while Saudi Arabia's low levels of government debt at 5.8 percent of GDP in 2015 provide fiscal space, no medium-term funding strategy

has yet been announced," Moody's said. The agency downgraded Oman by one notch to Baa1 with a stable outlook, and cut Bahrain by one notch to Ba2, deeper in junk territory, with a negative outlook. Both countries lack the huge financial and oil reserves of their wealthy neighbors.

While Bahrain can expect support from its ally Saudi Arabia in a crisis, it is likely to find it increasingly hard to borrow in the international markets, particularly since it will be competing for money with its neighbors, Moody's said. "The further deterioration in the government's balance sheet, combined with increased external debt issuance from other countries in the region, will lower the supply of external funding, thereby heightening the risk that finance is obtainable only at much less affordable rates for Bahrain, or potentially reduced amounts."

Moody's also confirmed the Aa2 ratings of the United Arab Emirates and its biggest member, Abu Dhabi, but assigned a negative outlook to them. The UAE has been more proactive than its neighbors in restraining spending and reforming its finances in an environment of low oil prices, but Moody's said the government's policies to cut its budget deficit were still not clear. Moody confirmed the Aa2 ratings of Kuwait and Qatar but gave both of them a negative outlook. — Reuters

## ABK REPORTS AN OPERATING PROFIT OF KD 22.1 MILLION

**KUWAIT:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) yesterday announced an operating profit of KD 22.1 million for the first quarter of 2016, after a one-off investment loss of KD 2.3 million on investments disposal, compared to KD 21.8 million for the corresponding period in 2015. Net profit stood at KD 7.8 million against KD 9.1 million in 2015. Total assets reached KD 4.52 billion, up 26.3% compared to March 2015, while total shareholders' equity reached KD 547 million. Earnings per Share (EPS) is at 5 fils for the first quarter of 2016, compared to 6 fils for the same period in 2015.

Commenting on the first quarter results, Chairman of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Talal Behbehani said: "These are solid results which reaffirm the Bank's stable and strong position. Our objective for 2016 is to continue the encouraging trend of 2015, maintaining our financial discipline and ensuring maximum efficiency on all levels of operations. Our strategic approach will continue to be steady and cautious, and we look forward to a productive year ahead."

Michel Accad, Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are continuing to see the positive outcome of the series of enhancements and developments which we rolled out during 2015. From the launch of the 'One Tap Touch ID' technology for the installment of new ATM machines for



**Michel Accad, Chief Executive Officer** individuals with special needs, our 'Simpler Banking' strategy continues to lead the way and make a difference in the lives of ABK's customers, and this is only the beginning.

In light of ABK's expansion into Egypt, we are also very proud to announce that ABK has won the 'Africa Regional Award for the Deal of the Year' for the acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt from the Banker, a Financial Times affiliate. We will be implementing the rebranding of Piraeus Bank to ABK within the first half of 2016 which is an additional step towards solidifying ABK's position as one of the region's fastest growing banks."

ABK has started the year with acknowledgement from a number of prestigious organizations. ABK's diligence and out-

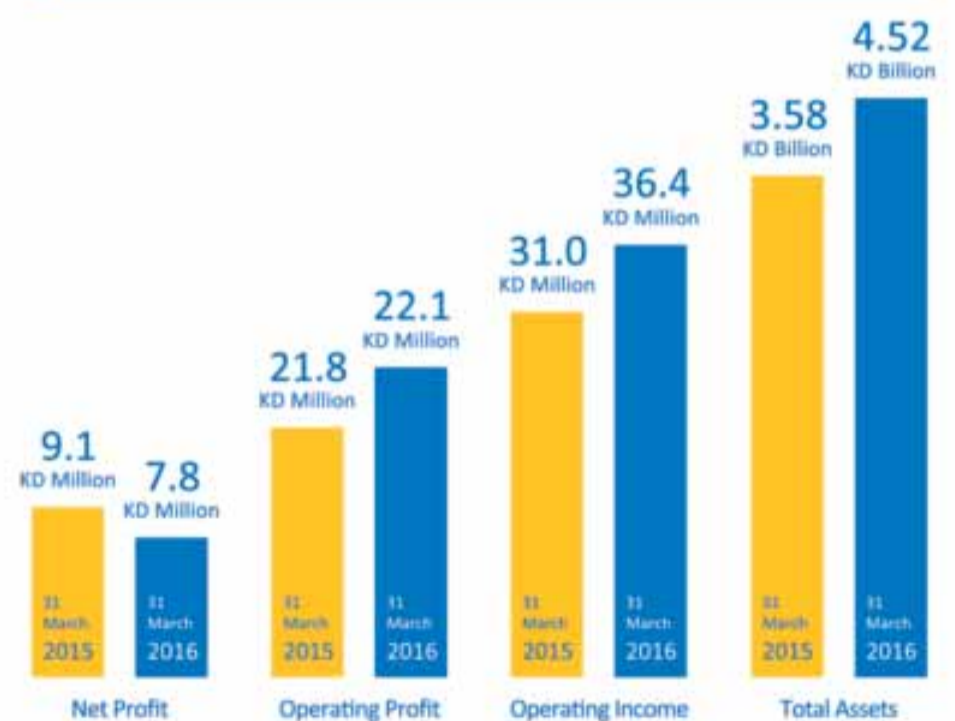


**Chairman of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Talal Behbehani**

standing performance was recently recognized when it was awarded the 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' Award by The Asian Banker, one of the most prestigious awards programs in the industry of financial services and one of Asia's leading consultancies in financial services research, benchmarking and intelligence. The Award is testimony to ABK's unwavering efforts to present a Simpler Banking model that serves the core needs of its customers, while ensuring added security, convenience and speed. The Bank also won 'Best Bank' by Arabian Business Magazine and Commerzbank awarded ABK a recognition award for operational excellence in Straight Through Processing (STP).

## AL AHLI BANK OF KUWAIT FINANCIAL RESULTS FIRST QUARTER 2016

**KD7.8 Million** | Net Profit



**KD547 Million**

Shareholders' Equity

**5 Fils**

Earnings per Share

**17.18%**

Capital Adequacy Ratio

www.eahli.com

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# NIGERIA CHEVRON FACILITY 'BOMBED'

## EXXONMOBIL CUTS EXPORTS

**LAGOS:** An explosion closed a second Chevron facility in Nigeria, witnesses said yesterday, as renewed attacks by militants further cut production in Africa's biggest petroleum producer. Adding to Nigeria's economic woes, Exxon Mobil on Friday said some production of Qua Iboe crude - the West African nation's largest crude grade - has halted because a drilling rig damaged a pipeline. The company declared force majeure, protecting it from contractual export obligations.

Nigeria's oil production already had reached a 20-year low of less than 1.6 million barrels a day from a projected 2.2 million, because of attacks on a Chevron platform last week and on a pipeline that forced Shell to

declare force majeure on Bonny Light crude on Wednesday. The same day, Shell began evacuating workers from its offshore Bonga oilfield following a militant threat, though production there is continuing.

Shell's Forcados export terminal has been shut since a February bombing. Villagers said militants attacked a Chevron well on Marakaba pipeline on Thursday. They requested anonymity for fear of repercussions amid a massive deployment of troops that has led more than 10,000 people to flee the fallout. Chevron did not respond to requests for comment. A new group, the Niger Delta Avengers, has claimed most attacks. They want natives of the oil-producing southern Niger Delta to get a bigger

share of oil wealth and are angry about cuts to an amnesty program that paid militants to guard the installations they once attacked.

There are suggestions the violence is being fueled by some Christian politicians in the oil-producing south opposed to President Muhammadu Buhari, a northern Muslim. Eurasia Group risk assessment said the sophistication of attacks points to such a scenario and would indicate the Avenger group "poses a greater threat than its small numbers and scant grassroots support would indicate." The Nigerian production cuts have helped boost oil prices - to nearly \$50 a barrel from under \$30 a barrel in January - according to the International Energy Agency. — AP



**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (center bottom) and his cabinet members having a silent prayer for victims of the major earthquake disaster in southwestern Japan last month. Abe has decided to postpone a sales tax hike a second time, judging that boosting the tariff could hurt the world's third-largest economy, a newspaper said yesterday. — AFP

## JAPANESE PM TO DELAY TAX HIKE OVER ECONOMY FEARS

**TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to postpone a sales tax hike a second time, judging that boosting the tariff could hurt the world's third-largest economy, a newspaper said yesterday. Abe has already informed senior government officials he plans delay the consumption tax hike, scheduled for next April, that would raise levy from eight to 10 percent, the Nikkei business daily said. The last such rise, in April 2014 - the nation's first in 17 years - was blamed for pushing Japan into recession. Deadly earthquakes that hit southwestern Japan last month have already put the brakes on the economy, while a rise in the yen has threatened to squeeze exporters' profits.

It is still unclear how long Abe, who first postponed the tax increase in November 2014, wants to put off the hike this time. The premier may announce the delay on June 1, when he holds a news conference to mark the close of the current parliament session, and after he hosts a Group of Seven summit in Japan this month, the Nikkei said. Postponing the hike would require legislation to be passed. Critics say Japan must increase tax revenues in the face of soaring debts and to pay for the ballooning cost of welfare as the population ages. Government coffers are deep in the red, with public debt standing at twice the size of the economy - the worst among industrialized economies. — AFP



**WARSAW:** Photo shows a view of the Palace of Culture and skyscrapers in Warsaw Poland. Poland was downgraded by ratings agency Moody's on Friday amid international concerns over the new government's move to erode the independence of key institutions and increase spending. — AP

# MOODY'S CUTS POLAND OUTLOOK TO NEGATIVE OVER 'FISCAL RISKS'

## MOODY'S LIFTS IRELAND CREDIT RATING ON POLITICAL DEAL

**WARSAW:** Global ratings agency Moody's yesterday cut Poland's outlook from stable to negative over "fiscal risks" posed by its right-wing government, but left its investment grade unchanged. Moody's change in Poland's outlook was the first in over a decade and comes after a deeper ratings cut in January by Standard and Poor's, which blamed the government led by the Law and Justice (PiS) party for "weakening institutions." Moody's however said it would keep Poland's foreign debt grade at A2, reflecting "the country's economic resilience."

"Poland has a large, diversified economy that has shown robust real GDP growth in recent years, despite being exposed to significant external headwinds at the time of the global financial and euro area debt crises," a statement said. Poland's finance ministry welcomed the unchanged rating following market speculation about another downgrade. The "rating is one notch higher than Fitch's rating and two notches higher than S&P's rating from January this year," a ministry statement said. Finance Minister Pawel Szalamacha said later he expected Poland's battered zloty currency to "strengthen" on the Moody's assessment.

The New York-based ratings agency said its outlook cut was triggered by "the fiscal risks arising from a substantial increase in current expenditures" and the "risk of impairments to the investment climate from a shift towards more unpredictable policies and legislation." Elected in October on a populist spending platform, the PiS has introduced a generous child-benefit subsidy, promises tax breaks for low income earners and is intent on reverting to

a lower pension age. Aside from its plan to convert foreign currency mortgages, mostly in Swiss francs, into the local zloty currency, the PiS government has also pushed through several other pieces of controversial legislation.

They include institutional changes to the country's constitutional court and public media that critics both at home and abroad have slammed as undermining democratic checks and balances. Moody's said Poland's risky legislative shift was exemplified by a proposed "law converting foreign-currency denominated mortgages and the prolonged stalemate between the government and the country's constitutional court, with the potential to undermine banks' credit flow and deter inward investment, respectively."

In April, Moody's said that net portfolio inflows had progressively declined in recent months and in January Poland registered a net portfolio outflow of \$3.1 billion. The whopping sum was the second largest in the last 10 years, after the outflow registered in October 2008 following the collapse of Lehman Brothers bank, which triggered a global financial crisis. A nation of 38 million people, Poland remains one of the EU's most vibrant economies, clocking uninterrupted annual growth since shedding communism in 1989. GDP is set to expand by 3.7 percent this year and 3.6 percent in 2017, according to the European Commission.

### Ireland credit rating

In another development, Moody's has raised Ireland's sovereign debt rating, citing confidence

in the euro-zone member's ability to further cut its deficit after finally forming a government. Moody's, which pointed also to a strong economic recovery in Ireland, raised its key rating for the country's sovereign debt by one notch to A3 from Baa1, adding that the outlook on the long-term rating remains "positive".

It said in a statement that "while a UK exit from the EU would have negative repercussions on Ireland, given the close economic ties," it considers "that this risk would be manageable for the Irish economy". Ireland's close trading partner Britain votes in a referendum on June 23 to decide whether to remain part of the 28-nation European Union. Regarding Ireland, Moody's said that "the risk of a reversal of the fiscal consolidation seen over the past several years is low".

It added: "The recent political agreement between the two largest parties in parliament and the recent election of a minority government led by Fine Gael, which has established a strong track record of fiscal management over the past several years, give comfort that the budget deficit will be reduced further in coming years." Ireland's parliament last week re-elected Enda Kenny as prime minister at the head of a minority government following a deal aimed at a slight easing of austerity. Kenny won the vote - 59 in favor and 49 against - in the fourth attempt to appoint a prime minister since an inconclusive general election in February, thanks to the support of independent lawmakers and the consent of the main opposition Fianna Fail party. — Agencies

## 5 STEPS TO CAREER SUCCESS

**T**he road to success is never accidental, even though luck and circumstance can lend a helping hand along the way. Successful professionals who are able to sustain their success have a vision, plan astutely, take stock regularly, and work very hard and very smart to realize their success. Here, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, give you some key pointers to help you along the road to career success:

### Set goals

Take a holistic approach to deciding what your priorities and goals are in life before you hone in on your specific career goals. Specifically, what sort of balance and end result are you seeking to achieve in the important areas of your life: finance, career, health, relationships, self-development, etc. You will undermine your career success if your goals in other areas of your life contradict or conflict with your career goals. You will also sabotage your chances of success if you set too many goals; focus instead on a few clear, achievable ones that you are enthusiastic about pursuing.

### Build a personal network

Your success will, to a large extent, depend on your ability to build alliances and garner the support of peers, superiors, subordinates, clients, suppliers and other people you interact with on a daily basis to get the job done. Work on building a reputation and network both within your organization and outside so you are immediately considered for lucrative new opportunities, recognized as the go-to person for top jobs and inspire trust and credibility in broader industry circles. Bayt.com People and Bayt.com Specialties are great way tonetwork, collaborate, and contribute useful content that will truly set you apart.

### Sharpen your skills

With every new project or activity you complete - new hire, new client, new problem solved - chances are you have learned something new and sharpened a

particular skillset. Ongoing learning is critical to your personal development and career success. Identify a training path that fills key skills gaps, augments your strengths and keeps you at the cutting-edge of whatever you do so that you don't become redundant and lose your competitive edge. Today, many professionals are making use of courses and tests online to learn new skills and hone in on existing ones and become truly indispensable. See Bayt.com Learning platform for more.

### Market your accomplishments

You need to take a proactive approach towards promoting yourself if you are to reap the full fruits of your success. Make sure your individual accomplishments are recognized by all the key decision-makers in the organization, and particularly those who influence your career progress. It is quite common for credit to be misallocated and for accomplishments to be undervalued or overlooked altogether so don't be shy about singing your own praises providing you stick to the facts and exercise tact and diplomacy. With Bayt.com Public Profiles, you can now create your own public profile for free and share it with clients, employers and colleagues. A public profile serves as your online business card and showcases all your achievements and skills and community endorsements for other to see.

### Be committed

Once you set your goals, be committed to achieving them. Have a vision in front of you at all times and clear milestones along the way. Your dedication and motivation should never waver if you are convinced of the goals you have set yourself. Sometimes feelings of unworthiness and lack of confidence hinder your progress; remind yourself that you deserve success and work on building your confidence if you are in fact sabotaging your career in this way. Focus on accomplishments and milestones rather than mere performance.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.778
Indian Rupees	4.544
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.074
Nepali Rupees	2.837
Singapore Dollar	221.430
Hongkong Dollar	38.945
Bangladesh Taka	3.853
Philippine Peso	6.438
Thai Baht	8.590

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.643
Qatari Riyal	83.070
ani Riyal	785.473
Bahraini Dinar	803.110
UAE Dirham	82.335

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.300
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.427
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.214
Tunisian Dinar	150.370
Jordanian Dinar	425.970
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.015
Syrian Lira	2.155
Morocco Dirham	31.816

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.250
Euro	345.930
Sterling Pound	437.510

Canadian dollar	234.300
Turkish lira	103.510
Swiss Franc	313.210
Australian Dollar	223.360
US Dollar Buying	301.050

#### GOLD

20 Gram	258.180
10 Gram	132.010
5 Gram	66.850

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

#### Rate for Transfer

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

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

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

#### CURRENCY BUY SELL

British Pound	0.428232	0.437232
Czech Korune	0.004695	0.016695
Danish Krone	0.042111	0.047111
Euro	0.0338104	0.0346104
Norwegian Krone	0.032678	0.037878
Romanian Leu	0.076460	0.076460
Slovakia	0.009000	0.019000
Swedish Krona	0.032926	0.037926
Swiss Franc	0.304269	0.314469
Turkish Lira	0.098543	0.108843

#### Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.213127	0.224627
New Zealand Dollar	0.197456	0.206956

#### America

Canadian Dollar	0.227516	0.236016
US Dollars	0.298150	0.302650
US Dollars Mint	0.298650	0.302650

#### Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003435	0.004009
Chinese Yuan	0.044964	0.048464
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036852	0.039602

Indian Rupee	0.004314	0.004704
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002691	0.002871
Kenyan Shilling	0.002999	0.002999
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071576	0.077576
Nepalese Rupee	0.002880	0.003050
Pakistan Rupee	0.002665	0.002945
Philippine Peso	0.006359	0.006639
Sierra Leone	0.000074	0.000080
Singapore Dollar	0.216965	0.222965
South African Rand	0.013924	0.022424
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001693	0.002273
Taiwan	0.009165	0.009345
Thai Baht	0.008270	0.008820

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.795155	0.803155
Egyptian Pound	0.029743	0.034861
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.422296	0.429796
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020777	0.044777
Nigerian Naira	0.001245	0.001880
Omani Riyal	0.778645	0.784325
Qatar Riyal	0.082309	0.083522
Saudi Riyal	0.079713	0.080663
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.146914	0.154914
Turkish Lira	0.098543	0.108843
UAE Dirhams	0.081310	0.082459
Yemeni Riyal	0.001366	0.001446

## CHINA ECONOMY EASES, SPARKING WORRIES ON REBOUND

**SHANGHAI:** China's key economic indicators moderated in April from the previous month, official figures showed yesterday, raising worries over the strength of a rebound in the world's second-largest economy. Industrial output rose 6.0 percent year-on-year in April, the National Bureau of Statistics said, down from a 6.8 percent jump in March. Economists had estimated a 6.5 percent increase, according to Bloomberg News.

"Industrial production was lower than expectations, indicating that the stabilization momentum for the economy is not as strong as we imagined," Liao Qun, China economist at Citic Bank International in Hong Kong said. "There was a strong economic rebound in March, so there was a bit of a correction in April," he said. The Chinese economy grew at its slowest quarterly pace in seven years in the first three months of the year, expanding 6.7 percent, though the figure met market expectations and raised hopes it had started to improve. Policymakers are seeking to wean China

away from cheap exports and government-led investment to rely on domestic consumers as the key driver for growth in the world's most populous country. Separately, retail sales—an indicator of domestic consumption—rose 10.1 percent on the year in April, the bureau said, weaker than the 10.5 percent gain in March. Fixed-asset investment, a gauge of government spending, rose 10.5 percent in the January-April period, it said. That was slower than the 10.7 percent rise in the first three months of the year. Chinese officials say they are willing to accept slower growth to carry out structural reforms to retool the economy.

The People's Daily newspaper, considered to be the mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party, on Monday quoted a source as sounding a warning over using credit to drive growth. China was likely to have an "L-shaped" growth pattern, suggesting it will remain flat, the "authoritative person" said. The Asian giant's economy grew 6.9 percent for all of last year, its weakest in a quarter of a

century. Premier Li Keqiang in March set a growth target in a range of 6.5-7.0 percent for 2016. The government has cut interest rates six times since late 2014 and also lowered reserve requirements—the proportion of funds banks must put aside—to boost the economy.

The central bank said yesterday it would continue to support "stable" economic growth, according to a statement, a day after figures showed bank lending fell sharply in April, as the government refrained from boosting credit amid concerns over growing financial risk. Other economic figures for April which have already been released show a mixed picture. Manufacturing activity slowed for the month and both exports and imports dropped, indications of weakness in the economy. Consumer price inflation was stable at 2.3 percent in April but the producer price index—which measures prices of goods at the factory gate—fell 3.4 percent, actually its slowest decline in 16 months. — AFP



**SEOUL:** Currency traders talk each other at the foreign exchange dealing room of the KEB Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul, South Korea. Asian stock markets were uneven as the price of oil fell and concerns about Chinese recovery weighed. — AP

## TAX EVADERS, CROOKS, TERRORISTS: CAN NEW SHELL RULE STOP THEM?

**NEW YORK:** The US Treasury Department wants to go after money launderers, tax evaders and terrorists by cracking open the shell companies they use to hide cash flows, but critics say a new agency effort to identify them could be easily evaded. Treasury last week issued a new rule, effective in 2018, requiring financial institutions to obtain the identities of "beneficial owners" of their client companies and at least one senior manager. Financial firms will have to verify their identities through documents such as passports - but will not have to confirm their ownership stakes in the companies.

That could allow criminals to provide false information with little risk of getting caught, critics say. "If a company has criminal intent, they are probably not going to file that their beneficial owner is ISIS," said Anders Rodenberg, who oversees relationships with financial firms in North America at Bureau van Dijk, a beneficial-ownership data provider. The Treasury Department says its rule - along with separate but related legislation it proposed to Congress - strikes the right balance between rooting out corruption and avoiding burdensome requirements on financial firms and legitimate clients.

### But what if a customer lies?

"Then they are committing fraud," said Steve Hudak, spokesman for Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Treasury and law enforcement officials can contact the person a company names as a sen-

ior manager if they want to investigate further, Hudak said. The regulation - called the Customer Due Diligence rule - has been in the works since 2012. It comes at a time when President Obama and other world leaders are under pressure to respond to a string of recent reports known as the Panama Papers.

Distributed by a group of investigative journalists, the reports disclosed how rich and powerful people, including heads of state and convicted financial criminals, use shell companies to avoid paying taxes. Treasury's rule will apply to banks, brokers, mutual funds and other financial firms. It will require them not only to collect data on owners and managers, but to update records with changes they discover during routine checks. Legislation proposed by the agency, which requires congressional approval, would create a federal database and require companies to register either when they incorporate or transfer ownership to the US from overseas.

Critics contend that the plan does not go far enough to unmask shell companies' true owners. They argue a criminal enterprise can, for instance, keep individual ownership stakes below 25 percent and list anyone as a point person, even if he or she has no real management responsibilities. "You can only keep the honest people honest," said Steve Goldstein, chief executive of Alacra, which provides services to banks seeking to comply with current "know-your-customer" regulations. "I don't think it will be that hard for a bad-actor beneficial owner to avoid detection." — Reuters



**LONDON:** Campaign memorabilia is pictured on the jacket of a man as he attends the world premiere of the film 'Brexit: the Movie' in London's Leicester Square, ahead of the EU referendum in Britain on June 23, 2016. — AFP

## GERMANY FIRMS SCALING BACK INVESTMENT IN UK

### BREXIT VOTE CREATES UNCERTAINTIES FOR COMPANIES

**BERLIN:** German companies are scaling back their investment in Britain ahead of its June 23 referendum on membership of the European Union, and German industry is becoming increasingly vocal in warning that a Brexit would hit both countries' economies. German foreign direct investment to Britain fell by 6 percent on the quarter to 4.4 billion euros (\$5 billion) in the first three months of this year, Bundesbank data reviewed by Reuters showed. That followed an already steep annual decline of more than 40 percent in 2015.

"A British exit means uncertainty for German companies doing business in Britain," Markus Kerber, managing director of the BDI Federation of German Industries said. "Firms are reacting to this, they are delaying or reducing their investment." Reflecting the concerns of German companies and investors ahead of the British referendum, Kerber said a Brexit would lead to severe legal uncertainties for at least the next two years, creating economic risks for both Britain and Germany.

German companies are among the biggest foreign investors in the UK, with 2,500 subsidiaries and some 500,000 British employees in

sectors such as financial services, manufacturing, transport, energy and retail, according to German Industry UK, a private organization of some 100 chief executives of companies in Britain with a German majority shareholding. While German firms generally decline to comment in detail on their investment plans in Britain, there are signs that managers are becoming increasingly worried ahead of Britain's referendum. "From our point of view, it would be advantageous, particularly in terms of wealth and employment if Britain was to stay in the EU," a Siemens spokesman said.

He said if Britain should leave the EU, Siemens would not terminate its business activities there. "But a British exit could play a role when it comes to future investment decisions." Like many other German companies in Britain, Siemens sent a letter to its 14,000 British employees last month, warning of the risks the firm would face if Britain voted to leave. "In particular, a new trade deal with the EU could take many years to conclude and it is impossible to predict the terms that will be agreed and at what price," the Siemens management said.

"This uncertainty, and threat of increased

costs, could make the UK a less attractive place to do business and may become a factor when Siemens is considering future investment here." Companies that have published similar letters or statements include BMW, whose British employees make the luxury Rolls-Royce car, as well as chemical company BASF and planemaker Airbus. A Brexit would not only affect the British economy. A study by DZ Bank showed it could also cost Germany up to 45 billion euros by the end of 2017 as exports from Europe's economic power house would likely be hit, at a time of already waning demand from emerging markets like China.

In 2015, German companies exported goods worth some 89 billion euros to Britain, making the UK their third-most important export destination. At the same time, Germany imported British goods worth some 38 billion euros, leaving a trade surplus of around 51 billion euros. With a total trade volume of 127.5 billion euros, Britain is Germany's fifth-biggest trading partner behind the United States, France, the Netherlands and China. For the UK, Germany is the most important trade partner, ahead of the United States. — Reuters



**NEW YORK:** Photo shows the headquarters of investment banking and securities firm Goldman Sachs in lower Manhattan, in New York. New York's banking supervisor has asked four investment banks including US group Goldman Sachs and France's BNP Paribas for details of any offshore dealings related to the Panama Papers scandal. — AFP

## TEACHING CATTLE FARMERS IN UGANDA: 'SOMETIMES DEATH IS THE ONLY WAY'

**DAKAR:** Catherine Amerit is a livestock officer for the International Rescue Committee in Uganda. "My role is to improve the productivity of livestock for farmers in Karamoja in northeast Uganda, by teaching them the best way to look after their animals. Almost nine in 10 Ugandans are farmers, and the livestock owners in Karamoja depend entirely on their herds for survival. We teach the importance of shelter, spraying for ticks and other parasites, deworming and vaccinations. Most of the farmers we train cannot read or write so every step is taught by doing it. Being out with them requires you to feel fit and alert because the animals can kick, especially after an injection. Luckily, I have never been injured but once, when I was still training, a farmer called me to help her sick cow.

I bent to pick up a sample of dung and felt something warm soil me all over one side of my body - it took me two weeks to get rid of that smell! That's why we wear protective gear like overalls and gloves, especially if we are going to be handling animal fluids. The biggest challenge is convincing farmers who have never been to school but have traditional ways of handling livestock that our methods will improve the productivity of their animals. Sometimes, the only way to help them learn is to allow the animal to die so that the farmers will learn through experience.

### Survival

"The most motivating part of my job is helping

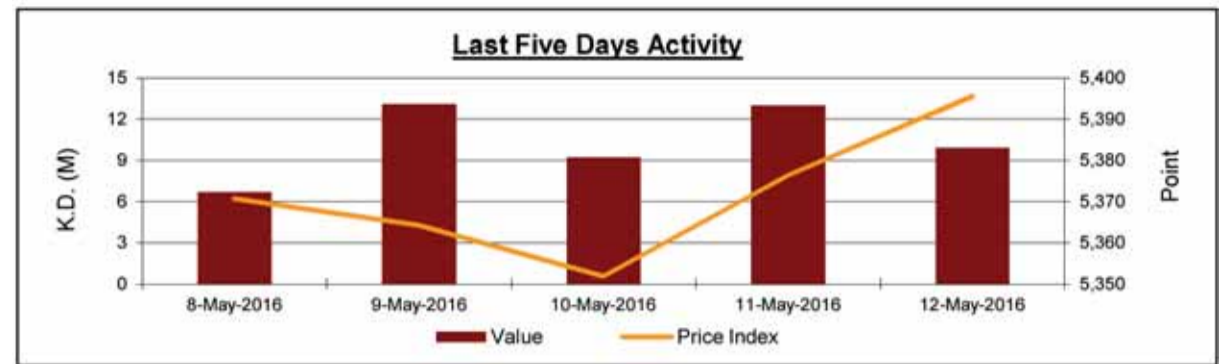
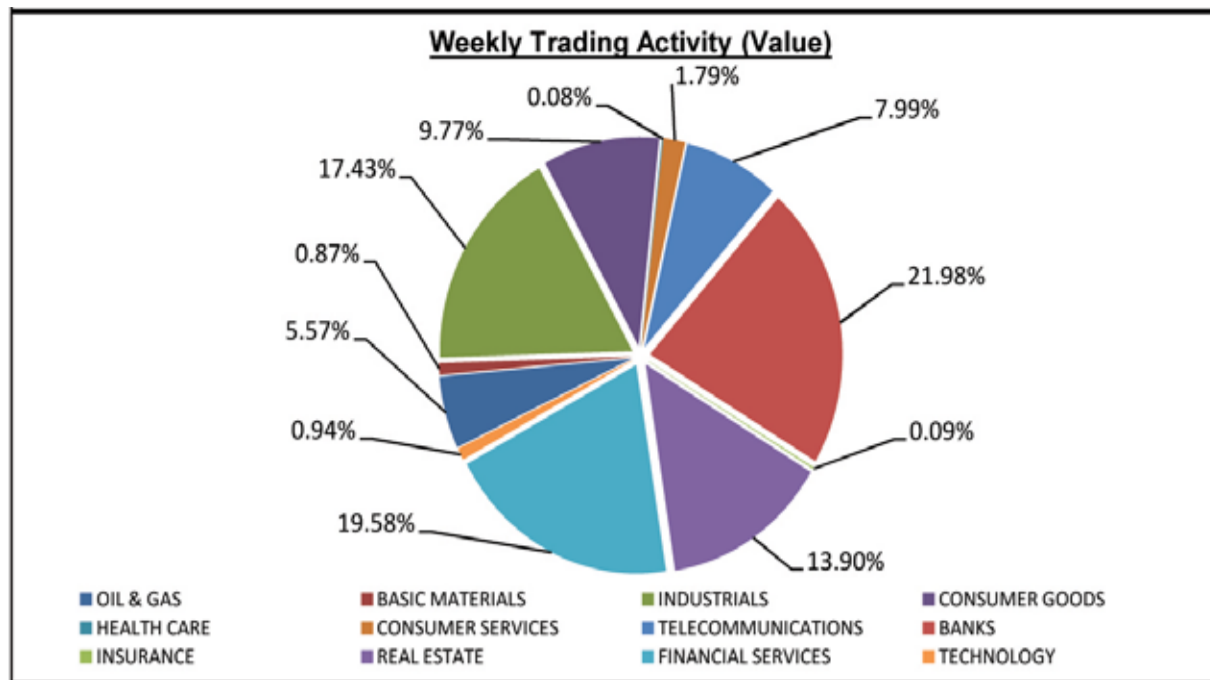
pastoralist communities who have always relied on their herds to survive. I once got a call at 6am from a farmer inviting me to be his guest for the day because I had saved his 40 cows from dying. Considering the impact of climate change, livestock is an essential type of farming as it is less risky than crop farming.

But there are many challenges including availability of water and pasture, endemic animal diseases and the closure of migratory routes for herders due to human population growth. To prepare for the worst, we teach farmers about varying the size of herds depending on availability of water and pasture, and taking full advantage of the seasonal rains to preserve hay. We're also exploring the cross-breeding of local goats with improved breeds which grow faster and produce more milk - these are commonly owned and managed by women in the household.

The goats are resilient as they can survive on shrubs and leaves, so when the cattle migrate in search of fresh pasture, the goats remain and provide milk for the women and children. My family and friends are supportive of my work but when I first told my dad I was going to do an animal course he said it wasn't suitable for women and advised me to do nursing instead. This aid worker profile is one of five commissioned by the Thomson Reuters Foundation ahead of the first ever World Humanitarian Summit on the biggest issues affecting the humanitarian response to disasters and conflict. — Reuters



**LOS ANGELES:** This photo shows The Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles. The property, which features 29 rooms, lists for \$200,000,000. The global luxury housing market lost some of its sheen in 2015 as financial markets became unsettled and many wealthy buyers began to look for less expensive homes. — AP



# KSE ENDS WITH MIXED PERFORMANCE

## BAYAN WEEKLY INVESTMENT REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week with mixed performance. The Price Index closed at 5,395.51 points, up by 0.42% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.03% after closing at 362.71 points, whereas the KSE-15 Index closed at 844.99 points down by 0.98%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 1.66%, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 10.38 million, whereas trading volume average was 118.57 million shares, recording a decrease of 4.92%.

The three stock market indicators performed mixed by the end of last week, whereas the Price and Weighted indices were able to realize limited increase supported by the purchasing and quick speculative operations executed on many stocks, especially the small-cap ones, while KSE-15 Index was not able to end the week in the green zone affected by the profit collection operations executed on some large-cap stocks.

In addition, the stock market witnessed a fluctuated and mixed performance during most of the week's sessions; as both of the Price Index and KSE-15 Index slightly declined in the first session, while the Weighted Index was able to increase, amid a noticeable drop in the trading activity, especially the value, which recorded its second lowest level during the current month. Also, the Price and Weighted indices decreased in the second session, as a result to the profit collection operations executed on a number of small-cap stocks, however the KSE-15 Index was able to record limited increase by the end of the session, due to the random purchasing operations that concentrated on the heavy stocks.

On the mid-week session, the market witnessed a negative performance that pushed its three indices to end the session in the red zone, came as a result to the profit collection operations and the quick speculations that marked the market activity during this session, in addition to the watch state that is over controlling many traders waiting for the listed companies results for the first quarter.

On Wednesday's session, the three market indicators were able to realize grouped increase and return to the green zone, supported by the speculations and the random purchasing operations in amid rushing the listed companies for disclosing its financial periodic reports. The last session of the week witnessed a return to the mixed performance for the three indicators, whereas the Price Index was able to continue its increase to enhance its weekly gains, whilst the Weighted and KSE-15 indices declined by the end of the session under the influence of the

KSE INDICES				
		Price Index	Weighted index	KSE 15
Weekly	Last week	5,395.51	362.71	844.99
	Previous week	5,373.17	362.61	853.35
	Change (Point)	22.34	0.10	-8.36
	Change (%)	0.42%	0.03%	-0.98%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70	900.43
	Change (Point)	-219.61	-18.99	-55.44
	Change (%)	-3.91%	-4.98%	-6.16%

profit collection operations. The market capitalization for the KSE reached by the end of last week to KD 23.57 billion, down by 0.18% from its level in a week earlier, whereas it recorded KD 23.61 billion; on an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 6.71% from its value at end of 2015, where it recorded then KD 25.27 billion. As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 3.91% annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 4.98%, and the KSE-15 recorded 6.16% loss.

### Sectors' indices

Seven of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, five recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Consumer Services sector, achieving 2.73% growth rate as its index closed at 936.31 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Consumer Goods sector's index closed at 1,096.01 points recording 1.92% increase. The Industrial sector came in third as its index achieved 1.62% growth, ending the week at 1,034.81 points. On the other hand, the Technology sector

headed the losers list as its index declined by 2.60% to end the week's activity at 966.79 points. The Financial Services sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.06%, closing at 580.52 points, followed by the Basic Materials sector, as its index closed at 991.24 points at a loss of 0.38%.

### Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 207.09 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 34.93% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 28.95% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 171.65 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 11.41 million or 21.98% of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 10.16 million representing 19.58% of the total market trading value.

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY				
Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	65,128,137	10.99%	2,892,177	5.57%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,699,356	0.29%	449,176	0.87%
INDUSTRIALS	42,404,556	7.15%	9,046,302	17.43%
CONSUMER GOODS	27,156,383	4.58%	5,071,536	9.77%
HEALTH CARE	202,520	0.03%	41,315	0.08%
CONSUMER SERVICES	5,757,506	0.97%	931,026	1.79%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	30,320,240	5.11%	4,143,594	7.99%
BANKS	36,589,774	6.17%	11,406,109	21.98%
INSURANCE	339,250	0.06%	45,012	0.09%
REAL ESTATE	171,653,493	28.95%	7,213,980	13.90%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	207,092,186	34.93%	10,160,706	19.58%
TECHNOLOGY	4,497,439	0.76%	486,679	0.94%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE				
Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	804.77	794.24	1.33%	-1.71%
BASIC MATERIALS	991.24	995.04	-0.38%	0.49%
INDUSTRIALS	1,034.81	1,018.28	1.62%	-0.79%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,096.01	1,075.34	1.92%	0.10%
HEALTH CARE	965.81	966.69	-0.09%	4.37%
CONSUMER SERVICES	936.31	911.40	2.73%	-7.17%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	613.70	613.66	0.01%	2.52%
BANKS	828.87	827.84	0.12%	-8.62%
INSURANCE	1,000.34	998.32	0.20%	-11.24%
REAL ESTATE	857.66	860.36	-0.31%	-8.83%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	580.52	586.71	-1.06%	-2.50%
TECHNOLOGY	966.79	992.55	-2.60%	17.88%

MARKET ACTIVITY			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	592,840,840	498,823,721	18.85%
Value (K.D)	51,887,612	42,209,890	22.93%
Deals	14,664	12,508	17.24%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)			
	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %
	23,569,900,000	23,611,300,000	-0.18%
			Annual Ch. %
			-6.71%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
KCIN	1,300.00	990.00	310.0	31.31%
CATL	178.00	138.00	40.0	28.99%
ADNC	16.00	13.50	2.5	18.52%
SHIP	162.00	140.00	22.0	15.71%
YIACO	210.00	182.00	28.0	15.38%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK				
Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
GGMC	385.00	450.00	-65.0	-14.44%
PAPCO	94.00	106.00	-12.0	-11.32%
SAFWAN	255.00	280.00	-25.0	-8.93%
SAFTEC	106.00	116.00	-10.0	-8.62%
ALMAL	29.50	32.00	-2.5	-7.81%

## NISSAN REPORTS NET INCOME OF 523.8 BN YEN

**YOKOHOMA:** Nissan Motor Co, Ltd has announced its financial results for the 12 months to March 31, 2016. The company delivered increased full-year revenues and profitability. Rising demand for new products in North America, Western Europe and China offset the impact of negative foreign exchange movements and slowing or declining sales in emerging markets. Operating profit rose more than 34% to 793.3 billion yen for fiscal-year 2015, representing a 6.5% margin on net revenues that reached 12.19 trillion yen for the period.

On a management pro-forma basis, which includes the proportionate consolidation of results from Nissan's joint venture operation in China, net revenues increased to 13.4 trillion yen in fiscal 2015, up 7.7% year-on-year. Pro-forma operating profit rose by 30.2% to 935.5 billion yen compared with fiscal-2014, representing a profit margin of 7.0%. Globally, Nissan sold 5.42 million vehicles in the period, a 2.0% rise year-on-year. "These solid results reflect the success of our continuing product offensive, particularly in the North American market," said Carlos Ghosn, president and chief executive officer. "Encouraging

demand for new models, combined with continued cost efficiency, helped us withstand currency headwinds and volatile trading conditions in several emerging markets.

"In the coming year, we will deliver further product innovation - particularly in autonomous drive systems - and rising synergies from the Renault-Nissan Alliance. Looking ahead, we expect continued improvement in Nissan's underlying performance as we focus on the demanding goals of the Power 88 mid-term plan. However, we have adopted a cautious outlook for the current fiscal year given continuing market and exchange rate volatility."

### FY2016 outlook

Nissan expects to sell 5.6 million units in fiscal 2016, up 3.3% and equivalent to global market share of 6.3%. Recently-launched models including the Nissan Maxima, Altima, Titan pickup truck, and Infiniti Q30 are expected to contribute to global sales growth in the coming year. Based on Nissan's solid outlook for unit sales and cautious view on foreign exchange rates, the company has filed fiscal year forecasts to the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

Calculated under the equity accounting method for our joint venture in China, the forecasts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017 are: Net revenue - ¥11.8 trillion (\$112.4 billion/¥98.3 billion); Operating profit ¥710.0 billion (\$6.8 billion/¥5.9 billion); Ordinary profit ¥800.0 billion (\$7.6 billion/¥6.7 billion); Net Income 2 ¥525.0 billion (\$5.0 billion/¥4.4 billion). Since the beginning of fiscal year 2013, Nissan has reported figures calculated under the equity method accounting for its joint venture with Dong Feng in China. Although net income reporting remains unchanged under this accounting method, the equity-accounting income statements no longer include Dong Feng-Nissan's results in revenues and operating profit.



## ALGHANIM CHEVROLET LAUNCHES LIMITED QUANTITY OF THE LEGENDARY TAHOE LT2

**KUWAIT:** When we mention Tahoe, those after power, challenge and luxury know it very well. So imagine a limited quantity of the new 2016 Tahoe LT2, with a multitude of impressive features at an irresistible price, recently made available at the Alghanim Automotive's Chevrolet showrooms. Indeed, it is unbelievably priced at 13,999 KDI. The 2016 Tahoe LT2 stands out with a rich set of features, and it is truly a "now or never" opportunity with the limited stock available. After all, the Chevrolet Tahoe needs no introduction, gaining favor day on day with its loyal fans, noticeably with its sleek exterior lines that combines its sheer power with elegant presence. The interior and performance aspects accomplish the same harmony in parallel.

Technological improvements have also been made inside the new Tahoe. Thanks to the award-winning MyLink Infotainment system, radio, voice and navigation controls are now integrated and operable from the large full-color touchscreen on the center console. Enhanced connectivity and convenience are also incorporated on the steering wheel itself, effectively offering easy and intuitive operation of basic functions, thus giving users more ways of staying connected on the road.

The new Tahoe features a V8 power engine that offers 355 horsepower, boasting a better fuel economy than any full-size SUV in the industry. It also incorporates a slew of new safety technologies that contribute to a 360-degree of occupant protection and comfort. Standard and available features include Remote Vehicle Start system, Front and Rear Park Assist with Rear Camera, 6-way power adjustable seats for both driver and front passengers as well as LED headlamps, tail lamps and fog lamps and many more, which all have been designed and developed to meet the needs

of drivers and passengers alike. 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. Make the most of your daily drives by visiting the nearest Chevrolet Alghanim showroom to own one of the limited 2016 Tahoe LT2.

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

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank held its Al Danah daily draws on 8 May 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 1 May - 4 May 2016. The Al Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner. The winners were: (Sunday 1/4) - Abdulrahman Abdulkareem Mahdi Al-Azmi, Hamad Ali Mohammed Al-Qahtani; (Monday 2/4) - Kholoud Youssef Yaqoub Al-Qenaei, Wafaa Ayed Johar Aleid; (Tuesday 3/4) - Rabab Abbas Ali Bommah, Jouri Muwaffaq Mefleh Al-Haroun; (Wednesday 4/4) - Razan Mohammad Medeth Al-Ajmi, Tahrah Ahmad Habib.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al Danah's 2nd Quarterly draw for the prize of KD250,000 will be held on the 30th of June and the 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al Danah Millionaire will be announced. Open an Al Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the KD500,000 or Millionaire Draw!

Five reasons why the Al Danah account is the Best: (1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly

cash prize of KD 1 Million. (2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000. (3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day. (4) The most chances to win. (5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year.

### Win Big, Live Big

Al Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days.

To take part in the Al Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.gulf-bank.com/alDanahwinners, to find out more about Al Danah and its winners.



## CHINESE BULLET TRAIN IN VENEZUELA STALLS AS ALLIANCE DERAILS

**ZARAZA:** It was once billed as a model of socialist fraternity: South America's first high-speed train, powered by Chinese technology, crisscrossing Venezuela to bring development to its backwater plains. Now all but abandoned, it has become a symbol of economic collapse - and a strategic relationship gone adrift. Where dozens of modern buildings once stood, cattle now graze on grass growing amid the rubble of the project's gutted and vandalized factory. A red arched sign in Chinese and Spanish is all that remains of what until 16 months ago was a bustling complex of 800 workers.

That's when the project's Chinese managers quietly cleared out. As with many unfinished politically motivated projects dotting Venezuela - government critics call them "red elephants" - the decaying infrastructure contrasts with the railway's promising beginnings. A decade ago then-President Hugo Chavez dreamed up the Tinaco-Anaco railway as a way to populate the plains and attract development from long-dominant coastal areas. Stretching 300 miles, it was intended to move 5 million passengers and 9.8 million metric tons of cargo a year at speeds up to 135 miles per hour.

Chavez turned to China, one of his closest ideological allies, for engineering and financing for the project, part of a \$7.5 billion deal that has made Venezuela the world's top recipient of Chinese loans. A consortium of state-run companies led by China Railway Group Ltd, the world's largest train maker, was tasked with carrying out construction. But completion is four years overdue, and work, when it happens at all, has slowed to a crawl. At one barracks facility visited by The Associated Press, half a dozen workers huddled under the shade of a giant cement mixer, while two shirtless managers lounged at a control panel smoking cigarettes.

Nowhere are the project's declining for-

tures more visible than in Zaraza, a sweltering crossroads town of 75,000 where what used to be an arena-sized factory churning out concrete railroad ties was located. In government news reels from 2013, the complex can be seen towering over manicured lawns and outdoor basketball courts where Chinese and Venezuelan workers socialized. Shortly after the last Chinese managers left in January 2015, a mob of local residents - some of them armed - ransacked the site and hauled away everything of value.

### Vandals

First to go were power generators, computers and air conditioners on the back of pick-up trucks. Vandals then tore apart dozens of buildings to scavenge for metal siding, copper wiring and ceramic tiles, some of which are now on sale at roadside stalls. Jesus Eduardo Rodriguez, who owns and lives on the sprawling ranch where the factory was built, said the plundering lasted two weeks. Several witnesses who declined to be named for fear of reprisals said the looting took place in plain view of National Guard troops, who they allege were on the take and working in collaboration with the town's pro-government mayor, Wilfredo Balza, which is why the incident never garnered media attention.

Balza did not return repeated phone calls and text messages seeking comment and was said to be unavailable when AP journalists visited City Hall. "They destroyed everything," said Rodriguez, who eventually moved giant cinder blocks to cut off road access to the derelict property, which had become a haven for criminal gangs. "We just came to the house and almost cried, watching what they were doing." E-mails to China Railway in Beijing went unanswered and the company didn't comment despite phone calls and two visits to its office in Caracas.



**ZARAZA:** Photo shows a railroad factory in ruins after it was abandoned by its Chinese managers in Zaraza, Guarico state, Venezuela. — AP

The factory's demise appears to have been triggered by Venezuela's cash crunch. In a June 2013 interview with local television network Televen, the then-head of Venezuela's state rail authority acknowledged owing \$400 million to the Chinese. Union leaders who for years complained of late salary payments say that has only multiplied as the economy spins further out of control. With foreign reserves at a 13-year low and inflation forecast to surpass 700 percent this year, Venezuela has fallen behind on payments to foreign enterprises from airlines to the service companies that extract the oil on which this OPEC nation's economy depends.

Until recently, China had been a lifeline for Venezuela. Since 2007 it bankrolled the administrations of Chavez, who died of can-

cer in 2013, and current President Nicolas Maduro with a mix of cash, loans and investment commitments totaling \$65 billion, according to a database maintained by Boston University and the Inter-American Dialogue. Back when commodity prices were high and South America's economies booming, such deals in Venezuela and elsewhere in the region seemed a safe bet. But lately, as China struggles with its own financial woes and the oil used as loan collateral has plunged in value, Venezuela is finding that kind of support harder to come by. A high-level mission to Beijing in February returned empty-handed.

### Panicked about risk

Kevin Gallagher, a Boston University economist and the author of two books on

China's economic ties to Latin America, said the Chinese are increasingly concerned about their exposure to an imploding Venezuela. "Now the whole underbelly is falling out," said Gallagher, who was recently in Beijing gauging the state of the economic partnership. "The Chinese right now are completely panicked about risk." This week senior US intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss their assessments by name, said that while China may be willing to ease repayment terms to help Venezuela stave off a meltdown, it is unwilling to provide any more financing to what they described as a bottomless rabbit hole.

Corruption may also be having a chilling effect. Six Venezuelan officials were arrested in 2013 and 2014 for allegedly embezzling \$84 million from a Chinese development fund. Outwardly, at least, there's no sign of concern. "China pays high attention to the development of China-Venezuela relations and will continue maintaining the interactions between the two sides on all fields and at all levels to enhance mutual friendship and trust, promote mutually benefiting cooperation and promote mutual growth," China's Foreign Ministry said in a faxed response to questions.

But President Xi Jinping's government appears to be quietly hedging its bets. In addition to avoiding throwing good money after bad, they've quietly been courting a newly emboldened Venezuelan opposition that is trying to force Maduro's recall or resignation. The contacts began at a meeting of the Socialist International, a worldwide network of left-leaning political parties, in New York last July attended by opposition Venezuelan politicians and members of the Chinese Communist Party, according to a Venezuelan participant who spoke on condition of anonymity so as not to jeopardize the relationship. — AP

## ANTI-COUNTERFEITING GROUP SUSPENDS ALIBABA

**SHANGHAI:** An anti-counterfeiting group said Friday it was suspending Alibaba's membership following an uproar by some companies that view the Chinese e-commerce giant as the world's largest marketplace for fakes. The International Anti-Counterfeiting Coalition told members that it had failed to inform the board of directors about conflicts of interest involving the group's president, Robert Barchiesi. Earlier Friday, The Associated Press reported that Barchiesi had stock in Alibaba, had close ties to an Alibaba executive and had used family members to help run the coalition.

The coalition, in a letter to members sent after the AP report came out, said conflicts weren't disclosed to the board "because of a weakness in our corporate governance procedures." It said the failure was not because of "inaction on Bob's part," referring to Barchiesi. The coalition said that it is hiring an independent firm to review its corporate governance policies. In its letter, the board said that as a result of members' concerns, it was suspending a new class of membership under which Alibaba had recently joined. The move would affect two other companies that signed up under the new rules.

Jennifer Kuperman, Alibaba's head of international corporate affairs, said companies like Alibaba were important for solving the problem of counterfeiting. "Whether or not we are a member of the IACC, we will continue our productive and results-oriented relationships with brands, governments and all industry partners," she said. At issue is the independence of a small but influential coalition that lobbies US officials and testifies before Congress. Alibaba's membership could help shape the global fight against counterfeiters. Fakes damage companies' bottom lines, can harm consumers who unknowingly buy such products, and feed a

vast underground money-laundering industry that supports criminal syndicates. In recent weeks Gucci America, Michael Kors and Tiffany have quit the Washington D.C.-based coalition, which has more than 250 members. The AP found several ties between the group's president and Alibaba: Barchiesi has owned Alibaba stock since its 2014 listing in New York. The IACC said in a statement that the holdings represent "a small percentage of his investment portfolio." Matthew Bassiur, who took over as vice president of global intellectual property enforcement at Alibaba in January, hired Barchiesi's son, Robert Barchiesi II, to work at Apple back in 2011. Alibaba said that hire was made on merit. Apple declined to comment.

Bassiur is a founding board member of the ICE Foundation, which supports US Immigration and Customs Enforcement employees. Since 2013, the foundation has been run by Barchiesi's other son, James Barchiesi. That same year, the foundation's board voted to award a contract for "fiscal and operational management" to a private company, also run by James Barchiesi. The foundation has received grants of \$10,000 from the anti-counterfeiting coalition every year since 2012, tax filings show. Kuperman, of Alibaba, said Bassiur's expertise would help the company "further instill trust in our marketplaces." "We are highly confident in his abilities and proud to have him at Alibaba in this critical global role," she said. Robert Barchiesi had also come under fire for his stewardship of the coalition and allegations of conflicts of interest on the move to include Alibaba. "It's crossed the line ethically," said Deborah Greaves, a partner at Brutzkus Gubner law firm and a coalition board member from 2011 to 2013. She said she didn't know that IACC chief Robert Barchiesi had stock in Alibaba until informed by the AP. "Really problematic," she said. — AP

## US RETAIL GIANTS FEEL PAIN AS ONLINE SHOPPING HITS

### CONVENTIONAL RETAILER PROFITS FALLING

**NEW YORK:** Iconic American stores Macy's and Gap are facing tough questions about their future following dreary earnings announcements this week that highlighted the growing market share taken by online retailers. Conventional retailer profits are falling as fewer shoppers head to malls in favor of click-and-buy options offered by Amazon and a trove of emerging online fashion vendors. The trend is all the more striking because retailers see good conditions in the economy for consumers, including strong employment levels. "We're frankly scratching our heads," Macy's chief financial officer Karen Hoguet, told an analyst conference call. "We see the same economic data you all see and it would point to a customer that would be spending more."

### Trading malls for smartphones

In the first four months of 2016, all online retail sales rose 8.1 percent over a year ago, compared with just 1.9 percent growth in clothing stores, according to the Commerce Department. "We're seeing a fundamental reorganization of retail from an automobile-centered model to a smartphone-centered model," said Andy Dunn, chief executive of Bonobos, a nine-year old men's apparel store that does most of its sales online.

"We're seeing a tremendous shakeout as we see online grow and offline contract," Dunn said. Still, he added, "I don't think we're moving to an online-only world." In women's apparel, rising online players include websites like Wanelo, which "curates" products from 550,000

vendors and doubles as a social network for shoppers. There are specialty sites for plus-sized women, such as Eloquii, and for consumers focused on sustainable manufacturing, such as Reformation.

There are also fashion websites that combine editorial and selling functions, such as WhoWhatWear, part of the Clique Media Group, which boasts 12 million unique monthly visitors. "People are now realizing they have more options," said Chris Morran, deputy executive editor Consumerist.com. "I don't see any of the (newer) companies replacing Gap, but I see them all chiseling away." Shoppers say the online experience is greatly improved from just a few years ago, with sellers permitting returns and sometimes paying for the shipping of items that don't fit. More online vendors let shoppers easily compare items and prices as well. "It's not only that you don't have to leave your house, it's that you don't have to walk around," said one forty-something professional mother of two. "It's very efficient."

Men's fashion too is experiencing seismic shifts. Gone are the days when department stores could rely on a captive audience to buy button-down shirts for the office. Boutique stores like Thomas Pink and Charles Tyrwhitt boast a multitude of fits for different body types that can be bought online once a consumer knows his size. Bonobos, which began as an online-only men's store in 2007, began adding small showrooms in 2011 to display product and let customers get fitted. "The store piece of what we do is really profitable," Dunn said. "But

you want the right sized store footprint and you want to be fully integrated with online."

### Shrinking store count

But online earnings remain constrained by factors that include high shipping cost and bruising competition. Profit margins in brick-and-mortar stores remain about 10 percent compared with seven percent online, said Credit Suisse. However, as shipping costs decline and rent and other infrastructure weigh on traditional stores, "brick-and-mortar" stores will be the ones to suffer, Credit Suisse said. That means more retail stores are likely to close.

Nordstrom, which reported earnings Thursday that badly lagged analyst expectations, said it will emphasize a buyer loyalty program and exclusive merchandise. It is also beefing up e-commerce. "We're seeing a transformation in our business model," said chief financial officer Mike Koppel. "We continue to see traffic falling off in malls, and how we think about our store base asset will probably require some level of adjustment." Macy's, which announced in January plans to close 40 stores, is emphasizing store-within-store ventures intended to appeal to millennials, such as the off-price Backstage and the beauty-and-spa Blue Mercury stores. Macy's Hoguet said the 186-year-old retailer is "always evaluating" its fleet of 870 stores for potential closures. Gap, which a year ago announced plans to cut 175 namesake stores in North America, pledged renewed focus to streamline its operations and whittle its presence internationally to the most promising markets. — APF



## BMW WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT ALI ALGHANIM & SONS' WEEKLY RAFFLE

**KUWAIT:** Following a raffle draw supervised by Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ali Alghanim and Sons announced today the names of the first three BMW winners in its weekly May raffle that celebrates the Company's 30th anniversary as the exclusive importer of BMW cars in Kuwait. Maha Alawadhi, won a brand new BMW 4 Series Coupe, while Mariam Al Rashed and Ahmed Al Mazaidi drove away in a BMW X3 and BMW 5 series respectively. The exclusive promotion will continue to run until 31st May at Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company, the exclusive importer for BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce, Land Rover & McLaren vehicles in Kuwait. Nine more BMWs are still up for

grabs over the coming three weeks.

Every buyer of any new BMW, BMW M Series, or MINI vehicle in May will enter the draw among a relatively small number of buyers in the past week, to win a BMW 4 Series, a 5 Series or a BMW X3. The coming three draws will take place at 10.30am on May 18th, 25th and 1st of June 2016. Customers who spend anywhere between KD 8,000 and KD 14,999 will receive one coupon to enter the draw. Customers who buy a BMW, BMW M Series, or MINI vehicle between KD 15,000 to KD 24,999 will receive two coupons, and customers who spend more than KD25,000 will triple their chances to win a brand new BMW.

In addition to qualifying to enter the weekly draws, buyers who choose to finance with Boubyan Bank can benefit from discounted monthly installments, five-year warranty, four-year service, one-year full-coverage insurance and an iPhone 6S. "We congratulate the first three winners in this unique promotion, and we look forward to celebrating with nine more over the coming weeks," said Yousef Al Qatani, General Manager of Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Company. For more information on this offer, please visit Ali Alghanim & Sons Automotive Co. showroom from 8 am to 8 pm Saturday through Thursday or call us on 1846464.



## ITHMAAR BANK REPORTS NET PROFIT OF \$4.83 M

**MANAMA:** Ithmaar Bank, a Bahrain-based Islamic retail bank, has reported a net profit of \$4.83 million for the first quarter of 2016, compared to the \$7.62 million net profit reported for the same period last year. Net profit attributable to equity holders of the Bank for the first quarter of 2016 was \$1.22 million, which is lower by 54 percent compared to the \$2.64 million profit reported for the same period last year.

The announcement, by Ithmaar Bank Chairman His Royal Highness Prince Amr Al Faisal, follows the review and approval, by the Board of Directors, of the Bank's consolidated financial results for the three-month period ended 31 March 2016. "On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that Ithmaar Bank is continuing to work towards our shared vision of becoming the region's premier Islamic retail bank, and that the Bank's core retail business continues to perform well," said HRH Prince Amr.

"The financial results of the first quarter of 2016 include an operating income of \$61.48 million, compared to \$83.34 million for the same period last year which included a one-off gain realized on government securities by our Pakistan subsidiary, Faysal Bank Limited," he said. "Total expenses for the three-month period ended 31 March 2016 reduced to \$45.62 million, from \$48.94 million for the same period last year, despite the continued retail banking branch expansion," said HRH Prince Amr. "This significant achievement is, in a large part, due to the ongoing cost control measures which started in 2014 both in Bahrain and Pakistan operations," he said.



**HRH Prince Amr  
Mohammed Al Faisal**



**Ithmaar Bank CEO  
Ahmed Abdul Rahim**

Ithmaar Bank Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Abdul Rahim, said the Bank continues to remain focused on enhancing its products and services while growing closer to its customers and that as a result, the Bank's core retail banking business continues to grow. "I am pleased to report that the balance sheet continues to be stable, and our core business continues to grow," said Abdul Rahim. "This is evident from the equity of unrestricted investment account holders growing to \$2.29 billion as at 31 March 2016, a 10.0 percent increase compared to \$2.09 billion as at 31 March 2015, and a 4.3 percent increase compared to \$2.20 billion as at 31 December 2015," he said.

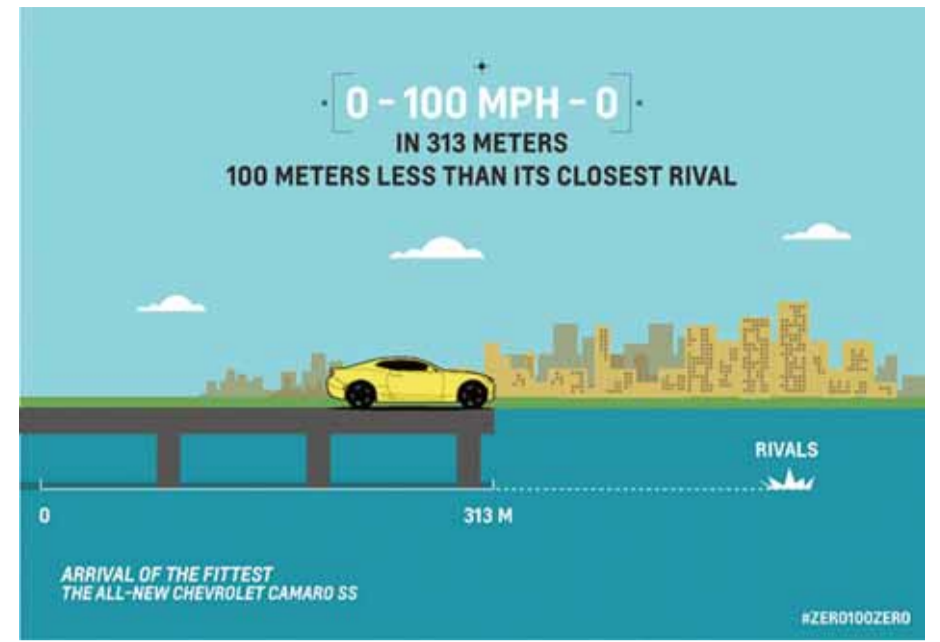
"This increase is further evidence of customers' continued confidence in Ithmaar Bank," said Abdul Rahim. "Correspondingly, our total financing portfolio grew to \$3.73 billion as at 31 March 2016, a 7.5 percent increase compared to \$3.47 billion as at 31 March 2015 and a marginal increase as compared to \$3.72 billion as at 31 December 2015. Liquid assets now represent 11.6 percent of total assets compared to 10.6 percent as at 31 December 2015," he said.

In April, Ithmaar Bank, which recently relaunched its popular prize-based saving account, Thimaar, to include one of the largest number of prizes in Bahrain, gave away the first luxurious car to a Thimaar customer. Ithmaar Bank also announced 185 other Thimaar winners for the March monthly draw, including a US\$10,000 monthly prize winner, while another 92 Thimaar account holders won \$1,000 each and 92 Thimaar Junior winners won US\$200 each in the daily draws. The Thimaar savings account was launched with a new scheme offering customers 4,000 prizes - one of the highest in Bahrain, totaling \$2.3 million throughout the year. The feature enhancements were introduced to further differentiate one of the Bank's key products in the marketplace.

Meanwhile, Ithmaar Bank continues to expand its retail banking network, which is already considered one of the largest in Bahrain, and will shortly inaugurate a new, full-service branch in Galali - its eighteenth branch in the Kingdom. Ithmaar Bank is also in the process of adding two new ATMs, bringing the total number of ATMs to 48. Earlier this year, at the Bank's Annual General Meeting (AGM), shareholders approved plans for a new group structure designed to further develop the growth achieved in the core retail banking business and the strategic focus of the Bank.

The plans involve the creation of a new holding company that will be listed on Bahrain Bourse and Kuwait Stock Exchange and licensed and regulated by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB). The new holding company will retain 100 percent ownership of all assets presently owned by Ithmaar Bank. These assets will be allocated into two wholly owned subsidiaries, an Islamic retail bank subsidiary which will hold the core retail banking business, and an asset management subsidiary which will hold the investment assets.

These two subsidiaries will also be licensed and regulated by the CBB. This new group structure will further consolidate Ithmaar Bank's position as a strong retail-focused premier Islamic retail bank under the Ithmaar brand, better allowing the Bank to take advantage of new growth opportunities, and help to generate greater value to its shareholders. Ithmaar Bank is now working with regulators towards finalizing necessary legal and other requirements ahead of anticipated implementation later this year.



# ARRIVAL OF THE FITTEST: THE ALL-NEW 2016 CAMARO SS

## 2016 CAMARO SS ESTABLISHES NEW PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK

**KUWAIT:** The 2016 Chevrolet Camaro SS arrives to prove once again why it has dominated the sports car category for the past 5 years. Designed to be lighter, more powerful, refined, with more advanced technology, the Camaro SS set to prove its performance capabilities with an extreme 0-100 mph-0 test, thereby establishing a new performance benchmark in the sport car segment for Middle East customers. As the most powerful Camaro SS ever built, the vehicle went from a standing start, accelerated to 100 mph and then back to a complete stop in 313 meters - 100 meters less than the closest competition.

The 0-100 mph-0 test incorporates both acceleration and braking to showcase performance and handling. This test is a guide to display the Camaro SS' sporting prowess, in addition to its 0-60 mph time of 4.0 seconds (automatic). The Camaro SS provides a faster, more nimble driving experience, enabled by an all-new lighter architecture. The 6.2L V-8 is SAE-certified at 455 lb-ft of torque (617 Nm). To make it not only the best Camaro SS ever, but one of the best performance cars available, Chevrolet focused on three pillars of development:

### Unstoppable performance

Vehicle mass has been reduced by approximately 90 kg, creating a more nimble, responsive driving experience. The most powerful Camaro SS ever built, with a new 6.2L direct-injected Small Block V-8 rated at 455 hp (339 kW) and 455 lb-ft of torque (617 Nm). For the first time ever, Magnetic Ride Control active suspension is available on the Camaro SS. Previously this feature was only available on the Camaro ZL1. With improved handling and performance, the Camaro SS delivers better lap times than the fifth-generation's track-focused Camaro 1LE package.

### Superior technology

All-new Drive Mode Selector, which tailors up to eight vehicle attributes for four modes: Snow/Ice, Tour, Sport and - on SS models - Track settings. Segment-exclusive, Interior Spectrum Lighting that offers 24 different ambient lighting effects on the dash, door panels, and center console. High-

definition, configurable color displays - including available dual, 8-inch-diagonal screens. Driver-centric technology including Head-Up Display, wireless smartphone charger and Apple CarPlay.

### Outstanding design

Aerodynamically optimized design that is the result of 350 hours of wind tunnel testing, reducing drag on LT models and improving downforce on SS. More athletic-looking, sculptured exterior that complements the tighter, leaner architecture - and offers all-new, modern lighting signatures, including light-emitting diode (LED) technology. Greater emphasis on customer personalization with wider range of choices, including 7 exterior colors, five interior color combinations, lighting options available at launch - including wheels, stripe packages. All-new, interior with shifter-focused center console, intuitive controls, flat-bottom steering wheel, and higher quality materials throughout. Unique control rings around the air vents used for temperature and fan speed adjustments, eliminating the need for conventional buttons.

### Lightweight architecture

Significant weight savings came from using an aluminum instrument panel frame instead of steel, which saved 4.2 kg (9.2 pounds). 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 kg) reduction in the overall suspension weight. With the lighter, stiffer architecture and more powerful engines, the 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.

Camaro SS features standard 20-inch aluminum wheels with blackwall, summer-only, run-flat tires.

### Magnetic Ride Control

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.

### More powerful and efficient

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 "tri-Y"-type exhaust manifolds. It also offers advanced technologies such as variable valve 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.

### Compact, athletic design

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.

### 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.

## NBK AWARDED FOR THE BEST SHABAB PREPAID CARD CAMPAIGN IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has been awarded by Visa for best Shabab Prepaid Card Campaign in Kuwait. The award was presented to NBK at the VISA Prepaid Summit 2016 which was held recently in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The prestigious event was attended by financial and payments industry thought leaders. The criteria of which Visa awarded NBK is based on the innovative marketing strategy for the Shabab Prepaid Card and overall marketing campaign.

The award was presented to NBK in recognition for the NBK Shabab VISA Prepaid Card. The award reflects NBK's commitment to meet its customers' expectations by providing them with the most exclusive offers and benefits. NBK is committed to providing its customers with the best banking products and services by building on the long-time relationships with world leading partners such as Visa. NBK AI Shabab VISA Prepaid Card is designed especially to ensure to the youth convenience, safety, saving and comfort used during traveling or when purchasing and shopping online.

This unique card is the best choice for Shabab customers who transfer their student allowance to NBK. The card is accepted locally and worldwide, easy to use, re-loadable and offers a wide range of exclusive benefits and global offers. This exclusive Prepaid Card offers AI Shabab customers a wide range of benefits and discounts from various places that include free travel insurance coverage up to \$100,000 and an exclusive 20% discount on yearly memberships at Platinum Health Club for males in addition to instant discounts at up to 44 merchants in Kuwait.

NBK AI Shabab VISA Prepaid Cardholders can also enjoy 50% off movie tickets every weekend, in collaboration with Kuwait National Cinema Company (Cinescape) and get rewarded with the award-winning NBK Rewards program at more than 600 participating outlets that include dining, shopping and a variety of lifestyle offers. NBK AI Shabab customers enjoy a modern lifestyle and expect the best. NBK continues to meet their expectations by providing them with the most exclusive offers and benefits. All new and existing AI Shabab customers who transfer their allowance to NBK are eligible for NBK AI Shabab VISA Prepaid Card.



## CHEDID CAPITAL HOLDING ACQUIRES MAJOR SHARE OF AL MANARA INSURANCE SERVICES

**DUBAI:** Chedid Capital Holding the multi-awarded insurance and reinsurance regional group, in collaboration with prominent investors in Dubai, announced the acquisition of 75% of Al Manara Insurance Services Co Ltd Sharjah, an insurance brokerage firm operating in the United Arab Emirates. This move is part of the company's expansion and consolidation plan in countries of the EMEA region by 2017.

"Along with the growth of our businesses in Africa, we are proud to continue our expansion in the GCC through the acquisition of Al Manara Insurance Services Co Ltd. This company has solid roots in the UAE market and a great reputation earned over 25 years under the leadership of Issam Lahham," said Farid Chedid, Chairman & CEO of Chedid Capital Holding who added: "This acquisition represents one more significant step on the path of expansion and success of Chedid Capital

Holding that makes markets, sectors and a larger base of customers benefit from the exceptional services and expertise our companies provide across all our areas of operation."

With more than 25 years of extensive experience in the UAE market, Al Manara Insurance Services Co Ltd has built credibility through constant efficiency and high performance driven by a team of skilled experts, delivering tailor made professional services to the various categories of the insurance markets. Issam Lahham, Managing Director of Al Manara Insurance Services Co Ltd said: "We are highly satisfied and grateful to Chedid Capital Holding for their confidence in Al Manara and for the opportunity given to us to embark together on an expansion journey in the UAE market, this acquisition is a step further into developing a regional leader in the insurance broking industry."

## OOREDOO ANNOUNCES 2ND WEEKLY WINNERS OF ITS PREPAID CAMPAIGN

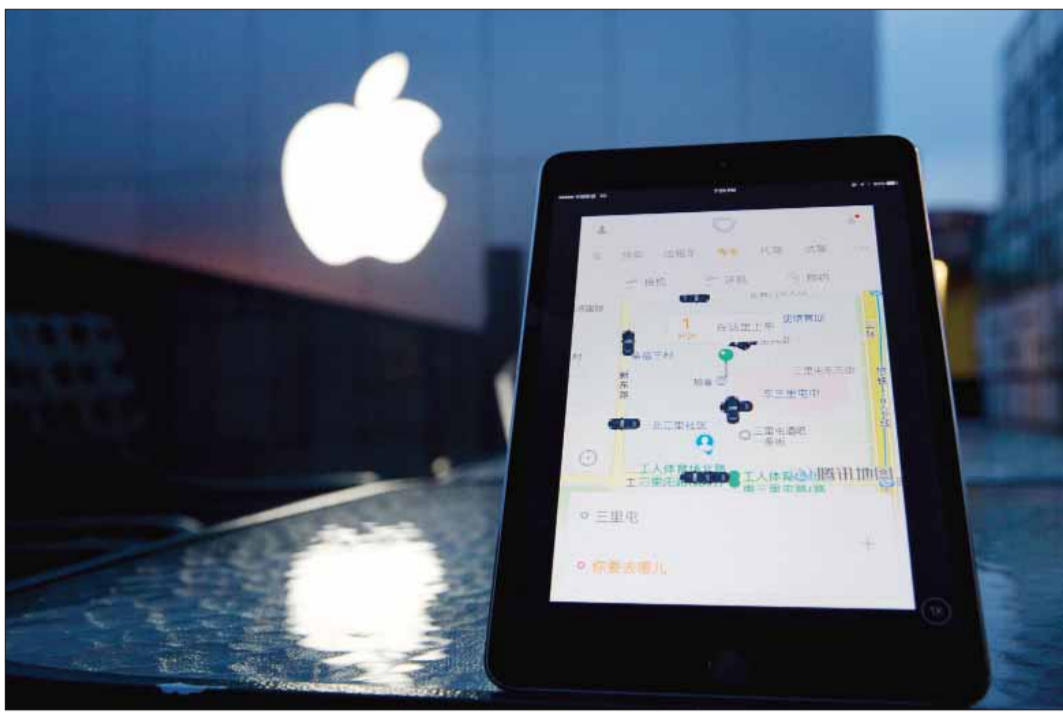
**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the second weekly winners of its all new prepaid campaign "Every Recharge Wins". Seven of the winners were presented with the Samsung Galaxy mobile and one winner with the iPad Mini 3. The winners for this week were: Bino Falamkhoziljijhon (Samsung Galaxy); Ahmed Jabar (Samsung Galaxy); Majde Esam (Samsung Galaxy); Shajo Thithoni (Samsung Galaxy); Mohammad Zaman Mohammad Kano Miah

(Samsung Galaxy); Surish Anil (Samsung Galaxy); Muhi Eldeen Nizam Aldin (Samsung Galaxy) and Shaban Shalgham (iPad Mini 3).

Ooredoo's "Every Recharge Wins" campaign is the first of its kind, providing customers with chances to enter daily, weekly, and monthly draws, in addition to a grand draw for each 1 KD recharge. Customers can win smart phones, tablets, cash prizes and a grand prize, which is the 2016 Toyota Prado V6. The more

customers recharge their lines, the more chances they get to win. In addition to the draws, customers will also be entitled to get free SMSs, internet, Nojoom points or minutes, instantly upon every recharge. To take part in these draws and win one of the great prizes, customers merely need to recharge their prepaid lines. The more the customers recharge, the more chances they have to win. All winners will be contacted directly and an announcement with the winners' names will be made.

# WHY APPLE PLUNKED \$1 BILLION INTO CHINESE RIDE-HAILING



BEIJING: A mobile device displaying the Didi Chuxing app is posed near the Apple store logo on Friday. — AP

**LOS ANGELES:** Apple new \$1 billion investment in the Chinese ride-hailing service Didi Chuxing is as much about currying favor with regulators as directly expanding its own business, analysts said. Apple might need the help; it faces slowing iPhone sales and tougher restrictions on its services in the country.

The investment - one of Apple's largest to date - could serve other purposes as well. It helps the company put some of its giant overseas cash hoard to work without incurring taxes by bringing it back to the US. It might also inform Apple's own interest in the automotive business; several reports suggest it has begun work on its own self-driving car. "It kills two or three birds with one stone," said Patrick Moorhead, principal analyst with Moor Insights & Strategy.

Just last month, Apple was forced to shutter its iTunes Movies and iBooks Store in China, a company spokesperson confirmed. A few days later, the company reported that sales in mainland China - primarily of iPhones - fell 11 percent in the first quarter, a big contributor to its first quarterly revenue decline in 13 years. "The Chinese government knows what they have access to this massive market," Moorhead said. "What they would like is for you to take China more seriously" by making major investments in the country, he said.

With the global market for smart phones cooling, Apple has increasingly emphasized the money it makes from services such as music streaming and media downloads. "The investment in Didi highlights the

strategic importance of China and the services segment for Apple's future strategy," wrote Jack Kent, an analyst with IHS Technology, in a report. "It could help Apple gain greater insight into the behavior of users beyond its own ecosystem."

Apple CEO Tim Cook said in a statement that Didi "exemplifies the innovation taking place in the iOS developer community in China." Apple had no comment beyond Cook's statement.

Apple will become a strategic investor alongside Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and Tencent Holdings Ltd., an online games and entertainment service, Didi Chuxing announced Friday.

China's ride-hailing industry has grown rapidly, with competitors spending heavily to subsidize rides to capture market share. Didi Chuxing, previously Didi Kuaidi, operates in 400 Chinese cities and provides over 11 million rides a day. It claims to account for 87 percent of the private car-hailing service in China.

Uber, meanwhile, is losing \$1 billion a year in China, according to an interview its CEO, Travis Kalanick, gave to the Canadian tech startup news website Betakit.

Kalanick noted wryly in a tweet early Friday that his girlfriend owns Apple shares and is thus now invested in his chief Chinese rival. In September, Didi and Uber's US rival Lyft agreed to link their services so that travelers can use them in each other's markets. In December, their alliance added India's Ola and Southeast Asia's GrabTaxi. — AP

## SECURITY CLEARANCE BACKGROUND CHECKS TO INCLUDE SOCIAL MEDIA

**WASHINGTON:** Investigators can now probe Twitter, Facebook and other social media sites as a part of background checks for security clearances - something that lawmakers said Friday was a classic case of the government playing catch-up with technology.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper signed a policy directive announced Friday that allows investigators to collect publicly available social media information pertaining to the person whose background is being checked. Unless there is a national security concern or the need to report a crime, any information pertaining to people who appear in the subject's social media will not be investigated or pursued, the directive says.

"It defied common sense for the government to overlook social media data available to anyone with an Internet connection," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Committee. He said he was glad the intelligence community was taking the step to fix "such a glaring lapse in our security clearance process."

"It may surprise many readers to know the government only now is codifying its approach to the virtual lives of the people it entrusts with real secrets," William Evanina, who leads the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, wrote in an opinion piece announcing the new policy Friday in The Hill newspaper. "What may be less surprising is that technol-

ogy often outpaces policy." Evanina said the policy does not allow the government to "request or require individuals subject to the background investigation to provide passwords or log into private accounts, or take any action that would disclose non-publicly available media information."

Evanina told Congress on Friday that the agencies had "to strike the right balance between what we need to ... obtain reasonably from social media in the ever-growing Internet age and balance that with the civil liberties and privacy" of people seeking clearances.

Rep. Gerald Connolly, D-Va., ranking member of the subcommittee on government operations, said that while social media is a promising and valuable source of information, the government should not retain social media information of third parties that is collected in background checks for security clearances.

Rep. Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., called the policy a good step in the right direction. "However, I must also say that national security demands that Congress and the administration work together to ensure that our national security framework is able to adapt to evolving technologies much faster than the usual pace that is characteristic of the federal government," Lynch said.

More than 4 million US citizens hold federal security clearances that allow them to access classified national security information. — AP



SAN FRANCISCO: Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg delivers the keynote address at the F8 Facebook Developer Conference. — AP

## FACEBOOK CEO ZUCKERBERG SEEKS MEETING WITH CONSERVATIVES

**NEW YORK:** Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg says he wants to invite "leading conservatives and people from across the political spectrum" to discuss recent reports that its "Trending Topics" feature is biased against conservatives.

The social media giant on Thursday revealed details of how the "Trending Topics" feature works after the tech blog Gizmodo reported that Facebook downplays conservative news subjects. Facebook denied the report, which relied on a single anonymous source with self-described conservative leanings.

Zuckerberg said the company is investigating the claims, but has yet to find evidence to support them. "If we find anything against our principles, you have my commitment that we will take additional steps to address it," he wrote.

In a separate blog post, the company said a series of checks and balances - involving both software formulas and humans - ensures that stories displayed in the "trending topics" section aren't biased. The post linked to a 28-page internal document Facebook uses to determine

trending topics, after the Guardian published a similar document that was leaked to it.

Justin Osofsky, vice president of global operations, said the guidelines ensure that stories in trending topics represent "the most important popular stories, regardless of where they fall on the ideological spectrum." "The guidelines do not permit reviewers to add or suppress political perspectives," he said in a statement.

Zuckerberg also took to Facebook on Thursday evening, saying the social media company stands for "giving everyone a voice" and said he plans to talk with leading conservatives in coming weeks. "I want to have a direct conversation about what Facebook stands for and how we can be sure our platform stays as open as possible," his post said.

Facebook hasn't said how many people are responsible for the trending topics team. A Guardian report on Thursday said the team was as few as 12 people, citing leaked documents. Facebook didn't comment on that number. The trending feature was introduced in 2014 and

appears to the right of the Facebook newsfeed. According to Facebook, potential trending topics are first determined by a software formula, or algorithm, that identifies topics that have spiked in popularity on the site.

Staffers then review potential topics and confirm that they are tied to a current news event; write a topic description with information corroborated by at least three of 1,000 news outlets; apply a category label to the topic; and check to see whether the topic is covered by most or all of ten major media outlets (including The New York Times, Fox News, BuzzFeed and others). Stories covered by those outlets gain an importance level that may make them more likely to be seen. (Facebook's list of 1,000 news outlets contains several popular conservative sites, including Fox, the Drudge Report, Glenn Beck's site The Blaze, the Daily Caller and the Washington Times.) Each Facebook user's trending topics are then personalized via an algorithm that relies on information about the user such as "Likes" and their location. — AP

## YOUTUBE TESTS MESSAGING FEATURE TO KEEP PEOPLE IN ITS APP

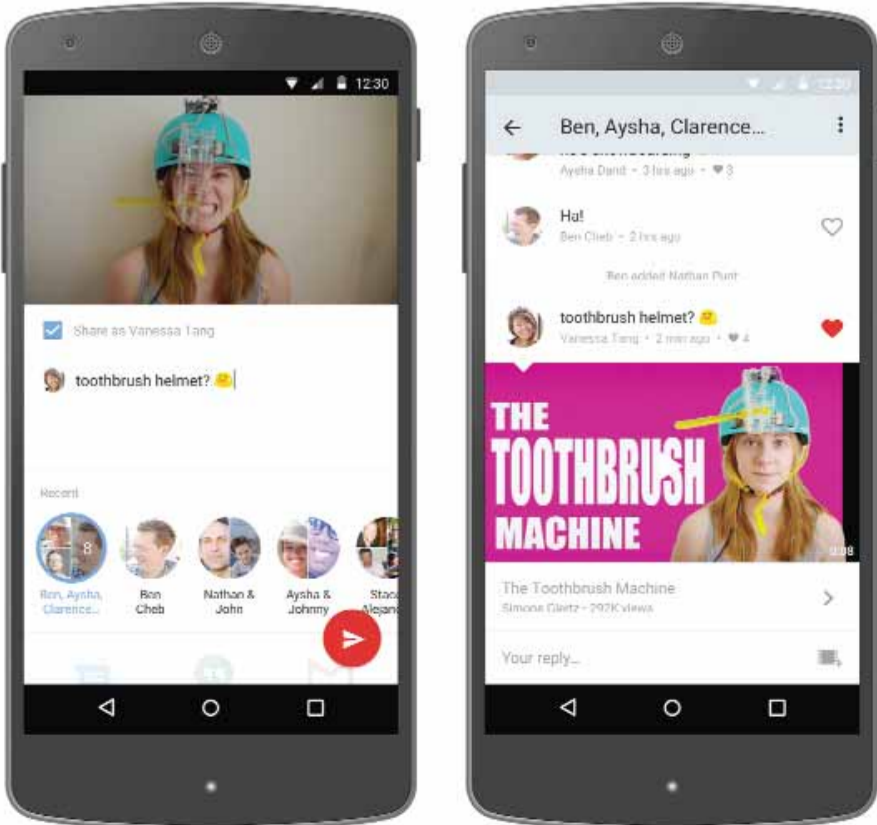
**SAN FRANCISCO:** YouTube is testing a messaging feature in its smart phone app so people can share and discuss videos without resorting to other ways to connect with their friends and family.

The messaging option announced Friday initially is only being offered to a small group of people with YouTube's app installed on an iPhone or device running on Google's Android software. If all goes well, messaging will be included in a future app update available to everyone with an iPhone or an Android phone.

YouTube, part of Alphabet Inc.'s Google, is examining whether the messaging feature will encourage its audience to spend even more time inside its popular video app. Currently, people typically copy links

to YouTube and paste them into text messages or other messaging apps such as Snapchat, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp. By removing a reason for its audience to switch over to another app, YouTube can generate more opportunities to show ads to the more than 1 billion people who watch video on its service.

WhatsApp, owned by Facebook Inc., has more than 1 billion users, while Facebook's own Messenger app has more than 900 million users, posing a threat to other digital services vying for people's attention. Snapchat is smaller, with about 100 million daily users, but growing rapidly, particularly among teenagers and young adults who tend to watch a lot of video on their smart phones. — AP



This photo provided by Google shows a demonstration of YouTube's messaging feature in its smart phone app that allows users to share and discuss videos without resorting to other ways to connect with their friends and family. — AP

## GERMAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WARNS OF RUSSIAN SABOTAGE

**BERLIN:** The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency warned Friday that Russia is engaged in electronic espionage efforts and appears willing to conduct cyber sabotage against critical infrastructure.

The BfV agency said Russian intelligence agencies appear to be behind an "aggressive" campaign of electronic espionage going back at least seven years known as Sofacy/ATP 28, whose targets have included the German Parliament.

It identified another campaign, codenamed "Sandworm," that it said appeared to be aimed at sabotaging universities, telecoms firms and energy companies. "Cyberspace is a place of hybrid warfare," said BfV chief Hans-Georg Maassen. "The information security of German government, administrative, business, science and research institutions is under permanent threat," he added. "Meanwhile, though, Russian intelligence agencies are also showing a readiness to (carry out) sabotage."

Germany's defense ministry announced recently that it is creating its own cyber warfare department in response to what it says is the growing threat of electronic attacks.

The notion of "hybrid warfare" - mentioned by Maassen - refers to a mixture of conventional attacks, special operations, sabotage and propaganda. — AP

## GOOGLE WANTS NEW EMOJIS TO REPRESENT PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

**MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA:** Google wants professional women to be better represented in emoji form. In a proposal to the Unicode Consortium, which controls specifications for emojis, Google says it wants to create a new set "with a goal of highlighting the diversity of women's careers and empowering girls everywhere." The proposal says women - and those under 30 in particular - are the most frequent users of emojis.

Sample emojis provided by Google in the proposal show several female characters in professional clothing, including business suits, lab coats, medical scrubs and construction hats. One sample emoji even has a pitchfork and a farmer's hat. Google has also included sample male versions of the same emojis. Mountain View, California-based Google wants Unicode to standardize the emojis by the end of the year. — AP



This image provided by Google shows proposed female emojis. — AP

## MEXICO MULLS LEGALIZING OPIUM POPPY FOR MEDICINE

**MEXICO CITY:** Fed up with drug-related violence, a growing number of Mexican politicians see one potential cure: Legalizing the cultivation of opium poppies for the production of medicine. The debate has emerged in recent weeks after President Enrique Peña Nieto proposed legislation in April to loosen marijuana laws by legalizing medical cannabis and easing restrictions on its recreational use. Since then, governors and congressional lawmakers have voiced their support for regulating opium poppies, which are often grown by farmers in poor areas of the country and sold to cartels as the raw material for heroin.

The idea was launched by Hector Astudillo, governor of the southern state of Guerrero, which has the country's highest murder rate amid turf wars among drug cartels battling for control of the mountains where US-bound heroin is born. Astudillo, whose state is the biggest producer of opium poppies, proposed a pilot program for the crop's cultivation for medical

uses. Graco Ramirez, governor of the neighboring crime-plagued state of Morelos, which is a transit route for the drug, voiced his support. "In (the northwestern state of) Sinaloa and Guerrero, growing opium poppies is a fact of life and we must take it away from the criminals and give it to health," Ramirez said.

### Government Prepares Bill?

Manuel Mondragon y Kalb, the national commissioner against drug addiction, said that his agency is "deeply studying the use of opium gum as medicine, its transformation into morphine and its derivatives as painkillers". While Mondragon did not indicate whether the government was drafting some kind of legislation, El Universal newspaper said Wednesday, citing presidency sources, that the government was working on a proposal to send to Congress by the end of the year.

Peña Nieto's spokesman, Eduardo Sanchez, told

AFP that he had "no idea about this information" in the newspaper while Health Minister Jose Narro told reporters that Congress must first focus on the marijuana bill. One backer of such a measure, Senator Miguel Romo, of Peña Nieto's centrist Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), said opium poppies are regulated in "a very efficient way" in some countries where it is legal for medical uses, such as Spain.

Australia, France, Turkey, Hungary and India also grow opium poppies legally for the pharmaceutical industry under international licenses. Senator Roberto Gil, of the conservative National Action Party, said that it "is stupid" that Mexico cannot use opium poppies for medical purposes when it is one of the world's major producers of the crop.

### Heroin Too Profitable

But for Raul Benitez Manaut, a security expert at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, such a

measure would not reduce violence in Guerrero because the illegal heroin market in the United States will always be too lucrative for cartels to give it up. "The profit from the illegal drug is much, much higher than any legal cultivation, even if it is very profitable," he told AFP. In January, a farmer told AFP in an interview at his small opium poppy field that a parcel owner could sell a kilogram of opium gum for \$925. A farmer hired to cut the bulbs to extract the sticky substance can make \$16 per day, four times the minimum wage.

Between 15 and 25 kilograms of the raw material are needed to make just one kilogram of heroin, which drug dealers buy for around \$50,000 in the United States. Residents from poppy growing communities in Guerrero joined a protest organized by taxi and truck drivers last month in the state's capital, Chilpancingo, which ended in violence with 71 people arrested. Some of the protesters demanded that the army stop fumigating opium poppies. — AFP



In this May 16, 2013 file photo, a 17-year old cicada is seen. The 17-year cicadas are coming again to big chunks of Ohio and West Virginia. — AP

## LOUD AND LOW-CARB: CICADAS ARE BACK IN OHIO, W VIRGINIA

**COLUMBUS, Ohio:** The 17-year cicadas are coming again, millions of them, with their unnerving red eyes, orange wings and cacophonous mating song that can drown out the noise of passing jet planes. For those who have an aversion to prawn-size, flying bugs, the next six weeks or so will be like a long horror-movie scene in large swaths of Ohio and West Virginia and slivers of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland. In reality, though, cicadas are harmless and actually good for the environment. Their egg-laying in the trees is a natural pruning that results in increased growth, their burrowing aerates the ground, and their decaying bodies add nutrients to the soil.

Some other facts about them, compliments of Jim Fredericks, chief entomologist with the National Pest Management Association, and Gene Kritsky, a cicada expert at Cincinnati's College of Mount St. Joseph, who's predicting the insects will start appearing in the next few days:

### Live Long and Burrow

When the soil warms up enough, cicadas emerge from the ground, where they've been sucking moisture from tree roots for the past 17 years. They'll shed their exoskeletons, attach themselves to branches, mate and lay eggs before dying off in about six weeks. The hatched nymphs then will drop off the trees and burrow underground to live for another 17 years.

### Song of the Cicada

Amorous males attract mates by rapidly vibrating drumlike tymbals on the sides of their abdomen to produce sound. When millions of them are doing it at once, the din is deafening. Kritsky and other researchers who have measured the decibel level say it can be louder than a rock concert.

### Mmm, Hors D'oeuvres

The plump creatures make for tasty treats for

dogs and cats, "like Hershey's Kisses falling from the sky," as Kritsky says. Gobbling them up won't hurt pets, unless they consume too many. Full of protein, gluten-free, low-fat and low-carb, cicadas were used as a food source by American Indians and are still eaten by humans in many countries, including China, where they are served deep-fried. Kritsky says raw cicadas taste like cold canned asparagus. Whenever he goes on the road to study them, he always brings one back as a snack for his cat, Boudie.

### It's Just Our Turn

There are 15 groups - or broods - of cicadas that are on life cycles of either 13 or 17 years. They appear mostly in the eastern and central parts of the US. Last spring, it was a brood in parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa that had its coming out. This particular brood, which hasn't appeared since 1999, will be seen in the eastern half of Ohio, the northern two-thirds of West Virginia, the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, and tiny sections of Virginia and Maryland.

### Don't Call Them Locusts

Humans have been tracking cicada appearances for hundreds of years in the United States. English colonists, who thought they were experiencing biblical plagues, started referring to them as locusts, a mischaracterization that has managed to stick around. (Locusts are actually grasshoppers.) One major difference is that cicadas don't swarm; the males just independently bumble from one place to another looking for sex.

### 'They Won't Carry Away Children'

Besides making a bunch of noise, clumsily flying into windshields and littering the land with zillions of their gross little carcasses, cicadas are relatively harmless to living things, although Fredericks warns they could do some damage to very young trees. (To protect saplings, cover them with netting while the cicadas are visiting.) There have been reports of them causing traffic accidents by flying through open car windows and distracting drivers, and they once clogged up the building air conditioning system at a hospital, but usually they don't leave behind devastating damage. "They don't bite, they don't sting, they won't carry away children, they're not poisonous," Kritsky notes. Adds Fredericks: "It really is just an opportunity to get out and enjoy the show nature is putting on for you." — AP

### The 17-year cicadas are coming again

Millions of the noisy insects will emerge from the ground in coming days in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia.

#### LIFE CYCLE:

Adults mate after courtship and 'singing.'

Female lays eggs beneath the tree bark.

Eggs hatch and nymphs fall to the ground.

After 17 years belowground the nymphs emerge and molt into adults.

Nymphs tap the tree roots for nourishment.

SOURCE: Cornell Cooperative Extension

AP

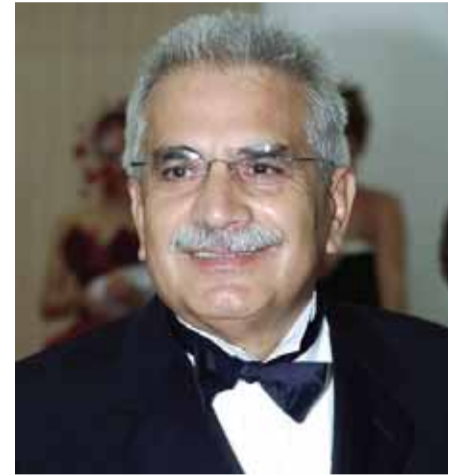
## ITALIAN FERTILITY DOCTOR ARRESTED FOR EGGS 'THEFT'

**ROME:** A controversial Italian gynaecologist famed for helping women in their 60s to have children is under house arrest in Rome on suspicion of removing eggs from a patient's ovaries without her consent. Lawyers for Severino Antinori, who has been nicknamed the "grandmothers' obstetrician," dismissed the charges as absurd and claimed Saturday that their client had been the victim of attempted extortion. Antinori, 70, was arrested at Rome's Fiumicino airport on Friday following a complaint filed by a 24-year-old woman who was treated for an ovarian cyst at the clinic, police said.

Antinori has had his license to practice gynaecology provisionally suspended for a year and was ordered to stay at his Rome home pending further investigation into charges of aggravated robbery and causing personal injury. The alleged victim was a Spanish national with a nursing qualification who had recently begun working at the clinic. Prosecutors suspect Antinori met the woman by chance, set up a job interview and subsequently diagnosed the ovarian cyst with the sole intention of harvesting her eggs without her knowledge.

The woman says that prior to receiving treatment on April 5, she had her mobile phone taken off her before being forcibly immobilized, placed under anaesthetic and operated on without her consent. She believed she was only going to be treated by injection for the cyst, according to her lawyer. The investigation was triggered by the woman calling emergency services from a payphone in the clinic after she came round from the surgery.

But one of Antinori's lawyers said Saturday that the women had agreed to donate eggs and had signed detailed consent forms a month before the surgery. Tommaso



Severino Antinori

Pietrocarlo told Italian news agency ANSA that she had signed the forms "after a consultation with a psychologist who will state that she was conscious of the choice she was making and that it did not pose any problem."

### Quadruplets at 65, Mum at 72

Prosecutors are also working on the hypothesis that this may not be an isolated case, according to the Italian media. "The arrest of Severino Antinori is extremely serious because it indicates the existence of a market in eggs that will not stop at anything," said Donata Lenzi, an Italian lawmaker from Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's Democratic Party. Antinori became famous worldwide in 1994 when his fertility treatment led to Italian Rossana Della Corte giving birth to a son at the age of 63. At the time she was the oldest woman to have given birth but that record has since been surpassed several times. — AFP

## PUERTO RICO REPORTS FIRST ZIKA MICROCEPHALY CASE

**NEW YORK:** Puerto Rico's health ministry confirmed on Friday its first case of Zika-related microcephaly in a fetus, increasing concerns of the virus' spread by mosquitoes and the financially strapped U.S. commonwealth's ability to address the growing health crisis. "This is the first case of congenital and developmental Zika in the product of a pregnancy that are detected or reported in Puerto Rico," Dr Brenda Rivera, the island's chief epidemiologist told Reuters in a telephone interview.

US health officials have concluded that Zika infections in pregnant women can cause microcephaly, a birth defect marked by small head size that can lead to severe developmental problems in babies. The World Health Organization has said there is strong scientific consensus that Zika can also cause Guillain-Barre, a rare neurological syndrome that causes temporary paralysis in adults.

Rivera said the fetus was donated by a family that did not have any recent travel history. Details about the pregnancy were kept to a minimum at the family's request. An ultrasound examination by a primary care physician several weeks ago detected the fetus had abnormalities. Confirmation that Zika was present in the brain tissue of the fetus came this week from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rivera said. "The product of this pregnancy was donated by the family to the department of health. This fetus was determined

to have severe microcephaly and intracranial calcifications, which is what you tend to see with these cases," Rivera said.

Puerto Rico's social services have been severely hampered over the last few years by an increasingly dire fiscal crisis that has resulted in hospitals closing wards to save money and doctors emigrating to the mainland for better paying jobs. The government, which is struggling with a 45 percent poverty rate, has said it cannot pay back all of the roughly \$70 billion in debt it owes to creditors.

On Monday the White House said it was concerned the debt crisis could hamper the ability of Puerto Rico to address the potential public health crisis caused by the spread of Zika which has sickened nearly 700 people on the island. President Barack Obama has requested \$1.9 billion in funding to battle Zika on the island. Attempts by the US Congress to present and pass legislation to address Puerto Rico's financial crisis have so far failed to materialize, leading to speculation that what will eventually be needed is humanitarian aid relief rather than simply a financial fix.

Lawmakers next week could take up both the financial as well as Zika-related bills. The connection between Zika and microcephaly first came to light last fall in Brazil, which has now confirmed more than 1,100 cases of microcephaly that it considers to be related to Zika infections in the mothers. — Reuters

## WORLD'S SMALLEST PORPOISE NEAR EXTINCTION IN MEXICO

**MEXICO CITY:** Environmentalists warned Friday that Mexico's vaquita marina, the world's smallest porpoise, was close to extinction as the government reported that only 60 were now left. The population has dramatically dropped despite the arrival of navy reinforcements in the upper Gulf of California in April 2015 to enforce a ban on fishing gillnets blamed for the vaquita's death. The porpoise's population had already fallen to fewer than 100 in 2014, down from 200 in 2012, according to the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA), a global group of scientists.

Mexico's environment ministry said in a statement that a joint census conducted with CIRVA, undertaken with acoustic and visual studies, between September and December estimated the latest population at "around 60". "The vaquita is at the edge of extinction," the World Wildlife Fund said in a statement, warning that 20 percent more have

probably died in nets since January. The vaquita's fate has been linked to another critically endangered sea creature, the totoaba, a fish that has been illegally caught for its swim bladder, which is dried and sold on the black market in China.

Poachers use illegal gillnets to catch the totoaba and the vaquita, a shy 1.5-m-long cetacean with dark rings are the eyes, is believed to be the victims of bycatch. President Enrique Peña Nieto imposed a two-year ban on gillnets in April 2015 and increased the vaquita protection area tenfold to 13,000 sq km. He deployed a navy patrol ship with a helipad, a dozen high-speed boats and two planes to enforce the prohibition. Environment Minister Rafael Pacchiano said three vaquitas had been found dead and that protective measures needed to be reinforced, but federal authorities are convinced that the vaquita can still be saved. He urged the local population to report illegal activities.

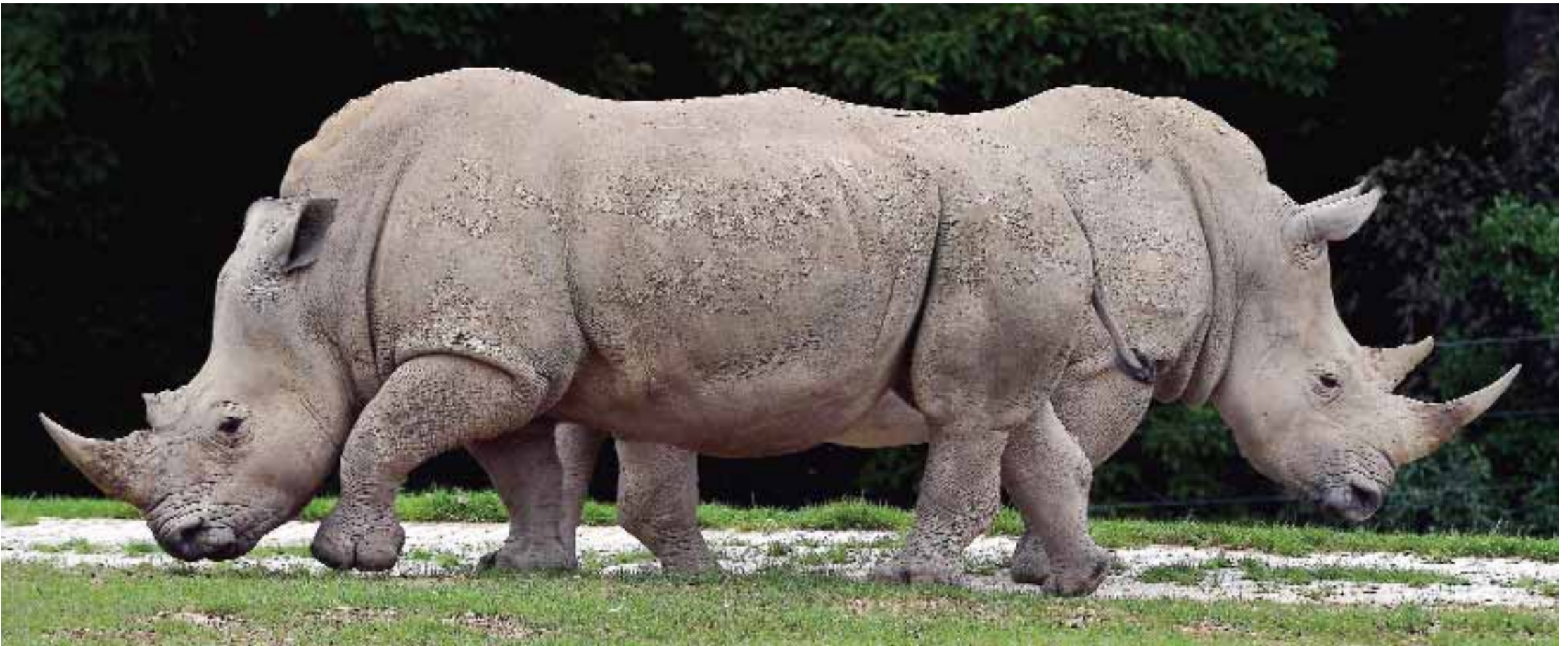
### 'There's Still Hope'

The Mexican government agreed to compensate local fishermen in a \$30 million a year program to give up gillnet fishing while they look for safer alternative nets. But navy sailors told AFP last month that they were catching gillnets every day - three to 10 times the length of a football field, often ensnaring totoabas, dolphins and turtles.

Captain Oona Isabelle Layolle, of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, said fishermen are still sneaking out at night to cast their nets. Sea Shepherd, which has sent two boats to the region to help authorities catch gillnets, proposed to officials on Friday that the gillnet ban become permanent. Layolle told AFP. Increasing the population is challenging because a mature female vaquita only gives birth once every two years, she said. "There's still hope," she said. — AFP



This 1992 photo shows a dead totoaba (top) and a vaquita marina after they were caught in a gillnet set by fishermen to catch totoaba fish in El Golfo de Santa Clara, in the northern part of Mexico's Sea of Cortez. — AP



ASHEBORO, North Carolina: In this May 12, 2016 photo, two female southern white rhinoceroses graze in the Watani Grasslands area of the North Carolina Zoo. A newly-opened "Zoofari" ride has opened at the zoo. An experienced zookeeper is the tour guide and discusses facts about the zoo and the nine exhibited species including rhinoceroses, gazelles, greater kudus, ostriches and many exotic antelopes. — AP

## BIRTH OF RARE SUMATRAN RHINO HAILED AS BOOST

**JAKARTA:** The rare birth of a Sumatran rhino in Indonesia has been hailed a victory for the critically endangered species, which has been almost wiped out in the wild by poaching and habitat destruction. Conservationists wept in joy as the healthy female calf was born on western Sumatra island on Thursday, just the fifth rhino of its kind born in a breeding facility. The newborn was walking within hours and has since grown stronger, feeding and bonding with its mother, a conservationist at the rhino sanctuary in Sumatra told AFP.

Sumatran rhinos are extremely rare, with just 100 believed to exist worldwide. Susie Ellis, the head of the International Rhino Foundation, said their scarcity in the wild made this birth "extremely significant". "Every birth counts," she told AFP from Sumatra. "One birth doesn't save the species, but it's one more Sumatran rhino." Sumatran rhinos are targeted by poachers as their horns and other body parts fetch high prices on the black market for use in traditional Chinese medicine.

Their rainforest habitat on Sumatra island is also being destroyed due to the rapid expansion of palm oil and pulp and paper plantations. Last year, they were declared extinct in Malaysia. The remaining rhinos, distinctive for their woolly hair and twin horns, often exist in small herds of two to five within their jungle habitats in Indonesia. Ellis said conservationists planned to consolidate these smaller groups into a larger population, so the rhinos can find suitable mates and ensure the longevity of the species.

It will be at least six or seven years before the newborn is ready to mate. For now the calf - which has not yet been named - will remain in the sanctuary where she's under 24-hour observation. "She seems to be healthy," Ellis said. "They come out and they're so skinny, but she's started to fill out a little bit today." It was the second time the newborn's mother, Ratu, had given birth at the facility. Her previous birth four years ago marked the first time a Sumatran rhino had been born in an Asian breeding facility for more than 140 years.

Despite being the smallest of the five remaining rhino species, Sumatran rhinos have very long pregnancies that last about 16 months. Experts who witnessed the rare birth, including some who travelled from the United States and Australia, cheered, prayed and wept as the newborn took its first steps, Ellis said. "I burst into tears, because it was just such a special moment and such a joyous occasion," she added. It's hoped Ratu, a 14-year-old rhino that wandered out of the rainforest a decade ago, could give birth to more young in the future, Ellis added. — AFP

## AFRICAN RHINOS TO BE FLOWN TO AUSTRALIA TO ESCAPE POACHERS

**JOHANNESBURG:** A retired South African sales executive who emigrated to Australia 30 years ago is hatching a daring plan to airlift 80 rhinos to his adopted country in a bid to save the species from poachers. Flying each animal on the 11,000-km journey will cost about US\$44,000, but Ray Dearlove believes the expense and risk is essential as poaching deaths have soared in recent years.

The rhinos will be re-located to a safari park in Australia, which is being kept secret for security reasons, where they will become a "seed bank" to breed future generations. "Our grand plan is to move 80 over a four-year period. We think that will provide the nucleus of a good breeding herd," Dearlove told AFP while visiting South Africa to organize for the first batch to be flown out. The Australian Rhino Project, which the 68-year-old founded in 2013, hopes to take six rhino to their new home before the end of the year.

Funding - from private and corporate sources - is nearly in place, and the first rhinos have been selected from animals kept on private reserves in South Africa. "We have got to get this first one right because it's a big task, it's expensive, it's complex," Dearlove said. When they are settled successfully in Australia, "then we hopefully will go up in gear," he added.

### Poaching Explosion

South Africa is home to around 20,000 rhinos, around 80 percent of the worldwide population. But they are being killed for their horns, which are in high demand in China and Vietnam where they are prized for their purported medicinal purposes. The horn is composed mainly of keratin, the same as human nails, but it is sold in powdered form as a supposed cure for cancer among other diseases, and as an aphrodisiac.

Poachers slaughtered 1,338 rhinos across Africa last year - the highest level since the poaching crisis exploded in 2008, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The IUCN, which rates white rhinos as "near threatened" as a species, says that booming demand for horn and the involvement of international criminal syndicates has fuelled the explosion in poaching since 2007.

### Placed in Quarantine

Dearlove still faces a major logistical battle to bring his dream to reality. South African and Australian authorities have imposed stringent requirements on moving the animals. The rhinos will be placed in quarantine for



KLERKSDORP, South Africa: This photo taken on Feb 3, 2016 shows dehorned rhinoceroses roaming in a field at the John Hume's Rhino Ranch, belonging to millionaire John Hume, a private rhino owner/breeder in South Africa who strongly advocates for legalizing trade. — AFP

two months before they board a cargo plane and then go straight into quarantine in a zoo in Sydney until being taken to the safari park. "There is a lot of work that needs to be done because there is some lack of clarity in the proposal that they have made," South African Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa told AFP. "Who bears the cost? It's quite enormous. We still don't have answers to such things."

Internal and cross-border relocations of animals are not new in Africa. Conservation group Rhinos Without Borders has been involved in moving at least 100 rhinos from South Africa to neighboring Botswana in recent years. Botswana is a favored destination because its national parks are fiercely protected

against poachers, many of whom are part of armed gangs based in Mozambique.

In South Africa, the government this month stepped back from supporting a controversial campaign to legalise the international trade in rhino horn. Some breeders say poaching could be halted by meeting the huge demand from Asia through legally "harvesting" horn from anaesthetised live rhinos. For Dearlove, Australia may sound like an unlikely and faraway solution to save the rhino, but the climate is suitable - and the need is overwhelming. "I'm sad that this is actually the situation which is being considered - because if the poaching would go away, there wouldn't be a need for such a plan," he said. — AFP

# CLINIC PAGE



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Dr. Fabad Al-Mukhaizeem  
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استشاري أطفال  
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## LULU HYPERMARKET LAUNCHES MANGO FEST 2016

LuLu Hypermarket, the leading hypermarket chain in the region, launched their annual LuLu Mango Fest 2016 at their Qurain outlet on May 11th at 7:00 pm. The festival, running from 11 to 21 May, was inaugurated by Sheikha Naima Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

The supermarket decor will represent the

theme of the mango celebration with the main highlight being an attractive mango forest and a colorful truck filled with mangoes. The promotion, which is common for all LuLu outlets, is offering more than 50 varieties of mangoes from eight countries - India, Malaysia, Kenya, Thailand, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Brazil, and USA. The special varieties

include the popular and exotic kinds such as Alphonso (India), Kesar (India), Daseri (India), Rajapuri (India), Mango Round (Kenya), Green Sweet Mango (Thailand), Tommy Atkins (Brazil) and Waterlilly (Malaysia). Tantalize your taste buds with the sweetest taste of mangoes to be purchased at special prices during the festival.

The LuLuMango Fest 2016 is an incredible venture by LuLu Hypermarket to draw in customers with a lively campaign, where they will get a chance to discover varieties of mangoes at reasonable prices.

LuLu Hypermarket has consistently branded itself as the company that meets customers' expectations for quality prod-

ucts at competitive prices. The hypermarket presents a unique shopping experience through attractive customer oriented campaigns that help garner shoppers' interest and increase support for the brand.



## ICSK HOLDS 'TEACH ME' TEACHING PROGRAM

Monday 09th May marked a landmark in the annals of the Indian Community School (Senior) Kuwait (ICSK), as the innovative venture 'TEACH ME' became a reality. 'TEACH ME' the peer teaching program envisaged and pioneered by the Principal Dr V Binumon. The use of instructional strategies that require students to be more actively involved in the learning process is now strongly advocated for primary, secondary and tertiary education all over the world. ICSK Senior is the torchbearer of many such path breaking activities for the students.

Through 'TEACH ME', the school hopes to create a conducive learning environment where students must build mutual respect for and trust and confidence in one another. The school believes that self-directed learning skills will help the students in laying the foundation for enhancing self-education and developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills; communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills; and learning through self, peer assessment and critical reflection.

Initially started as a monthly program, the school plans to make it a weekly one by allotting a one hour zero-period to enhance the total personality of the students by the learning-teaching method. Three best student teachers each from the Secondary and Senior Secondary Category will be recognized by the school in the general assembly and their photographs will be published in the monthly magazine 'EPICS', in acknowledgement of teaching excellence.

Students learn a great deal by explaining their ideas to others and by participating in activities in which they can learn from their peers. They develop skills in organizing and planning learning activities, working collaboratively with others, giving and receiving feedback and evaluating their own learning. As peers, they are also able to relate with each other, offering support and encouragement to maintain an environment conducive to learning. The idea of peer education will go a long way, becoming a credible, empowering source of learning.





## AL-SAYER MEDICAL COMPANY HOLDS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WITH BOSO ABI - SYSTEM 100

**A**l-Sayer Medical Company, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies and the exclusive agent for bosso medical instrument in Kuwait, recently organized a medical awareness camp in partnership with Group CSR's commitment towards social well-being. The camp was intended to raise medical awareness in the areas of heart attack and stroke with BOSO ABI - System 100, the clinically validates and innovative medical instrument from Germany for Peripheral Arterial Occlusive Disease (PAOD) screening.

PAOD is often a harbinger of cardiovascular events with serious consequences. Even in high-risk groups such as smokers, diabetics and the elderly, PAOD is often diagnosed too late. A simple routine check with the bosso ABI-system 100 comes to the rescue. The ankle-brachial index (ABI) allows PAOD to be identified with a high degree of precision at an early stage.

The camp which was conducted as two separate sessions at Group Headquarters for its employees and Al-Sayer LifeCare showroom for its customers was attended by Dr Rudolf Mad and Dr Hans Peter representatives from bosso, Dr Hossam Afify General Manager and Dr Maha Magdy Sales Manager from Al-Sayer Medical Company.

Explaining the significance of bosso product Dr Rudolf Mad said "The innovative method used by bosso ABI-system 100 to create broad application for ABI determination is unique. Tests can be carried out in few minutes without any special preparations. Hence doctors and patients benefit from making possible accurate diagnosis and targeted treatment through early detection or routine check. The system is accurate, decisive and cost effective"

According to Dr Hossam Afify General Manager Al-Sayer Medical Company "We are proud to partner with bosso to bring premium medical products from Germany powered by innovative and leading technology for Kuwait consumers. Participants have turned out in big number for this camp. We are confident that ABI - SYSTEM 100 health monitoring report and expert consultation from bosso representatives were highly informative and insightful for them. All our endeavors reflect our strategic commitment to provide the healthcare facilities and professionals with the most innovative medical technologies."

### New standard

The importance of ABI is becoming more and more apparent and it is an increasingly

common subject for discussion in the specialist media. The bosso ABI-system 100 calculates this crucial value quickly, precisely and reliably - without Doppler. Its ease of operation gives it much broader application. This makes early detection possible even if the patient is not yet experiencing any symptoms, opening the way to combating the disease while it is still in the early stages and saving lives. No thorough health check should be considered complete without a calculation of the ABI. The new bosso ABI-system 100 now makes this easy.

bosso ABI software facilitates automatic calculation of many important pieces of data. Once measured, the figures calculated are assigned automatically to the chosen patient.

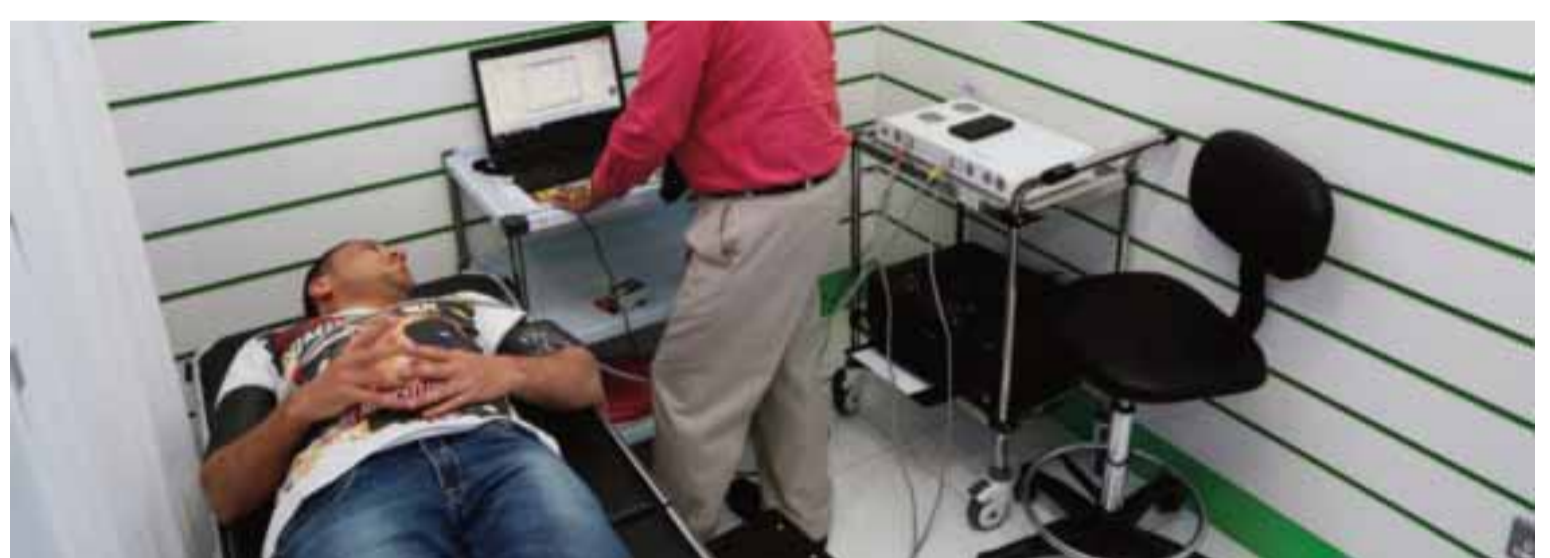
The system measures other important cardiovascular parameters in addition to the ABI and shows all data at one glimpse for assessing the patient's state of health.

Engineer Nehad Alhaj Ali Manager Corporate Excellence said "The medical camp was a great platform to underscore Group commitment to society and efforts towards enhancing well-being of our customer and employees. We look forward to initiating positive changes,



partnering for such events and engaging with the public to keep promoting sustainable CSR practices." bosso ABI-system

100 is available at the Al-Sayer LifeCare Healthcare Outlet in Dajej for study purpose and further clarifications.



## AL-THURAYA CITY LAUNCHES BURGER WEEKS



**C**rowne Plaza Kuwait Al-Thuraya City announced details of Burger Weeks, the food promotion starting 15th May in its signature restaurant, Silk. The launch event took place on 11th May and was attended by members of the press and the business community.

Masterfully created by Culinary Director Alexander Kooijman, the promotional menu comprises eight appetizing burger creations, including Wild And Fiery Burger and Signature Duck Burger. Diners select their favorite bun - onion, potato, sun-dried tomato and jalapeno, or simply classic with sesame seeds - as well as their favorite fries - fresh cut, sweet potato, herbed, or cajun - to go with their burger.

Commenting on Burger Weeks, Chef Kooijman said: "Our aim is to add a creative touch to a popular meal like burger and fries. By combining different toppings, patties, buns, and fries, you will be surprised at how sophisticated a burger meal can get!" Burger Weeks runs from 15th May to 4th June, daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations can be made by calling 1848111.



**AMC**

04:20 The Aviator  
05:55 If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium  
07:35 Big Screen  
07:50 The Garbage Pail Kids Movie  
09:25 Puckoon  
10:50 The Raven  
12:15 Captain Jack  
13:55 Impromptu  
15:40 Geronimo: An American Legend  
17:35 Race For The Yankee  
Zephyr  
19:25 The Aviator  
21:00 Breaking Bad  
22:00 A Dangerous Woman  
23:45 Requiem For A Dream  
01:25 Hair

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Treehouse Masters  
05:49 Village Vets  
06:13 Village Vets  
06:36 Call Of The Wildman  
07:00 Call Of The Wildman  
07:25 Too Cute!  
08:15 Village Vets  
08:45 Village Vets  
09:10 Treehouse Masters  
10:05 Tanked  
11:00 Too Cute!  
11:55 Bondi Vet  
12:50 Village Vets  
13:20 Village Vets  
13:45 Gator Boys  
14:40 Treehouse Masters  
15:35 Tanked  
16:30 Africa's Trees Of Life  
17:25 River Monsters  
18:20 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
19:15 Tanked  
20:10 Animal Cops South Africa  
21:05 Treehouse Masters  
22:00 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
22:55 Gator Boys  
23:50 River Monsters  
00:45 I'm Alive  
01:40 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster  
02:35 Tanked

**BBC FIRST**

03:40 Orphan Black  
04:35 Eastenders  
05:10 Doctor Who  
06:00 Doctors  
06:30 Doctors  
07:00 Doctors  
07:30 Eastenders  
08:00 Death In Paradise  
08:55 37 Days  
09:50 Doctor Who  
10:40 Doctors  
11:10 Eastenders  
11:40 Death In Paradise  
12:35 37 Days  
13:30 Doctor Who  
14:20 Doctors  
14:50 Eastenders  
15:25 Death In Paradise  
16:20 Dickensian  
17:10 Doctor Who  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Eastenders  
19:05 Death In Paradise  
20:00 Holly City  
21:00 Stella  
21:55 Unforgotten  
22:45 Orphan Black  
23:35 Doctors  
00:10 Eastenders  
00:45 Holly City  
01:40 Stella

**COMEDY CENTRAL**

03:00 South Park

**crime & investigation network**

03:00 The Haunting Of...  
04:00 The Haunting Of...  
05:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
06:00 The FBI Files  
07:00 Beyond Scared Straight  
08:00 The FBI Files  
09:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
10:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
11:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
12:00 Private Crimes  
12:30 Private Crimes  
13:00 Homicide Hunter  
14:00 The First 48  
15:00 Beyond Scared Straight  
16:00 The FBI Files  
17:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
18:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
19:00 Homicide Hunter  
20:00 Nightmare In Suburbia  
21:00 Ms. Homicide  
22:00 Married, Single, Dead  
23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In  
00:00 Crime Stories  
01:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
02:00 Ms. Homicide

**Discovery CHANNEL HD**

03:15 Superhuman Science  
03:40 Game Of Pawns  
04:05 Storage Wars Canada  
04:30 Property Wars  
05:00 How Do They Do It?  
05:30 South Beach Classics  
06:00 Yukon Men  
06:50 Wheeler Dealers  
07:40 Fast N' Loud  
08:30 Game Of Pawns  
08:55 Storage Wars Canada  
09:20 Property Wars  
09:45 How Do They Do It?  
10:10 South Beach Classics  
10:35 You Have Been Warned  
11:25 The Pop Illusionist  
12:15 Superhuman Science  
12:40 Superhuman Science  
13:05 Game Of Pawns  
13:30 Storage Wars Canada  
13:55 Property Wars  
14:20 Yukon Men  
15:10 Wheeler Dealers  
16:00 Fast N' Loud  
16:50 South Beach Classics  
17:15 How Do They Do It?  
17:40 Salvage Hunters  
18:30 For The Love Of Cars  
19:20 The Weapon Hunter  
20:10 Storage Wars Canada  
20:35 Property Wars  
21:00 Free Ride  
21:50 For The Love Of Cars  
22:40 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville  
23:30 Fast N' Loud  
00:20 Wheeler Dealers  
01:10 Free Ride  
02:00 For The Love Of Cars  
02:50 Engine Addict With Jimmy De Ville

**Discovery Family**

03:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:05 How It's Made  
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Kids vs Film

**Discovery SCIENCE**

04:36 Blood Relatives  
05:24 Nowhere To Hide  
06:12 I Was Murdered  
06:37 I Was Murdered  
07:00 Blood Relatives  
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
08:40 Nowhere To Hide  
09:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
10:20 I Was Murdered  
10:45 I Was Murdered  
11:10 California Investigator  
11:35 California Investigator  
12:00 Blood Relatives  
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It  
13:40 Nowhere To Hide  
14:30 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
15:20 I Was Murdered  
15:45 I Was Murdered  
16:10 Southern Fried Homicide  
17:00 Blood Relatives  
17:50 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones  
18:40 Nowhere To Hide  
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It  
20:20 I Was Murdered  
20:45 I Was Murdered  
21:10 Murder Comes To Town  
22:00 Web Of Lies  
22:50 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen  
23:40 Your Worst Nightmare  
00:30 Evil Kin  
01:20 Web Of Lies  
02:10 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen

**Discovery SCIENCE**

03:05 How It's Made  
03:29 Mythbusters  
04:16 Invent It Rich  
05:03 How The Universe Works  
05:50 Kings Of Construction  
06:37 How Do They Do It?  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:23 Mythbusters  
08:08 How It's Made  
08:30 How It's Made  
08:53 Kings Of Construction  
09:38 Through The Wormhole  
10:23 Invent It Rich  
11:08 How The Universe Works  
11:53 Kings Of Construction  
12:38 Mythbusters  
13:23 Through The Wormhole  
14:10 How It's Made  
14:33 How It's Made  
14:57 Food Factory USA  
15:20 Food Factory USA  
15:44 How The Universe Works  
16:31 Kings Of Construction  
17:18 How It's Made  
17:41 How It's Made  
18:05 Mythbusters  
18:50 Secret Space Escapes  
19:40 How The Universe Works  
20:25 Through The Wormhole  
21:15 How It's Made  
21:37 How It's Made  
22:00 Secret Space Escapes  
22:45 How The Universe Works  
23:35 Mythbusters  
00:20 Through The Wormhole  
01:08 Secret Space Escapes  
01:55 How The Universe Works  
02:42 How It's Made

**Disney JUNIOR**

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimero  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopdidoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:35 Calimero  
04:50 Zou  
05:00 Loopdidoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimero  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopdidoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
07:10 Zou  
07:25 Loopdidoo  
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
08:05 Sofia The First  
08:30 Goldie & Bear  
08:45 Miles From Tomorrow  
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
09:20 Doc McStuffins  
09:35 Doc McStuffins  
10:00 Sofia The First  
10:30 Goldie & Bear  
11:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
11:25 The Lion Guard  
11:50 Handy Manny  
12:15 Jungle Junction  
12:30 Special Agent Oso  
12:45 The Hive  
13:00 Sofia The First  
13:25 Miles From Tomorrow  
13:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
14:15 The Lion Guard  
14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
15:10 Doc McStuffins  
15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
16:00 Sofia The First  
16:25 Jungle Cubs  
16:50 Aladdin  
17:15 The Lion Guard  
17:40 Goldie & Bear  
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
18:30 Sofia The First  
19:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
19:30 The Lion Guard  
20:00 Goldie & Bear  
20:30 Sofia The First  
21:00 Jungle Cubs  
21:25 Aladdin  
21:50 Gummi Bears  
22:20 Lilo And Stitch  
22:50 Zou  
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:20 Calimero  
23:35 Zou  
23:50 Loopdidoo  
00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopdidoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Calimero  
02:20 Zou  
02:30 Loopdidoo  
02:45 Art Attack

**Discovery ID**

03:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:25 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:05 How It's Made  
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Kids vs Film

07:25 Doki  
07:50 Bad Dog  
08:40 You Have Been Warned  
09:30 How It's Made  
09:55 How It's Made  
10:20 Mythbusters  
11:10 Bondi Vet  
12:00 Bad Dog  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:15 How It's Made  
13:40 Ultimate Survival  
14:30 Dirty Jobs  
15:20 Mythbusters  
16:10 Kids vs Film  
16:35 Doki  
17:00 NASA's Greatest Missions  
17:50 Mission Asteroid  
18:40 You Have Been Warned  
19:30 Mythbusters  
20:20 How It's Made  
20:45 How It's Made  
21:10 NASA's Greatest Missions  
22:00 Mission Asteroid  
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds  
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds  
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
00:30 Mythbusters  
01:20 NASA's Greatest Missions

03:00 Discovery ID  
03:00 Discovery ID  
03:00 Discovery ID  
05:00 Discovery ID  
21:00 Discovery ID  
Discovery ID Xtra  
03:00 Murder Comes To Town  
03:48 Evil Kin

the first motion picture from the creator of family guy

mark wahlberg mila kunis  
seth macfarlane  
**ted**  
this summer

www.tedisreal.com

TED ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

**Disney JUNIOR**

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
03:20 Calimero  
03:35 Zou  
03:45 Loopdidoo  
04:00 Art Attack  
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:35 Calimero  
04:50 Zou  
05:00 Loopdidoo  
05:15 Art Attack  
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:50 Calimero  
06:00 Zou  
06:20 Loopdidoo  
06:35 Art Attack  
07:00 The Hive  
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16:50 Aladdin  
17:15 The Lion Guard  
17:40 Goldie & Bear  
18:05 Miles From Tomorrow  
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21:00 Jungle Cubs  
21:25 Aladdin  
21:50 Gummi Bears  
22:20 Lilo And Stitch  
22:50 Zou  
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster  
23:20 Calimero  
23:35 Zou  
23:50 Loopdidoo  
00:05 Art Attack  
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
00:45 Calimero  
01:00 Zou  
01:15 Loopdidoo  
01:30 Art Attack  
01:55 Henry Hugglemonster  
02:05 Calimero  
02:20 Zou  
02:30 Loopdidoo  
02:45 Art Attack

**EHD**

03:15 Christina Milian Turned Up  
04:10 Christina Milian Turned Up  
05:05 Christina Milian Turned Up  
06:00 Fashion Bloggers  
06:25 Courtney And Kim Take Miami  
07:20 Courtney And Kim Take Miami  
08:20 El News  
09:15 Courtney And Kim Take Miami  
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
13:05 El News  
14:05 Botched  
15:00 Fashion Bloggers  
15:30 Botched: Post Op  
16:00 WAGS  
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
19:00 El News  
20:00 Dash Dolls  
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
22:00 Botched  
23:00 El News  
00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
00:55 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
01:50 Botched  
02:20 El News

**food network**

03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
04:00 Man Fire Food  
04:30 Man Fire Food  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Chopped  
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin  
07:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin  
08:00 Chopped  
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
09:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics  
10:00 The Kitchen  
11:00 Anna Olson: Fresh  
11:30 Anna Olson: Fresh  
12:00 Chopped  
13:00 The Pioneer Woman  
13:30 The Pioneer Woman  
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
15:00 Man Fire Food  
15:30 Man Fire Food  
16:00 Chopped  
17:00 The Kitchen  
18:00 Anna Olson: Fresh  
18:30 Anna Olson: Fresh  
19:00 Chopped  
20:00 Iron Chef America  
21:00 Private Chef  
22:00 Private Chef  
23:00 Valerie's Home Cooking  
23:30 Valerie's Home Cooking  
24:00 Iron Chef America

**itv CHOICE**

00:20 Pawn Stars  
00:45 Pawn Stars South Africa  
01:10 Down East Dickering  
02:00 Ice Road Truckers  
02:50 Ax Men

**itv CHOICE**

03:25 Midsomer Murders  
05:15 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!  
06:10 Coach Trip  
06:35 Catchphrase  
07:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild  
07:30 Midsomer Murders  
09:20 The Jonathan Ross Show  
10:10 I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!  
11:05 Callie-Anne Cooks Into The Wild  
11:35 Catchphrase  
12:05 Coach Trip  
12:30 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover  
13:25 Emmerdale  
13:50 Coach Trip  
14:20 Coronation Street  
14:45 The Jonathan Ross Show  
15:35 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince  
16:55 Royal Stories  
17:25 Raised By Wolves  
17:55 Raised By Wolves  
18:20 Emmerdale  
18:45 Coach Trip  
19:10 Coronation Street  
19:35 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince  
20:55 Royal Stories  
21:25 Raised By Wolves  
21:55 Raised By Wolves  
22:20 Coronation Street  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover  
00:10 When Ant & Dec Met The Prince  
01:30 Emmerdale  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 The Jonathan Ross Show

**NAT GEO people HD**

03:05 Glamour Puds  
03:30 Glamour Puds  
03:55 Cruise Ship Diaries  
04:45 Maximum Foodie  
05:10 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia  
05:35 Rustic Adventures Italy  
06:00 Rustic Adventures Italy  
06:25 Carnival Eats  
06:50 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
07:40 Billionaire's Paradise  
08:30 Tom's Istanbul Delight  
08:55 Glamour Puds  
09:20 Glamour Puds  
09:45 Cruise Ship Diaries  
10:35 Maximum Foodie  
11:00 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia  
11:25 Rustic Adventures Italy  
11:50 Rustic Adventures Italy  
12:15 Carnival Eats  
12:40 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
13:35 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
14:00 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
14:30 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela  
15:25 Cruise Ship Diaries  
16:20 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt  
16:45 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
17:15 Tripping Out With Ailie & Georgia  
17:40 Rustic Adventures Italy  
18:10 Rustic Adventures Italy  
18:35 Carnival Eats  
19:05 World's Biggest Festival: Kumbh Mela  
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21:15 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
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22:30 Rustic Adventures Italy  
22:55 Carnival Eats  
23:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
00:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
00:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue

**NAT GEO people HD**

03:05 Glamour Puds  
03:30 Glamour Puds  
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04:45 Maximum Foodie  
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05:35 Rustic Adventures Italy  
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22:55 Carnival Eats  
23:20 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
00:10 Food Lover's Guide To The Planet  
00:35 David Rocco's Dolce Vita  
01:00 Cesar To The Rescue

**HISTORY HD**

03:40 American Restoration  
04:05 American Restoration  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Lost Worlds  
06:00 Mountain Men  
06:50 Ice Road Truckers  
07:40 Ax Men  
08:30 Shipping Wars  
08:55 American Restoration  
09:20 American Restoration  
09:45 Banger Boys  
10:35 Counting Cars  
11:25 Lost Worlds  
12:15 American Pickers  
13:05 Storage Wars  
13:30 Storage Wars  
13:55 Fifth Gear  
14:45 Shipping Wars  
15:10 Shipping Wars  
15:35 Shipping Wars  
16:00 Mountain Men  
16:50 Ax Men  
17:40 Ice Road Truckers  
18:30 Lost Worlds  
19:20 American Pickers  
20:10 Pawn Stars  
20:35 Pawn Stars  
21:00 Duck Dynasty  
21:25 Duck Dynasty  
21:50 Pawn Stars  
22:15 Pawn Stars South Africa  
22:40 Grave Trade  
23:30 Duck Dynasty  
23:55 Duck Dynasty

**HISTORY HD**

03:40 American Restoration  
04:05 American Restoration  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Lost Worlds  
06:00 Mountain Men  
06:50 Ice Road Truckers  
07:40 Ax Men  
08:30 Shipping Wars  
08:55 American Restoration  
09:20 American Restoration  
09:45 Banger Boys  
10:35 Counting Cars  
11:25 Lost Worlds  
12:15 American Pickers  
13:05 Storage Wars  
13:30 Storage Wars  
13:55 Fifth Gear  
14:45 Shipping Wars  
15:10 Shipping Wars  
15:35 Shipping Wars  
16:00 Mountain Men  
16:50 Ax Men  
17:40 Ice Road Truckers  
18:30 Lost Worlds  
19:20 American Pickers  
20:10 Pawn Stars  
20:35 Pawn Stars  
21:00 Duck Dynasty  
21:25 Duck Dynasty  
21:50 Pawn Stars  
22:15 Pawn Stars South Africa  
22:40 Grave Trade  
23:30 Duck Dynasty  
23:55 Duck Dynasty

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

03:15 Battleship  
05:30 The A-Team  
07:45 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts  
09:15 R.I.P.D.  
11:00 Pearl Harbor  
14:15 The A-Team  
16:30 Abandoned Mine  
18:15 R.I.P.D.  
20:00 Dracula Untold  
22:00 The Terminator  
00:00 Grace: The Possession  
02:00 Sharknado 2: The Second

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

04:00 Three Men And A Baby  
06:00 At Middleton  
08:00 50 First Dates  
10:00 Three Men And A Baby  
12:00 Pitch Perfect  
14:00 Green Card  
16:00 50 First Dates  
18:00 Man Of The House  
20:00 Think Like A Man Too  
22:00 Ted  
00:00 Good Luck Chuck  
02:00 Man Of The House

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

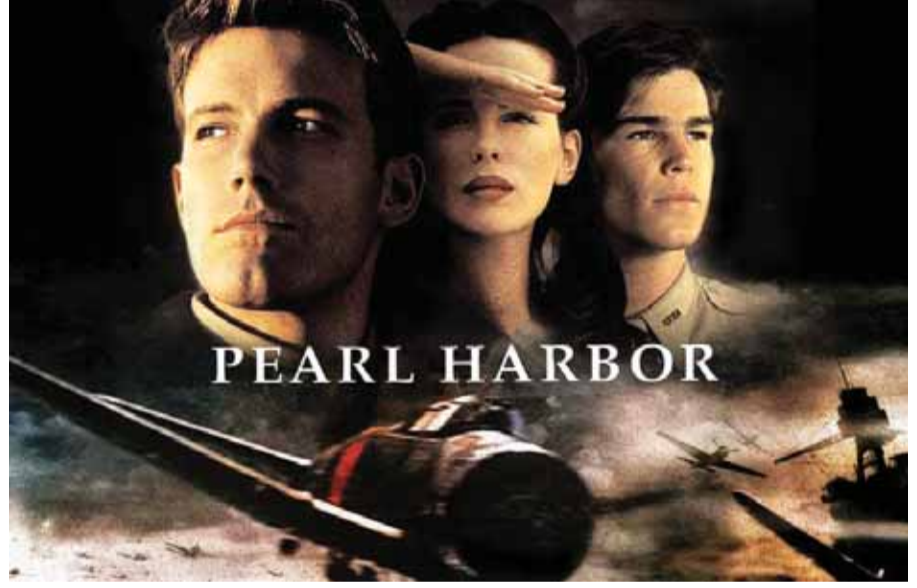
03:00 Mr. Magoo  
05:00 Ratatouille  
07:00 The Princess Diaries  
09:00 The Shaggy Dog  
11:00 Home  
13:00 The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement  
15:00 Enchanted  
17:00 Tangled  
19:00 Blank Check  
21:00 High School Musical 3: Senior Year  
23:00 Enchanted  
01:00 Blank Check

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

03:30 The Color Of Money  
05:30 Reds  
09:00 A Civil Action  
11:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados  
12:45 A Passage To India  
15:30 Beyond The Edge  
17:00 A Civil Action  
19:00 We Gotta Get Out Of This Place  
21:00 Boyhood  
23:45 Choke  
01:30 A Civil Action

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

03:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves  
04:30 Egon And Donci  
06:00 The Heart Of The Oak  
08:00 Mamma Moo And Crow  
10:00 Pixies  
11:30 Marco Macaco  
13:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves  
14:30 Memory Loss  
16:00 Pin And Pom: The Big Adventure  
18:00 Pixies  
20:00 Hook  
22:30 Memory Loss  
00:00 Pin And Pom: The Big Adventure  
01:30 Mamma Moo And Crow



PEARL HARBOR ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

03:25 Tattoo Disasters  
03:50 Hungry Investors  
04:40 Workaholics  
05:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
05:55 Tosh.0  
06:20 Tosh.0  
06:50 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol  
07:40 Workaholics  
08:05 Workaholics  
08:30 Key And Peele  
08:55 Key And Peele  
09:20 Tosh.0  
09:45 Tosh.0  
10:10 Nathan For You  
10:35 Nathan For You  
11:00 Lip Sync Battle  
11:25 Lip Sync Battle  
11:50 Workaholics  
12:15 Workaholics  
12:40 Key And Peele  
13:05 Key And Peele  
13:30 Tosh.0  
13:55 Tosh.0  
14:20 Nathan For You  
14:45 Nathan For You  
15:10 Lip Sync Battle  
15:35 Lip Sync Battle  
16:00 Workaholics  
16:30 Workaholics  
16:55 Key And Peele  
17:25 Key And Peele  
17:50 Tosh.0  
18:15 Tosh.0  
18:40 Nathan For You  
19:05 Nathan For You  
19:30 Hungry Investors  
20:15 Lip Sync Battle  
20:38 Lip Sync Battle  
21:30 Owen Benjamin: High Five  
Til It Hurts

07:25 Doki  
07:50 Bad Dog  
08:40 You Have Been Warned  
09:30 How It's Made  
09:55 How It's Made  
10:20 Mythbusters  
11:10 Bondi Vet  
12:00 Bad Dog  
12:50 How It's Made  
13:15 How It's Made  
13:40 Ultimate Survival  
14:30 Dirty Jobs  
15:20 Mythbusters  
16:10 Kids vs Film  
16:35 Doki  
17:00 NASA's Greatest Missions  
17:50 Mission Asteroid  
18:40 You Have Been Warned  
19:30 Mythbusters  
20:20 How It's Made  
20:45 How It's Made  
21:10 NASA's Greatest Missions  
22:00 Mission Asteroid  
22:50 Destroyed In Seconds  
23:15 Destroyed In Seconds  
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
00:30 Mythbusters  
01:20 NASA's Greatest Missions

03:00 Discovery ID  
03:00 Discovery ID  
03:00 Discovery ID  
05:00 Discovery ID  
21:00 Discovery ID  
Discovery ID Xtra  
03:00 Murder Comes To Town  
03:48 Evil Kin

08:30 Shake It Up  
08:55 Hannah Montana  
09:20 Hannah Montana  
09:45 H2O: Just Add Water  
10:10 H2O: Just Add Water  
10:35 I Didn't Do It  
11:00 I Didn't Do It  
11:25 Jessie  
11:50 Jessie  
12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse  
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
12:45 Hank Zipzer  
13:10 Austin & Ally  
13:35 Austin & Ally  
14:00 Liv And Maddie  
14:25 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:30 Liv And Maddie  
14:55 Dog With A Blog  
15:20 Dog With A Blog  
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
16:10 Violella  
17:00 The Next Step  
17:25 Alex And Co  
18:15 Jessie  
18:50 Best Friends Whenever  
18:40 Girl Meets World  
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles  
19:30 Liv And Maddie  
19:55 Liv And Maddie  
20:20 The Next Step  
20:45 Good Luck Charlie  
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water  
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water  
22:00 Binnie And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Hank Zipzer  
23:35 Binnie And The Ghost

OSN APPOINTS EMAD MORCOS AS CHIEF CONTENT OFFICER TO DRIVE STRATEGY FOR EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

**Dubai, UAE:** OSN, the MENA region's leading pay-TV network, has announced the appointment of Emad Morcos as its Chief Content Officer, a newly created organisational role. He will be responsible for driving OSN's consolidated content strategy and is also mandated with the acquisition of programming rights across all OSN platforms.

With over 24 years of broadcast experience gained in some of the world's leading media companies in the US, Europe and the Middle East, Morcos has been serving as Senior Vice President, Media Partners & Digital at OSN. He reports to David Butorac, Chief Executive Officer of OSN.

David Butorac said: "The differentiating strength of OSN is its extensive portfolio of exclusive and premium content tailored for all our platforms including linear TV, OSN Play and Go online TV. Emad brings strong industry insights and experience that will enable us to continue to build on our leadership position. Emad's new role will mean consolidation of content across platforms which is key to our success going forward."

Emad Morcos said: "Today's audiences are discerning about how and what they view. They demand the newest content at the same minute as global audiences. This calls for a comprehensive world-view on our content strategy for all our platforms to add sustained value for our subscribers. We will continue to focus on building global partnerships with the world's premier content and channel providers, alongside an emphasis on local content creation to maintain our cutting edge as the premier provider of world-class entertainment."

In his new role, Emad will further build on OSN's content consolidation strategy that will drive revenue growth and cost management while enhancing the subscriber experience. He will also be responsible for the acquisition of rights for all platforms, programming and creative services.



Part of the senior management team at OSN since 2007, Morcos has played an instrumental role in driving the company's growth forging new partnerships and global channel distribution deals. He was behind the launch of OSN's award-winning digital platforms, OSN Play and Go online TV. Morcos spearheaded the acquisition of Pehla, enabling OSN to establish its credentials as a go-to network for premium South Asian content including cricket and was key in strengthening OSN's Filipino entertainment offering.



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### Kuwait CINEMA

#### KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/05/2016 TO 18/05/2016)

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
12:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	3:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
3:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	4:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	5:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
5:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	6:15 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	8:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
7:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	8:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	10:15 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
9:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	10:45 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:30 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
12:05 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:00 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou		
12:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	1:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
3:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	3:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
6:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	3:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	5:30 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
9:00 PM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	5:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	7:45 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
12:05 AM	CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	8:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	10:00 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
		10:15 PM	THE JUNGLE BOOK	12:05 AM	THE JUNGLE BOOK
		12:15 AM	THE JUNGLE BOOK		
11:30 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	11:45 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
1:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	2:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
4:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	4:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
6:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	8:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	6:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
8:30 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:45 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	9:00 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
10:30 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4			11:00 PM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
12:30 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4			1:00 AM	JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4
11:30 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:00 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	11:30 AM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou
		1:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou	2:30 PM	Ely Ekhtashou Matou

### PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:27  
 Shorook: 04:56  
 Duh: 11:44  
 Asr: 15:20  
 Maghrib: 18:33  
 Isha: 20:00

**EMERGENCY 112**

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### Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

#### In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Arrival Flights on Sunday 15/5/2016				Departure Flights on Sunday 15/5/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	513	Tehran	15:40
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
JZR	185D	Dubai	02:40	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	QTR	1079	Doha	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
BAW	157	London	06:40	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	JAI	571	Mumbai	19:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	QAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
KAC	302	Mumbai	09:40	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:35
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
				KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25

**DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

CROSSWORD 1254



ACROSS

- 1. A pilgrim who journeys to Mecca.
5. Having short sharp turns or angles n.
11. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
15. The eighth month of the civil year.
16. Put into a rage.
17. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
18. A warning against certain acts.
20. United States musician (born in Japan) who married John Lennon and collaborated with him on recordings (born in 1933).
22. The Mongol people living the the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
23. Of a deep somewhat purplish blue color similar to that of a clear October sky.
25. Take in solid food.
26. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
29. (Irish) Goddess.
32. Injured by bites or stings.
33. By bad luck.
37. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
40. Prolific Spanish playwright (1562-1635).
41. Nonresinous wood of a fir tree.
42. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
43. A wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric with pictorial designs.
46. A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
47. A linear unit of length equal to 12 inches or a third of a yard.
49. Rate of revolution of a motor.
51. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
53. The goddess of the moon.
54. The longest river of Asia.
55. An oil port in southern Iraq.
56. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
57. (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
59. South African term for 'boss'.
61. A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.
64. A public promotion of some product or service.
66. Sour or bitter in taste.
68. Air pollution by a mixture of smoke and fog.
73. A small ball with a hole through the middle.
76. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
77. The universal time coordinated when an event is received on Earth.
80. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
81. The syllable naming the first (tonic) note of any major scale in solmization.
82. An agent that counteracts or neutralizes acidity (especially in the stomach).
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- 1. (informal) Rural and uncouth.
2. An Indian nursemaid who looks after children.
3. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
4. A republic consisting of 26 of 32 counties comprising the island of Ireland.
5. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet.
6. Not out.
7. An utterance expressing pain or disapproval.
8. An island in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa.
9. Agile long-legged rabbit-sized rodent of Central and South America and West Indies.
10. A brittle gray crystalline element that is a semiconducting metalloid (resembling silicon) used in transistors.
11. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
12. The highest level or degree attainable.
13. A small cake leavened with yeast.
14. Any of numerous agile ruminants related to sheep but having a beard and straight horns.
19. Similar or related in quality or character.
21. Large brownish-green New Zealand parrot.
24. Of or relating to or characteristic of religious rituals.
27. A state in the Rocky Mountains.
28. A room equipped with toilet facilities.
30. Unequivocally detestable.
31. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
34. Type genus of the family Lepididae.
35. (of reproduction) Not involving the fusion of male and female gametes reproduction.
36. A deep bow.
38. The 3 goddesses of fate or destiny.
39. Fallow deer.
44. A motley assortment of things.
45. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
48. A short sleeveless outer tunic emblazoned with a coat of arms.
50. Large long-tailed gallinaceous bird native to the Old World but introduced elsewhere.
52. (botany) Especially of leaves.
58. A three-year law degree.
60. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
62. The event of dying or departure from life.
63. Music performed for dancing the polka.
65. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
67. Large edible mackerel of temperate United States coastal Atlantic waters.
69. The second largest of the Hawaiian Islands.
70. King of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (born in 1922).
71. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
72. God of love and erotic desire.
74. A decree that prohibits something.
75. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
78. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
79. One thousand periods per second.

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This can be a very superficial day. It may not be possible for you to penetrate anything remotely meaningful or moving. Perhaps there is a sense of the senselessness or wasteful use of time. Instead of pushing to accomplish the regular chores, you move to do the essentials. Take some time to just enjoy the day. This can be a day of healing and nurturing for the body and spirit. It just may be beneficial to learn more about herbs and ways to determine the types of useful plants that grow in your area. You may be surprised to know that dandelions make a beautiful, nutritional and healthy addition to a tossed salad. Someone in your family needs a helping hand and you may join in and find much laughter and camaraderie in this team effort.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be asked to teach today. This may be teaching a simple lullaby to your own child or demonstrating a science project that a child could learn. You help others because you are willing and patient and you use your own education, talents, experience and memories to guide you. You may be handicapped or you may have helped others that are handicapped-whatever the case, you will find your past experience helpful as you teach others. Although you have fun teaching, later today you might settle for more quiet activities. Romance, pleasure and music fills your afternoon and evening. A surprise gift could come with a friend today. You are warmly receptive toward people and may join in some fun and games tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Study, if you are a student, can be very productive this morning. Perusing a bookstore that sells used books might be fun later today. You might even find some old classic video films to give as gifts for upcoming birthdays. Conversations with strangers can surprisingly lead to better business contacts, as well as a mutual interest in hobbies. A preoccupation with your appearance, how you come across to others and social life in general may become most important to you. A little shopping expedition may help you add to your wardrobe. You find yourself most communicative, but pay attention to those closest to you-they are the most important people in your future. Social contact today or this evening shows you at your most elegant.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Friends and neighbors occupy most of your day. You appreciate your friends and enjoy the interactions that occur. You can be very charming and enchant others to come under your spell. Periods of intense creativity will help you to go through changes and inner growth. This creative intensity is good for music, poetry and art. There is a great intensity of emotions and purpose. A class at a nearby art store might be fun, as long as you do not enter into a project with the attitude of competitiveness. Later today there is time to tend to your favorite pet; perhaps you will shampoo and dry this animal. Relaxing around your home this evening just smells especially good-cookies, flowers, etc. You enjoy family and rely on each other for encouragement.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Reading or attending a lecture on law, politics, education, travel or religion may be part of your day. Your creative side is showing this afternoon when you help a friend decorate or purchase a colorful scarf, shirt or some other accessory. Your environment becomes simplified and your friends receive encouragement. Friends are a great source of information. Ask the right questions to get the answers you need. Some misunderstanding from the past is better understood now; things seem almost magical in the way they work out in your favor. This evening is a good time to respond to some long overdue correspondence; perhaps a relative or friend has been out of town for a very long time. This is the evening you finish reading your novel.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may find that you have plenty of vigor for whatever you plan today. You appreciate each moment of the day and seem anxious to move on to the next adventurous chapter. Your current appreciation for just about everything may lead you to overspend-careful. Shopping at a unique store today, you find many opportunities to check out new produce or see a demonstration of a new product. You may enjoy a massage while you wait for a friend to finish shopping. Later, you will enjoy conversations about the experiences of this day. You also appreciate art and music and may enjoy talking about a popular movie star or new music. Before it gets too late you will probably want to clean out your car and give it a wash. You like things neat, clean and in order.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a time of good fortune-when things open up in a very natural way for you. Situations are almost perfect for what you want to accomplish. You will prosper as you pursue your ideals and plot the path to your goals. Don't be afraid to project yourself-make those dreams real. Opportunities to improve and enlarge your friendships are available and you may find yourself wanting and able to do almost anything. Overall, this is a good time to project your image. You are very other-oriented at this time. Be careful, however, and give thought to new or different ideas before making promises. You could find it difficult to move away from your regular way of doing things but your efforts will be rewarded; you are ingeniously inventive.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Flow with the tide instead of pushing against it today. You will experience some positive feedback regarding a creative project-but when you least expect it. Perhaps you are working on improving a product or you are creating your own product; whatever the case, your perseverance pays off. The solution to a gnawing mystery comes from a family member today. This impressive individual is from your own blood and you are proud. A person that you were close to in the past may contact you with some information. An earnest effort in letting go of hard feelings can free you to move forward where emotions are concerned. Learn to dismiss the past so that you can concentrate on today-no sense in giving up all your days! There is a free feeling.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. Your analytical abilities are at a high point. Perhaps you have a part-time job helping a friend to proof or grade papers. You might consider work at home for a publisher as an editor for writers. This can be an expansive, creative and even a romantic phase, a time you will look back on with fondness. Your need for admiration and appreciation will certainly be met as you entertain and visit with friends this afternoon. This could be a time to make or plan for some changes in your environment. You are ready for some positive changes. Any work along this line will help set your subconscious to work toward helping you each day to achieve a balance.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are ambitious, self-confident, self-reliant, loyal, honorable and generous in money matters. Today you might, however, be tempted to overspend or indulge too much if you are shopping. Everything is beautiful! You are fond of your home life and will strive to create a harmonious environment. Being fashion-conscious, you may decide to create a cover for a couch or a pillow or perhaps you will be inspired to get out some stored away sheets for the upcoming summer. Making life comfortable for others is a pleasure. You also like to have your home looking nice, in case someone drops by for a visit. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life this year. You want to belong on a private, intimate and personal level.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are in a position to show your trust and respect to a loved one. You will also employ any manner of means to change a negative to a positive. You have probably become tired of hearing negative comments as you are ready to create positive changes. You are able to promote a healing where emotional concerns are involved. You enjoy a peaceful home. Tomorrow, you might allow complaints, but today you will not accept any sounds but from a person with a grateful spirit. You may reserve the right to find other ways to occupy your time, but it will not be necessary. Visiting with an older person is enhanced today. You may enjoy being guided through a game of trivia or a rummy hand with these young at heart friends.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Today is good for performing renovations or spring-cleaning. Unexpected company won't stay long if you don't stop your work. You may get a little help from a friend later today; perhaps a trade situation is in the making. This can be a productive time physically and emotionally; penetrating conversations bring insights if a friend or friends stay for a visit. Your emotions and the feelings of those around you become clear; life is good. You are a hangar full of happiness and creativity and there is much pride and positive input in which you choose to become involved. You may value your experiences this day. Another visitor in your home this evening compliments you on your art. This is a time of deepening relationships and positive feelings.

WORD SEARCH

Songs From the Year 2002

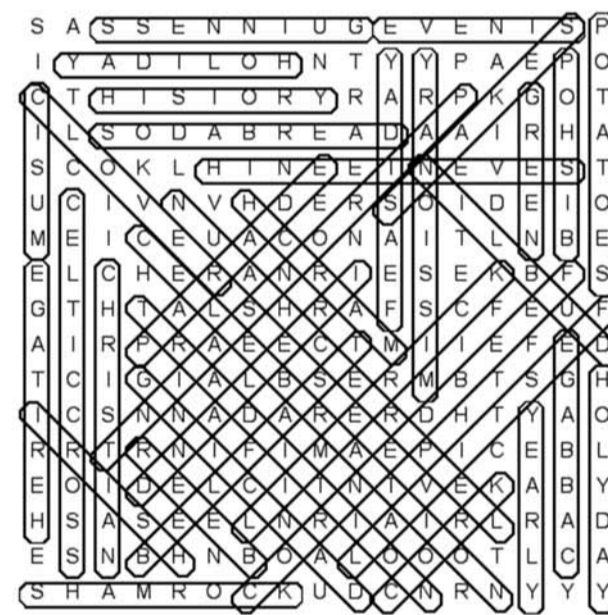
Find and circle all of the songs from 2002 that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 21 letters spell an additional song title from 2002.



- ADDICTIVE AERIALS ALL MY LIFE BABY BLURRY BY THE WAY COMPLICATED DAYS GO BY DILEMMA DISEASE ESCAPE EVERYDAY FOOLISH FOR YOU FULL MOON GIRL TALK GIRLFRIEND HALF CRAZY HANDS CLEAN HAPPY HEAVEN HELLA GOOD HERE I AM HERO HEY MA IN MY PLACE LOSE YOURSELF MOTIVATION MY LIST MY SACRIFICE NOTHIN' OH BOY RAINY DAYZ SPIN STILL FLY THE MIDDLE TOXICITY UH HUH WITHOUT ME WORK IT

Yesterday Solution

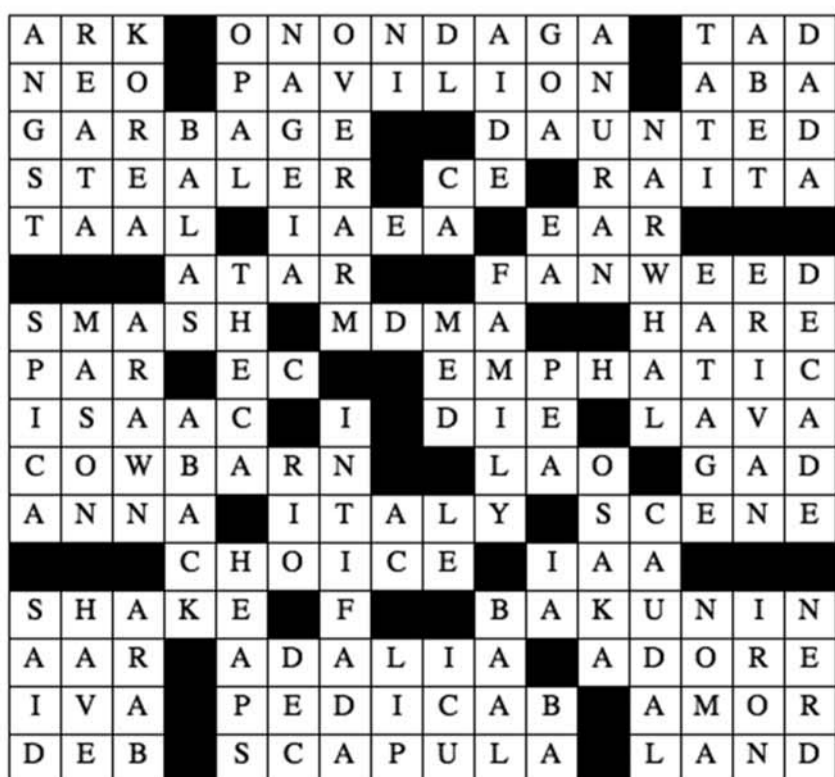
St. Patrick's Day



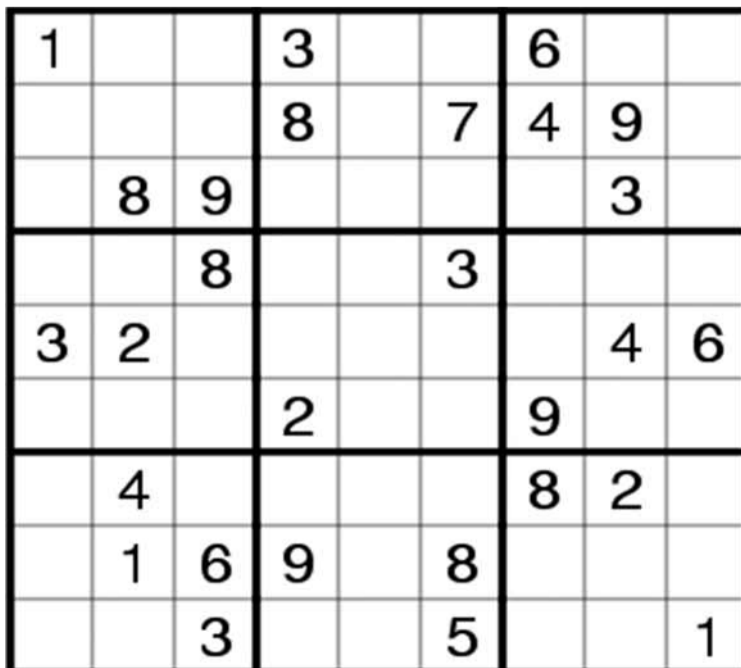
- BEER BELFAST BISHOP CABBAGE CELEBRATION CELTIC CROSS CHRISTIAN CLOVER CORK CORNED BEEF DANCING DUBLIN EVENTS FESTIVAL LIMERICK GREEN GUINNESS HERITAGE HISTORY HOLIDAY HOLY DAY IRELAND IRISH LEPRECHAUN MARCH MISSIONARY MUSIC PARADE PATRON SAINT POTATOES SEVENTEENTH SHAMROCK SNAKES SODA BREAD TRADITION YEARLY

The hidden message is: SAINT PATRICK LIVED IN THE FIFTH CENTURY

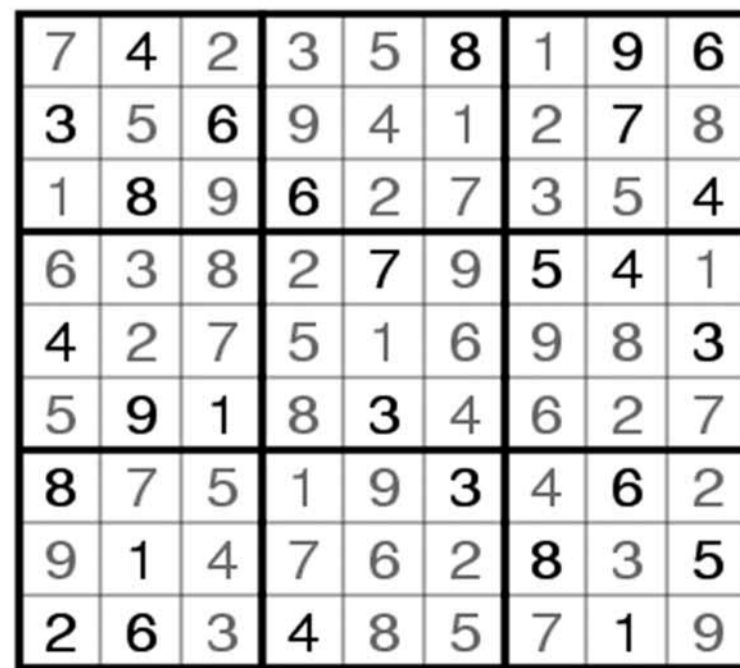
Yesterday's Solution



Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





## THE GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA



**T**he Great Pyramid of Giza (also known as the Pyramid of Khufu or the Pyramid of Cheops) is the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the Giza pyramid complex bordering what is now El Giza, Egypt. It is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact.

Based on a mark in an interior chamber naming the work gang and a reference to fourth dynasty Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu, Egyptologists believe that the pyramid was built as a tomb over a 10 to 20-year period concluding around 2560 BC. Initially at 146.5 metres (481 feet), the Great Pyramid was the tallest man-made structure in the world for more than 3,800 years. Originally, the Great Pyramid was covered by casing stones that formed a smooth outer surface; what is seen today is the underlying core structure. Some of the casing stones that once covered the structure can still be seen around the base. There have been varying scientific and alternative theories about the Great Pyramid's construction techniques. Most accepted construction hypotheses are based on the idea that it was built by moving huge stones from a quarry and dragging and lifting them into place.

There are three known chambers inside the Great Pyramid. The lowest chamber is cut into the bedrock upon which the pyramid was built and was unfinished. The so-called [1] Queen's Chamber and King's Chamber are higher up within the pyramid structure. The main part of the Giza complex is a setting of buildings that included two mortuary temples in honour of Khufu (one close to the pyramid and one near the Nile), three smaller pyramids for Khufu's wives, an even smaller "satellite" pyramid, a raised causeway connecting the two temples, and small mastaba tombs surrounding the pyramid for nobles.

### HISTORY

It is believed the pyramid was built as a tomb for Fourth Dynasty Egyptian pharaoh Khufu (often Hellenicised as "Cheops") and was constructed over a 20-year period. Khufu's vizier, Hemon, or Hemiunu, is believed by some to be the architect of the Great Pyramid.[2] It is thought that, at construction, the Great Pyramid was originally 280 Egyptian cubits tall (146.5 metres (480.6 ft)), but with erosion and absence of its pyramidion, its present height is 138.8 metres (455.4 ft).

Each base side was 440 cubits, 230.4 metres (755.9 ft) long. The mass of the pyramid is estimated at 5.9 million tonnes. The volume, including an internal hillock, is roughly 2,500,000 cubic metres (88,000,000 cu ft).[3] Based on these estimates, building the pyramid in 20 years would involve installing approximately 800 tonnes of stone every day. Additionally, since it consists of an estimated 2.3 million blocks, completing the building in 20 years would involve moving an average of more than 12 of the blocks into place each hour, day and night. The first precision measurements of the pyramid were made by Egyptologist Sir Flinders Petrie in 1880-82 and published as *The Pyramids and Temples of Gizeh*. [4] Almost all reports are based on his measurements. Many of the casing stones and inner chamber blocks of the Great Pyramid fit together with extremely high precision. Based on measurements taken on the northeastern casing stones, the mean opening of the joints is only 0.5 millimetre wide (1/50 of an inch).

### Facts about the Pyramid of Giza

1. The pyramid is estimated to have around 2,300,000 stone blocks that weigh from 2 to 30 tons each and there are even some blocks that weigh over 50 tons.
2. The Pyramid of Menkaure, the Pyramid of Khafre and the Great Pyramid of Khufu are precisely aligned with the Constellation of Orion.
3. The base of the pyramid covers 55,000 m<sup>2</sup> (592,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) with each side greater than 20,000 m<sup>2</sup> (218,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) in area.
4. The interior temperature is constant and equals the average temperature of the earth, 20 Degrees Celsius (68 Degrees Fahrenheit).
5. The outer mantle was composed of 144,000 casing stones, all of them highly polished and flat to an accuracy of 1/100th of an inch, about 100 inches thick and weighing approx. 15 tons each.
6. The cornerstone foundations of the pyramid have ball and socket construction capable of dealing with heat expansion and earthquakes.
7. The mortar used is of an unknown origin (Yes, no explanation was given). It has been analyzed, and its chemical composition is known, but it can't be reproduced. It is stronger than the stone and still holding up today.

$$\begin{array}{r} 94 \\ \times 72 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 34 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 79 \\ \times 85 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 19 \\ \times 8 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 40 \\ \times 39 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 71 \\ \times 26 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 82 \\ \times 48 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 60 \\ \times 40 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \times 89 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 57 \\ \times 11 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 42 \\ \times 68 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 52 \\ \times 57 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 37 \\ \times 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 79 \\ \times 55 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 35 \\ \times 67 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 77 \\ \times 67 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 69 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 73 \\ \times 94 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 98 \\ \times 76 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 90 \\ \times 49 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

## fun with MATH

$$\begin{array}{r} 48 \\ + 51 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 55 \\ + 23 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 68 \\ + 11 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 16 \\ + 41 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

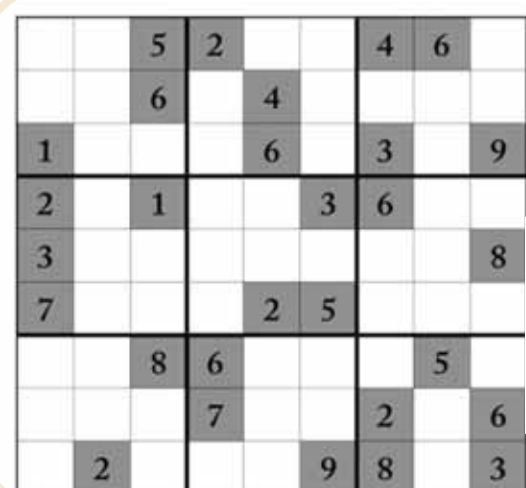
$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ + 86 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ + 12 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

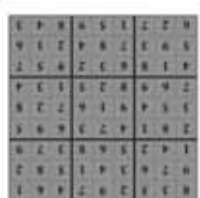
$$\begin{array}{r} 41 \\ + 47 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 45 \\ + 11 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ + 71 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



### SUDOKU



## Creamy Chicken Pasta!



### What You Need

- o A can of mushrooms or any other preferred vegetable
- o 50g of cream
- o Cooked diced chicken
- o Pasta

### Instructions

1. Cook the pasta in a saucepan according to its package directions. Drain out excess water and return the pasta to the pan.

2. With the cooked pasta in the saucepan, add the mushrooms (or another vegetable) and cream.
3. Stir till the cream has spread throughout the pasta.
4. Add the chicken and heat on low to medium until the entire dish is hot. Stir constantly to avoid burning. Once that's done transfer your dish onto a plate and enjoy your meal! Happy Cooking, little chefs!

### Recipes for Kids



## Cosby wants another chance to throw out sexual-assault case

**B**ill Cosby's lawyers have asked the state Supreme Court for another chance to have his criminal sexual-assault case thrown out.

The defense argued that the current district attorney cannot go back on the word of a predecessor who has said he promised Cosby wouldn't be charged in the case. The defense said Cosby relied on that pledge when he testified in a related lawsuit about his contact with the accuser and other women who have accused him of drugging and molesting them.

"When a district attorney acts for the Commonwealth and assures a criminal defendant that he will never be prosecuted for a particular event, that promise must be enforced," the lawyers wrote in a brief posted Friday on the court's website.

"And it certainly must be enforced where, as here, the defendant detrimentally relies on that assurance in waiving constitutional rights, including his right against self-incrimination."

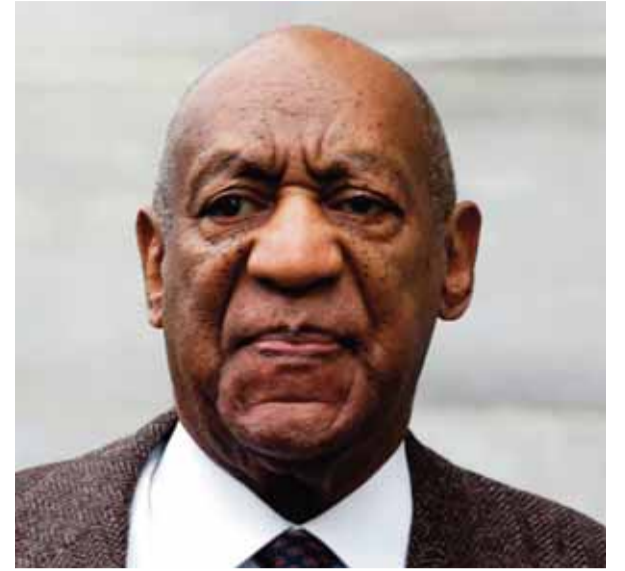
Cosby, 78, was arrested last year after his deposition in the decade-old case became public and Montgomery County prosecutors reopened the case. He is charged with felony sexual assault over his 2004 encounter with a former Temple University employee.

He has been free on \$1 million bail since his arrest in December. He has a May 24 preliminary hearing scheduled unless the Supreme Court grants his appeal. A county judge and the state's Superior Court have previously rejected the defense arguments.

Cosby has not entered a plea in the case but said in the deposition that the encounter was consensual. Lawyers for the accuser say she was drugged and could not give consent.

Cosby, who played Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" from 1984 to 1992 and has been married for decades, has denied the other women's accusations. The statute of limitations has expired in most of the cases against him. — AP

**NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA:** Actor and comedian Bill Cosby arrives for a court appearance on Feb. 3, 2016. — AP



**BEVERLY HILLS:** Meghan Trainor arrives at the 2016 Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. — AP

## Meghan Trainor laughs off 'Tonight Show' fall

**M**eghan Trainor is taking things in stride after losing her balance and falling at the end of a performance on Thursday night's "Tonight Show."

As she turned around to face the audience following her performance of her new single, "Me Too," Trainor appeared to roll her right ankle. She reached out to grab the microphone stand but couldn't stop from falling and ended up flat on her back.

Trainor appeared to be OK and host Jimmy Fallon tried to make the best of it, calling it "one of those things" before lying next to the singer on the stage. Trainor is laughing off the mishap on Friday. She has sent several videos of the fall on Twitter and writes that she's "all good" and has "barely a scratch." — AP

## NBC cancels 5 shows, clearing deck for new season

**N**BC pulled the plug Friday on Eva Longoria's "Telenovela," a comedy spoof of the Spanish-language soap operas, after only a few months on the air.

It was one of five series cancellations made by the network, as it clears the deck for a new schedule to be announced today. With the broadcasters all presenting next season's schedules to advertisers next week, there's been a flurry of pink slips delivered in Hollywood, along with the happier news that pilots are being picked up for the schedule. Between ABC, Fox and CBS, more than a dozen prime time shows were axed Thursday.

"Telenovela" debuted in December. The comedy "Undateable," which lasted longer than many thought it would, also was canceled. It premiered as a summer series in 2014 and earned two other seasons - the most recent one with the gimmick that the show aired live.

Three other NBC series that were barely around long enough for many people to know they existed learned they wouldn't come back for second seasons. They are "Crowded," a sitcom featuring a couple whose empty nest is filled again by adult children; "Game of Silence," a drama that debuted last month featuring five friends who tried to keep a long-ago secret; and "Heartbeat," about a female heart transplant surgeon working in a male-dominated field.

Meanwhile, NBC has ordered new comedies "Great News," a Tina Fey-produced series about a young news producer whose mother comes to work at her television station; and "Marlon," which stars Marlon Wayans and is loosely based on his life. NBC has also ordered the new drama "Midnight, Texas," based on the book series by Charlene Harris.

CBS ordered four new dramas and two comedies for inclusion on next year's schedule. They include a TV remake of the film "Training Day"; the medical drama "Pure Genius"; a remake of the TV series "Macgyver"; and "Bull," a drama inspired by Dr. Phil McGraw and his

trial consulting business. The comedies are "Man With a Plan," starring Matt LeBlanc of "Friends" as a dad taking care of his kids while his wife works, and "The Great Indoors," with Joel McHale as an adventure writer learning how to deal with an office full of millennials. — AP



**Eva Longoria as Ana Sofia Calderon, left, and Jencarlos Canela as Xavier Castillo in a scene from the recently canceled NBC comedy series, Telenovela. — AP**

**SOMERS, CONNECTICUT:** A replica of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. — AP



## Ice cream magnate auctioning off Monticello mansion replica

**J**ust before his 100th birthday, ice cream magnate S. Prestley Blake gave himself a \$7.7 million gift - a house built to replicate Monticello, the famed Virginia home of Thomas Jefferson.

Nestled a stone's throw from the Massachusetts line in the small Connecticut town of Somers, the 10,000-square-foot house on more than 9 acres of land goes on the auction block May 31. It has never been lived in, failed to sell for the original asking price of \$6.5 million and didn't get a buyer at the reduced listing of \$4.9 million.

Jefferson's Monticello was built over 28 years at a cost of more than \$100,000, according to its official website. Because much of the work was bartered or done by slave labor, it is impossible to figure out an exact cost, The Thomas Jefferson Foundation says.

Blake, the co-founder of the Friendly's ice cream and restaurant chain, lives a few doors down on adjacent property connected by a horse trail. He never meant to live in the replica. "This is my swan song," he said in 2014, when the house was built. "This is the last thing I'll leave for posterity. I want this to be an asset to the community."

Other than a three-car garage, the house was built to mimic the original Monticello from the outside. That includes the decorative railings on the roof and the hand-

made bricks imported from Virginia, laid in the same Flemish bond pattern used by Jefferson.

For its construction, Blake flew his contractor, Bill Laplante, to Virginia to study the original. Laplante said he used photographs and a book with original architectural drawings to help him build the replica. "I would say, with the exception of the garage and the rear elevation, it's probably 95 to 98 percent accurate," he said. "The footprint is pretty much the same."

The inside of the house is modern, complete with an elevator, gourmet kitchen and lights and heating that can be controlled from a smart phone app. The chandelier in the foyer also can be lowered electronically to replace light bulbs and a bookcase in the master bedroom opens to reveal a hidden safe.

Laplante said the house is also environmentally friendly, with a geothermal heating system. Much of the wood involved was harvested from the property. There are also a few elements inside, such as the finish carpentry on the moldings, which resemble the original.

Some potential bidders are considering it as a potential bed and breakfast or wedding venue; others are interested in living there, said Jack Hoyt, project sales manager for Concierge Auctions. The property has attracted inter-

est from as far away as Florida and Canada.

"I try to guess where these auctions will end up and I'm often wrong," Hoyt said. "I can tell you it will sell from anywhere from zero to \$4.9 million. We may start the bidding at \$500,000 or \$1 million or something like that and then wherever the bidders drive it up to is what the final price will be."

Those who want to participate in the online auction must pay a \$100,000 deposit in advance and provide proof they have the funds to purchase the home. The property comes with a couple of drawbacks. The house is visible from the road and people often stop to look and take photos. It's also less than 3 miles from several state prisons.

Now 101, Blake declined to comment for this story. "It's just a spectacular property," said Lisa Pellegrini, the town's first selectman. "What we would like to see is just somebody who would continue to take very good care of it." — AP

## James McAvoy and Anne-Marie Duff announce divorce

**A**ctors James McAvoy and Anne-Marie Duff are ending their nearly 10-year marriage. The couple released a joint statement Friday announcing their divorce and commitment to co-parenting their five-year-old son.

McAvoy, 37, stars in "X-Men: Apocalypse," opening later this month. Duff, 45, is a regular on the Showtime show "Shameless." The couple asked for privacy in their statement as they plan to move forward with "continued friendship, love and respect for one another and the shared focus of caring for our son." — AP



**LONDON:** Actors Anne-Marie Duff and James McAvoy pose for photographers upon arrival at the premiere of the film "Suffragette," on Oct. 7, 2015. — AP



NOVI, MICHIGAN: Fans at the 27th annual Motor City Comic Con on Friday. — AP photos



## 'Sharknado' meets 'Walking Dead' at Motor City Comic Con

The stars of "The Walking Dead" and "Sharknado" have done battle with zombies and, well, sharks. They're facing a different kind of horde this weekend.

Tens of thousands of fans are expected at the 27th annual Motor City Comic Con, which got underway Friday in suburban Detroit. The three-day pop-culture extravaganza welcomes dozens of celebrities from TV and film as well as hundreds of comic book creators, writers and artists.

Michael Goldman, owner of Motor City Comic Con, predicted this would be the biggest event yet with more than 55,000 attendees expected at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, up from last year's record of 50,000.

"If you'd have told me 10 years ago that the attendance would be this high, I would have told you that you were crazy," said Goldman, who added, "the marketplace for comic cons has grown everywhere." It's a place where fans' "inner geek can come out," he said.

Jordan Davis, who came dressed as "Batman" villain Harley Quinn, said she was stopped 15 times to pose for pictures within the first 20 minutes of the show on Friday. "People go all out. It's amazing to see some of the artistry

that people put into these costumes," said Davis, a 29-year-old from Troy, Michigan, who was attending her second Motor City Comic Con.

Davis wasn't the only person being asked for photos. Ian Ziering and Tara Reid, who star in July's fourth installment of the campy smash "Sharknado" franchise on Syfy, were among the celebrities who mingled with fans.

"It's Comic Con. They're always fun," said Reid, also known for her roles in "American Pie" and "The Big Lebowski." "You have so many different actors and people and vendors. It's just a fun thing to be a part of. It's kind of like a carnival."

Ziering set up shop next to Reid, and nearby were Alexandra Breckenridge and Michael Cudlitz, two of the stars of AMC's zombie apocalypse thriller "The Walking Dead." And over the weekend, visitors can expect to see Adam West and Burt Ward, who will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the "Batman" TV show.

Motor City Comic Con also offers plenty of pop-culture merchandise, including comics, art, T-shirts, movie memorabilia and posters.—AP



## In Woody Allen, media & movie goers again confront ambiguity

The latest explosion of allegations against Woody Allen has returned moviegoers to a familiar place: Debating the ethics of watching — and possibly loving — Allen's films. This time, much of the soul searching is being done by film critics and reporters.

The column by Allen's son Ronan Farrow, posted Wednesday hours ahead of the premiere of Allen's "Cafe Society" in Cannes wasn't just a reiteration of the decades-old claim that Allen molested his daughter, Dylan when she was seven. It was an argument for the entertainment industry, where pursuit of celebrity access often trumps journalistic duty, to reevaluate how it handles lingering allegations of sexual abuse that lack the clarity of a legal judgment.

"Confronting a subject with allegations from women or children, not backed by a simple, dispositive legal ruling is hard," wrote Farrow. "It means having those tough newsroom conversations, making the case for burning bridges with powerful public figures. It means going up against angry fans and angry publicists."

Farrow's column followed an in-depth interview with Allen conducted by The Hollywood Reporter — one of the first Allen has granted since Dylan Farrow renewed the allegations in a 2014 New York Times op-ed — in which the allegations weren't brought up. Farrow called

it "a sterling example of how not to talk about sexual assault" and warned of the powerful public relations apparatus around figures like Allen that discourages discussion of such issues. His arguments have resonated for many in the media.

Melissa Silverstein, founder of the Women in Hollywood blog, wrote a column in the Guardian titled "Why I won't be seeing Woody Allen's new film." "I would like to counter society's seeming determination to disbelieve victims. And I wish the film industry would too," wrote Silverstein. "Refuse to buy tickets to films made by people with assault accusations against them. Make that behavior and worldview unacceptable. I will start by not seeing 'Cafe Society' and urge others to do likewise."

Nina Metz for the Chicago Tribune also said she would boycott Allen's films and his upcoming series for Amazon despite it being "a dicey position to be in when you cover TV and film."

"Collectively we have shunned the work of Bill Cosby, and I wonder, is it because so far 60 women have come forward with stories of rape at his hands?" wrote Metz. "Does Allen get different treatment from us because just a single person — his child — came forward?"

There is a question of how much more there is to say

on either side, given that there's no action pending for any of the individuals involved. Allen has steadfastly denied the allegations and in 2014 penned a lengthy response that he said would be his final word on the matter. When asked by reporters Thursday about Ronan Farrow's column, Allen said he hadn't read it and had nothing further to say.

Some of Allen's cast members, including Kristen Stewart, have been asked about whether they weighed the accusations in joining "Cafe Society," a light and comic 1930s Hollywood romance due out in July. At a press conference in Cannes shortly after Farrow's column was posted, journalists who asked the 80-year-old filmmaker questions chose not to broach the subject.

It's an unquestionably thorny question to navigate, rife with irresolvable ambiguity. Considering Allen's non-stop output, it's not one that's going away.

Matt Zoller Seitz, editor-in-chief for RogerEbert.com, wrote movingly and intelligently of his balancing act as a critic. "I believe Woody Allen is one of the great American filmmakers. I believe Dylan Farrow when she says Allen molested her as a child," Seitz wrote. "The two thoughts are not mutually exclusive. But they are painful to reconcile."

Seitz acknowledged he may not be watching Allen's older films anymore, and that indelible moments in his films — like the nighttime park bench scene of "Manhattan" — now have "a mental asterisk" attached to them. "He's a major artist. I'm a critic. I need to keep track of what he does on film," wrote Seitz. "It's a professional obligation, and if I ruled out the work of directors, actors and writers I disapprove of personally, I'd be blacking out a fair chunk of cinema history."

Farrow pleaded foremost that alleged abuse victims like his sister, Dylan, should not be forgotten and her allegations should not go unnoted when Allen is feted at Cannes or sits down with a reporter to discuss his life and career — essentially that the asterisk remains attached to Allen.

In a battle that has always been waged in the press, it has prompted self-analysis for those who usually ask the questions and do the analyzing.—AP



CANNES: Actress Blake Lively, left, director Woody Allen and actress Kristen Stewart arrive on the red carpet for the screening of the film Cafe Society and the Opening Ceremony at the 69th international film festival on Wednesday. — AP

Dionne Warwick film will not star Lady Gaga as her 'nemesis'

Pop diva Lady Gaga has denied she will appear in a much-publicized upcoming film about singer Dionne Warwick in which she was said to be set to play the soul legend's British "nemesis" Cilla Black.

Warwick appeared at the Cannes film festival Friday to promote the biopic, "Dionne," revealing that former Destiny's Child member LeToya Luckett would play her while Gaga would be Black, who died last year. But Gaga's publicist immediately shot the idea down, telling the film industry bible Variety in comments published Saturday that she is "not attached to this project."

The casting had promoted much online speculation and hilarity-over how the American singer would replicated Black's strong Liverpool "Scouse" accent. The feud between the two 1960s stars dates back five decades to Warwick's fury at the way she claimed Black "copied" her vocal inflections on "Anyone Who Had a Heart."

Warwick's great standard also became a huge hit for Black in 1964. Black "stole my music, and I was not a very happy camper about that," Warwick told reporters. But the two did finally manage to bury the hatchet, Warwick said. "We grew up and understood each other. It all got cleared away."

Producers WW Film Company said it has already taken them 10 years to get the story-based on Warwick's autobiography—this far, and that shooting would begin in October. It is not unusual for stars to be "attached" to projects launched at Cannes the world's most important film festival and market-before final contracts are signed.—AFP



NEWARK, NEW JERSEY: Dionne Warwick presenting an award during the Black Girls Rock! 2016 show at New Jersey Performing Arts Center. — AP



## Splash introduces new way forward with 'Love Unites'

Love is one of the most popular of emotion intensifiers when said in conjunction with the word 'Fashion', inspiring a loyalty beyond reason. Two decades ago, Splash, the UAE based high-street retailer chose to fall in love with fashion and this one emotion has given the brand a journey to reflect upon and a path to create. Moving forward from celebrity led campaigns the brand has taken the route of addressing topical issues through fashion imagery and highly stylized campaigns.

The recently unveiled campaign takes cues from a world where unrest has taken head and how even the smallest of acts of raising awareness can go a long way in uniting people. Titled 'Love Unites' the Splash campaign brings together six top-models of various ethnicities from across the Globe to shoot for an inspirational fashion campaign where caste, creed & color play no role.

Speaking on 'Love Unites', Raza Beig, Director, Landmark Group and CEO Splash & ICONIC, said "I am a firm believer in the ideology of Love and this season Splash takes on a

new route of inspiring love through a multi-ethnicity campaign which is best represented through fashion, the one word that defines Splash. Titled 'Love Unites' this campaign is our pitch to unite people against any resentment currently going on in the world. Adding further, "Emerging from a successful celebrity driven campaign endorsed by stars like Salman Khan & Nicole Saba, this campaign aims to take Splash from an aspirational brand to an inspirational route"

The campaign will be releasing across the MENA, India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka starting May 2, 2016 through a 360 degree communication strategy which will include Out of Home, Print, Radio & TV. Digital campaigns will be the driving force of 'Love Unites' with an aim to connect & unite people through interactions with the brand and subsequently with each other.



Actress Chloe Sevigny

## Chloe Sevigny had to move out of her New York neighborhood because of rats

The 41-year-old actress has left Manhattan's East Village for Brooklyn and claims she had to move because after Hurricane Sandy hit the Big Apple in 2012, the area she lived in became overrun with rodents.

She said: "I got out, in all honesty, because of rats. After Hurricane Sandy, my street was overrun and I couldn't handle it. The 10th Street Association are going to hate me for saying that. But yes, the rats are all over the East Village, they're in Tompkins Square.

"And I lived on the ground floor with the garden, and I could hear them scratching outside the window and I just couldn't cope. I read they were going to put some sterilization, some form of birth control, in the poison to manage the population. So they can't reproduce. "They reproduce at such a crazy rate. They're always screwing. They screw when they're dying. It's shocking to me."

Chloe also revealed she is also unhappy about the gentrification of the neighborhood, complaining to The Guardian: "The East Village, it's lost. Have you seen Astor Place? Starbucks, Citibank, Kmart, and that's about it. Some of the streets are still holding out - you can still find a few of the old mom-and-pop stores. The avenues? Forget it. They're gone for good."

And it's not just New York that disappoints the actress and model, Chloe is also upset with changes in her hometown of Darien, Connecticut. She said: "Change freaks me out. The town used to be really charming. Now it's the whole post McMansion thing, and everybody cuts down the trees because they don't want to deal with the leaves. And they floodlight everything, and knock down the colonial homes, and put up these big, ugly, boxy-looking things that are very on trend. Everything used to be wilder and more romantic."

## Ayda Field's first crush was on Tom Cruise

The 36-year-old American actress - who is married to 'Angels' singer Robbie Williams - has confessed the Hollywood hunk was the first celebrity to make her giddy with excitement, mainly because he looked so handsome and hunky playing fighter pilot Maverick in 'Top Gun'.

Asked who her first ever crush was during a discussion on UK TV show 'Loose Women', Ayda spilled: "Mine was Tom Cruise. This is was in 'Top Gun'. He was gorgeous. But then the thing happened with the couch and I was disappointed. That's when I wanted a refund on my crush right there. That's when I wept inside. He switched me right off."

The brunette beauty - who has two children, daughter Teddy, three, and 18-month-old son Charlton with Robbie - even joked that she used to savour his good looks and "think about him later", hinting that she

would pleasure herself whilst thinking about the hunky actor. And then she jokingly apologized to her husband and admitted she sounded "creepy".

She added: "It was the first moment I remember noticing a boy on a film. I thought oh he's kind of nice, I might think about him later. That sounds so creepy and weird, sorry Robbie!" Ayda has always been very candid about her sex life, and recently said the Take That star - whose ex-girlfriends include Rachel Hunter and Nicole Appleton - knows what he's doing in the bedroom because she's had so many lovers.

She said: "Rob has had so many affairs with so many women in the 1990s, if he doesn't know what he's doing by now, that's wrong. He's had a lot of practice."



Singer Robbie Williams and his wife actress Ayda Field.

## Sharon Osbourne to interview divorce lawyers



TV personality Sharon Osbourne.

The 63-year-old star recently kicked her husband Ozzy Osbourne, 67, out of their Los Angeles home after reportedly discovering he had been cheating on her with hairdresser Michelle Pugh and she is said to be taking steps to end their 33-year marriage.

According to TMZ, Sharon - who is also Ozzy's manager - has started researching lawyers in order to dissolve their personal assets. However, their professional partnership appears to be solid for now as the pair reunited in Los Angeles on Thursday (12.05.16) for the Ozzfest meets Knottfest announcement.

Ozzy told E! News: "Our wives have been very important to us." And when asked if she is "still the boss," he replied, "Oh, yeah." And despite announcing the end of their marriage earlier this week, 'The Talk' co-host Sharon insisted that their professional life will remain unchanged.

She told Entertainment Tonight: "It's business. This is my business, you know? This is what I do. People have forgotten, because they see me every day on the chat show, but this is still the other half of my life."

"This is what I do. It's what I've done my whole life. So, it's a huge part of who I am, you know. "We've been working together, my lord, since '76. That's how long we've been working together. Before we were married. So, it's been a long time."

Ozzy added: "She's my right arm. She's everyone for me. She's great." Sharon was supported by her daughter Kelly at the event where her interactions with Ozzy onstage were described as "polite but icy".

Sharon confirmed her split from the Black Sabbath rocker, whom she married in 1982, on her chat show 'The Talk' this week as she thanked fans for their support. She said: "I'm 63 years of age, and I can't keep living like this ... I've been avoiding looking at any pictures or reading anything. I know what's going on. I don't need to read about or see about it. It's like putting salt in a wound. I don't need to ... He's back, and now I'm out of the house."

## 'Captain America' Hits \$71 Million, Clooney's 'Monster' at \$15 Million

The second weekend of "Captain America: Civil War" is pulling in a massive \$71 million at 4,426 U.S. locations while the opening of George Clooney's "Money Monster" should bring in about \$15 million.

Saturday estimates showed Disney-Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War" dominating with a Friday gross of about \$19.5 million. The tentpole opened with \$179.1 million last weekend and looks likely to decline about 60% — a slightly steeper decline than what "Avengers: Age of Ultron" took in a year ago during the same weekend.

Early estimates had pegged "Civil War" at over \$75 million for the frame. If the updated estimates hold, "Civil War" will become the 11th film of all time to top the \$70 million mark in its second weekend. That list is headed by "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" with \$149 million and "Jurassic World" with \$106.6

million; Sony's 2002 "Spider-Man" is 10th at \$71.4 million. "Civil War", with Chris Evans returning as Captain America in a face-off against Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, should wind up the weekend with \$294 million in its first 10 days.

Sony's opening of "Money Monster" was performing much better than recent estimates, which had pegged it at as low as \$10 million at 3,104 sites. The film, directed by Jodie Foster, banked \$5 million on Friday as a counter-programming play in the wake of the film's out-of-competition world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival.

Rory Bruer, Sony's president of worldwide distribution, pointed to the B+ Cinemascore as an indication that the \$27 million thriller should see significant business in coming weeks. "It's a smart adult film made for a very reasonable price," he added.

BH Tilt's horror-thriller "The Darkness", starring Kevin Bacon and Radha Mitchell, also scared up a respectable \$2.1 million at 1,754 sites in a Friday the 13th launch aimed at horror fans. The weekend should see a \$5 million-plus gross, placing it above its \$4 million budget and move it in the direction financial success for Jason Blum's Blumhouse.

Disney's fifth weekend of "The Jungle Book" looks likely to edge out "Money Monster" for second place with about \$16 million. The family adventure took in \$4.1 million on Friday, its 29th day of release. "The Jungle Book" should wind up the weekend with more than \$310 million domestically. — Reuters

## Nicole Scherzinger still adores Andrew Lloyd Webber after he blasted her as 'crazy'

The 68-year-old composer launched a blistering rant against Nicole, 37, claiming she opted out of the musical one week before Broadway rehearsals began, in order to return to 'The X Factor' and fumed that he was furious with her.

He told The Economist: "A week before we were due to go into rehearsals with 'Cats', which luckily I'm not producing I have to say, she calls me and says she's decided to do 'X Factor', having agreed to it. 'She's crazy, but the American producers took a view of, 'Oh fine, we'll get someone else.' She's actually not that well known in America. She's better known here.

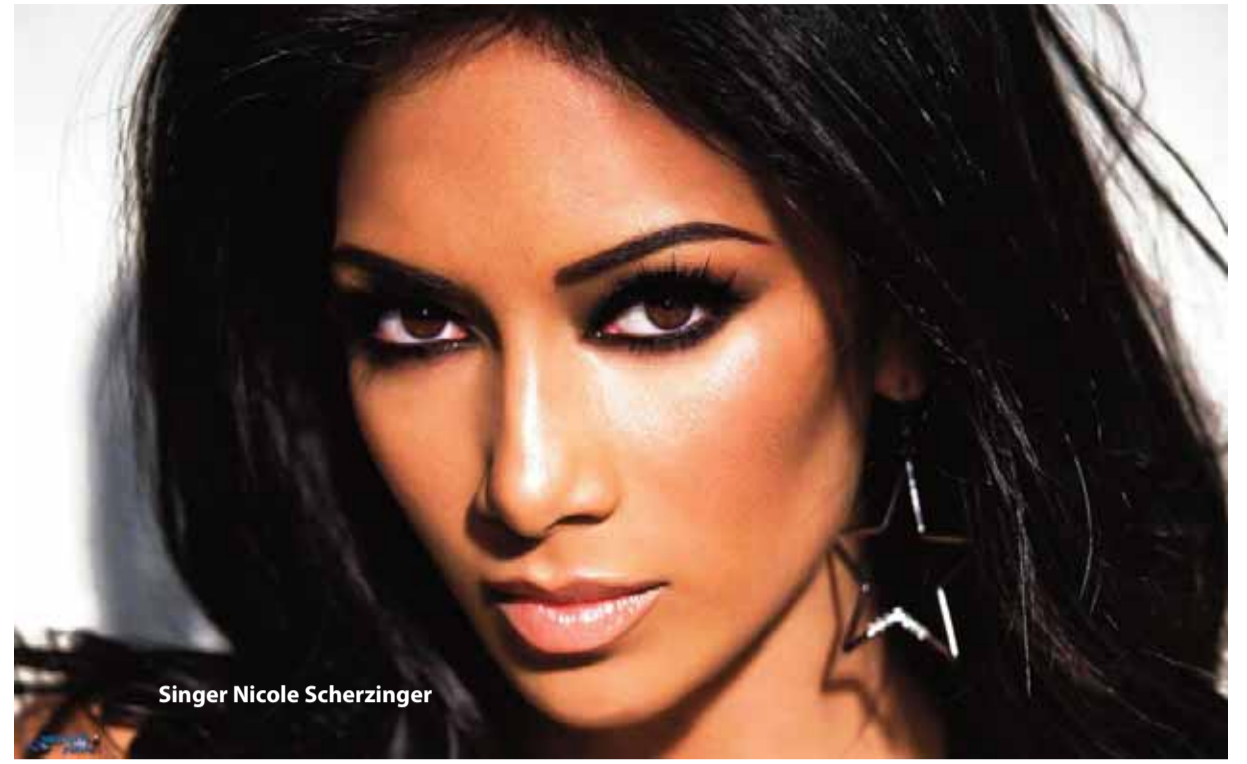
"I'm furious because I really believe she's the most fantastically brilliant girl and I went out on a limb to get her at the Palladium and now I look like an absolute t\*\*\*t with them all.

"Nevermind, there will be another girl on Broadway and Nicole will not get her Tony Award." While Nicole didn't con-

firm if she is returning 'The X Factor' or not, she insisted that she is still a huge fan of Lord Lloyd Webber and felt blessed to have worked on the West End version of the musical.

She told Radio Times: "I am incredibly blessed to be given so many amazing opportunities, including 'Cats', but unfortunately we weren't able to make it work this time around. 'I adore and respect Andrew, I'm so grateful for our friendship and can't wait for the opportunity to create more magic together."

A source added: Being on Broadway is a dream for Nicole but the commitment the show required made her rethink accepting the offer. Nicole also has a music and acting career so needs to find time for that as well."



Singer Nicole Scherzinger

## Kate Hudson Honored by Operation Smile

There were few dry eyes at the 14th annual Operation Smile Gala, which was held Thursday night at Manhattan's Cipriani Dolce to raise money for children born with facial deformities.

"Operation Smile holds a very special place in my heart for a couple of reasons," Kate Hudson began as she accepted the universal smile award. "Operation Smile was my first experience witnessing how we can effect change. I was about 16 or 17 and my mother [Goldie Hawn] held an Operation Smile event in our backyard, and I'll never forget meeting incredible doctors. Even as a young girl, getting an understanding of what it was they were providing for these children had a major impact on me."

Husband and wife team, Dr. Bill and Kathy Magee, launched the organization in 1982, and have since helped hundreds of thousands of children around the world. Brooke Burke-Charvet, who served as master of ceremonies, has been actively involved with the organization for the past seven years.

Related Operation Smile Gala Honors Kate Walsh, Lionsgate's Kevin Beggs "I pretty much do anything and everything they ask me to do," Burke-Charvet said. "It's a correctable deformity that takes less than an hour and \$240. That's really what got me hooked when I realized how little it takes for so many people, who can give, to change the lives of these children."

Smile ambassador and NBC Entertainment president Jennifer Salke, whose son Henry was born with a cleft lip, has been active in the organization for more than a decade. She described her time with the org as "the most soul-feeding thing I could do." "I'm grateful my son had this because it brings a whole thing into my life that I just love so much and I wouldn't know otherwise," Salke shared. "We can go into a town and change however many kids faces and see the tears flowing from those parents and know that you've just made a life-changing difference in someone's life."



Actress Kate Hudson and her mother actress Goldie Hawn.

The John Connor Humanitarian Award went to hotelier Andrew Dolce and the corporate humanitarian award went to the Mediterranean Shipping Company for their efforts in carrying supplies to Operation Smile medical centers around the globe.

Jaimie Alexander, Oliver Platt, Alisyn Camerota, Diego Klattenhoff, Colin Donnell, Yaya DaCosta, as well as musical duo A Great Big World and singer-songwriter Eric Hutchinson attended. — Reuters



WEST HOLLYWOOD: Vanessa Hudgens, left, and Austin Butler arrive at 2014 Elton John Oscar Viewing and After Party.

## Actress pays \$1,000 for carving on red rock wall

Actress Vanessa Hudgens has paid \$1,000 in restitution for carving a heart into a red rock wall during a trip to Sedona, Arizona. Hudgens posted a photo of the carving bearing the names "Vanessa" and "Austin" on her Instagram page around Valentine's Day, along with other photos of the couple amid towering red rocks that draw throngs of tourists to northern Arizona.

The payment resolves a citation issued to Hudgens on a misdemeanor count of damaging a natural feature on US Forest Service land. The money was used by a volunteer group called Friends of the Forest to restore the rock wall, which typically is done by scrubbing or sanding the rock.

A federal magistrate in Flagstaff approved the agreement April 19, but it was not made public. The Associated Press obtained a statement of probable cause and the agreement resolving the citation from the federal judiciary under a records request.

A publicist for Hudgens did not immediately respond to a message left Friday. Hudgens is best known for her role as Gabriella Montez in the "High School Musical" TV-movie franchise. Hudgens admitted to using a rock to scratch the names inside the heart and gave authorities information on where to find it. Volunteers and Forest Service employees found the 1-by-1-foot heart matching the description

around Feb. 23 on a geologic formation known as Bell Rock. Forest officials rarely find out who is responsible for vandalizing rock walls, but Hudgens celebrity status played a huge role, Coconino National Forest Service spokesman Brady Smith said.

Hudgens' followers on Instagram alerted the media, and authorities took note of the news coverage. The photo of the carving quickly was removed from her page. "She was caught in the act because she publicized it and she's famous," Smith said. "I'm sure there are others who are not famous and publicized it and we've never known."

Smith said carvings destroy the natural beauty of the area and create the perception among the public that it's OK to deface rock walls. Damaging a natural feature is punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

Jennifer Young, president of Friends of the Forest said about 10 to 15 volunteers responding to reports of vandalism set out in the Red Rock Ranger District every other week in search of reported graffiti and use wire brushes, sandpaper and a specialized drill to clean it up. "Unfortunately, there's a lot that happens," she said. — AP

## Eurovision Song Contest finally gets a US TV home at Logo

America's trade deficit will rise Saturday, but it's a good thing: After 60 years, the Eurovision Song Contest finally is being imported for US viewers.

It's mind-boggling that a contest that gave the world ABBA and Julio Iglesias took so long to get an American home - almost as startling as the glitzy event itself. "It's hard to believe, right?" said Chris McCarthy, the Logo general manager who eagerly sought the telecast deal. The show will air live and commercial-free at 3 p.m. EDT Saturday and stream on LogoTV.com and the Logo TV app. Viewing parties are planned in New York and other major cities, Logo said.

With the channel's roots in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender culture, it was a perfect fit for the contest because of shared attitudes, McCarthy said. "First and foremost, Logo and the LGBT community's gay sensibility is about pushing the boundaries, being your true self and letting your personality come to life," he said. "What this show is, above everything, is about people really putting it out there and being their true self."

The contest's strong following in the gay community helped Conchita Wurst, a bearded Austrian drag queen, win in 2014. With an expected audience of about 200 million viewers, mostly in Europe but also China and Australia, the contest clearly has broad appeal with its mix of power ballads, bubblegum pop and over-the-top staging and costumes. (There are detractors, such as Brits who sneer at the excess - and haven't won since 1997.)

Mans Zelmerlow of Sweden took the crown in 2015, so the country is playing host to the event from its capital, Stockholm. Zelmerlow is co-hosting this year's show with Petra Mede, a Swedish comedian, and Justin Timberlake is scheduled to perform. Contestants sing live, accompanied by recorded music tracks, and professional juries and TV voters awarding points separately to each performance.

The contest was launched in 1956 by the European Broadcasting Union, an alliance of public service broadcasters in 56 countries, with the lofty goals of creating closer ties between nations and advancing TV technology. At minimum, Eurovision can take credit as the launching pad to fame for ABBA and Iglesias and for giving Celine Dion and Olivia Newton-John, among others, a career stepping stone.

Logo's McCarthy, who along with other fans has searched out satellite feeds of past contests in bars or elsewhere, is delighted Logo is its official US host this time around - and, he hopes, for contests to come. "We're thrilled we got it," he said. "It's a cultural gem that has exploded the last couple years across the world and outside of Europe." — AP

**BRIGHTON, ENGLAND: Members of Swedish group ABBA and close associates celebrate the victory of their song "Waterloo" in the Eurovision Song Contest on April 6, 1974. — AP**



# Lifestyle

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2016

In Woody Allen,  
media & movie goes again  
confront ambiguity

37



CANNES: Indian Bollywood actress Aishwarya Rai arrives on for the screening of the film "Ma Loute (Slack Bay)" at the 69th Cannes Film Festival on Friday. — AFP

## When it comes to electronic dance music, where my girls at?

David Guetta, Diplo, Avicii and Calvin Harris are holding fast as the kings of the clubs, with women still a rarity among popular electronic dance DJ-producers.

This weekend's Electric Daisy Carnival in New York City - the annual ultra-popular electronic dance music extravaganza - features six women among the 80-plus performers. And lest you think that number seems low: "I think that sounds like a higher than normal number," said Miriam Nervo, one-half of the Australian EDM duo NERVO, which includes her sister Olivia.

Other festivals have featured one or two women, while some don't have any at all. But outside of DJ'ing, women make up other parts of the dance music world. They appear as vocalists on most of the thumping tracks that have been spun over and over for decades and they also work as songwriters as well as managers of top talent, such as Caroline Prothero (Guetta), Amy Thomson (Swedish House Mafia) or Stephanie LaFera (Kaskade).

Nervo, who also has had success as a songwriter with her sister for acts like Kesha, Kylie Minogue and even co-penned Guetta's breakout pop anthem, 2009's "When Love Takes Over," said though on paper the EDM world looks like a boys' club, that's not the case. "Our experience has really been so positive from the boys," Nervo said.

Other women have echoed her statement, including Nicole Moudaber, who is performing and hosting her own stage dubbed "MoodZONE" at Citi Field for EDC New York. "I never even thought about it; it never really crossed my mind. I do what I do and I live in my own club in my own world, and I never had obstacles as such - never," said the performer, who was born in Nigeria to Lebanese parents. "It's really something that I haven't experienced to be honest. At the end of the day the music that you make has no gender, no color."

Nervo and Moudaber said they haven't faced uphill battles in EDM because they are women, unlike in other fields. But the lack of women DJs has been a part of the EDM conversation for the last year. It reached a new height when DJ Magazine - the definitive source for news and info on DJs, dance music and its culture - released its 25th anniversary

issue last month, featuring 25 male DJs on its cover and zero women. The British-based magazine's 2015 Top 100 list of DJs only included three female acts, with NERVO in the highest position at No. 24 (the female duo Krewella was at 81 and Miss K8 at 94).

"My guess is maybe there's the thought that it's more challenging for women so less women go for it because maybe they're intimidated by it," said Pasquale Rotella, the CEO of Insomniac, which produces EDC festivals around the world. "And I would hate for that to be the case. If that is, I'd love to help change that."

In 2007, Tatiana Alvarez was so over being ignored that she transformed and became DJ Muskillz, a male performer. She wore facial hair and loose clothing, hid her breasts and booked more gigs as a man. Warner Bros. is turning her story into a movie. "There were prejudices toward women, definitely back then. It was a different industry, it was a different time," said the Los Angeles-performer, who disguised herself as a man for a year. "It was definitely 'cause I was a girl, 'cause I was a sexy girl."

Writer and former Beatport editor Katie Bain said there may be a lack of female DJs because "women historically have not been as involved in STEM and computer engineering and all of that stuff that one needs to know how to do in order to make electronic music. Women haven't been as prevalent in those areas."

Bain, who will moderate a panel at the EDMbiz Conference & Expo next month called "Beyond the Boys' Club: What's Next for Women in Dance Music," said that as the topic of female DJs "has gotten more attention, I feel that women are getting booked more."

Moudaber encourages other women to grab the bulls by the horns - like she's done in her six-year career as a DJ and producer. "If women want to take to that path, it's out there and it's available. It's down to the women to choose if they want to or not. It's not easy job and it's not cut out for everybody," she said. — AP



NEW YORK: Australian EDM duo Miriam Nervo, left, and Olivia Nervo arrive at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards.—AP