

New traffic patrol cars hit the road today



World powers ready to arm Libya in fight against IS



'Soviet chic' restaurant favored by KGB spies reopens



Lowry stars as Raptors down Miami to make history



# TOP COURT JAILS BEDOON ACTIVIST FOR PROTESTING

## COMOROS READY TO TAKE KUWAIT'S STATELESS PEOPLE



Min 25°  
Max 42°  
High Tide 09:22 & 21:18  
Low Tide 02:50 & 15:31



150 FILLS  
NO: 16876  
40 PAGES

conspiracy theories

### SAVE THESE CHILDREN



By Badrya Darwish

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I read an article a few days ago written by Reem Al-Lougayan. She touched on a key topic, and I share her concern. Reem wrote about the phenomenon of fake beggars plaguing the streets of Kuwait. She said that a few men show up at traffic lights in cleaners' uniforms with brooms and dustpans pretending to be street sweepers. But in fact they are begging. The funny thing is that these 'cleaners' are showing up at night!

I would like to add to the worries. There are dozens of young children begging at traffic lights, in front of co-ops and everywhere in Kuwait. If you drive down Damascus Street, which is my route to the paper, the same boy can be found standing there selling cheap toys like Star Wars light sabers and pet fish. He has been there for years. I remember him as a small kid, but now he's a grown young man and he's still begging at this traffic light. The scorching heat of the sun or the hail and thunder of the winter doesn't stop him. He must have a partner because he works the morning shift and later in the night, I find another boy there - as if they are doctors in a hospital working in shifts.

May I know where is the Ministry of Interior? I'm sure we have enough police and enough patrol cars to catch beggars. My friend tells me she sees the same thing in Salwa. Just down the police station in front of the school by the co-op, a young boy not more than 10 years old sits almost daily "selling" watermelon. Why isn't he in school?

This is what's worrying us. It's not whether they beg or not. We are not against beggars. Don't misunderstand me. I have a soft heart. But why aren't these beggar children in school? And I have a feeling that it's organized and someone is using and abusing them. Because sometimes I see a car or a truck with an adult man dropping off these children and later collecting them back. So what is this? It's a gang, effectively. These boys may be innocent, but they are victims.

I also worry for their safety and welfare as they stand at the traffic light until late in the night. What if someone tries to snatch these boys and abduct them for whatever purposes? They are too young to be responsible and left out in the street. I hope the interior ministry takes this issue up seriously and helps these children find someplace safe.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (second left) is seen with officials, jury members and winners of the Kuwait Times student art competition 'Kuwait Beautiful & Green' during the awards ceremony on Sunday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Pages 37-39)

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The court of cassation, the top court in the country whose rulings are final, yesterday rejected an appeal by prominent bedoon (stateless) activist Abdulhakeem Al-Fadhli and five others and upheld a one-year jail term against them to be followed with deportation. Fadhli and others, including his younger brother Ahmad, were convicted of taking part in illegal protests, defying orders and assaulting police.

He and the other five activists were arrested during a peaceful gathering by bedoons over two years ago to demand the right to Kuwaiti citizenship and other human rights. The lower court sentenced them to one year in jail, and the sentence was confirmed by the appeals court. Police arrested Fadhli last month and he has since been in jail awaiting the cassation court's ruling.

There are an estimated 110,000 bedoons in Kuwait who claim they or their forefathers had been illegally denied their natural right to Kuwaiti citizenship. The government says many of them do not qualify for citizenship after they or their ancestors destroyed their original identification documents to seek Kuwaiti citizenship and the many benefits associated with it. Although the court ordered their deportation after the jail term, bedoons cannot be deported because they do not hold any nationality and thus other countries do not take them.

Meanwhile, the African island nation of the Comoros has said it is ready to consider taking Kuwait's bedoons, newspapers reported yesterday. "If the issue is raised officially, we are ready to discuss it," visiting Comorian

Continued on Page 13

## TRUMP WARNS OF BAD TIES WITH CAMERON

**LONDON:** Donald Trump warned yesterday he may end up having a bad relationship with British Prime Minister David Cameron, who branded the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's proposal to stop Muslim immigration to the US "stupid". "It looks like we are not going to have a very good relationship," Trump told Britain's ITV television. "Who knows, I hope to have a good relationship with him but he's not willing to address the problem either."

In December, Trump called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on", citing "great hatred towards Americans by large segments of the Muslim population". Cameron branded the tycoon's stance as "divisive, stupid and wrong" and has refused to retract his comments, though

he said on May 5 that anyone who comes through the US presidential primaries deserves "respect".

Cameron's spokesman told reporters yesterday: "The PM has made his views on Donald Trump's comments very clear: he disagrees with them." But he added: "He's been clear that he will work with whoever is president of the United States." Trump insisted he was "not stupid... just the opposite", and denied he was divisive, calling himself "a unifier".

He told ITV his campaign trail policies were just "suggestions", but said there was a "tremendous" problem with Islamic extremism. The tycoon rejected claims he was anti-Muslim. "Absolutely not. I am anti-terror," he said. Trump said he had "many Muslim friends", one of whom told him: "Donald you have done us such a favor: you have brought out a problem that nobody

wants to talk about." Trump also blasted the new London Mayor Sadiq Khan, the first Muslim elected to run a Western capital city. Khan, who took office on May 9, has branded Trump "ignorant" on Islam and claimed

the tycoon was making the world more dangerous by alienating mainstream Muslims. Trump said he was offended by Khan's denouncement. "I think they were very rude statements and, frankly, tell him I will remember those statements. They are very nasty statements," Trump said. "When he won I wished him well. Now, I don't care about him. Let's see how he does, let's see if he's a good mayor." A spokesman for Khan yesterday again described Trump's views as "ignorant, divisive and dangerous". "It's the politics of fear at its worst and will be rejected at the ballot box," the spokesman said. — AFP

## BUFFETT TAKES \$1BN BITE OF APPLE STOCK

**NEW YORK:** Billionaire investor Warren Buffett has taken a \$1 billion stake in Apple, whose stock has been in an extended slump. The stake was revealed in a regulatory filing by Buffett's holding company Berkshire Hathaway after Apple shares skidded last week to their lowest level in two years. The filing did not indicate when Buffett purchased the shares or his reasons, but Buffett is renowned as a "value" investor who takes positions in firms which trade below what he sees as their fair value.

The filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission showed Berkshire with a holding of 9.8 million Apple shares at a value of around \$1.07 billion. Apple has been under pressure as a result of slowing iPhone sales, threatening its chief revenue and profit source. Last Thursday, the dip in Apple briefly boosted Google parent Alphabet to the number one position among companies based on market value.

Buffett's entry comes weeks after another billionaire, Carl Icahn, announced he had sold all his Apple holdings after an extended campaign to get the company to deliver more value to shareholders. Buffett, who is among the world's richest people, controls through his holding group a number of insurance, retail and media operations. Berkshire recently boosted its stake in IBM while reducing its holdings in Wal-Mart.

Buffett is also willing to back one of the bidders for troubled Internet pioneer Yahoo, CNBC television reported yesterday. The report said Buffett had agreed to work with Quicken Loans founder and chairman Dan Gilbert on a bid for the core assets of Yahoo, which has been evaluating the potential for a sale. Gilbert is also known as the owner of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers team. "I'm an enormous admirer of Dan and what he has accomplished in Quicken Loans," Buffett said in an email to CNBC.

"Yahoo is not the type of thing I'd ever be an equity partner in. I don't know the business and wouldn't know how to evaluate it, but if Dan needed financing, with proper terms and protections, we would be a possible financing help." Yahoo, which has fallen behind rivals such as Google and Facebook, has said it is studying the possibility of a sale as it pursues its efforts to revive growth, focusing on mobile users.

US telecom giant Verizon is also believed to be among the bidders for Yahoo, which has not commented on details of the bidding process. Yahoo shares rose 2.8 percent to \$37.51 after the news report involving Buffett. Gilbert is among those having signed the "Giving Pledge", an initiative launched by Buffett and Microsoft founder Bill Gates asking wealthy people to donate the majority of their assets to charity. — AFP (See Page 21)



Warren Buffett



CANNES: French-Iranian actress Golshifteh Farahani poses yesterday during a photocall for the film 'Paterson' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival yesterday. — AFP

## IRAN CRACKS DOWN ON INSTAGRAM MODELING

**TEHRAN:** Iran has arrested eight people for working in "un-Islamic" online modeling networks, particularly on Instagram, the head of Tehran's cybercrimes court said on state television. The arrests were made under a two-year-old sting operation named "Spider II", targeting among others models who post photos online without the hijab covering the hair that is compulsory for women in public in Iran since its 1979 Islamic revolution.

It identified 170 people running online Instagram pages - 59 photographers and makeup artists, 58 models, 51 fashion salon managers and designers, and two active institutions, according to a statement from the special court. "We

found out that about 20 percent of the (Iranian) Instagram feed is run by the modeling circle," Javad Babaei said on state television late Sunday. They have been "making and spreading immoral and un-Islamic culture and promiscuity", he said.

Babaei said it was the judiciary's duty to "confront those who committed these crimes in an organized manner". In addition to the eight arrests, criminal cases have been opened against 21 other people, he said. The sting operation has homed in on a database of over 300 popular Iranian Instagram accounts and connected accounts, Babaei said.

Continued on Page 13

### News

in brief

#### Dubai airport transit point for drugs traffic

**ROME:** Dubai airport has become a transit point for smugglers bringing high-value narcotics into Europe, the Italian police said yesterday. Two smugglers have been arrested in recent days at Rome's Fiumicino airport after arriving via Dubai, they said. One was an 19-year-old Slovak with two kilos of cocaine stashed in a false bottom of his suitcase who had departed from Rio de Janeiro, while the other was a Nigerian who hid vials of cocaine in his socks. The street value of the two seizures was put at around half a million dollars. The smugglers do not leave Dubai's transit lounge, as this would expose them to customs checks. Instead, they use the Dubai-Europe leg and the tough anti-drug reputation of the UAE to mask the country where they began their trip.

#### Yemen bans qat on weekdays in Aden

**ADEN:** Authorities in south Yemen have banned the sale of the mild narcotic qat on working days, and it will be only allowed into the city of Aden on weekends, witnesses said yesterday. Checkpoints have been set up around Aden to stop qat shipments from entering the port city, as patrols roamed markets to enforce the ban on sales, the witnesses said. Security forces said in a statement that they had decided to "ban the sale of qat in Aden and its suburbs during the week". The statement said the ban was prompted by complaints from citizens and due to "security, social and health" concerns, adding that qat markets caused traffic jams.



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with chairperson of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula Michele Alloit-Marie, in presence of National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem — Amiri Diwan photos



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem are seen in a group photo with secretaries participating in the 19th meeting of the GCC legislative councils.

## AMIR MEETS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OFFICIAL, GCC LEGISLATORS

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday chairperson of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula Michele Alloit-Marie. His Highness also received secretaries participating in the 19th meeting of the GCC legislative councils.

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem, Deputy Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Jarrah Al-Sabah, MP Faisal Al-Shaya and National Assembly Secretary General Allam Al-Kandari attended the meetings. Meanwhile, Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received

Alloit-Marie at Bayan Palace, in presence of Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah. Later, Alloit-Marie met with Chief of National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and the two sides discussed establishing joint cooperation between Kuwait and the European Parliament. The meet-

ing tackled regional and international issues of importance, a press statement by the bureau said.

Also yesterday, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali, as well as deputy head of the ruling family council Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah meets with Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmed bin Al-Sagheer. — KUNA

## KUWAIT, TUNISIA DISCUSS LABOR, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**TUNIS/KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti Ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Dhafri discussed with Minister of Social Affairs Mahmoud Ben Romdhane means of promoting bilateral ties in all domains. The meeting tackled strengthening ties in regards to labor, vocational opportunities and social development, Dhafri said yesterday. The meeting also touched on Kuwaiti Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning Affairs and Development Hind Al-Subaih's upcoming visit to Tunisia.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah emphasized that Kuwait and Tunisia enjoy 'strong' ties, which both countries strive to promote and develop in all domains. This remark was made by the Minister during a meeting with Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmed bin Al-Sagheer, the Defense Ministry's Public Relations Department said in a press statement yesterday. The meeting also touched on issues of common concern. — KUNA



**CAIRO:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyib. — KUNA

## SHEIKH SALMAN, AL-AZHAR IMAM DISCUSS MUSLIM YOUTH ISSUES

**CAIRO:** Issues related to Arab and Muslim youth were the focus of a meeting held in Cairo on Sunday between visiting Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyib.

Sheikh Salman and the Imam discussed means of promoting cooperation between Kuwait and the Sunni Islam's most prestigious seat of learning, besides the efforts to immunize youth against deviant thoughts, so as not to fall prey to extremist and terrorist groups.

The minister said in a statement that he had expressed Kuwait's high esteem of Al-Azhar and its role for combating deviant thoughts, as well as for disseminating moderation around the globe. As part of the 'Kuwait

Capital of Islamic culture for 2016' celebrations, the country is keen on coordinating with fellow Arab countries to benefit from Al-Azhar's significant efforts in various fields, he added. This coincides with an Arab youth campaign launched by the Arab League today to counter terrorism, violence and extremism, he said. "We rely much on this campaign for the protection of our youth, and to benefit from Sharia references in our Arab and Muslim worlds, particularly in Egypt," he noted.

Meanwhile, the minister conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Premier Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the Kuwaiti people to the Imam. — KUNA

## GHANEM AFFIRMS IMPORTANCE OF 'PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY'

**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem affirmed the importance of 'parliamentary diplomacy' as effective tool in resolving conflicts. Ghanem made his remarks during his speech at the 19th meeting for the GCC's secretaries of parliament, national assemblies, and shura councils which began yesterday.

The Speaker added that such brand of diplomacy was not insignificant when it came to parliaments main missions of legislating laws and supervision. He reiterated that the concept was logical and natural to parliaments' roles as representatives of the people.

Ghanem also touched on the notion of freedom and parliaments' right to bolster relation with other counterparts, stressing that this was an integral part of parliamentary diplomacy. The Speaker revealed that a third element to such diplomacy focused on the nature of parliaments and their abilities to further enhance relations within the domain of foreign affairs.

Ghanem also called on GCC's secretaries to enhance administrative work of parliaments, to best represent their respective legislative bodies, and to enable parliamentarians to do their job as best as possible.

### Vital diplomacy

Meanwhile, National Assembly's Secretary General Allam Al-Kandari said that the concept of parliamentary diplomacy tops the agenda of a meeting of Gulf secretary generals of legislative councils, adding that Gulf parliaments should look into the 'vital' issue.

In his speech to kick off the meeting, Kandari called for increased efforts to allow MPs to participate in parliamentary diplomacy on regional



**KUWAIT:** National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem delivers his speech at the meeting.



**KUWAIT:** Secretary General of Kuwait's National Assembly Allam Al-Kandari delivers his speech. — KUNA

and international levels. Moreover, Kandari revealed that the meeting coincides with an impending milestone, with the expected entry of GCC secretary generals into the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Holding such meetings routinely, would facilitate information exchange and cooperation amongst GCC secretary generals, the National Assembly's Secretary General said, noting that an information system linking GCC legislative councils is part of fruitful results that such meetings yield. In the meantime, Secretary General of the Qatari Shura Council Fahad Mubarak Al-Khayaereen said that the meeting has gone through a transitional phase of joint GCC parliamentary

work, noting that previous meetings have paid ultimate dividends.

Assistant Secretary General of Legislative and Legal Affairs of the GCC Ambassador Hamad Al-Meri said that these meetings have resulted in numerous accomplishments, regarded as a "bastion of GCC cooperation." The GCC odyssey began as a phase of cooperation, only to morph into a stage of full-fledged development, Meri added. On the Arab level, Secretary of the Arab Parliamentary Union Fayeze Al-Shawakbeh said that the solidarity amongst GCC legislative councils was a source of pride for the Arab nation. He affirmed that the success of GCC legislative bodies was a triumph for their Arab legislative counterparts. — KUNA

## TAJIK PRESIDENT VISITS KUWAIT UNIVERSITY

**KUWAIT:** President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon yesterday visited Kuwait University's (KU) College of Arts where he was received by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, and the Kuwait University's President Dr Hussain Al-Ansari.

President Rahmon, Dr Ansari, and Dean of the College of Arts Dr Suad Abdulwahab each delivered a speech during the occasions, calling for developing educational, cultural, and academic ties between Kuwait and Tajikistan. After the ceremony, President Rahmon visited a Tajik products exhibition held in the university. President Rahmon was accompanied by head of the honorary delegation and Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Daifallah Sharar.

The college organized a reception for President Rahmon as part of celebrations marking 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016', and presenting the new copy of a book on Tajikistan's history. Addressing the event, the Tajik president said he was so happy to attend the university's reception as a writer, adding that the publication of this book in Arabic in Kuwait reflects appreciation and gratitude for a people who have made praiseworthy contributions to the enrichment of human and Islamic civilization. He also hailed the choosing of Kuwait as the Capital of Islamic Culture, saying that it is a source of pride to the past of both nations and their common denominators. He noted that his country is making ready nowadays for marking the 25th anniversary of its independence, adding that it comes at a time when Tajikistan is greatly developing thanks to strong resolve and noble goals.

Rahmon recalled to memory that after his country became independent in April 1995, he made his first Arab visit to Kuwait, touting Kuwait as an ideal mole for achieving sustainable economic and social development and providing security and welfare to the society.

### Launching point

On his visit to Kuwait in 1995, when His Highness the Amir was then First Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, he said 1995 was the launching point for forging friendly relations with Kuwait and His Highness the Amir. However, the Tajik leader hoped that a young generation of Kuwaiti scholars would be interested in the history and culture of Tajikistan.

Meanwhile, Kuwait University Director Dr. Hussein Al-Ansari addressed the event by appreciating the Tajik president's visit to the university as "historic and significant", adding that his valuable scientific contribution would contribute to the promotion of bilateral scientific and cultural cooperation. He considered that the distinguished bilateral relations are the natural result of diver-



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait University's President Dr Hussain Al-Ansari (right) presents a memento to President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon (center) as Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa looks on. — KUNA

gent views and common goals between both nations, hoping that the visit would lead to more cooperation between both Muslim countries.

He highly commended Tajikistan's efforts for creating a democratic society based on the rule of law, promoting diplomatic and cultural relations with other countries, achieving interna-

tional peace and stability and fighting terrorism and extremism.

Earlier yesterday, President of Rahmon met at his residence in Bayan Palace Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Al-Ghanem, the chamber's members, and a number of local businessmen. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon tours a Tajik products exhibition held at Kuwait University yesterday.

## KUWAITI DELEGATION PARTICIPATES IN 55TH ANNUAL MEETING OF AALCO

**NEW DELHI:** Kuwait's Embassy in New Delhi announced yesterday that a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice arrived in New Delhi to participate in the 55th Annual meeting of the Asian African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO).

A statement by the embassy said that the Kuwaiti delegation is headed by Saud Abdullah Al-Harabi, advisor at Legal Department in the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs. The AALCO annual meeting will discuss a number of issues connected with international law.

Topics such as Israeli violations against Palestine and other occupied territories, the legal issues related to the question of Palestine, aspects of violent extremism and terrorism, law applications in cyberspace, trade legislations, and other issues will be discussed during the meeting. — KUNA

## REGISTRATION FOR 'OBEDIENT SON' PRIZE STARTS JUNE 1

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The organizing committee of the 'Obedient Son' Prize by the Ibrahim Tahir Al-Baghli Foundation announced launching the registration for the prize between June 1, 2016 and Oct 31, 2016. This is the 10th edition of this competition, which has developed through the years. The foundation is a social voluntary group engaged in various activities to support persons who are taking care of their parents, relatives or even their community through executing various awareness projects.

It cooperates with NGOs and public and private institutions in Kuwait to bring benefits for the whole community. The foundation also organizes competitions for students of all grades including universities, in addition of holding educational programs focusing on obedience in all forms. "When we talk about humanitarian and social work, we feel proud of the efforts of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who has supported many projects in different countries. This was also appreciated by the United Nations, which named him a Humanitarian Leader, and honored Kuwait as an international center for humanitarian work," said Ibrahim Al-Baghli, Chairman of the Foundation.

More special

This year's completion is even more special. "We are cooperating with various institutions in GCC countries, and we will pay field visits to GCC countries to discuss the idea of holding this prize in those countries. We have also added new activities this year to give bigger opportunities to more categories to participate, including a poetry competition in cooperation with the Kuwait Writers Association," he added. Other competitions include a drawing competition in cooperation with the Kuwait Association for Fine Arts, a photography competition in cooperation with the Kuwait Journalists Association, and a short story competition in cooperation with the Kuwait Writers Association. The participating works of all the categories should be related to parents' obedience.

Ali Hassan, head of the higher committee at the foundation, noted that the number of participants is rising every year, which proves the success of this prize. "The foundation works on achieving the social cooperation between NGOs and public institutions in order to raise the meaning of parents' obedience, which is part of social morals and habits of the Kuwait society," he stated. People can register in the prize by visiting their headquarters at Safwa Tower in Mirqab.



**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah heads the Cabinet's meeting yesterday. —KUNA

## CABINET 'VERY UNHAPPY' OVER FIFA'S CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF SPORTS

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet was "very unhappy" over FIFA Congress vote that failed to lift a suspension of the nation's football association. The Cabinet requested a full report from the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) on necessary procedures that are required to fix the football situation, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Adbullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah told the press after the Cabinet's meeting yesterday.

He added that these procedures should ensure eliminating all obstacles, promoting sports and to enabling athletes to practice their sports. FIFA suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) last October after finding the government had interfered in the group's affairs. Last Friday, the FIFA Congress voted to continue the suspension of Kuwait.

The Cabinet also listened to an explanation by Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh, one that pertains to a report by Moody's Corporation Investor's Service, which placed Kuwait's Aa2 long-term issuer rating on review for downgrade. Moody's will review the rating in twelve months' time, Saleh revealed. The Cabinet said that it is satisfied with Kuwait's placing, adding that it will spare no effort to retain that placing through achieving financial reforms and economic development goals.

Letters

At the onset of the meeting held under chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet was apprised of a letter received by His Highness the Amir from Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz inviting him to attend the 27th Arab Summit due in Nouakchott next July.

The cabinet was also notified by a letter sent to His Highness the Amir from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on ways of supporting the activities of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

The ministers then addressed a message sent to His Highness the Amir from Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet inviting him to attend a meeting of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade due in Antalya between May 27-29, 2016. The cabinet was also notified of a letter to His Highness the Prime Minister from Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa inviting him to visit Portugal and hailing bilateral relations.

The Cabinet was informed who would make up Kuwait's delegation to accompany His Highness the Amir to attend the World Humanitarian Summit scheduled for May 22-24 in Turkey. The delegation includes First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh

Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Acting Oil Minister Anas Khaled Al-Saleh, along with a number of Amiri Diwan and Foreign Ministry officials. The Cabinet voiced confidence that the summit would yield further cooperation towards humanitarian causes across the globe. Moreover, the Cabinet welcomed President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon's visit to the country, wishing him a pleasant stay in Kuwait.

Yemeni talks

Meanwhile, the Cabinet was also informed of the progress of United Nations (UN) sponsored Yemeni peace talks in Kuwait, as it wished that a swift solution to the conflict would be reached in order to restore peace and stability in Yemen.

In addition, the Cabinet extended its condolences over the passing away of Member of the Parliament Hamad Abdullah Al-Joan who played a positive role in serving his country through the podium of the parliament. The Cabinet also expressed condolence to the passing away of former General Staff of Kuwait Armed Forces retired Lieutenant General Abdulrahman Al-Othman, who died in the French Capital of Paris. It also discussed topic listed on the National Assembly's agenda. Moreover, it tackled reports on the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** (From left) Kuwait Journalists Association's Secretary Faisal Al-Qanaie, head of the higher committee at the Ibrahim Tahir Al-Baghli Foundation Ali Hassan, the foundation's Chairman Ibrahim Al-Baghli, and Secretary of the Kuwait Association for Fine Arts Saad Al-Blousi attend the press conference. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

## OOREDOO REVEALS RAMADAN 2016 ACTIVITIES' CALENDAR

**KUWAIT:** During a press conference held at the company's headquarter in Kuwait City, Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has announced its Ramadan activities' calendar. The events include internal initiatives targeting Ooredoo's staff members, and external initiatives targeting different societal segments. This year will witness the second edition of Ooredoo's successful volunteer program. Volunteers will be the main force in planning and executing a number of events running simultaneously across Kuwait, focusing on volunteerism.

The re-launch of Ooredoo Volunteer Program comes as a result of the great success achieved upon the official launch of the program last year. This program was launched in cooperation with Spread the Passion, a local non-profit organization which aims at encouraging youth to be more engaged in voluntarily programs. The accompanying training program will continue for a whole month and will include workshops, training camp, and will be concluded with official certification. Training program follows international standards, supervised by Spread the Passion.

Active participation

During the press conference, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications director Mijbil Alayoub said: "We at Ooredoo are eager to actively participate in activities that enrich our society. We are happy to have a number of key initiatives running throughout the holy month of Ramadan. We are also happy to announce that there will be a special promotion for our valued customers during the month of Ramadan. We are also working on a very unique television commercial, and we hope that it is well-received by our audience."

Ooredoo CSR and Sponsorship Specialist Sarah Al-Qabandi said: "We are proud to be partnering with Spread the Passion for the second consecutive year. Last year's success was outstanding. The initiative diverged into many other pro-

grams that enabled the trainees to participate, which is our aim from the start. This year, we will be delivering meals for those in need in more than one location, and not just in our Ramadan tent."

Representing Spread the Passion, Dr Fatemah Al-Moussawi said: "we are happy to be working of the second consecutive year with Ooredoo, and are proud to see Kuwaiti private sector corporates take in a more proactive role in supporting volunteers. The training program will include intensive training in a variety of subjects focused and of relevance to the field of volunteerism. We're very happy to be supporting youth, especially those who are looking for opportunities to volunteer. There is nothing more precious that volunteering your time and effort for a cause that you believe in, and that is the main drive behind what we do."

Positive return

Ooredoo will also be sponsoring ATAHUB initiative that aims to raise the community awareness, collaboration and engagement in initiatives that have a positive return on the society and its needs. In addition to Jaribha initiative, which is an online platform based on the concept of "reward crowd funding", where business creators can achieve their project goals through the support of people in return for rewards.

Also, Ooredoo took the responsibility to conduct several charitable events, such as giving out meals daily throughout the month of Ramadan at Ooredoo's Iftar tent located in Al-Soor street, Kuwait City, opposite to the company's headquarter. As well as organizing visits to nursing home, orphanages and patients at different hospitals across Kuwait.

Internally, employees will celebrate a ghabqa, which is a Kuwaiti tradition where people gather in the evening over a meal to socialize. The aim of this event is to strengthen the bond between employees away from the demanding nature of the workplace.



**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait officials: (from left) Abdulmohsin Almayyas, Fatima Al-Mosawi, Mijbil Alayoub, Fatima Dashti and Sarah Al-Qabandi attend a press conference held to announce the company's Ramadan activities' calendar. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## KUWAITI WOMEN KEY IN DEVELOPMENT: SHEIKH ALI

KUWAIT MARKS KUWAITI WOMEN'S DAY

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah stressed on the important role played by Kuwaiti women in the country's development. "Kuwaiti women have outstanding achievements in different fields and are worthy of having their full rights on all levels," said Sheikh Ali on the sidelines of a ceremony to celebrate Kuwaiti Women's Day. The event was held by the Cabinet's Women Affairs Committee yesterday under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, the committee's Chairwoman Sheikhha Latifa Al-Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah thanked His Highness the Amir for patronizing the event, also noting His Highness' efforts to grant women their political rights in 2005. Sheikhha Latifa said that Kuwaiti women were appointed as ministers and occupied seats at the National Assembly for the first time during the era of His Highness the Amir, who believed in their potentials. Sheikhha Latifa recalled that 11 years ago an Amiri decree was issued giving Kuwaiti women their full political rights thanks to His Highness the Amir's blessed efforts out of his belief in women's significant role, position and societal value. She expressed belief that the Kuwaiti Women's Day is a proof of promising future for the nation where women would be an effective element and a key partner to development, progress and welfare.

She also thanked official and nonofficial agencies and civil society organizations as well as sincere national figures for supporting women in their long struggle to get their full rights. Sheikhha Latifa took this opportunity to highly commend all Kuwaiti women who shouldered responsibility, struggled and sacrificed for the sake of the nation.

Afterwards, Najea Saif Al-Mansouri said in a



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Ali Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah (left) and Chairwoman of the Cabinet's Women Affairs Committee Sheikhha Latifa Al-Fahad Al-Salem Al-Sabah attend a ceremony to celebrate Kuwait's Women Day. — Amiri Diwan photos

speech on behalf of Chairwoman of the UAE General Women's Union Fatma Bint Mubarak that the UAE is keen to share Kuwaiti women in this celebration, hailing their achievements. She added that Kuwaiti women have played a key role in different fields, and held senior posts thanks to the support of Kuwait's wise leader-

ship. Meanwhile, ambassadors of Egypt, Lebanon, Djibouti and Algeria attending the event have all agreed on the prominent role played by Kuwaiti women in the fields of economy, culture, journalism and politics, as well as their successful participation in vital international events. — KUNA

## MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSES PARKING SPACES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality Director Ahmed Al-Manfouhi said that responding to a request by Municipal Council member Osama Al-Otaibi, the Municipal Council would get a report about the number of licensed and unlicensed parking spaces adjacent to various towers and shopping malls within two weeks. In this regard, council member Mane Al-Ajmi said that some of the parking spaces in the Capital Governorate were located on state property without any license from the municipality.

Member Fahd Al-Sane said that activating the central food testing labs and building special ones at border exits must be referred to the technical committee and discussed with both the municipality and the Ministry of Health (MOH). Meanwhile, member Hassan Kamal criticized the municipality's response to inquiries made about the mechanism followed on promoting its employees to senior positions, noting that the municipality was

not cooperative and tried to avoid answering the questions.

Approvals

The Municipal Council's meeting approved reorganizing Sheikh Salem Al-Nasser's lands in Abu Fatira, launching a hotline to help fight the presence of bachelors in private residential areas, the Foreign Minister's request to allocate two land plots to build a permanent headquarters for GCC and a training center in West Mishref and a request made by the awqaf ministry to build a monument for the autism center in West Mishref. The meeting also discussed a number of other topics including a proposal to build a municipality court, violations in residential areas, a proposal to build a market in Jahra and many others.

Environmental survey

In other news, MP Mohammed Al-Huwailah urged Minister of Communications and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Essa Al-Kandari and Minister of Public Works and

Minister of State for Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omair to conduct an urgent environmental survey in Dhaher and to take proper measures to handle violations because the area is suffering from waste and sewage. "Citizens' health is very crucial and this matter cannot be delayed or postponed," he stressed, calling for immediate disposal of polluting elements.

Huwailah also called for the immediate removal of the slaughterhouse and the MPW plant to other locations away from residential areas to protect inhabitants from pollution that had been causing the spread of infectious disease-carrying insects. Huwailah added that slaughterhouse wastes were not being properly treated or handled and that they were being dumped in open garbage containers, causing noxious smells and attracting insects. Huwailah added that the Ministry of Public Works (MPW) plant was old and that sewage water was being kept in an open basin for long because the old equipment malfunctions, which results in foul odors and insects.

In Brief

AMIR EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES OVER LATE FORMER MP JOAAN

**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent yesterday a cable of condolences to the family of late former MP Hamad Abdullah Al-Joan. His Highness the Amir expressed his deepest condolences and sincere sorrow over Joaan's death, recalling his great and distinguished contributions to Kuwait throughout his career. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA



US RENEWS COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING KUWAIT SECURITY

**KUWAIT:** Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a phone call from US Secretary of State John Kerry on Sunday. During the conversation Kerry reaffirmed his country's commitment to protect the security and stability of Kuwait, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Kerry appreciated Kuwait's contributions to the efforts to stabilize the region, referring to Kuwait's hosting of the intra-Yemeni peace talks. The conversation also dealt with the latest developments of the situation in the region and beyond. — KUNA



UN ENVOY MEETS YEMENI PARTIES

**KUWAIT:** The UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed held separate meetings with all Yemeni parties participating in the Kuwaiti-sponsored peace talks yesterday, to discuss mainly political, security and humanitarian issues. The meetings discussed articles set by the UN to achieve a peaceful political transition in Yemen in accordance with the UN Security Council's articles, the GCC initiative and the final recommendations of the Yemen's national dialogue conference. On Sunday, the UN envoy has set clashing Yemeni parties before a 'historical responsibility' to take a 'decisive' decision and determine the fate of their country at that critical point. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A pigeon makes a home out of a window carving, commonly known in Kuwait as a 'Mashrabiya.' — KUNA

ZAIN ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH BOOKING.COM TO REWARD CUSTOMERS

**KUWAIT:** Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator with operations in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces a ground-breaking agreement with Booking.com to offer Zain customers additional complimentary mobile services for using the hotel service through a dedicated URL. Booking.com is one of the most successful hotel reservation booking services online, and the service is now available to Zain customers in Kuwait and Iraq. It will be rolled out to other Zain country operations in due course.

Zain customers who book a hotel stay through booking.zain.com will gain exclusive benefits based on the value of their booking. By inserting their phone number, each time they complete a booking on the site and fulfill the reservation, they will be rewarded with the allocation of additional mobile data or voice benefits that are credited to either their prepaid or post-paid line.

In Kuwait, customers will receive additional free Internet capacity of up to 1TB, while in Iraq, customers will benefit from additional voice and SMS credits. Other Zain country operations will offer similar benefits according to the local market preferences. Commenting on the latest digital partnership with Booking.com, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "As we evolve to become a digital lifestyle operator, this agreement with another world class digital marketplace provider represents Zain's ongoing commitment to delivering exciting and compelling user experiences to our customers. We admire Booking.com's customer orientation in its own right, and feel that the collaboration between our two organizations will be of enormous mutual benefit offering our customers the best choice of rewards and convenience."

The partnership with Booking.com further builds on the establishment of the Zain Digital Frontier and Innovation (ZDFI) business unit, which is charged with launching Zain into the digital space by identifying new business areas, value-adding strategic partnerships, accretive acquisition opportunities and synergistic corporate venturing investments. Collectively, these activities look to create new revenue streams to maximize the group's high-speed 4G-LTE broadband networks, customer assets, network intelligence and payment and billing frameworks. ZDFI focuses on the areas of innovation; digital services; corporate venturing; and smart cities.

In the past, Zain has partnered with other leading global technology and content companies such as Uber and global computer game developer ZeptoLab to deliver rich content and value added services to the benefit and delight of its customers.

Truly international, Booking.com is available in more than 40 languages, and offers over 900,000 active properties in 223 countries and territories. The site offers competitive hotel rates and an easy, efficient and inexpensive way for leisure and business travelers to choose and book accommodation from a wide range of choices. A team of more than 11,000 multi-lingual customer service representatives support customers 24/7.

ENVOY INITIATES 7TH AFRICAN MEDICAL CAMP

**KHARTOUM/DAR ES SALAAM:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Sudan Talal Al-Hajeri initiated yesterday a medical camp organized by Kuwait's Direct Aid society, the seventh such initiative to take place in the African continent. In a press statement, Hajeri said that he is elated to have kick started the camp, with participation of a total of 32 doctors from a vast range of medical fields.

Moreover, the Kuwaiti Ambassador said that the camp is a testament to Kuwait's devotion to humanitarian causes, which further solidifies the country's position as a 'humanitarian center.' A contingent of doctors from Kuwait is in the East African nation to provide free medical care to the people of Sudan, through conducting varied surgical procedures in some of the country's hospitals, Hajeri noted.

Meanwhile, Khartoum's Health Minister Mamoun Hmaida extolled Kuwait's efforts towards humanitarian causes in more than 30 African nations, in dire need of such aid. Director General of Direct Aid society Dr Abdullah Al-Sumait noted that the camp is the seventh to take place in Africa, with past

editions having taken place in Kenya, Gambia, Somalia, Tanzania and Djibouti. This year's installment of the camp is set to be the biggest, with more than 700 surgical procedures expected to take place, he added.

Leap forward

In other news, Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassim Al-Najem said yesterday that establishing charity centers in Tanzania represented a leap forward in Kuwait's humanitarian work. The ambassador made his remarks during a tour of Rahma International Charity complex, which is sponsored and supervised by Africa Aid organization.

The ambassador added that the complex, covering around 40 acres of land, was being built in Mkuranga area, 40 kilometers south of Dar es Salaam. Last March, Najem inaugurated the Abdulrahman Al-Sumait Center in Pemba Island, near Zanzibar. The Ambassador asserted Kuwait's continuing humanitarian support through Kuwaiti charities, most importantly projects that benefit communities in Tanzania. — KUNA



DAR ES SALAAM: Kuwait's Ambassador to Tanzania Jassim Al-Najem is seen during a tour of Rahma International Charity complex. — KUNA



KHARTOUM: Kuwait's Ambassador to Sudan Talal Al-Hajeri is pictured with a number of Kuwaiti doctors. — KUNA

# LIVESTOCK COMPANY READY FOR RAMADAN

## KNET PREPARED FOR CASH WITHDRAWAL DEMAND

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Livestock Transport and Trading Company is ready for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan by providing all the needed meat and live sheep supply in addition to minced and frozen meat products, CEO Osama Boodai said. "We have imported over 120,000 Australian sheep for Ramadan and will receive a further 40,000 by the end of this month," Boodai said, adding that KLTT will give a free platter of minced sheep meat with every sheep customers purchase, in addition to providing special meat cuts to be used for making harees at KD 1.25 per kilogram. Boodai also denied alleged violations of animal rights made by some Australian bodies

and stressed that KLTT only dealt with official slaughterhouses.

KLTT Chairman Bader Nasser Al-Subaei said the company was currently building a new ship to join its fleet, which will be the world's largest livestock transport vessel with a capacity of 80,000 sheep and 15,000 cows and calves. He added that the ship would cost €71 million. Subaei added that KLTT was currently building the new Capital slaughterhouse and the central livestock market over an area of 94,000 sq m at a total cost of KD 11 million.

### Cash withdrawal

Separately, the Shared Electronic Banking Services Company (KNET) CEO Abdullah Al-Ajmi

expected demand on ATM cash withdrawals to increase during the coming period, namely the last week before Ramadan, which would also coincide with the approach of the summer vacation. He added that the company has prepared a special emergency plan for this period if any ATM or POS machine malfunctions at any time. "We have over 600 ATMs in addition to 1,700 others belonging to banks operating in Kuwait, and 47,000 POS machines operating 24/7 at various stores and markets," he explained. Ajmi added that the emergency plan includes increasing ATMs' capacity, filling them with cash more than once a day, dividing Kuwait into sectors according to withdrawal rates and providing company technicians on a 24/7 basis to handle any malfunction.



## NEW TRAFFIC PATROLS ON DUTY TODAY

**KUWAIT:** Interior Ministry Relations and Security Information Department Director General Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash said new traffic patrol cars will become operational today. He said the traffic sector received 220 patrol cars that will start work today, while 220 more will be received on June 1. Hashash said the

change of colors came after a full study by specialists, to enable the public to distinguish between ministry sectors in the field. Hashash said that any new event at the Interior Ministry is preceded by a media campaign by his department to inform citizens and expats about the latest events at the ministry.

## KOC BROUGHT DOWN GAS BURNING RATE TO ONE PERCENT LAST YEAR

**KUWAIT:** Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) Jamal Ja'afar said Sunday his company was able to reduce the rate of gas burning dramatically from 17 percent in 2005-2006 to just one percent last year.

"This great achievement will serve as a reference point for the company while developing its strategy for 2040," he said during a ceremony to celebrate the 25th anniversary of KOC's strategic partnership with Kuwait University (KU).

The function gathered Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Isa, the two former ministers of oil Abulmohsen Al-Mad'aj and Rashid Al-Omeiri, KU Chancellor Dr Hussein Al-Ansari, dean of the College of Engineering and Petroleum Dr Abdullatif Al-Khleifi and Head of the Petroleum Engineering Dept. Dr Abdullah Al-Ajmi, as well as dozens of academics and experts in the oil industry.

Ja'afar noted that the strategic partnership with the scientific and academic community made great strides in the last years and bore fruits in meeting the world standards of occupational safety, public health and environment protection.

He took pride in the successful cooperation between KOC and College of Engineering and Petroleum in building the capacity of the national cadres and promoting the energy industry which constitutes the backbone of the national economy. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** A firefighter inspects damage after a blaze was put out inside an apartment in Saad Al-Abdullah yesterday.

## DISABLED GIRL, MAID DEAD IN FIRE

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** A disabled girl and a domestic helper died in a fire reported inside a Saad Al-Abdullah apartment yesterday. A security source said when firemen inspected the first floor apartment after the fire was put out, they found a 31-year-old bedoon girl, in addition to an Indian woman dead inside. The sources added that the rest of the family members were brought out safe. Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the fire. Separately, firemen put out a fire in a Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh house, as

Jleeb, Ardiya and backup centers responded. The house was used as a foam warehouse. The fire was put out before reaching nearby a house, which were evacuated as a precaution. No injuries were reported.

### Traffic campaigns

The traffic department carried out several surprise campaigns recently, resulting in issuing 48,284 citations and impounding 1,995 vehicles and five motorcycles, while 43 persons were detained for committing grave violations. Ten were deported for driving without a license.

## INTERIOR MINISTRY CONVENES MEETING ON SECURITY VISION

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met senior security officers and field commanders of his ministry on Sunday to discuss the security vision for 2016-2017.

During the meeting, Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry for the Operations Affairs Major General Jamal Al-Sayegh made a presentation on the missions of the various sectors of the Ministry as prescribed in plan for maintaining the rule of law nationwide.

The minister was briefed on the executive procedures for addressing any emer-

gency relating to security or traffic during the holy month of Ramadan in collaboration with the other state departments and non-government organizations, according to a statement by the Ministry's Security Media Dept.

Sheikh Mohammad voiced satisfaction with the security plans and the level of preparedness of the security personnel who were able to timely arrest the law-violators. He called for ensuring smooth traffic during the fasting month, and for early planning for the parliamentary elections, due to be held in January, 2017, the statement added. — KUNA

LOCATION: HIGHWAY 503, KUWAIT  
 TIME: 7:00AM

In 1 hour, the next  
**great idea** by one of our  
**MARKETING**  
 graduates will be advertised  
 here and across Kuwait.



Al-Qabas

## SMILE IS KEY TO HAPPINESS

By Nermin Al-Houti

The world is going through a period of psychological, material and other pressures that makes one always ready for disputes and differences with others, not for anything other than turning these fights into venting what one carries in the form of negative charges.

The individual has become detached from his society due to solitariness in order to be away from his world, which caused him much trouble in his life, thinking that this distancing and isolation will spare his life from life's troubles somehow. This is the situation and this is the attitude of people. Everybody looks at the other with what they have. The individual no longer wants goodness for his brother, until our societies became weaving relations with struggles. The result is the loss of love, forgiveness and joy, and we ended up with losing the meaning of a smile.

The morning starts screaming that shakes the house due to several reasons, including a tussle between the mother and the nanny in the house, or the struggle turns to be between the children and the mother and other daily conflicts. This is the start of any new day. Everybody goes to work, school or university, and there remain some in the house to carry out their work. Those who left home will be hit on the streets by many conflicts, be they between vehicles, congestions or those who throw trash on the road and other negatives. The individual increase his negative energy and those who remain home continue the conflict, and the cycle goes on with increased negative charges until the day is over without a single smile on the face of the individual.

Societies, individuals and countries no longer know the meaning of the smile - rather how to make it for their people and members of their family. If the human being reviews his daily routine and attempts to change events to avoid all his daily conflicts, he will find out that the best start for him is smiling for others.

For example, and not limited to it, is when the mother wakes up early in the morning to prepare breakfast and get her children ready for school. What will happen instead of screaming and disputes with others, if the mother asks for things while smiling? The smile on the face of the human being gives him a beautiful look that sends to the other the feelings of satisfaction and love, which produces positive charges that work on calming the counter powers.

So what do you think, dear manager, teacher and all those who are officials, will happen when you smile and say good morning? A final word: The smile is the key to happiness - so smile dear reader, in order for life to smile for you.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Jarida

## NO FAMILY VISIT VISAS FOR RELATIVES BORN BEFORE 1950

VISIT VISAS' EXTENSION STOPPED TILL FURTHER NOTICE

**KUWAIT:** A foreigner living in Kuwait will not be allowed to issue a family visit visa for a parent or sibling born in 1950 or earlier, according to new Interior Ministry directives. The decisions, made by Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, come to 'fight manipulation' and prevent individuals from using the visit visa in order to bring his sick relatives to receive free treatment in Kuwait, Al-Rai reported yesterday quoting sources. The new condition also helps prevent using visit visas to bring individuals to Kuwait for begging during Ramadan, said the sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, Directors of residency affairs departments in all six governorates received verbal orders to suspend the extension of all types of visit visas until further notice, Al-Qabas reported yesterday quoting a security source familiar with the news. The decision comes as plans to increase visa fees are set to be implemented soon, said the sources, adding that

the directors have already started to suspend the extensions since Saturday. Under plans proposed by the Interior Ministry to increase residency fees in Kuwait, a visit visa's charge would jump from KD 2 to KD



Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah

30 for each month of the visa's duration, while it would only be renewable for a maximum of three months.

The study also stipulates increasing fees to issue dependency visas for

spouses and children by 100 percent, becoming KD 200 for the wife and KD 150 for each child instead of the current fare of KD 100 for the wife and children each. The new fees include paying KD 300 for a dependency visa issued by an expat for his parent; a fee that currently stands at KD 200. Meanwhile, a 100 percent increase is also proposed for visa renewal charges, becoming KD 20 instead of KD 10 for all types of visa.

A report last February indicated that the Interior Ministry had referred the study to the National Assembly for approval. It is currently not known when the parliament will debate it, but if it does pass the new tariffs, it would be the first time in Kuwait's history that MPs have approved increasing fees collected from expats to issue visas.

Increasing visa fees is part of the state's plans to diversify sources of income in light of the falling oil prices. This includes increasing the fees collected for residency visa and traffic fines, which have been unchanged for over 40 years, according to sources.

## Crime

Report

### SEARCH FOR MUGGER

**KUWAIT:** A Kuwaiti citizen told police that a man stopped him on Wafra Road, put a knife to his neck and took his wallet and mobile phone. The man said he stopped for the man thinking he needed help, but he pulled a knife on him and took his money and phone. Detectives are searching for the suspect.

#### Bootlegger arrested

Police arrested an Indian man who was on his way to deliver 100 bottles of homebrewed liquor to another man who sold them. The Indian was sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD). Police patrol officers noticed the Indian was nervous when stopped, so his car was searched and the 100 bottles were found. Meanwhile, policemen arrested a wanted citizen after she verbally insulted them and sent her to the Drugs Control General Department.

#### Gamblers caught

Ahmadi police arrested five Indians gambling in an open yard in Fintas. They had liquor and gambling tools. A security source said Ahmadi patrols noticed a group of people in a suspicious gathering, and when they approached them, they escaped on foot, but were caught. They were arrested and sent to Fintas police station for further legal action.

#### Girl freed

A security source said a Kuwaiti citizen in Mahboula told police she saw a speeding pickup truck with a girl in the backseat crying for help, so Interior Ministry operations were informed. The entire area was combed and the vehicle was located. The driver was arrested and the girl, a citizen, was freed. It was discovered that the girl and the driver are in a relationship, and that she had ignored his calls for weeks. He abducted her in an attempt to resume their relationship, but he ended up in police custody.

#### Weapon smuggling failed

A citizen failed in his attempt to smuggle a firearm he hid under the driver's seat upon his arrival at Nuwaiseeb border outlet, and he was sent to the weapons detectives department.

#### Security breach

In a strange and clear violation at Kuwait International Airport, a Turkish man entered the country without registering his arrival in the computer system nor was his passport stamped. A security source said the Turkish man asked local authorities why his passport was not stamped on his arrival to Kuwait and not documented in the computer. He was worried about any legal responsibility, and wondered whether this was a new procedure. The source considered what happened as a security breach at Kuwait airport by the counter employee.

#### Brothel busted

Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police raided an apartment in the area used as a brothel for four men and four women, all Ethiopian, and one of them was found wanted on several cases. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

## News

In brief

### Four and a half hours work time in Ramadan

**KUWAIT:** Ramadan's working hours in the public sector will be between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm on weekdays, sources said. This covers 22 state departments, while working hours in other departments would be from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, said the sources, noting that the Civil Service Commission is expected to make an official announcement regarding Ramadan's timings in the near future. — Al-Qabas

### Customs' devices

**KUWAIT:** The Customs General Department signed a contract with Global company to import devices to detect explosives, drugs and alcoholic drinks worth KD 20 million. The devices will be imported starting from next June, said Adnan Al-Qudhaibi, Assistant Director for Customs Ports Affairs. — Al-Rai

### 50,000 workers

**KUWAIT:** The total number of workers at the Clean Fuel Project is expected to reach between 27,000 and 30,000 by the end of October, sources said, adding that the number is expected to reach 50,000 by the first quarter of 2017. There are around 20,000 workers at the project's site now, the sources said, adding that coordination is in place to receive more than 1,000 workers a week. The project, which is slated to end in 2017, is currently 53 percent complete, the sources said. — Al-Rai

### 'Kuwaitization'

**KUWAIT:** The oil sector intends to increase the number of Kuwaiti workers in contractors' contracts from 25 to 30 percent. Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) has already exceeded the required percentage of 'Kuwaitization' in contracts, which employ a total of 2,800 Kuwaitis out of around 10,600 workers. — Al-Anbaa

### US tax declarations

**KUWAIT:** The final date to present US tax declarations under the 'FATCA' law is June 15, 2016, said Abdulaziz Al-Anjari, head of the US tax office in Kuwait. He urged US citizens and US Green Card holders to provide their declarations in due time in order to send them to the US' Internal Revenue Service (IRS), he added. — Al-Anbaa



UFM's CEO, Ahmad Al Kandiri (left) receives the award from KIPCO's Board Member, Abdullah Bishara (center) and KIPCO GCOO, Samer Khanachet



Moustapha Chami (left) is awarded as 'Best Employee of the Year 2016' by KIPCO's Board Member, Abdullah Bishara (center) and KIPCO GCOO, Samer Khanachet

## KIPCO ANNOUNCES 2016 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Projects Company (KIPCO) has announced the winners of its annual achievement awards. The awards were presented by KIPCO's Board Member, Abdullah Bishara, and Group Chief Operating Officer, Samer Khanachet, at the company's 10th Annual Gala Dinner which took place in the Sheikh Salwa Hall at the Marina Hotel, Salmiya. The event brought together over 400 KIPCO Group employees from over 20 companies across the MENA region.

The 'KIPCO Group Best Company of the Year 2016' was awarded to United Facilities Management (UFM). UFM, a subsidiary of United Real Estate, is bringing experience and expertise in facility management to new markets in the region. The award was presented to the Vice Chairman and CEO of UFM, Ahmad Al-Kandari.

The 'KIPCO Group Employee of the Year 2016' award went to the Pulsar Knowledge Center (PKC) Team for successful business growth and expansion. The award was presented to the CEO of PKC, Narendra Baliga. The winner of the 'KIPCO Best Employee of the Year 2016' was Moustapha Chami from the Accounts and Finance Department.



PKC's CEO, Narendra Baliga (third from right) and his team receive the award from KIPCO's Board Member, Abdullah Bishara (second right) and KIPCO GCOO, Samer Khanachet



Group Chief Strategy Officer at KFH Engineer Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem hands over the shield to Governor of the Capital Governorate Retired Lieutenant-General Thabit Al-Muhanna.

## KFH HAILS CAPITAL GOVERNOR'S EFFORTS

**KUWAIT:** Governor of the Capital Governorate Retired Lieutenant-General Thabit Al-Muhanna received a delegation from Kuwait Finance House (KFH) headed by Group Chief Strategy Officer Engineer Fahad Khaled Al-Mukhaizeem and Executive Manager Group Public Relations, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh for the quest to discuss opportunities for cooperation and coordination between the two sides.

During the visit, the Governor applauded KFH for its various contributions to support the society at all levels, which confirms the

bank's keenness to take part in the issues that are of interest to the society and the development process.

Muhanna voiced interest in collaborating with KFH in different projects that serve many fields in the Capital governorate, stressing the importance of concerted efforts to show the brightest image of the Capital. He added that the Capital Governorate exerts unremitting efforts for the sake of achieving development, indicating that KFH visit reflects the bank's priority to support and serve the society in coordination and collaboration with the public and official authorities.

Meanwhile, Mukhaizeem reiterated KFH's role in serving the society as part of the bank's social responsibility and the development project of the country. He hailed the ceaseless efforts exerted by Governor Muhanna, expressing the bank's appreciation to these efforts and the bank's readiness to boost collaboration. Mukhaizeem handed over an honorary shield to Muhanna in recognition of his efforts and plans that resulted in several achievements at many fields in the Capital Governorate.



**First US penis transplant performed on 64-year-old man**

NETANYAHU CALLS MINISTER TO ORDER OVER ARMY FREEDOM OF SPEECH

## WORLD POWERS READY TO ARM LIBYA

### CONFERENCE SEEKS TO HELP UNITY GOVT FIGHT AGAINST IS

**VIENNA:** World powers said yesterday they supported the lifting of an arms embargo on Libya and were ready to supply weapons to the country's new unity government to help it fight the growing threat posed by the Islamic State group. "The Government of National Accord has voiced its intention to submit appropriate arms embargo exemption requests to the UN Libya Sanctions Committee to procure necessary lethal arms and materiel to counter UN-designated terrorist groups and to combat (IS) throughout the country. We will fully support these efforts," read a statement by US Secretary of State John Kerry and 24 other top diplomats after talks in Vienna.

The conference was co-chaired by Kerry and his Italian counterpart Paolo Gentiloni whose country has faced a major influx of migrants from Libya fleeing violence and poverty. The North African nation was plunged into chaos after the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, with rival militias vying to control the oil-rich country. Taking advantage of the mayhem, the Islamic State group has carved itself a bastion after overrunning the Mediterranean coastal city of Sirte - Gaddafi's hometown - last year and transforming it into a training camp for militants.

A unity government was formed in late March after months of negotiation by UN mediators in a bid to end the political chaos that has undermined the fight against IS. But while the Government of National Accord has received backing from key institutions like the central bank and the National Oil Corporation, it still faces resistance from rival administrations in the east and west of Libya.

#### Springboard for Attacks

In a bid to stabilize the country, the fledgling regime of Prime Minister Fayed Al-Sarraj drew up a list of requests for Western partners to assist its forces with arms, training and intelligence. The demands were presented at the Vienna conference, whose attendees included the UN's special envoy to Libya Martin Kobler and EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. Europe fears the jihadists, who have in recent weeks made new advances, will use Sirte's port and airport as a springboard to launch attacks on the continent.

"We look forward to partnering with the GNA and neighboring countries to tackle the threat posed throughout the Mediterranean and on its land borders by criminal organizations engaged in all forms of smuggling and trafficking, including in human beings," the world powers including Russia and Saudi Arabia said in their statement. "We are ready to respond to the Libyan government's requests for training and equipping the Presidential Guard and vetted forces from throughout Libya."

Libya's leader, who was also present at the Vienna talks, insisted his country needed assistance, not intervention. "We are not asking for foreign boots on the ground, but we are requesting assistance with training, and lifting the arms embargo on Libya," Sarraj wrote in a column published in the British newspaper The Telegraph yesterday.

#### Race for Sirte

Libya's divisions have once again deepened in recent days, with the GNA and Haftar's forces each announcing their own plans to fight IS and "liberate" Sirte. "This is a mistake. It must be prevented... we can no longer accept this division," said Nicola Latorre, chairman of the defence committee of the Italian senate and an IS expert. Claudia Gazzini, a Libya analyst at the International Crisis Group, has also warned that the race for Sirte is pushing any hope of a political solution further away.

IS is estimated to have around 5,000 fighters in Libya, and it is trying to enlist hundreds more. This month the jihadists launched suicide attacks on key checkpoints in government-held territory along the Mediterranean coast. The move allowed them to build a defensive line along part of the coastal highway that links the east of Libya where Haftar is based with Tripoli in the west. — AFP



**VIENNA:** US Secretary of State John Kerry (right) and Libyan Prime Minister-designate Fayed al-Sarraj address a press conference yesterday. — AFP

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## RAFSANJANI DAUGHTER MEETS BAHAI'S, SPARKS IRAN CONTROVERSY

**TEHRAN:** A meeting between ex-president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's daughter and female leaders of the Baha'i community, regarded as "heretics" in the Islamic republic, has sparked controversy in Iran. Faezeh Hashemi recently met Fariba Kamalabadi, one of the leaders of the Baha'i community who had been allowed out of prison on a five-day break, according to Iranian media. A photo of the meeting was published on social media in which Faezeh, wearing Islamic veil, is sitting next to Kamalabadi

and other Baha'i women, all without the hijab. Kamalabadi was arrested eight years ago with six other leaders of the Baha'i community and sentenced to 20 years in prison, for charges including espionage. Outraged conservatives have denounced Hashemi's meeting and criticised the moderate former president Rafsanjani, along with some reformists in Iranian politics.

Rafsanjani himself has acknowledged his daughter had "made a mistake that needs to be corrected", according to

local media. "The Baha'i sect was created by the colonialists," he said. "This is a deviant sect... that we disavow and have always done."

But Faezeh said in an interview with Euronews Persian television that she had only visited "a friend". "It was a normal and harmless visit. I just visited a friend, that's all," she said.

Faezeh first met Kamalabadi when she herself was in jail in 2012 on charges of "propaganda against the regime". But Grand Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi

said Monday she should face prosecution, while merchants of the Grand Bazaar, a pillar of the regime, have launched a petition demanding the Tehran prosecutor take action, according to Iranian media. The controversy comes as Washington on Saturday called on Tehran to release the seven leaders of the Baha'i minority faith. John Kirby, spokesman for the State Department, also called on Tehran to "guarantee freedom of expression, religion, opinion and assembly for all citizens".

The Baha'i sect, founded in the 19th century in Iran, is not recognised by the authorities of the Islamic republic. They are regarded as "heretics" and "spies" linked to Israel, because their centre is located in the northern Israeli city of Haifa. Haifa on the Mediterranean seats the famous gardens of the Bahai World Centre, a pilgrimage site for the Bahai community. In Iran, Bahai's do not have the right to higher education, to take up jobs in the government, or to hold group worshipping sessions.—AFP

## NETANYAHU CALLS MINISTER TO ORDER OVER ARMY FREEDOM OF SPEECH

**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called his Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon to order yesterday at a time of tensions over the right of military officers to speak their minds.

Yaalon on Sunday delivered a speech to senior officers in which he implored them to "continue speaking your minds". "Do so even if your remarks aren't part of the mainstream, and even if they are at odds with ideas and stances held by the senior command or political echelon," Yaalon said.

His remarks were perceived as a public show of support for Major General Yair Golan, deputy head of the armed forces,

tionally. Following yesterday's meeting, the offices of Netanyahu and Yaalon issued a joint statement saying the two had clarified issues. "There is no dispute, nor was there ever one, that the army is subordinate to the political echelon, and officers are free to express their opinions in the relevant forums," the statement read.

### Politics about military

The military establishment has been taking an active stance in publicly defining the parameters of morality amid a wave of Palestinian violence, at times to the chagrin or rightwing ministers and lawmakers.

Since October last year, 204 Palestinians and 28 Israelis have been killed, according to an AFP count. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramping attacks, Israeli authorities say.

The chief-of-staff, Lieutenant General Gadi Eisenkot, angered politicians in February with remarks warning young soldiers not to use excessive force in subduing suspected Palestinian assailants. And the top brass, as well as Yaalon, strongly condemned Elor Azaria, a soldier standing trial in military court for shooting dead a prone and wounded Palestinian assailant, even before the trial began.

Rightwing politicians, including the Education Minister Naftali Bennett, defended the soldier, saying "he is not a murderer," while thousands of Israelis marched in support of him.

Ben Caspit, a columnist for the Mariv newspaper, called it a "cultural war" at the centre of Netanyahu's government—one of the most rightwing in Israel's history. "This is war of the few against the many. Yaalon has been standing almost entirely alone in the fray," he wrote. "Prime Minister Netanyahu, his ministers, and almost all the Likud MPs are facing off against him."

Political calculations have also fed the row-Israeli media have speculated that Yaalon could be planning to leave Likud and form his own party. Netanyahu is also reportedly in negotiations with two prominent opposition leaders about joining his government, which has only a one-seat majority in the 120-member parliament.

Israeli media have speculated that Netanyahu might offer up the defense ministry portfolio to entice either rightwing former foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman or Labor Party leader Isaac Herzog into government and secure a larger majority.—AFP



**JERUSALEM:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looks on as he opens the weekly cabinet meeting on Sunday at his Jerusalem office.—AFP

who on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day this month made remarks comparing contemporary Israeli society to Nazi Germany. Yaalon had stood up for Golan, stressing that military commanders should not only "lead soldiers into battle" but also teach them "values, with a compass and conscience".

Netanyahu had criticized the deputy chief of staff's "outrageous" remarks as "utterly mistaken and unacceptable", adding however a few days later that "the affair is behind us". Sources described by Israeli media as "close to Netanyahu" said following Yaalon's speech the premier was surprised his defense minister was raising the issue of Golan's speech again, and Netanyahu summoned Yaalon to a meeting yesterday. A statement released by Netanyahu's office late Sunday reiterated that Golan's comparison was an "inappropriate remark" that harmed Israel interna-



**IRAQ:** Iraqi government forces and local tribal fighters drive on the highway between the city of Ramadi and the town of Rutba as they take part in an operation to retake Rutba from the Islamic State jihadist group yesterday.—AFP

## IRAQ LAUNCHES OPERATION TO RETAKE ANBAR TOWN

**BAGHDAD:** Iraqi security forces and allied fighters launched an operation yesterday to retake the town of Rutba from the Islamic State jihadist group, the military said. Special forces, soldiers, police, border guards and pro-government paramilitaries are involved in the operation to retake the Anbar province town, Iraq's Joint Operations Command said in a statement.

Tanks and artillery are taking part in the operation, which is also backed by air support from Iraqi forces and the US-led coalition against IS, it said. Rutba, located in western Anbar province along the main road to Jordan, has been held by the jihadist group since 2014. "Rutba's important

to the enemy because it's another support zone for them," said Colonel Steve Warren, the spokesman for the US-led operation against IS.

IS uses it "to stage and prepare forces for operations in... the main battle area," Warren told journalists in Baghdad last week. "It's not heavily defended as is Fallujah or as was Ramadi," he said, referring to the capital of Anbar, which has been retaken, and its second city, which IS still holds. Warren said the number of IS fighters in Rutba varies from around 100 up to several hundred, and that once the Iraqis "decide they want to liberate Rutba, they'll be able to." IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in June of that

year, and later made further advances in Anbar, seizing Ramadi in 2015. Iraqi forces have since regained significant ground from the jihadists, securing the Ramadi area earlier this year and retaking the town of Heet last month. But parts of Anbar—including Fallujah—are still under IS control, as is most of Nineveh province, to its north. And the jihadists are still able to carry out bombings in government-held areas—something they did more frequently prior to the June 2014 offensive. As IS continues to lose ground, it has in recent weeks stepped up its campaign of bombings, including three in Baghdad last Wednesday that killed nearly 100 people.—AFP

## AT LEAST 12 CIVILIANS MISSING AFTER PKK BLAST IN TURKEY

**DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY:** Yesterday Turkish authorities were working to confirm the fates of at least 12 civilians who are missing and feared dead after a huge blast last week blamed on Kurdish rebels in the southeast of the country, reports and official sources said.

The mainly Kurdish region of Diyarbakir was on Thursday night rocked by a massive explosion that was also felt in the city centre and was later said to have been caused by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants loading explosives onto a truck. Four people, all PKK militants, were confirmed by the authorities to have been killed in the blast, which the interior ministry said was caused by explosives detonating prematurely. But the local governor's office later confirmed media reports that 12 citizens were still missing after the immense blast, which left a gigantic crater in the ground.

The Dogan news agency reported yesterday that some 15 tons of explosives had detonated in the incident and that 13 local residents were still missing. It said the authorities had conducted three investigations of the scene, collecting body parts from a half kilometer area which were sent to Istanbul for analysis and DNA identification.

An AFP correspondent who visited the scene on Friday saw body parts still strewn around the area and was told by villagers that up to 16 people were missing. In a statement, the PKK also said the explosion was accidental, claiming the vehicle exploded when anti-PKK villagers opened fire on the truck and hit its fuses. The group said the explosives were meant to be transferred to another location and not detonated. It offered condolences to the families of the bystanders who died but said it was not to blame for the loss of life. Turkey has been waging an offensive against the PKK after the collapse in 2015 of a two-year ceasefire declared by the group. Hundreds of members of the Turkish security forces have been killed in attacks since then although civilian deaths in the conflict have rarely been confirmed.

Over 40,000 people have been killed since the PKK took up arms in 1984 demanding a homeland for Turkey's biggest minority. Since then, the group has pared back its demands to focus on cultural rights and a measure of autonomy.—AFP



**DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY:** A girl is seen in a damaged house after a powerful blast on May 13, 2016.—AFP

## ISLAMIST MILITANTS EXPLOIT CHAOS AS COMBATANTS PURSUE PEACE IN YEMEN

**CAIRO/DUBAI:** Islamic State efforts to exploit chaos may have brought Saudi-backed forces and Iran-allied Houthis tentatively closer at peace talks in Yemen's civil war, but a deal seems unlikely in time to avert collapse into armed, feuding statelets. Ferocious conflict along Yemen's northern border between Saudi Arabia and Iran-allied Ansarallah, a Shi'ite Muslim revival movement also called the Houthis, defied two previous attempts to seal a peace. But a truce this year and prisoner exchanges mean hopes for a third round of talks are higher. The threat from an emerging common enemy may be galvanizing their efforts. Islamic State appears to be behind a dizzying uptick in suicide attacks and al Qaeda fighters continue to hold sway over broad swathes of the country that abuts Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Thursday the kingdom sought to prioritize fighting militants in Yemen over its desultory arm-wrestle with entrenched Houthi insurgents. "Whether we agree or disagree with them, the Houthis are part of the social fabric of Yemen... The Houthis are our neighbours. Al Qaeda and Daesh are terrorist entities that must be confronted in Yemen and everywhere else," Jubeir tweeted, using the Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

Now largely stalemated, the conflict has killed at least 6,200 people - half of them civilians - and sent nearly three million people fleeing for safety. Despite the relative lull during talks, hostility continues. Saudi Arabia has pounded its enemies with dozens of air strikes. Houthis have responded with two ballistic missile launches.

If the parties seize the opportunity, an unlikely new status quo may reign by which Houthis and Saudis depend on each other for peace. "This could mean a massive re-ordering of Yemen's political structure, and the conflict so far has already produced some strange bedfellows," said Adam Baron, a visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

The Houthis ousted the internationally recognized government in 2014 in what it hailed as a revolution but which Sunni Gulf Arab countries decried as a coup benefiting Shi'ite rival Iran. Pounding the Houthis and their allies in Yemen's army with air strikes beginning on March of 2015, a Saudi-led alliance soon deployed ground troops and rolled back their enemies toward Sanaa, held by the Houthis.

A near-blockade imposed by the Saudi-led coalition and frontlines which ebb and flow across villages and towns have deprived nearly 20 of 25 million people of access to clean water and put yet more in need of some form of humanitarian aid.

### "Surrender"

Of the countries where pro-democracy "Arab Spring" uprisings in 2011 ultimately led to outright combat, Yemen's United Nations-sponsored peace process arguably shows the most promise.

Unlike with Libya and Syria, representatives of Yemen's warring sides meet daily in Kuwait and argue over how to implement UN Security Council resolutions and share power. But while keeping Yemen's parties talking for this long was an accomplishment, getting them to live together in Sanaa and share power remains a distant dream. Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdel-Malek al-Mekhlafi accused the Houthis of resisting a UN Security Council Resolution from last April to disarm and vacate main cities. "There is a wide gap in the debate, we are discussing the return of the state... they are thinking only of power and demanding a consensual government," he told Reuters.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam said on his facebook page: "The solution in Yemen must be consensual political dialogue and not imposing diktats or presenting terms of surrender, this is unthinkable." But a diplomatic source in Kuwait said that through the fog of rhetoric, a general outline of a resolution has been reached.

"There is an agreement on the withdrawal from the cities and the (Houthi) handover of weapons, forming a government of all parties and preparing for new elections. The dispute now only centres around where to begin," the source said.

### Feuding statelets

All parties will be aware the danger of a collapse into feuding statelets is growing. The Houthis are deepening control over what remains of the shattered state it seized with the capital in 2014.

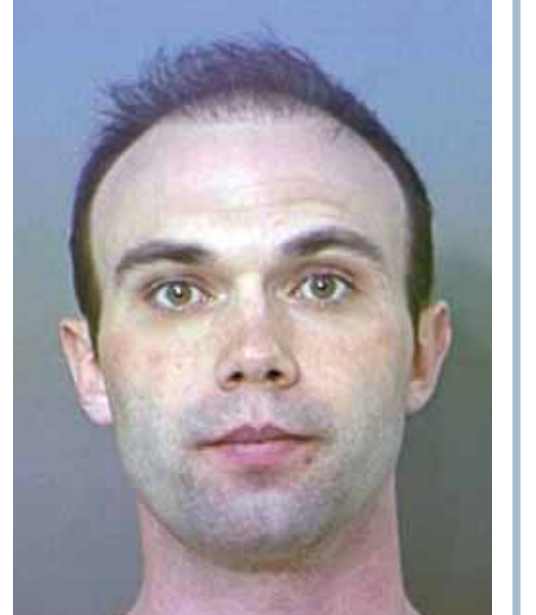
Footage of the graduation ceremony of an elite police unit last week showed recruits with right arms upraised in an erect salute, barking allegiance not just to Yemen but to Imam Ali and the slain founder of the Houthi movement - a move critics say proves their partisan agenda for the country.—Reuters

## TRIAL BEGINS FOR OHIO STATE BAND INSTRUCTOR IN RAPE CASE

**COLUMBUS:** A trial is set to begin for a drum major instructor for Ohio State University's marching band who's accused of sexually assaulting a student.

Stewart Kitchen has pleaded not guilty to charges including rape. His attorney has said that he would "vigorously defend" his client against the allegations. Court documents allege the assault occurred in April 2015 after Kitchen and the 19-year-old woman went out drinking and then walked to his Columbus home. The woman reported that Kitchen refused to return her to her home and sexually assaulted her in his bedroom.

Kitchen was indicted less than a year after Ohio State fired the band's director after an investigation determined he ignored "a sexualized culture" in the band. The trial began yesterday.—AP



**COLOUMBUS:** Christopher Stewart Kitchen, a drum major instructor for Ohio State University's marching band, charged with rape and kidnapping.—AP



# TRUMP TALKS TO KELLY ABOUT BULLYING, EX REBUTS NYT STORY 'GOTTA GET OVER IT'

## FIRST US PENIS TRANSPLANT PERFORMED ON 64-YEAR-OLD MAN

**WASHINGTON:** A 64-year-old man who lost most of his penis to cancer is recovering well after undergoing the United States' first penis transplant operation, doctors said yesterday.

The 15-hour surgery took place earlier this month at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and is the third such operation known in the world.

"The patient, Thomas Manning, 64, of Halifax, Massachusetts, continues to recover well, with blood flow established to the donor organ and no signs of bleeding, rejection or infection," the hospital said in a statement. "While the patient is still early in the post-surgical healing process, his physicians say they are cautiously optimistic he will regain function that he lost in 2012" after a penile cancer diagnosis led to most of his penis being amputated.

The penis came from a dead donor who matched Manning's blood type and skin tone. Manning expressed his gratitude to the donor and his family, which has asked to remain anonymous, and said he wanted to go public with his story to eliminate the shame and stigma associated with the loss of a penis. "In sharing this success with all of you, it's my hope we can usher in a bright future for this type of transplantation," Manning said in a statement.

Doctors at Massachusetts General have been working on the procedure for more than three years, including practicing on cadavers, with the goal of perfecting the method before they offer it to a wider pool of candidates, particularly soldiers who sustained genital damage or loss in war zones.

In an interview with The New York Times, Manning said doctors discovered he had a rare form of penile cancer in 2012. After removing the tumor, he was left with a stump about an inch long (2.5 centimeters). Manning, who was single when he was diagnosed with cancer, had to sit in order to urinate and was fearful of becoming intimate with a woman. "I wouldn't go near anybody," he was quoted as saying. "I couldn't have a relationship with anybody. You can't tell a woman, 'I had a penis amputation.'"

The first penis transplant in the world took place in China in 2006, but it was later removed due to "a severe psychological problem of the recipient and his wife," doctors said. The world's first successful penis transplant was announced last year in South Africa. The donated organ was grafted onto a 21-year-old man who lost his penis in a botched circumcision. —AFP



**BOSTON:** Thomas Manning gives a thumbs up after being asked how he was feeling following the first penis transplant in the United States.—AP

## SUPREME COURT AVOIDS MAJOR RULING IN BIRTH CONTROL DISPUTE

**WASHINGTON:** The Supreme Court rid itself yesterday of a knotty dispute between faith-based groups and the Obama administration over birth control. The court asked lower courts to take another look at the issue in a search for a compromise. The justices issued an unsigned, unanimous opinion in a case over the arrangement devised by the administration to spare faith-based groups from having to pay for birth control for women covered under their health plans. The major confrontation over an element of President Barack Obama's health care law ended with a whimper and with no resolution of the issue the court undertook to decide. "The court expresses no view on the merits of the cases," the justices wrote.

The matter almost certainly would not return to the Supreme Court until after the 2016 presidential election. The outcome suggests the court lacked a majority for a significant ruling and is perhaps another example of how the justices have been affected by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. In the short term, the government can take steps to make sure that women covered by the groups' health plans have access to cost-free contraceptives. At the same time, the groups will not face fines for refusing to comply with administration rules for objecting to paying for birth control.—AP

## BERNIE SANDERS VISITS PUERTO RICO AMID DEBT CRISIS

**SAN JUAN:** Yesterday Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders arrived in Puerto Rico to talk about the US territory's worsening debt crisis ahead of the June 5 primary. The Vermont senator was expected to present an economic recovery plan for the island and talk about the crisis' impact on its education and health systems. Sanders' visit comes a day before former US President Bill Clinton arrives to campaign for his wife, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Some 250 people crowded into Sanders' first event, including former Puerto Rico governor Anibal Acevedo Vila and other supporters who expressed frustration with Puerto Rico's economic situation.

Jose Hernandez, a 62-year-old retiree, arrived early to set up signs supporting Sanders. "Bernie pushed me into action," he said. "I was gone from Puerto Rico for 17 years and when I came back everything was the same or worse. His message convinced me. It's the first time I hear a candidate speak with such humanity, dignity and respect."

Puerto Ricans can vote in US primaries but not in US presidential elections. More than 200,000 Puerto Ricans have left the island in the past five years to escape a decade-long economic crisis. The majority of them have moved to the US mainland.—AP



**DES MOINES, IOWA:** Moderator Megyn Kelly waits for the start of the Republican presidential primary debate on Jan. 28, 2016.—AP

**WASHINGTON:** Months after he savaged her on Twitter and elsewhere, Donald Trump tells Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly that people who are bullied "gotta get over it" and fight back.

In an excerpt of the interview, which will be on the Fox network Tuesday night, Trump says he's a counterpuncher who goes after people when they go after him, only 10 times harder. Asked if he was ever bullied, the Republican presidential candidate said no. But he said bullying doesn't just happen to children. "People are bullied when they're 55," he said.

Kelly responded pointedly, with a smile: "Can happen when you're 45." She is 45. "You know, it happens, right?" Trump went on, as if he didn't hear her. "But you gotta get over it. Fight back, do whatever you have to do."

Trump took offense when Kelly confronted him in the first primary debate about crude



**PHILADELPHIA:** Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump attended his daughter Tiffany Trump's graduation ceremony, accompanied by his wife Melania Trump, second right, and former wife, Marla Maples, second left on Sunday.—AP

remarks he'd made about women. He later suggested her menstrual cycle was behind her aggressive tone, called her "third-rate" and boycotted one of the debates at which she was a moderator, as his feud with Fox News escalated.

In the released excerpt, the two did not directly discuss his criticisms of her. She told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday the tone of the interview was cordial, with tense moments, and predicted viewers "will be feeling a little uncomfortable." Kelly said she asked for the interview because she wanted to get her interactions with Trump on a professional footing. "You don't want to be the story," she said. "You want to cover the story."

**Ex discredits NYT story**  
A woman at the center of a New York Times

piece detailing Republican Donald Trump's history with women took issue with the story yesterday, saying she never had a negative experience with the billionaire and does not believe he ever mistreated women. Rowanne Brewer Lane, a former model who dated Trump for several months starting in the late 1990, said her words were mischaracterized in the Times article, which used dozens of interviews to show a pattern of unsettling personal behavior by the presidential candidate with women. The Times story said Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for the Nov. 8 election, asked Lane to change into a bikini shortly after meeting her at a pool party at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. According to the article, he then introduced her to the crowd outside, saying, "That is a stunning Trump girl, isn't it?"

On yesterday, Lane told the same story but

said she had been flattered by his comment. "They spun it to where it appeared negative," Lane said on Fox News. "I did not have a negative experience with Donald Trump." Trump has deflected criticism about his attitude toward women throughout his campaign. Yesterday, he called the New York Times "so dishonest." "Their hit piece cover story on me yesterday was just blown up by Rowanne Brewer, who said it was a lie!" Trump posted on Twitter.

Times reporters Michael Barbaro and Megan Twohey defended their story on CBS "This Morning," saying it showed how Trump behaved privately with women and revealed common themes, including unwelcome advances, aggression and commentary on their appearance. "People can evaluate the story ... on its own merits," Barbaro said.—Agencies



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## GERMAN 'GODFATHERS' REUNITE SYRIAN FAMILIES

**BERLIN:** Three days after an emotional reunion with his younger son in Berlin, a 71-year-old Syrian handed a bar of olive oil and laurel soap, a hand-made wall hanging and a box of pistachio sweets to a 56-year-old German he had never met before. The gifts were from Aleppo, the city devastated by five years of war which he and his elder son had been able to leave thanks to the German, engineer and father of four, Martin Figur. Figur is one of the "Godfathers for Refugees," matched with the family by a non-profit organization of the same name that seeks sponsors to help Syrians already in Germany to bring their relatives here.

"During the war, the Germans - government and people - have shown they are closer friends of the Syrian people than the Arabs," the Syrian father told Figur at their meeting, which was witnessed by Reuters. He declined to give his name to protect relatives still living in the fiercely contested city.

Tight border controls across Europe, stricter asylum rules, and an EU-Turkey

deal to clamp down on migrant sea crossings to Greece have left many Syrians in Germany struggling for ways to help relatives still in their homeland make it to safety. The arrival of more than a million migrants into Germany last year prompted the German government to tighten asylum rules, including a two-year ban on family reunions for those granted limited refugee status, making the situation worse. Martin Keune, the owner of an advertising agency, founded Godfathers for Refugees last year after two Syrian asylum seekers he was housing begged him to help them bring in their parents.

Keune was inspired by the story of his wife's Jewish uncle, who survived the Holocaust thanks to a British couple who adopted him while the rest of his family were sent from Berlin to the Nazi death camp in Krakow, in Nazi-occupied Poland, where they perished.

At Berlin's Schoenefeld airport on Saturday, the Syrian father's younger son Mohannad, who has been in Germany since 2006, held back tears as he greeted

his father and brother. "You look exhausted, but healthy and you are breathing and that is the most important thing," he said, pressing his hand on his father's arm.

### Desperate

Mohannad, 36, came to Germany ten years ago on a cultural exchange programme and had been trying to reunite his family since 2012. "When I started looking into laws on family reunions, I became desperate," he said.

His net monthly salary at a Berlin-based charity for refugees is less than the minimum of 2,160 euros (\$2,460.24) the authorities say a sponsor must earn to bring in just one family member. That is about the average net salary in Germany.

Since March 2015, the Godfathers' group has found sponsors for 103 Syrians, two-thirds of whom are already with family members in Berlin. The rest are waiting to receive two-year residency permits at German consulates in Lebanon and Turkey. The association can only sponsor Syrians who have at least one close family

member, such as a spouse, a child, a parent or a sibling, who has been in Germany for at least one year.

It relies on crowd funding and donations from its 2,200 members to raise the 800 euros a month it needs for each Syrian. This covers rent, health insurance, and a 400-euro stipend, equal to what the government pays unemployed Germans.

The godfathers do not fund the Syrian newcomers directly but take on legal liability for their living costs for five years even if in the meantime they apply for asylum and are granted full refugee status. Figur signed a "Declaration of Commitment" at the Foreigners' Registration Office in Berlin accepting liability for Mohannad's father, brother as well his mother, who is still in Aleppo. Germany took in some 1.1 million migrants last year, and of the more than 470,000 asylum applications filed over that period the largest group were Syrians, making up 35 percent.

The influx has fuelled the rise of the anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AfD), which entered three state

parliaments in elections in March by luring voters angry with Chancellor Angela Merkel's welcoming approach toward refugees. "I can only encourage people to make contact with refugees, because only then will their attitudes change," said Figur, a Catholic, commending Merkel's courage in the refugee crisis.

A ceasefire in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and its main commercial centre before the war, has held since last week, making it easier for father and son to leave by land to Lebanon and on to Germany, a 20-hour journey.

They know they are lucky and hope mother, daughter and grandson - who have stayed behind at the wish of the son-in-law - will be able to join them soon in Berlin. They described the gifts to Figur as a gesture of gratitude for "helping strangers".

"Martin Figur helped us even though he did not know us," said Mohannad's brother, 38, pointing at his "godfather" with a smile. "And this is what I want to do in the future, help others." —Reuters



**ABA, NIGERIA:** A man carries a 19-year-old student that got shot during a pro-Biafra protest in 2015. — AFP

## PRO-BIAFRACAMPAIGNERS ALLEGE BRUTAL CRACKDOWN

**ABA, Nigeria:** Chukwu Ebuka Moses is too young to remember the Nigerian civil war that began in 1967 and which by its end nearly three years later devastated the southeast, shattering dreams of an independent Biafran homeland. But the 19-year-old student believes he joined the ranks of Biafran veterans when he was shot during a protest in the Abia state capital, Aba, on January 18.

Moses, fragile and limp, has to be carried to a black plastic chair under the shade of a thatched grass hut at an open bar. "We were just singing and protesting. Policemen started harassing us, throwing tear gas and shooting guns at the same time," he told AFP.

He pulled up his black shorts to show a penny-sized scar on his inner left thigh. X-rays later revealed the bullet split his femur in three. "I can't breathe since the bullet shot me. I'm losing strength from my body," he added, his eyes suddenly widening with panic and his breathing becoming laboured. Moses, who like many young men his age supports English Premier League football team Chelsea and listens to Nigerian R&B duo P-Square, joined pro-Biafra protesters just a month before. He dreams of securing a good job in a region where unemployment is rampant and opportunities few. "I'm not scared," he said

defiantly, winning a chorus of approving murmurs from older men nearby. "Biafra must surely pass." Human rights lawyer Onkere Kingdom Nnamdi said more than 50 people have been killed, 100 injured and 200 detained in connection with protests calling for the release of Nnamdi Kanu.

Kanu, who leads the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement, was arrested last October and has been in custody awaiting trial since December on charges of treasonable felony. But President Muhammadu Buhari has already said publicly Kanu has committed "atrocities" against the state and he "will not tolerate" threats to Nigeria's unity.

Kanu's arrest and the government reaction has strengthened backing for IPOB beyond longstanding calls for more jobs, better health care and basic infrastructure in the southeast.

Thousands of his supporters have flooded the streets of major southeast cities in an unprecedented show of solidarity in the past decade, demanding a separate state for the Igbo people that dominate the region. Buhari, a former military ruler, appears determined not to let that happen. Injured protesters at three separate IPOB rallies from November to February said armed police and soldiers released tear gas and shot at the crowd "indiscriminately" with live ammunition. — AFP



**STOCKHOLM:** Claver Berinkindi, second from right a Swedish citizen originally from Rwanda. Claver Berinkindi yesterday was found guilty of genocide and gross violation of international law. — AP

## SWEDEN: REFUGEE FROM RWANDA CONVICTED IN 1994 GENOCIDE

**STOCKHOLM:** A Swedish citizen originally from Rwanda was sentenced to life in prison Monday for his role in the 1994 genocide in the African country.

Claver Berinkindi was found guilty of genocide and gross violation of international law. Some 800,000 people, mostly ethnic Tutsis, were killed by Hutu extremists during the Rwandan genocide, according to the UN. The Stockholm district court said Berinkindi, 61, was an informal low-level Hutu leader who took part in massacres of civilians in Muyira and Butare in southern Rwanda.

Berinkindi was ordered to pay a total of 81 million Rwandan francs (about \$110,000) in damages to 15 plaintiffs who survived the attacks or whose close rela-

tives were killed. "Never before has a Swedish court awarded damages for victims of acts of genocide," the court said in a statement. Berinkindi's lawyer, Hanna Lindblom, said her client, who denied the charges, would appeal the ruling. "He was in his home village when these horrible events took place. But he has not participated in genocide. He was at home," Lindblom told The Associated Press.

Rwandan authorities initially wanted to prosecute Berinkindi there but since he's a Swedish citizen he couldn't be extradited. He and his family came to Sweden as refugees in 2002 and he became a Swedish citizen 10 years later. Swedish police arrested Berinkindi in September 2014 after wire-tapping his phone.

## PORT ELIZABETH, THE S AFRICA CITY THAT HAS ZUMA QUAKING

**PORT ELIZABETH, SOUTH AFRICA:** Sitting in his wooden shack in a township in Port Elizabeth, Kwanele Mphelo reels off a list of gripes with South Africa's ruling African National Congress. "We feel left down by the government—especially the party that was supposed to represent the black people and take us out of poverty." "We have no water, no sanitation," the 39-year-old security guard said, adding that the brick house he was promised by the ANC-run township had never materialized either. Mphelo's views sum up a growing sentiment among voters in this one-time bastion of the former liberation movement.

Since 1994, when Nelson Mandela swept to power in South Africa's first democratic elections, the ANC has reigned supreme at the national and regional level, with only one city-Cape Town—escaping its clutches.

But change may be in the offing at local elections on August 3. With President Jacob Zuma reeling from a series of corruption scandals and court battles, the party's grip is looking tenuous in some cities, including Port Elizabeth. Suffering 36-percent unemployment, compared with a national average of 27 percent, South Africa's sixth-biggest city—a car manufacturing hub—has been hard hit by shrinking economic growth.

The main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), which is in power in Cape Town, is hoping to harness the disillusionment of people like Mphelo to win control of the city at the upcoming municipal elections. During the last local elections in 2011, the DA polled 40 percent in Port Elizabeth, 11 points behind the ANC. By the 2014 general elections, the gap had narrowed to 48 percent for the ANC, to 42 for the liberal DA.

### Track record

With Zuma weakened by a court finding that he breached the constitution by failing to repay millions of dollars of public money spent on his private residence, the DA-long seen as the party of white and mixed-race South Africans—is hoping to break new ground.

"We're convinced that the ANC's track records of service delivery, poor government, massive allegations of corruption, expenditure on public transport that... doesn't work, are all factors that will compound the ANC's declining support," DA member Athol Trollip told AFP.

A 52-year-old white farmer who speaks both Afrikaans and Xhosa, the language of Eastern Cape's biggest ethnic group, Trollip is running for mayor in the election. He faces a formidable opponent in current mayor Danny Jordaan, the chief organizer of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The ANC is not resting on



**KAMPALA:** South Africa's President Jacob Zuma (L) speaks with Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir (R) during the swearing in ceremony of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni as newly elected President in Kampala on May 12, 2016. — AFP

its laurels. Conscious of the risk of losing the Indian Ocean city, Zuma chose it last month to host the launch of the party's campaign for the local elections.

There were empty seats in the 46,000-capacity stadium when Zuma took to the stage but Home Affairs Minister Malusi Gigaba said he was confident the party of Eastern Cape's best-loved son, Nelson Mandela, would retain control of the city. "People know our track record... (they) trust our experience and the vision that the ANC will put forward to them," he told AFP. After 22 years in power, the liberation party still enjoys significant support among the black majority.

### Zuma factor

In Wells Estate, in the north of the city, a tightly-packed crowd of several hundred supporters dressed in yellow and green ANC regalia gathered to welcome Zuma on his visit last month.

The gregarious 74-year-old Zulu, whose political woes were compounded last month when a

court ruled he should be charged with corruption in a state arms deal, gave a fiery speech in Xhosa that was roundly applauded. "The community likes the ANC," Nondikho Gana, the ANC councillor for the area, declared proudly.

While water and power supplies may still be haphazard in places, public services are improving, he argued. "This area started to develop in 2002 and currently we are building 1,280 houses," she said. Zuma's future could be riding on the outcome of the local elections, with the DA even hoping to take the capital Pretoria and economic hub Johannesburg.

While the ANC's top brass have closed ranks around the president so far, they might be tempted to cast about for a replacement leader if voters walk away in their droves. "If local election results are not that bad, he may well stay on for the full term (until 2019)," Peter Montalto, an analyst at Nomura bank, told AFP. "The interesting scenario of course is if the ANC does very badly." — AFP

## MASS CAR RAPES WILL SCAR GENERATIONS

**THE HAGUE:** The effects of a deliberate campaign of mass rapes in the Central African Republic by the forces of former Congolese vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba a decade ago will be felt for generations, war crimes judges heard Monday. Research among scores of victims from the 2002-2003 violence showed "alarmingly high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder," US expert Daryn Reicherter told the International Criminal Court (ICC). War crimes judges in The Hague are holding three days of hearings to determine their sentence on Bemba after he was convicted of five charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The five months of brutality unleashed by Bemba's Liberation Movement (MLC) in a bid to put down an attempted coup in CAR had caused "appalling" and "almost certainly long-lasting damage" to the population, Reicherter said. "A single individual rape can be felt across multiple generations," he insisted, appearing for the prosecution. The stress of such an ordeal can cause actual biological changes in a victim's brain, leaving them more vulnerable to PTSD and serious psychological problems.

There were also often several tragic outcomes including the breakdown of marriages, potentially leaving victims struggling on their own to care for their families.

Child rape victims suffered even greater damage, he warned. Bemba's case is the first before the ICC to focus on sexual violence as a weapon of war, as well as to stress a military commander's responsibility for the action of his troops.

In their March verdict, the judges listed a chilling litany of rapes, murders and atrocities committed in CAR by MLC troops.

### 'Terror and torture'

Men, women and children were all raped in

one case three generations of the same family were gang-raped by MLC soldiers who held them at gun point and forced relatives to watch. "This was not about sexual gratification, this was about terror and torture," the expert from Stanford University, California, said.

It was "more about humiliation and control of a population," he added. After a lengthy trial which opened in November 2010, the judges found Bemba guilty on all charges in March.

The three judges found the notorious rebel leader had retained "effective command and control" over the 1,500 MLC troops he sent to CAR to quell an attempted coup against then president Ange-Felix Patasse.

Catholic Bishop Fridolin Ambongo, appearing earlier for the defense as a character witness, sought to show that Bemba and the MLC had played a role in bringing "peace and stability" to the northwestern Equateur province of Democratic Republic of Congo.

While he said he had no knowledge of what had happened in neighboring CAR, in his DR Congo province the MLC forces had "made it possible for the population to feel peace finally, because the MLC came to re-establish everything that had been destroyed."

The judges will pass sentence at an as yet unscheduled date, after also hearing this week from two victims. But Bemba could face up to 30 years in jail—or even a life sentence, if the court considers such a term is "justified by the extreme gravity of the crime." A wealthy businessman-turned-warlord, Bemba became one of four vice presidents in the transitional government of DR Congo President Joseph Kabila.

In 2006, he lost to Kabila in a presidential election run-off and fled to Europe. He was arrested in 2008 in Brussels and handed over to the ICC. His MLC militia has since morphed into a political party and is currently the second-largest opposition group in the National Assembly. — AFP

## GUYANA CRACKING DOWN ON CONTRABAND IN PRISONS

**GEORGETOWN, GUYANA:** The South American nation of Guyana is trying to impose more order on its overcrowded prison system following an uptick of people hurling contraband to inmates in recent days.

Security Minister Khemraj Ramjattan said yesterday that wardens are conducting frequent lockdowns and more searches after suspected weapons, drugs and phones were pitched over prison walls. He says authorities

will show inmates "who is the real boss." Ramjattan says no guns have been found in recent searches. But wardens have found screwdrivers and other improvised weapons.

The latest security crackdown comes about two months after a riot killed 17 inmates and injured several guards at the country's biggest prison. Inmates had set mattresses on fire to protest prison conditions and trial delays. — AP



NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gesturing as he speaks during an event to launch an initiative to bolster start-ups. — AFP

## EXIT POLLS SEE INDIA'S MODI WINNING KEY NEW STATE IN MID-TERM BOOST

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP party should win power this week in the northeastern state of Assam for the first time, exit polls showed yesterday, but trail regional groups in four other areas that have held polls.

Voting in stages over the past month ended yesterday in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala states and the union territory of Puducherry. Results are due on Thursday. A victory in Assam, a tinderbox of ethnic and religious animosities, would testify to the continuing appeal of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), while defeat elsewhere would reflect Modi's difficulties in making inroads against popular regional parties.

An exit poll by India Today-Axis My India predicted victory for the BJP in Assam, which borders Bhutan and Bangladesh. "Our historic victory in Assam will open new frontiers for the BJP in the northeast," BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav said.

Modi waged a polarising election campaign in a bid to form the party's first government there. In campaign rallies, he vowed to disenfranchise millions of Muslim immigrants in a response to rising discontent among the state's Hindus. The results should be a snapshot of Modi's performance as he approaches the half-way mark of his five-year tenure.

Modi, 65, swept to power in 2014 with a promise of jobs and growth, playing down his roots in the powerful Hindu-nationalist umbrella group to which his party is affiliated. A separate poll by ABP Ananda showed the party will be defeated in the eastern state of West Bengal and two southern states, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Victory in these states could have given Modi greater control over the upper house of parliament, which would put him in better position to push through key policies. A majority of his key economic reforms are stalled, his push to turn the country into a manufacturing powerhouse has floundered and sizeable minority groups blame him and his party for pushing a Hindu nationalist agenda at their expense.

Yet his government has made progress elsewhere, most notably in the power sector where change is reaching distressed rural communities in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state. Modi must win in the Uttar Pradesh state poll next year to sustain his hope of one day gaining full control of parliament and a second term in 2019.

Opinion and exit polls have a patchy track record in India and surveys get carried out with sample sizes ranging from a few hundred to several thousand voters. — Reuters

## KABUL LOCKED DOWN AS MINORITY HAZARAS PROTEST OVER POWER LINE

KABUL: Tens of thousands of minority Shiite Hazaras demonstrated through the streets of Kabul yesterday, demanding that a key power transmission line pass through their electricity-starved province, in the second major anti-government protest in recent months.

Authorities locked down central Kabul, blocking key intersections with stacked shipping containers as the protesters marched on the presidential palace, holding unlit lanterns and banners with slogans such as "justice and light". The demonstration, which spotlights the war-torn nation's turbulent politics, follows one of the biggest anti-government rallies for years last November, which was galvanised by the beheading of a group of Hazaras.

Some protesters pelted rocks at officials and banged on the sides of containers, prompting police to sporadically use water cannon against them but the demonstration was largely peaceful. "President Ashraf Ghani is hiding himself behind blast walls," Dawood Naji, a Hazara leader, told flag-waving demonstrators, drawing rousing applause. "We can break down these containers if we want but we are here to protest in a civilised way for our rights."

Authorities shut down roads to the presidential palace, fearing a repeat of the violence in November when protesters tried to scale the walls of the compound. The 500-kilovolt TUTAP power line, which would connect the Central Asian nations of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan with electricity-hungry Afghanistan and Pakistan, is seen as a crucial infrastructure project.

But it has been mired in controversy, with leaders from the minority group demanding that the line be routed through Bamiyan, one of the most deprived areas of Afghanistan with a large Hazara population.

The line was originally set to pass through the central province but the government rerouted it through the mountainous Salang pass north of Kabul, saying the shorter route would speed up the project and save millions of dollars. Hazara leaders in the ethnically divided nation lashed out at the Pashtun president, calling the decision prejudiced against the Hazaras, a community that has suffered a long history of oppression.

**Persecuted community**

"Bamiyan has seen no development in 15 years (since the Taliban were toppled from power)," Hazara lawmaker Arif Rahmani told AFP. "We are demanding justice, not charity."

Ghani has appointed a commission to review the multi-million-dollar project and



KABUL: Afghan protesters chant anti-government slogans during a demonstration yesterday. — AFP

assured the protesters that Bamiyan would receive electricity from it even if the transmission line does not pass through the province.

The rally comes in the midst of the Taliban's annual spring offensive launched last month and authorities said the streets were blocked with shipping containers to prevent any insurgent attacks during the protests. The dispute, which highlights the challenges of modernizing the country, threatens to overshadow the TUTAP project, which is due to be implemented by 2018 and could help ease crippling nationwide blackouts.

yesterday's protest underscores Ghani's rising unpopularity amid endemic corruption, rampant unemployment and a worsening 15-year Taliban insurgency.

Hazara protesters last week repeatedly heckled Ghani during an anti-corruption sum-

mit in London. The three million-strong Afghan Hazara community has been persecuted for decades, with thousands killed in the late 1990s by Al-Qaeda and the mainly Pashtun and Sunni Taliban.

There has been a surge in violence against the community, with a series of kidnappings and killings in recent months that have triggered a wave of fury on social media. Last November thousands of protesters marched coffins containing the decapitated bodies of seven Hazaras through the Afghan capital.

Their bodies were found in the southern province of Zabol, which is under Taliban control and has been the scene of clashes between rival militant factions. Ghani called the killings "the shared pain of a nation" and accused the militants of trying to divide Afghanistan. — AFP

## PAKISTAN TO HOST MEETING ON REVIVING AFGHAN TALEBAN TALKS

ISLAMABAD: Tomorrow Pakistan will host a new round of four-nation Afghan peace talks aimed at reviving long-stalled negotiations with the Taliban, a foreign office official said.

The group comprising Afghanistan, the United States, China and Pakistan has been attempting since January to restart the nascent peace process. But the lack of progress has left many frustrated, as the Taliban ramp up their insurgency, launched in late-2001 after they were toppled from power by a US-led invasion.

A spokesman from Pakistan's foreign office, Mohammed Nafees Zakaria, however tweeted that a fifth round of talks between the four countries would take place in Islamabad on tomorrow, without giving

further details. A joint statement issued after the fourth round in late February said direct peace talks between Kabul and the Taliban were "expected to take place" by early March. But the Taliban announced in April the start of their "spring offensive" even as the government in Kabul tried to bring the insurgents back to the negotiating table to end their drawn-out conflict.

The Taliban have made the departure of all foreign forces a precondition to the resumption of direct peace talks with Kabul which began last summer in Pakistan but ended abruptly after it was revealed that their leader Mullah Omar had been dead for two years. Pakistan had hosted a milestone first round of direct talks with the Taliban in July last year. — AFP

## PAKISTAN'S PM DEFENDS HIS FINANCES, SUGGESTS PANAMA PROBE

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's prime minister defended his financial record yesterday, denying that he used any Pakistani funds to buy property in London or establish a steel mill in Saudi Arabia.

Nawaz Sharif's speech came against the backdrop of the Panama papers, leaked financial documents indicating that his children hold offshore assets worth millions of dollars. Speaking to parliament after he faced mounting pressure from the opposition to clarify his financial situation, Sharif denied any wrongdoing.

Sharif said his father built up the family business before the premier entered politics and established a steel mill abroad while he was in exile. The Jeddah steel mill was then sold in 2005 for \$17 million, and the proceeds were used to buy the apartments in London, Sharif said.

He also presented details of his and his family's tax affairs. Yet shortly after Sharif's speech concluded, leader of

the opposition Syed Khurshid Shah accused him of dodging questions and led a walk-out in protest. The opposition had wanted more details on Sharif's finances, included the money trail leading to his overseas properties.

Sharif said a committee comprising government and opposition lawmakers should be formed to prepare for a judicial probe into all those mentioned in the Panama papers - a trove of leaked documents from Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca - including members of his family. He has already written to the country's chief justice to create this probe, and to look into corruption and tax evasion by politicians and others.

The opposition argued that it wants the judicial probe to be confined to the Panama papers and to largely focus on Sharif's family. The leaked papers have also named other Pakistani politicians and businessmen alleged to have substantial undeclared overseas assets. — AP



LAHORE: Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf rally against Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif yesterday. — AP

### THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL TRAVEL AND TOURISM EXPO IN KUWAIT

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## AMERICANS TRAVELING TO N KOREA RISK 'UNDULY HARSH SENTENCES'

**WASHINGTON:** Americans who travel to North Korea despite ongoing warnings risk "unduly harsh sentences" for actions that would not be considered a crime in the United States, the US State Department said in its latest travel warning yesterday.

The department, in a detailed warning against such travel, cautioned that at least 14 US citizens have been detained in North Korea in the past 10 years and that American travelers should be aware that possessing any media criticizing the country could be considered a

crime. Its strong advice came after two Americans were sentenced in recent weeks in North Korea and when international tensions are increasingly high with the reclusive country over its nuclear weapons program. Last month, North Korea's Supreme Court sentenced Korean-American Kim Dong Chul, 62, to 10 years hard labor after he admitted to committing "unpardonable espionage" including stealing military secrets, according to North Korean media.

American student Otto Warmbier was sentenced to

15 years of hard labor in March for trying to steal an item with a propaganda slogan, North Korean media reported. Washington has condemned the punishments, saying North Korea is using U.S. citizens to push its own political agenda. In the past, North Korea has used detained Americans to push for high-profile visits from the United States, with which it has no formal diplomatic relations. US officials have long warned Americans against traveling to North Korea, and yesterday it outlined a dozen specific actions that "whether

done knowingly or unknowingly - 'have been treated as crimes' in an attempt to further caution travelers.

Showing disrespect toward North Korean leader Kim Jong Un or former leaders, criticizing the government, having an unauthorized interaction with residents, taking unapproved photographs and shopping at certain stores have all been considered crimes, the department said. Americans traveling there should not expect protection from tour groups or guides or have expectation of privacy, it added. — Reuters

## QUAKE HITS TOKYO AREA

**TOKYO:** A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 on the Richter scale struck eastern Japan yesterday, including Tokyo, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. However, there were no immediate reports of major damage. No tsunami warning was issued for the 9:23 p.m. (12:23 GMT) quake. Operators of nuclear power plants in the affected areas said there were no signs of abnormalities at the facilities from the quake.

Shinkansen bullet train service on some routes were briefly suspended, but resumed afterwards. The government set up a taskforce at the prime minister's office to collect information.

The focus of the tremor was 40 km underground in southern part of Ibaraki Prefecture, about 40 km northeast of Tokyo, according to the agency. The quake registered lower 5 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in Omitama City. The agency defines an intensity of lower 5 as strong enough to make hanging objects swing violently and most unstable ornaments fall.

In wide areas of Tokyo, the quake registered 3 on the Japanese seismic scale. The Japanese scale measures how much places were shaken on the surface while the Richter scale measures the energy of the quake itself. — KUNA



**BEIJING:** China Premier Li Keqiang, rear right, and Afghanistan Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah, rear left, applaud while Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani, left, and China Foreign Minister Wang Yi exchange documents during signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People yesterday. — AP

## AFGHANISTAN BACKS BEIJING STANCE ON SOUTH CHINA SEA

**BEIJING:** Yesterday China said landlocked Afghanistan has expressed support for Beijing's stance on the South China Sea dispute, the latest country from outside the region to line up behind China's calls for bilateral talks on the issue. The Foreign Ministry said Afghanistan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah made the statement in a meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing that also touched on security cooperation along their border in China's volatile western region of Xinjiang.

"Our Afghan counterparts expressed their gratitude for China's long-term support over the years, and also said they support China's position on the South China Sea issue and support China's efforts to resolve the South China Sea issue through bilateral channels and through peaceful means such as negotiation and consultation," the deputy director general of the ministry's department of Asian Affairs, Hou Yanqi, told reporters following the talks.

Hou said Li also expressed China's willingness to help with Afghanistan's national reconciliation process, provide assistance for projects includ-

ing the construction of low-cost housing and boost imports of Afghan agricultural projects.

China has been seeking support from friendly nations for its bilateral approach to settling South China Sea territorial disputes, largely to counter efforts by the US, Philippines and others to challenge China's claim to virtually the entire sea and creation of new islands out of coral reefs. Russia has so far been the most prominent nation to publicly endorse China's position.

China has refused to participate in international arbitration on the matter brought by the Philippines and undermined efforts to approach the issue multilaterally through the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Hou said Abdullah pledged Afghanistan's support for China in its fight against extremist groups blamed for attacks in Xinjiang and elsewhere in the country. Beijing has long provided Kabul with financial support and Chinese companies have invested in Afghan mining projects that hope to exploit the country's estimated \$3 trillion in mineral and petrochemical deposits.

Beijing's state-run China Metallurgical Group

struck a \$3 billion deal in 2008 to develop a mining town at Mes Aynak with power generators, road and rail links, and smelting facilities. Workers built a residential compound, but were pulled out because of security concerns. President Ashraf Ghani's government says it is determined to finish that project.

The sector is badly hampered by a lack of expertise in exploration, extraction and processing, along with inadequate infrastructure and the country's chronic insecurity. A bitter feud between Abdullah and Ghani has also hobbled the Kabul government, leaving interim ministers in critical positions while the US ally struggles to confront lawlessness, corruption and the Taliban's resilient and perhaps expanding insurgency. China has also hosted talks between the Kabul government and its opponents, although Abdullah was quoted as telling China's official Xinhua News Agency last week that such contacts have failed to bear fruit because of Taliban intransigence. Before returning to Kabul, Abdullah is to visit Xinjiang's regional capital of Urumqi, a major Central Asian business hub. — AP

## EX-COP CHARGED IN GRISLY THAI KILLING LINKED TO MASS GRAVE

**BANGKOK:** A former policeman in Thailand has been charged with murdering a woman whose fate led to the discovery of a suspected mass grave, police said yesterday.

Reports about a large burial site in the northeast, where criminal gangs may have dumped bodies for years, have swirled in the local media in recent weeks. The investigation began when the daughter of a woman who was strangled in June 2014 took reporters to a remote jungle area where her mother's burned corpse was first discovered.

She said she wanted to highlight what she described as a lack of police interest in investigating the killing. During the visit reporters found bones that looked human. Subsequent police investigations have uncovered at least nine possible sites containing bones, some of them certified as human, while 41 people with missing relatives have come forward to offer DNA samples.

At a press conference in the northeastern city of Khon Kaen, officers yesterday announced two people including a former policeman had been charged with the June 2014 murder. "We know two people were

involved. One was Pramote, a former policeman and one was a suspect we have here today (called) Boonna," said Police Major General Yanyong Vetkosol.

Boonna admitted being involved in the woman's killing, saying she had a dispute with the former police officer about money. It is common practice in Thailand for suspects who admit their guilt to be presented to the media. Investigators added that Pramote is already serving jail time for another murder. Police have been at pains to distance themselves from any suggestion their officers may be linked to killings or to a mass grave site.

The country's police have long had a reputation for corruption, with many Thais likening them to a mafia in uniform. Thailand's junta chief, a former head of the army, has vowed to clean up the police and has transferred or sacked a number of high-profile officers.

Police in Khon Kaen said more time was needed to investigate the potential mass grave and discover whether the remains are from missing people. — AFP



**SEOUL:** A mock Scud-B missile of North Korea, center, and other South Korean mock missiles are displayed at the Korea War Memorial Museum yesterday. — AP

## S KOREA, US, JAPAN PLAN JOINT DRILLS ON N KOREAN THREAT

**SEOUL:** South Korea, the United States and Japan will hold their first joint military training next month focused on cooperating to detect signs of missile launches from North Korea and trace missile trajectories, a Seoul defense official said yesterday.

The drills, set for around June 28, will be held on the sidelines of biennial multinational naval exercises scheduled for waters off Hawaii from June to August, which the three countries regularly attend, the official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, citing department rules.

The trilateral drills will involve Aegis-equipped ships from the three countries, but they will not involve missile interception training, the official said. The three countries have held joint search-and-rescue drills in the past. The training follows a 2014 intelligence-gathering pact among the three countries, designed to better cope with North Korea's increasing nuclear

and missile threats. It was the first such agreement among the three countries. An international standoff over North Korea has recently deepened after Pyongyang carried out its fourth nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket launch in February.

Washington regularly holds military drills with South Korea and Japan - which together host about 80,000 American troops - and shares intelligence with them on a bilateral level. But Seoul and Tokyo don't, largely a result of lingering public resentments in South Korea against Japan over its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean Peninsula was divided into a US-backed South Korea and a Soviet-supported, socialist North Korea at the end of the Japanese occupation. The two Koreas fought a devastating three-year war in the early 1950s that ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. — AP

## MALAYSIA ACCUSED OF RIGHTS ABUSE FOR BARRING ACTIVIST'S TRIP

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysia's government faced fresh allegations of trampling rights yesterday after the leader of a massive demonstration last year calling for the premier's ouster over a graft scandal said she was prevented going abroad to accept an award.

Maria Chin Abdullah, who heads the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections Malaysia's leading political pressure group-said she was stopped Sunday night from travelling to South Korea to accept the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights on behalf of her group. "It's outrageous and shows a desperate government clutching on to power when it should be accountable," she told AFP.

Chin said she was given no explanation and that the refusal violated her constitutional rights. Prime Minister Najib Razak's government is accused of cracking down on civil liberties following a 2013 election setback and amid allegations that billions of dollars were stolen from a state development fund he founded called 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Najib and 1MDB both deny wrongdoing. Chin's organization-known in Malaysia as "Bersih", the Malay word for "clean"-is an alliance of NGOs that has staged large demonstrations in recent years to demand reform of an electoral system it says is rigged in favor of the ruling coalition. Last August it orchestrated protests by tens of thousands to press for Najib's ouster over the graft allegations and demand anti-corruption reforms. Chin's travel refusal drew criticism of the government on Malaysia's hyperactive social media Monday, and opposition leader Wan Azizah Wan Ismail vowed to call for a protest against "this shameful, desperate act".

Immigration authorities and Najib's office



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Maria Chin Abdullah (C), chairperson of Bersih — the coalition of Malaysian NGOs and activist groups — smiling as she speaks to journalists after giving statements on the groups that staged the huge August 29 rally at police. — AFP

could not immediately be reached for comment. In the past three years dozens of activists and government critics including Chin have been investigated on a range of charges, typically sedition, and authorities banned Bersih's yellow shirts as a "national security threat" following last August's anti-Najib protests.

Last year, opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim was jailed for five years on a sodomy conviction that the United States and others said raised trou-

bling questions about Malaysia's judiciary and rule of law. An appeals court was to rule yesterday on the sedition conviction last year of prominent anti-government activist Hishammuddin Rais, who said in 2013 that Najib's government should be overthrown. Human Rights Watch on Monday called his conviction "a shameful, politically motivated attack" displaying a "yawning and rapidly expanding gap" between the government's conduct and international law. — AFP

## AUSTRALIANS IN COURT CHARGED WITH PLOT TO TAKE BOAT TO SYRIA

**BRISBANE:** An Australian firebrand preacher deported from the Philippines and four other suspected jihadists appeared in a northern Australian court yesterday charged with planning to head for Syria in a 7-meter (23-foot) boat to fight for the Islamic State group.

Philippine authorities said Robert Cerantonio, also known as Musa Cerantonio, was deported in 2014 because of his suspected links to terrorists based on YouTube videos allegedly showing him advocating jihad and

urging local Muslims to support militants in the Middle East.

Yesterday, the Cairns Magistrates Court ordered the extradition of Cerantonio and his four co-accused from Queensland state to their hometown of Melbourne to face a federal charge outlawing Australian foreign fighters. Entering or preparing to enter a foreign country to engage in hostile activity is a crime in Australia punishable by life imprisonment.

Cerantonio and co-accused Shayden

Thorne, Kadir Kaya, Antonio Grenata and Paul Dacre have not entered pleas. Police allege that the defendants, aged 21 to 33, towed a half-cabin fiberglass power boat with a car 3,100 kilometers (1,900 miles) from Melbourne to Laura in Australia's tropical north before they were arrested last Tuesday.

Police say they planned to travel by boat through Indonesia to the Philippines. Police have not specified how they allegedly planned to get from the Philippines to Syria. All had

their passports canceled to prevent them leaving the country to fight for extremist groups such as the Islamic State.

Philippine authorities said Cerantonio was deported in 2014 for being an undocumented foreign national after the Australian government canceled his passport. He was arrested two weeks earlier in the Philippines' central Cebu province's Lapu-Lapu city but faced no formal charges. Philippine police alleged Cerantonio had called for jihad on YouTube

and lectured Filipino Muslims to support the Islamic State group. Australian police said at the time that Cerantonio's social media postings were offensive and disturbing, but did not violate Australia's law.

Authorities allege Cerantonio bought the boat in the first suspected attempt by would-be foreign fighters to leave Australia by sea. Security officials estimate 110 Australians are fighting for the Islamic State group in the Middle East. — AP



An Indian girl photographs another on a bench near blooming trees as they enjoy the afternoon weather in a park after rain in Guwahati in the northeastern state of Assam yesterday. — AP

# KENYA POLICE BREAK UP OPPOSITION PROTESTS

**NAIROBI:** Kenyan police fired tear gas and beat opposition demonstrators with truncheons yesterday to stop them storming the offices of the electoral commission to demand its dissolution. Hundreds of protesters were prevented from reaching the offices of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). Some of the demonstrators threw stones at police. There have been several such protests in recent weeks.

Protests were also held in other Kenyan towns, including Kisumu and Kisii in the southwest, with police there firing tear gas to break up the crowds, local media reported. "Police are using unnecessary excessive force on peaceful demonstrators, they are not justified at all," said former prime minister Raila Odinga, promising to hold protests every Monday. Odinga, who lost his latest bid for the presidency in 2013, accuses the elec-

toral commission of being biased towards President Uhuru Kenyatta. He has demanded that a new slate of commissioners be named ahead of the next election in August 2017. The windscreen of Odinga's own car was damaged during yesterday's protest. He later said he was not inside the vehicle at the time. Inspector General of Police Joseph Boinet denied rumors that police had fired on the car. Police spokesman George Kinoti said

only teargas had been used to disperse the protesters, stressing that "no live bullets were used". Kenyatta beat Odinga by more than 800,000 votes to win the presidency in 2013. Odinga and civil society groups have accused the electoral commission of a series of irregularities that they said skewed the results. The election nonetheless passed off peacefully, in contrast to the country's disputed 2007 elections which degenerated into fierce inter-

ethnic violence that left more than 1,100 people dead after supporters of Odinga, who is from the Luo people, challenged his defeat by Mwai Kibaki, a Kikuyu. The next election in Aug 2017 is shaping up as a rematch of the 2013 election, with 71-year old Odinga expected to try to unseat Kenyatta, 54. President Kenyatta recently organized a meeting with several party faithful to discuss the possibility of reorganizing the electoral commission. — AFP

## TOP COURT JAILS BEDOON ACTIVIST FOR...

Continued from Page 1

External Affairs Minister Abdulkarim Mohamed said, when asked if his country was ready to receive the bedoons. "Yes, it is something we are ready to do if officially requested by the Kuwaiti government," he said, cited by Al-Anbaa newspaper.

In Nov 2014, interior ministry assistant undersecretary Maj Gen Mazen Al-Jarrah said those bedoons not granted citizenship could be given permanent residence if they agreed to take Comorian economic citizenship. Those who accept the offer would be given a series of incentives, including free education and healthcare, and the right to work, he said.

The impoverished Comoros consist of three islands in the Indian Ocean off the coast of east Africa with a population of just under 800,000 people, nearly all of them Sunni Muslims. Despite the country's distance from the Middle East and North Africa, it is a member of the Arab League as well as the African Union. Several years ago, the Comoros offered thousands of bedoons in the United Arab Emirates citizenship in exchange for generous aid in a deal similar to the Kuwait proposal.

In another development, the National Assembly's educational committee yesterday discussed parts of a 43-article draft law to regulate the establishment of uni-

versities. Rapporteur of the committee MP Mohammad Al-Huwailah said the law allows the establishment of more government universities in various governorates. It also allows the establishment of specialized universities, mainly in the field of technology, and calls for learning from the educational experiences of countries like Singapore, the United States and United Kingdom. The committee also assigned its member MP Abdullah Abul to investigate the controversy surrounding overtime work by the teaching staff of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

MP Abdullah Al-Turajji yesterday called on acting oil minister Anas Al-Saleh to order an investigation into wrongdoings by an expatriate legal advisor who recently resigned from the oil ministry. The lawmaker said the advisor had reportedly committed a number of violations against Kuwaiti employees that led to the illegal dismissal of some of them. Turajji said the oil ministry should not allow the advisor to leave without subjecting him to an investigation.

Meanwhile, MP Abdulhameed Dashti yesterday submitted a draft law calling for the establishment of a supreme constitutional court to replace the existing constitutional court to handle all disputes regarding laws and constitutional issues. The rulings of the court will be final.

## IRAN CRACKS DOWN ON INSTAGRAM MODELING

Continued from Page 1

His comments followed a live "educational court session" on Sunday at which a former model said she had been earning money through the popular photosharing mobile application Instagram. The average monthly income for a successful model is 100 million rials (\$3,330), the woman, named as Elham Arab by the judiciary-linked website Mizan Online, told Tehran's prosecutor.

"All people love beauty and fame," Arab said. "They would like to be seen, but it is important to know what price they will pay to be seen." Arab could not be immediately reached for comment. It wasn't immediately known if she had a lawyer. The TV report did not say what charges she faced, nor did it identify the other seven people arrested. It said those targeted saw their businesses shut down, as well as their pages on Instagram and Facebook removed. Arab's Instagram account could not be accessed yesterday.

Instagram is extremely popular in Iran. Unlike Facebook, Twitter and YouTube which remain blocked, Instagram is accessible to Iranians. The crackdown seems to refer to the eight arrests announced by judiciary spokesman Gholam Hosseini-Ejeie in early March. He reported the "arrest of eight models, some of whom were released on bail and some informed (of the law and freed)". "Some of them had heavy charges like spreading prostitution and promoting corruption," he said. "Some ... entered these networks unknowingly and thought these are commission jobs they are being paid for, so these people were not arrested."

The previous Spider operation targeted "pornography and insulting Islamic sanctity," officials have said. In recent years, Iranian women - especially in the capital, Tehran - have worn the mandatory scarf loosely on their head, drawing the ire of conservatives in the Islamic Republic. Tehran police chief Gen Hossein Sajedinia in April announced his department had deployed 7,000 male and female officers for a new plainclothes division - the largest such undercover assignment in memory - to enforce the government-mandated Islamic dress code.

The model crackdown is just the latest move by authorities to control online expression in Iran. Nearly 40 percent of Iran's 80 million people can access the Internet, though the US-based watchdog Freedom House describes web access as "not free" in the Islamic Republic due to censorship and filtering.

In May 2014, authorities arrested a group of young Iranian men and women for an online video of them dancing to Pharrell Williams' song "Happy." While the arrests drew widespread criticism, including from the musician himself, those involved each received suspended sentences of six months' imprisonment and 91 lashes. Meanwhile, journalists, filmmakers, writers and activists also have been detained, sentenced or imprisoned. Yesterday, Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency reported authorities arrested Mahdi Boutorabi, the manager of an Iranian blogging service called persianblog.ir. The ISNA report did not elaborate on the case of Boutorabi, who previously was arrested following Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election. — Agencies

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## Focus

LEICESTER CHANGE  
LANDSCAPE AS TV  
CASH FLOOD LOOMS

By Tom Williams

The Premier League season's defining quirk was that with a vast tide of television money set to flood England's top flight, Leicester City's triumph showed that wealth isn't everything. While Manchester City and Manchester United's squads cost a combined estimated total of £800 million (\$1.16 billion), Leicester's title-winning squad barely exceeded the £50 million mark. In the context of the £5.14 billion television deal due to kick in next season, their fairytale 5,000-1 success suggested that it is no longer about how much money you spend, but how you spend it.

"I've grown up always believing the big clubs, with the most money, win," said Jamie Redknapp, the Liverpool midfielder turned TV pundit. "Even Blackburn, when they won the title (in 1995), spent a lot of money and had the best players. This is like no other." While the feats of Jamie Vardy (£1 million), Riyad Mahrez (£400,000) and N'Golo Kante (£5.6 million) demonstrated a new way of spending, Leicester's football revealed a different way of winning.

In an age when many teams continue to worship at the altar of 'tiki-taka', Claudio Ranieri's well-drilled, hard-running side averaged 44.8 percent of possession - the third-lowest in the league - and had a pass completion rate of 70.5 percent - the league's second-lowest. With Tottenham Hotspur, another high-intensity team, challenging for the title under the inspirational Mauricio Pochettino, Football Association chairman Greg Dyke was moved to exclaim: "The old order has broken."

## Man Utd Stagnate

The Professional Footballers' Association Team of the Year told its own story, with Leicester and Tottenham contributing four players each. Excepting Harry Kane, the division's 25-goal top scorer, who came through Tottenham's youth system, all were signed for fees dwarfed by the £49 million that City spent on Raheem Sterling. West Ham United's Dimitri Payet, another Team of the Year inclusion, was a relative snip at £10.7 million.

The French playmaker inspired Slaven Bilic's side to seventh place, with Ronald Koeman's Southampton, fellow canny spenders, provisionally fifth ahead of Manchester United's postponed final game against Bournemouth, which fell victim to a bomb scare. The big clubs met with failure of varying stripes. Despite having invested some £250 million in new players, Louis van Gaal oversaw a season of grim stagnation at United, who are effectively guaranteed to miss out on a Champions League place for the second time in three years.

Frustrated at United's feeble, sideways football - the antithesis of Leicester's approach - fans have grown increasingly vocal in their criticisms of the defiant Dutchman, for whom victory over Crystal Palace in next weekend's FA Cup final may not be enough to keep him in a job. Jose Mourinho has been hovering in anticipation of the Old Trafford axe falling ever since his dismissal by Chelsea in December. Worn down by Mourinho, the defending champions collapsed completely, but Guus Hiddink steadied the ship and with Italy coach Antonio Conte arriving after Euro 2016, a new future is taking shape.

## 'Wake-Up Call'

There is immense anticipation, meanwhile, at City, where Pep Guardiola will replace Manuel Pellegrini following a season of damaging inconsistency that nonetheless yielded the League Cup and a first Champions League semi-final appearance. Liverpool have already been revitalized by a new manager and despite an eighth-place finish, the club's engrossing run to the Europa League final has hinted at the thrills that may lie ahead under Jurgen Klopp. At Arsenal, Arsene Wenger soldiers on towards the 20th anniversary of his appointment.

He has, customarily, delivered another season of Champions League football the 19th in succession - but with Arsenal having spectacularly failed to exploit their rivals' struggles, fan dissent towards the Frenchman has been louder than ever. Emboldened by their TV gains, the heavyweights can be expected to flex their muscles in the close-season transfer window and former Leicester manager Martin O'Neill believes that they will all come back stronger. "Maybe it's a wake-up call," he said. "I think the big teams might feel it was one year they slipped up in and they might become very strong again. Money talks in this business."

The division will lose two of its grandest clubs as Newcastle United and Aston Villa sink into the Championship alongside Norwich City, to be replaced by Burnley, Middlesbrough and the playoff winners. The TV deal means that Burnley and Boro could not have timed promotion better, but as Leicester's game-changing success demonstrates, it is what you do with it that counts. — AFP

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## WHITE MALE BRAZIL CABINET RAISES FEARS

By Paulo Prada

To the people who benefited most from the long, recently truncated rule of Brazil's leftist Workers Party, the look of the successor government could not be more disheartening. Whereas cabinet posts over the past 13 years were often filled by women and blacks, new Interim President Michel Temer last week presented a group of 23 ministers that looked a lot like him - white, male and mostly old. "I am not represented," says Bruno Leao, a 24-year-old business student in Rio de Janeiro, who is part of a generation of black Brazilians who earned unprecedented access to education and other socioeconomic gains because of Workers Party policies. "All those years of struggle and it's like it didn't happen," he adds, noting that advances in civil rights, education and purchasing power remain tenuous.

Temer, a 75-year-old centrist and constitutional scholar, took over the presidency after the Senate forced the suspension of Dilma Rousseff, Brazil's first woman leader, by voting on Thursday to put her on trial for breaking budget laws. Most Brazilians backed Rousseff's impeachment but in one of the world's biggest racial and cultural melting pots, where more than half the 200 million people identify themselves as black or mixed, the makeup of Temer's government raised alarm.

Leftists, minorities and many lower-income Brazilians fear that a deep economic recession, and the spending cuts that the new government says are essential to spur a recovery, could mean rolling back progressive policies. "The rallying cry right now is the economy and that can become an excuse to scrap anything related to matters of inclusion, equality or culture," says Esther Solano, a sociologist at the Federal University of Sao Paulo. She points to one of the first decisions by Temer: To fold a ministry of women, racial equality and human rights into the far-bigger ministry of justice, led by a man.

Rousseff's downfall marks a stunning defeat for the

left in Brazil. The Workers Party had managed for the best part of a decade to combine economic growth and fiscal responsibility with social programs that attacked poverty and promoted diversity. But its support frayed under Rousseff as the economy fell into recession and huge corruption scandals rocked the country. In his first term, former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the party's icon and Rousseff's mentor, included Marina Silva, a black environmentalist who toiled as a rubber tapper in her teens, and Gilberto Gil, an internationally acclaimed black songwriter. Rousseff had so many women ministers and aides that male operatives in Brasilia scoffed at the number of pantsuits.

## Old Status Quo

While Brazil's constitution enshrines social benefits similar to those in Western Europe, Temer has already said pension and social security laws are the very first that need to be streamlined. He also plans labor reforms, a set of priorities that have some Brazilians worried the new government has no interest in the poor. "It won't be hard to return to the old, exclusionary status quo when you don't even consider inclusion in the new government," says Djamil Ribeiro, a black philosopher and columnist for Carta Capital, a leftist magazine.

A commodities-fueled boom helped the Workers Party lift more than 30 million people from poverty before Brazil's economy ground to a halt. Policies like affirmative action programs and broader scholarship opportunities, which increased enrollment at universities from around 2 percent of the young black population in 2003 to about 10 percent in 2013, created new opportunities for many once marginalized. Yet Brazil remains one of the most unequal societies in the world. Among those who escaped poverty during the boom, most from racially mixed backgrounds, some still earn little more than \$6 a day and are at risk of sliding back. The popularity of social programs is one reason leftist candidates continue to outpoll conservatives in

forecasts for 2018 presidential elections.

In an April survey by polling institute Datafolha, Lula and Silva, the former environment minister who now leads her own party, tied for the lead with about 20 percent support each. Temer, who has said he will not run, only got 2 percent of those polled. In his first address as interim president, Temer promised to pursue business-friendly policies but keep the programs that were Workers Party hallmarks, like income assistance for poor families who keep their kids in school.

Aides say the new Cabinet was selected quickly from the ranks of parties who would support the new government. "We tried to look for women," said Eliseu Padilha, Temer's new chief of staff, "but it wasn't possible." Some of the new government's allies and supporters say the hand wringing overlooks the need for swift economic measures. "At the moment, more urgent than a grand discussion about the sex and color of ministers, is knowing whether the ministers have the capacity to succeed," wrote Mansueto Almeida, a well-known economist, in a widely read blog post.

Still, critics say the cabinet also includes politicians whose past actions and discourse are at odds with the very ministries they will command. The new agriculture minister, a wealthy soy grower who has long clashed with environmentalists because of the crop's encroachment on Amazon rainforest, is charged with regulating farming. The education minister hails from a party that sued at the Supreme Court to try to block affirmative action. The shift risks backfiring, especially if it helps rally disillusioned leftists who fragmented because of corruption scandals and policy missteps that weakened the Workers Party. "It would be an error for the new government to think that they are somehow representative of Brazil," says Renato Meirelles, founder of Data Popular, a research firm that specializes in the economics and behavior of Brazil's working class. "This is a placeholder government that doesn't have anything close to a broad popular mandate." — Reuters

## GOP'S TRUMP SOUNDS LIKE A DEMOCRAT

By Jill Colvin

As he tries to charm Republicans still skeptical of his presidential candidacy, Donald Trump has a challenge: On several key issues, he sounds an awful lot like a Democrat. And on some points of policy, such as trade and national defense, the billionaire businessman could even find himself running to the left of Hillary Clinton, his likely Democratic rival in the general election. Trump is a classic Republican in many ways. He rails against environmental and corporate regulations, proposes dramatically lower tax rates and holds firm on opposing abortion rights. But the presumptive GOP nominee doesn't fit neatly into a traditional ideological box.

"I think I'm running on common sense," he said in a recent interview with AP. "I think I'm running on what's right. I don't think in terms of labels." Perhaps Trump's clearest break with Republican orthodoxy is on trade, which the party's 2012 platform said was "crucial for our economy" and a path to "more American jobs, higher wages, and a better standard of living."

Trump says his views on trade are "not really different" from the rest of his party's, yet he pledges to rip up existing deals negotiated by "stupid leaders" who failed to put American workers first. He regularly slams the North American Free Trade Agreement involving the US, Mexico and Canada, and opposes a pending Asia-Pacific pact, positions shared by Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders. "The problem is the ideologues, the very conservative group, would say everything has to be totally free trade," Trump said. "But you can't have free trade if the deals are going to be bad. And that's what we have." Trump long has main-

tained that he has no plans to scale back Social Security benefits or raise its qualifying retirement age. The position puts him in line with Clinton. She has said she would "defend and expand" Social Security, has ruled out a higher retirement age and opposes reductions in cost-of-living adjustments or other benefits. "There is tremendous waste, fraud and abuse, but I'm leaving it the way it is," Trump recently told Fox Business Network.

It's a stance at odds with the country's top-ranked elected Republican, House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, who has advocated fundamental changes to Social Security and other entitlement programs. But it's also one that Trump argues keeps him in line with the wishes of most voters. "Remember the wheelchair being pushed over the cliff when you had Ryan chosen as your vice president?" Trump told South Carolina voters this year, referring to then-vice presidential candidate Ryan's budget plan. "That was the end of that campaign." Ryan was Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012.

Complicating the efforts to define Trump is his penchant for offering contradictory ideas about policy. He also has taken recently to saying that all of his plans are merely suggestions, open to later negotiation. Trump's tax plan, for instance, released last fall, called for lowering the rate paid by the wealthiest people in the United States from 39.6 percent to 25 percent and slashing the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent.

Trump described it as a massive boon for the middle class. Outside experts concluded it disproportionately

benefited the rich and would balloon the federal deficit. Close to clinching the nomination, Trump now appears to be pulling away from his own proposal. While he still wants to lower taxes for the wealthy and businesses, he now says his plan was just a starting point for discussions and he would like to see the middle class benefit more from whatever changes he seeks in tax law. "We have to go to Congress, we have to go to the Senate, we have to go to our congressmen and women and we have to negotiate a deal," Trump said recently. "So it really is a proposal, but it's a very steep proposal."

Trump has a similar take on the minimum wage. Trump said at a GOP primary debate that wages are too high, and later made clear that he does not support a federal minimum wage. Yet when speaking about the issue, he says he recognizes the difficulty of surviving on the current minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. "I am open to doing something with it," he told CNN this month. On foreign policy, Trump already appears working to paint Clinton as a national security hawk who would too easily lead the country into conflict. "On foreign policy, Hillary is trigger happy," Trump said at a recent rally. He listed the countries where the US had intervened militarily during her tenure as secretary of state and pointed to her vote to authorize the Iraq war while she was in the Senate. Trump's own "America First" approach appears to lean more toward isolationism. One of his foreign policy advisers, Walid Phares, recently described it as a "third way." "This doesn't fit any of the boxes," Phares said.

Clinton has advocated using "smart power," a combination of diplomatic, legal, economic, political and cultural tools to expand American influence. She believes the US has a unique ability to rally the world to defeat international threats. She argues the country must be an active participant on the world stage, particularly as part of international alliances such as NATO. Trump has criticized the military alliance, questioning a structure that sees the US pay for most of its costs. "The best thing about Donald Trump today is he's not Hillary Clinton, but he's certainly not a conservative, either," said GOP Rep Tim Huelskamp, a member of the ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus and a Ted Cruz supporter in the 2016 race, in an interview with "Fox News Sunday." — AP



### STAYING COOL IS KEY: VERSTAPPEN SENIOR

**BARCELONA:** Staying cool under pressure is the key to teenager Max Verstappen's success in becoming the youngest race winner in Formula One history. That is the opinion of the man who knows him best, his father Jos, a former F1 driver who watched in awe on Sunday as his 18-year-old son, the first Dutchman to do so, claimed his record-breaking victory in the Spanish Grand Prix. As all around him celebrated one of the most stunning achievements in motor sport, Verstappen senior reflected on how his son had resisted all attacks to win ahead of Ferrari's two world champion drivers, Finn Kimi Raikkonen and German Sebastian Vettel, on his debut with the Red Bull team. "He's cool, he knows what to do, but this is his life," he said. "He has been racing his whole life, so it's quite normal for him, but to win a Formula One race will always be very special, particularly with the way he won it. "He was always in control, he didn't make mistakes, and he deserved it." A sensational opening-lap collision between the two Mercedes drivers, defending three-time champion Lewis Hamilton and championship leader Nico Rosberg, set the stage for Verstappen. —AFP

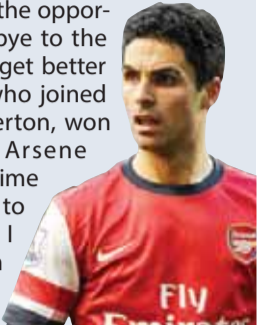


### CHAMP WILDER OPEN TO FIGHTS WITH RIVALS

**NEW YORK:** Unbeaten heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder could be in line to face rival undefeated British ring kings Tyson Fury and Anthony Joshua after a planned bout next Saturday in Moscow was canceled. Lou DiBella, Wilder's promoter, said that any talk of rescheduling a new fight date for Wilder to meet Russian Alexander Povetkin, who tested positive for the banned substance meldonium, was "unfounded and premature." The World Boxing Council ordered the fight not to be staged next week after the doping positive, DiBella saying Povetkin breached the fight contract and Wilder "will await further communications from the WBC and will weigh all our options given what has transpired." Those options could include WBC champion Wilder, 36-0 with 35 knockouts, working toward unifying the heavyweight crown by meeting either International Boxing Federation champion Joshua, 16-0 with 16 knockouts, or World Boxing Association and World Boxing Organization champion Fury, 25-0 with 18 knockouts. "This is a huge disappointment and a setback to my goals in boxing," Wilder said. —AFP

### ARTETA TO RETIRE AFTER ENDING ARSENAL CAREER

**LONDON:** Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta, whose contract with Arsenal is due to expire, has announced his intention to retire from playing and move into coaching. The 34-year-old said he was "99 percent" certain to hang up his boots after turning out for Arsenal for the last time in their 4-0 win over Aston Villa on the final day of the Premier League season on Sunday. Arteta burst into tears when the full-time whistle was blown before explaining why. "It was unbelievable because the last few months have been really difficult and I have been through a difficult position as well with my role in the team," the Spaniard said. "To have the opportunity to say goodbye and 99 per cent to say goodbye to the sport that I love is very hard, but my taste of it can't get better than today. "A big thank you to everybody." Arteta, who joined Arsenal in 2011 following a successful spell with Everton, won two FA Cups and two Community Shields with Arsenal Wenger's side and insists he knew it was time to call time on his playing days with the Gunners. "It is very hard to stop but I wanted to leave it... I wanted to decide and I thought for the last few months I wasn't good enough to represent this club on the pitch," he said. —AFP



# JAYS FALL TO RANGERS AS SIMMERING FEUD BOILS OVER

**ARLINGTON:** A feud simmering since Jose Bautista's bat flip in last year's AL Division Series boiled over into a wild brawl in the final game of the season between Toronto and Texas, a 7-6 victory for the Rangers on Sunday. Bautista and Texas second baseman Rougned Odor got into a fistfight behind the bag after a hard slide by the Toronto slugger in the eighth inning. Players from both teams rushed the field as Odor landed a punch to Bautista's face. Umpires needed about 10 minutes to restore order, and Blue Jays reliever Jesse Chavez (0-1) hit Prince Fielder with the next pitch when the game resumed. He was ejected after an earlier warning for both teams when Bautista was hit by a pitch from Matt Bush. Toronto manager John Gibbons was among eight ejections in the game. Ian Desmond hit a three-run homer in the seventh to give Bush (1-0) his first major league win two days after the 30-year-old rookie made his major league debut.

opposite-field liner to right on a changeup. Marte stole second and scored on Kang's drive to the gap in right-center, chasing Lester after 109 pitches. He struck out nine.

#### CARDINALS 5, DODGERS 2

Matt Carpenter homered for the fifth time in eight games, Yadier Molina had a tiebreaking two-run double in the top of the seventh inning and St. Louis beat Los Angeles to avoid being swept in the three-game series. Molina pinch hit for starting pitcher Mike Leake and put the Cardinals up 3-1 when he lined reliever Joe Blanton's pitch into the left field corner with two outs. Leake (2-3) pitched six innings to win his second straight start, and Trevor Rosenthal got his seventh save. Corey Seager homered twice for the Dodgers, the first multihomer game of his career. JP Howell (1-1) took the loss after allowing a one-out single to Jeremy Hazelbaker, who scored on Molina's double.

#### YANKEES 7, WHITE SOX 5

Pinch-hitter Chase Headley lined a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning, Carlos Beltran launched his 400th career home run and New York wrapped up a successful homestand. The Yankees finished 7-3 against the White Sox, Kansas City and Boston, a much-needed boost for the last-place team. The AL Central-leading White Sox have dropped four of five overall, and lost for the 13th time in their last 15 games at Yankee Stadium. A day after striking out all four batters he faced, Dellin Betances (1-2) was wobbly. He took over in the seventh with a 5-4 lead, but Jose Abreu and Todd Frazier greeted him with singles and Melky Cabrera hit a tying double. Betances recovered to retire the next three batters. Aroldis Chapman closed for his third save. Matt Albers (1-2) took the loss.

#### MARLINS 5, NATIONALS 1

Jose Fernandez struck out 11 over seven innings and drove in two runs during a three-run sixth to help Miami defeat Washington. Giancarlo Stanton hit his 11th home run as Miami salvaged a four-game split. He also survived an outfield collision with Marcell Ozuna that led to Ryan Zimmerman's inside-the-park home run for Washington. Fernandez (5-2) threw a career-high 117 pitches while allowing



**ARLINGTON:** Toronto Blue Jays Jose Bautista (19) gets hit by Texas Rangers second baseman Rougned Odor (12) after Bautista slid into second in the eighth inning of a baseball game at Globe Life Park. —AP

**RED SOX 10, ASTROS 9**  
Xander Bogaerts hit a three-run homer and Ryan Hanigan had three singles and drove in four to lead Boston. It was the seventh win in eight games for the Red Sox, and completed a 6-1 homestand in which they score 73 runs. Boston's Jackie Bradley Jr. had a single to extend his majors' longest hitting streak this season to 21 games. Luis Valbuena had a three-run homer and five RBIs for the Astros, and Carlos Correa added a solo homer. Heath Hembree (2-0) pitched two innings of relief for the win. Craig Kimbrel got the final three outs for his 10th save. Scott Feldman (2-3) took the loss.

#### PIRATES 2, CUBS 1

Starling Marte singled with one out in the seventh inning to end Jon Lester's no-hit bid, then scored on Jung Ho Kang's double to put Gerrit Cole and Pittsburgh ahead to stay. Kang added an eighth-inning home run to help the Pirates beat the major league-leading Cubs for the first time in six tries this season. Cole (4-3) allowed three hits in eight shutout innings. Mark Melancon gave up a run in a shaky ninth but held on for his 11th save in 12 chances. Lester (4-2), who threw a no-hitter with Boston in 2008, had permitted only two walks and retired 16 straight batters before Marte's

the one run on four hits and three walks. AJ Ramos came on in the ninth for his 11th save. Nationals starter Joe Ross (3-3) allowed five runs - three earned - over 5 2/3 innings.

#### GIANTS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Manager Bruce Bochy successfully challenged to get a game-ending double play after Brandon Crawford singled in a run in the ninth inning and San Francisco completed a four-game sweep. Bochy challenged that Rickie Weeks was safe at first base on what turned out to be a 4-6-3 double play. If the call had stood, the tying run would have scored from third. Santiago Casilla escaped the trouble for his ninth save. The Giants had just one hit - Trevor Brown's home run - through eight innings. But they opened the ninth with three singles off Brad Ziegler (1-2). Hunter Strickland (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning to get the victory.

#### ROCKIES 4, METS 3

Pinch-hitter Ryan Raburn came through with a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning that carried Colorado past New York for a three-game sweep. Tyler Chatwood (5-3) pitched seven solid innings and Carlos Gonzalez also homered for the Rockies, who swept the Mets for the first time since April 2013. Yoenis Cespedes homered but it wasn't enough for the Mets, who wasted a strong start by Jacob deGrom and finished 4-7 on their NL West road trip. DeGrom allowed just three hits until Gonzalez went deep with two outs in the sixth. DJ LeMahieu led off the seventh with a 12-pitch walk against deGrom, who left one out later. Jim Henderson (0-2) came on and Raburn hit a 2-2 pitch into the Rockies' bullpen. That took away a potential win from deGrom, who yielded three runs and four hits in 6 1/3 innings.

#### TIGERS 6, ORIOLES 5

JD Martinez and Miguel Cabrera homered on consecutive pitches in the eighth inning, and Detroit ended Baltimore's seven-game winning streak. The home runs came against Darren O'Day, who fanned the first two batters in the eighth with Baltimore up 5-4. O'Day (2-1) thought he struck out the side when Martinez checked his swing with two strikes, but first base umpire Mark Wegner ruled the batter did not go around. Martinez hit the sidearm's next pitch over the center-field wall, and Cabrera followed with a drive to left. Manny Machado homered for the Orioles. Warwick Saupold (1-0) pitched 2 2/3 innings of two-hit relief. Francisco Rodriguez got three outs for his ninth save.

#### ANGELS 3, MARINERS 0

Hector Santiago pitched eight innings of two-hit ball and Daniel Nava's two-run, two-out single in the eighth inning gave Los Angeles the cushion it needed to complete a three-game sweep. Santiago was dominant, outpitching Seattle ace Felix Hernandez (3-3). Santiago allowed just two hits overall, the first not coming until the sixth inning when Shawn O'Malley led off with a bunt single that Santiago mishandled on the transfer. Chris Iannetta had Seattle's only other hit with a line drive single in the seventh. Santiago (3-2) struck out five, allowed only one base runner to reach second base and matched a career high in innings pitched. Joe Smith pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

#### REDS 9, PHILLIES 4

Eugenio Suarez hit a three-run homer, Jay Bruce went 3 for 3 and Cincinnati rebounded from a difficult loss. Dan Straily (2-1) pitched

five scoreless innings as last-place Cincinnati won for the third time in 16 road games this season. The Phillies hung on for a 4-3 victory on Saturday night when Suarez was cut down at the plate on the final play of the game. Odubel Herrera had two hits and two RBIs for Philadelphia, which had won six of seven. Philadelphia left-hander Adam Morgan (1-1) lasted just 3 2/3 innings, matching the shortest outing of his career. He allowed seven runs and eight hits.

#### ROYALS 4, BRAVES 2, 13 INNINGS

Kendrys Morales hit a walk-off two-run homer with two out in the 13th inning and Kansas City overcame a rare blown save by Wade Davis to defeat Atlanta. Alcides Escobar, who had four hits to match his career high, singled before Morales' blast off Jason Grilli. The Royals used nine pitchers, tying a club record for one game, with Chien-Ming Wang (2-0) picking up the victory. Lefthander Eric O'Flaherty (0-3), the sixth of seven Braves pitchers, took the loss. The Braves rallied to tie it with two runs in the ninth off Davis, who blew his first save since July 12 against Toronto.

#### ATHLETICS 7, RAYS 6

Danny Valencia hit three home runs, including a two-run shot in the ninth inning that lifted Oakland to a win. Valencia's final homer - his fifth of the season, all in the three-game weekend series - came on the first pitch from Steve Geltz (0-2), Tampa Bay's fifth pitcher. John Axford (3-1) pitched an inning for the win and Ryan Madson got three outs on four pitches for his 10th save. Brandon Guyer went deep twice for the Rays in a game that featured seven home runs. Tampa Bay third baseman Evan Longoria also connected for his seventh homer.

## MLB Results/Standings

NY Yankees 7, Chicago White Sox 5; Minnesota 5, Cleveland 1; Oakland 7, Tampa Bay 6; Cincinnati 9, Philadelphia 4; Detroit 6, Baltimore 5; Boston 10, Houston 9; Miami 5, Washington 1; Milwaukee 3, San Diego 2; Kansas City 4, Atlanta 2 (13 innings); Pittsburgh 2, Chicago Cubs 1; Texas 7, Toronto 6; LA Angels 3, Seattle 0; Colorado 4, NY Mets 3; San Francisco 2, Arizona 1; St. Louis 5, LA Dodgers 2.

American League				National League					
Eastern Division				Eastern Division					
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB		
Baltimore	23	13	.639	-	Washington	23	15	.605	-
Boston	24	14	.632	-	Philadelphia	22	16	.579	1
Toronto	19	20	.487	5.5	NY Mets	21	16	.568	1.5
Tampa Bay	16	19	.457	6.5	Miami	20	17	.541	2.5
NY Yankees	16	20	.444	7	Atlanta	9	27	.250	13
Central Division				Central Division					
Chicago White Sox	24	14	.632	-	Chicago Cubs	27	9	.750	-
Cleveland	17	17	.500	5	Pittsburgh	19	17	.528	8
Kansas City	18	19	.486	5.5	St. Louis	20	18	.526	8
Detroit	16	21	.432	7.5	Milwaukee	16	22	.421	12
Minnesota	10	26	.278	13	Cincinnati	15	22	.405	12.5
Western Division				Western Division					
Texas	22	16	.579	-	San Francisco	22	18	.550	-
Seattle	21	16	.568	0.5	LA Dodgers	20	18	.526	1
LA Angels	16	21	.432	5.5	Colorado	19	18	.514	1.5
Oakland	16	22	.421	6	San Diego	17	22	.436	4.5
Houston	15	24	.385	7.5	Arizona	17	23	.425	5

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**ST LOUIS:** St. Louis Blues goalie Brian Elliott (1) makes the save as San Jose Sharks center Patrick Marleau (12) and the Blues defenseman Colton Parayko (55) battle for the puck during the third period in Game 1 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals. — AP

## ELLIOTT LEADS WAY AS BLUES BEAT SHARKS 2-1 IN GAME 1

**ST LOUIS:** Once again, Brian Elliott was the star of the show. His latest performance gave his St. Louis Blues teammates plenty of comfort knowing he had their back. "When your goalie is your best player, it gives you a great chance of winning, and that was the case," captain David Backes said after the Blues opened their first Western Conference final in 15 years with a tense 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Sunday night.

"It was that way for the first two rounds," Backes added, "and nothing's changed in Game 1 of the third round." Backes opened the scoring and Jori Lehtera had the go-ahead goal in the second period on a spinning shot that Martin Jones could not handle. "I just got the puck and closed my eyes and shot it, that's about it," Lehtera said. "Just keep it simple." Said Jones: "Not much to it, just found a hole. I'll make that save next time." Tomas Hertl scored on a first-period deflection for the Sharks, who outshot St. Louis 32-23 but couldn't quite solve Elliott. Among those he frustrated was captain Joe Pavelski, who had seven shots and had perhaps the best chance in the third period on a one-timer near the midway mark. Pavelski and Elliott were roommates at Wisconsin. "I'm going to blame that one on the stick," Pavelski said. "No, I have to find a way to put that in regardless of what goes on. I thought it was going in."

### Best road team

Blues coach Ken Hitchcock thought his team was fortunate to survive the last 2:29 after the Sharks pulled Jones. "I thought we did a great job. We kept it in the zone," Hitchcock said sarcastically. "Are you kidding me? We couldn't get it out." The Sharks were the best road team in the NHL in the regular season at 28-10-3, but have dropped four in a row on the road in these playoffs, including all three in the second round against Nashville. They had seven goals in three road losses to the Predators and were 0 for 3 on the power play, which had been a major plus. San Jose had been con-

verting on 33 percent of its power plays in the postseason.

"They were hot in the last series," Blues defenseman Alex Pietrangolo said. "We stepped up to the challenge." The Blues made good on their first chance with home-ice advantage in the playoffs, although they're just 4-4 at the Scottrade Center heading into Game 2 on Tuesday night. Elliott was at his best - and got some luck - in the second period when the Blues were outshot 16-5, but got the lone goal when Lehtera scored unassisted. The goalie benefited from a quick whistle with 1:14 left when he unsuccessfully tried to smother the puck on a long dump-in by Melker Karlsson, and it slowly slid between his pads and off his stick into the net, just after play had been ruled dead. "The puck was spinning a lot and it probably just spun out," Elliott said. "I haven't really seen it yet, so I don't know."

Backes opened the scoring with a deflection and is tied with sharpshooter Vladimir Tarasenko for the team lead with seven goals in the playoffs, mostly because he's fearless in front of the net waiting to pounce on rebounds. The team captain had 21 goals in the regular season.

Defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk started the play from the point and thought this goal was particularly impressive because it had been deflected before it got to Backes. "One thing I never have to worry about is him being in front of the net when I shoot it," Shattenkirk said. "There's where he's so valuable."

Lehtera's second goal of the playoffs came off an errant clearing attempt by Brent Burns for a 2-1 lead. He powered through on his shot after Chris Tierney got a piece of the stick. Just 34 seconds elapsed between the opening goal by Backes and Hertl's answering goal redirected a shot by Pavelski with the puck bouncing past Elliott. The Blues had just enough despite a third disallowed goal in the playoffs. Patrik Berglund's deflection was waved off because of incidental contact with Jones, a call confirmed after video review. — AP

## DAY DOMINATES BEST FIELD IN TO WIN PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH:** Jason Day had a crystal trophy at his side and a pacifier in his pocket. Only after he completed a wire-to-wire victory in The Players Championship did Day reveal that his 3-year-old son, Dash, had kept him up the night before with a stomach ailment. Exactly how the pacifier wound up in his pocket remained a mystery, though it was an illustration of his week at the TPC Sawgrass.

Nothing unsettled him. Nothing was going to stop him. "I've got no stress in my life," Day said after his four-shot victory, his seventh in the last 10 months. "Other than Dash waking up last night ... Dash woke up and he threw up everywhere. How funny is that? I've got this pacifier here because it's in my pocket for some reason. But like that's one thing that I'm sitting here (because) I was enjoying myself. I prepped well, had great work. I felt good about my swing. "Everything was coming along nicely."

For the rest of the PGA Tour, it must be frightening. Dating to the Canadian Open last summer, Day's seven victories include a major, The Players, a World Golf Championship and two FedEx Cup playoff events. He already had won twice this year. And yet when he arrived at the TPC Sawgrass, all he heard was that he has not played this golf course very well. His most recent round was an 81 last year to miss the cut. That now seems like a long time ago.

### Flawless performance

Day started this tournament by tying the course record with a 9-under 63 and breaking the 36 hole tournament record at 15-under par. He survived the scariest day at Sawgrass when the greens were as slick as ice. He overcame some errant shots and a few doubts on the front nine Sunday. And then he finished with yet another flawless performance on the back nine, where he played bogey-free all four rounds.

One year after Rickie Fowler turned in the most dynamic finish in Players Championship history, Day made Sunday look inevitable. "I'm very motivated to win as much as I can right now," he said. Day never let anyone closer than two shots the entire final round, though there were a few anxious moments, especially when he muffed three chips from just 40 feet right of the green on the par-5 ninth. A potential birdie turned into an unsettling bogey, and he had to make a 6-foot putt to avoid the score being worse. And then, it was over.



**PONTE VEDRA BEACH:** Jason Day of Australia holds The Players Championship trophy.—AP

Day rolled in a 15-foot birdie putt on No 10, another 15-foot birdie putt on No 12, and the 28-year-old Australian never came close to bogey the rest of the way. He closed with a 1-under 71 to become the first wire-to-wire winner at The Players since Hal Sutton in 2000. That was the year Sutton finished off Tiger Woods by saying, "Be the right club today," with a 6-iron into the 18th to sew up the victory. Day needed nothing that dramatic. Kevin Chappell was 5 under over his last 10 holes to finish second, though he never was a serious threat to win. No one was.

### Ridiculous short game

"It's no coincidence he's No 1 in the world," Justin Thomas said after closing with a Sunday-best 65 to tie for third. "He drives it extremely far, extremely straight. He hits it to the moon, so he can access pins that most people can't. His short game is ridiculous. I think I've pretty much covered it all there when it comes to the golf."

Day finished at 15-under 273 for his 10th career victory on the PGA Tour. Only Rory McIlroy with 11 has more victories among players still in their 20s. Day is the third No 1 player to win The Players Championship, joining Greg Norman (1994) and Tiger Woods (2001 and 2013). Perhaps even more telling about the state of his game is that he joined Woods, Tom Watson and Johnny Miller as the only players since 1970 to go wire-to-wire twice in the same season. Day led from start to finish at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill. Day also won the Dell Match Play, winning six of his seven matches before they reached the 18th green. Adam Scott referred to this run as "Tigeresque." "That's one of the hardest things to do when you are hot like that, to keep pushing," Scott said. "But he has a very strong desire to achieve so much, and I think probably his goals are changing throughout this period, and he's expecting more and more of himself. He's got that ability to push himself and accomplish." — AP

## MERCEDES IN TURMOIL AFTER WORST FINISH IN FIVE YEARS

**BARCELONA:** For the first time in more than five years, the Mercedes team yesterday flew home without a finisher, and pointless, following Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg's opening-lap collision in Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix. The team also had to cope with an unwanted collective headache, one that felt familiar after the acrimony of 2014, and had to face a new challenge as Formula One hailed a new youngest race winner in Dutch teenager Max Verstappen.

The crash ended championship leader Rosberg's winning streak-four races this year and seven in all-and delivered Mercedes' first non-finish since the 2011 Australian Grand Prix, but, worse than that, it reopened a divide between the drivers. The tension and emotion was palpable on Sunday night when they spoke to reporters after being cleared of blame for what the race stewards described as a "racing incident". Each driver seemed to blame the other, without clear articulation of those feelings, during a clumsy staged news briefing that barely papered over the cracks in a team likely to face more pressure ahead from the improving Ferrari and Red Bull outfits. Hamilton said he had apologized to the team, but he did not accept blame for attempting to pass Rosberg on the inside at Turn Four.

Rosberg, who conceded that his engine was not in the correct mode, said he moved to defend his position and was surprised by Hamilton. Team chief Toto Wolff, following the



**MONTMELLO:** Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton (L) and Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg lead after the start of the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Circuit de Catalunya. — AFP

line of the stewards' decision, attempted to provide some diplomatic objectivity. Each driver feels he is not entirely faultless, he said.

### Hamilton hopes dashed

The stewards had explained that Hamilton "had a portion of his front wing inside Rosberg's car fractions of a second prior to having to leave the track to avoid a collision...Rosberg had the right to make the maneuver that he did and Hamilton's attempt to overtake was reasonable.

"The convergence of events led neither driver to be wholly or predominantly at fault."

Like Wolff, Hamilton was upset at seeing the team lose 43 points. "These things happen, but it is the right thing to apologize, just like when the engine fails they say sorry to me." The crash ended Hamilton's hopes of a first win in eight races since clinching his third world title in Texas last October, but also confirmed that the "new" battle-toughened Rosberg of 2016 has no intention of giving his team-mate any favors.—AFP



## TOYOTA GAZOO STARTS 2016 FIA WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH PODIUM FINISH

**SILVERSTONE:** Toyota GAZOO Racing started the 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) with an encouraging podium finish in the 6 Hours of Silverstone after an eventful race. Stephane Sarrazin, Mike Conway and Kamui Kobayashi finished third to extend Toyota's run of podiums at Silverstone which stretches back to its first WEC season in 2012.

Mike's third podium in WEC meant he earned the Richard Lloyd Trophy, presented to the highest placed member of the British Racing Drivers' Club in the 6 Hours of Silverstone. Kamui marked his hybrid debut and his first race at the wheel of a Toyota since the 2009 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, with a strong performance on his way to the podium. The

#5 of Anthony Davidson, Sebastien Buemi and Kazuki Nakajima had also been on course for a strong result until a puncture severely damaged the rear of the car. It finished 16th. By virtue of being the only hybrid manufacturer to get both cars to the chequered flag, Toyota leads the World Championship after the first of nine rounds.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "It was a great performance by the team to earn a podium finish at Silverstone and marks a promising beginning for the TS050 Hybrid with its new 2.4-litre turbocharged engine and 8MJ hybrid system. As

always, Toyota will use the experience gained on the track and leverage it with its manufacturing of road cars to create ever better vehicles that exceed our customer expectations. I would like to thank our fans for their encouragement and we look forward to their support of our racing initiatives in 2016."

On this occasion, Toshio Sato, Team President, said, "This has been an exciting and eventful first race of the season. We take encouragement from this result, especially after our difficulties in qualifying. To achieve a two-car finish with a completely new car is a good accomplishment. We are not at the level we want yet, but we have made a big improvement compared to last year. It was

great to see the #6 car setting very competitive lap times later in the race; this shows we have good potential in the TS050 Hybrid. We will continue to push hard to improve for the next race."

On a sunny day, the TS050 Hybrid made a solid race debut, illustrating its potential by setting a fastest lap just 0.354seconds behind the overall quickest. In the early part of the race, the two TS050 Hybrids ran close together after starting fifth and sixth, as Sebastien in the #5 found his way past Mike in the other car. At half distance, the #5 was third but encountered trouble of its own with a right rear puncture. Unluckily, the puncture occurred just after pit entry, meaning Kazuki

completed a full 5.901-km lap at slow speed whilst the damaged tyre ripped off significant amounts of rear bodywork. Intense work from the mechanics got the car back on track after 41 minutes of repairs, with Sebastien resuming in 29th, 24 laps behind. The #5 crew fought hard to regain ground in the search for World Championship points, while the sister car showed promising speed and matched the leaders' lap times in the closing stints. The #6 car took the chequered flag in front of 52,000 fans (weekend total). Toyota GAZOO Racing is in action again next month at the 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium on 7 May, a race which takes place just 120km away from the team's home base in Cologne, Germany.



## 'NATIONAL TREASURE' COVENTRY AIMING FOR OLYMPIC RECORD

**CAPE TOWN:** Kirsty Coventry could become the first female Olympian to win eight individual medals when she competes at the 2016 Games this summer, but recent doping scandals have made the Zimbabwe swimmer wonder if her races in Rio will be clean. The 32-year-old, an athlete representative for the International Olympic Committee and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), won gold, silver and bronze medals in 2004 and added a gold and three silvers in Beijing four years later. After making her Olympic debut as a 16-year-old in Sydney, Coventry will be competing in her fifth successive Olympics in Rio after coming away empty-handed in London. With world sport battling to overcome a series of doping scandals, Coventry said she was stunned when she learned about the extent of cheating going on.

"I used to say 'I know my sport is clean' but all the recent revelations from China and Russia make me unsure that the swimmer in the lane next to me is clean," she told Reuters in an interview. "It makes me really sad, I had no idea about this level of doping in the past. I guess dopers are good at covering up and hiding. But all the revelations are good and it's a very interesting time for sport and I'm proud to be part of the fight against doping."

While Coventry says she is now driven by the chance to win that eighth Olympic medal, she did not realize she was on the brink of a record until competing in London four years ago. "I didn't know that until a reporter told me in at the London Games," she said. "I think that's kind of cool and being competitive, I like to set goals. And that is now a massive goal to try and get back on the podium, regardless of gold, silver or bronze."

### Tougher training

Coventry, who shares the record of seven individual medals with Hungarian swimmer Krisztina Egervari, is focused on the 200 meters backstroke in Rio, though she has also qualified for the 100m backstroke

and 200m individual medley. She said she might not compete in all three races and would firm up her plans closer to the time. "I'll make that decision closer to Rio but I'll do a minimum of two," she said. "The 200 back is my baby, I so like racing that one, but I might just do all three."

"London should have been my last Olympics if things had gone differently and I'd not dislocated my knee four months before. Then I got pneumonia two months before and at that point I knew I wasn't going to end my career the way I would want to. I had a definite goal to win a medal in London and after I made a decision that I wanted to end my career in the best condition possible and having left everything in that pool, regardless of the result." Training has become tougher, Coventry confessed, but her love for swimming may see her push on after Rio. "When I made the decision to carry on swimming after London, Rio was to be the last one, and now that I'm fit and back to being in good shape and having consistency in my training, I'm thinking maybe I'll keep going for a year afterwards."

"You've got to allow more time for recovery, it's a priority," she added. "I don't like doing nothing but I've realized I can't keep hammering away every day and then I'm not getting any efficiency out of my practices. I've had to make adjustment and it has been a bit of a learning curve."

One of her training partners in Charlotte, North Carolina is 11-times Olympic medalist Ryan Lochte, who at 31 is facing many of the same training issues as Coventry. "We are going through the same things and can share a lot and so it's been a very good experience," added Coventry, who is seen as a bridge in the racial divide back home and has been called a 'national treasure'. "When you've been an elite athlete for a length of time, you always find reasons and things that keep you motivated and for me it's my love of the sport and seeing the positive impact it has on the community in Zimbabwe." — Reuters



**HONG KONG:** This picture taken on May 11, 2016 shows head coach of Eastern Football club Chan Yuen-ting (C) talking to her players during a team training session. —AFP

## BECKHAM EFFECT BEHIND HK'S 1ST LADY OF FOOTBALL

**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong trailblazer Chan Yuen-ting became the first woman coach to take a men's football team to a top-flight title thanks to the toughness that earned her the nickname "beefball" and a teenage crush on David Beckham. Chan, 27, led Eastern Sports Club to win Hong Kong's Premier League in April for the first time in 21 years.

It was Chan's debut season as head coach and earned her a Guinness World Record as the first woman coach ever to win a men's championship title in a top national football league. Her path into the game started as a 13-year-old, when she became glued to watching Manchester United games on TV and, in particular, their England legend Beckham, whom she swooned over as "handsome".

The crush soon developed into a love of the game itself and propelled her into a football coaching career, despite opposition from her parents. "I think no matter your age or your gender, what you need is hard work," Chan told AFP. "You are nothing if your team is doing badly. On the pitch I forget my gender as a woman. I just hope to show my abilities."

After playing amateur football for university teams and representing Hong Kong, Chan decided to take the coaching track so she could break

into the men's professional game. She went from assistant coach to head coach at Eastern in December after her predecessor accepted an offer from a club in mainland China.

Since then, she has set out to win the players' respect, spending hours dissecting match videos and statistics to demonstrate her deep knowledge of the game. "If I show them videos and data I can convince them what I think is correct," says Chan. "You have to trust science. It is leading modern football."

At a training session in Hong Kong, eagle-eyed Chan, dressed in a black tracksuit, takes her place in the centre of team passing drills and quietly watches, sometimes running alongside the players. "I keep listening to them and like communicating with them," she says.

### Rebel teen

If Chan had listened to her parents, she would not be where she is now. Worried she would have no future in football, they tried to persuade her to take up art or dancing instead.

But, determined to pursue her Beckham-inspired career, she faked her mother's signature as a teenager to apply for a football training program. "I felt football was exciting, then I started playing," says Chan.

She studied geography at university, graduating in 2010, and went on to work as a data analyst at Hong Kong team Pegasus, where she was later assistant coach. "My family asked me to leave football as they think the salary is not high and the future is not stable. But I didn't listen to them... I'm tough," Chan says. Her never-say-die personality led her friends to give her the nickname "beefball". It plays on her name "yuen" which sounds like the Cantonese word for ball. The "beef" was added to reflect her resilience.

As well as winning more titles with Eastern, she now hopes to gain experience overseas with top clubs and bring it back to Hong Kong. The men's national team stands at a lowly 155th in the world rankings and there are limited football facilities in the densely populated southern Chinese finance hub. Many teams do not have a home ground. Eastern train on a rugby pitch. "We don't have our own training centres... we do our best within limited resources," says Chan.

Despite difficulties, she says she is satisfied with her coaching role, which she works full-time. "Even if I don't succeed, I'm enjoying my life because I have a career that comes from my hobby." And she still harbours a childhood dream to meet Beckham one day. "I have to say thanks to him," she adds.

## MURRAY A MAJOR FRENCH OPEN THREAT: DJOKOVIC

**ROME:** Novak Djokovic underlined the growing clay-court threat of Andy Murray barely a fortnight from the French Open after conceding defeat to the British number one in the final of the Rome Masters. Murray, the number two seed who suffered defeat to Djokovic in last week's Masters final in Madrid, celebrated his 29th birthday in style with a stylish 6-3, 6-3 victory over the Serbian in one hour, 35 minutes.

It was Murray's first title in Rome, the third clay-court title of his career after victories on the red dirt in Munich and Madrid last year and, more importantly, comes in timely fashion. Murray's powerful serve had Djokovic in trouble on more than one occasion during a rain-hit 1hr 35mins final in which he requested, without success, a break amid fears he would slip and injure his ankle.

But Murray showed progress in other areas, and although Djokovic heads to Paris looking to make amends for last year's stunning defeat to Swiss Stan Wawrinka, Murray has just become a potentially bigger obstacle to his hopes of a 12th Grand Slam title.

"I think he's using the court better now. He has more variety in his shots from the baseline play, so obviously he did improve," said Djokovic. "Winning Madrid and Rome and, you know, a couple of clay-court tournaments the last couple of years proves it. At the French Open, the conditions are also a bit quicker, which he likes. He's been consistently playing well (at Roland Garros) throughout the years, and I'm sure he's going to be very motivated to do well again. "He's going to come in great form to Paris."

### Murray's 'new outlook'

Becoming the first Briton to win in Rome since Patrick Hughes in 1931, it is the first time Murray's name has been added to a trophy since the birth of his baby daughter. He said the arrival of his daughter has changed his outlook on life and it will ultimately "have a positive effect on my tennis

career". "The last thing I looked at today before I went on the court was a picture of my daughter," said Murray.

A week after his Madrid defeat, the stars aligned for the Scot thanks to Djokovic coming in fatigued after his late semi-final against Japan's Kei Nishikori on Saturday. But Murray stressed: "Every time I go up against him I know I have to play great tennis to win. Any time you beat the best player in the world, it's a big win."

In Paris, nine-time French Open champion Rafael Nadal and Swiss pair Wawrinka and Roger Federer will be out to make amends for early exits in Rome. Seventime Rome champion Nadal was ousted in the quarters by Djokovic, but two days after Djokovic called beating the Spaniard on clay "the ultimate challenge", Nadal gave little indication he fears for his prospects in Paris.

"I think I am playing well during the whole clay court season," Nadal said after his defeat on Friday. "And today I was there mentally, fighting for every point, hitting good shots." Wawrinka, beaten by Juan Monaco in the third round, is set to play in Geneva this week as he struggles for match-winning confidence ahead of the defense of his title in Paris.

There are even bigger doubts on Federer, who won the Roland Garros title just once in 2009, and exited Rome still complaining of a back injury which forced him out in Madrid. Serena Williams, meanwhile, heads to Paris brimming with confidence ahead of her bid for a third title at Roland Garros that would take her Grand Slam tally to 22. The American swept past 21-year-old compatriot Madison Keys 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to claim her fourth Italian Open victory on Sunday, first title of the season and 70th of her career. Williams becomes just the fifth woman to achieve such a total in singles after Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Steffi Graf and Margaret Court. "I'm going to definitely go in there and I feel more calm and I don't feel stress to, like, have to win," she said. —AFP

## AUSSIE ATHLETES TO RECEIVE CONDOMS TO COMBAT ZIKA

**SYDNEY:** Australian athletes at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will be supplied with condoms which manufacturers say will offer "near complete" antiviral protection against the Zika virus. The Australian Olympic Committee announced the health measure for the Aug 5-21 Olympics in a statement yesterday, with the team's chef de mission Kitty Chiller saying distribution of the condoms was "a commonsense approach to a very serious problem we are facing in Rio."

The mosquito-borne Zika virus is an epidemic in Central and Latin America, and the World Health Organization has declared it a global health emergency. Zika causes mild illness or no symptoms in most people but is believed to be linked to a birth defect that causes babies to be born with unusually small heads.

Australian Stock Exchange-listed Starpharma Holdings and Ansell combined to produce the Dual Protect condoms, which provide protection via the physical barrier and a lubricant that contains an antiviral agent that counteracts viruses that cause sexually transmitted infections.

Starpharma said in a statement its lubricant showed near-complete antiviral protection against Zika in laboratory studies. Other countries are taking precautions ahead of the games including the United States, which sends the biggest delegation to the Olympics. The US Olympic Committee has formed a group that will establish best practice and information for athletes and officials traveling to Brazil.

Capt Martin S Cetrion from the Centers for Disease Control, is on the panel. The CDC's most recent advice was for pregnant women to consider not going to the Olympics and for their male sexual partners to use condoms after the trip or abstain from sex during the pregnancy. The CDC also recommends that all travelers use insect repellent while in outbreak areas and continue to use it for three weeks after travel in case they might be infected but not feel sick. — AP



**MANCHESTER:** This file photo taken on November 30, 2013 shows Australia's Jarryd Hayne (L) being tackled during the 2013 Rugby League World Cup Final between Australia and New Zealand at Old Trafford. —AFP

## RUGBY STAR HAYNE LEAVES NFL, AIMS FOR OLYMPICS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Australian rugby league star Jarryd Hayne's NFL experiment is over, as he announced his retirement Sunday from the San Francisco 49ers in order to push for selection in the Fiji Rugby Sevens team for the Rio Olympics. "I simply could not pass that chance up," Hayne said. "The Olympics has been something I have admired since I was a little boy, and it is an opportunity I feel very similar to me joining the NFL."

A 6-foot-2, 220-pound running back and special teams player, the 28-year-old Hayne was a surprise to make the initial 53-man roster out of training camp as a rookie last year with San Francisco. Playing eight games with one start for the 5-11 Niners, he had 17 carries for 52 yards and six catches for 27 yards while also returning eight punts for 76 yards.

"The support and understanding from the 49ers organization was unbelievable when I let them know about my decision to pursue another dream," Hayne said. "The past 12 months with the San Francisco 49ers have been absolutely incredible. I could not have predicted how far I have come as an NFL player. To not only be able to play in a game, but also say that I started a game in the NFL is something that I will remember for a lifetime."

He joined San Francisco as an undrafted free agent on March 3, 2015, then made the cut under former coach Jim Tomsula - making good on his goal nearly a year after leaving his old sport to chase a new NFL dream across the world. His journey captivated his home country nearly 7,000 miles away, with Australian media closely following his quest.

He left the National Rugby League in 2014, then signed a three-year contract with San Francisco the next March in a deal he said included \$100,000 in guaranteed money. Hayne spent the previous nine years - from 2006-14 - with the Parramatta Eels in the NRL and also represented Australia and played for New South Wales state in the annual State-of-Origin series. His role might have been unclear under a new coaching regime after Chip Kelly was hired in January.

"Jarryd is a tremendous example of what can happen when you commit to a goal and do everything in your power to make it a reality," 49ers general manager Trent Baalke said. "He earned the right to wear a 49ers uniform and compete alongside the best in the game. We fully support Jarryd's decision to pursue another dream - representing the Fiji Rugby Sevens team in this summer's Olympic games. We look forward to watching him in Rio and wish him continued success."

### No guarantees

Hayne has a Fijian father, and there was speculation when he quit rugby league that he'd switch to rugby union in a bid to qualify for Fiji's Olympic Sevens team. Fiji sevens coach Ben Ryan said Hayne would join the squad in London on Monday ahead of the last round of the World Sevens Series next weekend. Fiji leads the series. Ryan will trim his squad of 14 players, including Hayne, to 12 for the tournament at Twickenham and as a precursor to its final Olympic selection. —AP



**ROME:** England's Andy Murray poses with his trophy after winning the men's final match against Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the ATP Tennis Open tournament on May 15, 2016 at the Foro Italico. — AFP

## 'DEMI-GOD' DZSUDZSAK SHAKES HUNGARY OUT OF SOCCER SLUMBER

**BUDAPEST:** Balazs Dzsudzsak roared the words that inspired Hungary to a playoff win and a place in a major tournament for the first time in three decades. "We might never have this chance again, no-one's going to stop us qualifying! Not Norway, not even the best team in the world!" Dzsudzsak (pronounced 'Joo-jak') shouted at his team in the dressing room in Budapest last November.

A little over 90 minutes later Hungary had beaten Norway 2-1 to qualify for their first European Championships since 1972. "Our hair was standing on end, Dzsudzsak was like some kind of demi-God, a real leader," said a backroom staff member who witnessed the pre-match speech. After the whistle, the

29-year-old, who was not even born the last time Hungary made it to a major tournament (the 1986 World Cup), led fans in an emotional singing of the national anthem.

### Magyar Talisman

Tears streaming from his eyes, the long-awaited qualification had been a cathartic moment for the blond winger and the nation. For almost a decade Dzsudzsak has been Hungary's talisman, its most valuable player, and the nearest the Magyars have come since the 1980s to producing a star.

A baby-faced village boy from remote eastern Hungary, his breakthrough year was 2007. Dzsudzsak's speed, pinpoint

crossing and goalscoring threat, particularly from dead-balls, made him a key figure for Debreceni VSC in the third season of a three-in-row title winning run.

A scout from Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven had noticed, and Dzsudzsak made his Eredivisie debut in 2008, delighting success-starved Magyar fans who watched his games broadcast live on Hungarian TV. Top scorer for PSV in the 2010 and 2011 seasons, their fans loved the way he tormented arch rivals Ajax: he nicked five goals and three goal passes against the Amsterdam side in seven games.

After 55 goals in three and a half seasons in Holland, Dzsudzsak was drawing comparisons with Dutch legend Arjen

Robben, and the attention of clubs including Juventus, Liverpool and Villarreal. Aged 24, he seemed poised for a leap into the big time, but dismayed fans back home yearning to see a Hungarian at the very top when he opted for a move to the ambitious and cash-rich Russian Premier League side Anzhi Makhachkala.

"It's true I didn't go to a top club as many were expecting of me," Dzsudzsak said. "But this club has a bright future, within four years it will be doing well in the Champions League". It was not to be. After an injury-plagued spell and just eight appearances for Anzhi, Dzsudzsak was sold to Dynamo Moscow in 2012, but scored just 19

goals in three years. Let go this season to Bursaspor in Turkey, the Hungarian's form has been patchy, leading to periods on the bench, and some fans complaining about his work ethic. In contrast to the waning of his club career, his performances for the national team have improved with age. Accused in the past of under-performing for the national team, he was handed the captain's armband in 2014, and rescued a floundering Magyar Euro 2016 qualification campaign with a free-kick equalizer to win a point against bitter foes Romania in Bucharest. In France, Hungary are rank outsiders, but their opponents will surely have Dzsudzsak top of the list of Hungarian dangers. —AFP

## ALL-ROUND ALABA HELPS AUSTRIANS TAKE FLIGHT

**VIENNA:** Born to a Nigerian father and a Filipino mother, David Alaba is an unlikely poster boy for an Austrian national team soaring unprecedented heights. Raised in Vienna, Alaba left his hometown just after turning 16 to join Bayern Munich's youth academy.

As a youngster he idolised Patrick Vieira and dreamed of playing for Arsenal, but Bayern's persistence lured him to Germany where Alaba has blossomed into a world-class talent. Pep Guardiola has tipped him to become "a future all-time best in the club's history." Quick, versatile and deadly from set-pieces, he is also the undisputed star of an Austrian side that had until recently spent years languishing in the international wilderness.

Alaba started his career as a midfielder but was converted to left-back by Louis van Gaal during his time as Bayern boss in 2010. He has also demonstrated his worth as a makeshift centre-back under Guardiola. "He's just incredible, he's just...wow. He can play absolutely everywhere," purred Guardiola, who will take over at Manchester City next season and is expected to make a push to bring Alaba, who only recently extended his Bayern contract until 2021, to the Premier League alongside him.

The Austrian was quick to return the compliment, praising Guardiola for his progression. "He pushes everybody, every day, in a good way. Especially me. I've been getting better with every year he's been here (at Bayern), because of him." It's like he reinvented football. He thinks about football 24 hours a day.

### Impressive list of honors

A precocious talent, Alaba was also eligible to represent Nigeria, the Philippines

and Germany but was thrust into the Austrian national team aged just 17 years and 112 days to become the youngest player to represent the country. He again sent records tumbling when he made his Bayern debut a few months later, laying on an assist for Franck Ribery with his first touch in a 6-2 victory German Cup victory over Greuther Fuerth.

He scooped the Austrian footballer of the year award in 2011 as the youngest-ever recipient of the prize and has gone on to win the award five straight years, with former Bayern manager Ottmar Hitzfeld describing Alaba "as a gift from the heavens". Recognition of his ability has stretched around Europe as well. Alaba was named to UEFA's Team of the Year in 2013, Bayern's historic treble-winning season, and 2014. Far from a prolific scorer at club level, Alaba has proven much more of a threat for his country with 11 goals in 44 appearances, including four during Austria's impressive Euro 2016 campaign in which they reeled off nine straight wins after opening with a 1-1 draw at home to Sweden. His list of honors already makes for impressive reading having won the Bundesliga, German Cup, Champions League and Club World Cup during his time at Bayern, but Alaba is likely to find international success much harder to come by.

Not since the days of Toni Polster, the country's record goalscorer from the 1980s and 1990s, have Austria fielded talent quite like Alaba. He will shoulder a growing weight of expectation in France, but he says it will not be a strain. "I'm living my dream. Every morning I wake up and think to myself, cool, it doesn't get better than this!" he said, with a successful summer in France likely to catapult Alaba to the next level. —AFP



**LONDON:** In this Wednesday, April 13, 2016 file photo, Manchester United's Marcus Rashford celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during the English FA Cup quarterfinal soccer match against West Ham at Boleyn Ground stadium. — AP

## RASHFORD, TOWNSEND IN 26-MAN ENGLAND SQUAD

**LONDON:** Manchester United's teenage sensation Marcus Rashford and Newcastle United winger Andros Townsend were named in a provisional 26-man England squad for Euro 2016 yesterday. The uncapped Rashford, 18, has burst onto the scene with United this season, scoring seven goals in 16 games, while Townsend, who won the last of his 10 England caps in October, has impressed since joining Newcastle from Tottenham Hotspur in January.

Arsenal's Jack Wilshere and Liverpool's Jordan Henderson were both included after recent spells on the sidelines, but there was no place for Wilshere's club-mate Theo Walcott. Explaining Rashford's call-up, England manager Roy Hodgson told a press conference at Wembley: "He deserves to be selected. It'll be interesting to see what he can do, even if he only has one week (in training) before I name the final 23."

"There's no reason why he couldn't knock someone off their perch (and earn a place in the final squad). But that will be harder than some people expect." Hodgson must reduce his squad to 23 players for the tournament in France, which sees England drawn alongside Slovakia, Russia and neighbors Wales in Group B.

Arsenal pair Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Danny Welbeck had already been ruled out of the tournament by injury, while Manchester United left-back Luke Shaw has not returned to action since sustaining a double leg break last

September. Everton centre-back Phil Jagielka was another high-profile absentee, having struggled with injury in recent months, while there was an unexpected call-up for Manchester City midfielder Fabian Delph. Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick, Everton left-back Leighton Baines and in-form Sunderland striker Jermain Defoe all missed out.

Premier League champions Leicester City had two representatives in midfielder Danny Drinkwater and striker Jamie Vardy. Wilshere made his first start of the season for Arsenal in Sunday's 4-0 win over Aston Villa, having previously been sidelined by a fractured shin. "Absolutely buzzing!" he wrote on Twitter. "I can't wait to meet up with the squad and start preparing for the euros. Thanks for all the messages." On his decision to select Townsend over Walcott, Hodgson said: "They're both good players. They're very different players. They play in wide positions, but they're not similar players." Andros was unlucky to lose his place when he was not getting a regular place. He's done very well at Newcastle. Theo has not had such regular games and has had a tough time with injuries." Walcott, who sat out Arsenal's win over Villa with a slight hamstring injury, was also omitted from Hodgson's squad for the 2014 World Cup.

He wrote on Twitter: "I am of course disappointed not to make the squad, but I have spoken with Roy and respect his decision. I wish Roy and all the team the best of luck for a successful

Euro's." Townsend tweeted: "Huge honour to be named in provisional @England squad for the euros.... Will give my all over next few weeks to try and make final squad!" England begin their final preparations for the Euro with a friendly against Turkey in Manchester on Sunday and will also tackle Australia and Portugal before departing for France early next month.

### Provisional England squad

**Goalkeepers:** Fraser Forster (Southampton), Joe Hart (Manchester City), Tom Heaton (Burnley)

**Defenders:** Ryan Bertrand (Southampton), Gary Cahill (Chelsea), Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool), Danny Rose (Tottenham Hotspur), Chris Smalling (Manchester United), John Stones (Everton), Kyle Walker (Tottenham Hotspur)

**Midfielders:** Dele Alli (Tottenham Hotspur), Ross Barkley (Everton), Fabian Delph (Manchester City), Eric Dier (Tottenham Hotspur), Danny Drinkwater (Leicester City), Jordan Henderson (Liverpool), Adam Lallana (Liverpool), James Milner (Liverpool), Raheem Sterling (Manchester City), Andros Townsend (Newcastle United), Jack Wilshere (Arsenal)

**Forwards:** Harry Kane (Tottenham Hotspur), Marcus Rashford (Manchester United), Wayne Rooney (Manchester United, capt), Daniel Sturridge (Liverpool), Jamie Vardy (Leicester City) — AFP



David Alaba

## ICELAND'S DAVID BECKHAM PROPELS EURO DEBUTANTS

**REYKJAVIK:** With his status as the star player of his country's golden generation and his prowess from a dead ball, it is no surprise that Gylfi Sigurdsson has been labelled the Icelandic David Beckham. The 26-year-old attacking midfielder with a fierce right foot shot admits that he loved watching England stars Beckham and Frank Lampard when he was growing up. Now he is starring in the Premier League himself with Swansea City.

Nicknamed the Ice Man, Sigurdsson will get to enjoy the limelight of a major international tournament in the French heat after helping propel Iceland to Euro 2016. The North Atlantic island nation of 330,000 people has never previously been to a major tournament. It is set to become the smallest country by population ever to feature at a European Championship.

Sigurdsson was the outstanding performer in a remarkable qualifying campaign, scoring six goals as Iceland progressed with two games to spare at the expense of the once mighty Netherlands. Sigurdsson scored both goals as Iceland beat the Dutch 2-0 in Reykjavik and netted the winner in the penalty spot in a 1-0 triumph in Amsterdam.

He also scored four times in qualifying for the 2014 World Cup, when 'Str-karnir okkar' (Our Boys) only missed out on a place in Brazil in a play-off defeat to Croatia. "We just missed out in the play-offs and had to set ourselves another goal for the Euros, which was again to qualify."

"Of course, after seeing our draw, with the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Turkey all in the same group with us, some of us considered it an impossible target," Sigurdsson told FIFA.com. "But then to be able to finish the job off with two games to go is an unbelievable achievement and the

feeling that goes with it, to be on our way to the finals, is fantastic." Sigurdsson has overtaken former Chelsea and Barcelona star Eidur Gudjohnsen still going at 37 — as his country's top footballer after emerging in the team that reached the under-21 European Championship for the first time in 2011. He started with Breidablik before being lured to England by Reading as a raw 15-year-old. His parents moved with him and his father ran his Icelandic fishing business over the phone from Berkshire.

### Celebrity couple

Signed by German side Hoffenheim in 2010, he came back to English football with Swansea City on loan in 2012 before signing for Tottenham Hotspur. However, he returned to Swansea in 2014 and in his first game scored the winner as the Welsh club beat Manchester United 2-1 at Old Trafford. He had 11 goals to his name at the end of April this season as he flourishes in the league he once loved watching on television. Some of his best efforts have come from dead balls, a skill he learnt from studying one of the best in the business. "Growing up as I kid I used to watch the Premier League and used to see David Beckham taking those kinds of free-kicks, so from a young age I was probably quite lucky to have him on the TV every week," he told FIFA.com.

"It was something I used to practice when I was in Iceland and just kept doing it after I left." Beckham and Frank Lampard were the ones that I particularly liked watching, and with Lampard scoring so many goals from midfield it was hard not to look up to him." Also like Beckham, Sigurdsson forms one half of a celebrity couple, stepping out with a former Miss Iceland, Alexandra Ivarsdottir. — AFP

## RONALDO ENTERS HIS LAST CHANCE SALOON FOR EURO, NATIONAL GLORY

**LISBON:** For a player that has won almost everything on an individual and collective level, the one honor that agonizingly evades Cristiano Ronaldo is an international trophy with Portugal. Euro 2016 will be Ronaldo's fourth and at 31 possibly last European Championship finals. The previous three have all promised much only to end in varying degrees of disappointment for the three-time World Player of the Year. There have also been tears and torment.

Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro has long been destined for greatness. In the year of his 16th birthday, he played for Sporting Lisbon's under-16, under-17, under-18, reserve and first teams. Two years later, he had been snapped up by Manchester United, whose boss Alex Ferguson had been impressed by the teenager in a United-Sporting friendly. The No. 7 shirt became synonymous with Ronaldo.

In 2004, Ronaldo announced his presence on the international stage, scoring twice as Portugal reached the final on home soil before suffering a devastating defeat to shock winners Greece. Four years later, Ronaldo looked set to make amends. He was at the prime of his career having led Manchester United to the Champions League a month before arriving in Austria and Switzerland.

### Ghosts of Euro pasts

Yet, distracted by protracted rumours about his switch from United to Real Madrid—that would only come about a year later—Ronaldo found the net just once as after an impressive group stage, Portugal bowed out to Germany in the quarter-finals. Euro 2012 will arguably haunt the Madeira-born superstar the most.

Ronaldo came into the tournament on the back of a record-breaking 60-goal season with Madrid as they ended the dominance of Pep Guardiola's Barcelona side in Spain to win La Liga. His double against the Netherlands led Portugal out of the cliched group of death also including Germany. Ronaldo struck the winner against the Czech Republic in the quarter-finals, but watched on in anguish as Portugal again fell short by the finest of margins against a Spain side replete with Barca players exacted revenge on penalties in the semi-finals.

Never one to shy away from the big moment, Ronaldo's desire for glory got the better of him as he opted to take Portugal's fifth penalty. The problem was the shootout never got that far as Spain won 5-3 leaving Ronaldo to look ruefully at the Donets night sky claiming there was "no justice". As well the grand collective prize, there are also individual accolades on offer that will entice a record hoarder like Ronaldo. — AFP



**CORUNNA:** Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo prepares to take a free kick during the Spanish league football match RC Deportivo de la Coruna vs Real Madrid CF at the Municipal de Riazor stadium. — AFP

## KUWAIT DISABLED SPORTS CLUB URGES FOR MORE COOPERATION FROM BANKS

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Disabled Sports Club President Shafi Al-Hajri asked the Kuwait Banks Union to urge its member banks to provide the necessary care for their customers with disability, and exempt them from having to wait in line to process their transactions, especially those who suffer from medium and severe disabilities according to law 8/2010.

Al-Hajri said that the club received several complaints about the lack of cooperation by some banks in implementing the law, hoping that the club's efforts will find success in finding solutions for the problem in cooperation with the banks union.

Al-Hajri said the disabled club is keen on solving all problems the disabled are facing in coordination with government and private entities, as he considered Kuwait's handicapped law



Shafi Al-Hajri

the best worldwide provided that it is complied with and implemented in service of this door group.

## FEDERATION CHIEF HAILS CONTE AFTER MATCH-FIXING ACQUITTAL

**MILAN:** Italian football federation (FIGC) president Carlo Tavecchio yesterday saluted Azzurri coach Antonio Conte, after he escaped a prison term by being acquitted of sporting fraud in a match-fixing affair.

Prosecutor Roberto di Martino had requested a six-month sentence for Italy coach Conte and a fine of 8,000 euros (\$9,063), as well as similar sanctions for his former assistant at Siena, Angelo Alessio, following accusations they failed to report episodes of match-fixing while Conte was in charge at Serie B side Siena in 2011.

Reports yesterday said Conte had been acquitted of the charges, allowing him to lead Italy into this summer's Euro 2016 before he takes over as Chelsea manager following the tournament. Tavecchio said he welcomed the news with "great satisfaction" and that it would allow Conte, who is set to name a preliminary 30-man squad for Euro 2016 later yesterday, to now fully focus on the job at hand.

"It was with great satisfaction that I heard news of Antonio Conte's acquittal by the Cremona Tribunal today," Tavecchio told the ANSA news agency. "Finally, his position has been clarified. My faith in him was never up for discussion. Now, we can be even more concentrated on the European Championships."

### Four-month ban

Conte, who in 2012 served a four-month ban in relation to the affair, had been accused of not reporting an episode of

match-fixing relating to a Serie B match with AlbinoLefte from May 2011 when he was coach of Siena. Although former players and other figures were implicated, Conte was the most notable. The 46-year-old former Juventus coach has always denied any wrongdoing in an affair in which players allegedly colluded with underworld figures to fix matches and recoup the rewards of an illegal betting network.

A lawyer for Conte, Francesco Arata, said last month: "He's a total stranger to the betting world and that's why he will be cleared by the judge." Alessio, Conte's assistant during three title-winning seasons at Juventus and now with him at Italy, risked a four-month sentence but was also acquitted. The affair, however, has yet to reach its conclusion and could see former players Beppe Signori, one of the top players in Serie A in his prime during a five-year spell with Lazio, among others, feel the full force of the law. The report said "up to 90" people are involved although Signori, Cristiano Doni, Gigi Sartor and Mauro Bressan—all former Serie A players—as well as current Lazio captain Stefano Mauri, are all in the dock facing accusations of transnational sporting fraud. Of those accused, Mauri is the only active player although he has already been sanctioned for his role in the affair. Mauri served a six-month ban for failing to report match-fixing, meaning he missed most of the start of the 2014-2015 season, returning to the fray on February 14. — AFP



**BARCELONA:** FC Barcelona's Argentinian midfielder Javier Mascherano (top R) takes pictures as he parades with his team on a bus through the streets of Barcelona to celebrate their 24th La Liga title. — AFP

## BARCELONA CELEBRATES WHILE MADRID CLUBS FOCUS ON CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

**BARCELONA:** With Barcelona celebrating yet another Spanish league title, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid are already looking forward to an even bigger prize. After pushing Barcelona to the end in the Spanish league, the Madrid clubs quickly switched their focus to the Champions League final in two weeks in Milan.

One will return home as the European champion, the other will end the season without a title. But no matter what happens in Italy, both teams will take solace by having finished the league with their heads up, taking the title fight to the final days and making Barcelona work hard for the trophy.

Real Madrid won its final 12 games to finish only one point behind Barcelona, while Atletico won seven of its last eight, finishing three points behind. They were denied the trophy by a late charge by Barcelona, which won five straight to secure its second consecutive title, and sixth in eight seasons.

Although neither Madrid team won the league, fans were more pleased than frustrated when it was all over this weekend. And it didn't hurt as much to watch Barcelona celebrate knowing there's still a chance to win soccer's top club competition. "We did what we had to do and we're now thinking about our last remaining game," Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "Now it's

important to rest up, spend a few days with the family and forget about football. We'll come back raring to go in preparation for the final."

### Quest for revenge

The European title would give Madrid a sensational ending to a season that appeared to be lost not long ago. Before its impressive final run in the Spanish league, Madrid season's had been marked by a demoralizing 4-0 home loss to Barcelona, a result that left "Los Blancos" in crisis and led to the eventual firing of coach Rafa Benitez. There was also the embarrassing disqualification from the Copa del Rey for using an ineligible player, and a signing ban handed down by FIFA for breaching rules registering players under the age of 18.

At one point in the league, Madrid trailed Barcelona by 12 points and many fans had given up hope of a comeback. In the Champions League, a shocking 2-0 loss at Wolfsburg put the team on the brink of elimination in the quarterfinals, and only a hat trick from Cristiano Ronaldo saved the team from an embarrassing early elimination. Finishing the league on a high helped boost the team's confidence ahead of the final in Milan. "Our aim was to put the pressure on and we've done that. It's great for us in terms of morale heading into the Champions League

final," Madrid defender Sergio Ramos said. "We had hope, which is the last thing you want to lose. Now we have a beautiful Champions League final that we want to win to make it an unforgettable year."

The result of the final should help determine how successful Madrid's season will actually be. "I don't think that it has been a bad season," Madrid defender Dani Carvajal said. "Right now, I would give a positive assessment, but on the 28th we'll be able to judge whether the season has been a good or bad one." Atletico will be hoping to avenge the hurtful result from two years ago, when it lost to Madrid in extra time despite leading until the final minutes of regulation. Regardless of the result in Milan, Atletico again showed its worth this season both against Spanish rivals and top European clubs.

Atletico eliminated Barcelona and Bayern Munich on its way to the Champions League final, and was the team that challenged Barcelona the most in the Spanish league, staying in second place from early in the season until a disappointing late loss to last-place Levante last weekend. "The reason Barcelona struggled was because we were right there to be able to fight until the end," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said. "It makes us happy to be fighting with the best in the world." — AP



**SPLIT, Croatia:** In this Friday, June 12, 2015 file photo, Italy's head coach Antonio Conte waits for the start of the Euro 2016 Group H qualifying soccer match between Croatia and Italy. — AP

## PREMIER LEAGUE 2015-16: THE SEASON'S BEST GAMES

**LONDON:** With another dramatic Premier League season at an end, AFP Sport looks back at the five best matches of the 2015-16 campaign:

### Manchester City 1 Leicester City 3

Rarely can a goal from Sergio Aguero have been greeted with such apathy, but the sound of the Manchester City star's irrelevant late strike barely being acknowledged by the chastened home support told the story of a defining day in the title race. Leicester arrived at Eastlands in February regarded in some quarters as a novelty act, whose time at the top would soon be over once a superpower like City had finished with them. But by the end of a bravura Leicester display, it was clear Claudio Ranieri's side were more than capable of completing their fairytale title bid. Robert Huth met Riyad Mahrez's free-kick to give the Foxes an early lead and Mahrez doubled the lead himself with a cool finish before German defender Huth sealed the points with another header to leave City stunned.

### Norwich City 4 Liverpool 5

Arguably the most dramatic match of the season featured Liverpool's inconsistent attack at its dynamic best and Norwich's creaky defense at its very worst. Liverpool took the lead through Roberto Firmino before Norwich hit back with goals from Dieumerci Mbokani and Steven Naismith before half-time. Wes Hoolahan's penalty gave the hosts a 3-1 lead early in the second half. But back came Jurgen Klopp's team and three goals in 20 minutes from Jordan Henderson, Firmino and James Milner made it 4-3 with 15 minutes to go. Sebastian Bassong looked to have rescued a point for Norwich in the 92nd minute, but Alex Neil's

side showed why they were destined for relegation by immediately losing focus and allowing Liverpool substitute Adam Lallana to volley home a 95th-minute winner.

### Liverpool 3 Arsenal 3

Few teams in the Premier League can surpass Arsenal for their jarring ability to combine moments of jaw-dropping brilliance and astounding ineptitude. Never was that frustrating split-personality more visible than at Anfield in January, in a game that became an instant classic. With a suitably dramatic snowstorm providing the backdrop, Liverpool playmaker Roberto Firmino scored twice in the first 20 minutes, including a superb long-range effort, either side of Aaron Ramsey's equaliser for Arsenal. Olivier Giroud netted twice for the Gunners to put them 3-2 ahead by the 55th minute, but Liverpool midfielder Joe Allen capped a breathless encounter when he slammed home a 90th-minute equaliser.

### Newcastle United 3 Manchester United 3

At first glance this January meeting between a Newcastle team painfully short of attacking quality and a Manchester United side constrained by manager Louis van Gaal's tactical conservatism should have been forgettable drab. Instead, they banished those preconceptions with a six-goal thriller. Wayne Rooney's penalty and Jesse Lingard's strike seemingly put United in control before Georginio Wijnaldum and Aleksandar Mitrovic's penalty levelled the scores. Rooney's sublime long-range second restored United's advantage in the 79th minute, only for Newcastle defender Paul Dummett to salvage a draw in the last minute. — AFP

## RANIERI BRACES LEICESTER FOR BIG TEAM BACKLASH

**LONDON:** Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri has told his players to expect the full force of the Premier League's leading clubs when they attempt to defend their fairytale title next season. Leicester concluded their astonishing campaign on Sunday with a 1-1 draw at deposed champions Chelsea, Ranieri's former club, which left the 5,000-1 outsiders 10 points clear at the top of the standings.

It was an accurate reflection of both their relentless consistency and the failings of the traditional elite, but with doubly determined domestic opposition to contend with in 2016-17, as well as Champions League football, Ranieri knows that, come August, Leicester will be marked men.

"We know if there is a fairytale next season, it will be no nightmare, but it's different next season," the jovial Italian told his post-match press conference at a sun-soaked Stamford Bridge. "We know very well we are fighting between 10, 11 (teams) to the high positions. I am sure all the big teams will go back. We continue to fight. That is our destiny. It was important to be ready when the other big teams together weren't."

He added: "The Champions League will be a very good experience for all my players. I think no-one played the Champions League (before). "It will be a very good atmosphere, with the music. I hope we are ready. Not to listen too

much to the music, but to do some music."

Before the game, Ranieri spoke to Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, the man who had sacked him 12 years previously, and he revealed afterwards that the Russian had offered him "very warm" congratulations. Ranieri was also granted a guard of honour by Chelsea's players and received a rousing reception from the home fans, some of whom sang: "There's only one Ranieri!"

He lightheartedly admonished a reporter who asked him if he had had to fight back tears, saying: "No, no tears. Come on, man! Every time you are speaking about the tears." Leicester will parade the Premier League trophy in front of their adoring supporters during an open-top bus tour of the city yesterday, before departing for a post-season trip to Thailand, home country of owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha today.

### Hen and egg

With a view to next season, Ranieri experimented with a 4-1-4-1 system against Chelsea that saw lone striker Jamie Vardy flanked by Riyad Mahrez and Demarai Gray. But he reverted to his usual 4-4-2 formation at half-time and revealed afterwards that he intends to begin next season "with the same shape".

Leicester looked to be heading to only their fourth defeat of the campaign after Cesc

Fabregas put Chelsea ahead with a 66th-minute penalty, only for Danny Drinkwater to drive home a 25-yard equalizer with eight minutes remaining.

The result saw Chelsea finish the season in 10th place and outgoing interim manager Guus Hiddink predicted that his successor, Antonio Conte, will not find it easy to return the club to the upper reaches of the table. "It's not easy because this season we were all very aware what other clubs can do as well," said Hiddink, who completed his second short-term stint at Chelsea. "Now everyone knows Leicester. We have seen Tottenham, but we have also seen West Ham. They were playing very well, very attractive. "Other clubs are knocking on the door and having more financial background next season and maybe smart recruiting. I don't think it's a done deal that the four established clubs from the past are the four established clubs for the future."

Hiddink, who revealed that he will return to the club to work with youngsters from Chelsea's academy, also urged patience over the future of captain John Terry, who is considering the offer of a one-year contract extension. "John Terry and the club are in contact and that is good," said the 69-year-old Dutchman. "We must not rock the boat. In Holland we say, don't disturb the hen that is sitting on the egg." — AFP



**LEICESTER:** Local artist Richard Wilson works on a mural dedicated to Leicester City soccer team featuring manager Claudio Ranieri, Wes Morgan and Riyad Mahrez in celebration of Leicester City winning the English Premier league title. — AP

# Sports

Rashford, Townsend  
in 26-man  
England squad



Barcelona  
celebrates while  
Madrid clubs  
focus on Europe



TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016

DAY DOMINATES BEST FIELD IN TO WIN PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP Page 16



TORONTO: Toronto Raptors' guard Kyle Lowry (7) drives past Miami Heat forward Luol Deng (9) during the second half of Game 7 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference semifinals. — AP

## TORONTO SET TO FACE LEBRON'S CAVS

### LOWRY LEADS RAPTORS INTO CONFERENCE FINAL

**TORONTO:** Less than two weeks ago, Kyle Lowry was struggling so badly that he stayed past midnight to work on his game after a tough playoff loss. Now a red-hot Lowry is carrying the Toronto Raptors into their first ever Eastern Conference finals. Lowry scored 35 points, DeMar DeRozan had 28 and the Raptors reached the conference finals by beating the Miami Heat 116-89 on Sunday. They play in Cleveland tonight. "I missed some shots I could have made, but we won the game," Lowry said. "That's all that matters. I'm going to keep pushing and try to be better, and do things to keep helping my team get wins."

After Toronto's overtime loss to Miami in Game 1, when Lowry scored seven points and missed 10-of-13 shots, he stayed behind for more than an hour to practice his shooting alone while work crews picked up garbage from beneath the Air Canada Centre seats.

Things were a lot different in Sunday's Game 7 when Lowry topped 30 points for the second straight game and the third time in the series. A standing-room-only crowd of 20,257 cheered every one of Lowry's baskets,

roared in appreciation when he was subbed out with the game winding down, and then chanted "We want Cleveland" as the final seconds ticked away.

#### Franchise record

"That's just what he does," DeRozan said of Lowry. "He's been doing it all year, he won us countless games." Checking out early gave Lowry a chance to sit on the bench and soak in the scene as Toronto set franchise records for playoff points and margin of victory. "It was just a time to relax and just think about the things that we've done, and we have to continue to do," Lowry said.

Toronto will need both Lowry and DeRozan to continue pouring in points to have any chance against the Cavaliers, who are unbeaten so far this postseason. The two Raptors All-Stars have been inconsistent so far in the playoffs but seem to be finding their form at the right time. They've combined for more than 50 points in three straight games.

"They're our guys," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "They carried us all year. There were some moments of

'Are they ever going to make a shot?' But deep in your heart, you believed that those guys were going to come around." Toronto won two of three against the Cavaliers in the regular season, with both victories coming at home by a combined six points. Toronto's defeat was a lot more lopsided: they lost 122-100 in Cleveland on Jan. 4.

#### Tough task ahead

Scouting booklets for the Cleveland series were sitting on the chair of each Raptors player inside their locker room less than an hour after Sunday's game. "We know we've got a tough task ahead," Lowry said. "It's always a challenge going against those guys." Casey declined to say whether center Jonas Valanciunas, who sprained his right ankle in Game 3 against the Heat, would be available against Cleveland.

"He's still limping around but he's doing therapy 24/7 so we'll see," Casey said. Whether or not Valanciunas plays, Toronto must control Cleveland's All-Star trio of LeBron James, Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love.

They'll also have to defend the 3-point shot - the Cavs have averaged an NBA-best 16.8 3-pointers per game this postseason.

"Obviously we know they've got three All-Stars, they have a supporting cast around those three that make shots," Toronto guard Cory Joseph said. "We've all seen them play in this postseason and they've been making a lot of 3s." Toronto's last consecutive defeats were road losses at Boston on March 23 and at Houston on March 25. "This group is hungry," Casey said.

It's also an historic one. Toronto, now in its 21st season, had never won a seven-game series before these playoffs. Now they're the 15th team to win two in the same postseason. By knocking out Miami, the Raptors left Charlotte, the Los Angeles Clippers and New Orleans as the only NBA teams to never reach a conference final. "We aren't satisfied," Lowry said. "It's just our mentality. Our goal is to play as long as possible. Everyone is excited and, yes, we're excited, but we want to continue to get four more wins and get to the finals." — AP

## FAKE BOMB AT MAN UNITED SPARKS NEW SECURITY FEARS

**MANCHESTER:** The discovery of a fake bomb inside Old Trafford brought embarrassment and potentially a \$4 million bill to Manchester United, raising serious questions about the security arrangements in place at one of the world's biggest sports teams.

It was also a stark reminder of the vulnerability of sports stadiums ahead of upcoming events like the European Championship in France and the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, and the tense atmosphere that exists among sports fans and authorities after last year's Paris attacks.

United took no chances when a mobile-phone device, taped inside a bathroom cubicle in a corner of Old Trafford, was discovered by a member of staff shortly before the Premier League match against Bournemouth on Sunday. Two stands were evacuated immediately, and soon after the game was called off and the rest of the 75,000-seat stadium was evacuated.

Army bomb-disposal experts blew up the device, described by police as "incredibly lifelike," before police said hours later that it had been left behind by a private company following a security training exercise using search dogs on Wednesday. "Fiasco is the right word. It was shambolic," Greater Manchester Mayor Tony Lloyd said yesterday. "Of course, United are a huge organization. It wasn't, I think, the fact they're the world's richest club, it was the fact that the security had missed something that in the end ought to have been found."

Many people who were at the match have praised the way the evacuation by United was handled in unique cir-

cumstances. It was the first game in the Premier League's 24-year history that has been canceled on security grounds. United executive vice chairman Ed Woodward said he was "proud of how our staff responded" and deemed the evacuation a "complete success."

In a statement, Woodward said the private company had signed that the device had been recovered at the end of the training drill, and that the device "could not have been detected by sniffer dogs on the routine matchday search . as it contained no explosives and was used in an exercise training handlers not dogs."

Sharryn McKelvie, who attended the game as part of a group of 40 United fans from all over the world, gave a mixed assessment of the club's handling of the evacuation. She told The Associated Press that messages by stadium announcer "were starting to cause more panic among people."

"One of us asked a steward after the game was abandoned, 'What's the update, mate?'" said McKelvie, who is a security manager for the University of Edinburgh. "He said the best thing you can do is go back to your car, turn the radio on and get an update that way. 'I think it's outrageous that in this day and age, at a worldwide club that United is, that after a

training exercise they didn't have standards in place to check everything is finished at the end of it," McKelvie said. "Somebody's head should roll for that one. It wasn't because of a random attack, it was because of somebody's stupidity that caused this chaos." — AP



MANCHESTERR: A sniffer dog works on the side of the pitch following the evacuation of Old Trafford stadium in Manchester, North West England, on May 15, 2016, after the English Premier League football match between Manchester United and Bournemouth was abandoned. — AFP

# Kuwait Times BUSINESS

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016

India's mobility revolution  
is driving global oil demand

Page 22

Nigeria govt to meet unions  
over national strike threat

Page 25



Gulf Bank posts a net  
profit of KD 8.8  
million in Q1 2016

Page 23

KAMCO'S REVENUE KD 1.6 MILLION, NET PROFIT KD 135,000 IN Q1 2016

Page 26



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (right) leaves after delivering a speech on the European Union with former foreign minister of the last Labour government David Miliband, at the British Museum in central London in this May 9, 2016 file photo. — AP

## EU RATINGS COULD BE CUT IF UK LEAVES: FITCH OVER 300 BOSSES URGE BRITAIN TO LEAVE 'STIFLING' EU

LONDON: A leading credit ratings agency warned yesterday that a British exit from the European Union could eventually lead it to downgrade the ratings of EU countries as well as Britain. In a report, Fitch Ratings said a vote for so-called Brexit in the referendum on June 23 would weigh on the economies of other EU countries and increase political risks in Europe.

Fitch has already said that a vote for Brexit would trigger a review of Britain's AA+ rating - code for a potential downgrade. Though it said no such action would be triggered automatically for the remaining 27 countries of the EU, it warned that "negative actions would become more likely in the medium term if the economic impact were severe or significant political risks materialized." The big political worry identified by Fitch is that a British departure from the EU would create a precedent for such a move, possibly boosting the appeal of anti-EU or other populist parties. The precedent could be even more significant if Britain were to thrive outside the EU, Fitch added.

Fitch also noted that a vote for Brexit could also precipitate Scotland leaving Britain, which might intensify secessionist pressures in other parts of the EU, such as Catalonia in Spain. Negotiating the terms of an exit won't be easy either, and could exhaust the EU's time and energy and "open up new fronts of disagreement," Fitch said. "Brexit could shift the center of gravity of the EU, making it more dominated by the eurozone core, poorer, more protectionist and less economically liberal," it said.

Though the potential economic impact of a British exit would be greater for Britain than the EU, Fitch said the

impact on the EU would still be "palpable." Fitch highlighted the risk of a decrease in EU exports to Britain. The extent of that drop would depend on factors such as the speed and make-up of any ensuing trade deal between Britain and the EU and the extent to which the British pound falls against the euro. A higher euro would make eurozone exports more expensive in Britain. Fitch said the most exposed countries would be Ireland, Malta, Belgium, the Netherlands, Cyprus and Luxembourg, all of whose exports of goods and services to Britain represent at least 8 percent of their GDP. The agency said EU countries do stand to make limited gains from a vote for Brexit as companies from around the world opt to invest within the EU rather than Britain.

### Business chiefs

More than 300 business chiefs yesterday urged Britain to vote to leave the EU in June's referendum, arguing in a joint letter that its bureaucracy stifled companies' ability to grow. The letter, published in The Daily Telegraph newspaper, comes days after the British government seized on warnings from the Bank of England and the International Monetary Fund on the financial consequences of leaving the European Union.

"Brussels' red tape stifles every one of Britain's 5.4 million businesses, even though only a small minority actually trade with the EU," said the letter, whose signatories include Steve Dowdle, a former Sony vice-president for Europe, and David Sismey, a managing director at US investment bank Goldman Sachs. — Agencies

## APPLE'S LATEST INNOVATION: A BIG STAKE FOR BERKSHIRE

OMAHA: Investors might question Warren Buffett's long-standing aversion to tech stocks after his Berkshire Hathaway bought 9.8 million shares of Apple. Buffett has always avoided technology companies because he said it was too hard to pick which ones would prevail long term, although he made an exception to that rule to buy a major IBM stake in 2011.

The stake comes with the company's shares under considerable pressure. Billions in value have been wiped from the books since Apple reported a sizeable drop in iPhone sales in last April.

Shares, down 15 percent over the past month, jumped 3 percent yesterday. Buffett was also reported to be considering joining a bid to acquire Yahoo. But Buffett told CNBC yesterday he would only act as a potential financing partner for Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert's bid. Buffett didn't immediately respond to a message from The Associated Press early yesterday.

Buffett is known for investing in comparatively boring companies when he understands the industry well, such as Geico insurance, Wells Fargo, Coca-Cola, American Express and See's Candy. Buffett avoids investing in areas outside his expertise. Whenever Buffett is asked about technology investments, he usually explains his position in terms of candy and soda. Buffett says he thinks it's too hard to determine what tech com-



OMAHA: Berkshire Hathaway Chairman and CEO Warren Buffett speaks during an interview with Liz Claman on the Fox Business Network in Omaha yesterday. — AP

panies will be worth in the future because their businesses evolve so quickly, but he's certain Snickers candy bars and Coca-Cola will remain popular decades from now.

"Whenever you get a truly extraordinary business, they're the hardest ones to value," Buffett said last year on CNBC. "It's much easier for me to figure out what Coca-Cola is worth than Google or Facebook or you name it."

Berkshire revealed the new Apple investment yesterday in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission detailing a number of changes to its \$129 billion portfolio.

But the filing didn't disclose who made the Apple investment. Besides Buffett, Berkshire has two other investment managers, who each handle about \$9 billion. Buffett has said that his investments tend to be the larger ones in the portfolio. He says investments of less than \$1 billion are likely to be the work of Ted Weschler or Todd Combs. The Apple stake was worth about \$900 million yesterday. Berkshire also added 198,853 IBM shares during the quarter to give it 81.2 million shares. Buffett has stuck with IBM even though it continues to sell for less than the roughly \$170 a share he paid for most of the shares. — AP

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## ARAMCO AWARDS HASBAH GAS EXPANSION CONTRACT

**KHOBAR:** State oil giant Saudi Aramco has awarded a \$1 billion-plus contract to India's Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Singapore-based Emas AMC for the expansion of the offshore Hasbah sour gas field, industry sources said.

Increasing its supply of gas is a top priority for Saudi Arabia. Many industrial firms have complained about a shortage crimping expansion plans, while the kingdom is trying to use more of the fuel for power generation and water desalination instead of burning crude oil, which it wants to export.

Work on the expansion scheme includes building platforms and pipelines, with the fields supply feeding the Fadhilli gas plant, a \$6 billion complex that will include a gas processing unit and sulphur recovery. Saudi Aramco declined to comment. L&T did not respond to emailed requests for comment, while Emas was not available for

immediate comment. It is the second major contract win for the duo in recent months: Emas AMC, a unit of Ezra Holdings, also teamed up last year with the Indian firm to secure a long-term contract with Aramco to work on offshore facilities.

The expansion of Hasbah will supply 2 billion standard cubic feet per day (scfd) of gas to the Fadhilli plant, for which Aramco awarded a construction contract last year. The remaining 500 million scfd of supply for the plant will come from the onshore Khursaniyah field.

Hasbah already feeds Wasit, another major gas plant. Aramco said in March it had started producing natural gas from the offshore field ahead of peak summer demand in the world's largest oil exporting country. An industry source told Reuters the Wasit plant would reach full capacity in July of processing 2.5 billion scfd of gas. — Reuters

## OIL PRICES RISE ON NIGERIA OUTAGES, GOLDMAN FORECAST

**LONDON:** Oil prices jumped over 2 percent yesterday to their highest since November 2015 on growing Nigerian oil output disruptions and after long-time bear Goldman Sachs said the market had ended almost two years of oversupply and flipped to a deficit.

Brent crude futures were trading at \$48.83 per barrel at 1118 GMT, up \$1 or 2.05 percent. US crude futures were up 98 cents, or 2.08 percent, at \$47.19 a barrel. Supply disruptions around the world of as much as 3.75 million barrels per day (bpd) have wiped out a glut that pulled down oil prices by as much as 70 percent between 2014 and early 2016. The disruptions triggered a U-turn in the outlook of Goldman Sachs, which had long warned of global storage hitting capacity and of yet another oil price crash to as low as \$20 per barrel. "The oil market has gone from nearing storage saturation to being in deficit much earlier than we expected," Goldman said.

"The market likely shifted into deficit in May ... driven by both sustained strong demand as well as sharply declining production," it said. However, Goldman cautioned that the market would slip back into a surplus in the first half of 2017 as it said prices around \$50 per barrel in the second half of 2016 would see exploration and production activity picking up. In Nigeria, output has fallen to its lowest in

decades following several acts of sabotage. In the Americas, US officials warned they were growing increasingly concerned by the possibility of an economic and political meltdown in Venezuela amid low oil prices. Venezuela's oil production has already fallen by at least 188,000 bpd this year. In the United States, crude production has fallen to 8.8 million bpd, 8.4 percent below 2015 peaks as the sector suffers a wave of bankruptcies. And in China, output fell 5.6 percent to 4.04 million bpd in April, year-on-year.

Countering this, supply rose from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as its producers are engaged in a race for market share. OPEC pumped 32.44 million bpd in April, up 188,000 bpd from March, the highest since at least 2008. Also preventing steeper price jumps was a recovery in output in Canada following closures due to a wildfire, as well as bloated global crude storages. "The inventory buffer may be preventing full price recovery and ... the market is rightly nervous about the sustainability of outages," said Morgan Stanley. Barclays said that "while the supply-side disruptions are supporting oil market balances, refinery margins are starting to weaken, especially in Asia," adding that weaker demand from those refiners could produce "downside risk to prices in Q3 16." — Reuters



**VISHAKHAPATNAM:** An Indian fisherman carries baskets through a harbor in Visakhapatnam yesterday. The government of Andhra Pradesh has imposed a two-month ban on fishing to protect marine life during the spawning season, during which time engine-propelled trawlers and mechanized boats are not permitted to fish. — AFP

## INDIA'S MOBILITY REVOLUTION IS DRIVING GLOBAL OIL DEMAND

### VEHICLE PENETRATION RATE STILL REMAINS LOW IN INDIA

**LONDON:** "India is taking over from China as the main growth market for oil," the International Energy Agency observed in its latest petroleum market update ("Oil Market Report", IEA, May 2016). India's oil consumption has grown at an average annual rate of 5 percent over the last decade and climbed over 4 million barrels per day for the first time in the year ending in March 2016. India is currently the world's fourth-largest oil consumer after the United States, China and Japan, and set to overtake Japan for the third slot within the next 12-18 months. Diesel remains the largest end market, accounting for more than 40 percent of all petroleum consumed in the country, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Liquid petroleum gas for cooking and petroleum coke for power generation are other major markets, each accounting for about 10 percent of final demand. Gasoline, by contrast, accounts for only 12 percent of total consumption, but is the fastest-growing segment, with demand rising by 10 percent a year for the last decade.

Gasoline demand has been accelerating, with consumption up 11 percent in 2014/15 and

more than 14 percent in 2015/16. Growing gasoline demand is directly linked to the explosion in vehicle ownership among the country's rapidly expanding middle and lower-middle class. The number of registered vehicles on India's roads has been doubling every seven years and hit 182 million in 2013, according to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways ("Road Transport Yearbook", 2012/13).

The majority of registered vehicles were motorcycles (133 million) with a much smaller number of cars, jeeps and taxis (25 million) and goods vehicles (9 million). The balance between two-wheeled and four-wheeled vehicles has remained fairly constant since the turn of the millennium. India still has a relatively low vehicle penetration rate compared with other developing countries let alone richer economies. There were just 149 vehicles for every 1,000 people in 2013 compared with 273 in Brazil, 277 in Mexico, 593 in Japan and 781 in the United States.

With so many registered two-wheel vehicles, the penetration of passenger cars is exceptionally low by international standards. India has just 17 passenger cars per 1,000 people compared

with 215 in Brazil, 450 in Britain and 540 in Germany. There is enormous potential for a further increase in both vehicle ownership and gasoline consumption as more and more households are able to afford to drive.

The largest number of vehicles are registered in the major urban centres of Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune and Mumbai, and the large states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, all of which have a large number of relatively wealthy households.

But the fastest growth rates in vehicle ownership over the last 10 years has been in relatively poor and peripheral states such as Tripura, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh, which suggests vehicle ownership is rapidly spreading to a much wider cross-section of the population. Provided India's economy continues to grow, and fuel prices remain moderate, India's thirst for gasoline will be the most important source of oil demand growth over the next few years. The country is set to join the United States and China in a new group of Big 3 oil consuming countries. — Reuters

## FACED WITH SHORTAGES, EGYPT LIFTS CHEAP DRUG PRICES BY 20%

**CAIRO:** Egypt is raising the price cap on medicines that cost up to 30 Egyptian pounds (\$3.38) by 20 percent in an effort to address drug shortages, the health minister said yesterday. Pharmaceutical companies will now be obliged to offer those medicines or risk having their licenses revoked, and the ministry is coordinating with the supplies and military production ministries to ensure the drugs are on the shelves, the minister told a news conference.

A weaker currency has made it more expensive to import raw materials and with the price of finished medicines fixed by the Health Ministry, some manufactur-

ers have stopped making some cheap generic medicines to staunch growing financial losses.

Millions of poor Egyptians rely on the generic medicines. Those medicines are classed as essential goods, putting them high on the priority list at banks deciding how to allocate precious dollar rations, pharmaceutical companies say they still face serious problems that force them to slow or pause production. Egypt has struggled to revive its economy since a 2011 uprising ushered in years of political instability, scaring off foreign investors and tourists-key sources of hard currency. — Reuters

## UAE'S NETWORK INTERNATIONAL CLOSES \$350M ACQUISITION LOAN

**LONDON:** UAE payment processing firm Network International has closed a \$350m-equivalent, six-year loan to finance the acquisition of Emerging Markets Payments (EMP), a payments processing company with its main operations in Africa and the Middle East, banking sources said yesterday.

The dual-currency financing is split almost evenly between a conventional dollar tranche and a murabaha dirham tranche, one banker close to the deal said. Citigroup acted as sole underwriter and coordinator on the deal and was joined in syndication by around nine international

banks, the banker said. After strong demand in syndication the pricing was reverse flexed by 25bp with final pricing coming in at 350bp for the dollar tranche and 325bp for the dirham tranche. The bolt-on acquisition follows the 49 percent acquisition of Network International by sponsors Warburg Pincus and General Atlantic in December 2015 for \$275m. Dubai's largest bank, Emirates, owns the rest.

That deal was structured at the Warburg Pincus/General Atlantic level through a specific 'holdco' vehicle - created by the sponsors for the acquisition. — Reuters

## NIGERIAN INFLATION HITS NEAR 6-YEAR HIGH IN APRIL

**LAGOS:** Annual inflation in Nigeria quickened to a near six-year high of 13.7 percent in April, in part due to rising petrol and electricity prices, the National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday, stoking expectations of another rate hike. Nigeria's worst economic crisis in decades has been driven by a sharp drop in oil prices that has slashed government revenues since the country relies on crude sales for around 70 percent of national income.

Gross domestic product growth was just 2.8 percent last year, its lowest rate since 1999, and speculation of a devaluation of the naira currency is growing. March inflation was 12.8 percent. The statistics bureau (NBS) said the higher inflation rate in April - the highest level since August 2010, according to Thomson Reuters data - reflected increases across all sectors. In March, Nigeria's central bank tightened monetary policy, raising the benchmark interest rate

to 12 percent from 11 percent to try to curb the galloping inflation - a surprise reversal that came just four months after rates were cut. "The focus inevitably shifts to what sort of monetary policy reaction to anticipate," said Razia Khan, chief economist, Africa at Standard Chartered bank, looking ahead to the monetary policy committee meeting due next Monday and Tuesday. "With the central bank governor previously stating that a headline inflation rate in excess of the MPR (benchmark interest rate) is undesirable, expectations of tightening are likely to build," she said.

NBS said petrol prices and electricity tariffs were major factors in the inflation rise. Last week, the government announced it was scrapping a costly fuel subsidy scheme and increasing petrol prices by up to 67 percent which will affect many of Nigeria's 180 million people who rely on gasoline to power electrici-

ty generators as well as transport. The new prices have yet to feed into the inflation figures, but NBS data suggests fuel was already generally sold at a higher price than the new official ceiling throughout much of April, meaning more inflationary pressure could be building. Food prices, which account for the bulk of the inflation basket, rose 13.2 percent in April, up 0.4 percentage points from March, the bureau said on its website.

Inflation has also been fuelled by pressure on the naira, which yesterday slipped to its weakest level in months against the dollar in the non-deliverable forward market. Speculation that the central bank will soon devalue the currency - which the bank denied on Sunday - has swirled since the vice president last week said foreign currency policies needed to be changed to encourage investment. — Reuters

## 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
UAE Dirham	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 Franc	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

#### COUNTRY SELL CASH SELLDRAFT

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

## EUROPEAN VOTE AGAINST CHINA MARKET STATUS NOT 'CONSTRUCTIVE': BEIJING

**BEIJING:** A European Parliament vote against granting China market economy status in the World Trade Organization was "not at all constructive", Beijing's foreign minister said yesterday as he met his French counterpart. The designation would make it much harder for Brussels to fight Beijing over alleged unfair trading practices.

China joined the WTO in 2001, and argues that accession protocols dictate it will automatically switch over to market economy status by this December, 15 years later.

But European lawmakers in Strasbourg last week voted overwhelmingly against issuing the designation, concerned that doing so would cost Europe job losses in key industries such as steel.

"We believe that this European Parliament decision was not at all constructive," Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said at a joint press conference with his visiting French counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault. Wang urged the EU to take an "objective look" at the issue and respect WTO rules. "As a member of the WTO, the EU must fulfil its promises and not deny or avoid the issue," he said, adding: "China's wish is clear, simple and reasonable: that everyone should remember the commitments they have made."

China is the world's second-largest economy, and is the EU's second-largest trading partner, with daily trade flows of over \$1 billion.

It is also the world's top steelmaker, producing more than half of global output, and has been accused of flooding the world market with over-supply sold at below cost, in violation of global trade rules.

In the non-binding resolution, MEPs urged that Chinese exports be treated in a "non-standard way" so as to "ensure a level playing field for EU industry and defend EU jobs", the European Parliament said on its website. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has given itself until this summer to decide on whether China should be granted the status.

Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, Lithuania's representative to the EU executive, told MEPs that the Commission all but ruled out doing so, saying that "any such move would be untenable". — APF

# GULF BANK POSTS A NET PROFIT OF KD 8.8 MILLION IN Q1 2016

OPERATING INCOME UP 6% TO KD44M, TOTAL ASSETS UP TO KD 5,459M

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank yesterday announced a net profit of KD 8.8 million in Q1 2016. This figure is down by KD 1 million year over year. Operating income increased by KD 2.5 million or 6 percent to KD 44 million compared to Q1 2015. Furthermore, operating profit before provisions/impairments increased by KD 1.2 million or 5 percent to KD 28.4 million.

Net credit costs on loans of KD 0.9 million (specific provisions plus write-offs less recoveries) were booked in Q1 2016 compared with KD 16.4 million in Q1 2015. Loan quality continues to improve reflecting the Bank's prudent underwriting policies and procedures. In addition, non-performing loans (NPLs) declined to 2.8 percent and coverage against these NPLs increased to 350 percent compared against 3.0 percent and 290 percent, respectively, at the end of Q1 2015. The Bank's total loan loss reserves on the balance sheet stood at KD 311 million. General provisions comprise KD 187 million or 60 percent of the total. The Capital Adequacy Ratio under Basel III is at 15.4 percent against the regulatory requirement of 13 percent.

Commenting on the results, Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank's Chairman said: "I am pleased to report steady progress this quarter, which follows the positive trend of the last year. We have achieved these results by continuing our policy of pragmatism and good governance, coordinated by a very capable and committed Board of Directors, and executed by our management team and staff. Our focus is to carry forward this momentum; we will be launching a world-class product later this year which will be the first of its kind in the region. The Bank has also recently received approvals from the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and Capital Markets Authority (CMA), as well as approval from shareholders at the bank's recent Annual General Meeting (AGM), regarding the issuance of a Tier 2 Basel III compliant subordinated bond for up to KD 100 million, which will help continue to strengthen the bank's capital adequacy."



**Gulf Bank Chairman Omar Alghanim**

Cesar Gonzalez-Bueno, Gulf Bank's Chief Executive Officer said: "We closed last year with an "A" rating from the three leading credit rating agencies which is a strong indication of the transformation the Bank has successfully completed and the strategic direction of the Bank. At the Annual General Meeting on 9 March, shareholders endorsed the recommendation of Gulf Bank's Board of Directors for a cash dividend for the first time after the 2008 financial crisis, reflecting the bank's strong financial position. Our Consumer Banking and Wholesale Banking products and services have been well-received and more innovative, easy-to-use products will soon be on the market."

### Focused products and services

The Bank's credit card business has demonstrated strong performance with 16 percent growth in credit spends, year-over-year. Gulf Rewards, the fastest and most rewarding loyalty program in Kuwait, is a significant driver of this growth and contin-



**Gulf Bank CEO Cesar Gonzalez-Bueno**

ues to attract customer and industry attention. Through the program credit card customers earn Gulf Points for each transaction, which can then be used for free flights on any airline and free hotel stays in any of the 300,000 participating hotels worldwide. The program also includes "Gulf Bank Entertainer" which is a mobile app that gives users instant offers at a multitude of retail, entertainment, and children's activities in Kuwait, UAE, and London.

In Wholesale Banking, the corporate banking suite of products continue to be well-received and stand out in the market. The Bank's cash management systems, online salary processing, and collections systems are streamlined to ensure maximum efficiency for customers with services being performed with the click of a button. Last year the Bank's cash management system received several awards and accolades.

### Award recognitions

During the first quarter of 2016, Gulf Bank's efforts were recognized through

several important awards. These included the "Best Retail Bank in Kuwait" and "Best Retail Customer Service" awards from International Finance Magazine; "Best Treasury and Cash Management Provider in Kuwait" by Global Finance; as well as the "Corporate Bank of the Year" and "Best Banking Rewards Program" awards from The European. The Bank also received the "Best Corporate Governance Financial Services" award for the Middle East in 2016 at the Ethical Boardroom Corporate Governance Awards, and were winners in the "Finance and Banking" category at the Corporate LiveWire Global Awards 2016.

### Importance of Human Capital and Corporate Social Responsibility

Gulf Bank also remains strongly committed to supporting youth and educational initiatives to help empower the next generation. To kick off 2016, Gulf Bank employees from many different departments and backgrounds signed up to volunteer in one of our key corporate social responsibility initiatives, INJAZ-Kuwait which is a non-profit (NPO), non-governmental organization (NGO) driven by Kuwait's private sector. Through strategic partnerships with Kuwait's business and education sectors, and with the help of qualified and dedicated volunteers, INJAZ delivers both Arabic and English language educational programs on entrepreneurial and leadership skills to help youth build successful careers. Gulf Bank employees have already completed several rounds of training session with students. Gulf Bank also supported "Benchmark Forum 2016", an important national design entrepreneurship forum which brings together innovative business minds and creative designers to share their experience and provide young entrepreneurs with inspiration and mentorship to guide them down the road of development and success. The Bank also sponsored a group of Bayan Bilingual high-school students to take part in the 42nd Annual Harvard Speech and Debate Showcase tournament in Boston in February.



**HOUSTON:** A carpenter works on the siding of a new townhouse at a construction site in Houston. Yesterday, the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo releases its May index of builder sentiment. —AP

## US HOMEBUILDER SENTIMENT HOLDS STEADY IN MAY

**NEW YORK:** US homebuilders' confidence held steady in May for the fourth month in a row, reflecting an overall optimistic outlook for the new-home market even as the pace of sales has slowed recently.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released yesterday was unchanged at 58. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good, rather than poor. The index had been in the low 60s for eight months until February.

Builders' view of current sales and a measure of traffic by prospective buyers held steady. Builders' outlook for sales over the next six months increased to the highest level since December.

The US housing market looks more tempered after strong growth in 2015. Sales of new homes slid to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 511,000 in March, the third monthly decline in a row.

Even so, sales in the January-March period were running slightly ahead of the year-to-date pace in 2015. April's sales figures are due out next week. Despite the sluggish start to the year, some economists see the low mortgage rates and improving job market as

strong enough to boost sales in the coming months.

The new-home market still has a long way to go to recover from the housing crash of almost a decade ago. New-home sales are significantly below the half-century average of more than 650,000 a year.

Builders still anticipate sales growth, although they have become slightly more cautious in recent months. "Job creation, low mortgage interest rates and pent-up demand will also spur growth in the single-family housing sector moving forward," said Robert Dietz, the NAHB's chief economist.

This month's builder index was based on 259 respondents. Builders' view of sales over the next six months rose three points to 65, the highest reading since December.

A gauge of traffic by prospective buyers held at 44, while a measure of current sales conditions for single-family homes remained unchanged at 63. Though new homes represent only a fraction of the housing market, they have an outsized impact on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to NAHB data. — AP

## GANNETT RAISES BID FOR TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

**NEW YORK:** USA Today owner Gannett has boosted its takeover bid for Tribune Publishing Co by about 22 percent one week after the owner of the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and other newspapers adopted a "poison pill" plan to thwart the unsolicited offer.

Gannett Co. announced yesterday that it was raising its bid to \$15 per Tribune share, up from the \$12.25 per share it previously offered. Gannett said that the total value of the revised offer is approximately \$864 million, which includes the assumption of certain Tribune liabilities, such as about \$385 million in outstanding debt. Tribune confirmed that it received the revised offer and said that its board would thoroughly review the proposal.

Tribune shares jumped 19 percent to \$13.65 at the open of trading yesterday. The Chicago company had rejected Gannett's prior per-share bid of \$12.25, saying the price was too low. Gannett Chairman John Jeffrey Louis said in a company release that the McLean, Virginia, company was raising its offer to show its "commitment to engaging in serious and meaningful negotiations with the Tribune board to reach a mutually agreeable transaction where Gannett acquires all of Tribune."

Gannett's attempts to acquire Tribune come after a shake-up at the company. In February, Chicago investor Michael W. Ferro Jr. gave Tribune a \$44.4 million cash infusion through his company Merrick Media. Ferro was later named as non-executive chairman of the newspaper publisher. Weeks later, the company ousted its CEO and named Justin Dearborn to that key job. "Our increased offer demonstrates our commitment to engaging in serious and meaningful negotiations with the Tribune Board to reach a mutually agreeable transaction where Gannett acquires all of Tribune," said a statement from Gannett chairman John Jeffrey Louis. "It is evident from our discussions with Tribune shareholders that there is overwhelming support for the companies to engage immediately regarding our proposed transaction. By increasing our offer at this time, we are reaffirming Gannett's belief that this transaction would deliver significant value to both companies' stakeholders and that the time to act is now." Tribune Publishing issued a statement acknowledging it received the offer amounting to \$15 per share, adding that its board "will thoroughly review" the revised proposal. — Agencies



**NEW YORK:** Specialist Michael Cacace, foreground right, works at the post that handles Gannett, on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. USA Today owner Gannett announced yesterday that it is boosting its buyout offer for Tribune Publishing Co. —AP

## GOLD GAINS GROUND AS EQUITIES, DOLLAR RETREAT

**LONDON:** Gold rose yesterday, recovering after its biggest weekly loss since mid-March, as stock markets eased on soft Chinese data, boosting interest in the metal as an alternative asset, and the dollar weakened against the euro. Spot gold was up 0.6 percent at \$1,280.95 an ounce at 1140 GMT, while US gold futures for June delivery were up \$10.50 at \$1,283.20.

The metal ended last week down 1.2 percent after a sharp midweek slide, though it rebounded by 0.8 percent on Friday. "Gold had a better close (last week) than one would have thought a few days earlier, and it seems to be putting in quite an impressive spell," Societe Generale analyst Robin Bhar said. "The trigger may be the softer China data we've had, with some misses on industrial production, retail sales. That's supporting the gold price."

"I thought it might break down once we started testing below \$1,270, but it didn't. That may have wrong-footed some of the people who went short," European shares fell in subdued trade yesterday. Data from China over the weekend was less rosy, with April's retail sales, factory output and fixed-asset investment all falling short of forecasts by economists polled by Reuters. The dollar eased by 0.1 percent against the euro. Gold has risen 20 percent this year after weak economic data in the United States and elsewhere tempered expectations of a near-term increase in US interest rates, which would lift the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding gold.

"Fed hikes are the only obstacle to a sustained bull market," Bank of America Merrill Lynch said in a note. "We anticipate a normalisation of rates, but don't think aggressive hikes are likely." Among other precious metals, silver was up 1 percent at \$17.30 an ounce, platinum rose 0.7 percent to \$1,054.29 and palladium was up 0.3 percent at \$590.72 an ounce.

As industry participants gathered in London on Monday for Platinum Week, the World Platinum Investment Council said in a report that a drop in South African mine supply is set to deepen the deficit in the platinum market this year. —Reuters

## GOLD RISES AS RISK APPETITE LIFTS COMMODITIES

**LONDON:** Gold rose yesterday, recovering some of the previous session's losses, as a heightened appetite for risk in wider markets boosted commodities, and as markets mulled the timing of a potential US rate rise after some downbeat economic data. Fresh inflows were seen into gold-backed exchange-traded funds on Monday, with holdings of the largest, New York-listed SPDR Gold Shares, climbing to their highest since October at 24.65 million ounces.

Spot gold was up 0.5 percent at \$1,281.10 an ounce at 1100 GMT, while U.S. gold futures for April delivery were up \$5.10 an ounce at \$1,282.00. Commodities benefited from a rise in the risk appetite, as European stocks were lifted by hopes of an agreement on the Greek debt standoff. Benchmark Brent crude

oil rose 3.2 percent, while copper was up 3 percent. "The move higher here is much more reflective of moves elsewhere in the commodities sector as a whole, rather than a gold-related move," Simon Weeks, head of precious metals at the Bank of Nova Scotia, said. "This often happens in the short term, gold moves as a commodity rather than a currency."

Gold prices rose more than 8 percent in January to post their strongest month in three years, though expectations for a US interest rate rise later in the year kept a lid on gains.

The metal remains sensitive to US data, as traders try to anticipate when the Federal Reserve will raise rates. Downbeat reports on US consumer spending and factory activity helped gold pare losses on Monday, and non-farm payrolls numbers

on Friday will be closely watched. Gold picked up some support from news the Australian central bank had cut rates, analysts said, following policy easing moves by authorities in Canada, Russia, Singapore and Denmark. "Gold is benefiting from the RBA's rate cut, a step that will accelerate the global depreciation race of currencies," Commerzbank said in a note on Tuesday. "Other central banks will probably follow suit and also cut their interest rates... As a result, gold will be more attractive as a store of value and alternative currency, a view evidently shared by ETF investors." Among other precious metals, silver was up 2.4 percent at \$17.61 an ounce. Platinum was up 0.7 percent at \$1,232 an ounce, while palladium was up 1.2 percent at \$793 an ounce. — Reuters

### For Rent

In a Luxurious and Privileged Compound at Abou Halifa Region Facing the National Park and the Sea

**Duplex & Triplex Villas**

**3/4 Bedrooms + 3/4 Bathrooms**  
**+ Big Salon + Separate pool**  
**All Master Bathrooms is Marble**

Volleyball Court / Basketball Court / Hotel Lobby  
Pools + Jacuzzi / Billiard / 213 Car Parking Areas

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# EUROPEAN EQUITIES SLIDE AMID FRANKFURT CLOSURE

**LONDON:** European stock markets fell yesterday on disappointing Chinese data, but trade was subdued owing to a holiday closure in Frankfurt. London stocks shed 0.4 percent, Madrid lost 1.0 percent and Paris dropped 0.8 percent, as investors fretted over fresh evidence of China's economic slowdown.

Frankfurt will reopen for business today. "It was Monday Blues in European markets after

weak economic data from China released over the weekend added to investor woes brought about by Wall Street falling to its lowest in a month," said CMC Markets analyst Jasper Lawler. "The Whit Monday holiday has dampened trading volumes."

Asian markets however rallied following last week's sharp losses, with Tokyo boosted by a report that Japan's prime minister plans to

delay a planned sales tax increase.

And Shanghai stocks finished 0.8 percent higher despite the weak data, buoyed by central bank assurances that it would continue with policies to support growth. Chinese industrial output, retail sales and fixed-asset investment all came in below expectations, the latest disappointing data out of Beijing following below-par trade figures the previous weekend.

"The FTSE 100's rollercoaster ride continues, starting the week with a quick dive, unwinding an impressive rally Friday afternoon," added Lee Wild, head of equity strategy at online stockbroker Interactive Investor. "Data out of China over the weekend disappointed at every level-industrial production, retail sales and investment growth."

Asian markets rallied yesterday following last week's sharp losses, with Tokyo boosted by a report that Japan's prime minister plans to delay a planned sales tax increase. Investors in Tokyo cheered a report Saturday in the respected Nikkei business daily that Shinzo Abe had told officials he wants to put off the consumption tax rise to avoid damaging the already tottering economy. It is not known how long he intends to postpone it.

Central bank assurances that it would continue with policies to support growth overshadowed weekend figures showing more weakness in the economy. Industrial output, retail sales and fixed-asset investment all came in below expectations, the latest disappointing data out of Beijing following below-par trade figures the previous weekend. While shares rose in Chinese markets, Stephen Innes, senior trader at OANDA Asia Pacific, said in a market commentary: "Clearly, the positive economic momentum in March has apparently turned soft in April, which will likely send negative reverberations across all asset classes." — Agencies



### Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 16 May 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price Index	▼ -27.56	5,348.14	5,375.70	5,375.96	5,343.94
Weighted Index	▼ -0.87	361.00	361.87	391.87	359.37
KSX 15	▼ -2.31	842.69	845.00	845.00	836.56

Volume	79,838,474
Value (KWD)	11,894,791
Number of Trades	2,259

Security	Trades						Security	Trades									
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KJ)	Trades	Last		Change	High	Low	Volume	Value (KJ)	Trades	Last	Change		
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	▲	0.0	SOKOLK	37.5	35.5	2779882	100,772	69	38.5	▼	-0.5
IKARIUS	42.5	41.0	36,740	1,514	6	42.5	▲	0.0	KRE	56	56	1,372,771	75,502	18	55	▼	-0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲	0.0	URC	90	90	2,700	243	2	90	▲	2.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	▲	0.0	NRE	91	90	567,068	54,323	13	90	▲	2.0
ENERGVH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲	0.0	SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	▲	0.0
GPI	47.0	45.5	8,496,900	439,835	177	45.5	▲	0.0	TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	▲	0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	▲	0.0	AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	▲	0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>8,532,540</b>	<b>441,360</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>804.47</b>	<b>▲</b>	<b>0.35</b>	MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.0	▲	0.0
KFOUC	190	188	43,340	8,168	6	188	▲	0.0	ARABREC	32.5	32.0	9,123	295	3	32.0	▲	0.0
BPCC	540	520	91,273	32,484	8	540	▲	0.0	ERESCO	90	58	302,000	17,820	6	60	▲	0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	610	▲	0.0	MABANEE	830	820	158,478	164,513	11	830	▲	0.0
ALQURAN	210	208	87,868	14,221	14	208	▼	-2.0	INJAZZAT	78	74	29,900	2,243	3	75	▼	-1.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>172,501</b>	<b>54,872</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>589.25</b>	<b>▲</b>	<b>2.93</b>	INVESTORS	22.0	21.5	983,111	21,361	13	22.0	▲	0.0
KCEM	395	380	7,320	2,763	4	380	▼	-15.0	IRC	30.0	29.5	92,465	1,856	4	29.5	▼	-0.5
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	▲	0.0	ALTUJARA	78	77	370,819	28,557	13	78	▲	1.0
CABLE	436	425	20,960	8,837	9	430	▼	-5.0	SNAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	35.5	▲	0.0
SHIP	164	160	96,864	10,745	15	164	▼	-4.0	AAYANRE	96	96	170,000	11,220	5	96	▲	0.0
PCEM	1,020	1,000	3,050	3,055	4	1,020	▲	20.0	AGAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲	0.0	ALAGARIA	22.0	21.0	86,900	1,793	6	21.0	▼	-1.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲	0.0	MAZAYA	120	118	1,183,754	140,101	18	120	▲	2.0
ACICO	310	300	20,941	6,913	2	300	▲	5.0	ADNC	16.0	15.0	4,204,100	85,170	62	15.5	▲	0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲	0.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	99	▲	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	▲	0.0	TLARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.5	▲	0.0
KBMMC	250	250	115,500	28,875	1	250	▲	0.0	TAAMEER	23.0	22.0	53,100	1,168	5	23.0	▲	0.0
NICBM	226	218	250,000	54,508	3	218	▼	-8.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▲	0.0
EQUIPMENT	53	51	1,180,939	81,044	36	51	▼	-2.0	ARGAN	164	164	10,000	1,640	2	164	▲	0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	▲	0.0	ABYAR	25.0	24.5	573,250	14,254	9	24.5	▼	-0.5
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲	0.0	MUNSHAAT	56	51	4,286,931	227,414	141	55	▲	1.0
SALSOQHI	77	75	285,000	21,755	18	75	▼	-2.0	FRSTOUBAI	56	54	500,867	27,083	29	55	▼	-1.0
AGLTY	500	465	576,800	286,103	21	495	▼	-5.0	KBT	43.0	42.0	1,044,430	89,941	27	42.0	▼	-1.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	▲	0.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	▲	0.0
CLEANING	41.5	39.0	881,500	35,528	30	39.0	▼	-2.5	MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	24.0	▲	0.0
CITYGROUP	520	500	5,000	2,600	2	520	▲	0.0	ALMUDON	31.0	30.5	706,000	21,843	14	31.0	▼	-0.5
KGL	49.0	48.5	400,000	19,443	8	48.5	▲	1.5	MARAKEZ	22.0	22.0	10,000	220	2	22.0	▼	-2.0
KCCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	206	▲	0.0	REMAL	34.5	34.0	130,400	4,434	7	34.5	▲	0.0
HUMANISOFT	1,080	960	41,272	42,567	7	960	▼	-80.0	MASHAER	75	76	23,516	1,786	6	79	▲	2.0
NAFAS	184	180	95,900	11,913	11	180	▲	0.0	<b>Real Estate</b>			<b>20,289,545</b>	<b>1,056,084</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>847.43</b>	<b>▼</b>	<b>-1.82</b>
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	242	▲	0.0	KINV	96	94	23,000	1,951	5	96	▲	1.0
GFC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.0	▲	0.0	FACIL	186	178	90,960	11,065	9	186	▲	4.0
MAYADEEN	22.5	22.0	1,290,380	28,625	35	22.5	▼	-0.5	IFA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	▲	0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790	▲	0.0	NINY	116	112	862,900	101,908	20	116	▲	0.0
MTCC	76	75	842,573	63,567	36	75	▼	-5.0	KPROJ	540	540	50	27	1	540	▲	10.0
UPAC	980	960	13,271	9,157	1	960	▼	-10.0	COAST	46.5	45.0	936,350	42,971	25	46.0	▲	0.0
ALAFCC	212	202	908,707	192,004	27	212	▲	0.0	SECH	42.5	41.5	1,638,839	77,004	39	42.5	▲	0.0
MUBARRAD	83	83	130,000	8,180	5	83	▼	-1.0	SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	83	▲	0.0
LOGISTICS	76	77	368,275	28,655	25	77	▼	-2.0	ARZAN	33.5	33.0	809,828	26,721	20	33.5	▲	0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲	0.0	MARAKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	88	▲	0.0
GCEM	79	77	41,900	3,204	6	79	▲	0.0	KMEPIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	▲	0.0
QIC	71	71	40,000	2,840	2	71	▼	-2.0	ALAMAN	51	49.5	977,170	48,812	15	50	▲	0.0
FCEM	76	75	160,500	14,439	4	75	▲	0.0	ALOLA	50	49.5	280,500	14,005	8	50	▲	0.0
RKWC	91	91	103	9	1	91	▼	-2.0	ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.0	▲	0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲	0.0	GIH	26.5	27.5	533,160	14,945	18	28.0	▼	-0.5
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>7,774,362</b>	<b>846,406</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>1024.11</b>	<b>▲</b>	<b>-13.73</b>	AAYAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	▲	0.0
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	▲	0.0	BAYANINV	34.0	33.5	386,162	13,088	21	34.0	▼	-0.5
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲	0.0	OSGUL	44.5	44.5	3,000	134	3	44.5	▲	2.5
PAPCO	96	96	17	2	1	99	▲	5.0	KPIC	37.5	37.0	75,587	2,805	4	37.0	▼	-0.5
CATTL	158	158	30,000	14,220	3	158	▼	-10.0	KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲	0.0
DANAH	90	90	1,981,701	176,598	73	89	▲	0.0	NH	58	56	46,349	2,795	10	55	▼	-1.0
POULT	178	176	10,000	1,786	3	176	▲	0.0	ISKAN	31.5	30.5	1,278,000	39,765	27	30.5	▲	0.0
FOOD	2,320	2,290	155,972	354,155	13	2,290	▼	-80.0	MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	14.5	▲	0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>2,237,580</b>	<b>546,740</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>1076.19</b>	<b>▲</b>	<b>-14.75</b>	ALDEERA	39.0	38.0	86,750	3,291	15	38.5	▼	-0.5
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲	0	ALSALAM	38.5	38.0	1,910,000	73,164	42	38.0	▼	-0.5
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	520	▲	0	EKTTITAB	36.5	35.0	2,484,571	86,548	60	35.5	▼	-0.5
YIACO	210	200	40,500	8,110	5	210	▲	19	ALMADINA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0</			



## TOTAL LAUNCHES MAMMOTH GAS PLANT IN BRITAIN'S SHETLANDS

**SHETLAND, United Kingdom:** Total officially launched yesterday a huge new gas project in Britain's remote Shetland Islands, hailed by London as a "vote of confidence" in the flagging North Sea oil and gas industry. The French energy giant officially opened the Shetland Gas Plant in Britain's northernmost outpost, which cost £3.5 billion (\$5 billion, 4.4 billion euros) to build.

Bringing in gas from the Laggan-Tormore fields, the plant began production on February 7, which has since been ramped up to its full capacity of 500,000 cubic feet of gas (90,000 barrels of oil equivalent) per day. The fields are expected to last for about 20 years. The Scottish North Sea oil and gas

sector has been reeling from a plunge in oil prices since mid-2014, leading the British government to cut taxes for the industry.

Amber Rudd, the minister for energy and climate change, called the opening of the Shetland project a "vote of confidence in the offshore oil and gas industry". The plant was "creating jobs and providing secure, affordable energy to the UK's families and businesses for decades to come", she said in a statement. "North Sea oil and gas is crucial to our energy mix. "We are 100 percent committed to helping our oil and gas industry attract investment, unlock new potential and remain competitive for the future." The Laggan-Tormore fields lie around 80 miles (125 kilometres)

northwest of Shetland. Total chief executive Patrick Pouyanne said the project demonstrated the company's "commitment" to Britain and said it would help the country's long-term energy security. "This subsea-shore development is the first of its kind in the country and will provide the domestic market with eight percent of its daily gas requirements while enabling the potential for further developments in the West of Shetland area," Pouyanne said in a statement.

Located in up to 600 metres (1,970 feet) of water, the five wells tap reservoirs that lie 3,500 to 3,900 metres (11,500 to 12,800 feet) beneath the sea floor. The gas is treated at the Shetland plant before the processed gas is piped into Britain's

main grid. Total claimed the plant was Britain's biggest construction project since the London 2012 Olympics, employing 2,500 people at the peak of construction. Laggan-Tormore is operated by Total with junior partners Denmark-headquartered DONG Energy and British energy company SSE, which each have a 20 percent interest. The Shetland Islands are around 105 miles (165 kilometres) northeast of the Scottish mainland. Shetland was invaded by Vikings in the late eighth and early ninth centuries. The archipelago was pledged to Scotland by the king of Norway in 1469 but the Norwegian spirit lives on in street and place names and islanders celebrate their Norse roots. — AFP



**MARSEILLE:** The former SNCM ferry boat "Jean Nicoli" bearing the color and logo of "Corsica-Linea" in Marseille, southeastern France. The request of SNCM company works council who ask for the invalidation of the shares sale to Corsica Maritima Holding will be examined on May 18, 2016 before the commercial court of Marseille. — AFP

## THAILAND'S Q1 GDP SURPRISINGLY RESILIENT

**BANGKOK:** Thailand's economy outpaced expectations in the first quarter to expand at the fastest annual rate in three years, providing some relief for a military government that has struggled to stimulate growth in the two years since it seized power.

But with exports expected to shrink for a fourth year running and consumption cramped by high household debts and the worst drought in a decade, economists say more fiscal stimulus and lower interest rates may be needed to prevent growth momentum from stalling.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy grew a seasonally adjusted 0.9 percent in the first quarter, boosted by government spending and tourism, the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) said on Monday. The pace was faster than 0.8 percent in the fourth quarter and 0.6 percent forecast in a Reuters poll.

From a year earlier, growth was 3.2 percent, better than 2.8 percent previously and higher than economists' estimates. Thailand's economy remains fragile two years after a military coup ended months of political unrest as its main growth engines - exports and domestic demand - remain weak.

"Thailand's economy got off to a solid start to 2016, but high household debt and continued political uncertainty are likely to drag down growth again over the coming quarters," said Krystal Tan, economist at Capital Economics based in Singapore. The NESDB expects exports to shrink 1.7 percent this year, versus 1.2 percent growth it predicted earlier. Accounting for about two-thirds of GDP, exports have fallen in the past three

years due to tepid global demand and China's slowdown. Despite the upside surprise in GDP, the Bank of Thailand could still cut rates if growth falters, economists say. "With likely subtrend growth momentum and bahot-outperforming regional currencies, we do not think one can rule out another rate cut by the BOT later this year," said Santitarn Sathirathai, senior economist at Credit Suisse in Singapore. The BOT held rates steady last week but saw higher risks to growth from slowing consumption and investment. The NESDB revised its 2016 GDP growth forecast to 3.0-3.5 percent from 2.8-3.8 percent. Growth last year was 2.8 percent.

Tourism and fiscal spending will underpin growth this year, while expected mid-year rains should ease drought, NESDB head Parameetee Vimolsiri told reporters. In a bid to spur domestic activity, the junta has ramped up investment and launched stimulus measures, although big infrastructure projects have been slow to get underway.

In January-March, government investment rose 12.4 percent on year while private investment grew 2.1 percent. Tourism, accounting for 10 percent of GDP, has been a rare bright spot. Anti-Chinese sentiment in Taiwan and Hong Kong have resulted in more Chinese tourists for Thailand.

Tourist numbers in the first quarter jumped 15.5 percent, and the NESDB predicts a record 33 million visitors this year. "It's the case of more Chinese who travel to Taiwan coming to Thailand, maybe about 5 percent more," Vichit Prakobgosol, president of CCT Group told Reuters. The group brought in 300,000 Chinese tourists last year. — Reuters

## RUSSIA'S VTB BANK RETURNS TO PROFIT

**MOSCOW:** Russia's second largest bank VTB yesterday announced a return to profit in the first quarter, saying "stabilization" in the Russian economy had boosted revenues, although by less than analysts had expected. Between January and March, state-controlled VTB posted a net profit of 600 million rubles (\$9.24 million), after a 18.3-billion-ruble loss in the same period last year.

Analysts contacted by Interfax news agency had predicted higher profits of 5.8 billion rubles, however. VTB chief Andrei Kostin said the results reflected "the continued stabilisation of business activity in the Russian economy as a whole" after the "volatility seen in the same period a year ago." In the first quarter of 2015, Russia was suffering a monetary and economic crisis

due to falling oil prices and Western sanctions imposed over the conflict in Ukraine, with the ruble plunging in value and the central bank sharply hiking the interest rate.

While Russia remains in recession, recent months have seen signs of stabilisation, particularly in the service sector, although industrial production remains low. In the first quarter, VTB's income from interest on loans more than doubled to 98.3 billion rubles, while income from fees and commission was up 13 percent at 17.4 billion rubles. This revenue growth led to a 31-percent growth in operating income to 111.1 billion rubles. However, while provision for low-quality loans was down 17 percent, it remained high at 40.6 billion rubles. — AFP

## BRAZIL GOVT SAYS JOBS, CONFIDENCE PRIORITIES

**RIO DE JANEIRO:** Brazil's interim president, Michel Temer, said in a televised interview Sunday that he hopes to reduce unemployment and bring economic and political calm to Latin America's biggest country. Temer, a centrist who took over as interim president last week after Brazil's senate voted to suspend Dilma Rousseff and try her for irregularities in the government budget, said his government would cut public spending where possible and that a reform of Brazil's pension system was essential.

Repeating a pledge made last week, Temer said the cost-cutting would not affect popular social programs that marked the 13-year rule of Rousseff's Workers Party. Brazil's newly formed government is scrambling to identify economic reforms to revive an economy in its worst recession since the Great Depression. In addition to a gaping budget deficit, it must control near double-digit inflation and rising unemployment. Temer, who was the leftist Rousseff's vice president, will remain interim president for the duration of her trial, which could last as long as six months and is expected

to lead to her ouster. He said he would not seek the presidency if he serves out the rest of the term, which goes through 2018.

Asked what he would like his legacy to be if he remains in office, Temer said: "reduce unemployment and see a calmed country." In the recorded interview with Globo, Brazil's biggest television network, Temer also said he would not interfere with corruption probes that have upended Brazilian politics in recent years, ensnaring dozens of political and corporate leaders and helping weaken the Rousseff administration.

In a separate interview with the same program, Brazil's new finance minister, Henrique Meirelles, also said spending cuts would not affect existing social programs and identified "confidence" as the country's worst economic problem. Meirelles, a former banking executive who served as central bank president during the first two Workers Party administrations, said the government needs to make up for revenue shortfalls but has not yet decided whether to raise any new taxes, included a much-discussed levy on financial transactions. — Reuters

## NIGERIA GOVT TO MEET UNIONS OVER NATIONAL STRIKE THREAT

### 67% HIKE IN PETROL PRICE FUELS RESENTMENT, PROTESTS

**LAGOS:** Nigeria's government was yesterday meeting union leaders to try to prevent a planned national strike over a 67 percent hike in the price of petrol, the labor ministry said. Ministry spokesman Samuel Olowookere told AFP the talks would take place in Abuja and involve government officials, the Nigeria Labor Congress (NLC) and its affiliates.

The NLC and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) have called for an indefinite strike from tomorrow unless petrol prices were slashed from 145 naira (\$0.73, 0.64 euros) to 86.50 naira per litre.

Government offices, airports, sea ports and businesses, including banks, shops and markets, would be shut if talks failed, the unions warned, calling on people to stockpile food. Any industrial action would exacerbate economic pressures in Africa's largest economy caused by the global slump in crude prices, which has drastically cut revenue from oil sales.

#### Subsidy system

The government last week increased the price of petrol and deregulated the fuel import market to try to end shortages caused by a foreign exchange crisis. The global oil shock has weakened the naira against the dollar but despite black market forex rates of about 350, the government has refused to devalue the currency, keeping the official rate at 197-199.

Fuel importers have not been bringing in supplies because of their inability to source forex at the official market rate, causing lengthy queues at filling stations. Wranglings over subsidy payments between importers and the government have previously led suppliers to withhold fuel deliveries in a system widely criticized as open to abuse. OPEC-member Nigeria, which has also seen production cut by militant attacks on facilities in recent weeks, depends on fuel imports because of a lack of domestic refining capacity. The government has kept prices at the pump low and paid the difference to fuel



**LAGOS:** A member of Shell staff on the Bonga offshore oil floating production storage and offloading vessel off the coast of the Niger Delta in Nigeria. — AP

importers but with overall oil revenue squeezed it can no longer afford to subsidize at 86.50 naira per litre. Because of the lack of fuel, motorists have been paying upwards of 145 naira per litre for months.

#### Economic 'tailspin'

A previous attempt to end fuel subsidies in January 2012 saw petrol prices more than double but the government was forced to partially reinstate them after widespread protests. But there were indications the unions may have misjudged the public mood this time around.

"(The NLC) should realise that Nigeria is already in a tailspin and cannot afford any strike that will worsen the nation's economic woes at

this time," said Lagos stockbroker Sola Oni. "Besides, the new price (of petrol) will end the fraudulent subsidy regime that has only enriched a few Nigerians," added Oni, from Sofunix Investments and Communications.

Public affairs commentator Quincy Durodola also questioned the timing of the union threat. "NLC was quiet when their members in IPMAN (Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria) collected subsidies and still sold above the subsidized rates," he said.

"It never saw anything wrong with that." The unions should support government efforts to make the oil sector more transparent and efficient, rather than create "unnecessary" labor unrest, he added. — AFP

## HEDGE FUNDS TURN CAUTIOUS ON CRUDE

**LONDON:** "The oil market has gone from nearing storage saturation to being in deficit much earlier than we expected," Goldman Sachs analysts said in a research note published on Sunday. "The physical rebalancing of the oil market has finally started," according to the bank, which has been among the most bearish on the outlook for surpluses and prices.

Goldman raised its near-term forecasts for WTI by around \$10 per barrel in both the second and third quarters of 2016 ("Fundamental volatility creates uncertain path for oil rebalancing", Goldman Sachs, May 15). In many ways the bank is playing catch up, because WTI has already risen \$20, almost 80 percent, from its low on Feb. 11. Goldman is exceptionally well connected with the hedge fund community and its forecasts are famous for influencing oil prices, at least in the short term. But Goldman and the majority of hedge funds parted company on the oil outlook at the start of the year ("Oil price ultra-bear Goldman Sachs turns mildly bullish", Reuters, May 16). While the bank remained cautious about market rebalancing and warned about the possible correction in prices, hedge funds were amassing a record bullish position in futures and options in anticipation of a recovery. Between the start of January and the end of April, hedge funds and other money managers almost tripled their net long position in WTI and Brent futures and options from 234 million barrels to a record 663 million barrels.

Long positions anticipating a rise in prices were increased by 133 million barrels while short position expecting a price fall were cut by 208 million barrels. In the past couple of weeks, however, just as Goldman was turning more bullish, the hedge funds have become more cautious and been taking profits following the rally.

The combined net long position in WTI and Brent was cut by 43 million barrels in the week to May 3 and a further 45 million barrels in the week to May 10, an overall reduction of almost 13 percent. Most of the adjustment has come from the long side of the market, as hedge funds have locked in some of their profits, with more modest amounts of fresh shorts emerging.

The balance of forces in the oil market between supply-demand fundamentals, hedge fund positions and oil prices has become rather complicated. As Goldman noted, the fundamental picture has become more bullish in recent weeks, with continued evidence of strong oil demand from the United States and India, and a growing number of large supply disruptions.

A range of price indicators also suggest that the rally in oil prices, which appeared to have run out of steam in the first few of May, has acquired renewed drive ("Oil rally loses momentum", Reuters, May 11). Front-month futures prices have hit fresh highs and moved back above the 20-day moving average, suggesting that the rally has momentum. Time spreads, which are often correlated with the supply-demand balance, have tightened again in the last week. Refining margins, as typified by generic markers such as the 3-2-1 crack spread, have

also showed renewed strength after weakening in the first week of May. All these signals could attract more interest from hedge funds on the long side of the market. The whole oil and products complex remains well bid, pushing more bearish traders and analysts to the margins.

But oil prices have already risen a long way from their February lows anticipating the rebalancing which is now occurring. The concentration of hedge fund long positions continues to overhang the market, heightening the risk of a price reversal if speculators all try to exit their positions at the same time.

And the big rise in prices since the start of the

year will throw a lifeline to some producers, which could delay the completion of the rebalancing process. Overall, the risks in the oil market now appear much more evenly balanced than at the start of the year, which creates more uncertainty about near-term market direction. In the longer term, oil prices probably have to rise further to moderate the growth in demand and incentivize more investment in supply. On the present trajectory, the oil market is headed for a big supply deficit by 2018/19. But in the short term, the market has already recorded most of the price increases that were expected for 2016 and 2017 just a few months ago. — Reuters



**NEW YORK:** Pedestrians walk past the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, in New York. Yesterday, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York reported on factory activity in New York in May as indicated by its Empire State manufacturing index. — AP

## MANUFACTURING IN NEW YORK CONTRACTS IN MAY

**WASHINGTON:** Factory activity in New York shrank in May after expanding for two months, as manufacturers received fewer orders and shipments fell. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York said Monday that its Empire State manufacturing index slumped to minus 9 in May, after reaching 9.6 the previous month. Any reading below zero points to contraction. The figures indicate that factories in the state continue to struggle despite growth in March and April. Factory output nationwide has been sluggish in the past year as a weak global economy has lowered exports and US businesses are spending less on equipment and machinery.

A measure of new orders fell to minus 5.5, from 11.1 the previous month. That suggests factory output may contract again next month. And a gauge of shipments also slipped into negative territory, falling to minus 1.9 from 10.2. The employment index was little changed. But a

measure of hours worked declined, evidence that factory workers put in fewer hours and will receive slightly smaller paychecks as a result.

An index of capital spending by New York manufacturers, which measures their plans to spend on large equipment, fell to its lowest level in more than two years. US manufacturing has started to improve a bit in recent months, according to nationwide data, but growth remains tepid. Factories were held back last year by a strong dollar, which makes US products more expensive overseas. But the dollar has declined since January, giving manufacturers some relief.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, said earlier this month that its manufacturing index topped 50, a sign of expansion, for the second straight month in April. That index had been below 50 for five months until March. — AP



**WINDSOR:** Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Chairman and CEO Sergio Marchionne, left, shakes hands with Dino Chiodo, president of Unifor Local 444 in front of a 2017 Pacifica minivan on the Windsor Assembly Plant line, in Windsor, Ontario. — AP

## DETROIT'S AUTOMAKERS, SENSING A THREAT, EMBRACE MOBILITY

**DEARBORN, Michigan:** For Detroit, the days of simply making cars are over. Automakers are facing multiple threats to their business from nimble tech firms like Apple and Uber. In response, carmakers are reinventing themselves as "mobility" companies that can accommodate all the different ways people get around.

Already this year, General Motors Co. has announced a long-term alliance with ride-hailing company Lyft and started a car-sharing service called Maven. Ford created a technology-focused division based in Silicon Valley that will invest in promising transportation startups. It also launched FordPass, a smartphone app that helps users find parking or share their cars. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles is partnering with Google to test self-driving software in 100 of its minivans.

In congested and expensive cities, people are increasingly content to share cars or summon rides using their smartphones. In five years, 35 million people globally will be using car-sharing services, up from 5.8 million now, according to Boston Consulting Group. That means 550,000 fewer cars sold each year. Within another few decades, fleets of self-driving taxis could replace the need for personal car ownership altogether. Automakers that don't adapt risk being supplanted by high-tech competitors.

"We're investing in future-proofing," says Elena Ford, who led the development of FordPass and is the great-great-granddaughter of Ford's founder. There are dangers. Making vehicles is complicated and expensive, and car companies have stumbled when they've taken on new businesses. GM bought software maker Electronic Data Systems Inc. in 1984 but sold it 12 years later. Ford owned Hertz rental cars but sold it a decade ago. Chrysler owned airplane-maker Gulfstream in the mid-1980s. In each case, the companies sold those businesses to refocus on car-making.

There's also the open question of whether drivers want automakers to do more than make cars. Ford CEO Mark Fields is confident they do. "It goes back to Henry Ford and one of his favorite quotes: 'If I asked people what they wanted, they'd say a faster horse,'" Fields told The Associated Press. "We want to transform, fundamentally, the relationship between an automaker and a customer."

Fields adds that the financial case is too compelling to ignore. Global revenue at traditional automakers totals \$2.3 trillion a year, he says; the transportation business, including taxis, buses and car-sharing, is worth \$5.4 trillion. Companies are targeting people like Shannon Serenko, 32, who works at Johnson & Johnson and lives in downtown Ann Arbor, Michigan. Paying for parking, insurance and gas for a car she barely uses would be a hassle, she says. Instead, she rents a Chevrolet Volt from Maven for \$42 a day when she wants to run errands.

"I'd just rather be spending all that money on other things than parking a car for six out of seven days," she said. Detroit carmakers aren't the first to offer mobility services to compete with the likes of ZipCar and Uber. German automaker Daimler AG launched Car2Go, a car-sharing serv-

ice, in 2008; it now operates in 29 cities in Europe and North America. BMW started a New York-based mobility venture capital firm in 2011. Toyota has 70 tiny electric cars zipping around Grenoble, France, as part of its own car-sharing service. But after surviving the recession, Detroit is enjoying record US sales and plowing the profits into mobility experiments.

### Aggressive

GM has been the most aggressive of the Detroit companies. In January, it invested \$500 million in Lyft and said it will co-develop a service that lets customers summon self-driving cars. Three months later, it paid a rumored \$1 billion for Cruise Automation, a startup that makes autonomous vehicle software. Around the same time, it launched Maven, a car-sharing service in Ann Arbor and Chicago.

GM President Dan Ammann said that when GM sees potential value, it can't afford to sit back and see where the market heads. "We believe in speed," Ammann said.

So far, Wall Street is on board. Colin Langan, an auto analyst with UBS, said investors understand the need to invest in new mobility, and expect companies to spend hundreds of millions of dollars a year doing so. But alarm bells may go off if they're routinely spending more.

"Historically, automakers have not been good allocators of cash," Langan said. Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne says it's dangerous for automakers to place big bets on one solution. He stresses that FCA's partnership with Google is open-ended and not exclusive. If the companies decide to keep working together, they will eventually hammer out details like licensing fees for the software.

"Walking in a collaborative fashion with people who have historically been viewed as intruders and potential enemies of our business - walking with them at their speed - is the best possible solution for us in terms of determining what our future state will be," he said. Ford has done much of its mobility work in-house. The company has run more than 30 global mobility experiments over the past 18 months, including a concept in India that lets multiple families or co-workers share a car and a ride-hailing van service for workers on its Dearborn campus. But Fields says Ford is flexible and open to partnerships. Its FordPass app was developed alongside Pivotal, a Silicon Valley software company in which it has invested \$182 million.

FordPass lets Ford owners remotely start their cars and make car payments. Users of the free app - who don't have to own Fords - can also reserve and pay for parking spots, get help from a live operator, rent their cars through FlightCar and earn points at partners like McDonald's.

Ford will continue adding features; one day, users might be able to summon a self-driving vehicle or borrow a Ford-made bike. "People spend about 4.5 hours per year in a dealership, but they spend 900 hours per year being mobile. So how can we have an ongoing dialogue?" Elena Ford said. — AP

## KAMCO'S REVENUE KD 1.6 MILLION, NET PROFIT KD 135,000 IN Q1 2016

### FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2016

**KUWAIT:** KAMCO Investment Company - KAMCO yesterday reported its financial results for the first quarter ended March 31, 2016. The company recorded a net profit of KD 135,000 with earnings-per-share (EPS) of 0.57 fils in Q1 2016, compared to a net profit of KD 109,000 with EPS of 0.46 fils during the same period in 2015. Revenue stood at KD 1.6 million for Q1 2016 against KD 1.4 million in Q1 2015.

Despite the downward slide in capital markets, which continued from the previous year, KAMCO increased its net profit and operational revenues during the first quarter of 2016 in comparison to the first quarter of 2015; which are expected to grow further in the upcoming quarters.

During the first quarter of 2016, KAMCO acted as a joint lead manager for the Burgan Bank KSCP's KD 100 million, subordinated Tier 2, Basel III - compliant bonds. KAMCO was also a joint lead manager for Kueyit Turk's Tier 2 capital-boosting sukuk issuance worth \$350 million.

Subsequently, KAMCO was ranked among the top 15 international lead managers and book runners in GCC

and MENA Bonds, and the first in Kuwait according to Bloomberg's EMEA fixed income league tables for the first quarter of 2016. The rankings, based on actual funds raised during the first quarter of 2016, accounted for the total volume and market share of all transactions executed during the period.

On the Asset Management side, the KAMCO Real Estate Yield Fund, KAMCO's flagship product in the real estate sector, distributed 1 percent for Q1, 2016 to the investors and was successful in increasing the size of the fund by more than 20 percent in terms of new subscriptions.

On this occasion, Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, CEO of KAMCO, said, "Despite the tough operating environment since last year and the current challenging macro-environment, we were able to improve operationally and hope to continue this growth and improvement as we move forward." Sarkhou added, "By continuing to increase our quality AUM through launching new Managed Funds and provide bespoke asset management solutions to clients, along with further capitalization on our capabilities and



**Faisal Mansour Sarkhou, CEO of KAMCO**

proven track record on the Investment Banking front, we remain strongly positioned to become a leading AMIB player in the region in the coming years."

KAMCO Investment Company is a premier investment company based in Kuwait and is regulated by the Capital Markets Authority with one of the largest private sector AUMs in the region.

Established in 1998 and listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) in 2003, KAMCO is a subsidiary of United Gulf Bank (UGB) and is the asset man-

agement and investment banking arm of Kuwait Projects Holding Company (KIPCO).

It has become a leading regional company within its sector offering innovative products and services to its clients, holding over \$11.2 billion of client AUM and has successfully completed 85 investment banking transactions worth over \$12 billion as of 31 December 2015.

With almost two decades of experience in conducting business in Kuwait's dynamic investment industry, KAMCO has successfully established a robust reputation for solidity, characterized by its prudent, conservative investment philosophy and spirit of transparency, which has consistently commanded the goodwill of a wide patron-base.

The company will further aggressively build upon its core competencies to offer MENA-wide investment management consultancy and services, backed by its proven track record in stringent risk mitigation, investment product innovation, and a cautious investment approach towards local, regional and international capital markets.

## BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. KATABJIWALA SALMA SAIFUDDIN
2. ABDULAZIZ SAAD MOHAMMAD
3. ABDULRAZZAQ ABDULLAH
4. DAWOUD SULAIMAN DAWOUD
5. AYAH ABDULWAHAB ABDULAZIZ NAQI

To further add to the anticipation of Yawmi account customers, Burgan Bank now offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account now offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances of becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning. For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services.



## VIVA HOLDS AGM, APPOINTS AL-FOZAN AS NEW INDEPENDENT BOARD MEMBER

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Telecommunications Company (VIVA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Regency Hotel on 16 May 2016, and the attendance represented 72.47 percent of the number of ordinary shares of the company.

The AGM approved the resignation of "Al-Zakat House" from the board, and appointed Salah Ahmad Al-Fozan an independent member, to comply VIVA's situation with the requirements of the Capital Markets Authority.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertain-

ment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach. VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

## SWISSPORT SAUDI ARABIA AND JAZEERA AIRWAYS SIGN CONTRACT

**JEDDAH:** Swissport Saudi Arabia, a subsidiary of Swissport International, the world's leading provider of ground and air cargo services to the aviation industry, has yesterday signed a contract with Jazeera Airways KSC for ground handling services at King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah and King Khaled International Airport in Riyadh, making it Swissport's launch customer in the Saudi capital.

Jazeera Airways is the largest airline serving the Middle East from Kuwait. Swissport will provide Jazeera Airways with comprehensive ground handling services including passenger and ramp handling, baggage services, operations coordination and load control. The start of the operations is scheduled for 1 June 2016 at both airports, serving nine weekly

flights in Jeddah and five weekly flights in Riyadh with potential room for expansion.

Swissport was awarded the ground handling servicing contract following a rigorous selection process, during which Swissport convincingly demonstrated its commitment to the highest industry standards and its thoroughly professional approach.

Abdulla Al-Hudaidi Jazeera's Chief Operating Officer stated, "We look forward to our new relationship with Swissport Saudi Arabia, whose recent entry into the Saudi market as a second ground handling services provider reflects the continued development of the Kingdom's aviation sector. We thank Saudi's General Authority for Civil Aviation for opening the door to private operators, thus bringing fair competition and more choice for Jazeera Airways

and our customers. Swissport Saudi Arabia's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Thomas Bommer, added, "The new contract is an important further achievement for us, and enables us to start our quality ground handling services at King Khaled International Airport in Riyadh." Bommer added, "We are looking forward to a long term partnership with Jazeera Airways."

Swissport International Ltd provides ground services for around 230 million passengers and handles 4.1 million tons of cargo a year on behalf of some 835 client-companies in the aviation sector. With a workforce of around 61,000 personnel, Swissport is active at more than 290 stations in 48 countries across five continents, and generates consolidated operating revenue of CHF 3.0 billion.



## AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank-Kuwait held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on May 11, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: Abdulaziz Abdullatif Al-Khatrash.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: ABDULLA ALI ABURAHMAH, KHOLOUD H M AL KANDARI, FAHAD MOHD AL SAQER, BADRIYA BASAM AL BASAM, NAWAF JABER KHALED, MOHAMMED ALI ASHKNANI,

SALWA ABDULJABAR SAIED, NAJI SALEH ALI AL MARRI, FOUZEYAH ABDULLAH AL SRAYEA, HESSAH ABDULLAH AL SHEMALI, SALEH MOHD AL JEEAAN, JEHAD FAWZI DAGHER, MOHAMMAD IQBAL BADARDIN NADA HASAN AL SADEQ, SHAHAD NOUR EDDINE BOUROGAA, LATIFAH SAYED EBRAHIM, MOUSA NASEER S JALLAD, SAAD AWAD ALAZMI, OSAMA ABDULRAHMAN AL DUAIJ, ABDULLA SALEH AHMED, GEORGIOS FOTIOU, MONA MAHMOOD HUSSAIN, ALFRED ZOSER ATEYAH, FAIZAH A.KHALIQ MUHAMMAD, MOHAMMED ISA MAHDI.

The Prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.





KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Information Technology Qusai Al-Shatti receives from Cisco's General Manger Samer Al-Lahham a memento.



## CISCO OUTLINES IT THREATS, SECURITY SOLUTIONS

By Islam Al-Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** Cisco Kuwait participated in a security conference and exhibition at Raddison Blu Hotel under the patronage of the Central Department for Information Technology on May 11 and 12. Cisco, as the major sponsor of the event, displayed its security solutions directed to fight threats, which may expand to include networks, data and the entire establishment before and after any attack.

Cisco General Manger Samer Al-Lahham spoke on the security threats and Cisco's emphasis on integrated security solutions that concentrate on threats. The company played a major role at the conference by organizing sessions that concentrated on the importance of security and the rapid changes in our digital world.

Director of Security at Cisco Kuwait Najji Al-Aqeeli spoke about "digital economy security", while consultative systems engineer Wisam Al-Shareef spoke about the issue of "security everywhere". While more countries, cities and companies are working to benefit from digital technologies in supporting innovation, its growth will be linked to its ability to protect its digital platform. Cisco's annual security report estimates the cost of cybercrime for the business sector at \$2.1 trillion by 2019, which is nearly four times the estimate in 2015.

Lahham said the Central Department for Information Technology is working through Kuwait's information network to help government establishments and the nongovernment sector on exchanging information in a more secure form and at a lesser cost for government

operations. The dire need in the near future is represented in companies benefiting from digital technologies without ignoring the security of sensitive data, he said.

Cisco concentrates on fulfilling the principle of security everywhere to implement it in data centers, Internet of Things and establishment networks including wireless ones, as it defends the infrastructure of information technology before, during and after an attack, and allows the establishment to focus on developing its business.

Lahham spoke to Kuwait Times about three aspects of interest for those who are concerned about data, whether individuals or companies.

The first is the current infrastructure of companies and establishments, and there are many studies that show that 31 percent of Cisco customers' networks and their systems do not avail of maintenance services Cisco presents, and from this study we found out that 92 percent of systems have the probability of being exposed to electronic attacks.

The second aspect is the rapid development taking place, and there are nearly 10 billion systems linked to the Internet currently, and will reach 50 billion in the coming five years. The Internet is now in every part of our life such as health services, industries and almost everything, so this opens piracy windows that did not exist.

The third aspect is the huge development in video and use of multimedia. Prevalence of videos in the Middle East will increase by 71 percent, and all these aspects together make us deal with information security



KUWAIT: Cisco General Manger Samer Al-Lahham (right) being interviewed by Kuwait Times IT director Islam Al-Sharaa

in a totally different manner.

As for obstacles, Lahham said there are three main elements. The first is that there is a comprehensive plan to protect information in any company, and the plan must be activated with all employees. The second element

is the human factor, which must be trained on information security because this element is what operates this technology. The third element is what Cisco presents in solutions to all companies in the form of training the human element.



TUNISIA: Roman Troedhandl, Managing Director of CCNA; Mondher Bouattour, Managing Director, Media Diffusion and Japanese Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Susumu Hasegawa cut the ribbon officially opening the new showroom for business.

## CANON OPENS LARGEST SHOWROOM IN NORTH AFRICA IN TUNISIA

**DUBAI:** Canon Central and North Africa (CCNA), a division of Canon Middle East, a global leader in photo imaging, opened in Tunisia, the largest B2B and B2C showroom in the region in partnership with its local partner, Media Diffusion. At the showroom's experience zone, customers can gain hands-on learning on Canon's innovative products.

The showroom was inaugurated in the presence of Japanese Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Susumu Hasegawa who was the guest of honor; Roman Troedhandl, Managing Director of CCNA; Mondher Bouattour, Managing Director, Media Diffusion, Somesh Adukia, B2C Sales Director, CCNA and Michele Tuscano, B2B Sales Director, CCNA.

"Tunisia is one of our focus markets which is why we have invested with our local partner here. We want customers to gain a better understanding of Canon at this showroom. Higher internet penetration and a skilled talent pool of IT professionals have energized the country's technology sector. There is growing demand for innovative products and we are leveraging this opportunity to provide various sectors a wide range of products at our showroom," said Roman Troedhandl.

"We will continue to build our presence in Tunisia through our range of innovative technologies and solutions, enabling our customers to achieve exceptional results. The opening of the showroom also underlines our focus in strengthening our presence in Central and North Africa, having launched CCNA to serve the region," he added.

The new facility will showcase the full array of Canon services and solutions ranging from inkjet and laser printers to copiers and large format printing machines.

Research shows that the B2B services market in the EMEA region will be estimated at €20 billion by 2018 while the B2C solutions market will be worth €18 billion by 2019. In the B2C services and solutions market, the strongest immediate opportunities come from building new, value-added digital solutions and services. It is estimated that in the EMEA market the value of photobooks alone, for example, will be Å800 million by 2018.

The opening of the facility will give Tunisian customers the opportunity to receive direct advice on products and services from Canon professionals. The showroom was established in Tunisia to further expand the company's offerings while building on the established customer base of Media Diffusion. Additionally, the facility is intended to enable Canon to better understand the market dynamics and be closer to business operations.

Mondher Bouattour said: "Canon will provide a wide variety of products to support Tunisian consumers and businesses with the latest in technology. Our strong local presence and proven track-record will ensure that we supply Canon's high quality, technologically advanced products across all industries."

Canon's showroom is located in 22 Avenue Alain Savary Cité Jardins Tunis.

## KANZY.COM LAUNCHES STATE-OF-THE-ART ONLINE SHOPPING WEBSITE

**KUWAIT:** The online shopping website Kanky.com launches to provide consumers with a unique shopping platform that provides the best-in-class electronics and appliances as well as customer-centric services for an easy and customized shopping experience.

Commenting on the launch, Kanky.com Manager, Alain Rbeiz, said: "Kanky.com has its customers at heart in everyday operations, providing them with what they're looking for from a vast selection of electronics and products that meet their needs. Its e-commerce platform reacts to customers' search behavior, to optimize their online shopping experience, and reduce their search time. "Kanky's offering doesn't stop at its product range, it also extends to its great services that reward customers at each purchase, from immediate offers and discounts when creating bundles, to the Chairman's Club privilege program which offers customers year-round exclusive offers to members."

Alain Rbeiz added: "Shopping online for what you need has never been easier thanks to Kanky.com



with its reactive platform that eases the search experience, and services that ensure your order is at your doorstep within three hours."

One of the main features of the website are the Kanky Bundles which offer immediate discounts on bundles of products that are complementary and when buying them at once. Kanky Bundles provide ready

bundles recommended by the Kanky team, and enable customers to create their own bundles to avail to immediate and competitive discounts.

Another service provided by Kanky.com is the SmartPay which enable customers to apply for an instant credit approval from the comfort of their home. The service also

provides special offers when applying for installments.

The website's privilege program, the Chairman's Club, rewards members all-year-long through a 5% flat discount for life on all purchases, in addition to priority delivery service, exclusive offers, special gifts, exclusive invitation to events, pre-launch offers for members only, and a privileged after-sales service.

Kanky.com Marketing Manager, Shaima Moulay, said: "We've designed a fully-integrated website to ensure customers enjoy a great shopping experience from the comfort of their home and at the time that is best convenient for them. Kanky.com is without a doubt the ideal shopping destination for the latest high-quality electronics of renowned brands."

Quality and best in class electronics to meet consumer needs. Daily exclusive deals at 9pm. Delivery within three hours. Immediate discounts on Kanky bundles. Customized bundles to meet the needs. Monthly installment service available through website. Are the services provided by Kanky.com.

## ARMED WITH DRONES, AID WORKERS SEEK FASTER RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKES, FLOODS

**KATHMANDU:** For weeks after Nepal's worst earthquake in 80 years, the skies above the Himalayan nation vibrated with military helicopters ferrying relief, airplanes bringing in aid workers, and drones.

When the 7.8 magnitude quake struck Nepal in April 2015, flattening homes and killing thousands of people, authorities scrambled to assess the damage and deliver relief to survivors. Within hours foreign governments and aid agencies had heeded the overwhelmed Nepali government's appeal for assistance, sending everything from medical equipment to plastic sheets, food rations and clean water.

### They also sent drones.

Long associated with conflicts where they have been deployed in air strikes and for intelligence or surveillance purposes, the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) is rising in other areas, including response to natural disasters.

In Nepal, several agencies used them for search and rescue missions and to map out toppled monuments, ruined heritage sites and devastated homes. The International Organization for Migration has been using drones since 2012 to capture the damage in Haiti after its 2010 earthquake.

Drones were again used in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 as a tool for reconstruc-

tion efforts, and are now being deployed there to find out where farmland is most at risk from natural disasters, and to assess their impact.

In 2014, Medecins Sans Frontieres piloted the use of drones to deliver vaccines and medicine in Papua New Guinea, while the World Health Organization trailed a similar program in Bhutan, researchers said. "The beauty of drones is that they are cheap, easy to use and people can be taught to use them quickly, so there is no need for foreign aid workers to parachute into disaster zones," said Faine Greenwood, research assistant on drones at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

### An added burden?

With an ability to produce 3-D maps that are often more detailed than satellite imagery, drones can rapidly provide valuable information on the humanitarian needs of survivors.

While supporters of the technology hail its potential to revolutionize humanitarian work, industry experts warn of the security, ethical and legal concerns it raises for agencies and governments. For example in Nepal, media reports of drones flying near security installations stoked fears the footage could be misused.

Nepal had no regulations on drones when dis-

aster struck, leading to confusion within the government and aid agencies on how they should use the technology, said Patrick Meier, founder of humanitarian UAV network UAviators.

Such problems are the impetus behind a global code of conduct for using drones in aid that Meier hopes to launch at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul later this month.

After the Nepal quake, the authorities said unregulated drones were an extra headache for an overstretched government already under fire for its slow and inadequate response to the disaster. "Drones were an added burden for us," Yadav Koirala, a senior official with Nepal's Home Ministry, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "There was no restriction on them." "They flew everywhere but offered no feedback to the government. It was difficult to control them," he said.

As a result, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal banned UAVs from flying without its permission, restricted flying time to 15 minutes and introduced no-fly zones over houses, security agency buildings and religious or cultural heritage sites. It also stipulated that drones could only be used 300 meters from the pilot, and at a maximum flight height of 100 meters. — Reuters

## CITIZEN-SCIENTISTS: US GOVT WANTS YOU TO FIGHT ZIKA!

**MIAMI:** The mosquitoes that can spread Zika are already buzzing among us. The US government could use some help figuring out exactly where.

No experience is necessary for what the US Department of Agriculture envisions as a nationwide experiment in citizen-science. Teenagers already have proven themselves up to the task in tryouts involving a small number of high school students and science teachers. Now it's time for the Invasive Mosquito Project to scale up and fast, since Zika has been linked to serious birth defects and health officials are preparing for the possibility of small outbreaks in the United States. But there's little money in government budgets to track its spread.

"We don't have a lot of data - good, solid data," said John-Paul Mutebi, an entomologist with the US Centers for Disease Control. What the USDA is proposing is the kind of population survey not seen in the continental United States since World War II, when the country eradicated mosquito-borne viruses. In a 1945 film, the US government encouraged schoolkids and scout troops to do their part in keeping their neighborhoods free from dengue and yellow fever.

Volunteers now are needed to collect mosquito eggs in their communities and upload the data to populate an online

map, which in turn will provide real-time information about hot spots to help researchers and mosquito controllers respond. Some local surveys have been revived as dengue fever and other viruses creep back into the country, carried in the blood of travelers and transmitted through mosquito bites. But that data hasn't been centralized, and the gaps are clear to CDC researchers, whose national maps only roughly show the possible spread of two disease-carrying mosquitoes.

The CDC's maps are based on historical reports, recent research and surveys sent in February to mosquito control districts nationwide, but evidence remains thin for habitat estimates. They suspect that *Aedes aegypti* could carry Zika well beyond the Southeast during the summer, and the more cold-hardy Asian tiger mosquito could be biting into the Midwest and Northeast.

Both species are capable of spreading Zika, but experts have considered the Asian tiger less of a threat for triggering outbreaks than the *Aedes aegypti*. The Invasive Mosquito Project is coordinated by Kansas-based USDA entomologist Lee Cohnstaedt, who has explored crowdsourcing as a budget-conscious way to sample mosquito populations and cites research supporting volunteers' capabilities for collecting large-scale data. Now



**MANHATTAN:** Manhattan High School science teacher Noah Busch instructs his class before setting up mosquito traps around the school in Manhattan, KS. — AP

he's pinning his hopes for consistent data collection on students needing to do their homework, year after year.

He's thinking big: Participation from a fifth of US schools. Adapting lesson plans for middle schools, scout troops and gardening clubs. Making mosquito surveys as common as public bird counts for conservation groups. Turning classroom routines into a life-long habit of mosquito vigilance.

Since high school biology teacher Noah Busch incorporated the USDA project into his lesson plans, his students in Manhattan, Kansas, have made the connection between news reports about Zika and the mosquito traps they set near tires or backyard swimming pools.

"I had more parents afraid of this project than any of my students," said Busch, who teaches protocols for avoiding bites.

"The parents were thinking we were attracting mosquitoes. No, the mosquitoes are already there."

The equipment is nothing more than brown paper towels and dark-colored plastic party cups. Students insert the paper into the cups, fill the cups two-thirds of the way with water and place the cups around their homes. After about a week, they dry the towels and examine them for eggs, which look like tiny specks of dirt. Classes verify their findings with the USDA, local researchers or mosquito control officials before uploading their results to the project's website, which is part of a new central database for all federal citizen science activities.

In the past, Cohnstaedt could spend \$150 or more a night to send one employee to trap mosquitoes. Crowdsourcing that effort has "saved a bunch" of money and "collected better data than we could have working alone," he said in an email.

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District wants the USDA project in three high schools this fall. The narrow island chain shares a national need for early warnings about invasions by Asian tiger mosquitoes or other species, executive director Michael Doyle said. "Having these collections on different islands will alert us to any additional places where it's trying to expand," Doyle said. — AP



**TAIPEI:** Two giant pandas from China, Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, displayed in their new enclosure at the Taipei City Zoo in Muzha. — AFP

## 'DEAD PANDA' SCARE OVER ANIMAL GIFTED TO TAIWAN BY CHINA

**TAIPEI:** Taipei Zoo was forced to deny reports that a giant panda gifted by China as a symbol of unity had died yesterday, in what initially appeared to be a frightening portent for cross-strait ties. Tuan Tuan was one of two pandas given to the island in 2008 in a move seen to endorse the presidency of Beijing-friendly leader Ma Ying-jeou.

The animal's name means "reunion" and was interpreted as a reflection of China's ambition to reunite self-ruling Taiwan with the mainland. But as Ma prepares to step down and Taiwan ushers in new China-sceptic leader Tsai Ing-wen-intensely disliked by Beijing-reports circulated online that Tuan Tuan had died of distemper.

News of the death in Chinese media, including huanqiu.com and People's Daily, triggered laments on the mainland that Beijing's propaganda machine had failed. "Tuan Tuan is dead. Propaganda is hopeless," said one post on People's Daily Twitter feed. Others welcomed the news, with one post on Taiwan's Liberty Times website saying, "It's good... we don't have to spend so much money raising a Chinese panda." As the story spread, Taipei Zoo insisted Tuan Tuan and his fellow pandas were very

much alive. "All three pandas are in good health," said zoo spokesman Eric Tsao. Huanqiu.com later issued a correction and apology to the zoo and Internet users. People's Daily also posted a correction via Twitter saying it had been "misinformed". Some in Taiwan slammed the false reports-others joked China would have gone to war with Taiwan if the panda had actually died.

"Haha, in the future history will report that China attacked Taiwan because of a panda," one message on the Apple Daily website said. Another speculated that pro-independence groups would have been blamed for the panda's death. Although a full-fledged democracy, Taiwan has never formally declared a breakaway from China. Taiwanese pro-independence groups criticized the Ma government for accepting Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan in 2008, saying they were part of Beijing's reunification push.

But political scepticism did not taint public acceptance and they became a star attraction. Panda-mania swept Taiwan again after the pair produced cub Yuan Zai in 2014, following a series of artificial insemination sessions. — AFP



**SAN FRANCISCO:** Sylvie Bergeron, of San Diego, at left, and her sister Line Bergeron, of Quebec, walk with their dogs next to tuna crabs that washed up onto the beach at Shaw's Cove on May 13 in Laguna Beach, California. Pelagic red crabs are usually found off Baja California but currents that are part of the El Nino weather pattern are sweeping them north. — AP

## THOUSANDS OF TINY RED CRABS STRANDING ON CALIFORNIA BEACH

**NEWPORT BEACH, California:** Thousands of tiny red crabs are carpeting beaches in Orange County and creating an amazing spectacle for swimmers and surfers. Lifeguards estimate that hundreds of thousands of the tiny crustaceans washed up Friday on beaches in Newport Beach. Others were spotted in Laguna Beach.

The Orange County Register reports that (<http://bit.ly/1WwUGne>) pelagic red crabs are usually found off Baja California, but currents that are part of the El Nino weather pattern are sweeping them north. The 1- to 3-inch-long crabs have washed up for several years along the Orange County coastline. Before that, they hadn't been seen in the area for decades. — AP

## NEW UN CLIMATE TALKS AIM AT FLESHING OUT PARIS DEAL

### DIPLOMATS EYE POLITICAL BLUEPRINT INTO WORKABLE PLAN

**BONN:** Five months after ushering in a landmark climate deal, diplomats kicked off a new round of talks yesterday tasked with converting a political blueprint into a workable plan.

"The whole world is united in its commitment to the global goals embodied in the Paris Agreement," the UN's outgoing climate chief, Christiana Figueres, told the 196-nation UN climate body at the start of a 10-day session in Bonn. "Now we must design the details of the path to the safe, prosperous and climate neutral future to which we all aspire." That remains a daunting task, negotiators and experts agreed. The targets set are hugely ambitious, and the rift between rich and developing countries-overcome to seal the deal in December-remains just beneath the surface. The goal of capping global warming at "well below" two degree Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) means nothing less than weaning the world economy off fossil fuels within a few short decades.

It will also require mobilizing trillions of dollars to help poor countries green their economies and brace for climate impacts. Most of the details on how this will happen have yet to be worked out.

Voluntary national pledges in the Paris pact to slash carbon pollution-going into effect in 2020 — would still allow Earth's surface by at least 3 C (5.4 F), a cataclysmic scenario, say scientists. A single degree Celsius of warming since the pre-industrial benchmark has already seen a crescendo of devastating storms, droughts and rising seas.

#### Hottest April

US national scientists said over the weekend that last month was the warmest April recorded the seventh consecutive month to exceed previous highs. "The only question is whether we join together quickly and boldly enough to avoid catastrophe," Thoriq Ibrahim, environment minister for the Maldives and chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) told the plenary.

One of the UN body's most urgent tasks is orchestrating the ramping up of national plans to cut carbon pollution.

At the same time, the developing world is concerned that too little of the 100 billion dollars (88 billion euros) per year promised by wealthy nations starting in 2020 will go to dealing with cli-

mate impacts, rather than measures to curb greenhouse gases. "For our endeavours to be achieved, enhanced and adequate financial and technology support ... must be provided," a Thai diplomat, speaking for the 134-nation 'G77 and China' bloc said at the opening plenary. The early ratification of the Paris Agreement-likely for early next year would help push the UN forum to flesh out the rules and procedures needed to move forward, experts say.

"There is a lot of work to be done before 2020 to give life to those commitments that were made in Paris," said Alden Meyer, a climate analyst with the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists. Political leaders also encouraged the negotiators toward a shift in thinking. "As of now, you are no longer just negotiators, you are also builders," French environment minister Segolene Royal-current co-chair, along with her Moroccan counterpart, of the negotiating process-told diplomats. The UN climate talks run through May 26, and are also tasked with laying the groundwork for the next high-level gathering in November, in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh. — AFP

## TREATING THE CANCER FROM DIAGNOSIS TO SURVIVORSHIP

### COMMUNITY CANCER CENTER OFFERING WELLNESS PROGRAM

**CEDAR RAPIDS:** Maria Bowman was out running one day last summer when she experienced some pain that was unusual for her normal exercise routine. When she got home she found a lump on her breast. Three weeks later she was diagnosed with stage-three breast cancer. From there Bowman, 46, went through multiple surgeries - a bilateral mastectomy and reconstruction surgeries - months of chemo therapy and radiation therapy.

"It was hell," she said. "It was the worst time of my life." The chemo therapy made her very sick - she couldn't eat or drink - and she was exhausted, both mentally and physically.

"It was hard to envision me sitting here right now," she said on a sunny May day at Mercy Medical Center's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center. She was getting an herceptin infusion - a targeted therapy for aggressive breast cancers. Bowman credits her doctors, nurses and husband, Damon, for getting her through that period. But she also relied on Hall-Perrine's survivorship services to ease aches, get her back into an exercise routine and help her figure out life after cancer.

"I sat there for a whole month, just mentally confused," Bowman said. "I didn't know what to do. I saw the nurses so often" but didn't once treatment stopped. "I had chemo brain. I just sat in a complete fog. Moving forward was really a challenge." As early detection methods and cancer treatment continue to improve, survival rates increase and people live many years after their initial diagnosis, experts say that survivorship services have also grown in importance.

"In 2015, the (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) estimated there were 14 million cancer survivors in the US alone. That number will rise to 19 million in 2024," said Stephanie Phillips, oncology survivorship nurse practitioner at Hall-Perrine. "People are living longer. We are better at treating the disease. There's a lot we can do for folks."

Both Mercy and UnityPoint Health-St. Luke's Hospital offer comprehensive survivorship services from specialized dietitians and tailored exercise programs to social workers and support groups.

Just last year Mercy began giving all Hall-Perrine patients a treatment summary, Phillips said, in addition to discussing possible long-term effects of treatment, follow-up care and referrals to other resources. "From the diagnosis to the treatment, it's a quick process," Phillips said. "There is an educational component but it can be overwhelming to deal with in the middle of a diagnosis. Then you go through treatment, you go to chemo where you see people multiple times in a month sometimes. Then we say 'Congrats, you're done,' and you don't see those people anymore."

Survivorship services are meant to help patients find their new normal, experts said - does a patient need to call their oncologist if they get the flu? The cancer is gone, but the patient is feeling anxious or depressed, is

this normal? Is there a diet and exercise routine that can help a patient reduce other cancer risks?

When Bowman was sitting in her fog, she spoke with a Mercy social worker who gave her the motivation and support she needed. "I was concerned about the future," she said. "But every day I'm getting better and better." She participated in the Thrive Therapy fitness and wellness program - which gives patients a free 10-week membership to the YMCA as well as an initial assessment, where a physical therapist evaluates an individual's limitations and exercise ability.

Getting back into the habit of running has been hard for Bowman. Before her diagnosis, she was running seven or eight miles several times a week. Now, it's painful and hurts, she said. But she's getting stronger. She also took advantage of Hall-Perrine's infrared light therapy - used to treat pain and poor circulation - and occupational therapy services when she was dealing with lymphatic cording - ropelike structures that develop under the skin of the inner arm.

#### 'It's an uplifting place'

Jo Moore, 80, had Melanoma 25 years ago and was diagnosed with colon cancer three years ago. After her doctor removed the mass, he suggested she go to the Helen G. Nassif Community Cancer Center of Iowa, at the Physicians' Clinic of Iowa.

She met with an oncology-certified dietitian and goes weekly to a Tai Chi class with other cancer

survivors and patients. She's changed her diet, she said, from her Missouri-deep-fried roots to one that includes more vegetable and fewer potatoes. The exercise group supports one another, she said - they ask one another about children, grandchildren, oncology appointments and treatment.

"I look forward to it," Moore said. "It's an uplifting place." The community cancer center began offering its cancer wellness program in 2008, after Jane Borg of Cedar Rapids lost her battle with breast cancer. Her family donated the initial gift to start the program, said Nancy Hagensick, an oncology social worker. "She lived longer with cancer than what people expected - she worked at wellness, nutrition and exercise," Hagensick said.

The community cancer center works with cancer exercise specialists, massage therapists, reflexology professionals, a certified sex therapist and body-image specialist, and psychologists to work with patients, she added.

Family and caregiver are able to access all services as well, and St. Luke's offers a quarterly retreat for caregivers. Hagensick said there are many times she'll go to a patient's chemo therapy appointment to talk with them, and the patient suggests she instead speak to a spouse or family member attending the appointment instead. "We want to provide emotional support during and after treatment," Hagensick said. "There are changes to the body and your outlook on life changes." — AP

## WOMEN'S HEALTH - FROM MATERNAL MORTALITY TO CHILD MARRIAGE

**COPENHAGEN:** Over 5,000 delegates from 150 countries arrive in Copenhagen this week for Women Deliver - a major global conference on the health, rights and wellbeing of women and girls which runs from May 16-19. Here are some facts:

**Maternal mortality:** Every two minutes a woman dies from pregnancy related complications - a leading cause of death for teenage girls in developing countries. Ninety nine percent of maternal deaths occur in developing countries.

**Newborn mortality:** Nearly 3 million newborns die every year. Motherless children are up to 10 times more likely to die within two years of their mother's death. When women space their births by at least three years, newborns are twice as likely to survive their first year.

**Child marriage:** Every year 15 million girls marry before the age of 18 - one girl every two seconds. More than a third of the 700 million women worldwide who were married as children were wed before 15. Girls who give birth when they are under 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth than young women in their 20s.

**Family planning:** 225 million women in developing countries have an unmet need for family planning. This leads to 74 million unplanned pregnancies, 28 million unplanned births and 26 million abortions every year. HIV/AIDS: Young women make up more than 60 percent of all young people living with HIV, or 72 percent in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Female genital mutilation:** At least 200 million girls and women have undergone FGM in 30 countries across three continents. FGM causes a host of health problems including potentially fatal childbirth complications later in life.

**Fistula:** More than 2 million women are estimated to be living with fistula, one of the most serious childbirth injuries, and some 50,000 to 100,000 new cases develop annually. Obstetric fistula is a hole between the birth canal and bladder or rectum caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without treatment.

**Violence:** One in four women is physically abused during pregnancy. In some countries, nearly half of girls report their first sexual encounter was coerced. — Reuters



## BIOTRUE LAUNCHES THE NEW CONTACT LENS IN COOPERATION WITH HASSAN'S OPTICIAN CO

**KUWAIT:** Bausch and Lomb, in cooperation with Hassan's Optician Company, has launched the new contact lens BIOTRUE ONEDAY FOR PRESBYOPIA in Kuwait. The launch was held on 11th May, 2016. Eye care professionals, from major Optical chains in participated in the event with enthusiasm to welcome the new member of Biotrue family after Biotrue Oneday contact lens and Biotrue multipurpose solution.

Dr Bahram Behrouzi Homa, Business Unit & Professional Relations Manager presented the product highlighting its main features and fitting aspects. He also discussed some of the challenges faced by the eye care practitioners

fitting other contact lens designs and modalities for presbyopia and how Biotrue Oneday for Presbyopia will be beneficial to them.

As highlighted in the presentation, the global population of Presbyopia is progressively increasing every year. Compared to previous generations, presbyopes today face more challenges with vision, constantly working on various electronic devices while going on with their active lifestyle.

Multifocal contact lenses as an option for active presbyopes have been around for more than a decade, however due to their challenges of fitting and the visual outcomes they were not

on the preferred list of eye care practitioners. Today we are able more than ever to address the challenges of fitting Multifocals and with the advanced technology in design, Material and modality they provide better vision, comfort and health Bausch & Lomb has introduced Biotrue Oneday for Presbyopia, a daily disposable lens which offers the convenience of daily disposable, outstanding vision, comfort and eye health to contact lens wearers.

Biotrue Oneday for Presbyopia is a multifocal contact lens that uses an aspheric, Centre-Near, simultaneous vision design. It uses Bio-inspiration technology featuring the oxygen transmis-

sion characteristics that the open eye needs for healthy white eyes with 78 percent water content, same as cornea, for all - day comfort. The surfactants integrated and enriched throughout the lens surface mimic the lipid layer of the tear film to retain moisture and shape throughout the day. To meet the need of presbyopic patients, Biotrue Oneday for Presbyopia uses the latest technology of 3 - zone Progressive Design™ for successful near, intermediate and distance vision.

Biotrue Oneday for Presbyopia is a breakthrough that provides comfortable vision throughout the day at all distances.



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PAGE

248 33 199

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## PAMPER YOUR FAMILY AT THE MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT WITH A SPECIAL SUMMER PACKAGE

Marina Hotel Kuwait announced its much awaited summer package and special vacation getaway to experience summer fun at its best. Guests are offered absolute pampering and leisure with a resort-feel ambience through its facilities away from the city's busy routine.

The all-inclusive Marina Hotel package guarantees real joy under the sun with its secluded private beach and three pools: lap pool, kids' pool and family pool with the Marina Waves pool bar. Guests can relax in their rooms, all overlooking the beautiful Arabian Sea, at a rate starting from KD 88 for a double Superior Room per night, buffet breakfast included. The package provides free access to the hotel's many facilities: the Coral Reef Health Club & Spa, the squash court, beach and pool area.

Well known for its delicious international cuisine, guest can go for first-rate dining at the hotel's two celebrated restaurants: 'The Six Palms' and the 'Atlantis'. For mouth-watering delicacies, indulge in international, Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes from a scrumptious array of menu choices in a tranquil setting. Additionally guests availing the summer package can take advantage of the 20% discount on buffet lunch and dinner at the Atlantis Restaurant.

With a walking distance to the Marina Mall and Marina Crescent, one can enjoy a complete holiday with easy access to their favorite shopping destinations. Make sure you book your room at the award winning Marina Hotel Kuwait for a unique getaway experience and excellent standard of quality service.



## ACK AWARDS OUTSTANDING STUDENTS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Each semester, the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) recognizes outstanding student performance inside and outside the classrooms through Special Academic and Special Achievement Awards.

Within the School of Engineering, a Special Academic Award was allocated to student 'Muhammad Etsh' for his graduation project on the topic: "The effect of Window Nano-Coating on Building Energy Consumption in the State of Kuwait". The recommendation from his School included the following comments regarding Muhammad's performance: "Conducted rigorous literature review... showed very promising results in saving power consumption... work conducted in collaboration with KISR... benefits the building sector to save energy required for HVAC systems."

The Special Academic Award within the School of Business was allocated to student "Rasha Safawi" for her E-business proposal requiring "Investigation, design and implementation of an E-business solution including creation of Website and Social Media Promotion". In recommending Rasha for her award, the following comments were received from her faculty: "Rasha was extremely motivated throughout this project... role model attitude and behavior... demonstrated excellence... provided advice to other students."

The College not only encourages excellence within the academic field but also in extra-curricular activities. Therefore, Special Achievement Awards are given for outstanding student participation in team and individual sports as well as non-sporting clubs such as Art, Music, Photography and Community Care.

The Special Achievement Award to recognize the one student who stands out above all other excellent sporting achievements either for ACK or at a Kuwait national level was allocated to "Farah Karam". The supporting recommendation for Farah included comments such as: "A great leader and captain of both volleyball and basketball teams... very motivated... Ask any person on campus that has known her and you will hear one answer- she is the most respected person." To recognize the most outstanding achievement in personal development other than sport, a Special Achievement Award was allocated to "Athari Al-Awadhi". Service to the ACK and wider community is also strongly encouraged and the recipient of this Special Achievement Award was "Abdulmalek Jbier".

study for DBS bank researched and created by Robin Speculand and Singapore Management School.

A sought-after speaker at strategy and international business forums, Robin Speculand works also as an adjunct professor at Singapore Management University; he is the author of four books, two of which have become international bestsellers, "Bricks to Bridges-Make Your Strategy Come Alive" and "Beyond Strategy-The Leader's Role in Successful Implementation".

Robin has developed several proprietary tools including the Implementation Compass(tm), which identifies actions in the eight critical areas for Excellence in Execution. In 2013, he founded the Implementation Hub, the first portal in the world dedicated to strategy implementation. It features over 400 resources to support leaders in their implementation journey.

His expertise has been featured in strategy journals, international print and electronic media including the BBC UK & Global, Channel News Asia, CNBC, Financial Times and Telegraph, and Singapore Straits Times.

Both events will be part of the Knowledge Club2016 series which is organized by Vigor Events and Co-Organized by ALGAS Events. Sponsors include Hadi Clinic as Gold Sponsor, Gulf Bank & Warba Insurance as Silver sponsors, Platinum Gym, Dar Al Shifa & Warba Bank as Event Sponsors, Corporate Sponsor Kuwait Oil Company, Success Partner Equate, Strategic Partner Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Executive Education Partner IE Business School and media support from the International Advertising Association Kuwait Chapter.

## BHAVANS HOSTS CBSE CLUSTER TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The 18th CBSE cluster table tennis tournament for the girls was hosted by Indian Educational School Kuwait on 14th and 15th May 2016. 18 teams representing seven Indian Schools took part in this event under four categories viz. U-11, U14, U17 and U19.

Girls escorted by their physical education teachers received a rousing welcome from the Bhavans staff and students on May 14th 2016. The team meeting was held under the leadership of the Bhavans Physical Education Director Murugaiyan who briefed the coaches and the managers of the team about the rules and the regulations governing the tournament.

The principal of Bhavans, T Premkumar who is a table tennis player himself addressed the students and the staff from the visiting schools. In his address, he emphasized the importance of such meets involving the Indian school children and urged the kids to play and enjoy every game irrespective of the outcome. He thanked the children and their coaches for coming to IES for the event and wished them success.

This was followed by the inauguration of the

tournament by T Premkumar, the principal, Bhavans when he had on the other side of the table Rachna from FAIPS serve to him. Premkumar demonstrated his skill and agility much to the surprise of all around the table.

On day one 21 matches were played. On day two, the matches started as usual with all the semifinals being lined for the day. Girls fought hard to establish their supremacy and the cluster winners under the four categories are:

- U - 11 Indian Public School Kuwait
- U - 14 Fahaheel Al Watanieh Private School
- U - 17 Fahaheel Al Watanieh Private School
- U - 19 Indian Community School Kuwait

For the closing ceremony, a special guest was invited and it was none other than Sister Serena Lobo, the principal, Carmel School. Deepa Antony, a member of the Bhavans' Physical Education Department presented the chief guest a bouquet and convivially greeted her. The Principal of IES T Premkumar welcomed the gathering and in his address he congratulated the students for playing table tennis in all fairness and team spirit.

He spoke high about Sister Serena describing her as a wonderful person whom he adored for her simplicity and friendly disposition. He lauded her performance as the convener of the Kuwait chapter and her contribution to the principals' fraternity. She led the team through a prayer and blessed the children, the staff and the school. Sister Serena gave away the trophies to all the winners and medals for the runners-up. It was followed by photo sessions of all the teams with their coaches.

Sister Serena addressed the participants, the volunteers, and the coaches. In her address, she thanked T Premkumar, the principal, Bhavans for inviting her. She also congratulated all the participants for taking part in the tournament. Premkumar presented Sister Serena a memento for gracing the occasion. The two-day event was wrapped up with the vote of thanks from Murugaiyan, the Physical Education Director of Bhavans. He thanked everyone for their support and cooperation and the crowd erupted in applause when he ended his speech as a warm gesture of sportsman spirit and togetherness.



## VIGOR EVENTS HOSTS GLOBAL PIONEER IN STRATEGY EXECUTION ROBIN SPECULAND

Vigor Events brings to Kuwait global pioneer in strategy execution - Robin Speculand - who is driven to transform organizations around the world by guiding leaders through their strategy execution challenges. Keeping in Line with this year's Knowledge Club Leadership Initiative, Robin's topics will focus on Strategy Implementation providing leaders with the understanding, tools and templates to succeed where so many have failed.

Robin Speculand will first conduct a one day seminar - Strategy Implementation for Leaders - on 22nd May 2016 at the Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel from 9am to 4pm. This engaging and enriching session will provide Attendees with a proven strategy implementation framework for their organizations to adopt immediately.

Based on his international bestselling book "Beyond Strategy-the leader's role in successful implementation", this seminar will unlock the secrets of what it takes to implement strategy with examples, videos and mini-case studies. It will also give attendees a complete framework to guide their implementation journey, with the Implementation Compass(tm) - a tool which provides them with the structure to make their strategies come alive.

He will also conduct a 2 day Masterclass - Excellence in Execution - on 24-25 May 2016 at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel - Messilah Ballroom from 9am to 4pm. This highly interactive masterclass will provide attendees with the updated thinking, uncommon practices and language required to execute their strategy with excellence. The Masterclass will also discuss a very sophisticated case



## KNES DONATES TO RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

The Student Council visiting The Red Crescent Society of Kuwait donated money collected on Charity Day. The main aim is helping people in need all around the world. As a result, KNES annually donates money to The Red Crescent Society of Kuwait as well as Hope and Homes for Children. It was a learning experience; a real eye-opener, teaching us about how The Red Crescent Society locates man-made and natural disasters globally. They were accompanied by Madame Chantal Al Gharabally (school director) to hand over the funds that were earned by the Charity Day to The Red Crescent Society of Kuwait.



## SOORYA FEST ON MAY 20

Soorya Kuwait Chapter in association with Kuwait National Exchange Co. will stage 'Soorya India Festival 2016', on the evening of Friday, May 20, 2016, at the Indian Community School Auditorium (Sr), Salmiya at 7 pm.

Indian Ambassador Sunil Jain will inaugurate the festival, aiming to promote International integration through culture. This time Soorya is coming up with a mix of classical dances - a duet performance Sangamam with Pallippuram Suni in Kathakali and Paris Laxmi in Bharatanatyam and a Kuchupudi by Prateeksha Kashi.

Kathakali and Bharatanatyam are not supposed to meet on a same stage, but Pallippuram Sunil and Paris Laxmi decided to experiment this unexpected fusion of

Krishna Mayam, which will be a new experience to the art lovers of Kuwait.

Hailing from an artistic family, Prateeksha Kashi, has performed in several prestigious dance festivals at Regional, National and International Levels. With a keen interest to spread Kuchupudi, her performance will also be quite entertaining. As usual, the entry will be strictly through invitations.

Soorya India, led by versatile mastermind Soorya Krishnamurthy, is present in 20 countries. It has been propagating the art of India's outside the country for the last 16 years with active support of its Chief Patron Dr BR Shetty, Managing Director, NMC Group of companies.

## BMCAAK BIDS FAREWELL TO JACOB CHACKO

Bishop Moore College Alumni Association Kuwait gave a grandeur farewell to Mr Jacob Chacko & family, who is leaving Kuwait for good. They have been in Kuwait for the past 21 years and have been very active in the Bishop Moore College Alumni Association. The meeting commenced with a welcome speech by Parimanam Manoj (General Secretary). The function was held in Dakshin Restaurant Abassiya, presided by Jerry John Koshy (President).

Parimanam Manoj (General Secretary) gave a briefing about Mr Jacob & family & their involvement in the Group. Sam Pynummoode, Al Kurein, Shaney Cherian, Jerry John Koshy, Mathew Karoor, Jobin Babu, Manoj Chacko, Sangeeth Somanath, Francis Lawrance & Philip Thomas delivered felicitation speeches during the meeting. Association members presented them with a memento for their valuable service to BMCAAK during their tenure.

Mr Jacob hails from Gilagal family, Kakannad

and was working with Universal Computers Co. as Sr Accountant. His wife Mrs Omana Jacob was with Sabha Hospital as Neuro Physiology Technician. In the reciprocation speech, he expressed the valuable support received from BMCAAK & its members. They thanked all members and shared their experiences in Kuwait with the gathering. Vote of thanks was proposed by Sangeeth Somanath (Treasurer) and the function ended with a grand dinner.



## BAYT.COM EMPOWERS STUDENTS WITH FREE UNIVERSITY ROAD SHOWS

Bayt.com, the Middle East's number one job site, has recently conducted a series of career road shows in top universities across the Middle East, including the Ahlia University Career Day in Jordan and GUST Career Fair in Kuwait, the Career Development Symposium at Abu Dhabi University, the Employment Fair at the British University in Egypt, the Annual Career Fair at the Caledonian College of Engineering in Oman, the Annual University of Wollongong Career Fair, the School of Business Administration at the American University of Sharjah Career Day, the Annual RIT Dubai Career Fair, and the Annual Careers Day at Heriot-Watt University Campus in Dubai.

Thousands of students attended the free

career orientation sessions given by the Bayt.com career experts. The students were provided with essential tips on how to create the perfect CV, how to answer questions during a job interview, and how to create their personal brand online. Presentations given by the Bayt.com experts provided up-to-the-minute job market data and research insights, best-in-class practices in job hunting, and the array of entry-level jobs and internships available on Bayt.com at any given time.

"At Bayt.com, we are continuously working towards empowering students and fresh graduates in the region with the right tools and knowledge to shape their future," said Suhail Masri, VP of Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "There are currently more than 10,000 jobs

posted on the website on any given day, and by helping students and young professionals with expert advice on CV writing and the job application process in general, we are supporting them with the essential tools they need in their journey towards a successful career. We have long sustained employment growth in the region, and by training students we aim to engage and empower them, so they can build a future for themselves and for the communities they live in."

"The February 2016 Job Index Survey by Bayt.com has revealed that 3 in 10 employers in the Middle East are looking for junior talent, so this is a good time for students and fresh graduates to hone in on their skills and start competing for top assignments with regional

blue chips, as well as local SMEs and conglomerates. Our Bayt.com research has shown that barriers to employment at entry level are seen to be caused by gaps between available skills and the demands and needs of employers. As an active contributor to the region's growth and prosperity, Bayt.com is contributing towards bridging the existing skills gap, by preparing students and young graduates for the current job market, and arming them with the skills and tools they need to grow and succeed," Masri concluded.

This year marks 16 years of Bayt.com's University Roadshows, which proves exceptionally relevant today, in light of the current economic conditions across the Middle East and North Africa region. With 76 per cent of

students in the region saying that finding a job is the biggest challenge their generation faces, Bayt.com's University Roadshows initiative is as important today as it was 16 years ago in helping students recognize their capabilities and understand how to highlight their skills and make them relevant, as well as assist them in tackling today's job market effectively and successfully.



**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 Treeshouse 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 Treeshouse 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 Treeshouse 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 Treeshouse 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  
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  
13:20 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  
04:40 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  
05:00 Discovery ID  
05:00 Discovery ID  
21:00 Discovery ID  
Discovery ID Xtra  
03:00 Murder Comes To Town  
03:48 Evil Kin



WISH I WAS THERE 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  
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

**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 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami  
07:20 Kourtney And Kim Take Miami  
08:20 El News  
09:15 Kourtney 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  
21:30 Private Chef  
22:00 Valerie's Home Cooking  
22:30 Valerie's Home Cooking  
23:00 Iron Chef America

**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  
13:25 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**

**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  
22:40 Grave Trade  
23:30 Duck Dynasty  
23:55 Duck Dynasty

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

04:30 388 Arletta Avenue  
06:00 Snow White And The Huntsman  
08:15 Airplane vs. Volcano  
10:00 Grosse Pointe Blank  
12:00 Forget And Forgive  
14:00 The Marine 4: The Moving Target  
15:45 Turbulence  
17:45 Snow White And The Huntsman  
20:00 Hours  
22:00 Hercules Reborn  
00:00 The Guest  
02:00 13 Sins

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

04:00 Chef  
06:00 Bad Parents  
08:00 The Other Sister  
10:15 Chef  
12:15 Orange County  
14:00 Romy And Michelle's High School Reunion  
15:45 The Other Sister  
18:00 Hope Springs  
20:00 Wish I Was Here  
22:00 Borat  
00:00 Drunk Wedding  
02:00 Hope Springs

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

03:00 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgaard  
05:00 Mars Needs Moms  
07:00 The Santa Clause  
09:00 Up  
11:00 Face To Witch Mountain  
13:00 Pocahontas  
15:00 Bedtime Stories  
17:00 Toy Story 2  
19:00 National Treasure  
21:15 Mighty Joe Young  
23:15 Toy Story 2  
01:00 National Treasure

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

04:00 The Horse Whisperer  
07:00 Monkey Kingdom  
08:30 Powder  
10:30 Beaches  
12:30 The Horse Whisperer  
15:30 Happiness  
17:00 Powder  
19:00 Les Miserables  
22:00 Inevitable Dawns  
00:00 Heaven's Gate

**OSN MOVIES HD**

03:00 Imogene  
05:00 Life Of A King  
07:00 The Two Faces Of January  
09:00 Pompeii  
11:00 Kon-Tiki  
13:00 So Undercover  
15:00 The Duff  
17:00 The Maze Runner  
19:00 Ride  
21:00 6 Ways To Sundown  
23:00 Wild Card  
01:00 3 Days To Kill

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

03:00 Bamse And The City Of Theives  
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 Theives  
14:30 Memory Loss  
16:00 Rim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
18:00 Pixies  
20:00 Hook  
22:30 Memory Loss  
00:00 Rim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
01:30 Mamma Moo And Crow



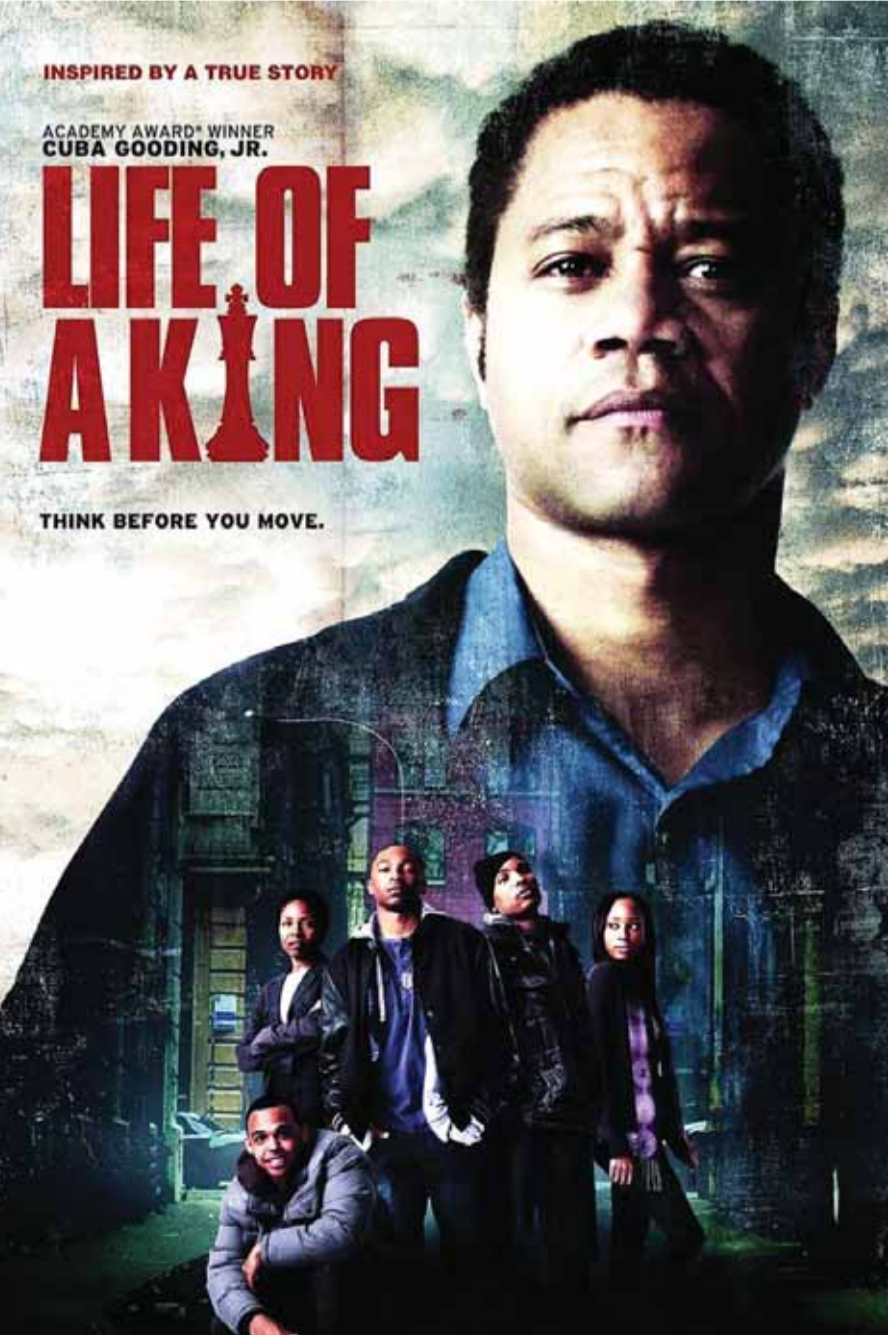
THE GUEST ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

**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  
05:00 Discovery ID  
05:00 Discovery ID  
21:00 Discovery ID  
Discovery ID Xtra  
03:00 Murder Comes To Town  
03:48 Evil Kin



LIFE OF A KING ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS

**Kuwait Times**  
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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (12/05/2016 TO 18/05/2016)

Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time
<b>SHARQIA-1</b> Ely Ekhtashou Matou THE JUNGLE BOOK Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	<b>FANAR-2</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK TERM LIFE TERM LIFE	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	<b>CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR</b>	11:30 PM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	<b>FANAR-3</b> JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 NO THU+Fri CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:15 PM 11:15 PM 1:15 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM	<b>FANAR-4</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM	<b>AVENUES-3</b> Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR THU+Fri TERM LIFE	12:00 PM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:15 PM 1:30 AM 12:45 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b> Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	<b>FANAR-5</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:15 PM 3:15 PM 6:15 PM 9:15 PM 12:15 AM	<b>360°-1</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM	<b>MARINA-1</b> Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou THE JUNGLE BOOK Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	<b>360°-2</b> FAN- Hindi FAN- Hindi HASAN WA BOQLOZ HASAN WA BOQLOZ HASAN WA BOQLOZ JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	1:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:45 AM 2:45 PM 5:45 PM 8:45 PM 11:45 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b> JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM	<b>360°-3</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D TERM LIFE CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:15 AM 1:15 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b> Ely Ekhtashou Matou HASAN WA BOQLOZ Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:00 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM	<b>MARINA-3</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM	<b>AL-KOUT.1</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR TERM LIFE CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR TERM LIFE	1:00 PM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 10:00 PM 1:00 AM
				<b>AL-KOUT.2</b> Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM
				<b>AL-KOUT.3</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE TERM LIFE TERM LIFE	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM
				<b>AL-KOUT.4</b> JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4 JU ON: THE GRUDGE 4	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM
				<b>BAIRAQ-1</b> THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2:00 PM THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE- 3D CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	11:45 AM 4:15 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 11:00 PM
				<b>BAIRAQ-2</b> CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM
				<b>BAIRAQ-3</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK THE JUNGLE BOOK Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou Ely Ekhtashou Matou	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
				<b>PLAZA</b> THE JUNGLE BOOK THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE JACOBINTE SWARGARAJYAM- Malayalam THU+Fri+MON CAPTAIN AMERICA: CIVIL WAR THU+Fri+MON Ely Ekhtashou Matou	3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 8:00 PM 8:00 PM 11:00 PM

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**EMERGENCY**  
**112**

**PRAYER TIMINGS**  
Fajr: 03:25  
Shrook: 04:55  
Dhuroh: 11:44  
Asr: 15:20  
Maghrib: 18:34  
Isha: 20:01

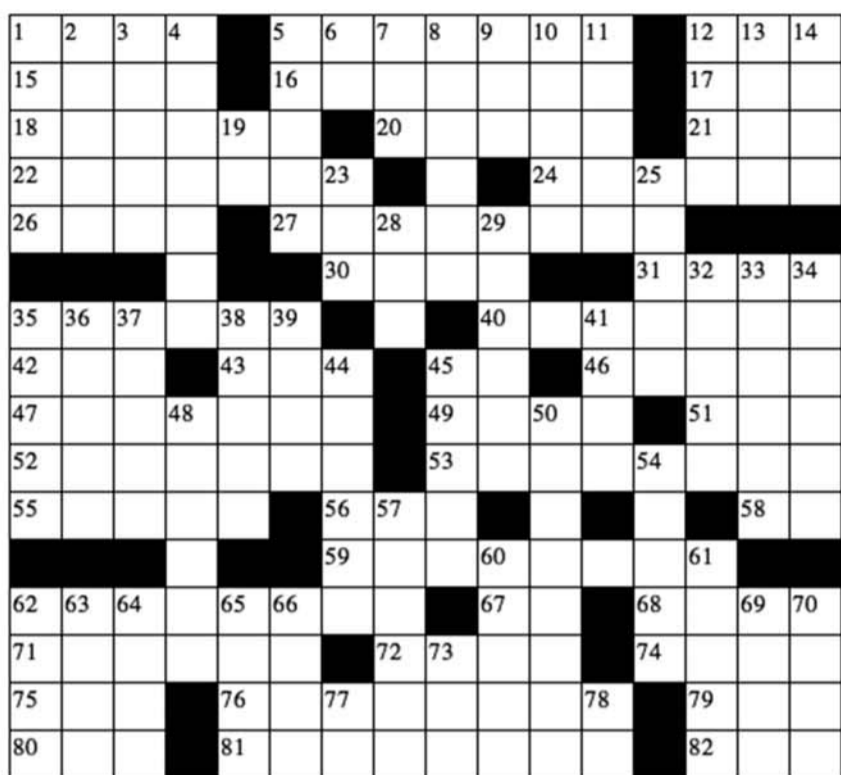
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))



**In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats**

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 17/5/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 17/5/2016				
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00	
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00	
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05	
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05	
KKK	6506	Istanbul	00:55	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05	
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	FBA	832	Al Najaf	15:10	
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10	
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KAC	617	Doha	15:15	
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15	
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30	
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45	
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50	
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55	
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00	
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10	
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15	
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20	
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	04:05	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	04:05	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	04:10	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	04:15	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	04:35	KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	06:25	NIA	252	Alexandria	17:50
KAC	418	Manila	06:20	06:30	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	06:35	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	06:45	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
BAW	157	London	06:40	06:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	07:05	CLX	713	NBO	18:30
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	07:15	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	07:55	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	08:25	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	08:30	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	08:40	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	09:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	09:25	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	09:30	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	09:30	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	09:30	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	09:45	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	09:45	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	09:50	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	10:00	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	10:05	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	10:35	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	10:40	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	10:40	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	11:00	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	11:20	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	11:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	11:25	MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	11:35	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
NIA	151	Cairo	12:20	12:00	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	12:05	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	12:10	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	12:10	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	620	Doha	13:10	12:15	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
IRC	6507	Shiraz	13:35	12:50	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45	13:00	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
FBA	831	Al Najaf	13:50	13:10	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	13:10	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	13:20	KAC	1383	Delhi	22:55
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	13:30	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15	14:00	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
				14:20	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
				14:20	KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
				14:30				
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CROSSWORD 1256



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.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Something somebody says or something you have said makes for times of contemplation. If you need to retract and rephrase, do so; otherwise ask yourself if your thinking is helping or hindering your work and make whatever changes are necessary. While working on a new machine this afternoon you may discover short cuts to a project on which you had spent way too much time. You may enjoy a phone conversation or an in-depth discussion with a friend later today. You have a good awareness of what other people are experiencing emotionally. You actually are very understanding and can sometimes appear psychic. Your analytical abilities are good and you may appear more charming than usual. This evening is the time for a big social event.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may have recently uncovered a creative talent of yours that gets rave reviews from your friends and family members. You are discovering how to apply your skills into all kinds of areas of your life. People appreciate your contributions and your expression through the many ways you are helpful to young people and particularly the seniors that you see from time to time. Encourage all the people you see to find a fun hobby. When you are led by a creative expression, you will find that you are more assured, find ways to magically solve problems and just generally have a positive self-esteem. Because you enjoy being educated and informed you may continue to feed that need for further artistic development. There is time for love.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may feel the need to keep to yourself this morning. You are in a planning mood and are very clearheaded and able to view all the alternative paths. Go ahead and make those decisions now. You can see the road ahead and will make the right choices. This is a time when you can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you. The support you need is available for whatever interest or project tweaks your curiosity. Romance is in the picture this afternoon, particularly through some social activity or pursuits such as religion or volunteer work. There is also a great love of children during this time and you may be inclined to pursue romance and lovemaking in the hopes of obtaining an offspring.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A visitor in your home compliments you on your tastes or belongings. Companionships with others can be most rewarding and you make every opportunity to accommodate your friends. Being career-driven, you may find little time to offer your friends or family. Today could be the exception to this rule and you should make every effort to build on your relationships when you can. A hot air balloon ride or a trip to the zoo could be enjoyed this afternoon. If you actually get to go up in the balloon... Do not forget to open your eyes! There are lots of cool things to see and absorb into your memory. Your good cheer enhances your social life and may intensify romance as well. The evening brings an opportunity to relax.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There can be much excitement in your life now allowing you opportunities to meet new people through unusual means. Take everything that comes to you at this time with a grain of salt, so to speak. You will be meeting some unusual people; however, there is much to learn. Keep your optimistic mindset-you may find a friend where you least expect to find one. You should try your best to communicate your needs in kind and tolerant ways. Your intellectually based friendships are plentiful and you enjoy all the avenues of expression from this day. Your people-experience deepens and is as important as your love of travel. This evening presents a good opportunity to enjoy a close love relationship. A deep spiritual love fills you now.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The energies available now suggest an ability to exert your influence. You may find yourself in a supervisory type of job and the outline of your job responsibilities goes along with how you feel a company should be run. You fit into this job very well and you may decide that in order to keep this attitude up-to-date or current and not slack in any way, you could attend meetings with a group of people that have the same desire to succeed. With a bit of research you might find community business groups that provide an opportunity to network. You have a great deal of eagerness to succeed today. Take care of your body. Enjoy a good healthy diet. If you are setting the example for others, working toward good health is also a good step.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Break time is a laugh at every turn... It is a wonder that you can digest your food! This is a good day and you get to know a couple of your co-workers much better today. Some of your office groups have gatherings, in which you may not have participated. Now, you are invited and there are requests for your expertise in the area of sports. Because you are good at sports, you are definitely having fun considering the many age groups that would be involved-including the children of co-workers. Gaining volunteers for the different groups may be the help you need. Don't get in too deep, too fast. One sport at a time should be considered. Plans for future meetings and picnics and celebrations are doable. You have a wonderful positive attitude.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

After the chores and after the phone calls, there is time for chatting with the neighbors. You are helpful in the way you listen and ask if someone would like your insight. It is a lot better than just offering your viewpoint. There is talk of security needs and this may even involve scheduling a lecture and perhaps some sort of neighborhood watch program. Organize a group and qualify for a sign that shows your neighborhood is strong. Teamwork and compromise leads to success. This evening you may feel a certain familiar exhausted feeling that comes when one accomplishes the good works one sets out to accomplish. An old friend remembers you with an unexpected call. You end the day like you began the day, chatting with a good friend.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Real competition is the subject of conversation most of this morning. You may be the head of a department but while you are home the competition is still fun when it is healthy. This competition could be sports before the noon hour, perhaps a healthy golf game or tennis. This afternoon you are rather of a mind to help someone in need and the favor will be returned. This may not be right away but soon. You value art and all that is beautiful and fine. You may be attending a showing of a new artist's work this afternoon. You may find yourself purchasing a fine piece of art. You and your family will enjoy chatting about individual activities and hobbies and decide to schedule in some future family activities. Your family enjoys a new volunteer idea.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Good advice from a guide or older person may be available this morning. There is optimism, faith and a tendency to take chances at the deepest emotional levels. This is a time of exploring your feelings and a kind of restlessness for a new emotional experience. A feeling that anything is possible characterizes the cycle you have just begun. This is a good time to consolidate and organize your affairs or rearrange your living situation. You are seen by others as just the person to be put in charge of a youth group. You attract favorable attention through your own self-confidence. You lead with creative passion and you are quite excited to have enthusiastic followers. After relaxing this afternoon you join friends for an afternoon dinner out.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

High interest this morning could find you burning yourself out before the afternoon begins. You could become carried away and forget the time. A co-worker may have become interested in entertainment in a comedy club, and you are the one that this person may want to practice a routine with. You may have just as much fun as your friend and pick up a few comedy stunts of your own. You watch and listen and learn many things-you may have a few unique gifts yourself. A love of music, an appreciation for sensual pleasures may bring you and your friends together for a jam session. You and your friends are looking forward to some type of music contest for the opportunity to play as



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is one of your challenging, but successful days. However, others will give you encouragement and a helping hand. You will gain an understanding of how things work in some very unfamiliar surroundings and may end up learning more than you expected. This could mean you have a new job, but it also could mean you have been approved or awarded a part in a play or some other performance-oriented activity. Whatever the case, your talents are called for and if you would just relax and enjoy the learning process your intuitive, creative and talented side would take over and rule the day. Upcoming travel plans need changing; you now realize that it may not suit you as well as you would like. Scheduling is very important.

WORD SEARCH

Christmas Tree

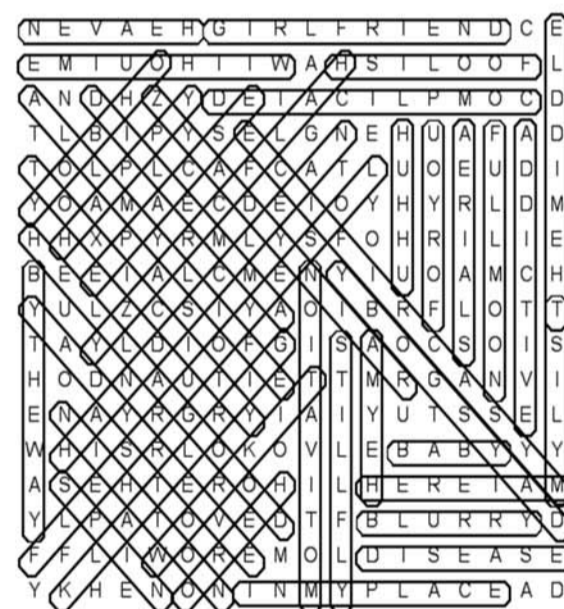
Find and circle all of the Christmas Tree words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 53 letters spell a secret message.



- |             |           |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| ANGEL       | GARLAND   | REAL        | TOPPER    |
| ARTIFICIAL  | GIFTS     | SCENT       | TRADITION |
| BRANCHES    | GREEN     | SETTING UP  | TREE FARM |
| CANDY CANES | LARGE     | SKIRT       | TREE LOT  |
| CELEBRATION | LIGHTS    | SMALL       | TRUNK     |
| DECEMBER    | NEEDLES   | SPRUCE      | WATER     |
| DECORATE    | ORNAMENTS | STAND       | YEARLY    |
| DECORATIONS | PINE      | STAR        |           |
| FESTIVE     | PRESENTS  | TAKING DOWN |           |
| FRESH CUT   | PURCHASE  | TINSEL      |           |

Yesterday Solution

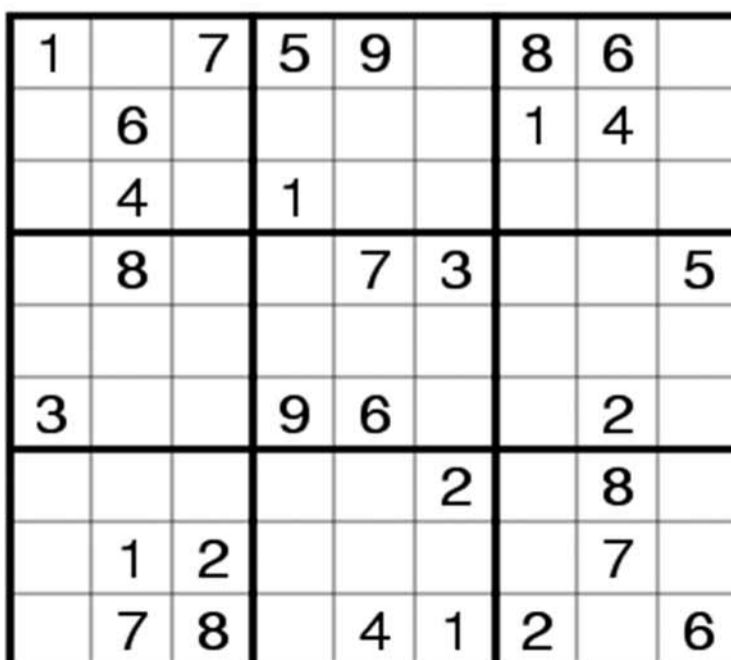
Songs From the Year 2002



- |             |             |              |               |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| ADDICTIVE   | ESCAPE      | HEAVEN       | NOTHING       |
| AERIALS     | EVERYDAY    | HELLA GOOD   | OH BOY        |
| ALL MY LIFE | FOOLISH     | HERE I AM    | RAINY DAYZ    |
| BABY        | FOR YOU     | HERO         | SPIN          |
| BLURRY      | FULL MOON   | HEY MA       | STILL FLY     |
| BY THE WAY  | GIRL TALK   | HEY MA       | THE MIDDLE    |
| COMPLICATED | GIRLFRIEND  | HEY MA       | LOSE YOURSELF |
| DAYS GO BY  | HALFCRAZY   | MOTIVATION   | UH HUH        |
| DILEMMA     | HANDS CLEAN | MY LIST      | WITHOUT ME    |
| DISEASE     | HAPPY       | MY SACRIFICE | WORK IT       |

The hidden song title is: CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





**WORD SEARCH**

**Dogs**

Find and circle all of the dogs that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

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

- |            |           |          |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| BEAGLE     | DALMATIAN | POINTER  |
| BLOODHOUND | DINGO     | POODLE   |
| BOXER      | GREYHOUND | PUG      |
| BULLDOG    | HUSKY     | SAMOYED  |
| CHIHUAHUA  | MASTIFF   | SHEEPDOG |
| COLLIE     | PEKINESE  | TERRIER  |
| DACHSHUND  |           |          |



**Coat Hanger Balance**

**What You Need:**

- A coat hanger
- String
- Two identical plastic cups
- Scissors
- Masking tape

**Instructions:**

1. Cut 4 lengths of string, each one yard long.
  2. Poke 4 holes in each cup with the nail. The holes should be evenly spaced near the rim.
  3. Thread each string through two of the holes.
  4. Tie a cup to each end of the hanger and secure it to the hanger with a piece of masking tape.
  5. Hang the hanger somewhere that it can hang freely. You can hang it on the bar in a closet, if there are not clothes that will touch it.
  6. Put objects in each cup to find out which is heavier than the other!
- If the hanger tilts to the right, the object in the cup on the right is heavier than the object in the cup on the left.



**KNOW YOUR PLANETS!**



**RECIPES FOR KIDS**



**Monkey Toast**

- 2 Pieces of toast
- Peanut butter
- 1 Banana

**Instructions:**

1. First you must make the two pieces of toast.
2. Then you spread the peanut butter on the toast.
3. Slice the banana and lay the pieces flat on the toast.
4. Put the two pieces of toast together.

**I bet you can't solve these riddles!**

- Q. What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?**  
 A. A clock!
- Q. What is the easiest way to double your money?**  
 A. Put it in front of the mirror of course!
- Q. What has a thumb and four fingers but is not alive?**  
 A. A glove.
- Q. What has to be broken before you can use it?**  
 A. An egg.
- Q. What has a neck but no head?**  
 A. A bottle.
- Q. What gets wetter as it dries?**  
 A. A towel.
- Q. What goes up and doesn't come back down?**  
 A. Your age.



**Chichen Itza**



Chichen Itza, often with the emphasis reversed in English to from Yucatec Maya was a large pre-Columbian city built by the Maya people of the Terminal Classic period. The archaeological site is located in Tinum Municipality, Yucata State, Mexico.

Chichen Itza was a major focal point in the Northern Maya Lowlands from the Late Classic (c. AD 600-900) through the Terminal Classic (c. AD 800-900) and into the early portion of the Post classic period (c. AD 900-1200). The site exhibits a multitude of architectural styles, reminiscent of styles seen in central Mexico and of the Puuc and Chenes styles of the Northern Maya lowlands. The presence of central Mexican styles was once thought to have been representative of direct migration or even conquest from central Mexico, but most contemporary interpretations view the presence of these non-Maya styles more as the result of cultural diffusion.

Chichen Itza was one of the largest Maya cities and it was likely to have been one of the mythical great cities, or Tollans, referred to in later Mesoamerican literature. The city may have had the most diverse population in the Maya world, a factor that could have contributed to the variety of architectural styles at the site.

The ruins of Chichen Itza are federal property, and the site's stewardship is maintained by Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (National Institute of Anthropology and History). The land under the monuments had been privately owned until 29 March 2010, when it was purchased by the state of Yucatan. Chichen Itza is one of the most visited archaeological sites in Mexico; an estimated 1.4 million tourists visit the ruins every year.

**Where is it?**

Chichen Itza is located in the eastern portion of Yucatan state in Mexico. The northern Yucatan Peninsula is arid, and the rivers in the interior all run underground. There are two large, natural sink holes, called cenotes, that could have provided plentiful water year round at Chichen, making it attractive for settlement. Of the two cenotes, the "Cenote Sagrado" or Sacred Cenote (also variously known as the Sacred Well or Well of Sacrifice), is the most famous.

According to post-Conquest sources (Maya and Spanish), pre-Columbian Maya sacrificed objects and human beings into the cenote as a form of worship to the Maya rain god Chaac. Edward Herbert Thompson dredged the Cenote Sagrado from 1904 to 1910, and recovered artifacts of gold, jade, pottery and incense, as well as human remains. A study of human remains taken from the Cenote Sagrado found that they had wounds consistent with human sacrifice.

**What was its economic standards?**

Chichen Itza was a major economic power in the northern Maya lowlands during its apogee. Participating in the water-borne circum-peninsular trade route through its port site of Isla Cerritos on the north coast, Chichen Itza was able to obtain locally unavailable resources from distant areas such as obsidian from central Mexico and gold from southern Central America.

Between AD 900 and 1050 Chichen Itza expanded to become a powerful regional capital controlling north and central Yucatan. It established Isla Cerritos as a trading port.

**VENUS**

Venus is the second planet from the Sun, orbiting it every 224.7 Earth days. It has the longest rotation period (243 days) of any planet in the Solar System and rotates in the opposite direction to most other planets. It has no natural satellite. It is named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty. It is the second-brightest natural object in the night sky after the Moon, reaching an apparent magnitude of -4.6, bright enough to cast shadows. Because Venus is an inferior planet from Earth, it never appears to venture far from the Sun; its elongation reaches a maximum of 47.8°.

Venus is a terrestrial planet and is sometimes called Earth's "sister planet" because of their similar size, mass, proximity to the Sun, and bulk composition. It is radically different from Earth in other respects. It has the densest atmosphere of the four terrestrial planets, consisting of more than 96% carbon dioxide. The atmospheric pressure at the planet's surface is 92 times that of Earth. Venus is by far the hottest planet in the Solar System, with a mean surface temperature of 735 K (462 °C; 863 °F), even though Mercury is closer to the Sun. Venus is shrouded by an opaque layer of highly reflective clouds of sulfuric acid, preventing its surface from being seen from space in visible light. It may have had water oceans in the past, but



these would have vaporized as the temperature rose due to a runaway greenhouse effect. The water has probably photo dissociated, and the free hydrogen has been swept into interplanetary space by the solar wind because of the lack of a planetary magnetic field. Venus's surface is a dry desert scape interspersed with slab-like rocks and periodically resurfaced by volcanism.

As one of the brightest objects in the sky, Venus has been a major fixture in human culture for as long as records have existed. It has been made sacred to gods of many cultures, and has been a prime inspiration for writers and poets as the "morning star" and "evening star". Venus was the first planet to have its motions plotted across the sky, as early as the second millennium BC, and was a prime target for early interplanetary exploration as the closest planet to Earth. It was the first planet beyond Earth visited by a spacecraft (Mariner 2) in 1962, and the first to be successfully landed on (by Venera 7) in 1970. Venus's thick clouds render observation of its surface impossible in visible light, and the first detailed maps did not emerge until the arrival of the Magellan orbiter in 1991. Plans have been proposed for rovers or more complex missions, but they are hindered by Venus's hostile surface conditions.

**SUDOKU**

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



## Cannes film shines light on Chad's 'torture factories'

There is a heart-stopping moment in a new documentary about the survivors of Chadian dictator Hissene Habre's torture chambers, when one of the torturers kneels down in front of his victim and begs for forgiveness. "I had to follow orders," mumbles "Mahamat the Cameroonian"—now a broken man himself living on the streets as an outcast. "Then why did you have to beat me so badly?" his victim asks, handing the former gendarme the rubber pipe he used to flail his prisoner's leg to a pulp.

"Your superiors told you to stop, but you went on and on," adds the man, who lost the leg. The scene is typical of the muted but unflinching encounters that fill "Hissein Habre, A



This file photo shows Chadian director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun posing during a photocall for the film 'Grigris' presented in Competition at the 66th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes. — AFP

Chadian Tragedy", Mahamat-Saleh Haroun's quietly dignified film about one of Africa's least known mass killings, which premieres at the Cannes film festival yesterday. Some 40,000 people were murdered during Habre's eight-year reign of terror, a Chadian commission concluded, while the West looked the other way, more worried about the Cold War and Moamer Kadhafi in neighboring Libya.

Habre was their ally and American and French money even paid for the country's political police, the feared DDS, to torture on an industrial scale, said Clement Abaifouta, who leads a survivors' group in the capital N'Djamena.

### Habre verdict

The group has spent 15 years trying to bring the former rebel leader—who was deposed in 1990 — to trial. Habre will

finally be judged later this month at a special tribunal in neighboring Senegal, where he had fled into exile. One of the victims featured in the film, Adimatcho Djamaï, who was tortured so badly he spent more than two decades on the flat of his back in a corrugated iron shack, died the day he was due to testify at Habre's trial. Haroun told AFP he wanted to cast a light on what he calls "this genocide" largely ignored by the outside world "because it was some business of the blacks" carried out behind closed doors.

The director uses Abaifouta as his narrator, visiting his fellow survivors and gently coaxing the horrific stories of their torture from them. A hugely cultured man, he was chosen by the guards to bury those who died around him in the packed cells from hunger, thirst and torture.

### Forgiveness

Sometimes he would wake to find another inmate dead beside him and "be glad that it meant a little more space. That is what we were reduced to" he said. "We were beasts." "I had to pull my life together with a rake" afterwards, he said. Haroun said most of the people who were rounded up by Habre's DDS henchmen "were innocent. They were arrested for no reason, the random victims of a bloodthirsty regime." One, Robert Gambier, trying to explain the terrible things done to them, thought Habre might have wanted to appease the spirits with human "sacrifice so he could hold onto power".

Haroun-Chad's foremost filmmaker whose film "Grigris" competed for the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2013 — told AFP he wanted to see "if it was possible to still live together after such monstrosities. Can survivors still find a place for forgiveness in their hearts?"

While "Mahamat the Cameroonian" is forgiven by his victim, another survivor Haroun filmed was convinced his former torturer would one day try to murder him so he wouldn't have to see pass him in the street again. Asked by Abaifouta if he would kill the man if he had the chance, he said he would.

While the victims pray that Habre will be punished by the judges in Dakar, they are under no illusions that it will make their pain any more bearable. One man who was once rich enough to have five wives said he was now a "vegetable", his brain shrunk by the lack of vitamins while in jail. "Only one of the wives has stayed." For those who still have their minds, the torture continues in the memories they carry. "I carry the dead around my head like a turban," one said. —AFP



(From left) Singaporean actor Firdaus Rahman, Singaporean actress Mastura Ahmad, Singaporean director Boo Junfeng and Malaysian actor Su Wan Hanafi pose during a photocall for the film 'Apprentice' at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France. — AFP

## Striking Singapore death penalty film stirs emotions at Cannes

Before he made his new film about the death penalty, Boo Junfeng sat down to tea with some of Singapore's retired hangmen. He also talked to the priests and imams who helped condemned prisoners make their last walk to the gallows. And most difficult of all, the young filmmaker spent years trying to reach through the curtain of shame to families who had lost fathers and sons to the hangman's rope. But it was only after Boo, whose film premieres at the Cannes film festival yesterday, met one particularly "humane" executioner that he had an epiphany. He realized that no movie has ever dealt with the whole horrible business from the perspective of the man who pulls the lever. "I had already started to write (the film) but after I met the first hangman I couldn't write for three months. What completely threw me was how much I enjoyed his company," said Boo.

"He was not like I thought. He was likeable, charismatic, grandfatherly jocular and open about what he did. He took pride in the almost caring way he looked after the prisoners trying to make it as humane as he could, and I realized how difficult that was. "He really shook up my ideas and forced me to rethink everything." So Boo took his film—which he toiled over for five years—one step further. For "Apprentice" has a shocking twist. It is the story of a young man who ended up learning the executioner's trade from the man who opened the trapdoor on his own father.

### 'Jolly hangman'

More surprising still is the intensity of the almost father-son relationship that develops between the young prison guard and the hangman. "He is in some ways searching for his father," Boo said. "And in doing that he finds this man. What I was going for was human truth. I didn't want to make it an activist film." The death penalty is nevertheless a hot political issue in Singapore and in neighboring Indonesia, particularly when foreigners have fallen foul of strict anti-drug smuggling laws.

The execution of seven foreigners in Bali last year—including two Australians and a mentally ill Brazilian—sparked an international outcry, and several others, including a British woman and a Frenchman, are still on death row there. Boo said he began his research with the book "Once a Jolly Hangman" which features Darshan Singh, Singapore's chief executioner for nearly 50 years who once executed 18 men in one day.

### Author jailed

Its British author Alan Shadrake was arrested the morning after the book's Singapore launch in 2010 and was held for a month in Changi prison for insulting the country's judiciary. He had criticized the way he claimed the death penalty was disproportionately applied to the poor, while well-connected criminals and wealthy foreigners escaped the noose. Boo shot the prison scenes in disused prisons in Australia to avoid controversy in the tiny city state, where an estimated 95 percent of the population still support the death penalty.

"It would have been easy to make a film about the death penalty itself, but it's much bigger than that. I learned so much about the value of human life" from making the movie. Boo, 32, one of a new wave of talented Singapore filmmakers, said his friends who are against the death penalty "may be disappointed by the film", which is showing in the Certain Regard section at Cannes. "I took myself out of the comfort zone to address the issue from a different point of view. I don't have a view myself (in the film). Because the humanity behind the issue is so much more complex," said Boo, whose semi-autobiographical first feature "Sandcastle" was a hit at the French festival in 2009.

"Apprentice took so long because I had so much to learn, so many things were beyond my experience and very few people really knew (about this world)... And unfortunately almost of them are not around" to tell the tale. —AFP

Singaporean director Boo Junfeng poses during a photocall for the film "Apprentice" at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.

## Red Hot Chili Peppers cancel shows as singer hospitalized

The Red Hot Chili Peppers on Sunday canceled a second show after abruptly scrapping a concert as frontman Anthony Kiedis was rushed to the hospital for intestinal flu. The alternative rock greats had been due to headline Saturday's annual Weenie Roast concert held by radio station KROQ near the band's native Los Angeles. But the band took the stage without their instruments as bassist Flea apologetically told the crowd that Kiedis was on his way to the hospital due to stomach pains. "We are unable to play tonight. We will be playing for you very soon and we will play for you like the feral animals full of love that we are," Flea said, according to video footage posted by a spectator.

"We are so sorry," added Flea, appearing topless as is often his wont. Weezer, another band that built a following during the 1990s alternative rock boom, instead became the headliner of the concert. The Chili Peppers in a state-

ment Sunday explained that Kiedis had been hospitalized for "complications from the intestinal flu" and was "expected to make a full recovery soon." The band, however, canceled its next show which was scheduled for today in Los Angeles.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers have an active touring schedule ahead of them as they prepare to release "The Getaway," their first album in five years, on June 17. Upcoming dates including appearances at major international festivals including Japan's Fuji Rock, Roskilde in Denmark, Reading and Leeds in Britain and the 25th anniversary of Lollapalooza in Chicago. The Chili Peppers rose to fame in the late 1980s as they brought an element of funk, especially through Flea's distinctive bass, to hard rock, with lyricism by Kiedis that ranged from dark tales of drug use to the ironic. — AFP



In this file photo, Flea, from left, Chad Smith, Anthony Kiedis and Josh Klinghoffer of the Red Hot Chili Peppers perform at The Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles. — AFP

## Drake beats Radiohead to top US chart

Drake ruled the US album sales chart for a second straight week Sunday as the rap star who has smashed streaming records fended off challenges from Beyonce and Radiohead. The Canadian rapper's "Views," which came out on April 29, became the first album released in 2016 to sell more than one million copies in the United States, tracking service Nielsen Music said. "Views" sold 219,000 copies during the week through Thursday, 175,000 in direct sales and the rest through the equivalent in streaming.

Pop superstar Beyonce's "Lemonade," which was released on April 23, came second while English experimental rockers Radiohead's "A Moon Shaped Pool" debuted at number three on the Billboard chart. In its first week, "Views" had set a record for the most-ever streams in the seven-day period. Despite the rapid growth of streaming in the music industry, none of the top three albums appeared on the most popular site, Spotify. Apple reached an exclusive deal to distribute "Views" on its Apple Music streaming service and the album was also available for purchase on the tech giant's iTunes store.

"Views" became available to rival streaming services on Friday, too late to factor on the latest weekly chart. Beyonce in turn made "Lemonade" an exclusive to the smaller Tidal service, which is led by her husband, rap mogul Jay-Z. She has shunned Spotify but "Lemonade," which debuted at number one, quickly went up for sale on iTunes and, as of May 6, on CD. Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke is an outspoken critic of the compensation structure of Spotify, which unlike most streaming services has a free tier.



This file photo taken on December 2, 2009 shows Canadian rapper Drake during the Grammy Nominations Concert in Los Angeles. — AFP

## Rapper Azealia Banks apologizes for racist rant on Zayn

Rapper Azealia Banks has apologized for a stream of racist and Islamophobic invective against former One Direction heartthrob Zayn Malik that led Twitter to suspend her. Banks, who has long been notorious for provocative social media postings and has rarely voiced remorse, offered her "sincerest apologies to the world" in a posting on Instagram, where her account remains active. "Employing racial/sexual slurs/stereotypes in attempts to make fun of or degrade another person or group is not fair or fun for anyone," wrote Banks, who performed Sunday in Istanbul.

"Allowing my anger to get the best of me, I've managed to insult millions of people without reason. And for that I give my deepest apologies," she wrote late Saturday. Banks, who is African American, used a series of epithets targeting Muslims in a rant on Twitter late Tuesday against Zayn, whom she accused of copying her style in his new racy look after One Direction. Banks on one point gloated that the US military would kill the family of Zayn, a Briton who is partially of

Pakistani descent and is one of the most high-profile Muslims in Western pop culture.

Twitter suspended her account on Thursday, pointing to its policy against "abusive tweets and behavior." Banks initially defended herself, suggesting that she was singled out as an African American woman and saying she was upset that Zayn—who has gone only by his first name since leaving the boy band—refused to engage with her over her criticism. Banks, who did not mention Zayn by name in her apology, also clarified one point from her insults—she had no problem with curry, one of the terms she used to berate him.

She said she was repeating a joke from her native New York—where nearly half of cab drivers were born in Bangladesh, India or Pakistan—that taxis smelled like curry. "I feel compelled to clear the air with curry itself because that's a bridge I don't want to burn. I still want to be able to enjoy it freely without guilt or judgment," she wrote. Banks has previously used homophobic language and called for the burning down of buildings owned by descendants of slave traders, remarks that drew controversy but did not lead to her suspension from Twitter. She has also raised eyebrows by supporting Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, a fellow enthusiast of acerbic Twitter postings who has little support among minorities. — AFP



This file photo shows American rapper Azealia Banks performs on the Pyramid Stage on the fourth day of the Glastonbury Festival of Contemporary Performing Arts near Glastonbury, southwest England. — AFP



(From left) A group photo shows Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad, Zain Telecom Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar, Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi, Svittlana Ardnt, Amara Ashkhanani and Abdulaziz Arti.

— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat and Joseph Shagra



(From left) A group photo shows the Ambassador of Australia to Kuwait Warren Hauck, Zain Telecom Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti, Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad, General Manager of Arabian Business Machines Kamal Abo Al-Hasan and Executive Manager Nakhle Ghantous Bu-Shibil.

# KUWAIT BEAUTIFUL & GREEN through children's eyes



Visitors are shown at the event.



Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad, Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar and Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan are seen at the event.



(From left) Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad are seen at the event.



Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad (left), Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (second left) and Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi (right) present a memento to Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar.

By Ben Garcia

Four young artists bagged the 'best of the best' title from about 14,000 entries in this year's Kuwait Times students' art competition. The awards ceremony of the 'Kuwait Beautiful & Green' contest was held under the patronage of Minister of Information and Minister of Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday at the JW Marriott in Kuwait City to fete the winners of the competition's five categories (ages 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-18 and special needs). Ten winners were awarded from each category.

Times competition - last year I was also included in the best of the best," she said.

Jumana is 15, and her father described her as a natural born artist. "When she started to hold a pen, I knew she would be a good artist," her father said. Jumana wants to pursue fine arts and design at university. "This is my ambition in life - to become a well-known artist. My family supports me; in fact, when I decided to participate in the contest, we all spoke together as a family and agreed where to get the best view for the entry - Shaheed Park. When I was drawing my piece, the whole family was watching me. I was very happy and inspired," she said.

## Category 6-8 years

The four best of the best artists are Roseanne Ismail from the British School of Kuwait (BSK), Jumana Kamal Al-Jahed from Al-Ekhlis School, Sheikha Abdulaziz Issa from Maeath Al-Adawya School and Yousab Atteya from Al-Nesser School.

Speaking to Kuwait Times after the event, 17-year-old Roseanne said painting is only a hobby and she wants to become a doctor like her father. "But I am an artist at heart," she said. Roseanne likes to use charcoal or pencil; however the Kuwait Times competition called for lively colors, so she painted her piece using watercolors. "I started painting when I was four and participated in art competitions when I was seven. This is my second year participating in the Kuwait

Adnan Saad, Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager, told the audience that the Kuwait Beautiful & Green contest was dedicated to the young artists regardless of nationality. "In 1996, when we introduced the very first painting competition, we saw participation by 1,250 students from foreign and private schools; this year, we have over 13,850 participants from 135 schools studying in various stages aged 6-18 from various schools in Kuwait including public and private schools. They all painted creative paintings reflecting their beloved Kuwaiti environment and their keenness on protecting and keeping Kuwait beautiful and green," he said.

Continued on Page 39



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (left), Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar (second right), Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi (right) present a memento to Deputy General Manager of JW Marriott Hotel Mahmoud Al-Migili.



Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad (left), Executive Manager Nakhle Ghantous Bu-Shibil (second left), Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (third left), Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar (third right), Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi (second right) and Abdulaziz Arti (right) present a memento to General Manager of Arabian Business Machines Kamal Abo Al-Hasan.



JW MARRIOTT





Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad (left), Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (second left), Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar (fourth left), Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi (third right), Abdulaziz Arti (second right) and Amera Ashkhanani present a memento to Zain Telecom Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti.



Photo shows Aisha Mohammed Al-Khatib reciting a poem on stage.



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (left) and Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar (second left) present a memento to one of the jury members Amera Ashkhanani.



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (left), Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar (second left) present a memento to one of the jury members Abdulaziz Arti.



(From left) Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar present a memento to one of the jury members Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi.



Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan (left) and Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar (second left) present a memento to one of the jury members Svitlana Arndt.



(From left) Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan, Zain Telecom Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khashti and Ambassador of Australia to Kuwait Warren Hauck are seen at the event.



(From left back) Group photo shows Kuwait Times Deputy General Manager Adnan Saad, Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan and one of the jury members for the 6-8 age category Amera Ashkhanani with the winners.



First winner, Niranjana Krishna, Carmel School

Category 6-8 years

**First winner, Niranjana Krishna, Carmel School**

**Second winner, Narjis Abdulaziz Essa Ali, Maeatha Al-Adawayah School**

**Third Winner, Abdulla Nasser Abdulla, Al-Najah Elementary School**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Zaneb Nader Taqi<br>Arwa Bent Al-Hareth School      | 5. Nema Hamza Abu Ein<br>Al-Qotof School              |
| 2. Habiba Ali Fadel<br>Al-Ghanim Bilingual School      | 6. Rayan Fouad Abed Al-Razeq<br>Fajer Al-Sabah School |
| 3. Fida Ancy<br>Indian Education School                | 7. Ghanima Abdulla<br>Al-Ruya Educational School      |
| 4. Fatema Hamed Ashkinani<br>Mishref Elementary School |   |



Second winner, Narjis Abdulaziz Essa Ali, Maeatha Al-Adawayah School.



Third winner, Abdulla Nasser Abdulla, Al-Najah Elementary School.



Zaneb Nader Taqi, Arwa Bent Al-Hareth School.



Habiba Ali Fadel, Al-Ghanim Bilingual School.



Fida Ancy, Indian Education School.



Fatema Hamed Ashkinani, Mishref Elementary School.



Nema Hamza Abu Ein, Al-Qotof School.



Rayan Fouad Abed Al-Razeq, Fajer Al-Sabah School.



Ghanima Abdulla, Al-Ruya Educational School.

Continued from Page 37

The competition, now in its 11th edition, is part of Kuwait Times' communal and social responsibility providing young talents with the proper avenue to enrich their skills and abilities. "The competition's idea is to unleash students' imagination and creativity to come up with solutions to many problems in various fields and how we can keep Kuwait beautiful and green," he said.

Adnan admitted that selecting the winning entries was not an easy task. "It took the jury panel great time and effort to assess and evaluate various entries and exchange many points of view. We categorized entries according to participants' ages, artistic elements, colors, ideas, authenticity and techniques used by each age category, until we finally selected the top 10 paintings in each category," he added.

Shafiq Al-Sayed Omar, Assistant Undersecretary for the Youth Projects' Sector at the Ministry of Youth Affairs, noted the ministry has adopted the project in order to help showcase Kuwait's children's artistic talents in expressing environmental awareness. "The competition also instills the values of environment protection among our children and helps them attain the knowledge and skills that lead to behavioral change that reflects positively on the environment and school," he said.

He said the Ministry of Youth Affairs strives to encourage

and organize artistic youth initiatives and projects in order to contribute to achieving the state's general goals. "The youth are Kuwait's hope and future, therefore they are among the key pillars that the state relies on to achieve the desired development, both in the present and future. I urge the youth to participate in such projects that help them utilize their spare time in positive ways," Omar said.

"The Ministry of Youth Affairs spares no efforts to embrace Kuwait's youth and serve them to transform their ideas and initiatives into productive projects that achieve glory for our beloved Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah," he added.

The event was sponsored by Zain Telecom, Al-Batel Watches, Arabian Business Machines and Marriott Hotel Kuwait. Also in attendance were Zain Telecom Corporate Communications and Relations Director Waleed Al-Khasti, JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait General Manager George Oun, Al-Batel Watches Co CEO Khaled Al-Batel, Deputy General Manager of Arabian Business Machines Rabee Abdulhassan and Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief Abd Al-Rahman Al-Alyan. The panel of judges include: Amera Ashkhanani, Abdulaziz Arti, Svitlana Ardnt and Abed Al-Kareem Al-Enezi.



Painting by first winner Niranjana Krishna, Carmel school.



Painting by second winner Narjis Abdulaziz Essa Al, Maetha Al-Adaweyah school.



Painting by third winner Abdulla Nasser Abdulla, Al-Najah Elementary School.



Painting by Zaneb Nader Taqi, Arwa Bent Al-Hareth School.



Painting by Fida Ancy, Indian Education School.



Painting by Nema Hamza Abu Ein, Al-Qotof School.



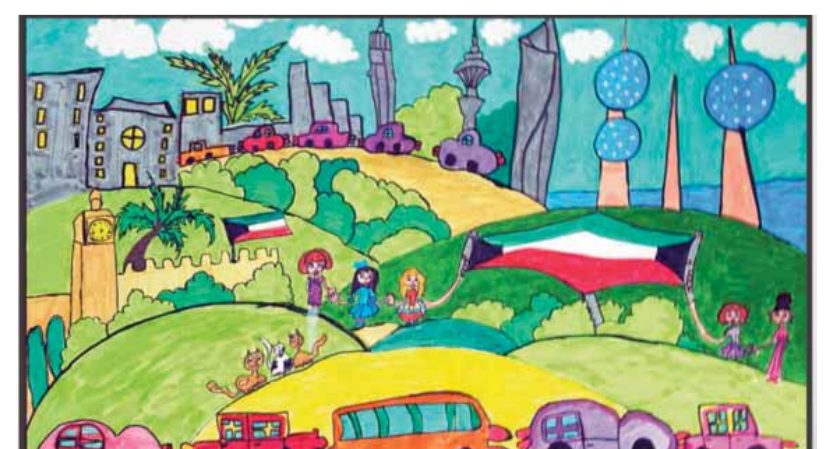
Painting by Ghanima Abdulla, Al-Ruya Educational School.



Painting by Rayan Fouad Abed Al-Razeq, Fajer Al-Sabah School.



Painting by Habiba Ali Fadel, Al-Ghanim Bilingual School.



Painting by Fatema Hamed Ashkinani, Mishref Elementary School.



Festival goers throw powdered paint during the Festival of Colors in the city of Oradea, Western Romania. The festival, which is mainly celebrated during the Hindu spring festival Holi in some regions of India and Nepal, has become popular among people in other communities. — AP

## 'Soviet chic' restaurant favored by KGB spies reopens in Moscow

Moscow's Aragvi restaurant, once the legendary haunt of KGB spies and cosmonauts, has reopened with its Soviet-era grandeur restored. The high-end eatery on the main Tverskaya street, which opened in 1938 at the height of Stalin's purges, has relaunched under the same name after a \$20 million (17 million euros) restoration. The restaurant opened on the initiative of Stalin's notorious security chief Lavrenty Beria for the use of officials from his NKVD agency, the Soviet secret service later renamed the KGB.

It grew popular with other officials and later in the 1960s under Nikita Khrushchev, in the so-called "Thaw" period when censorship and repression eased, lured a more bohemian crowd of artists and actors. Aragvi was immortalized in Soviet literature and featured in films, although its sky-high prices made it accessible only to a tiny elite. Diners had to pay a tenth of the average monthly wage for the privilege of eating alongside artists, cosmonauts, filmmakers and chess champions. "In the Soviet Union, dropping a mention of the famous Aragvi chicken—which was grilled with nuts and garlic-gained you entry into the creme de la creme of society," said one former diner, Nelli Maximova, an 83-year-old retired translator.

"And it was really delicious, their chicken." In 1943, poet Sergei Mikhalkov was in the restaurant when he came up with the idea of writing the lyrics for the new Soviet national anthem, praising Stalin for inspiring "great deeds." After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the state-owned restaurant was privatized and changed hands several times, but it rapidly lost its cachet and finally closed down in 2003. Its new owners, Tashir group and Gor Nakhapetyan, who previously led the Troika Dialog investment group, have spent more than \$20 million restoring the restaurant, saying they want to revive a Soviet legend.

"Of course we wanted to revive nostalgia for a bygone era," Nakhapetyan, who grew up in ex-Soviet Armenia, told AFP. The new menu includes the classic Georgian dishes that made its reputation such as khinkali (dumplings full of meat and bouillon) and khachapuri, bread topped with cheese, as well as non-Georgian specialties such as borscht and Black Sea herring pate. Hearty Georgian fare from a region wedged between Europe, Russia, Asia and the Middle East, is hugely

popular in Russia, although it is usually more affordable than in Aragvi.

The restaurant is named after a Georgian river is located inside a former hotel where Leo Tolstoy and Anton Chekhov once stayed. Its main dining rooms are painted in the grand Soviet manner, with sheaves of corn, tractors and beaming workers, particularly the room once reserved for the use of Beria. In the Stalin era, the restaurant had its most important ingredients, particularly those for its famous "satsivi" or cold chicken in nut sauce, delivered in a special train carriage

from Tbilisi. Under Stalin, an ethnic Georgian, "Georgian food was served at the Kremlin and was seen as the cuisine of the Soviet 'tsars,'" said Leonid Parfyonov, a television host who has written numerous books about everyday life in the Soviet Union. Even after Stalin's death, "in the context of the bleak Soviet culinary scene, the Georgian tradition of wines and spices brought a breath of joie de vivre, and Aragvi was a symbol of Soviet chic," Parfyonov said.

### Recruiting agents

Yet Aragvi also had a more sinister side. It was a hangout for KGB officers who used it as a spot to recruit agents and its dining rooms were wired up with hidden microphones. "For the KGB, Aragvi was always the favorite place to recruit agents and for farewell parties for agents going abroad," said Mikhail Lyubimov, who long headed the KGB's operations against Britain and Scandinavian countries and is now a writer. In 1960, he recalled his KGB boss sent him to Aragvi to informally meet the new number two of his department.

On another evening "with plenty of drinking, one of our men invited a beautiful woman to dance, not realizing she herself was a US spy and was being tailed by the KGB," he said, laughing. "The front-of-house staff there were mainly retired KGB officers-and the food was sublime," Lyubimov said. In the reopened restaurant, the guestbook is full of nostalgic messages, with diners appealing: "Bring back the old recipes" and "Marinate the meat like you used to do."

Marina Dolgikh, a 49-year-old lawyer, leafed through the menu, saying that she had popped in out of curiosity since she knew of the original restaurant. Main courses are priced at around 900 to 1,700 rubles (\$12.5 to \$27, 11 to 24 euros) — a range that would not be out of place in many western capitals today but a tough stretch for middle-class Moscovites. "In its time, Aragvi was inaccessible to me," she said, adding glumly after looking at the prices: "And it's still out of my budget." — AFP



A woman walking past Moscow's Aragvi restaurant.



A view of Moscow's Aragvi restaurant.



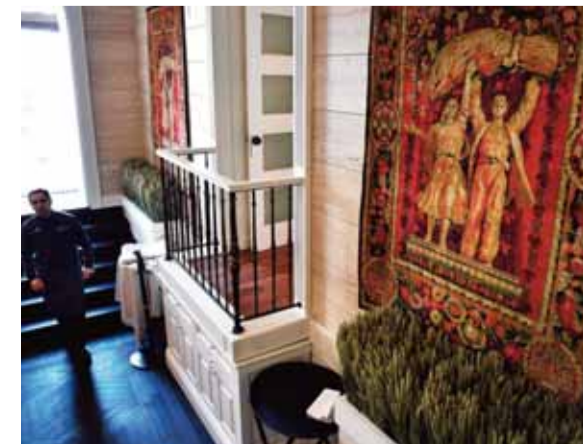
A cook working in Moscow's Aragvi restaurant.



A view of Moscow's Aragvi restaurant.



waiters working in Moscow's Aragvi restaurant.



A view of Moscow's Aragvi restaurant.