



Minister reiterates state support to national media



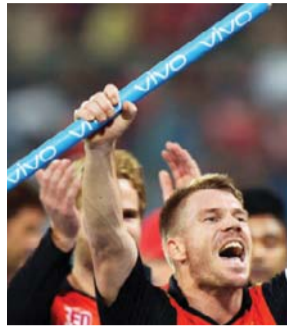
Dozens of children drown as shipwrecks claim 700 lives



Chai stirred into Silicon Valley coffee culture



Warner leads Hyderabad to IPL title as Bangalore fail



## AUTHORITIES ARREST TWO OVER ABUSE VIDEO THAT WENT VIRAL

### RIGHTS BODY SLAMS MISTREATMENT OF WORKER



150 FILES  
NO: 16889  
40 PAGES



Min 27°  
Max 43°  
High Tide 06:27 & 17:16  
Low Tide 11:53

## COUPLE KILLS DAUGHTER, STUFFS BODY IN FREEZER

By Hanan Al-Saadoun



KUWAIT: The suspect Salem Sabah Abdullah Bohan is seen after his arrest yesterday.

**KUWAIT:** A couple who killed their young daughter and kept her body in a freezer were arrested yesterday. The interior ministry's security media and relations department said the body of three-and-a-half-year-old girl Israa Salem Sabah Abdullah Bohan was found at her family's residence, and her father confessed to placing her body in the freezer immediately after her death a week ago.

Salem Sabah Abdullah Bohan, 26, said that he along with his wife Ameerah Hameed Hussein, 23, committed the crime while under the influence of drugs. Investigations revealed that the suspect wrapped the girl in a shroud and bought the freezer on the same day she died, and put her body in it.

When the girl's body was examined, burns were found on the shoulder and legs, besides abuse marks. Investigations also found that the parents were negligent in caring for their four children, and the father was terminated early from work for bad behavior.



KUWAIT: This image combo shows suspects Ali Abdullah Al-Shemmari (left) and Mohammed Owais (center), and victim Ashraf Abu Al-Yameen (right).

By Meshal Al-Enezi & Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The interior ministry's security media and relations department yesterday announced that security forces have arrested a 40-year-old bedoon named Ali Abdullah Al-Shemmari, who appeared in a video circulating on social media networks assaulting, insulting and humiliating his Egyptian employee, 35-year-old Ashraf Abu Al-Yameen. In

the video, the suspect uses foul language against the worker, and beats him by hand, with sticks and a stun gun. The worker was also videotaped in very humiliating positions.

The ministry statement explained that the incident shown in the video took place almost 18 months ago. It added that the suspect made a detailed confession, saying that he behaved in this manner because of a theft from the

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## KD 34.5BN TO BE SPENT ON OIL PROJECTS

KNPC SEEKS \$6.4BN LOAN

**KUWAIT:** The oil sector is expected to spend about KD 34.5 billion over the next five years for the implementation of large development projects, the representative of the acting oil minister, Wafa Al-Zaabi, said yesterday. About KD 30 billion will be spent in Kuwait in the exploration and production sector, which is about 63 percent, while 37 percent will be spent in the refining and petrochemical sector, she said during the opening of a forum on the future of the oil industry.

The state's strategy aims to raise production capacity of crude oil locally to four million barrels per day in 2020 and maintain it until 2030, and raise the rate of free gas production to 2.5 billion cubic feet per day, as well as raise refining and manufacturing to 1.4 million barrels per day, she said.

Meanwhile, Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is in final stages of talks with international institutions for \$6.4 billion in the second tranche of loans to finance its multibillion dollar Clean Fuels Project, state news agency KUNA reported yesterday. The first portion, signed on April 28, was worth KD 1.2 billion (\$3.97 billion) with Kuwaiti lenders led by National Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Finance House. The state-owned KNPC refiner is in the process of final legal reviews for the foreign loans and will determine the pricing and interest rates, KUNA quoted the company's financial advisor Khalid Al-Ajeel as saying. — Agencies

## MP: GOVT UNWILLING TO CUT SPENDING

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** Head of the National Assembly's budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad yesterday criticized the finance ministry's reluctance to cut spending to face the budget shortfall caused by low oil prices. He said that despite repeated calls by HH the Amir for rationalization of expenses, the government does not appear to be ready to reduce spending, while the Assembly is pushing in that direction.

Abdulsamad said according to the law, if the Assembly wants to increase budget allocations, the government's approval is required, but the Assembly can cut expenditures without the prior approval of the government. He said that whenever the committee asks certain government departments to reduce their spending projections for the current budget, the first items they reduce are those related to citizens, including subsidies.

Abdulsamad also said that in preparing next year's budget, the government depends on the previous year's final accounts, which is a wrong method because most ministries and government departments normally overspend in the last few months of the fiscal year, thus inflating spending for that year and the next. He said some government departments request to increase the first chapter of the budget covering wages and benefits under the pretext of needing to appoint new employees. But they do not make new appointments and instead spend the allocations in the form of

benefits and increments for their employees.

It may be recalled that the budgets committee had asked the finance ministry to cut spending projections in the 2016/2017 fiscal year by 20 percent. The ministry said it will consider cutting it by around 15 percent, without giving any firm pledges. Kuwait is believed to have posted the first actual budget deficit in the 2015/2016 fiscal year which ended March 31, after 16 consecutive years of surplus due to high oil prices, which have slumped by over 60 percent since mid-2014.

Meanwhile, the Assembly public utilities committee yesterday rejected most of the amendments submitted for the new municipality draft law, which was passed in the first reading last week. Head of the panel MP Mohammad Al-Hadiya said they accepted an amendment submitted by a number of MPs stipulating that authorities cannot enter private homes to check on electricity violations without a prior permit from the public prosecutor.

The committee however kept the bill in the same form as was approved in the first reading, he said. The bill requires candidates for municipal council election to be university graduates. It also imposes hefty fines on violations in commercial, investment and private construction. Hadiya criticized municipal authorities for cutting electricity to dozens of houses in Jahra for violating the construction law, saying the municipality should not implement provisions of the law before it is passed.

## AMERICANA SCRAPS SALE TO CONSORTIUM

**DUBAI:** Kuwait's Al-Kharafi family has scrapped a sale of a majority stake in Kuwait Food Co (Americana) to a Gulf-based consortium, a company controlled by the family said yesterday, ending months of talks over the multibillion-dollar deal. Americana, which owns the Middle East franchises for fast food chains KFC and Pizza Hut and also produces branded consumer foods, has been up for sale since early 2014.

Investment firm Adepto, which is led by prominent Dubai businessman Mohamed Alabbar, in February agreed to buy 69 percent of Americana from Al Khair for Stocks and Real Estate, which is controlled by the Kharafis. The stake would be worth \$2.15 billion based on Americana's current market value of \$3.11 billion, according to Thomson Reuters data.

"An agreement has not been reached between Al Khair and Adepto and both sides have agreed to end all negotiations in regard to the acquisition", Al Khair said in a statement. Americana made a similar announcement, but neither of these provided further details. An Adepto spokesperson said: "The parties involved

could not reach an agreement on mutually acceptable terms."

Before the Adepto deal was provisionally agreed, banking sources had said other parties including Singapore's Temasek Holdings, Saudi food maker Savola Group, and private equity funds KKR and CVC had all expressed an interest in Americana. Had Adepto concluded a deal with the Kharafis, the consortium would have been obliged to launch a mandatory offer to buy Americana's remaining shares under Kuwaiti securities rules.

In April, Reuters reported that Citi had dropped out of the group of banks slated to provide a \$1.5 billion bridge loan to help fund Adepto's acquisition. Trading in Americana's shares was halted yesterday pending an announcement from the firm. Established in 1964, Americana is the parent group that brought to the Middle East more than a dozen major food brands like KFC, Costa Coffee and TGI Friday's. It owns more than 1,690 outlets and employs 63,000 workers in the Middle East and North Africa region. It also has 17 factories in the region and abroad and produces a variety of food products. — Agencies

## MILLIONS YEARN TO BURY DEAD

**THE HAGUE:** Nameless migrants laid to rest in unmarked scrubland, murder victims dumped in mass graves, desperate searches for the missing after natural disasters. Around the world, millions of families wait in vain to bury their dead. "You cannot close the book on the life of a loved one if you do not know the truth, or what the reasons were, why people went missing," said Salvadoran diplomat Augustin Vasquez Gomez. His country, where some 8,000 people are still missing after years of civil war, has become one of the latest nations to sign a treaty pledging to support the work of the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP).

In the Philippines, also a signatory to the treaty, there are still 2,000 missing after Typhoon Haiyan struck in Nov 2013. And while finding and identifying the missing killed in conflicts or disasters is an age-old problem, no overall global figure has ever been determined. The numbers are thought to be "staggering" - between 250,000 and a million in Iraq alone stretching back to the early days of the regime of former dictator Saddam Hussein, said Kathryn Bomberger, ICMP director general.

The organization, which finances its painstaking research through voluntary donations, held a recent seminar on its work as it moves its headquarters from

Sarajevo to The Hague. Born out of the conflicts in former Yugoslavia and set up in 1996 by then US president Bill Clinton, the ICMP has used sophisticated DNA matching techniques to identify more than 70 percent of the 40,000 who went missing in the Balkans wars. Now it is shedding its ad-hoc status to become a recognized international organization - the only one dedicated exclusively to accounting for the missing.

It hopes to open a new lab in the Dutch city in the coming months, to complement its first one in Sarajevo which already has the capacity to handle up to 10,000 DNA cases a year. Demand is growing. And as the conflicts in Syria and Iraq feed a new wave of refugees, hundreds of whom have perished at sea lacking any kind of documents, a new challenge is emerging. After five years of civil war and a huge exodus from the country, there are an estimated 60,000 missing Syrians.

"There's nothing we can do in Syria for the moment, but we're already losing time in terms of collecting data from survivors," Bomberger told AFP. She's hoping to try to move into the refugee camps, build up trust with families there and start organizing a valuable database. Every day Syrian families are contacting the organization for help finding relatives, and

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## RIYADH SLAMS IRANIAN HAJJ DEMANDS AS 'UNACCEPTABLE'

### TEHRAN WON'T JOIN PILGRIMAGE

**JEDDAH:** Saudi Arabia yesterday denounced as "unacceptable" Iranian demands over its pilgrims joining the annual hajj this year, after Tehran accused Riyadh of raising obstacles. "Iran has demanded the right to organize... demonstrations and to have privileges... that would cause chaos during the hajj. This is unacceptable," Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said in a joint press briefing with his British counterpart Philip Hammond. Tehran said earlier yesterday that Iranians will miss the pilgrimage this year to Islam's holiest sites in Saudi Arabia, and accused Riyadh of "blocking the path to Allah".

Jubeir said Saudi Arabia annually signs a hajj memorandum of understanding with more than 70 countries "to guarantee the security and safety of pilgrims". "This year, Iran refused to sign the memorandum," he said, arguing that Riyadh has agreed to facilitate the travel arrangements of Iranian pilgrims despite having no diplomatic ties or air links. "It is very negative if Iran's intention from the start was to maneuver and find excuses, in order to prevent its citizens from performing the hajj," he said.



JEDDAH: British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond (right) looks at his Saudi counterpart Adel Al-Jubeir during a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council in this coastal city yesterday. — AFP

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**JEDDAH:** (From left) Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Oman's Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi, Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubair, Bahrain's Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Secretary General Abdullah bin Rashid Al-Zayani pose for a picture following a meeting with foreign ministers of the GCC in Jeddah yesterday. — AFP

## GCC, UK MEET IN JEDDAH FOR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

**JEDDAH:** The GCC foreign ministers held a joint meeting with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond in Jeddah yesterday, with Kuwaiti First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attending.

Addressing the gathering, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said the GCC-British meeting is part of joint constructive talks held upon the instructions of the GCC and UK leaders. He reiterated keenness on promoting and developing existing cooperation between the GCC and the UK in various fields, stressing the will to bolster and consolidate firm links between both

sides and to launch fruitful strategic partnership. He also underlined the significance of capitalizing on various potentials to serve their own interests in line with a joint plan of action aiming at developing bilateral cooperation in all domains. The Saudi foreign minister hailed the meeting as an opportunity for continuing consultations about regional issues and swift developments, and for coordinating positions on existing challenges and relevant reflections. Jubeir hoped that the meeting will contribute to a further promotion and development of GCC-British cooperation.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Philip

Hammond said during the meeting that the UK and GCC have firm and deep relations on all levels, spanning hundreds of years. He added that he had discussed with the GCC foreign ministers bilateral relations and ways of developing them in various areas, primarily security.

Presided over by the Saudi foreign minister, the meeting follows the implementation of earlier resolutions and more GCC cooperation and integration in all fields. The current regional and international developments, chiefly Syria, Iraq and Libya, were also involved. The first meeting of GCC-British strategic dialogue was launched in New York in September 2011. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah speaks during the Kuwait Banking Association forum. — KUNA



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah is honored during the event.

## SHEIKH SALMAN STRESSES SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN PRIVATE SECTOR

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah has emphasized momentousness of activating the principle of social responsibility as a method of work for the private sector.

Sheikh Salman, also chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), made his remarks yesterday in his statement to a forum organized by the Kuwait Banking Association on the role of banks in social responsibility in Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016.

Sponsoring the event, the minister said that the principle could be activated through launching projects, financing programs and supporting initiatives in all fields, environment, health, education and employment.

Development affair has come to be basic in Kuwait's keenness on serving humanity, the minister said. He referred to the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a 'Humanitarian Leader' and Kuwait as a 'Humanitarian Center'.

Sheikh Salman stressed the role of the private sector as a key source for development and charity work worldwide, and the banking sector is the backbone of private business. The con-



A scene from the Kuwait Banking Association forum.

temporary trends of banks' social responsibility have established the concept as a sustainable one, turning it from mere financial support to development programs and plans to handle certain issues to improve the quality of life, he said. The minister noted that the Kuwaiti finan-

cial institutions have come to be seen on the concept. He said that electing Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016 is huge support to the concept of social responsibility, since culture is the cornerstone in forming social thinking, especially for youth. The minister said that state institutions, both official and private are responsible for preparing their staff of Kuwaiti youth and training them on applying social responsibility through advanced programs to consolidate values of belonging and citizenship.

The forum sheds light on the efforts by Kuwaiti banks interacting with humanitarian problems, as well as their role in social responsibility, urged by Islam, for a stable and well-established society, said chairman of the Kuwait Banks Association and the Burgan Bank Majid Essa Al-Ajeel. Ajeel reviewed statistics on the donations and contributions by the Kuwaiti banks as part of their social responsibility, totaling KD 470 million (\$1,555 billion) for the period 1992-2015, KD 167 million went to backing national labor and KD 128 million for the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). Over this period, banks offered KD 139 million as social and humanitarian contributions, and KD 12 million to cooperative societies. In 2015 only, Kuwaiti banks provided KD 4 million to the national campaign supporting Syrian refugees. — KUNA

## MINISTER REITERATES STATE'S SUPPORT TO NATIONAL MEDIA

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday reaffirmed support by the state, and the government represented by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, to the national media.

This backing was embodied in the launch of a strategy to promote national media, which is bearing fruits as seen in the full modernization of the Ministry of Information, Sheikh Salman Sabah said on the sidelines of opening the studios of the Al-Oula Ethraa, Al-Arabi TV channels. Congratulating the ministry's staff on the success of the strategy, he

stressed the necessity of qualifying, and further promoting the human element.

Sheikh Salman appreciated efforts by the ministry's officials for fostering the media message to bring about positive outcome to support the society, its goals and expectations as well as development projects. The minister underlined the fact that the Kuwaiti media had proved at all times it is up to responsibility, serving the nation under the wise 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 Premier. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah tours the new studios. — KUNA



## ARAB FMS LAUD AMIR'S EFFORTS IN YEMENI PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

**CAIRO:** The Arab League Council on Saturday commended pertinacious efforts by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to facilitate the ongoing UN-backed Yemeni peace talks in Kuwait. Assistant Foreign Minister for the Arab Affairs Aziz Al-Dihani made the statement on Saturday on the sidelines of the extraordinary meeting of the council on the level of foreign ministers in Cairo. He said that he was proud of the praise and appreciation of His Highness the Amir for hosting the Yemeni peace talks.

Participants in today's extraordinary ministerial meeting spoke highly and positively of His Highness the Amir, Dihani said. They also lauded the role of First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah following up the talks since the start. They are all optimistic that Kuwait is hosting the talks, expecting positive outcome, he said.

In the meantime, Dihani said that the meeting had major topics on the agenda, topped with coordination for the Arab action regarding the Palestinian cause ahead of the international conference for peace in the Middle East slated for June 3 in Paris. It also reviewed developments in Libya, as a mini-committee was formed to reformulate a draft resolution that will outline the future Arab moves to support the North African country.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates Dr Anwar Al-Kerkash expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his efforts to help find a peaceful solution to the crisis in Yemen. "We appreciate Kuwaiti leadership's eagerness to render Yemeni peace talks a real success," Kerkash said at the Arab foreign ministers meeting. "The peaceful solution is the only option that is able to reunify Yemenis."

### Conducive environment

In the meantime, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdulmalak Al-Mikhlafi spoke highly about Kuwait's hosting of the intra-Yemeni talks and His Highness the Amir's great efforts to create conducive environment for Yemeni negotiating teams to reach positive outcome. He applauded the UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ould Cheikh Ahmed's sincere and serious mediation among Yemeni negotiators to broker a deal to end the Yemeni crisis.



**CAIRO:** Assistant Foreign Minister for the Arab Affairs Aziz Al-Dihani attends the extraordinary meeting of the council on the level of foreign ministers. — KUNA

Mikhlafi stressed that the government's delegation aims to uphold the cessation of hostilities agreement in the coming period to help Yemenis enjoy trouble-free holy fasting month of Ramadan, to start on June 6. He added that government is eager to deal positively with the talks to bring to a halt the suffering of Yemeni people.

Algerian Minister of Maghreb Affairs, African Union and Arab League, Abdelkader Messahel stated that Algeria is appreciative of Kuwait's constructive role in the Yemeni crisis and its hosting of the peace talks. He underlined the necessity of a diplomatic solution to the crisis to restore security and stability of Yemen and retain people's unity.

### Strenuous efforts

Arab League Secretary General Nabil Araby meanwhile extolled the strenuous efforts exerted by His Highness the Amir to create environment conducive to the success of Yemeni peace talks. Speaking at the meeting, Araby hoped the talks would make the desired progress to agree on a peaceful solution to the conflict.

He stressed that this progress should be based on the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative and its Implementing Mechanism, the UN Security Council Resolution 2216 and the outcome of the Yemeni national dialogue. Araby also called for intensifying the efforts to put into effect the Arab Leaders' resolution in Sharm Al-Sheikh Summit to form a joint Arab force to boost Arab security and counter the growing threat of terrorism. — KUNA

## FARWANIYA GOVERNOR: ARAB TOWNS BOAST AUGUST HERITAGE

**MANAMA:** Farwaniya Governor Sheikh Faisal Al-Humoud Al-Malek Al-Sabah said yesterday that Arab towns bear a great historical heritage that should be spared swift changes, mainly fast-track modernization.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 17th conference of the Arab Towns Organization (ATO), which kicked off in Manama earlier today, Faisal said: "We all aim at achieving sustainable development and modernizing towns with a view to ensuring public welfare."

He added that Kuwait and Bahrain share many commonalities at both official and unofficial levels in various realms, appreciating Bahrain's efforts for hosting the conference which brings together heads of governors of Arab towns.

ATO is executing vital plans to achieve sustainable development and urbanize Arab cities, Secretary General Ahmad Al-Subaih said. The organization is working on developing Arab cities in accordance with the UN's resolutions, said Subaih in a speech at the conference. He noted the worsening conditions in conflict-struck Arab cities, adding that ATO is planning on resettling citizens in these areas.

Meanwhile, Bahraini Minister of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Issam Khalifa said the conference aimed to discuss the negative impact of rapid urbanization on Arab cities, including poverty, lack of resources, conflicts, displacement of citizens and environmental issues. — KUNA

In my view

ONLY IN KUWAIT - PART 9



By Talal Al-Ghannam

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Good morning dear and honorable brothers and sisters, and I greet you in advance on the advent of the holy month of Ramadan. In this article, I return to the 'Only in Kuwait' series to pinpoint on wrongdoings that must be addressed and resolved.

Only in Kuwait sick leaves taken by employees during short holidays make up more than the actual working days.

Only in Kuwait many doctors at clinics and hospitals help the malingerers violate state laws in terms of giving sick leaves, instead of thoroughly examining them, and show fear of Allah in this subject.

Only in Kuwait you see people fight at co-op societies over a famous burgundy-colored and sugar-full drink that is often left on shelves unnoticed all year long, except in Ramadan arrives when it becomes as precious as gold.

Only in Kuwait the apartments haris (Janitor) is considered a 'king' as he makes a fortune from unjustifiable commissions taken from some helpless tenants behind the oblivious building owner's back.

Only in Kuwait the expatriate at a government institution such as the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is yelled, at whereas the Kuwaiti is given a nice treatment.

Only in Kuwait helpless workers at Kuwait International Airport are shouted at by female passport officers, telling them to line up and prepare the residency paper before arriving at the counter. This is a matter that makes foreign visitors frightened and hesitant to visit Kuwait because of such mistreatment by a government officer towards low-wage workers.

Only in Kuwait more than 60 percent of the Friday market's workers do not have a valid visa.

Only in Kuwait police carry out crackdowns in several areas around Kuwait, in which they apprehend up to 3,000 expatriates. Probably half of those people were lied to or taken advantage of by their sponsors, yet they have nowhere else to go to but to continue working for the sake of their kids and families. Such sponsors must be prosecuted.

Only in Kuwait you see a policeman force an expat driver to pull over but stays in his police car and calls on the driver to come to him instead of doing the opposite, which is the right way of dealing with traffic violators.

Only in Kuwait you see deep holes and mountain-like speed bumps on roads. They often remain neglected by the Ministry of Public Works, and then when it acts to solve the problem, it waits before a tender is placed and a company is hired to carry out the necessary works in a process that takes a lot of time. By then, so many people's cars are damaged as a result.

Only in Kuwait you are given the right to drive on the left shoulder of the road with maximum speed of 45 km/h. Yet, many drivers behind you would not let you go at that speed, forcing you to accelerate and end up getting a citation as a result.

Only in Kuwait giving a signal to pass over can be humiliating to many reckless drivers, who can force you stop and then physically assault you.

Only in Kuwait sending a text or WhatsApp message can be so important to the point it has to be done while driving.

Till the next article insha Allah

COURT ORDERS RECONNECTING POWER TO VIOLATING BUILDINGS

By A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** A court yesterday compelled Kuwait Municipality to reconnect power to various buildings found in violation of municipality rules. Notably, lawyer Mohammed Al-Ansari had filed scores of cases against the municipality, and the court ruled that disconnecting the power supply would negatively affect the lives of families. The municipality had launched efforts last week to force property owners to correct construction violations such as building floors that exceed the three-storey maximum limit, or renting extension to expatriate bachelors. It started taking action such as disconnecting power from violating buildings in a bid to force owners to comply.

**Compensation canceled**  
The court of appeals yesterday

cancelled a first instant ruling sentencing former MP Musallam Al-Barrak to compensate former minister Rola Dashti KD 15,000. Dashti had filed a case against Barrak demanding KD 250,000 in compensation over statements he had made accusing her of covering up for merchants selling foul foodstuff.

**Ministry to monitor warehouse after fire**

The Ministry of Education (MoE) plans to contact a private company specialized in surveillance camera installments in order to install cameras as soon as possible at the ministry's warehouses in Subhan, Assistant Undersecretary for Financial Affairs Yousif Al-Najjar said. This measure was taken immediately after a fire broke out in the warehouse's scrap yard on May 13, Najjar added, noting that the ministry filed a case at Sabah

Al-Salem police station and that investigations are still in progress.

**Fishing ban**

Chairman of the Kuwaiti Fishermen Union Thaher Al-Sowayyan urged all fishermen to respect fishing rules and conditions set by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), such as the mullet fishing ban. He added he is totally in support of fishermen's rights but at the same time, is keen on protecting fish resources. Sowayyan also expressed wishes that once the mullet fishing season begins on June 1 instead of July 1 as planned, the catch would be a lot better than those in previous years and will be sold at reasonable prices. Sowayyan also urged fish resources officials at PAAAFR to open the shrimp fishing season together with neighboring countries on August 1.



Damage seen after firemen tackled a blaze in a Wafra camp yesterday.

POLICE ARREST MURDERER ON WAY OUT OF KUWAIT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Police arrested the suspected killer of a Ukrainian man whose body was found in his car in Fahaeel. The suspect, Russian, was arrested while attempting to leave the country and was sent to concerned authorities.

**Fires**

Mishref fire center responded to a call about a fire in the diwaniya of a house, which was evacuated. Firemen were told a disabled person was inside, who was found unconscious with various burns. He was taken to hospital and the fire was put out. Separately, a fire broke out in a camp and chalet on Wafra road. Mina Abdullah fire center responded and put out the fire. No injuries were reported.

**Brother raided**

Farwaniya security men busted a brothel in Firdous and arrested five Sri Lankan prostitutes inside. They were taken to the proper authorities to face charges.

**Bootlegger caught**

Hawally police arrested an Indian man with possession of 231 bottles of homebrewed and imported liquor in Jabriya. The arrest was made when a car was spotted in an open yard while the man was placing bags in the trunk. When police approached him, he fled on foot, but was caught, while 220 locally made and 11 imported liquor bottles were found. The suspect and the liquor were sent to the Drug Control General Directorate (DCGD).

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF DISCUSSES MILITARY ISSUES WITH ITALY, SUDAN DELEGATIONS

**KUWAIT:** Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder discussed military issues of mutual interest with delegations of Italy and Sudan in two separate meetings yesterday. Kheder received his Sudanese counterpart Moustafa Awadhi Hassan and an accompanying delegation to deal with key topics and issues of common concern, Defense Ministry's Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations said in a press statement.

During the meeting, Kheder lauded the depth of relations between Sudan and Kuwait, and their keenness on enhancing and developing them, it added. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army Lieutenant General Abdullah Al-Nawaf Al-Sabah and some senior military officials. According to the statement, Kheder also received Italy's Chief of Staff of the Air Force Enzo Vecciarelli and his accompanying delegation. The two sides focused on some topics of mutual interest and means of fostering them, it noted. A number of Kuwaiti officials, including Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for planning Major General Ahmad Abdulwahab Al-Omairi, were present in the meeting. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder meets with his Sudanese counterpart Moustafa Awadhi Hassan. —KUNA



Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Kheder meets with Italy's Chief of Staff of the Air Force Enzo Vecciarelli.

COUNCILOR DEMANDS ALLOWING FOUR FLOORS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Municipal Council member and head of Hawally committee Yousif Al-Ghareeb said the need for building a fourth floor at private houses has become a necessity for some families, and called for special solutions for the problem. Under current regulations, home owners can get permission to build extra floors for their existing houses for a maximum of three floors in total. "Most children tend to live in the same house of their families after they get married, due to the housing problem, forcing citizens in these cases to build additional floors to avoid having their children pay over KD 400 in monthly rent," he explained. He urged Kuwait Municipality and the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) to reconsider the matter and the decisions they accordingly make, including disconnecting power supplies from violating properties.

Legalese

LENDING AND BORROWING MONEY

By Fajer Ahmed

**T**oday I will discuss the legal issues regarding lending or borrowing money, as I have never discussed these issues before and I seem to be getting more and more emails regarding different debt situations lately. I am going to be answering questions regarding debts that were done on a friendly basis mostly, and this is because I understand how awkward it can get when you lend money to a friend or when you have to pay back a family member. As always, I am going to be using terms that can be understood by your average speaker and avoid legal terms.

**Question:** I lent money to my friend - around KD 3,000 - and now my friend is ignoring me. She was supposed to pay back KD 100 every month, but she did not. Is there anything I can do about it legally?

**Fajer:** First of all, I understand that you lent the money on a friendly basis, but do you have any written proof that you lent the money? Did your friend sign a paper? Was the transfer done through a bank? Was she paying for some time but then stopped? Was there correspondence regarding the money via email? All these things you have to look at and consider as they might be used as evidence. If you have evidence, then you can file a case and get a court judgment forcing your friend to pay.

**Court verdict**

**Question:** I have a court verdict stating that a certain person still owes me money and needs to pay me the amount back, yet this person is still not paying. What can I do?

**Fajer:** Your lawyers should handle this, but I will explain what happens in very simple terms. The lawyers will take the court's final 'verdict' to a department in the Ministry of Justice that handles executions of judgments. They will freeze this person's assets, depending on what they own, making their daily lives very difficult until they pay you the amount.

**Question:** I have lent someone money and they have not returned it yet, but I do not want to file a lawsuit as I do not want this to affect him and his children. I have heard that the ministry can put a hold on his assets, and the last thing I want to do is put a strain on him and his family. So is there anything I can do?

**Fajer:** Theoretically, the law has been written in a way where the assets that are frozen are not necessary for the family's survival needs, but that is just theoretically, and there is no way to tell what a person is going through or what issues they might be dealing with. The law has tried to balance the equation out, but I guess it depends on your needs as well. After all, the money is your right.

**Negotiation**

**Question:** I borrowed KD 3,000 from a friend and I promised to pay them back by May 1. Now I cannot afford to pay it back. What can I do?

**Fajer:** Honestly, the best way to deal with this is to speak to your friend and try and negotiate another scenario, maybe paying a small amount every month or getting an extension. Whatever you agree on, make sure you do so in writing.

This is not legal advice but I would like to give it anyways because I have seen things from my experience working at the law firm and dealing with clients with such issues. Do not let money get in the way of family or friends or other fruitful relationships, and always, always have things in writing, even if it is between friends or family. The two statements may seem to be contradicting, but they are there to protect you. Always forgive. I am sorry if I have moved away from speaking only legally, but it is that I have just seen a family fight over money and the brother is determined to put his sisters in jail for not paying him back the amounts they borrowed that they cannot afford to repay. Situations sometimes get out of hand when it comes to the law, and I felt the need to speak about it publicly.

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

KUWAIT SUPPORTS ILO'S EFFORTS IN PROTECTING LABORERS' RIGHTS: SUBAIH

**GENEVA:** Kuwait's participation in the International Labor Organization (ILO) conference is a testament to the country's support of laborers, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih said yesterday.

Kuwait will present to the ILO a chronicle of the country's accomplishments in various fields germane to labor rights, Subaih noted. She also pointed to strenuous efforts exerted by Kuwait to stave off human trafficking and other forms of labor exploitation.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's permanent envoy to the United Nations (UN) and International Organizations Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim said that this year's ILO conference will focus on a myriad of labor issues, including ways to cope with humanitarian crises and disasters.

Ghunaim also revealed that the conference will tackle strategies to overcome rampant poverty in the world, noting that Kuwait is a prominent contributor to the ILO. The 2016 ILO Conference is slated to take place from today to June 10, with participation of representatives of 187 nations and international labor envoys, in addition to various civilian organizations. — KUNA



GENEVA: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Minister of State for Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih and Kuwait's permanent envoy to the UN Ambassador Jamal Al-Ghunaim. — KUNA

In Brief

AMIR TO PATRONIZE E-CONTENT AWARDS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will patronize at Bayan Palace today a ceremony to honor winners of Kuwait e-Content Award, organized by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). — KUNA



GHANEM TO ATTEND PALESTINE, CHILDHOOD ARAB MEETINGS

KUWAIT: Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem, accompanied by a parliamentary delegation, will fly to Cairo today to take part in the third conference of Arab parliamentarians on childhood issues. He also will chair a meeting which features speakers of Arab parliaments, who are member states of the committee tasked with the Palestinian cause, to support the Palestinian steadfastness. — KUNA



KSC TAKES CLEAR PICTURE FOR MARS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Science Club (KSC) announced that it managed to take a high resolution image of Mars, using special equipment. KSC was able to take a clear picture for the 'Red Planet' as it is currently at its closest point to earth in 13 years, Astronomy Department Director Bader Al-Omairah said. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Children carry on Kuwait's sea heritage and culture. — KUNA photo



EDUCATION MINISTER HONORS KUWAITI GRADUATES IN EGYPT

CAIRO: Kuwaiti Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa conveyed greetings of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Kuwaitis who have just graduated from Egyptian universities. Essa, also Minister of Education, said Saturday he was happy to be with the Kuwaiti male and female students to celebrate their graduation.

A ceremony to honor the fresh graduates for the year 2015-16 was held by Kuwait Cultural Office, which was also celebrating the 70th anniversary of its establishment. Essa saluted the fresh graduates who left their country for the sake of knowledge. "You were the best ambassadors of your country in your second country, Egypt, from which we learned science and knowledge for decades," he said.

Essa told the fresh graduates that it was

high time for them to serve their country to contribute to its development. He said the Ministry of Higher Education would issue a law that would provide financial support for the excellent students.

Kuwait charge d'Affaires to Kuwait Abdulaziz Al-Bisher told the graduates that it was their time now to contribute to the building of Kuwait in all sectors. "We are celebrating today and see the future of our beloved country, Kuwait, lying between your hands," he said.

Bisher thanked Kuwait Cultural Office for relentless support of the students, as well as the Egyptian universities and the Egyptian people for hosting the Kuwaiti people. Dr Furaih Al-Enezi, director of the cultural office, pointed out to the services provided to the students like registration and hotel booking. He said the cultural office was also providing supporting documents for the post-graduate students. — KUNA



CAIRO: Kuwaiti Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa honors Kuwaiti graduates in Egypt. — KUNA

ZAIN'S MARYAM SAIF NAMED HR PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AT MENA HR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

KUWAIT/DUBAI: Zain Group, a leading mobile telecom innovator in eight markets across the Middle East and Africa, announces that the company's Director of Human Resources, Maryam Saif, has been recognized as this year's recipient of the HR Professional of the Year for the private sector at the annual MENA HR Excellence Awards. The event is organized by the international business facilitation experts Naseba Group.

The honor was bestowed at a gala event held on 26 May in Dubai in conjunction with the 11th Annual Human Capital Forum MENA. The judging panel singled out Saif for her successful efforts in aligning the HR function with Zain's strategic direction, promoting a people-centric culture, implementation of numerous innovative programs, engagement of employees in various activities and for her passionate focus on the overall development and well-being of staff.

Impact

Since joining Zain Group three years ago, Saif has had a marked impact on the organization and its 7,000 staff who are spread across eight countries through numerous far-reaching and progressive HR initiatives. Under her stewardship, Zain implemented a back-to-basics program focused on policies, procedures and structures. Thereafter she led the company's highly impactful engagement campaign under the theme 'Together', which resulted in a Group-wide response rate of over 90 percent and engagement score of 76 percent compared to the global norm of 69 percent. This exercise provided a meaningful framework for people to relate to the organization and make sense of the employment dynamic.

Saif was also the architect of the launch of the new 'multiple flavors of wonderful' Zain careers site, which was promoted heavily on social media, positioning Zain as an employer of choice that subsequently resulted in the company being ranked by LinkedIn in the top 100 Most In-Demand Employers in the MENA region. Together with her team, the Zainers 2.0 Program was launched, focusing on the recruitment and development of elite students in Kuwait. The program also introduced developmental assign-



KUWAIT: Zain Group CEO Scott Gegenheimer congratulates Maryam Saif for her HR Professional of the Year award.

ments that were aimed at employees who are keen to hone their skills and gain international experience across the Group.

Key focus

Commenting on this recognition, Zain Group CEO, Scott Gegenheimer said, "Talent development and inspiring employees to achieve excellence through engagement is a key focus of Zain's strategy as it will drive innovation through the company, supporting our aspirations to becoming a digital lifestyle operator. The company has become a much more engaging and enjoyable place to work and we owe much of that to Saif's tireless efforts. This recognition by Naseba confirms that Zain's employees are in safe hands given her dedication and belief in investing in people and technology."

Other Zain HR related initiatives include the hosting of a number of live tweet sessions and

blogs through LinkedIn, all in line with the utilization of the two dedicated HR channels related to social media activities, which are @ZainCareers Twitter account and the Zain page on LinkedIn.

During 2015, Zain Group also introduced a capability framework that identifies core and leadership competencies to support the company's strategic initiatives and provide a standard by which to measure present performance and identify the kind of activity required in the future. The business objectives set out 'what' is needed and the competency framework establishes 'how' people need to work to achieve these objectives in the year ahead. The core and leadership competencies outlined in the framework point to the behavior all Zainers are encouraged to adopt in order to perform their roles effectively. They reflect Zain's current priorities and a benchmark for best practice.

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY ACCEPTS 717 STUDENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDIES

KUWAIT: Around 717 male/female students have been accepted in the college of graduate studies at Kuwait University (KU) for Master's, doctoral, and graduate diploma programs of the academic year 2016/17, KU announced yesterday.

An orientation meeting with the accepted students is to be held next Wednesday at KU's

campus in Khalidiya area, Professor Fareeda Al-Awadhi, Dean of Graduate Studies at KU, said in a press statement. The meeting will highlight laws and regulations of the college of graduate studies, registration procedures, fees payment, and online class registration, Al-Awadhi said.

Online registration will be active between September 18-21, she said, adding that study

courses of all graduate programs will start on September 25th. The college would eventually post the names of the accepted students for the doctoral program in pharmacology and toxicology, Masteris program in history, zoology, biotechnology, mathematics, and private law, and the online graduate diploma program in marriage and family counseling. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with journalist Adnan Al-Rashed. — KUNA photos



Kuwait's delegation with Kuwaiti ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Thafeeri.

## PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES JOURNALIST ADNAN AL-RASHED

KJA OFFICIAL ELECTED TO FAJ SECRETARIAT



Kuwait's delegation during the conference.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday Journalist and Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) official Adnan Al-Rashed who was chosen for the post of vice president of the Federation of Arab Journalists (FAJ). Rashed was elected for the position during the 13th FAJ conference held in Tunisia.

KJA took part in the conference, which concluded recently after being held under the auspices of Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid. A total of 18 Arab journalists, syndicates and associations attended the conference to take part in general elections of a new general secretariat.

The newly elected general secretariat includes Mo'ayyad Allami as FAJ chairman, Adnan Al-Rashed, Najj Al-Baghouri, Abdullah Al-Jahlan, Abdullah Al-Baqali and Nasser Abo Bakr as deputies. FAJ also appointed KJA Secretary Faisal Al-Qena'e as an advisor. The Kuwaiti delegation included Qena'e, Rashed, Dohairan Abalkhail and Jassim Kamal who all supported Rashed's nomination for the vice president post. Kuwait's delegation was received at the airport by Kuwait's ambassador to Tunisia Ali Al-Thafeeri, who escorted and helped them all during their stay.

### ZAKAT HOUSE DELIVERS 900 FOOD BASKETS TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRBIL

IRBIL: Kuwait Zakat House delivered yesterday 900 food baskets to Syrian refugees at a camp in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil. Kuwait's Consul General in the region of Kurdistan Dr Omar Al-Kandari said in a statement that Kuwait Zakat House, in collaboration with the General Consulate, will distribute food rations to four Syrian refugee camps. Moreover, Kandari noted that the food aid encompasses 7,000 food baskets to be delivered to Syrian refugees inhabiting four different camps in Irbil.

Meanwhile, member of the Kuwaiti Zakat House's delegation Khalaf Al-Mutairi said that he is hopeful that the food aid delivered in the run up to the holy month of Ramadan, would be adequate to meet the needs of refugee families. Mutairi also noted that the food baskets, which weigh 26 kilograms, consist of such staples as rice and sugar, and are a month's worth of supply per family. As part of its humanitarian efforts, Kuwait contributed to the construction of a refugee camp in Irbil, which houses 500 families. — KUNA



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### GULF BANK SPONSORS KU ALLIED HEALTH, NURSING FACULTY GRADUATION CEREMONY

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank sponsored Kuwait University's (KU) Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and Nursing most recent graduation ceremony, which was held at Futooh Ballroom - Kuwait Regency Hotel. The ceremony, was attended by 103 graduates, graduate family members, faculty professors and senior management representatives from Gulf Bank.

The Faculty of Allied Health Sciences and Nursing programs were established to develop locally-trained staff to provide local care and to ensure that Kuwait benefits from a permanent and dedicated workforce, reducing overall reliance on expatriate skills and personnel. The faculty presently offers Bachelor degree programs in Health Information Administration, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Radiologic Sciences. Youth development is a key long term element of Gulf Bank's corporate social responsibility program. The bank frequently partners with organizations with similar goals to provide students with support and encouragement during their education.

Gulf Bank has a dedicated 'red' bank account which is specifically designed for high school, college and university students aged from 15 to 25. Opening a red account requires no minimum deposit and any money in the account earns interest for the account holder. red customers are also entitled to number of other benefits, which includes the latest movies at all Cinescape for only KD 2 instead of the usual KD 3.5 rate seven days a week, a monthly cash draws and quarterly car draws. To learn more about Gulf Bank's products and services, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches; call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), Gulf Bank's bilingual website.

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## CONGRATULATIONS, ENGINEER

By Qais Al-Usta

In a nice gesture that makes one feel good, a citizen hung a large banner in one of the streets in the area where he lives to congratulate his recently graduated daughter from the college of engineering. This banner, with its beauty, opens the door for discussion of a bad phenomenon of our crises in the latest decades, which is to avoid mentioning the name of the mother, sister or wife, as if the name of a woman is a stigma! But all religions and laws confirm otherwise.

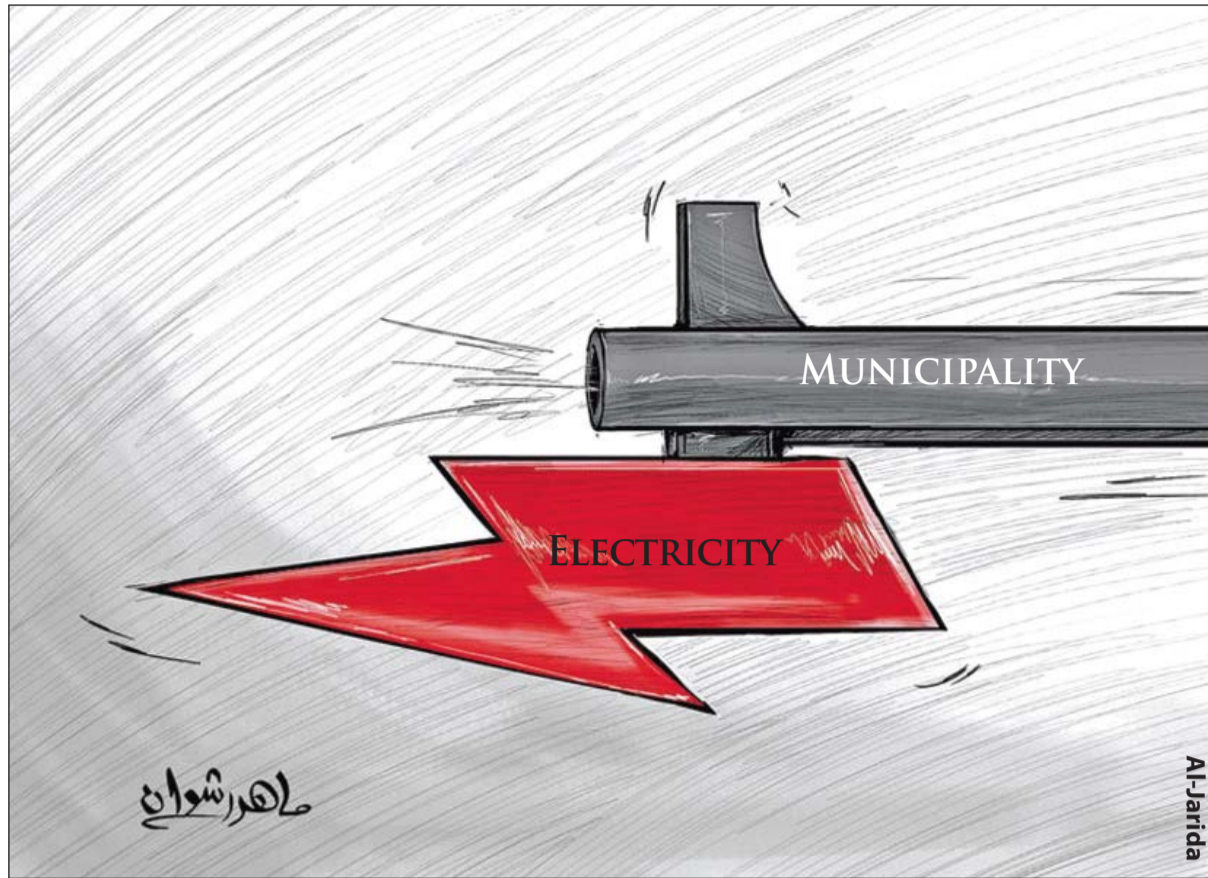
The master of creation, Muhammad bin Abdullah (PBUH), used to mention the names of his wives and daughter, as proven by authenticated hadiths. Even on Judgment Day, people will be called by their names and that of their mothers. I believe religious scholars have a major role in explaining this matter, and it is not enough to say this is a social custom because it is a bad one that must be fought, because some people confuse it with religion and good behavior, while we see it as the contrary.

*Let us be proud of the names of our daughters and their achievements, as we do with our sons*

Let us be proud of the names of our daughters and their achievements, as we do with our sons, and let us understand that the woman is a mother who bore you in her womb, a sister, a wife and a daughter, and positive talk about her should be accompanied with action. Avoiding mentioning her name as if it is a stigma or taboo indicates viewing women as inferiors, which is something not accepted by religion or logic.

PS: Many like to plan for their travel early over considerations related to time management and discounts given for booking early. But officials at Kuwait Airways have so far haven't even announced the destinations the new Boeing 777 aircraft that will be in service in few months will go to. The question is: Hope the reason is something good!

So, was the message delivered? I hope so.  
— Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

## HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY

Al-Anbaa

By Thaar Al-Rasheedi

The speech delivered by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at the Istanbul humanitarian summit was not merely a political one on a specific occasion. With its various parts, it was rather like a roadmap for peace in the entire region, and not only a specific region or country.

That is typical of great men when they take podiums. They do not discuss short-sighted or short-term visions. They do not limit these visions to a country or an incidental political occasion. Their visions always go beyond times and places. HH the Amir did not only talk about the humanitarian crisis in Syria as one that needs immediate solutions - he talked about all the poor worldwide, bad economic situations and political conflicts in various countries around the world, calling for a debate to discuss these problems by the international community.

All these points were but part of the Amir's speech that ought to be considered the most suitable for this

particular phase of our history, through which he highlighted the broad lines of finding a comprehensive peaceful diplomatic solution for the entire region, which is not strange when called for by the world's diplomacy sage.

The Amir also called for activating humane diplomacy worldwide, starting from Kuwait, where four international conferences were hosted to raise donations for Syrian refugees. Therefore, thanks to his instructions, Kuwait is an international pioneer in humane diplomacy when it comes to the Syrian crisis, through holding conferences and providing Syrian refugees displaced into Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan with direct government aid or aid from various Kuwaiti charities and NGOs. Kuwait is the world's humanitarian center and HH the Humanitarian Amir takes it one step forward to become the world's humanitarian diplomacy center.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

# MAIDS 'ADS' ON THE RISE AHEAD OF RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Local papers and the Internet are currently full of ads offering services of housemaids for 'sale' or transfer as Ramadan is approaching. Informed sources said that there is a growing demand for housemaids as Ramadan is close, and their hiring costs are accordingly increasing, especially with a shortage of housemaids in the local market.

The sources added that due to the short period remaining before Ramadan begins, specialized housemaid offices might not be able to procure a new maid quickly, as it usually takes two months to do so. "This made the cost of transferring a housemaid from one employer to another go up to KD 1,400 regardless of the maid's experience," said the sources, noting that any housemaid ad published in the papers or online immediately attracts a customer regardless of the price. Sometimes the maids are 'auctioned' and given away to the highest bidders, the source said. Touring a Hawally center where many labor offices are located, the offices were almost empty, unlike previous times when they used to be packed with housemaids rejected by some sponsors. Officials at these offices said the reason there were no maids in the offices is due to the advent of Ramadan, as well as India's decision to stop sending housemaids to work in Kuwait. One of the office managers who has been in this business for 16 years said human traffickers seeking easy money have been bringing housemaids directly without help from labor offices at a relatively lower cost of KD 500-650. They would then 'resell' them in Kuwait and make up to KD 600-800 in profits, he said. — Al-Rai

## DATA UPDATE REVEALS DUAL CITIZENS

KUWAIT: The Finance Ministry now has a database of hundreds of Kuwaiti-Americans who revealed that they have American passports in addition to their Kuwaiti citizenships after updating their banking data. But this information is yet to reach the interior ministry due to the lack of a link between the two ministries. This raises questions about the possibility of the interior ministry asking for such information should it decide to pursue dual citizens. During the process of updating the banking data, a new phenomenon surfaced among dual Kuwaitis, as many of them revealed they have American passports but refused to sign the tax forms the banks gave them. Banking sources estimate the percentage of dual citizens who did not sign the tax forms at around 12 percent of those registered - between 500 to 700 citizens. — Al-Rai

## Crime

Report

### Employer foils his maid's suicide attempt

KUWAIT: A citizen foiled a suicide attempt by his Nepalese domestic helper in his Waha house, after she ingested cleaning chemicals. She was taken to Jahra Hospital and underwent a gastric lavage. A security source said the citizen rushed his unconscious maid to hospital, saying she drank detergents. She was kept in the ICU, and charged with attempted suicide.

### Theft

An Indian man's car was broken into while parked in front of a Fahaheel mall. The thief stole a bag from the car containing gold jewelry worth KD 3,000. The Indian, who works as a goldsmith, had left the bag in the car to run some errands in the mall. Police are investigating.

### Threats

A citizen sought police help in Bayan after a person using an international number sent her threatening and insulting messages that included her name. Police are investigating.

### Assault

A citizen claimed to be "god" and was furious with police when they arrested him in an abnormal condition. The man bit two policemen and insulted a third by throwing dirt at him. The suspect is a 25-year-old, who was arrested in Salmiya and transferred to criminal evidence. The man was slapped with several charges and is being interrogated. — Al-Rai

## News

in brief

### 500,000 possible voters in 2017

KUWAIT: Statistics of the electoral register for 2016 revealed that there are 483,181 registered voters in Kuwait, with a 17,800 voters' increase after 33,382 this year alone. According to sources, the number of voters in the next parliamentary elections to be held in the summer of 2017 is expected to reach 500,000 or more. The sources meanwhile spoke about possible 'guided transfer' of votes after the statistics showed 'abnormal growth' in the second and fourth constituencies. Tribes continue to dominate voters' numbers with 53 percent, led by the Awazem tribe, and followed by Mutair, Ajman, Rashaida and Anza, according to the statistics. — Al-Qabas

### Water network

KUWAIT: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia intend to establish a connection between their respective water supply networks in order to face any problems that could face either country. Discussions on that regard are expected to start after Ramadan, Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar said. The project would be carried out as part of a plan that could expand in the future to cover other Gulf states, similar to the electricity grid connection network. — Al-Rai

### Fake companies

KUWAIT: The Manpower Public Authority referred 76 fake companies to the public prosecution since the beginning of 2016. Inspections Director Sultan Hassan said, adding that 789 workers are registered on those companies' files. Inspectors filed citations against 438 workers during inspections carried out in the first quarter of this year, he said. — Al-Jarida

### Structural planning

KUWAIT: Construction violations and major projects create massive pressure on infrastructure which is already suffering due to the population increase, a recent report by Kuwait Municipality's structural planning department said. It said that there are four mega oil projects and ten out of thirteen projects currently implemented by the Ministry of Public Works that violate the structural planning requirements. — Al-Qabas

### Public funds

KUWAIT: The State Audit Bureau inquired with several state departments including the Public Institution for Social Security about the fate of shares they own in companies scrapped from Kuwait Stock Exchange by the Capital Market Authority. Several state departments have investments in some companies by purchasing at least five percent of their stocks using public funds. There is no clear mechanism to identify the fate of these funds once a company is scrapped when its losses exceeds 75 percent of its capital. — Al-Jarida

### Court order

KUWAIT: An officer won a court order forcing the Interior Ministry to enroll him in the Police Academy as a third year student. The man was rejected after he first applied to enroll in the academy in 2014. He won a court order the following year, and then a second order last year when the Interior Ministry failed to follow the court's first order. The third court order issued this year is final. — Al-Rai



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry distributed brochures to people and employees at the Sabah Al-Nasser and Ardiya service center, which include tips on saving energy during the summer.

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## 17 DIE IN FIRE AT UKRAINE HOME FOR ELDERLY

Page 10



Iraqi forces poised for Fallujah assault

Page 8



REGGIO CALABRIA, Italy: The Italian Navy ship "Vega" arrives with more than 600 migrants and refugees yesterday in this port in southern Italy. — AFP

# MED SHIPWRECKS CLAIM 700 LIVES

DOZENS OF CHILDREN DROWN • 14,000 MIGRANTS RESCUED

**ROME:** A week of shipwrecks in the Mediterranean culminated yesterday with 700 migrants feared dead and survivors giving harrowing testimony of dozens of small children drowned. Survivors brought to safety in the Italian ports of Taranto and Pozzallo told the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) and Save the Children how their boat sank on Thursday morning after a high-seas drama which saw one woman decapitated. "We'll never know the exact number, we'll never know their identities," said the UNHCR's spokeswoman Carlotta Sami. But multiple witness reports suggested over 500 people had drowned in that shipwreck alone.

With some 100 others missing after a boat sank Wednesday, and 45 bodies recovered from a wreck that happened Friday, the UNHCR said it feared up to 700 people had drowned in total this week. About 14,000 have been rescued since Monday amid calm seas. Giovanna Di Benedetto, Save the Children's Sicily spokeswoman, told AFP that survivors of Thursday's wreck said around 1,100 people had set out from Libya on Wednesday in two fishing boats and a dinghy, before running into trouble.

"The first boat, carrying some 500 people, was reportedly towing the second, which was carrying another 500. But the second boat began to sink. Some people tried to swim to the first boat, others held onto the rope linking the vessels," she said. According to the survivors, the first boat's Sudanese captain cut the rope, which snapped back and decapitated a woman. The second boat quickly sank, taking those packed

tightly into the hold down with it. The Sudanese captain was arrested on his arrival in Pozzallo along with three other suspected people traffickers.

### Trapped and Drowned

"We tried everything to stop the water, to bail it out of the boat," a Nigerian girl told cultural mediators, according to La Stampa daily. "We used our hands, plastic glasses. For two hours we fought against the water but it was useless. It began to flood the boat, and those below deck had no chance. Woman, men, children, many children, were trapped, and drowned," she said. Those who survived told mediators the dead included "around 40 children, including many newborns", La Repubblica daily said. "I saw my mother and 11-year old sister die," Kidane from Eritrea, 13, told the aid organizations. "There were bodies everywhere."

A bout of good weather as summer arrives has kicked off a fresh stream of boats attempting to make the perilous crossing from Libya to Italy. Italian news agency Ansa said more than 15 boats had been setting off every day for the past five days. Italy's Interior Minister Angelino Alfano said Europe needed "a quick agreement with Libya and African countries" to halt the crisis.

The chaos in the Libya since the fall in 2011 of late dictator Muammar Gaddafi has been exploited by people traffickers. Migrants interviewed by La Repubblica in Sicily told the newspaper a new "head trafficker" called Osama had taken control of departures from Libya's beaches and was offering "cut-

price" deals of €400 for the boat journey to lure in new customers.

### 'Violence is Growing'

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) doctor Paola Mazzoni warned that "the number of women arriving pregnant or with newborns appears to be on the rise, with many saying they have been raped in Libya". As newly arrived migrants docked in the port of Palermo, including a pregnant minor who said she had been raped, MSF mediator Ahmad Al-Rousan said: "Violence is growing in Libya - we see it in the marks left on these boys and girls." Many of the recent arrivals, largely Eritreans and Somalis, said they had balked at the idea of boarding the rickety vessels and dinghies once they saw them, but were forced on in Libya at gunpoint. European Parliament President Martin Schulz said in an interview with the Repubblica on Sunday that Italy's "migration compact" idea was "the best proposal so far" for stopping the boat crossings and preventing deaths.

Italy wants to persuade African countries to help close migrant routes to Europe and take back some of those arriving via Libya in exchange for increased aid and investment. Germany has made it clear, however, that it is against one of the elements of Italy's plan: the issuing of EU-Africa bonds to finance it. Italian President Sergio Mattarella said yesterday that "actions of solidarity and reception coordinated across the world" were needed, as well as "credible policies on activating legal channels for migration and repatriation". — AFP

## GAMBIA LEADER BLASTS UN, AMNESTY OVER PROBE CALLS

**PARIS:** Gambian President Yahya Jammeh has slammed UN chief Ban Ki-moon and Amnesty International for demanding an investigation into the death in custody of an opposition activist, the Jeune Afrique weekly reported yesterday. "Ban Ki-moon and Amnesty International can go to hell! Who are they to demand that?" said Jammeh, who has ruled Gambia with a rod of iron since 1994. Solo Sandeng, a senior figure in Gambia's main opposition United Democratic Party (UDP), died in custody in April after being arrested for participating in a rare demonstration calling for Jammeh's removal, according to his party and Amnesty International. At the time, a government minister said he was unaware of his death.

But Jammeh struck a defiant note. "I don't see the point. People die in custody or during interrogations, it's really common. This time, there is only one dead and they want investigations? I will not," said the outspoken leader. "No one can tell me what to do in my country." Speaking to Jeune Afrique, which provided AFP with the original English quotes, the 51-year-old said he was "proud" to be labelled as a "dictator" by western powers whom he claimed were used to African heads of state being 'yes men'.

If he were a dictator, he was a benign one. "I am just a dictator of development," he said. "When I took power, this country was one of the poorest countries in the world. This is

no longer the case. There is an opposition, an elected parliament, we have one of the best public health systems," Jammeh insisted.

### 'As Long as God Wants'

He also rhetorically questioned the value of double-digit growth if that left schools empty because of children being forced to work. Jammeh, who said he would remain president "as long as God and the people wish", seized power in a bloodless coup in 1994 and was then elected in 1996. Since then, he has been repeatedly reelected for five-year terms and will stand again in presidential polls slated for December. But Amnesty secretary general Salil Shetty blasted Jammeh's "murderous" regime and slammed neighboring states for not speaking out against it and against the human rights abuses in Gambia.

"In Gambia, things are going from bad to worse. Journalists and civil society are under attack," Shetty told a rights conference in Senegal where he claimed the results of the upcoming presidential poll were "known in advance". Shetty urged Senegalese President Macky Sall and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which Sall currently chairs, to speak out and "take their responsibilities" in doing so. Not to do so would be "shameful," he added. — AFP

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## UNITY GOVT STRUGGLES TO MAKE IMPACT IN LIBYA

**TRIPOLI:** Two months after his dramatic arrival in Libya's capital, Fayeze Al-Sarraj's unity government has won international support but had little impact inside a divided country plagued by militants, analysts say. The head of the Government of National Accord sailed into Tripoli under naval escort on March 30 in defiance of a militia alliance that has been in control of the capital since August 2014, after it refused to let him fly in.

His arrival sparked hopes of a way out of the political, security and economic crises that have gripped Libya since the 2011 revolution that ousted longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi. But confined to the naval base where it receives visiting foreign ministers, the UN-backed GNA has yet to draw up any clear roadmap for ending Libya's anarchy and expelling jihadists from their strongholds.

Its targets of restoring peace and healing divisions born of five years of conflict are being stymied by a rival government in the east that refuses to cede power until a repeatedly delayed vote of confidence in Libya's elected parliament from which it takes its own legitimacy. The rival administration, which itself had international recogni-

tion before the rise of Sarraj, controls eastern Libya through militias and units of the national army loyal to controversial General Khalifa Haftar, a sworn opponent of the GNA.

For Mattia Toaldo, a Libya specialist with the European Council on Foreign Relations, the GNA has already lost a "precious two months" with its failure to secure a vote of confidence. "While he has received several foreign delegations and made visits abroad, he (Sarraj) is invisible inside Libya," said Toaldo. Sarraj "has not found the time - nor the courage - to address the east of the country. It's not a question of lacking the military strength, but rather absence of political will and... political initiative".

Othman Ben Sassi, a former member of the revolution-era National Transitional Council, said "the only achievement of this (GNA) government has been the fact that it has won international support". On the ground, "it's the militias, as before, that control the situation. As for the unity government, it doesn't control anything," he said.

### East-West Divide

The task facing Sarraj, a 56-year-old

political newcomer, is "extremely fragile", according to Kader Abderrahim, a specialist on Islamism at the Paris-based Institute for International and Strategic Affairs. "It's imperative that a formal vote (of confidence) be held to head off challenges to his legitimacy," said Abderrahim. He must "firstly gather Libyans around a joint project, ensure their security and undertake negotiations with the different militias to lay down their arms. This process could take several months," he said.

On the military front, the GNA controls several airports and has militias and army units based in the western region of Misrata, equipped with tanks and warplanes, under its command. But the east-west divide rules out any unified control of Libya's porous borders through which hundreds of thousands of sub-Saharan Africans pour in search of a better life across the Mediterranean in Europe. And although Libya holds Africa's richest oil reserves, the economy poses a huge challenge for the GNA faced with spiralling food, transportation and medical costs since the start of 2016.

With the Muslim fasting month of



**TRIPOLI:** This file photo taken on March 30, 2016 shows Libya's UN-backed Prime Minister-designate Fayeze Al-Sarraj speaking during a press conference in the capital. — AFP

Ramadan starting in early June, food shortages and power cuts at a time of rising summertime temperatures will only serve to heighten the perception among ordinary Libyans of "Sarraj government failings", according to Toaldo. Internationally, the GNA secured a Western pledge at a May 16 meeting in

Vienna to ease the arms embargo in place since Libya's revolution to battle the Islamic State jihadist group. But for Abderrahim, "Libyans are fed up with Western interference in their affairs and the fact that they have literally imposed Fayeze al-Sarraj can only be damaging for him." — AFP

## LARIJANI REELECTED SPEAKER DESPITE GAINS BY REFORMISTS

**TEHRAN:** Moderate conservative Ali Larijani retained the speakership of Iran's parliament yesterday despite major gains for reformists in February elections, benefiting from credit gained by his support for last year's nuclear deal. Several lawmakers from the reformist camp broke ranks to vote against the head of their own List of Hope, Mohammad Reza Aref, who lost by 103 votes to 173. February's election was widely seen as a referendum on last July's nuclear deal with world powers led by the United States, the signature policy of moderate President Hassan Rouhani.

Larijani's support for its passage through parliament kept him out of the fierce debate that saw a string of hardline opponents of the agreement lose their seats. Reformists took 133 of the 290 seats in parliament. That fell short of a majority but it was more than the conservatives' 125 seats. The remaining seats are held by independents and representatives of religious minorities who are expected to give Rouhani a working majority to pass key reform legislation that eluded him in the outgoing conservative-dominated parliament. Several leading reformists broke ranks to endorse Larijani in the run-up to the speakership contest. "Larijani can better direct parliament than Aref," Gholam Hossein Karbaschi, the leader of one reformist faction, the Construction Party, told the Shargh newspaper on Tuesday. Reformist former health minister Massoud Pezeshkian was elected first deputy speaker. Two other reformists were also elected to parliament's 12-member governing board. Both are Sunni, a first since the Islamic revolution of 1979 ushered in Iran's Shiite theocracy.

Larijani, who turns 58 on June 3, is the scion of a famed Shiite clerical family and a regime veteran. He was a prominent figure in the elite Revolutionary Guards during the 1980-88 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq and served as state broadcasting chief from 1994 to 2005. He stood unsuccessfully against hardliner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for the presidency in 2005 and two years later resigned as secretary of the Supreme National Security Council in protest at his policies

which triggered an economically crippling showdown with the West.

### Praise from President

Rouhani himself praised Larijani and his support for the nuclear deal in an address to the opening session of parliament on Saturday. "We need interaction to solve the problems and crises of the country," he said, adding that February's poll gains for his supporters were a vote for an end to international sanctions imposed over Iran's nuclear program and an improved standard of living. Rouhani is president but ultimate power in Iran rests with supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who called on the new parliament to remain faithful to the principles of the Islamic revolution that saw relations with Washington ruptured in 1980. Using the term "arrogance" first coined to refer to the United States by his predecessor, revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Khamenei urged lawmakers to be wary of its schemings.

"It is the revolutionary and legal duty of you to make the parliament a stronghold against the schemes, charms and impudently excessive demands of the arrogance," he said in a message read to the packed opening session. Khamenei has said repeatedly that the nuclear deal with Washington, which he finally endorsed, was a one-off and that it should not lead to a generalized rapprochement with the West. Despite their heavy defeat in February's elections, hardline opponents of the nuclear deal still control most of the principal levers of power in the Islamic republic. On Tuesday, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, an archconservative who scraped reelection at the ballot box in 16th place in Tehran, was chosen by fellow clerics as chairman of the Assembly of Experts, the body that oversees Khamenei's work.

The assembly would also elect Khamenei's successor if the 76-year-old dies during its eight-year term. Jannati already chairs the Guardian Council, the body which vets all candidates for public office in Iran and has a veto over all legislation. The council sparked controversy in February's election by disqualifying thousands of hopefuls, most of them reformists. — AFP



**Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga fighters fire an antitank cannon on the frontline near Hasan Sham village, some 45 km east of the city of Mosul, during an operation aimed at retaking areas from the Islamic State group yesterday. — AFP**

## IRAQI FORCES POISED FOR FALLUJAH ASSAULT

### THOUSANDS FLEE IS OFFENSIVE IN NORTHERN SYRIA

**BAGHDAD:** Elite Iraqi troops were poised yesterday to assault one of the Islamic State group's most emblematic bastions, Fallujah, as the jihadists counterattacked in both Iraq and neighboring Syria. The fighting prompted a new exodus of thousands of desperate civilians and deep concern for the many more trapped in the battlegrounds. The overall commander of the Fallujah operation, Abdelwahab Al-Saadi, said Saturday it was a matter of hours before the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) entered the city.

The week-old operation has so far focused on retaking villages and rural areas around Fallujah, which lies just 50 km west of Baghdad. "I won't tell you hours but the breach of Fallujah will happen very soon," Hadi Al-Ameri, a senior commander in the Hashed al-Shaabi paramilitary force, told Iraqi television. CTS's involvement will mark the start of a phase of urban combat in a city where US forces in 2004 fought some of their toughest battles since the Vietnam War.

The jihadists were also under pressure from Kurdish fighters east of their northern Iraqi stronghold Mosul and from US-backed Kurdish fighters in Syria. Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region on Sunday announced the launch of a pre-dawn offensive involving 5,500 peshmerga fighters to retake an area on the road between its capital Arbil and Mosul. "This is one of the many shaping operations expected to increase pressure on ISIL (IS) in and around Mosul in preparation for an eventual assault on the city," the Kurdistan Region Security Council said in a statement. Ten hours into the operation, which was launched a day after a wave of 12 coalition air strikes in the area, Kurdish forces had fully retaken three villages, it said. In Syria, Kurdish rebels from the People's Protection Units (YPG) allied to Arab fighters and backed both on the ground and in the air by the US-led coalition, were targeting Raqqa, IS's de-facto Syrian capital.

### Civilians Bear the Brunt

IS countered in both countries where they declared their "caliphate" in 2014, attacking non-jihadist rebels in Syria as well as the Iraqi town of Heet, which the army recaptured just last month. "An attack by Daesh (IS) terrorists on several parts of Heet was thwarted... Now the whole area is under control," the Joint Operations Command said in a statement. It said coalition aircraft targeted IS forces during the attack and added that pockets of jihadists remained. "Daesh attacked Heet to ease the pressure on their

fighters inside Fallujah, especially following the announcement that CTS had arrived," the statement said.

In northern Syria, the jihadists have launched an offensive against the towns of Marea and Azaz that threatens to overrun the last swathe of territory in the east of Aleppo province held by non-jihadist rebels. It would also bring IS to the doorstep of the Kurdish enclave of Afrin. As the fighting raged on multiple fronts, civilians were once again bearing the brunt of the conflict. At least 29 civilians have been killed since IS began the assault in Aleppo province early on Friday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. More than 6,000 civilians fled into the countryside, it said.

Northwest of Azaz, a senior nurse said late Saturday that a hospital supported by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) was closed except for

emergencies. MSF said on Friday it was evacuating patients and staff from the hospital in Salamah town as it was just three kilometres from the frontline. In Iraq, only a few hundred families managed to slip out of the Fallujah area, with an estimated 50,000 people still trapped inside the city proper.

According to the Norwegian Refugee Council, around 3,000 people have managed to escape the Fallujah area since May 21. The biggest wave so far arrived on Saturday night, NRC said, but a larger influx could be triggered when the urban battle between CTS and IS begins in earnest. "Our resources in the camps are now very strained and with many more expected to flee we might not be able to provide enough drinking water for everyone," said Nasr Mufahi, NRC's Iraq director. "We expect bigger waves of displacement the fiercer the fighting gets." — AFP



**TEHRAN:** Iran's re-elected Parliament speaker Ali Larijani (center) is congratulated by MPs following the announcement of the results during a parliament session yesterday. — AFP

## NEW TURKEY PM WINS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

**ANKARA:** Turkey's new government led by a staunch ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan easily passed a confidence vote in the country's parliament yesterday, the speaker announced after the vote. Binali Yildirim, who replaced Ahmet Davutoglu as prime minister last week, was backed by 315 parliamentarians while 138 voted against, parliament speaker Ismail Kahraman said after the ballot. Yildirim described his new administration as "the government of 79 million Turks" in a short speech to parliament following the vote, promising to "take democracy even further".

The new government takes office amid

opposition accusations that Erdogan is attempting to rule like a dictator by enhancing his own power. "We are opposed to a presidentialization of the system. The country cannot be sacrificed to the ambitions of one man," Levent Gok of the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) said earlier in the week. The ruling AKP party will now seek a "mini-revision" to the constitution that would allow Erdogan to become a "party-affiliated president" instead of remaining non-partisan. Yildirim, 60, has also made no secret of his enthusiasm for a system change in Turkey that would restrict the powers of the prime minister and bolster the presidency. — AFP

## JORDAN KING ABDULLAH DISSOLVES PARLIAMENT, NAMES CARETAKER PM

**AMMAN:** Jordan's King Abdullah appointed veteran politician Hani Mulqi as caretaker prime minister yesterday after dissolving parliament as its four-year term nears its end, and charged him with organizing new elections by October. The king accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour before appointing Mulqi by royal decree. Mulqi has held senior government posts in successive administrations. Under the constitutional rules the election must be held within four months.

Jordan traditionally votes according to tribal and family allegiances but parliament amended the electoral laws in March in a move government sources and political analysts say will lead to more candidates from political parties vying for votes. The analysts say the tribal lawmakers who dominated the last parliament had tried to resist changes which might undermine their influence, under a system that still favours sparsely populated tribal areas which benefit most from state patronage.

Jordan's main political opposition comes from the Muslim Brotherhood movement but it faces increasing legal curbs on its activities, leaving mostly pro-monarchy parties and

some independent Islamists and politicians to compete in these elections, the political analysts say. The Brotherhood, wants sweeping political reforms but stops short of demanding the overthrow of the monarchy in Jordan.

Its political arm in Jordan, the Islamic Action Front, represents many disenfranchised Jordanians of Palestinian origin, who are in the majority in the population of seven million and live mostly in urban areas. Analysts say it could be difficult for the Brotherhood, which has operated legally in Jordan for decades, to participate in the election after the authorities closed many of its offices and encouraged a splinter group to legally challenge the main movement's licence to operate.

Western diplomats and independent politicians say the absence of the group, which has strong grassroots support in urban centres, could undermine the legitimacy of the election. Western donors have pushed Jordan's authorities to widen political presentation to stem radicalization among alienated and unemployed young people in poor overcrowded areas. Hundreds of them have already joined jihadists in Syria and Iraq. — Reuters



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## ROADSIDE BOMB KILLS 5 IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

**LAGOS:** Five people were killed when an improvised explosive device exploded in northeast Nigeria, in a region where Boko Haram insurgents have operated for years, the country's military said yesterday. A rickshaw driving close to a military checkpoint on the outskirts of Biu town, Borno State, ran over the IED in the morning. "Preliminary investigations shows that the IED was buried long time ago undetected. It exploded when the tricycle erroneously stepped on it," Nigerian military spokesman Sani Usman said in a statement.

"The IED exploded instantly killing four persons comprising of a woman with her baby and two other male adults," Usman said, adding that a soldier injured by the blast later died in hospital.

He added that "the explosion would not deter us from seeing to the end of Boko Haram terrorists wherever they might be hiding through our ongoing clearance operations." The Nigerian government has won back swathes of territory from the Islamist insurgents in recent months, with President

Muhammadu Buhari saying in a recent speech marking his first year in office that "by the end of December 2015, all but pockets and remnants had been routed" from the northeast.

But even areas freed of Boko Haram are suffering from the legacy of the seven-year insurgency that has devastated infrastructure in the impoverished region and forced some 2.1 million people in Nigeria to flee their homes, according to the UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency. Buhari says government to talk to Niger Delta leaders

### Crackdown

The Nigerian government will talk to leaders in the Delta region to address their grievances while cracking down on militants who have staged a wave of attacks on oil pipelines there, President Muhammadu Buhari said yesterday. Local officials and Western allies such as Britain had told Buhari that moving in troops to the Delta was not enough to stop attacks, which have cut Nigeria's

oil output to a 20-year low. "The recent spate of attacks by militants disrupting oil and power installations will not distract us from engaging leaders in the region in addressing Niger Delta problems," Buhari said in a speech marking his first year in office. The former military ruler also said the government was committed to a cleanup of polluted areas, a major source of dissent in the Delta along with widespread poverty.

"I believe the way forward is to take a sustainable approach to address the issues that affect the Delta communities," he said without elaborating. But security operations would still go on, he said. The army has moved reinforcements to the swamps, with soldiers on Saturday raiding for the second time a community that is home to a former militant leader linked to attacks.

"We shall apprehend the perpetrators and their sponsors and bring them to justice," Buhari said.

On Thursday, Oil Minister Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu said an amnesty program for former mil-

itants, signed in 2009 to end a previous insurgency, needed to improve.

The scheme had funded cash benefits and job training to militants who have laid down their arms but has been cut by the government by two-thirds. Buhari has also upset former militants by ending contracts to protect pipelines, part of a drive to tackle corruption. Moving in the same direction, a committee set up by Delta state leaders said on Thursday that the federal government and oil firms have neglected the grievances of local communities.

On Saturday, Bayelsa state government in the Delta said militants attacked a crude oil pipeline operated by Italy's ENI, hours after a group called Niger Delta Avengers militants claimed another strike. The Avengers have claimed a string of attacks on oil and gas facilities in the last three months as part of what they frame a battle for independence. They have given oil firms until the end of this month to leave the region. — AFP



**KIEV:** Officials load body bags into a truck at the site of a fire in the village of Litchky, yesterday. Seventeen people died when a makeshift home for elderly people outside the Ukrainian capital Kiev caught fire in the early hours of yesterday, the latest tragedy to shake the conflict-riven country. — AFP

## 17 KILLED AS FIRE RAVAGES HOME FOR ELDERLY IN KIEV

THE LATEST TRAGEDY TO SHAKE CONFLICT-RIVEN UKRAINE

**KIEV:** Seventeen people died when a makeshift home for elderly people outside the Ukrainian capital Kiev caught fire in the early hours of yesterday, the latest tragedy to shake the conflict-riven country.

The fire tore through the two-storey shelter for the elderly which is in the village of Litchky, located some 50 kilometres (31 miles) north of Kiev. "The bodies of 17 people have been found at the site of the fire," the head of Ukraine's state emergencies service, Mykola Chechotkin, said in comments released by his office.

"The fire broke out at a privately-owned house," he told reporters, saying the shelter for the elderly had been set up in violation of existing legislation. Citing preliminary information, the service said that 35 people were at the home when the fire broke out in the early hours of yesterday.

Eighteen people have been rescued and five of them have been hospitalised, said the service, adding that the fire had been extinguished

by yesterday morning. More than 150 people helped put out the fire. It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze but according to one version it might have been sparked by an exploding TV set. National television channels, reporting from the scene, said that the street where the shelter was located was now cordoned off by police. Pictures released by the state emergencies service showed a fire-gutted white brick building, with rescue teams scouting its remains.

### Most vulnerable

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has been notified of the blaze, the government said in a statement, adding that Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman had tasked officials with creating a special commission to look into the fire. Groysman expressed condolences to the families of those who had perished in the "terrible tragedy," the government said in a statement. First deputy head of national police,

Vadym Troyan, said in televised remarks that a man who had organised the temporary shelter had already been detained.

In post-Soviet countries like Ukraine and Russia outdated infrastructure is still in widespread use and managers often take a lax approach to fire safety. Such fires often claim the lives of some of the most vulnerable people including the elderly and those with mental illness. Scores of people also die in house fires each year. Since April 2014, Ukraine has been struggling to contain a pro-Russian

insurgency which erupted in the east of the ex-Soviet country after a popular uprising in Kiev ousted a Kremlin-backed president and Moscow annexed the peninsula of Crimea. The conflict has claimed more than 9,300 lives, with the West and Kiev accusing Russia of fuelling the war and sending in regular troops across the border to prop up the separatists. Moscow has repeatedly denied the claims despite evidence to the contrary. — AFP

## HOLLANDE AND MERKEL MARK CENTENARY OF BATTLE OF VERDUN

**VERDUN, France:** French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel stood shoulder to shoulder yesterday to mark the centenary of Verdun, one of the bloodiest battles of World War I. The battle in northeast France was the longest of World War I, lasting 300 days, and claimed more than 300,000 lives before France emerged victorious.

"The name Verdun is a symbol of the unimaginable atrocity and the absurdity of war, but also of Franco-German reconciliation," Merkel said in the speech at Verdun's town hall, a first for a German leader. The chancellor said she recognized it was not "easy" for the people of the town that is forever marked by the fighting to give her such a "warm welcome".

Hollande said: "Verdun is a town which represents both the worst-where Europe lost its way 100 years ago and the best, because the town has been able... to unite for peace and Franco-German friendship." Both leaders are expected to make a call in speeches later for Europe to pull together to confront its current challenges.

Under persistent rain, Hollande and Merkel began the commemoration by laying a wreath at the German military cemetery at Consenvoye, just north of Verdun. Sharing an umbrella, they walked between rows of black crosses embossed in white with the names of the dead that stretch down the hill of the cemetery where 11,000 German soldiers are buried.

By visiting the German cemetery, Hollande and Merkel were following in the footsteps of their predecessors Francois Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl. When Mitterrand and Kohl joined hands there during the playing of the French national anthem in 1984, it underlined how close ties had become between two

countries which were once enemies but are now often described as the twin motors of the European Union.

Hollande said before yesterday's ceremony that it was an opportune time for the leaders to spell out their ambitions for Europe, at a time when the continent was in the grip of the "evil of populism".

That appeared to be a reference to Europe's far-right parties which have made advances in several countries, fuelled by growing concern over an unprecedented influx of migrants.

### Remains of 130,000 soldiers

Over lunch, the two leaders will discuss the crisis caused by the hundreds of thousands of migrants and refugees seeking refuge in Europe and the June 23 referendum in Britain on whether or not to quit the EU. They will then attend the main commemorative ceremony at the Douaumont ossuary, where the remains of 130,000 soldiers, French and German, are buried.

It was here that Mitterrand and Kohl made their symbolic gesture to reaffirm Franco-German friendship. "Mitterrand's gesture with Helmut Kohl, the hands that reached out and found each other, that's the symbol of reconciliation," Hollande told French radio this week.

Yesterday's ceremony at Douaumont will feature more than 3,000 French and German schoolchildren in a presentation choreographed by the German filmmaker Volker Schlöndorff. Church bells for miles around will ring out in memory of the soldiers who died on both sides.

The battle of Verdun lasted from February 1916 to December 1916 and was fought along the front line dividing the French and German armies. The last survivor of the battle died in 2008. — AFP



**FRANCE:** French President Francois Hollande (left) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel (right) walk at the French National cemetery outside the Douaumont Ossuary (Ossuaire de Douaumont), northeastern France, yesterday, during a remembrance ceremony to mark the centenary of the battle of Verdun. — AFP

## FOURTH BODY FOUND AFTER THAILAND SPEEDBOAT CRASH

**BANGKOK:** The body of a British man missing for four days after a tourist speedboat crashed in southern Thailand was found yesterday on rocks close to where the boat went down, bringing the death toll to four. The vessel, which was carrying 32 tourists plus four crew, capsized Thursday afternoon after it was slammed by a wave near a rocky stretch of coast on Koh Samui, a popular island in the Gulf of Thailand.

The accident threw all of the passengers overboard, trapping some under the ship's hull. The bodies of three women—from the United Kingdom, Germany and Hong Kong — were soon located while rescuers battled rough seas to search for 46-year-old Briton, Jason Parnell. "Rescue workers found his body at 9:25am near the accident site," Lieutenant General Ukhcarawath Sithanabul, said. "His body was trapped among the rock. Rescue workers are bringing his body ashore by rubber boat now and we have called off the search operation," he added. Parnell was travelling his wife who survived the accident, police said. The second British tourist killed, Monica Cozma, was celebrating her honeymoon with her husband of three-weeks, who survived, Britain's Daily Mail newspaper reported.

The two other victims were named by Thai officials as 29-year-old German Kafo Franeiska and 30-year-old Hong Kong national Trunk Laidka. The boats that ferry tourists around Thailand's popular beaches are notoriously reckless and life vests are often in short supply.

Speedboats are also often overcrowded as companies try to squeeze as much profit from each trip. Police have charged the Thai captain who drove the tour boat with negligence leading to deaths and injuries, a crime that carries up to 10 years in prison. Although tourism remains a key source of income for Thailand, the kingdom's reputation as the "Land of Smiles" has suffered in recent years amid a string of deadly bus and boat accidents, high profile crimes against foreigners and a decade of political instability. But visitors keep coming. A record high of nearly 30 million travelled to the kingdom in 2015, a number that has been boosted by a huge upswing in recent years by mainland Chinese tourists. — AFP

## BOSNIA'S 'RADICAL' MUSLIMS DEFY CRACKDOWN

**OSVE, Bosnia-Herzegovina:** Two veiled women work the land while a man collects eggs in a bucolic Bosnian village now notorious for exporting fighters to Syria. "This is how we finance terrorism," joked 50-year old Izet Hadzic as he opened his henhouse in Osve, which overlooks a peaceful valley in the Balkan country's north.

A grey-bearded former rock musician, Hadzic founded this "dzemat" (religious community) in the late 2000s—one of dozens in Bosnia that refuse to comply with the country's official Muslim leaders. Police and religious authorities are now trying to crack down on these rebel communities and bring them back into the official fold, amid fears they

are nurturing extremism. Osve made international headlines last year as an alleged Islamic State (IS) "stronghold", and Hadzic says two large families have left the village for jihad in the Middle East, among the 300 or so Bosnians to do so. But Hadzic insists he was "the first to condemn" IS and has "prevented 90 percent" of his community from leaving—saying those who did just wanted to help the Syrian people.

But congregations like his are causing concern—especially after suspected Islamist attacks last year killed two Bosnian soldiers and a policeman.

Dragan Lukac, chief constable of Bosnia's Muslim-Croat

entity, said police have identified "around 60 radical communities", numbering a few thousand, who refuse to follow imams appointed by Bosnia's Muslim religious leader, the Grand Mufti. Based in remote villages or praying in houses in city suburbs, they mostly adhere to the ultraconservative Salafist brand of Sunni Islam and see Bosnia's traditionally more liberal teachings as a corruption of the faith. "Here in Osve, we are trying to live in line with the religion," said Hadzic, who took a break to lead worship as the call to prayer sounded out over the valley.

### No training camps

Contrary to foreign media reports, AFP saw no visible traces of a jihadist training camp at Osve, and Lukac denied the existence of such camps in Bosnia. The police chief also stressed that "not all" members of breakaway groups on the radar were "potential terrorists".

But a 2015 report from a Bosnian think-tank, the Atlantic Initiative, said most Bosnian volunteers in Syria and Iraq had come from well-known Salafist communities, naming Osve as an example.

Returning fighters "pose a direct threat not only to the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also of the region and beyond," it said. Late in 2015, members of one radical congregation in Sarajevo were arrested on suspicion of plotting to detonate a bomb in a police car.

If confirmed, the plot would be "the first sophisticated effort" to organise a terrorist attack on such a scale against the general public, said Vlado Azinovic, an expert in radical Islam at Sarajevo's political sciences faculty. He fears there is a small group within Bosnia's Salafist communities "that is embracing these calls" from IS to take action at home.

Salafism was introduced to Bosnia by foreign fighters who flocked from North Africa, Asia and the Middle East during the country's 1992-1995 inter-ethnic war.

"It's been 25 years since Bosnians were introduced to the idea of Salafism. So we have our own (radical) authorities now," said Azinovic. These men were often "recruited by foreigners and sent directly to the Gulf states. They received some education there and then were re-sent to Bosnia to proselytise." — AFP



**SARAJEVO:** Bosnian Muslim women are seen in front of Sarajevo's central "Gazi-Husref Bey" mosque. Hadzic heads a congregation of nearly 100 Muslim Salafists who refused to join official Bosnian Islamic community and continue to practice Islam in a more orthodox way. — AFP

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## BREAKAWAY TALEBAN FACTION VOICES SUPPORT FOR PEACE TALKS



**HERAT:** Members of a breakaway faction of the Taliban fighters walks during a gathering, in Shindand district of Herat province, Afghanistan. Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi said yesterday he was willing to hold peace talks with the Afghan government but would demand the imposition of Islamic law and the departure of all foreign forces. — AP

**SHINDAND, Afghanistan:** A breakaway Taliban faction is willing to hold peace talks with the Afghan government but will demand the imposition of Islamic law and the departure of all foreign forces, a senior leader of the group said yesterday.

Mullah Abdul Manan Niazi told a group of around 200 followers in eastern Afghanistan that his faction had no faith in the government but was willing to negotiate without preconditions.

Niazi is deputy to Mullah Mohammad Rasool, who split from the Taliban last summer after Mullah Akhtar Mansoor was chosen to succeed the group's late founder, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Mansoor was killed earlier this month in a US drone strike in Pakistan and was replaced days later by a little known conservative cleric, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada. The main Taliban faction has expressed similar demands, but says it will only enter peace talks after they have been met. The US and NATO officially ended their combat mission more than a year ago, but thousands of foreign soldiers remain in the country, mainly carrying out training, support and counterterrorism operations.

Mansoor had refused to participate in a peace process initiated by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani that included Pakistan, the United States and China. Representatives of the four countries have held five meetings, without inviting the Taliban.

Their aim is to chart a roadmap toward talks between the Afghan government and the insurgents to end the 15-year war, but the disarray with-

in the Taliban has complicated those efforts. The Taliban's spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, has branded Rasool's faction "a government army in the shape of the Taliban." Speaking to the AP yesterday, he claimed that Rasool was supported by Kabul and Washington.

"For us he is nothing more than a local policeman or a puppet of Afghan intelligence," he said. Rasool's followers met in the mountainous Shindand district, near the border with Iran. Snipers on hilltops surveyed dirt roads leading to the area, which serves as the main base for the mobile fighters. The encampment where the meeting was held is only accessible by motorbike or horse. The turbaned followers of Rasool - who is believed to have been detained in Pakistan - appeared to be armed with new weapons, including automatic rifles and grenade launchers. The Taliban have continued to launch major attacks on government forces despite the internal conflict, and the war has shown no sign of abating over the past year.

The Taliban attacked checkpoints in the southern Helmand province late Saturday, killing four police, according to the provincial governor's spokesman, Omar Zawaq. Among those killed was local police commander Safar Mohammad, who in recent years had successfully kept highways in the area open to traffic. Zawaq said another nine police officers and one soldier were wounded in the attack. — AP

POLICE ARREST 5 IN INDIA OVER ATTACKS ON AFRICAN RESIDENTS  
OFFICIAL DENIES ATTACKS WERE RACIAL, SAYS STRAY INCIDENT

**NEW DELHI:** Police in New Delhi said yesterday that they have arrested five people who assaulted six Africans in the Indian capital last week, as African diplomatic missions urged India's government to ensure the safety of Africans living in the country.

Police officer Ishwar Singh said the two scuffles on Thursday night were not racial attacks but were stray incidents triggered by objections to drinking and loud music by the Africans. The Africans said they were racially abused and attacked by a mob.

Singh said that the Africans suffered minor injuries and that the arrested people were being investigated for criminal intimidation and assault in New Delhi's Mehrauli area. If convicted, those arrested can be jailed for up to two years.

Hundreds of thousands of people from

African nations study and work in India and suffer rampant racism and discrimination in the country, where police action often has been slow in cases of violence against Africans. On May 20, graduate student Masunda Kitada Oliver, a Congo national who had lived in India for six years, was fatally attacked in a dispute over hiring an auto rickshaw in New Delhi. Three men who insisted they had hired the vehicle beat him up and hit him on the head with a stone, killing him, according to police. Two of the men suspected in the attack have been arrested, while police are searching for the third.

The African Heads of Mission in New Delhi responded to that attack by urging India's government to address "racism and Afro-phobia" in the country. India promised quick punishment for the assailants.

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma

Swaraj tweeted on Sunday that "a sensitization campaign will be launched in areas where African nationals reside."

Retaliatory attacks were reported against Indians in the Congolese capital, Kinshasa. Vikas Swarup, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman, said the Indian diplomatic mission in Kinshasa learned that some Indian establishments and shops in the commercial area were attacked on May 23 and 25 "as a reaction perhaps to the killing of a Congolese national in New Delhi."

"It has also been reported that there were some gunshots fired, injuring a couple of Indians living in the area. Our ambassador took up the matter immediately with the Congolese Ministry of Foreign Affairs," Swarup said Friday, adding that the situation had calmed down. — AP



**BANGKOK:** Monks gathering at Wat Dhammakaya Buddhist temple before marching to a police station in support of their abbot, Phra Dhammajayo (not pictured) in Bangkok. — AFP

## MEDIA-SAVVY THAI MONKS WAGE PR WAR TO DEFEND TAINTED ABBOT

**PATHUM THANI, Thailand:** An embezzlement charge against a powerful Buddhist abbot has unleashed his super-rich temple's PR machine, with Twitter-using Thai monks orchestrating his defence over a scandal that has opened a bitter rupture at the heart of the nation's faith.

"There has never been a temple of this size in Thai history," orange-robed Phra Pasura Dantamano says as he gestures towards Dhammakaya temple's pristine, 1,000-acre compound north of Bangkok where peacocks roam the lawns and white-clad devotees meditate.

But the affable monk's comments apply to more than the temple's enormous, futuristic architecture-including a building that famously resembles a gigantic UFO. Dhammakaya is also regarded as the wealthiest in Buddhist-majority Thailand, thanks in part to tech-savvy devotees who have cultivated a fervent following, raised tens of millions of dollars and set up outposts in dozens of countries across the globe.

Phra Pasura, the monk in charge of the temple's 60-member International Affairs Department, is part of the fine-tuned public relations operation that is now firing on all cylinders as it seeks to quash the latest scandal to dog the temple since its founding in 1970.

Dhammakaya's modern, and some say "cultish", approach to Buddhism riles traditionalists, with critics accusing the clergy of peddling a pay-your-way to nirvana scheme. The temple's abbot Phra Dhammachayo, venerated as a saint among his followers, is wanted by police for allegedly accepting embezzled funds worth 1.2 billion baht (\$33 million) from the owner of a cooperative bank who was jailed in March. The temple has denied its abbot conspired to launder the money, calling the charges "groundless and unconscionable". A stalemate has set in.

The temple claims the 72-year-old is too

sick to meet with officers, and police do not want to confront him on the temple grounds, fearing clashes with devotees. Monks and temple staff have been vigorously live-tweeting the drama, churning out detailed press releases and fact sheets, and making use of their slick 24-hour TV channel to bat back the allegations against their revered abbot.

## Modern times

The temple boasts a TV studio and editing bays inside its two-story media department, with other offices adorned with signs such as "Corporate Image Division," and "Printed Media Section."

Phra Pasura, a former flight attendant with a degree in international relations, says the over-headers are minimal. "Much of the animation and editing is done by monks," he says of the TV channel, which broadcasts across four continents and airs everything from meditation teachings to cartoons and daily news.

"And a monk's salary is only two meals a day," he adds with a smile. Dhammakaya's rise comes as mainstream monasteries in Thailand struggle to stay relevant to younger generations swept up in the rapid economic development that has frayed traditional community networks and ways of life. They have also been rocked by a series of their own controversies featuring badly behaved monks riding in private jets and disgracing the faith with sex and drug scandals.

Sanitsuda Ekachai, who writes on religion in Thailand, said Dhammakaya offers an appealing alternative to urban Thais by mixing "old beliefs and materialistic values". Its emphasis on order and community-on-display during stunning mass gatherings of followers meditating in ruler-straight rows-also provides an antidote to the alienation of the modern age, she adds. — AFP



**MUMBAI:** Underprivileged and specially abled brides take part in a mass wedding where 51 couple got married in Mumbai yesterday. Mass weddings in India are organized by social organizations primarily to help the economically backward families who cannot afford the high ceremony costs as well as the customary dowry and expensive gifts that are still prevalent in many communities. — AP

## INDONESIA'S MOVE TO PROBE MASSACRES SPARKS BACKLASH

**JAKARTA:** Indonesian activist Adlun Fiqri could be jailed for wearing a T-shirt allegedly bearing a leftist logo, one of many caught up in a backlash against efforts to shine a light on military-backed, anti-communist massacres half a century ago. Police and the military have in recent weeks rounded up people for allegedly spreading communism-which remains outlawed in Indonesia-through logos on T-shirts.

They have also seized books about communism and stopped a film screening that touched on the subject. It came after the government last month took timid steps towards making peace with one of the nation's darkest chapters-the killing of at least 500,000 people in anti-communist massacres in 1965-66, conducted by local groups with military support.

The killings began after General Suharto put down a coup attempt blamed on communists. He rose to power on the back of the bloodshed, and went on to lead Indonesia with an iron fist for three decades. During his rule, the massacres were presented as necessary to rid the country of communism-Indonesia had the world's third-biggest com-

munist party before the killings. Public debate about the killings was taboo, and no one was ever held to account. Since Suharto's 1998 downfall and Indonesia's transformation into a freewheeling democracy, there have been growing calls to re-examine one of the worst mass killings of the 20th century, and even for an official apology.

Last month the government took steps towards coming to terms with the episode by backing for the first time public discussions into the killings-attended by survivors and members of the military-and they announced they would investigate sites that activists say are mass graves.

But the moves swiftly sparked a backlash from the military and police. Conservative elements of the security forces began speaking out against a supposed communist resurgence, despite the fact the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) was wiped out during the 1960s massacres.

"The leftist movement is currently surging in this country," hardline Defence Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu warned in a recent speech to hundreds of retired generals, according to the Jakarta Post newspaper.

## 'Surging communist threat'

Observers believe the military is whipping up the spectre of a communist threat as their role in the killings comes under scrutiny. Paul Rowland, an independent Jakarta-based political analyst, said some in the military "would like to revive the communist threat because that effectively justifies the actions that were taken 50 years ago".

Those caught up in the backlash potentially face tough punishments, as spreading communist ideology is punishable by up to 12 years in jail. This includes activist Fiqri, 20, who was arrested earlier this month on the eastern island of Ternate for wearing a T-shirt that had a picture of a coffee cup and the letters "PKI" on it, which authorities claim was a reference to the country's former communist party. Police seized more T-shirts and books when they arrested Fiqri and other activists from a group that promotes indigenous people's rights. Fiqri and one other activist are still under investigation. "I think this is ridiculous," Fiqri, who is not currently in custody, said. "It is silly that reading books to gain knowledge and wearing T-shirts can get you arrested." — AFP



**BANDUNG:** An anti-communism group burns a communist symbol during a rally in Bandung, West Java province. Police and the military have in recent weeks rounded up people for allegedly spreading communism - which remains outlawed in Indonesia - through logos on T-shirts. — AFP

# HYDERABAD BEAT B'LORE FOR MAIDEN IPL VICTORY

**BANGALORE:** Skipper David Warner's sparkling half century helped Sunrisers Hyderabad survive a punishing blitz by Chris Gayle to edge out Royal Challengers Bangalore by eight runs in the Indian Premier League final yesterday. Defending 208 to claim their maiden IPL title, Hyderabad restricted Virat Kohli's Bangalore to 200 for seven at the M Chinnaswamy stadium with Gayle's 38-ball 76 in vain. With 18 runs required off the final over, pace spearhead Bhuvneshwar Kumar - the leading wicket taker of the season with 23 scalps - gave away just nine as the Hyderabad players celebrated amid fireworks.

Electing to bat first, Hyderabad rode on entertaining knocks from Australia's Warner and Ben Cutting to post a mammoth 208 for seven in 20 overs. "Fantastic team achievement. To lead this side and the support from the players, me pulling my weight with the runs, it has been a hard journey. It's a team effort," a delighted Warner said after the triumph. If Warner laid a solid foundation with his ninth fifty of this IPL season then fellow Aussie Cutting finished it off with an unbeaten 39 off 15 deliveries.

Left-handed Warner (69), who accumulated 848 runs in 17 matches, gave the team a rollicking 63-run start with opener Shikhar Dhawan (28). Warner smashed the ball to all parts of the ground and took a special liking to Shane Watson whose opening over - the fifth of the innings - cost 18 runs. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal, who remained the team's top wicket taker of the season with 21, got the first breakthrough in Dhawan who mistimed a slog sweep to deep square leg.

Warner, whose 38-ball knock was laced with eight fours and three sixes, kept up the run rate, forcing Kohli to juggle with his bowling options. England medium-pacer Chris Jordan (3-45) replaced left-arm spinner Iqbal Abdullah in the 10th over to send Australia's Moises Henriques trudging back to the dugout. Aravind got the prized scalp of Warner, who threw away his wicket while trying to slash at a wishy delivery and got caught at short third man.

Veteran India batsman Yuvraj Singh took over from

where Warner left off, smacking 38 runs from 23 balls to keep the momentum going. The Bangalore bowlers kept coming back to get wickets in between but could never arrest the flow of runs. The last five overs saw the back of four Hyderabad batsmen, but Cutting's late blitz allowed the side to bag 68 runs from the final 30 deliveries. "To win in Bangalore, we were underdogs. But, we batted well, bowled well and fielded well," said Warner.

### Gayle Force

Chasing a record total in the final, Gayle struck from the start, raining sixes with medium-pacers Barinder Sran and Cutting taking a severe beating. The burly Jamaican stole the spotlight away from fellow opener and season's top run getter Kohli to notch up his second fifty of this edition in just 25 balls. The duo, who stitched a 114-run partnership, took away 21 runs from a Moises Henriques' over as Bangalore brought up their hundred in just nine overs to enthrall the raucous crowd.

Cutting gave Hyderabad their first breakthrough to send back the dangerous Gayle, who smoked four fours and eight sixes during his 38-ball stay at the crease. Kohli (54), who registered 973 runs this season including four centuries and seven fifties, was the next to go, hitting five fours and two sixes in his 35-ball knock.

Star batsman AB de Villiers soon followed Kohli into the dugout, giving the Hyderabad bowlers a chance to get back into the game. Cutting (2-35) seized the moment to clean up Lokesh Rahul for 11 and with Shane Watson gone for the same score off Mustafizur Rahman, RCB started to lose their way into the chase. In the end Sachin Baby tried his best to match up the ever increasing asking rate with his 10-ball 18 not out, but RCB had to stay content with their third runners up finish in the cash-rich league. "We are proud of the way we played as a team. This was for the people of Bangalore. Even when we had the worst seasons, they were there for us," said Kohli. — AFP



**DUBAI:** Tourists look at the setting sun from an observation deck at the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, yesterday. — AP

## MILLIONS YEARN TO BURY DEAD

Continued from Page 1

the ICMP is already working with Italian authorities to try to identify the dead washing up on Italy's shores. In Iraq on Mount Sinjar, it has been working to identify mass graves from the Islamic State group's persecution of the Yazidi people, protect the sites and catalogue the DNA of the dead. And that's without mentioning conflicts in Africa or Asia, where there are also many families waiting to claim their dead. "Part of what we want to do and focus on is demographics, for once to try to get a handle on how many people are missing in the world," said Bomberger. "Most countries don't have accurate figures because of the highly political nature of these conflicts."

### Just One Piece of Bone

Identifying the dead is also crucial, if those behind

the world's worst crimes are to be successfully held to account, said Kweku Vanderpuye, senior trial lawyer at the International Criminal Court. "Oftentimes the perpetrators of those crimes operate under the principle: no bodies, no crime," he said. For those left with no grave to mourn over, there is an overwhelming sense of loss, of farewells left unsaid, a raw grief which does not fade as the decades pass. "Our truth is hidden in mass graves," said Munira Subasic, president of the Mothers of Srebrenica, who lost 22 members of her extended family in the 1995 genocide in the Bosnian enclave.

She told the seminar how one Bosnian Muslim mother died in Srebrenica a few days ago, still mourning her son whose body has never been found. "Her last words were that if she had been so lucky to find just one little piece of bone she would have wrapped it in silk and kept it for herself. And it would have made her the happiest person in the world," said Subasic. — AFP

## AUTHORITIES ARREST TWO OVER ABUSE VIDEO...

Continued from Page 1

mobile phone store he owns in Ahmadi, where the Egyptian works.

The ministry also said that a 31-year-old Egyptian named Mohammed Owais was also arrested for taking the video and posting it on social media. The suspect said he posted the video after such a long period due to some financial disputes with the main suspect. The victim was also summoned to complete the investigations. A case was filed and further investigations are in progress pending referring the two suspects to the public prosecution.

Earlier yesterday, the Kuwait Human Rights Society (KHRS) strongly condemned the actions of the employer. It said that such incidents pose an imminent danger and called on the government to amend national laws to be in sync with anti-

torture and other agreements fighting all forms of abuse and inhumane treatment. KHRS also called for activating law number 91/2013 pertaining human trafficking to ensure that culprits do not escape punishment. KHRS had urged the interior ministry to immediately act and arrest the employer and refer him to court for beating and enslaving the worker.

KHRS added that the current sponsorship system is the reason why some sponsors abuse their workers and intimidate them with the threat of deportation, which has lately turned into a weapon abusively used against workers in Kuwait instead of imposing other penalties. KHRS also repeated its demands to cancel administrative deportations and urged the government to activate the role of the judiciary to be the sole body entitled to deport any expat based on clearly defined reasons, while entitling expats to contest its verdicts.

## RIYADH SLAMS IRANIAN HAJJ DEMANDS...

Continued from Page 1

"If it is about measures and procedures, I think we have done more than our duty to meet those needs, but it is the Iranians who have rejected things," he added.

Saudi Arabia also accused Iran of sowing "sedition" in Iraq, urging the Islamic republic to "stop intervening" in the affairs of its neighbors. "Sedition and division in Iraq are the results of sectarian policies that developed out of Iran's policies in Iraq," said Jubeir. "If Iran wants stability in Iraq, it has to stop intervening and withdraw," he said after accusing Tehran of sending "Shiite militias" to the war-torn country. "Iran should respect the principle of good neighborly relations, to focus on its internal situation and not intervene in the affairs of other countries in the region, mainly Iraq," he said.

The Iranian Hajj Organization earlier said: "Saudi Arabia is opposing the absolute right of Iranians to go on the hajj and is blocking the path leading to Allah." The Saudi side had failed to respond to Iranian demands over "the security and respect" of its pilgrims to Makkah, of whom 60,000 took part in last year's hajj, the organization said. In the latest dispute between regional rivals Tehran and Riyadh, "after two series of negotiations without any results because of obstacles raised by the Saudis, Iranian pilgrims will unfortunately not be able to take part in the hajj" in September, Iran's Culture Minister Ali Jannati said.

Saudi officials have said an Iranian delegation ended a visit to the kingdom on Friday without reaching final agreement on arrangements for pilgrims from the Islamic republic. Riyadh's hajj ministry said it had offered "many solutions" to meet a string of demands made by the Iranians in two days of talks. Agreement had been reached in some areas, including to use elec-

tronic visas which could be printed out by Iranian pilgrims, as Saudi diplomatic missions remain shut in Iran, it said. This year's would be the first hajj in almost three decades to take place without the participation of pilgrims from Iran. Riyadh-Tehran ties were severed for four years after more than 400 people were killed in Mecca during clashes between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi security forces in 1987. In January, relations were severed again after Iranian demonstrators torched Saudi Arabia's embassy and a consulate following the kingdom's execution of a prominent cleric.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are at odds over a raft of regional issues, notably the conflicts in Syria and Yemen in which they support opposing sides. Earlier this month, Iran accused its regional rival of seeking to "sabotage" the hajj, a pillar of Islam that devout Muslims must perform at least once during their lifetime if they can. Tehran said Riyadh had insisted that visas for Iranians be issued in a third country and would not allow pilgrims to be flown aboard Iranian aircraft.

But the Saudi hajj ministry said on Friday that Riyadh had agreed to allow Iranians to obtain visas through the Swiss embassy in Tehran, which has looked after Saudi interests since January. Riyadh also agreed to allow some Iranian carriers to fly pilgrims to the kingdom despite a ban on Iranian airlines following the diplomatic row, the ministry said.

Last week's talks were the second attempt to reach a deal on organizing this year's pilgrimage for Iranians after an unsuccessful first round of talks held in April in Saudi Arabia. The Saudi ministry said at the time that the Iranian Hajj Organization would be held responsible "in front of God and the people for the inability of its pilgrims to perform hajj this year". Another contentious issue has been security, after a stampede at last September's hajj killed about 2,300 foreign pilgrims, including 464 Iranians. — Agencies

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## Washington Watch

## 'BIG DATA' COULD BE HUGE IN 2016 US ELECTIONS

By Rob Lever

**B**ig data could play a huge role in the 2016 US election, even if Donald Trump doesn't think so. Trump, who sailed through the Republican primaries using unconventional campaign rallies and Twitter messages, has indicated that he sees little use for popular data analytics tools to help target specific voters. But analysts say he may be at a disadvantage in the general election if he stays on that course.

"In the primaries, he was only looking for Republican voters, and in the general he needs all voters," said Alan Rosenblatt, a digital political strategist. "Unless he starts to be more sophisticated in how he targets his message, he's not going to have a good sense of where he's going to win and not win and where he should put his resources."

Trump's rise appeared to take the wind out of the sails of data crunchers and the techniques that helped the 2012 re-election campaign of President Barack Obama. Trump is defying the traditional wisdom in both political parties, which have been ramping up the way they use data to help candidates and their backers personalize their pitch to raise funds and get out the vote on election day.

Jordan Cohen at the digital marketing firm Fluent, which works with candidates, said the Trump campaign "has exhibited the least amount of digital sophistication or interest" and that this could hurt his efforts. Cohen said email fundraising, which has become a staple for candidates, requires considerable work to build a supporter base. "Now that the Trump campaign wants to raise funds from the public they are certainly at a disadvantage by not having spent the past year building up a big database," Cohen said.

## Better Data Crunching

The 2016 campaign could see more sophisticated data efforts thanks to advances in computing technology. Campaigns have been speeding up how they collect and analyze data to form the so-called predictive models that can help determine tactics and strategy. Consulting firms boast of having as much as 1,500 "data points" or bits of information about voters, and dozens of "voter models" that categorize individuals for targeted messages.

The data ranges from voter registration databases to public records on hunting or fishing licenses or gun ownership, to online "cookies" or small programs which track Web browsing and purchase activity. "This is 'Moneyball' for politics - it's about running smarter, more efficient campaigns, and the more data you have, the more effective you can be," said Tom Bonier, chief executive of TargetSmart, a political consultancy, referring to the book and subsequent hit movie using data to build a winning baseball team.

Because the campaigns can't reach everyone, they want to find the most "persuadable" people, according to specially designed formulas or algorithms. "In 2012 for the first time we were able to successfully model persuadability," said Dan Porter, a member of the Obama data team who co-founded BlueLabs, a consulting firm now working with the Hillary Clinton campaign. "We've had four years now and we think we are able to develop a persuasion model with more precision." Contacting the most persuadable voters is critical for campaigns. Reaching out to those opposed may backfire by making them even more committed to an opponent.

## Beyond 'Cookies'

TargetSmart, which works with the Democratic party and political action groups, said it has begun working with Facebook data that eliminates the need for tracking cookies. The consultancy has matched 191 million voter file records to Facebook users to be able to deliver targeted messages to people on whatever device they are using, said Bonier. Bonier said this is more accurate than using tracking cookies because it is based on user log-ins regardless of the device. He noted that Facebook's platform provides important clues because it uses people's "likes," which can be important for political campaigns. "We have a lot of our own data, but what Facebook brings to the table is the 'likes,' the attitudinal information."

Some Republican candidates have used predictive models from a firm called Cambridge Analytica, which offers profiles of voters for so-called behavioral microtargeting. Chris Wilson, a consultant for Republican Ted Cruz's campaign which used the Cambridge scores, argued that using this data is positive for the democratic process. "You have so many people who have become disenfranchised because they do not believe the political system speaks to them," Wilson told a recent Washington forum. "Once we are able to understand what an individual voter cares about and we are able to talk to them about that issue, it creates a level of connection between the voter and the candidate, and that is what politics should be about." — AFP

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## HOPES FOR PEACE DIM WITH NEW TALEBAN LEADER

By Lynne O'Donnell

**A**fghanistan's government has offered the new Taliban leader a choice: make peace or face the same fate as his predecessor, killed in a US drone strike last week. But Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada is a hardliner who has used his religious credentials to justify the Taliban insurgency that has killed or wounded tens of thousands of Afghan civilians as a "holy war" and his succession has inspired little hope for an end to the bloodshed.

For many Taliban fighters, the movement's leadership lost Islamic legitimacy last year, when it emerged that its founder, one-eyed Mullah Mohammad Omar, had been dead for years and that his deputy, a wealthy drug smuggler named Mullah Akhtar Mansour, had been running the war in his name. The revelation caused a split at the top of the Taliban, and provoked mistrust among fighters. Several factions broke away, and some began fighting Mansour loyalists.

The Taliban leadership is now desperate to close these rifts. After Mansour was killed last Saturday when his vehicle was struck by an American drone in southwestern Pakistan, Akhundzada was swiftly chosen to replace him in an attempt to avoid the tensions that followed Mullah Omar's death. On Thursday, the Taliban religious council released a statement to AP, saying they believe Akhundzada will bring unity and mend the "mistakes" of the recent past. The new leader will "bring all the mujahedeen (holy warriors) together on a single platform," the statement said.

Mansour, nicknamed "the Accountant"

because of his wealth, controlled a vast drug-smuggling empire based in the southern opium-producing provinces that provide the bulk of the world's heroin and fund the 15-year insurgency, one senior Afghan official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Battles between Mansour and his main detractor, Mullah Mohammad Rasool, for control of the smuggling routes spread disillusionment among foot soldiers, the official said.

"The Taliban have always claimed that they are fighting not for power, but for Islam, for freedom. So when they started fighting for power, it led to the erosion of their legitimacy among their own rank and file and caused them to become suspicious of each other," he added. Never again would the Taliban leadership "have the unity, authority and position as they had under Mullah Omar."

## Ultimatum

On his Twitter account, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued an ultimatum on Thursday, saying that "Taliban groups have yet another chance to end violence/lay their arms & start normal life. Or they'll face the same fate as their leadership." But analysts say such threats are bound to fail as they effectively call for surrender. Mansour had refused to join Ghani's earlier efforts to start a peace dialogue, instead intensifying the war. When the Taliban and their partners, the Al-Qaeda affiliated Haqqani network, were linked to an April 19 attack on Kabul that killed 64 people and wounded hundreds, Ghani changed tack and accused Pakistan of using the Taliban to

wage war on his country. The new attitude has been welcomed by many Afghans, who regarded attempts to appease Islamabad, which they accuse of harboring the Taliban leadership, as misguided. Pakistan denies such accusations.

Akhundzada, a low-profile conservative who was a deputy to Mansour, is seen by many as a natural choice for a movement that, despite battlefield gains, has been in disarray for more than a year. He was close to Mullah Omar, helping formulate religious decrees to justify the war, and like him is a native of Afghanistan's Kandahar province, which was the center of the Taliban's 1996-2001 regime.

As head of the Taliban courts, Akhundzada was brutal in his pronouncements and was conspicuously extremist in his views of women, according to Rahmatullah Nabil, a former head of Afghanistan's secret service. Nabil described Akhundzada as a "small-minded man with a weak personality" who has never traveled abroad and so lacks "any familiarity with the bigger issues". Akhundzada's need to consolidate his position could mean escalated violence, as he seeks to be taken seriously as a warrior.

## Divide and Rule

Anatol Levin, a professor at Georgetown University in Qatar, said the United States appeared to have "decided that peace talks are pointless at this stage and, encouraged by the Afghan government, have decided to go for a strategy of decapitating the Taliban". The impact of the divide-and-rule strategy may be emerging as Akhundzada's two deputies -

Sirajuddin Haqqani, head of the Haqqani network, and Mullah Omar's son, Mullah Yaqoub - vie for influence.

The two, Haqqani and Yaqoub, have already "divided Afghanistan into two parts" and each wants to control his own section, said one Taliban commander said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the Taliban leadership. The US military does not anticipate any "significant changes on the battlefield in the short term," said Brig Gen Charles Cleveland, spokesman for the American and NATO mission in Afghanistan. He expected fierce months of fighting ahead.

As Akhundzada consolidates power, he will have to identify dissidents, said political analyst Idriss Rahmini. The faction led by Rasool - the main detractor to Mansour - have said they will not reconcile with Akhundzada. The new Taliban leader's success and longevity also depends on how he manages his relationship with Pakistan's intelligence agency, said Rahmini. He must handle the relationship "very carefully to avoid the mistakes of the last leader", Rahmini said.

Islamabad has protested that the strike on Mansour violated its sovereignty, but it is not known if the intelligence agency colluded in the assassination. If Pakistani authorities did secretly support Mansour's killing, this "shows that Pakistan is supporting the Afghan peace process by removing a Taliban leader who was a barrier to peace," Rahmini said. But, he added, if the attack was conducted unilaterally, this "will have a negative impact on the peace process and we will see an escalation of attacks in Afghanistan." — AP

## CHAI STIRRED INTO SILICON VALLEY COFFEE CULTURE

By Glenn Chapman

**I**n a Silicon Valley culture known for brilliant ideas boiling up in coffee shops, Gaurav Chawla is pouring his heart into chai. Chawla was on a break from his job as an engineering manager at San Francisco-based cloud-computing star Salesforce when he began lamenting how tough it was to find a cup of chai as good as he makes it at home. That frustration, and echoed complaints by other natives of India, where the blend of spiced tea and simmered milk is woven into daily lifestyles, prompted him to start tinkering.

"I took a rice cooker apart and reconfigured it to make chai," Chawla told AFP. "It made good chai, and I realized this process could be automated." While his background is in software engineering, Chawla went to work developing a chai machine as simple to use as a coffee maker. He told of giving his second prototype a test run at Google offices, where it was used daily until it broke. Another prototype got a workout in offices of sound and image specialty firm Dolby, according to Chawla.

Feedback from those and other tests led to a first-generation chai machine to be funded by pre-orders at a freshly launched www.brewchime.com website at a temporarily discounted price of \$249. Chime machines aren't slated to ship until March of next year.

## Chai is Chai

Chime machines brew one cup of chai at a time, using tea and spices pre-mixed in caps sold by the startup. "Essentially, you want to brew black tea and spices, add milk then bring it to a boil again," Chawla said of the chai brewing process. "Because you are adding milk, you can't just let it sit by itself or you get a big mess - which I do almost every day."

Chai has been growing in popularity in San Francisco and nearby Silicon Valley, with coffee shops large and small adding it to menus. Helping drive the trend are ranks of people drawn to the region from India by jobs at technology companies. Chawla said

his friends at Microsoft have told him of the US software giant having people with chai-making skills come in to prepare the tea for employees. "The Silicon Valley influence of Indians moving here is huge," Chawla said. "Even if there is great coffee, chai is chai. It is one of the things of your upbringing." A co-founder at Chime is a design engineer who ran product development at Williams-Sonoma, a retail chain specializing in kitchen and home items.

## Chai Carts

The popularity of chai has climbed in the United States over the past 20 years, with

even major chain Starbucks adding it to the menu, according to Chai Cart founder Paawan Kothari. Kothari earned a masters degree in business from the INSEAD business school in France and spent more than a decade working with technology firms in Silicon Valley before turning a hobby started in 2009 into a startup that sells chai from carts on San Francisco streets.

"I wanted to give people a taste of what homemade chai tastes like," said Kothari, who started out making the spiced tea in her home and peddling it in the Mission District from a bicycle trailer. "I was surprised at how many people were looking

to have good chai; not just in San Francisco but everywhere." She quit her job as an IBM marketing strategist and launched Chai Cart, which she said has been growing steadily.

Kothari estimated that while some 40 percent of her customers are hankering for a taste of chai that harkens back to native countries in South Asia, more than half grew up in households without chai. "It brings me great pleasure to share a part of my culture and give a taste of the traditional chai that's enjoyed every day across India," Kothari said in a post on the website thechaicart.com. — AFP



Jyothi Lakshmaiah (left) and Nithya Krishnan take a break from their jobs to enjoy chai from a Chai Cart on Market Street in downtown San Francisco on May 26, 2016. — AFP

**IBRAHIMOVIC TO SIT OUT FRIENDLY WITH SLOVENIA**

**STOCKHOLM:** Star striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic will sit out Sweden's friendly against Slovenia in order to rest a sore calf, coach Erik Hamren said yesterday. "We'll save it until the Wales match" on June 5, Hamren told Swedish news agency TT ahead of today's match against Slovenia in Malmo. "It's the calf he's had problems with toward the end at PSG," he said. All eyes have been on the 34-year-old striker lately pending an announcement on the next step in his career. Having left Paris Saint-Germain at the end of this season, he has refused to comment on speculation he is set to join Manchester United, where Jose Mourinho was on Friday named the new manager. Ibrahimovic said last week he knew where he would be playing football next season, but kept mum on the details. "Yes, I have made my choice," Ibrahimovic told a press conference at a training camp near Stockholm for the Swedish national team ahead of Euro 2016. He said he had decided "long ago" but dodged all questions about whether that team was Manchester United. However, when asked a direct question about whether he has received an offer from United, Ibrahimovic's hesitancy in answering spoke volumes. He drummed his fingers on the table, smiled and eventually replied: "Let's see what happens."

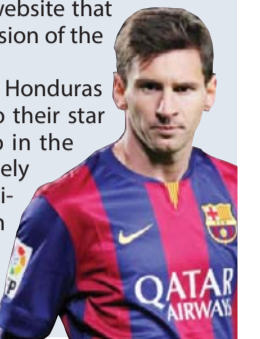


**TYSON: OLYMPICS' PROS PROPOSAL 'RIDICULOUS'**

**BEIJING:** A proposal to let professional fighters compete in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics is "ridiculous" and "foolish," former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson said. In Beijing to promote professional boxing in China, Tyson said any pro boxers going to the Olympics should be prepared to lose because the amateurs could prove too fast for them. "It's ridiculous, it's foolish and some of the pro fighters are going to get beat by the amateurs," Tyson said. "It's just going to happen. Some of them are going to get beat I think. I really believe that." The head of the International Boxing Association, CK Wu, has proposed allowing pros in the Olympics, although it's uncertain how the plan would be implemented for Rio because qualification tournaments are either underway or have already been held for boxers in most countries. Amateur bouts involve a maximum of four rounds, while professional fights can last as many as 12. Tyson said he still has strong memories of the speed and skill of boxers from Cuba, Russia and elsewhere he fought as an amateur in the 1980s.—AP

**MESSI FEELING BETTER AFTER INJURY SCARE**

**Buenos Aires:** Lionel Messi's condition had improved Saturday after the Barcelona superstar suffered a back injury in Argentina's 1-0 friendly victory over Honduras, reports citing team medical officials said. Team doctor Daniel Martinez told La Nacion newspaper that Messi felt less pain in his lower back a day after being left writhing in agony after a heavy collision with a Honduran opponent in the far western city of San Juan. "Messi is better, with less pain than last night. His recovery is day to day, there are several treatments for this type of blow," Martinez said. The Argentina Football Association (AFA) said in an injury update on its website that Messi had suffered a "significant bone and soft tissue contusion of the left rib cage and lumbar paraspinal area." Messi sustained the injury in an accidental collision with Honduras player Oliver Morazan, giving Argentina an injury scare to their star player as they prepare for the Copa America Centenario in the United States next month. Messi was substituted immediately following the incident and was taken to a hospital for examination on Friday. Messi remained at the team hotel on Saturday as Argentina trained in the Estadio Bicentenario in San Juan before a crowd of around 8,000 fans.—AFP



KANSAS CITY: Austin Jackson #10 of the Chicago White Sox is tagged out by Cheslor Cuthbert #19 of the Kansas City Royals as he tries to stretch a double in the seventh inning at Kauffman Stadium. — AFP

**ROYALS SCORE 7 IN 9TH TO BEAT WHITE SOX 8-7**

**KANSAS CITY:** Brett Eibner capped Kansas City's seven-run ninth inning with a game-ending RBI single, lifting the Royals to a stunning 8-7 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Saturday. Jarrod Dyson was walked intentionally before Eibner drove a full-count pitch from Tommy Kahnle (0-1) off first baseman Jose Abreu and into right field. Drew Butera, who replaced Salvador Perez after the All-Star catcher got hurt in a collision, scampered home as Eibner was mobbed by his jubilant teammates near first. Chien-Ming Wang (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. White Sox closer David Robertson began the ninth inning, but was pulled with two outs and charged with six runs and four hits. Perez was injured in the ninth when third baseman Cheslor Cuthbert slid with a forearm and elbow into the left thigh of the All-Star catcher. Perez immediately raised his right arm, signaling for assistance. Two minutes later, Perez hobbled off the field with his arms draped over the shoulders of manager Ned Yost and an athletic trainer.

**RANGERS 5, PIRATES 2**  
Yu Darvish struck out seven in five strong innings in his first start in the majors in almost 22 months, and Texas beat Pittsburgh. The Japanese right-hander allowed three singles with a walk in his return from last year's Tommy John surgery, ending Pittsburgh's five-game winning streak. Adrian Beltré had a two-run homer in the first inning off Juan Nicasio (3-3) to become the fourth third baseman with at least 1,500 RBIs, finishing with 1,501. Mitch Moreland snapped a 1-for-27 skid with a solo home run in the fourth. The "Yuuu" calls from a sellout crowd started early for Darvish, who last pitched in the big leagues on Aug 9, 2014.

2) retired Edwin Encarnacion and Michael Saunders, Justin Smoak singled on a line drive to center and Martin drove in pinch-runner Ezequiel Carrera with a tying double. After Martin advanced on a wild pitch, Travis forced third baseman Travis Shaw to stretch to corral a shot, and though he tried to throw Travis out at first, his throw was dropped by Hanley Ramirez and Martin scored. Boston shortstop Xander Bogaerts extended his hitting streak to a career-high 21 games with a homer off the top of the left-center-field wall in the fourth inning. Gavin Floyd (2-3) pitched an inning for the win.

game losing streak. The Reds completed their comeback from a 6-1 deficit when umpires ruled after the review that infielder Scooter Gennett didn't have his foot on second while trying to turn a double play on Adam Duvall's bouncer. The review came after manager Bryan Price, who was out of challenges, spoke to crew chief Jim Joyce. Cincinnati scratched its way for the go-ahead run off typically tough reliever Jeremy Jeffress (1-1). Blake Wood (4-1) tossed two scoreless innings for the win. Tony Cingrani gave up a two-out walk to Chris Carter in the ninth, but struck out pinch hitter Martin Maldonado to secure his fourth save.

games of the three-game set. Atlanta rallied from a 2-0 deficit for the second straight day. The Braves are 5-0 against the Marlins and 9-34 against all other teams. Atlanta swept a three-game series at Miami on April 15-17. Atlanta took the lead by scoring three runs in the sixth off Jose Urena (1-1). Beckham hit his homer off Edwin Jackson after Jackson walked two batters in the seventh. The Marlins committed three errors, including two by center fielder Marcell Ozuna. Eric O'Flaherty (1-3) got the win.

**GIANTS 10, ROCKIES 5**  
Buster Posey hit a pair of three-run homers, including a tiebreaking drive as part of a six-run eighth inning, and San Francisco rallied for

**RAYS 9, YANKEES 5**  
Evan Longoria homered and drove in four runs, powering Tampa Bay to the victory. Longoria had a sacrifice fly during a three-run first, boosted the lead to 5-0 with a two-run

**CUBS 4, PHILLIES 1**  
Kyle Hendricks pitched a five-hitter for his second career complete game, leading the Cubs to their fourth straight win. Hendricks (3-4) struck out seven and walked none. He was in line for his second career shutout before giving up a run in the ninth. Dexter Fowler sparked a two-run first against Jerad Eickhoff (2-7) with his sixth home run. Jason Heyward had two doubles for Chicago. Ben Zobrist had two hits, including an RBI double, to extend his streak to 14 games. The Phillies lost for the sixth time in eight games.

**ASTROS 4, ANGELS 2**  
Cy Young Award winner Dallas Keuchel pitched seven innings to snap a personal five-game losing streak and Jason Castro hit a go-ahead two-run homer to lift the Houston Astros over the Los Angeles Angels. Keuchel (3-6) retired the final 18 batters he faced. He had not won a game since April 15 and entered this one with a 5.92 ERA. After giving up back-to-back solo home runs to Mike Trout and Albert Pujols in the first inning, Keuchel found his groove, allowing only one other hit. Luke Gregerson got his 11th save. Jered Weaver (4-4) allowed four runs in six innings.

**DODGERS 9, METS 1**  
Chase Utley hit a grand slam and a solo homer after Noah Syndergaard threw a 99 mph fastball behind his back, and Los Angeles went deep a season-high five times in routing New York. In a scene that seemed inevitable since October, Syndergaard was immediately ejected following the third-inning pitch - almost certainly his shot at retaliation against Utley for the late takeout slide that broke the right leg of then-Mets shortstop Ruben Tejada in last year's playoffs. Plate umpire Adam Hamari tossed Syndergaard, sending Mets manager Terry Collins into a rage and his own ejection, but no trouble ensued between the teams. Kenta Maeda (4-3) shook off an early line drive that appeared to hit him in the pitching hand and threw five shutout innings for the win. Logan Verrett (3-2) relieved Syndergaard and gave up two runs in 3 2/3 innings for the loss.

**MLB Results/Standings**

Toronto 10, Boston 9; Kansas City 8, Chicago White Sox 7; Chicago Cubs 4, Philadelphia 1; Oakland 12, Detroit 3; Cleveland 11, Baltimore 4; Cincinnati 7, Milwaukee 6; Atlanta 7, Miami 2; Tampa Bay 9, NY Yankees 5; San Francisco 10, Colorado 5; LA Dodgers 9, NY Mets 1; Texas 5, Pittsburgh 2; St. Louis 9, Washington 4; Houston 4, LA Angels 2; Minnesota 6, Seattle 5; Arizona 8, San Diego 7.

American League Eastern Division				National League Eastern Division					
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	29	20	.592	-	NY Mets	28	20	.583	-
Baltimore	27	20	.574	1	Washington	29	21	.580	-
Toronto	26	25	.510	4	Philadelphia	26	23	.531	2.5
NY Yankees	23	25	.479	5.5	Miami	25	24	.510	3.5
Tampa Bay	22	25	.468	6	Atlanta	14	34	.292	14
Central Division				Central Division					
Cleveland	26	21	.553	-	Chicago Cubs	33	14	.702	-
Kansas City	26	22	.542	0.5	Pittsburgh	28	20	.583	5.5
Chicago White Sox	27	23	.540	0.5	St. Louis	26	24	.520	8.5
Detroit	24	24	.500	2.5	Milwaukee	22	27	.449	12
Minnesota	14	34	.292	12.5	Cincinnati	16	33	.327	18
Western Division				Western Division					
Seattle	28	20	.583	-	San Francisco	31	20	.608	-
Texas	28	21	.571	0.5	LA Dodgers	26	24	.520	4.5
LA Angels	22	27	.449	6.5	Colorado	23	25	.479	6.5
Houston	21	29	.420	8	Arizona	22	29	.431	9
Oakland	21	29	.420	8	San Diego	20	30	.400	10.5

the win. The Rockies were limited to one run over six innings by Madison Bumgarner, but broke out in the seventh against five relievers for a 5-4 lead. San Francisco responded with six runs in the eighth. Posey led the charge with a towering homer to right-center off Carlos Estevez (1-2). Cory Gearrin (1-0) threw 1 1/3 scoreless innings to earn his first win since May 28, 2013.

homer in the second and chased Michael Pineda with an RBI single in the fourth that made it 6-1. Pineda (2-6) allowed six runs and nine hits in 3 2/3 innings. His 6.92 ERA is the highest among 104 qualifying pitchers in the major leagues. Matt Moore (2-3), winless in his six previous starts, gave up three runs and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings as the Rays won for the second time in eight games. New York lost for the third time in 10 games. Carlos Beltran hit a solo homer off Moore in the fourth for his 2,500th hit.

**ATHLETICS 12, TIGERS 3**  
Billy Butler, Khris Davis and Danny Valencia homered, and Oakland stopped a three-game losing streak. Coco Crisp and Jake Smolinski each drove in two runs as the A's reached double figures in scoring for the first time this season. Jesse Hahn (2-2) pitched six innings, giving up three runs to remain undefeated against the Tigers in three starts. He walked four and struck out five. Warwick Saupold (1-1) got the loss. The Tigers had won nine of 11.

**TWINS 6, MARINERS 5**  
Miguel Sano hit a two-run homer in the first inning and drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the seventh and the Minnesota Twins won their third straight. Kevin Jepsen pitched the ninth for his fifth save despite Seattle having the tying run at third base with no outs. Jepsen got a shallow popout from Dae-Ho Lee that was not deep enough to score Shawn O'Malley from third. Seattle then ran itself into a game-ending double play with O'Malley getting caught off third base and Kyle Seager tagged out trying to advance to second. Ryan Pressly (2-3) won in relief, while Nick Vincent (2-2) took the loss. Eduardo Nunez and Joe Mauer both hit their fifth home runs for the Twins. Nori Aoki and Luis Sardinas each hit solo homers for Seattle.

**CARDINALS 9, NATIONALS 4**  
Adam Wainwright pitched seven gritty innings and made an ample contribution at the plate, hitting a two-run double to help St Louis defeat Washington. Matt Holliday homered for the Cardinals, who took control with a four-run second inning highlighted by Wainwright's fifth extra-base hit of the season. With two on, two outs and a run in, Wainwright lined the first pitch from Gio Gonzalez (3-3) into the left-center gap. Matt Carpenter, activated from the paternity list before the game, followed with an RBI double for a 4-0 lead. That started Wainwright (5-3) on a path to his fifth straight win. The right-hander allowed four runs and six hits - including a career-record tying three home runs. He struck out five and walked none.

**BLUE JAYS 10, RED SOX 9**  
Devon Travis drove in Russell Martin with a game-ending RBI single, helping Toronto rally for the win. David Ortiz hit a tiebreaking homer for the Red Sox in the ninth, but the Blue Jays responded with two runs in the bottom half. After Boston closer Craig Kimbrel (0-

**REDS 7, BREWERS 6**  
Joey Votto scored the go-ahead run in the ninth after an inning-ending double play was overturned, and Cincinnati snapped its 11-

**INDIANS 11, ORIOLES 4**  
Yan Gomes drove in three runs and Danny Salazar allowed two runs in six innings, leading the Indians to the victory. Gomes' two-run single highlighted a four-run first, and he added an RBI single in the fifth. Mike Napoli drove in two runs for the Indians, who had 13 hits and moved into first place in the AL Central. Salazar (5-3) struck out five and walked two while rebounding from his worst start of the season. Baltimore's Ubaldo Jimenez (2-6) was charged with six runs in 1 2/3 innings. Third baseman Pedro Alvarez's error in the first made three of the runs unearned.

**BRAVES 7, MARLINS 2**  
Gordon Beckham hit a three-run homer, Nick Markakis drove in two runs and Atlanta secured its first home series win of the season. The Braves improved to a still-dismal 4-20 at Turner Field by winning the first two



MONACO: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates in the parc ferme at the Monaco street circuit, yesterday in Monaco, after the Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix. (Inset) Lewis Hamilton of Britain reacts on the podium after winning the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix. — AFP/AP photos

## LEWIS HAMILTON WINS THRILLING MONACO GP

MONACO: Lewis Hamilton won an incident-packed Monaco Grand Prix yesterday to get his Formula One championship bid back on track after a dismal run of eight races without a win. Red Bull driver Daniel Ricciardo started from pole position and finished second - after a huge blunder from his team which failed to have his tires ready - with Mexican driver Sergio Perez third for Force India.

Hamilton, the defending F1 champion, started from third but soon overtook his Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg, and then held off Ricciardo with a gritty blocking move midway through. "It's been a long time coming to get this win - not only in the season but here at the Monaco Grand Prix," said Hamilton, whose only other Monaco win was in 2008 for McLaren. "As soon as it rained I knew there was an opportunity, and fortunately I was quick enough in the wet."

### Moving on up

With Rosberg - the championship leader -

finishing seventh, Hamilton moved up to second overall in the standings, closing the gap on Rosberg to 24 points, while Ricciardo is in third spot. Because of poor visibility and a drenched circuit, the first few laps were a procession behind a safety car. But once the racing began properly, it was a thriller featuring multiple crashes and the comical sight of Red Bull's pit crew not being ready for Ricciardo's tire change.

The Australian driver was unforgiving, saying "everyone was running around like headless chucks (chickens)." He added: "It's massively disappointing." By contrast, Hamilton was delighted, jumping out of his car and throwing himself into the arms of his team engineers - and even getting congratulated by US pop star Justin Bieber.

Hamilton, who had not won since clinching last season's United States Grand Prix, took his helmet off and then ran back to get more hugs from his pit crew. Grabbing the race trophy from Monaco's Prince Albert,

Hamilton then tossed it up in the air and just about caught it. Ricciardo stood watching, glum-faced, but then went up to shake Hamilton's hand.

It was even worse for Rosberg, who seemed to receive team orders to let Hamilton go past him early on. Winner of seven of the past eight races, including the first four this season, Rosberg's awful day was compounded when he was overtaken at the line by Nico Hulkenberg. It was Hamilton's 44th career win - the same number as his car - and made up for last year when he finished third in Monaco after being caught behind a safety car following a late team order to pit. This time, there were no such glitches for Hamilton.

### Astonishing oversight

After the track dried out, he came in for quicker ultra-soft tires on lap 32, with Ricciardo coming in a lap later to switch to the same tires. But in an astonishing oversight,

Red Bull's crew was not ready and this cost him valuable time as he came out behind Hamilton. "I guess from the outside we put on a show but it shouldn't have been exciting. Two races in a row I've been screwed," said a dejected Ricciardo, whose team made an error when he finished fourth in Spain two weeks ago. "They should have been ready. It hurts."

Shortly after, a race engineer tried to reassure Ricciardo, saying "get your head together, you're quicker than him, let's do it," but the error was a terrible one. Five laps later, however, Ricciardo went close to overtaking Hamilton. But Hamilton held his line at the Mirabeau turn, prompting an angry reaction from Ricciardo, who waved his right hand furiously. "I forced him into the fence and by doing so he made a mistake and cut across the chicane," Ricciardo said. "Obviously it was a chance to get the lead, so sure I questioned it." Perez was delighted with his seventh career podium. "To have it here in Monaco is very special," Perez said. "In these conditions

it's one of my best races." Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel was fourth, ahead of McLaren's Fernando Alonso and Hulkenberg, who capped a fine day for Force India.

Meanwhile, Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen and Red Bull's Max Verstappen were among seven drivers who failed to finish a chaotic race. Toro Rosso's Daniil Kvyat - the Russian driver who has twice been blamed for racing incidents with Vettel this season - ploughed into the turn at La Rascasse, taking Kevin Magnussen's Renault into the barriers with him. British driver Jolyon Palmer, Magnussen's teammate, had crashed early when the track was at its wettest. But the most farcical incident involved Sauber teammates Felipe Nasr and Marcus Ericsson. Nasr received team orders to let Ericsson through but apparently ignored them, so a determined Ericsson went for a gap that simply did not exist and they both collided at the Rascasse turn. Ericsson quipped that his teammate's radio "mustn't be working." —AP



LOS ANGELES: In this May 22, 2016, photo, US goalkeeper Ashleigh Johnson stops a shot during an exhibition water polo match against Australia. — AP

## THE NEW FACE OF US WATER POLO DID NOT COME FROM CALIFORNIA

LOS ALAMITOS: Donna Johnson just wanted her five children to be safe around the pool at her Miami home. That was it, really, the first step in Ashleigh Johnson's path from prodigy to USA water polo. Swim lessons turned into meets when their instructor told Donna Johnson her children were so good she had nothing left to teach them. When Ashleigh and her siblings continued to show athletic potential as they got older, Donna Johnson, a single mother and nurse from Jamaica, delivered a simple message to them.

"For everything that they do, it's not about pressure, it's about maximizing your potential," she said. Now her oldest daughter is about to make history this summer. Ashleigh, a goaltender blessed with jaw-dropping athleticism, is a lock for Rio de Janeiro, putting her on track to become the first black woman to play water polo for the US Olympic team. While this is just the fifth games for the women's tournament, Johnson's ascension to elite goaltender is a welcome development for a sport looking for more diversity and growth outside of water polo-crazy Southern California.

Each of Johnson's teammates is from the Golden State, and the same three Pac-12 schools - UCLA, Southern California and Stanford - dominate the roster. Seventy-five percent of USA Water Polo's roughly 42,000 members live in California. After

starring at Ransom Everglades High School in Florida, Johnson opted for Princeton instead of USC. "I think Ashleigh Johnson's the future of our sport in the US," USA Water Polo CEO Christopher Ramsey said. "She's an out-of-California athlete who grew up in Florida. She went to Princeton, high academic achiever from a different background than a lot of traditional water polo families are from."

### 'Great opportunity'

Just a short while ago, Johnson, 21, wasn't interested in that future, at least with the national team. The thought of moving away from her tight-knit family and joining a new team in California wasn't appealing to her, but several conversations with coach Adam Krikorian helped change her mind. "I didn't really know that the Olympics was a possibility for me," Johnson said. "I thought it was just like coming and training like I had been doing for years, but just living out here, and he made me realize that the Olympics was a great opportunity and a possibility for me." Krikorian first heard of Johnson about 10 years ago when he was the head coach at UCLA. Nicolle Payne, one of his assistants with the Bruins and a former national team goaltender, was working a camp in Miami when she sent an email to Krikorian about America's next great goaltender. —AP

## SILVA RESTORES PRIDE AS SRI LANKA FOLLOW ON

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Kaushal Silva's unbeaten fifty kept England at bay after Sri Lanka were made to follow-on in the second Test at the Riverside yesterday. At tea on the third day, Sri Lanka were 162 for three-still a huge 235 runs behind England's first innings 498 for nine declared, which featured Moeen Ali's Test-best 155 not out.

But at least they had stopped the rot after becoming the first side since New Zealand in England back in 1958 to be bowled out for under 120 in three successive Test innings after being dismissed for 101 in reply to England's commanding first innings score. Sri Lanka managed just 91 and 119 during a crushing innings and 88-run defeat in the first of this three-Test series at Headingley last week.

But come the tea interval, Silva was 57 not out and Angelo Mathews, the Sri Lanka captain, 35 not out, with their unbroken fourth-wicket stand so far worth 62. Sri Lanka's first-innings batting raised questions over whether a schedule with just two warm-up fixtures against Second Division county sides was sufficient preparation for a Test campaign early in an English season.

### SL batsmen crumble

The fact their top order then appeared, at last, to be adjusting to batting under grey skies in the second innings-albeit some two-thirds of the way through the series-emphasised the point. Dimuth Karunaratne (26) looked increasingly assured before he edged Chris Woakes to Joe Root at second slip. Sri Lanka, 58 for one at lunch, saw the talented Kusal Mendis hit three fours in five balls off James Anderson, including two well-struck square cuts.

But the final ball of the same over saw Anderson square up Mendis (26) with a good length delivery that cut away and wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow held a simple catch. Mendis's exit brought in Lahiru Thirimanne, promoted after his first-innings 19. Thirimanne hit off-spinner Ali for two fours in three balls. But Ali had the last laugh, beating the left-hander on the outside edge with a classic off-break that bowled Thirimanne for 13.

Sri Lanka's 100 for three almost became 100 for four when Mathews, on nought, edged Anderson just short of Root in the slips. The compact Silva's leg-glanced four off fast bowler



CHESTER LE STREET: Sri Lanka's Kaushal Silva celebrates after scoring 50 on the third day of the second test cricket match between England and Sri Lanka at the Riverside. — AFP

Steven Finn, his sixth boundary, saw him to a 111-ball fifty made in three hours.

Mathews then clipped Stuart Broad through mid-wicket for four and cut him to the point rope before he took the tourists to 150 with a slogged six off Ali. Yesterday saw Sri Lanka, 91 for eight overnight in their first innings, soon dismissed for 101. Just three legitimate balls into yesterday's play, paceman Broad had tailender

Suranga Lakmal caught behind for a duck. Thirimanne was last man out when he skied Anderson to point.

Broad took four for 40, Woakes-only playing this match because fellow all-rounder Ben Stokes was injured-three for nine and Anderson three for 36. Only four Sri Lanka batsmen made it into double figures, with Mendis's 35 the top score. —AFP





## 'AL OSTOURADIEJ' TEAM HEADS TO BRAZIL FOR FINALS

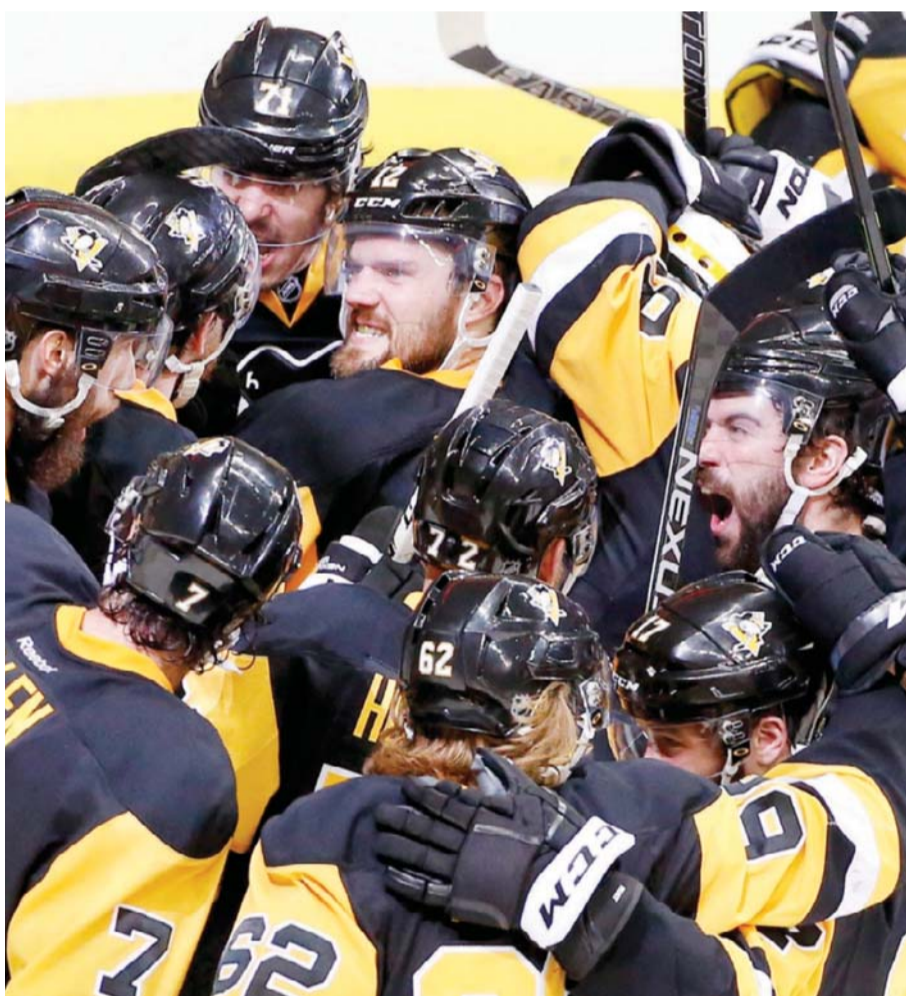
### NEYMAR JR'S FIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CONCLUDES

**KUWAIT:** "Al OstouraDiej" team was announced Neymar Jr's Five Kuwait champion after an intense national final held last Thursday at Al Kout Mall. The final took place in partnership with Nissan, Shop & Ship, Acqua Eva, Sun & Sand Sports and Instituto Projeto Neymar Jr were amongst the groups of spectators and in the presence of Sheikh Diej Khalifa Al Sabah who handed the trophy to the winning team. The winners, who won the final match against "Abtal Barcelona", will be representing Kuwait at the world final in Brazil in July this year where they will compete against the winning teams from more than 35 countries for the ultimate prize.

Running from 2 to 23 May, 128 teams signed up to the 8 national qualifiers and showed their football skills in a first and only Neymar Jr signature football tournament where 5 players compete against 5 in a unique last man standing modus, with an

eye on meeting Neymar Jr. The fast-paced game was open for participants between 16 years and 25 years old where two teams of five players each play 10-minute games with no goalkeepers. When one team scores a goal, a player on the opposing team is eliminated until the whole team is completely out or 10 minutes are up.

When interviewed on their incredible win in the national final, "Al OstouraDiej" captain Ahmed Shallal Al Fahed expressed great joy, saying: "We are very excited about the World Final and hope to be lucky enough to meet Neymar. We will do our best to win the world championship of Neymar Jr's Five tournament and represent Kuwait in the best way possible". The grand prize for the crowned world champion team in Brazil is meeting Neymar Jr in Barcelona, Spain, and be his guest at the famous Camp Nou for a Barcelona match.



**PITTSBURGH:** Pittsburgh Penguins celebrate as they gather around goalie Matt Murray after defeating the Tampa Bay Lightning 2-1 in Game 7 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Eastern Conference finals. — AP

## CROSBY-LED PENGUINS FACE SHARKS FOR STANLEY CUP

**NEW YORK:** Sidney Crosby opens his bid to match Canadian countryman Mario Lemieux as a two-time Stanley Cup winner when the Pittsburgh Penguins begin the National Hockey League Finals on Monday against visiting San Jose.

Crosby scored the gold medal-winning over-time goal for Canada in the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic final after leading Pittsburgh to the 2009 NHL crown, but the Penguins have not been back to the best-of-seven championship series until now. "We know the biggest challenge is ahead of us, but we've got a great opportunity," Crosby said. "It wasn't easy getting to this point. It would be great to finish it off the right way."

Pittsburgh ousted Tampa Bay in the Eastern Conference final while the Sharks eliminated St Louis in the West to reach the Stanley Cup Finals for the first time in their quarter-century history. "It's a great test for us," Sharks center Joe Thornton said. "They are a great team with some great players. We've got to be ready come Monday night."

Crosby, the 28-year-old Penguins captain and 2005 NHL Draft top pick, played briefly as a rookie with Lemieux, the Hall of Fame center known as "Super Mario" who led the Penguins to Stanley Cups in 1991 and 1992. Lemieux later became the team owner and had "Sid the Kid" living in his home during his rookie season. Crosby led the Penguins with 36 goals this season while Russian center Evgeni Malkin added 27 and Phil Kessel had 26.

### 'Right direction'

The Penguins struggled early but after Mike Johnston was fired and Mike

Sullivan replaced him as coach last December, Pittsburgh produced the best record in the NHL after January 1. "They definitely changed some things when they brought the new coach in and got that ball rolling in the right direction," said Sharks coach Peter DeBoer. "They were the best team in the league in the second half of the year."

"We know how tough an opponent this is. They have two of the best players in the world (in Crosby and Malkin). They are a deep team. It's a great challenge. Our guys are excited," Kessel, with play-off team highs of nine goals and nine assists, has sparked the Penguins in the post-season alongside linemates Carl Hagelin and Nick Bonino.

Backstopping the Penguins' playoff run has been goaltender Matt Murray, who turned 22 earlier this month. Injured veteran Marc-Andre Fleury has stayed benched since getting healthy by Murray, whose 11 wins in 15 playoff games are more than his 9 wins in 13 regular-season contests.

"I know there are a lot of stories that surround this group, but the greatest story of all is the group itself," Sullivan said. "When you're part of something that's bigger than yourself it's a special feeling and I know these guys have it right now."

The Sharks' breakthrough has given Patrick Marleau, whose entire 18-season career has been spent in San Jose, and Thornton, who like Marleau has more than 1,500 NHL games, their first trip to the Cup finals. "You don't make it this far all the time obviously," Marleau said. "Just trying to seize the moment." — AFP

## LOOKING AHEAD TO A 100 MORE YEARS AT THE INDIANAPOLIS 500

**INDIANAPOLIS:** Ray Harroun never could have envisioned the speed, science and styling behind the cars on the starting grid for the 100th Indy 500, not when he was piloting the Marmon Wasp to victory in the inaugural race back in 1911.

His black-and-gold car looked like a battering ram on wheels, rather than the sleek, fighter-jet-like cars of today. Harroun pattered around at an average speed of 74 mph, roughly 160 mph behind the pole-winning speed of James Hinchcliff this year, and he needed nearly 7 hours to complete that first 500-mile race. "In my estimation the limit is reached at 500 miles," Harroun predicted upon exiting the car, "and is entirely too long for the endurance of the driver."

### New technologies

Yet they're still racing 500 miles after all these years. They probably will be after 100 more years. Everything else could be vastly different. "It's a fascinating question because in essence this is why we race: To learn and to develop new technologies to push the performance envelope," said Jim Campbell, vice president of performance vehicles and motorsports for Chevrolet. "I just wish I could live another 100 years to be a part of it."

The high-pitched hum of ethanol-powered engines could be replaced by the nearly silent thrum of electric cars, an idea that might have seemed preposterous a decade ago. Or perhaps they will be solar-powered. Or run on garbage a la the DeLorean in "Back to the Future."

"You've got to believe that they'll go with some sort of green technology," said 1986 winner Bobby Rahal, who now runs the Rahal Letterman Lanigan team. "Maybe you'll have nuclear-powered cars, I don't know." Nobody does. That's the fun of the exercise.

Asking drivers and executives in Gasoline Alley to picture the future of the Indy 500 is like asking Helio Castroneves to play Aldous Huxley or Simon Pagnaud to channel his inner George Orwell. Not surprisingly, many of their responses trended toward science fiction. "You know what? I'm a big 'Star Wars' fan," Pagnaud said, "so maybe it will look like a 'Star Wars' car with no tires. That would be awfully strange, wouldn't it?" Well, drying the track after a rainstorm would no longer be an issue. And all those seats in the upper reaches of the grandstands would become prime viewing spots. "Maybe they'll look like a spaceship," Castroneves said. "That's a good question. I won't be here. I'll be looking up at the sky. Or hopefully, I should say, I'll be looking down."

### Subtle changes?

Perhaps the changes will be more subtle, like the engine moved elsewhere on the car - it wasn't until the 1960s that it was moved from the front to the back. If the cars are still stuck to the ground, maybe the tires will be made of some new material - they have already undergone myriad changes over the years.

Aerodynamics will change. The cars these days seem like they cut through air like a scalpel, but that was probably the case in Harroun's time, too. The car that wins the 100th running this weekend will almost certainly land in the track-side museum, where it will seem woefully antiquated in another 100 years.

"If you go back through history, you see a lot of funny things happen here, a lot of guys getting creative on the engineering side to find that extra tenth of a mile an hour," Hinchcliff said. "It's pretty standard to see people trying things outside of the box when you're running around this place." Yes, one of the hallmarks of the Indy 500 has always been innovation. Drivers and crews would arrive each May with bold designs and creative engineering, pushing the envelope



**INDIANAPOLIS:** This Oct 12, 2010, file photo, shows thirty-three cars driven to victory in the Indianapolis 500 forming the starting grid on the main straight during a photo shoot for the Speedway's 100th anniversary, at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. — AP

in new and imaginative ways.

"Where do we go from here? It's an open question," said Art St. Cyr, president of Honda Performance Development. "Advanced fuels? Definitely. Increased safety, of course, would be a major priority. Chassis, where the wheels, tires and suspension are a single unit made out of as-yet undeveloped materials? Perhaps. "One thing about racing, this is the venue that will continue to push technology."

Not everybody agrees, nor does everyone share the same outlandish optimism for the future. Three-time winner Bobby Unser lamented the direction the Indy 500 has gone in recent years. Spec chassis provided by Dallara and engines delivered by Chevrolet and Honda have robbed it of its creativity.

"If they don't change something they're going to kill it - if they don't change the thing

and get back to some real racing and innovation, it's going to kill the race," Unser said with a sigh. "This is America. We're an innovative country. Why would we want everything to be the same?" Just as many argue the racing has never been better, though.

Recent years have produced record numbers of lead changes and heart-stopping finishes. The 100th running is sold out, allowing the blackout to be lifted for local TV. Interest appears to be at an all-time high. Maybe that will be enough to push the race through another 100 years.

"I imagine the rate of change has slowed," Hinchcliff said, "but the cars will be massively different. The track will have grown a lot. Speeds will get back to record-breaking territory. But I think we'll still have the same awesome event, the same respect and appreciation for it. I wish I could be around to see it." — AP

## SWEDE RIKARD KARLBERG FIRST TO CHALLENGE WENTWORTH LEADERS

**WENTWORTH:** Sweden's Rikard Karlberg surged up the leader board as the final round of the European PGA Championship got under way here at Wentworth yesterday. Karlberg, who was eight shots off the pace after 54 holes, went to the turn in 30, five-under par, with his round being kick-started by a hole-in-one at the 154-yard, par-3, second. The Swede had bogeyed the first but when his nine-iron found the cup it sparked a run of four birdies in seven holes to the turn and a two at the 10th, followed by a birdie at the par-5 12th, took him to eight-under for the tournament and one shot off the leader, Scott Hend of Australia. Karlberg won his first European Tour title last season when he beat Martin Kaymer in a play-off at the Italian Open and looked likely to be involved in the shake-up here.

Hend's first round 65 gave him the lead but since then he shot 69 and 73 with his third round being disrupted by hecklers. The Australian, who was playing with Danny Willett, said the spectators should have been removed and he felt like punching them but it was all quiet as he was about to tee off. Hend, who was in the final group with

England's Tyrrell Hatton was yet to start his round, but several others were preparing to launch an assault on his lead.

England's Chris Wood and Julien Quesne, of France, both birdied the first to move to seven-under par, two off the lead, level with Lee Westwood and 2009 USPGA Champion YE Yang of Korea but a double bogey six at the third put a dent in Willett's chances.

Defending champion Byeong Hun An was two-under for the day after 11 holes but still six shots off the lead and Graeme McDowell's chances appeared to have gone after a double bogey seven on the fifth. Two-time winner Luke Donald carded a disappointing 71 to finish four-under for the tournament having been four-under on the opening day but Spain's Eduardo de la Riva was playing himself into a good finish as he was three-under for the day and four-under for the tournament after 15 holes. There was another hole-in-one yesterday morning with England's James Morrison aching the 187-yard 14th with a five-iron. Morrison followed that up with a bogey and was out of contention on three-over after 16 although he did have the consolation of winning a car. — AFP

## DROGBA STRIKES LATE AS MONTREAL SINK GALAXY

**MONTREAL:** Didier Drogba scored an injury-time winner as the Montreal Impact downed the Los Angeles Galaxy 3-2 to maintain their place near the top of Major League Soccer's Eastern Conference standings on Saturday.

Drogba's goal in the fourth minute of injury time came after a terrible blunder by Galaxy goalkeeper Brian Rowe, who allowed the former Chelsea striker's long-range freekick to squirt from his grasp and into the net. The injury-time strike was the final twist of a pulsating game in Montreal which left the Canadian club firmly among the Eastern Conference front-runners.

Giovani Dos Santos had fired Los Angeles into the lead after only eight minutes, capitalizing after Maxim Tissot failed to head clear to leave the Mexican international a simple tap-in. Montreal hit back though on 26 minutes with a superbly worked counter-attack which saw Dominic Oduro sprint almost the length of the field before passing to Ignacio Piatti who tucked away the equalizer. The Impact took the lead early in the second half with a fine individual goal from Lucas Ontivero, who

lost his marker with a clever turn before unleashing a ferocious shot into the top corner in the 56th minute. Los Angeles responded within two minutes when Mike Magee controlled Steven Gerrard's cross into the area, turned and drilled in for 2-2. That looked to be enough for a share of the points until Rowe's late gaffe gifted Montreal the win.

Elsewhere Saturday, the New York Red Bulls backed up last week's demolition job on New York City FC with a 3-0 win over Toronto FC which came courtesy of a quick-fire hat-trick from Bradley Wright-Phillips. The English striker grabbed his treble inside the first half hour, scoring in the 4th, 25th and 27th minutes to sink Toronto.

The result left the Red Bulls level on 19 points with Montreal, one behind Philadelphia Union, who took a one-point lead at the top after battling to a 1-1 draw against the Colorado Rapids in Denver. Philadelphia looked to be heading to defeat after Sam Cronin struck for the Rapids in the 87th minute. But Brian Carroll pounced in the second minute of injury time to grab a share of the points for Philadelphia. —AFP

## BAYERN WILL FIGHT TO KEEP REAL-TARGET LEWANDOWSKI

**BERLIN:** Real Madrid have held talks with Poland's star striker Robert Lewandowski, his agent has confirmed, while Bayern Munich insist they will pay whatever it takes to keep him. "Real Madrid approached us a few weeks ago, we have listened to everything and informed Bayern that we have held talks," Lewandowski's agent Cezary Kucharski told the latest edition of German Magazine Der Spiegel.

According to reports in the German media, Real is prepared to pay the Poland striker 25 million euros (\$27.78m) per season. Lewandowski finished as the Bundesliga's top scorer, when he became the first foreigner to score 30 league goals plus nine in the Champions League, in a tally of 42 in all competitions.

It was the first time a player has scored 30 goals in a single German league season in nearly 40 years. The 27-year-old has been on Real's radar since he scored four goals against the Spanish giants in the 2013 Champions League semi-final for previous club Borussia Dortmund. The Poland hot-shot has a contract in Munich until 2019, but has made it clear he is weighing up his options at German champions Bayern, who he joined in 2014 on a free transfer from

Dortmund The Champions League, or European Cup, which Real won for the 11th time in Saturday's final, is the only domestic title to have eluded Lewandowski at Dortmund and Bayern. "I've been in Germany for six years, have won everything here. Sometimes you have to consider whether it makes sense to try something new," said Lewandowski recently.

But Bayern's chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has said the Bavarian giants have 'no pain barrier' when it comes to what they will pay to keep their hot-shot in Munich. "One thing I know for sure: Robert Lewandowski will play in the upcoming season at Bayern Munich. There is no need to think anything else," Rummenigge is quoted in Monday's edition of magazine Kicker.

"The decision has been made: we won't let Robert Lewandowski go, regardless of what offer lands on the table. "There is no pain-barrier (to what Bayern will pay) when it comes to Robert," Lewandowski has so far avoided joining Bayern stars Manuel Neuer, Thomas Mueller, Jerome Boateng, David Alaba and Javier Martinez who have all extended their Munich contracts until 2021. —AFP



**AUGSBURG:** German fans sit in the stands behind a sign reading "Jerome, move in next to us" ahead of the friendly football match between Germany and Slovakia. (Inset) Bayern's Jerome Boateng poses during an official photo shooting in Munich. — AFP/AP photos

## GERMAN POPULIST PARTY SLAMMED OVER RACIST BOATENG COMMENTS

**FRANKFURT:** The right-wing populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) party found itself under fire yesterday after a leading member made racist remarks about the national football team's defender Jerome Boateng, forcing its leader to issue an apology.

The uproar was started by AfD's deputy chief Alexander Gauland, who told the Sunday newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung (FAS) that Germans would not like to live next door to Boateng, who has a Ghanaian father and was born and brought up in Berlin.

"People find him good as a footballer, but they don't want to have a Boateng as a neighbor," Gauland said. Yesterday, the 75-year-old Gauland attempted to back track: "I have never, as the FAS insinuates, insulted Mr Boateng," he told German daily Bild. "I do not know him nor would I therefore have the idea to devalue him as a personality."

The newspaper FAS put out a statement saying both of their reporters, who interviewed Gauland in Potsdam last Wednesday, had a record of his comments, which have drawn widespread condemnation. AfD party chief Frauke Petry has tried to calm the storm, telling the mass-circulation daily Bild that Gauland "can-

not recall whether he made that statement." "Independent of that, I apologise to Mr Boateng for the impression that arose," she said.

And Petry subsequently tweeted: "Jerome Boateng is a super footballer who is rightly a member of the German national team. I'm looking forward to the European championships." Nevertheless, Gauland's comments have fallen offside with key figures in German football and politics. The president of the DFB German football league, Reinhard Grindel, slammed them as "simply tasteless".

### 'It deserves the red card'

Boateng, 27, "is an excellent player and a wonderful person, who gets involved in social causes and is a role model for many young people". The manager of the German national team, Oliver Bierhoff, said: "It isn't the first time that we've been confronted with such statements. They need no comment. The people who made them are simply discrediting themselves."

Benedikt Hoewedes, who won the World Cup alongside Boateng in the German team, wrote, "if you want to win the title for Germany, you need neighbors like him" alongside a picture of Boateng on Twitter. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge,

chairman of Boateng's club Bayern Munich, said racism needs to be shown a red card.

"Discrimination of any kind has no place in sports and in our society. It deserves the red card," Rummenigge said. German Justice Minister Heiko Maas slammed Gauland's comments as "unacceptable and shabby". "People who say things like that unmask themselves, and not just as a bad neighbor," he wrote on Twitter.

Last week, members of the anti-Islam Pegida movement sparked controversy when they took to Facebook to attack members of the national football team with migrant backgrounds. Pegida supporters complained when childhood photos of players including Boateng, as well as midfielders Mesut Ozil and Ilkay Gundogan, were used in a marketing campaign for Ferrero's Kinder chocolate in the run-up to the UEFA Euro football championships, due to be held in France in June.

The AfD, founded on a eurosceptic platform three years ago, has vocally protested Germany's record refugee influx that brought more than one million asylum seekers to Europe's top economy last year alone. The party won several regional assembly seats in recent state elections. —AFP



Robert Lewandowski

## BENZEMA, ARFA OMISSION A MISSED OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANCE: CANTONA

**PARIS:** The omission of Karim Benzema and Hatem Ben Arfa from the France squad for next month's European Championships is a missed opportunity to unite the country in the face of extremism and division, according to ex-international Eric Cantona.

Cantona stirred up a hornet's nest last week when he claimed that France coach Didier Deschamps was guilty of racial discrimination in his selection, comments that French football chief Noel Le Graet on Saturday dubbed as "stupid" and "pathetic".

"In this time of trouble and division, I would have liked all of the France that I love and dream of be represented in this France team. Football for me is a fantastic way of integration and should serve to unify and unite," Cantona said in a column published in Le Journal du Dimanche. "We missed this chance by not selecting Benzema and Ben Arfa, two of the best French players.

"Firstly I think that from a sporting point of view it's a mistake and then, this European Championships, which moreover is in France, is an extraordinary opportunity to send a clear message to the extremists, whoever they might be. "I'm neither linked to any party nor the puppet of any ideology," he added. "I'm atheist. I am and always will be a free man.

"For those who'd like to make believe that I'm spouting anti-white racism, my response is one of contempt," Cantona told British daily The Guardian on Thursday that Deschamps had snubbed Benzema and Ben Arfa because of their "north African origins". Deschamps' lawyer said Friday that the France coach would be suing Cantona for slander over his comments.

Cantona, who won 45 caps for France between 1987 and 1995, has in the past been very critical of his former teammate Deschamps, who in 1996 he branded a "vulgar water carrier". The former Marseille and Leeds United striker retired in 1997 before taking up a career in cinema. In 2007 he married Franco-Algerian actress Rachida Brakni.

Deschamps, 47, went on to captain France to the 1998 World Cup title and 2000 European Championship crown. The exclusion of Benzema, of Algerian descent, follows his implication in an alleged attempt by one of his friends to blackmail international teammate Mathieu Valbuena over a sex tape. Ben Arfa, of Tunisian origins, had been hopeful of making the squad after relaunching his career at Nice but instead had to settle for a place on Deschamps's standby list of eight players. —AFP



**CLAIREFONTAINE-EN-YVELINES, France:** France's forward Hatem Ben Arfa (right) speaks with France's midfielder Moussa Sissoko during a training session in Clairefontaine en Yvelines on May 26, 2016, as part of the team's preparation for the upcoming Euro 2016 European football championships. — AFP

## BRUCE EYES PREMIER LEAGUE SURVIVAL BLUEPRINT FOR HULL

**LONDON:** Steve Bruce believes Hull can copy the blueprint of the Premier League's over-achievers as they look to survive in the top-flight. Bruce's side secured an immediate return to the big time following last year's relegation thanks to Mohamed Diame's sublime strike in the Championship play-off final against Sheffield Wednesday.

Senegal midfielder Diame's long-range effort in the 72nd minute was enough to give Hull a 1-0 win at Wembley on Saturday and Hull boss Bruce can now turn his attention to planning their attempt to avoid the drop next term. It will help that Hull's bank balance will be boosted by the £110 million (145 million Euros, \$161 million) windfall they will earn due to the Premier League's new television contracts.

Spending that cash wisely is essential, but Bruce will also study shock champions Leicester and the likes of Swansea, Watford and Bournemouth, who have all survived against the odds. "Nobody gave us a cat in hell's chance of staying up a few years ago, but it can be done," Bruce said. "We know we have to be at our maximum and invest well. That's the hardest part for a club like Hull. "Even when you've got money you have to spend it wisely and get the right player. We'll do our best. "If we do things properly we can improve the club no end. If somebody had said Leicester would be champions we'd have said they were nuts, so it proves anything can happen. "Bournemouth and Watford stayed up this season and Swansea have done it for seven or eight years. We have to try to replicate that."

### Mastermind

Bruce revealed he had offered to resign after Hull's relegation but was persuaded to stay by the club's Egyptian owner Assem Allam. Allam is ailing in hospital and Bruce dedicated the promotion to him. "I did offer to resign because ultimately we failed. Thankfully the owner didn't want me to go," Bruce said. "I had a long hard think about it to see if I could repair the damage. "I dedicate this to the chairman. He couldn't make it today and his ill health concerns us all, so for him I'm very pleased."

Bruce is the first manager in the Premier League era to mastermind four promotions to the top-flight-two with Hull and two with Birmingham-but he conceded he was unsure at the start of the season if Hull were capable of recovering from relegation.

"There's an uncertainty when you get relegated. We didn't sign a player until the end of July and people lost their jobs," he said. "We had to sell several of our best young players to make up the £25 million deficit from relegation. "It's never easy but thankfully we had enough in the squad to get us back up there. "The last four times I've been in the Championship I've managed to get out of it. I'm delighted but it's not all about me."

Meanwhile, Wednesday face a 17th succes-



**LONDON:** Hull City's English manager Steve Bruce (R) reacts during the English Championship play-off final football match between Hull City and Sheffield Wednesday at Wembley Stadium. — AFP

sive year outside the Premier League after a below par display on their first Wembley appearance since 1993.

But Wednesday manager Carlos Carvalhal is hopeful the momentum from their surprise run to the play-offs will carry over into next season. "We didn't play today like we usually play this

season," Carvalhal said. "We are still very happy and proud with what we did. I think we woke up the giant. "Sheffield Wednesday will be more respected. This is something we created. "Everything will not be like the past. We are in a good way. We must get stronger but we have a good base." —AFP

## 'DELUSIONAL' TO THINK LONDON GAMES DIRTIEST EVER: COE

**LONDON:** London Olympics chief Sebastian Coe said it would be "delusional" to think the 2012 Games in the British capital may have been the dirtiest in history in the wake of more positive drugs tests. A total of 23 positive results came from 265 retested samples, the International Olympic Committee said, on top of over 30 previous failed tests from competitors who had been caught either during the Games or since.

The high percentage of apparent doping offences sparked suggestions on Friday that London was rife with cheating, but Coe denies that is the case. Coe, now the president of world athletics' governing body the IAAF, served as the London 2012 organizing committee chairman.

The former middle-distance track star claims in the Sunday Telegraph that at the time of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, where he competed and won 1500 meters gold, technology was "prehistoric" and says

many athletes would pick and base their schedules on the athletics circuit "in large part on the avoidance of testing".

The IOC has said its reanalysis program is ongoing, with the possibility of more results in the weeks to come. Coe wrote in his newspaper column: "It would be delusional to say the London Games was 'in the words of many yesterday' dirtier than Games before."

He added: "The message from Friday was not only, or even actually, about interpreting trends. The big message was for athletes to recognize that just because they may be ahead of the testing technology at a particular moment in their career, it does not mean they can lie easily in their beds until excitable grandchildren pore over Olympic medals in their dotage. They will be caught. They will then have the discomfort of explaining to those grandchildren why they no longer possess those medals. More is being done to catch cheats than ever before." —AFP

## RONALDO PRIDE AS REAL CROWNED KINGS AGAIN

**MILAN:** Cristiano Ronaldo could not contain his pride after firing Real Madrid to their 11th Champions League success on Saturday with a decisive, and pre-planned, penalty in a 5-3 shoot-out over Atletico Madrid. After two scoreless periods of extra time following a 1-1 draw, the city rivals were forced to spot-kicks. And after Atletico defender Juanfran's penalty came off the post, Ronaldo sparked wild celebrations at Milan's San Siro stadium after stepping up to confidently sweep his effort past Jan Oblak. With 16 goals in the competition, Ronaldo has finished the top scorer for the second time after his 17-goal haul in 2014. Although he missed out on matching his previous record, his pride was plain to see.

"An unbelievable night, to win my third Champions League on penalties again, to be the top scorer in the competition again, I'm so proud," said the Portuguese star, who won the trophy with Manchester United in 2008 — when he missed a penalty in the shoot-out and with Real in 2014 when Atletico crashed to a 4-1 extra-time defeat.

"We work hard during the season to win this amazing trophy, so I'm so proud of my teammates, of the fans, families, of the coach. It's my second year I scored more than 15 goals. The person with the season scoring record in this competition is me, with 17 goals (in 2014). And this year 16, or 17 with the penalty. What more can I ask for?"

### Far from perfect performance

Two years after reviving Real's bid for a 10th title, Real captain Sergio Ramos bundled home a close-range opener after just 15 minutes only for Yannick Carrasco to force extra time when he came off the

bench to level for Atletico 11 minutes from the end. Real spurned chances to secure the trophy in both periods of extra time, but kept their composure throughout a tense penalty shoot-out that went their way when Juanfran hit the post. Ronaldo, he appeared to suggest, was never likely to miss. "To be honest, I was confident I would score, I said to Zidane before the penalties, 'put me the last one because I feel I'm going to score the winning goal, and this is what happened,' he said.

"I'm so proud to score the winning goal and to win the Champions League again." Ronaldo capped the celebrations with the trademark removal of his shirt, revealing a still muscular and toned physique, although after spurning a couple of real chances, the 31-year-old admitted his performance was far from perfect.

"It maybe wasn't the best one, but who played unbelievable tonight? No one. It's tough. It's the end of the season, you don't have power in your legs that you have at the beginning of the season." Zidane becomes just the seventh footballer to win the trophy as coach and player. In 2002, the Frenchman's stunning volley was the match-winner in a 2-1 defeat of Bayer Leverkusen in Glasgow.

"I'm so proud to be part of this great club. It's the club of my life, the one that made me who I am," said Zidane. Ronaldo, meanwhile, says there's plenty more to come. "I'm always there, in the top level. I still feel good, I still feel fresh, not tonight though!" he said. "I showed the team that I'm there. For the good moments and the bad. This is what makes me feel proud." — AFP



MADRID: Fans surround the bus as Real Madrid players hold up the trophy celebrating the team's win on Plaza Cibeles. — AP

## 11TH EUROPEAN CROWN CAPS ROLLERCOASTER REAL SEASON

**MADRID:** A season that promised so little when Zinedine Zidane took charge of a beleaguered Real Madrid less than five months ago ended beyond even the richest club in the world's wildest dreams with an 11th European Cup win in Milan. Cristiano Ronaldo struck the winning penalty in a shootout to cap a remarkable turnaround in Real's fortunes as for the second time in three years they edged a tense final against local rivals Atletico Madrid.

Thousands of delirious Real fans poured into the heart of Madrid city centre after the match and stayed till well after sunrise on Sunday morning to welcome their heroes back from Italy around the Plaza de Cibeles fountain—a traditional meeting point for Real's triumphs. The contrast in emotions to the first half of the season couldn't be starker as a series of off-field gaffes and poor performances left the club in disarray.

Manchester United goalkeeper David de Gea's move to Madrid was botched due to a paperwork delay and the clubs were thrown out the Copa del Rey for fielding an ineligible player. A 4-0 home defeat to bitter rivals Barcelona in November left fans calling for the head of then coach Rafael Benitez and president Florentino Perez. Benitez was the fall guy in early January to make way for Zidane to take his first senior managerial role after just 18 months experience with Real's youth team Real Madrid Castilla. Crucially, though, in contrast to the dictatorial Benitez, as a former legendary player, Zidane instantly had the respect of Real's star-studded squad. "Zizou is very humble but determined. His arrival was really important for us because he has a great relationship with the players," said Real captain Sergio Ramos. "With Rafael we had some good times, but when Zizou came the dressing room was more unified."

### 'What really hurts'

Zidane has already gone a long way to matching his stellar career that included World Cup, Champions League and European Championships winner's medals. Victory in Milan ensured he became the first French coach to ever win the competition and only the seventh man to win the European Cup as both a player and a manager.

Moreover, he has now played a key role in each of Real's last three Champions League triumphs as he scored a sensational winning goal in the 2002 final and was assistant to Carlo Ancelotti in 2014. "I'm so proud to be part of this great club. It's the club of my life, the one that made me who I am," said Zidane. "I was given the chance to come to this amazing club, and then to coach it. I have a phenomenal team and great players who are also talented, and it was together we achieved what we did tonight."

By contrast, Atletico were left with a horrible sense of déjà vu as they were once again denied a first ever European Cup in agonizing circumstances by their nearest and dearest rivals with goals booked by Ramos and Ronaldo. Two years ago Atletico were seconds away from victory before Ramos's header took the game to extra-time where Real ran riot with further goals from Gareth Bale, Marcelo and Ronaldo.

This time Ramos's early goal was cancelled out by Atletico substitute Yannick Carrasco 11 minutes from time. However, Real kept their cool

from the spot to score all five penalties as Juanfran's solitary miss for Atletico teed up Ronaldo to lash home the decisive strike before tearing off his shirt in celebration in another flashback to Lisbon two years ago.

"What really hurts me is to see the hurt of the

people who've paid to come here," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone, who admitted he will take time to consider his future after four-and-a-half glorious years. "I feel a bit responsible that I wasn't able to give them what they wanted. That's what really hurts." — AFP



MADRID: Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates the team's win on Plaza Cibeles. — AFP

## SIMEONE MAY NOT WANT TO REINVENT ATLETICO AGAIN

**MILAN:** Diego Simeone may not have the stomach to reinvent Atletico Madrid again after they suffered another morale-shattering loss to Real Madrid in Saturday's Champions League final. The Atletico coach left doubts in the air with vague answers about his future following their second Champions League final defeat in three seasons to the same opponents.

It would be perfectly understandable if the combative Argentine, habitually dressed in all-black, decides he has taken Atletico as far as he can. Having joined a club teetering close to the relegation zone in 2011, he lifted them out of danger and won the Europa League title, the Copa del Rey and La Liga within three years. Each triumph saw key players depart, invariably to richer clubs, yet Simeone always contrived to rebuild his side. "To be with Atletico is to be perseverant, competitive, never give up, fight against the difficulties and to know that there are opponents who are better than us," he said at one stage. "Knowing they are better makes us more competitive to battle against them." The question is whether he will want to go through the whole process again.

### Ends in disappointment

Whatever he decides, it is almost certain that Simeone will be back somewhere, more likely than not at a club looking to upstage more glamorous rivals. Over the course of his career, Simeone has made a habit of picking himself up, dusting himself down and starting all over again. Simeone suffered a huge setback relatively early in

his career when he was in the Argentina team which infamously lost 5-0 at home to Colombia in a World Cup qualifier.

Nevertheless, he went on to win 106 caps for his country and played in three World Cups, although those themselves all ended in disappointment. There was, though, also plenty of success amid the frustration including two Copa America titles with Argentina. Revered wherever he has gone for his undying commitment to the cause, he helped Atletico Madrid to win a league and cup double in 1996 and repeated the trick with Lazio four years later.

His coaching career has been a story of similar ups and downs. It began in spectacular style as he led Estudiantes to their first Argentine championship in 23 years after they dramatically overhauled Boca Juniors, then won the same title with River Plate two years later. At one point, he was seen as favourite to replace Alfio Basile as Argentina coach but was swept aside when it became clear that Diego Maradona wanted the job.

His career then took a dive as he quit River amid a dire campaign which left him so angry that he broke his hand in one game after smashing it against the substitutes' bench in a fit of rage. His philosophy has always stayed the same, however, and there was no change on Saturday. "We just have to keep on working, and persisting," he said. "Nobody remembers the team that comes second. It's a failure when you lose two finals and that is something you have to accept and heal your wounds at home." — Reuters



MILAN: Atletico Madrid's Argentinian coach Diego Simeone looks on during the UEFA Champions League final football match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid at San Siro Stadium. — AFP

## ZIZU ASSURED PLACE IN REAL MADRID HEARTS

**MILAN:** In leading Real Madrid to their 11th European Cup less than five months after inheriting an unhappy team from Rafael Benitez, Zinedine Zidane has cemented his heroic status at the Bernabeu and appears to have assured his immediate future. Although neither Zidane nor Real's notoriously trigger happy president Florentino Perez have confirmed whether the French coach would remain charge, there could be no political capital gained from axing the coach now.

The Frenchman has enjoyed special status since his wondrous volley against Bayer Leverkusen won the 2002 Champions League, although he must know Saturday's shootout victory over Atletico Madrid does not guarantee him a long future at the club. He only needs to look at the fate of the last two coaches to lead Real to European glory, Vicente del Bosque and Carlo Ancelotti, both sacked 12 months later, as a reminder of that.

The only Real coach to create any sort of dynasty was Miguel Munoz, like Zidane a European Cup winner as a Real midfielder, who spent 14 years in charge, winning Europe's top prize in 1960 and 1966 and nine La Liga titles. Having conquered Europe with Real as a player, coach and assistant, Zidane's next task is to wrest the La Liga title back from Barcelona, who finished a solitary point above his side. Zidane picked up more points than Barca and Atletico since succeeding Benitez on Jan. 4, including victories in the last 12 games,

although the football his team played lacked the sparkle of Luis Enrique's championship-winning side. The most graceful of players, Zidane has proved to be a great pragmatist as a coach, stressing on the eve of the final that his team's plan was to "run, run and run".

### Happy atmosphere

With Cristiano Ronaldo clearly not match fit, Real's win owed more to the gutsy determination of defensive midfielder Casemiro and man of the match Sergio Ramos than the flair players Perez loves to recruit.

Zidane never tires of stressing the value of hard work and his team selections reflect that, sidelining the likes of James Rodriguez and Isco, players overflowing with talent but reluctant to dig in and help the team out defensively. Another key to Zidane's early success with Real has been to create a happy atmosphere among a squad that never bonded with predecessor Benitez. "There is a very good feeling between us and Zidane, he has brought happiness, hope, humility and hard work," Ramos said. Zidane added: "What I've brought to Real is my positive attitude. I believe in hard work, we already have a lot of quality in the team. But work is more important than quality." Hard work may have delivered Zidane Europe's biggest prize in his infancy as a coach, but he will need to oversee a higher standard of football if he is to remain in charge long term. — Reuters



MILAN: Real Madrid's French coach Zinedine Zidane poses with the trophy after Real Madrid won the UEFA Champions League final football match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid at San Siro Stadium. — AFP

## 5 KEY MOMENTS FROM THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

**MILAN:** Five key moments from Real Madrid's penalty shootout victory over Atletico Madrid in Saturday's Champions League final:

### Ramos strikes

Sergio Ramos fired Real Madrid into a 15th-minute lead to cap a bright start from Zinedine Zidane's side. After breaking Atletico hearts with a stoppage-time equalizer in an eventual 4-1 extra-time victory when the two sides met in the 2014 final in Lisbon, Spain international Ramos delivered another painful blow to Real's city rivals. Toni Kroos' whipped free-kick was flicked on by Gareth Bale with Ramos lunging to poke the ball past Jan Oblak from inside the six-yard box. Replays showed he was offside. But Ramos joined Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Samuel Eto'o and Raul as the only players to score in two Champions League finals.

### Griezmann pays the penalty

Antoine Griezmann spurned a glorious chance to equalise for Atletico when the France striker crashed his penalty against the crossbar

with the second half just three minutes old. Pepe bundled over Fernando Torres inside the area less than 60 seconds after the restart, but Griezmann, who had already seen a spot-kick saved by Keylor Navas during a 1-1 draw in the league in October, drilled his effort against the woodwork. Griezmann became the fifth player in European Cup/Champions League history to miss a penalty in the final and the first since Arjen Robben for Bayern Munich against Chelsea in 2012.

### 'BBC' all denied

Having made a stunning sixth-minute stop to deny Casemiro, Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak again twice came to Atletico's rescue as Real sought to grab a crucial second goal. First, the Slovenia international spread himself well to smother a Karim Benzema effort on 70 minutes as Real broke on the counterattack. Eight minutes later Oblak then blocked at the feet of the competition's record goalscorer Cristiano Ronaldo, with Gareth Bale then seeing a follow-up shot cleared off the line by Stefan Savic.

### Carrasco comes up trumps

Half-time substitute Yannick Carrasco popped up with the equalizer to make it 1-1 on 79 minutes. The Belgium international, who replaced Augusto Fernandez at the interval, slid in at the far post to convert a superb volleyed right-wing cross from Juanfran. It was Carrasco's first goal in Europe this season as the 22-year-old also became the first Belgian player to score in a European Cup final.

### Ronaldo wins it

Cristiano Ronaldo shook off an underwhelming display over 120 minutes in Milan to score the winning penalty in the shootout. All seven players had scored before Juanfran, who himself scored the decisive spot-kick when Atletico beat PSV Eindhoven in the last 16, struck the base of the post. That left Ronaldo to take centre stage to clinch the title. The Portuguese made no mistake, coolly slotting past Oblak to secure a record 11th European crown for Real Madrid. — AFP

# Sports

German populist party slammed over racist Boateng comments



11th European crown caps rollercoaster Real season



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OKLAHOMA CITY: Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors drives against Serge Ibaka #9 of the Oklahoma City Thunder during the fourth quarter in game six of the Western Conference Finals during the 2016 NBA Playoffs at Chesapeake Energy Arena. — AFP

## WARRIORS RALLY TO FORCE GAME 7 WITH THUNDER

### THOMPSON, CURRY KEEP DEFENDING CHAMPS' HOPES ALIVE

**WASHINGTON:** Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry saved the season for defending NBA champion Golden State, sparking a stunning fourth-quarter rally to beat host Oklahoma City 108-101 and avoid playoff elimination.

Thompson scored a career playoff high 41 points, including an NBA one-game playoff record 11 3-pointers in 18 attempts, and NBA Most Valuable Player Curry added 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Warriors leveled the best-of-seven Western Conference final at three wins each.

"I'm so proud of everybody," Thompson said. "We were down almost the whole game. We never gave up and our resiliency got us through. We kept our composure. We knew if we didn't get it done we were going home." The winner of today's game seven at Oakland will advance to the NBA Finals, facing the LeBron James-led Cleveland

Cavaliers when the best-of-seven championship series opens Thursday. But after squandering a 3-1 series lead by botching a golden chance to advance at home, the Thunder must win on a court where the Warriors lost only twice all season. "We can't hang our heads. We have another game to play," Thunder guard Russell Westbrook said. "Win or go home. Simple as that."

#### Among their greatest wins

Trailing 89-81 with nine minutes remaining, the Warriors closed with a 27-12 run — 19-5 over the final seven minutes and 12-2 in the last three-in a thriller Thompson and Curry ranked among their greatest wins. "It has to be because of the situation," Thompson said. "Everybody probably counted us out. It was great fun to play with that fire, that emotion." This was a huge win for us," Curry said. "Doesn't win us a ring-we

don't want to pop the champagne or anything. It ranks right up there for sure because we're still alive." Thompson scored the first nine points of the fourth quarter for Golden State and added two more clutch 3-pointers in the period after a brief pep talk from Curry before the last quarter began. "Steph told me, 'This is your time. Show what you can do out there,'" Thompson said. "I tried to take that to heart."

Thunder star Kevin Durant made four turnovers in the last 99 seconds and Westbrook lost two more in the dramatic final moments. "They got their hands on some balls, but for the most part we tried to make the right plays, make the right decisions, especially down the stretch," Westbrook said.

#### Thunder 'stagnant' late

Thunder coach Billy Donovan wanted to see more players involved in those key plays.

"We just didn't help each other enough in those situations," Donovan said. "They made big plays coming down the stretch and we got a little stagnant." The Warriors got more intense. "We had so much more grit, the toughness that was lacking in (lost games) three and four," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "Game five helped us regain our confidence. We knew we could come in here and play a much better game." Curry's 3-pointer with 2:47 remaining tied the game at 99-99 and Thompson made the last of his 3-pointers with 95 seconds remaining to put the Warriors ahead to stay at 104-101.

"This game was probably the hardest game of our lives," Curry said. "We felt like we had control of the game. We just needed a stop or two. They got some garbage, the ball bouncing their way. We felt like we could turn the game around, and we did." "We've got to keep it going at home. We've got a great

opportunity." The Warriors, who produced the best regular season mark in NBA history at 73-9 in this campaign, kept defensive poise down the stretch. "That has been our calling card, made us a championship-caliber team," Curry said. "Down the stretch we stayed disciplined. "Game seven, if we give that same effort, we'll be fine." Thompson's amazing 3-point shooting in the final minutes stole the show, shocking even backcourt partner Curry, who this year set an NBA record for 3-pointers in a season. "It was unbelievable," Curry said. "We needed every single one of them."

"All Klay needs is a sliver of daylight. The shots he made were huge. I'm sure there's more in the chamber for game seven. We need that punch." Kerr has learned to live with the long-range heroics of Thompson and Curry. "They walk that fine line between lethal and crazy," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "We have to live with that." — AFP

## WAWRINKA SETS UP RAMOS-VINOLAS CLASH IN FRENCH OPEN LAST-EIGHT

**PARIS:** Defending champion Stan Wawrinka moved into the French Open quarter-finals yesterday where he will face a Spanish left-hander who isn't named Rafael Nadal. That honor falls to unheralded Albert Ramos-Vinolas who reached his first Grand Slam last-eight with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Canadian eighth seed Milos Raonic.

Third seed Wawrinka, for his part, saw off Serbia's Viktor Troicki 7-6 (7/5), 6-7 (7/9), 6-3, 6-2 for his 11th straight win in the year's second Grand Slam. "It was far from easy with tough conditions-heavy and cold, but I am happy to have come through it," 31-year-old Wawrinka said. "It was a big battle, but I was able to stay calm and win this match."

It was Wawrinka's fifth win in five meetings with Troicki whose challenge fizzled out after he required treatment for a right thigh injury at 4-1 down in the third set. Ramos-Vinolas, 28, had never got beyond the second round of any major before this Roland Garros and had failed to win a match at the tournament since 2011.

But the world number 55, who is only his country's ninth best player, ensured a left-hander from Spain would be in the last-eight after the injury-enforced withdrawal of nine-

time champion Nadal. "I had lost four times in a row here so I am very happy," said the shock winner who had also won just four matches in his entire career at the majors before coming to Paris. "I played a great match. I think the cloudy conditions helped me as they made the court slower."

#### Under-powered

He trails Wawrinka 6-0 in career meetings including last week in Geneva where he won just two games. "Wawrinka is the titleholder. He's hugely powerful. Last week I played him, and he won very easily," said Ramos-Vinolas. "He didn't leave any opportunity for me to play my tennis. But this is another tournament." Raonic had been bothered by a left hip injury in the last round and the 25-year-old was obviously under-powered on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

With John McEnroe, who has agreed to work with him on his Wimbledon campaign, watching from the stands, Raonic was broken twice in the first set. He was a break to the good at 2-0 in the second but Ramos-Vinolas roared back to claim a two-sets lead. The

Spaniard had only ever defeated one top 10 player before yesterday and that was the impressive scalp of Roger Federer in Shanghai in 2015.

He was soon to make it two when he broke Raonic for a 5-4 lead in the third set and claimed the tie on a third match point in a seven-minute 10th game. The Spaniard finished with just 13 unforced errors compared to 38 for the big Canadian.

#### National landmarks

Later yesterday, Andy Murray takes a 5-0 career lead over John Isner into their last-16 clash as both men seek to set new national landmarks in Paris. Second seed Murray is bidding to move ahead of Fred Perry, who was a five-time quarter-finalist, for the most Roland Garros last-eights reached by a British man.

Isner, the 15th seed, is aiming to become the first American man to reach the last-eight since Andre Agassi in 2003. Murray has won all of the pair's five meetings but they have never met on clay. Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori has a 6-2 record over French ninth seed Richard Gasquet ahead of their last-16 tie. — AFP



PARIS: Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka clenches his fist after winning a point as against Serbia's Viktor Troicki during their fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium. — AP



PARIS: Protestors face riot police officers during a demonstration held as part of nationwide labor actions in Paris. — AP

## GOVT WON'T BOW TO REFORM PROTESTORS: VALLS

### FRENCH FUEL SHORTAGES IMPROVE AS HINTS OF COMPROMISE EMERGE

PARIS: French Prime Minister Manuel Valls is determined not to join a long list of politicians who have conceded defeat to protesters, he told the Journal Du Dimanche (JDD) newspaper, as the government prepares to dig in its heels on labor reform.

The hardline CGT union has organized street protests, train strikes and refinery blockades to pressure the government to scrap plans that would make it easier for companies to hire and fire workers. "If we gave in to the street and to CGT because we were obsessed over the short term by 2017 (presidential elections), we would lose everything," Valls was quoted as saying by the French newspaper. In the mid-1990s Prime Minister Alain Juppe triggered France's worst unrest in decades because he would not budge on pension reform but he eventually backed down after

weeks of industrial action and protests. The government is under pressure to find a solution to the latest stand-off before the June 10 start of the Euro 2016 soccer tournament in France, which the CGT has threatened to disrupt. Finance Minister Michel Sapin emphasized the government's stance. "First and foremost we must be firm," Sapin said in an interview with Reuters and three European newspapers. "Doing otherwise would be wrong with respect to (other) labor unions, most of whom support the text."

The more moderate CFDT union backs proposed reform that will allow businesses to lay off staff more easily in hard times but also give unions more power to negotiate unilateral deals with companies rather than national collective agreement. Sapin said he agreed with the tough stance taken by Valls and that he had been mis-

understood when he told LCP television last week that it might be possible to tweak the part of the draft bill that would let companies opt out of national obligations on labor protection if they adopt in-house deals on pay and conditions with the consent of a majority of employees. For all the tough talk, however, another minister said that the government could not let the Euro 2016 tournament be disrupted because it would be bad for France's image. One option could be for lawmakers to tweak the bill when it returns to the lower house of parliament for a second reading, the minister said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The government pushed the bill through the lower house with a decree, bypassing the first reading. The final vote is expected in July.

France's nationwide fuel shortages - the consequence of a bare-knuckle dispute over

labor reforms which have pit militant unions against the government - are easing amid signs that both sides may be seeking a compromise. Fuel shortages that have led to long lines at the pump are dissipating, the country's junior transport minister, Alain Vidalies, told journalists Saturday, although he warned that the crisis wasn't over and unions, including the far left CGT, have promised even more dramatic action next week.

Some union-watchers say both sides have dropped hints that they're looking for a way out of the confrontation. "We're looking at a return to the negotiating table," said Dominique Andolfatto, a professor of political science at the University of Burgundy and the author of a book on the sociology of French unions. He noted that CGT boss Philippe Martinez said he wanted to meet President

Francois Hollande and highlighted recent statements from French ministers which suggested aspects of their reforms were open for renegotiation.

"They're thinking, on both sides, about solutions that can help them save face," Andolfatto said. Panic at the pump has been among the most serious effects of weeks of French labor action, which has shuttered refineries, blocked fuel depots and disrupted travel across the country. There are increasing worries that the strikes will interfere with football's European Championship in mid-June. France's Socialist government says the labor reforms are needed to reduce France's persistently high unemployment rate. The CGT and other left-wingers say the new measures will tear apart the country's social safety net without generating real work. — Agencies

## FRENCH FM RULES OUT GOOGLE TAX DEAL

PARIS: France will "go all the way" to ensure that multinationals operating on its soil pay their taxes and more cases could follow after Google and McDonald's were targeted by tax raids, Finance Minister Michel Sapin said. Sapin, speaking in an interview with Reuters and three European newspapers, ruled out negotiating any deal with Google on back taxes, as Britain did in January. Dozens of French police raided Google's Paris headquarters on Tuesday, escalating an investigation on suspicions of tax evasion. Investigators searched McDonald's French headquarters on May 18 in another tax probe. "We'll go all the way. There could be other cases," Sapin said.

Raids this month by police and justice investigators build on the work started by tax authorities three or four years ago, when they transferred tax data to judicial authorities that look into any possible criminal angle, Sapin said. Google, McDonald's and other multinational firms such as Starbucks are under increasing pressure in Europe from public opinion and governments angry at the way businesses exploit their presence around the world to minimize the tax they pay. Google says it is fully complying with French law and McDonald's declined to comment on the search, referring back to past comments that it is proud to be one of the biggest tax payers in France. Sapin said he could not discuss what sums were at stake because of the confidentiality of tax matters. A source in his ministry had said in February that French tax authorities were seeking some 1.6 billion euros (\$1.78 billion) in back taxes from Google.

### NO DEAL

Asked if tax authorities could strike a deal with the tech giant, he said: "We don't do deals like Britain, we apply the law." Google agreed in January to pay 130 million pounds (\$190 mil-

lion) in back taxes to Britain, prompting criticism from opposition lawmakers and campaigners that the sum was too low.

"There won't be negotiations," Sapin said, adding that there was always the possibility of some marginal adjustments "but that's not the logic we're in." Google, now part of Alphabet Inc, pays little tax in most European countries because it reports almost all sales in Ireland. This is possible thanks to a loophole in international tax law but it hinges on staff in Dublin concluding all sales contracts.

This week's police raid is part of a separate judicial investigation into aggravated tax fraud and the organized laundering of the proceeds of tax fraud. Should it be found guilty of that, Google faces either up to 10 million euros (\$11 million) in fines or a fine of half of the value of the laundered amount involved.

A preliminary inquiry into McDonald's was opened early this year after former investigating magistrate and politician Eva Joly filed a lawsuit in December on behalf of an employee committee, a judicial source said. French business magazine L'Expansion reported last month that authorities had sent McDonald's France a 300 million euro bill for unpaid taxes on profits believed to have been funneled through Luxembourg and Switzerland.

It said tax officials had accused the giant US burger chain of using a Luxembourg-based entity, McD Europe Franchising, to shift profits to lower-tax jurisdictions by billing the French division excessively for use of the company brand and other services.

The judicial source confirmed the investigation was looking into this. The government said this week that it had raked in 3.3 billion euros in back taxes and penalties from just five multinationals in 2015. "Nothing prevents big groups from coming to us and declaring their taxes," Sapin said. — Reuters



CHENNAI: Indian fishermen load their nets onto mechanized boats in Chennai yesterday as they prepare to set sail after a 45 day fishing ban on the east coast of India. Authorities in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, had imposed a 45-day ban on fishing by mechanized vessels to protect marine life with only 'country boats' operating within five nautical miles of the coast exempted in the seas of The Bay of Bengal. — AFP

## ABU DHABI GOVT MAY ACT TO ADDRESS PROPERTY GLUT

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi's property market is over-supplied and the government may take steps to address the imbalance, a senior official said yesterday.

Prices in the UAE capital's residential sector were flat last year, after rising about 25 percent a year in 2013 and 2014, as affordability levels became stretched and the government cut spending following the slump in oil prices. First-quarter residential prices were little changed and property consultants CBRE last month described buying appetite and overall sentiment as weak. Rival firm JLL warned prices could come under

downward pressure if transaction volumes remain low. "Today, when we look at statistics it shows there's greater supply than demand," Ali Majid Al-Mansouri, chairman of Abu Dhabi's economic department, told reporters on the sidelines of a business forum. "We are studying this and if there's a big difference between supply and demand we'll meet that with innovative solutions to make sure there is a balance," he said, without elaborating on what measures the government might take.

JLL said in a report last month that the market remained stable despite the continued impact of

lower oil prices and a reduction in government expenditure. "While there are some initial signs of government spending starting to return - particularly for mega tourism attractions - we expect caution to prevail," David Dudley, the head of JLL's Abu Dhabi Office said in the report.

"The extent to which market stability is maintained very much depends on the return of domestic government spending in spite of a reduction in oil revenues," he said. Unit completions are at a 10-year low, a situation JLL attributed to wariness on the part of developers, tightening liquidity and stiffer regulation. — Reuters

# NISSAN BREAKS NEW GROUND WITH REDESIGNED AND REENGINEERED ALL-NEW PICK-UP NAVARA

## SETTINGS NEW STANDARDS FOR SEGMENT IN TOUGHNESS, PERFORMANCE, STYLING



**DUBAI:** Nissan launched for the Middle East its all-new Nissan pick-up Navara, which sets completely new standards for the segment in toughness, performance, styling and advanced features. The launch event took place at the rugged Pyrenees Mountains of Barcelona, Spain, to showcase the off-roading capabilities of the vehicle which are perfectly matched to perform in this grueling terrain.

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara has already been named International Pick-up of the Year 2016 in Europe. It builds on Nissan's 80-year heritage with 14 million pickups sold in over 170 countries through 12 generations. Combining toughness and modernity, it is the ideal vehicle for dual users who depend on their pick-up for professional and personal use.

Speaking at the launch event, Samir Cherfan, Nissan Middle East's Managing Director said, "The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara concept merges the previous Navara modernity with the Nissan Pick-up's toughness which has made it one of the best-selling pickups in the GCC over decades. With segment leadership across so many areas in the all-new Nissan pick-up Navara, we anticipate our sales in GCC market will increase by 41 percent over the next 3 years," Cherfan added.

In-line with Nissan's promise of 'Innovation that Excites', the all-new pick-up Navara intro-

duces an array of new features and in-car technology to a segment that has traditionally been slow to adopt the very latest in comfort and safety while delivering unmatched fuel efficiency and the lowest maintenance costs for its class. Many of these features set the benchmark for this segment and provide customers with more advanced levels of technology than ever seen in a pick-up.

### Key features of the all-new pick-up Navara: Tough:

#### Segment leader in power and Torque

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara is changing the standards that modern pickups are measured by, and with one engine size 2.5l (diesel and gasoline) it is already a segment leader in power and torque, offering the highest horse power in its class of 168 Hp and 403Nm of torque (within 2.5 and 2.7 liter engines range).

#### Class leading transmission

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara offers class-leading transmissions and is a segment leader in delivering a 7-speed automatic transmission. The all-new Navara is also the only Japanese pick-up that offers a 6-speed manual transmission in any pick-up class, making it uniquely appealing to both types of drivers.

As customers have come to expect, the new model is as capable off-road as it is on-road. The four-wheel drive system builds on the strengths of the previous generation model to deliver surefooted traction over rough terrain. The system is engaged and disengaged electronically via a rotary button located on the dashboard. For best economy and handling drivers can stay in 2WD mode on the road, while for off-road conditions drivers can select the 4HI mode while driving up to 100km/h.

#### Fully boxed frame

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara's full boxed frame delivers improved stiffness and durability that is usually reserved for full-size trucks, while boosting the Navara's payload to 1-ton.

Improving refinement and delivering a SUV-style driving experience was a key element of the model's development. To help achieve this without compromising the vehicle's acclaimed off-road ability, Nissan designed an all-new rigid leaf suspension system, providing significantly improved ride comfort and improved handling.

#### Advanced:

#### Striking interior and exterior design

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara has an advanced design that encompasses many

unique design features as standard including signature LED headlamps, electric folding side mirrors, roof rails, side steps, 16-inch alloy wheels and chrome exterior accents to complement its exciting, modern look. Moreover with D/C bed size of 2.5M2 this makes it a segment leader. The strikingly designed interior brings new levels of luxury and refinement to the segment, too, with a leather steering wheel and a 5-inch central infotainment screen providing a premium look and feel.

#### SUV-Like Technologies

Nissan has a proven track record in the SUV segment and has brought much of that design influence to the fore with this new pick-up. The all-new interior has been designed for comfort and modernity, and is packed with SUV-like technologies that come as standard including a 5-inch color display with rear-view reverse camera, Bluetooth connectivity, parking sensors, dual zone air-conditioning, smart key entry with push-button starter, cruise control and audio switch controls on the steering wheel.

#### Segment Leader in Running cost

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara is also a segment leader in running costs due to its unmatched fuel efficiency and lowest maintenance costs for its class.

#### Unique Safety Features

The all-new Nissan pick-up Navara comes equipped with advanced safety features as standard such as ABS brakes and traction control, as well as SUV-like features that include Limited Slip Differential (LSD), Hill Start Assist which prevents the NAVARA from rolling backwards when starting up a steep ascent, as well as Hill Decent Assist to limit downhill speeds without using the brakes.

"In our market," continued Cherfan, "we face unique challenges and any vehicle that is used for work as well as play needs to be built with integrity if it's to last. The all-new pick-up Navara takes that philosophy and shows what is possible when Nissan brings its wealth of experience in building a tough and reliable, yet stylish and comfortable vehicle."

The all-new pick-up Navara, with its impressive array of performance, safety, technology, comfort and convenience features, and coupled with efficient running costs make this vehicle the ideal partner for work and leisure.

The all-new pick-up Navara is now offered with a choice of petrol and diesel engines in eight grade/levels and will have a price range between \$18,232 and \$27,967 in the GCC. Prices per market will be revealed at their respective launches and will vary from region to region.

## News

in brief

### US dollar up against Kuwaiti dinar at 0.302

**KUWAIT:** The US dollar went up against the Kuwaiti dinar yesterday, exchanging at KD 0.302, while the euro went down to KD 0.335, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said. The sterling pound went down to KD 0.441 as well as the Swiss franc at KD 0.303 while the Japanese yen was firm at KD 0.002.

### Iran sees West Karoon oil output at 280,000 bpd

**DUBAI:** Iran expects production at its West Karoon oilfield to reach 280,000 barrels per day (bpd) by November, the managing director of state-run National Iranian Oil Company was quoted as saying yesterday. Rokneddin Javadi, speaking to the Oil Ministry's news agency Shana, did not give comparative figures.

### Aluminium Bahrain capital cost of expansion project cut

**ABU DHABI:** Aluminium Bahrain, owner of one of the world's largest smelters, said yesterday the global drop in oil prices has cut the projected capital cost of its Line 6 expansion by \$500 million to a total of \$3 billion. The Line 6 project is expected to boost Alba's annual output by 540,000 tons to 1.5 million tons a year with "first hot metal" due to flow in early January 2019. "Following our ongoing review in response to the lower oil prices and the commodity market's soft conditions, the capex has significantly shrunk to approximately \$3 billion," a statement by the company said. The firm also said it was continuing to explore different possibilities for the structuring and financing of the project.

# NIGERIA TO KEEP NAIRA STEADY, SUPPORTS FLEXIBLE FX POLICY

**ABUJA:** Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said yesterday the government had resolved to keep the naira's exchange rate steady while supporting the central bank's decision to move away from the dollar peg, which is seen as overvaluing the naira.

Last week the central bank said it would shift to a more flexible exchange rate policy to stop Africa's biggest economy sliding into recession, but has yet to say exactly what the new policy is. "We resolved to keep the Naira steady as, in the past, devaluation had done dreadful harm to the Nigerian economy," Buhari said in a speech marking his first anniversary in office. Buhari got elected on a ticket to fix a country gripped by corruption and mismanagement, but his government has been grappling with the worst economic crisis for decades as low oil prices have whacked public finances and the naira.

A shortage of dollars and currency curbs imposed by the central bank has forced firms to shut down plants and lay off tens of thousands of people as they are unable to get dollars to import spare parts or goods to sell. "I supported the monetary authority's decision to ensure alignment between monetary policy and fiscal

policy," Buhari said. "We shall keep a close look on how the recent measures affect the naira and the economy."

"But we cannot get away from the fact that a strong currency is predicated on a strong economy," he said, reiterating his opposition to a devaluation. The naira fell to 350 to the dollar on the parallel market this week after the central bank announced the policy change. It has kept the official rate at around 197. Buhari also defended a decision to remove fuel subsidies and raise pump prices by up to 67 percent as "very painful" but necessary to adjust government spending to austerity.

"It is even more painful for me that a major producer of crude oil with four refineries that once exported refined products is today having to import all of its domestic needs," he said.

"This is what corruption and mismanagement has done to us and that is why we must fight these ills," Buhari said the central Bank will offer more fiscal incentives firm with a local production to expand promote mining and farming and end reliance on oil. But the 73-year old told the nation of 188 million: "The measures we must take, may lead to hardships." — Reuters

# OOREDOO WELCOMES RAMADAN WITH AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

**KUWAIT:** Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, is welcoming the Holy Month of Ramadan with an exclusive offer for its customers, which grants them with unlimited calls between Ooredoo lines, 100 local minutes, 5 GB of high-speed 4G+ internet, and an iPhone 6 for a monthly rate of KD 9 only. Offers will be available throughout Ramadan at the widely-spread Ooredoo branches.

Commenting on the offer, Mijbil Alayoub, Director of Corporate Communications at Ooredoo Kuwait said: "We are glad to welcome Ramadan with such an exclusive offer which is tailor-made to fit with the generous nature of the Holy Month. The offer also comes in line with our goals and objectives which aim at providing customers with the latest technology through unique offers and packages that do not only meet their needs but exceed their expectations."

The KD 9 rate is for the iPhone 6 with 16GB of capacity for a period of 24 months; extra charges apply on phones with higher capacity.

Customers will also be able to roll-over unused internet data, minutes and SMS to the following month. With new Shamel, subscribers have the flexibility to transfer the ownership of their contract to anyone without paying any fine or extra fee. Further advantages of Shamel's new packages include the ability of freezing the contract while traveling, in addition to getting an additional mobile device, adding its costs to their monthly bills.

All customers can get more information about Shamel new packages by visiting one of Ooredoo outlet or official retailer spread across Kuwait.

Ooredoo's operations in Kuwait date back to December 1999 when it launched wireless services as the second operator. The company today provides mobile, broadband internet and corporate managed services tailored to the needs of customers and businesses. Ooredoo is guided by its vision of enriching people's lives and its belief that it can stimulate human growth by leveraging communications to help people achieve their full potential.

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.750
Indian Rupees	4.519
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.064
Nepali Rupees	2.830
Singapore Dollar	221.200
Hongkong Dollar	39.023
Bangladesh Taka	3.864
Philippine Peso	6.496
Thai Baht	8.518

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.856
Qatari Riyal	83.290
ani Riyal	787.552
Bahraini Dinar	805.230
UAE Dirham	82.552

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	32.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.519
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.217
Tunisian Dinar	146.050
Jordanian Dinar	427.160
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.020
Syrian Lira	2.161
Morocco Dirham	31.568

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.050
Euro	340.390
Sterling Pound	445.480
Canadian dollar	234.650

Turkish lira	103.430
Swiss Franc	307.980
Australian Dollar	220.620
US Dollar Buying	301.850

#### GOLD

20 Gram	245.870
10 Gram	125.850
5 Gram	63.770

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.300
Canadian Dollar	233.050
Sterling Pound	444.115
Euro	338.010
Swiss Frank	302.715
Bahrain Dinar	802.390
UAE Dirhams	82.820
Qatari Riyals	84.035
Saudi Riyals	81.560
Jordanian Dinar	427.255
Egyptian Pound	34.058
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.066
Indian Rupees	4.518
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippines Peso	6.492
Cyprus pound	577.690
Japanese Yen	3.745
Syrian Pound	2.375
Hong Kong Rupees	3.820
Nepalese Rupees	2.888
Malaysian Ringgit	74.915

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.515
Thai Bhat	9.460
Turkish Lira	102.630

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

COUNTRY SELL CASH	Europe	SELLDRAFT
British Pound	0.437396	0.446396
Czech Korune	0.004541	0.016541
Danish Krone	0.041544	0.046544
Euro	0.032423	0.0340423
Norwegian Krone	0.032624	0.037824
Romanian Leu	0.086932	0.086932
Slovakia	0.009037	0.019037
Swedish Krona	0.032587	0.037557
Swiss Franc	0.297808	0.308008
Turkish Lira	0.097745	0.108045
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.209843	0.221343
New Zealand Dollar	0.197330	0.206830
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227666	0.236166
US Dollars	0.298950	0.303450
US Dollars Mint	0.299450	0.303450
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003446	0.004020
Chinese Yuan	0.044696	0.048196
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037000	0.039750
Indian Rupee	0.004190	0.004580

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002682	0.002862
Kenyan Shilling	0.003117	0.003117
Korean Won	0.000247	0.000262
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070470	0.076470
Nepalese Rupee	0.002888	0.003058
Pakistan Rupee	0.002695	0.002975
Philippine Peso	0.006346	0.006626
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217452	0.223452
South African Rand	0.013516	0.022016
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001699	0.002279
Taiwan	0.009189	0.009369
Thai Baht	0.008149	0.008699

#### Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.797277	0.805277
Egyptian Pound	0.028016	0.033134
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000190	0.000250
Jordanian Dinar	0.423430	0.430930
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000152	0.000252
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020864	0.044864
Nigerian Naira	0.001250	0.001885
Omani Riyal	0.780723	0.786403
Qatar Riyal	0.082529	0.083742
Saudi Riyal	0.079927	0.080877
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.142488	0.150488
Turkish Lira	0.097745	0.108045
UAE Dirhams	0.081584	0.082733
Yemeni Riyal	0.001370	0.001450



## LEXUS SPREADS EXCITEMENT AT AL-CORNICHE CLUB FAMILY DAY EVENT

**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Lexus, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies has sponsored a family day event recently at Al-Corniche Club, exclusively for its members. The exciting and fun-filled event witnessed strong participation from majority of its members. The highlights of the event were Lexus test drive and art competition for kids.

Popular Lexus models in F range includ-

ing RC F, GS F, IS F-sport and RX F-sport were test driven by club members as they experienced the spirit of high performance powered by innovative engineering. Since introduction the Lexus F range has set new benchmark for the middle east luxury high performance car segment.

According to Philip Burrluck General Manager Lexus said "We are excited to partner

with Al-Corniche Club to bring the exciting F range test drive experience through iconic Lexus models. As Lexus continues to drive positive changes in the luxury automotive industry, we aim to engage with audience passionate about luxury and performance for an ultimate driving pleasure".

"I thoroughly enjoyed the test drive right from the press of the start button. The appeal-

ing look, innovative technology and sporty aesthetics carries the spirit of luxury high performance cars" said one of the members who test drove the GS F.

An art competition was also organized during the event, where enthusiastic children between the age group 4 to 15 participated to draw their dream Lexus car. Philip Burrluck General Manager Lexus and Gerard Oliver

General Manager Al-Corniche announced 6 winners of the art competition and presented them with gift vouchers. An art wall was also displayed at the Corniche reception area exhibiting some of the artwork. Drawing skills and imagination of kids surprised the parents and representatives from Al Sayer and Corniche while they sketched the Lexus car of their dreams in paper.



## GREECE BACK ON AGENDA AT VIENNA EUROZONE MEETING

**FRANKFURT:** The ECB, expected to hold fire on monetary policy at its meeting Thursday, will likely focus instead on welcoming Greece back into the fold of fully-fledged eurozone borrowers after a bailout deal, analysts said. European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi may well also use the lull in the bank's unprecedented stimulus drive to remind governments that they can't leave all the heavy lifting for Europe's recovery to central bankers alone.

"As the ECB is presently focusing on implementing the measures decided in March, the governing council is likely to sit tight at its meeting on Thursday," said Commerzbank economist Michael Schubert. The ECB's decision-making council is holding its regular policy meeting in Vienna this time round, rather than its Frankfurt home. The most recent package of measures-the further cut in interest rates, the expansion of the asset purchase program known as quantitative easing (QE) and a new program of ultra-cheap loans for banks-was only announced a little more than two months ago.

Neither the corporate bond purchase scheme nor the new loan scheme have even started yet, Capital Economics economist Jonathan Loynes noted.

### No need for further easing

Furthermore, recent economic data do not call for more stimulus for now. "The general news on the economy since the last meeting does not seem to warrant immediate further policy action," Loynes said. Nevertheless, Draghi "will be careful to leave the door to further policy loosening wide open," he said.

With no monetary easing on the cards, Greece is likely to be back on the agenda following last week's bailout deal, ECB watchers said. "The successful conclusion of the Greek bailout review on Tuesday suggests that the ECB will introduce a waiver and once more accept Greek government bonds as collateral for tender operations," said Commerzbank's Schubert.

Greek banks have been unable to take part in the ECB's regular refinancing operations for a long time now. Normally, in these, banks receive cash in the form of very low interest loans in return for "collateral"-high-quality assets, preferably sovereign bonds, placed at the central bank as guarantee.

But given the desperate state of Greece's finances, its sovereign bonds have been classified as "junk" for some years, and are not normally eligible to be used as collateral.

Initially, the ECB granted Greek banks a special waiver to get around this problem, allowing them to use Greek sovereign bonds as collateral, as long as Athens kept to the terms of its international bailout program.

But then the ECB suspended that waiver until Athens could thrash out an agreement with its international creditors on its bailout program. And since then, Greek banks have been kept afloat via the Emergency Liquidity Assistance or ELA program, which is much more expensive.

### Cost reduction

BayernLB economist Johannes Mayr said that allowing Greek banks to participate in the ECB's regular refinancing operations would represent a substantial cost reduction for the banks. They would also be able to participate in the new cheap-loan scheme known as TLTROs, Mayr said.

"This could have a very positive effect on credit growth and therefore on domestic demand in Greece," he said. The ECB might also allow Greece to take part in QE, which would bring down the very high risk premia on Greek sovereign bonds and boost the prospects of Greece being able to return to the capital markets, Mayr argued.

But that was some way off, analysts said. Draghi "may caution that there is much still to be done by both Greece and its creditors before the markets can conclude that the country's debts are sustainable," said Loynes at Capital Economics. — AFP



**JEDDAH:** The 125th Lulu hypermarket in Jeddah being inaugurated by Prince Saud Bin Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and Mazen Mohammed Batterjee, Vice Chairman of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce in the presence of many top officials and dignitaries including Arif Ali Al-Taaboor Al-Nuaimi, UAE Consul General, Yusuffali MA, Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director and Saifee Rupawala CEO of Lulu group.

## LULU OPENS 7TH OUTLET IN SAUDI ARABIA

**JEDDAH:** Lulu Group, Abu Dhabi-based retail major further expanded its operations in the hugely potential KSA market with the opening of its 125th hypermarket in Jeddah yesterday. It's the 7th lulu hypermarket in Saudi Arabia while 12 more are slated to be open by 2018.

The latest hypermarket which located conveniently in Amir Fawaz district of Jeddah was inaugurated by Prince Saud Bin Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and Mazen Mohammed Batterjee, Vice Chairman of Jeddah Chamber of Commerce in the presence of many top officials and dignitaries including UAE Consul General Arif Ali Al-Taaboor Al-Nuaimi.

Speaking to media after the launch, Yusuffali MA, Chairman of LULU Group, said, "We plan to launch 4 more hypermarkets this year, including one more in Jeddah and one each in Hail and Hofuf. By 2018, we will launch 8 more Hypermarkets in the Kingdom including the holy cities of Makkah and Madina".

Revealing his investment plans, Yusuffali said, "We have already invested SAR 1 billion and intend to further invest SAR 800 million in the next two years, taking our total investment to more than SAR 1.8 billion in the Kingdom. We are very confident that this great country will further prosper under the visionary leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud & Deputy Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. I am really excited by the new 2030 vision declared recently by the Deputy Crown Prince Moahammed Bin Salman and will explore all avenues to further boost our group's investment here".

With three stores in Capital Riyadh, one each in Al-Khobar, Jubail, Dammam and 8 commissaries in its entirety, LuLu has firmly established itself as one of the most preferred retail destination for both locals and the large expatriate community residing in the Kingdom. The newest hypermarket is spread across an area of over 200,000 sq. ft. and has the widest range of world class products at most competitive prices.



## WORLD'S LONGEST RAIL TUNNEL SEES LIGHT AT END OF DECADES' WAIT

**GENEVA:** When Swiss engineer Carl Eduard Gruner came up with the idea to build the world's longest rail tunnel under the Alps in 1947, he predicted the visionary project could be finished by the start of the 21st century. He would turn out to be off by 16 years.

Gruner's sketch and technical paper called "Journey through the Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT) in the year 2000" planted the seeds for a venture that will be launched this week and aims to transform travel through the heart of Europe. Constructing the 57-kilometre (35-mile) rail tunnel took just over 12 billion Swiss francs (\$12 billion, 11 billion euros) and some 2,400 workers, according to Swiss government statistics. More than 28 million tons of rock had to be excavated from the mountain near the Gotthard pass. The bumpy road from Gruner's initial idea to the official start of construction in 1999 included bureaucratic delays and concern over the project's financial viability.

Switzerland's federal government set up a committee in 1963 to look into the building of an alpine base tunnel but opinions were split over various proposals, before an official body eventually ruled in 1983 that the project was "not urgent".

Momentum in favor of the GBT built again ahead of a 1992 referendum, which supported the project, but public outcry about the expense put work on hold. Eventually, a November 1998 referendum closed the deal, when 64 percent of Swiss voters approved the

final plans along with funding schemes, including a new road tax.

### Zurich to Milan

"It's a big engineering achievement," said Martin Knights of the London-headquartered Institution of Civil Engineers. The tunnel runs from Erstfeld in the central Swiss canton of Uri, to Bodio in southern Ticino canton, and will shave the train journey from Zurich to Milan in northern Italy down to two hours and 40 minutes, roughly an hour less than it currently takes. The new route also aims to make rail freight more efficient, including by supporting heavier cargo, which should reduce the number of diesel-guzzling lorries on the roads, in turn improving traffic and curbing pollution. The number of daily rail passengers is also expected to increase from the current rate of 9,000 people to 15,000 by 2020, according to the Swiss federal railway service.

In a study of the GBT's possible economic benefits, Swiss bank Credit Suisse forecast a range of positive impacts driven by an easier movement of goods, growth in day-trip tourism and higher property values in the affected cantons linked to increased accessibility. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, along with Swiss officials, are due to attend Wednesday's grand opening, which will feature a ceremonial run. Full service starts in December. — AFP

# THIS WEEK TO PROVIDE CLUES ABOUT FED AND ECB MOVES

## GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

**FRANKFURT:** Next week will provide investors with clues as to how far the US Federal Reserve is from its next interest rate hike and whether the European Central Bank will see out the year without easing its monetary policy again.

Friday's US jobs data will be the highlight of the week after some members of the Fed's Federal Open Market Committee suggested a rate increase could come as early as June if the US economy recovered from a weak first quarter. A Fed rate hike could send shockwaves across the world at a time when the global economic is slowing, emerging markets

remain fragile and Britain's EU membership referendum on June 23 is on a knife-edge.

Economists expect US employers excluding farmers to have added 170,000 workers last month, slightly more than in April, with hourly wages growing by 0.2 percent from the previous month. "Anything above last month's 160,000 non-farm payrolls reading should be sufficient for the FOMC, whilst any unexpected swing in wage growth could foster some further thoughts of a June hike," economists at Dutch bank ING wrote in a note.

"On balance, the FOMC is in no hurry and may wait until July when the event risk sur-

rounding the UK referendum has passed." Trading in US federal funds futures on Friday implied a 26 percent chance of an increase at the June 14-15 meeting and 56 percent at the July 26-27 one, according to derivatives exchange CME Group.

Growing market expectations of a rate hike may be self-defeating, though, as they have been accompanied with a tightening of financial conditions via a stronger dollar and higher bond yields, some economists said. These may damage emerging economies where many companies borrow in dollars and knock down the price of some commodi-

ties, risking a repeat of the market rout seen after the Fed's first post-crisis rate hike in December.

"A stronger dollar is likely to increase pressure on China's currency and weigh on commodity prices, thereby re-introducing the key elements of stress that led to a sharp tightening of financial conditions earlier this year," economists at Deutsche Bank said.

"If this view is correct, the scope for further rate increases by the Fed is reduced." The dollar was on track for its strongest monthly performance since last November against a basket of currencies and yields on US Treasuries were higher on the week.

forecasts for this year and the next thanks to a rebound in oil prices, giving it some breathing space to allow its measures to work their way into the economy.

"The combined economics departments of the Eurosystem central banks must be signing in relief over this round of forecasts," Anatoli Annenkov, an economist at Societe Generale, said.

"With the Corporate Sector Purchase Programme and TLTRO II still to be launched, and higher headline inflation in the pipeline, the ECB will be in no hurry to launch any new measures."

Despite the bounce in oil prices and a continued, albeit modest, recovery in lending, inflation was expected to have remained negative in May. With price growth likely to remain below the ECB's target of almost 2 percent until as late as 2018, some economists were still betting on more ECB action before the end of the year. "We suspect there is some tolerance (about the time it would take to reach the inflation target)," Greg Fuzesi, an economist at JPMorgan, said.

"But, we also think that the 2018 inflation forecast will set the scene for an eventual easing, likely announced in September." Every three in five economists polled by Reuters do not expect the ECB to ease its policy again this year. — Reuters

### ECB AND INFLATION

Next week will also see the ECB hold its policy meeting on Thursday after the publication of inflation and lending data earlier in the week. The euro zone's central bank is expected to keep interest rates on hold and reaffirm its focus on implementing the stimulus package announced in March.

This included purchases of corporate bonds and a new round of so-called TLTRO loans for banks, both due to kick off in June. The ECB will likely have a rare opportunity to raise some of its inflation

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report										
Sunday 29 May 2016										
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low					
Price Index	▼ -3.86	5,392.81	5,396.67	5,396.67	5,351.80					
Weighted Index	▼ -0.78	356.89	357.67	357.78	354.27					
KSX 15	▼ -1.35	830.15	831.50	831.94	822.26					
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
MARIN	100	100	270	27	1	100	▲ 0.0			
IKARIUS	42.0	42.0	1,100	46	1	42.0	▲ 1.0			
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	▲ 0.0			
NAPESCO	720	700	333,676	233,773	4	720	▼ -10.0			
ENERGYH	51	51	1,200	61	3	51	▲ 1.0			
GPI	43.5	42.5	3,385,659	145,745	75	43.5	▼ -0.5			
ABAR	98	98	100	10	1	98	▲ 0.0			
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>3,722,005</b>	<b>379,662</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>777.86</b>	<b>▼ -3.39</b>			
KFOUC	178	168	52,955	9,054	15	178	▲ 2.0			
BPCO	520	500	53,760	27,405	8	520	▲ 0.0			
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	▲ 0.0			
ALQURAIN	206	202	35,196	7,161	11	202	▼ -8.0			
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>141,911</b>	<b>43,620</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>961.59</b>	<b>▼ -8.98</b>			
KCEM	375	375	195	73	2	375	▲ 5.0			
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0			
CABLE	390	380	488,299	196,359	54	390	▼ -15.0			
SHIP	168	150	20,150	3,024	5	168	▲ 10.0			
PCEM	990	990	10,993	10,883	1	990	▲ 0.0			
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	275	▲ 0.0			
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	▲ 0.0			
ACICO	305	300	40,110	12,034	5	305	▼ -5.0			
GGMC	310	310	10	3	1	310	▼ -15.0			
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	▲ 0.0			
KBMMK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	▲ 0.0			
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	▲ 0.0			
EQUIPMENT	65	60	6,637,774	421,967	139	64	▲ 1.0			
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.0			
GYPSSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0			
SALBOOKH	79	74	893,801	67,701	52	78	▲ 3.0			
AGLTY	470	470	140,126	65,859	10	470	▼ -25.0			
EDU	200	200	10	2	1	200	▲ 10.0			
CLEANING	41.5	38.5	937,420	37,889	41	41.5	▲ 2.5			
CITYGROUP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	530	▲ 0.0			
KGL	50	46.0	2,135,251	106,054	74	50	▲ 2.5			
KPCO	206	202	19,133	3,873	3	206	▲ 4.0			
HUMANSOFT	1,420	1,320	553	740	4	1,420	▲ 80.0			
NAFAIS	162	156	44,341	6,977	3	156	▼ -5.0			
SAFWAN	300	300	5,000	1,500	1	300	▼ -6.0			
GFC	34.5	34.5	500	17	1	34.5	▲ 0.0			
MAYADEEN	24.0	23.0	4,901,352	114,967	53	24.0	▼ -0.5			
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	▲ 0.0			
MTCC	75	75	500	38	1	75	▲ 1.0			
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	▲ 0.0			
ALAFCO	206	200	87,796	17,710	11	204	▲ 0.0			
MUBARRAD	66	63	2,984,361	194,494	91	64	▲ 1.0			
LOGISTICS	86	80	4,596,244	384,473	119	86	▲ 5.0			
SCEM	81	81	500	41	1	81	▲ 1.0			
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0			
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	72	▲ 0.0			
FCEM	75	75	2,000	150	1	75	▲ 0.0			
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▲ 0.0			
SPEC	77	77	80,000	4,620	4	77	▲ 0.0			
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>24,006,419</b>	<b>1,641,448</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>1068.47</b>	<b>▲ 12.70</b>			
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▲ 0.0			
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0			
PAPCO	106	106	110	12	1	106	▲ 0.0			
CATTL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	156	▲ 0.0			
DANAH	124	114	6,560,101	786,122	153	122	▲ 6.0			
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0			
FOOD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	2,340	▲ 0.0			
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>6,560,211</b>	<b>786,134</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1124.36</b>	<b>▲ 5.81</b>			
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0			
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0			
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▲ 0			
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>986.78</b>	<b>▼ -4.20</b>			
KCIN	1,300	1,300	100	130	1	1,300	▲ 100			
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0			
SULTAN	60	57	331,500	19,623	12	58	▼ -1			
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	▲ 0			
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0			
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0			
MUNTAZAHAT	110	108	41,139	4,520	8	110	▲ 0			
JAZEERA	77	76	175,000	13,400	10	77	▲ 0			
SOOR	900	890	52,207	46,819	4	900	▲ 0			
FAHRE	112	110	109,125	12,014	15	110	▲ 2			
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	▲ 0			
ALRAI	138	132	50,084	6,903	5	138	▲ 0			
ZIMAH	44.0	43.0	3,521,115	152,858	62	43.5	▲ 0			
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	▲ 0			
Mezzan	1,040	1,040	38,701	40,249	4	1,040	▼ -20			
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>4,318,971</b>	<b>296,515</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>942.96</b>	<b>▲ 7.54</b>			
ZAIN	350	345	1,035,100	357,496	33	350	▲ 0			
OOREDOO	1,100	1,060	656	718	6	1,100	▲ 0			
HITSTELEC	42.0	39.5	33,385,743	1,356,076	365	39.5	▼ -2			
VIVA	940	930	76,292	71,023	54	930	▲ 0			
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>34,497,791</b>	<b>1,785,312</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>604.79</b>	<b>▼ -3.56</b>			
NBK	640	620	1,071,492	674,640	43	630	▲ 0			
GBK	226	218	404,047	89,199	31	224	▼ -2			
CBK	430	425	12,900	5,497	3	425	▼ -10			
ABK	330	325	100,949	32,813	4	330	▲ 0			
ALMUTAHED	420	410	514	211	2	420	▲ 0			
KIB	198	194	1,836,351	359,039	36	196	▼ -4			
BURG	330	325	26,668	8,775	10	330	▲ 0			
KFIN	470	465	508,191	237,405	24	470	▲ 5			
BOUBAYAN	405	400	111,825	44,800	23	400	▼ -5			
AUB	182	182	101,155	18,410	4	182	▼ -2			
ITHMR	39.5	39.0	1,996,674	77,946	39	39.0	▼ -1			
WARBANK	172	170	1,864,063	320,535	90	172	▼ -2			
<b>Banks</b>			<b>8,034,829</b>	<b>1,869,268</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>810.25</b>	<b>▼ -6.76</b>			
KINS	300	285	4,467	1,335	2	285	▼ -15			
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	670	▲ 0.0			
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▲ 0.0			
WINS	102	102	1,735	177	4	102	▲ 0.0			
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0			
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	▲ 0.0			
WETHAQ	32.0	32.0	10,000	320	1	32.0	▼ -0.5			
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0			
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>16,202</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1011.63</b>	<b>▼ -12.06</b>			
Trades										
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change			
SOKOUK	37.0	35.0	3491503	126,944	75	36.5	▲ 0.0			
KRE	56	55	2,684,450	148,161	33	56	▼ -1.0			
URC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	▲ 0.0			
NRE	90	88</								





# The all-new Mercedes-Benz E-Class

The most intelligent executive sedan has arrived

**KUWAIT:** With its distinct, emotive design, exclusive interior and impressive number of innovations, the all-new Mercedes-Benz E-Class has arrived in Kuwait, AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co, the authorized general distributor of Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait announced yesterday. Marking the world premiere of numerous technical innovations that enable comfortable, safe driving, and a new dimension in driver assistance - the E-Class sees Mercedes-Benz taking another step closer to its goal of accident-free and autonomous driving.

Existing Mercedes-Benz customers enjoyed an exclusive preview of the new vehicle at the Mercedes-Benz showroom in Shuwaikh, before its market launch in Avenues Mall. Michael Rühle, Chief Executive Officer, A R Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co, said: "The E-Class has long been at the heart of Mercedes-Benz and considered the benchmark of excellence across the executive-class segment. World-class innovations and unparalleled intelligence ensure the 2016 model continues this legacy and brings a new meaning to the term 'comfort'; with lavish interior design, three levels of suspension and numerous advanced driver assistance systems. As far as automotive advancements go, the new E-Class is ahead of the field and our customers will most definitely enjoy this newest driving experience."

Characterised by hallmark Mercedes-Benz sedan proportions, the E-Class' elongated bonnet, coupé-style roof and broad-shouldered tail end creates an exciting silhouette. Its new extended powerful vehicle body is characterised by short overhangs, a long wheelbase, large wheels and taut well-defined flanks that display a fresh, stylish and dynamic interpretation of the feature line. The

muscular front end boasts a different look for each design and equipment line - EXCLUSIVE, AVANTGARDE and AMG Line models.

#### Next Level Interior Design

The interior of the all-new E-Class embodies the synthesis of emotion and intelligence. Optional extras include the Widescreen Cockpit with two brilliant next-generation high-resolution displays, each with a wide screen diagonal of 12.3 inches - unique in this segment. As the entire cockpit is fully digital, the driver is free to configure the information and views of relevance for them and thus create their own personal cockpit. In a first for a car, the steering wheel features touch-sensitive Touch Controls that, like a smartphone interface, respond precisely to horizontal and vertical swiping movements. In keeping with the motto "hands on the wheel, eyes on the road", this allows minimum driver distraction. As with its exterior, the interior of new E-Class is also available in Exclusive Line, Avantgarde line and AMG line, offering three different looks and feels to suit individual tastes and preferences. Each line offers a different variation of its ergonomic, sculptural seats, which unite Mercedes-Benz's sporty look with its typical suitability for long journeys. The sporty bias and adapted contours of the AVANTGARDE line seats put the accent on sportiness, with good lateral support and back-ventilation (optional). The newly developed seat for the AMG Line impresses with a backrest with sporty side bolsters and a wide shoulder section for added lateral support. The EXCLUSIVE line comes with longitudinally stitched centre sections, colour-matched to the overall seat sculpture in fabric/leather combination or nappa leather.



#### Intelligent material design

High-quality materials define the interior style, including the use of an open-pore wood, wood in a yachting look with flowing lines as a contemporary interpretation of inlaid wood and a novel metal fabric. Just as carefully composed is the colour concept with various shades of brown, including new attractive colour combinations such as nut brown/macchiato and saddle brown/macchiato.

The interior lighting makes exclusive use of durable, energy-saving LED technology. The enhanced ambient lighting included in the lines offers 64 colours and a host of possibilities for personalisation throughout the interior. The active Multicontour Seat package is also available as an option for the front seats, offering several functions including energizing massage, dynamic seat, multicontour backrest and the new active cushion.

#### Nine-speed automatic transmission

All models available are equipped as standard with the new 9G-TRONIC nine-speed automatic transmission. It enables fast gear changes and allows low engine revs, which has a particularly beneficial effect on efficiency and noise levels.

#### Suspension - sporty comfort

The suspension on the new E-Class offers three options of selective damping, allowing agile driving pleasure and the highest level of ride comfort in this segment. Multi-chamber air suspension all round is also available - the only car in its segment to offer this option - and one that delivers excellent ride comfort, while a DYNAMIC SELECT switch in the cockpit also enables the driver to select from five AIR BODY CONTROL modes: "Comfort", "ECO", "Sport", "Sport +" and "Individual", allowing drivers to configure their vehicle to suit their own preferences.

#### Next-generation driving assistance systems

Mercedes-Benz's new assistance and safety systems enhance safety, comfort and driver assistance to new levels. Active Brake Assist is able to warn the driver of impending collisions, provide optimum support with emergency braking, and if necessary, autonomously apply the brakes.

Highlights of the optional Driving Assistance package that make the E-Class the most intelligent sedan in its class include:

- **DRIVE PILOT:** This system represents Mercedes-Benz's next step on the road to autonomous driving. As Distance Pilot DISTRONIC, it is not only able to automatically maintain the correct following distance behind the vehicle in front, at speeds up to 130 km/h, the system can continue to actively help with the steering by taking account

of surrounding vehicles and parallel structures, even if the lane markings are unclear or non-existent. The system makes driving much easier, especially in traffic jams or heavy congestion.

Integrated into DRIVE PILOT, Active Emergency Stop Assist can brake the vehicle to a standstill in its lane if it detects that the driver is permanently no longer taking control while on the move.

and door and, at the same time, reducing the forces acting on them.

- **PRE-SAFE Sound:** This system is based on a human reflex in the inner ear, called the stapedius reflex. PRE-SAFE(r) Sound emits a short interference signal through the vehicle's sound system if the risk of a collision is detected. This signal can trigger the natural reflex and thus prepare the occupants' ears



- **Active Brake Assist with cross-traffic function** can detect crossing traffic at junctions and, if the driver fails to respond, apply the brakes autonomously. Likewise, the new Evasive Steering Assist system complements the pedestrian detection function of Active Brake Assist. If the driver deliberately or instinctively initiates an evasive manoeuvre in a hazardous situation, this function can add precisely calculated steering torque to support the movement of the steering wheel.

- **Advanced assistance systems:** The intelligent assistance systems in the new Driver Assistance package also include proven systems that have been further developed in terms of their mode of operation and the sensors they use such as Active Blind Spot Assist, PRE-SAFE(r), and PRE-SAFE(r) PLUS.

- **PRE-SAFE Impulse Side:** This system is part of the Driving Assistance package PLUS. If a lateral collision is imminent, it can move the driver or front passenger away from the danger zone in a sideways direction by way of precaution. To do this, the system inflates an air chamber in the side bolster of the front seat backrest nearest the side of the imminent impact in a fraction of a second, thus increasing the distance between occupant

for the expected sound of the accident, in order to reduce the stress on the occupants.

#### State-of-the-art headlamps

The all-new E-Class comes as standard with halogen headlamps. These incorporate an energy-saving LED daytime running lamp. Alternatively, a static LED High Performance headlamp as well as an innovative MULTIBEAM LED headlamp system with Intelligent Light System and adaptive Highbeam Assist Plus are available.

#### Multifunction Telephony - ideally connected, and not a cable in sight

An all-new infotainment generation is making its debut in the E-Class equipped with COMAND Online. Its highlights, alongside the double display, include the touch-sensitive Touch Controls on the steering wheel and the new, intelligent graphic design of the Multifunction Telephony. It allows mobile phones to be charged and, at the same time, connected to the vehicle's exterior aerial - with absolutely no need for cables or a telephone holder. The new Mercedes-Benz E-Class is available at A R Albisher & Z. Alkazemi Co's Shuwaikh Showroom from June 1 onwards.

## FED MINUTES FUEL EXPECTATIONS OF RATE HIKE

### NBK WEEKLY ECONOMIC REPORT

**KUWAIT:** Last week the US dollar remained supported as data from the economy continued to reinforce the case for the Fed to hike interest rates in the near term. Additionally, confidence that the economy is strong enough to withstand higher interest rates is evident in the recent drop in treasuries and jump in US equities. However, the market is expected to tread cautiously ahead of the FOMC meeting in June as focus will revolve around the nonfarm payroll figure at first and then shift to the upcoming UK EU referendum. The dollar index started the week at 95.33 then rose to a two month high of 95.67, after data showed that new US home sales rose to an eight-year high in April. The index managed to close the week at 95.70.

The euro remained subdued against the US dollar as the divergence in policy between the FED and the ECB continues to dictate the movement in the pair. The euro opened the week at 1.1224 and then dropped to a low of 1.1111. The currency closed at 1.1115. Investors await the ECB's next meeting on June 2nd for more indications on the path of the central bank in supporting the economy.

The pound gained dramatically against the US dollar last week after a new opinion poll that showed the support for remaining in the EU stood at 55 percent, while support for "Brexit" was at 42 percent with one month to go until the referendum on the UK's EU membership. Cable opened the week at 1.4503 only to rise to a high of 1.4740. The currency then consolidated and closed at 1.4623.

The Japanese Yen traded in a volatile manner against the greenback last week. Initially the US Dollar lost some grounds against the Yen following the G7 meetings of central bankers and finance ministers, where the United States warned Japan against intervening to weaken its currency. The pair managed to reach a high of 110.45 amid positive US data. The pair closed the week at 110.31.

On the commodities side, oil prices jumped to

\$50 a barrel in Asia after US data unveiled a sharper-than-expected decline of crude stocks last week as imports dropped, although oil gains were limited as the US dollar index extended an eight-week high against a basket of currencies. In a report, Energy Information Administration said that US crude oil inventories fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of -4.226M, from 1.310M in the preceding month. Finally, US crude lost some of its gains and closed the week at \$49.33.

#### Positive housing numbers

Purchases of new homes in the US surged in April to the highest level since 2008. The number rose 16.6 percent to 619,000 annualized rate greatly exceeding expectations of a 523,000 increase. The increase came from healthy employment gains and cheap borrowing costs that have boosted the pool of potential buyers who can qualify for mortgages.

Similarly, contracts to buy previously owned US homes surged far more than expected in April to the highest level in more than a decade, another sign the economy has gained steam during the second quarter. The National Association of Realtors said on Thursday its pending home sales index, based on contracts signed last month, increased 5.1 percent exceeding the expected 0.6 percent rise. The figures show that the housing sector is continuing to strengthen on the back of an economy near full employment and historically low mortgage rates.

#### US durable goods

Orders for long-lasting US manufactured goods surged in April on strong demand for transportation equipment and a range of other products. The Commerce Department said on Thursday orders for durable goods, items meant to last three years or more, jumped 3.4 percent last month after an upwardly revised 1.9 percent increase in March. This is yet another signal that the economy was gaining steam after growth halted to a 0.5 percent

annualized rate in the first quarter.

On a different front, unemployment benefits claims fell more than expected last week, moving back to previous lows as the labor markets remain healthy and the economy regains momentum after stumbling in the first quarter. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits declined 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 268,000 for the week ended May 21. Economists expected initial claims to fall to 275,000 in the latest week. Claims have now been below 300,000, a threshold associated with a



strong job market, for 64 straight weeks, the longest stretch since 1973.

#### US GDP shows positive picture

US economic growth grew in the first quarter at an annual rate of 0.8 percent against expectations of 0.5 percent, amid a surge in spending on home building and a steady increase in inventory investment by corporates. It was the weakest performance since the first quarter of 2015. The upward revision to the first-quarter GDP growth estimate also reflected a smaller drag from trade than previ-

ously reported. The government also reported a rebound in corporate profits, which increased at a 0.6 percent in the first quarter after plunging 8.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015.

#### Euro/German sentiments decline

The German and eurozone ZEW economic sentiment came out significantly lower than expected as economic stagnation in the euro area continues to weigh on a dovish European Central Bank that has been in persistent easing mode. Meanwhile,

the weakest pace in 17 months. Furthermore, the surveys suggested that growth could slow further in coming months, since new orders rose at the slowest pace since January 2015. The Markit Flash Eurozone PMI dipped to a 16-month low of 52.9 in May, down from 53.0 in April.

#### Consumer confidence subdued

UK consumer confidence rose for the first time since January but remained below zero as the upcoming referendum on European Union membership weighed on sentiment. It rose to minus 1 this month from minus 3 in April, in a report published on Friday. A measure of the economic outlook increased from the weakest reading in almost three years, rising to minus 13 from minus 14. Analysts suggest that the low index score is the results of uncertainty regarding the UK's potential exit from the European Union.

#### Prices in Japan continue to drop

Japan's core consumer prices fell for the second straight month in April as weak consumption discouraged firms from raising prices, stoking fears of deflation and keeping pressure on the central bank to do more to hit its ambitious inflation target. The data underscores the fragile nature of Japan's recovery and may give Prime Minister Shinzo Abe justification to delay a scheduled increase in sales tax next year.

The nationwide core consumer price index, which includes energy but excludes volatile fresh food costs, fell 0.3 percent in April from a year earlier, matching the drop in March which was the biggest annual decline in three years. In a sign price falls will persist, core consumer prices in the Tokyo area, a leading indicator of nationwide tendencies fell 0.5 percent in May, more than a median forecast for a 0.4 percent drop.

Kuwait  
Kuwaiti dinar at 0.30220  
The USDKWD opened at 0.30220 yesterday morning.



# ASTONISHING PERFORMANCE ON RUGGED ROADS

## THE DESERT-BORN HONDA PILOT FROM HONDA ALGHANIM

**KUWAIT:** The Honda Pilot boasts a 3.5-liter Direct Injected V6 engine with Variable Cylinder Management (VCM). It starts up at the press of a button, and with a maximum output of 280 horsepower at 6000 rpm and maximum torque of 355Nm at 4700 rpm. The Pilot's engine combines outstanding fuel efficiency with quick, responsive acceleration and ultra-smooth power delivery. The Pilot's fuel efficiency in the GCC is 11.4Km/L for the 2WD and the 10.8 Km/L for the AWD. In addition, the Pilot's newest feature includes Intelligent Traction Management and is now featured on all models except EX 2WD, with pushbutton mode selection and TFT mode display on the cockpit instrument panel. In addition, EX (AWD) & EXL grades offer a full 200mm of ground clearance which enables the vehicle to adapt to any terrain. The most noteworthy feature is the sand mode that enables the Pilot to be driven in sandy terrain.



The inclusion of these safety technologies benchmarked New Pilot to receive a 2015 TOP SAFETY PICK+ rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in United States of America, making it one of the safest cars amongst its segment.



control (ANC) for a quieter cabin, and a rear entertainment system with a 9-inch display screen available in the Touring grade.

### Elegantly designed exterior with added features

The Pilot has been completely restyled with a bold, new front grille and flowing, elegant lines of a sport coupe. The new premium features include halogen projector headlights in EX and EXL grades whereas LED projector headlights are available in the Touring grade; the first ever panoramic glass roof on the Touring grade embodies the vision of blue skies. The all-new Pilot has a wide, low stance contributing to improved aerodynamic performance, while large-diameter 18-inch or 20-inch Alloy wheels add a classy look. Some of the other features standard in all grades



include Front Fog Lights, LED Tail Lights and LED daytime running lights as standard along with Tailgate Spoiler, Power Door Mirrors and LED Turn Light Indicators. The all-new Honda Pilot now comes in four grades for this region with the introduction of the new base grade EX in 2WD and the others namely EX, EX-L and Touring, which are in AWD.

### Exclusive offer on Honda Pilot

Honda's limited-time offer on the Honda Pilot provides everyone a chance to get up to KD 1,000 cash back in addition to a free three-year service contract, third party insurance and car registration making a purchase of a new Honda Pilot the best economical buy this season.

### Honda Alghanim's commitment to service

Honda Alghanim urges customers to experience its brand new showroom, and to test-drive the new Pilot. The new showroom boasts three distinctive floors and a service center of an awe-inspiring capacity; it's also the first in the region to incorporate a new wall fabric technology that features moving images, an element that reflects Honda's commitment to

newness and innovation. Alluding to the corporation's transparency, the showroom also features glass flooring that displays the service garage at the lower level, as well as a spacious, clean and brightly lit area that is equipped with a service lounge that provides customers a chance to observe their vehicles' maintenance process. In essence, the showroom embodies Alghanim Industries' vision for Honda in Kuwait-to make dreams come true.

Customers are welcome to visit the new Al-Rai showroom in Safat Alghanim from 8:30 am until 10 pm, Saturday to Thursday, and from 9:30 am until 10 pm on Fridays, and the Honda showroom in Shuwaikh, from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm and 4:30 pm until 8:30 pm from Saturday to Thursday. Alghanim Motors, the exclusive distributor of Honda automobiles, motorcycles, power products, and marine products in Kuwait, is committed to providing customers with flexible payment solutions and efficient and cost-effective services. The waiting lounge offers entertainment and comfort for customers with gaming consoles, digital satellite TV, free wireless internet and relaxing massage chairs.

## AL-TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT DRAW

**Amazing news from Al-Tijari...**  
Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!

**KUWAIT:** Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al-Najma Account daily draw yesterday. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Abdulaziz Al-Ashkanani.

The winners of the Al -ajma daily draw are:-  
**Mohammad Ameen Behbehani — KD 7000,**  
**Hamad Abd Ali — KD 7000,**  
**Zainab Fawaz Boshehri — KD 7000,**  
**Abbas Abde Ali — KD 7000,**  
**Bader Salem Aleydhi — KD 7000.**

Al-Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al-Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

The new prizes scheme for Al-Najma account  
**Daily draw to win KD 7000**  
Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start

from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000

- 1st quarter - KD 100, 000**
- 2nd quarter - KD 150, 000**
- 3rd quarter - KD 200, 000**
- 4th quarter - KD 250, 000.**

With Al-Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.

### Additional features

- ATM card
- Issue a credit card against your account
- Obtain all CBK banking services
- You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

## 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. Abdulmohsen Khaled Abdulmohsen Al-Bahar
2. Hamad Abdullah Salem Al-Ateeqi
3. Fouad Mohammad Abdullah Dioman
4. Ali Reda Hussain Dashti
5. Jassim Shehab Ahmed Al-Neamah

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 to 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.

## KFH-TURKEY ISSUES SUKUK FOR 300M TL

**KUWAIT:** With the lease certificate (sukuk) of 300 million TL with tenure of 179 days, KFH-Turkey has realized the initial public offering with the highest amount so far by the private sector in Turkey.

The issuance of lease certificate (sukuk) carried out by Kuwait Finance House Turkey (KFH-Turkey) by adopting the "robot banking" model for which the bookrunning process took place is the highest amount sukuk in TL in domestic market in the amount of 300 million TL and with tenure of 179 days. Thus, KFH-Turkey has even exceeded its own previous record breaking sukuk issuance of TL 200 million as realized on 13 November 2015. Improving its resource diversity with its lease certificate issuances in domestic and overseas capital markets and pioneering in sukuk market with its innovations and records, Ufuk Uyan, the CEO of KFH-Turkey commented on the initial public offering. He said, "We consider it important in issuing the lease certificates in the form of



Ufuk Uyan

initial public offering; because we wish that our product complying with the Participation Banking principles reach more and more people and gain depth. Therefore, we will continue similar public offerings in the future, too. The first lease yield shall be made on 11 August 2016 to the certificate holders. The second lease yield shall be paid to the investors on 8 November 2016 at the end of the maturity, together with principal sums. The fact that the lease certificates are offered at lower cost than the similar deals realized recently has strengthened the investors' confidence in our Bank, which is a highly pleasing development."

Entering the sukuk market in 2010 by carrying out another first in Turkey, KFH-Turkey has, so far, issued lease certificates of a total of TL 7.2 billion in domestic and overseas markets in different currencies such as US dollar, ringgit Malaysia and Turkish lira, and 4.7 billion TL is currently circulated in various markets.

## AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on May 25, 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: Layla Abdulkarim Al-Tajer.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Ghaith M Al-Tayyar, Meshari Abdullah Al-Herran, Fahad Awwad Sahan, Mahmoud Eissa Al-Mahmoud, Badriya Khoudair Mohammad, Mohd Ibrahim Naser Al-Eboudi, Sadeq Mousa Al-Herz, Waleed Khaled Al-Yaseen, Abdulwahab Fahad Al-Shemry, Akil Ahmedally Lookman,

Alwazzan. 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



Ghazi Faisal Al-Dabbous, Latifah Mohammad Al-Mutairi, Abd Alwahab Jamal Al-Shehab, Yaqoub Abdullah Al-Qattan, Obaid Awwad Barashed, Adel A M Al-Matooq, A.Elaha Yaqoob Slaiss, Evoon Abdulqader Mohd, Zuhoor A. Hameed Ebrahim, Fadhel Abdulla Ali Al-Medaifa, Fathiya Hasan Ahmed, Taiba Abdunabi Kadhem, Waheed Ali Yousif, Kurien Mathew, Zamana Ali

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.

## TAWASUL TELECOM SPONSORS ITW FOR THE 7TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

**KUWAIT:** Tawasul Telecom, the leading provider of telecom services based on its unparalleled MPLS network in the GCC & the Middle East - proudly sponsored the International Telecoms Week (ITW), which was held at Hyatt Regency Hotel and Swiss Hotel- Chicago, USA from 8 to 11 May 2016.

This sponsorship reflects Tawasul Telecom's strategy to pursue new business partnerships and networking opportunities, to communicate with the telecommunications community and industry leaders from all around the globe, and to further advance its goal of developing the telecommunications infrastructure in the GCC.

The annual event is the epicenter of the telecommunications community that convenes members from across the globe, with more than

6,000 delegates representing over 1,700 companies from more than 150 countries, encompassing all areas of the telecommunications industry including Tier 1 carriers, wireless operators, ISPs, and technology partners from the data services, satellite, sub-sea and fixed line markets

On this occasion, Salem Almulaifi - Chief of Marketing and Strategy Officer at Tawasul Telecom stated: "We at Tawasul Telecom were pleased to have sponsored ITW, the excellent forum, rewarding opportunity and premier platform for the telecommunication industry. The event provides the ideal platform to position our company in front of an international audience and offers a unique combination of networking and business opportunities..."

Almulaifi continued: "The event offered an invaluable chance for us to feature Tawasul Telecom's connectivity services and solutions". Almulaifi elaborated that the year 2016 marks Tawasul Telecom seventh consecutive year of participation at ITW which provides the chance to meet existing clients and partners, develop new prospects, foster key business partnerships, and broaden Tawasul's customer base.

It is worth noting that Tawasul Telecom has proven its keen interest in the future of the telecommunications sector which was embodied through its recent sponsorship of Capacity Middle East 2016 held in Dubai. The Company is committed to sponsor premier industry events designed to further enrich the industry and boost it forwards.



Salem Almulaifi

## PHONES FUEL GROWTH POTENTIAL FOR INTERNET GAMBLING IN US

**ATLANTIC CITY:** Internet gambling has tremendous growth potential in the United States as ever-greater percentages of the public use smartphones, participants in a major gambling conference said Wednesday. At the East Coast Gaming Congress and iGaming Institute in Atlantic City, casino and online gambling executives said the online gambling market has shown encouraging growth, but is still a fraction of what it could be.

They also said nearly three years of experience has shown that Internet gambling is not cannibalizing their existing brick-and-mortar casinos, but rather bringing in new customers, many of whom then visit the physical casinos as well.

"We're seeing huge growth in mobile phone and tablet play," said Luisa Woods, executive director of Internet marketing for Atlantic City's Tropicana casino. "And we're seeing huge cross-flows between players who visit the casino and then go home and continue to play online."

Internet gambling brought in \$160.7 million in 2015 in the three US states that allow it. New Jersey is by far the largest market, at \$148 million. Delaware brought in \$1.8 million last year, and Nevada, which stopped reporting its Internet winnings publicly, is estimated at about \$10 million in their poker-only market, said Eugene Johnson, senior vice president of Spectrum Gaming Group, an Atlantic City-area consulting firm.

### 'Educate people'

The industry still needs to do a better job of marketing itself, many participants agreed. Itai Pazner, senior vice president of 888 Holdings, said when customs questioned him at Newark Liberty International Airport on his way to the conference, he told

them he works for an Internet gambling company. "Is that legal in New Jersey?" the agent asked Pazner. "A lot of people are confused," he told the conference at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center. "They don't know if it's legal, if it's illegal, if it's good, if it's bad. We need to educate people."

There was no mention at the conference of perhaps the greatest threat to the fledgling Internet gambling industry: the avowed opposition to it from casino billionaire Sheldon Adelson, who has promised to spend as much as it takes to enact a legislative ban on it in the United States.

Another major challenge is getting additional states to approve Internet gambling. Because only three states now offer it, the prize pools for online poker are small, and that is holding the industry back, participants agreed. "Poker without enough liquidity isn't viable," Pazner said. "The markets are still relatively small. The US needs more states (to legalize Internet gambling) and we need them urgently."

He said Europe has more readily embraced Internet gambling, adding, "There is huge potential growth on both sides of the ocean." George Rover, deputy director of New Jersey's Division of Gambling Enforcement, said unlicensed offshore sites still pose a major problem for legal Internet gambling sites by siphoning away customers and revenue to unregulated sites with no customer protections. He said the state has been formulating plans to deal with such sites, promising a development on the issue soon.

Thomas Winter, vice president of Internet gambling for the Golden Nugget casino in Atlantic City, said his casino has seen good growth across its Internet platforms. But he said some customers still need to be assured of the integrity of Internet gambling. — AP



**SAN FRANCISCO:** In this April 29, 2015, file photo, a Dell laptop computer running Windows 10 is on display at the Microsoft Build conference. — AP

## MICROSOFT'S WINDOWS 10 PUSH COMES TO SHOVE FOR SOME USERS

MICROSOFT HAD LEFT A HORSE'S HEAD IN THEIR BED

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Microsoft really, REALLY wants you to upgrade to Windows 10. Since last summer, the tech giant has pushed and prodded PC owners to upgrade their machines to its latest Windows version. While the upgrade is currently free for most consumers with Windows PCs, critics say the company's heavy-handed nudging amounts to an "offer you can't refuse."

Microsoft initially offered Windows 10 as an optional upgrade - that is, one that users had to choose themselves. Then, earlier this year, the company reclassified it as a "recommended" update. Some Windows 10 holdouts cried foul, since many PCs are set up to automatically install recommended updates, which are usually important security fixes. Suddenly those machines would automatically install Windows 10 as well.

At one point, some PC owners complained, Microsoft began sending on-screen messages prompting them to download and install Windows 10. The catch: Where most such pop-up windows have buttons marked "OK" and "Cancel," this message displayed two buttons that both led to an upgrade ("Upgrade Now" and "Upgrade Tonight"). To avoid the upgrade, diehard resisters had to click a red "X" in the upper-right corner that closed the window.

Microsoft then revised the notifications, citing customer feedback. A new version tells PC owners they are scheduled for a "recommended" upgrade to Windows 10 at a specific time in the near future, and bears a prominent "OK" button. To reject or reschedule the change, users have to find and click a less conspicuous link in small type. But clicking the "X" no longer blocks the upgrade.

### 'A nasty trick'

Some PC users reacted as though Microsoft had left a horse's head in their bed. "Deceptive" and "a nasty trick" is how Brad Chacos, an editor at PCWorld, put it in a column after his wife unwittingly clicked the "X" and later found her machine was no longer running Windows 7, which she had wanted to keep.

"Deploying these dirty tricks only frustrates long-time Windows users who have very valid reasons to stick with operating systems they already know and love," wrote Chacos, who added that he uses and likes Windows 10 personally. His wife, though, is now shopping for a Mac.

Microsoft says it isn't trying to be sneaky. In blog posts and official statements, the company says it shows users at least two notifications

before it activates Windows 10. It also allows any PC owner to reverse the installation and go back to their old software if they do so within 31 days. "We understand you care deeply about what happens with your device. This is why - regardless of your upgrade path - you can choose to upgrade or decline the offer," Microsoft executive vice president Terry Myerson wrote in a blog post.

Even so, Microsoft clearly wants to get as many PCs and other devices running Windows 10 as it possibly can. The company says it wants users to have the latest security features and other improvements. Microsoft also makes more money from Windows 10 features that increase usage of Bing, the company's ad-supported search engine. And it wants to convince programmers there's a big audience for software apps that are compatible with Windows 10 on PCs, tablets, smartphones and other gadgets.

Microsoft announced earlier this month that 300 million devices are running Windows 10 - a faster adoption rate than either of the two previous Windows versions. Most buyers of new PCs will find Windows 10 already installed. But Microsoft says its offer of a free upgrade for old machines is ending July 29 - and that means more notices and prompts are likely. — AP



**ATLANTIC CITY:** In this Jan 31, 2014, file photo, a computer screen in Atlantic City, NJ, shows a game of Pai Gow under way on a gambling website. — AP

## GOOGLE-BACKED MAGIC LEAP SAYS WORKERS STOLE SECRETS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Artificial reality startup Magic Leap is accusing two Silicon Valley employees of stealing the closely guarded secrets behind its technological tricks. The allegations of betrayal and skullduggery surfaced in a lawsuit that Magic Leap filed late Thursday in federal court after the two workers, Gary Bradski and Adrian Kaehler, sued the company for wrongful termination earlier this week. An attorney for Bradski and Kaehler denied the company's allegations.

The legal tussle over intellectual property and stock options highlights the rising stakes in artificial reality as more technology companies bet it will produce the industry's next big breakthroughs. Since its inception six years ago, Magic Leap has emerged as one of artificial reality's most intriguing startups while raising \$1.4 billion from a list of investors that include Google and China's Alibaba Group. The last round of financing completed earlier this year valued the Dania Beach, Florida, company at \$4.5 billion, even though it hasn't released a product yet and hasn't even disclosed a timetable for doing so.

Magic Leap instead has released videos providing tantalizing glimpses at what it's working on: a pair of goggles that will project three-dimensional, life-like images within the real world. The company describes the technique as "mixed reality," although it's known as "augmented reality" through most of the technology industry. Other headsets, such as Facebook's Oculus Rift, that immerse users in a completely fabricated world are examples of what's known as "virtual reality."

### 'World's hottest startup'

Whatever its technology is called, Magic Leap has enthralled the media with its demonstrations and the pedigree of its backers. In a

recent cover story, Wired magazine hailed Magic Leap as "the world's hottest startup." Google, now part of Alphabet Inc., has become so intertwined with Magic Leap that its CEO, Sundar Pichai, sits on the startup's board. But the battle with two of the 85 employees located in its Mountain View, California, office threatens to drag Magic Leap into the mud.

Jack Russo, the lawyer representing Bradski and Kaehler, said the wrongful termination suit filed against Magic Leap will prove the company tried to wrest away employee stock options worth millions of dollars without a valid reason. He predicted the evidence will make other top engineers reluctant to work for Magic Leap.

Russo also painted an unflattering picture of Magic Leap CEO Rony Abovitz. Russo said Abovitz went into a "fit of rage" after Bradski and Kaehler tried to negotiate "consulting freedom" clauses in their contracts. Magic Leap declined to comment on Russo's statement or the wrongful termination suit.

In its federal lawsuit, Magic Leap depicts Bradski and Kaehler as traitors who schemed on company time for at least a year while planning their own artificial reality startup. While doing so, Bradski and Kaehler stole some of Magic Leap's patented technology and also shared some of the secrets with outsiders, while mining the company's business connections as they tried to launch their startup, the suit alleges.

The lawsuit alleges the duo's duplicity involved "some deep learning techniques utilizing robotics." Bradski is a robotics expert hired by Magic Leap in 2013 to serve as its senior vice president of advanced perception and intelligence. Kaehler also was hired in 2013 and reported to Bradski, most recently working as a vice president of special projects. — AP

## WHALE-FINDING PHONE APP STEERING MARINERS AWAY

**PORTLAND:** With summer whale watching season fast approaching, conservation advocates and government agencies who want to protect whales say a mobile app designed to help mariners steer clear of the animals is helping keep them alive.

The Whale Alert app provides a real-time display of the ocean and the position of the mariner's ship, along with information about where whales have been seen or heard recently. It also provides information on speed restrictions and restricted areas, and recommends routes shippers can take to avoid endangered species such as the blue whale and the North Atlantic right whale.

New England whale watching companies are gearing up for summer, and more than a quarter of the entire North Atlantic right whale population visited Cape Cod Bay this season. That means conditions are perfect to get more mariners and the public on board with protecting whales, said Patrick Ramage, whale program director for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

Andy Hammond, of Martha's Vineyard, is one such mariner. He has used the tool aboard pilot boats to avoid whales in Boston Harbor. "It's all about making sure people understand the regulations and how to operate in certain areas," Hammond said. "It takes the guesswork out." Collisions with high speed ships are one of the leading causes of death for some species of whales, and many mariners often try to navigate around them using outdated equipment.

IFAW collaborated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the app, which provides information on

both US coasts. Alaskan cruise ships began using it this month. Ramage said more than 33,000 users have downloaded the app, which first came out four years ago, and recent changes - such as giving civilians the ability to report whale sightings - have made it more popular.

"It is literally a situation where the sort of fog of incomplete data or outmoded equipment can be lifted for the mariner,"

Ramage said. The app shows a broad area where the whales are located as opposed to a pinpointed location because of concerns about the possibility of recreational boaters attempting to get close to the animal, Ramage said. The app was funded by donations to IFAW, which raised more than \$500,000, he said. It's free and can be downloaded by anyone with an iPhone or Android. — AP



**PORTLAND:** In this April 10, 2008 file photo, a right whale peers up from the water in Cape Cod Bay near Provincetown. — AP

## WHO GUIDANCE ON INFANT MILK FORMULAS GETS LUKEWARM BACKING

**NEW YORK:** National health officials stopped short on Friday of fully endorsing World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines to end the aggressive marketing of breast milk substitutes and baby foods for newborn and older infants. Activists said the consensus, hammered out in negotiations chaired by Ecuador, overcame resistance by dairy producers led by the United States, European Union and New Zealand. But they said they feared that national health authorities will not feel obliged to implement the recommendations because the compromise language fell short of calling for applying the WHO guidelines clearly favoring breastfeeding for infants.

"We have a consensus resolution," Ecuadorian diplomat Martina Martinez told Reuters after the closed-door session. The statement is expected to be adopted by WHO's Assembly of 194 member states on Saturday. The text "welcomes with appreciation" the WHO technical guidance but does not "endorse" it, as in an earlier draft, officials said. The WHO guidelines, entitled "Guidance on ending the inappropriate promotion of foods for infants and young children," say breast milk substitutes and milk products for infants from 6 to 36 months of age "should not be marketed".

They say all such products should include clearly visible label information "on the impor-

ance of continued breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond and the importance of not introducing complementary feeding before six months of age". Worldwide sales of formula milks are estimated to be worth nearly \$45 billion, with Nestle and Danone among the biggest distributors, activists say. Breast milk substitutes, especially products called "follow up milks" and "growing up formulas" for older infants, are heavily promoted and often confuse young mothers with their claims, they say. "These new processed, expensive milks, often sweetened and flavored, are not only unnecessary, but contribute to the alarming rates of childhood overweight and obesity - underlying factors in chronic diseases," the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) said in a statement on Thursday.

The Obama administration was under heavy lobbying by both the US dairy industry and health campaigners critical of these milk products, diplomats said. "The United States is content, we joined the consensus," Jimmy Kolker, Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, in the Department of Health and Human Services, told Reuters. "It took a long time for the WHO to develop the guidance and it took a long time for us to negotiate it," he said. "In any resolution, there are trade-offs." — Reuters



CHINA: Children accompanied by their parents and caretakers, attend an art class at the I Love Gym center in Beijing. — AP photos

## FINALLY ALLOWED 2ND CHILD, OLDER CHINESE PARENTS TURN TO IVF

'MORE WOMEN ARE COMING TO ASK TO HAVE THEIR SECOND CHILD'

**BEIJING:** China's decision to allow all married couples to have two children is driving a surge in demand for fertility treatment among older women, putting heavy pressure on clinics and breaking down past sensitivities, and even shame, about the issue. The rise in vitro fertilization points to the deferred dreams of many parents who long wanted a second child, but were prevented by a strict population control policy in place for more than 30 years.

That, in turn, is shifting prevailing attitudes in China regarding fertility treatments - formerly a matter of such sensitivity that couples were reluctant to tell even their parents or other family members that they were having trouble conceiving. More and more women are coming to ask to have their second child," said Dr Liu Jiaen, who runs a private hospital in Beijing treating infertility through IVF, in which an egg and sperm are combined in a laboratory dish and the resulting embryo transferred to a woman's uterus. Liu estimated that the numbers of women coming to him for IVF had risen by 20 percent since the relaxation of the policy, which came into effect at the start of the year.

Before, the average age of his patients was about 35. Now most of them are older than 40 and some of the women are fast approaching 50, he said.

### IVF technology

"They have a very low chance to get pregnant so they are in a hurry. They really want to have a child as soon as possible," he said. Chen Yun is 39 and was in the hospital waiting to have the procedure for the first time. She and her husband already have a 7-year-old son and their families are encouraging them to have a second child. "We are coming to the end of our childbearing years. It may be difficult for me to get pregnant naturally because my husband's sperm may have a problem, so we want to resolve this problem through IVF," she said. Chen said she hoped having a brother or sister would make their son happier, more responsible and less self-absorbed.

"We had siblings when we were children. I had a younger sister and we felt very happy when playing together," she said. "Now that every couple has one child, two generations - parents and grandparents - take care of the child. They give the only child too

much attention." If her son has a younger brother or sister to look out for, he may not "think too much about himself like a little emperor," Chen said. Over the past two decades, IVF technology has developed rapidly in China, where about 10 percent of couples are estimated to need the procedure to conceive. In 2014, 700,000 women had IVF treatments, according to the health commission's Women's and Children's Department, which said in statement that demand for all types of fertility treatment had risen following the policy relaxation, including the use of traditional Chinese medicine.

"Currently, fertility centers at renowned medical organizations in Beijing and Shanghai and others are under increased pressure for treatments," the department said. Previously, China limited most urban couples to one child and rural couples to two if their first was a girl. There were exceptions for ethnic minorities, and city dwellers could break the policy if they were willing to pay a fee calculated at several times a household's annual income.

While authorities credit the policy introduced in 1979 with preventing 400 million extra births, many demographers argue the fertility rate would have fallen anyway as China's economy developed and education levels rose. Intended to curb a surging population, the policy has been blamed for skewing China's demographics by reducing the size of the future workforce at a time when children and society face increasing demands from the growing ranks of the elderly. It also inflated the ratio of boys to girls as female fetuses were selectively aborted, while compelling many women to have forced abortions or give up their second children for adoption, leaving many families devastated.

The National Health and Family Planning Commission said in November that 90 million women would become eligible to have a second child following the policy change. Authorities expect that will add 30 million people to the country's labor force by 2050. Those projections could be overly optimistic since many younger Chinese see small families as ideal and would be reluctant to take on the cost of raising a second child. When the policy was changed in 2013 to allow two children for families in which at least one parent was an only child, it spurred fewer births than authorities expected. — AP



CHINA: Dr Liu Jiaen, center, watches his staff member work on a laboratory dish during an infertility treatment through in vitro fertilization (IVF) for a patient at a hospital in Beijing. — AP

## RESOURCES SCARCE FOR ADULTS WITH AUTISM

**IOWA:** Leah Parker wasn't diagnosed with autism until she was 18. Despite recognizing the symptoms in her behavior, the 19-year-old University of Iowa English major said her parents had trouble believing her. Maybe it's because she got "good at pretending and blending in" by studying others, even though it didn't feel natural. Or perhaps it's because her special interest in dogs is socially acceptable enough to "slip by without people noticing," she said.

But when the doctors delivered the news that she is, in fact, autistic, her parents were shocked. "A lot of people seem to think it's much more rare than it actually is," Parker said. "They have a picture in their head that everybody who is autistic is Rain Man or something ... People just know a lot more autistic people than they realize."

### Discovery

The disorder was first identified in 1949, but it wasn't until 1970 that a study discovered at least one in 14,000 children in America was autistic. Today, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that number has risen to one in 68. Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability, increasing almost 120 percent in just 10 years. Individuals generally develop the disorder early in life, potentially before birth, but often aren't diagnosed until symptoms begin to show around age 2.

Sometimes autism can go undiagnosed. A Johns Hopkins study found that only eight percent of primary care pediatricians routinely screened for autism. As there isn't a blood test or biomarker for autism, diagnoses are made only on observations of behavior. The average age of diagnosis is between three and four, but autism affects not only children but also adults. Symptoms do not disappear with age.

Mike Dillon, for example, now 38, wasn't diagnosed until three years ago, when his 11-year-old son, Gabe, was diagnosed. Dillon was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome. Upon first impression, you probably wouldn't know he is autistic. He looks and acts like most anyone, but has always had trouble socializing, barely speaking as a child. Even as an adult, he feels uncomfortable with unscripted social interactions - interacting with strangers "freaks him out," he said.

"I know what I'm supposed to do, but it's tricky because it doesn't seem very natural," he explained. Teaching math at Jefferson High School for the past two years, however, has not been a challenge. As a teacher, Dillon follows a script that helps him feel "in control," he said. Plus, he's always been good at math.

Dillon also admits he has trouble with textures. He can't stand polyester or nylon, preferring jeans, cotton long sleeves and often numerous layers of clothing because "feeling compressed is comforting," he said. He always wears at least two pairs of socks, said his wife, Kerris.

### Spectrum disorder

These symptoms - difficulty with communication and social interactions, sensory hypersensitivity, obsessive interests and repetitive behaviors - are commonly associated with autism. A host of other issues such as intellectual disabilities, seizure disorders or other mental health issues, often accompany the disorder. The range and severity of symptoms in each individual widely varies, though, which is why it's considered a "spectrum disorder."

On the milder side of the spectrum, individuals often are referred to as "high function-

ing." But autistic people prefer not to use that language, said Parker, who's also a board member of the East Central Autism Society. There are no clear and fast rules for what people consider high functioning and low functioning," she said. For her, "functionality" depends on how she's feeling that day. The terminology, she believes, is "mostly used to discount autistic people's voices." Some autistic people, unlike Dillon and Parker, suffer from symptoms so severe that they're unable to speak. Kevin Oberreuter, a 36-year-old still living at home with his mother Meg, was diagnosed just before turning 4.

He's completely non-verbal, except for vocalizations such as a repetitive hushing noise and occasional moaning. He's prone to pacing, sucking his thumb, repetitively ripping paper and "flapping," a common stimulation in which autistic individuals flap their hands or arms, usually accompanied by vocalizations. Without an effective way to communicate, Kevin becomes frustrated, which sometimes leads to aggressive behavior such as hitting or kicking himself or others.

From age 14 to 24, Kevin lived at the Woodward Resource Center, a state-run facility for the developmentally and mentally disabled. Due to his aggressive behavior and need for attention at all times, Meg, a single mother of three, determined she wasn't able to care for him while also working full-time at Linn County Public Health. "It's a 24/7, 365 day job," Meg said. "If the caregiver didn't show up I'd have to stay home from work, which doesn't bode well for carrying on a career."

To financially support Kevin, she needed to bring in an income. A study funded by Autism Speaks, a national autism science and advocacy organization, estimated the lifetime cost of supporting an American with autism is around \$1.4 to \$2.4 million dollars, two-thirds of which could be reduced with early diagnosis and intervention such as behavioral therapy. In 2004, Kevin moved back home. For years, caretakers would tend to Kevin at home while Meg continued to work. She retired last year.

Today, Kevin spends most of the day at REM, a facility in Hiawatha that provides day services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other complex challenges. He's in the day habitation program, which teaches basic living skills such as how to use a restroom independently and provides leisure activities, such as geocaching, Meg said. Because of his challenging behaviors, though, he doesn't qualify for pre-vocational training, which frustrates her, she said, because he has skills that could be vocational, such as shredding paper, for example. A few hours each week, Meg also receives respite care at home.

Emily Zimmerman has been working with Kevin at home for more than two years. During a recent visit, she and Kevin sat on the couch playing Connect Four, not exactly following the rules. Kevin stared blankly ahead, sliding the discs into rows, over and over. He's comforted by the repetitive motion, Zimmerman explained. It's one of the ways she keeps him calm. When he's not occupied, Kevin can become agitated - he might start to pace, hit or sometimes strip off his clothes. Part of the reason they work so well together is because she's gotten to know him, Zimmerman said. She's learned his body language, what certain vocalizations mean, what might be frustrating him. But even then, you can't always tell what's upsetting him or when an outburst may strike. — AP

## NEW MAINE MIDWIFERY RULES REFLECT LICENSURE DRIVE AROUND US

**PORTLAND:** Maine's midwives will face a new set of rules designed to make homebirth safer as a result of a bill that reflects changes to the profession around the country. The rules follow a bill passed by the state's legislature that requires midwives be licensed by the state while also setting educational requirements and standards for data collection with an eye toward improving safety.

The changes come as out-of-hospital births are increasingly popular in Maine and throughout the country. The rate of out-of-hospital births in Maine nearly doubled between 2000 and 2013; nationwide, it grew 29 percent between 2004 and 2009. The new rules emerge as midwives in many states are becoming increasingly integrated into mainstream health care, and some see state licensure as the path to further accomplish that. More than half of the states require licenses of midwives, and efforts are afoot in just about every other state to create a licensure system, said Eleanor Daniels, a Maine midwife and president of the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives. Daniels said the licensing system will bring accountability and oversight to midwifery as well as make it easier for midwives to get access to medication and insurance reimbursements. "For those of us who are interested in greater access to midwifery care for any woman who chooses it, this is the pathway forward," Daniels said.

### Midwife

Maine's midwife rules go into effect on Jan. 1, 2020. Maryland and Rhode Island have new mid-

wife licensing laws, while Illinois is close, Daniels said. She said Maine's legislation can serve as a template for other states that consider creating a licensure system. But the changes haven't pleased all midwives, some of whom said it will limit

patients' ability to access their care. Jill Breen, a St Albans midwife, said she fears the licensure system will drive some midwives who don't complete it underground. The law states that certified professional midwives in Maine cannot deliver

twins or breech babies or deliver a baby for a woman who has had a cesarean section in the past. Breen also said she fears some mothers might attempt those kinds of births attended if they can't get access to a midwife.

"When you're making rules and you're making plans, you want people to have the broadest options they could have," Breen said. Maine's bill states that midwives must show proof of successful completion of a formal midwifery education and training program by January 2020. Midwives who completed their training through an institution that lacks accreditation will need to finish a midwifery "bridge certificate" to show competency.

Members of the Maine Association of Certified Professional Midwives, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Maine Medical Association, Maine Family Planning and the Alliance for Maine Women all testified in support of the proposal when it was in the legislature. Republican Gov Paul LePage vetoed the legislation, but an April override by the legislature saved it. LePage wrote in his veto message that he felt the bill was well intentioned but constituted an "unnecessary expansion of government." He also wrote that the licensure program would cost about \$130,000 in its first three years, and that the bill was passed without funding. — AP



WATERVILLE, Maine: Jill Breen, a midwife, weighs 10-week-old Maggie Dickson while her parents Jamie and Shannon Dickson, and sister Haddie, 2, look on, at their home in Waterville, Maine. — AP

## CHILD IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER PARIS LIGHTNING STRIKE

**PARIS:** A child remains in critical condition after a lightning bolt disrupted a birthday party in a Paris park, injuring several. Eight children and three adults were struck by lightning Saturday in Park Monceau as they hid under a tree from a sudden spring storm. The children were around 9 years old. An official at Paris City Hall said the child's condition was unchanged Sunday. The official would not say how many of the

other 10 remained hospitalized.

An off-duty firefighter has been credited with keeping the child alive and getting quick medical help to the others. Commandant Pascal Gremillet told French television the child was in cardiac arrest when he arrived. Lightning also struck a children's soccer match Saturday in Germany, sending the referee into cardiac arrest. He was revived. — AP

# WHO REJECTS CALLS TO MOVE OLYMPICS OVER ZIKA FEARS

**GENEVA:** The World Health Organization has ruled out any change in timing or the location of the upcoming Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, shunning a call by doctors and scientists to shift the event over the Zika virus. An open letter addressed to the global health body signed by 150 international doctors, scientists and researchers Friday had called for the August Games to be moved or delayed to help prevent the spread of Zika virus. Holding the Games in Rio, the second worst affected city in Brazil, would be "irresponsible" and "unethical" and could risk spreading the virus to "poor, as-yet unaffected places" like Africa and South Asia, said the letter. Zika, which can cause birth defects including a devastating syndrome known as microcephaly in which babies are born with unusually small heads and brains, can be introduced to a new region when a local mosquito picks it up from an infected human. If it lives long enough, the mosquito then infects people it subsequently takes blood, starting a vicious cycle.

## Moving of Olympics

But the WHO said moving the Olympics would not have a major impact on the spread of Zika. "Based on current assessment, cancelling or changing the location of the 2016 Olympics will not significantly alter the international spread of Zika virus," it said in a statement late Friday. Brazilian authorities on Saturday also said the Games would proceed as planned, with the health ministry saying it would continue to follow the guidance of the WHO, which has deemed the risk of Zika infection in August - the middle of winter in Brazil - to be "minimal. Nearly 1,300 babies have been born in Brazil with irreversible brain damage since the mosquito-borne Zika began to spread there last year. The virus can also cause adult-onset neurological problems such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which can cause paralysis and death. "An unnecessary risk is posed when 500,000 foreign tourists from all countries attend the Games, potentially acquire that strain, and return home to places where it can become endemic," experts from the United States, Britain,

Canada, Norway, the Philippines, Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, and Lebanon, among others, had stated in their letter." Should that happen to poor, as-yet unaffected places (e.g., most of South Asia and Africa) the suffering can be great," it added. The WHO and top health officials have called on those travelling to Brazil to take precautions against mosquito bites, and have said pregnant women should avoid areas where Zika is circulating, including Rio.

## Serena to go 'super protected'

Tennis world number one Serena Williams admitted Saturday that the health dangers posed by the Zika virus were a concern, but said she still planned to compete in Rio. "It's something that's been on my mind. I'm really just gonna have to go super protected," said the 34-year-old American, the defending Olympic champion. Men's world number one Novak Djokovic said talk of moving or cancelling the Games was unrealistic. "To cancel the Olympic Games is unthinkable, honestly. I mean, many athletes and peo-

ple already planned in advance," the Serb tennis champion said, adding however that the impact of the outbreak on local people should not be underestimated. "How about those people living there, you know? Not talking about them too much.

So I think we have to look from different perspectives in order to make a right conclusion." The Olympics and Paralympics, set for August 5 through September 18, "will take place during Brazil's winter-time when there are fewer active mosquitoes and the risk of being bitten is lower," the WHO said this month. On Thursday, the top US public health official, Tom Frieden, said "there is no public health reason to cancel or delay the Olympic Games". Given the big financial investments at stake, the open letter questioned whether the UN health agency was able to give a non-biased view of the situation. It said the world body may not be properly considering the options, which include moving the Games to a place where Zika is not present, postponing them until Zika is under control, or cancelling them. — AFP



**WATFORD, England:** Florist Damian Duffy is pictured as he prepares flowers in his shop in Watford, north of London. — AFP photos

# BRITISH FLORIST SEES ROSY FUTURE IN BREXIT

**WATFORD, United Kingdom:** For Briton Damian Duffy, who has run flower shops for 20 years, a Brexit would feel like a "huge party". This despite British Prime Minister David Cameron, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a host of multi-nationals all warning of a painful economic fallout should Britain vote to exit the European Union in a referendum on June 23. "Everyone in this country who is not in big business has had life made more expensive and more difficult to live" as a result of Britain being part of the EU, said Duffy, the 48-year-old owner of Rosanna's flower shop in Watford, a commuter town northwest of London.

Duffy, who owns three flower shops and employs eight people in and around the Hertfordshire suburb known for its English Premier League football team and proximity to the Harry Potter studios, said EU expansion has pushed up property prices in the area. "Immigration policies have to change in this country," Duffy told AFP, as his Thai wife busily prepared flower arrangements for a wedding. Duffy claimed that an influx of low-skilled labour from the eastern European countries that joined the EU in 2004 had fuelled property demand in the area, pushing up prices. At the same time, he said, immigration had pushed down wages.

"My local customer base, if they are paying higher rent than they would have been doing normally, then their disposable income spend on businesses like this has

decreased. It is a luxury business, not a necessity. "As a business we do well, but it's incredibly tough," said Duffy as he pointed to a food store selling flowers on the opposite side of the road.

## Regulatory obstacles

In an expression of his disapproval, Duffy joined dozens of other owners of small and medium-sized business in March signing an open letter on behalf of the Leave.EU campaign group. From restaurant and cleaning business owners to shopkeepers and car repair centers, the EU is seen as cumbersome, inefficient and costly, at least among those calling for Britain to quit the 28-country bloc.

According to the latest poll by the Federation of Small Businesses, 47 percent of small business owners want to stay in the EU, while just under 41 percent want Britain out.

"Red tape and regulation are often seen by small business owners as a barrier to their business, with the EU often seen as a source of much regulation," said Professor Stephen Roper, director at the Britain-based Enterprise Research Centre. "Only about a fifth of UK small businesses export to Europe and so benefit from the single market," he explained. Their position contrasts with large multinationals like British energy group BP and banking titan HSBC who argue that remaining part of the EU provides stability by guaranteeing access to the single market. — AFP

# SEA SHEPHERD FOUNDER PAUL WATSON RAMS WHALERS FOR A LIVING

'PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T KILL THE WHALES'

**PARIS:** He's a fugitive on Interpol's Red List and a marine vigilante who's done jail time for extradition requests. Yet to many, he's also a heroic marine conservationist who risks his life and those of his crew to save countless endangered whales, turtles, dolphins and sharks from slaughter. Love him or loathe him, Paul Watson, the 65-year-old, silver-haired founder of Sea Shepherd and co-founder of Greenpeace is now a celebrity because of his job: ramming whaling boats for a living. Watson has a hit US reality TV series, "Whale Wars," that has aired on the Discovery Channel since 2008 about his organization's fight against Japanese whalers. And his influence reached new heights with the award-winning documentary "Sharkwaer," which conservationists say resulted in shark finning being banned worldwide. Both have attracted a new legion of global fans to Sea Shepherd's controversial approach of battering whaling and fishing ships.

The tactics have landed him in the legal hot water even as they boost his renown. During an interview with The Associated Press in Paris, Watson - a dual US-Canadian citizen - was stopped four times in the street by fans of all nationalities who asked for autographs. "The camera is the most powerful weapon we've ever invented, so we had to utilize that weapon. That's why we created the (reality) show," he said.

## Political asylum

France has granted Watson political asylum, shielding him from extradition requests by Costa Rica and Japan on charges that he asserts are trumped up. Watson now lives as an international fugitive in a luxurious 18th-century chateau near Bordeaux. "It's not bad," he said with a smile. Japan says Watson allegedly masterminded Sea Shepherd's disruption of Japanese whale hunts in the Antarctic Ocean and thus put whalers' lives at risk during the hunt. Watson's career has been as stormy as the seas he's travelled. Co-founder of Greenpeace in 1969, he left the organization eight years later. "I left Greenpeace because protesting is submissive.

Like 'Please, please, please don't kill the whales,'" he said. The same year he founded Sea Shepherd with the mantra using "aggressive non-violence" to protect marine life. "We've never caused a single injury to anyone but all the stories of ramming ships are true," he said, his eyes sparkling. Getting celebrities on board has boosted his cause. It was not until the 1970s, when he got blond bombshell Brigitte Bardot to pose "cheek-to-cheek" with a baby seal on the ice, that he first realized the "power of celebrity." "It got us the cover of every major publication in the world,"



**BERLIN, Germany:** Paul Watson, founder and President of the animal rights and environmental group Sea Shepherd Conservation takes part in a demonstration against the Costa Rican government near Germany's Presidential residence in Berlin, Germany. — AP

he said. Now it's an integral part of his organization's outreach. A scary-looking Sea Shepherd ship - a camouflaged vessel painted with jagged shark's teeth - was docked in front of the world's media at the celebrity-filled Cannes Film Festival this month with activist Pamela Anderson in tow, drawing attention to the campaign against Antibes' Marineland, Europe's largest Sea World-style theme park. Sea Shepherd is suing the marine park for negligence that they claim led to the deaths of an orca and other animals - allegations that Marineland officials deny. "I don't love the celebrity thing, but it's what gets the message across," Watson said, citing supporters including Christian Bale, William Shatner, Pierce Brosnan, Sean Connery and Richard Dean Anderson. "We can't lose because we've got two James Bonds, Batman, Captain Kirk and MacGyver on our advisory board. Isn't he forgetting Robert Redford, who is also on the board?" "Robert Redford wasn't a superhero in 'Captain America,' he was a villain," he laughed. Humor is just the veneer on a focused, dogged determination that's carried him through six decades of fighting for the rights of marine life.

## Charges

An Interpol Red Notice is the closest instru-

ment to an international arrest warrant in use today - the police organization circulates those notices to member countries listing people who are wanted for extradition. Watson said the original charges from Japan - the world's biggest whaling nation - date from 2010, when a Japanese whaling vessel cut a \$2 million Sea Shepherd boat in half. The Sea Shepherd captain then boarded the Japanese ship - "to confront the whaler who just destroyed his boat" - and was summarily arrested.

Watson claims the captain "made a deal" with the Japanese to suspend his sentence "in return for him saying that I ordered him to board." Watson says the captain wrote an affidavit to the US State Department a year later admitting that he'd lied to Japan, which led the US to ignore the extradition request - after briefly handcuffing him when he was crossing the border from Canada. He says the Costa Rica request is also trumped up and is linked to the Japanese charges. Watson's charm comes from his effortless way of making extreme positions seem highly reasonable. He says all the property that Sea Shepherd destroys by ramming it at sea is being used for criminal activity. "So we don't see a problem with that," he explained. — AP

# CLINIC PAGE



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## GRAND HYPER LAUNCHES FIRST DEPARTMENT STORE IN KUWAIT



**KUWAIT:** One of the region's major retailer Grand Hyper has further expanded its presence in the State of Kuwait by opening its maiden department store at Mekkah Street in Fahaheel. The Grand Department Store, which is also the group's 8th store in Kuwait, was officially inaugurated by Sheikh Dawood Dawood Salman Al-Sabah in the presence of Nizar Al Oraifan, Regency Group Dubai Managing Director Dr Anvar Ameen, Jassim Mohamed Khamis AlSharrah, Grand Hyper Regional Director Ayyoob Kachery, Regency Group Executive Director Aboobacker Mohamed, Grand Hyper Kuwait General Manager Thehaseer Ali, CEO Mohammed Suneer and other several high-ranking officials from various government departments and representa-

tives from local business communities.

Located at Grand Mall in South Kuwait, the new 25,000-sq-ft store will serve the residents of Ahmadi Governorate with a one-stop shopping destination for Kuwaitis and expatriate community alike. Shoppers can look forward to the best and biggest range of apparels and footwear, electronics and home appliances, luggage and linen, toys and stationary, cosmetics etc. at most affordable prices.

Immediately after the inaugural ceremony, thousands of people rushed into the department store at the mezzanine floor of Grand Mall to take advantage of the inaugural offers and promotions. A large number of people including families and children thronged all sections of the newly

opened department store, from supermarket area at the basement floor, creating an atmosphere of festival in the mall.

Apart from the inaugural offers and promotions, the management of Grand Hyper has also set up various discounts and sales in the hypermarket section for the coming Ramadan season. The group has also plans to open 4 more hypermarkets by the end of 2017 apart from Grand Hyper Khaithan store getting ready to be opened by the end of next month. As always, Grand Hyper provides the widest range of quality and value-for-money products all under one roof.



## AUTHOR BUWAIR HONORS MARTYRS

**K**uwaiti author and historical researcher Abdullah Abbas Buwair invites the public to attend a grand celebration to be organized during the holy month of Ramadan in the honor of martyrs' families as well as officials and staff of the Martyrs' Bureau. A number of statesmen, sheikhs and diplomats will also be honored during the event, which Buwair is holding on the occasion of issuing his newest publication titled 'Speeches of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.'

## IPC - RAMADAN LECTURES

(Lectures in English and for Ladies only)  
Muslims and non-Muslims are welcome  
Instructor: Zeinab Ashry  
Lecture Title: Be Prepared for Ramadan, on Monday - May 30, 6:30 - 8 pm.  
Lecture Title: The Excellence of the Last 10 Days of Ramadan, on Sunday - June 26, 9:30 - 10:30 pm.  
Place: IPC Rawdah - Blk. 3 - St. 30- House 12 - opp. 4th ring road  
Tel: 22512257 - 97290278  
What's App: 60315992  
Email: ipceducation2@gmail.com



## AL-MULLA GROUP - AUTOMOTIVE PROPAGATES 'HEALTH IS WEALTH'

### UNDER KAIZEN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

**E**mployee Welfare Schemes are key and critical for Al-Mulla Group - Automotive Division, because People Management and People Satisfaction extensively revolve around the Employee Welfare Initiatives. In Corporate World, Health related activities are becoming essentials in order to take care of its important assets that is its Workforce. Preventive Health Measures Seminars has taken an important role in our Automotive Division under "Kaizen Learning and Development Initiative."

Recently, we have conducted a very interesting educational activity for all our Senior Staff related to Preventive Health Measures. "Health is Wealth" is a very famous tag line to keep the People fully aware on Self Health Care measures.

Al-Mulla Group is keen to keep the overall workforce in a good and healthy conditions, many organizations has been actively engage in keeping their employee health in a good conditions by providing health benefits, which comes under "Corrective Health Measures", however they are facing many challenges due to absence of "Preventive Health Measures, hence few World-Class organizations paying more attention on "Preventive Health Care" because in absence of "Preventive Health Measures Awareness" individuals leads towards different illnesses and sometimes health disasters.

According to Labour Law, WHO recom-

mendations and International Labour Organization (ILO), Organizations are responsible to provide safety to all its workforce, and have all necessary measures to safeguard the health and welfare of all employees. Many organizations are maintaining Occupational Health and Safety measures as an effective tool of Employee Welfare Foundations.

Al-Mulla Group - Automotive Division conducted Preventive Health Measures Seminars in coordination with Indian Doctors Forum - Kuwait. "Stress Management Presentation Delivered" by Dr Amblavanan, Physiatrist, from PMR Hospital, another topic "Prevention of Heart Disease" delivered by Dr Vinod Warier, Internist, from Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital and "What is Heart Attack?" - "Diagnostic tips and line of action in an Emergency" Explanation done by Dr Hasan Khan, Cardiologist, from Al Jahra Hospital.

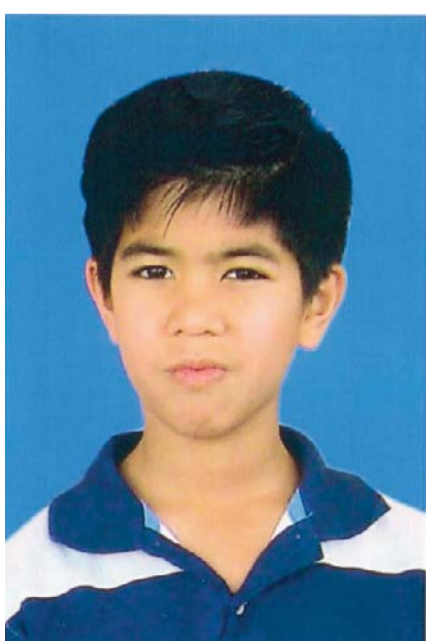
Al-Mulla Group - Automotive Division's Managing Director Imad Flayhan awarded the token of appreciations to all presenters and to President of Indian Doctors Forum, Dr Vinod Grover. Flayhan explained the company values and senior management vision related to employee welfare and safety and conveyed his best wishes and good health to all the employees in the organization, further he declared that, Automotive Division will encourage daily exercises activities at all possible locations. Flayhan empowered all Senior

Management by handing over the Employee Welfare Initiative Project to all departments. Session ended with a series

of questions, which satisfactorily answered by all available doctors.



## Happy Birthday



Happy 14th birthday to our dearest son Syed Danial. Best wishes from mom, dad, sisters Yasmin Syed and Aisha Syed. We wish you all the happiness and success in your life.



A group photo for Al-Yousifi and Panasonic officials.



## PANASONIC INTRODUCES LATEST PRODUCTS FOR KUWAITI MARKET

Panasonic Marketing Middle East and Africa (PMMAF) in collaboration with its local partner Easa Husain Al-Yousifi and Sons Company unveiled its latest product lines for a vibrant Kuwaiti market at the dealer's convention held in Kuwait at the Salwa Al-Subah Al-Ahmed Hall and Theatre recently. Products showcased at the convention by Panasonic included the latest from Audio-Visual, Indoor Air Quality, Home Appliances, Health and Beauty and Telephone and Home Network category.

In his welcome remarks, Wael Deeb, General Manager of Easa Husain Al-Yousifi and Sons Company said, "We have been associated with Panasonic for over 60 years now and it has been strong basis a common business philosophy to improve the quality of life for our customers. Panasonic has been contributing to the lifestyle of our customers with good quality products and services, as well as by constantly innovating new products. Panasonic's products

have always helped us to stay ahead of the curve and bring in the latest technology for our customers."

Highlighting Panasonic's commitment to the country Iwai Akira - Director, PMMAF said, "Panasonic is a customer focused company, which aims to engineer and innovate technologies that enhance consumer experience and contribute towards a better world. Kuwait is one of the savviest technology markets in the region, and we are confident that the new products introduced today, will help meet customer demand."

The key highlights of the convention were the new lineup of Panasonic's VIERA models of advanced smart TVs including the TH-65DX900, which is the world's first Ultra HD Premium TV and a range of LUMIX cameras embedded with 4K technology. The high-power mini component stereo systems including MAX9000GS, MAX7000GS, among others were also introduced at the convention.

Panasonic also introduced the newest range of air purifiers and fans under its Indoor Air Quality solutions category. Panasonic featured the latest air purifiers powered with nanoe technology, which inhibits bacteria in the air, deodorizes the indoors and helps in restoring moisture for a healthy skin, marketed with theme "Change the air your loved ones breathe," these products garnered special attention at the convention.

The Personal grooming products showcased at the convention included Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) epilators, latest hair dryers and men's shavers including ES-LT4N-S722, which is known for its ease of use and closest shave. Other grooming products including hair dryer, hair styler, and trimmers were also unveiled at the event. Panasonic has recently celebrated 60th anniversary of collaboration with Easa Husain Al-Yousifi and Sons Company.



### 'BIG MAC MOMENT' WINNERS MEET FOOTBALL STAR NEYMAR IN BARCELONA

Hundreds entered and showed us their personal style with a unique Big Mac Moment of their own in hopes of winning the ultimate football adventure. Fourteen lucky winners from across the GCC, including Kuwait's own Artin Kalayjian and Aftab Ahmed, were selected at random and taken on a whirlwind adventure that allowed them to experience the beloved sport of football in an unforgettable way.

Winners started their football adventure with a private tour of world known Camp Nou - the home of Barcelona FC. From the locker room to the field, winners got to experience exactly what it's like to be an FC Barcelona player. In addition to visiting Camp Nou, winners were given the exclusive opportunity to meet FC Barcelona forward and star of Big Mac Moment, Neymar Jr at a McDonald's Spain restaurant. Winners got to share a few laughs, a cup of coffee, talk football and take photos with the forward of the Spanish Club. Some

even shared 'the Walk' that got them to live out their dream.

Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait, commented: "Football is a passion for people of all ages across the globe and getting to meet a football icon is nothing short of a dream come true. We are proud to have played a part in turning Artin and Aftab's dreams into reality. Thank you to all customers and fans for participating in such a fun campaign."

Winner Aftab Ahmad said: "I still cannot believe that I got to live out every football fan's biggest fantasy, flying out to Barcelona and getting to meet one of my favorite players of all time, and one of the biggest names in football, Neymar. All I can say is that I'm glad I have photos of the trip, otherwise I might think it was all one great dream." The winner's journey was captured on the McDonald's Arabia Instagram page, using the #bigmacwalk hashtag. Highlights of the trip can be viewed on YouTube.

## EXPERIENCE AUTHENTIC FLAVORS, RAMADAN ATMOSPHERE AT SHERATON KUWAIT, FOUR POINTS

An enduring icon which is a natural blend between the old and the new renewed traditions, the Sheraton Hotel Kuwait invites you to spend unforgettable times during the holy month of Ramadan, which coincides this year with the celebrations of its 50th years Anniversary as the first managed Sheraton to open outside United States, which reflects a real icon in the Arabian Hospitality world.

The Ramadan Tent will be held this year in our newly renovated Coral Ballroom, with its charming designs, welcoming you for iftar, ghabkas and suhour, in a special Ramadan ambience. Daily menus with a variety of soups, salads, and many international and traditional local dishes, distinctive kind of sweets, and beverages like Jallab and Kamreddin, and diversified international and traditional dishes. In the holy month, chefs keen to prepare the most luxurious menus and variety of dishes for an experience not to be forgotten, where Al-Hambra restaurant provides various and exceptional international dining set menu dishes, for iftar and suhour. The prestigious English Tea Lounge is welcoming you to relax your mood and have many flavors of Original tea, scones, and light snacks until 1:00 am. Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait continues to offer best specialties during the holy month of Ramadan at La Mama Pizzeria, which provides an assortment of appetizing antipasti, freshly prepared pasta and pizza baked in our wood oven to meet your culinary desire from iftar until 11:30 pm.

Sheraton Kuwait restaurants at Avenues- Grand Avenue invite you to indulge through an exceptional experience during the holy month of Ramadan, filled with the authentic flavors by enjoying lavish dining every night at Al-Hambra, and savoring a selection of set menu items specially prepared for the holy month for iftar and suhour.



For more variety and glittering, Le Tarbouche restaurant provides delicious Lebanese traditional dishes in a great Ramadan ambience for iftar and suhour. As usually Bukhara restaurant with its wonderful atmosphere and charming designs reflecting the authenticity of the Indian taste with the finest types of Indian spices, and Shahrayar restaurant offers you the fantastic grilled Iranian dishes throughout the holy month of Ramadan.

Relax in the elegance of the English tea lounge and enjoy a luxury classic ambience with authentic flavors of English tea, and a variety of delectable scones and snacks during the holy month of Ramadan. Sheraton Kuwait Restaurants at

Avenues-Grand Avenue is welcoming you during the blessed month daily until 1:00 am. Outside Catering is also available with a variety of selections from Ramadan menus prepared by our master chefs for 'iftar', 'ghabka' and 'suhour'.

On this occasion, Fahed Abu Shaar, the General Manager of the Sheraton Kuwait, and Mounir Amer - The General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, and the family of Sheraton and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait wish His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness The Crown Prince a blessed month, and a great health and wellness, and all Kuwaitis and residents best wishes and health.

### FRENCH NATIONAL DAY TO BE CELEBRATED MAY 31

Due to the timing of Ramadan, the French National Day will be celebrated by the Embassy of France in Kuwait during an official ceremony in honor of the Kuwaiti authorities and the diplomatic community in Kuwait, on May 31, 2016. The reception will be held at the invitation of his Excellency the Ambassador of France, Christian Nakhle.

The celebration of the National Day will be an opportunity to reinforce the deep-rooted ties of friendship between Kuwait and France expanded in many fields, as reflected by the interactions in the economic, cultural, linguistic, tourism sectors, and the military cooperation between the two countries as well. The celebration of the National Day for the French community will be held on July 14, 2016.



**AMC**

- 04:30 Island Of The Lost
- 06:00 Natural Causes
- 07:30 Solarbabies
- 09:05 Beat Street
- 10:50 The Great Escape
- 13:40 Movers And Shakers
- 15:00 Rich Kids
- 16:35 Beauty Shop
- 18:20 Troll (Epic)
- 19:40 The Sharkfighters
- 21:00 The Birdcage
- 23:00 Nightwatch
- 00:40 Wolf
- 02:45 52 Pick-Up

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

- 03:25 Natural World
- 04:15 Animal Cops South Africa
- 05:02 Shamwari: A Wild Life
- 05:49 Gangland Killers
- 06:36 Call Of The Wildman
- 07:25 Dog TV
- 08:15 Giant Pandas Go Wild
- 09:10 Rugged Justice
- 10:05 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 11:00 Dog TV
- 11:55 Night
- 12:50 Mutant Planet
- 14:40 Untamed China With Nigel Marvin
- 15:35 Swimming With Monsters: Steve Backshall
- 16:30 Spawn Of Jaws: The Birth
- 17:25 Wildest Islands
- 18:20 Restoration Wild
- 19:15 Rugged Justice
- 20:10 Austin Stevens: Snakemaster
- 21:05 Village Vets
- 22:00 Restoration Wild
- 22:55 Night
- 23:50 Gator Boys
- 01:40 Mutant Planet
- 02:35 Wildest Islands

**BBC FIRST**

- 03:10 Wallander
- 04:40 Eastenders
- 05:15 Father Brown
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Eastenders
- 07:00 Death In Paradise
- 08:00 Father Brown
- 08:45 Call The Midwife
- 09:45 Death In Paradise
- 10:40 Doctors
- 11:10 Eastenders
- 11:45 Father Brown
- 12:35 The Musketeers
- 13:30 Death In Paradise
- 14:25 Eastenders
- 14:55 Doctors
- 15:30 Father Brown
- 16:25 Dickensian
- 17:10 Doctor Who
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Father Brown
- 20:00 DCI Banks
- 21:00 DCI Banks
- 21:50 Silent Witness
- 22:45 Orphan Black
- 23:40 Doctors
- 00:10 Eastenders
- 00:50 DCI Banks

**ci**

- 03:00 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 03:30 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 04:00 Evil Up Close
- 05:00 The Ghost Inside My Child
- 06:00 The FBI Files
- 09:00 Evil Up Close
- 10:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 11:00 The First 48
- 12:00 The First 48
- 13:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 14:00 Evil Up Close
- 15:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 16:00 I Killed My BFF
- 17:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 18:00 Monster In My Family
- 19:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 20:00 The Great Train Robbery
- 21:00 Gangs Of Britain...
- 22:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
- 23:00 Monster In My Family
- 00:00 The Haunting Of...
- 01:00 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 01:30 Curious & Unusual Deaths
- 02:00 The Jail: 60 Days In

**Discovery Channel HD**

- 03:15 Curse Of The Frozen Gold
- 06:00 Yukon Men
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud
- 08:30 Lost And Sold
- 08:55 Storage Wars Canada
- 09:20 Property Wars
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 Carfellas
- 10:35 Edge Of Alaska
- 11:25 Ice Lake Rebels
- 12:15 Railroad Alaska
- 13:05 Lost And Sold
- 13:30 Storage Wars Canada
- 13:55 Property Wars
- 14:20 Yukon Men
- 15:10 Wheeler Dealers
- 16:00 Fast N' Loud
- 16:50 Carfellas
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Diesel Brothers
- 18:30 Street Outlaws: New Orleans
- 19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls: Men
- 20:10 Storage Wars Canada
- 20:35 Property Wars
- 21:00 Dual Survival
- 21:50 Dual Survival
- 22:40 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud
- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:10 Dual Survival
- 02:00 Dual Survival
- 02:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown

**Discovery Family**

- 03:00 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
- 03:50 You Have Been Warned
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:50 Kids vs Film
- 08:40 You Have Been Warned
- 12:00 How It's Made
- 13:40 Mythbusters
- 17:00 Ultimate Survival
- 18:40 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
- 19:30 Prehistoric
- 20:20 How The Earth Works
- 21:10 Wild Hawaii
- 22:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 00:30 Strangest Weather On Earth

**Disney Channel**

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Lolirock
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Gravity Falls
- 07:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:40 Hank Zipzer
- 08:05 Shake It Up
- 08:30 Shake It Up
- 08:55 Hannah Montana
- 09:45 H2O: Just Add Water
- 10:35 Sharpay's Fabulous Adventure
- 12:05 Violetta Recipes
- 12:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:20 Jessie
- 12:45 Girl Meets World
- 13:10 Alex And Co
- 13:35 Jessie
- 14:25 Descendants Wicked World
- 14:30 Jessie
- 17:50 Violetta Recipes
- 18:00 The Suite Life Movie
- 19:30 Evermoor Chronicles
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta

**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 PJ Masks
- 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 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
- 12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:25 Goldie & Bear
- 13:50 Doc McStuffins
- 14:15 The Lion Guard
- 14:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:10 Miles From Tomorrow
- 15:35 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 16:00 Sofia The First
- 16:25 Jungle Cubs
- 16:50 Aladdin
- 17:15 The Lion Guard
- 17:40 Goldie & Bear
- 18:05 Miles From Tomorrow
- 18:30 Sofia The First
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 The Lion Guard
- 20:00 Goldie & Bear
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:25 PJ Masks
- 21:50 Jungle Cubs
- 22:20 Aladdin
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
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- 00:05 Art Attack
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- 01:00 Zou
- 01:15 Loopdidoo
- 01:30 Art Attack
- 01:55 Henry Hugglemonster
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- 05:15 Art Attack
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- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
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- 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

**Disney XD**

- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Supa Strikas
- 08:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 09:10 Kirby Buckets
- 09:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 10:00 Supa Strikas
- 10:25 K.C. Undercover
- 10:50 Annedroids
- 11:20 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 11:45 Mighty Med
- 12:10 Mighty Med
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Rocket Monkeys
- 15:40 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 16:05 Mighty Med
- 16:30 Star Wars Rebels
- 16:55 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Supa Strikas
- 18:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Annedroids
- 19:35 Star Wars Rebels
- 20:00 Mighty Med
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Supa Strikas
- 21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am

**Disney XD**

- 03:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 04:10 House Of DVF
- 05:05 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
- 09:15 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
- 12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:05 El News
- 14:05 Botched
- 16:00 Botched: Post Op
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Fashion Police
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 01:50 Botched
- 02:20 El News

**food network**

- 03:00 Man Finds Food
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Siba's Table
- 12:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 13:00 Chopped
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Siba's Table
- 19:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 20:00 Chopped
- 21:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 22:00 Man v Food
- 23:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 00:00 Chopped
- 01:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 02:00 Man v Food

**EHD**

- 03:15 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 04:10 House Of DVF
- 05:05 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
- 09:15 Kourtney & Kim Take New York
- 12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:05 El News
- 14:05 Botched
- 16:00 Botched: Post Op
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 El News
- 20:00 Fashion Police
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
- 00:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 01:50 Botched
- 02:20 El News

**food network**

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- 22:00 Man v Food
- 23:00 Valerie's Home Cooking
- 00:00 Chopped
- 01:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
- 02:00 Man v Food

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 04:00 Living With Fran
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Better With You
- 06:00 My Name Is Earl
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Living With Fran
- 08:30 Better With You
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 My Name Is Earl
- 12:30 Living With Fran
- 13:00 Better With You
- 15:30 Life In Pieces
- 16:00 The Carmichael Show
- 16:30 My Name Is Earl
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 The Muppets
- 18:30 The Goldbergs
- 19:00 Grandfathered
- 19:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
- 20:00 Hot In Cleveland
- 20:30 Hot In Cleveland
- 21:00 Life In Pieces
- 21:30 The Carmichael Show
- 22:00 Family Guy
- 22:30 The League
- 23:00 Married
- 00:30 Life In Pieces
- 01:00 The Carmichael Show
- 02:00 The League
- 02:30 Married

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 04:00 Living With Fran
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 Better With You
- 06:00 My Name Is Earl
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- 22:00 Family Guy
- 22:30 The League
- 23:00 Married
- 00:30 Life In Pieces
- 01:00 The Carmichael Show
- 02:00 The League
- 02:30 Married

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 03:00 Ballers
- 03:30 Funny Or Die Presents
- 04:00 The Wire
- 05:00 Normal
- 07:00 The Education Of Mohammad Hussein
- 08:00 On Freddie Roach
- 08:30 Flight Of The Conchords
- 09:00 Veep
- 09:30 The Gathering Storm
- 11:15 Everyday People
- 13:00 You Don't Know Jack
- 15:15 Dirty War
- 17:00 Everyday People
- 19:00 A Girl In The River: The Price Of Forgiveness
- 20:00 Big Love
- 21:00 The Knick
- 22:00 American Crime Story: The People V. O.J. Simpson
- 23:00 Dane Cook: Vicious Circle
- 01:00 Big Love

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 03:00 Pompeii
- 05:00 Ashes
- 07:00 Life Of A King
- 09:00 Pompeii

**OSN FIRST HD**

- 03:00 Agent X
- 04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Unforgettable
- 07:00 CSI
- 08:00 Prison Break
- 09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 10:00 Criminal Minds
- 11:00 CSI
- 12:00 Prison Break
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 CSI
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Unforgettable
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Prison Break
- 19:00 Bones
- 20:00 Complications
- 21:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
- 22:00 House Of Cards
- 23:00 Satisfaction
- 00:00 Bones
- 01:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
- 02:00 House Of Cards

**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 04:30 Armageddon
- 07:15 Forget And Forgive
- 09:00 The A-Team
- 11:15 Fast & Furious 6
- 13:30 Armageddon
- 16:15 Hercules Reborn
- 18:00 The A-Team
- 20:15 Edge Of Tomorrow
- 22:15 The Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day
- 00:15 The 13th Warrior
- 02:00 Forget And Forgive

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 04:00 My Father The Hero
- 06:00 Hope Springs
- 08:00 Green Card
- 10:00 Chef
- 12:00 The Other Sister
- 14:15 500 Days Of Summer
- 16:00 Green Card
- 18:00 Rush Hour
- 20:00 Lay The Favorite
- 21:45 Let's Be Cops
- 23:45 Deliver Us From Eva
- 01:45 The Other Sister

**OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA+2**

- 03:00 Sunshine On Leith
- 05:00 Kill The Messenger
- 07:00 Mood Indigo
- 09:15 The Giver
- 11:00 Breathe In
- 12:45 Mood Indigo
- 15:00 Fast Girls
- 17:00 Barefoot
- 19:00 Breathe In
- 21:00 Every Day
- 23:00 The Double
- 01:00 Nightcrawler

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

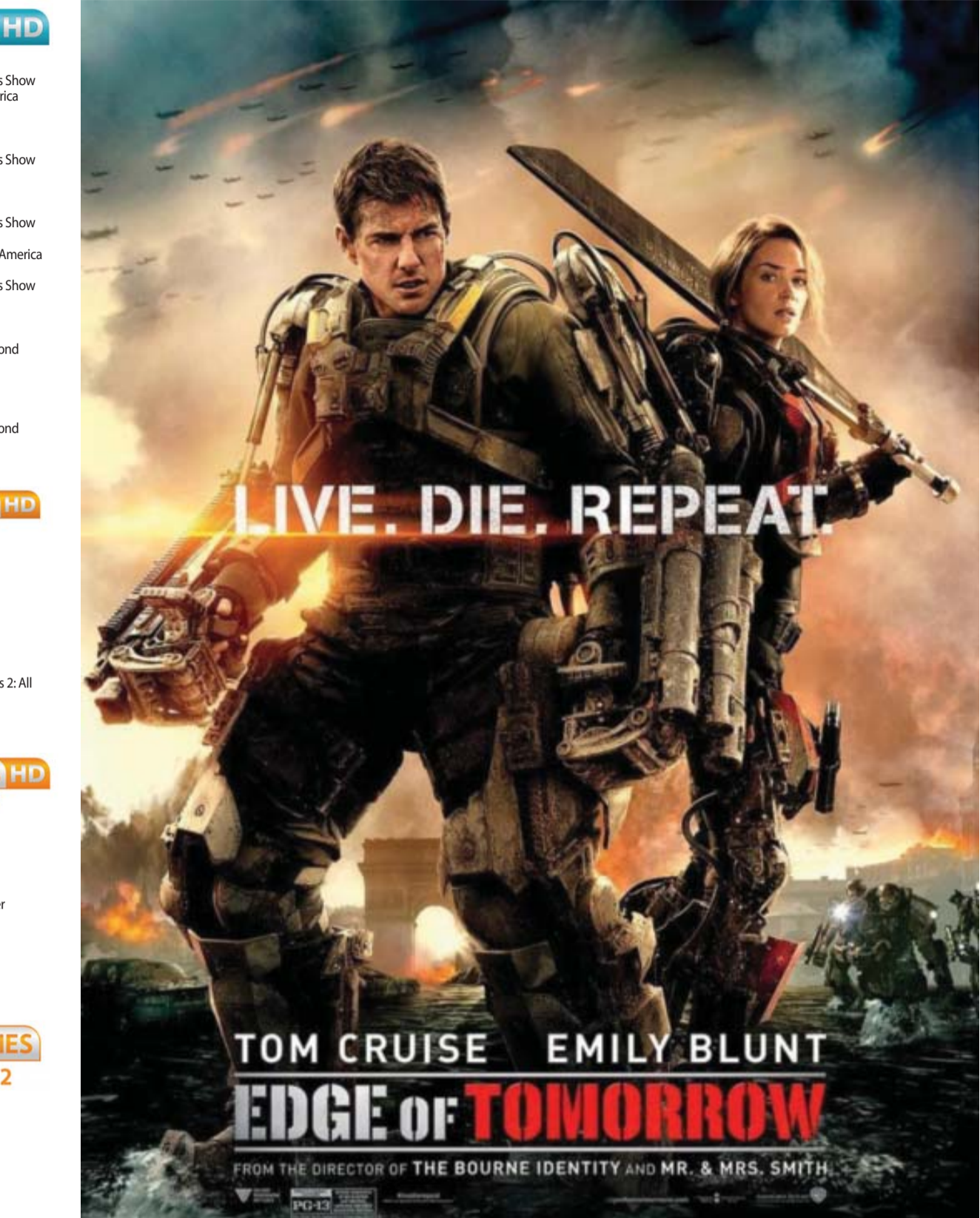
- 03:15 National Treasure 2: Book Of Secrets
- 05:15 Dr. Seuss' The Lorax
- 07:00 Annie
- 09:00 Coraline
- 11:00 The Santa Clause
- 13:00 Eight Below
- 15:00 Big Miracle
- 17:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
- 19:00 The Gabby Douglas Story
- 21:00 Blank Check
- 23:00 Big Miracle
- 01:00 The Gabby Douglas Story

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

- 04:30 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
- 06:00 Yellowbird
- 07:45 Miffy The Movie
- 09:30 Goat Story 2
- 11:00 Tarzan
- 12:45 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
- 14:30 Baby Geniuses And The Treasures Of Egypt
- 16:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 18:00 Goat Story 2
- 20:00 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 22:00 Baby Geniuses And The Treasures Of Egypt
- 23:45 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 01:30 Miffy The Movie

**OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**

- 04:45 Miss Julie
- 07:00 Boychoir
- 08:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
- 11:00 Star Wars: Episode v - The Empire Strikes Back



**EDGE OF TOMORROW ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD**

- 11:00 Philomena
- 13:00 The Last Days On Mars
- 15:00 JLA Adventures: Trapped In Time
- 16:30 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
- 19:00 Mortdecai
- 21:00 Manglehorn
- 23:00 Fifty Shades Of Grey
- 01:15 Dark Places
- 13:15 Star Wars: Episode VI - Return Of The Jedi
- 15:45 Until She Came Along
- 17:45 Barely Lethal
- 19:30 Unbroken
- 22:00 The Water Diviner
- 00:00 We're The Millers
- 02:00 Barely Lethal
- American Teenager
- 19:00 The Bridge
- 20:00 House Of DVF
- 21:00 According To Jim
- 22:00 The Simpsons
- 23:00 Switched At Birth
- 00:00 Lost
- 01:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager
- 05:10 Randy's Wedding Rescue
- 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
- 06:25 Super Soul Sunday
- 07:10 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 07:57 Two In A Million: Boys On Fire
- 08:45 Something Borrowed, Something New
- 09:08 Something Borrowed, Something New
- 09:32 Little People, Big World
- 09:57 Little People, Big World
- 10:20 Secret Eaters
- 11:10 Cake Boss
- 11:35 Oprah's Lifeclass
- 12:25 Super Soul Sunday
- 13:12 Fat Chance
- 14:00 Our Little Family
- 14:50 Little People, Big World: Big Changes
- 15:40 Toddlers & Tiaras
- 16:



# CLASSIFIEDS

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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (26/05/2016 TO 01/06/2016)

Time	Programme	Time	Programme	Time	Programme
11:30 AM	SHARQIA-1 MONEY MONSTER	9:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
1:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	12:15 AM	Hepta	7:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER
3:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER			10:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
5:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:30 AM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	12:45 AM	MONEY MONSTER
8:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	2:00 PM	Hepta		
10:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER	4:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE		
12:15 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	7:00 PM	Hepta		
		9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE		
		12:05 AM	Hepta		
11:45 AM	SHARQIA-2 WARCRAFT			11:45 AM	AVENUES-1 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
2:15 PM	WARCRAFT			2:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
4:45 PM	WARCRAFT			4:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
7:15 PM	WARCRAFT			6:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
9:45 PM	WARCRAFT			9:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
12:30 AM	WARCRAFT			11:45 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
12:00 PM	SHARQIA-3 Hepta	11:30 AM	THE NICE GUYS	11:30 AM	AVENUES-3 MONEY MONSTER
2:30 PM	Hepta	1:45 PM	CABIN FEVER	1:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER
5:00 PM	Hepta	4:00 PM	THE NICE GUYS	4:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER
7:30 PM	Hepta	6:15 PM	CABIN FEVER	6:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
10:00 PM	Hepta	8:15 PM	THE NICE GUYS	8:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER
12:45 AM	Hepta	10:30 PM	CABIN FEVER	10:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER
		12:45 AM		1:00 AM	MONEY MONSTER
11:45 AM	MUHALAB-1 Hepta	12:00 PM	WARCRAFT 3D	12:15 PM	360°-1 Hepta
2:15 PM	Hepta	2:30 PM	WARCRAFT	2:45 PM	Hepta
4:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:00 PM	WARCRAFT 3D	5:15 PM	Hepta
6:45 PM	Hepta	7:30 PM	WARCRAFT	7:45 PM	Hepta
9:15 PM	Hepta	10:00 PM	WARCRAFT	10:15 PM	Hepta
11:45 PM	Hepta	12:30 AM	WARCRAFT	12:45 AM	Hepta
12:45 PM	MUHALAB-2 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	1:15 PM	FANAR-5 X-MEN: Apocalypse	12:00 PM	360°-2 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
3:00 PM	MONEY MONSTER	2:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	3:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
5:00 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	4:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	5:15 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
5:15 PM	SARBJIT (Hindi)	8:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE	7:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
8:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:45 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	10:00 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
10:15 PM	MONEY MONSTER			12:30 AM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
12:15 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse				
11:30 AM	MUHALAB-3 WARCRAFT	11:30 AM	MARINA-1 MONEY MONSTER	12:30 PM	360°-3 THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	1:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	2:45 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 3D
4:30 PM	WARCRAFT	3:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	5:00 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE (Arabic)
7:00 PM	WARCRAFT	5:30 PM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	7:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
9:30 PM	WARCRAFT	10:30 AM	MONEY MONSTER	9:30 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE
12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	12:30 AM	X-MEN: Apocalypse	11:45 PM	Hepta
1:15 PM	FANAR-1 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	11:30 AM	MARINA-2 WARCRAFT	11:30 AM	AL-KOUT.1 WARCRAFT
1:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	2:00 PM	WARCRAFT	2:00 PM	WARCRAFT
3:30 PM	MONEY MONSTER	4:30 PM	WARCRAFT	4:30 PM	WARCRAFT
5:30 PM	PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND	7:00 PM	WARCRAFT	7:00 PM	WARCRAFT
7:45 PM	MONEY MONSTER	9:30 PM	WARCRAFT	9:30 PM	WARCRAFT
		12:05 AM	WARCRAFT	12:05 AM	WARCRAFT
		12:45 PM	MARINA-3 Hepta	1:00 PM	AL-KOUT.2 PELE: BIRTH OF A LEGEND
		3:15 PM	THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE		

### WANTED WORKERS

For a bakery & sweets store. Any experience with baking and sweet preparation is eligible.

Call: **96944466**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

**Fajr: 03:19**  
**Shorook: 04:51**  
**Duhr: 11:45**  
**Asr: 15:20**  
**Maghrib: 18:39**  
**Isha: 20:08**

### CHANGE OF NAME

This is to certify that Ms. Vivian Aquino Villancio and Ms. Vivian Villancio Mowrey a Filipino national, of legal age, and holder of Philippine Passport No. EC7537682 issued on 27 Apr 2016 at the Phil Embassy Kuwait refers to one and the same person. Phil address: Purok 14 Poblacion Magsaysay DVO Del Sur. (C 5173) 30-5-2016

### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation available for couple, bachelors, or working ladies in Salmiya, Amman street, C-AC flat new building with all facilities. Contact: 98760182. (C 5174) 30-5-2016

### EMERGENCY 112

### Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

## Flight Schedule

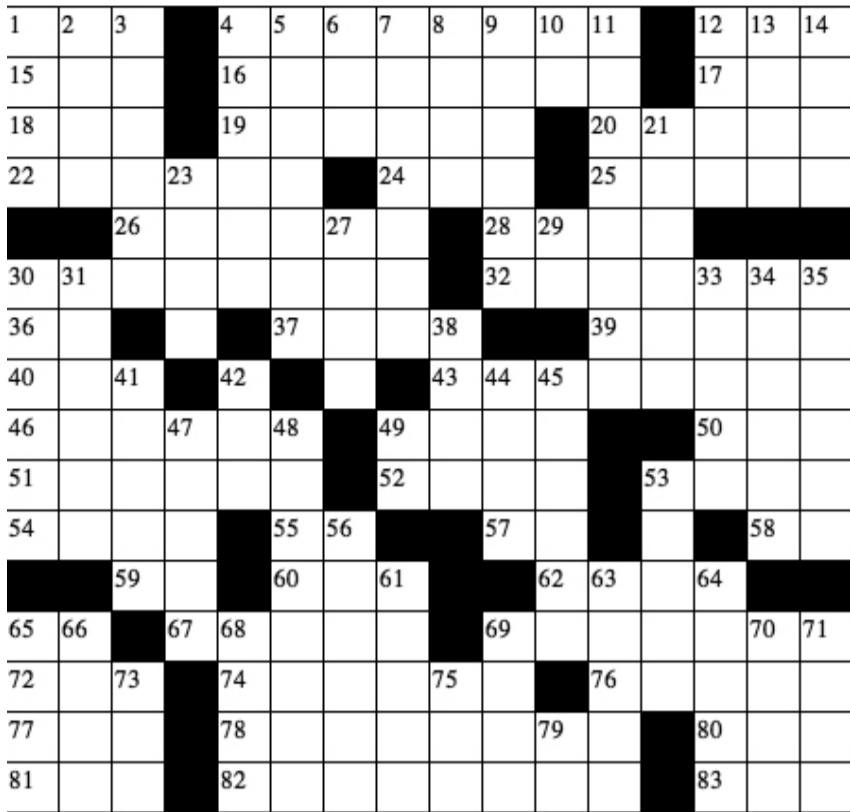
Arrival Flights on Monday 30/5/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 30/5/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	MSC	502	Alexandria	00:05
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	02:20	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:00
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	ETD	920	Abu Dhabi	04:20
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
BAW	157	London	06:40	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	JZR	534	Cairo	09:25
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:00
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	IRA	666	Esfahan	10:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	KAC	103	London	12:10
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10

In case you are not travelling, your proper cancellation of bookings will help other passengers to use seats

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page ([www.kuwait-airport.com.kw](http://www.kuwait-airport.com.kw))

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

CROSSWORD 1269



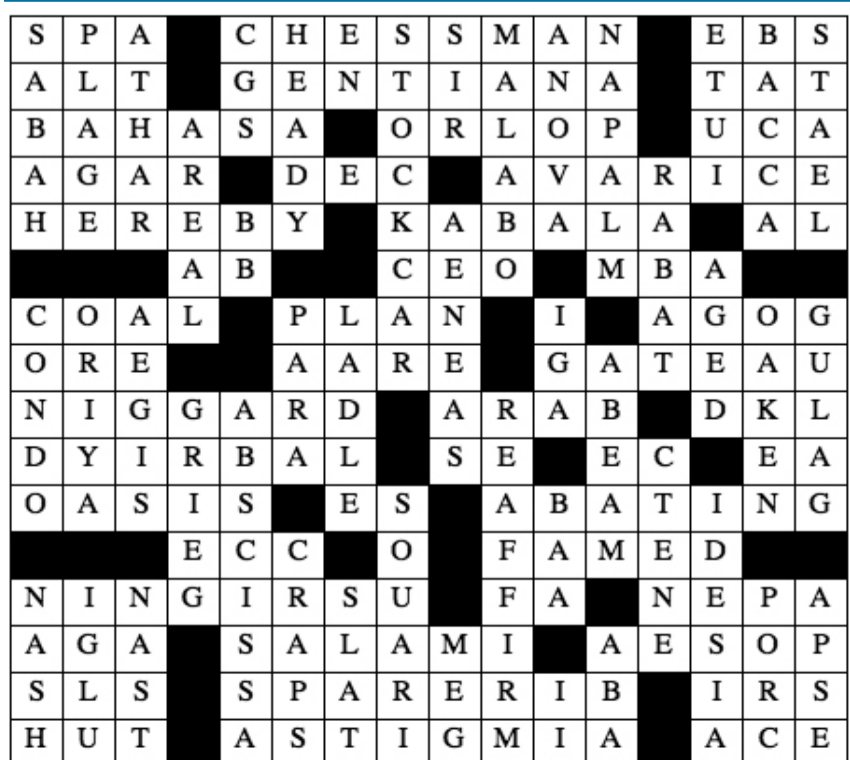
ACROSS

1. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
4. Perform a capriole, of horses in dressage.
12. An American doctorate usually based on at least 3 years graduate study and a dissertation.
15. South American wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers.
16. Like an amoeba (especially in having a variable irregular shape).
17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
18. Anterior pituitary hormone that stimulates the function of the thyroid gland.
19. Hired for the exclusive temporary use of a group of travelers.
20. A small pendant fleshy lobe at the back of the soft palate.
22. A cloth used as a head covering (and veil and shawl) by Muslim and Hindu women.
24. Being ten more than one hundred thirty.
25. A cavity in the mesoderm of an embryo that gives rise to the pleural cavity and pericardial cavity and peritoneal cavity.
26. The wood of the sabicu which resembles mahogany.
28. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
30. A sandal with flat heels and an upper of woven leather straps.
32. Exposing human folly to ridicule.
36. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
37. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
39. Any plant of the genus Erica.
40. The chance to speak.
43. Devoid of physical sensation.
46. Large scissors with strong blades.
50. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
51. Soviet physicist who worked on low temperature physics (1908-1968).
52. Anything that provides inspiration for later work.
54. (prefix) Within.
55. A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
57. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
58. The presence of an unwanted signal via an accidental coupling.
59. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
60. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
62. Two items of the same kind.
65. A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
67. Someone who owns (is legal possessor of) a business.
72. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
74. Roman Emperor who was the adoptive son of Trajan.
76. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
77. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
78. A watercourse that carries water away from a mill or water wheel or turbine.
80. A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
81. The cry made by sheep.
82. White Southerner supporting Reconstruction policies after the Civil War usually for self-interest.
83. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A training program to prepare college students to be commissioned officers.
2. A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
3. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
4. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
5. North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
6. Chiefly perennial grasses of cool temperate regions.
7. A person who rescues you from harm or danger.
8. Wild goat of mountain areas of Eurasia and North Africa having large recurved horns.
9. A large number or amount.
10. Being one more than fifty.
11. Possessing an education (especially having more than average knowledge).
12. United States feminist (1885-1977).
13. An indication of radiant light drawn around the head of a saint.
14. A unit of apothecary weight equal to an eighth of an ounce or to 60 grains.
21. (law) A group of people summoned for jury service (from whom a jury will be chosen).
23. A challenge to do something dangerous or foolhardy.
27. Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
29. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
31. A resident of Utah.
33. A liquid preparation used on wet hair to it a tint.
34. White goods in which food can be stored at low temperatures.
35. Marked by a rhythmical cadence.
38. At or constituting a border or edge.
41. A woman gossip.
42. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
44. Earn on some commercial or business transaction.
45. A large fleet.
47. (Philippine) A dish of marinated vegetables and meat or fish.
48. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Clinoril).
49. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
53. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
56. Small genus of dioecious tropical aquatic plants.
61. A rotating power drill powered by an electric motor.
63. A member of a Turkic people of Uzbekistan and neighboring areas.
64. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
66. A small cake leavened with yeast.
68. Telephone line (Wide Area Telephone Service).
69. Bite or chew on with the teeth.
70. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
71. God of love and erotic desire.
73. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
75. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
79. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You could be known as the best team player at work. You and your siblings are well known to be good at sports when away from work. Today is about enjoying the company of your family, and friends. You tend to be good at lending a helping hand for and with others. You feel a love of duty and a determination to be the best you can be. A casual ballgame or board game is fun and team activities draw you close to the people with whom you enjoy keeping company. There is a harmony between your emotions and rational action. Your strong personal magnetism and effervescent personality may gain you much positive attention. You inspire many with your positive attitude. This afternoon you may find yourself making a list for future get togethers



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You could be most persuasive with others and successful in talking yourself through the best sales day ever! This afternoon you may decide to seek out a new friend or do some fun activity with a neighbor or relative that you have not seen for a long time. A new person may unexpectedly enter your life. You are in tune with your convictions and beliefs and don't mind expressing them to others. A loved one, who feels as you do about life and life circumstances, may be helpful in working with you to find new paths to success. Return the favor and you will have a friend for life. Take advantage of some social opportunities this evening and enjoy the evening fun.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This may be a day of cleaning out your desk, polishing equipment and just, in general, cleaning up around home. You may work in an office where customers come in and have to wait long periods. A clean, presentable, comfortable waiting room helps create calm. You are appreciated and valued for your attitude and outlook on the world and life in general. You lead others to positive places. You could be traveling later in the day and find a spirit of comradeship among neighboring passengers. You are charming and captivating, entertaining and lively. The good life, and all that is fine and luxurious, may be what you value for now.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You and your work could come under scrutiny today. You are ready for any review you might have-don't worry. You also have a knack of charming anyone to your way of thinking. Go slow and think things through before trying to convince a higher-up of your work techniques. Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you. Find some time to think and study, for you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. This is a good time to complete any unfinished business-the longer you wait, the faster things can go wrong.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your energies are high and your best efforts-applied to any project-will be successful. Your communicative abilities are accented and it is an excellent time to sway others to your way of thinking. Be careful in taking a technical argument to extremes and in trying to find a logical reason for every event that occurs-especially the actions of a loved one. You are perceived as so intense at times that your presence in a group has a very decided effect. You may have a political influence with someone or you might handle other people's money-perhaps an investment opportunity will be available soon.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Use your knowledge as well as your instincts to help make an important decision at this time. Don't second-guess a gut feeling. You could be most persuasive with others and eloquent in speech. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others just now and are in a good position to lead or relate to groups and society in general. Get outside for a while during the noon hour-perhaps visiting a bookstore. Read something funny, merge your sense of humor into the afternoon and life will not seem so black and white. Focus will be easier to come by when pressures are relaxed. Create fun this afternoon. Parental advice is vital.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You may spend quite a bit of time thinking of ways in which to improve finances. The desire for monetary success is considerable and you may decide a part-time job is in order for a short while. You may have a pet project you will want to tend to today. This pet project can bring a sense of wellbeing into your life now. Change may seem to be the only way to stop those feelings of monotony. Your emotions could come into play while talking with loved ones this afternoon. Try to keep a measure of objectivity at this time. Your interest in religion and philosophy can be used when helping a friend. A social affair this evening will create an opportunity for you to network. Bring fresh flowers for the host. You make a new friend this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Although your day flows easily enough, your mood may be pensive. Cleaning up your special work area and organizing your thoughts may take up much of the day. There is involvement in projection, promotion and publication of ideas among friends and family. A round table discussion may produce creative ideas for future group activities. You may be moving in and organizing a creative idea for profit. There are serious attitudes toward affairs of business. Plan to finalize matters with the help of a lawyer and everyone will be happy. You find yourself feeling more private and in a stay-at-home mood this evening. A short trip or an evening dinner out is a temptation in which the whole family may enjoy participating. Enjoy your loved ones.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Story writing, whether it actually is a story to be published or one just developing, will get a big boost today. Ideas are easy and writing will flow like a waterfall. Perhaps a new business plan is the object of the writing; whatever the case, much can be accomplished along these lines. You could be most persuasive with others and persuasive in your communication. The situation is a natural for self-expression and lends itself to your particular ideas and thoughts. Catching up on neighborhood gossip and visiting with friends can be enjoyed this afternoon. You are practical, realistic and stable in your feelings-any frustrations with another can be easily solved, particularly through a compromise. A good conversation with those you love is possible.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are ambitious and ready to accomplish whatever is put in front of you. Completing any ongoing job will bring you a great deal of satisfaction. As problems arise, you are ready and willing to tackle them. Any professional advice that you think you might need could be successfully taken into account. You will find this one of your better times for working with groups. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. Your productivity thrives at this time. Use your self-expression freely, particularly in any writing tasks that you perform. Although your thoughts could be focused mostly on achievements, do not forget one or two loved ones that need your undivided attention this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There is an abundance of creative interest in which projects will be successful. There could be mistakes in mathematical problems however-check your work carefully. Invention and creative ventures could be lucrative. You will be attentive to your loved ones but you may seem to have other things on your mind as well. Be easy on your nervous system and involve yourself in some fun activity that includes only your best friend or loved one. Perhaps a movie or dinner at a restaurant would be satisfying. You have an urge for social life but again, your mind may not be focused on what others are talking about. A busy day today and one possibly tomorrow will have many demands on your ability to think quickly. Retire early this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may tend to scatter your attention just now. There is much to do in many avenues of your life and it may be difficult to know just where to begin. It would be good to make out a list, follow it and not rush ahead of schedule. Give each item all of your attention-one thing at a time. Family outings or some sports activity with your friends is probably going to be on your mind much of the afternoon. You may be thinking of putting in some new grass, a tree, some flowers, etc. Whatever activity is planned, you will want to invite as much help as possible so you can get the work done all at once. You may even decide to name parts of the project after each helper. You may enjoy a nap later this afternoon. This evening is invigorating.

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

60's Songs 1 - Word Search

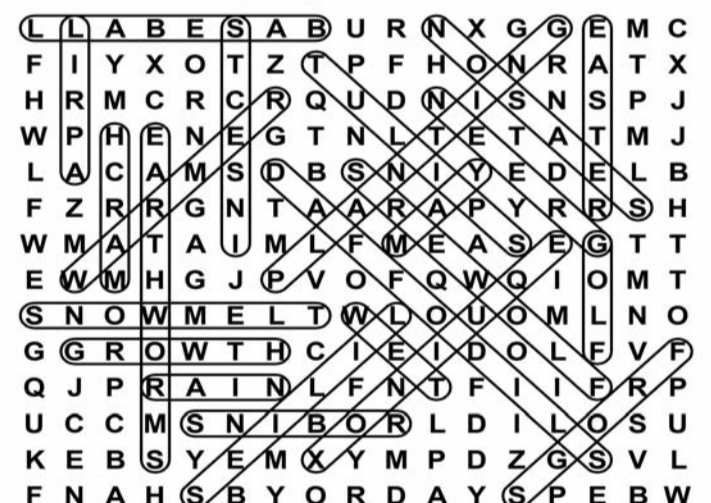
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- BABY LOVE
- BLUE VELVET
- CARA MIA
- CHERISH
- CRYING
- DOWNTOWN
- ELENORE
- FIRE
- GROOVIN
- HEATWAVE
- HOLIDAY
- MEMPHIS
- MY GUY
- PUPPY LOVE
- RUNAWAY
- SOUL MAN
- STAY
- TEEN ANGEL
- THE TWIST
- VALLERI
- WHITE RABBIT
- WINDY
- YESTERDAY

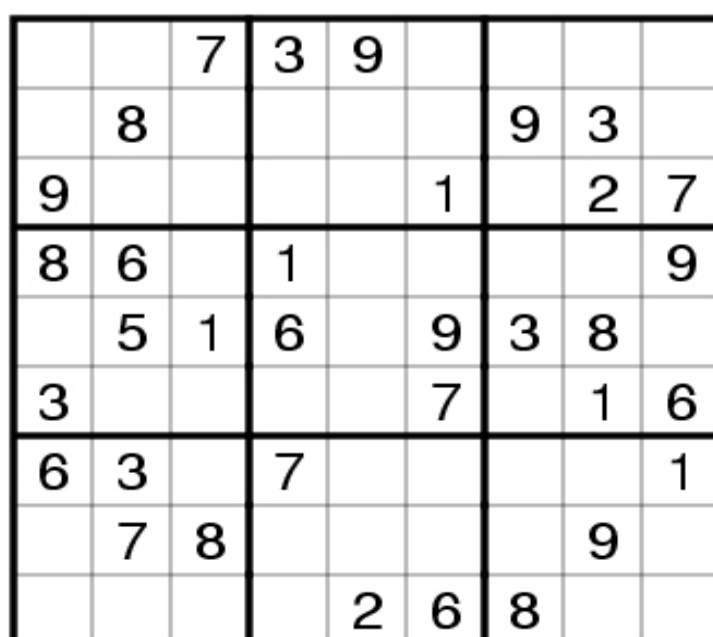
Yesterday's Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles  
Spring - Solution



- APRIL
- BASEBALL
- DAFFODILS
- EARTHWORMS
- EASTER
- EQUINOX
- FLOWERS
- FROGS
- GOLF
- GREEN
- GROWTH
- INSECTS
- LILIES
- MARCH
- MAY
- PLANTING
- RAIN
- ROBINS
- SEASON
- SNOWMELT
- TULIPS
- WARMER
- WET

Daily SuDoku



easy

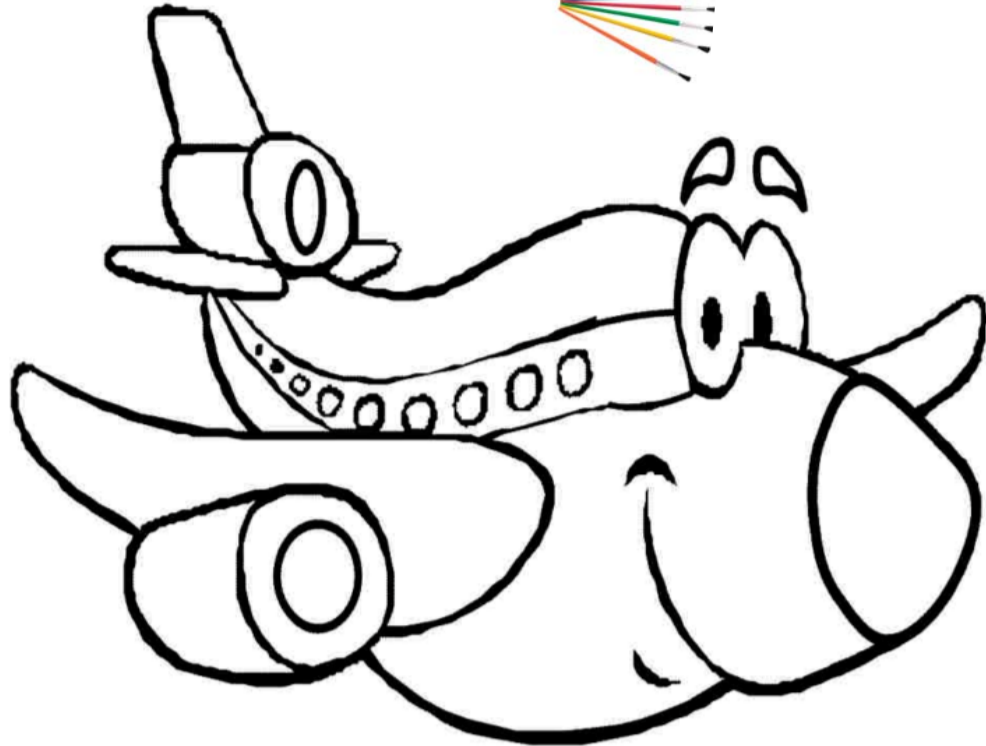
Yesterday's Solution



medium



### Color me!



### WORD SEARCH

#### Food Groups

Find and circle all of the Food Group items that are hidden in the grid. The words may be hidden in any direction.

A F B R E V B N M A F U L  
 P U S N P E S T V S E S L  
 E C I R A G G B R E A D S  
 S R R N S E R S R E R M E  
 E L S A T T L N P I A I E  
 E E I M A A I O U L F L S  
 V C E O E B U U R T S K E  
 G A H R L L G T R E S R S  
 H T E E T E M R U F Y T S  
 S C T R E S T U H I A M S  
 I E Y T E S E G I F E U E  
 F T E G G S E O E A T F S  
 S T E E W S A Y T L F I R

- BREADS, CEREAL, RICE, PASTA
- VEGETABLES
- FRUITS
- MILK, YOGURT, CHEESE
- MEAT, POULTRY, FISH, BEANS, EGGS, NUTS
- FATS, OILS, SWEETS

### Scuba Diver in a Bottle



#### What You Need:

- Empty plastic water bottle with lid
- Test tube (this is the scuba diver)
- Water

#### Instructions:

Make your scuba diver swim to the bottom of the bottle at your command.

1. Fill the bottle with water to the top.
2. Fill the test tube with water less than half way.
3. Next, in a fast but careful motion, take the test tube and flip it over into the bottle. It will bob its end out of the bottle but that's normal.

4. Then, put the lid on the bottle.

Now you are ready to try it out.

The secret to making the scuba diver bounce up and down is to squeeze the bottle. When you squeeze the bottle, the "diver" goes down. When you let go, it goes back up.

You can show you friends this trick and challenge them to make the diver follow their commands. Only you know the secret!

## Neptune

Neptune is the eighth and farthest known planet from the Sun in the Solar System. It is the fourth-largest planet by diameter and the third-largest by mass. Among the giant planets in the Solar System, Neptune is the most dense. Neptune is 17 times the mass of Earth and is slightly more massive than its near-twin Uranus, which is 15 times the mass of Earth and slightly larger than Neptune. Neptune orbits the Sun once every 164.8 years at an average distance of 30.1 astronomical units (4,500,109 km). Named after the Roman god of the sea, its astronomical symbol is, a stylized version of the god Neptune's trident.

Neptune is not visible to the unaided eye and is the only planet in the Solar System found by mathematical prediction rather than by empirical observation. Unexpected changes in the orbit of Uranus led Alexis Bouvard to deduce that its orbit was subject to gravita-

proportion of "ices" such as water, ammonia, and methane. However, its interior, like that of Uranus, is primarily composed of ices and rock, and hence Uranus and Neptune are normally considered "ice giants" to emphasize this distinction. Traces of methane in the outermost regions in part account for the planet's blue appearance.

In contrast to the hazy, relatively featureless atmosphere of Uranus, Neptune's atmosphere has active and visible weather patterns. For example, at the time of the Voyager 2 flyby in 1989, the planet's southern hemisphere had a Great Dark Spot comparable to the Great Red Spot on Jupiter. These weather patterns are driven by the strongest sustained winds of any planet in the Solar System, with recorded wind speeds as high as 2,100 kilometers per hour (580 m/s; 1,300 mph). Because of its great distance from the Sun, Neptune's outer atmosphere is one of the coldest places in the Solar System, with temperatures at its cloud tops approaching 55 K (−218 °C). Temperatures at the planet's centre are approximately 5,400 K (5,100 °C). Neptune has a faint and fragmented ring system (labeled "arcs"), which was first detected during the 1960s and confirmed by Voyager 2.

#### Moons

Neptune has 14 known moons. Triton is the largest Neptunian moon, comprising more than 99.5% of the mass in orbit around Neptune, and it is the only one massive enough to be spheroidal. Triton was discovered by William Lassell just 17 days after the discovery of Neptune itself. Unlike all other large planetary moons in the Solar System, Triton has a retrograde orbit, indicating that it was captured rather than forming in place; it was probably once a dwarf planet in the Kuiper belt. It is close enough to Neptune to be locked into asynchronous rotation, and it is slowly spiralling inward because of tidal acceleration. It will eventually be torn apart, in about 3.6 billion years, when it reaches the Roche limit. In 1989, Triton was the coldest object that had yet been measured in the Solar System, with estimated temperatures of 2235 °C.

Neptune's second known satellite (by order of discovery), the irregular moon Nereid, has one of the most eccentric orbits of any satellite in the Solar System. The eccentricity of 0.7512 gives it an apoapsis that is seven times its periapsis distance from Neptune.[f]

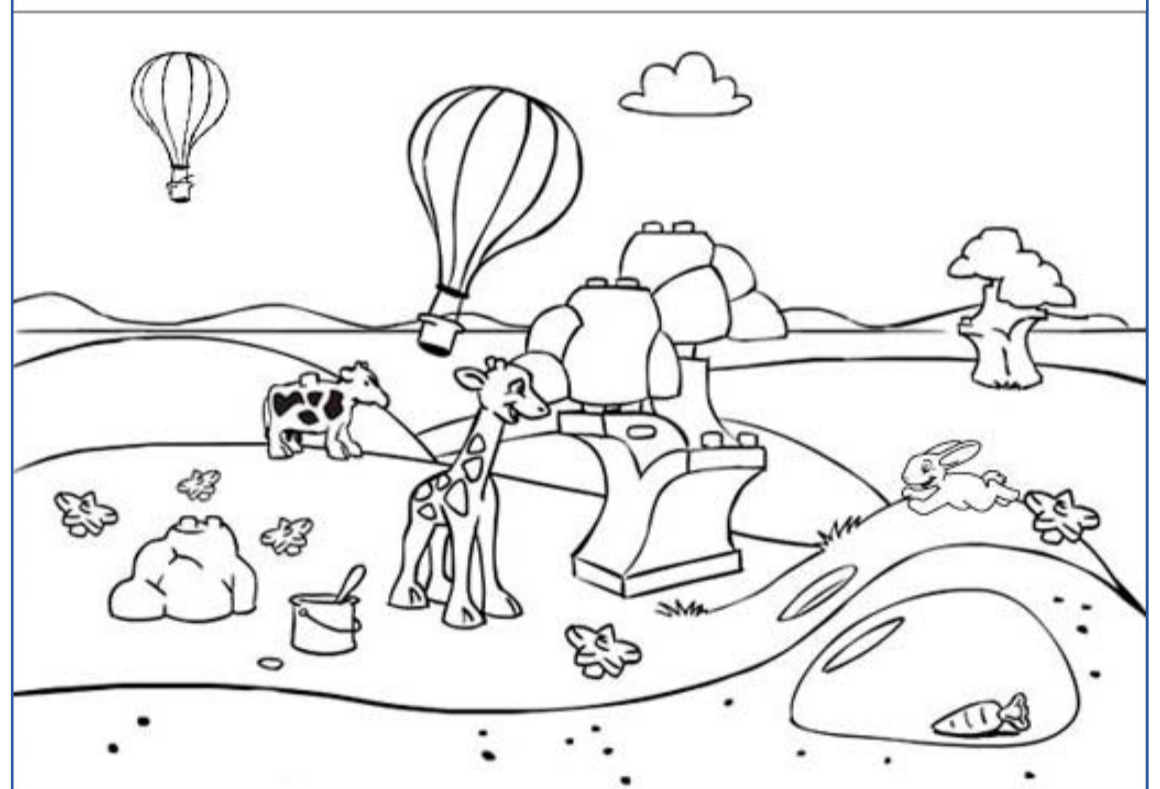
From July to September 1989, Voyager 2 discovered six moons of Neptune. Of these, the irregularly shaped Proteus is notable for being as large as a body of its density can be without being pulled into a spherical shape by its own gravity. Although the second-most-massive Neptunian moon, it is only 0.25% the mass of Triton. Neptune's innermost four moons—Naiad, Thalassa, Despina and Galatea—orbit close enough to be within Neptune's rings. The next-farthest out, Larissa, was originally discovered in 1981 when it had occulted a star. This occultation had been attributed to ring arcs, but when Voyager 2 observed Neptune in 1989, Larissa was found to have caused it. Five new irregular moons discovered between 2002 and 2003 were announced in 2004. A new moon and the smallest yet was found in 2013. Because Neptune was the Roman god of the sea, Neptune's moons have been named after lesser sea gods.



tional perturbation by an unknown planet. Neptune was subsequently observed with a telescope on 23 September 1846 by Johann Galle within a degree of the position predicted by Urbain Le Verrier. Its largest moon, Triton, was discovered shortly thereafter, though none of the planet's remaining known 14 moons were located telescopically until the 20th century. The planet's distance from Earth gives it a very small apparent size, making it challenging to study with Earth-based telescopes. Neptune was visited by Voyager 2, when it flew by the planet on 25 August 1989. The advent of Hubble Space Telescope and large ground-based telescopes with adaptive optics has recently allowed for additional detailed observations from afar.

Neptune is similar in composition to Uranus, and both have compositions that differ from those of the larger gas giants, Jupiter and Saturn. Like Jupiter and Saturn, Neptune's atmosphere is composed primarily of hydrogen and helium, along with traces of hydrocarbons and possibly nitrogen, but contains a higher

### Spot 5 differences



### DID YOU KNOW?

- The fastest bird is the peregrine falcon. It can fly at a speed of 168-217 miles per hour.
- Hans Langseth had the longest beard at a record length of 17 1/2 feet long! When he died, his beard was given to the Smithsonian Institute.
- The deadliest disease was the pneumonic form of the Black Death of 1347-1351. It had death rate of 100%.
- The largest egg laid by a living bird is that of the North African Ostrich. It is 6 to 8 inches in length and 4 to 6 inches in diameter. The smallest is that of the hummingbird. It is less than 0.39 inches in diameter.
- The hottest continent on earth is Africa, where a record high of 136.4 degrees F was once recorded.
- Antarctica is the coldest continent on earth, where a temperature of 126.9 degrees F below zero was once recorded. Chicago is home to three of the five tallest buildings in the world - the Sears Tower, Standard Oil Building, and John Hancock Center.
- The hottest place on earth is in Dallol, Ethiopia, which is a sizzling 94 degrees in the shade on a typical day!
- Angel Falls in Venezuela is 20 times taller than Niagara Falls.
- The blue whale is the largest animal that ever lived (it could reach 100 feet long and weight up to 150 tons!)

### SUDOKU

			7					
2	4		3	7	1			
			6	9				5
		3	7	6	8			
	5		9					
8	1		5	2		9	3	
				6				2
	7	1						9
6								

1	6	5	4	2	7	9	3	8
2	9	4	8	3	5	7	1	6
7	3	8	6	9	1	2	4	5
9	2	3	7	1	6	8	5	4
4	5	6	9	8	3	1	2	7
8	1	7	5	4	2	6	9	3
5	8	9	1	6	4	3	7	2
3	7	1	2	5	8	4	6	9
6	4	2	3	7	9	5	8	1

### KIDS RECIPES



### Farina With Apricots and Almonds

#### You'll need

1. 2 cups low-fat milk
2. salt
3. 1/3 cup farina (such as Cream of Wheat; not instant)
4. 1 tablespoon brown sugar
5. 1/4 cup dried apricots, chopped
6. 2 tablespoons roasted almonds, chopped

#### DIRECTIONS

1. Bring the milk and 1/4 teaspoon salt to a boil in a small saucepan. Whisk in the farina. Reduce heat and simmer, whisking occasionally, until thickened, 2 to 3 minutes.
2. Spoon into bowls and top with the sugar, apricots, and almonds.





## McAvoy's Porsche crash

**J**ames McAvoy recently crashed a Porsche 911 on set. The 37-year-old actor was shooting 'The Coldest City' with Charlize Theron when a stunt went wrong and he ended up damaging the luxury car. He told the Daily Telegraph: "I crashed a Porsche 911 recently on set. I was meant to be doing a stunt where I fishtail into the middle of the road, open the door and then charge into the street to save Charlize Theron, who has been in another crash. It was an old Eighties Porsche 911 and we were doing handbrake turns, and eventually, on the seventh or eighth time, the brake just didn't work so I kept ploughing ahead towards all the cameramen, who looked slightly terrified. I just yanked the wheel as hard as I could and hit the foot brake and managed to slide away from them, but still ended up in a wall. It was very exciting." And it's not the first time he has had an accident in a motor vehicle, with James explaining: "Other than that there was 'Top Gear', when I managed to break the front axle, but that was off the camera. And I've come off my motorbike a few times." James also revealed his most memorable experience in a car involved Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson. He said: "Getting a lift by The Rock, Dwayne Johnson, in a big old Land Rover, and having a really deep, meaningful, emotional, semi-tearful conversation with him was pretty amazing."

## Perrie Edwards likes funny guys



**P**errie Edwards likes funny and "spontaneous" guys. The blonde beauty has revealed she likes sincere and outrageous men, even though she herself is quite shy. The 22-year-old singer shared: "I'm quite shy when it comes to dating. I haven't been on a lot of dates but I have had some amazing ones in my time. I like it when a guy makes me laugh and is spontaneous." The Little Mix star was engaged to former One Direction singer Zayn Malik, until he

abruptly ended their relationship in 2015. Perrie is currently single, but says she has a clear idea of her ideal man. She said: "I like people to be 100 percent themselves and not afraid to be crazy or do something outlandish or fun. I don't like the typical let's go for a fancy meal-type dates, that would make me too nervous. I'd rather go bowling or something." Meanwhile, Perrie's bandmate Jade Thirlwall is currently dating The Struts star Jed Elliot, and the singer

admitted she took the initiative with their relationship. Jade told Britain's OK! magazine: "I was very much the chaser. To be honest, I don't usually do that, but I felt a bit more confident in myself and like I should make a move with him and I did and it bloody worked! "If you like someone, you've just got to go for it. Shy kids get no toffee! I flew all the way to go on a second date with him. I just thought YOLO and decided I'd just see what happened."

## Emilia Clarke is petrified of Sam Claflin's dimples

**T**he 29-year-old actress appears alongside the British hunk in the new romantic-drama movie 'Me Before You' and Emilia has confessed to being slightly intimidated by her handsome co-star. She shared: "Look at him. Look at dimple one and dimple two. We got on really well so there was stuff early on where we've got to be not liking each other and for me to be afraid of him. "I mean, his dimples are absolutely petrifying! But we were having such a good time together so it was difficult to get fully into that." Meanwhile, the London-born actress - who also stars as Daenerys Targaryen in the HBO series 'Game of Thrones' - claimed her working life inhibits her hopes of finding love. She told the Sun on Sunday newspaper: "I kept thinking that for clarity of mind, I had to be



in one place. Then I realized that's not how this life is going to work. It makes romance absolutely impossible. "I'm soppy and I do like to believe that when the right person comes along, it will work, because you want to make it work. Everyone else seems to manage it." The brunette beauty also revealed there is a marked distinction between the innocence of her on-screen character in 'Me Before You' and her real-life self. She explained: "My character has an innocence that I don't have. I guess I have too much of a knowing glint in my eye. That was in a director's note to me, 'Remember the innocence! Remember the innocence!' "When the right person comes along, it will work." And if I ever drifted, as soon as I remembered the innocence, then I got back into her."



## Daisy Lowe is dating Darius Campbell

**D**aisy Lowe is reportedly dating former TV talent show contestant Darius Campbell. The British fashion model recently ended her five-month relationship with Thomas Cohen, and she is now seeing the 35-year-old pop star, who is best-known for his cheery appearance on the British talent show 'Popstars' in 2001. The duo are reported to have enjoyed a date at the National Gallery in London earlier this week, and a source said: "They were being very coupley and laughing - enjoying each other's company. "But when they thought they had been recognized they separated. They're clearly trying to keep the fact they are spending time together private. Darius is being very coy, but did let slip it was a date." Despite this, the duo do not yet consider themselves to be a couple and are still taking things slowly. A source told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "It's early days and nobody wants to put a label on it in case it comes to nothing." This comes shortly after it emerged that the 27-year-old beauty and Thomas the widower of her best friend Peaches Geldof - decided to call time on their relationship, with a source revealing things just "fizzled out". An insider shared: "Daisy and Thomas split about a month ago. It's all very amicable, they had lots of fun and a great time together. It just sort of fizzled out and had run its course." Meanwhile, Daisy previously admitted she wasn't quite ready to settle down. She explained: "I'm a traditional girl. One day, I'm not ready for it any time soon, but yeah, course. My whole family would only want that. They want to see me get married and they want to have grandchildren. "Make sure we get the 'one day' in because I am having visions of people thinking I've decided I want children now. I'm not ready for that, I want to have lots of fun first." — Bang Showbiz

## Harry Styles tipped for Hollywood stardom



**H**arry Styles has been tipped for a successful career in Hollywood. The 22-year-old Brit is set to make his film debut in 'World War II Dunkirk' and the man who gave him the role thinks the One Direction star has what it takes to succeed in the movie business. John Papsidera said: "Harry was absolutely right for the role. As an actor he is unknown, but his readings made him an obvious choice. We thought he was fresh and interesting and he won the

role." He also rubbished the suggestion Harry was cast simply because of his status. John told the Sunday People newspaper: "It wasn't because he's a well-known pop star - if anything that was more of a detriment, because it could bring the wrong message and we don't want people pulled out of the film because of who they are. "Our aim was to have people who are fresh and don't bring a lot of prior work with them, so the audience will be really immersed in the film and not struggling with recognisable famous personalities. "So Harry really had to overcome hurdles to get past that. He fought hard for it and his work was impressive and that's what attracted us to him. "I don't think he studied acting professionally and yet he won the role against some very well known actors." Specific details of Harry's role have been kept under wraps, but John revealed he was made to work hard to secure the part. He said: "This is a young man who passionately wanted this film and we looked at a lot of actors, certainly in the hundreds, some of them very well-known and many who had been to prestigious acting schools. "It's a great achievement for Harry that he won it, a great feather in his cap and we're very excited having him in the film. I hope for him that he goes on to bigger things in Hollywood, he's a lovely guy."



## Depp set to give a tell-all interview

**J**ohnny Depp is reportedly set to give a tell-all interview about his acrimonious split from Amber Heard. The 52-year-old Hollywood star recently separated from the 30-year-old beauty amid allegations he verbally and physically abused her, but Johnny is apparently set to address those claims in a TV interview. A source told the Daily Star Sunday newspaper: "He is shell-shocked over the events of the last week and is determined to tell his side of the story. His whole life has been turned upside down." The report comes shortly after his estranged wife claimed Johnny abused her while high on drugs and alcohol. The actress said: "I endured excessive emotional, verbal and physical abuse from Johnny, which has included angry, hostile, humiliating and threatening assault to me whenever I questioned his authority or disagreed with him. "As Johnny's paranoia, delusions and aggression increased throughout our relationship, so has my awareness of his continued substance abuse. "Because of this, I am extremely afraid of Johnny and, for my safety, I am petrified he will return at any moment." Meanwhile, Amber's neighbor Raquel Rose Pennington has given a deposition to support the allegations made against the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor. She wrote to the court to allege he "slapped her hands away" when she broke up an argument between the former couple on May 21. Writing in a document for court, Raquel said: "I got a text message asking me to come over to her condominium unit. When I opened the door, I saw Amber by the couch, covering her head with her arms and hands, as Johnny was loudly screaming at her. "I ran over and stood in between Johnny and Amber, begging Johnny to stop yelling at her. I put my hands out in a defensive manner motioning him to stop. Johnny slapped my hands away and screamed foul obscenities at me."

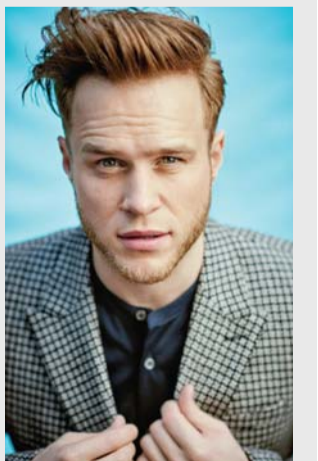


## Cheryl Fernandez-Versini: I don't care what people think of me

**T**he 32-year-old pop beauty has developed thick skin since she first found fame with Girls Aloud and has learnt not to allow criticism to bother her. Asked if public scrutiny causes her to stress, Cheryl explained: "I'm too far through the mill for that. You get slapped so many times, at some point it just stops hurting." Cheryl is currently working on her fifth solo album and has revealed she is relishing the experience of making new music following a two-year break. She said: "I'm excited, I'm ready to go again. I'm just working on different sounds and figuring stuff out at the moment. Am I nervous? Nah. Not now. Now I do it because I enjoy it. I'm not fearful of it. It's what I love. That's the reason to do it." Cheryl did, however, admit she relishes the support of her loyal fans, many of whom have followed her since she starred in Girls Aloud. She told Mirror Online: "I love them. I love them even when they've got an opposite opinion and they don't like what I'm doing, I listen to them. We have a close relationship." Meanwhile, Jean-Bernard Fernandez-Versini, Cheryl's estranged husband, recently admitted he has found it "hard" to cope with their high-profile split. However, the entrepreneur insisted he bears no hard feelings towards the pop star, who has subsequently started dating One Direction singer Liam Payne. Jean-Bernard also confessed that he has started seeing "someone else", although he refused to name his new love interest. He said: "It's been a tough year, I'm trying to move on. I'll never think badly of her. She is a great girl. I'm still a married man, but there is someone else."

## Olly Murs: I'm still not over my last girlfriend

**O**lly Murs is still not over the collapse of his last relationship. The 32-year-old pop star has admitted he is still reeling from the heartbreak caused by the failure of his three-year relationship with property manager Francesca Thomas, 27. He said: "I'm not over it. I don't think anyone is ever over a break-up. You're always going to think about them and care about them. It's like you've lost someone, like you're grieving, because they were there all of the time and then they're not." What's more, Olly confessed he is concerned by how much he has started drinking since he and Francesca went their separate ways in September last year. He told The Sun on Sunday newspaper: "The problem is at the moment I'm going out too much. You know when you go to the doctors and they ask you questions, they say 'How often do you drink?' "Normally I'd say I have a drink once or twice every two weeks and now it's like ... every two or three days ... maybe." Meanwhile, Caroline Flack - Olly's long-time friend and former co-host on the British 'X Factor' - revealed recently that she turned to alcohol after her co-presenting gig on the show was branded a flop. She said: "I wasn't feeling 100 per cent healthy or 100 per cent happy. I couldn't turn to someone and say 'fix me' - I had to do that myself. I used to turn to wine if I had a stressful day. "And I acted like it was a treat. But it's not a treat. You're just covering up your stress rather than dealing with it." However, Caroline said the experience has helped her to develop a thicker skin. She explained: "Not everyone is going to like you so you have to filter it."





Tourists have dinner at restaurant tables set outside on public stairs with a view of Lisbon's Saint George castle, in the background. — AP photos



Tourists taking pictures are silhouetted against Lisbon's old center lit by the setting sun.

# Tourism boom fires Iberian economies but leaves some cold



A tourist poses for photos behind a bullfighting costume in Madrid's Plaza Mayor in Spain.



A group of tourists riding electric vehicles make their way through a narrow street in the medieval Lisbon neighborhood of Alfama.



Tourists walk along the Ramblas street in Barcelona, Spain.

With sunny days getting longer and lazier, sparking beaches warming up and terrorism fears driving customers away from other Mediterranean destinations, Spain and Portugal are reaping an economic bonanza from tourism. While most in the cash-strapped nations are welcoming the influx, some locals have been exasperated by the crowds of tourists. In the first two months of this year, the number of holidaymakers arriving in Spain was up more than 11 percent on the same period in 2015. Authorities predict that Spain is on course for its fourth straight record-breaking tourism year. ABTA, the United Kingdom's largest travel association and Iberia's main market, reports that bookings to Portugal are 29 percent up compared to last year, and are 26 percent higher for Spain.

That's broadly seen as good news for the two Iberian economies, which nosedived during Europe's recent financial crisis. But not everyone is cheering. With the boom showing no signs of slowing and the summer vacation season approaching, some locals are fed up with throngs of tourists clogging the narrow streets of the peninsula's centuries-old cities and crowding its celebrated beaches.

In Palma, capital of the popular Spanish island of Mallorca, graffiti in English appeared on city walls last month saying, "tourist you are the terrorist" and "tourist go home." In Barcelona, complaints about overcrowding have grown so much that residents elected a mayor last year who is making good on promises to put a brake on new hotel construction and is exchanging ideas with New York City officials on how to cope with the crush.

### Heavy traffic

Meanwhile, on the opposite coast, residents in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon grumble about packed sidewalks and heavy traffic. Tourism analysts say security concerns are helping drive business toward the western Mediterranean areas and away from Europeans' other traditional summer hotspots, especially Egypt, Tunisia and Turkey.

"The threats from terror have come into play," says Rochelle Turner, director of research at the World Travel and Tourism Council in London, a forum for industry businesses. Turkey's visitor count in April was down nearly 30 percent compared to a year earlier, the tourism ministry said Friday. Spain, Europe's most popular destination

after France, hosted 68.1 million tourists last year - almost 5 percent up on the previous year - with the United Kingdom, France and Germany sending most visitors. The tourist trade brought in 67.4 billion euros (\$75.3 billion) in 2015, the national statistics agency says.

In the first three months of this year, tourism created almost 89,000 new Spanish jobs. In a country with 20 percent unemployment, that's a welcome development. But some say the surge has to be better managed. "We cannot just keep growing at breakneck speed in terms of volume, filling or exceeding the capacity of some destinations," Exceltur, a nonprofit group formed by the chairmen of the 25 leading Spanish tourist groups, has warned.

The people of Barcelona may agree. The Catalan capital of 1.6 million people received 4.2 million tourists in 2005. Last year, that number reached 7 million, triggering alarm. "I'm all for a concept of sensible tourism... but the truth is we have been invaded, and Barcelona's own success is its own worst enemy," said retiree Rosa Maria Miguel, 65, from the Barceloneta district - a historic fishermen's quarter that nowadays boasts an exclusive marina for glamorous mega-yachts.

Aime Bwakira, a 41-year-old financial analyst from Toronto, likes Barcelona so much that he recently made his third visit, though he acknowledges the influx of tourists like him can be "overwhelming."

### Local frustrations

"I can certainly sympathize with local frustrations because, while we bring money to the local economy, we also crowd the streets, push prices up and bring noise and rowdiness," he said. "I don't know what the right balance is, but it's not an easy one." Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau is determined to find that balance. "Barcelona has consolidated itself as one of the world's prime destinations, which has its obvious benefits, but also entails high-impact risk that unregulated growth could eventually make the bubble burst," she said recently. Her administration has imposed a moratorium on new hotel accommodation and is mulling the introduction of a "tourist tax" on visitors, with revenue being spent on other sectors in order to spread the benefits.

Cruise ships that offload thousands of tourists usually for only a few hours before setting sail again are a clear target for this per-person tax.

"Harmony of the Seas," the world's largest cruise liner, capable of landing more than 5,000 passengers at a time, is due to dock in Barcelona on June 5 on its maiden Mediterranean cruise. While Barcelona seeks to slow things down, in Lisbon there's a dash to keep up with surging demand. More than 50 new hotels opened in 2015. Portugal last year received more than 17 million tourists - a 9 percent increase on 2014 and a record - and in the first quarter of this year, the number of guests increased by almost 15 percent. The visitors are seen as a tonic for Portugal's feeble economy.

But as the novelty of being in fashion wears off, grumbles are being heard. One downtown Lisbon parish council official has described the city's residents as "collateral damage" in the boom, as they are squeezed off busy sidewalks and out of popular restaurants. In the medieval Lisbon neighborhood of Alfama, a constant stream of tourists in tour buses, taxis and motorized rickshaws called "tuk-tuks" thread their way through narrow, cobbled streets up to St. George's castle. The picturesque neighborhood is increasingly handing over its homes to lucrative tourist accommodations. — AP

## Raising the ceiling can dramatically change a room

Architects tend to look skyward: The ancient Greeks built coffered ceilings in their temples. Romans introduced the barrel vault. Medieval builders constructed Gothic arches and Renaissance domes to inspire the masses. Centuries later, the impact is the same, says architect Kevin Lichten: "The ceiling of any room has the potential to be the most dramatic and mood-altering part."



American builders in the early and mid-20th century did embrace flat ceilings. Frank Lloyd Wright would manipulate the impact of a flat ceiling by designing it lower near a room's entrance. "So when you came in the room and he popped it up, you felt that you'd arrived somewhere," says Lichten, founder of the architecture and design firm Lichten Craig. Trouble is, many other midcentury home-builders didn't get Wright's message. America's suburbs are dotted with high ranches and

split-level houses with flat and noticeably low 8- or 9-foot ceilings. Some homeowners are opting to change that, removing a low, flat ceiling and extending it all the way up to the roof. It's a big project, but it can powerfully change the look and feel of a home.

### Piggyback on other construction

If you're already doing heavy remodeling - perhaps removing walls to open up a kitchen and dining room - consider raising the ceiling in those rooms, suggests Chip Wade, contractor and host of HGTV's "Elbow Room" and "Curb Appeal: The Block." The expense and challenge of redistributing the roof's load can be shared by both projects.

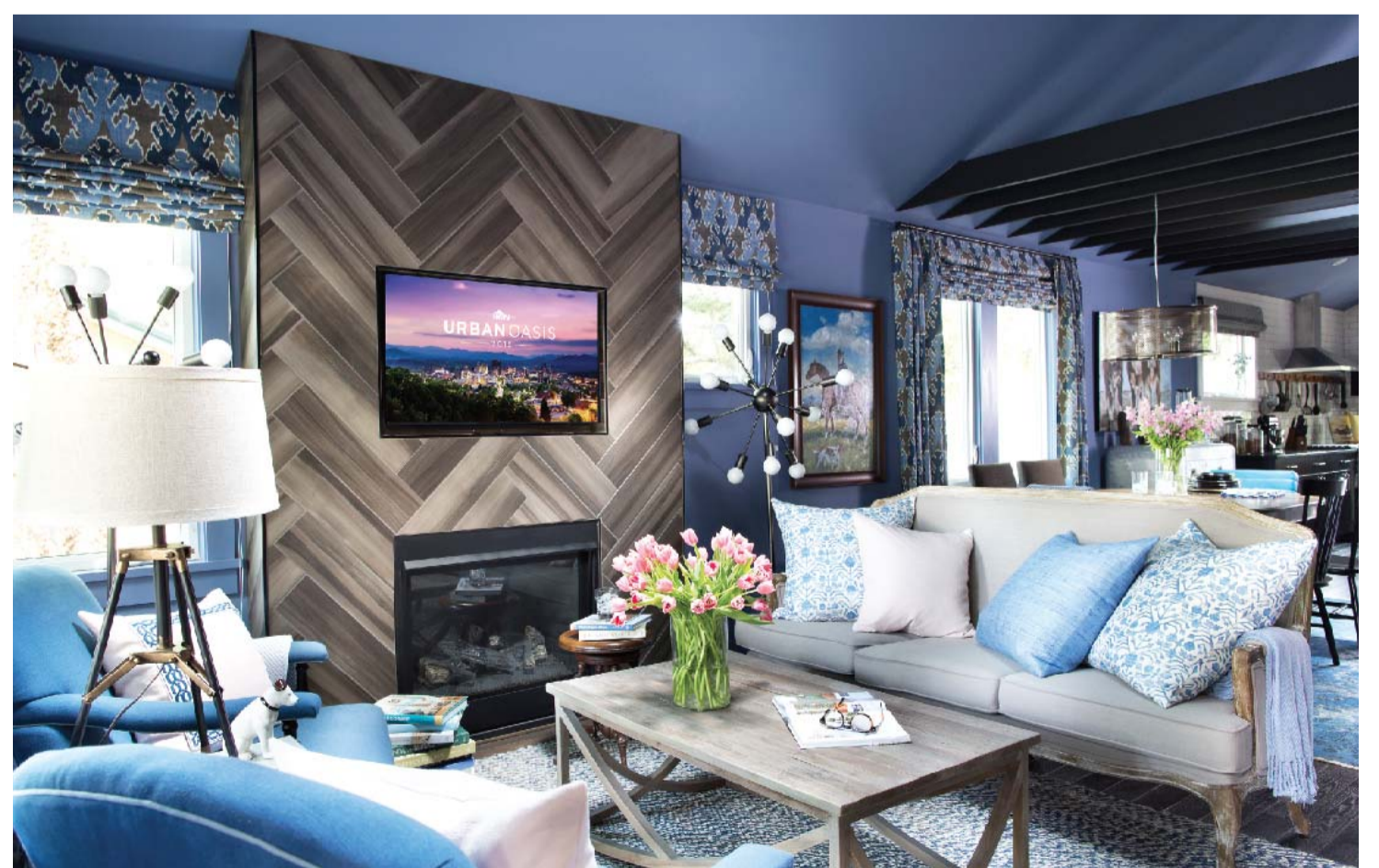
If you're not making any other changes, then raising a ceiling is an expensive choice, similar to putting an addition on your house, says Scott McGillivray of the DIY Network series "Income Property." Yet it can be worth the investment.

"It changes the feel of the whole space," McGillivray says, so there's no harm in getting estimates and considering the project. Last year, McGillivray was part of the team that renovated a small bungalow in North Carolina, turning it into HGTV's "Urban Oasis" for 2015.

The cramped little home with ceilings "barely 8 feet high" became an open, airy retreat because of a new cathedral ceiling. Once the ceiling was lifted, "Bam! The place felt monstrous," McGillivray says. "And you get a tremendous amount of light if you do some skylights, which is what we did."

### Every home is different

Get estimates from engineers or architects who can think creatively about your particular home, says Wade. "It needs to be someone who can see the engineering side first" and will consider more than one approach, Wade says. Raising the ceiling of an older, pre-1950s home can be simpler than doing so on a newer home, says McGillivray, because older houses were often built with rafters rather than prefab



These photos show the living room designed by Flynn for HGTV's "Urban Oasis 2015" house that had ceilings barely 8 feet high and were raised as shown to create a dramatic open space. — AP photos

trusses. Exposing rafters doesn't change the structure of the roof, so it's a smaller job. Removing modern trusses and rebuilding the roof's support is a larger project, usually involving the addition of a huge center beam running the length of the room. Older, Victorian-style houses are likely to have a very pitched roof, adding considerable height to a room. So

you can raise the ceiling to a game-changing height by exposing those vintage rafters.

### Other ceiling options

If raising your ceiling is too expensive, consider easy, decorative fixes like metallic ceiling tiles and coffered panels. You can make the most of a decorative ceiling through "vertical tricks," says

Lichten. Try installing paneling vertically up to the ceiling, or adding tall, vertical windows to create the illusion of height. Or try making the ceiling artificially lower at the entrance by adding a few inches of soffit above the doorway. "There's a basic human need to feel this vertical force in a room," Lichten says. "So anything you can do to bring the eye upward, to bring it skyward helps."

# How STARZ Play Arabia is relevant to the region

By Islam Al-Sharaa

**S**TARZ Play Arabia is Streaming Video on Demand (SVoD) service that delivers blockbuster movies and exclusive TV series - many day-and-date with the US - in 17 countries across the Middle East and North Africa.

Developed exclusively for the MENA region, STARZ Play Arabia is rich in original programming and features one-click Arabic subtitling. The service provides more than 4,500 hours of premium HD content sourced from some of the most important names in the entertainment business such as Disney, MGM, Paramount, Sony, Starz, Warner Bros, Showtime and CBS.

STARZ Play Arabia is available on a wide variety of devices and platforms including laptops, tablets, smartphones, smart TVs and Chromecast, with support for numerous other gaming and smart devices being added all the time. Unlimited access to STARZ Play Arabia is just \$7.99 per month (no contracts - cancel anytime), with new subscribers enjoying a 30-day free trial. Some excerpts from a special interview with Maaz Sheikh to know more about STARZ Play Arabia.

**Kuwait Times: We're hearing that cord-cutting is a spreading phenomenon. What does it mean? How is it relevant to the region?**

**Maaz Sheikh:** "Cord-cutting" refers to the process of replacing traditional satellite connections with a low-cost online subscription to watch movies and TV shows. It has previously been thought of as a largely US phenomenon, but it has been trending across Europe and Asia as well. Millennials aged 18-24 - a large and key demographic - are reducing their traditional TV minutes at a faster rate than the population as a whole. This is particularly true in the MENA region, where digital video consumption is one of the highest in the world.

**Kuwait Times: What are your expansion plans/partnerships?**

**Maaz Sheikh:** We are the only digital service available on Etisalat's eLife On Demand service,



CEO of STARZ Play Arabia Maaz Sheikh

allowing customers in the UAE to conveniently view STARZ Play Arabia through their eLife set top boxes. Similarly, we are available on Ooredoo's Mosaic TV service in Qatar. We're planning to add our services to telcos in Kuwait, KSA and Morocco before the end of this year. STARZ Play Arabia partnered with VIVA - Bahrain and Orange-Jordan to offer customers another payment method through their mobile phones, with a standard price: \$7.99 a month.

STARZ Play Arabia has exclusive long-term partnerships with major Hollywood studios including Disney, Sony, Warner, Paramount and MGM. We are expanding the range of devices our service is available on and will soon be launching support for AppleTV, Samsung TV and PlayStation.

**Kuwait Times: How do you cater to North Africans/ do you have French content?**

**Maaz Sheikh:** We cater to our subscribers in North Africa by providing our content with French dubbing. So far, we've adapted 50% of our assets and we're planning to reach 70% before the end of Q2.

**Kuwait Times: Is Netflix affecting your performance in the region especially with its ME version?**

**Maaz Sheikh:** Viewing Netflix in the region is not new; it has been widely available through VPN and other means for several years. We believe the legal and official arrival of Netflix is a positive step for the industry and consumers. We hope Netflix continues to take serious steps to restrict the availability of its US service through VPNs in the MENA region as it contravenes the legal rights of license holders such as ourselves.

Netflix's arrival in the region hasn't really changed our strategy. We continue to strengthen our offering by adding more movies and new series to the platform. It doesn't impact us as the legally offered Netflix service in the region has neither the content depth nor breadth that consumers here want. Given that it's a global service, the content is not specifically curated for the MENA region.

**Kuwait Times: Can you name some exclusive series and movies that you have on your portal?**

**Maaz Sheikh:** Below are some of our exclusive shows/movies available on the service:

#### Series:

- The Shannara Chronicles - Same time as the US
- Billions - Same time as the US
- Black Sails - Same time as the US
- The Girlfriend Experience - Box Set

#### Movies:

- Gravity
- Guardians Of The Galaxy
- Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues
- Planes 2: Fire & Rescue.



The huge pool of Millennial consumers grew up with the Internet, smartphones and a sharing economy in which owning things like cars is seen as almost unhip. — AFP

## Luxury brands struggle to attract Internet generation

**S**educing hyper-connected "Millennials" poses an increasing challenge for luxury brands, which find their markets slowing as young, skeptical consumers force them to rethink strategies. Goldman Sachs estimates that 92 million Americans are in the Millennial generation - born between the early 1980s and the 2000s - surpassing the famed cohort of postwar Baby Boomers who are now approaching a geriatric phase. The huge pool of Millennial consumers grew up with the Internet, smartphones and a sharing economy in which owning things like cars is seen as almost unhip.

Studies show many have different expectations than their elders, who were relatively better paid and less indebted at the same point in life. Deloitte analyst Nick Pope spoke this week at an FT Business of Luxury Summit of "a structural worry" as to whether there would be the "same level of spending in product ownership and luxury as there was in their parents' generation." A Deloitte study targeted Millennials as an opportunity for luxury brands, but warned that they require "a high level of investment" and are more "mercurial" consumers whose brand loyalty can quickly shift.

"Their engagement with digital technology has exposed them to more sources of information, a greater range of influences, and smaller brands," the study said of Millennials. "To attract, excite and engage Millennials will require a high level of brand investment." Luxury-sector sales, excluding the effects of currency changes, were up only one percent last year, and similarly tepid growth is expected this year, according to global management consulting firm Bain & Company. US jeweler Tiffany recently announced a disappointing financial forecast, and the maker of the well-known British Burberry trench coat has embarked on a money-saving plan.

#### Digital Panacea?

"The people in the luxury space, they got very spoiled, because there was a market of people who consistently spent," Sarah Quinlan of MasterCard Advisors told AFP on the sidelines of the FT luxury summit in San Francisco. "That market is no longer there." Oligarchs with lavish spend-

ing habits in oil-rich countries such as Russia and China have seen growth slowing in their countries. It is unclear that Millennials, with their fickle and prudent spending styles, will take up the slack.

But Burberry has taken aim at those Millennials with a digital strategy cited as an example for the industry. And LVMH, the France-based multinational luxury goods colossus, reached into the Silicon Valley talent pool last year and recruited Apple executive Ian Rogers. Luxury brands including Burberry, Vuitton and Tiffany have taken to relying heavily on social networks such as Snapchat that are popular with young people. Having a presence online and in social media has become a necessity for brands.

It promises to become even more important as people use smartphones while making buying decisions on the move. Internet titans are pitching instant shopping opportunities based on time, location, interests and more. Still, brands such as Tiffany face a problem: some young people see them as "old-world luxury" items that don't jibe with their Internet Age values and lifestyles, according to Neil Saunders of Conlumino retail research company. Being on social networks has become a "must" in the marketing equation, but it is not enough, contended Quinlan.

"The bottom line is having something relevant that fits into their lifestyle," Quinlan said of luxury brands that court Millennials. "I don't think they've done enough to curate their brands." The fading lure of luxury items among Millennials is "not necessarily an income problem," she contended. Data collected by Mastercard describes consumers who choose to enhance their lives with spending on trips, dinners, outings and other experiences instead of on "stuff." They might buy one piece; if it's very special, it's very valuable, has a memory of a trip somewhere," Quinlan said. Yet, Pope saw the luxury goods market as "absolutely sound," so long as brands recognize the shifts under way and offer "value enhancing" products. Thus, companies could transform their shops into places where people can socialize and linger as they might in a coffee shop, or connect with increasingly popular historical, ethical or sustainability trends. — AFP

## Carlos Vives feels like a kid riding a bike with Shakira

**C**arlos Vives hopes the video for "La bicicleta (The bicycle)" that he and Shakira shot recently in Colombia will reflect how much fun the pair had filming it. The superstars made a splash last week in their native country while filming the clip of their first collaboration, which was released Friday. They went from Vives' Santa Marta to Barranquilla, where Shakira is from, catching the attention of the locals.

"The work was intense but also delightful. Both for Shaki and for me, being back in our territory, plus the emotional load that this had for us, it was wonderful. We were really happy riding our bikes, singing on our bikes," the 54-year-old Vives told The Associated Press by phone from Cartagena, Colombia. "We were kids again," he added enthusiastically. "We wanted to do everything barefoot. We strolled happily to several places. ... And watching Shaki contented, happy, reuniting with her friends, with her people, I think that the video registered a very, very special energy."

"La bicicleta" is the first single of Vives' next album, "La fiesta de todos (Everybody's Party)," planned for early 2017. The video, directed by Jaime De Laiguana, will be ready in about four weeks, Vives said. "The song has this spirit of

freedom and freshness and we were able to give it some of the local sounds. We rescued those Millo flutes so typical of Shakira land, from the Barranquillero musicality, from its Carnival, and blended them with those vallenato accordions of ours," he said. "It is truly a modern song but in its content and essence, it has many elements of our region, and that connected us."

The collaboration happened after Vives presented his record label, Sony, with proposed songs for his upcoming album, the follow-up to his 2014 Grammy-winning "Mas + Corazon profundo (More + Deep Heart)." "Shakira listened to part of the material. She loved the song and asked me if she could work on it with me," he said. "Shaki is a producer, Shaki is also a songwriter, so she gave the song her touch." On his new album, Vives will maintain the style that has made him one of the vallenato voices most recognized outside of Colombia.

"I keep myself in that music territory that we began exploring 25 years ago, I've always been there," said the singer-songwriter, whose hits include "La Gota Fria (The Cold Front)," "La Tierra del Olvido (The Land of Oblivion)" and "Fruita Fresca (Fresh Fruit)." "My proposal is always to go and rediscover that path that doesn't stop sur-



In this file photo Carlos Vives poses in the press room at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. — AP

prising us. I always follow ... that rock from my village, that modern sound that preserves much of the tradition but also makes use of new sounds." — AP



The winners of the 58th Mexican Ariel Academy Film Awards pose for a photo in Mexico City, Saturday. — AP

## Sicilian doc hopes baby who lost mom at sea inspires others

**A** doctor on a tiny island off Sicily is hoping a 9-month-old Nigerian girl, who lost her mom at sea, will change opinions regarding migrants. Dr Pietro Bartolo cared for the baby girl, named Favour, last Thursday in the first hours after she and other migrants were rescued from a smugglers' boat. Authorities say the girl's pregnant mother suffered burns on the boat and died at sea.

Bartolo told the AP on Saturday that "thousands of requests" to adopt the girl have come in. Nothing is apparently known about her father. The child will first be placed in foster care. The doctor says the child "seemed like an adult with her pains and adversities." Bartolo was featured in the award-winning Gianfranco Rosi film "Fire at Sea" about Lampedusa's people who have welcomed rescued migrants for years. — AP



Doctor Pietro Bartolo is pictured in his studio in Lampedusa first aid center, Saturday. — AP

## DMC: Commissioner should apologize for words about rap

**R**ock and Roll Hall of Famer and hip-hop icon Darryl "DMC" McDaniels says the New York police commissioner's recent comments - where he labeled rappers as thugs following a shooting at a hip-hop concert - are disrespectful and that the commissioner should apologize to rappers like Chuck D, Will Smith and Kendrick Lamar - performers whose songs do not promote violence and negative images. Police commissioner William Bratton's comments came Thursday after four people were shot at a Manhattan concert hall where rapper T.I. was scheduled to perform on Wednesday night. Bratton blamed the shootings on "the crazy world of the so-called rap artists who are basically thugs that basically celebrate the violence that they live all their lives."

McDaniels, one of the founding members of the pioneering rap group Run-DMC, said the shooting is not a "hip-hop problem" and that Bratton's statement was unfair to rappers like LL Cool J, De La Soul, J Cole and many others. "He needs to apologize to all the rappers who have come from (the) streets but have never put out anything negative (and) disrespectful to break down ... and destroy their community," McDaniels, 51, told the Associated Press on Friday.

"(Bratton) was upset and pointing a finger and getting to the root and not thinking about the people he would hurt by saying what he said," McDaniels continued. "Him as the commissioner saying it did so much damage (and) pushes hip-hop back - that's why he should apologize." Bratton told the AP Friday night that, "I meant what I said about the thugs who call themselves rap artists, and shoot up crowded clubs, and in this case, kill and wound people." But he said in a statement emailed by his spokesman that he understands rap has become "an important vehicle for storytelling in urban America" and that there's a segment of "gangster rap" that often overshadows rap's most important messages.

Bratton said his comments about the shootings were "misread as a reference to

all of rap and hip hop, which it was not." He said he's concerned about the "subset that not only glamorize violence but some who employ violence like a prop for 'street cred.'" Police are investigating the deadly shooting at Irving Plaza, where one person died. Rapper Roland Collins, whose stage name is Troy Ave, will face attempted murder and weapons charges. He was also shot in the leg. Ronald McPhatter, who died,



In this file photo, Darryl McDaniels of Run-DMC performs at Christmas in Brooklyn in New York. — AP

was a member of Collins' entourage and had been there to provide security, according to his family.

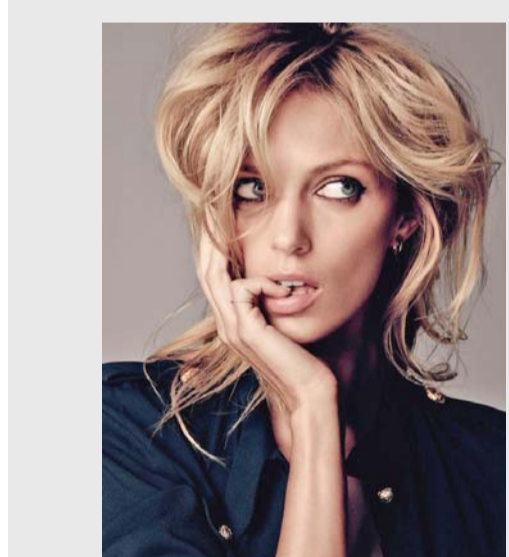
In an interview with WCBS radio, Bratton said rap music "oftentimes celebrates violence, celebrates degradation of women, celebrates the drug culture." "It's unfortunate that as they get fame and fortune that some of them are just not able to get out of the life, if you will," he said. McDaniels said his words are "totally, totally, totally unacceptable and false." "There's a million rappers who come from the hood who do not portray, promote or produce products that celebrate or legitimize any forms of negativity," he said. — AP



# Vuitton show draws fashion world to crisis-hit Brazil



Models present creations from the Louis Vuitton 'Cruise' 2017 collection at the Contemporary Art Museum (MAC) designed by famed Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, on the building's 20-year anniversary, in Niteroi, Brazil on May 28, 2016. — AFP photos



## Anja Rubik uses eye shadow as lip liner

The 32-year-old model - who has fronted campaigns for luxury designer brands Chanel and Chloe - has admitted she dabs on her favorite taupe-coloured eye make-up to accentuate her assets when she has "forgotten" her lip contouring product. Speaking to Stylist magazine about the cosmetic item she supplements for her lipstick, the blonde beauty said: "If I've forgotten my lip liner, I use my favorite taupe powder eye shadow instead. "I put a tiny bit of Burberry's Eye Color Silk in Almond on a lip brush and use it to trace the outside of my lips. It creates a shadow that makes the lips seem a lot fuller."

And Anja believes you don't "always" need to wear mascara but can give the illusion of longer eyelashes by curling them instead. Speaking previously she said: "Less is more: a very heavy base isn't very modern. "Plus, you don't always need mascara, just curl your eyelashes to open up your eyes." However, Anja - who fronted the Kerastase L'Incredibly Blowdry Visions of Style campaign last year - avoids wearing waterproof make-up because she struggles to remove it at the end of the day. She said: "Usually I try to stay away from waterproof products because they're really difficult to wash off."

Meanwhile Anja, who launched her debut fragrance Original by Anya Rubik last year, has revealed she tests perfumes by spraying them directly onto her clothes rather than on the paper testers to get a better "feeling" of the scent. She explained: "I like to test new fragrances on a sweater, rather than those paper sticks. When you pull a sweater on, you'll get more of a feeling if that scent is for you than smelling it on a little piece of paper. I used this trick when formulating my own fragrance." — Bang Showbiz

The elite of the fashion world flocked to Brazil, defying an outbreak of the Zika virus, an economic meltdown and the deep political crisis afflicting the country to attend a runway show Saturday by revered French label Louis Vuitton. Around 500 guests, including A-listers Jaden Smith and Catherine Deneuve and fashion royalty flown in from New York and Paris, took in Vuitton's Cruise 2017 collection at a futuristic art museum in Rio de Janeiro's sister city of Niteroi.

With the iconic Sugarloaf Mountain shimmering in the background, the models strode the catwalk in sporty looks that channeled the street style of this beachfront metropolis and harkened to the upcoming Summer Olympics which will take place here in August. For Michael Burke, Vuitton's chairman and CEO, the collection was pure Brazil. "Brazil is about color, it's about positiveness, it's about the future, it's about the body, it's about a strong woman," he said. Cutout dresses in color-block neo-

prene looked like crosses between wetsuits and easy, breezy sundresses, and the squishy-soled shoes were equal parts sensible boots and the flip flops that are Rio resident's footwear of choice. Filing out of the spaceship-shaped museum in their chic gym wear, the models looked like fitness-crazed aliens determined to help humankind shed a few pounds. Outside the heavily guarded museum, onlookers gathered on the balconies of neighboring buildings to gawk and cheer wildly at the well-heeled guests, who also included a cadre of Brazilian women who are among the Vuitton's top customers.

Brazil's wealthy elite have long been reputed to be among the world's most voracious luxury consumers, but the current recession - the worst since the 1930s - has put the brakes on spending of late. The snowballing political crisis that saw President Dilma Rousseff impeached earlier this month has thrust the South American giant into further instability, even as authorities here

scramble to respond to an outbreak of the Zika virus, which has been linked to a terrible birth defect in infants.

For Vuitton brass, the very act of holding the first fashion show by a top European brand in Brazil at this troubled time represented an act of defiance against the onslaught of bad news besetting the country. Designer Nicolas Ghesquiere said the show sent a signal to the world ahead of the Aug 5-21 Olympics, which observers say could see low tourist turnout due to the trifecta of crises. "As the biggest brand in the world, I think it's good to give a strong message to people and say we're not scared," he said, after a makeup artist mopped the tropical perspiration from his brow. CEO Burke went even further. "This was much more than a fashion show. It was about showing our love for this country, our appreciation, about giving back," he said, adding the big-budget event had created temporary jobs for some 5,000 people. "Is it a humanitarian activity? No, I wouldn't go that far. But it has a little bit of that." — AP

## Gemma new approach to modeling

Gemma Ward wouldn't "dissuade" her daughter from modeling. The 28-year-old Australian model, who has two-year-old daughter Naia with her partner David Letts, has admitted she is "quite protective" over Naia and would have to mentor her child if she decided to follow in her footsteps and grace catwalk shows for designer brands when she grows up. Speaking to The Australian Daily Telegraph newspaper, the blonde beauty - who returned to modeling last year and appeared on Prada's Spring/Summer 16 runway at Milan Fashion Week after a seven year hiatus - said: "I am in a unique position where I can mentor her and tell her what to expect and also what to look out for

because there are a lot of pitfalls. "I think I would be quite protective but I wouldn't dissuade her." The mother of one - who made her catwalk debut in 2003 and was the youngest model to feature on American Vogue magazine at 16 years old - believes she has learnt a large amount about the industry, which she parallels with completing a university degree. She said: "I almost feel like I've done a degree in fashion and I can build on that as the years go by. If it is not through modeling, it can also be through other avenues because it is an education and you learn a lot about the industry, about creativity, how images are made and advertising." Meanwhile Gemma has revealed

she has become more selective about her projects since her break. She explained: "I take it as it comes and if it is going too fast or if I don't feel like doing a particular job, I won't." And she refuses to get sucked into the world of social media, which she believes makes women more concerned about their image. She explained: "In today's world, with selfies and Instagram, you can get sucked into thinking that your image is everything. So I think to cultivate an inner world is really important because that can shine through too. "If you are just looking at the surface you are kind of missing the point, because beauty can also radiate from the inside out." — Bag Showbiz



Gemma Ward



USA singer Christina Aguilera performs during the World Music Festival "Mawazine" in Rabat on May 28, 2016. — AFP



## Checkmate? Purists fight to revive Myanmar's ancient chess

**G**ripping a monkey-faced chess piece, Thein Zaw swipes his hand across the chequerboard and topples an advancing demon, demonstrating an ancient form of the game that Myanmar traditionalists are battling to revive. Sittuyin, as Myanmar's unique chess is called, is similar to the modern game but has distinctive pieces as well as moves that echo a time when warriors used it to fine tune real fighting strategies.

Elephants rampage across the squares, a military general marches in place of the queen and players have creative freedom to arrange many of the pieces as they wish, behind front-line pawns that start almost spear-to-chest. "The game can feel like you are fighting a war," said Thein Zaw, a five-times Myanmar chess champion, during a recent Sittuyin contest in downtown Yangon. His match is combative from the outset, with slain pieces quickly piling up on either side of the board.

But soon both armies become entrenched and the games reaches long into the sweltering tropical afternoon, punctuated only by exclamations, the strategic rearrangement of longyi sarongs and pensive twirling of spectacles. The scene is a rare one in a nation where Sittuyin has retreated into the sporting wilderness. A scarcity of traditional chess sets and dearth of available knowledge about the rules have whittled down interest, so that just under one hundred players actively attend tournaments. "This is an ancient game and we would like to bring it back to life," Thein Zaw told AFP.

### War and pieces

Thein Zaw's hand-carved chess set of monkeys and ogres evokes the earliest incarnations of the game in neighbouring India, playing out the mythical good-versus-evil battle of Rama and the god Hanuman against the demon king Ravana. Experts say this suggests the Myanmar version could be over a thou-



Thein Zaw, Myanmar Chess teacher and former champion posing at the Myanmar Chess Federation in Yangon. — AFP photos

sand years old. Jean-Louis Cazaux, who has written extensively on the history of chess, said Sittuyin has similarities to traditional games in Thailand and Cambodia and is an important addition to a global pantheon of chess varieties.

"Diversity is wealth. If these games can be preserved they must be preserved," he told AFP. Sittuyin retains some of the full-blooded flamboyance from the days when kings used it to plot real battles in which elephants were a fearsome weapon—"Sitt" in Burmese means "war". "Myanmar kings fought in the front lines of every war. Similarly, the result of the game depends on the king being active," said Win Aung, vice chairman of the Myanmar

Chess Federation. Traditional games were peppered by the combative crack of the pieces against the wooden board. "When my father and grandfather played it was like this," said Win Aung, slamming a pawn down onto the table. "We were scared!" Those pieces are now a cherished heirloom, their handsome red and black elephants, castles and galloping horses smoothed by more than a century of table-top warfare.

### Chess for the masses

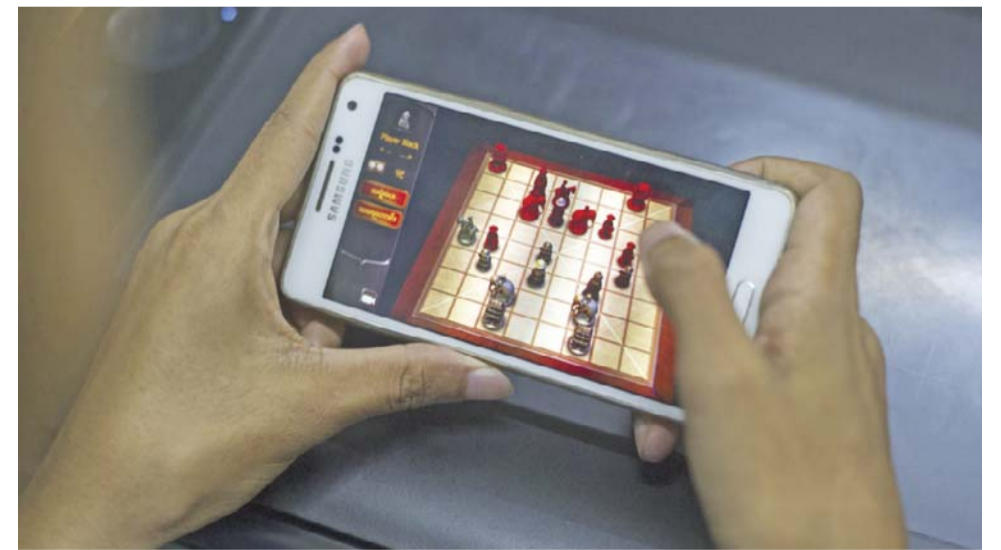
Old sets are scarce in Myanmar, where five decades of brutal military rule brought both a cultural malaise and poverty that turned intricately carved wooden traditional chess sets into luxury items. They were sold off piece by piece. "Visitors from other countries love to buy ancient chess pieces when they come here. Myanmar sold the pieces as examples of ancient artistic creation to tourists. Now they

are nearly all gone," Win Aung told AFP. With new carved sets costing around \$300 — far beyond the reach of ordinary people in the still impoverished nation—chess groups are modernizing to chase mass appeal.

Cheap plastic pieces and a rule book, in both Burmese and English, are now on the market, and the tech-loving younger generation can play the ancient game on mobile phones—now widely available as the country opens after decades of restrictions. Web application firm Total Game Play launched a mobile version in late 2013 and says it has since been downloaded up to 200,000 times. The firm's 25-year-old marketing manager Sai Pyae Phy Han said local gamers like Sittuyin's colourful characters and the ability to switch between a "formal army, Thai army and an ogre army." "I want to produce more mobile games that are uniquely Myanmar and make culture entertaining," he told AFP. — AFP



A man demonstrating the format of Myanmar chess.



A mobile developer testing a Myanmar chess app at the Myplay software house.



People playing Myanmar chess at the Myanmar Chess Federation in Yangon.



A close up view of Myanmar chess pieces.



Mobile developers testing a chess app at the Myplay software house in Yangon.