

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



ANNIVERSARY  
**55**  
Kuwait Times

THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

SAFAR 5, 1438 AH

NO: 17041



150 Fils

## IN LARGEST HAUL, KUWAIT'S MOI SEIZES KD15M WORTH OF LIQUOR

CITIZEN, IRANIAN ARRESTED; 180,000 BOTTLES CONFISCATED



Min 14°  
Max 29°

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Interior (Moi) yesterday announced the biggest-ever alcohol haul in the country's history - seizing 180,000 bottles of liquor worth KD 15 million, according to security sources. The Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad said in a statement that officers at the Drug Control Department arrested two suspects; a Kuwaiti and an Iranian who tried to smuggle the largest-ever batch of alcohol into the country. The shipment contained 15,000 cartons consisting of 180,000 bottles of liquor.

According to case papers, detectives had been tipped off about the suspicious movements of the smugglers and that a special undercover agent was assigned to reach a deal with them under the pretense that he would purchase 70 cartons from them. The citizen, who had a criminal record for committing similar crimes in the past, was caught red-handed while delivering the contraband. His arrest led the police to his Iranian accomplice and the supplier and eventually to his secret warehouse in Sulaibiya. General Al-Fahad lauded the drug control officers for their meticulous and careful planning in carrying out the operation underlining their dedication in keeping the country safe. — (See Page 4)



Enjoy the Authentic taste of Lebanese food



  
**Al Sanawbar**  
Good Times

   Alsanawbarkw

**2290 9999**

Salmiya, Blajat Street





KUWAIT: Committee's Chairman Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah pictured during a meeting with athletes from various sport fields. — KUNA

## OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO INFUSE YOUNG BLOOD

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Olympic Committee is keen on infusing young blood into the managerial side of sports in the country, Committee's Chairman Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah said yesterday. Sheikh Fahad Jaber made this remark dur-

ing a meeting with athletes from various sport fields. There are many exceptional individuals who can excel in carrying out administrative duties under the support of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS), Sheikh Fahad said. The athletes, mean-

while, lauded the Committee's backing to Kuwaiti youth who are exerting their best effort to bring back glory to sport in the country. They also urged to lift sports suspension in order for them to participate in international sporting events. —KUNA



Abdul Mohsen Al-Rasheed

## REGISTRATION ON FOR NBK WALKATHON

**KUWAIT:** The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) starts today to receive applications for participation in a Walkathon which is due to be held on December 3rd under the title of 'We Are Stronger With each Step'. Registration will be at a special center near the Scientific Center along the Gulf Road. The walkathon will start from the Scientific Center and

end at the Green Island. Participants can also register online at: [www.nbkwalkathon.com](http://www.nbkwalkathon.com). Speaking on the occasion, NBK's PR Manager Abdul Mohsen Al-Rasheed said that NBK has finished preparations for the walkathon and urged more participants to take part in this annual activity for a better health.

## ROBBERY SUSPECT NABBED

**KUWAIT:** An American was recently arrested for robbing mobile phone stores and money in Abo Fateera, security sources said. The case started when a mobile phone owner filed his robbery case by an unidentified robber who stole five expensive mobile phones and KD 1250 in cash. On checking the surveillance cams, detectives identified the suspect and arrested him while hanging around the area. The suspect confessed and a case was filed. In another development, a Pakistani barber reported that an unidentified Egyptian had stopped and threatened him with a knife in Farwaniya before robbing him of his KD 600 and other valuable items.

### Dentist attacked

Dissatisfied with the service she got

at private dentist clinic in Farwaniya, a female citizen assaulted both the dentist and a receptionist before she left the place. Filled with rage, the woman left her purse and snatched the file and dashed out of the clinic. A case was filed and the woman is being summoned for further investigations.

### Policeman under investigation

Mol is currently subjecting a policeman under investigation for detaining some school students who had skipped school in his patrol vehicle.

### 3 Kuwaitis arrested

Three citizens were recently arrested at Nuwaiseeb land border exit for drug related cases. The suspects had heroin

packs hidden within their vehicle, said security sources.

### Kuwaiti robbed

A citizen reported that someone driving a car stopped him in Sabahiya area and asked to use his mobile phone. The man added that the driver took the phone and drove off waving goodbye to him.

### Fighting in restaurant

Six female citizens and a female Syrian were recently taken to Fintas police for fighting inside a restaurant. Security sources said that they women were engaged in an argument which later developed into a fight. A case was filed. — Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

## News

In brief

### Awareness campaign on drugs, cybercrimes

**KUWAIT:** Deputy PM and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al-Khaled said that security forces would continue to create awareness campaign on the effects of drugs, cyber crimes and preserving the environment. Al-Khaled stressed that the project would continue through weekly exhibitions in major shopping malls where greater numbers of citizens and expats could be reached. The project was launched by Al-Khaled on October 27, 2016 at Mol's headquarters.

### No exceptions to plate number removal: Mol

**KUWAIT:** Mol's Relations and Security Media Department has stressed that Article 42 of the Traffic Law, which authorized the traffic director to withdraw driver's licenses and/or registration and license plates for a maximum of four months, would remain in effect without any exceptions. Meanwhile, the department said that Mol Undersecretary Lt General Suleiman Al-Fahad has instructed traffic police to consider some humane factors on putting the law into effect -especially when dealing with university and PAATE students and loading and unloading outside some commercial complexes.

### GCC municipalities consider Kuwait-pitched suggestion

**RIYADH:** Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministers of Municipal Affairs will implement a suggestion made by Kuwait to form a unified strategic structure, Director General of Kuwait's Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said yesterday. In a statement to KUNA after the conclusion of the 20th meeting of GCC ministers of municipal affairs, Al-Manfouhi underscored the need to "implement this crucial and viable suggestion." Moreover, he noted that the idea deals with border areas, where a pending study of these areas will be conducted by the Saudi Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, one that will go a long way to ensure solidarity amongst GCC nations.

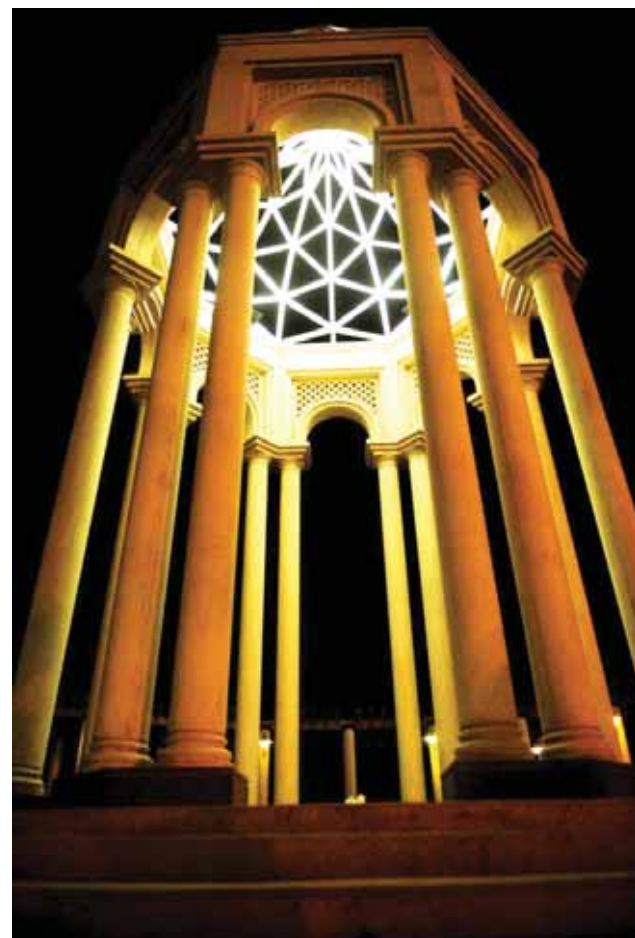


Photo shows a night sea view of a building along the Gulf Road.— KUNA



# ELECTORAL HEADQUARTERS' LIGHTS SHINING



**KUWAIT:** The electoral headquarters of the candidates standing for the 2016 parliamentary elections are once again shining with lights ahead of the polls slated for November 26, amid a real democratic and competitive atmosphere. It is so quiet and calm at these headquarters during the day, but it is completely lit at night, as they are packed with candidates' supporters, and others concerned with politics. — KUNA

## MANY CANDIDATES WANT PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE

**KUWAIT:** With less than a month before the parliamentary elections slated for November 26, candidates, males and females alike, are beating time to come up with attractive ideas to lure their voters. Candidates are running for parliamentary elections for so many reasons, ie prestige, show-off, influence, and there for sure are many who run for the sake of their homeland's prosperity. Running for elections can become a nightmare for some candidates who have nothing to give to their voters, where some make extraordinary promises which cannot be implemented on ground.

Others who fully adhere to their electoral program may not be lucky enough to win the race, whereas many candidates can snatch the seat through their prestige. Experts in the fields of psychology and media have agreed that some candidates may seek influence, tribal linkage, dominance and prestige, whereas others have commitment to their electoral programs and want really to make a change in the society. Dr Saud Al-Ghanim, Professor of Media in Kuwait University told Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the candidate may run for elections to satisfy his or her needs such as security, belonging and influence.

Al-Ghanim added that some candidates feel that they have incompetence in some aspects of their lives and want to fulfill, even though many of them are rich enough to "buy an island abroad and live securely with their families but still eye influence". Asked about ways where the candidate can persuade the voters, he said that some candidates are good in rational persuasion and logical thinking, adding that those candidates have documents and proofs that substantiate their opinion, also making it easy for their aides to convince voters to vote for him. Al-Ghanim said the second method of persuasion is the use of emotions, belonging and family bonds to lure voters, saying that this way is "unacceptable". Asked how the voters can know whether this candidate is serious in implementing his or her program once elected for parliament, he replied by saying that there are many factors the voter can use to determine this matter including the past experience of the candidate, or whether he or she is supported and backed by a certain group or affiliation and most importantly the nature of people around him.

Also asked whether the high pitched tone of the candidate could have an impact on the voter's conviction, Al-Ghanim said that some people become easily affected and persuaded by the high pitch whereas other don't. Dr Fawaz Al-Ajmi, another Media Professor in Kuwait University told KUNA that some candidates contest the election for nothing but influence and prestige and there are others who would really want to do a change. Al-Ajmi added that there are voters who become convinced by the candidate's appearance or look, adding that voters also can judge whether the candidate deserves the parliamentary seat if he or she was an organized person, which in turn the candidate's personality would be reflected on the society.— KUNA

## NA CANDIDATES - A MIX OF OLD AND NEW BLOOD

### THREE CANDIDATES DROP OUT OF ELECTORAL RACE

**KUWAIT:** The 2016 National Assembly election, which will be held on November 26, will see a furious competition among experienced and new-comer contenders. This unique mixture of candidates with expertise and others with new schools of thought is expected to draw many voters to the polling stations to choose who will be the best among those to serve the best interest of the people in the next phase. Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) took to the street to see how the public is feeling towards voting for a new-comer candidate or a more experienced one.

Talal Al-Fadhli, 38 years old, said that voters will have a difficult choice to decide who to vote for in November 26; their choice will heavily rely on who will represent them best in the parliament. Voters seek to have a powerful parliament that would accelerate the process of development in the country, especially since the region is being affected by so many security and economic challenges. He pointed out that he leans toward picking new blood candidates to give them a chance to prove themselves

and allow the people's demands to be heard. He encourages voters to choose a contender away from any sectarian or tribal prejudice.

Abrar Al-Dawsari, 21, rooted for experienced candidates for they have political and economic prowess. Her choice rests on the fact that the country is coming into a new era full of challenges and a change is required to face these tests. She added that the next parliament should be influential and the MPs should be there to serve the people and should occupy this important post only to serve their personal agendas. Ali Al-Mutairi, 30, said that voting is a patriotic duty that should be exercised by everyone who seeks to improve the country's services at all levels.

He added that his vote will be given to the candidate whom he sees will be able to defend the people and speak out for them. Others who spoke to KUNA expressed similar sentiments towards the upcoming elections. They all emphasized the importance to raising awareness to the public to exercise their political right and choosing wisely. A

total of 391 candidates so far officially registered for the 2016 parliamentary election. According to the Ministry of Interior, candidates who wish to withdraw from the race can submit a request to the Elections' Affairs Department up until seven days before elections day, or November 19, by meeting the aspirations of the public. Meanwhile, three parliamentary hopefuls quit the electoral race yesterday, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced, leaving a total of 388 candidates contesting parliamentary elections on November 26th. In a statement, the MoI's Department of Election Affairs noted that Adel Al-Kharafi has relinquished his candidacy in the Second Constituency, while Khaled Al-Azmi and Abdulmohsen Al-Mqataa, two candidates from the Fifth Constituency, have quit the race. As per election laws, candidates are permitted to drop out of the electoral race no later than a week before the date of elections. The 2016 parliamentary elections are held according to decree 20/2012, amended by law 42/2006 on re-organizing the electoral constituencies. — Agencies



Photo shows Kuwaiti National Assembly





**KUWAIT:** Ministry of Interior (MoI) seized 18,000 bottles of illegal liquor worth KD 15 million yesterday. Ministry of Interior Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Fahad Al-Fahad said in a statement that officers at drug control department arrested two suspects (a Kuwaiti and an Iranian) who tried to smuggle the largest-ever batch of alcohol into the country. Al-Fahad lauded the drug control officers' careful planning and their dedication to keep the country safe. — MOI



# KUWAIT URGES INNOVATIVE MEANS TO BRIDGE UNRWA BUDGET DEFICIT

## STIFLING DEFICIT IN BUDGET POSES A REAL THREAT

**NEW YORK:** Kuwait's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Abdulaziz Al-Jarallah has called on the UN to develop more innovative ways so as to cover the increasing costs of the activities of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The stifling deficit in the UNRWA budget poses a real threat to the aid program of the UN Agency, he said in a statement on behalf of the Kuwaiti mission to the UN at the meeting of the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee). Al-Jarallah reaffirmed Kuwait's commitment to supporting the efforts of the UNRWA

Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl to stabilize the Agency's budget and ensure decent living for the Palestinian refugees.

Al-Jarallah expressed concern over the UNRWA's finances, which hinder the Agency's efforts to carry on with its educational, social and relief services to the Palestinian refugees, both in the occupied territories and in hosting countries. Kuwait has always been keen on backing UNRWA and has offered more than \$169 million, both voluntary contributions to the Agency's budget, as well as responding to urgent appeals, the latest of which was \$15 million to help 500,000 Palestinian students, he said.

Kuwait set aside \$50 million for the Palestinian refugees in Syria, during three annual conferences on the humanitarian situation in the war-plagued country, he added. In 2009, Kuwait offered Palestinian refugees in Gaza \$34 million, after Israel destroyed 36 UNRWA schools in the Strip.

In addition, Kuwait committed \$200 million to the efforts to reconstruct Gaza over the last three years since the international conference held in Cairo in October, 2014, Al-Jarallah said. Al-Jarallah reaffirmed the Palestinian right to return to their homeland as per paragraph 11 of the General Assembly Resolution 194.

He urged the international community apply pressures on Israel, the occupying power, to comply with all resolutions of the international legitimacy and put an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people. Kuwait, as member of UNRWA's Advisory Commission and a reliable donor to the Agency's relief efforts, had raised its annual contribution to the Agency to two million US dollars in 2011, he added. Founded by the UN General Assembly in 1949, UNRWA is mandated to provide assistance and protection to some five million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and the Gaza Strip. — KUNA

### MUNICIPALITY INSPECTIONS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Municipality inspection teams inspected 1620 stores and filed 156 violations in October, said the municipality services follow-up manager Faleh Al-Otaibi. He explained that the 48 violations were filed for using adverts without prior license, 43 for not renewing licenses, 46 for not having licenses in addition to 11 other ad-related case.

#### Beggar arrested

A female Asian beggar was recently arrested in Nugra while begging along side with two unidentified little girls. Security sources said that the suspect's residency visa had been expired since 2012 and that she seemed sick. Accordingly, the woman was hospitalized at the infectious diseases hospital for proper medical check. The sources also noted that the girls caught with her did not have any IDs. The woman's sponsor has been summoned for further investigations.

## US SECURITY INDUSTRY FIRMS TO VISIT KUWAIT AND SAUDI

**WASHINGTON:** US Acting Undersecretary of International Trade Ken Hyatt will visit Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from November 12 to 18 as the head of a safety and security industry trade delegation of 16 US firms. The mission will introduce these firms to the regional security market in the two Gulf countries and will provide the opportunity for export channels, the US Department of Commerce said in a statement on Thursday. The delegation includes a diverse group of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large corporations. Commenting on the visit, Hyatt said "the Gulf region represents enormous export potential for US companies."

As defense and security markets continue to grow globally "firms on this mission are well-positioned to enter into partnerships with Kuwaiti and Saudi businesses and government," he said. "The Department of Commerce has a proven track record of providing export assistance to companies

looking to enter or expand in target markets," he added. The mission will visit Kuwait, and Riyadh and Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, with Hyatt expected to meet state officials and industry representatives to discuss trade priorities and potential areas of cooperation.

During the visits, these firms will gain insights on the region's expanding markets, learn best practices and create contacts with prospective partners. The companies will return with a deeper knowledge of the area and its dynamic growth in the security space, said the statement. Kuwait is implementing a country-wide plan to significantly increase investment in safety and security equipment through 2020. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia has been the world's biggest defense market for US exporters over the past two years. It is forecast to procure \$14 billion worth of security systems and services over the next three years, the statement mentioned. — KUNA



# KUWAIT PROVIDES MEALS TO FLEEING IRAQIS

## KUWAIT HELPS TO EDUCATE SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN



**IRBIL:** The Kuwaiti General Consulate in Irbil offered meals to Iraqis fleeing from the armed operations currently underway in the city of Mosul, said a Kuwaiti diplomat yesterday. General Consul Dr Omar Al-Kanderi said that Kuwait, in cooperation with local Kurdish and Iraqi authorities, is focusing on helping the displaced Iraqis during this dire situation.

Two meals are prepared to help feed the displaced daily at refugee camps, said the Kuwaiti diplomat. An official working for an



Iraqi charity lauded Kuwait's support to the displaced Iraqis, saying that this gesture was expected from the fellow neighboring country. The Iraqi state indicated yesterday that over 20,000 people had fled Nineveh governorate since the operation to retrieve Mosul from the hands of the so-called Islamic State (IS) began.

### Syrian refugee children

Syrian refugees in Lebanon, especially children, live under tough conditions as a result of the brutal conflict in their country ongoing since March 2011. However, a bit of hope is being brought by Kuwaiti relief aid organizations with several children benefiting from the assistance.

Kareem Zaitoun and Rawah Omar are two Syrian refugee children who recently were helped by Kuwait to overcome a small portion of the tragedy they were living in.

As for Zaitoun, the child refugee is being assisted by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to continue his studies and possibly becoming a doctor one day. Rawah Omar also benefited from a KRCS donation to cover the expenses of her education. Speaking to KUNA on two separate accounts, the parents of the two children expressed joy over the generous stance, thanking the leadership of Kuwait and its people for their help. Zaitoun's father said that the family had to go through various challenges just to make it through the day; however, with the Kuwaiti donation, now his son could pursue his education to his heart's content.



Kuwait helps to educate Syrian refugee children in Lebanon.

tion to his heart's content.

Father of the child refugee Rawah Omar, on his part, remembered the sadness of taking his children out of Syria and how their education became a minor pursuit due to the horrors of war. After two years, finally the children could go back to school, said the refugee. Kuwait had

offered around \$500,000 to UNESCO's operations in Lebanon, donating most of the money to help Syrian child refugees pursue education. According to the UN, there were over 450,000 child refugees, ages between 6 and 17 years old, in Lebanon who are in need of help to continue their education. — Agencies



Holiday Inn

KUWAIT - SALMIYA

Holiday Inn Kuwait - Salmiya Is Currently Seeking

## Certified Personal Trainers

Who are passionate about creating an exceptional experience and providing an ideal, effective and results oriented fitness solutions to EDGE health club members

### Male:

- Ability to conduct group exercises for Adults & Kids
- Experience in Martial Arts

### Female:

- Ability to conduct group exercises for Adults & Kids
- Experience in Aerobics Exercises
- Experience in Ballet Exercises

### Requirements

- European Nationals
- Fitness Certificates Is A Must
- Transferable Visa (Article 18)



To apply please send an updated resume to the following email address

[job@hikwt.com](mailto:job@hikwt.com)



# KUWAIT PROJECTS SECTOR GROWS DESPITE OIL REVENUES SHRINKING LOWER OIL PRICES DAMPEN STATE OIL EARNINGS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's projects market maintained its relatively healthy momentum in the third quarter of 2016, with the government committed to implementing its development plan even as lower oil prices continue to dampen state oil earnings. Citing the Middle East project tracker (MEED), the National Bank of Kuwait reported that Kuwait awarded KD 1.0 billion (\$3.4 billion) in contracts in 3Q16, an increase of KD 129 million (14.8 percent) over the previous quarter. "This brings the total value of contracts awarded so far this year to KD 3.6 billion (\$12.0 billion), roughly KD 1.5 billion (\$4.8 billion), or 42 percent, of which are oil and gas contracts.

"With another KD 2.3 billion (\$7.7 billion) expected before year-end, 2016 should be another stellar year in terms of contract awards. Last year saw almost KD 10.0 billion (\$33.2 billion) in contracts signed," reads the report. The report also showed that the total value of Kuwait's projects market (active and planned) stood at KD 75.1 billion (\$247 billion), up 0.8 percent year-to-date, by the end of September. Looking ahead to 2017, the total value of awarded projects is expected to increase to KD 11.5 billion (\$38.1 billion).

In spite of the challenges facing Kuwait's project market—mainly lower oil earnings and sub-optimal levels of foreign direct investment (FDI)—capital for projects is not in short supply thanks to the government's commitment to rolling out its infrastructure development plan. Moreover, a central plank of the plan is the participation of the private sector through at least eight public private partnerships (PPP). The report stated that after softening in 2Q16, project awards in the oil and gas sector were boosted in 3Q16 by Kuwait Oil Company's (KOC) signing of the remaining two packages (Packages 1, 2) of the Jurassic Non-Associated Gas Reserves project: the West and East Raudhatain fields.

Local company Spetco International Petroleum Company was awarded the contract for the west field while US firm Schlumberger secured the contract for the east field. The two packages together are worth around KD 228 million (\$758 million). Schlumberger had already won the contract to develop

the Sabriyah and Umm Niqa fields (Package 3) earlier in the year for KD 144 million (\$480 million). Upstream operator KOC aims to expand domestic production of natural gas to 300 million cubic feet per day (cf/d) in order to keep up with rising domestic consumption.

During the same quarter, KOC also awarded two FEED pipeline projects, one for oil transmission worth KD 84 million (\$280 million) and another for gas transmission valued at KD 53 million (\$177 million). They were awarded to local firms Combined Group and Arabi Eneritech, respectively. In the construction sector and after coming in at over KD 301 million (\$1 billion) in the first two quarters of 2016, the value of awarded projects in this sector fell to KD 63 million (\$210 million) in 3Q16. However, the sector is expected to get a boost in 4Q16 after KIPCO (the Kuwait Projects Company) awarded its KD 723 million (\$2.4 billion) Hessah Al-Mubarak project to the Ahmadiyah Contracting Trading Company.

In the meantime, figures also showed that the value of awarded projects in this power and water sector came to KD 28 million (\$92 million) in 3Q16, which is the lowest level this year. However, there are major projects in the pipeline under the ownership of the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects (KAPP) that should result in at least KD 2.1 billion (\$7.1 billion) in contracts awarded over 4Q16 and 1Q17. The authorities continue to press ahead with upgrading and developing Kuwait's transport infrastructure. According to MEED projects, the sector currently accounts for the second largest share of the awarded projects market in 2016.

In 3Q16, KD 572 million (\$1.9 billion) worth of projects were awarded, 86 percent of which were awarded by the Ministry of Public Works (MPW). Some of the MPW's major projects include the development of the Northern Regional Road (to facilitate the growth of inter-regional and international trade with the GCC states), the 6.5 Ring Road and the improvement of the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah Road. A further KD 572 million (\$1.9 billion) worth of projects is expected to be awarded in 4Q16 in this sector. — KUNA



**Ali Ebrahim Marafi Chairman of ABK - Egypt, Michel Accad Group CEO, Khaled El Salawy, CEO - Egypt, Abdulla Al Sumait, Deputy Chief General Manager seen during the ribbon cutting ceremony.**

## AL AHLI BANK LAUNCHES ITS OPERATIONS IN EGYPT

**CAIRO:** Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait announced yesterday the official launch of its operations in Egypt through its subsidiary 'Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait - Egypt' and inaugurated its Zamalek Flagship branch and Smart Village Headquarters. This follows the rebranding of the Bank after its recent acquisition of Piraeus Bank Egypt (PBE). The ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the occasion was attended by Mai Abulnaga, Assistant Sub Governor - Central Bank of Egypt Governor's Office, Ali Ebrahim Marafi - Chairman of ABK - Egypt, Michel Accad, Group CEO, Khaled El Salawy, CEO - Egypt, Abdulla Al Sumait, Deputy Chief General Manager - ABK Kuwait, Board Members and Management representatives.

Speaking at the inauguration, Ali Marafi, Chairman of ABK - Egypt, said: "It is a great moment for ABK to inaugurate our Headquarters in Smart Village as well as our Zamalek Flagship Branch, and we are delighted to officially launch our operations in Egypt." Marafi added, "The acquisition of PBE is in line with ABK's vision of expanding into foreign markets. Egypt, with its well-regulated yet underpenetrated banking market has been a main focus area and the Bank is very proud to have now become an important part of Egypt's banking industry. We are looking forward to increase our business and support the Egyptian economy, with the Bank's strong presence and reputation for quality, customer service and reliability in the region."

Khaled El Salawy, ABK-Egypt CEO, stated: "ABK - Egypt is strongly committed to its role in supporting the Egyptian economy through a clearly defined strategy that is founded on supporting and financing Corporate and SME clients in various industries with innovative financial solutions. We will also drive focus on the retail segment through a diversified portfolio of products and services that cater to customers' growing needs." For more details about ABK - Egypt branches, products and banking solutions, please call 19322 or visit our website: [www.abkegypt.com](http://www.abkegypt.com).



## MINISTER OF EDUCATION HONORS KFH

**KUWAIT:** Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa honored Kuwait Finance House (KFH) in recognition of its instrumental role in supporting the society. The Minister's statement on the sidelines of the bank's participation in the golden jubilee of Kuwait University to celebrate and solidify a repute through five decades, affirms KFH's contributions in serving the society, yet reflects the continuing cooperation between the university and KFH as part of the latter's interest in the educational process.

The event was held under the auspices of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in presence of a huge number of former and current deans and professors. Jubilee celebration is a carnival where numerous booths were set up to display stellar academic achievements of the university. KFH was accessible through its own booth in this carnival. Moreover, officials at the university expressed their appreciation to KFH for its pivotal role in supporting the students and the activities of the university, indicating KFH is an example for other private institutions to follow suit.





# International

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

**Elite Iraqi forces  
push into Mosul**

9

**Thousands in Kashmir  
hide from crackdown**

11

**Muslim hardliners rally  
against blasphemy in Jakarta** 12



CONCORD: Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally inside the Cabarrus Arena 7 Events Center. — AFP

## CANDIDATES USING WHATEVER THEY GOT LEFT CLINTON, TRUMP PUSH INTO FINAL WEEKEND

**RALEIGH:** Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump geared up yesterday for one final weekend to sway undecided voters and cajole supporters into turning out at the polls, slogging their way to the end of a divisive presidential campaign as the race continues to tighten.

As the candidates jostle for supremacy in the handful of battleground states that will decide Tuesday's election, two of the biggest prizes on the electoral map, Florida and North Carolina, are now dead heats, according to RealClearPolitics poll aggregates. Democrat Clinton has unleashed top surrogates including President Barack Obama to bolster her case, while billionaire Republican Trump deployed wife Melania to soften his image.

North Carolina was suddenly in the eye of the political storm, with the candidates frantically criss-crossing the southeastern state where they are locked at 46.4 percent apiece. The candidates' motorcades even passed one another Thursday on the tarmac at the Raleigh-Durham airport ahead of their rival rallies.

"You've got to get everyone you know to come out and vote," Clinton implored supporters in Raleigh, where she was joined by

her onetime primary adversary Senator Bernie Sanders and "Happy" singer Pharrell Williams. "The best way to repudiate the bigotry and the bluster and the bullying and the hateful rhetoric and discrimination is to show up with the biggest turnout in American history."

Williams, dressed in a hoodie, sought to pump up black voter turnout-crucial to Clinton's White House aspirations-which is down in early voting in several states. "We're black! Beautiful! So if you've ever been called a minority ever in your life... go out and vote and show everybody that you're actually really the majority," he said.

Obama shuttled into Florida for fiery rallies aimed at turning out the Democratic base for Clinton in a must-win state for Trump, who is under pressure to snatch battleground states and even poach one or two Democratic strongholds if he is to prevail. Yesterday, Trump heads to New Hampshire, Ohio and Pennsylvania, while Clinton stumps in Ohio and Michigan.

### New poll numbers

A nationwide CBS/New York Times survey showed Clinton's lead shrinking to three

points, at 45 percent against Trump's 42 percent, a sign the bombastic mogul is winning over once-way Republican voters. "This will be a close race and you cannot take it for granted," Obama warned supporters in Jacksonville, painting an apocalyptic vision of what Trump would mean for American democracy.

Clinton added to the portrayal, telling North Carolinians that "if Donald Trump were to win this election we would have a commander in chief who is completely out of his depth and whose ideas are incredibly dangerous." Running mate Tim Kaine visited the border state of Arizona, making a play for Hispanic voters by delivering a speech entirely in Spanish.

Clinton's last stand will come in Philadelphia on the eve of the election at a joint rally bringing together two of America's most prominent Democratic couples. She will be joined by husband Bill Clinton, President Obama and one of 2016's most potent campaigners, First Lady Michelle Obama. A Trump win in Pennsylvania would be a giant step toward his becoming the 45th president. Clinton's rally in Philadelphia-the City of Brotherly Love-will send an unmistakable

message: Trump is a threat to the republic. It was here that the US Constitution came into being in 1787.

### 'Coming home'

Melania Trump, the Slovenian-born former model who could become America's first foreign-born first lady in two centuries, also chose Pennsylvania Thursday for her first solo campaign appearance. "He certainly knows how to shake things up, doesn't he?" she said of Trump's incendiary campaign. Trump's third wife made a bald play for votes of suburban mothers, who could make all the difference in the tightly contested state where Clinton's lead has narrowed, by fretting that "children and teenagers can be fragile" and pledging to address bullying if she becomes first lady. Despite the Manhattan mogul's boasts about sexual assault, and allegations of groping by several women, white women are evenly split between the candidates, the CBS poll showed. As the race nears its conclusion, profound Republican skepticism about Trump's controversial candidacy appears to be ebbing. "I think Republicans are coming home," Congressman Jason Chaffetz told CNN.—AFP





DIYARBAKIR: People run the streets near the explosion site after a strong blast in the southeastern Turkish city. —AFP

## TURKEY DETAINS KURDISH LEADERS AS DEADLY BLAST HITS SOUTHEAST AUTHORITIES SLAP RESTRICTIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**DIYARBAKIR:** Turkish police yesterday detained almost a dozen MPs from the country's main pro-Kurdish party, including its two co-leaders, as eight people were killed in a deadly car bombing blamed on Kurdish militants. Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) co-leaders Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdag appeared before judges in the city of Diyarbakir who were deciding whether to remand them in custody, the state-run Anadolu news agency said.

As the hearings got underway, a blast blamed on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) struck outside a police station nearby in the Baglar district of Diyarbakir, Turkey's main majority-Kurdish city. Eight people were killed, including two police, and over 100 wounded, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim announced, saying the PKK had again showed its "ugly face".

With tensions again escalating in Turkey nearly four months after July's failed military coup, authorities slapped restrictions on social media including messaging services like WhatsApp. Yildirim confirmed the move, saying such measures were imposed from "time to time" as a precaution and would be lifted once the danger had passed. The turbulence also battered the Turkish lira, which fell to a new historic low against the dollar of 3.15 as investors took fright at looming instability.

### 'Cannot stay silent'

The arrest of the HDP leaders, along with nine other MPs, is a major escalation of a crackdown on leading pro-Kurdish politicians as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan seeks to destroy the PKK. The HDP said in a statement that

the goal of the measures was to shut down the party, but it vowed not to surrender to these "dictatorial policies". "This is a dark day not only for our party but for all of Turkey and the region as it means the end of democracy in Turkey," it said.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said on Twitter she was "extremely worried" over the detentions and would call a meeting of EU ambassadors in Ankara. Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier summoned Turkey's envoy to the foreign ministry in Berlin, a ministry source said, adding Germany "could not remain silent." Demirtas was detained at his home in Diyarbakir in the early hours while Yuksekdag was detained in Ankara. Yuksekdag was then brought to Diyarbakir where the investigation is centred.

The pair had been targeted by several separate probes over the last months but this is the first time that either has been detained. The security operations took place after midnight, with Demirtas tweeting at 0130 local time (2230 GMT) that police had arrived at his home and he was about to be detained. NTV television said the pair were accused of spreading propaganda for the PKK while Anadolu said Demirtas was accused of provoking violence in deadly protests in October 2014.

The suspects had also failed to respond to demands to give statements to prosecutors, Anadolu said. The others detained include prominent lawmaker Sirri Sureyya Onder, who in the past has been a pointman for contacts with jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan. The head of the HDP's faction in the Turkish par-

liament, Idris Baluken, was also held and has already been remanded in custody ahead of trial. The government said one of the MPs, Ziya Pir, had been released on bail but another, Imam Tascier, had been detained after eluding police in the night.

### 'Further despotism'

The raids come as Turkey remains under a state of emergency imposed in the wake of the failed coup, which critics say has gone well beyond targeting the actual coup plotters. Thirteen staff from the opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper, including the editor-in-chief, were detained on Monday, further heightening strains in Turkish society. The two co-mayors of Diyarbakir were also detained last month.

Tensions have surged in the Kurdish-dominated southeast since a fragile ceasefire declared by the PKK collapsed in 2015, leading to a resumption of deadly attacks on the security forces. The HDP, the third largest party in parliament, seeks to promote the cause of Turkey's Kurdish minority and defend the rights of Kurds as well as those of women, gays and workers. The charisma in particular of Demirtas-dubbed the "Kurdish Obama" by some admirers after the US president-earned it success at the ballot box but also made him an arch rival of Erdogan.

"We call upon our friends... to stand in solidarity in our struggle to prevent Erdogan to steer the country into a civil war and further despotism," the HDP said. Authorities accuse the party of being a PKK front and failing to distance itself from terror, claims it has always vehemently denied. —AFP

## TWO US TRAINERS SHOT DEAD AT JORDAN BASE

**AMMAN:** Two US trainers were killed and a third American wounded in an exchange of fire yesterday at a Jordanian air force base, the Jordanian army said. It was not immediately clear who initiated the shooting, which the army said took place at the gate of Al-Jafr base in southern Jordan. But the army, in a statement, said it happened when the car carrying the US trainers failed to stop, adding that a Jordanian officer was also wounded.

"An exchange of fire occurred yesterday morning at the gate of the Prince Feisal Air Base in Al-Jafr when a car carrying trainers attempted to enter the gate without heeding the guards' orders to stop," it said quoting a military source. The army said the wounded were evacuated to hospital and that an investigation was under way to determine the causes of the shooting.

The US embassy in Jordan acknowledged a "security incident involving US personnel" in a statement received by AFP but gave few other details. "We are in contact with the appropriate Jordanian authorities, who have offered their full support. We will report more information when available and appropriate," it said. The death of two US military trainers in Jordan could prove very embarrassing for Amman, a key recipient of US financial assistance and member of the US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in neighboring Syria and Iraq.

US forces have trained a small group of vetted Syrian rebels in Jordan, and American instructors have trained Iraqi and Palestinian security forces in Jordan as well over the past few years. Yesterday's incident comes almost a year after a Jordanian policeman shot dead two US instructors, a South African and two Jordanians at a police training centre east of Amman, before being gunned down.

Washington said at the time that the two Americans killed in the November 9, 2015 shooting were employees of the private firm DynCorp contracted by the State Department to train Palestinian forces. Two other Americans were wounded in that incident, which sparked concern in Washington and was condemned by the US embassy. The centre where last year's shooting took place was set up after the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. It has since trained tens of thousands of Iraqi, Palestinian and Afghan police officers, and last year Jordan announced that former Libyan rebels would also be trained there. A government source said that military training is provided at Al-Jafr air base by instructors of various nationalities, including Americans, to participants from different countries. Last year, the United States announced its intention to increase overall US assistance to Jordan from \$660 million to \$1 billion annually for the 2015-2017 period. — AFP

## TUNISIAN MINISTER SACKED AFTER CRITICIZING SAUDI

**TUNIS:** Tunisia's religious affairs minister was fired yesterday for "attacking the foundations of diplomacy" after he publicly suggested the conservative form of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia had links to extremism. A government statement said Prime Minister Youssef Chahed had relieved Abdeljalil Ben Salem of his duties due to his "attack" on Tunisia's diplomatic principles.

On Thursday Ben Salem confirmed during a parliament session that he had "dared" to question Riyadh's ambassador to Tunis, as well as the secretary general of Arab interior ministers-a Saudi national-about Saudi Wahhabism being a "vehicle for terrorism". "I say to Saudis... reform your school because terrorism has historically come from it. I say this to you with love and modesty," the minister said, according to the private Mosaïque FM radio station.

Wahhabism, the fundamentalist school of Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia, has been accused of inspiring extremist ideologies in the region. Ben Salem tried to row back from his comments, issuing a statement saying that Tunisia's relations with the kingdom were "completely harmonious". Tunisia has witnessed a series of extremist attacks since the popular uprising of 2011, including deadly attacks on foreign tourists in 2015. — AFP



## RUSSIAN CEASEFIRE BEGINS IN ALEPPO

**ALEPPO:** A Russian-declared ceasefire for opposition-held areas of Syria's second city Aleppo took effect yesterday, but hopes were low that civilians or rebels would heed calls to leave. Damascus ally Moscow said the 10-hour "humanitarian pause" was an attempt to "prevent senseless casualties." But a similar, three-day pause last month ended with only a handful of people leaving the besieged rebel-held east of the city, and there was little sign many more would do so during Friday's brief ceasefire. Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been devastated by fighting since the rebels seized the east of the city in 2012, turning its historic heart into a battlefield.

The army cut the last supply route from other rebel-held territory in July, leaving the more than 250,000 civilians still living in the east without access to deliveries of basic goods. The rebels launched a bid to break the siege last week, which they stepped up on Thursday. Rocket fire on government-held districts killed at least 12 people, state media said.

The rebels captured the Dahiyet Al-Assad neighborhood and the village of Minyan outside west Aleppo, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The latest deaths brought to nearly 70 the number of civilians killed in government-held areas since the rebel offensive began, the Britain-based monitoring group said. An AFP correspondent in east Aleppo said the front lines were quiet on Friday morning after fighting halted during the night. Moscow says the Syrian army has opened eight crossings on the front line for civilians to leave. Two of them can also be used by surrendering rebel fighters.

The Russian defense ministry posted what it said were live feeds from three of the crossings. One showed barrels painted with the Syrian flag next to a large photograph of President Bashar Al-Assad propped up by sandbags. Another showed waiting ambulances while the third—which appeared to be filmed from a drone—showed a line of green coaches. But expectations were low that civilians or rebel fighters would take the opportunity to leave. Civilians in the east, who have faced weeks of devastating bombardment by the government and its Russian ally, have expressed scepticism about the promises of safe passage. Moscow and Damascus accuse the rebels of preventing residents from leaving.

### 'Cheap initiative'

The rebels dismissed the latest ceasefire as a ploy by Moscow to deflect international criticism of the high civilian death toll from its bombing campaign. "This announcement is worthless... We don't trust the Russians or any of their cheap initiatives," said Yasser Al-Youssef, a politburo member of the Nureddin Al-Zinki rebel brigade in Aleppo. The United Nations said it would not be attempting any medical evacuations from the rebel-held sector during Friday's ceasefire. UN agencies tried but failed to organise evacuation convoys during last month's pause. "The UN will not be involved in any way in the evacuation of civilians from east Aleppo related to this announcement," said David Swanson, a spokesman for the UN humanitarian office. "Medical evacuations can only take place if parties to the conflict take all the necessary measures to provide an enabling environment, which hasn't happened," he told AFP. — AFP



**ALEPPO:** Syrian pro-government stand over a body in the '1070' apartment block area, south of Al-Hamdaniyah. — AFP



**MOSUL:** An Iraqi family, who fled the violence due to the ongoing operation by Iraqi forces against jihadists of the Islamic State group to retake the city of Mosul, walks with a white flag on November 3, 2016 as they leave Gogjali, which lies on the eastern edge of Mosul, before heading to camps housing displaced people. — AFP

## ELITE IRAQI FORCES PUSH INTO MOSUL, FACING RESISTANCE

### 'THEY HAD BLOCKED ALL THE ROADS'

**MOSUL:** Jihadist fighters unleashed a deluge of bombs and gunfire yesterday on Iraqi forces punching into the streets of Mosul for the first time, forcing some units into a partial pullback. Some armored vehicles from the elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) returned from the streets of Al-Karamah a few hours after moving in and encountering fierce resistance from the Islamic State group, an AFP correspondent reported.

"We weren't expecting such resistance. They had blocked all the roads," said one officer, as top brass considered whether or not to attempt a fresh foray. "There are large numbers of jihadists... It was preferable to pull back and devise a new plan," the CTS officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Some CTS forces remained inside the city however and there were at least five regiments involved in the operation launched yesterday, making it hard to gauge the extent of the pullback.

After daybreak, bulldozers and tanks backed by air strikes had pushed into the streets of Mosul from the east for the first time since Iraqi forces launched a broad offensive to retake the city on October 17. The CTS's "Mosul regiment", which was the last to leave the city when the jihadists overran it in June 2014, immediately faced "tough resistance", Commander Muntadhar Salem told AFP.

The gunfire was almost uninterrupted for hours and reports from the front crackling into CTS radios said IS had set up barriers and laid bombs all along the streets. Air strikes by the US-led coalition had intensified over the past two days, despite the smoke from burning tyres set on fire by IS in a bid to provide cover.

They ebbed when the push on the ground got under way however. The resistance came despite widespread reports in recent weeks that top IS commanders had left the eastern side of the city and crossed the Tigris river to regroup on its west bank.

### Back from the dead

An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 IS fighters are scattered across the sprawling city, Iraq's second largest, where a million-plus civilians are believed to be trapped. There has been an exodus of civilians from outlying villages this week but few managed to find a safe way out of the city itself. Umm Ali could not hold back her tears when she spoke of her constant fear the jihadists would take her young sons. "They kept coming to our home. Sometimes they'd knock on the door at 10:00 pm," she said. "They took our car, saying: 'This is the land of the caliphate, it belongs to us'."

Civilians seeking refuge in Kurdish-controlled areas east of the city recounted tales of IS brutality. "We're coming from the world of the dead back to the world of the living," said Raed Ali, 40, who fled his home in the nearby village of Bazwaya. In a rare audio message released on Thursday, IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi urged his fighters to defend the city where he proclaimed the "caliphate" in June 2014.

The public announcement he made from the pulpit of Mosul's Great Mosque of al-Nuri heralded the most ambitious and brutal experiment in modern jihad, a period marked by mass murder, attempted genocide and slavery. But his "caliphate" has been shrinking steadily since mid-2015 and the loss of Mosul

would leave Raqqa, in Syria, as the group's only major urban stronghold. IS has been increasingly pragmatic in its tactics this year, falling back in the face of superior force even in some of its emblematic bastions such as Fallujah in Iraq and Dabiq in Syria.

### Caliphate 'on defensive'

However Baghdadi, in his first message of 2016, called on IS fighters still in Mosul to make a stand for Iraq's second city. "Holding your ground with honor is a thousand times easier than retreating in shame," he said. Aymenn Al-Tamimi, a jihadism expert at the Middle East Forum, said the tone of the half-hour speech was "very much of a caliphate on the defensive."

Iraqi forces and their Iranian and US-led coalition allies see the battle for Mosul as capping a two-year recovery from the rout that saw IS sweep through the Sunni Arab heartland north and west of Baghdad. As they regained ground and the caliphate declined, defections from IS ranks increased, providing intelligence that enabled coalition aircraft to take out key field commanders. IS has continued to post propaganda video from Mosul, the latest of which showed a busy market area and cars stopping at traffic lights. With colder weather setting in, concern has grown for the city's civilian population. Aid groups say up to a million people could seek to flee as soon as they can, but shelter is available for only a fraction of that number. The United Nations says it has received credible reports of IS forcing tens of thousands of civilians into Mosul from outlying areas for use as "human shields". — AFP



## PUTIN UNVEILS A GIANT CONTROVERSIAL STATUE

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday unveiled a giant statue by the Kremlin of his namesake Vladimir the Great, a revered leader and Orthodox saint, that has faced criticism from locals and conservationists. The 17-metre monument of Vladimir, the prince who converted modern Russia's precursor state Kievan Rus to Christianity in 988, has sparked controversy over fears it could blot Moscow's historic centre.

The opening of the statue-backed by the influential Orthodox Church-comes as the authorities under Putin continue to stoke a wave of nationalism fired up by Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea and subsequent standoff with the West. "Prince Vladimir has gone down forever in history as the unifier and defender of Russian lands, as a visionary politician," Putin told officials as Russia marked its national Unity Day holiday. "Today our duty is to stand up together against modern challenges and threats by basing ourselves on this spiritual legacy."

The decision to erect the monument just yards from the famed Kremlin walls has sparked an outcry from local conservationists and prompted concerns from UNESCO that it could jeopardize the Kremlin's status as a World Heritage site. Local authorities only came up with the location after tens of thousands of Muscovites signed a petition against an earlier plan to place the monument on a prominent hill overlooking the city. The statue was initially intended to be some 24 meters tall and weigh approximately 300 tons but it was scaled down after it was shifted to central Moscow. The figure of Vladimir-a warlord who killed his brother and, according to legend, had some 800 concubines-has become increasingly politicized since Moscow seized Crimea from ex-Soviet neighbor Ukraine.

Vladimir was christened in the ancient city of Chersonesos on the Crimea peninsula, with Putin using the spiritual ties to the region to strengthen Russia's claim over the area. But opponents of the statue say Vladimir had no historic links to Moscow, which did not exist during his lifetime, and point out that the kingdom he ruled was based around the modern Ukrainian capital Kiev. Vladimir is already commemorated with a large statue in Kiev, which is locked in a bitter standoff with Moscow. — AFP

## AFTER CALAIS, FRANCE CLEARS PARIS CAMP

**PARIS:** Hundreds of French police cleared a huge migrant camp in northeast Paris yesterday in a fresh sign of the government's determination to take refugees off the streets and into shelters. The evacuation of 3,800 people from the Stalingrad area of the city came less than two weeks after the demolition of the notorious "Jungle" camp in the northern port city of Calais.

Starting at dawn, police arrived to wake people sleeping in tents or on mattresses under an overhead metro line, 15 minutes' walk from the Gare du Nord railway station. The operation proceeded calmly and in orderly fashion, with many migrants confused about where they would be taken on the government-chartered buses but there were no signs of resistance. "Where are they taking people? Somewhere in Paris or outside?" asked Abderrahmane, a 19-year-old from Guinea.

The area around Stalingrad, a gritty multi-ethnic part of the capital, is a magnet for migrants arriving in Paris and police have repeatedly cleared camps there, only for them to spring back into life days later. But six months before elections, Socialist President Francois Hollande has said he is determined to take refugees off the streets and has said France needs to show them a better welcome.

While some activists praise this fresh political will to tackle a long-standing problem, they stress that France has been slow to react to a crisis that has grown in intensity over the last two years. It has lagged behind other countries, Germany in particular, in providing appropriate lodgings for refugees to seek safety.

"Our worry is always the same: that the facilities in the shelters are absolutely not the same standard," local activist Valerie Osouf told AFP, who criticized dirty and costly hotel rooms being used in some cases. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo has announced the creation of the city's first refugee transit camp, which will have an initial capacity for 400 men. It is set to open this month in a disused railway yard in the north of the capital. — AFP



**BARCELONA:** Members of the Popular Union for Street Vendors hold a banner reading "We do not want more migrant prisoners or dead" during a protest against the discrimination, racism and police violence on illegal street vendors. —AFP

## OPPOSITION GROWS TO SPAIN'S MIGRANT DETENTION CENTERS

### DEBATES FUELLED BY RIOTS AND ESCAPE ATTEMPTS

**MADRID:** Opposition to Spain's controversial migrant detention centers is growing, with the left-wing mayors of Madrid and Barcelona leading calls to close the facilities, which have been likened to prisons. The debate has been fuelled by a series of riots and escape attempts in recent months at the seven centers which are used to hold people caught living in Spain illegally while officials decide whether or not they will be deported. The latest incident happened on Tuesday, when about 40 migrants tried in vain to flee a migrant detention centre in Barcelona during dinner time.

After their aborted escape attempt, some 70 migrants rioted at the centre before police were able to end their protest without violence, a local police spokesman said. Last month 73 migrants escaped from a detention centre in the southeastern province of Murcia, in two separate incidents. One of the most serious episodes happened at the centre in the southern Madrid district of Aluche on October 18, when dozens of migrants climbed onto the roof of the former prison where they spent the night and unfurled a banner reading "freedom". After this incident some migrants at the centre suffered violence at the hands of police, according to anti-racism organization SOS Racismo.

#### Dilapidated installation

Last year, Europe saw an influx of more than one million migrants and asylum seekers fleeing war and poverty in its worst such crisis since World War II, and many countries have struggled to cope with the newcomers. Rights group Amnesty International has accused

Italian police of mistreating migrants, while France has come under fire over the closure last week of the notorious "Jungle" encampment housing thousands near the northern French port of Calais.

The crisis has fuelled anti-migrant parties across Europe, though not in Spain, where public opinion towards the new arrivals remains largely positive. Spain's two largest cities Madrid and Barcelona, which have been governed since June 2015 by citizens' platforms backed by far-left party Podemos, both want their migrant centers to be closed. "It makes no sense to deprive of their liberty people who have not committed a crime and are waiting to be deported," said Madrid mayor Manuela Carmena, a former judge, on Wednesday after visiting the Aluche centre. Critics claim that the steep public spending cuts imposed by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government have worsened conditions at the centers.

During a visit to the Madrid center on Wednesday, Podemos lawmaker Ione Belarra said it was "in effect a jail" but with greater obscurity regarding how it is run, a view shared by many rights groups. Police union SUP says many centers are dilapidated and have insufficient staff. "Certain centers are very old, with no comfort and (are) not prepared" to receive migrants, SUP spokesman Ramon Cosio told AFP. Centers in the south of the country "flood when it rains to the point that the detainees must roll up their trousers to the knee," he said. Police officers often provide clothes themselves to migrants who come to the centers with nothing after arriving in Spain by boat, he added.

#### 'Centers of pain'

Foreigners placed in the centers can only move around freely during certain hours and must remain in their rooms at night, according to SOS Racismo. They can see family members but only in visiting rooms, just as in prisons. Before glass partitions separated the detainees from their visitors but courts ordered they should be removed. Critics accuse the government of keeping the migrants at the centers-dubbed CIEs in Spanish-in an ambiguous situation, in overcrowded rooms where police violence is rife.

"The CIEs are centers of pain and police impunity," the judge in charge of overseeing the Madrid's migrant centre, Ramiro Garcia de Dios, said in an interview published in online daily eldiario.es. But Rafael Merino, a lawmaker with the ruling Popular Party, rejected the criticisms, saying during a visit to Madrid's CIE on Wednesday that there is "absolute respect for human rights" in the centers. The number of migrants who passed through the centers plunged to below 7,000 last year from over 11,000 in 2012 due to more restrictive criteria regarding who needs to be held in them, according to the head of the Spanish police, Ignacio Cosido.

Only 41 percent of the migrants held in the centers last year were finally deported, according to the government's ombudsman. Many end up in a grey zone, without permission to stay but still in the country, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation. "They become cannon fodder for the job market and are in situation of semi-slavery," Podemos lawmaker Ione Belarra said. —AFP



## PAKISTAN SET TO DEPORT NAT GEO'S 'AFGHAN GIRL'

**PESHAWAR:** An Afghan woman immortalized on a National Geographic cover will be sent back to the war-torn homeland she first fled decades ago, after a Pakistani court ordered yesterday that she be deported. Sharbat Gula, whose blazing green eyes were captured in an image taken in a Pakistan refugee camp by photographer Steve McCurry in the 1980s that became the magazine's most famous cover in history, was arrested last week.

She was accused of living in Pakistan on fraudulent identity papers following a two-year investigation, one of thousands of refugees using fake ID cards. The illiterate mother-of-four pleaded guilty yesterday, her lawyer Mubashar Nazar told AFP, and the court sentenced her to 15 days imprisonment and a 110,000 Pakistani rupee (\$1,050) fine. "She has already spent 11 days in jail," Nazar said, meaning she could be freed as early as Monday. An Afghan consulate official said that the fine imposed on Gula has already been paid and confirmed she would be released Monday.

"We... will take her to Afghanistan in an honourable way on Monday," Abdul Hameed Jalili, counselor for refugees at the Afghan consulate in Peshawar, told AFP. Amnesty International slammed the decision, calling it a "grave injustice". "For decades, she was known as the world's most famous refugee and seen as a symbol of Pakistan's status as a generous host," said Champa Patel, Amnesty International's South Asia Director. "Now, by sending her back to a country she hasn't seen in a generation and her children have never known, her plight has become emblematic of Pakistan's cruel treatment of Afghan refugees."

### 'Serious rights abuses'

The 1985 National Geographic image of Gula, then aged 12, made her the face of Afghanistan's decades-long refugee crisis. After a 17-year search, the photographer McCurry tracked Gula down to a remote Afghan village in 2002 where she was married to a baker and the mother of three daughters at the time.

Pakistani officials say she applied for the fraudulent ID card in Peshawar in 2014. The photo attached to the application has the same piercing green eyes and sculpted face seen in McCurry's famous image, only lined by age and surrounded by a black hijab covering her hair completely. Her children will also return with her. Gula, who is suffering from hepatitis C, has told media her husband passed away several years ago.

Gula's plight highlights the desperate measures many Afghans are willing to take to avoid returning to their war-torn homeland as Pakistan cracks down on undocumented foreigners. Pakistan has for decades provided safe haven for millions of Afghans who fled their country after the Soviet invasion of 1979. But since July hundreds of thousands have returned to Afghanistan in a desperate exodus amid fears of a crackdown, as Pakistan's famed hospitality ran out. —AFP

## INDIA BACHELOR BARRED FROM HOSTING GUEST

**NEW DELHI:** An Indian housing society faced a social media backlash yesterday for moral policing after barring an unmarried male tenant from hosting a female guest at an upscale apartment complex near New Delhi. Mohit Agarwal had been due to host a Spanish friend at his home in Gurgaon before the complex's housing association said its rulebook forbade single residents from entertaining guests of the opposite sex.

"There was no basis from stopping her to enter my house, except that these guys took it upon themselves to morally police us," Agarwal wrote in a Facebook post which has gone viral. "And it was super humiliating. With all the shameful insinuations flying around," he wrote. The unnamed Spanish woman, who arrived in India last month to work as an intern for a human rights group, had been intending to stay with Agarwal in The Palm Grove Heights complex in Gurgaon, a business district which is home to several multi-national firms.

The complex is run by the US-based Colliers International real estate management which said the "exclusion" rules were framed by the residents' society. "We have no role in forming the rules. The residents had previously faced some issue leading to introduction of this rule," estate manager Sanjay Chaudhary told AFP. Single men and women in India often face scrutiny from landlords who regularly turn down potential tenants because of their unmarried status in what is a largely conservative society.—AP



**SRINAGAR:** Masked Kashmiri protesters face government forces during a protest on the outskirts of Srinagar. —AP

## THOUSANDS IN KASHMIR HIDE FROM CRACKDOWN, SOME IN ORCHARDS

HIMALAYAN TERRITORY IN VIRTUAL LOCKDOWN SINCE JULY

**KULGAM:** Deep within a vast orchard, dozens of young Kashmiris laze in the shade of apple trees. Surrounded by boxes of fruit, they chat and crack jokes. Some play video games on their phones. For now, they're at ease, the hilly grove providing a perfect hideaway from Indian police and paramilitary soldiers deployed to hunt them down. But with winter approaching, the men have taken refuge at night in the homes of friends or distant relatives, changing location every few days and passing messages to loved ones through supporters and friends.

They worry about putting others at risk amid India's largest-ever crackdown on unarmed civilians, launched to quell an anti-India uprising that has kept this Himalayan territory in virtual lockdown since July. More than 8,000 people, mostly teenage boys and young men, have been rounded up and put in jail. Thousands more are being sought as suspects, but police refuse to give an actual count, saying the number is constantly changing.

Authorities say the suspects pose security risks, having hurled rocks at government forces or clashed with police. Some are suspected of aiding or joining separatist rebels fighting for Kashmir's independence or its merger with neighboring Pakistan. But many are simply identified as having taken part in what India says are illegal protests.

Those dodging arrest by hiding in Kashmir's many apple orchards say they're being unfairly targeted by Indian forces bent on criminalizing dissent. "We're paying the cost for raising our voice for freedom," said a university art student now in hiding, one of 40 wanted men who spoke with the Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of being caught. "Now we're scared even by our own shadows." His cousin said he had to abandon his science studies to go into

hiding. "I want to become a doctor," he said. "But for now, the police have made me a fugitive."

### Conflict and rebellion

The crackdown is part of a decades-long cycle of conflict and rebellion that has bedeviled Kashmir since India and Pakistan won independence in 1947. Shortly thereafter they fought their first war over the territory, splitting the picturesque region between the two countries by a United Nations-drawn ceasefire line, now known as the line of control. They fought a second war over the region in 1972.

Many in the mostly Muslim region see India as an occupying force, and resent the hundreds of thousands of troops deployed with special powers to shoot suspects on sight while being immune from prosecution. India blames Pakistan for training, arming and sheltering separatist rebels who began fighting Indian forces in 1989. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the conflict. Pakistan denies the allegations, saying it offers only moral support to rebels and Kashmiri civilians.

This year's violence erupted following the July 8 killing of a popular rebel commander by Indian forces. There have been almost daily protests since then, often with stone-throwing youths clashing with police and paramilitary forces firing pellets and bullets into the crowds. Indian authorities also have staged months of nighttime raids. At least 90 civilians and two policemen have been killed, with thousands more injured, most of them civilians. Curfews, communication blackouts, roadblocks and separatist-sponsored strikes have largely paralyzed public life.

A top police officer in the main city of Srinagar said nearly 500 of the more than 8,000 suspects detained had been arrest-

ed under a law that allows them to be held for up to two years without charge. He and other officials spoke on condition of anonymity because police and army policies bar them from speaking to reporters on the record. "A tough approach to deal with protests has worked," one army officer said at a military camp near the urban center of Anantnag. "Unfortunately, people will suffer."

Yet inside one police barrack last week, uniformed Kashmiri officers admitted fears of their own. One constable said an angry crowd told his family they would torch their home if they saw him in uniform again. Another said he joined in a protest while on vacation; he nearly lost his job, but avoided retribution from neighbors angry over his job. "I had no choice. That was the only way for me to save myself and my family," he said. The uprising has been most pronounced in southern areas famed for their orchards, rice paddies and gently rolling Himalayan foothills. Police officers routinely refer to the cluster of villages between Anantnag and the town of Kulgam as one of the most dangerous trouble spots.

### Humiliation is intolerable

Residents in the area accuse Indian forces of raiding neighborhoods, ransacking homes, beating civilians and firing on more than 300 electricity transformers to cut power to homes. Villages elsewhere have since fortified their transformers with sandbags and wooden logs. "They come, ransack our homes and hit our mothers and sisters. This humiliation is intolerable," said a 17-year-old student, wincing with the pain of untreated pellet injuries sustained while resisting a police raid on his village of Hawoora in October. The student, listed as "wanted" by police, has been too afraid to visit a hospital.—AP



# ‘MONKEY KING’ PICKS TRUMP AS PRESIDENT

**SHANGHAI:** A Chinese monkey described as the “king of prophets” has tipped Donald Trump for the US presidency, a tourism park said, after the creature successfully predicted the winner of football’s European Championship final earlier this year. Known as Geda—which means knots or goose bumps—the prophetic primate is the latest in a series of purportedly psychic animals that have popped up around the world since Paul

the Octopus correctly predicted multiple 2010 World Cup matches. The simian seer, wearing a yellow shirt emblazoned with his title, was given a chance to pick between life-sized cut-outs of Republican Trump and his Democratic challenger Hillary Clinton.

After “deliberate thought” the mystic monkey chose Trump, Shiyianhu Ecological Tourism Park said Thursday in a statement on its website. Without even waiting, he

congratulated the cardboard candidate with a kiss on the lips. The five-year-old simian correctly predicted Portugal would win the 2016 European football championship in July, two days before Cristiano Ronaldo’s side prevailed 1-0, online news portal ifeng.com reported at the time.

Then, the monkey was presented with the national flags of Portugal and France with bananas on both. It finally walked

towards the national flag of Portugal and ate a banana there, the report said. Geda’s antics seem to have been inspired by the oracular octopus Paul. In 2010, Paul the Octopus became the world’s most famous mollusc when he foretold the results of every match played by Germany at the World Cup in South Africa, as well as Spain’s victory against the Netherlands in the final. — AFP

## S KOREA: A CULT HISTORY

**SEOUL:** The current political scandal engulfing South Korean President Park Geun-Hye has been given a lurid twist by numerous but largely unsubstantiated reports of links to religious cults and shamanist rituals. Although Park has denied the reports, they have resonated in a country with a history of cult organizations and charismatic religious leaders—some of whom have amassed enormous wealth and influence. Here are five questions about religious practices in South Korea, the influence of shamanism and why the country has proved such fertile ground for cults to flourish.

### Why are cults in the news?

Choi Soon-Sil, the woman at the centre of a political scandal surrounding her friendship with President Park Geun-Hye, is the daughter of late religious leader Choi Tae-Min. In the early 1970s, Choi Tae-Min established his own church, Yeongseggo (“Spiritual Life”), combining tenets of Buddhism, Christianity and shamanism. He became a mentor to a young Park Geun-Hye and some media reports have suggested that his daughter and Park became followers and continued to conduct certain shamanist rituals together after his death in 1994. Park unequivocally denied the reports in an address to the nation yesterday.

### How religious are South Koreans?

In the last national census to include religious affiliation, conducted in 2005, close to 30 percent of South Koreans identified themselves as Christian, compared to 23 percent who cited the once-dominant Buddhism. Korean Christianity is particularly muscular and evangelical, sending more missionaries abroad than any other country apart from the United States. Churches, big and small, have proliferated across cities like Seoul and some are extremely wealthy with large congregations whose members hand over up to 10 percent of their salary every month. The traditional spiritual practice of shamanism, which dates back centuries and is deeply ingrained in Korean culture, underpins organized religion. Many Koreans, young and old, still seek the advice of a shaman on issues ranging from education to marriage and business prospects.

### What about the cults?

There’s no reliable data on how many cults currently exist in South Korea, but there are a large number of fringe churches and groups—estimates range from dozens to several hundred—who have attracted the label. Some have been implicated in fraud, brainwashing, coercion, and other behaviour associated with cults worldwide. The most sinister have been linked to criminality as serious as systematic rape.

Many groups are Messianic, with a charismatic leader claiming a god-like status, and also highly Korea-centric, espousing a form of spiritual nationalism with the Koreans as God’s chosen people. According to Park Hyung-Tack, president of the Korea Christian Heresy Research Institute, there are currently around 50 religious leaders in the country who claim to be “either Jesus, the second coming or God himself.” Any examples? Many. One of the largest and best-known is Providence or Jesus Morning Star (JMS) founded by Jung Myung-Seok in 1980 as a breakaway from the Unification (“Moonie”) Church. In 2009, Jung—who referred to himself as the “Tree of Life”—was jailed for 10 years for the rape and sexual assault of four female followers.

Another group, Guwonpa (“Salvation Sect”), came to national attention in 2014 when its leader, Yoo Byung-Eun, became the target of a nationwide manhunt. Yoo and his family ran the firm which operated the Sewol ferry that sank in April 2014, causing the loss of more than 300 lives—most of them children. On the run from charges of corruption and negligence, Yoo’s body was found in a field—so badly decomposed that an autopsy failed to determine the precise cause of death. In 1987, 32 followers of an apocalyptic cult called Odaeyang were found dead at their headquarters in an apparent murder-suicide pact. Among them was the cult’s leader Park Soon-Ja who was under police investigation for embezzlement. — AFP



**JAKARTA:** Muslim protesters pull razor wire blocking a road that leads to the presidential palace during a rally against Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama. —AP

## 50,000 MUSLIM HARDLINERS RALLY AGAINST BLASPHEMY IN JAKARTA

### GOVERNOR PURNAMA ACCUSED OF INSULTING ISLAM

**JAKARTA:** Tens of thousands of Muslim hardliners called for Jakarta’s Christian governor to be prosecuted for blasphemy in a massive demonstration in the Indonesian capital yesterday, sparking fears of violence and putting authorities on alert. A sea of protesters wearing white Islamic robes swarmed the city’s largest mosque for Friday prayers before taking to the streets in a huge show of force against Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, who is accused of insulting Islam.

The protest was triggered by accusations that Purnama, better known by his nickname Ahok, insulted Islam by criticizing opponents who used Quranic references to attack him ahead of an election in February. Hardliners have called for his death as yesterday’s turnout—estimated by police at 50,000—eclipsed a similar protest last month that drew 10,000 chanting demonstrators to city hall.

Police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar told

AFP there were no reports of violence so far. Police have taken no chances in the lead up, deploying 18,000 officers amid fears that radical elements could infiltrate the march. “The protest must be orderly, and avoid anarchy and emotion. The rule of law must remain in force,” the police communications department tweeted yesterday. The military warned it was ready to back police if things turned ugly, with helicopters flying low over the city and extra soldiers stationed at key government buildings reinforced with razor wire and armored vehicles.

### Steer clear

Some foreign embassies warned their citizens to steer clear of the demonstration. President Joko Widodo met this week with religious and political leaders to issue a unified call against violence while police sought to ease tensions by holding prayer sessions and broadcasting calls for peace on social media. But anger at Purnama, Jakarta’s

second Christian governor and the first from the country’s ethnic Chinese community, has spread beyond the capital, with solidarity marches held across Java and in cities as far as Makassar in Indonesia’s east.

The governor stoked fury in September when he told a crowd they’d been “deceived” by his opponents who had used a Quranic verse to try to put them off voting for a Christian. He later apologized but has faced persistent allegations of blasphemy, prohibited by law in Indonesia. “Our holy book has been insulted so I felt moved to join. Ahok must be prosecuted”, protester Zulfikar, who like many Indonesians goes by just one name, told AFP. Others displayed signs stating “big no for blasphemy” and “detain and prosecute the blasphemer Ahok”. The governor—known for his tough-talking style—is hugely popular in some quarters for his determination to clean up Jakarta, an overcrowded, disorganised and polluted metropolis. — AFP



## MYANMAR ALLOWS AID WORKERS IN RAKHINE

**YANGON:** Myanmar's government has given access to foreign diplomats and aid workers in northern Rakhine state, where deadly attacks on police and Rohingya Muslims have flared up, diplomats said yesterday. Foreign diplomats including the US and Britain ambassadors and EU and UN officials were invited by the government early this week to check the three-

week surge in violence that was prompted by the killings of nine police officers at border posts with Bangladesh in Maungdaw township on Oct 9. "We hope that this is the first step for greater access for us to resume humanitarian assistance," said U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Scot Marciel. Since the latest violence, the government had restricted aid workers and media

from the conflict areas of the northwestern state. UN coordinator Renata Lok-Dessallien on Friday urged the government to launch an independent investigation into allegations of human rights abuses following her two-day trip to the region. "The allegation of gender-based violence is worrying and we expressed this to the government, but we discussed

mainly how to resume humanitarian assistance in the region," she told reporters, asked about reports of rape against Rohingya women.

Despite having lived in Myanmar for generations, Rohingya are excluded from citizenship in the predominantly Buddhist nation of 50 million. —AP



# Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:  
**+965 248 35 616 / 617**  
 E MAIL :info@kuwaittimes.net  
 ads@kuwaittimes.net  
 Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## best OFFERS



**iPhone 6s**  
4.7 inches  
**LTE**

32GB  
**169**  
السعر Price  
د.ك. KD .000

128GB  
**219**  
السعر Price  
د.ك. KD .000



**Lenovo A6020**  
**LTE**

**39**  
السعر Price  
د.ك. KD .900

5.0"  
16GB



**Lenovo A2010**  
**LTE**

**20**  
السعر Price  
د.ك. KD .900

4.5"  
8GB



**best**  
AL-YOUSIFI  
اليوسفى

[@BestAIYousifi](#) [@BestAIYousifi](#) [alyousifiBEST](#) [BestAIYousifi](#)

Credit: Start from 5KD \* Up to 48 month \* Instant approval

Shop Online [www.best.com.kw](http://www.best.com.kw) Free Delivery

**1809 809**

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 ( Bin Khaldon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road)  
 • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya ( Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra ( Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

## Designed to drive down the Cost of OWNERSHIP & OPERATION

\*Advanced Technology \*Perfect Compatibility \* Safety & Comfortable

**CAIC**

China National Automotive Industry International Corp.



• GO STAR 28 Seater BUS  
 \*G4BA 4 Cylinder 2.7 Ltr Petrol Engine  
 \*DENSO Air Condition System



• GO STRONG 1.5 Ton Light Truck  
 \*XG491Q 4 Cylinder 2.2 Ltr Petrol Engine  
 \*Cargo Deck : 3200 x 1600 x 390 (LxWxH)

• GO STRONG 3.5 Ton Light Truck  
 \*G4BA 4 Cylinder 2.7 Ltr Petrol Engine  
 \*Cargo Deck : 4200 x 1900 x 390 (LxWxH)

Authorized Distributor

**Hamad Al-Khaled & Brothers Co. W.L.L.**

P.O. Box: 22402 Safat - 13085 Kuwait  
 Tel.: 24843244 - 24843410, Fax: 24845110  
 Mob.: 99698168 - 99698169  
 Ahmadal Showroom: 94051575

E-mail: ullas@hkhaled.com | WWW.hkhaled.com



شركة حمد الخالد واخوانه ذ.م.م

ص.ب: ٢٢٤٠٢ الصفاة - ١٣٠٨٥ الكويت  
 تلفون: ٢٤٨٤٣٢٤٤ - ٢٤٨٤٣٤١٠ فاكس: ٢٤٨٤٥١١٠  
 نقال: ٩٩٦٩٨١٦٨ - ٩٩٦٩٨١٦٩  
 معرض الاحمدى: ٩٤٠٥١٥٧٥

موزع معتمد



## TRUMP SILENT IN HIS ADS, CLINTON TALKS CHILDREN

**WASHINGTON:** Donald Trump has shown more than 586 hours of television ads in the general election, and until now something has been missing: his voice. There is no footage of him speaking, no archival recordings to build out his life story and no direct-to-camera appeals to voters. He doesn't utter a word other than the legally required recording, "I'm Donald Trump, and I approve this message," at the end of his commercials.

That's about to change. In one of the final ads of the race, the Republican presidential nominee will take his case to the voters, his campaign says. Americans have been subjected to more than \$500 million in TV ads - \$88 million and counting just this week - since the contest between Trump and Hillary Clinton began in June.

With the election days away, The Associated Press analyzed Kantar Media's ad data to find out what the candidates have been telling voters about themselves. The review covered 22 Trump campaign ads and 68 by the Clinton campaign, which had aired more than 311,000 times by Monday on national networks, local broadcast channels and national cable stations.

AP found a lack of Trump's voice in his own commercials and an overabundance of his words in Clinton's. That's helped drive what is by far the most dominant message of general election advertising, that each candidate believes the other is unfit for the White House. Trump has been silent in his ads because his campaign wanted them "not be centered around him but the movement itself," said Jessica Ditto, a Trump spokeswoman.

A different view: The campaign "may have concluded that voters like the idea of Trump more than the actual Trump," said Will Ritter, co-founder of the Republican ad firm Poolhouse and an outspoken Trump critic. "They could worry that when he opens his mouth, people are reminded he is in no way prepared to be president." That's what Clinton's campaign is hoping.

More than half of her ads hold Trump against himself, the AP found. They feature Trump appearing to mock a disabled reporter, using profanity at rallies, seeming to threaten to use nuclear weapons and making disparaging and predatory comments about women. To hammer Clinton, Trump's ads talk about Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state, her response to the terrorist attacks in Benghazi and her untrustworthiness.

Beneath the avalanche of attack ads are positive - sometimes even issues-focused - commercials. Clinton has an ad solely on the importance of clean energy, while Trump has one about the need to put coal miners back to work. But neither candidate is focusing ads on issues he or she brings while campaigning, the AP found. At his giant rallies, Trump frequently says he'll redo trade deals. That topic gets few mentions in his advertising. When she's addressing supporters, Clinton vows to make wealthy people pay their fair share by increasing taxes. She's barely talking about that in ads.

### Clinton issue ads

Clinton's chief advertising message is that she fights for children. Her ads dive into photo and video archives to showcase those parts of her resume, and actor Morgan Freeman describes Clinton in melodious cadence as "a woman who spent her life helping children and families." While only two less frequent Trump ads mention children, such ads dominate more than half of Clinton's barrage of commercials.

"I've spent my life fighting for children, and I'm not stopping now," Clinton says in an ad that's been broadcast more than any other during the general election. The spot does not go into specific policy or achievements, but shows Clinton over the decades talking about children. The same message is delivered in a new, end-of-campaign spot that has rocketed to the top of her play list. This one shows parents marking off the heights of their kids as Clinton says a country is judged by what it does for its children.

Clinton strategist Joel Benenson said such ads remind people of the work Clinton has done and tell voters something they may not know about her work for children, families and women. He also said it strikes a clear contrast with Trump. "Donald Trump has a lifetime of really stifling average people and putting himself first all the time," he said. — AP



MIAMI: South Florida voters are given instructions by polling center workers as they receive their ballots at an early voting center. — AFP

## POWERHOUSE SENIORS WIELD HEFTY INFLUENCE IN FLORIDA

ZEAL FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COULD TIP SCALES

**CORAL GABLES:** People older than 60 represent a powerhouse voting bloc in the battleground state of Florida, and their zeal for the hotly contested US presidential election could tip the scales, experts say. At The Palace retirement home in south Florida's Coral Gables, election season has been a big deal, with residents holding debate-watching parties to discuss and sometimes argue about the candidates' positions. They plan to stay up late and watch the returns together on Election Night next Tuesday.

"This year, especially, our vote is definitely going to matter. It could push it one way over the other," said Pamela Parker, who manages entertainment for the 200 elderly residents, 85 percent of whom are registered to vote. Seniors already account for more than half the 4.5 million ballots cast so far in early voting in the state, according to Daniel Smith, a professor of political science at the University of Florida. "Older voters disproportionately vote in Florida," he said, noting they make up just over one third (35 percent) of the state's 13 million strong electorate.

So just how are the elder Americans voting inside the ballot booth? It's hard to say for sure, since early voters' picks are not counted or made public until Election Day. But experts are keeping a close eye on voters' party affiliation for clues.

### Overlooked in the past

So far, about 100,000 more Republican seniors have voted than Democrats, according to Smith, who maintains a database on voter turnout that is updated daily. "Not all go for Donald Trump, but certainly there is a lot of enthusiasm for Donald Trump," said Smith. Parker believes that older voters have "unfortunately been overlooked in the past." To make sure seniors can vote, particularly those with limited mobility, state election officials opened a polling place on site at The Palace, just a short trek from the dining room, one week before Election Day.

Many treaded slowly to the voting room, some leaning on wheeled walkers to steady their gait, but their sense of urgency was apparent. "I think it is terribly important. Probably the most important one I have seen in my lifetime," said Anne Sager, 89, who was elected mayor of Sarasota, Florida, in the 1980s and supports Hillary Clinton. "Because I think the direction our country is going will be decided in this election for a long time to come."

With an "I Voted" sticker affixed to her shirt, Sager said that protecting abortion rights was important to her, along with making sure Democrats get to pick justices to fill the current and any upcoming Supreme Court vacancies. She also said she was pleased to cast her vote for a woman presidential candidate for the first

time. "I think it is a choice between the experienced public servant and really, policies that are unknown," Sager said.

### Hillary T-shirt

While seniors elsewhere in Florida may be more inclined to vote Republican, Parker said The Palace's residents are tilting toward Clinton - though she herself does her best to remain non-partisan. Rae Graham, 93, made no secret of her pick, wearing a T-shirt covered in dozens of pictures of Clinton's smiling face. "I love Hillary and I think she is going to be a wonderful president," said Graham, before offering a pair of four-letter words to describe Trump.

Lee Adelson, 88, said he thinks the Republican billionaire presents a global danger, so he voted not only for Clinton, but for every Democrat on his ballot. "Trump talks about building a wall to keep the Mexicans out," he said. "If Trump wins, the Canadians are going to build a wall to keep the Americans out." Adelson pointed to another man who had also just voted and was chatting with friends over breakfast nearby, describing him as a Republican. Later, the man confirmed to a visiting reporter that he was indeed a Republican, but said that he was not for Trump. "I can't talk any more, I have somewhere to be!" he said with a laugh as he disappeared into an elevator. — AFP



# Kuwait Times 55 BUSINESS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

Saudi Arabia prepares for world's biggest IPO

16

Pound surges on Brexit ruling, US poll fears

17

India's GST soon, but rates will dilute benefits

18



Strong US job growth, rising wages boost rate hike hopes

20



CAIRO: An Egyptian worker fills a customer's tank as cars queue at a petrol station in the capital Cairo yesterday. The government announced an increase in fuel prices, with low grade petrol increasing by 50 percent to 2.35 pounds a litre while higher octane fuel rose by about one third to 3.5 pounds per litre.—AFP (See Page 16)

## BURGAN BANK GROUP REPORTS NET INCOME OF KD 17.2 MILLION FOR Q3

TRUE PERFORMANCE CONTINUES TO REFLECT BUSINESS MODEL RESILIENCE

**KUWAIT:** Burgan Bank Group announced yesterday its earnings for the 9 months and third quarter for the financial year 2016. Burgan Bank Group reported net income of KD 17.2 million for the third quarter hence KD48.6 million for the first 9 months of 2016. Earnings per share for the 9 months of the financial year 2016 stood at 18.6 fils.

Burgan Bank Group continues with prudence to maintain its solid true performance and selective growth approach amid the high market volatilities, geopolitical risks and challenging operating environment. Year-on-year, Loans and advances to customers grew by 10 percent reaching KD4.3 billion while customers deposits remained flat at KD3.9 billion due to actions taken to diversify the bank's long-term funding profile during 2016. Also year-on-year, Non-performing Assets ratio net of collateral drops to 1.2 percent with coverage ratio net of collaterals reaching 385 percent. Basel 3 Capital Adequacy Ratio stands at 15.8 percent at the end of September 30, 2016. Majed Essa Al-Ajeel, Chairman of Burgan Bank Group said: "Burgan Bank Group continues the defensive and prudent approach amid the increasing volatilities. Yet again, our business model has proven to be resilient and leading indicators continue to point north."

"Despite the sale of Jordan Kuwait Bank in December 2015, Burgan Bank Group true performance remains solid. For accurate analysis, the



Chairman of Burgan Bank Group Majed Essa Al-Ajeel

third quarter of 2016 reported net income of KD 17.2 million reveals a true growth of 21 percent when normalized by eliminating the non-repetitive items such as FX gains and others for a like-to-like comparison. Therefore, the first 9 months

of 2016 mirrors a true growth of 27 percent compared to the same period last year," commented Al-Ajeel. "It is also worth noting that such solid true performance is maintained while also booking KD5 million in precautionary reserves for the third quarter and a total of KD15 million year to date." "On behalf of the board, I take this opportunity to thank our customers and shareholders for their confidence in our capabilities and our regulators; the Central Bank of Kuwait, for their support. I would also like to thank our executive management team for their leadership and the excellent execution of the corporate strategy, and to our staff for their continued support and commitment," concluded Al-Ajeel.

The consolidated financials encompass the results of the Group's operations in Kuwait, and its share from its regional subsidiaries, namely Burgan Bank - Turkey, Gulf Bank Algeria, Bank of Baghdad, Tunis International Bank. Burgan Bank Group has one of the largest regional branch networks with more than 180 branches across Kuwait, Turkey, Algeria, Iraq, Tunis, Lebanon and representative offices in Dubai-United Arab Emirates.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the

corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed. The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Burgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.





**CAIRO:** Cars queue at a petrol station in the Egyptian capital Cairo yesterday. The government announced an increase in fuel prices, with low grade petrol increasing by 50 percent to 2.35 pounds a litre while higher octane fuel rose by about one third to 3.5 pounds per litre. —AFP

# EGYPT'S PM DEFENDS ECONOMIC MEASURES

## FUEL SUBSIDIES CUT, GASOLINE PRICES HIKED

**CAIRO:** Egypt's prime minister yesterday tried to reassure anxious Egyptians after the Central Bank's unprecedented decision the previous day to devalue the national currency by 48 percent before allowing it to float.

Sherif Ismail pledged that steps would also be taken toward "improving the citizens' living conditions" and insisted that while past measures were only temporary "pain reliefs," the latest drastic moves were part of a comprehensive reform program.

Thursday's devaluation of the pound was meant to meet conditions set by the International Monetary Fund for a much-needed \$12 billion bailout. Egypt also announced cuts in fuel subsidies, along with a hike in gasoline prices between 30 percent and 46.8 percent.

The surge in fuel price triggered concerns of a far-reaching knock-on effect, with similar increases in food and transportation prices. Word of Thursday's hikes was leaked late at night, sparking a rush by motorists to gas stations, where long lines of vehicles formed across much of the country.

Ismail said the measures are necessary and that "it's our destiny to take action in the face of the current economic situation." The government aims to achieve a growth rate no less than 6 percent, he said, compared the current rate of around 4.3 percent. It also seeks to decrease the budget deficit from 12 to 10 percent, Ismail added.

He warned that public debt is inching closer to 100 percent of the GDP, adding that the way forward is to attract foreign

investment by improving investment conditions to provide more job opportunities and increase exports. Egypt currently imports a third of its needs in goods. "We want to move forward," he said, adding that economic reform will go hand-in-hand with social protection, including tighter control over food prices. "Reform comes at a cost," he said. "At the end, it will serve the citizens' interest." Ismail cited 1977 bread riots over austerity measures introduced by former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who deployed the army to put down riots against lifting of subsidies. Sadat ended up cancelling the austerity measures. This, the prime minister said, led to an accumulation of budget deficits since subsidies eat up a big chunk of the state budget. —AP

## SENEGAL AT CROSSROADS AS OIL BOOM LOOMS

**DAKAR:** In a report last week detailing sub-Saharan Africa's dire economic outlook, the International Monetary Fund singled out Senegal as a rare bright spot. One key reason: it does not produce oil. While low crude prices have hobbled exporters Nigeria and Angola this year and African growth staggers to its slowest rate in more than two decades, Senegal's economy will expand by over 6 percent.

Today, however, Senegal is on the verge of its own oil and gas boom. With recent finds promising billion-dollar payoffs within a decade it would do well to learn from the mistakes of others. "The oil and gas could boost the economy, but at the same time resources can turn into a curse," said Ibrahima Aidara, an economist at the Open Society Initiative for West Africa. In Africa's top producer Nigeria, billions of dollars of oil revenues have vanished while many in the country remain impoverished. Long-time rulers in Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Congo and Gabon have long used patronage systems fed by oil wealth to help maintain power.

Already, claims of corruption and opacity in the government's managing of the nascent sector have raised concerns in Senegal, one of West Africa's rare, relatively stable democracies. "You cannot hide in your office and make policy, because this affects everyone," Aidara said. Companies including Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and ConocoPhillips spent 60 years exploring in Senegal before Edinburgh-based Cairn Energy struck oil in deep waters in 2014.

Cairn reckons it could be sitting on upwards of 1 billion barrels and plans to start production in 2021. Dallas-headquartered Kosmos Energy boasts about 50 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves off the coast of Senegal and neighboring Mauritania - the equivalent of nearly two years' worth of U.S. production. Senegal's government forecasts that just one planned natural gas project will bring in at least \$10-13 billion - almost equivalent to the country's gross domestic product - over the next 25 years. "We are experiencing the period before a new age for Senegal," said Mahi Kane, a director at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Dakar who has seen the number of energy firms seeking advice on tax and legal issues rise five-fold in the last three years.

### "WE NEVER BENEFIT"

When Ghana started exporting oil at the start of the decade on top of gold and cocoa it was considered one of Africa's hottest investment destinations. But its oil sector development has been slower than some had anticipated.

A slide in crude prices since 2014 has meant oil has not brought Ghana the wealth some had hoped for and the West African country is currently receiving aid from the International Monetary Fund to reduce inflation and lower the budget deficit. In Senegal, where the average annual income barely tops \$1,000, not everyone is optimistic the looming oil boom will reverse their fortunes either.

Hundreds took to the streets in the capital Dakar last month arguing that the oil will only benefit international companies. "The country only gets 10 percent," said Adama Seck, 50, the leader of a small independent political party, referring to the government stake in some contracts. "We never benefit from our resources," he said, as police fired tear gas and demonstrators scattered. — Reuters

## NAIMI'S BATTLES AGAINST WESTERN 'GREED' SHINE LIGHT ON ARAMCO IPO

**LONDON:** As Saudi Arabia prepares for the world's biggest initial public offering (IPO), memoirs from its former Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi offer a rare insight into decades of domestic infighting over the future of state-run Saudi Aramco.

The 300-page book, titled "Out of the Desert" and published by Portfolio Penguin, describes the battles waged by the influential industry veteran including fending off Western attempts to gain control of oil giant Aramco's best assets. Naimi joined Aramco as a teenager in 1947 and climbed through the ranks to become company chief from 1983 to 1995, when he was named minister of petroleum - a post he retained until his retirement this year.

His career spans the rise of the "petro-politics" that defined the recent history of the kingdom, including the birth of the

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in 1969 and the oil embargo in 1973. Even though the book holds back from detailing any political jostling within the secretive Saudi royal family and government, it gives a clear idea that various factions have often pushed for different paths for Saudi Aramco.

Naimi describes several instances throughout his career when he fought top executives from Western companies including US giant Exxon Mobil trying what he describes as winning lucrative deals via good connections with some Saudi officials.

"They (Exxon) wanted us to turn over highly restricted information about our Ghawar field, for instance, that isn't even known within the kingdom outside of the oil ministry and Saudi Aramco," Naimi writes about gas talks between oil majors and Aramco at the end of

the 1990s. If Aramco does list its stock as planned in 2018, investors would expect the firm to disclose classified information on its reserves, including Ghawar - Saudi Arabia's biggest oilfield.

But it could avoid doing so given the sensitivity of the issue and just say that by buying into Aramco, investors would gain access to the world's cheapest reserves, still controlled by the state, according to sources briefed on the offering. Naimi retired in April and was replaced by Aramco chairman Khalid Al-Falih as energy minister.

The Saudi oil portfolio is overseen by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, 31, who has been actively promoting the Aramco IPO. Sources in the kingdom have suggested the royal family is far from united on the issue as some see the offering as giving away the crown jewels cheaply to foreign-

ers at a time of low oil prices. Naimi says he fought hard for "the heart and soul" of Aramco to avoid giving Westerners unnecessarily lucrative deals. "(Exxon's then-boss) Lee Raymond for instance was trying to make the most of his relationship with (the foreign minister at the time) Prince Saud al-Faisal to get a better deal for Exxon Mobil," Naimi writes.

Naimi says he was convinced that as part of gas talks in the 1990s, Exxon and other oil majors hoped to acquire cheap Saudi reserves of gas condensate, a high-quality form of crude oil.

"I told Lee Raymond my views and that I felt he was trying to gain an unfair advantage. Lee responded in kind and it got a little ugly. From that point onward our negotiations were over. I haven't seen Lee Raymond since, which was a shame because we were once good friends," Naimi continues. — Reuters



## POUND SURGES ON BREXIT RULING, US POLL FEARS

**LONDON:** Britain's pound leapt to \$1.25 yesterday, one day after judges ruled London needed parliamentary approval to trigger Brexit, as the dollar and world stocks were rocked by US vote fears.

Sterling hit a level last seen on October 7 as Prime Minister Theresa May told European leaders that her March deadline for triggering Brexit negotiations "remains unchanged"—despite growing worries that the ruling could delay Britain's EU exit.

Meanwhile, official data showed that the US economy added a solid 161,000 jobs in October while the unemployment rate fell to 4.9 percent. "The High Court ruling has introduced a whole new set of political uncertainties," Rabobank analyst Jane Foley said. "However, since most of these are seen as reducing the chances of a bitter divorce from the European Union's single market, the pound is better supported. "While US labor data has brought a diversion, the dollar is also pre-occupied by politics. A Trump victory on November 8 could send the pound soaring."

Trading floors around the world have been plunged into turmoil this week as Democrat Hillary Clinton's lead over Republican Donald Trump has been slashed days before the November 8 election.

Meanwhile Thursday, Bank of England governor Mark Carney warned that the ruling for a parliamentary vote on Article 50 was part of the "uncertainty" arising from Brexit, after the institution held British interest rates at 0.25 percent. "It is a sign of just how fearful investors are that the pound, the market's most persistent victim in the past few months, has been allowed to graze \$1.25 against the dollar," Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell added. "Of course, sterling is still benefiting from the Article 50 ruling and Bank of England inaction from Thursday; however, that only carried it so far ... suggesting that this extra burst of energy is stemming from concerns over which way America will vote next week."

### Full-on panic mode

European stocks swung sharply lower on persist-

ent fears that maverick US tycoon Trump could win next week's election and beat market favorite Clinton. Frankfurt shed 0.7 percent, London was down 1.5 percent and Paris shed 0.9 percent in value.

"What started as a few jitters morphed into a full-on panic attack this Friday, the European indices plunging at the prospect of Trump moving into the White House," noted Campbell, adding European sentiment was also hit by disappointing services data. Wall Street opened flat after the jobs data, with the Dow slipping less than 0.1 percent. A sharp fall in Tokyo also spurred fresh losses in world stock markets on Friday, while precious metal gold maintained its appeal as a safe store of value in times of uncertainty. Former secretary of state Clinton is considered by most investors to be a safer, more stable bet than Trump, who is seen as a loose cannon, with policies many fear could wreck the world's top economy. The search for safety has also sent traders into gold, which struck \$1,307.25 per ounce yesterday.—AFP

## IMF: POLITICS, DEBT TAKING TOLL ON TURKISH ECONOMY

**ISTANBUL:** Increased political uncertainty, a fall in tourism and high levels of corporate debt are taking their toll on Turkey's economy, where growth is expected to fall to 2.9 percent this year, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday. The global lender also said Turkey's current monetary stance, which balanced the need to contain inflation with a slowing economy, should be maintained without further easing. The IMF is the latest foreign institution to signal concern about the political situation in Turkey. Rights groups and some of Ankara's Western allies have been alarmed by the crackdown that followed a failed coup in July, saying President Tayyip Erdogan is using the failed putsch to stifle dissent.

"The Turkish economy has withstood several shocks," the IMF said in a statement following consultations to assess its financial and economic state. "However, increased political uncertainty, a sharp fall in tourism revenues, and a high level of corporate debt are all taking a toll." Turkish authorities yesterday ordered the co-leaders of Turkey's pro-Kurdish opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) to be arrested pending trial, court officials said, after they were detained in a terrorism-related investigation. The news drove the lira currency to a record low against the dollar and sent stocks tumbling.

The Fund said it expected economic growth to fall to 2.9 percent this year, citing weak business confidence and negative domestic and external shocks. It described unemployment as "high and rising" and said uncertainty had increased following the failed coup. That compares to 4 percent growth in 2015, a rate Finance Minister Naci Agbal told Reuters in September was unlikely to be matched this year. More than 110,000 civil servants, academics, judges, police and others have been suspended or dismissed following the failed coup, which Ankara blamed on followers of a US-based Muslim cleric, Fethullah Gulen. Gulen has denied the accusation and condemned the coup. Authorities have also stepped up a crackdown of those it accuses of having links to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). Security concerns have hit Turkey's revenues from tourism, a major source of foreign currency.

### RATES WARNING

The central bank last month kept interest rates on hold, citing weakness in the lira currency, pausing after seven straight months of cuts and repeated calls by Erdogan for cheaper credit. Erdogan, who wants low interest rates to spur spending and bolster the economy, has described himself as an "enemy" of interest rates. The IMF cautioned against further easing. "The current monetary stance balances the need to contain inflation against the backdrop of a slowing economy, and should be maintained," it said. It also said a moderate fiscal loosening was appropriate, noting that should be accompanied by a credible medium-term consolidation plan. The IMF said it expected inflation to remain well above the government's 5 percent target. Consumer prices rose 7.16 percent in October, data showed this week, their slowest growth in five months. — Reuters



**TOKYO:** People stand in front of an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian shares extended their losses yesterday as nervous investors fretted over the potential outcome of next week's US presidential election, which has become too close to call.—AP

## EUROZONE BUSINESS GROWTH STILL STRUGGLING FOR TRACTION

### PMI POINTS TO Q4 GDP GROWTH OF 0.3%

**LONDON:** Business activity in the euro zone during October was not as robust as first thought, a survey showed yesterday, adding to signs the bloc's recovery remains on track but is struggling to gain momentum. For the second month running, firms held prices steady despite costs rising at the steepest rate since July 2015, indicating companies' pricing power remained muted and that the European Central Bank might have to do more to drive up inflation.

Markit's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index for the euro zone was 53.3 in October, below a 53.7 flash estimate but beating September's 52.6 and its highest since January.

The reading has been above the 50 mark that divides growth from contraction since mid-2013. "The economy is

ticking along but there is a lack of traction and that tells you the ECB's best efforts to stimulate the economy haven't worked yet," said Peter Dixon at Commerzbank.

Markit said the PMI pointed to fourth quarter economic growth of 0.3 percent, in line with the prediction in a Reuters poll. A stable but lacklustre economic outlook will push the ECB to tweak its asset purchase program and announce by year-end an extension to it beyond March 2017, a Reuters poll found last month. Years of ultra-loose monetary policy has so far failed to get inflation anywhere near the central bank's 2 percent target ceiling but the PMI showed input prices rose sharply, largely driven by higher staff costs and oil prices.

The input prices sub index was 54.2,

up from 53.5. Inflation was just 0.5 percent in October, the European Union's statistics office said last week, while the figure used by the ECB as core inflation dipped to 0.7 percent from 0.8 percent.

Producer prices rose 0.1 percent month-on-month in September, official figures showed earlier yesterday. Although costs were rising, firms in the bloc's dominant service industry returned to discounting to drum up trade after holding prices steady last month. The output prices sub index for the sector was 49.7, down from September's 50.0 and the flash 50.3 estimate. Those price cuts helped drive activity up from the previous month and the services PMI registered 52.8, above September's 52.2 but below the 53.5 preliminary reading. — Reuters



# INDIA'S GST WILL COME ON TIME, BUT RATES WILL DILUTE BENEFITS

## JIHADISTS SLAUGHTER 24 EX-ISF OFFICERS

**NEW DELHI:** India moved a step closer to creating a national sales tax but a deal on rates reached on Thursday will hit some businesses harder than others, while its complexity will dilute any boost to growth and undermine its reliability as a revenue generator. The Goods and Services Tax (GST), due to be rolled out from April 1, 2017, had been billed as the one reform that could help Prime Minister Narendra Modi deliver on his jobs and growth agenda. In a key Modi win, parliament amended the constitution in August to clear the way for the GST, which would unify Asia's third-largest economy into a common market for the first time.

But Thursday's bargain between Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and his counterparts from India's 27 state governments has exposed the difficulties of dealing with so many stakeholders.

The GST Council, set up to oversee the tax, agreed on a more steeply progressive structure for goods than earlier foreseen with rates of 5, 12, 18 and 28 percent, depending on the kind of product involved. The top rate, Jaitley said, would apply to the kind of goods bought by middle-class Indians.

On top of that, essentials like grains that make up half the consumer price index would not be taxed at all. Finally, a "cess" - a separate central tax - would be

added to the top 28 percent GST rate on luxury cars and harmful products like tobacco and fizzy drinks. The total burden of this "sin" tax still has to be worked out, as does the rate applying to services that are now taxed at a rate of 15 percent.

"India is like the European Union with a central government," said Harishanker Subramanian, head of indirect tax at EY. "This is fiscal federalism. It's not easy." Despite the loose ends, it now looks increasingly likely that parliament, which opens its winter session on Nov 16, will be able to pass key GST laws, as state assemblies must also do, to keep the launch timeline on track.

### FOGGY OUTLOOK

The GST should be a positive development for Jay Kannaiyan, who runs a startup that makes and sells low-cost air purifiers, a product in big demand because of an air pollution crisis in the capital New Delhi and other Indian cities. Kannaiyan backs the GST because it would free his firm, Smart Air Filters Pvt Ltd, from the red tape arising from value-added tax (VAT) that is currently collected by the states and is one of several levies due to be abolished under the tax reform.

VAT rules vary widely, and the tax can be levied at different times during the

transfer of goods, depending on the state. "It is a hassle as it slows down our operations," Kannaiyan, 35, said at his tiny workspace in a dusty commercial district on Delhi's southern fringes.

His greatest worry is the possibility that consumer durables will be taxed at the top 28 percent GST rate, not the 18 percent earlier foreseen, hurting his margins. Which product is assigned to which rate still has to be worked out. The uncertainty "hurts us, it hurts our planning," said Kannaiyan, who plans to more than double sales in the next year.

### RELABELED, NOT REFORMED

It's a far cry from the attributes of a so-called "good tax" that is low, flat and broad. And advocates of a simpler GST have gone on the offensive, denouncing the current proposal as a mere relabeling; not a genuine reform.

Officials and experts involved in the policy process say Jaitley took the path of least resistance by pitching tax rates broadly in line with the existing burden to avoid any unwelcome spike in inflation when the GST comes into force. "The approach outlined by the authorities signals a disappointing beginning which well could have been otherwise," said Vijay Kelkar, a former finance secretary who penned a landmark 2009 report on the GST. — Reuters

## INDIA'S TATA SONS INSTALL NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM

**MUMBAI:** Tata Sons has put in place a new management team for the \$100 billion steel-to-software group, days after its board ousted Chairman Cyrus Mistry and disbanded his advisory council, triggering a public spat between him and Ratan Tata.

Ratan Tata, patriarch of the Tata group who is temporarily back at the helm as interim chairman, has put together a team of five executives, including two former Mistry advisers, Tata Sons said in a statement yesterday.

The team comprises S Padmanabhan, who currently leads the Tata business excellence group and will also be group human resources head, Gopichand Katragadda, who will continue in his current role as group chief technology officer, and Sanjay Singh, who will oversee public affairs in Delhi.

The new team also includes Mukund Rajan and Harish Bhat, formerly part of Mistry's five-member advisory council. Rajan will continue to be responsible for ethics and sustainability, and will also oversee the group's international operations in the United States, Singapore, Dubai and China.

Bhat, who oversees marketing, will also be brand custodian and interim strategy and business development head. The remaining three Mistry advisers - Nirmalya Kumar, NS Rajan and Madhu Kannan - have left the company, Tata Sons said.

Tata veteran Prasad Menon, who last served as chairman of Vistara, an airline venture with Singapore Airlines, has also been brought in to help Ratan Tata temporarily, a source close to the company had told Reuters. While Mistry has been removed as chairman of Tata Sons, he is still chairman of some of the key listed group companies such as Indian Hotels Co, Tata Motors, Tata Communications and Tata Steel.

Removing him as chairman from some of the companies, where Tata Sons is not a majority shareholder, might prove harder. Indian Hotels, owner of the Taj chain of hotels, will be the first to hold a board meeting after Mistry's ouster. The meeting, yesterday, was to discuss the company's quarterly results, but what else might be on the agenda is not yet known. — Reuters



**HONG KONG:** Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying arrives for a press conference at the government headquarters in Hong Kong yesterday. The government has announced an immediate increase in stamp duty to 15 percent on all residential property transactions from today. — AP

## SICHUAN DEVELOPMENT HIRES BANKS FOR \$300MN SUKUK

**SHANGHAI:** The investment arm of the Sichuan provincial government has hired four banks to help raise \$300 million via Islamic bonds, the first such deal from a Chinese state-owned company, according to the firm advising on the deal.

The five-year sukuk will be raised through the leasing arm of Sichuan Development Holding Co (SDH) and is expected to be completed in the next two months, said Bobby Tay, an advisor for Singapore-based Silk Routes Financials. SDH is the largest public-sector entity in terms of total assets in Sichuan Province, with consolidated assets of around 600 billion yuan (\$88.7 billion). In September, SDH was given an A- rating by Fitch Ratings with a stable outlook.

CIMB, Standard Chartered, Bank of China and Bank of China International have been hired to arrange the transaction, with proceeds to be used for the acquisition of sharia compliant assets in mainland China. The sukuk will be issued via a special purpose vehicle in Singapore and use an Islamic cost-plus profit arrangement known as murabaha. — Reuters

## BRITISH PM'S TRIP TO INDIA POSES DILEMMA ON TRADE

**DELHI/LONDON:** Prime Minister Theresa May will find that the trade-off between market access and migration applies not just to Brexit when she visits India for her first non-EU bilateral trip since Britons voted to quit the bloc.

Leading Brexiteers in May's government have locked on to India's \$2 trillion economy and market of 1.3 billion people as a chance to diversify trade and cushion any blow that a "hard" exit from the EU market could inflict. It won't be possible to cut a bilateral trade deal until Britain has left the EU, but May and host Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have an opportunity to stake out opening positions during her Nov. 6-8 visit.

The process will not be easy. In addition to any eventual trade deal, India will want May to welcome more of its students and skilled workers, and that would require an unlikely U-turn from the tough line she has taken on immigration. "Immigration is one of the things India is going to push for," said Dhruva Jaishankar, a foreign policy fellow at Brookings India. "But May is in a bit of a bind - if she gives in, the people who voted for Brexit will say: what did we vote for?"

Take students: the number of study visas issued to Indian nationals fell from 68,238 in the year to June 2010 to 11,864 five years later, British figures show.

Over the same period the number of visas Britain issued to Chinese students nearly doubled. The solution, says businessman and member of the British parliament's upper house Karan Bilimoria, is to exclude foreign students from Britain's statistics on net migration, which May vows to cut to below 100,000 annually, from 336,000 in the year to June 2015.

"It just doesn't make economic sense to send out the wrong message to international students, and that's exactly what we are doing," said Bilimoria, the chancellor of Birmingham university who as a young migrant from India went into business and launched the Cobra beer brand. Indian companies, including in the growing IT services sector, want Britain to make it easier for their staff to visit on business. Bilimoria, who will travel with May, urged her to offer the same deal as it did to China - three-year multiple entry visas for less than 100 pounds.

### FAITH IN FREE TRADE

May and Modi will likely address the prospects for business cooperation at a high-profile technology summit in New Delhi on Monday. But, behind closed doors, Indian officials are expected to sound her out on the terms of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union and what it will mean for Indian firms that treat Britain as a gateway to Europe. "At this juncture, she has the obligation to explain how Brexit could change our ties," said one senior Indian diplomat who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. India has struggled for years to strike a free trade deal with the EU, with officials saying the bloc is a difficult partner to deal with because its leaders tend to deliver contradictory messages and often strike a tone they see as moralizing.

Anglophiles in New Delhi see the opportunity in Brexit for a win on bilateral trade. But experts caution that India, which has a history of foot-dragging at the World Trade Organization, is no standard-bearer of open markets. "In general, things move slowly in India," said Alan Winters, director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory at the University of Sussex. Experience shows that dealing with India "is a bureaucratic and rather slow moving process", he added. Bilateral trade in goods and services has moved sideways in recent years, totaling 19 billion pounds (\$23.7 billion) in 2014, when Britain ran a deficit of 1.5 billion pounds. UK foreign direct investment into India declined, meanwhile, to 3.6 billion pounds in 2014 from a peak of 13.6 billion in 2011. Any Brexiteers inclined to lapse into misty-eyed nostalgia about the common history and language of the two countries would be well advised not to.

The Commonwealth that groups countries with historic ties to Britain has limited utility in the eyes of New Delhi, which considers itself a rising 21st century power and is looking for support in addressing the threats it says it faces. — Reuters



## DEUTSCHE TELEKOM MULLS BT STAKE SALE AFTER BREXIT VOTE

**LONDON:** Deutsche Telekom is considering selling its 12 percent stake in BT Group, two sources familiar with the matter said, paving the way for it to leave the British telecoms market following Britain's vote to quit the European Union.

The German group is evaluating a potential sale of its stake, which has a market value of 4.4 billion pounds (\$5.47 billion), and will take a final decision once it has more clarity on the kind of deal Britain will strike with the EU next year, the sources said. While there is no certainty a deal will happen, Deutsche Telekom's deliberations are one signal that foreign companies are rethinking their strategic investments in Britain in the wake of the Brexit vote.

The fall in the value of the pound and forecasts that economic growth will shrink as a result of Britain losing access to the European single market have cast a shadow over the country's attractiveness as a place for foreign companies to hold strategic investments. Deutsche Telekom declined to comment and a spokesperson for BT Group said the British compa-

ny does not comment on rumor and speculation. Deutsche Telekom is restricted by a lock-up agreement to sell its stake in BT before August 2017 unless it agrees an off-market deal with financial investors.

The company also operates an IT and consulting business in Britain through its subsidiary T-Systems, which DT once tried to merge with BT's Global Services unit but is now rumored to be selling.

Deutsche Telekom became BT's largest shareholder when the British telecom group bought mobile player EE for GBP 12.5 billion last year, in which France's Orange and DT had 50 percent each.

### US IN FOCUS

An exit from Britain would allow Deutsche Telekom to concentrate on its larger business in the United States, which has been touted as a possible takeover target following a string of deals in the US telecoms, media and technology sector. Freeing up capital from Britain would allow Deutsche Telekom the option to do a deal itself and remove the threat of

an uninvited takeover bid. Britain represents a relatively small part of Deutsche Telekom's value while its US operation accounts for 42 percent of total revenue, exceeding its home market, which constitutes 32 percent, according to Thomson Reuters data. Analysts have identified the company's T-Mobile US business as a possible deal target in the US telecoms space following AT&T's \$85.4 billion acquisition of Time Warner last week. Potential bidders would include Comcast Corp, satellite-TV provider Dish Network Corp, and Mexican telecom company America Movil, they said. "If DT wants to remain a competitive, independent player in the US they'll need to team-up with a cable player like Sprint", said one of the sources. Deutsche Telekom owns 65 percent of the T-Mobile US which has a market value of \$40 billion. Deutsche Telekom would want to assess how much they need to spend on US spectrum and how much capital will be required to take part in sector consolidation in the United States and in Europe before making any final call on Britain, one of the sources said. — Reuters

## GOVERNMENT BONDS MAY NO LONGER BE 'SAFE' ASSETS, INVESTORS WARN

**LONDON:** Investors pushed into buying government bonds that won't mature for many years, seeking to bolster meagre returns since the financial crisis, could now face big losses if central banks raise interest rates.

As yields have collapsed toward zero due to slow economic growth, falling inflation, super-easy monetary policy and central bank bond-buying, investors have sought bonds with longer and longer maturities to eke out extra basis points in return.

Governments keen to lock in record-low borrowing rates have obliged by issuing longer and longer debt. A spate of 30-year and 50-year issuances have seen average maturities rise to 9.8 years, from 8.5 in 2011, according to JP Morgan's global government bond index - a huge shift for the multi-trillion dollar market. However if central banks raise rates to boost growth, bond prices will fall, with longer-dated ones sinking more sharply.

This could trigger a sell-off that could be as bad or worse than the 2013 market rout - the "taper tantrum" - when the US Federal Reserve began tapering its massive bond-buying program, according to fund managers. At least one major central bank - the Fed - is imminently looking to raise rates and others in Japan and European countries, including the European Central Bank and the Bank of England, are looking at ways to tighten policy.

This undermines the status of government bonds as "safe haven" assets, and leaves traditionally conservative pension, endowment and insurance funds loaded with "safe" bonds that now face huge capital losses if interest rates do indeed turn. "It will be much worse than the taper tantrum in the US," said Louis Gargour, chief investment officer at London-based credit hedge fund LNG Capital. "That move was caused by the anticipation of rates going higher. Now the reality is setting in and the cycle has changed and the market is done. I think the effect will be significantly more dramatic."

### 70-YEAR BOND

Longer-dated bonds typically have a higher "duration" - a calculation used to determine how long it takes to recoup your original investment via annual coupons - which makes their prices far more sensitive to an interest rate hike. The average duration of global bond portfolios is at a record high of seven years, from five years in 2008, International Monetary Fund data. This comes at a time when demand for bonds has grown more than any other asset class - by \$410 billion this year alone, Lipper data shows.

The stretching of the so-called duration of many funds' bond portfolios around the world shows how vulnerable the assets are to a severe crash. "The possibility of a sharp rise in interest rates (causing a reaction) akin to the previous taper tantrum is a scenario we are highly focused on," said Kathleen Hughes, head of European institutional sales at Goldman Sachs Asset Management. —Reuters



SHANGHAI: Four workers ride on a tricycle along a street in downtown Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

## BMW DRIVES Q3 PROFIT INTO RECORD TERRITORY

### GERMAN AUTOMAKER POSTS 15% RISE PROFIT TO \$2BN

**FRANKFURT:** German luxury carmaker BMW, the world's biggest, beat expectations yesterday with a new record net profit for the July to September period after selling record numbers of vehicles.

The Munich-based firm said it had made 1.8 billion euros (\$2.0 billion) in net profit, up 15 percent compared with the 1.6 billion euros it made in the same period in 2015. Analysts surveyed by Factset had predicted net profits would remain stable in the third quarter. BMW was "maintaining a strong basis for the consistent implementation of our strategy" of investing profits into research and development in areas like electric and driverless cars, chief executive Harald Krueger said in a statement.

Sales by the world's biggest high-end carmaker by revenue grew to 23.4 billion euros in the third quarter, with its BMW, Mini and Rolls-Royce divisions



all booking big increases in unit sales.

The group sold more than 583,000 cars in the July to September period, up 7.1 percent compared with the second quarter of 2015. But it wasn't spared by the cooling-off in the US market, which is on a downwards trend after years of record sales.

CEO Krueger blamed "intense competition" for an 8.7 percent year-on-year fall in US sales in the first nine months in a press teleconference yesterday. The carmaker made up ground in other global regions, with net profit for the first nine months of the year

growing by 11.7 percent to 5.5 billion euros. BMW confirmed its "confident" forecast for the full year, saying it would slightly increase unit sales and pre-tax profits compared with 2015. "We've already brought together the things the whole sector is measured against," Krueger said in his statement, pointing to a "successful" electric car strategy and "high profitability, which enables us to finance future investments from our own resources."

As German and international rivals look towards an electrified future, BMW recently expanded its plans for electric and hybrid cars beyond its BMWi brand to cover its whole range.

In early October, the group said it would offer an all-electric version of the Mini in 2019 and of its BMW X3 urban 4x4 in 2020. Shares in BMW slid 0.9 percent to 74.56 euros in early afternoon trading in Frankfurt, down was also down around 0.9 percent. — AFP





**NEW YORK:** Job seekers attend the New York Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) 2016 job fair on Wednesday in New York. US employers added a decent 161,000 jobs in October 2016 and raised pay sharply for many workers. — AP

## STRONG US JOB GROWTH, RISING WAGES BOOST RATE HIKE HOPES

### NONFARM PAYROLLS INCREASE 161,000 IN OCTOBER

**WASHINGTON:** US employers maintained a strong pace of hiring in October and boosted wages for workers, which could effectively seal the case for a December interest rate increase from the Federal Reserve. Nonfarm payrolls increased by 161,000 jobs last month amid gains in construction, healthcare and professional and business services, the Labor Department said yesterday.

Adding to the report's strong tone, August and September data was revised to show 44,000 more jobs created than previously reported. Average hourly earnings increased 10 cents in October. As a result, the year-on-year gain in wages last month was the largest in nearly 7-1/2 years.

"All in all, the data fits perfectly with a Fed hike in December," said Alan Ruskin, global co-head of FX research at Deutsche Bank in New York. The unemployment rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.9 percent, in part as people dropped out of the labor force.

The closely watched employment report was published four days before the Nov 8 presidential election. It came on the heels of data last week showing an acceleration in economic growth in the third quarter. But economists see little impact from the report on an increasingly bitter and divisive campaign. "There is so much noise out there right now, everyone is screaming from the rooftops. I just don't know that any particular data point is going to have a great bearing on the election, in and of itself," said Sam Bullard, senior economist at Wells Fargo Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Though the US central bank is expected to increase borrowing costs next month, that decision will likely depend

on the outcome of Tuesday's election. The tight race between Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and her Republican rival Donald Trump has rattled financial markets.

The dollar raced to session highs against the yen and the euro after the report. US Treasuries fell, while US stock index futures trimmed losses. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast payrolls increasing by 175,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate falling to 4.9 percent from 5.0 percent.

A broad measure of unemployment that includes people who want to work but have given up searching and those working part-time because they cannot find full-time employment fell two-tenths of a percentage point to 9.5 percent last month. That was the lowest level since April 2008.

The Fed on Wednesday left interest rates unchanged but said its monetary policy-setting committee "judges that the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has continued to strengthen." It lifted its benchmark overnight interest rate last December for the first time in nearly a decade.

"The election could still derail the Fed's plans, particularly if a very close result led to one or both candidates contesting it via the courts," said Paul Ashworth, chief economist at Capital Economics in Toronto.

#### TREND HAS SLOWED

The trend in employment growth has slowed as the labor market nears full employment and the economy's recovery from the 2007-09 recession shows signs of aging.

Employment growth so far this year

has averaged 181,000 jobs per month, down from an average gain of 229,000 per month in 2015. Still, the monthly job gains are more than enough to absorb new entrants into the labor market. Fed Chair Janet Yellen has said the economy needs to create just under 100,000 jobs a month to keep up with growth in the work-age population.

The prospects of an interest rate hike next month were also bolstered by a solid rise in wages. Average hourly earnings increased 0.4 percent in October after advancing 0.3 percent in September. That pushed the year-on-year increase to 2.8 percent, the biggest gain since June 2009, from 2.7 percent in September.

The Fed on Wednesday struck a fairly upbeat note on inflation, saying price pressures had "increased somewhat since earlier this year." Despite the labor market nearing full employment, wage growth has been moderate. Economists blame this on a low labor force participation rate.

The participation rate, or the share of working-age Americans who are employed or at least looking for a job, fell 0.1 percentage point to 62.8 percent last month, not too far from multi-decade lows, in part reflecting demographic changes. The solid payrolls gain accompanied by the surge in wages could support consumer spending heading into the holiday season, and in turn keep the economy on a relatively higher growth path. While the household survey showed a large increase in the number of people saying they could not get to work because of bad weather, the department said it was difficult to assess the impact of Hurricane Matthew on job growth last month. — Reuters

## GOLD STEADIES AS US ELECTION JITTERS OFFSET SOLID US DATA

**LONDON:** Gold steadied yesterday, heading for its biggest weekly rise since mid-September as jitters over next week's US election offset a solid payrolls report that shored up expectations for a US interest rate hike next month.

The dollar gained and US stock markets were set to open slightly higher, outperforming losses for counterparts in Europe and Asia, after the upbeat US jobs data added to the case for a December rise in interest rates. That would weigh on non-yielding gold. However, an initial dip in the metal was quickly bought as investors remained on edge ahead of Tuesday's election.

Spot gold was at \$1,303.83 an ounce at 1315 GMT, off a low of \$1,295.71 in the immediate wake of the payrolls data but little changed from \$1,303.25 on Thursday. US gold futures for December delivery were up 0.1 percent at \$1,303.40.

"The payrolls data is not (positive) enough to drive prices in a particular direction," ING's head of commodity strategy Hamza Khan said. "It's all going to be about the election on Tuesday. A Trump win would signal a positive direction for gold, so that's the bigger thing to watch."

The dollar index was still on track for its biggest weekly drop since mid-August after the Federal Bureau of Investigation said last week it was reopening a probe into Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while Secretary of State. The FBI announcement yesterday narrowed Clinton's lead over her Republican rival Donald Trump, polls showed, rattling financial markets which had been pricing in a Clinton victory. That helped send gold to a one-month high on Thursday, and has put it on track to rise 2 percent this week.

"Gold implied volatility rallied sharply across the curve over the past week, as investors rotated to safe haven assets after polls tightened," Citi said in a note. "As the election keeps driving gold prices in the short-term, we expect gold vol to remain elevated into Election Day." Gold prices in India swung to a discount this week as a rally in prices dampened retail demand and prompted jewellers to reduce purchases, while buying in leading consumer China rose due to safe-haven buying. —Reuters

## EDF CHIEF SAYS WAITING FOR WATCHDOG'S APPROVAL TO RUN MORE REACTORS

**PARIS:** French utility EDF is doing its best to have more nuclear reactors up and running but was waiting for the green light from the nuclear safety regulator to restart some of them, its chief executive said yesterday. Safety watchdog ASN has asked EDF to carry out additional checks on 12 reactors, which has prolonged their outage period and raised fears France may face a power supply squeeze this winter.

Concerns over tight nuclear power availability in France, usually a net electricity exporter in Europe that depends on its 58 reactors for 75 percent of its power needs, have pushed European power prices to record highs over the past weeks.

"EDF is doing its best to have the maximum number of reactors online although as of today, ASN has not authorized us to restart some of the reactors despite our request," Jean-Bernard Levy said the sidelines of an energy conference in Paris.

"We believe these reactors can be operational, but ASN does not agree. They have asked for more information before taking a decision, thus the late start of some reactors than what we had initially planned until a couple of days ago," he said. EDF on Thursday pushed back the restart of five reactors - Bugey 4, Gravelines 2, and Tricastin 1, 3 and 4 to the end of December 2016 from earlier planned dates at the end of November and mid-December.

It also cut its nuclear power output and EBITDA for the year. Yesterday, it delayed the restart of its 900 MW Chinon 3 nuclear reactor to Nov 11 from Nov. 6. "We believe that our fleet, or at least these reactors are operational, but the ASN does not agree," Levy said. Compounding the problem, is the hydro power situation that is not good because of lack of adequate rainfall, Levy said. Some 19 reactors out of the 58 EDF operate are currently out of service, representing 19,300 megawatts (MW), or 30.51 percent out of 63,260 MW of French installed nuclear capacity that is offline. — Reuters



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

Kuwait Times



# Weekender

[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)

## Restored 'Last Supper' painting to be unveiled

SEE PAGE 28

A woman looks at Frank Stella's "Pratfall" on display during the media preview yesterday for Sotheby's New York evening auctions of Impressionist & Modern Art and Contemporary Art in New York. — AFP





## Alicia Keys believes motherhood has changed her

**T**he 35-year-old singer, who has sons Egypt, six, and 22 month old Genesis with her husband Swizz Beats, has admitted being a parent has opened her up to a "new space" where she feels "strong" and "unafraid", and the star has learnt to take the time to "listen" to herself, which she never used to do. Speaking to Net-A-Porter's The Edit, the 'Fallin' hitmaker - who has recently released her new album 'Here' - said: "When you're first figuring yourself out, you care so much about what people think of you. [But] Lately, I've been exploring my relationship with myself. It's tripping me out! I'm in this new place. It's growth, time, living, feeling and just ... being more. Once I became a mother I knew I was strong, but not ready to do what I'm doing now. If I had to attribute it

to anything, I'd say that it's taking more time to listen to myself. I never did that before and I think it's opened up a new space in me; aggressive bad a\*s, unafraid, uninhibited, calling it as I see it ... And not whatever else I used to be. "I feel like it's by design that I'm raising boys; like there's a reason. I really feel that," she says. "They say that every child learns from their mother - it's ingrained from babyhood And the musician has revealed she occasionally treats herself to a massage because she can't relax and believes she "deserves" the luxury. The brunette beauty explained: "I don't relax that well. "I love me a massage and I do deserve it. I also love meditation, which I got deeply into this past year - it's changed how I relate to people and music and my kids."

## Sting will reopen the Bataclan music venue in Paris



**T**he 65-year-old musician will perform at the reopening of the venue on November 12, just one day before the first anniversary of the attack which saw ISIL terrorists wearing suicide vests opened fire during an Eagles of Death Metal concert. The attack was part of a set of coordinated attacks in the French capital carried out around Paris on November 13 2015, resulting in a total of 130 deaths. In a statement posted to Sting's website, the former Police frontman wrote: "In reopening the Bataclan, we have two important tasks to reconcile. First, to remember and honour those who lost their lives in the attack a year ago, and second, to celebrate the life and the music that this historic theatre represents. In doing so, we hope to respect the memory as well as the life-affirm-

ing spirit of those who fell. We shall not forget them." Tickets for the reopening go on sale on Tuesday (08.11.16), and all proceeds raised from the event will be donated to Life for Paris and 13onze15: Fraternité Verité, two charities that provide support for victims and their families. The news of Sting's appearance at the reopening of the venue comes after it was recently revealed that Libertines frontman Pete Doherty would be performing at the venue - which has undergone extensive refurbishment after it was left ruined by the attacks - on November 16 and 17. This will then be followed by appearances from Youssou N'Dour, Marianne Faithfull, Laurent Garnier and Yael Naim elsewhere in the month as part of the Bataclan's move to continue bringing top acts to Paris.

## Reese Witherspoon wants her children to 'grow up with passion'

**T**he 'Wild' star - who has Ava, 17, and Deacon, 13, with her ex-spouse Ryan Phillippe and Tennessee, four, with her husband Jim Toth - likes her children to know how hard she works as she feels it will make them hard workers too. She said: "My mom worked, and I think it's good for kids to see women working and being successful. I think it's going to make them hard workers because they see that I don't get much sleep. "I'm just trying to hold on, trying to make it through. My older kids help with the little one. It's nice to have a big family ... I want them to grow up with passion. This is the one life you get, and you have to live it to the very end." And the 40-year-old actress feels "much more confident" now she is older. She told the December issue of InStyle magazine: "I've realised that life is too short to spend my time with anybody who doesn't appreciate me, treat me with respect or bring value to the relationship. I'm much more confident now, and I feel like I have the ability to say, 'Nope, I don't want to work with that person.'" Meanwhile, Reese previously revealed she is trying to do the best she "possibly can" with her three kids. She shared: "No one's really doing it perfectly. I think you love your kids with your whole heart, and you do the best you possibly can ... "There are some sacrifices you make, and it hurts your heart sometimes,



but my kids tell me they're proud of what I've accomplished, and that just means everything. I grew up with a working mom, and I have so much respect for the things she did as a nurse and a teacher. I would never begrudge her that."





## Lady Gaga still has a 'lot of love' for her former fiance Taylor Kinney

The 30-year-old singer songwriter - who ended her five-year romance with the 35-year-old actor earlier this year - is reportedly still besotted with 'The Other Woman' star and is still in love with him. Speaking to US Weekly about the 'Bad Romance' hitmaker - who recently jetted to Chicago to watch the Chicago Cubs' fifth game of the series in the VIP box she used to observe from with Taylor - a source said: "[Lady Gaga] wants to get back together [with Taylor]. 'There's a lot of love.' And the musician has previously revealed she has been talking to her former flame 'every day' since they decided to go their separate ways in July. Speaking previously, another source close to the blonde beauty said: 'Gaga and Taylor are talking every day about giving it a second

chance.' Gaga, who met her beau on the set of her music video 'You and I' in 2011, would allegedly 'spy' on Taylor and 'constantly' call him over the summer months to see what he was doing, which led the pair to distance. Another source said: 'Gaga would constantly call Taylor on the set of Chicago Fire, and even made friends with crew members so she could basically spy on him. He got fed up.' However, the 'Bad Romance' hitmaker has revealed she is '100 per cent ready' to stop her controlling ways and give their relationship another try. The source added: 'Gaga told Taylor that she knows that she has trust issues and she admits she needs to give him his space. '[She] told Taylor that she's making sure she's 100 per cent ready to be in a mature, loving relationship without the jealousy and control issues.'



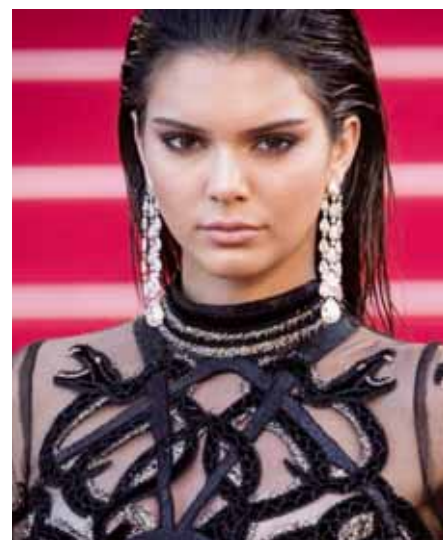
## Michael Douglass thought he 'totally blew' his chances with Catherine Zeta-Jones

today, the movie legend said: "[He said to Catherine] 'You know, I'm going to be the father of your children.'" However, the 'Mask of Zorro' star didn't seem impressed and after revealing to Michael at the time she knew "a lot" about him and his past, she swiftly left. Speaking about his partner's response, Michael - who has a 37-year-old son, Cameron, from his previous relationship with Diandra Luker - said: "[Catherine said] 'I've heard a lot about you and I've seen a lot about you and I think it's time that I said goodnight.' 'So I thought 'I've totally blew it.' She was gone early the next morning and she went to [Scotland]. I thought 'It's all gone I've just destroyed it.'" However, the 'Fatal Attraction' star admitted he tried to make it up to Catherine by sending her a bouquet of roses and an apology note. Meanwhile, the silver fox has credited his wife for keeping him looking "sexy", although he feels like a pre-historic being because he can't get to grips with social media. Speaking previously about the secret behind looking youthful, he said: "I'm popping along, a healthy, decent-looking 72. What's the secret to staying sexy at 70? Like your wife and like your work. 'I'm a dinosaur. Thank God for Catherine - one of the huge benefits of having a young, beautiful wife is that she's also very aware of social media and how you get from here to here.'

The 72-year-old actor - who has been married to the 47-year-old actress for 16 years and have daughter Carys, 13, and son Dylan, 16, together - has revealed he believed his cringe-worthy chat up line, which saw him tell the brunette beauty he was going to be the father of her children, had scared away his spouse. Speaking about the couple's first date and the fateful one liner on 'The Jonathan Ross Show', which will air on

## Kendall Jenner was gifted a \$250,000 Rolls-Royce for her 21st birthday

The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star's half-sister Khloe Kardashian, 32, posted a video on her Snapchat on Wednesday evening (02.11.16) of the moment the brunette beauty walked out of her bash at Delilah in West Hollywood to find the lavish automobile wrapped in a green bow. In the clip, Kendall, who was dressed in a glitzy silver gown, was seen walking outside the venue before she covered her mouth in shock and appeared to say, "Oh my God!". The model's new car is the latest addition to her growing collection, which already includes a Range Rover and \$100,000 Chevrolet. Meanwhile, the bash reportedly turned "really awkward" after her father Caitlyn Jenner turned up. Things seemingly turned sour when her dad - who was previously known as Bruce Jenner until she underwent gender transition surgery last year - arrived at the venue to give his grown-up girl a special gift. A source said: "It didn't seem like [Caitlyn] was warmly welcomed. It was super awkward. She bought a present and was really casually dressed." The famous family hired out a private function room, which was decorated with large balloons emblazoned with Kendall's name, at Coach restaurant to kick off the festivities and all guests were told to wear floral headpieces at their seats in order to set the mood. After polishing off their tasty meal, the party moved on to Delilah, where the model was presented with an "adorable" cake, which had a "throw-back photo of her in a purple tutu" pasted on. As well as the famous family, Kendall's best friend Hailey Baldwin, Cindy Crawford, Kate



Mara, Melanie Griffith, Gabrielle Union, Paris Hilton and Jonathan Cheban were in attendance. The energetic bash also saw a surprise appearance from Kendall's half-sister Kim Kardashian West, who has kept a low profile since she was held at gunpoint in France last month. The 36-year-old beauty was tied up in her apartment and had \$8.5 million worth of jewelry nabbed from her drawers, but that didn't stop her from splashing the cash on her half-sibling. The brunette beauty - who has children North, three, and Saint, 10 months, with her husband Kanye West - treated Kendall to an expensive piece of jewelry and chipped in for her new car.



## Lohan is a 'worldly person'

The 'Mean Girls' star has the "gift" of being able to learn languages quickly and has taught herself French, Arabic and Hebrew, according to her mother Dina. She said: "I raised Lindsay and all my children to constantly learn different languages and embrace different cultures. Since Lindsay was a kid, she was speaking fluent Italian because my mother is Italian and would only speak to her in it. 'She taught herself how to speak French, Arabic, Hebrew and the list goes on. Lindsay has a very high IQ and is very intelligent and can pick up on any language in a minute. She has that gift. She is a worldly person who has so many talents and so much to offer, and that's what makes her so special and so beautiful.'" Whilst Lindsay's father Michael added to Entertainment Tonight: "Lindsay picks up languages like I pick up a coffee! I will tell you this, she's spoken other languages on the phone with me - languages

I don't understand. I'll be on the phone with her and I'll hear her say something in fluent Farsi to a friend she's with." Meanwhile, the 30-year-old actress previously spoke out about the differences between London and her birth city of New York. She said: "I can definitely see myself settling in London permanently ... I'm in a really good place. I'm blessed to have been able to do a play in London and start a different way of life. 'New York is very fast paced and it's not like that over here for me. You grow up and change, and I'm really happy about that, as overall I feel a lot better. Moving here was a new start for me and my outlook on life is different now. 'For me, I feel more comfortable working from London. And it is beautiful. The architecture is incredible and the parks are so nice. I also love exploring different cities and using London as a base means I can go to more places. That's really important to me.'



# Beyonce-Dixie Chicks collab sparks a clash on social media

**NASHVILLE:** The surprise collaboration of Beyonce and the Dixie Chicks at the Country Music Association Awards was still rocking the music world on Thursday, but not all were impressed by the electric performance - and some country fans unleashed their anger on social media.

Since the show aired Wednesday night on ABC, the CMA's Facebook page and other social media accounts have been filled with comments about the performance of Beyonce's country-flavored song "Daddy Lessons," which generated perhaps the most attention during the show's big night, as the CMAs celebrated the awards' 50th year.

The Beyonce-Dixie Chicks performance plenty of attention and rave reviews, and had many gushing. Reese Witherspoon tweeted, "Loving this!" during the performance. But some were outraged Beyonce and the Dixie Chicks, who have been estranged from the country music world since their insult of then-President George Bush in 2003, even were allowed to perform. Some questioned the Dixie Chicks' patriotism, while others claimed that Beyonce is anti-police because she has addressed police brutality in her music videos.

## Not a country artist

Still others complained that Beyonce was not a country artist, although the CMAs routinely feature non-country artists in collaborations, including the highly praised performance at last year's show between Justin Timberlake and Chris Stapleton. Beyonce and the Dixie Chicks also had plenty of supporters, with Beyonce fans leaving bee emojis, the symbol used for the superstar, in response to the negative comments.

Some Beyonce fans even accused the CMAs of taking down references to the performance on social media; the CMA Twitter page had only a brief reference to it. However, its Instagram page promoted a free download of the collaboration of "Daddy Lessons" and its Facebook account shared photos and video of the moment.

"CMA has not erased any mentions of Beyonce's performance on the CMA Awards. In advance of the broadcast, CMA removed a five-second promotional clip from ABC.com and CMA's Facebook page. The promo was unapproved and CMA removed it prior to the broadcast," read Thursday's statement. "Beyonce's performance with Dixie Chicks was a highlight of the evening and we are continuing to share the amazing full-length performance clip via our official social channels."

This isn't the first time the Dixie Chicks have riled up country music fans. The Grammy-winning group, superstars of the genre, nearly had their career derailed after lead singer Natalie Maines said in 2003 that they were ashamed of then-President Bush for the invasion of Iraq. Radio stations refused to play their music and they were denounced by conservatives and many fans. Maines has also been critical of Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump. But overall, the country artists who performed and were honored on the show Wednesday were overwhelmingly supportive of the performance.

"She's a classy, classy lady and I am



**Beyonce performing during the Formation World Tour at Mercedes-Benz Superdome, in New Orleans on Sept 24, 2016. — AP**

proud that she could take the time to come and show up," Chris Stapleton said of Beyonce backstage after the show. "Queen Bey and the Dixie Chicks, I thought that was just power, just raw power," said entertainer of the year Garth Brooks. "I just love that it was feminine raw power." Later on he said, "Tonight, I gotta tell you, I missed the Chicks. I miss their music." Maren Morris, who won the new artist of the year award, said she was glad

the Dixie Chicks returned to the CMA stage. "But when I found out the Dixie Chicks were going to perform, I freaked out," Morris said on the red carpet before the show.

"Because it's been a decade since they have been on the stage. I just grew up listening to them and loving their point of view and how they don't give a (expletive). And I just love them that about them." — AP

## Beyonce, Kaepernick, Hart among Ebony Power 100 honorees

**B**eyonce, Serena Williams, Colin Kaepernick and Kevin Hart are among 100 black luminaries being recognized by Ebony magazine. The magazine revealed its annual Power 100 list Friday, which recognizes outstanding achievements by black entertainers, corporate heads and civic leaders. Also on the list are Chance the Rapper, NBA star Carmelo Anthony and Nike brand president Trevor Edwards.

The 2016 Power 100 list will appear in the December issue of Ebony, which will feature four different covers. Filmmaker Ava DuVernay, Olympic gold medalist Simone Biles and musician-producers John Legend and Nas will each appear on the cover of the December issue. Ebony editor-in-chief Kyra Kyles said the honorees were chosen not only because of their successful careers, but because they've used that success to "improve various facets of black life and render us visible on the world stage." — AP

## China's Wanda buys Dick Clark Productions for \$1 billion



**In this undated image released by PRNewsFoto/Dick Clark Productions, Inc., shows the company logo. — AP**

**C**hina's Dalian Wanda Group has added another entertainment trophy to its stable of overseas acquisitions, paying \$1 billion for Dick Clark Productions, the TV company that produces the Golden Globes and the "Miss America" pageant.

Wanda is one of China's most important conglomerates and China's largest property developer. Its chairman, Wang Jianlin, is China's richest man by most measures, with an estimated net worth exceeding \$32 billion.

The company owns AMC Theatres and bought Legendary Entertainment for \$3.5 billion in January. In September, it announced a movie partnership with Sony Pictures. Diversifying away from China's weakening property market, Wanda Group has made entertainment a major focus of its growth in recent years. It has openly embraced a mission to fend off Western imports in the Chinese market and become a globally recognized Chinese entertainment brand.

That push into the US entertainment industry has raised alarm among some American lawmakers concerned about creative freedom and the promotion of Chinese propaganda. A group of legislators recently asked the US Government Accountability Office to review Chinese takeovers.

The namesake company of legendary American television host Dick Clark was purchased in 2012 by a group including investment firm Guggenheim Partners. It produces several awards shows and the New Year's Eve countdown show in New York.

Wanda said in a statement Friday that Dick Clark Productions' existing management "will remain in its entirety," and that both sides had reached a long-term operating agreement. It expects Dick Clark Productions to show "strong increases" in revenue and profit every year, but did not say whether its agreement with management was contingent on revenue targets.

Wanda's statement said it expected to find ways to coordinate development between Dick Clark Productions and its previous deals in film, tourism and sports.

Hollywood has eagerly welcomed Chinese partners. From 2000 to 2015, Chinese direct investment in US entertainment firms amounted to \$4 billion, according to Rhodium Group. That pace then skyrocketed in January with Wanda's purchase of Legendary, which almost doubled that total by itself. — AP





Leslie Jones, Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig and Kate McKinnon from the film, "Ghostbusters." — AP

# Hollywood's latest love: Gender-swapping

In November 2014, then Sony chief Amy Pascal sent an email to the team behind their planned "Ghostbusters" reboot. "I saw (Jerry) Weintraub last night and he told me that he and (Warner Bros.) were doing a female version of ('Ocean's Eleven'). We gotta beat everyone," Pascal wrote.

The twist on their new "Ghostbusters," of course, was that it was to star women as the paranormal hunters instead of men. Director Paul Feig emailed back: "Oh, sure, NOW they're doing one. Although I am worried it's going to conflict with my all chimp Robin and the Seven Hoods." Pascal: "It's like everywhere you turn around, everyone just realized women are half the population of the world."

Indeed, Hollywood has turned to gender-swaps as the latest ploy to refresh dusty movie properties. If audiences are growing tired of reboots - whether traditional (name the "Spider-Man"), meta ("21 Jump Street") or revisionist ("Magnificent Seven") - why not play around with gender? And it's no surprise that in a business that makes a disproportionate number of films starring and about men, flipping means more female roles. Now it's clear, "Ghostbusters" was just the beginning. There's that female-led installment of the "Ocean's Eleven" series on the way, "Ocean's Eight" starring Sandra Bullock, Anne Hathaway, Cate Blanchett and Rihanna. Also in various stages of development: "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" with Rebel Wilson, a "Rocketeer" reboot with a female lead, and in a reverse flip, a "Splash" remake with Channing Tatum as the mermaid.

## Small screen too

Flipping is finding its way to the small screen, too, with projects like "Twist," described as a "sexy, contemporary" take on Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist" starring

a woman. The gender-swapping of film characters before the cameras roll, however, is nothing new. Sigourney Weaver's character in "Alien" was originally envisioned as a man. The same for Angelina Jolie's role in "Salt," Sandra Bullock's in "Our Brand Is Crisis," Jada Pinkett Smith's in "Magic Mike XXL" and Tilda Swinton's in "Doctor Strange." "His Girl Friday's" Hildy Johnson, immortalized by Rosalind Russell, was written as a man in the play "The Front Page."

What's new, as Fandango correspondent Alicia Malone points out, is taking entire casts and flipping them in already-proven properties. For the creatives behind the projects, it's a no-brainer.

"It makes a lot of sense," said Ron Howard, who directed the original "Splash" and is producing the remake. "The entire community and the medium (are) looking for opportunities to do two things: One is to refresh ideas that people already know something about - titles that they already understand, relate to, remember (and) have a fondness for. And then also find better roles for women, create better roles for women." As with many spin-offs, reboots and sequels, some will always seem more natural than others. "Ocean's Eight," for example, isn't considered by its studio to be a gender-swap or a remake at all, just an extension of the established world. "We are really committed to creating more opportunities for women in the film business," said Greg Silverman, Warner Bros.' president of creative development and worldwide production. "This one just felt so organic and so right for the brand that this is where it would go next."

Silverman, however, doesn't necessarily see the gender-swapped casts as a broad industry trend. He also noted that Warner Bros. doesn't have a "strategy of flipping

franchises either way."

Whether gender-swapping is organic, gimmick or studio strategy, screenwriter Kirsten "Kiwi" Smith, whose "Expendables" spinoff "Expendables" has been on and off for years, is optimistic that it can be a means to an end. "If that's how we're going to be able to write a kick-ass female action comedy and this is the title we use and this is our kick-off point, then let's go for it!" Smith said "The most important thing is: how can we put more films out there that feature smart, funny, strong and fiery women? However it takes to get there."

Fandango's Malone is reserved about what flipping might mean in the long run. That it gets this much attention, Malone says, "shows just how rare an all-female cast is in Hollywood." There's the financial aspect, too. This summer's "Ghostbusters" failed to impress at the box office. With a reported \$144 million budget (not including marketing expenses which can sometimes cost as much as the film) the would-be "biggest franchise in Hollywood" has made only \$128.3 million domestically and \$100.8 million internationally. It's not a flop, but it's not a blockbuster, either.

The problem is that the femaleness of a project is sometimes used as a scapegoat for box office disappointments and there's a worry they may all go away if one fails.

At the heart of it all lay the dreary statistics about leading female roles. "The Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film found that out of the top 100 grossing films in 2015, just 22 percent had female protagonists. This is a 10 percent rise from 2014, but still a big imbalance," Malone said. "It's not the ultimate fix Hollywood needs to correct the huge gender inequality in American movies ... but it's a start, a temporary stop-gap to ensure more women are on screen." — AP

## Mila Kunis pens essay promising intolerance for gender bias

Mila Kunis says in a new essay that anytime she experiences gender bias at work, she's going to speak up about it. The 33-year-old actress-producer says in the essay published on the Medium website Thursday that women have been conditioned to believe that their livelihoods might be threatened if they speak out against sexist behavior.

She says a producer once told her she'd "never work in this town again" when she refused to pose "semi-naked" for a men's magazine to promote a film. More recently, she says, another producer described her in a business email as "One of the biggest actors in Hollywood and soon to be Ashton's wife and baby momma!!!"

Kunis, who is expecting her second child with husband Ashton Kutcher, said the comment "reduced my value to nothing more than my relationship to a successful man and my ability to bear children." She pulled out of the project.

She characterized the remark as one of the "micro-aggressions that devalue the contributions and worth of hard working women" and promised not to stand for it anymore. Kunis writes that she is "fortunate that I have reached a place that I can stop compromising and stand my ground, without fearing how I will put food on my table." She says she hopes that by adding her voice to the conversation, working women feel more empowered and "a little less alone." — AP



Actress Mila Kunis



# Adam Driver and Rooney Mara to Star in Music Drama from 'Holy Motors' Director

Adam Driver and Rooney Mara are set to play lovers in "Annette," a music-filled drama to be directed by cult French helmer Leos Carax ("Holy Motors").

Rihanna, who recently appeared in Luc Besson's "Valerian," is rumored to have a small part in the film. The hottest European project to emerge out of this year's American Film Market, "Annette" is repped in international markets by Gregoire Melin's Kinology, which is also co-producing. With a \$15.5 million budget, "Annette" marks Carax's English-language debut and his most ambitious film to date. On top of starring Driver and Mara, "Annette" will feature original songs by the Sparks, the art-rock band founded in 1971 by Ron and Russell Mael.

Shooting will take place across several international locations including Los Angeles. Bruno Pesery is lead-producing "Annette" via his Paris-based outfit Arena Films ("21 Nights With Pattie") and has gotten Swiss company



Actors Adam Driver and Rooney Mara

Vega, Japan's Eurospace and Belgium's Wrong Men to co-produce.

Melin told Variety the movie depicts the rise and fall of an intense love story and will boast Carax's singular visual style and atmosphere, bringing back the key crew that worked on the director's previous movie, "Holy Motors," which competed at Cannes.

"Annette" is expected to start shooting in late spring for 15 weeks. Over the course of his 30-year career, Carax has amassed just a few directing credits, though the films garnered attention for their artistic flair, including "Boy Meet Girl," "Mauvais Sang," "Les Amants du Pont Neuf" and "Holy Motors."

Driver recently wrapped shooting the sequel to "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and the final season of "Girls." He can next be seen in Martin Scorsese's "Silence" and Jim Jarmusch's drama "Paterson." Mara starred in "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" and "Carol" and will be seen this year in "Lion." — Reuters

## Quentin Tarantino Still Insists He Will Retire After 10 Films



Director Quentin Tarantino

Quentin Tarantino is close to taking his final bow. Tarantino sat down with Ann Lewnes, CMO of Adobe, at Adobe Max-The Creativity Conference in San Diego on Thursday, discussing his start in the industry, from screenwriting to directing, followed by his inspirations that led him into the field. The conference was targeted to people working in entertainment, film, fashion and design.

Towards the end of the panel, Tarantino reiterated that he plans to retire following his tenth feature film. "Drop the mic. Boom. Tell everybody, 'Match that sh-t!'" said the Tennessee-born director. Tarantino, who has directed and written eight films, feels content with his career. He also described the trust he has within his own artistic process, stating that he finds pleasure in creating projects from scratch and watching them develop.

"There this incredible satisfaction for me to think back, to [what is] usually only two years ago ... [and] to think that there was a moment in time where me and a pen were sitting at a table in front of a blank piece of paper," said Tarantino. "[It's] very gratifying for me."

Though the end of his filmmaking career is nigh, Tarantino hopes that he will leave a lasting impression in cinema for future generations. "At the end of the day, if you're going to get right down to it ... the way I define success is when I'm finished with the career, and I'm considered one of the greatest filmmakers who ever lived," said the "Kill Bill" filmmaker to applause from the audience. "That would be successful. And going further, a great artist, not just filmmaker." He has previously teased that his next film could be a 1930s gangster movie set in Australia. But he's also working on an undefined project revolving around his fascination with the year 1970. — Reuters

## Asian American Media Group Blasts Tilda Swinton Casting in 'Doctor Strange'

The Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) has blasted the casting choice of Tilda Swinton in "Doctor Strange" on the eve of the Marvel Studio movie's opening weekend. In a lengthy statement released Thursday, the organization said the film was "tarnished" by the "whitewashing" of "The Ancient One"—the title character's mentor. In the film, the British actress plays "The Ancient One," who in the original comic book is portrayed as a Tibetan male.

"Given the dearth of Asian roles, there was no reason a monk in Nepal could not be Asian," says MANAA President Rob Chan. "Had [writer/director Scott] Derrickson cast an Asian as the revered leader who guides the main character to become a better human being and to develop his sorcery powers, it would've given a big boost to that actor's career. While actresses deserve the kinds of bold roles usually reserved for men, white actresses are seen onscreen more than Asians of any gender. And Tilda Swinton can afford to turn down roles." Referring to 1984's classic film "The Karate Kid," which landed Pat Morita an Oscar nomination, Chan points out, "Asians can't even be the Mr. Miyagi to Daniel-San anymore!"

### "Whitewashing"

When Variety asked Derrickson about the film's "whitewashing" controversy at the "Doctor Strange" premiere two weeks ago, he explained how selecting Swinton was a diversity choice in itself.

"In this case, the stereotype of [the Ancient One] had to be undone. I wanted it to be a woman, a middle-aged woman. Every iteration of that script played by an Asian woman felt like a 'Dragon Lady,'" Derrickson explained, referencing another negative on-screen stereotype of an exotic and domineering Asian woman. "I'm very sensitive to the history of 'Dragon Lady' representation and Anna May Wong films. I moved away from that. Who's the magical, mystical, woman with secrets that could work in this role? I thought Tilda Swinton."

Writer Jon Spaihts also praised the casting choice. "Tilda is an instance of us taking a male role and putting a woman in it, which I think the film badly needed. The comic world of 'Doctor Strange' is very male. So we were looking for opportunities to have not only ethnic diversity, but to have gender diversity in the film."

Founding MANAA President Guy Aoki doesn't accept their rationalizations: "You're a writer. You could modify ANY problematic, outdated character and maintain its ethnicity, especially when it's a minority to begin with. So the Ancient One was racist and stereotyped. But letting a white woman play the part erases all that? No, it just erases an Asian character from the screen when there weren't many prominent Asian



Actress Tilda Swinton

characters in Marvel films to begin with."

Aoki noted while that diversity choices have been made in comic book films, Asians do not benefit. "90% of Marvel and DC characters were originally white. So in order to be more inclusive in their movies, both companies have tried to change these characters to minorities. But they're almost always black: Baron Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor in 'Doctor Strange'), Heimdall (Idris Elba in 'Thor'), Gamora (Zoe Saldana in 'Guardians of the Galaxy'), and Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson in 'The Avengers')." Aoki explained. Of the few Asian characters that originated in the comic books, they were changed from Asian to white: the Mandarin (Guy Pearce in 'Iron Man 3'), Talia Al Ghul (Marion Cotillard in 'Batman Rises'), and now, The Ancient One."

Chan also said he doesn't buy the excuse that Marvel Studios didn't want to offend China—the world's second biggest movie market—by having "The Ancient One" be Tibetan or reside in Tibet, as written.

"That makes no sense," says the MANAA president. "Marvel could've created a fictitious Asian country then cast any kind of Asian they wanted without any political fallout. In fact, they changed the setting from Tibet to Nepal. So the rest of Cargill's argument falls apart. It's just a continuation of the whitewashing legacy illustrated recently by movies like 'Aloha,' 'The Martian,' and the upcoming 'Ghost in the Shell.'"

Challenged Aoki, "Name one memorable Asian character in any of the movies they've produced. Just one!" — Reuters



## Tokyo Film Review



## Japanese Girls Never Die

Japanese girls never die, but their options for living within the strictly gendered, codified confines of contemporary Japanese society don't seem to offer much of an alternative in Daigo Matsui's splashy, erratic, provocative, and rather brilliant post-modern drama. One of two home-grown titles playing in competition at the Tokyo Intl. Film Festival, it provides a fascinating counterpoint to the dreamy classicist ethereality of Kiki Sugino's ghost story "Snow Woman," but while its rhythms may be more punkishly anarchic, its intentions are, if anything, more serious.

"Japanese Girls Never Die," AKA "Haruko Azumi Is Missing," amounts to a patchwork protest against the subjugation and exploitation of women living within a misogynistic culture, but the audacious approach to chronology, the welter of subplots, sub-themes, side characters, and surrealist interludes means it's a lot less eat-your-vegetables than that may suggest. And within all that sound and fury (which signifies quite a lot) there is even room for a touchingly forthright central performance from Yu Aoi.

## Joyless job

Based on a 2013 novel by Mariko Yamauchi, the film's main storyline concerns the 27-year-old, unmarried Haruko (Yu Aoi), who works a joyless job in a small office, lives at home with her parents and is unrequitedly in love with Soga (Huey Ishizaki), the weirdo neighbor with whom she used to play as a child. But even before we discover any of this about her, we know one thing: She will disappear. Within the bewilderingly chopped-up series of flash-forward fragments that opens the movie, we've already seen the film's central image: the graphic stencil version of Haruko's "Missing" poster, and it infuses all the scenes of her daily life with a kind of dread, especially because we come to care for her so instantaneously.

Unfolding alongside Haruko's pre-disappearance story is a later plotline. Young, aspiring graffiti artists Manabu (Shono Hayama) and Yukio (Taiga) empty-headedly hit on the idea of replicating Haruko's poster all over town, aided by Aina (Mitsuki Takahata), a needy, over-accessorized 20-year-old nail-art beautician with a blinged-up smartphone and a dashboard full of plush toys. Yukio is casually stringing Aina along (and equally casually "offers" her to Manabu) because "she's pretty and she puts out," before he loses interest in her for a younger model; Aina thinks they're in a relationship. In the background of both these strands there's a third: A gang of schoolgirls prowls the streets and viciously attacks passing men, causing radio news reports to caution male listeners against walking home alone at night.

Matsui's approach feels chaotic at first,

but retrospectively it's apparent that the pick 'n' mix shifts between storylines, time-lines, and registers of real and imaginary are anything but random. Indeed, the fact that it's difficult to locate the exact pressure points where reality becomes wish-fulfillment fantasy is part of the film's strength, and were it delivered in a more linear manner, it might not achieve the same resonance.

Yet even the most straightforwardly told parts of the story are critical to the point of subversive about many aspects of modern Japanese culture. Haruko's home life, with three generations living under the same small roof, is typical, but this is not Ozu, and its dismal downside is highlighted as Haruko's mother spends all her time venting vocal frustration at her grandmother's clumsy senility. At work, Haruko faces the breath-takingly entitled sexism of her two male co-workers (who earn more than seven times her salary), not just in relation to herself but to her female colleague whom, as an unmarried woman of 37, they blame for everything from Japan's negative population growth to the high tax rate.

Yukio and Manabu's storyline as the graffiti team "Kilroy" takes a detour into art-world satire—because in the post-Warhol world of today, and especially in faddish, consumerist, disposable cultures, what is the difference between a meme and a movement? And the most overtly fantastical, manga-inspired element—the schoolgirl gang whose exploits Matsui shoots with frenzied, Sion Sono-style glee, even incorporating a pretty great animated section by Ryo Hirano—can be read as explicitly rebelling against the fetishized, sexualized image of the Japanese schoolgirl that the manga tradition is so instrumental in perpetuating.

Using such pop-culture tropes to critique the ways in which Japanese society exerts its women means that to a certain extent Matsui gets to have his cake and eat it. But it also means that "Japanese Girls Never Die" has a shot at an international audience (certainly on the festival circuit) in parts of the world where there might exist the tendency to romanticize the day-glo excesses of the "Harajuku girl" phenomenon, for example, without considering the ageism and sexism of which it's born.

Investigating the power and the limitations of symbolism (Haruko's face comes to stand for something other than the Haruko we know), delivering a feminist punch-to-the-nethers, and working as a sincere character portrait too, Matsui's film is a compelling stew of moods: angry, whimsical, hopeful but overarchingly sad. It's bursting with ideas, some less effectively explored than others, and it goes through one too many contortions by its over-explained finale. — Reuters

## The Bloom of Yesterday

It's hardly surprising that evenness of tone is the biggest challenge facing German director Chris Kraus' uncategorizable dramedy "The Bloom of Yesterday," probably the only movie ever to take the generations-spanning, history-scarring legacy of the Holocaust as its subject while also boasting a scene in which a small, recently bereaved dog is thrown out the window of a moving car for wacky effect. It's a film that frequently plunges heedlessly into treacherous territory, for which audacity it should be admired. And the sincerity of its intentions—to entertain while also contending with thorny questions about the sins of the father—are above reproach, which doubtless contributed to its winning the grand prize at the Tokyo Film Festival.

But rather like the dog-flinger in question, who immediately goes in search of the abused pug, the impact of the movie's more dramatic flourishes is often undercut by a kind of instant remorse; the film seems to spend half its time being daring and the other half apologizing for being daring. That wouldn't matter as much if we weren't already hanging on to our hats as the

Holocaust conference, though he clashes with colleagues over its direction: Toto advocates the high road of least compromise in regards to corporate sponsorship and other potential instances of "selling out." He is also, we discover early on, the grandson of a notorious Nazi war criminal, and his unswerving, blinkered commitment to his work is more or less explicitly shown to be part of a lifelong act of atonement.

But the arrival of an intern, Zazie (Haenel), the granddaughter of a Holocaust victim, churns up his inherited guilt, already at war with his misanthropic instincts.

Toto is initially dismissive of Zazie (whose capriciousness is later revealed to be symptomatic of actual psychological problems), but when they discover that their family histories interconnect, they become unlikely allies. In fact, their mutual prickliness is part of the reason they seem to be able to talk about their antecedents in a more honest way than with anyone else. When Zazie asks Toto what his Nazi grandfather, whom Toto knew and grew up with, was like in person, the militantly anti-Nazi Toto is quiet for a



A screenshot from 'The Bloom of Yesterday' movie

narrative lurches from skewed romance to Depression drama to screwball comedy to provocative socio-historical investigation. This is a bucking bronco of moods and genres, which is the source of both frustration and a surprising amount of fun.

## Well put together

That the movie manages to be so enjoyable is largely due to how well put together it is—glossily photographed and attractively sound tracked (Carla Bruni's "Quelqu'un m'a dit" is a representative cut), it also benefits hugely from the engaging central performances of Adele Haenel and Lars Eidinger. The French Haenel, recently seen in the Dardenne brothers' "The Unknown Girl," alternates easily, like her character, between her native French and fluent German, and negotiates the sharp turns of her role so well she just about saves it from becoming too much Manic Pixie Holocaust Girl to bear. And the German Eidinger, whose most recent international credits include Olivier Assayas' "Personal Shopper" and "Clouds of Sils Maria," manages to wring a sympathetic portrayal from a character who on the page is unappealing: willfully self-serious and Teutonically humorless. Together, the actors and Kraus' impeccable craftsmanship smooth out the rougher patches and conspire to make us forget that, sensationalist hook aside, the architecture of the plot can reductively be described as yet another example of an emotionally repressed man saved from a passionless life by an unconventional, free-spirited young woman.

Toto (Eidinger) is a dedicated Holocaust scholar, married, with an adopted daughter, but recently afflicted with impotence, which has led him to come to an agreement with his wife whereby she has sex with other men. He is deeply invested in the success of an upcoming

long while before choking out one word: "Kind."

Are Toto and Zazie trying, through their relationship, to transcend history or repair it? The idea that together they can somehow gain closure on events that didn't actually happen to either of them is as crazy as viewing these two idiosyncratic individuals as representative, like they were some two-person peace and reconciliation commission.

And to be fair, Kraus takes pains to ensure the picture that emerges is in no way as simplistic as that. Indeed it's arguable whether a distinct picture emerges at all, as there are times when the film's humor cleverly counterpoints its serious themes, and there are other times when it simply cancels them out.

"The Bloom of Yesterday" is too herky-jerky a film to present a definitive statement on how the twenty- and thirty somethings of 2016 need to address the Holocaust as it comes close to passing from living memory. And maybe that's, finally, the most valuable and honest thing about the movie: all its contrivances and even its rather cop-out ending serve to leave us with a sense of incompleteness.

As an entertainingly skewed, iconoclastic dramedy about a kookily mismatched, attractive twosome trying to fix each other's broken parts, the film mostly works. But as a comment on how a generation twice removed from the experience of an unprecedented genocide should memorialize it, and how the grandchildren of its victims and of its perpetrators can relate to each other and to their family histories, it is at best a tiny fragment of a much larger, ongoing project. "The Bloom of Yesterday" is divided against itself, but that's a truthful reflection of how things are, and perhaps being able to crack the odd gallows-humor joke about those divisions is its own kind of progress. — Reuters



# Restored 'Last Supper' Renaissance painting to be unveiled

This black and white photo from Nov. 5, 1996 film shows the 14th-century Ponte Vecchio Bridge after the banks of the River Arno overflowed and flooded the city. —AP



The square in front of the Basilica of Santa Croce after the banks of the River Arno overflowed and flooded the city. — AP

A 16th-century painting by Renaissance artist Giorgio Vasari that was badly damaged in a 1966 flood in Florence will be unveiled to the public yesterday after years of painstaking restoration.

Vasari created "The Last Supper" for a convent of cloistered nuns. Because the nuns eschewed contact with men, and because the work was large - 6.6 by 2.6 meters (21.7 by 8.5 feet) - Vasari painted it in his studio on five wood panels that could be easily transported and recomposed in the convent.

The work depicts the scene from the Bible in which Jesus Christ shares his final meal with his apostles. It was among thousands of works of art and rare books that were damaged and covered in mud when the Arno river broke its banks, flooding homes, churches, shops and libraries and killing about 100 people.

At the time, a corps of global volunteers dubbed the "angels of the mud" descended upon Florence, the historical heart of the Italian Renaissance, to rescue artworks, though thousands of pieces were still lost. "The Last Supper," which will be unveiled as part of a commemorative ceremony on the 50th anniversary of the disaster, was initially deemed too badly damaged to be restored and was left in storage for four decades.

In 2006, the Italian arts restoration agency known as OPD found that restoration technologies had advanced enough that it was possible to try to save Vasari's work. After two years of study, they began restoring with a team of nine to 13 experts. "In the beginning everyone said it was impossible to restore," said Marco Ciatti, the head of the OPD. "It was a long battle but we made it."

A contemporary of Michelangelo, Vasari was a painter, architect and writer who is famous for a history he penned of the great Renaissance artists of Italy. — AP





This file photo taken on October 08, 2016 shows artists holding up posters reading "We will not give you culture" as they demonstrate against the Polish government's cultural policy in Warsaw. — AP

## In Poland, bad blood brewing between politics and the arts

The play is over, the curtain falls, then rises again to reveal the actors standing with their mouths taped shut at the Polski Theatre in Poland's western city of Wrocław. It is their latest protest against the venerated theatre's new executive director, actor Cezary Morawski, whom they claim got his job thanks to the rightwing government.

His response? Kill the lights. Yet only a few days earlier he told AFP he was tolerant of such protests: "Democracy exists so that everyone can express their opinion." Though politically independent, Morawski was backed by regional and national authorities to take over the job on September 1 at what is one of Poland's main theatres. His predecessor, Krzysztof Mieszkowski, who is an avowed opponent of conservative Culture Minister Piotr Glinski, had championed a different candidate.

The protesting actors, who claim Morawski is incompetent and that his selection had been predetermined, have managed to convince prosecutors to open a probe. The conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party, which is led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski and came to power a year ago, claims to be in favor of pluralism and cultural freedom.

But it has shown a preference for promoting cultural endeavors with a nationalist bent, which they insist help reinforce a sense of community by extolling Polish history. The feud at Polski made headlines after Polish stage director Krystian Lupa, a theatrical heavy hitter in Europe, voiced scathing criticism of Morawski.

Religious, patriotic values

Last month, around 500 people took part in a Warsaw protest that was organized by Polski actors under the banner, "We won't let you take over the arts".

Wrocław mayor Rafal Dutkiewicz appears keen for emotions to cool in a year when his city is both a European Capital of Culture and host of the Theatre Olympics. "Theatre can very well address politics, but politics should not interfere with theatre," he told AFP.

The Polski conflict is far from the only sticking point between Poland's artistic community and the political leadership. The two groups

have also butted heads over plays, with the political side often arguing in defence of religious and patriotic values. One PiS lawmaker, Anna Sobecka, contacted prosecutors in the northern city of Bydgoszcz over the "Our Violence, Your Violence" play staged in the city by Croatian director Oliver Frljic.

In an open letter last month she slammed it for containing "pornography and blasphemy",

saying she was shocked by scenes in which "a naked Muslim pulls a Polish flag out of her private parts" and "Christ rapes a young Arab girl".

In the nearby city of Gdansk, there are plans afoot for the new World War II museum-due to open in 2017 — to be merged with another museum that has yet to be built. Historian Pawel Machcewicz, who is the war museum's director, claims the reason for the machinations is to have a pretext for firing him before his contract ends in 2019.

Machcewicz is a former advisor to liberal ex-premier Donald Tusk, who became EU president in 2014 and whom PiS leader Kaczynski sees as his arch-rival.

### 'New Poles'

Already fired in July was Pawel Potoroczyn, the director of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, a national body tasked with promoting Polish culture abroad.

Potoroczyn, whose term was supposed to end in December 2017, told AFP that one possible reason for his dismissal was that the government wants to promote a policy of "refusing to bow down"—in other words a policy of national pride. The Culture Ministry did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment on the points of contention. Henryk Wozniakowski, the liberal Catholic head of Poland's Znak publishing house, believes the PiS is trying to impose its vision on culture. "The PiS follows a philosophy of 'politics first'. For them there are no stand-alone cultural values," he told AFP. "Theatres with individualistic visions that don't serve to build a national consciousness around the vision that the PiS has of the past, of community, of the role of the leader and of the enemy, are gradually being taken over." — AFP







## MIMECAST SHOWCASED ITS RANGE OF EMAIL AND DATA SECURITY SOLUTIONS EFFECTIVE PROTECTION AGAINST RANSOMWARE

**DUBAI:** Mimecast Limited (NASDAQ: MIME), a leading email and data security company, participated in the Gartner Security and Risk Management Summit 2016. The company showcased its full-range of email and data security solutions and services at the event, which was held from October 31st to November 1st at the Raffles Hotel Dubai. As a speaker at the conference, Matthew Gardiner, Senior Product Marketing Manager of Mimecast, addressed the impact of ransomware on businesses, the reasons why attacks through ransomware have been increasing in recent months and how organizations could defend themselves against a ran-

somware attack and protect themselves in the current security landscape. "No organization is immune to a ransomware attack and businesses are increasingly being held hostage by cybercriminals.

In recent months, much of the malware being blocked by Mimecast for our customers has been ransomware, which is a huge number. Given the criticality of business assets, digital infrastructure, or even safety of life in some cases, many businesses are forced to pay the ransom," said Matthew Gardiner, Senior Product Marketing Manager of Mimecast. "At the Security and Risk Management Summit 2016, we shared insights on the serious threat

ransomware poses, why there has been a significant rise in ransomware attacks and discuss how a three-pronged strategy of prevention, business continuity and email archiving could help defeat ransomware before it takes the business hostage," Mr. Gardiner added.

The key to ransomware protection is two-fold: deploying email security solutions for ransomware detection, and maintaining up-to-the-minute backups and archives of email data. Mimecast provides both security and archiving solutions to protect against ransomware. Mimecast highlighted how its cloud-based email security services and its capabilities of Targeted Threat Protection helps Middle

East organizations reduce the risk, complexity and costs traditionally associated with protecting email.

The Gartner Security and Risk Management Summit 2016 provided organizations with the proven practices and strategies they need to maintain cost-effective security and risk programs to support digital business and drive enterprise success. The event featured comprehensive tracks to drill down on the hottest security and risk management topics based on participants' role, experience level and key focus. Mimecast was exhibiting at booth #942, where visitors were able to meet and interact with some of Mimecast's top solution experts.

### MOROCCO LIFTS BAN ON MOBILE INTERNET VOICE CALLS

**RABAT:** Morocco has lifted a ban on calls made through mobile internet connections, its national telecoms regulator said, acting after fierce protests on social media against a rule introduced at the start of the year. The ban was applied to the three mobile operators in Morocco who offer internet access for computers via USB and other mobile modems, as well as via mobile phones. The Telecommunications Regulatory National Agency (ANRT) had said telecom services such as phone calls need licences whether they are Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) or others.

"The decision (to lift the ban) comes after the ANRT's evaluation of the telecom national and international markets, the legal context and taking into consideration the requirements to develop a sector that benefits customers," the regulator said in a statement yesterday. The ban affected the two most-used applications in Morocco Skype and WhatsApp, along with Facebook and Viber and other providers of VoIP services. Morocco's telecoms market is dominated by Maroc Telecom, majority owned by the UAE's Etisalat, French group Orange's local affiliate Medi Telecom (Meditel) and Wana Corporate, a subsidiary of the royal holding SNI.

Lifting the ban came as the kingdom prepares to host the 2016 United Nations climate change conference and only few days after the head of ANRT was sacked. ANRT had tolerated internet voice calls for years but the drop in call volumes, mainly lucrative international calls, may have motivated the decision. Protests erupted on social media when the ban came into force in January, with local media speculating whether security controls were behind the move. Mobile phone market penetration is running at around 140 percent of Morocco's 34 million population, and the country had 10 million Internet subscribers by the end in 2015, up more than 60 percent from 2013.—Reuters

## DRS SET FOR BUSY BAPTISM ON INDIA'S TURNING PITCHES

**MUMBAI:** After years of resistance against the Decision Review System, the Indian cricket board has finally agreed to employ technology for the home tests against England and if the tourists' series in Bangladesh is anything to go by, it will get plenty of use. In the opening match on a turning Chittagong track, Kumar Dharmasena witnessed 16 challenges to his decisions and after eight of them were overturned, the Sri Lankan had earned an unwanted record of the most reversed decisions in a single test. Following that match last month, which saw a record 26 reviews in total, opinions were divided on whether DRS had improved decision-making and the impact it had on the morale of umpires, especially on the spin-friendly pitches in South Asia.

Ahead of the system's debut in a test in India next week, the International Cricket Council (ICC) said referrals were always more likely on spinning tracks and that was why the review system was an essential tool for umpires. Geoff Allardice, the ICC general manager for cricket operations at the governing body, is a strong advocate for DRS, saying the system ensured more consistency in decision-making. "Generally in DRS series, we deliver 97 to 98 percent correct decisions," Allardice told reporters on a conference call.

"What that does is provide a consis-

tency of correct decisions, whether the conditions are difficult for umpiring, or whether the umpire is having a good day or a bad day. "With regards to the series in Bangladesh and the impact on the umpires, often DRS delivers its best result when the pitch is turning or seaming and umpiring is difficult. "It's quite a test for an umpire, because you can often be making good decisions that are later proven to be incorrect, you know, through getting a glove on a sweep shot that then leads to an lbw being overturned or something like that."

The governing body takes into account the number of wrong decisions made while assessing the umpires, which probably puts them under more pressure. Allardice said while umpires always preferred getting as many decisions right as they could, they were very supportive of DRS and their reaction to the immediate feedback provided by the technology was crucial for the job. "Being able to process feedback about your decisions, and then try to either use it to improve your decision-making, or to not let it affect your decision-making, is the thing that determines an elite umpire from the next level down," he added. "Generally umpires are like players: They have very good matches and they have an odd match where they don't perform up to their normal standards. "The thing that we are interested

in is how they bounce back... if things aren't going their way."

### India on board

The influential Indian board (BCCI) has long been a staunch opponent of the review system, which aims to reduce umpiring howlers by detecting edges and predicting the ball trajectory to ensure correct catch and leg-before-wicket (lbw) decisions. But in a triumph for the ICC, the BCCI said it would use the review system on a trial basis to assess improvements made to the technology after having refused to allow its use in any bilateral series involving its test team in the past. The BCCI had previously objected to the use of ball-tracking technology, in which a third umpire goes through a number of processes to determine if the on-field officials were correct, saying it was not reliable enough. It will mean that Dharmasena, who will be an on-field umpire in the opening two tests of the five-match series against England, will continue to remain under scrutiny.

### Uniform technology

DRS, in its current form, has no uniformity on the use of technology across the globe. While ball-tracking technology is mandatory, sound and heat-based edge detection systems are only used in some countries.—Reuters



## US BOOSTING CYBER DEFENSES

**WASHINGTON:** Federal and state authorities are beefing up cyber defenses against potential electronic attacks on voting systems ahead of US elections on Nov 8, but taking few new steps to guard against possible civil unrest or violence. The threat of computer hacking and the potential for violent clashes is darkening an already rancorous presidential race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, amid fears that Russia or other actors could spread political misinformation online or perhaps tamper with voting.

To counter the cyber threat, all but two US states have accepted help from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to probe and scan voter registration and election systems for vulnerabilities, a department official told Reuters. Ohio has asked a cyber protection unit of the National Guard, a reserve force within the US military, for assistance to protect the state's systems.

On Thursday, Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan and her cyber security team met with officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the DHS, in addition to state-level agencies, to discuss cyber threats, said Matt Roberts, a spokesman for Reagan. Cyber security experts and US officials say chances that a hack could alter election outcomes are remote, in part because voting machines are typically not connected to the internet. But the FBI sent a flash alert in August to states after detecting breaches in voter registration databases in Arizona and Illinois.

### Armed groups

Unidentified intelligence officials told NBC News on Thursday that there is no specific warning about an Election Day attack, but they remain concerned that hackers from Russia or elsewhere may try to disrupt the process, likely by spreading misinformation by manipulating social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. DHS cyber security experts plan to hold a media briefing on Friday to discuss the agency's efforts with states to boost the security of their voting and election systems.

The potential for violence around the election has loomed in the background of the campaign for months. Armed groups around the country have pledged in unprecedented numbers to monitor voting sites for signs of election fraud. Voter intimidation reported at polling sites so far prompted Democrats to accuse Trump of a "campaign of vigilante voter intimidation" in four states on Monday. But local authorities surveyed by Reuters on Thursday in five states - Ohio, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Wisconsin and Florida - said they were not increasing election-related law enforcement personnel or resources above 2012 levels.

### 'A lot of talk, little action'

The FBI, which designates one special agent from each of its 56 field offices for election crime matters, has not increased its numbers or given staff additional training this year, said an FBI spokeswoman. There has been no "substantive change" in the number of personnel deployed by the rest of the Justice Department, which designates Assistant US Attorneys and federal prosecutors within the agency's Public Integrity Section to handle election crimes, according to a spokesman. Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, which represents hundreds of thousands of US officers, said cops are taking the same security measures they would take for any large event. He said he expects the vows by militias to monitor the polls to be "a lot of talk, little action." —Reuters



**WENCHANG:** Photo shows China's heavy-lift rocket Long March-5 blasting off from its launch center in Wenchang, south China's Hainan province. China launched its most powerful rocket ever on November 3, state media said, as the country presses on with a program which has seen it become a major space power. — AFP

## CHINA BOOSTS SPACE PROGRAM WITH NEW HEAVY ROCKET LAUNCH

**BEIJING:** China has launched its new Long March-5 heavy rocket, state media said, sending its payload into orbit in the country's latest step in advancing its space exploration program. The launch comes after China began its longest manned space mission last month, sending two astronauts to spend a month aboard a space laboratory that is part of a broader plan to have a permanent manned space station in service around 2022. The rocket, larger than previous versions of China's Long-March carrier rockets, blasted off on Thursday night from a pad in the southern province of Hainan, state news agency Xinhua said, a launch intended to verify its design and performance.

"Its successful launch has propelled China to the forefront of the world in terms of rocket carrying capacity, and marks a milestone in China's transition

from a major player in space to a major power in space," Xinhua cited the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee and powerful Central Military Commission as saying in a letter. The two-stage rocket's ability to put 25 tons of payload into low-Earth orbit and 14 tons to geostationary transfer orbit gives it a carrying capacity 2.5 times larger than previous models, Xinhua said.

"With the heavy-lift carrier rocket, China can build a permanent manned space station and explore the moon and Mars," the news agency said. Advancing China's space program is a priority for Beijing, which insists it is for peaceful purposes. The US Defense Department has highlighted China's increasing space capabilities, saying it was pursuing activities aimed at preventing other nations using space-

based assets in a crisis. Despite its space program's advancements for military, commercial and scientific purposes, China is still playing catch-up to established space powers the United States and Russia.

China's Jade Rabbit moon rover landed on the moon in late 2013 to great national fanfare, but soon suffered severe technical difficulties. The rover and the Chang'e 3 probe that carried it there were the first "soft landing" on the moon since 1976. Both the United States and the Soviet Union had accomplished the feat earlier. US companies, including SpaceX and Blue Origin, are now developing commercial space flight capabilities. Both companies are developing reusable rockets, and SpaceX has put forward the ambitious goal of a human mission to Mars as early as 2024.—Reuters

## MASSIVE CYBER ATTACK DISRUPTS INTERNET IN LIBERIA

**MONROVIA:** A massive cyber attack targeting Liberia's single broadband link has taken the country's internet intermittently offline for the last week, web security experts said yesterday. The characteristics of the attack point to the same type of cyber weapon that crippled several major websites based in the United States in late October. Using software called "Mirai", hackers deployed a network of infected computers known only as "Botnet 14" to repeatedly overload the country's broadband network, taking Liberia offline for

minutes at a time, internet security expert Kevin Beaumont said.

The hackers took control of 'internet of things' devices such as CCTV cameras or digital video recorders plugged in to offices and homes worldwide, he explained, to direct the massive distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack. DDoS attacks involve flooding websites with more traffic than they can handle, making them difficult to access or taking them offline entirely. "By hacking these devices you can cause them to attack another location, or country,"

Beaumont said. The UK-based expert said the reason why Liberia was targeted was as yet unknown but its vulnerable internet infrastructure and lack of technical expertise made it an useful way of testing out even larger attacks. "There is only one internet link to the country for broadband, so it might be the ideal test bed for attacks," he said. The vast majority of Liberia's internet users access the web via their smartphone, meaning they are unaffected by a targeted attack on broadband services.

But the Network World website reported

Liberian mobile phone service providers themselves had been affected, as they rely on cable-based internet to power their businesses. The outages would only register for a few seconds but are devastating for companies that require constant connections to servers in order to function. October's US incident saw domain name services company Dynamic Network Services Inc, or Dyn, suffer successive attacks, causing outages for hours for millions of users of high-profile websites including Twitter, Spotify and Netflix.—AFP



OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 The Hoarder  
01:45 Mine Games  
03:30 Panic Room  
05:30 Divergent  
08:00 Six Days Seven Nights  
10:00 Into The Storm  
11:45 Brick Mansions  
13:30 Divergent  
16:00 Six Days Seven Nights  
18:00 Into The Storm  
20:00 Metro  
22:00 Payback

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

01:45 Dark Was The Night  
03:30 Penthouse North  
05:00 Jappeloup  
07:15 The Better Angels  
09:00 Fast Girls  
11:00 Penthouse North  
13:00 Jappeloup  
15:30 The Love Guide  
17:00 Fast Girls  
19:00 Lullaby  
21:00 Landmine Goes Click  
23:00 The Riot Club

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

01:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...  
03:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box  
05:00 The Good Dinosaur  
07:00 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water  
09:00 Houba! On The Trail Of Marsupilami  
11:00 Jingle All The Way 2  
13:00 Inside Out  
15:00 Paddington  
17:00 The Unbeatables  
19:00 The Last Song  
21:00 Big Baby  
23:00 Paddington

OSN MOVIES HD

01:15 Slow West  
02:45 Louder Than Words  
04:30 Spectre  
07:00 My Old Lady  
09:00 Fantastic Four  
11:00 Spectre  
13:30 The Lovers  
15:30 All The Wilderness  
17:00 The Finest Hours  
19:00 Infinitely Polar Bear  
21:00 The Dressmaker  
23:00 Wild

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

00:00 Please Give  
02:00 Shanghai Noon  
04:00 Superfast  
06:00 Norbit  
08:00 Easy A  
10:00 Superfast  
12:00 Shanghai Noon  
14:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey  
16:15 Easy A  
18:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2  
20:00 Talladega Nights  
22:00 Road Trip

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

01:00 Finding Forrester  
03:15 Kill The Messenger  
05:15 Hitting The Apex  
07:30 Ironweed  
09:30 The Truth About Emanuel  
11:30 Searching For Bobby Fischer  
13:30 Reds  
17:00 Merchants Of Doubt  
19:00 The Dark Half  
21:00 Unbroken  
23:30 The Last Tycoon

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

01:15 True Story Of Puss'n Boots  
02:45 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness  
04:15 The Wild Thornberrys Movie  
06:00 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie

07:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure  
08:45 Tarzan  
10:30 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery  
12:15 Scooby-Doo! Moon Monster Madness  
14:00 When Marnie Was There  
16:00 The Boxcar Children  
18:00 Tarzan  
20:00 Miffy The Movie  
21:45 When Marnie Was There  
23:30 The Boxcar Children

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

00:00 Son Of A Gun  
02:00 The Bounty Hunter  
04:00 The Bourne Legacy  
06:15 Two Wrongs  
08:00 The Identical  
10:00 Snow White And The Huntsman  
12:15 The Cobbler  
14:00 The Mark  
16:00 The Identical  
18:00 Manny  
20:00 Taken 3  
22:00 The Necessary Death Of Charlie Countryman

STAR MOVIES HD

00:30 The Good Shepherd  
02:45 Cold Creek Manor  
04:45 The English Patient  
07:30 Kite  
09:00 Arthur Newman  
10:45 Annapolis  
12:30 Frozen  
14:15 Cold Creek Manor  
16:15 The Animal  
17:45 The Good Shepherd  
20:00 The Time Being  
21:45 Beneath The Blue  
23:30 John Rabe Part 1

sundance CHANNEL

01:10 Detroit Unleaded  
02:40 Leave To Remain  
04:10 Gored  
05:25 Charge!  
07:00 All On The Line  
08:00 A Ballerina's Tale  
09:25 Mary Is Happy, Mary Is Happy  
11:30 Kill The Poor  
13:00 Made In China  
14:30 Radiator  
16:05 A Ballerina's Tale  
17:30 Springsteen & I  
18:50 Battle For Britain  
19:10 Quiet City  
20:30 Street Thief  
22:00 The King  
23:40 Cole

ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:45 Man-Eating Super Squid  
01:40 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
02:35 Tanked  
03:25 Africa's Trees Of Life  
04:15 Gator Boys  
05:02 Man-Eating Super Squid  
05:49 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
06:36 Meet The Sloths  
07:25 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
08:15 My Wild Affair: The Rhino Who Joined My Family  
09:10 The Vet Life  
10:05 Wildest India  
11:00 Treehouse Masters  
11:55 Ten Deadliest Snakes With Nigel Marven  
12:50 Crocodile Hunter  
14:40 Africa's Trees Of Life  
17:25 Crocodile Hunter  
18:20 Gangland Killers  
19:15 Predators Up Close With Joel Lambert  
20:10 The Vet Life  
21:05 Gangland Killers  
22:00 Blood Lake: Attack Of The Killer Lampreys  
23:50 Beasts Of The Bayou

ci

00:00 The Haunting Of...  
01:00 My Haunted House  
02:00 Monster In My Family  
03:00 My Crazy Ex  
04:00 The Haunting Of...  
05:00 My Haunted House  
06:00 Crimes That Shook Britain

07:00 The First 48  
08:00 The First 48  
09:00 Killers  
10:00 Killers  
11:00 The FBI Files  
12:00 When Life Means Life  
13:00 Private Crimes  
14:00 Frenemies  
15:00 Homicide Hunter  
16:00 It Takes A Killer  
17:00 It Takes A Killer  
18:00 What The Killer Saw  
19:00 Monster In My Family  
20:00 Deadly Wives  
21:00 Diabolical Women  
22:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
23:00 Motive For Murder

Discovery Family

00:30 Man v Expert  
01:20 The Big Brain Theory  
02:10 Now That's Funny  
03:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
03:50 Ultimate Survival  
04:40 How It's Made  
05:05 How It's Made  
05:30 Strangest Weather On Earth  
06:20 Mythbusters  
07:00 Kenny The Shark  
07:25 Kenny The Shark  
07:50 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild  
08:40 Too Cute! Pint-Sized  
12:50 Mythbusters  
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?  
18:40 The Big Brain Theory  
19:30 Kids Do The Craziest Things  
20:20 Guinness World Records Smashed UK  
21:10 Dynamo: Magician Impossible  
22:00 Destroyed In Seconds  
23:40 Kids Do The Craziest Things

HISTORY HD

00:20 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour  
01:10 Counting Cars  
01:35 Counting Cars  
02:00 American Pickers  
02:50 Pawn Stars South Africa  
03:15 Pawn Stars South Africa  
03:40 Shark Wranglers  
04:30 American Restoration

05:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us  
06:00 Leepu And Pitbull  
06:50 Leepu And Pitbull  
07:40 Pawn Stars South Africa  
08:05 Pawn Stars South Africa  
08:30 Counting Cars  
08:55 Mountain Men - Closest Calls  
09:45 American Restoration  
10:10 American Restoration  
10:35 Shipping Wars  
11:00 Shipping Wars  
11:25 Car Hunters  
11:50 Car Hunters  
12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island  
13:05 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour  
13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa  
14:20 Pawn Stars South Africa  
14:45 Time Team  
15:35 Counting Cars  
16:00 Car Hunters  
16:25 Car Hunters  
16:50 American Restoration  
17:15 American Restoration  
17:40 Shipping Wars  
18:05 Shipping Wars  
18:30 Pawn Stars  
18:55 Storage Wars  
19:20 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour  
20:10 Alone  
21:00 Billion Dollar Wreck  
21:50 Forged In Fire  
22:40 Time Team  
23:30 Alone

NAT GEO people

00:10 Eat Street  
00:35 Baking Good, Baking Bad  
01:00 The Shelbourne  
01:25 Carnival Eats  
02:15 Raw Travel  
03:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
03:30 Tales From The Bush Larder  
03:55 Croatia's Finest  
04:45 The Shelbourne  
05:35 David Rocco's Dolce India  
06:25 Poh & Co  
06:50 Raw Travel  
07:15 Maximum Foodie  
07:40 Eat Street  
08:30 Top Tables, Top Cities  
08:55 Croatia's Finest  
09:45 Street Food Around The World  
10:10 Tales From The Bush Larder  
10:35 Lee Chan's World Food Tour

11:00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces  
11:50 Dog Whisperer  
12:40 The Shelbourne  
13:05 Places We Go  
14:00 Fusion Forager  
14:55 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
15:25 Tales From The Bush Larder  
15:50 Croatia's Finest  
16:45 The Shelbourne  
17:40 David Rocco's Dolce India  
18:10 Valentine Warner's Wild Table  
19:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
19:30 Tales From The Bush Larder  
20:00 Croatia's Finest  
20:50 The Shelbourne  
21:40 David Rocco's Dolce India  
22:05 Valentine Warner's Wild Table  
22:55 The Shelbourne  
23:20 Places We Go

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

00:10 Locked Up Abroad  
01:00 Airport Security: Colombia  
02:00 Nazi Megastructures  
02:55 Nazi World War Weird  
03:50 Kabaddi: The Great Indian Sport  
04:45 Operation Sumatran Rhino  
05:40 Air Crash Investigation  
06:35 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial  
07:30 Facing...  
08:25 Dog Whisperer  
09:20 Dog Whisperer  
10:15 Monster Fish  
11:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs. South  
12:05 Science Of Stupid  
12:30 Science Of Stupid  
13:00 Nazi World War Weird  
14:00 Facing...  
15:00 Air Crash Investigation  
16:00 Planes That Changed The World  
17:00 Mega Factories  
18:00 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial  
19:00 Cold Water Gold  
20:00 Planes That Changed The World  
20:50 Mega Factories  
21:40 Disappeared: The Search For Cody Dial  
22:30 Cold Water Gold  
23:20 Planes That Changed The World

NAT GEO WILD HD

00:20 Predator Battleground  
01:10 World's Deadliest Animals  
02:00 Wild Russia  
02:50 Wild Survivor  
03:45 South Africa  
04:40 1000 Days For The Planet  
05:35 Hunter Hunted  
06:30 Monster Fish  
07:25 Hooked  
08:20 Unlikely Animal Friends  
09:15 Baby Animals In The Wild  
10:10 Amazing Animal Selfies  
11:05 Animal ER  
12:00 River Jaws: Monster Catfish  
12:55 Monster Jellyfish  
13:50 Mission Critical  
14:45 Wild Congo  
15:40 1000 Days For The Planet  
16:35 Moody Beasts  
17:30 Dangerous Encounters  
18:25 Animals Gone Wild  
19:20 Wild Congo  
20:10 1000 Days For The Planet  
21:00 Moody Beasts  
21:50 Dangerous Encounters  
22:40 Animals Gone Wild  
23:30 River Jaws: Monster Catfish

discovery science

00:30 How Do They Do It?  
00:55 Food Factory  
01:20 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
02:10 NASA's Greatest Missions  
03:00 Superhuman Showdown  
03:48 Ways To Save The Planet  
04:36 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
05:24 NASA's Greatest Missions  
06:12 How Do They Do It?  
06:36 Food Factory  
07:00 How Do They Do It?  
07:26 Food Factory  
09:26 How The Universe Works  
10:14 NASA's Greatest Missions  
11:50 How The Universe Works  
13:26 How Do They Do It?  
15:26 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman  
16:14 Redesign My Brain  
17:02 Mind Control Freaks



INTO THE STORM ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

17:50 The Science Of Fear And Lust  
18:40 Superhuman Showdown  
19:30 Ways To Save The Planet  
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman



00:20 Doctors  
00:50 The Coroner  
01:40 War And Peace  
02:25 The Kettering Incident  
03:15 The Detectoists  
03:45 Him & Her  
04:15 The Coroner  
05:00 Doctors  
09:30 Eastenders  
11:00 Stella  
13:20 Casualty  
14:15 Doctors  
15:15 New Tricks  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Eastenders  
19:05 The Coroner  
20:00 Death In Paradise  
21:00 The Durrells  
22:00 Class  
23:00 The Kettering Incident  
23:55 Doctors



00:00 Underground With Dave Attell  
00:25 Chris D'elia: White Male, Black Comic  
01:15 Broad City  
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
02:05 I Live With Models  
02:30 Broad City  
03:00 Nathan For You  
03:25 Workaholics  
04:15 Key And Peele  
04:40 Ridiculousness  
05:30 Frankenfood  
06:20 Key And Peele  
07:15 Ridiculousness  
08:30 Workaholics  
09:20 Tosh.0  
10:10 Catch A Contractor  
10:35 Key And Peele  
11:25 Ridiculousness  
11:50 Catch A Contractor  
13:05 Workaholics  
13:55 Tosh.0  
14:45 Workaholics  
15:10 Key And Peele  
15:35 Tosh.0  
16:30 Key And Peele  
16:55 Tosh.0  
18:15 Key And Peele  
18:39 Key And Peele  
19:03 Ridiculousness  
19:50 Brotherhood  
20:13 Impractical Jokers I Special - Joker's Choice  
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition  
21:30 South Park  
21:54 Broad City  
22:18 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula  
23:05 Underground With Dave Attell  
23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition



0:00 Cutthroat Kitchen  
01:00 BBQ Crawl  
01:30 BBQ Crawl  
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
03:00 Man Fire Food  
03:30 Man Fire Food  
04:00 Chopped  
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
06:00 Man Fire Food  
06:30 Man Fire Food  
07:00 Chopped  
08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes  
09:00 The Kitchen  
10:00 Siba's Table  
10:30 Siba's Table  
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen  
11:30 Patricia Heaton Parties  
12:00 Halloween Wars  
13:00 Halloween Wars  
14:00 The Kitchen  
15:00 Chopped  
16:00 Guy's Big Bite  
16:30 Guy's Big Bite  
17:00 Siba's Table  
17:30 Siba's Table  
18:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes  
18:30 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes  
19:00 Chopped  
20:00 Halloween Wars  
21:00 Halloween Wars  
22:00 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes

22:30 Paul Hollywood - City Bakes  
23:00 Chopped



00:30 Scrubs  
01:00 Scrubs  
01:30 The Detour  
02:00 The Detour  
02:30 Bordertown  
03:00 Superstore  
03:30 The Goldbergs  
04:00 Trophy Wife  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 George Lopez  
06:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
06:30 Community  
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
08:00 Trophy Wife  
08:30 George Lopez  
09:00 Superstore  
09:30 The Goldbergs  
10:00 New Girl  
10:30 Community  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 The Bernie Mac Show  
12:30 Fresh Off The Boat  
13:00 George Lopez  
13:30 Community  
14:00 The Goldbergs  
14:30 The Goldbergs  
15:00 New Girl  
15:30 Scrubs  
16:00 Scrubs  
16:30 The Bernie Mac Show  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 The Mindy Project  
18:30 The Mindy Project  
19:00 Baby Daddy  
19:30 Modern Family  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Scrubs  
21:30 Scrubs  
22:00 Saturday Night Live  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



00:00 Prison Break  
01:00 Dead Of Summer  
02:00 Survivor: Millennials vs Generation X  
03:00 Deadline Gallipoli  
04:00 Live Good Morning America  
06:00 Unforgettable  
07:00 Chicago Fire  
08:00 Criminal Minds  
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
10:00 Unforgettable  
11:00 Grey's Anatomy  
12:00 Criminal Minds  
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
14:00 Recovery Road  
15:00 Live Good Morning America - Weekend  
16:00 Chicago Fire  
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show  
18:00 Criminal Minds  
19:00 Grey's Anatomy  
20:00 The Blacklist  
21:00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow  
22:00 Supernatural  
23:00 Grimm



00:00 The Night Of  
01:00 Code Black  
02:00 Game Of Thrones  
03:00 Westworld  
04:00 The Knick  
05:00 RKO 281  
07:00 Disappearing Acts  
09:00 Normal  
11:00 Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On  
12:30 Monica In Black And White  
14:15 My House In Umbria  
16:00 Subway Stories  
17:30 Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On  
19:00 The Night Of  
20:00 Code Black  
21:00 Silicon Valley  
21:30 Silicon Valley  
22:00 John From Cincinnati  
23:00 Jonah From Tonga  
23:30 Getting On



00:30 12 Monkeys  
01:20 Eureka  
02:10 Eureka  
03:00 Warehouse 13  
05:15 Face Off  
06:00 Stargate SG-1  
10:10 Smallville

11:00 Smallville  
11:50 Smallville  
12:40 Smallville  
13:35 Smallville  
14:30 Snowmageddon  
16:00 Killjoys  
16:50 Face Off  
17:40 Sanctuary  
18:30 Sanctuary  
19:25 Nuclear Hurricane  
21:00 Barricade  
22:35 Village Of The Damned



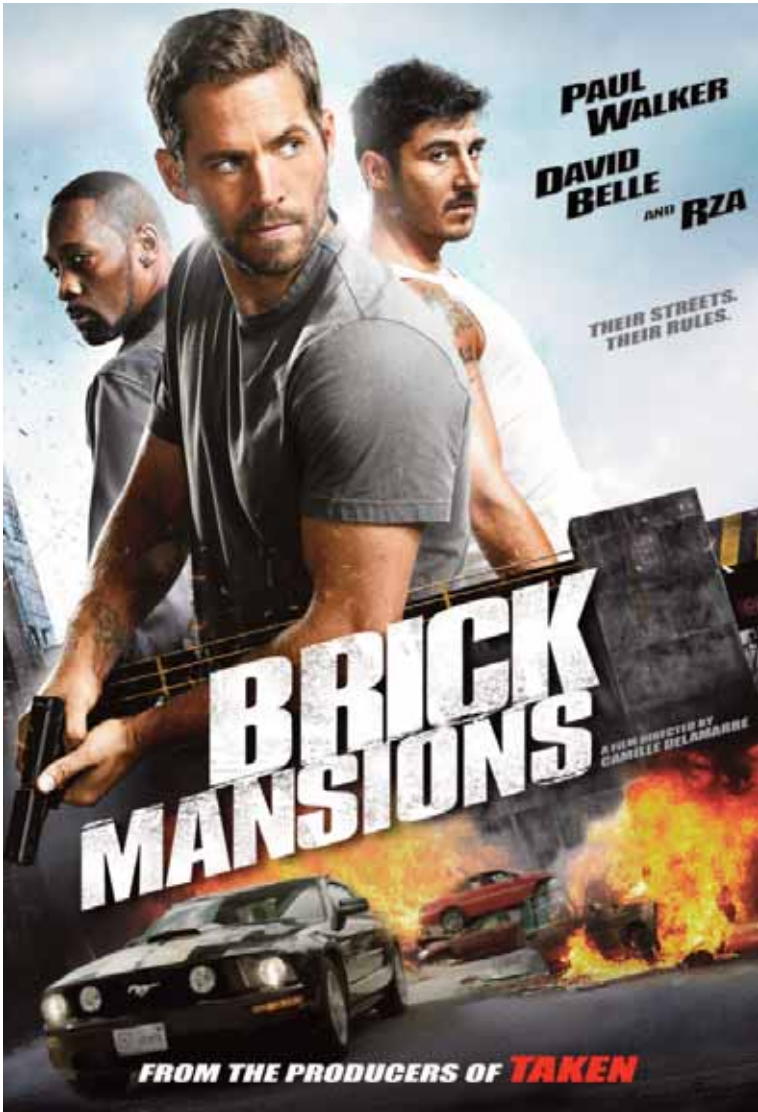
00:00 Bones  
01:00 House Of DVF  
02:00 Married At First Sight  
03:00 Married At First Sight  
04:00 Married At First Sight  
05:00 Three  
06:00 How I Met Your Mother  
06:30 How I Met Your Mother  
07:00 The Secret Life Of The American Teenager  
08:00 Cedar Cove  
09:00 Cedar Cove  
10:00 Married At First Sight  
11:00 Married At First Sight  
12:00 Married At First Sight  
13:00 Three  
14:00 Da Vinci's Demons  
15:00 Transporter: The Series  
16:00 Private Practice  
17:00 Gallery Girls  
18:00 Grey's Anatomy  
19:00 Grey's Anatomy  
19:59 Fashion Star  
21:06 House Of DVF  
22:01 Bones  
23:00 Bones



00:20 Extraordinary Pregnancies  
01:10 Secret Eskimo Escape  
02:00 Leah Remini: It's All Relative  
02:25 Leah Remini: It's All Relative  
02:50 Monsters Inside Me  
03:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
04:20 Toddlers & Tiaras  
05:10 Toddlers & Tiaras  
06:00 Jon & Kate Plus 8  
08:30 Cake Boss  
09:20 Separated At Birth  
10:10 Designer Darlings  
11:50 Say Yes To The Dress  
14:45 Say Yes To The Dress: The Big Day  
15:35 My Big Fat Fabulous Life  
17:40 Oprah's Master Class  
19:20 Suddenly Royal  
20:10 Cake Boss  
21:00 Oprah: Where Are They Now?  
21:50 Oprah's Master Class  
22:40 Body Bizarre  
23:30 Diagnose Me



0:00 Violetta  
00:45 The Hive  
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
01:40 Hank Zipzer  
02:05 Binny And The Ghost  
02:30 Violetta  
03:15 The Hive  
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:10 Hank Zipzer  
04:35 Binny And The Ghost  
05:00 Violetta  
05:45 The Hive  
05:50 Mouk  
06:00 Jessie  
06:25 Jessie  
06:50 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
07:20 Star Darlings  
07:25 Austin & Ally  
07:50 Disney Mickey Mouse  
07:55 Jessie  
08:20 Descendants Wicked World  
08:25 Elena Of Avalor  
08:50 Star Darlings  
08:55 Alex & Co.  
09:20 Disney Mickey Mouse  
09:25 Girl Meets World  
09:50 Stuck In The Middle  
10:15 Disney Cookabout  
10:40 Harriet The Spy: Blog Wars  
12:10 The 7D  
12:20 Liv And Maddie  
12:45 Liv And Maddie  
13:10 Liv And Maddie  
13:35 Liv And Maddie



BRICK MANSIONS ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

14:00 Liv And Maddie  
14:25 Austin & Ally  
14:50 Austin & Ally  
15:15 Bunk'd  
15:40 Bunk'd  
16:05 Descendants Wicked World  
16:10 Elena Of Avalor  
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
17:00 Gravity Falls  
17:25 Wendy Wu: Homecoming Warrior  
19:00 Star Darlings  
19:05 Disney Cookabout  
19:30 Elena Of Avalor  
19:55 Liv And Maddie  
20:20 Best Friends Whenever  
20:45 Good Luck Charlie  
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water  
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water  
22:00 Binny And The Ghost  
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:10 Hank Zipzer  
23:35 Binny And The Ghost



00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
00:36 Max & Shred  
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways  
01:24 Sanjay And Craig  
01:48 Sanjay And Craig  
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
03:48 Henry Danger  
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
05:00 Max & Shred  
05:24 Henry Danger  
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants  
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
07:48 Winx Club  
08:12 Harvey Beaks  
08:36 Breadwinners  
09:00 Get Blake  
09:24 Rabbids Invasion  
09:48 Rufus  
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways  
11:00 Winx Club  
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants

12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
13:00 Breadwinners  
13:24 The Loud House  
13:48 Harvey Beaks  
14:12 Rabbids Invasion  
14:36 Henry Danger  
15:00 Game Shakers  
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
16:36 The Loud House  
17:00 Sanjay And Craig  
17:24 Harvey Beaks  
17:48 Breadwinners  
18:12 Henry Danger  
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn  
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School  
19:24 Game Shakers  
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants  
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles  
21:24 Breadwinners  
21:48 Breadwinners  
22:12 Sanjay And Craig  
22:36 Sanjay And Craig  
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants  
23:48 Henry Danger



00:20 Wanda And The Alien  
00:31 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:42 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom  
00:54 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:17 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
01:40 Zack & Quack  
01:50 Zack & Quack  
02:01 Team Umizoomi  
02:25 Louie  
02:32 Louie  
02:37 Louie  
02:43 Paw Patrol  
02:57 Paw Patrol  
03:21 Paw Patrol  
03:45 Paw Patrol  
04:08 Wanda And The Alien  
04:18 Wanda And The Alien  
04:28 Dora And Friends  
04:51 Dora And Friends  
05:15 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines  
06:00 Paw Patrol  
06:14 Paw Patrol  
06:37 Dora The Explorer



# Old fashioned deliciousness: Sweet potato spoonbread

**S**poonbread is a wonderfully old-fashioned dish that should not be relegated to the tables of old-fashioned cooks. It's a perfect holiday side; a pudding-esque interpretation of grits; a softer version of cornbread; perfection alongside a roast of any kind. It's got the slightest hint of sweetness thanks to the maple syrup (and, you know, the sweet potatoes), but remains firmly a savory side dish. You could add a bit of nutmeg, cinnamon and/or more cloves for more autumnal flavor, but I happen to like the way the sweet potatoes' natural flavor carries this dish, so I leave it largely unseasoned, with just a touch of cayenne and cloves.

I can't think of a lovelier Thanksgiving side dish. It's a winner alongside a roasted turkey. But don't stop there. This would turn a roast chicken into a feast, with just a green salad to round things off. Maybe even a rotisserie chicken. Who says you have to make the whole meal? You are busy, I know.

When the spoonbread first comes out of the oven, it will be lovely and puffed. It will settle fairly quickly, and that's OK - it's not mean to be served like a souffle, where time is of the essence. If you can get it to the table straight from the oven when it is at its most majestic, great, but really by the time you serve it up it will have settled into its delicious self anyway.

## Ingredients:

Start to finish: 2 hours

Servings: 8

4 tablespoons butter, divided

3 sweet potatoes

2-1/2 cups whole milk

2 tablespoons maple syrup

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Pinch ground cloves

Pinch cayenne pepper

3/4 cup finely ground cornmeal

4 large eggs, separated

2 teaspoons baking powder

## Preparation:

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Use 1 tablespoon of the butter to grease a rectangular or oval 2-quart casserole. Prick the sweet potatoes with a fork and bake them for about 50 to 55 minutes, until they are very soft. Remove them from the oven and let them sit on a wire rack until cool enough to handle.

While the potatoes are cooling, combine the milk, maple

syrup, salt, pepper, cloves and cayenne in a medium-size saucepan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat. Sprinkle in the cornmeal slowly, whisking all the while, until the cornmeal is all added. Continue to whisk over the heat until the mixture has thickened, about 4 minutes. Remove from the heat. Cool for about 10 minutes.

Peel off the skins and place the potatoes in a bowl. Mash them with a potato masher until fairly smooth (or use a ricer or a fork if that's what you have). Stir the remaining 3 tablespoons of the butter and the mashed sweet potatoes into the cornmeal mixture. Stir in the baking powder and then the egg yolks. In a bowl, using a whisk or electric mixer, beat the egg whites until they just form stiff peaks. Gently fold the egg whites into the sweet-potato-cornmeal mixture, just until barely incorporated.

Gently transfer the batter into the prepared dish and bake for 25 to 35 minutes (depending on how deep the dish is) until puffed and golden brown. The middle will still have the slightest jiggle when you wiggle the pan. Serve hot. — AP







# Thanksgiving salad

## with arugula, citrus

By Katie Workman

**A**lmost any big meal could use a green salad to round things out (and balance the heavier items on the table). But not just any old pile of lettuce.

This salad is simply gorgeous, and a great way to bring color, flavor and oomph to a holiday meal. The combination of tartness from the citrus, sweetness from the pomegranate seeds, sharpness from the onion, and a bit of herby bitterness from the arugula - plus a bright vinaigrette - makes this a salad that isn't just a placeholder on a plate. And the colors are amazing.

You can buy pre-shelled pomegranate seeds in little containers in the produce section of the supermarket, or if you're feeling industrious, buy a whole pomegranate, split it apart and remove the seeds yourself. It's messy but slightly therapeutic work. If you have kids, lay out lots of paper on the table, put them in big T-shirts that can get messy and let them take on this project.

### Ingredients:

Start to finish: 20 minutes

Servings: 6

Lemon Vinaigrette:

1 large shallot, thinly sliced

2 tablespoons lemon juice

1 tablespoon rice vinegar

3 tablespoons olive oil

Kosher or coarse salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Salad:

8 cups baby arugula

1 small red onion, halved and very thinly sliced

2 cara cara or blood oranges

Seeds from one pomegranate (about 3/4 cup)

### Preparation:

Make the vinaigrette. In a small container, combine the shallots, lemon juice, rice vinegar, olive oil, salt and pepper. Shake to blend.

Place the arugula in a large serving bowl with the onion. Peel the oranges, and use a paring knife to remove all the white pith from the outside of the fruit. Cut the oranges cross-wise into slices, and cut those slices into 4 pieces. Add these to the bowl. Pour the dressing on the salad, and toss to combine. Scatter the pomegranate seeds over the top and serve.

### Nutritional information per serving:

Lemon Vinaigrette: 63 calories; 60 calories from fat; 7 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 161 mg sodium; 1 g carbohydrate; 0 g fiber; 0 g sugar; 0 g protein.

Salad: 37 calories; 5 calories from fat; 1 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 12 mg sodium; 7 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 1 g protein.

Salad with dressing: 100 calories; 65 calories from fat; 7 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 172 mg sodium; 8 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 6 g sugar; 1 g protein. — AP



# LEGAL MARIJUANA MAY BE ADDED TO LAS VEGAS' LIST OF VICES

## NOV 8 STATE BALLOT WOULD LEGALIZE POT

**LAS VEGAS:** Nevada already has legal brothels, round-the-clock casinos and a coy catchphrase declaring that "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." If voters approve, the state could soon add another vice in the form of recreational marijuana.

A proposal on the Nov. 8 state ballot would legalize pot, and entrepreneurs hope its passage could someday allow the drug at Las Vegas' glamorous nightclubs and perhaps provide the framework for a future Amsterdam-style cannabis district.

"I really think this would be the third-largest market in the country," said Derek Peterson, whose company operates medical marijuana dispensaries called Blum. He predicts that only California and New York

would offer a bigger customer base than Las Vegas and its 42 million tourists a year. "I think it should be able to fit in really well with the whole dayclub/nightclub thing."

Nevada has allowed medical marijuana since 2000, and Peterson sees recreational pot as an alternative for visitors tired of cocktails that can top \$15 apiece and inflict hangovers. But before waitresses begin delivering high-grade marijuana at clubs along the Las Vegas Strip, weed proponents will have to win over not just voters, who narrowly support the initiative in polls, but a risk-averse casino industry. The Nevada Resort Association came out against the measure, pointing to an opinion from gambling regulators that casino owners should avoid the

marijuana industry because the substance remains illegal under federal law. Las Vegas Sands owner Sheldon Adelson has bankrolled most of the opposition, pouring \$2 million of his fortune into a campaign that raises the possibility that small children could become intoxicated from candy-like marijuana edibles.

### Adelson's contributions

Adelson also has contributed \$1.5 million in Arizona and Massachusetts, a significant share of all anti-marijuana donations there. Adelson, whose son died of a drug overdose and whose wife is a doctor specializing in drug addiction, has donated millions toward efforts to defeat medical marijuana proposals in Florida and other states in years past.

Other casino operators have joined the fray, but to a lesser extent. In spite of its libertine reputation, the rigorously regulated casino industry is known to err on the conservative side to avoid scandalizing the middle-aged tourists who are its bread and butter. "I don't know that this is a game changer in terms of tourism," Virginia Valentine, president of the Nevada Resort Association, said of marijuana's potential. "We're really known for other things. You may attract people or turn them off." The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, which promotes Sin City's amenities to the world, is neutral on the issue. Clyde Barrow, a gambling expert who chairs the political science department at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, suggests the donations may indicate the casino companies are acting in their own best interests. "The marijuana industry is emerging as another form of recreation and entertainment. Given the casino industry's difficulties attracting millennials, marijuana is probably perceived as a direct competitor with casinos for entertainment dollars," he said. —AP



**LAS VEGAS:** In this, Oct. 27, 2016, photo, a monitor displays different types of marijuana for sale at Blum.—AP

# FORESTS, LOCALS HARMED IN MEXICO'S AVOCADO BOOM

**JUJUCATO, MEXICO:** Liliana Carmona misses the lush pine forest on the hills overlooking her village in western Mexico. She now stares at vast avocado orchards that feed a massive foreign appetite for the green fruit.

Growers have been cutting down swaths of forest to make room for more fruit trees in the state of Michoacan, the world's avocado capital. Experts are now concerned that chemicals used in the orchards could be behind illnesses afflicting the local population. "The sneezing doesn't stop when they are fumigating," said Carmona, a stocky 36-year-old mother of two who works at a small grocery store in Jujucato, a village in the heart of avocado land.

In the 15 years that Salvador Sales has been teaching in Jujucato, he has seen his students come down with more and more breathing and stomach problems. "We believe this is caused by the products used to spray the avocado orchards," said Sales, who believes that the wind blows the chemical fumes into the homes of his students.

About 40 percent of the world's avocados are grown in Mexico, and most of those come from the area around Jujucato and Lake Zirahuen. Avocados occupy some 137,000

hectares (340,000 acres) of land in Michoacan, according to state government figures. Half of those orchards were planted in forests after the land was bought through dubious legal means, according to Jaime Navia, head of a rural technology NGO called GIRA. Deforestation is growing at a pace of 2.5 percent per year, according to GIRA.

### Kidney and liver problems

Temperate weather in the region allows for year-round cultivation of avocado, a fruit that originated in Mexico and is loaded with vitamins, proteins and healthy fats. While there is a strong local demand, production has soared along with the avocado's ever-growing international appeal, and forests have paid the price. Experts warn that the chemicals used in mountain orchards may be spilling down into ground water, streams, rivers and lakes, and subsequently causing illnesses among the population. Alberto Gomez Tagle, an expert on the environment in the Lake Zirahuen region, which includes Jujucato, said many communities that rely on the lake water may already be suffering from the effects of chemical runoff. — AFP



**URUAPAN, MICHOCAN, MEXICO:** Picture of avocados taken at an orchard in the municipality of Uruapan, Michoacan State, Mexico, on October 18, 2016.—AFP

## RESEARCH QUANTIFIES GENETIC DAMAGE CAUSED BY SMOKING

**WASHINGTON:** Smoking a pack of cigarettes a day causes an average of 150 mutations a year in lung cells, according to a new study that identifies specific ways smoke exposure damages DNA.

The research, published Thursday in the journal *Science*, analyzes and compares tumors, providing the first accurate measure of the devastating genetic damage smoking inflicts not only in lungs but also in other organs not directly exposed to smoke.

Although it was previously known that smoking contributes to at least 17 types of human cancers, it had remained unclear exactly how cigarettes caused tumors, according to the researchers from Britain's Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the United States. Although they saw the largest number of genetic mutations in lung tissue, other parts of the body also displayed changes in DNA, helping explain how smoking causes various types of cancer. Cigarettes contain more than 7,000 different chemicals, of which 70 are known to be carcinogenic, the researchers said, pointing to the complexity of how smoke interacts with the body. "This study offers fresh insights into how tobacco smoke causes cancer," said Ludmil Alexandrov of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, one of the study's main co-authors. "Before now, we had a large body of epidemiological evidence linking smoking with cancer, but now we can actually observe and quantify the molecular changes in the DNA due to cigarette smoking," he added. "With this study, we have found that people who smoke a pack a day develop an average of 150 extra mutations in their lungs every year, which explains why smokers have such a higher risk of developing lung cancer." In the first comprehensive analysis of the DNA of cancers linked to smoking, the scientists studied more than 5,000 tumors, comparing smokers' cancers with those of people who had never smoked. They found specific molecular features of damage in the smokers' DNA, determined by the number of those mutations in different tumors.

### More than 6 million deaths a year

Although the number of mutations within cancer cells varies between people, the new study identifies the additional "mutational load" tobacco smoking causes. In other affected organs, the study shows smoking a pack a day causes an estimated average of 97 mutations in each cell of the larynx; 39 in the pharynx; 23 in the mouth; 18 in the bladder; and six mutations in every cell of the liver each year.

The research shows at least five distinct ways smoking damages DNA, the most common of which is found in most types of cancer: accelerating the speed of a cellular clock that appears to mutate DNA prematurely.

"Our research indicates that the way tobacco smoking causes cancer is more complex than we thought," Mike Stratton of Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute said. "Indeed, we do not fully understand the underlying causes of many types of cancer," he added, pointing to other known causes, such as obesity. But the new study of smoking-related cancers can help scientists better understand how all cancers develop and, possibly, how they can be prevented, Stratton said. "The genome of every cancer provides a kind of 'archaeological record,'" in the DNA code, reflecting the exposure that causes mutations, he added. —AFP



## ZEBRAFISH OFFERS HOPE FOR SPINAL CORD REPAIR

**WASHINGTON:** The Zebrafish, which can completely regenerate its severed spinal cord, might hold promise for research into tissue repair in humans, researchers said Thursday. Scientists are looking at one protein in particular that is key to this accomplishment in the fish, the researchers said. "This is one of nature's most remarkable feats of regeneration," said the study's senior investigator Kenneth Poss, a professor of cell biology at Duke University.

"Given the limited number of successful therapies available today for repairing lost tissues, we need to look to animals like zebrafish for new clues about how to stimulate regeneration," said Poss, whose study was published in the journal Science.

When the severed spinal cord of the zebrafish undergoes regeneration, a bridge forms. Nerve cells follow and within eight weeks new nerve tissue has plugged the gap, allowing the fish to reverse their paralysis completely, the Poss team reported.

To figure out what is going on, scientists searched for all of the genes whose activity abruptly changed after spinal cord injury. Seven of these were found to code for proteins secreted from cells. One of these proteins, called CTGF-connective tissue growth factor-was intriguing because its levels rose in supporting cells that formed the bridge in the first two weeks following injury.

When the protein was deleted genetically, those fish failed to regenerate. People and zebrafish share many genes, and human CTGF protein is nearly 90 percent similar in its amino acid components to that of zebra fish.

Inserting human CTGF into the injury site in fish helped the regeneration process. "The fish go from paralyzed to swimming in the tank. The effect of the protein is striking," said Mayssa Mokalled, a postdoctoral fellow in Poss's group.

But CTGF alone is probably not enough for people to regenerate their spinal cords, the team said. The process is more complex in mammals, in part because scar tissue forms around an injury. Future studies will look at mice to determine which of their cells express CTGF, the team said. Researchers also plan to look at other proteins involved in the regeneration process in zebrafish.—AFP

## WHY HEALTH CARE EATS MORE OF YOUR PAYCHECK EVERY YEAR

### THE PRICE OF INSURANCE IS GOING UP NEXT YEAR

**NEW YORK:** Millions of Americans are finding out this month that the price of their health insurance is going up next year - as it did this year, last year, and most of the years before that. And it's not just that the price is going up, it's that it goes up faster than wages and inflation, eating away at our ability to pay for other things we want (beer, televisions, vacations) or need (rent, heat, food).

Does it have to be this way? Why does health care grow so much faster than almost any other spending category so consistently? And will it ever stop? "At some point it's not going to be worth it to have less food, less travel in order to spend money on health care," said Louise Sheiner, a health economist at the Brookings Institution. "That's what really stops it."

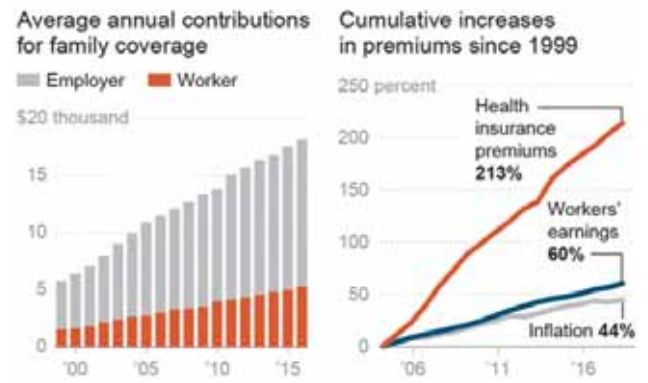
Insurance premiums, which reflect spending on medicines, doctor visits, tests and hospital stays, have climbed 213 percent since 1999 for family coverage purchased through an employer, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies health care. Wages, by comparison, have risen 60 percent, while inflation is up 44 percent. Here's why the price of health care doesn't grow like, say, the price of dishwashers or blue jeans - and why that's unlikely to change anytime soon.

#### It's hard to shop for health care

Insurers and employers have been trying for years to make patients better health care shoppers and force doctors and hospitals to compete on price. They've raised deductibles or out-of-pocket costs on coverage and given tools to patients so they can compare prices and quality. The idea is that patients become more motivated to price shop when they first have to pay several hundred dollars toward the bill due to a high deductible. Many see this push as a key to curbing health care spending, since insurance tends to hide the full cost of care from the patient. This can work ... for small stuff, said Renya Spak of the benefits consultant Mercer. Patients will shop if they need an MRI exam on their shoulder. But Spak isn't convinced it will do much for things like surgeries, when the insurer or employer will wind up covering much of the bill anyway and the best deal might involve travel away from family. "It's not human nature to be rational thinkers about health care cost decisions," she added. "It will never be just like buying a lawn-

#### The rise in health insurance's price

Health insurance premiums for family coverage have risen an average of 213 percent since 1999. That's a faster increase than wages and inflation.



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation

AP

mower." Consumers also prioritize health care purchases over other buying decisions, especially if they have basics like food and shelter covered. You'll have back surgery to alleviate chronic pain before you take that long-awaited trip to Paris. "What good is a better house if you are too sick to enjoy it?" said Charles Roehrig, an economist and vice president of the nonprofit Altarum Institute's Center for Sustainable Health Spending.

#### Technology doesn't help

A carmaker can knock down the cost of making a vehicle by replacing auto workers with robots in parts of the assembly line. Treatment advances in health care are geared more toward making something more effective, not cheaper, noted Paul Fronstin, an economist with the Employee Benefit Research Institute. A device maker may come up with a new hip that improves a patient's quality of life, but it's likely more expensive and the surgery might require the same number of doctors and nurses or more.—AP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



# LEGAL MARIJUANA MAY BE ADDED TO LAS VEGAS' LIST OF VICES

## NOV 8 STATE BALLOT WOULD LEGALIZE POT

**LAS VEGAS:** Nevada already has legal brothels, round-the-clock casinos and a coy catchphrase declaring that "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas." If voters approve, the state could soon add another vice in the form of recreational marijuana.

A proposal on the Nov. 8 state ballot would legalize pot, and entrepreneurs hope its passage could someday allow the drug at Las Vegas' glamorous nightclubs and perhaps provide the framework for a future Amsterdam-style cannabis district.

"I really think this would be the third-largest market in the country," said Derek Peterson, whose company operates medical marijuana dispensaries called Blum. He predicts that only California and New York

would offer a bigger customer base than Las Vegas and its 42 million tourists a year. "I think it should be able to fit in really well with the whole dayclub/nightclub thing."

Nevada has allowed medical marijuana since 2000, and Peterson sees recreational pot as an alternative for visitors tired of cocktails that can top \$15 apiece and inflict hangovers. But before waitresses begin delivering high-grade marijuana at clubs along the Las Vegas Strip, weed proponents will have to win over not just voters, who narrowly support the initiative in polls, but a risk-averse casino industry. The Nevada Resort Association came out against the measure, pointing to an opinion from gambling regulators that casino owners should avoid the

marijuana industry because the substance remains illegal under federal law. Las Vegas Sands owner Sheldon Adelson has bankrolled most of the opposition, pouring \$2 million of his fortune into a campaign that raises the possibility that small children could become intoxicated from candy-like marijuana edibles.

### Adelson's contributions

Adelson also has contributed \$1.5 million in Arizona and Massachusetts, a significant share of all anti-marijuana donations there. Adelson, whose son died of a drug overdose and whose wife is a doctor specializing in drug addiction, has donated millions toward efforts to defeat medical marijuana proposals in Florida and other states in years past.

Other casino operators have joined the fray, but to a lesser extent. In spite of its libertine reputation, the rigorously regulated casino industry is known to err on the conservative side to avoid scandalizing the middle-aged tourists who are its bread and butter. "I don't know that this is a game changer in terms of tourism," Virginia Valentine, president of the Nevada Resort Association, said of marijuana's potential. "We're really known for other things. You may attract people or turn them off." The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, which promotes Sin City's amenities to the world, is neutral on the issue. Clyde Barrow, a gambling expert who chairs the political science department at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, suggests the donations may indicate the casino companies are acting in their own best interests. "The marijuana industry is emerging as another form of recreation and entertainment. Given the casino industry's difficulties attracting millennials, marijuana is probably perceived as a direct competitor with casinos for entertainment dollars," he said. —AP



**LAS VEGAS:** In this, Oct. 27, 2016, photo, a monitor displays different types of marijuana for sale at Blum.—AP

# FORESTS, LOCALS HARMED IN MEXICO'S AVOCADO BOOM

**JUJUCATO, MEXICO:** Liliana Carmona misses the lush pine forest on the hills overlooking her village in western Mexico. She now stares at vast avocado orchards that feed a massive foreign appetite for the green fruit.

Growers have been cutting down swaths of forest to make room for more fruit trees in the state of Michoacan, the world's avocado capital. Experts are now concerned that chemicals used in the orchards could be behind illnesses afflicting the local population. "The sneezing doesn't stop when they are fumigating," said Carmona, a stocky 36-year-old mother of two who works at a small grocery store in Jujucato, a village in the heart of avocado land.

In the 15 years that Salvador Sales has been teaching in Jujucato, he has seen his students come down with more and more breathing and stomach problems. "We believe this is caused by the products used to spray the avocado orchards," said Sales, who believes that the wind blows the chemical fumes into the homes of his students.

About 40 percent of the world's avocados are grown in Mexico, and most of those come from the area around Jujucato and Lake Zirahuén. Avocados occupy some 137,000

hectares (340,000 acres) of land in Michoacan, according to state government figures. Half of those orchards were planted in forests after the land was bought through dubious legal means, according to Jaime Navia, head of a rural technology NGO called GIRA. Deforestation is growing at a pace of 2.5 percent per year, according to GIRA.

### Kidney and liver problems

Temperate weather in the region allows for year-round cultivation of avocado, a fruit that originated in Mexico and is loaded with vitamins, proteins and healthy fats. While there is a strong local demand, production has soared along with the avocado's ever-growing international appeal, and forests have paid the price. Experts warn that the chemicals used in mountain orchards may be spilling down into ground water, streams, rivers and lakes, and subsequently causing illnesses among the population. Alberto Gomez Tagle, an expert on the environment in the Lake Zirahuén region, which includes Jujucato, said many communities that rely on the lake water may already be suffering from the effects of chemical runoff. — AFP



**URUAPAN, MICHOCAN, MEXICO:** Picture of avocados taken at an orchard in the municipality of Uruapan, Michoacan State, Mexico, on October 18, 2016.—AFP

## RESEARCH QUANTIFIES GENETIC DAMAGE CAUSED BY SMOKING

**WASHINGTON:** Smoking a pack of cigarettes a day causes an average of 150 mutations a year in lung cells, according to a new study that identifies specific ways smoke exposure damages DNA.

The research, published Thursday in the journal *Science*, analyzes and compares tumors, providing the first accurate measure of the devastating genetic damage smoking inflicts not only in lungs but also in other organs not directly exposed to smoke.

Although it was previously known that smoking contributes to at least 17 types of human cancers, it had remained unclear exactly how cigarettes caused tumors, according to the researchers from Britain's Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the United States. Although they saw the largest number of genetic mutations in lung tissue, other parts of the body also displayed changes in DNA, helping explain how smoking causes various types of cancer. Cigarettes contain more than 7,000 different chemicals, of which 70 are known to be carcinogenic, the researchers said, pointing to the complexity of how smoke interacts with the body. "This study offers fresh insights into how tobacco smoke causes cancer," said Ludmil Alexandrov of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, one of the study's main co-authors. "Before now, we had a large body of epidemiological evidence linking smoking with cancer, but now we can actually observe and quantify the molecular changes in the DNA due to cigarette smoking," he added. "With this study, we have found that people who smoke a pack a day develop an average of 150 extra mutations in their lungs every year, which explains why smokers have such a higher risk of developing lung cancer." In the first comprehensive analysis of the DNA of cancers linked to smoking, the scientists studied more than 5,000 tumors, comparing smokers' cancers with those of people who had never smoked. They found specific molecular features of damage in the smokers' DNA, determined by the number of those mutations in different tumors.

### More than 6 million deaths a year

Although the number of mutations within cancer cells varies between people, the new study identifies the additional "mutational load" tobacco smoking causes. In other affected organs, the study shows smoking a pack a day causes an estimated average of 97 mutations in each cell of the larynx; 39 in the pharynx; 23 in the mouth; 18 in the bladder; and six mutations in every cell of the liver each year.

The research shows at least five distinct ways smoking damages DNA, the most common of which is found in most types of cancer: accelerating the speed of a cellular clock that appears to mutate DNA prematurely.

"Our research indicates that the way tobacco smoking causes cancer is more complex than we thought," Mike Stratton of Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute said. "Indeed, we do not fully understand the underlying causes of many types of cancer," he added, pointing to other known causes, such as obesity. But the new study of smoking-related cancers can help scientists better understand how all cancers develop and, possibly, how they can be prevented, Stratton said. "The genome of every cancer provides a kind of 'archaeological record,'" in the DNA code, reflecting the exposure that causes mutations, he added. —AFP



## ZEBRAFISH OFFERS HOPE FOR SPINAL CORD REPAIR

**WASHINGTON:** The Zebrafish, which can completely regenerate its severed spinal cord, might hold promise for research into tissue repair in humans, researchers said Thursday. Scientists are looking at one protein in particular that is key to this accomplishment in the fish, the researchers said. "This is one of nature's most remarkable feats of regeneration," said the study's senior investigator Kenneth Poss, a professor of cell biology at Duke University.

"Given the limited number of successful therapies available today for repairing lost tissues, we need to look to animals like zebrafish for new clues about how to stimulate regeneration," said Poss, whose study was published in the journal *Science*.

When the severed spinal cord of the zebrafish undergoes regeneration, a bridge forms. Nerve cells follow and within eight weeks new nerve tissue has plugged the gap, allowing the fish to reverse their paralysis completely, the Poss team reported.

To figure out what is going on, scientists searched for all of the genes whose activity abruptly changed after spinal cord injury. Seven of these were found to code for proteins secreted from cells. One of these proteins, called CTGF-connective tissue growth factor-was intriguing because its levels rose in supporting cells that formed the bridge in the first two weeks following injury.

When the protein was deleted genetically, those fish failed to regenerate. People and zebrafish share many genes, and human CTGF protein is nearly 90 percent similar in its amino acid components to that of zebra fish.

Inserting human CTGF into the injury site in fish helped the regeneration process. "The fish go from paralyzed to swimming in the tank. The effect of the protein is striking," said Mayssa Mokalled, a postdoctoral fellow in Poss's group.

But CTGF alone is probably not enough for people to regenerate their spinal cords, the team said. The process is more complex in mammals, in part because scar tissue forms around an injury. Future studies will look at mice to determine which of their cells express CTGF, the team said. Researchers also plan to look at other proteins involved in the regeneration process in zebrafish.—AFP

## WHY HEALTH CARE EATS MORE OF YOUR PAYCHECK EVERY YEAR

### THE PRICE OF INSURANCE IS GOING UP NEXT YEAR

**NEW YORK:** Millions of Americans are finding out this month that the price of their health insurance is going up next year - as it did this year, last year, and most of the years before that. And it's not just that the price is going up, it's that it goes up faster than wages and inflation, eating away at our ability to pay for other things we want (beer, televisions, vacations) or need (rent, heat, food).

Does it have to be this way? Why does health care grow so much faster than almost any other spending category so consistently? And will it ever stop? "At some point it's not going to be worth it to have less food, less travel in order to spend money on health care," said Louise Sheiner, a health economist at the Brookings Institution. "That's what really stops it."

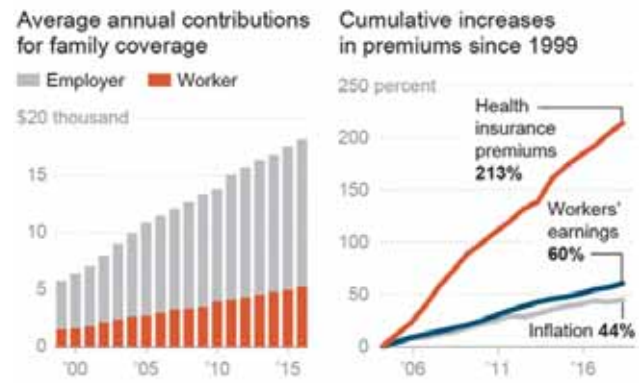
Insurance premiums, which reflect spending on medicines, doctor visits, tests and hospital stays, have climbed 213 percent since 1999 for family coverage purchased through an employer, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies health care. Wages, by comparison, have risen 60 percent, while inflation is up 44 percent. Here's why the price of health care doesn't grow like, say, the price of dishwashers or blue jeans - and why that's unlikely to change anytime soon.

#### It's hard to shop for health care

Insurers and employers have been trying for years to make patients better health care shoppers and force doctors and hospitals to compete on price. They've raised deductibles or out-of-pocket costs on coverage and given tools to patients so they can compare prices and quality. The idea is that patients become more motivated to price shop when they first have to pay several hundred dollars toward the bill due to a high deductible. Many see this push as a key to curbing health care spending, since insurance tends to hide the full cost of care from the patient. This can work ... for small stuff, said Renya Spak of the benefits consultant Mercer. Patients will shop if they need an MRI exam on their shoulder. But Spak isn't convinced it will do much for things like surgeries, when the insurer or employer will wind up covering much of the bill anyway and the best deal might involve travel away from family. "It's not human nature to be rational thinkers about health care cost decisions," she added. "It will never be just like buying a lawn-

#### The rise in health insurance's price

Health insurance premiums for family coverage have risen an average of 213 percent since 1999. That's a faster increase than wages and inflation.



SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation

AP

mower." Consumers also prioritize health care purchases over other buying decisions, especially if they have basics like food and shelter covered. You'll have back surgery to alleviate chronic pain before you take that long-awaited trip to Paris. "What good is a better house if you are too sick to enjoy it?" said Charles Roehrig, an economist and vice president of the nonprofit Altarum Institute's Center for Sustainable Health Spending.

#### Technology doesn't help

A carmaker can knock down the cost of making a vehicle by replacing auto workers with robots in parts of the assembly line. Treatment advances in health care are geared more toward making something more effective, not cheaper, noted Paul Fronstin, an economist with the Employee Benefit Research Institute. A device maker may come up with a new hip that improves a patient's quality of life, but it's likely more expensive and the surgery might require the same number of doctors and nurses or more.—AP

# CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times  
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



Kuwait CINEMA				KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (03/11/2016 TO 09/11/2016)			
<b>SHARQIA-1</b>				FRI+SAT+MON			
AMERICAN PASTORAL	1:15 PM			OUIJA: ORIGIN OF EVIL	4:15 PM		
TROLLS	1:30 PM			SUN+TUE+WED			
AMERICAN PASTORAL	3:30 PM			TROLLS	4:15 PM		
NO THU+FRI+SAT				THU+FRI+SAT+MON			
TROLLS	3:45 PM			TROLLS	6:15 PM		
THU+FRI+SAT				OUIJA: ORIGIN OF EVIL	8:15 PM		
TROLLS	5:45 PM			THE ACCOUNTANT	10:15 PM		
TROLLS	7:45 PM			THE ACCOUNTANT	12:45 AM		
AMERICAN PASTORAL	9:45 PM						
AMERICAN PASTORAL	12:05 AM						
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>				<b>MARINA-2</b>			
DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	12:00 PM			AMERICAN PASTORAL	11:30 AM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	2:30 PM			AMERICAN PASTORAL	1:30 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	5:00 PM			AMERICAN PASTORAL	3:45 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	7:30 PM			AMERICAN PASTORAL	6:00 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	10:00 PM			UNDER THE SHADOW	8:15 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	12:30 AM			UNDER THE SHADOW	10:15 PM		
				UNDER THE SHADOW	12:15 AM		
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>				<b>MARINA-3</b>			
THE ACCOUNTANT	11:30 AM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:00 PM		
UNDER THE SHADOW	2:15 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	2:30 PM		
THE ACCOUNTANT	4:15 PM			TROLLS	5:00 PM		
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	7:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	7:00 PM		
UNDER THE SHADOW	10:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	9:30 PM		
UNDER THE SHADOW	12:15 AM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:05 AM		
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>				<b>AVENUES-1</b>			
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	11:30 AM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:00 PM		
THE ACCOUNTANT	1:45 PM			HAMLET FRAZER	2:30 PM		
THE 9th LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX	4:15 PM			HAMLET FRAZER	5:00 PM		
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	6:30 PM			HAMLET FRAZER	7:30 PM		
THE 9th LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX	9:30 PM			HAMLET FRAZER	10:00 PM		
THE ACCOUNTANT	11:45 PM			LAF WA DAWARAN	12:30 AM		
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>				<b>AVENUES-2</b>			
DOCTOR STRANGE	1:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX	12:30 PM		
NO FRI+SAT				TROLLS - 3D 4DX	3:00 PM		
TROLLS	1:30 PM			TROLLS - 3D 4DX	5:15 PM		
FRI+SAT				TROLLS - 3D 4DX	7:30 PM		
TROLLS	3:30 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX	9:45 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	5:30 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX	12:15 AM		
AMERICAN PASTORAL	8:00 PM						
AMERICAN PASTORAL	10:15 PM			<b>AVENUES-3</b>			
AMERICAN PASTORAL	12:30 AM			THE ACCOUNTANT	1:00 PM		
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>				NO FRI			
DOCTOR STRANGE	12:00 PM			TROLLS	1:30 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	2:30 PM			PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	3:30 PM		
TROLLS - 3D	5:00 PM			PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	6:45 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	7:00 PM			PULI MURUGAN - Malayalam	10:00 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	9:30 PM			OUIJA: ORIGIN OF EVIL	1:15 AM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	12:05 AM			<b>AVENUES-4</b>			
<b>FANAR-1</b>				DOCTOR STRANGE	11:45 AM		
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	11:45 AM			DOCTOR STRANGE	2:15 PM		
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	2:15 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	4:45 PM		
UNDER THE SHADOW	4:45 PM			AMERICAN PASTORAL	7:15 PM		
KILL KANE	6:45 PM			Special Show "DOCTOR STRANGE"	7:15 PM		
HAMLET FRAZER	8:30 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	9:45 PM		
KILL KANE	11:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:15 AM		
UNDER THE SHADOW	12:45 AM			<b>AVENUES-5</b>			
<b>FANAR-2</b>				AMERICAN PASTORAL	12:30 PM		
THE 9th LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX	1:00 PM			AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	2:45 PM		
AMERICAN PASTORAL	3:15 PM			TROLLS - 3D	6:00 PM		
THE 9th LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX	5:30 PM			AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	8:15 PM		
AMERICAN PASTORAL	7:45 PM			AMERICAN PASTORAL	11:30 PM		
THE 9th LIFE OF LOUIS DRAX	10:00 PM			<b>360°- 1</b>			
AMERICAN PASTORAL	12:15 AM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:00 PM		
<b>FANAR-3</b>				DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	2:45 PM		
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	12:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	5:15 PM		
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	3:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE -3D	7:45 PM		
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	6:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	10:15 PM		
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	9:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:45 AM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	12:05 AM			<b>360°- 2</b>			
<b>FANAR-4</b>				LAF WA DAWARAN	1:30 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	12:45 PM			LAF WA DAWARAN	4:00 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	3:00 PM			HAMLET FRAZER	6:30 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	5:30 PM			HAMLET FRAZER	9:00 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	8:00 PM			HAMLET FRAZER	11:30 PM		
DOCTOR STRANGE	10:30 PM			<b>360°- 3</b>			
DOCTOR STRANGE	1:00 AM			UNDER THE SHADOW	1:15 PM		
<b>FANAR-5</b>				UNDER THE SHADOW	3:15 PM		
THE ACCOUNTANT	1:15 PM			UNDER THE SHADOW	5:15 PM		
NO FRI+SAT				UNDER THE SHADOW	7:15 PM		
TROLLS	1:45 PM			UNDER THE SHADOW	9:15 PM		
FRI+SAT				UNDER THE SHADOW	11:15 PM		
TROLLS	3:45 PM			UNDER THE SHADOW	1:15 AM		
TROLLS	5:45 PM			<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>			
TROLLS	7:45 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:00 PM		
THE ACCOUNTANT	9:45 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	2:30 PM		
THE ACCOUNTANT	12:15 AM			DOCTOR STRANGE	5:00 PM		
<b>MARINA-1</b>				DOCTOR STRANGE	7:30 PM		
THE ACCOUNTANT	11:30 AM			DOCTOR STRANGE	10:00 PM		
JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	2:00 PM			DOCTOR STRANGE	12:30 AM		
NO FRI+SAT+MON				<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>			
TROLLS	2:15 PM			AMERICAN PASTORAL	11:45 AM		

Kuwait Times

SITUATION VACANT

**Wanted** educated house-  
maid for Kuwaiti family.  
Transferable 20 visa, mini-  
mum three years experience,  
fluent English reading & writ-  
ing. Phone: 24828333, Fax:  
22458742. (C 5227)  
**3-11-2016**

LOST

**Original** document policy No.  
633003255, Mohammad Abid  
S/o Mirza Mohammad Yousif,  
DV the State Life Insurance  
Corporation of Pakistan, Gulf  
Zone is reported to have been  
lost. Anyone finding the same  
or claiming any interest in it  
should communicate with the  
Manager Kuwait State Life  
office - Ph: 22452208. (C 5226)  
**1-11-2016**

ACCOMMODATION

**Room** for rent with bathroom  
available anytime in Hawally,  
Tunis street, opposite Rehab  
Complex only ladies prefer-  
ably Filipina. Tel: 66168846.  
**2-11-2016**

EMERGENCY

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:

04:42

Shorook

06:03

Duhr:

11:32

Asr:

14:38

Maghrib:

17:00

Isha:

18:51



Hospitals

Sabah Hospital

24812000

Amiri Hospital

22450005

Maternity Hospital

24843100

Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital

25312700

Chest Hospital

24849400

Farwaniya Hospital

24892010

Adan Hospital

23940620

Ibn Sina Hospital

24840300

Al-Razi Hospital

24846000

Physiotherapy Hospital

24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center

25716707

Rawda

22517733

Adaliya

22517144

Khaldiya

24848075

Kaifan

24849807

Shamiya

24848913

Shuwaikh

24814507

Abdullah Salem

22549134

Nuzha

22526804

Industrial Shuwaikh

24814764

Qadsiya

22515088

Dasmah

22532265

Bneid Al-Gar

22531908

Shaab

22518752

Qibla

22459381





DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Saturday 5/11/2016				SVA	500	Jeddah	17:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35			
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40			
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00			
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	KAC	561	Amman	11:20			
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	KAC	679	Muscat	11:25			
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25			
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35			
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	CLX	856	Luxembourg	18:50	JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40			
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05			
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10			
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	104	London	19:00	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10			
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15			
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	IRM	1189	Mashhad	12:20			
JZR	553	Alexandria	01:50	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	FDK	802	Damascus	12:45			
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55			
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	KAC	791	Madinah	13:00			
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00			
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	OSJ	4115	XQC	13:00			
OMA	643	Muscat	02:35	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	AVV	652	Alexandria	13:05			
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	OSJ	4116	XQC	20:00	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10			
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20			
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	KNE	381	Taif	20:10	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00			
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10			
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	SVA	9302	Jeddah	14:30			
KAC	514	Tehran	03:50	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45			
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	KNE	382	Taif	14:55			
DHX	170	Bahrain	04:35	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	SVA	3904	Jeddah	14:55			
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	KNE	536	Jeddah	14:55			
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	174	Munich	20:55	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00			
SYR	341	Damascus	06:00	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00			
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05			
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05			
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05			
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	676	Dubai	21:35	KAC	617	Doha	15:15			
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	8053	Dubai	21:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15			
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30			
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50			
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	564	Amman	22:05	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55			
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00			
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00			
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10			
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15			
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KNE	533	Jeddah	22:45	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20			
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55	KAC	563	Amman	16:30			
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	THY	764	Istanbul	22:55	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50			
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05	RJA	641	Amman	16:55			
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30	KAC	675	Dubai	17:00			
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00			
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10			
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	JAD	301	Amman	23:45	JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15			
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05								QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20								KNE	532	Jeddah	17:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40								UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40								SVA	9308	Jeddah	17:40
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40								IRA	666	Esfahan	18:10
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:10								SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	325	Al Najaf	11:20								JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30								SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
FDK	801	Damascus	11:45								GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50								JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55								QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
AVV	651	Sohag	12:05								JZR	238	Amman	19:15
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00								JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10								SVA	505	Jeddah	19:25
SVA	2502	Jeddah	13:30								MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
SVA	2504	Jeddah	13:55								KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00								GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00								FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KNE	535	Jeddah	14:05								KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05								ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15								CLX	856	Hong Kong	20:20
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20								FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20								UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JZR	779	Jeddah	14:25								JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30								KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50								DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00								KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05								KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05								KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10								KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10								JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35								MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45								OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50								MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
RJA	640	Amman	16:00								QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10								DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15								FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20								ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
KNE	531	Jeddah	16:35								ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
SVA	2508	Jeddah	16:40								KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45								UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55								KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
KAC	562	Amman	16:55								KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	118	New York	17:00								KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05								KAC	1205	Islamabad	23:00
IRA	669	Mashhad	17:10								GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15								ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30								NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30								FDB	8054	Dubai	23:15
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45								KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
KAC	792	Madinah	17:45								QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50								KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
				Airlines	Flt	Route	Time							
				AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05							
				BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10							
				JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10							
				MSR	615	Cairo	00:30							
				FDB	072	Dubai	00:30							
				PIA	240	Sialkot	00:40							
				MSC	416	Sohag	01:05							
				KLM	413	Amsterdam	01:05							
				JZR	502	Luxor	01:15							
				THY	773	Istanbul	01:40							
				DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00							
				SAI	442	Lahore	02:30							
				PGT	859	Istanbul	02:40							
				ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45							
				THY	765	Istanbul	02:45							
				KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55							
				UAE	854	Dubai	03:45							
				OMA	644	Muscat	03:50							
				MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00							
				ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10							
				MSR	613	Cairo	04:15							
				PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30							
				QTR	1077	Doha	04:35							
				OSJ	4115	XQC	05:00							
				AVV	654	Sohag	05:30							
				THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00							
				FEG	934	Sohag	06:00							
				RJA	643	Amman	06:25							
				QTR	1087	Doha	06:30							
				THY	771	Istanbul	06:45							
				GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50							
				SYR	342	Damascus	07:00							
				FDB	070	Dubai	07:05							
				JZR	164	Dubai	07:15							
				JZR	324	Al Najaf	07:55							
				FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55							
				BAW	156	London	08:25							
				FDB	054	Dubai	08:30							
				KAC	173	Munich	08:35							
				KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40							
				JZR	778	Jeddah	08:50							
				SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50							
				KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50							
				KAC	671	Dubai	09:15							
				KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30							
				JZR	534	Cairo	09:30							
				ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45							
				UAE	856	Dubai	09:50							
				KAC	101	London/New York	10:00							



WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Computer Jargon 1

Find and circle all of the computer words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional word.

T P I R C S A V A J L E X I P I G E  
L I A M E M O R Y M M O U S E N I L  
C R A B K S A T X I N U Y H S T F G  
D N D I R E C T O R Y E T A O E O O  
P O W E R S U P P L Y N I R F R L O  
U C O A S A E V A S S C R E T N D G  
K I R O P K T Y P S H R U W W E E L  
C D D E C P R E E A H Y C A A T R M  
A N R I M A L L T D R P E R R E A T  
B O L E N M E I E K E T S E E P H H  
R C K I P R A F C V R I I R S U L M  
E E B E I A R R I A B O O T M B O R  
N S T W R A P R G R T N W B I N G O  
N O O S G N D L O O D I N T I O I S  
A N G M A K A U L A R A O T E A N R  
C A E A S P T L T A I P O N R N D U  
S N F I R E W A L L W R E I K O O C  
T F D P R D H T O O T E U L B Y T E

- APPLICATION  
BACKUP  
BINARY  
BLUETOOTH  
BOOT  
BYTE  
CHAT  
CLICK  
COOKIE  
CURSOR  
DATA
- DEFRAGMENT  
DIRECTORY  
DISK DRIVE  
DOS  
DRAG  
EMAIL  
ENCRYPTION  
FILE  
FIREWALL  
FOLDER  
GIF
- GOOGLE  
HTML  
ICON  
INTERNET  
JAVASCRIPT  
KERNAL  
LCD  
LOGIN  
MEMORY  
MONITOR  
MOUSE
- NANOSECOND  
NETWORK  
PARTITION  
PASTE  
PDF  
PIXEL  
POWER SUPPLY  
PROGRAMMER  
ROUTER  
SAVE AS  
WIRELESS
- SCANNER  
SECURITY  
SHAREWARE  
SOFTWARE  
SPAM  
TASKBAR  
THUMBNAI  
UNIX  
WALLPAPER  
WIRELESS

Yesterday's Solution

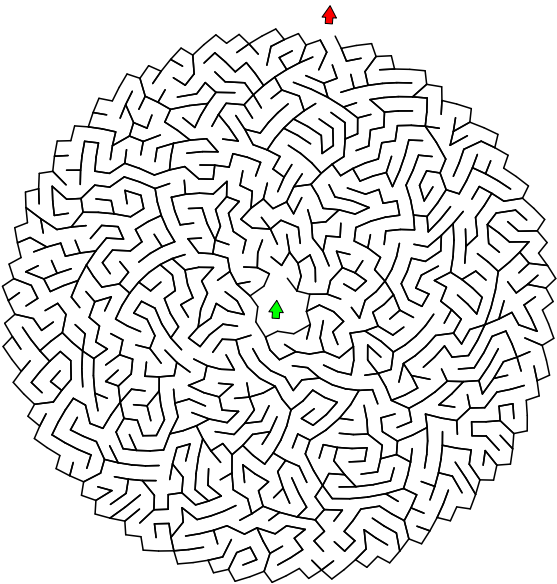
Public Library

A C S E I V O M Y S E N I Z A G A M L I R B  
R S H A V Y G O L O H C Y S P R W E N E R  
Y A R E I R S N L I B R A R Y C A R D C I E  
P E C O E S E L B A T Y A M I Y R I  
O P L R P K S S O U A W O R H O B N H E P  
L L S L A A C C E X N A U I R M T P A O  
A I T R I N P U R N O T Y E U E S O T G  
T E R B I T C S T O A A U N U S R S I O  
A D A T Y A E H W I A M L C A T I N O O T  
C O D P H R H R I E R M S E G O E L N H  
O C U A P F N E C A O N C E C C O E T I H  
E I E P A R H M I L O P H M I E S S H E P  
S E I D E R D N O O N F F M I E T P I B  
L N A R G F I S E L O G R U H D A E N N U O  
V E C T B O E S E N O O E R E L I G T O N E K  
O I T C G I I G E R R A F I C T I O N S  
N E S K A O Y F S S O L H C R A E S E R  
S E V L E H S L A C T D O T R E P R E A D  
I F L I B R A R I A N E B I O G R A P H Y

- APPLIED SCIENCE  
ARTS  
BIOGRAPHY  
BOOKS  
BORROW  
BRANCH  
CATALOG  
CHAIRS  
CHECKOUT  
COMPUTERS  
DICTIONARY  
DUE DATE
- ENCYCLOPEDIA  
FICTION  
GEOGRAPHY  
HARDCOVER  
HISTORY  
INFORMATION  
INTERNET  
LANGUAGES  
LIBRARIAN  
LIBRARY CARD  
LITERATURE
- MAGAZINES  
MATHEMATICS  
MOVIES  
MUSIC  
NEWSPAPERS  
NOVELS  
OVERDUE  
PAPERBACK  
PERIODICALS  
PHILOSOPHY  
PHOTOCOPIER  
PSYCHOLOGY
- QUIET  
READ  
RECREATION  
RELIGION  
RENEW  
RESEARCH  
RESERVE  
SHELVES  
SOCIAL SCIENCES  
TABLES  
TECHNOLOGY

The hidden message is: A LIBRARY IS NOT A LUXURY BUT ONE OF THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1421

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15			16								17		
18			19						20	21			
22			23				24		25				
				26	27	28			29				
30	31	32		33					34			35	36
37							38	39		40	41		
42				43			44				45		
46		47			48					49	50		
51							52		53				
54					55	56							
		57		58					59		60	61	62
63	64					65	66	67		68			
69				70	71	72			73		74		
75				76							77		
78				79							80		

ACROSS

1. A caustic detergent useful for removing grease.  
4. The curve theoretically assumed by a perfectly flexible and inextensible cord of uniform density and cross section hanging freely from two fixed points.  
12. A state-chartered savings bank owned by its depositors and managed by a board of trustees.  
15. A police officer who investigates crimes.  
16. An Old World reptile family of Sauria.  
17. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.  
18. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.  
19. A top worn by women.  
20. Of or relating to or measured in ohms.  
22. A very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk.  
24. Having or caused by an irregular surface.  
26. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).  
29. (of molten metal or glass) Formed by pouring or pressing into a mold n 1.  
30. Rhizomatous herb of India having aromatic seeds used as seasoning.  
34. Used of a single unit or thing.  
37. (zoology) Pertaining to or characteristic of birds.  
40. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).  
42. The act of slowing down or falling behind.  
43. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.  
45. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.  
46. Type genus of the Aridae.  
48. Large lipoproteins rich in triglycerides.  
51. Any seed plant yielding balsam.  
52. Web spinners.  
54. Before noon.  
59. The wife of a sheik.  
63. Jordan's port.  
65. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.  
68. Large swift fly the female of which sucks blood of various animals.  
69. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects.  
70. Narcotic consisting of a tincture of opium or any preparation in which opium is the main ingredient.  
74. A dark-skinned member of a race of people living in Australia when Europeans arrived.  
75. Intentionally so written (used after a printed word or phrase).  
76. Roman general who was governor of Britain and extended Roman rule north to the Firth of Forth (37-93).  
77. The month following February and preceding April.  
78. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.  
79. Shod with sandals.  
80. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A thrusting blow with a knife.  
2. A Russian river.  
3. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.

4. A compartment in front of a motor vehicle where driver sits.  
5. Bright with a steady but subdued shining.  
6. An adherent of any branch of Taoism.  
7. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.  
8. An effortful attempt to attain a goal.  
9. Chief port of Yemen.  
10. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.  
11. Officer in the (ceremonial) bodyguard of the British monarch.  
12. Tropical American bird resembling a blue jay and having greenish and bluish plumage.  
13. A short theatrical episode.  
14. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).  
21. A minor Hebrew prophet (8th century BC).  
23. Tropical starchy tuberous root.  
25. A burn cause by hot liquid or steam.  
27. Wet spongy ground of decomposing vegetation.  
28. A metric unit of length equal to one hundredth of a meter.  
31. Evergreen Indian shrub with vivid yellow flowers whose bark is used in tanning.  
32. Brightest star in Centaurus.  
33. Squash bugs.  
35. Being one more than two.  
36. English monk and scholar (672-735).  
38. A machine or person that adds.  
39. A corporation authorized by Congress to provide a secondary market for residential mortgages.  
41. Port city in northwestern Belgium and industrial center.  
44. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.  
47. Capital of modern Macedonia.  
49. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.  
50. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.  
53. A structure in which one end is counterbalanced by the other (as in a bascule bridge).  
55. A Mid-Atlantic state.  
56. Ticks having a hard shield on the back and mouth parts that project from the head.  
57. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.  
58. East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.  
60. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.  
61. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.  
62. 100 agorot equal 1 shekel.  
64. A hardy cabbage with coarse curly leaves that do not form a head.  
66. Large burrowing rodent of South and Central America.  
67. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.  
71. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).  
72. A large vase that usually has a pedestal or feet.  
73. (informal) Roused to anger..

Yesterday's Solution

H	A	J		P	A	R	G	E	T	R	Y		A	N	S
A	L	A		A	N	A	E	R	O	B	E		D	O	H
I	G	M		B	A	G	N	I	O		A	V	A	H	I
R	A	B	B	I				I	S	L	E		E	N	O
		E	A	R	L	A	P			S	P	R	A	W	L
T	S	A	R			F	A	C	E	T	E	D			
U	T	U	G			F	R		A	R		R	A	D	A
L	E		E	C		O		B	A	D	I	N	A	G	E
I	R	A			E		A	G		H		D	I	A	L
P	O	S	E	I	D	O	N			A	L	I	S	M	A
A	L	S	O		G	R	I	D	D	L	E		Y	A	Y
		A	L	B	E	E		R	E		A	B			
K	O	M	I			O	M	A	H	A		A	L	C	A
I	P	E	C	A	C		A	G	O	R	A		A	A	R
D	A	S		S	P	A	R	E	R	I	B		C	F	C
D	L	E		H	A	C	I	E	N	D	A		K	E	A

Daily SuDoku

4				8				7
	5				7	4		
	7				6		2	
7	9	8						1
	1					9	5	8
	8		6				9	
		3	2				4	
9				7				5

Yesterday's Solution

1	3	4	9	6	5	7	8	2
5	7	9	2	8	3	1	4	6
2	6	8	1	7	4	3	5	9
9	5	7	3	2	1	8	6	4
4	2	3	6	5	8	9	1	7
8	1	6	7	4	9	5	2	3
3	4	5	8	9	2	6	7	1
6	8	1	4	3	7	2	9	5
7	9	2	5	1	6	4	3	8



## JOHNATHAN THURSTON READY FOR N ZEALAND ATTENTION

**LONDON:** Johnathan Thurston returns to Australia action in the Four Nations today expecting to be in the sights of New Zealand. The Kangaroos star was one of a select group of players rested by coach Mal Meninga for a comfortable 54-12 win over outsiders Scotland in Australia's tournament opener last weekend. "I didn't need the rest but he decided not to play a few of the boys and I was one of them," said Thurston, who received several dubious hits during Australia's 26-6 victory in Perth in October. Meninga was especially angry at a late tackle by Jared

Waerea-Hargreaves in that match.

The Sydney Roosters prop is now set to miss Saturday's match in the English Midlands city of Coventry through injury, but Thurston is braced for another physical encounter.

"I'm expecting it to be nice and tough," he said. "We played them before we came over here and they got hold of me a couple of times and no doubt it won't be any different.

"I might have to try and give them one back but I don't think I'm big enough." New Zealand assistant coach Willie Poching said his side had to

deny Thurston time and space if they were to avoid a third loss to Australia in 2016. "We've got to be good defensively," Poching said. "He showed some of his quality in Perth, so we've got to be on our guard for everything that he throws at us."

Poching added that the Kiwis, who last week beat England 17-16, had improved since their last clash with the Kangaroos. "We've grown since the Test in Perth," he said. "We know a bit more about ourselves. We've had a really good training week, now it's about continually growing and being

better than we were last week." And Thurston warned Australia would have their work cut out in trying to regain the world number one ranking and the Four Nations title off their trans-Tasman rivals.

"The Kiwis are always strong in these types of tournament and the more games they play together the better they get," he said. "People may forget that they're the holders but I haven't forgot. They're also the number one ranked team in world rugby league and that's a title that we'd like to get back." —AFP

HALFPENNY REVELS  
IN RETURN TO WALES

**CARDIFF:** When Leigh Halfpenny went down clutching his knee in agony in a pre-World Cup warm-up match last year, there was a collective sigh of despair throughout Wales. The goal-kicking full-back's chance of starring at rugby union's showpiece competition went up in smoke against Italy, Halfpenny having to undergo operations on his knee that left his club Toulon's owner Mourad Boudjellal fuming.

But Halfpenny, Welsh rugby's third highest points scorer after Neil Jenkins and Stephen Jones, is now back for Wales for the first time in 14 months, having made his return in Toulon colours in last season's Top 14 semi-finals. "I'm just absolutely delighted to hear my name read out to start against Australia, I'm just over the moon to be playing after such a long spell away," Halfpenny said ahead of Saturday's one-off Test against the Wallabies in Cardiff.

"I've missed it, I've missed it a heck of a lot. I can't wait for Saturday. "Just that feeling you get when you put that red jersey on with your teammates and run out into that Principality Stadium, there is no feeling like it. I can't wait for that again."

Halfpenny added that his absence from the international scene had felt "like a long time out", but that the coaching staff had kept the former Cardiff Blues player in the loop.

"During the injury period last season, the Welsh staff were amazing in having me back, during Christmas and again during the Six Nations," he said. "It was great to be back amongst the boys and work with the medical staff here, who were extremely helpful in my recovery. "It was good to have that change in environment and be back in home in Wales to see family and things like which helped as well after being away for a while," said the full-back who signed for big-spending Toulon in 2014 after being named man-of-the-series in the winning British and Irish Lions tour of Australia in 2013.

Halfpenny insisted that his time off the paddock had been well spent. "When you are injured, you want to use that time to improve on all aspects of your game, especially when you are out for such a lengthy period," the 27-year-old said.

"You get a lot of time to work on your skills and other aspects of your game. Each week when I played I felt the knee was getting better, pushing off wasn't the same as before but the surgeon told me that would be the case, now it is feeling normal again."

There have been many rumours about Halfpenny's future at Toulon, amid further discussions about Boudjellal's future.

But the full-back was full of praise for Toulon.

"That buzz, that feel from the stadium, the atmosphere is as close to international level as you get," he said of Toulon's famed Stade Mayol. "It gives you a huge lift. When you come off the bus, you go through that tunnel of the crowd, which is awesome, then there's a real buzz when you get into the Stade Mayol. But obviously going into the Principality Stadium, you get that even more!"

Halfpenny will be up against one of the most athletics and free-running opponents in Israel Folau, a player he described as "quality". "He's very dangerous with ball in hand, very good in the air," he said. "They've got quality across the park, we need to do everything right, be at our best in defence, execute our roles. "So many times against Australia we've lost the game in the last minute, we need to learn from those. We have to execute our roles in both attack and defence." Indeed Wales are on an 11-match losing streak to Australia, but forwards coach Rob McBryde insisted that that statistic "hasn't even entered our minds". "It's a different group of players on both sides," the former Wales hooker said. — AFP



**BAMIYAN:** Afghan and international marathon runners take part in a marathon on a course that took them past the destroyed Buddha statues in Bamiyan province yesterday. Female athletes wearing headscarves raced against a backdrop of russet-hued mountains, more for the taste of freedom than the feat of winning Bamiyan's international marathon, Afghanistan's only mixed-gender sporting event. — AFP

MARATHON IN BAMIYAN A SYMBOL  
OF FREEDOM FOR AFGHAN WOMEN

**BAMIYAN:** Female athletes wearing headscarves raced Friday against a backdrop of russet-hued mountains, more for the taste of freedom than the feat of winning Bamiyan's international marathon, Afghanistan's only mixed-gender sporting event.

Braving the autumn chill and defying convention, the 15 women-including six Afghans and an Iranian-rubbed shoulders with male athletes, starting the marathon at the base of cliffs that once sheltered giant Buddha statues, blown up by the Taliban in 2001. They ran in flowing white shirts, but even these felt unusually free:

Nilofar, a 21-year-old medical student from Mazar-i-Sharif, said she usually trains in leggings and a dress that goes down past her knees.

"Running gives me freedom," she said. More than 100 runners in total, both Afghan and foreigner, participated in the marathon, a 42-kilometre loop that started and ended at the base of the world famous Buddha caves.

The race, organised for the second consecutive year by two Englishmen-James Bingham and James Willcox-does not simply represent a rare sporting success in conflict-torn Afghanistan.

It also stands as a metaphor of freedom in a conservative Islamic country



**BAMIYAN:** Afghan runner Nilufer, 21, gestures as she speaks during interview with AFP ahead of a marathon. — AFP

where running in public is widely seen as nothing short of a subversive act for women. Bamiyan, perched in Afghanistan's central highlands, is a rare oasis of tranquility which has largely been spared the wrenching conflict that afflicts the rest of the country.

It is a perfect venue where athletes such as Nilofar can run freely. "In Mazar-i-Sharif, I train in parks with permission of the governor who supports us. I cannot run in the streets," said Nilofar. Other female runners face similar restrictions, such as 18-year-old Samana, who can normally only run in her Kabul neighbourhood before daybreak when the

area is secluded. But Nilofar, who participated in a race in Kabul in the summer of 2015, recalls being harassed there. "We were four girls, passers-by kept bothering and harassing us, and cars kept coming in our way. Women who run in public are deemed crazy," she said. "Fortunately, two Afghan male runners came to our rescue and stayed close to us." The female athletes faced no harassment in Bamiyan-running freely along a picturesque route as they passed by puzzled but friendly farmers and livestock occasionally blocking the way.

## RUNNING 'FULL OF RISKS'

"Running is full of risks-sometimes we get beaten up. People are not used to seeing women running, but I have to keep going in order to pave the way for other women," said Kubra, another young athlete from Kabul. "In about two or three years, people will get used to seeing us women running." Kubra was encouraged to participate in the marathon by Cornelia Schneider from "Free To Run", an organisation which helps women and girls in conflict-affected areas. On the marathon trail, Kubra ran alongside Martin Parnell, a Canadian star in his 60s well-known for record-breaking feats including running 250 marathons in one year. — AFP



## FIA WRONG ON TWO COUNTS WITH VETTEL, SAYS HERBERT

**LONDON:** Formula One's governing body got it wrong twice over with Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel at last weekend's Mexican Grand Prix, according to former race winner and television pundit Johnny Herbert.

Stewards promoted and demoted the German to and from the podium after he tangled with Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Daniel Ricciardo, and then let him off for hurling abuse at race director Charlie Whiting over the radio.

Herbert told Reuters that, while he welcomed the airing of communications between driver and team as an insight into the stresses of racing, Vettel's swearing at Whiting had gone too far.

"The worst thing was the stuff directly at Charlie. I thought that was out of order and something should have been done about that one. It's a step too far," said the Briton.

Herbert, who won three grands prix between 1989 and 2000 and was Michael Schumacher's team mate at Benetton in 1994 and 1995, said a race ban would have been too hard but a grid penalty or fine could

have been imposed.

The FIA said on Tuesday that its president Jean Todt had decided, "on an exceptional basis", not to take disciplinary action against the four-times world champion after he apologised.

"You are hearing a frustrated Sebastian Vettel coming out with all this stuff and we want to hear it. But you know you've got to be sometimes careful with what you say and how you say it," said Herbert.

"We heard it, it was directed at Charlie in a very rude manner which is unacceptable. He should have got something. He got off scot-free."

Vettel finished fourth on the road in Mexico but was promoted to the podium after Verstappen was demoted to fifth for gaining an advantage by going off the track while defending against the Ferrari driver. The Dutchman had refused to cede position to the German on the track, triggering the expletive-laden rant by Vettel who then clashed with Verstappen's team mate Ricciardo.

After a stewards' investigation, Vettel was then

handed a penalty that demoted him to fifth for a dangerous move while defending his position, elevating Ricciardo to third and Verstappen to fourth.

Herbert felt that penalty was another wrong decision. "I'm surprised he (Vettel) got something for that. That's what I want to see, was there anything wrong with it? It was a squeeze, there wasn't anything wrong with it," he said.

"I'm 'let them race, let them get on with it'."

Speaking at Blackwell's Holborn bookshop in London, where he

was promoting his autobiography 'What Doesn't Kill you...', Herbert also said something had to be done to ensure drivers kept within the track limits.

"I remember when I was racing, I would try and take a little bit of the track if I knew I could get away with it," he said.

"I'm still of the thinking that track limits are track limits. Full stop. Whatever the argument I keep hearing from people, there is always a gain (by going off the track)." — Reuters

# DURANT TOO GOOD FOR EX-TEAM AS WARRIORS DEFEAT THUNDER

**OAKLAND:** Kevin Durant matched his career high with seven 3-pointers and scored 39 points, coolly knocking down long jumpers while thoroughly embarrassing Russell Westbrook and his old Oklahoma City team in Golden State's 122-96 rout of the Thunder on Thursday night. This rematch of the Western Conference Finals won by the Warriors in seven games quickly turned into the KD show at sold-out Oracle Arena, where OKC (4-1) took its first loss to leave LeBron James and the champion Cavaliers as the league's lone unbeaten team. So much for this one being just like any other game for Durant. Even he knew it would certainly mean more once the ball was tipped, a matchup circled on calendars everywhere from the moment he joined the Warriors in July. Westbrook was held to 20 points - yes, that's right - after coming in as the NBA's leading scorer averaging 37.8 points. Stephen Curry added 21 points and seven assists while Klay Thompson emerged from his 3 point funk to make four from long range on the way to 18 points in the Warriors' fourth straight win.

### CAVALIERS 128, CELTICS 122

LeBron James scored a season-high 30 points and the reigning NBA champion

Cavaliers stayed undefeated, beating the Celtics. James moved within two points of passing Hakeem Olajuwon for 10th place on the NBA's alltime scoring list. Olajuwon had 26,946 points, a total James will likely surpass Saturday night in Philadelphia. The Cavaliers are 5-0 for the first time since 1976-77 when they started 8-0. Kevin Love scored 26 points, also a season high, while Kyrie Irving added 23 for the Cavaliers. Tristan Thompson recorded a double-double in the first half, finishing with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Isaiah Thomas scored 30 points and Avery Bradley had 26 for the Celtics, who played without two starters, center Al Horford (concussion) and forward Jae Crowder (sprained left ankle).

### BUCKS 125, PACERS 106

Giannis Antetokounmpo and Jabari Parker each had 27 points to lead the Bucks past the Pacers.

Paul George scored 23 points, reserve C.J. Miles added 19, Jeff Teague had 16 and Myles Turner 15, but it wasn't enough as the Pacers slipped to 0-3 on the road. When Parker hit from in close and then from beyond the arc to open the fourth quarter, it looked like the Bucks would coast to their third win of the season. Indiana had other ideas and closed



**OAKLAND:** James Michael McAdoo #20 of the Golden State Warriors looks to pass the ball against Semaj Christon #6 and Kyle Singler #15 of the Oklahoma City Thunder at ORACLE Arena on Thursday in Oakland, California. —AFP

with a flurry led by George who hit a 3-pointer with 9:28 to go, cutting the deficit to 95-82. When Turner made two free throws and Thaddeus Young hit a basket, the Bucks' lead was nine.

### MAGIC 102, KINGS 94

Evan Fournier scored 29 points and Serge Ibaka added 17 to lead the Magic to a victory over the Kings. In one of their better offensive games this season, the Magic had five players score in double figures with Aaron Gordon contributing a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds, while reserve Jeff Green scored 15 points. The Magic (2-3) won back-to-back games for the first time this season as they returned home from a three-game trip. DeMarcus Cousins led all scorers with 33 points, while Rudy Gay added 16 for the Kings

(2-4), who have lost three straight on their current five-game road swing.

### NUGGETS 102, TIMBERWOLVES 99

Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points and Jusuf Nurkic added 18 to help the Nuggets outlast the Timberwolves. Wilson Chandler added 19 points to lead an impressive performance by Denver's second unit to erase a 15-point second-quarter deficit. The Nuggets outscored Minnesota 45-23 off the bench and shot 48 percent for their second win of the season. Karl-Anthony Towns had 32 points and 14 rebounds and Andrew Wiggins scored 25 for the Timberwolves, who gave away a lead of at least 15 points for the third time in four games this season. Nemanja Bjelica scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter, but his 3-pointer at the buzzer went in and out. — AP

## NBA RESULTS/STANDINGS

Orlando 102, Sacramento 94; Milwaukee 125, Indiana 107; Denver 102, Minnesota 99; Cleveland 128, Boston 122.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	PCT	GB						
Toronto	3	1	.750	-	Oklahoma City	4	1	.800	-
Boston	3	2	.600	0.5	Utah	3	2	.600	1
Brooklyn	2	3	.400	1.5	Denver	2	2	.500	1.5
NY Knicks	1	3	.250	2	Portland	2	3	.400	2
Philadelphia	0	4	0	3	Minnesota	1	3	.250	2.5
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	5	0	1.000	-	Golden State	4	1	.800	-
Chicago	3	1	.750	1.5	LA Clippers	3	1	.750	0.5
Detroit	3	2	.600	2	LA Lakers	2	3	.400	2
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	2	Sacramento	2	4	.333	2.5
Indiana	2	3	.400	3	Phoenix	1	4	.200	3
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	3	1	.750	-	San Antonio	4	1	.800	-
Charlotte	3	1	.750	-	Houston	3	2	.600	1
Miami	2	2	.500	1	Memphis	3	2	.600	1
Orlando	2	3	.400	1.5	Dallas	0	4	0	3.5
Washington	0	3	0	2.5	New Orleans	0	5	0	4



## WINDIES DEFEAT A 'WAKE-UP CALL' FOR PAKISTAN

**SHARJAH:** Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur said his team had been given a wake-up call for their tours of New Zealand and Australia after they became the West Indies' first Test victims in 18 months.

Pakistan had already clinched the series by winning the first two Tests, but Kraigg Brathwaite's heroics earned a much-needed consolation victory for the West Indies.

"It is a wake-up call," Arthur told AFP. "Hopefully that gives the shock to the players they needed before our tough tours to New Zealand and Australia." West Indies won the third and final Test by five wickets in Sharjah on Thursday

after they dismissed Pakistan for below-par totals of 282 and 208. Brathwaite guided his team to their first victory in 14 Tests as he became the first opener in Test history to carry his bat in both innings, compiling unbeaten scores of 142 and 60.

Pakistan will now play two Tests in New Zealand, the first in Christchurch starting from November 17 and the second in Hamilton from November 25. Pakistan then move on to Australia for a three-Test series, starting with a day-night match in Brisbane from December 15. "It's a good wake-up call and just says that if you're off your discipline in interna-

tional cricket at any time you can be beaten," said Arthur, who took over in May.

"We certainly took the pedal off the accelerator in this game and were below in standards and intensity," he added.

Arthur also warned Pakistan could expect a tough tour, starting with New Zealand who will look to hit back hard after being routed 3-0 in India last month.

"Any team in their conditions is extremely hard to play," said Arthur. "If you look around the international cricket at the moment there is no easy bait in their own conditions so it's going to be five tough matches for us." —AFP



**PERTH:** File photo taken on January 11, 2013 shows Australian batsman Phillip Hughes playing a shot on his way to a century (100 runs) during the first one-day international between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.— AFP

## AUSSIES PLAY DOWN SLEDGING PROBLEM AFTER HUGHES INQUEST

**PERTH:** Former Australia captain Mark Taylor and other senior figures yesterday insisted verbal abuse is not a big problem after a coroner examining Phillip Hughes's death called it cricket's "ugly underside".

Hughes, who played 26 Tests, died from bleeding on the brain in November 2014 after being hit on the neck by a rising ball while batting in a domestic match at the Sydney Cricket Ground. During his inquest, concerns were raised by Hughes' family about on-field sledging, or abuse, which they felt may have unsettled him. On Friday, New South Wales coroner Michael Barnes said even if there had been attempts to intimidate players, Hughes did not appear to be affected and it "could not be implicated in his death".

But Barnes called sledging an "unsavoury aspect" of cricket, adding: "An outsider is left to wonder why such a beautiful game would need such an ugly underside." The hearing heard claims that one bowler told him, "I am going to kill you", although players on the field said they did not recall any such comment. Taylor said he didn't think sledging was a major problem in cricket, but he urged umpires to crack down if they thought players were going too far. "I don't think we have," he said in Perth, where Australia are playing South Africa, when asked if cricket had a sledging problem. "The game needs a competitive edge to it, but it doesn't need a lot of rubbish talk either. If something positive does come out of this, it will be a reduction in the idle chat.

"Sledging is something that has always been talked about regularly, but the umpires should step in if they think it is over the top." Cricket Australia chief James Sutherland agreed it was down to the umpires to stamp out backchat if it was becoming too much. "If it has become a problem, then I would say the umpires are not doing their job," he said, adding that he did not see it as a problem. "I come back to the fundamentals-the game should still be played in the right spirit and for the sake of clarity, there's codes of behaviour that are in place that deal with inappropriate behaviour. "When that line is crossed, people should pay the price for crossing that line and I can only encourage the umpires and relevant officials to take action when it is appropriate." Former Australian Test opener Chris Rogers said he believed there was less sledging in the modern game, particularly in England where he feels umpires are less tolerant. —AFP

## SOUTH AFRICA PRODUCES REMARKABLE FIGHTBACK

**PERTH:** South Africa overcame the loss of star paceman Dale Steyn to another shoulder injury to produce a stunning comeback on the second day of the opening Test against Australia in Perth yesterday.

In reply to South Africa's 242, Australia were cruising at 158 for none early on day two, but then lost all 10 wickets for just 86 runs to lead by only two after the first innings. At stumps on the second day, the visitors were 104 for two, an overall lead of 102 and arguably in the favoured position in the match, which seemed unthinkable 24 hours earlier.

Dean Elgar was on 46 and JP Duminy was on 34. The pair had added 59 after the Proteas lost two early second innings wickets, but their remarkable fightback was soured by news that Steyn would miss the remainder of the series.

Steyn left the field for scans on his troublesome right shoulder before lunch, just after claiming the wicket of Australian opener David Warner for 97, and did not return for the remainder of the innings. The 33-year-old broke the same shoulder late last year and missed several months of cricket, and it was confirmed late in the day he had a crack in a bone and would not take further part in the three-Test series. He pulled up sore after the fourth ball of his 13th over, having been by far the most menacing of the South African bowlers to that stage. With 417 Test wickets, Steyn is just four shy of Shaun Pollock's record haul for South Africa.

In his absence, Vernon Philander (4-56), Kagiso Rabada (2-78) and debutant spinner Keshav Maharaj (3-56) exposed the home side's batting frailty. Australia, who were in total control before Warner fell, then lost four wickets for just 23 runs.

Warner has 768 runs in Tests in Perth at 96 apiece and his opening partnership with Shaun Marsh (63) was a record for Australia against the Proteas at the ground.

The dashing left-hander appeared certain to score his fourth Test century at the venue, but was caught at first slip by Hashim Amla and his dismissal sparked a remarkable period of play.

Just eight runs later, Steyn left the field mid-over, after appearing to reinjure his troublesome right shoulder in an around-the-wicket delivery to Usman Khawaja.

One run later, Khawaja joined Warner back in the pavilion when he was clean-bowled by young paceman Rabada for four. South African hopes were further boosted when Australian captain Steve Smith was the victim of a highly contentious lbw decision for a duck. Smith advanced well down the wicket to Maharaj and was struck on the knee roll.

He was visibly shocked to be adjudged out by veteran umpire Aleem Dar, who has already made a number of controversial decisions in the match. The Australian skipper called for a decision review, which showed the ball just clipping the outside of the stumps, which is out under new rules introduced recently.

Marsh was then the fourth Australian to fall, trapped lbw by Philander for 63.

He failed to get the decision overturned and cost his side their second and last decision review, a move which came back to haunt them when Peter Nevill (23) appeared to be incorrectly given out caught by umpire Dar. — AFP



**PERTH:** South Africa's Jean-Paul Duminy ducks a wild ballon the second day of play during their cricket test match against Australia in Perth, Australia, yesterday. — AP

### SCOREBOARD

**PERTH, Australia:** Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between Australia and South Africa at the WACA Ground on yesterday.

**South Africa first innings 242**

**Second innings**

S. Cook c S Marsh b Siddle	12
D. Elgar not out	46
H. Amla b Hazlewood	1
JP. Duminy not out	34
Extras (lb5, w5, nb1)	11
Total (two wickets, 40 overs)	104

Fall of wickets: 1-35 (Cook), 2-45 (Amla)

Bowling: Starc 9-4-18-0, Hazlewood 10-2-31-1 (1nb), Siddle 8-4-12-1, Marsh 4-1-11-0 (5w), Lyon 9-2-27-0

**Australia first innings**

D. Warner c Amla b Steyn	97
S. Marsh lbw b Philander	63
U. Khawaja b Rabada	4
S. Smith lbw b Maharaj	0
A. Voges c and b Rabada	27
M. Marsh lbw b Philander	0
P. Nevill c Amla b Maharaj	23
M. Starc c du Plessis b Maharaj	0
P. Siddle not out	18
J. Hazlewood c Duminy b Philander	4
N. Lyon c Elgar b Philander	0
Extras (lb3, nb5)	8
Total (all out, 70.2 overs)	244

Fall of wickets: 1-158 (Warner), 2-167 (Khawaja), 3-168 (Smith), 4-181 (S Marsh), 5-181 (M Marsh), 6-202 (Voges), 7-203 (Starc), 8-232 (Nevill), 9-243 (Hazlewood), 10-244 (Lyon).

Bowling: Steyn 12.4-3-51-1, Philander 19.2-2-56-4 (3nb), Rabada 20-1-78-2 (2nb), Maharaj 18.2-5-56.



# HAYES SCORES IN 10TH ROUND OF SO, BRUINS TOP LIGHTNING

**TAMPA:** Jimmy Hayes scored in the 10th round of a shootout, Tuukka Rask won his sixth straight game to start the season and the Boston Bruins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-3 on Thursday night. Tampa Bay's Brayden Point and Boston's Riley Nash both scored in the fourth round, but Rask and Andrei Vasilevskiy were strong during the shootout as Boston won 2-1. Brandon Carlo, Ryan Spooner and David Pastrnak scored in regulation for the Bruins, who finished a 3-1 road trip. The Lightning got two goals from Tyler Johnson. Victor Hedman had the other Tampa Bay goal in the team's first home game since a 3-3 trip.

### CAPITALS 4, JETS 3, OT

Alex Ovechkin scored his second goal of the game in overtime, and Washington blew a three-goal lead in the third period but regrouped to beat Winnipeg for its fourth consecutive victory. The Capitals took a 3-0 lead on goals by Nicklas Backstrom, Ovechkin and T.J. Oshie, only to see it evaporate. Tobias Enstrom, Adam Lowry and Marko Dano scored in a 9-minute span for the Jets to tie it. It was the third time in 11 games this season Winnipeg overcame a three-goal deficit in the third period to force overtime. Braden Holtby stopped 24 shots to beat the Jets for the second time in three days. Winnipeg starter Michael Hutchinson made 28 saves.

### RANGERS 5, OILERS 3

Rick Nash scored the tiebreaking goal with 1:21 remaining to lead New York over Western Conference-leading Edmonton. Nick Holden took a shot from the point that was blocked by Edmonton's Milan Lucic. Nash corralled the loose puck in front of the net and fired it past Oilers goalie Cam Talbot. Kevin Hayes had a goal and two assists, Michael Grabner and J.T. Miller each had a goal and an assist, and Jesper Fast also scored for the Rangers, who rallied from three one-goal deficits and won for the sixth time in seven games. Holden had two assists and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 21 shots. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Patrick Maroon and Adam Larsson scored for the Oilers, who lost their third straight (0-2-1) after starting the season 7-1-0. Talbot made 26 saves in his first game against the Rangers since being traded to Edmonton on June 27, 2015.

### BLACKHAWKS 4, AVALANCHE 0

Corey Crawford made 38 saves for his second shutout in three games, leading Chicago past Colorado for its fourth straight victory. Marian Hossa had two goals, Jonathan Toews also scored and the Blackhawks killed off three more penalties to run their streak to 12 after an awful start to the season for their penalty-killers. Artemi Panarin added his fifth of the season off a slick pass from Patrick Kane in the third, closing out Chicago's seventh win in nine games overall. Semyon Varlamov made 17 saves for the Avalanche, who have dropped four of five.

### STARS 6, BLUES 2

Tyler Seguin assisted on Dallas' first four goals against St. Louis. Seguin's four assists tied his career high. He had scored three of Dallas' six goals in the previous five games. John Klingberg had two goals for the Stars, including an empty-netter. Patrick Eaves, Stephen Johns, Jason Spezza and Jordie Benn also scored for Dallas. Jamie Benn had three



**NEW YORK:** Anton Lander #51 of the Edmonton Oilers is checked by Ryan McDonagh #27 of the New York Rangers during the third period at Madison Square Garden on Thursday in New York City. The Rangers defeated the Oilers 5-3. — AFP

assists. Paul Stastny and captain Alex Pietrangelo scored for St. Louis. Stars goalie Antti Niemi made 28 saves. Jake Allen had 21 for the Blues.

### MAPLE LEAFS 2, SABRES 1

Mitchell Marner scored two goals and Toronto defeated Buffalo for its first road victory of the season. Frederik Andersen made 42 saves for the Maple Leafs, who have won two straight and improved to 1-3-3 on the road. They also ended an eight-game winless streak in Buffalo. Marner, a 19-year-old rookie, scored for the first time since Oct. 15 and had his first two-goal game. Marcus Foligno scored for the Sabres, and Robin Lehner made 27 saves.

Buffalo had a four game winning streak snapped.

### FLYERS 3, ISLANDERS 2, SO

Claude Giroux scored the only goal in the shootout to lift Philadelphia over New York. Travis Konecny and Matt Read had goals for the Flyers, who improved to 6-5-1 with their third straight victory. Dennis Seidenberg and John Tavares scored for the Islanders, and Jaroslav Halak stopped 40 of 42 shots. Michal Neuvirth made 25 saves for the Flyers.

### PANTHERS 4, DEVILS 3, OT

Vincent Trocheck scored two goals, including the game-winner in overtime, to give

Florida a victory over New Jersey. Trocheck poked in a rebound past Cory Schneider with 43.4 seconds left in overtime. Denis Malgin and Aaron Ekblad also scored for the Panthers, and James Reimer made 33 saves. Reimer started in place of Roberto Luongo, who has lost his last three starts. Pavel Zacha, PA Parenteau and Travis Zajac scored for the Devils. Schneider stopped 25 shots. Zacha tied the score 3-all with 3:55 left in the third period, his first NHL goal.

### SENATORS 1, CANUCKS 0

Mike Condon made 27 saves in his Ottawa debut, and Vancouver was shut out for the fourth time in five games. Mike Hoffman scored for the Senators. Jacob Markstrom made 23 saves for the Canucks, who have lost seven straight (0-6-1). Ottawa made the most of a giveaway by Erik Gudbranson at the 14-minute mark of the second period as Markstrom tried to play the loose puck, but instead left a wide-open net for Hoffman. Condon, acquired from Pittsburgh for a 2017 fifth-round draft pick, arrived in Ottawa on Wednesday after a long day of travel from Los Angeles.

### KINGS 3, PENGUINS 2, OT

Nic Dowd scored 2:37 into overtime, and Los Angeles snapped a three-game skid with a victory over Pittsburgh. Trevor Lewis and Matt Greene scored slump-busting goals and Peter Budaj made 21 saves in a strong bounce-back effort for the Kings, who had been shut out in three consecutive games before they beat the defending Stanley Cup champions. Sidney Crosby scored two goals for Pittsburgh, giving him six in five games to start his season. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 24 shots for the Penguins, whose four-game winning streak ended. The Kings started overtime with a power play, but Pittsburgh easily killed it. Dowd then got in alone on Fleury and roofed a backhand for his second NHL goal. Los Angeles is 5-0-0 in extra-time games and 0-6-0 in regulation this season.

### FLAMES 3, SHARKS 2

Matthew Tkachuk had his first two-goal game, including the game-winner with 4:21 to play, and Calgary handed San Jose its first home loss of the season. Troy Brouwer and Tkachuk scored in a 93-second span late in the second period as the Flames ended a two-game slide. Brent Burns and Melker Karlsson scored for the Sharks, who were the last NHL team to lose at home. Chad Johnson stopped 26 of 28 shots in his fourth appearance for the Sharks.

### COYOTES 3, PREDATORS 2, SO

Anthony Duclair and Radim Vrbata scored in the shootout, and Louis Domingue stopped 35 shots plus two more in the tiebreaker to lead Arizona over Nashville. Duclair and rookie Christian Dvorak scored in regulation for the Coyotes, who won for the third time in four games after a 1-5 start. Matt Irwin and Craig Smith had the goals for Nashville. The Predators lost four of five games on a West Coast road trip that ended in Arizona, though they earned two overtime points. Domingue saved shots by Filip Forsberg and Ryan Johansen in the shootout. Duclair made it 2-all with his first goal of the season, at 5:48 of the third period. — AP

## NHL RESULTS/STANDINGS

Toronto 2, Buffalo 1; Philadelphia 3, NY Islanders 2 (SO); NY Rangers 5, Edmonton 3; Washington 4, Winnipeg 3 (OT); Ottawa 1, Vancouver 0; Boston 4, Tampa Bay 3 (SO); Florida 4, New Jersey 3 (OT); Chicago 4, Colorado 0; Dallas 6, St. Louis 2; Arizona 3, Nashville 2 (SO); Los Angeles 3, Pittsburgh 2 (OT); Calgary 3, San Jose 2.

Western Conference							Eastern Conference						
Central Division							Atlantic Division						
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS							
Chicago	7	3	1	40	28	15	Montreal	9	0	1	34	14	19
Minnesota	6	3	1	33	21	13	Ottawa	7	3	0	28	26	14
St. Louis	5	4	2	24	32	12	Detroit	6	4	1	31	28	13
Dallas	4	4	2	26	31	10	Tampa Bay	6	4	1	36	34	13
Winnipeg	4	6	1	27	33	9	Boston	6	4	0	24	27	12
Colorado	4	5	0	20	28	8	Florida	5	5	1	30	28	11
Nashville	3	5	2	26	32	8	Toronto	4	4	3	31	38	11
							Buffalo	4	4	2	23	24	10
Pacific Division							Metropolitan Division						
Edmonton	7	3	1	34	27	15	NY Rangers	8	3	0	45	25	16
San Jose	6	5	0	27	27	12	Pittsburgh	7	2	2	32	31	16
Calgary	5	6	1	35	42	11	Washington	7	2	1	29	22	15
Anaheim	4	5	2	26	28	10	Philadelphia	6	5	1	43	43	13
Los Angeles	5	6	0	23	32	10	New Jersey	4	2	3	21	20	11
Vancouver	4	6	1	17	28	9	Columbus	4	3	1	21	19	9
Arizona	4	6	0	30	37	8	NY Islanders	4	6	1	30	34	9
							Carolina	2	4	3	25	32	7

**Note:** Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).



## FIFA CHARGE IRISH FA OVER 1916 EASTER UPRISING LOGO

**LONDON:** FIFA has charged the Irish Football Association (FAI) over a shirt logo worn in March to commemorate the 100th anniversary of an uprising against British rule.

"We can confirm that disciplinary proceedings have been opened on this matter," a spokeswoman for world soccer's governing body, whose rules forbid players from wearing anything that can be perceived as a political statement, said yesterday.

"We cannot comment further at this stage nor speculate on any outcome." There was no immediate reaction from the FAI. Ireland's players wore the logo with the words Eire 1916/Ireland 2016 — when they played a friendly match against Switzerland on

March 25, two days before official state commemorations of the 1916 Easter uprising.

The rebellion is widely seen as the defining moment of an independence struggle that ended centuries of British rule five years later.

But many unionists in the British province of Northern Ireland consider the event an illegal uprising. The province's First Minister Arlene Foster has said it was used to justify Irish Republican Army violence in the 1970s and 80s.

FIFA is separately involved in an argument with England and Scotland, who want their players to wear poppies on armbands when they play a World Cup qualifier on Nov. 11, the anniversary of World

War One's Armistice Day in 1918. Irish media said the Ireland logo had been used as an example by England and Scotland in negotiations with FIFA.

British Prime Minister Theresa May strongly criticised FIFA on Wednesday, telling parliament that the soccer body's stance was "utterly outrageous".

"Our football players want to recognise and respect those who have given their lives for our safety and security. I think it is absolutely right that they should be able to do so," she said.

FIFA is trying to recover from the worst graft scandal in its history which has seen 42 people, including former FIFA executive committee members, indicted in the United States since May last year. — Reuters

## KLOPP WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE FINAL SAY ON LIVERPOOL TRANSFERS

**LONDON:** Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp welcomed the appointment of Michael Edwards as the club's sporting director yesterday, but said he would still have final say on transfers.

The 37-year-old Edwards, who joined Liverpool from Tottenham Hotspur in 2011, was promoted to the newly created role having previously served as head of analytics, director of technical performance and technical director.

He will now play a part in player identification, acquisitions, sales and retention, but Klopp said ultimate responsibility for transfers would continue to rest with the manager.

"We will work like we did in the past," the German told a news conference ahead of Sunday's visit of Watford in the Premier League.

"From my point of view it's the natural thing. Transfers are going always the same way.

"Whoever brings the player, if it's me or my assistant, then we have a lot of things to watch, to talk about and in the end I have the final say. That's the most important thing for you to know."

Klopp insisted that striker Danny Ings had a future at the club despite his latest injury setback. The 24-year-old, who missed most of last season with a ruptured cruciate ligament, is out for the rest of this campaign with another serious knee injury.

"The only problem Danny Ings has had was he had a really bad injury and he needed time to come back in shape. The last two weeks everybody could see 'okay, now he is back' and then this happened," Klopp said.

"That's not nice, but it's part of football. And from yesterday on, it's already a positive story because the surgery was positive, and rehab started already. Danny will be back and will be a Liverpool player 100 percent."

Klopp revealed that Emre Can and Georginio Wijnaldum had been sent home from training after picking up a bug, but he will have James Milner back in the squad for the visit of seventh-placed Watford, who are unbeaten in four league games.

"Watford have changed manager, system and players," he added, praising Walter Mazzarri's impact since taking over.

"They have conceded zero goals in their last three games. We'll figure out what we have to do. It's Anfield, and (we need) a positive result before the international break."

Liverpool are third in the standings, level on points with leaders Manchester City and second-placed Arsenal. — Reuters



**SHANGHAI:** Andre Villas-Boas (R), the newly announced football coach for Shanghai SIPG FC, holds a jersey with his name beside general manager Sui Guoyang during a press conference in Shanghai yesterday. — AFP

# VILLAS-BOAS REPLACES ERIKSSON AT SHANGHAI

**SHANGHAI:** Former Chelsea and Spurs boss Andre Villas-Boas was unveiled as the new coach of Shanghai SIPG yesterday, replacing Sven-Goran Eriksson who was shown the door after guiding the team to third in the Chinese Super League.

The highly regarded Villas-Boas, who left Zenit St. Petersburg in May, bucks the trend of ageing managers cashing in on China's football boom as he is just 39 and may have his best years ahead of him.

SIPG believes the Portuguese "can further enrich the team's tactics", motivate players and "lead the team to march towards higher goals," the club said in a statement.

His appointment, widely trailed in Chinese media, was confirmed shortly after SIPG announced Eriksson's departure following "friendly discussions", ending a two-year reign. "We sincerely hope everything goes well for Mr. Eriksson's future work and life," SIPG said on a verified social media account.

SIPG were runners-up in the CSL in Eriksson's first year at the club, giving them a place in this season's AFC Champions League, where they reached the last eight.

But Eriksson's fate may have been sealed when SIPG crashed out to South Korea's Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors, embarrassingly losing the second leg 5-0.

SIPG have been among China's biggest spenders as money pours into the Chinese game. This year they captured Brazilian forward Hulk for a reported 55 million euro (\$60 million).

Villas-Boas becomes just the latest high-profile coach to be lured to China, whose riches have become a magnet for top foreign managers and players.

The Portuguese was only 33 when he won the Europa League with Porto in 2011, the prelude to spells at Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur before his two-year stint at Zenit St. Petersburg.

He is notably much younger than his foreign peers including Guangzhou Evergrande's Luiz Felipe Scolari (67), Hebei China Fortune's Manuel Pellegrini (63) and Shandong Luneng's Felix Magath (63). Sweden's Eriksson, 68, coached England from 2001-2006 and went on to lead Manchester City and Leicester City. His first job in China was at Guangzhou R&F in 2013.

The CSL has a reputation for a quick turnaround of managers and Eriksson is not the first to be shown the door after a period of moderate success.

In 2012, Guangzhou Evergrande replaced Lee Jang-Soo with Marcello Lippi mid-season after the Korean coach had taken them to promotion and the CSL title in consecutive years. Evergrande also moved swiftly to replace Lippi's eventual successor, Fabio Cannavaro, with Luiz Felipe Scolari after the Italian had guided them to the top of the table last year. — AFP



## JAPAN ON HIGH ALERT FOR SAUDI 'PROVOCATEURS'

**TOKYO:** Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic yesterday warned his players against Saudi Arabia's "specialists in provocation" in a home World Cup qualifier this month that could potentially decide his own future.

The Franco-Bosnian, whose position as head coach has been plunged into doubt after a disappointing 2018 qualifying campaign, has named a full-strength side for the November 15 clash in Saitama.

"Firstly, it's a six-pointer and we know we must win," said Halilhodzic, who will be desperate for victory after watching the Blue Samurai slip to third in their group in the final round of Asian 2018 qualifying.

"But we also know Saudi Arabia win a lot of free kicks and penalties. Fifty percent of their goals come

that way—they are specialists at provoking free kicks."

"We've been penalised a lot in our last few games and those penalties have cost us," he added. "I have to drill it into the players not to be so naive this time because this is a game we have to win."

Japan conceded a penalty in their shock 2-1 home defeat to UAE in September and another when they drew 1-1 with Asian Cup-holders Australia in Melbourne.

With Japan currently out of the automatic qualifying spots and facing a battle to reach a sixth successive World Cup, Halilhodzic knows another slip-up against the high-flying Saudis could cost him his job.

"Saudi Arabia are improving," said the firebrand former Algeria coach. "Arab sides are getting better

technically and in all elements of the game. They have real quality so we need to be on our game."

Japan, who face Oman in a warm-up game in Kashima next Friday before tackling the Saudis, will be spearheaded by talismanic forward Keisuke Honda and playmaker Shinji Kagawa.

However, Halilhodzic must hope for an improvement on the recent form with a difficult run of games to come while rumours of a rift between the coach and his players have done little to help the team's flagging morale.

Japan trail Group B leaders Saudi Arabia, who have 10 points from four matches, and Australia, on eight points, with only the top two teams from the two groups qualifying automatically for the 2018 World Cup in Russia. — AFP

## MANCHESTER CITY LOOK TO CAP WEEK TO REMEMBER

**LONDON:** Manchester City will have the chance to put daylight between themselves and their title rivals when the Premier League leaders try to cap a memorable week by beating Middlesbrough at Eastlands today.

City lead on goal difference from Arsenal and Liverpool, with Chelsea just a point further back.

Arsenal are not in action until tomorrow when they face Tottenham Hotspur in the North London derby, with Liverpool also at home to Watford that day.

Tuesday finally saw City get the better of Barcelona as they beat the Spanish giants 3-1 in the Champions League.

It was a particularly sweet victory for City manager Pep Guardiola, who made his name as both a player and coach at Barcelona. The match also saw City fans' favourite Sergio Agüero lead the attack after he was controversially left out of the starting side for the 4-0 loss in Barcelona a fortnight ago—a move that sparked concerns regarding his Eastlands future under Guardiola.

But the City boss has insisted he wants Agüero to stay and the 28-year-old Argentina forward said: "I'm never angry. I respect every manager's decision. "He said it was a tactical thing and I obviously respect that."

Middlesbrough are managed by Guardiola's fellow Spaniard Aitor Karanka and he for one was not surprised by City's midweek win.

"They have amazing players and they have all the alternatives so (for them) it was just another game," said Karanka, whose Boro side beat Bournemouth 2-0 last weekend.

Chelsea, fresh from a 2-0 win over Southampton and without the distraction of European football, will bid to keep pace with City at home to Everton.

Since reverting to a back three, manager Antonio Conte has seen his side keep four clean sheets but the Italian has no time for title talk at this stage of the season.

### 'TOUGHEST COMPETITIONS'

"In this moment it's not important to look at the table. If you ask me a prediction of our championship now, it's very



**MANCHESTER:** File photo, Manchester City's Yaya Toure waits for play to resume during the English Premier League soccer match between Manchester United and Manchester City at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester, England. With a 110-word apology, Yaya Toure is hoping to mend his relationship with Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola and regain his place in the team. — AP

difficult to talk about," he said.

Arsenal have not lost in any competition since the opening day of the season and their midweek 3-2 win away to Bulgaria's Ludogorets, with Mesut Ozil's superb solo goal completing a comeback from 2-0 down, has left the Gunners well-placed to qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League.

Having played 75 minutes against Ludogorets, Wales midfielder Aaron Ramsey who has spent several weeks out with a hamstring injury—is eager to start against Spurs at the Emirates, saying: "Of course I'm ready."

By contrast, Spurs were lacklustre in a 1-0 loss to Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League at Wembley.

They may boast the Premier League's lone remaining unbeaten record and are just three points off top spot, but Spurs have not won any of their last six games in all competitions.

Mauricio Pochettino, the Tottenham

manager, believes his side may be paying the price for fighting on two fronts.

"To play the Champions League and Premier League, two of the toughest competitions in the world, it's good to analyse how we deal with that," he said.

Jose Mourinho will hope his Manchester United side, already eight points adrift of top spot, can provide him with some respite at second-bottom Swansea on Sunday following a mediocre display in a 2-1 Europa League loss away to Fenerbahce. Mourinho, set to serve a touchline ban at the Liberty Stadium, accused his team of treating the match like a "summer friendly".

Basement club Sunderland travel to Bournemouth on Saturday in search of their first win of the season, with champions Leicester at home to West Brom.

West Ham will hope there is no repeat of the crowd trouble that has marred their recent home games when Stoke visit the London Stadium. — AFP

## FIVE-STAR ADURIZ RETURNS FOR SPAIN

**MADRID:** Veteran striker Aritz Aduriz, fresh from his five-goal haul for Athletic Bilbao in the Europa League, has been rewarded with a call up yesterday for Spain's 2018 World Cup qualifier against Macedonia and friendly against England.

The 35-year-old Basque forward became the first player to score five goals in a Europa League match in Thursday's 5-3 win over Belgian side Genk and the first to score a hat-trick of penalties in the competition.

Spain take on Macedonia in a World Cup qualifier in Granada on November 12 and England at Wembley in a friendly three days later.

Aduriz, who has scored just one goal in his nine appearances for Spain, got a surprise call up to Euro 2016 but has been overlooked since.

But his ten goals this season has encouraged new Spain coach Julen Lopetegui to recall him along with Manchester United midfielder Juan Mata, with Cesar Azpilicueta, Sergio Asenjo and Marc Bartra also returning to the 25-man squad. "He achieved a difficult exploit for a striker, scoring five goals," said Lopetegui.

"But we were already considering him before yesterday's game, we were following him over the past month. He's in great form and can give us something."

Aduriz will face stiff competition from Chelsea's Diego Costa, the top scorer in the Premier League, and young Real Madrid striker Alvaro Morata.

Stalwarts Andres Iniesta, Gerard Pique, Sergio Ramos and Jordi Alba are out injured, the first time Spain have played without Pique or Ramos since 2009.

"We have a lot of absentees but we have confidence in the players we've selected," added Lopetegui, who has continued with his policy of rotating goalkeepers.

This time Villarreal's Sergio Asenjo has been given the nod following Adrian San Miguel and Sergio Rico with Lopetegui insisting the door is not closed on emblematic goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

Casillas, 35, who has played a record 167 times for Spain, has not been called up since Euro 2016 where he was David de Gea's backup.

### Spain squad

**Goalkeepers:** David De Gea (Manchester United/ENG), Pepe Reina (Napoli/ITA), Sergio Asenjo (Villarreal)

**Defenders:** Sergi Roberto (FC Barcelona), Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid), Nacho (Real Madrid), Marc Bartra (Borussia Dortmund/GER), Sergio Escudero (Sevilla), Inigo Martinez (Real Sociedad), Nacho Monreal (Arsenal/ENG), Cesar Azpilicueta (Chelsea/ENG)

**Midfielders:** Sergio Busquets (FC Barcelona), Ander Herrera (Manchester United/ENG), Juan Mata (Manchester United/ENG), David Silva (Manchester City/ENG), Koke (Atletico Madrid), Thiago Alcantara (Bayern Munich/GER), Francisco Alarcon "Isco" (Real Madrid)

**Forwards:** Diego Costa (Chelsea/ENG), Alvaro Morata (Real Madrid), Aritz Aduriz (Athletic Bilbao), Nolito (Manchester City/ENG), Victor Machin "Vitolo" (Sevilla), Jose Callejon (Napoli/ITA), Lucas Vazquez (Real Madrid). — AFP



## SPURS GREAT MABBUTT RECALLS DERBY DAY FURY

**LONDON:** It is almost 20 years since Gary Mabbutt played in a North London derby, but the former Tottenham Hotspur captain's feelings about the rivalry burn as intensely as ever.

"When the fixtures came out, you always looked to see when the games were," Mabbutt told AFP this week, ahead of Tottenham's trip to Arsenal in the Premier League tomorrow.

"I loved playing against Arsenal. It was exciting, it was exhilarating and it was a game you just had to win. "No matter what happened throughout the rest of the season-if the team were doing terribly, but you beat Arsenal, the fans would forgive you."

"Lots of families are split, lots of workplaces. A lot of my friends are Arsenal supporters, so there was always a lot of banter surrounding the games. "I've got friends who are Tottenham fans who refuse to have anything red in their house. They refuse to have a red car or let their wives wear a red dress."

Mabbutt was born in August 1961, three months after Tottenham's fabled First Division and FA Cup

Double, and joined the club from his home-town team Bristol Rovers in August 1982.

He would go on to make 619 appearances for Spurs across a 16-year White Hart Lane career, spending 11 years as captain and tasting glory in the 1984 UEFA Cup and 1991 FA Cup.

Peering through the coach window en route to Highbury for his first derby, a 2-0 defeat in December 1982, Mabbutt was taken aback by the "hostile" reception from goading home fans.

His second derby proved more pleasurable, Spurs romping to a 5-0 win, but a 21-year-old Mabbutt spent the hours beforehand fretting about the sudden disappearance of the Afghan hound he owned with his girlfriend. "Literally about five minutes before kick-off, my girlfriend calls: she'd found the dog," Mabbutt recalls. "I went out and we beat them 5-0, so it was a fantastic day."

Signed as a central midfielder, Mabbutt became a centre-back of sufficient accomplishment that he won 16 England caps, scoring once.— AFP



**LONDON:** Former Tottenham Hotspur player Gary Mabbutt gives an interview to an AFP journalist outside Wembley Stadium ahead of Tottenham's Champions League match against Bayer Leverkusen in London. — AFP



**GELSENKIRCHEN:** Schalke's Cameroon midfielder Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting (R) takes a tumble after a run in with Krasnodar's Russian goalkeeper Stanislav Kritsyuk during the UEFA Europa League group I football match between FC Schalke 04 and FC Krasnodar in Gelsenkirchen, western Germany on Thursday. — AFP

## LEICESTER TRIO TAKE ON MESSI, RONALDO FOR AWARD

**ZURICH:** Three Leicester players will try to end the eight-year grip of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo on the FIFA player of the year award.

Riyad Mahrez, Jamie Vardy and N'Golo Kante were named Friday alongside Messi and Ronaldo in the 23-man list of contenders. Kante has moved to Chelsea since Leicester won the Premier League title in May.

Messi won his fifth FIFA award last season and Ronaldo has won it three times. Ronaldo is the likely favorite for 2016 as a double European champion: Portugal won its first European Championship and Real Madrid won a record 11th European Cup title in last season's Champions League.

While no other Portugal players are nominated, the FIFA Football Committee picked four more from Madrid: Gareth Bale, Toni Kroos, Luka Modric and Sergio Ramos.

Messi is joined by Barcelona teammates Neymar, Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta. All 23 nominees play for clubs in Europe. European national teams provide 17 players, and five are from South America. Mahrez, who is from Algeria, is the only nominee from an African national team. No Asian nations are represented.

Voting will be held by national team captains and coaches, selected media members and an online fan poll. Each section will count for 25 percent of the final tally.

FIFA will announce the three-man shortlist on Dec. 2. The rebranded Best FIFA Awards ceremony will be held on Jan. 9 in Zurich. — AP

## DAUNTING SEVILLA TRIP AWAITS DEFEATED BARCA

**MADRID:** Barcelona face a huge task to bounce back from defeat at the hands of old boss Pep Guardiola's Manchester City in midweek when the Spanish champions travel to high-flying Sevilla today. Barca trail La Liga leaders Real Madrid by two points with Sevilla, who have won their last seven home games, just a point further adrift. "We are coming into the game well," said Sevilla coach Jorge Sampaoli after his side moved to the brink of qualifying for the Champions League last 16 with a 4-0 thrashing of Dinamo Zagreb.

"I don't think losing will affect Barcelona. If we don't have a perfect evening it will be a very difficult encounter."

On top of their Champions League defeat in Manchester, Barca have sneaked past Valencia and Granada in their last two league outings as the absence of Gerard Pique, Jordi Alba and Andres Iniesta has taken its toll. All three are expected to miss out once more at the Sanchez Pizjuan with Rafinha or Arda Turan replacing Andre Gomes the only change expected from the team that started at the Etihad Stadium.

"After the first half, especially after losing the second goal, we lost the attitude we normally have," Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen told radio station RAC1 on what Luis Enrique's men need to improve for their trip to Seville.

Barca were the last visiting side to win at the Sanchez Pizjuan. However, a 2-0 win in the first leg of the Spanish Super Cup in August came before Sevilla had bedded in many of their 11 summer signings. Sevilla have injury problems of their own, though, with Samir Nasri a major doubt due to a hamstring problem that forced him to miss the midweek win.

### MODRIC BACK

Barca could be five points adrift of Real by the time they kick off as the European champions host Leganes today.

Madrid endured an embarrassing

night in front of an empty stadium on Wednesday as they spurned a two-goal lead to draw 3-3 away at Legia Warsaw. The match was played behind closed doors due to violence and racist chanting from Legia fans.

Yet, only Mateo Kovacic's equaliser five minutes from time allowed Madrid to extend their unbeaten run to 27 games, and coach Zinedine Zidane once again criticised his side's lack of intensity.

"We lacked intensity, desire and movement," said the Frenchman. "At times you can have these odd games and we've got to be patient. The good thing is that we didn't lose and we're now focusing on our next game." Madrid could be boosted by the return of Luka Modric for the first time in a month after he underwent surgery on a knee cartilage problem. Marcelo and James Rodriguez should also be fit after missing the trip to Warsaw, but Sergio Ramos, Casemiro and Pepe remain sidelined. It is the first time Leganes have ever faced Real in league action. After a bright start to their debut La Liga campaign, three consecutive defeats have seen Leganes, nicknamed the 'cucumber growers', slip to a point above the relegation zone.

Atletico Madrid are three points back on Real in third, but can move top when they travel to Real Sociedad today.

Diego Simeone's men were the only Spanish side to book their place in the last 16 of the Champions League in midweek, but needed a dramatic 93rd-minute Antoine Griezmann winner to see off FC Rostov 2-1. Centre-back Stefan Savic is suspended with Lucas Hernandez or the fit-against Jose Maria Gimenez set to deputise.

Kevin Gameiro should also replace Fernando Torres in attack. Real Betis coach Gustavo Poyet's job is on the line when his side visit fifth-placed Villarreal tomorrow. Betis are just two points off the relegation zone in 13th and fans called for Poyet's head during last weekend's 1-0 defeat at home to Espanyol. — AFP



**Match on TV**  
(Local Timing)

### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

<b>Man City v Middlesbrough</b>	<b>18:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
<b>West Ham v Stoke City</b>	<b>18:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
<b>Burnley v Crystal Palace</b>	<b>18:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
<b>Bournemouth v Sunderland</b>	<b>18:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
<b>Chelsea FC v Everton</b>	<b>20:30</b>
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

### SPANISH LEAGUE

<b>Granada v Deportivo</b>	<b>15:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
<b>Real Sociedad v Atletico</b>	<b>18:15</b>
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
<b>Osasuna v Deportivo Alaves</b>	<b>20:30</b>
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Las Palmas v SD Eibar</b>	<b>22:45</b>
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

### ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

<b>Torino FC v Cagliari</b>	<b>20:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
<b>SSC Napoli v SS Lazio</b>	<b>22:45</b>
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

### GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

<b>Freiburg v Wolfsburg</b>	<b>17:30</b>
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Hamburger SV v Dortmund</b>	<b>17:30</b>
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
<b>Bayer 04 v Darmstadt 98</b>	<b>17:30</b>
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Bayern Munich v Hoffenheim</b>	<b>17:30</b>
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
<b>FC Ingolstadt 04 v Augsburg</b>	<b>17:30</b>
beIN SPORTS	
<b>Eintracht v FC Koln</b>	<b>20:30</b>
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

### FRENCH LEAGUE

<b>Monaco v Nancy Lorraine</b>	<b>19:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
<b>Girondins v Lorient</b>	<b>22:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
<b>Lyonnais v Bastia</b>	<b>22:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
<b>Dijon v Guingamp</b>	<b>22:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
<b>Angers v Lille OSC</b>	<b>22:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
<b>Nantes v Toulouse FC</b>	<b>22:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	



# Sports



**Marathon in Bamiyan a symbol of freedom for Afghan women**

41



**TAMPA:** Atlanta Falcons tight end Austin Hooper (81) beats Tampa Bay Buccaneers free safety Bradley McDougald (30) on a 2-yard touchdown reception during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game Thursday, in Tampa, Fla. — AP

## RYAN SHINES AS FALCONS THUMP BUCS

**TAMPA:** Matt Ryan threw for 344 yards and four touchdowns, helping the Atlanta Falcons tighten their grip on first place in the NFC South with a 43-28 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Thursday night.

Julio Jones had eight receptions for 111 yards and a TD as the Falcons (6-3) avenged a season-opening loss to the Bucs (3-5). Tampa Bay has dropped two straight on the heels of a three-game winning streak that got them back to .500.

Jones, who's closing in on another 1,000-yard receiving season with 970 through nine games, caught a 3-yard scoring pass in the third quarter, when Ryan led TD drives of 86 and 82 yards to break it open.

Levine Toilolo, Patrick DiMarco and Austin Hooper also caught TD pass from Ryan, who leads the NFL with 2,980 yards and 23 touchdowns vs. four interceptions.

Jameis Winston threw for 261 yards and three touchdowns for Tampa Bay, including scoring passes of 3 and 24 yards to Evans,

who had 11 receptions. Both of Tampa Bay's young stars finished the game on the sideline, with Evans being evaluated for a possible concussion and Winston limping off after being shaken up when he was tackled trying to score on a two-point conversion play with just under seven minutes remaining.

Winston was tackled around the ankle by Atlanta's Brooks Reed and also hit by cornerback Jalen Collins. Mike Glennon finished up for the Bucs, taking his first regular season snaps since 2014. He threw a late TD pass to Cameron Brate to cut into a 23-point deficit.

### RING OF HONOR

The Bucs inducted former safety John Lynch into the team's Ring of Honor. Together with Hall of Famers Warren Sapp and Derrick Brooks, Lynch formed the foundation of a dominating defense that helped transform Tampa Bay from the laughingstock of the NFL into a Super Bowl champion. A nine-time Pro Bowl selection and a finalist for

the Pro Football Hall of Fame last winter, Lynch played for the Bucs 1993 to 2003 and the Denver Broncos from 2004 to 2007. He was inducted into the Broncos Ring of Honor earlier this month.

### NO CONFIDENCE?

The Bucs defense yielded 626 yards, including 513 passing, during last week's 30-24 overtime loss to Oakland. That may have contributed to the decision Thursday night to decline a 15-yard face mask against the Falcons, settling for Matt Bryant kicking a 41-yard field goal for a 13-7 Atlanta lead instead of giving Ryan a chance to convert third-and-22 from the Tampa Bay 38.

### MATTY ICE

Ryan has thrown for 1,344 yards, nine touchdowns and just two interceptions in his last four games against the Bucs, who had won three straight in the division rivalry. The Bucs lead the all-time series 24-23.

### GOTCHA

Bucs DT Gerald McCoy talked this week about his admiration for Ryan, but reiterated that good sportsmanship should never be confused with a lack of commitment to do whatever is necessary to win. He said he'd shake the quarterback's hand before and after the game, but spend the rest of the night trying to make the NFL passing yardage leader uncomfortable. McCoy sacked Ryan in the second quarter, forcing a fumble that led to Winston's second TD pass to Evans.

### INJURIES

With Doug Martin (hamstring) and Jacquizz Rodgers (foot) inactive, rookie Peyton Barber became the fourth different starting running back for Tampa Bay this season. Bucs C Joe Hawley left with a knee injury in the second quarter and did not return. Falcons CB Desmond Trufant left with a shoulder injury in the first half and did not return. — AP