

SUBSCRIPTION

# Kuwait Times



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Former MP Nisef welcomes boycotters' return to polls



US Muslim lawmaker, Sanders ally vies to lead Dems



Berlin's wild charms make it first choice for Syrian artists



Saudi fury as Japan boost World Cup hopes



## AMIR REITERATES COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

### BAN CALLS FOR 'ELIMINATION' OF FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES



Max 32°

Min 13°

High Tide

13:37

Low Tide

07:08 & 19:10



150 FILLS

NO: 17052

40 PAGES

#### BARRED CANDIDATE CLAIMS ELECTION COULD BE DELAYED

CAMPAIGNING INTENSIFIES

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Lawyer Hani Hussein, whose candidacy for the parliamentary polls was rejected by the appeals court yesterday, said a "big surprise" could delay the Nov 26 election. Writing on his Twitter account, Hussein declined to reveal the nature of the surprise, but said it relates to a provision in the election law, adding he has drawn the attention of the court to this provision. He said that if his argument is accepted by the court, it will lead to delaying the parliamentary election and reinstating the 2013 National Assembly which was dissolved last month. Hussein said the ruling of the court on his petition is scheduled for Sunday.

The appeals court upheld a ruling by the lower court which disqualified Hussein from running in the election for being convicted by the court. The original decision was taken by a committee formed by the interior ministry to review nomination papers of all candidates. That committee barred 47 candidates including Hussein, former MP Abdulhameed Dashti and others. A number of these candidates have already been reinstated by the court, while others remain barred.

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MARRAKECH: HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Morocco's King Mohammed VI, Monaco's Prince Albert II, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and France's President Francois Hollande pose with other world leaders for a group photo at the UN World Climate Change Conference 2016 yesterday. (Inset) HH Sheikh Sabah addresses the gathering. — KUNA

MARRAKECH: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday reiterated Kuwait's commitment to supporting the efforts exerted by the UN to combat the phenomenon of climate change. Addressing the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as COP 22 in Marrakech, the Amir said Kuwait has participated effectively and constantly in the negotiations aimed to limit the negative impact of this phenomenon, based upon the principles and provisions and the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the subsequent provisions until the Paris Agreement, since they constitute the legally binding instruments and the basis of joint cooperation.

HH the Amir called for taking into consideration the disparity in shouldering the burden, the inequalities in capacities and the levels of sustainable development in developing nations. "Coming a few days after the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, our meeting today on this important international occasion, with such prestigious level of participation, is proof of Moroccan King Mohammad VI's concern to achieve what we aspire for. Addressing the phenomenon of climate change in a diligent manner and realizing the magnitude of the challenges faced by our planet and its environment reflects our earnest pursuit to reform the climate system and protect our planet and its environment, until it regains its natural balance," Sheikh Sabah said.

Continued on Page 2





# NEW

## Tassoura Breakfast

- KUWAITI BREAKFAST** 5.950 KD

OMELETTE, FOUL, LEBNEH, CHICKEN LIVER, FRESH VEGETABLE, QIMAR, DARABEEL, BAQSAM, JAM & HONEY, SERVED WITH TANDOR BREAD
- LEBANESE BREAKFAST** 5.950 KD

FIRE EGG, GRILLED HALLOUM, SAUSAGE, LEBNEH "TRADITIONAL LEANNESS", MAKDOOS, COLD CUT, QIMAR & HONEY, SERVED WITH LEBANESE BREAD
- JORDANIAN BREAKFAST** 4.900 KD

WHOLE EGG, FOUL, FALAFEL, MUSABAHA, WHITE CHEESE, OILVE OIL, ZATAR, SERVED WITH TANDOR BREAD
- INDIAN BREAKFAST** 4.750 KD

LENTIL MIX, QEEMA, TAWA CHICKEN, EGG TOMATO, YOGHURT MINT, SERVED WITH CHAPATTI



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## AMIR REITERATES COMMITMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Continued from Page 1

"In abiding by its international commitments, my country Kuwait has voluntarily put well-studied plans, based on scientific and economic research, within its available possibilities, to rehabilitate its oil installations, as its oil sector seeks to adopt a new strategy founded on scientific and economic grounds that aim to limit emissions, in addition to establishing mechanisms to improve energy efficiency, without jeopardizing its essential interests and its commitments to developing clean industry, while taking into consideration how to take advantage of the programs and the mechanisms established in the framework of the agreement," the Amir noted.

Furthermore, Kuwait is voluntarily seeking to introduce renewable energy resources in its development plans to ensure a sustainable supply of energy for future generations and as part of its contribution to limiting the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, as well as joining in the efforts of the international community to protect the climate system for present and future generations. In this context, I would like to assure you that we are about to complete the constitutional procedures for the ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change," the Amir said.

"With much hope, we look forward to seeing the global consciousness and awareness

that we have sensed in the cooperation to limit the effects of climate change, reflect on the Marrakech Conference to constitute a turning point in addressing the impact of this phenomenon, and work towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement through the adoption of resolutions for the phase preceding 2020 and beyond, in view of the amendments introduced and approved at the Doha Conference and to implement the items of the Paris Agreement," HH the Amir added.

"My country Kuwait also hopes that developed countries will adhere to their pioneering role in reducing emissions and assisting developing countries by making resources available to finance the transfer of technology, building capacities, as well as adapting to the negative effects resulting from climate change and the negative effects arising from the response measures to reduce the impact of climate change, particularly countries whose economies depend on the production and export of fossil fuels as their main and only income," he noted.

In conclusion, HH the Amir wished that the conference would be successful, and extended sincere thanks and gratitude to the Moroccan King, government and people for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for the "elimination of fossil fuel subsidies" to accelerate the transition to clean energy for the sake of the planet. Countries and businesses must do more to curtail global warm-

ing caused by fossil fuel emissions, he said at the annual UN climate conference. "We have no right to gamble with the fate of future generations or imperil the survival of other species that share our planet. I strongly urge all countries to increase the mitigation ambition of their national climate plans by 2018," he said. "The private sector must also do much more, and I call for the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies to accelerate the transition to clean energy."

Ban said planet-warming greenhouse-gas emissions must peak by 2020 and decline rapidly thereafter for the world to meet the UN goal of limiting average global warming to under two degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels. Current country pledges to curb emissions "will not get us out of us the danger zone," he warned. Last year was the warmest on record, the UN secretary-general noted, adding that 2016 "is virtually certain to be even hotter."

"Today more than 150 million people live on land that could be submerged or suffer chronic flooding within this century, possibly causing massive waves of migration and instability," Ban said. The choices we make today could have "catastrophic climate impacts" for thousands of years to come. "This is an enormous responsibility and an enormous opportunity to do what is right for our future," said Ban, attending his last COP of the UN's climate body before his term ends. — Agencies



MARRAKECH: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (right) and other senior officials take part in the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change yesterday. — KUNA



MANAMA: Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa (second from right) visits the Kuwaiti embassy's new residential building in Manama. —KUNA

## BAHRAINI PM STRESSES 'SPECIAL TIES' WITH KUWAIT

MANAMA: Bahraini Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa underlined that Bahrain and Kuwait enjoy 'special ties' since they have the same familial and historic relations. The Premier made this remark during a visit to the Kuwaiti embassy's new residential building in Manama where he was received

by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah and embassy staff.

Prince Khalifa bin Salman described his visit to the new building as calling on a "Bahraini home" due to close familiarity between the two nations. Meanwhile, Sheikh Azzam said that the Gulf countries enjoy soli-

arity of a one home for a shared history and shared relations of all domains. The Kuwaiti embassy's new residential house will be officially opened tomorrow, Wednesday, in the presence of Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

## SHEIKH SALEM AL-ALI FOUNDATION LAUNCHES INFORMATICS FORUM MONDAY

KUWAIT: His Highness Sheikh Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah Informatics' Foundation announced yesterday the launch of the Global Informatics Forum, slated for November 21 under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. The three-day forum, held under the slogan (Digital Transformation toward Knowledge Economy), aims at developing the global economy and highlighting the transformation of modern techniques in various types of business, said member of the organizing committee Aliaa Al-Enezi.

It also aims to establish competitiveness among various entities and individuals on a national and international levels to create an innovative environment that will make Kuwait an attractive center for IT, she added. On the sidelines of the forum, an exhibition to market 3 ideas will be held to provide a platform local, Arab, and global entrepreneurs, member of the committee Ahmad Safar said. He added that other events and workshops, featuring digital experts, will be held during the event. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Organizing committee members Aliaa Al-Enezi (left) and Ahmad Safar.

—Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



## AL-SAAD FUND ORGANIZES WOMEN EMPOWERMENT COURSES

KUWAIT: Al-Saad Fund for Knowledge and Scientific Research organizes courses that aim at empowering women and enabling them to assume leading positions in both political and social activities. Speaking to reporters yesterday during an event to launch the first training course for female teachers in intermediate schools, Sheikha Fadya Al-Saad Al-Sabah, the fund's Board Chairperson, said that the fund targets creating a generation that would help develop Kuwait. She added that the training courses organized through the Ibtikar Al-Kuwait initiative allows public school girls to conduct scientific projects and researches, which contribute to developing both teachers and students' skills and performance.

Sheikha Fadya added that the initiative also supports the Ministry of Education's new curriculums, which focus on developing students' life skills and enhancing their creativity at



Sheikha Fadya Al-Saad Al-Sabah



Dr Fatima Al-Hashim

the hands of expert educationists from Kuwait and abroad.

Meanwhile, the initiative's director Dr Fatima Al-Hashim seconded Sheikha Fadya's statements, saying that the courses taught in the initiative support the curriculums taught in schools, further explaining that course

organized for intermediate schools focus on recycling electronics with the aim of protecting the environment. She also noted that the course designed for secondary school students focuses on applying science, math, geometry and technology in practice. —KUNA



Alghanim Industries' female employees pose for a group photo after launching the AIWN.

## ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES LAUNCHES ITS OWN WOMEN'S NETWORK

KUWAIT: Alghanim Industries, one of the largest privately owned companies in the region, announced the creation of the company's first women's network. The Alghanim Industries Women's Network (AIWN) was launched to provide female employees in the company a solid platform to connect with peers, gain exposure, and promote opportunities for upward career mobility.

The AIWN launch event was held on Tuesday, 8 November at Al-Hamra Tower. Chief Human Resources Officer, George Lambros, kicked-off the event, saying "On behalf of the executive team, I congratulate

you on launching the Alghanim Industries Women's Network today. This is an exciting step in our journey to build a more diverse workforce and ensure that we provide support to help our female employees succeed. I look forward to watching the Alghanim Industries Women's Network grow and thrive in the future."

The inaugural meeting covered company diversity initiatives and policies, employee feedback from surveys and focus groups, and how to share on the network's communication channels. Though it is the initial stage, this network will serve as a strong base for

future discussions and proactive brainstorming meetings. It provides female staff from all businesses a platform through which they can directly communicate with company leaders.

It also allows employees to have a more central role in shaping the network by suggesting and driving future gender diversity initiatives. Over 200 female employees attended the first of many meetings to come. During the launch event of AIWN, the company introduced the members of the Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee, which focuses on issues related to gender diversity in the company.

Director of Marketing and New Vehicle Supply Chain - Ford, and member of the Diversity and Inclusion Steering Committee, Karen Al Haffar spoke to the attendees during the event and said: "When I started my career 9 years ago in the marketing division of the automotive business, I was one of the few females there. I'm happy to see more females working with the different automotive brands we have in Alghanim Industries, and to see more women in the company overall. I'm proud to be part of this corporate culture shift and I look forward to contributing to the gender diversity initiatives through my role on

the steering committee." Alghanim Industries has actively prioritized gender diversity at the company, and worked on multiple fronts to address issues related to recruiting and retaining female talent. The company introduced improved maternity leave policies, including extending the paid maternity leave up to 90 days. The company also co-organized a gender diversity conference that hosted local and international guest speakers, along with Alghanim Industries CEO Omar Alghanim who highlighted the company's commitment to female talent during his keynote speech.

## 86,247 ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN 3RD CONSTITUENCY

**KUWAIT:** Total electorate for upcoming elections due on November 26 stands at 483,186, including 230,430 males and 252,756 females. The number of eligible voters in the third constituency had reached 86,247 with 46,572 females. The total figure is an increase by 9,746, around 2.01 percent, from the numbers recorded in the previous elections in July of 2016.

Voters of this constituency are residents of 15 areas: Kaifan with 8,277 (including 4,247 females), Al-Rawdah with 10,491 (including 5,650 females), Al-Adailiya 6,505 (including 3,429 females), Al-Jabriya 10,975 (including 6, 245 females), Al-Surra 9,221 (including 5,352 females), and Al-Khaldiya 5,819 (including 2,997 females).

The constituency also consists of Qurtuba with 7,995 voters (including 4,772 females), Al-Yarmouk with 5,809 (3,234 females), Abraha Khaithan with 8,353 (including 4,567 females), new Khaithan with 2,009 (including 440 females), Al-Salam with 2,878 (including 1,476 females), Al-Saddiq with 153 (including 79 females), Hitteen with 2,747 (1,480 females), Al-Shuhada with 2,017 (including 1,044 females), and Al-Zahra 2,998 (including 1,560 females).

### Education

Many candidates of the 3rd constituency vying for seats in the National Assembly for the 15th legislative term, slated for November 26, enjoy high levels of education. More than 42 percent of them are 50 years, or over.

Out of the total 66 nominees of the Third Constituency, as the registration ended for the race, there are 48 (72.72 percent) with university degrees; ten (15.15 percent) carry diplomas, and five (7.57 percent) are high school graduates.

Among the 48 nominees with academic degrees, 10 have PhDs in political science, analytical chemistry, constitutional law, bioscience, Tafseer (interpretation) of the Holy Quran and psychology. Fifteen nominees have MAs in business administration, law, civil engineering, political science, strategic studies, and teaching methodology. Twenty-three BA holding nominees studied business administration, political science, accounting, administrative science, law, history, commercial aviation, chemistry, mechanical engineering, computer, information system, physical sciences, human resources management and development, and petroleum engineering.

The 10 candidates with diplomas are specialized in commerce, mechanical engineering, air traffic control, chemical engineering and business administration. In the 2013 parliamentary elections, 39 candidates, 65 percent of the 60 total nominees had university degrees; eight (13.33 percent) had diplomas; thirteen (21.66 percent) were

high school graduates.

Among the 39 nominees with university degrees, seven had PhDs in computer science, law, analytical chemistry, geology, and marketing. Twelve candidates with MAs studied Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence), business administration, military sciences, constitutional law, civil aviation, management, law, engineering sciences, and crime sciences.

BA nominees, 20, were qualified in economy, microbiology, civil aviation, architectural engineering, information system, business administration, education, economy, political science, the English language, law, mathematics, accounting, media, and public relations. The eight diploma candidates studied fisheries, aircraft maintenance, commerce, fire science, and police science.

### 2012 elections

Candidates of the Third Constituency in the 2012 parliamentary elections were 70; Forty-five nominees (64.28 percent) had university degrees; nine (12. 85 percent) had diplomas; nine (12.85 percent) were high school graduates, and seven nominees (10 percent) completed the intermediate school.

Seven of the 45 had PhDs in engineering, politics, Sharia, international law, constitutional law, computer science, teaching methodology, human communication sciences, chemistry, and philosophy of sociopolitics. Eight candidates with MAs studied law, administrative law, Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence), business administration, military sciences, constitutional law, civil aviation, management, law, engineering science, and crime science.

Twenty-eight BA holding candidates studied law, English literature, politics, economy, mechanical engineering, education, psychology, geography, libraries, information system and technology, computer engineering, petroleum geology, science, civil engineering, mathematics, computer science, and civil aviation.

The nine nominees with diplomas studied at the Police Academy and the Teachers' Institute, or were qualified in firefighting, banking, and emergencies. In terms of age, most candidates of the Third Constituency standing for the 2016 elections are 50 years old or over. These are 28 (42.42 percent) of the total figure; Twenty-one nominees (31.81 percent) are 40-49 years old, and 17 ones (25.75 percent) are 30-39 years old.

In the 2013 elections, 26 candidates (43.33 percent) were 50 years old or over; eighteen nominees (30 percent) were 40-49 years old, and 16 ones (26.66 percent) 30-39 years old. Candidates for the 2012 elections, included 24 nominees (34.28 percent) of 50 years old or over; thirty-six nominees (51.42 percent) were 40-49 years old, and 10 (14.28 percent) 30-39 years old. — KUNA

## FORMER MP NISEF WELCOMES BOYCOTTERS' RETURN TO ELECTIONS 'PARLIAMENT BIG ENOUGH TO INCLUDE KUWAITIS OF ALL SECTS'

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** Former MP Rakan Al-Nisef held a symposium on Monday at his campaign headquarters, where he called on Kuwaitis to vote, emphasizing it's a national duty. "It's great to see those who boycotted the previous elections are participating again after three years. I welcome them today although they distrusted and insulted me. I believe that the parliament is big enough to include Islamists, liberals, women and all sects. Kuwait will be facing many political and economic challenges and we should all face it together. I believe that political work is teamwork based on dialogue," he noted.

Nisef, who is running from the second constituency, vowed to focus on three issues if he enters parliament again. "During the previous elections, I promised my voters to adopt three main issues - political reforms including the right of individuals to litigate at the constitutional court; changing the electoral system to strengthen participation and collective work; and housing, along with eliminating wastage of public funds," stressed Nisef.

According to him, many erroneous laws were issued during the previous parliament. "I didn't agree with many grillings that were not reasonable. Also, many incorrect legislations and laws were issued and approved, and I voted against them, such as prolonging the period of remand, the cybercrime law and the electronic media law. On the other hand, there were good laws approved, such as the commercial agencies law and the municipality law that eliminated violations such as building violations. Some laws were amended, such as the tenders law. We succeeded to pass a law allowing individuals to take their cases to the constitutional court, which protects minorities from the injustice of the majority," Nisef pointed out.

### Housing problem

Wrong laws passed by the parliament were behind the housing problem, he said. "After meeting with the Public Authority for Housing Welfare, we realized that the problem is not of availability of public lands, but bad laws. So we started working on two angles - the first was a



**KUWAIT:** Former MP Rakan Al-Nisef speaks during a symposium held at his campaign headquarters Monday night. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

deal with the government to distribute 12,000 housing units. The second was to scrap the laws that impede the work of the housing authority. During the past three years, 30 percent of houses in the entire history of Kuwait as a modern country were distributed," explained Al-Nisef.

"Today, the housing issue is on the right path, but we need to approve three laws, which should have been approved in October, but the parliament was dissolved. These are the landlords union law, mortgage of new areas and the new housing law, which are all important," he added.

Medical treatment abroad is the most discussed issue in terms of financial corruption and wastage of public funds, Nisef said. "During the time Dr Hilal Al-Sayer was health minister, 1,600 people were treated abroad, while today the number has reached 11,000 cases. This indicates one of two reasons - the bad quality of healthcare here that is getting worse, or that most patients are going for medical tourism," concluded Nisef.



A view of people in attendance.

## REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND PARLIAMENT DISSOLUTION: CAUSES AND EFFECTS

**KUWAIT:** The Amiri decree regarding the recent dissolution of parliament; on October 16, cited 'security and regional' challenges as of the main reason behind the decision. As explicit as this reason is, it also bears many implications, some of which are realities on the ground, and others are more intertwined given the ever-changing series of events constantly overwhelming the Middle East region in particular and subsequently the world.

Therefore, Kuwait, in its aptitude as an Arab, regional and international player, in addition to its democratic status among its Arab peers, could not isolate itself from those challenges, and thus came His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's decision to dissolve the parliament and call for elections; due on November 26.

"This is yet another shrewd and momentous step by His Highness the Amir," said Professor of Political Sciences at Kuwait



Professor of Political Sciences at Kuwait University Dr Shamlan Al-Essa

University (KU) Dr Shamlan Al-Essa in comments to Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) regarding the dissolvent decision.

It is also a means to bolster the constitutionally immune 'one-man, one-vote' system, which would contribute in raising the public's democratic awareness even further, Essa noted. "Along with security challenges, the Middle East region, especially the Arabian Gulf area, is also witnessing major economic tests ahead," he said.

### Fuel prices

Government-subsidized fuel prices have been raised shortly before the recent dissolution, and other benefits have been cut, leading to growing dissent among the people towards the parliament, one of the most effective in the Arab world.

"What is currently happening in Syria,

Iraq and Libya, as well as the potential danger of a spilling sectarian rhetoric domestically, required His Highness the Amir's timely wisdom in this regard," Essa underlined, echoing His Highness the Amir's constant call to the Kuwaiti people to 'choose the best' among candidates.

Kuwait has faced the threat of militant attacks since the rise of the Islamic State (IS). A suicide bombing on June 26, 2015 claimed by the group targeted the Shiite Imam Al-Sadeq mosque in Kuwait City, martyring 26 people and wounding scores others. On October 8, 2016, an Egyptian driving a garbage truck loaded with explosives and IS pamphlets rammed into a truck carrying five US soldiers, wounding only himself in the attack.

Kuwait is also dealing with the economic challenge of declining oil prices; representing over 90 percent of the country's overall income, despite having the world's sixth-largest proven oil reserves. "Historically, the rate of change in MPs faces in Kuwait is between 40-50 percent, but I predict these coming elections will see more than a 60-percent change," Dr Essa pointed out.

### Challenging

Meanwhile, Dr Ibrahim Al-Hadban, also Professor of Political Sciences at KU, said that regional circumstances surrounding Kuwait are "very dangerous" and the economic outlook "is making the situation even more challenging."

Seconding what Dr Essa went with about the happenings in Syria, Iraq and Libya, Dr Al-Hadban added that the situation in Yemen stands out as one of the most critical on a regional level, especially for Saudi Arabia and neighboring Gulf States.

"With the ongoing skirmishes on the Yemeni border southern Saudi Arabia, and fears of a military spillover from the north along the borders with IS-plagued Iraq and Syria, having a more intact domestic front in Kuwait has never been as crucial as now."

Late last September, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah said Kuwait is ready to receive the Yemeni stakeholders if they are willing to reach deal and break the political stalemate. Kuwait hosted the first round of the UN-sponsored intra-Yemeni peace talks between April 21 and August 6.

Dr Hadban said the decision to dissolve the parliament at this particular time and elect another one would help achieve His Highness the Amir's aspiration of a fortified and sound democratic system, as well as practice in Kuwait, which would definitely support the country's security in face of upcoming challenges. — KUNA

## One of the Safest Islamic Banks



2<sup>nd</sup> Safest Islamic Bank in Kuwait and 4<sup>th</sup> in the GCC

The rankings are based on evaluations of long-term foreign currency ratings from: Fitch Ratings, Moody's, and Standard & Poor's.

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## In Brief

## GCC DEFENSE

**KUWAIT:** Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah headed yesterday to Riyadh to attend the 15th GCC defense ministerial meeting. The Defense Ministry's Moral Guidance and Public Relations Department said in a press release that the meeting will discuss the latest political and security challenges in Arab, regional and international arenas and their impacts on the GCC states. — KUNA



## LABOR MEETING

**RIYADH:** GCC Social Affairs and Labor Ministers agreed yesterday on carrying out several initiatives in the upcoming three years to further enhance cooperation among countries in the region, said Kuwait Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Hind Al-Subaih. The initiatives focused on issues connected with the development of national and foreign labor forces and the fair treatment of domestic workers, she added. — KUNA



## THEATER FESTIVAL

**AMMAN:** 'Al-Qalaa' (the castle), a Kuwaiti play written by Abdul-Amir Shamkhi and directed by Ali Al-Husseini, is being performed by Kuwait theater troupe as part of the 23rd Jordan theater festival. The play, starring Ahmed Al-Salman and Faisal Al-Omairi, is one of the important theatrical works that featured in the last edition of Kuwait theater festival, said Dr Bader Al-Dowalish, Assistant Secretary-General of Kuwait's National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL). — KUNA



## Photo

of the day



**KUWAIT:** The 'super moon' shines behind a crescent fixed on the dome of a mosque in Kuwait City on November 14, 2016. — KUNA photo

## KUWAIT DONATES TO BUILD PROJECTS IN BOSNIA, CROATIA

### KD 23 MILLION LOAN FOR SABAH AL-AHMAD ROAD IN DJIBOUTI

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait has donated a sum of 390,000 euros to a fitness center in the southern city of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kuwait's Ambassador to Sarajevo Nasser Al-Mutairi announced yesterday. He noted that this announcement was made when member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Dragan Covic met with Mutairi in the Bosnian capital.

Moreover, the Kuwaiti diplomat informed Covic that the donation is part of an incessant flow of aid given to the Southeastern European nation. Meanwhile, the Bosnian official conveyed his greetings to His Highness the Amir, saying that the donation proves "Kuwait's commitment to humanitarian values," the statement added. It also noted that both officials discussed bilateral ties and strategies to further enhance them.

## Islamic Center

Kuwait had also announced donating \$500,000

to the construction of the Islamic Cultural Center in the Croatian city of Sisak to meet the growing needs of the Muslim community there. "This contribution by the State of Kuwait to this project reaffirms its leading and distinct role in supporting the philanthropy," Kuwait's Ambassador to Croatia Ayman Al-Adsani said in his speech at a ceremony held in Sisak on Monday to lay the foundation stone of the project.

"(It is also) emphasizing the role of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in supporting the humanitarian and charitable causes in all over the world, which was culminated in giving His Highness the title of 'Humanitarian Leader' for his efforts in the fields of philanthropy and development."

The ambassador underlined that the State of Kuwait, since its independence, has enacted for itself a consistent approach in its foreign policy, among its pillars is to support aid and develop-

ment all over the world regardless of the geographical, religious and ethnic determinants, on the basis of its faith and conviction of the importance of international partnership. "The contribution by the State of Kuwait to build this Islamic Cultural Center is part of Kuwait's global role in supporting issues related to Islam and Muslims all over the world," he added.

Adsani noted that this contribution to the Islamic center in the Republic of Croatia is a confirmation of the status Croatia holds as being an exceptional model for integration and coexistence in Europe. "This has become a rare trait at a time when many areas around the world are experiencing sectarian conflicts. We are certain that Muslims in the Republic of Croatia would play a positive national role in the enrichment of the Croatian and European identity," he concluded.

The ceremony was attended by Grand Mufti of the Republic of Croatia, Head of Islamic Center in the Republic of Croatia Dr Aziz Hasanovic; the Head of Muslim Scholars in the country Sheikh Husain Kfazonovic; the Mayor of Sisak City; several local officials.

## Road project

In other news, Kuwait signed a KD 23 million (\$78.2 million) loan agreement with Djibouti, to finance the Tadjoura-Balho road project, known as Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Road, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) announced Monday. The project aims mainly at boosting economic and social development in Djibouti's northern region and areas, KFAED said in a press statement.

It will contribute to enhancing communication among the capital's areas, as well as economic activity centers, education and health services, it added. The project also aims at facing the increased demand for transportation between Djibouti and the northern areas of neighboring Ethiopia, which would refresh the two-way trade in that region, the statement said.

KFAED also noted that the project includes highway engineering works to construct an asphalt-paved road of 112 km long and nine meters wide. The project has been equipped with sanitation requirements, protection and safety facilities, and two stations for weights measuring and fees collecting, in addition to environmental protection and engineering works to supervise the project's implementation, it added. — KUNA

## KUWAITI ELECTED PRESIDENT OF WORLD AUTISM ORGANIZATION

**KUWAIT:** World Autism Organization (WAO)'s general assembly has elected Head of the Kuwait Center for Autism (KCA) Dr Samira Al-Saad as a new president to lead the international organization championing world efforts to care for people with autism. "I feel very proud and honored by this election," Saad, also founder of the KCA and the Gulf Autism Union, said yesterday.

She pointed out that she has won the top post with a majority of votes despite fierce competition with several other candidates. "This comes, firstly, in recognition of Kuwait's relentless efforts in serving such a dear segment of the society," she said.

Saad pointed out that she will start her term following the WAO congress in the US city of Houston in 2018. She noted that Kuwait has an impressively success story in dealing with people with autism and their families.

The Kuwait Center for Autism (KCA), the pioneer Center for Autism established in 1994 in the Middle East region

has now become the study model for all other autism institutions in the region with its state-of-the-art technology and up-to-date developments in its Educational and Training System.

The World Autism Organization (WAO) is a voluntary, chiefly but not exclusively, parent-based body that was founded in 1988 with its primary focus being to promote among all people and nations, the highest possible quality of life for people with an Autism Spectrum Condition and their families.

Every four years, the WAO hosts a large international congress in a region where there is a low availability of resources and whose neighboring regions are also in need of the establishment of services and support.

In November 2018, the WAO will host their 5th International Congress in Houston, Texas, with support from the American Society for Autism, and in partnership with Nuevo Leon Parent Organization from Mexico. — KUNA

## EX INFO MIN UNVEILS BOOK ON KUWAIT TV

**KUWAIT:** Former minister of information Mohammad Al-Sanousi launched his new book titled "Kuwait TV - Chronicles and Tales 1961-1985" at a ceremony on Monday evening.

The ceremony, held at the theater of the National Library of Kuwait, gathered Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and a large number of media celebrities and intelligentsia.

In a statement to the gathering, Sheikh Salman, also president of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), highly commended the book for its "documenting of important moments in the history of Kuwait TV in an eloquent way." He also praised "the great contributions and dedicated efforts" made by the media people and artists to the development of Kuwait TV.

"Kuwait TV has been able to overcome the challenges and changes in the media domain thanks to the care of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah -

the founder of Kuwait's modern media, and the sincere sons of Kuwait," the minister added. Sheikh Salman appreciated the remarkable contributions of Sanousi to the modernization of the media discourse in a free, professional and unconventional way.

Director General of the National Library Kamel Abduljalil said the new book provides the readers with an insight into the development process of Kuwait TV over 24 years. "The book covers a critical period in the history of Kuwait TV which followed its establishment on November 5, 1961," he added.

Meanwhile, Sanousi, who led the Ministry of Information between April and December, 2006, thanked Sheikh Salman and the other celebrities for attending the launching ceremony of his book. He added that his book is a tribute to the pioneers of the Kuwaiti mass media who made outstanding contributions to the progress of Kuwait TV. During the ceremony a documentary was screened showing the photos and videos of the main events covered by the book. — KUNA

## KUWAIT UNDERLINES PRIVATE SECTOR'S KEY ROLE TO PROMOTE GCC ECONOMY, TRADE

**RIYADH:** Kuwait Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yusuf Al-Ali said Monday the GCC succeeded in increasing private sector's contribution to promoting economic and trade relations among the GCC states. Ali said speaking after a meeting between Ministers of Commerce and representatives of the private sector in the six Gulf Cooperation Council.

"These meetings are very important and were already bearing fruit through promoting role of private sector in building economies of the GCC countries," he said.

Ali said they have discussed problems facing private sector, and how it could boost economic cooperation among the six GCC countries. The participants, he added, raised some solutions to these problems, which he did not mention. "The

private sector has been playing a very important role in the economies of the GCC countries," he said. The GCC is looking forward for a greater private sector role in order to achieve further revenues and economic growth at the national and regional levels, said Ali.

Talal Al-Kharafi, member of board of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), said these meetings were important because they address obstacles facing private sector. These meetings aimed at facilitating trade and investment among the GCC countries, as well as unifying legislations and opening branches of companies in other member countries, he said. Kharafi said the GCC countries were witnessing an advanced stage of economic integration. — KUNA



**GCC OFFICIALS STRESS IMPORTANCE OF 'GULF SECURITY ONE' DRILL**

**MANAMA:** The apparent success of the 'Gulf Security One' drill is a testament of the continued cooperation among GCC nations within the realms of defense and security, affirmed a number of officials participating in the exercise yesterday. Gulf security officials agreed in separate statements that the drill had sharpened the skills of participating forces.

Bahrain's Brigadier-General Hamad Mohammed Al-Khalifa said that the drill enabled GCC security forces to cooperate with each other to face common hypothetical threats. The success of the drill is a source of pride for the elite security forces in the region, affirmed the Bahraini official.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Colonel Abdullah Al-Ateeqi said that his country was very keen on partaking in the security event, saying that the safety and welfare of the region were connected to that of Kuwait. The security drill simulated a situation

where land, water, and air assaults were being launched, said the Kuwaiti official, who affirmed that participating personnel defused the threats and resolved the crises adequately.

Speaking on the importance of the drill, Saudi representative Brigadier Ahmad Al-Asiri said that regional security threats required GCC countries to hold such exercises to defend the lives of their citizens. Terrorism, organized crime, and other threats required a more coordinative effort to fend of challenges that might face the Gulf States, said the Saudi official.

The 'Gulf Security One' exercise will conclude tomorrow with a ceremony to be attended by Bahraini King Hamad Bin Issa Al-Khalifa. Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and other GCC security officials will also be attending. —KUNA

**NUMBER OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN KUWAIT REACHES 921,666**

**KUWAIT:** The number of Indian nationals in Kuwait has reached 921,666 as of October 11, 2016, according to Indian embassy yesterday. The embassy, quoting data released from the general department of residency, Kuwait, said that 707,085 males and 194,386 females from India are currently residing in Kuwait of which 12,976 males and 16,325 females

are working in the government sector. Of the 460,411 Indians working in private sector, 23,550 are females and 436,861 are males. 299,127 Indians are presently in the domestic sector of which 79,745 are females and 219,390 are males, the data showed. The total number of dependents is 112,536 of which 37,791 are males and 74,745 are females.

**8-HOUR BAN ON TRAVELERS' RETURN OVERRULED**

**By A Saleh**

**KUWAIT:** Instructions were made yesterday to halt a previous decision banning departing passengers through land borders from returning to Kuwait within eight hours of departure. Security sources noted that the ban was placed by the former borders director three months earlier and that border systems had been accordingly programmed. The sources added that a number of travellers who go to Khafji in Saudi Arabia on short business trips and return before eight hours had expressed dissatisfaction with the decision. Accordingly, the land border exits manager brigadier Ayad Al-Haddad ordered exempting them until the block is fully removed from the Ministry of Interior's systems.

**Hearings' scheduling**

Head of the comprehensive court chancellor Adel Boresli yesterday issued a directive banning scheduling hearings a long time after filing cases and stressed that the first hearing of any case must be held within a maximum of two months from its filing.

**Tents**

Municipality sources said the municipality would allow pitching tents in private gardens and outside houses during the camping season that ends in March 2017. The sources added that no fees would be collected for these tents, provided they do not cause any annoyance or disturbance to neighbors.

**Housing**

The Public Authority for Housing Welfare is currently considering changing the registration period for citizens applying to get housing units in south Mutlaa to include some who registered after Dec 31, 2012.

**KUWAIT SCIENCE CLUB TAKES HIGH RESOLUTION PICTURE OF SUPERMOON**  
MANPOWER AUTHORITY COLLECTED OVER KD 18 MILLION

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Science Club's astronomy and space sciences department recorded the 'supermoon' appearing in Kuwait skies Monday evening, when the moon was at its biggest and brightest, an event that is not expected to happen again until 2034. The department's manager Bader Al-Omaira said that the moon orbits the Earth in an oval orbit - sometimes it is closer to our planet than at other times. When the moon is closest to Earth, it is described by astronomers as being in the perigee stage. When it is further away, this is the moon's apogee. Omaira added that a perigee stage supermoon appears about 14 percent larger and 30 percent brighter than an apogee full moon, when Earth is between the moon and the sun. He said the supermoon was exceptionally large and brought higher than normal tides. Omaira explained that the supermoon can also cause earthquakes or volcanic eruptions in some parts of the earth.

**Manpower authority**

Although it was only established recently, the manpower authority made a substantial leap in financial revenues, as it collected KD 18,167,000 since the beginning of April till the end of October 2016, said deputy director for human and financial resources Kholoud Al-Shehab. She said that revenues are expected to rise to KD 33 million by the end of this fiscal year in March 2017. Shehab added that KD 6,103,000 was collected by the individual disputes committee that supervises workers' transfer from one employer to another and allows an employer to transfer a government project worker for a certain fee.

**Camel run**

A number of disoriented camels were seen running in the streets of Ahmadi, which created a great deal of chaos and confusion amongst motorists. Some bloggers circulated videos and photos of the camels, claiming that they had escaped from the electoral headquarters of a fifth constituency election candidate.



**TWO BOGUS DOMESTIC HELP OFFICES BUSTED**

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Residency detectives busted two bogus domestic help offices. The first was using absconding domestic helpers to work on daily bases, while the second encouraged them to abscond from their sponsors in exchange of double payment. An Egyptian who took absconding helpers to homes was caught with two Filipinas. The first Filipina was absconding, while the second had agreed with her sponsor to work for others and pay him part of the money she made. The Egyptian told police about a third person, who is a residency law violator, who confessed that he receives a monthly salary of KD 250 for coordinating with absconding helpers. Meanwhile in the second office, detectives received a complaint from a citizen about a bogus domestic help office that cheated citizens and expats. Investigations revealed that an Egyptian agreed with citizens to bring domestic helpers for KD 400 and gave them a receipt. He also claimed that he will process the residency transfer from the old sponsor to the new one. He then urged the maid to abscond. In a separate case, residency detectives carried out a campaign on health centers, clinics, salons and laboratories, arresting 15 persons in violation

of residency law. Twelve of them had article 20 (domestic help) residencies, while three had article 18 visas. All were sent to concerned authorities.

**License revoked**

As part of the measures taken by the municipality to refer to the prosecution the incident of a building collapsing in Hawally while being demolished, Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi issued two decisions. The first is to revoke the license of the contracting company that was carrying out the job, and the second to suspend the engineering office for one year, based on disciplinary measures mentioned in law 33/2016.

**Traffic campaign**

Traffic detectives carried out a campaign on several vital roads resulting in detaining one person and impounding 17 violating ATVs.

**Environment police**

Environment police carried out inspections in camel grazing areas in the desert to check on a reported truck that was dumping trash in violation of the law. Police found the trash after it had been burned, and the truck was traced to a general trading company. Legal measures are being taken.





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Crime

Report

RAPIST, MOTHER BLACKMAIL VICTIM

**KUWAIT:** A man and his friend abducted a young man, raped him and recorded the crime. They then demanded money and threatened to publish the video if he did not oblige, so he paid them KD 20,000. The mother of one of the men asked him how he got the money, so he told her what they had done. The mother also decided to blackmail the victim and demanded KD 35,000, leading the frustrated victim to call the police. The suspect and his mother were arrested when they went to receive the KD 35,000. The third suspect was also arrested.

Hashish

Airport policemen arrested two citizens smoking hashish in the departures smoking area. Both were sent to the Drugs Control General Department. The two citizens were found to be abnormal, and confessed to smoking the banned substance.

Scam

An Egyptian man was able to convince several citizens and expats about his ability to buy vehicles at competitive prices, but as soon as he received the amount and the vehicle's ownership was about to be transferred, the buyer was surprised by the disappearance of the seller. A citizen told Salmiya police he paid KD 9,000 to an Egyptian to buy a car, then when he asked about it, he discovered that the suspect had registered it in his own name before disappearing. Hawally detectives worked on the case and arrested the Egyptian. He was found to be an ex-convict in similar cases.

Theft

Detectives arrested an Egyptian man in Salwa for stealing KD 12,000 from the account of a Mauritanian expat who lost his ATM card. The Mauritanian had earlier reported that the amount was withdrawn from his account after he lost his card. Detectives reviewed security tapes and spotted repeated images of one person withdrawing the money. The Egyptian confessed to stealing the money and was sent to concerned authorities. —Al-Anbaa and Al-Rai

EXPERTS, PRESENT WORKSHOPS IN WIF

**KUWAIT:** The 2016 World Informatics Forum (WIF) forum is set to feature various scientific workshops presented by a unique group of international scientists, experts and researchers, the supreme organizing committee announced in a press statement. In this regard, head of the organizing committee Dr Hussein Yosri Ameen said that Go Up Company's Yousif Hossam Al-Mazeedi from Kuwait will present a workshop on the first day about the difference between compact and cyber lives and the design of video games and smartphone apps.



Al-Jarida

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

FROM 'OMAR'S ISLAM' TO JABER CULTURAL CENTER

By Mudaffar Abdullah

Jaber Cultural Center could have been opened by a Kuwaiti symphony band because we have the Higher Institute for Music for four decades now, while the Omani Royal Orchestra was established in 1985 - 10 years after the establishment of our music institute. But it is now one of the top three Arab bands after the Iraqi and Egyptian orchestras. The first play ever performed in Kuwait - Omar's Islam - was in 1939, that is of course without forgetting the first attempt made by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al-Reshaid at Ahmadiya school in 1924 under the title 'Reform Debates.' Omar's Islam' was written by a Palestinian teacher Mahmoud Najem, who played the role of Caliph Omar Al-Farouq. The cast was made up of school students including the late Hamad Al-Rujaib, who later became a cultural and artistic icon. The play was performed at Mubarakiya School in the presence of the ruler Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, British Political Agent Gerald de Gaury and a large audience. The performance was followed by a dinner banquet at the ruler's palace in the cast's honor, where a silent Chaplin movie was shown. That is how Kuwait was ever since inception. Its people loved modernization. This was exactly the thought I recollected while watching the Jaber Center's inauguration and made an analogy between both theatrical performances - the one presented 40 years before independence and the opening of the bejeweled building overlooking the Arabian Gulf. It was surely a joyful incident that made us all happy, but we still have some concerns, just like the ones we felt after

opening the Jaber Stadium while we have no sporting activities. Taking into consideration that iconic Kuwaiti artists who had honored Kuwait for long decades have grown old, can it be acceptable to open a huge cultural edifice that can hardly be operated by Kuwaitis nowadays? We should also wonder why Kuwaitis have failed to form a Kuwaiti orchestra 40 years since the establishment of the music institute in 1976. Why did the one formed by Kuwaiti composer Ghannam Al-Daikan during his deanship vanish in thin air? It is logical that after four decades of caring for music, a Kuwaiti band would play at the opera theater, but this is only a part of the general deterioration the state has been suffering from since the 1980s, when religious fundamentalism and administrative corruption started prevailing. The Omani Royal Orchestra is gradually working on nationalizing its staff from both genders through special training. It started with a small number of amateurs and is now an international professional band. The Jaber Center will act as a challenge for Kuwaitis because it is a superb cultural, artistic and literary establishment that needs to be run by Kuwaitis, although our current cultural situations are too deteriorated to do so. As I said, it was a joyful event, but it reopened old wounds. PS: The decision to remove violating vehicles' license plates is too harsh and not studied enough, therefore exceptions were made for students and hospital visitors - haste is waste! —Translated by Kuwait Times

News

in brief

Petrol prices reviewed Dec 1?

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait could review petrol prices again by December 1, 2016, but sources said that there is still debate within the government on that regard. "One ministry concerned with the issue has officially requested permission to review prices monthly instead of once every three months, given the changes to global oil prices," said the sources without naming the state department. —Al-Qabas

617 complaints against police

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaitis and expatriates lodged 617 complaints against police officers this year as of the end of October, compared to 750 filed last year, a senior Interior Ministry official said. A thorough and clear investigation is carried out for each complaint regardless of the complainant's nationality, said Major General Mohammad Al-Enezi, General Director of the Supervision and Inspection Department. —Al-Rai

Smart meters

**KUWAIT:** Bidding for the infrastructure project for prepaid smart meters is going to be closed on November 29, 2016, the Ministry of Electricity and Water's Assistant Undersecretary for Planning and Training Dr Meshaan Al-Otaibi said. This will be followed by other tenders to be announced at a later date in order to buy and install 400,000 smart meters for electricity and water, he added. The ministry plans to finish installing the smart meters at apartment buildings around Kuwait before energy tariffs increase in May 2017. —Al-Rai

Oil deal

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet agreed during its meeting Monday to extend its deal to sell crude oil to Egypt starting from January 1, 2017, while giving Cairo a nine month period before the first payment, government sources said. According to the contract, Kuwait will provide Egypt with nearly two million barrels of crude each month based on international market prices and without discounts, the sources explained. —Al-Rai

Egyptians' remittances

**KUWAIT:** Egyptians in Kuwait transferred nearly 500 million Egyptian pounds during the past few days, with an average of 100 million pounds a day through the country's three biggest money exchange companies, sources said. This notable increase came a few days after the International Monetary Fund announced approving a \$12 billion loan to Egypt. —Al-Rai

Three-year budget

**KUWAIT:** The Finance Ministry is currently preparing a state budget for the next three years instead of one year, Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said, adding that preparation has started since July. —Al-Jarida



**KUWAIT:** Kuwait's Ambassador to Cairo Mohammed Saleh Al-Thuwaikh received a delegation from Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA), which is in Cairo to take part in the 9th Kuwaiti Week in Egypt. The delegation was headed by KJA board member Jassim Kamal and included the general assembly member Jassim Al-Tunaib.



KFH SUPPORTS ACTIVITIES OF DASMAN DIABETES INSTITUTE

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) supported the activities of Dasman Diabetes Institute that is held on the occasion of World Diabetes Day. KFH's participation comes as part of its social responsibility and keenness to spread awareness about the dangers of this disease especially that the health of the society is an integral part of the social and comprehensive development. KFH will take part in the activities of Dasman Diabetes Institute to be held tomorrow Thursday from 5-9 pm. The program encompasses educational and health activities

suitable for different group ages. It allows the public to check blood pressure and sugar level. KFH launched diabetes awareness campaign on its social media channels in collaboration with Al Salam Hospital in an attempt to increase the awareness about diabetes and its complications in the individuals and the society, ye to improve the lives of people with diabetes and promote healthy lifestyles. KFH assumes important role in shouldering the social responsibility while strengthening ties with health and government institutions in the country.



**KUWAIT:** Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti National Guard Lieutenant General Hashim Al-Rifai met with US Ambassador to Kuwait Lawrence Silverman on Monday. During the meeting, they discussed issues of mutual concern, mainly military and security matters, a press statement by the National Guard said.



**KUWAIT:** The photography committee of the 2016 Baghli Award for Grateful Sons 2016 concluded the process of examining photos submitted by participants in the competition, and select four winners to be announced during a ceremony later this year. The committee met at Kuwait Journalists Association's office in Shuwaikh, and comprised of Faisal Al-Qena'e, Mansour Al-Salameen and Talal Al-Otaibi.



Christians tell tales of survival in 'caliphate'

IRAQ'S CHILDREN OF CALIPHATE FACE STATELESS FUTURE



MOSUL: Soldiers from the Iraqi Special Forces 2nd division carrying rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and anti tank missiles take up positions to prepare for a suicide bomb vehicle that was reported to be moving towards their position as they engage with Islamic State (IS) group fighters in Mosul's Karkukli neighborhood. — AFP

'TAKE COVER!' TACKLING IS CAR BOMBS

MOSUL: It only takes a split second for the expression on the Iraqi soldier's face to transform from relaxed contentment to absolute terror. "Car bomb!" The scream slices across the otherwise quiet afternoon in Karkukli, a heavily damaged eastern district of Iraq's second city Mosul. Special operations forces have seized the western half of Karkukli from the Islamic State group, but the eastern half-like most of Mosul-remains under IS control.

IS has repeatedly turned to suicide car bombings as part of its defense against Iraqi forces since the operation to retake Mosul was launched four weeks ago. Elite army troops are finishing their typical lunch of rice and tomato sauce on Monday afternoon when the warning comes through on the Diyala Regiment's walkie-talkie channel. "Armoured Kia Sportage coming your way. Take cover now!" The elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) fighters burst into panicked action, shouting at the few civilians on the dusty rubble-strewn road to hide.

Any soldiers carrying weapons lighter than rocket-propelled grenades scramble into abandoned homes, with some kicking through windows to get inside. "Grab the bazookas!" one unit leader bellows to his forces, several of whom grab anti-tank missiles and take up positions at intersections where they can spot the car. Drenched in sweat, drivers leap into Humvees and tanks to block off access to the main road. "Suspicious vehicle is heading north," a voice radios to Lieutenant Abbas of the Diyala Regiment, standing on a rooftop overlooking his unit's forward positions in Karkukli.

The suspected car bomb is about 150 meters from the CTS's base inside the neighborhood, he tells AFP. It is driving slowly along a main thoroughfare dividing the neighborhood's east and west, likely looking for a route that could bring it closer to CTS forces. But the troops spent the morning blocking off about a dozen alleyways with tanks and bulldozers, and the Kia Sportage struggles to find a way through. "It reached our fortified positions and is turning back," the same voice says minutes later. "Roger. I'll have Hussein set up one (anti-tank missile) for you at the end of the alley," Abbas responds.

The search is on

While the imminent danger has subsided, CTS forces remain on high alert-the search is on. The gunfire and yelling has died down, and Karkukli's now-deserted streets are eerily quiet as tense CTS soldiers wait for news of the car's location. As soon as he heard of the suspicious vehicle, Lieutenant Haidar Hussein bounded up the steps to the rooftop of the abandoned three-storey home his unit is using as a base.

The young, clean-shaven soldier is responsible for flying the Mosul Regiment's surveillance drone, which has been instrumental in helping them spot incoming car bombs. Usually, Hussein locates the booby-trapped cars, which are then targeted by CTS tanks or air strikes from the US-led coalition warplanes circling above. He isn't so lucky on Monday. "I put the drone up in the sky as soon as I heard there was a suspicious car, but I can't find it," he says, fixated on the bird's-eye view of Karkukli displayed on the tablet screen in front of him.

The clock is ticking-the drone's batteries only last 20 minutes and he has no other charged units. "I'm monitoring this area here, as it's the only way the car can reach us," Hussein explains, pointing to a deserted main road leading into Karkukli from an adjacent industrial zone. He shakes his head and starts directing the drone back towards his rooftop, sprinkled with broken glass and empty cans of cheap energy drinks guzzled by young fighters. Minutes later, a pair of grinning CTS soldiers emerge from the staircase. One sets his anti-tank missile in a corner of the rooftop. "It's gone," the other says, waving his hand to indicate that the car has left their neighborhood and that they are safe-for now. — AFP

MUSLIM LAWMAKER, SANDERS ALLY VIES TO LEAD DEMOCRATS

WASHINGTON: Keith Ellison, a US Muslim lawmaker and a supporter of Bernie Sanders, on Monday formally announced his bid to lead the battered Democratic Party, vowing to take it in a more liberal direction. "I am proud to announce my candidacy for Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and if given the opportunity to serve, I will work tirelessly to make the Democratic Party an organization that brings us together and advances an agenda that improves people's lives," Ellison, 53, said in a statement.

Ellison, a member of the House of Representatives who hails from Minnesota, became the first Muslim elected to the US Congress in 2006. He was one of the first supporters of Sanders, in October 2015, in the Vermont senator's ultimately unsuccessful bid against Hillary Clinton in the Democratic presidential primaries. Clinton's loss in the November 8 election to Republican tycoon Donald Trump has left the party reeling.

Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist, was among the first to announce his support for Ellison to lead the DNC. A number of other party heavyweights also back him, including the next Democratic leader in the Senate, Chuck Schumer of New York. "The Democratic Party needs to look itself in the mirror and work tirelessly to become once again the party that working people know will work for their interests," Sanders wrote in launching a petition drive to support Ellison's bid last week.

A party in crisis

As Democratic President Barack Obama winds up his eight years in office, his party is in crisis. In addition to losing the White House in last week's election, the Democrats were unable to retake control of either the Senate or the House from the Republicans and lost a number of state races. In the battle to rebuild the party of former presidents John F Kennedy and Bill Clinton, Ellison said, the focus needs to be populist and anchored at the grassroots level. "We should have to make the voters first. Not the donors first," Ellison said in an ABC television interview Sunday.

"I love the donors and we thank them but it has to be that-the guys in the barber shop, the lady at the diner, the folks who are worried about whether that plant is going to close.... They've got to be a laser beam focus



Rep. Keith Ellison

on everything we do," he said. "That's how we come back." Ellison would be the first Muslim and the third African American, according to the Huffington Post, to head the DNC. He notably faces a rival in Howard Dean, former party head from 2005 to 2009 and a

presidential contender in the 2004 primaries. The DNC is currently led by interim chair Donna Brazile following the resignation of Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who stepped down in July under fierce criticism of her pro-Clinton bias during the primaries. — AFP

Recall

Product	Galant	Product Model Year	Galant 2007 - 2013
Defect	MMC announces a recall to preventive and investigation purpose for certain DRIVER side airbag inflator.	No. of Vehicles Covered	1860 Vehicles
Repair	Replace inflator kit Driver side airbag	Chassis Number Involved	From 4P3SRD1A9E801026 To 4P3SYD13ADE802223
Dealer	Maseelah Trading Company Al Mulla Motors	Contact	For enquiry, please call Tel: 24730733 ext: 555 Fax: 24730340

# IRAN MISSILE PROGRAM IS 'NON-NEGOTIABLE'

**TEHRAN:** Iran's missile program is "non-negotiable" and tests will continue, foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi said yesterday, following criticism from European Union diplomats. "Iran's defense capabilities cannot be compromised and are under no circumstance negotiable," he told state television IRIB. "Missile tests are conducted within the framework of Iran's defense policies." A meeting of EU foreign minis-

ters in Brussels on Monday urged Tehran to refrain from ballistic missile testing.

Iran's military has carried out a number of missile tests in recent months, which the United States and European governments have said are a breach of its commitments under last year's nuclear deal. Western powers say the missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads and therefore go against the deal, under which Iran agreed to curb its

nuclear program in exchange for a lifting of global sanctions. The EU foreign ministers called on all sides to respect the agreement-reflecting concerns over US president-elect Donald Trump's vow to ditch it.

Ghasemi welcomed the EU's "interest and determination to develop ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the renewed emphasis on the commitment of this union in the full implementation by all

sides" of the nuclear deal. The EU has been pushing to open an office in Tehran amid a surge in interest from European companies hoping to resume trade ties. But there has been push-back from Iranian conservatives, who say the office would be used to press human rights issues, and Ghasemi said last week it was "unlikely such an office would be opened... in the short term".

The head of Iran's Human Rights

Council, which falls under the headline judiciary, said last month: "If this office is used for following up trade issues, there is no problem. But they have said that following the opening of this office, they want to have close contacts with human rights defenders and NGOs. "So they should know that the judiciary will definitely not allow such a den of corruption to be established inside Iran," he said, according to the ISNA news agency.— AFP



**MOSUL:** The Iraqi army fires a 155mm shell towards Islamic State militant positions in Mosul, from the village of Ali Rash, east of Mosul yesterday. — AP

## IRAQI CRISIS ADDS TO STATELESS GENERATION IN MIDDLE EAST

### THOUSANDS IN IS AREAS MAY HAVE NO VALID DOCUMENTS

**DEBAGA:** Ali and Sara, born in Islamic State's self-styled caliphate in northern Iraq, escaped to a camp for displaced people only to confront a new challenge—with no identity documents, they risk joining a generation of stateless children. After seizing large parts of Iraq and neighboring Syria in 2014, Islamic State imposed its strict interpretation of Islamic law and began to establish the basic frameworks of statehood such as taxes and regulation. But that project is collapsing in the face of a military campaign in Iraq to crush the militants, with unexpected consequences for ordinary people escaping their grip. Births in Islamic State-controlled areas were registered with authorities that are not considered valid outside that shrinking territory or not registered at all.

That is adding hundreds and perhaps thousands of children under the age of 2-1/2 to the growing numbers of children across the Middle East who are stateless—lacking legal recognition as a citizen of any country. Stateless children risk missing out on basic rights such as education and healthcare, are likely to face difficulties in adulthood getting a job, and are exposed to abuse and trafficking, according to the

United Nations. The five-year-old civil war in neighboring Syria, which has uprooted 10 million people, threatens an even greater number of children born in areas outside Syrian government control or in refugee camps beyond its borders.

Sara was born just as the ultra-hardline Islamists stormed across Iraq in 2014. Her little brother Ali was born two years later, days before his family fled to Debaga camp from their village south of Mosul, Islamic State's last major stronghold which Iraqi forces are now battling to retake. The children's father, Mohamed, says he did not register either birth with Islamic State. "If you brought them a child, they would issue a birth certificate themselves in the name of their state," he said, spurning that proposition.

Some parents did register their newborns with Islamic State, which issued proprietary birth certificates bearing the group's black-and-white logo declaring "There is no god but God". Furaq, a 22-year-old from the Mosul area, showed Reuters a lightweight pink document issued by the group when his eight-month-old son Yasser was born. It closely resembles its Iraqi equivalent. Mahdi Waili, head of the

government directorate which deals with nationality, said parents whose children do not have birth certificates would be able to go to the health ministry offices to arrange for their births to be registered. However, months after some areas in northern Iraq were retaken from Islamic State, local government services have yet to be reinstated.

#### Fear of reprisals

Other parents privately say they obtained Islamic State documents for their children but tore them up when Iraqi forces pushed out the militants, fearing reprisals for what could be seen as cooperating with the group. Ali, a first-time father from inside Mosul, spoke to Reuters last week holding his 19-month-old daughter Amal, who was born with a brain defect that has kept her from learning to walk. He secured a birth certificate for the girl from a neighbor who worked in the local hospital but refused to let Islamic State authenticate it with their official stamp. "The doctor told me, 'Don't let anyone know you have the certificate or they will slaughter us both,'" Ali said.

Abu Saud, 41-year-old father of five, said he decided not to register his son's birth in October 2014 at a village south of Mosul

controlled at the time by Islamic State. "With my other children, I would go to the residency department to register them with a photo and stamp," he said outside his tent in Debaga. "It proves that this is my child or your child or his child. But now, he doesn't have an ID card." The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR says it wants Iraqi authorities to issue birth certificates for children born in areas controlled by Islamic State.

Debaga camp manager Ahmed Abdo said his staff is working with the United Nations, a Swedish NGO and the Iraqi government to try to resolve the problem, and so far UNHCR has provided legal assistance to help resolve 175 cases. But a UNHCR spokesman said a significant increase was anticipated as the roughly 1.5 million people still living inside Mosul emerge from Islamic State rule. Belkis Wille, Iraq researcher for Human Rights Watch, said Iraqi authorities have an international legal obligation to grant nationality to all people born stateless in their territory. "They should make it a priority to allow these families to reintegrate and get access to school and benefits for their children as quickly as possible," she said.— Reuters

## IRAQI CHRISTIANS TELL TALES OF SURVIVAL IN THE 'CALIPHATE'

**ARBIL:** They were threatened, forced to spit on a crucifix or convert to Islam, but a handful of Iraqi Christians miraculously survived more than two years under Islamic State group rule. When the jihadists swept across the Nineveh Plain in northern Iraq in August 2014 and told Christians to convert, pay tax, leave or die, around 120,000 of them fled. Now that Iraqi forces have retaken many of those areas around the city of Mosul, stories are emerging of those who did not get a chance to leave and faced one of the three other options. Ismail Matti was 14 when IS militants stormed his hometown of Bartalla, east of Mosul. He waited for relatives who had already fled to come back for him and his sick mother, Jandar Nasi, but nobody did.

They tried to flee in taxis but were turned around twice by IS and ended up in a Mosul prison. "There were Shiite people crammed in a cell next to ours—they took one, shot him in the head and dragged his body in front of us," he said. "They told my mother the same thing would happen to me if we refused to convert. So we converted." Ismail recounted from a church-run shelter in the Kurdish capital Arbil. The pair went back to Bartalla and were then sent to the village of Shurikhan, on the western outskirts of Mosul. "All our neighbors were Daesh," he said, using an Arab acronym for IS. "They would come to check if I was following the sharia (Islamic law)."

#### Reign of terror

"If they found that I hadn't been to the mosque to pray, I sometimes got lashes," Ismail said. He suffered the same fate in their next temporary home in Bazwaya, east of Mosul. Ismail would sometimes get food from friendly residents but his mother never left the house. Jandar, who suffers from chronic migraines, was reluctant to tell their story as she sat quietly on a bed in the Arbil shelter. Her dark, haunted gaze sometimes suddenly changed into a broad, loving smile directed at her son, as he recounted their odyssey under IS's reign of terror. "This boy is the most beautiful gift ever. He and God and Mary saved us from death. We will always be together," she said.



**ARBIL:** Iraqi Christian Jandar (center) smiles as she meets with her family members after more than two years under the rule of the Islamic State group. — AFP

Zarifa Bakoos Daddo stayed in Qaraqosh, once Iraq's largest Christian town, with her sick 90-year-old husband when IS vehicles hurtled in. "On a Wednesday, his condition worsened, we took him to hospital. On the Thursday he was dead," said Zarifa, a 77-year-old with gnarled hands and decaying teeth. She lived through more than two years of IS occupation of Qaraqosh in a house with her elderly friend Badriya. "All that time I stayed with Badriya, we didn't see any of our people, only those fellows," Zarifa said of the IS militants. "They would bring us food occasionally, leaving it at the door," she said. "The older men used to tell us not to worry, that we were like sisters to them, but the younger ones were troublesome."

#### Told to convert

They were briefly taken to a prison in Mosul and held there with divorced women and widows, but eventually brought back to their house in Qaraqosh. "One day, one of them came asking for money and gold. He poked his rifle into my ribs and said 'You have to give to us,'" she said. Zarifa handed over the \$300 she had and Badriya gave some 15-carat gold.

"One time, a young one, maybe 20 or 21, came and said we should convert. I told him we had our beliefs and they had theirs," she recalled. "He told me to spit on a picture of the Virgin Mary and a crucifix. I refused but he made me. The whole time I was telling God in my heart that I did not mean any of this," she said.— AFP

## News

in brief

#### White men charged with shoving black into coffin

**JOHANNESBURG:** Two white men in South Africa have been charged with assault after an online video emerged showing them pushing a black man into a coffin and threatening to burn him alive, a court official said yesterday. The pair are due in court today in the northeastern town of Middelburg charged with assault and intent to cause grievous bodily harm, according to the court's clerk. The footage was apparently shot on a mobile phone by one of the two white men involved in the incident. The 20-second clip shows one white man shoving the black man, who makes distressed noises, into the wooden coffin and trying to force down the lid. "Do you want to speak? Come, come. We want to throw the petrol on," said one of the men, speaking Afrikaans, according to the News24 website. They are also accused of threatening to put a snake in the coffin. The video, which is undated, has spread rapidly across social media.



**A file picture shows ousted Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi gesturing from the defendants cage as he attends his trial at the police academy. — AFP**

#### Egypt court overturns Morsi death sentence

**CAIRO:** An Egyptian appeals court has overturned a death sentence handed down against ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in one of four trials since his 2013 overthrow, a judicial official said. The Court of Cassation ordered that Morsi be retried on the charges of taking part in prison breaks and violence against policemen during the 2011 uprising which toppled longtime president Hosni Mubarak. Five co-defendants, including the supreme guide of the now outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, Mohamed Badie, who also received death sentences in June 2015, will be retried too. Nearly 100 others who were tried in absentia are unaffected by the appeals ruling. Last month, the same Appeals Court upheld a 20-year jail sentence handed down against Morsi in April in a separate trial on charges of ordering the use of deadly force against protesters during his year in power. Morsi has also been sentenced to life in prison in two other trials.

#### Taiwan bill targets fraudsters abroad

**TAIPEI:** Taiwan passed a bill yesterday to crack down on swindlers committing crimes overseas following a spate of deportations of Taiwanese fraud suspects to China from countries that do not recognize the island's government. Taipei has accused Beijing of "abducting" Taiwanese citizens suspected of committing fraud abroad and taking them to China amid criticism that the island's own judicial system has failed to bring such swindlers to justice due to legal loopholes. Analysts see the deportation cases as a Chinese bid to pile pressure on Taiwan's new Beijing-sceptic leader Tsai Ing-wen, who took office in May, as relations between the two sides worsen. But Beijing insists that Taiwanese fraud suspects should be sent to China to face trial because their telecom fraud crimes largely target mainland Chinese. Chinese officials blamed Taiwan for condoning cross-border fraud after a group of Taiwanese suspects deported by Malaysia back to the island were set free in April.

#### Saudis intercept ballistic missile fired from Yemen

**RIYADH:** Saudi air defense forces yesterday intercepted and destroyed a ballistic missile fired from Yemen towards the kingdom, the Riyadh-led anti-rebel coalition said. The missile was fired towards the Najran region but was shot down, said a coalition statement published by the official Saudi Press Agency. Coalition forces responded by targeting the source of the fire inside Yemen, it added. The coalition has been engaged in a bombing campaign against the Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels and their allies since March last year, and the insurgents have targeted their air bases. Saudi Arabia has deployed Patriot missiles to counter such attacks. Last month, the rebels launched one of their longest-range strikes against Saudi Arabia, firing a ballistic missile that was brought down near the holy Muslim city of Makkah, an attack that was roundly condemned by Riyadh's Gulf allies.

#### Bangladesh's siege cafe to become family home

**DHAKA:** The owner of the Bangladeshi restaurant where Islamist extremists killed 22 hostages, mostly foreigners, said yesterday he would turn the building into a home for his family and reopen the eatery elsewhere. Police have handed the Holey Artisan Bakery back to its owners after completing a four-month investigation into the siege by extremists linked to the Islamic State group. "Police have handed over the place to us on Sunday. They've cleaned up the debris. We're now going to turn it into a residential home where we'll live," owner Sadat Mehdi said. Mehdi, who lost five friends in the attack, said he wanted to send a message that "we are not defined by terror".





Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani

## GIULIANI 'FAVORITE' AS TRUMP WEIGHS SECRETARY OF STATE

**NEW YORK:** Sequestered in his Manhattan high-rise, President-elect Donald Trump is preparing to fill key foreign policy posts. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani has emerged as the favorite to serve as secretary of state, a senior Trump official said. Although Giuliani has little foreign policy experience, the official said there was no real competition for the job as the nation's top diplomat.

However, a second official cautioned that John Bolton, a former US ambassador to the United Nations, remained in contention for the key post. Both officials requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the process by name. The New York billionaire also was considering tapping Richard Grenell as US ambassador to the United Nations, a move that would bring some experience and diversity to his nascent administration.

Grenell, who served as US spokesman at the UN under President George W Bush, would be the first openly gay person to fill a Cabinet-level foreign policy post. The personnel moves under consideration were confirmed by people with direct knowledge of Trump's thinking who were not authorized to publicly disclose private discussions. Giuliani, 72, would be an out-of-box choice to lead the State Department. A former mayor, federal prosecutor and top Trump adviser, Giuliani is known for his hard-line law-and-order views.

### 'Very good choice'

Bolton has years of federal government experience, but he has also raised eyebrows with some of his hawkish stances, including a 2015 New York Times op-ed in which he advocated bombing Iran to halt the country's development of

nuclear weapons. A spokeswoman for Giuliani did not immediately respond to a request for comment about his interest in the job. But during an appearance in Washington late Monday, Giuliani said that Bolton would be a "very good choice" to serve as Trump's secretary of state. Asked if there was anyone better, Giuliani replied: "Maybe me, I don't know."

Vice President-elect Mike Pence was expected to join the incoming president at Trump Tower on Tuesday to review "a number of names" for the incoming administration, according to spokesman Jason Miller. "If the vice president-elect is getting together with the president elect to discuss names, I would say it's getting serious," Miller said. The transition planning comes amid an intense and extended backlash from Trump's decision on Sunday to appoint Steve Bannon, a man celebrated by the white nationalist movement, to serve as his chief strategist and senior adviser.

### 'Western values'

"After winning the presidency but losing the popular vote, President-elect Trump must try to bring Americans together - not continue to fan the flames of division and bigotry," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. Echoing concerns from officials in both parties, she called Bannon's appointment "an alarming signal" that Trump "remains committed to the hateful and divisive vision that defined his campaign." Until joining Trump's campaign this summer, Bannon led a website that appealed to the so-called "alt-right" - a movement often associated with efforts on the far right to preserve "white identity," oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values." —AP

# TRIAL OR DEAL? SOME DRIVEN TO PLEAD GUILTY, LATER EXONERATED

## US 'CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM HAS LOST ITS WAY'

**CALIFORNIA:** Three days into his carjacking trial in 2005, James Ochoa faced a daunting choice: Risk spending the rest of his life in prison if convicted by a California jury or plead guilty and be released in two years. Ochoa, then 20 and on probation for drug possession, had already rejected two plea offers and wanted to prove his innocence. But the judge made it clear the odds were against him because he had been identified by the victims as the perpetrator. If convicted, Ochoa feared he would never see his young son again.

"I felt like I was gambling with my life," he said from his home in the Dallas area. He pleaded guilty to armed robbery and spent about a year in prison before DNA linked the crime to another man in 2006. Ochoa was cleared and released within days. Hundreds of others have faced the same dilemma. More than 300 of the more than 1,900 people who have been exonerated in the US since 1989 pleaded guilty, according to an estimate by the National Registry of Exonerations.

The registry is maintained by the University of Michigan Law School using public information, such as court documents and news articles. Last year, 68 out of 157 exonerations were cases in which the defendant pleaded guilty, more than any previous year. Critics say the numbers reflect an overwhelmed criminal justice system with public defenders who have more cases than they can handle and expedience on the part of court officials, who can save the government money with plea bargains compared with costly trials.

### Innocent people plead guilty

"Our criminal justice system has lost its way," said David O Markus, a prominent Miami defense attorney. "For a long time, it was our country's crown jewel, built on the principle that it was better that 10 guilty go free than one innocent be wrongfully convicted. Now sadly, the system accepts and even encourages innocent people to plead guilty." In the 1970s and 1980s, state and federal lawmakers reacted to rising crime rates by imposing mandatory minimums and other sentencing laws to crack down on felons.

As the penalties and risk of going to prison grew, so did the percentage of defendants who opted to plead guilty. Last year, more than 97 percent of criminal defendants sentenced in federal court pleaded guilty compared with about 85 percent more than 30 years ago, according to data collected by the Administrative Office of the US Courts. The increase in guilty pleas has been a gradual rise over the last three decades. No entity gathers statistics for all state courts, but prosecutors, defense attorneys and law professors say they have also seen more cases at that level resolved by guilty pleas and fewer cases going to trial.

"When the penalties are so high, no one wants to take the risk of going to trial because if you lose,

you're going to go away for a long, long time," said Jed Rakoff, a federal judge in New York. No one knows exactly how many innocent people are behind bars for pleading guilty. Sociologists have estimated that between 2 and 8 percent of people who plead guilty are in fact innocent, said Rakoff, who has studied the issue for years.

Compensation and Government Claims Board initially recommended that Ochoa not receive any money for his imprisonment, saying Ochoa contributed to his erroneous conviction by pleading guilty. But in the end, the board granted Ochoa \$31,700. He also got \$550,000 to settle his lawsuit against the city of Buena Park and its police department.

Ochoa used the money to buy a house and began working as an electrician. That's how he now supports his wife and two kids. Even those who are close to Ochoa don't understand why he pleaded guilty. His brother calls him dumb and his dad says he wouldn't have signed

the deal, Ochoa said. "It's hard for a person that hasn't been through that to understand the way it is," Ochoa said. "I didn't want to plead guilty for something I didn't do. I wanted to fight it." Judge Robert Fitzgerald, who heard Ochoa's case, declined through a spokeswoman for the Orange County Superior Court to comment.

Orange County District Attorney Anthony Rackaukas, whose office prosecuted it, said he was not immediately available for comment. Those who were exonerated after pleading guilty often have prior criminal records, like Ochoa, and come from poor backgrounds and are not well-educated. They're typically represented by public defenders juggling dozens of cases in a day and looking to cut good deals for their clients. Many were cleared of wrongdoing by taking a new look at DNA evidence in blood or other body fluids, according to the University of Michigan database.

### Falsified fingerprint

Some were the victims of prosecutorial misconduct, while shoddy police work was to blame in other cases - such as a mistaken FBI hair analysis or falsified fingerprint evidence. Some falsely confessed because of improper interrogation techniques while others, like Ochoa, maintained their innocence throughout. It's not just prosecutors and defense attorneys who seek to cut plea deals. Many judges prefer that route. Judges who resolve cases rather than let them languish tend to be seen as more successful. Similarly, prosecutors who close cases tend to rise faster in their careers.

US Magistrate Judge Dave Lee Brannon of West Palm Beach, Florida, outlined his reasoning for a deal-first approach in a recent case involving victims of a serial sex molester. The victims had sued the federal government because the molester, a wealthy and well-connected financier, was allowed to plead guilty to lesser charges without the victims' advance knowledge. Brannon urged the two sides to settle. "If you go to trial, you're going to lose control of the outcome. Nobody knows for sure how this is going to turn out," he said. "Settle the case. That's the way to move on." —AP



The Supreme Court is seen in Washington. If a Trump administration follows through on campaign promises, the Supreme Court's potential workload could shrink dramatically. —AP

## A LOOK AT WILDFIRES BURNING IN PARCHED SOUTHERN STATES

**CHARLOTTE:** Thousands of firefighters are battling wildfires across the drought-stricken South with little indication they'll get help from the weather any time soon. Here's a look at the current situation:

### What is the latest?

Adam Rondeau, spokesman for the US Forest Service, said Monday that the agency is tracking 33 wildfires totaling about 80,000 acres across the South. Rondeau said some fires are up to 75 percent contained, while others may be only 15 percent contained, depending on ground conditions and what's fueling the fire. The largest are Georgia's Rough Ridge fire, which has consumed 19,411 acres, and North Carolina's Tellico fire, which covers approximately 13,676 acres. Other fires are being reported in Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee. About 5,000 federal, state and local firefighters are trying to knock the flames down. "With the dry conditions as they are, this is a long-term response effort," Rondeau said. "This isn't going to happen in a couple of days. We're going to be looking at weeks."

### What is drought situation?

The US Drought Monitor reports that much of the South got precipitation last week but not enough to quench wildfires or replenish reservoirs. Drought-stricken areas of Alabama and Georgia recorded temperatures up to 10 degrees warmer than normal and precipitation at or near zero, according to the latest report filed Nov 8. The report said abnormal dryness and moderate drought expanded in South Carolina. There was also deterioration of drought conditions in western North Carolina, while abnormally dry conditions were reported in parts of western Virginia and in the Florida Panhandle. All of Kentucky is in moderate to severe drought, as is Tennessee except for its southeastern corner, which shows extreme or exceptional drought.

### Is there any relief?

Joshua Palmer, National Weather Service meteorologist in Greenville-Spartanburg, South Carolina, said there no significant rain has fallen across the fire-stricken Southeast because very few moisture-bearing systems have come through the region since late August. Palmer said that, since late August, what few weather systems have come through have been very dry because there hasn't been a prolonged period of moisture flowing from the ocean. The forecast provides very little hope for the next two weeks, Palmer said. "We really don't see any significant change to that overall concept where we have these cold fronts come through. They change the wind, they change the temperatures, they maybe dry us out in terms of dew points or relative humidity, but in terms of actual rainfall, they produce very little," Palmer said.

### Will winter bring precipitation?

Palmer said the outlook for the region going into winter calls for below-normal precipitation, which he blames on La Nina and is expected to persist into mid-winter. But he also says a precise forecast is difficult at this point. Typically, he said, widespread rainfall occurs in December, January and February, but even with the current forecast, he isn't ruling out the prospect that precipitation will arrive. "The signal is definitely mixed for our area," Palmer said.

"We're going to remain cautiously optimistic, but it is very dry and it's not going to get any better any time soon." Palmer added that if the rains don't come in the winter, bigger problems could develop heading into spring and summer. "If we do not see any significant rainfall or we see below normal rainfall this winter, then going into the spring and summer, the drought conditions could

intensify over the summer next year as the rainfall becomes more scattered and water usage increases," he said.

### HOW IS THE AIR QUALITY?

The North Carolina Air Quality Forecast Center listed 18 counties in western North Carolina as having unhealthy air yesterday. The latest forecast also said three more counties in the extreme southwest corner of the state were listed as very unhealthy and another 11 counties were designated as unhealthy for sensitive groups. Another 22 counties listed as good Monday were forecast to experience moderate air quality yesterday. Division of Air Quality meteorologist Elliot Tardif said winds coming out of the west or west-northwest Tuesday is expected to push smoke to the east. —AP

## Recall

Product	Pajero	Product Model Year	Pajero 2007 - 2016
Defect	MMC announces a recall to preventive and investigation purpose for certain DRIVER side airbag inflator.	No. of Vehicles Covered	32254 Vehicles
Repair	Replace inflator kit Driver side airbag	Chassis Number Involved	From JMYLW93W7J08144 To JMYLY97WGL716602
Dealer	Maselah Trading Company Al Mulla Motors	Contact	For enquiry, please call Tel: 24730733 ext: 555 Fax: 24730340

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# BRITAIN BREXIT PLAN? THERE'S NO PLAN, LEAKED MEMO SAYS

## PM MAY TRYING TO KEEP PARTY TOGETHER

**LONDON:** Britain has no overall strategy for leaving the European Union and splits in Prime Minister Theresa May's cabinet could delay a clear negotiating position for six months, according to a memo for the government that was leaked to The Times newspaper. The document, prepared by a consultant for the government department that supports the prime minister and her cabinet, casts Britain's top team in a chaotic light: May is trying to control key Brexit questions herself while her senior ministers are divided and the civil service is in turmoil.

"The Prime Minister is rapidly acquiring the reputation of drawing in decisions and details to settle matters herself - which is unlikely to be sustainable," according to the document, dated Nov 7 and published by The Times. "It may be 6 months before there is a view on priorities/negotiation strategy as the political situation in the UK and the EU evolves," said the document, titled "Brexit Update". A spokesman for Downing Street said it did not recognize the assertions made in the document but did not explicitly deny the authenticity of the document. The prime minister is focused on making a success of Brexit, the spokesman said.

But such a disorderly portrayal of the government underscores both the extent of the turmoil unleashed by the June 23 vote to leave the EU and the uncertainties ahead as May tries to pull Britain out of the world's biggest trading bloc. Like the Brexit vote, Donald Trump's victory in the United States has underscored how swiftly assumptions are being turned upside down, pushing governments, investors and chief executives into the unknown. The pound



**LONDON:** British Secretary of State for the Department of Exiting the European Union David Davis (centre) meets Aviation Minister Lord Ahmad (left) and Chief Executive of London City Airport, Declan Collier at the east London airport on Monday Nov 14, 2016. — AP

fell as much as 1.3 percent to 87.07 pence per euro following the memo leak before recovering to 86.92 pence. It also lost more than half a percent to \$1.2417.

### 'No common strategy'

The memo said no common strategy had emerged, partly as a

result of splits within the government and partly due to the evolving political situation in the rest of the EU where both France and Germany face major elections in 2017. May's cabinet is split, with Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, Trade Minister Liam Fox and Brexit Minister David Davis - who all cam-

paigned to leave the EU - on one side and finance minister Philip Hammond and Business Secretary Greg Clark - who wanted to remain - on the other, according to the memo. May's priority, it said, is survival and keeping her ruling Conservative Party together, rather than business or economic considerations.

"Industry has 2 unpleasant realizations - first, that the Government's priority remains its political survival, not the economy," the memo said. "Second, that there will be no clear economic-Brexit strategy any time soon because it is being developed on a case-by-case basis as specific decisions are forced on Government." The document also said that "major players" in industry were likely to "point a gun at government's head" to secure assurances similar to that given to carmaker Nissan that it would not suffer from Brexit.

"The public stance of Government is orientated primarily to its own supporters, with industry in particular barely being on the radar screen - yet," it said.

Government departments were working on more than 500 Brexit-related projects and might require an additional 30,000 civil servants, it said. If the Supreme Court forces the government to give lawmakers a say on triggering the formal talks to leave the bloc, some ministers might be happy to see more radical Brexit options watered down, the memo said. May has promised to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which kicks off two years of talks with Brussels, by the end of March but she has so far given little away about her plans for Britain's future relationship with the bloc. — Reuters



**JACKSON:** This file photo shows Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump (right) greeting United Kingdom Independence Party leader Nigel Farage during a campaign rally at the Mississippi Coliseum on August 24, 2016 in Jackson, Mississippi. — AFP

## WITH TRUMP MEETING, FARAGE UPSETS BRITAIN ESTABLISHMENT

**LONDON:** After helping secure the shock vote for Brexit, UKIP leader Nigel Farage pulled off another coup by becoming the first British politician to meet Donald Trump, upsetting the establishment once again. Long dismissed as a political outsider who had failed repeatedly to win a seat in the House of Commons, Farage stunned Britain and the world when he helped deliver the June vote to leave the European Union.

Five months later, Trump's victory has again propelled the UK Independence Party (UKIP) interim leader into the limelight. Farage had campaigned for Trump, believing the Republican billionaire—who many thought could never win—had tapped into similar anger over globalization and ruling elites as the anti-EU campaign in Britain. When Trump won last week, Farage returned to the United States and on Saturday met the future leader of the free world at his headquarters in New York. A photo of the two men-Farage grinning broadly and Trump giving a thumbs up—was widely published in Britain, with one headline reading: "The victory of the outsiders."

Farage has now offered to act as a conduit between the incoming US administration and British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government, suggesting that fences needed mending between the two sides. But May's spokeswoman noted the premier had been invited to Washington during a phone call with Trump last week and pointedly said that there was no need for a "third person" in their relationship. Conservative former foreign minister Malcolm Rifkind meanwhile said Farage's visit was about "celebrity politics" while Labor former foreign minister Margaret Beckett said: "It was not a diplomatic trip, it was an ego trip."

### 'Think out of the box'

But some ministers are reportedly in favour of Farage's offer if it helps Britain build strong trade ties after Brexit, amid some unease about future relations with a US president who challenges the estab-

lished liberal order. "We live in very unconventional times politically at the moment and we need to think out of the box," former Conservative defence minister Gerald Howarth told BBC radio, saying it was "worth talking to" Farage.

Professor Rob Ford, an expert in the radical right at Britain's University of Manchester, said Farage could well be a useful conduit into a Trump White House. "There's a clear personal connection there, and Trump seems to be the kind of guy who values those kind of relationships," he said. However, Ford doubted if the offer of helping the government was serious. "That was classic Farage. It enables him to show off his friendship and wind up the kind of people in the Conservative party who annoy him," he said.

### A good year

Relations between UKIP and May's Conservatives have always been frosty, particularly as UKIP began wooing Tory voters. Farage was excluded from the official Brexit campaign, but he steered the debate towards immigration, a winning strategy, despite accusations of racism. Although he was educated privately and once worked as a commodities trader, Farage has carefully cultivated an image as an ordinary "everyman", honed over hours spent in the pub. He promoted the idea that a vote for Brexit was a vote against the established order—a message he took to Mississippi when he stumped for Trump in August.

By then, Farage had quit the leadership of UKIP, the party he co-founded in 1993 and for which he has been a member of the European Parliament (MEP) since 1999. He said he wanted his life back, sparking a BBC television mockumentary that imagined him as a racist pub bore who spends his days watching and trying to appear on television. Farage was forced to return as interim leader after UKIP descended into infighting, but the joke is no longer on him. His ties with the incoming US administration are opening new doors, noted Ford, adding: "Apart from Donald Trump, it's hard to think of someone who has had a better year." — AFP

## GERMANY RAIDS MOSQUES, FLATS, BANS ISLAMISTS

**BERLIN:** Police launched dawn raids on about 190 mosques, flats and offices linked to an Islamist group in Germany yesterday as the government banned the organization, accusing it of radicalizing youngsters, the interior ministry said. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the DWR 'True Religion' organization had contacted young people as it distributed Qurans and other religious material, and had persuaded about 140 of them to join militants in Iraq and Syria.

DWR made no reference to the raids on its website and did not immediately respond to a request for comment. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has faced pressure to harden her line on security after a string of attacks claimed by Islamic State across Europe and criticism of her decision to let in about 900,000 migrants last year.

"Today's ban is not directed against the distribution of the Quran or translations of the Quran," de Maiziere told reporters. "Today's ban is rather directed against the abuse of religion by people propagating extremist ideologies and supporting terrorist organizations under the pretext of Islam." The group had several hundred members, he added. Concern over the number of migrants entering the country has boosted support for Alternative for Germany, a populist party that says Islam is incompatible with the German constitution and has siphoned off support from Merkel's conservatives.

A spokeswoman for the interior ministry said there was no indication that DWR was planning attacks itself. The ban means DWR is now prohibited from taking part in information and distribution campaigns. De Maiziere said yesterday's actions across 10 German states were the biggest crackdown on a group since the government shut down a movement known as Kalifatstaat (Caliphate State) in 2001, accusing it of "extremist activities". The government has also banned five other organization accused of having Islamist-Jihadist aspirations since 2012. — Reuters

## RUSSIAN ECONOMY MINISTER CHARGED

**MOSCOW:** Russian investigators yesterday charged Economy Minister Alexei Ulyukayev with extorting a \$2 million bribe from Rosneft, Russia's biggest oil company, in a case that threatens to expose fault lines in President Vladimir Putin's inner circle. Ulyukayev, a 60-year-old technocrat whose ministry has been overseeing a sale of state assets, is the highest-ranking Russian official to be detained while in office since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

He faces up to 15 years in jail if found guilty. The Investigative Committee, the state agency that investigates major crimes, said Ulyukayev had extorted the bribe in exchange for approving Rosneft's \$5 billion purchase of a stake in mid-sized oil producer Bashneft. In a twist reminiscent of the Soviet era, his detention was announced in the early hours of yesterday, with state TV and pro-Kremlin politicians presenting it as part of a high-profile fight against corruption. Others said it was evidence of infighting at the highest levels of power, possibly involving Igor Sechin, the chief of Rosneft, a close Putin lieutenant who is one of Russia's most powerful men, and might herald a shake-up. Low oil prices and Western sanctions mean the government is struggling to plug holes in the state budget ahead of a 2018 presidential election, and that competition for resources inside the tightly-controlled system has become more acute. Law enforcement sources told Russian media the minister's phones had been tapped and his electronic communications monitored. Investigators set up a sting operation in which the alleged bribe was handed over on Monday, the reports said. Investigators said Ulyukayev had threatened to use his position to cause problems for Rosneft unless it paid him.

They said they were not challenging the legality of Rosneft's purchase of the Bashneft stake or investigating it. Putin was informed about the case when the investigation was first launched, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. — Reuters



**FLORENCE:** Demonstrators clash with police during a protest against Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, in Florence to show opposition to a constitutional referendum on Dec 4 that Renzi has called. — AP

## ITALY POLLS GET WORSE FOR RENZI; REFERENDUM NEARS

**ROME:** Opinion polls are making increasingly grim reading for Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi less than three weeks ahead of a referendum on constitutional reform on which he has staked his political future. Of 32 polls published by 11 different pollsters since Oct 21, everyone has the 'No' camp ahead, and generally by a widening margin. In three polls published on Monday the lead for 'No' ranged from five points, according to IPR Marketing, to seven points, according to Tecne, with EMG Acqua in the middle at 6 points.

These results exclude undecided voters, which are estimated at 25.9 percent by EMG Acqua and 16.5 percent by Tecne. The most worrying aspect for Renzi is that as the number of undecided voters declines, the lead for 'No' appears to be rising. Bookmakers also hold out little hope for the 41-year-old premier, with Ladbrokes estimating a roughly 75 percent probability of a win for 'No'. The surveys are so one-way that attention is turning to what Renzi will do if he loses the vote on his plan to drastically reduce the role of the upper house Senate and take powers back from regional governments.

At the start of the campaign he repeatedly said he would resign in the case of defeat. He then declined to confirm that, saying discussion of his own future deflected attention from the merits of the reform, but in the last few days he has once more begun hinting that he will not try to hang on in power if he loses. However, most pollsters continue to say the outcome of the Dec 4 ballot remains uncertain. They point out that opinion polls already proved notoriously wrong in the June referendum in which Britons chose to leave the European Union and most recently when Americans elected republican Donald Trump to the presidency on Nov 8.

### Reasons for caution

Moreover, in Italy's case there are some specific reasons for caution. One is that the

polls show that the 'No' vote is strongest in the south of the country, where turnout is normally lowest. "It may be that a significant number of those in the south who say they are going to vote 'No' will end up staying at home," said Federico Benini, head of the Winpoll agency. Some 4.2 million Italian ex-pats who are eligible to vote but are not included in opinion polls could also come to Renzi's rescue. Benini forecast that of those that cast a ballot, up to 80 percent will back 'Yes' because they follow Italian politics less closely, tend to be less anti-Renzi and see it as broadly positive that the country is trying to reform.

However, he also said he expected only about 30 percent of Italians abroad to vote, meaning they will only be vital if 'Yes' is less than one point behind among domestic voters. Another factor that could save Renzi is the wording of the question on the ballot sheet, which has been the subject of bitter dispute and legal cases because it mentions the more popular aspects of the reform but not the less positive ones. Pollster Nicola Piepoli said as many as 8 percent of voter with little interest in politics could head to the polling stations without having previously made up their minds, and these may be swayed by what is written on the ballot sheet.

Pollster Renato Manneheimer said it was too soon to say whether Trump's surprise election will affect Italian voters. However, six out of seven polls published since the U.S. election have shown the 'No' lead widening compared with the previous survey by the same pollster. Moreover, in a Winpoll survey published on Saturday, 52 percent of Italians said they believed Trump's victory would favor 'No', compared with 42 percent who thought it would have no impact, and just 6 percent who said it would help 'Yes'.

The final polls will be issued on Friday, as Italian law prohibits their publication in the 15 days before an election or referendum. — Reuters

## BURUNDI RISKS GENOCIDE ON A 'DESCENT INTO HELL'

**PARIS:** Burundi's brutal regime has set the small central African country on a "descent into hell", a prominent human rights group said yesterday, warning of the risk of genocide. "Since April 2015, when large popular protests broke out against the decision of President Pierre Nkurunziza to seek a third term, Burundi has been in violent political crisis," the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) said. "We must stop this descent into hell," said FIDH president Dimitris Christopoulos.

"Let us act before it is too late." In a 200-page report, the FIDH documented how state-sponsored violence and opposing rebel groups have perpetuated a cycle of violence. "The crackdown by the security services and the (ruling party's youth wing) Imbonerakure... aims primarily at retaining power through any and all means," the report said.

More than 1,000 people have died, between 300 and 800 are missing, some 8,000 are being held for political reasons and more than 300,000 people have fled the country, said the report titled "Repression and Genocidal Dynamics in Burundi". The FIDH, along with leading

Burundian rights group the ITEKA League, spent 24 months investigating rights abuses in the country. "All the criteria and conditions for the perpetrating of genocide are in place," the report said, listing "ideology, intent, security institutions... identifying populations to be eliminated, and the using of historical justifications." Burundi suffered a brutal civil war from 1993 until 2006 between majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, which claimed an estimated 300,000 lives.

A failed coup in May 2015 was the "breaking point" after which the authorities adopted a "logic of systematic repression", the report said. After Nkurunziza's reelection in July 2015, the repression deepened, it said, citing targeted killings and massive arbitrary detentions. In addition, ethnic Hutus in power "have sought to turn a political crisis into an ethnic one, equating 'opponents' and 'rebels' with Tutsis," the report warned. Anshaire Nikoyagize, the now exiled president of the rights group, ITEKA League, said in a statement: "The crimes of the regime have become systematic... Crimes against humanity are occurring and there is a risk of genocide." — AFP



**BUJUMBURA:** In this file photo, opposition demonstrators confront army soldiers in the Mutarakura district, as security forces try to prevent people moving out of their neighborhoods, in the capital Bujumbura, Burundi. — AP

# CLIMATE CHANGE FUELS INSURGENCY IN AFGHANISTAN



**KABUL:** A general view of the Kabul river is seen in the Kabul. After two winters without snow, Kabul residents are anxiously scouring the hills for the first flakes, wary that the depletion of this major source of water further fuels instability in war-ravaged Afghanistan. — AFP

**KABUL:** After two winters without snow, Kabul residents are anxiously scouring the hills for the first flakes, wary that the depletion of this major source of water further fuels instability in war-ravaged Afghanistan. Historically speaking, a snowless year is highly unusual for this ancient capital, built 1,500 meters above sea-level in the foothills of the Hindu Kush. "Kabul can be without gold but not without snow", according to a local proverb.

But as the world gets warmer, that is changing. "Countrywide, in the last decade nearly every year has seen either flooding or drought," Mohammad Salim, an expert at the United Nations Development Programs agency said. "And if the current trends continue, droughts will become the new normal." The mountainous land-locked country was classed in 2012 as among the most vulnerable to climate change, a worldwide problem that is the subject of a UN conference in Marrakesh this week.

And it is here that the knock-on effects of global warming will be keenly felt. Around 80 percent of Afghanistan's economy is based on agriculture. Afghan farmers depend on reliable, year-round sources of surface water from melting snow on mountains to irrigate their crops and water their

livestock. But only ten percent of the country's land is still farmable because of the impact of recent climate-related disasters, Salim says. That increasingly leaves rural folk in a desperate situation, says Kazim Hamayun, the deputy director of Afghanistan's National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA). "If they lose their jobs due to drought, they will join the militancy" of the Taliban, he said.

### Hit and run

"Being a landlocked country, besides terrorism, climate change is a big challenge for Afghanistan. "Snow has decreased dramatically and the landscape is not made to absorb rain water. Droughts and land degradation can contribute to terrorism. It disrupts the social order," he added. The Taliban's insurgency, which they have waged since being ousted from power in 2001 by a US-led coalition, has lately expanded to multiple provinces and beyond the traditional "season" that begins with the spring melt and ends with the first heavy falls of snow. Last year, the fighting continued into winter as less snow made it easy for insurgents to remain mobile and conduct hit-and-run attacks in northern and central Afghanistan. — AFP

## THOUSANDS FLEEING SHELLING IN KASHMIR

**MUZAFFARABAD:** Indian shelling has forced thousands of villagers from their homes in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, a Pakistani lawmaker said yesterday. The evacuation from villages in the Bimber district came after seven Pakistani soldiers were killed by Indian shelling on Monday. The two sides have repeatedly traded fire in recent weeks across the Line of Control that divides the Himalayan region.

The nuclear-armed rivals each claim Kashmir in its entirety, and have fought two of their three wars over its fate. Waqar Noor, a member of Kashmir's Legislative Assembly, said authorities were making arrangements to accommodate thousands of villagers from Bimber, who are currently sheltering in open fields or the homes of relatives. Noor said the villagers would most likely shelter in schools, but that the government may set up a "tent village" if the number of evacuees keeps growing.

Wakalat Hussain, a farmer from the village of Bania, said the shelling and heavy gunfire forced the villagers to flee, leaving their homes and animals behind. "Like

thousands others, I'm lying here under the open sky with five children and my wife, with no arrangements for food and shelter," Hussain said by phone. "At least we don't have to fear being killed by the constant Indian shelling." Another farmer, Muhammad Khadim from the village of Kherwal, said he, his wife and their seven children passed a sleepless night listening to the shells explode before fleeing from their home near the Line of Control.

Raja Farooq Haider, the prime minister of Pakistan-held Kashmir, told reporters that the government may have to provide shelter to up to half a million people if India escalates its "aggression" across the Line of Control. The prime minister said the government has so far made arrangements for sheltering some 50,000 villagers. India says it has been retaliating for Pakistani violations of a 2003 cease-fire. An Indian army officer said Pakistani troops fired across the frontier for nearly four hours yesterday. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters. He said there were no Indian casualties. — AP



Photo shows the exterior view of the headquarters of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. — AP

## US FORCES MAY HAVE COMMITTED WAR CRIMES IN AFGHANISTAN: ICC

### ICC ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH TRUMP

**THE HAGUE:** US forces may have committed war crimes in Afghanistan from 2003-2004 by torturing prisoners in what appeared to be a deliberate policy, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court said. Unveiling the results of a lengthy initial probe into atrocities in Afghanistan, prosecutor Fatou Bensouda said she would decide "imminently" whether to ask to launch a full-blown investigation and take the world's only permanent war crimes court into uncharted territory.

She stressed that the Taliban militia and the affiliated Haqqani network, Afghan government forces and US troops as well as the CIA all appeared to have carried out war crimes since the Islamic militia was ousted by a US-led invasion in 2001. And she blamed the Taliban and its allies for the deaths of some 17,000 civilians since 2007 to December 2015 in a brutal insurgency with "numerous attacks" on schools, hospitals and mosques.

But for the first time, Bensouda highlighted allegations of "war crimes of torture and related ill-treatment, by US military forces deployed to Afghanistan and in secret detention facilities operated by the Central Intelligence Agency". There was a "reasonable basis to believe that" during the interrogation of detainees, "members of the US armed forces and the US Central Intelligence Agency resorted to techniques amounting to the commission of the war crimes of torture" as well as cruel treatment and rape.

### Complex investigation

If Bensouda does ask judges to authorize a full-scale inquiry, the tribunal would be taking on its most complex and politically controversial investigations to date. But the United States has not ratified the court's founding Rome Statute, and it is unlikely Washington would cooperate in any investigation which would expose US forces for the first time to the glare of an ICC probe. And while the US has been leading calls for those behind atrocities in the Syrian conflict to be brought to justice in The Hague, there is little chance of any US soldiers ending up in the dock here.

The former administration of president George W Bush authorized the use of so-called enhanced interrogation techniques including waterboarding after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. Their use was abolished by

President Barack Obama when he took over the White House in January 2009. But the ICC could be set for a collision course with president-elect Donald Trump, who has said he is in favor of such harsh interrogation techniques and may re-authorize their use. War crimes allegedly carried out by US forces were "not the abuses of a few isolated individuals," Bensouda insisted in her annual report to the 124 states that belong to the ICC.

Rather it appeared "these alleged crimes were committed" as part of "a policy or policies aimed at eliciting information through the use of interrogation techniques involving cruel or violent methods". The aim was to "support US objectives in the conflict in Afghanistan". Detailing her office's initial findings, Bensouda said "at least 61 detainees" were subjected to "torture (and) cruel treatment" by US armed forces in Afghanistan between May 1, 2003 and December 31, 2014. "Members of the CIA" also appeared "to have subjected at least 27 detained persons to torture, cruel treatment...

and/or rape on the territory of Afghanistan" as well as in secret detention centers in Poland, Romania and Lithuania between December 2002 and March 2008.

### Moving out of Africa

Any prosecutions of Afghan forces could also be complicated by a general amnesty law passed by the Afghan parliament which came into force in 2009. The ICC was set up in The Hague in 2002 to try the world's worst crimes in cases where national courts are unwilling or unable to act. The report was released just ahead of Wednesday's opening of the annual conference of the tribunal's state parties, set this year to be dominated by the shock defections of three African nations, with Bensouda under pressure to widen the geographic scope of her investigations. Kabul recognized the court's jurisdiction in February 2003, authorizing Bensouda's predecessor Louis Moreno-Ocampo to probe atrocities on its territory. — AFP



**KASHMIR:** Indian villagers leave on a scooter to safer places after firing from the Pakistan side of the border, in Pallaanwala sector, Jammu and Kashmir state yesterday. — AP

## HATE CRIMES AGAINST MUSLIMS UP BY 67 PERCENT IN 2015: FBI

**ATLANTA:** Reported hate crimes against Muslims rose in 2015 to their highest number since the aftermath of the Sept 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, according to FBI statistics released Monday. Overall, the total number of hate crimes against all groups reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI increased from 5,479 in 2014 to 5,850 last year. That remains far lower than the numbers seen in the early 2000s, but the FBI release comes amid numerous reports of attacks nationwide based on race and religion following last week's presidential election.

The most recent reporting covers calendar year 2015, which included the terror attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California, as well as Republican Donald Trump's call for a ban on all Muslims entering the US. All of those, however, did not occur until the final two months of the year. It's not yet known whether Trump plans to implement such a ban now that he has won the presidency. Critics say his pledge has contributed to anti-Muslim sentiment.

"We've seen how words from public figures like Donald Trump translate into violence," said Mark Potok with the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups in the US. Last year, there were 257 reported incidents of anti-Muslim bias compared to 154 the year before, a 67 percent increase. The number of reported hate crimes against Muslims peaked at 481 in 2001. Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said he was not surprised to see the large increase in 2015 and said he expects the trend to continue.

"We saw a spike in anti-Muslim incidents nationwide beginning toward the end of 2015. That spike has continued until today and even accelerated after the election of President-elect Trump," Hooper said. There have been reports of racist and anti-religious incidents around the coun-

try since the Nov 8 election. Two students at a vocational school in York County, Pennsylvania, held a Donald Trump sign in a hallway as someone shouted "white power," an incident captured on video and widely shared on Facebook.

In Silver Spring, Maryland, a banner advertising a Spanish-language service at an Episcopal church was slashed and the words "Trump nation. Whites only" were written on the back. Authorities on two California State University campuses, in San Diego and San Jose, were investigating reports that two women wearing headscarves were attacked. At San Diego State University, authorities said a Muslim woman had her car keys and vehicle stolen by two men who targeted her while she wore a hijab and made comments about Donald Trump's election.

At the same time, a videotaped assault in Chicago showed black men beating a white man as onlookers screamed, "You voted Trump!" On Sunday, Trump said he had not heard reports that some of his supporters might be harassing minorities. "I am so saddened to hear that," Trump said during an interview with CBS's "60 Minutes." "And I say, stop it. If it, if it helps, I will say this and I will say right to the cameras: Stop it." According to the FBI report, the majority of hate crimes were motivated by bias against race or ethnicity.

Of the 4,216 victims of a hate crime motivated by race or ethnicity, 52 percent were black, 18.7 percent were white and 9.3 percent were Hispanic or Latino. Crimes against Jews increased about 9 percent, while bias incidents involving sexual orientation were up 3.5 percent. Civil rights groups have expressed concern that a Trump administration could radically reshape the US Department of Justice, particularly when it comes to policing but also in terms of the priority placed on hate crimes. — AP



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# 1MDB: MALAYSIA'S EXTRAORDINARY FINANCIAL SCANDAL

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has been under fire since 2014 over allegations that billions of dollars were looted from state investment fund 1MDB in an audacious campaign of fraud and money-laundering. On Saturday, an influential pro-reform group is planning a rally in downtown Kuala Lumpur to demand Najib's ouster over the affair. Here are some answers to key questions in the saga.

## What is 1MDB?

1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) is a state investment fund Najib launched in 2009 shortly after assuming office. Its portfolio has included power plants and other energy assets in Malaysia and the Middle East, and real estate in Kuala Lumpur. The fund has been closely overseen by Najib. Whistle-blowers say Low Taek Jho, or "Jho Low", a shadowy, jet-setting Malaysian financier close to Najib but who has no official positions, helped set up 1MDB and made key financial decisions.

## How did the scandal emerge?

Concerns escalated in 2014 as 1MDB slid into an \$11 billion debt hole, and the

intensifying public scrutiny led to a string of revelations concerning missing funds. The issue exploded in July 2015 when the Wall Street Journal published documents showing Najib received at least \$681 million in payments to his personal bank accounts. The US Justice Department piled on the pressure this year by filing lawsuits to seize more than \$1 billion in assets it said were purchased with stolen 1MDB money.

## Some key allegations

US authorities said a figure it calls "Malaysian Official 1" knowingly received huge sums of 1MDB money. A Malaysian Cabinet minister has since confirmed that official was Najib. From 2009-11, at least \$1 billion was secretly diverted from a 1MDB joint venture with a Saudi energy firm to bank accounts controlled by Low, who has been photographed partying with the likes of Paris Hilton and Leonardo DiCaprio. \$1.37 billion was diverted from a pair of 2012 bond offerings to accounts in the British Virgin Islands and Singapore, believed controlled by Low, as was \$1.26 billion raised in a 2013 bond sale. Tens of millions of dollars in stolen money were used in 2012 by Najib's stepson Riza Aziz,



**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian Prime Minister and Finance Minister Najib Razak (right) speaks as he unveils the Malaysia's 2017 budget at Parliament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. — AP

an aspiring film producer, to fund the Hollywood film "The Wolf of Wall Street" starring DiCaprio. Hundreds of millions were used, mainly by Riza and Low, to purchase high-end real estate in Beverly Hills, New York, and London, a Monet painting for \$35 million, a Van Gogh for \$5.5 million, a \$35 million Bombardier jet and a \$100

million stake in EMI Music Publishing.

## Has anyone faced justice?

A Singaporean private banker was sentenced last week to 18 weeks in jail for facilitating illicit money flows, and another banker in the city-state has been hit with similar charges. Singapore has also

shut down the local operations of two Swiss-based banks involved in the scheme. But so far no big fish have been hooked. Najib shut down domestic Malaysian investigations last year, denying wrongdoing and saying the scandal was concocted by his political enemies. The US lawsuits do not target any individual for prosecution, but investigations in several countries are continuing.

## What is the impact?

Since the scandal emerged, Najib has purged 1MDB critics from his government, curbed domestic investigations, enacted a tough new security law and generally lurched to the right. Political analysts say Najib's strengthened hold makes it unlikely he will come clean, but critics accuse him of imperiling Malaysia's already fragile democracy just to save his skin. Tension over 1MDB simmers, with the pro-reform group Bersih saying it will proceed with its rally in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday despite authorities declaring it illegal. Past Bersih protests have ended in clashes with police. But pro-government rightists are threatening to disrupt the demonstration, raising fears of violence. — AFP



**Chinese aircraft carrier Liaoning cruises for a test in the sea. The Liaoning's political commissar Senior Captain Li Dongyou said China's first aircraft carrier is now ready to engage in combat, marking a milestone for a navy that has invested heavily in its ability to project power far from China's shores. — AP**

# REPORT WARNS OF ASIA ARMS RACE IF TRUMP WITHDRAWS US FORCES

## CHINA VIEWS A TRUMP PRESIDENCY WITH LESS TREPIDATION

**WASHINGTON:** The US approach to Asia faces a major overhaul when Donald Trump takes office, but what will take its place? A new report warns of a leadership vacuum and even a nuclear arms race if the US withdraws from a region threatened by a provocative North Korea. But authors of the Asia Foundation report provided to The Associated Press ahead of its publication yesterday also say in some parts of the region there's hope that a shift from President Barack Obama's signature foreign policy could be for the good.

Despite the major diplomatic capital invested by Obama in reaching out to Asia in the past eight years, his so-called "pivot" policy has yielded only modest gains in countering the rise of an assertive China. There's been a slight increase in the US military presence in the region; a political opening in former pariah state Myanmar; and better relations with old enemy Vietnam. The main economic plank of his policy - the Trans-Pacific Partnership - is in ruins. Trump's election victory has erased chances of early US ratification of the 12-nation trade pact.

## Massive destabilization

Determining what else of Trump's populist campaign rhetoric translates into action remains a guessing game - one with high stakes for Asia. Trump has raised the specter of withdrawing US forces from South Korea and Japan unless they share more of the burden of hosting the 80,000 troops - even as neighboring North Korea has conducted nuclear and missile tests with unprecedented intensity. The Asia Foundation report, based on consultations among academics and former officials from 20 Asian nations,

warns that withdrawing US forces could compel Tokyo and Seoul to seek their own nuclear deterrents - rather than rely on America's - which in turn would "trigger massive destabilization of the regional order."

"A precipitous reduction of engagement in Asia would be detrimental to the interests of most Asian countries as well as the United States," the report says. Trump has taken some early steps to allay those fears. He quickly reassured the leaders of Australia, Japan and South Korea of his commitment to US alliances. Tomorrow, Trump will meet in New York with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who is traveling to a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Peru. Japan's archrival, China views a Trump presidency with less trepidation. It has viewed the pivot as a US attempt to contain China's rise as a military and economic power.

But Beijing is wary of Trump's threat to impose hefty import tariffs over alleged trade and currency violations, amid fears it could stoke a trade war. President Xi Jinping Monday called Trump and told him that cooperation was needed between the world's two biggest economies. Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a Thai academic and one of three co-authors of the report, said that despite the uncertainty over Trump's lack of government experience, he has something in his favor - a clean slate. Thitinan said that's a plus in Southeast Asia, where current US policy has failed to live up to its billing and where criticism on human rights has turned off old allies like the Philippines and Thailand.

## Pivot and rebalance

"Southeast Asian nations don't want to be dominated by China, they don't want to put all

their eggs in the China basket, but they've had to because the pivot and rebalance were shallow and ultimately hollow," he said. Indian academic C Raja Mohan said Trump has in his own chaotic way opened a constructive debate about how Asian nations might take a more active role to cope with the rise of China with less dependence on America. "Unlike the European liberals' reaction in the last few days, Asians are going to accommodate rather than object," Mohan said. "We have to deal with who is in power in Washington." Once Trump fills top positions on foreign policy and defense, his intentions on Asia should become clearer. A recent commentary by two Trump advisers may offer clues. Former Republican congressional aide Alexander Gray and University of California economist Peter Navarro advocated an Asia-Pacific policy of "peace through strength."

They cited Trump's commitment to increase the US Navy from 274 to 350 ships, saying it will reassure allies that the US "remains committed in the long term to its traditional role as guarantor of the liberal order in Asia." But they add: "It's only fair - and long past time - for each country to step up to the full cost-sharing plate." South Korea currently pays about \$860 million a year - about 50 percent of non-personnel costs of the US military deployment on its soil - and is paying \$9.7 billion more for relocating US military bases. Japan pays about \$2 billion a year, about half of the cost of the stationing US forces. Despite fears of chaos if the US withdraws its military, former South Korean foreign minister, Yoon Young-kwan, there will be "strong reservations" about paying more. — AP

# IN MALAYSIA HEARTLAND, A CALL TO ACTION AGAINST CORRUPTION

**BATU GAJAH:** With yellow flags waving and wuzelas blaring, a convoy of two dozen cars snakes into the sleepy Malaysian town of Batu Gajah, breaking the rural calm with warnings of corruption and national decay. For nearly seven weeks, Malaysia's leading pro-reform group has waged an information insurgency through towns and villages nationwide, shining light on a scandal involving Prime Minister Najib Razak and state-owned fund 1MDB.

In public speeches, flyers and door-to-door canvassing, the unprecedented campaign attempts to explain a highly complex and seemingly distant affair in what is essentially hostile territory-Malaysia's pro-government rural heartland. "We have planted the seed. The seed where people actually start to ask what is (the) 1MDB scandal all about?" said Maria Chin Abdullah, chair of civil-society alliance Bersih, during a recent swing through rural central Malaysia.

Bersih, an alliance of 93 NGOs and other groups that has staged some of Malaysia's largest-ever protests, caps its pitch with a call to attend a demonstration in the capital Kuala Lumpur on Saturday to demand Najib's resignation. "There is no turning back. We should not be intimidated, because for 50 years we have been intimidated into silence," Chin said, referring to nearly six decades of control by the corruption-prone ruling coalition.

## Country roads

Malaysia has been seized for more than a year by allegations that Najib and associates

plundered billions of dollars from 1MDB, which he founded and oversaw. The globe-spanning scandal has sparked investigations in several countries including the United States, which in July filed lawsuits to recover 1MDB-linked ill-gotten gains. Najib, 63, denies wrongdoing, but last year purged critics and shut down domestic investigations. He says his accusers need to "move on". Bersih staged large Kuala Lumpur demonstrations in recent years to demand reform, including a peaceful 1MDB protest by tens of thousands in August 2015. But the current campaign marks its first major rural outreach. Under a tent in the tiny oil palm hamlet of Kampung Changkat Tualang, villagers listened to lawyer-activist Chin's warnings of a "crisis" of corruption, as palm trees rustled and chickens squawked.

The message resonated with Jamiah Yop Mat Ali, 81. She quit Najib's ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO) years ago, saying it had forsaken its original goal of Malay empowerment in favor of money politics and patronage while poor communities struggled with rising costs. "We must change our leaders. Our lives now are difficult," said Jamiah, who yearned for "the good old days" of clean government and less divisive politics. No one expects Saturday's rally to unseat Najib. UMNO has won recent by-elections and he looks secure. But with general elections looming in the next 18 months, Bersih hopes to raise doubts among rural Malays, multi-cultural Malaysia's majority group and UMNO's bedrock. — AFP



**PERAK, Malaysia:** A child stands behind a placard reading 'Please Step Down Najib' as members of civil-society alliance Bersih pose for pictures ahead their demonstration in the capital Kuala Lumpur to demand Najib's resignation in Malaysia's northern town of Ipoh. — AFP

# SOUTH KOREA ENDGAME: OPTIONS FOR EMBATTLED PRESIDENT PARK

**SEOUL:** South Korean President Park Geun-hye faces mounting calls for her to step down over a political scandal amid indications that parliament, including members of her own ruling party, may try to impeach her. Below are the options facing Park, whose term is due to end in February 2018.

## Resignation

If Park resigns, an election would be held within 60 days with the winner serving five years as Park's successor, making for a high-stakes race for an unexpectedly early presidential vote. The incumbent prime minister would take over until a new president is picked, according to the constitution.

## Impeachment

To initiate an impeachment, a motion backed by a simple majority of the 300-member parliament is needed. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to approve the motion. If passed, the bill would then go to the Constitutional Court for review, where at least six of the nine judges have to approve it. The president's powers would be suspended until the constitutional court ruling, which can take up to six months. If the impeachment motion is confirmed by the court, a new election would be held within 60 days. If an impeachment case is dismissed, Park would be reinstated immediately.

## Relinquishing all power

Park may agree with political parties to relinquish all powers in return for remaining in office until the end of her term, while a new prime minister and cabinet appointed by the parliament handle state affairs. There is no precedent to this scenario and political analysts believe Park is unlikely to accept this proposal.

## Park ignores calls to quit

Park may declare she will continue serving as president, including representing the country in summit diplomacy. This would likely reignite massive protest rallies. The sitting president cannot be criminally indicted under the constitution unless for treason so she cannot be jailed for her role in the scandal while in office. — Reuters



**South Korean President Park Geun-hye**

# 2 ANTI-CHINA MPs DISQUALIFIED FROM HONG KONG PARLIAMENT

**HONG KONG:** A Hong Kong court yesterday ruled to disqualify two pro-independence lawmakers from parliament, a week after Beijing said it would not allow the pair to be sworn into office as fears grow of the city's liberties coming under threat. Baggio Leung and Yau Wai-ching deliberately misread their oaths of office, inserted expletives and draped themselves with "Hong Kong is not China" flags during a swearing-in ceremony last month, prompting a judicial review into their future as legislators.

"Mr. Leung and Ms Yau have been disqualified from assuming and have vacated the office of a member of the Legislative Council," judge Thomas Au said in a written judgment. "The oaths purportedly taken by Mr. Leung and Ms Yau on October 12 2016... are invalid and void and have no legal effect," Au said. Au also said

the way they took their oaths showed "clearly that they did not truthfully and faithfully intend to commit themselves to uphold and abide by" the city's constitution. "With or without (Beijing's) interpretation, the court would reach the same conclusion," he added. Yau told a media scrum outside the courthouse that the ruling did not come as a surprise to her.

"I knew that there was this possibility... the government has used so many small acts to suppress the courts and the courts had so much pressure and came up with such a decision," she said. The High Court's decision was preempted by Beijing's ruling last week, which said that any oath taker who does not follow the prescribed wording of the oath, "or takes the oath in a manner which is not sincere or not solemn", should be disqualified. That move was slammed by pro-democracy activists and

legal experts as a massive blow to Hong Kong's judicial independence and sparked demonstrations by both pro-Beijing and pro-independence groups.

Ahead of the court ruling, the city's leader called for zero-tolerance against activists pushing for independence from China. "Those who are advocating for independence and other forms of splitting from the country are a small minority but I cannot lower my guard and cannot (give them) any tolerance," Leung Chung-yung told Xinhua Monday. "Members of the Hong Kong independence (movement) cannot appear in the political system," Leung said.

Hong Kong was handed back to China by Britain in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" deal which protects its freedoms for 50 years, but there are growing concerns those liberties are disappearing. — AFP

# 11 ARAB NATIONS ACCUSE IRAN OF SPONSORING 'TERRORISM'

**UNITED NATIONS:** Eleven Middle East and North African countries accused Iran of sponsoring "terrorism" and constantly interfering in the internal affairs of Arab nations, sparking tension and instability in the region. In a letter to the UN General Assembly circulated Monday, the 11 countries cited Iran's support for Shiite Houthi rebels in Yemen and the Shiite Hezbollah group in Lebanon which has sent fighters to support the Syrian government.

They also accused Iran of supporting "terrorist groups and cells" in Bahrain, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and elsewhere. The Arab nations reiterated a statement by Bahrain's foreign minister in September that the only way forward is for Iran "to comprehensively change its foreign policies and end hostilities". The letter, organized by the United Arab Emirates, was signed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Morocco, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Yemen.

The 11 countries condemned Iran for sponsoring "terrorism" in the region, particularly in Yemen where they said Tehran is supporting the Houthis financially and militarily by training their fighters and illegally sending them weapons and ammunition. Yemen, on the southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, has been engulfed in civil war since Sept 2014 when Houthi rebels swept into the capital Sanaa and overthrew the internationally recognized government.

In March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition of Arab countries began a military campaign against the Houthi forces, saying its mission served in part as a counterbalance to Iran's influence with the Houthis following its nuclear deal with six world powers. The letter was a response to a statement by Iranian diplomat Abbas Yazdani at the end of the General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting on Sept 26.

The 11 countries reaffirmed support for the nuclear agreement, which capped Iran's disputed nuclear activities in return for lifting international nuclear-related sanctions. But "unfortunately," they said, since the deal was signed last year, "we have seen nothing but increased Iranian aggression in the region and the continuation of support for terrorist groups". "We remain firm in our resolve," the Arab nations said, "that any interference by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the domestic affairs of Arab states is unacceptable and must be confronted."

The UAE's UN Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh accused Iran of "fueling the violence in Yemen, and in other parts of the Middle East." The 11 countries wrote to the 193-member General Assembly "to warn them about Iran's nefarious behavior, and to pressure Iran to stop funding and arming militias that destabilize our region," she said in a statement. — AP



A single leaf hangs on a branch as rain falls in Dusseldorf in western Germany yesterday. — AFP

## BARRED CANDIDATE CLAIMS ELECTION COULD...

Continued from Page 1

Besides Hussein, two other candidates were rejected by the appeals court, while former opposition Islamist MP Bader Al-Dahoum was reinstated as a candidate after the election committee had barred him. Hussein also said that he and Dashti have challenged the formation of the election committee before the administrative court and the ruling is expected today. He said that if the court rejects their argument, he will lodge an appeal. It was difficult to assess the legal merit of Hussein's battle in court and his claims, because he did not reveal the nature of his argument.

Meanwhile, the election campaign has intensified among opposition groups and members, former MPs, tribes and even religious sects as election day approaches. Another battle is being fought prematurely for the speakership of the next Assembly, as former speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem is bidding for another term.

Former minister and leading opposition figure Shuaib Al-Muwaizri said that he plans to contest the post of

speaker if he gets elected, while opposition candidates are signing a charter calling among other things for candidates to pledge they will not elect Ghanem as speaker if they get elected to the house. Former education minister Ahmad Al-Mulaifi also announced that he will contest the post of speaker if he gets elected. Also, veteran parliamentarian Abdullah Al-Roumi, who served for a term as deputy speaker, is expected to contest the position, although he has not announced it yet.

Although the speaker of the next Assembly largely depends on the outcome of the election, the government plays a decisive role in the speaker's election, because it can easily tilt the balance in anyone's favor. The government has 16 Cabinet ministers who enjoy full voting rights although a majority of them are unelected, in addition to a number of lawmakers who normally support the government. Accordingly, unless the opposition scores a resounding victory like the one in Feb 2012, the speaker will be determined by the government, and will most likely be Ghanem.

## ARAB REGION'S YOUNG PEOPLE NO 'LIABILITY'

**RIYADH:** Arab leaders must treat the region's 100 million young people as an asset, not a liability, the UN's youth envoy said in Saudi Arabia yesterday. "This is a generation that is so willing to contribute," but is beset by obstacles in the 22-nation region plagued by conflict since a wave of Arab uprisings demanding reform erupted after late 2010, Ahmad Alhendawi told the MiSK Global Forum.

Releasing figures from a forthcoming study, he said the region's average age is below 25 — but the average age of Arab world politicians is 58. "This region has the highest rate of youth protest if you compare it to all other regions in the world," said Alhendawi, a Jordanian named to the post in 2013. He said two-thirds of Arab women are looking for jobs. A separate report by the United Nations labor agency in August showed that Arab states count the world's highest youth unemployment rate, above 30 percent.

Overall, the region needs to create 60 million jobs by 2020, Alhendawi said. Even though that figure seems unreachable, he said the region should establish "an

enabling environment" which would make it easier for young people to start businesses, and where they are seen "as an asset, not as a liability". At the moment, starting a new business "is almost a mission impossible", he told the forum which brings business leaders together with young Saudis in a bid to inspire their involvement in diversification of the kingdom's oil-dependent economy.

Alhendawi said young people's use of social media shows "they are interested in politics and they are interested in public life," though not in the formal institutions of government. He said the Arab world itself contains the solutions to its problems. "This is our region," he told the hundreds of delegates. "We have to reclaim it."

The forum, which continues today, is organized by the MiSK Foundation which aims to generate youth initiative. It was founded by 31-year-old Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who in April launched the wide-ranging Vision 2030 plan for enhancing the role of the private sector as part of economic diversification. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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## Focus

TENSIONS FLARING  
OVER VOTE ON NEW  
ERDOGAN POWERS

Turkey is heading to a referendum on granting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan new powers as early as next spring, ratcheting up tensions amid a crackdown on dissent and pro-Kurdish politicians, analysts say. The courts have arrested over 35,000 people under a state of emergency imposed in the wake of the failed July 15 coup aimed at unseating Erdogan whose defeat the authorities see as a triumph of Turkish democracy.

But with 10 MPs from the main Kurdish party and the same number from the opposition Cumhuriyet daily imprisoned this month, critics say the focus of the crackdown has gone well beyond alleged supporters of the US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen whom Turkey blames for the plot. The prime political concern of Erdogan following the failure of the coup has been winning support to change the existing constitution to create a presidential system.

Government officials argue a fully presidential system is needed to legalise what has become a de-facto situation, with Erdogan now Turkey's undisputed number one after transforming the office of head of state. To obtain the parliamentary super-majority required to call a referendum, Erdogan needs the support of MPs from the ultra-nationalist Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) of Devlet Bahçeli which strongly approves of a crackdown against the pro-Kurdish and leftist opposition.

## Faster Development

Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkey Program at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, told AFP that talks with the MHP were pushing Erdogan to be "very tough" on the main Kurdish political party as well as the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). "For the next six months we can expect to see a strongman, rightwing and nationalist program from Erdogan," he told AFP. He said the changes would mean "he would be crowned head of state, head of government and head of the ruling party".

Abdulkadir Selvi, a well-connected pro-Erdogan columnist at the Hurriyet daily, wrote that the current plan was to hold a referendum in April or May on the changes, which would also include naming a vice president, and holding parliamentary and presidential elections simultaneously. Erdogan argued Friday that a presidential system - which the authorities say would be similar to that in France or the United States - "will give Turkey the chance for faster development".

## Main Obstacle

But the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) - which after a breakthrough in 2015 polls is the third largest party in parliament ahead of the MHP - claim it has been targeted for daring to oppose a presidential system. The HDP's charismatic co-leader, Selahattin Demirtas, now jailed, made it a personal crusade to block the proposed changes. "We stopped him (Erdogan) on the way to a presidential system," said party deputy leader Hisyar Ozsoy. "For them the HDP is the main obstacle and should be eliminated."

The Turkish government insists that the HDP failed to distance itself from the PKK and its attacks on Turkish security forces, and that the party has acted as a political front of the group. International Crisis Group analyst Berkay Mandiraci said the PKK had escalated its actions after the coup while Ankara had intensified military operations and advanced a "domestic crackdown" against alleged PKK supporters. According to an ICG toll, at least 2,301 people have died in the PKK conflict since July 2015. "The countrywide political backdrop suggests a trend towards even more determined state policies," Mandiraci said.

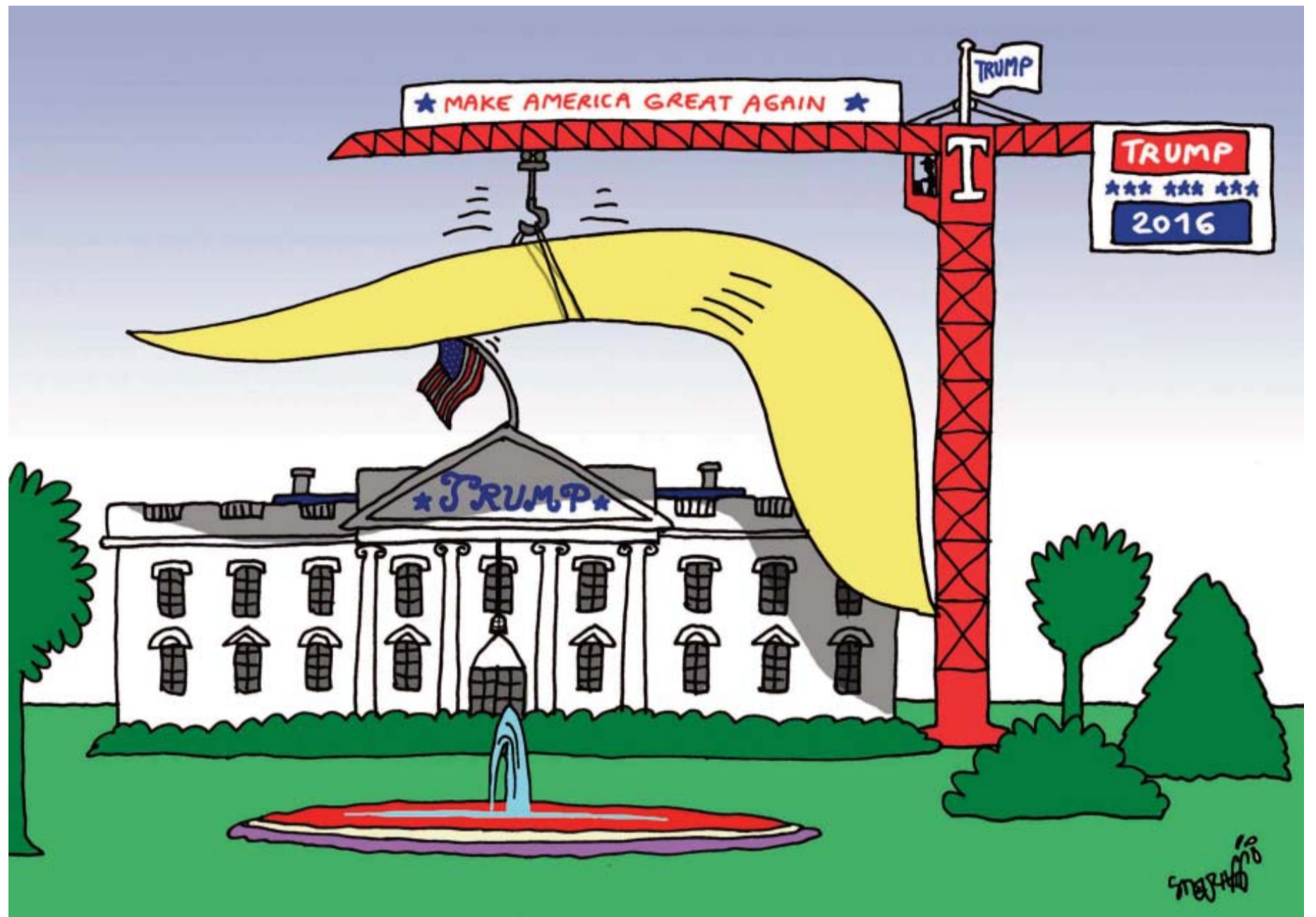
## Hawkish Stance

The round-ups have intensified Turkey's rift with the European Union, whose latest accession progress report was its most critical yet. The EU is also alarmed by the resurgence of the debate in Turkey on nullifying its abolition of the death penalty, whose prohibition is a condition for membership. Erdogan was one of a handful of world leaders to receive a phone call from Donald Trump after his US election victory. Ankara is hoping for an easier ride from Trump than it got from the Obama administration.

Marc Pierini, visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe, said it may be "tempting" to consider the Trump presidency as a boost for Ankara and to expect him to be "less keen on focusing on rights and values in Turkey". But he cautioned: "Only when he becomes president will we know what Donald Trump's intentions are in the foreign policy field and on Turkey."

With the Turkish economy possibly contracting in the third quarter and the lira losing almost six percent against the dollar in the last month, the tensions could also hurt the economy. "We think the hawkish stance is likely to be maintained, if not intensified further, to sustain this support through the referendum," said Gokce Celik, chief economist at QNB Finansbank, warning this background might "affect the market sentiment negatively." —AFP

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## TRUMP POSES DAUNTING CHALLENGE FOR MERKEL

Donald Trump's victory has been a shock for America's major partners around the world. But perhaps nowhere has the blow been more painful than in Germany, a country that under Angela Merkel has come to see itself as a bastion of openness and tolerance. On virtually every issue of importance to the German chancellor, from confronting Russian aggression and promoting free trade, to combating climate change and tackling the tide of refugees fleeing Syria, Trump seems likely to turn Washington from an ally into an adversary.

He invoked the German chancellor's name to insult his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton during the US campaign, calling her "America's Merkel". And he described her decision last year to open German borders to hundreds of thousands of migrants as "insane". So although Trump's election is being seen as a rejection of the political establishment and liberal democratic values in general, it represents a very personal blow to Merkel, Europe's most powerful leader. It heaps more responsibility on her at a time when she is nearing an announcement on whether she will run for a record-tying fourth term as chancellor next autumn. Despite the toll that 11 years of non-stop crisis fighting has taken on her, Merkel's aides say that Trump's victory and Britain's decision in June to leave the European Union have, if anything, reinforced her determination to continue. "Given the challenges we face, in Europe and beyond, she can't simply walk off into the sunset. That would look very bad. She has a sense of responsibility," said an adviser.

Germans have been falling out of love with the United States since George W. Bush invaded Iraq more than a dozen years ago. But the election of Barack Obama in 2008 was seen here as proof of America's capacity to correct its "mistakes". Obama was hailed as the heir to John F. Kennedy, who came to a divided Berlin in 1963, two years after construction of the Berlin Wall began, and reassured Germans with the word "Ich bin ein Berliner". Obama, who developed a close relationship with Merkel in his eight years in office, will make what promises to be a bittersweet farewell visit to Berlin this week. Trump's win heralds a hard break in a relationship that grew extremely close during the Cold War, before wobbling when Germany refused to go along with Bush's Iraq war and was derided by his Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld as "old Europe". Last week, Germany's *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* published a cartoon of a beaming Trump opening his jacket to reveal the message "Ich bin kein Berliner" ("I am not a Berliner") plastered across his chest.

## Provocative Message

This won't stop Merkel, a restrained politician who prefers small steps to giant leaps, from trying to work with the brash Trump, who rode to victory on the dreamy promise to "Make America Great Again". She is a pragmatist who has maintained dialogue with strongmen like Vladimir Putin and Tayyip Erdogan through crises in Germany's rela-

tionship with Russia and Turkey. But Merkel's statement on Wednesday, in the aftermath of Trump's election, was telling. In it, she set conditions for cooperation with Trump, a provocative message from a close ally to the democratically elected leader of the United States. "Germany and America are connected by values of democracy, freedom and respect for the law and the dignity of man, independent of origin, skin color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or political views," she said. "I offer the next President of the United States close cooperation on the basis of these values."

Merkel's cabinet colleagues have been far more outspoken. Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has denounced Trump as a "preacher of hate". Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel has called him the pioneer of an international "authoritarian and chauvinist" movement. The German press has not pulled punches either. The cover of *Der Spiegel* magazine this weekend showed the head of a grinning Trump hurtling towards earth like a giant flaming asteroid, above the title "The End of the World (as we know it)". One of Merkel's biggest foreign policy successes as chancellor was rallying the European Union's disparate 28 member states behind sanctions against Russia in response to its intervention in eastern Ukraine. If Trump follows through on his promise to forge a closer relationship with Putin, the transatlantic and European front against Russia would crumble, leaving her Putin policy in tatters.

## Highest Price

Merkel was also the driving force in Europe behind the ambitious trade deal between the EU and United States, known as TTP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership). That agreement, still in the negotiation phase, seems sure to die under Trump, whose protectionist promises, should they become reality, would hit few countries harder than Germany, whose economic strength depends heavily on the openness of the global trading system. "Nowhere would a move towards renationalization be more dangerous," former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer wrote this week. Germany, he predicted, would pay "the highest economic and political price" if the wave of populism led to a further weakening, or even a collapse, of the EU. Trump's presidency will challenge Germany on a number of other fronts, from climate and fiscal policy to defence spending and financial regulation.

Trump has promised to do what Merkel and her veteran Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble have resisted for years: take advantage of an ultra-low interest rate environment to invest vast amounts of public money in modernizing infrastructure. It was ironic that in the same week Trump was elected, Germany was finalizing a 2017 budget that is a model of fiscal restraint. How long Schäuble will be able to stick to his cherished "Schwarze Null", or balanced budget, with Trump demanding that Europe shoulder more responsibility for its own defense, is unclear. —Reuters

TRUMP PLAN TO BOOST OIL,  
COAL COULD LOWER PRICES

President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to boost the oil and gas sector and bring back coal, reversing President Barack Obama's efforts to encourage renewable energy and cut dependence on fossil fuels. But analysts say Trump's policies could serve to worsen the global energy glut, which would reduce prices while doing little to revive the fortunes of "Big Coal". Trump has made no secret of his support for fossil fuels. His policy advisors include top oil industry lobbyists, fracking king Harold Hamm, and oil-rich North Dakota's congressman Kevin Cramer.

Trump has promised to eliminate regulations restricting fracking; support oil and gas pipeline construction, including the Keystone XL project blocked by the Obama administration; open now-restricted federal lands and offshore areas, for exploration, including Alaska; and end Obama's 2015 Clean Power Plan, which aimed to cut back coal-fired power generation. "Producing more American energy is a central part of my plan to making America wealthy again," Trump told a fracking conference in September. "I'm going to lift the restrictions on American energy and allow this wealth to pour into our communities."

## Adding to the Oil Glut

But analysts say his plans could exacerbate the global oversupply. Oil prices collapsed in 2014 principally due to the rapid build in US output that came from the revolution in fracking technology, which allowed drillers to tap difficult-to-access shale-based reserves. US crude output shot up to 9.6 million barrels a day by July 2015, nearly doubling from 5.5 million in 2010. This allowed the country to sharply cut back oil imports, and global prices sank. Since then US output has fallen by about one million barrels, but prices remain depressed due to higher production from Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Opening up more areas to exploration would add to that supply. Though there are benefits to maintaining US production capacity for the long run, any added capacity in the short- and medium-term would hurt prices. That leaves analysts dubious Trump can achieve his goal of energy independence. "Most of the big factors impacting the energy industry have really been market-driven. The shale oil boom put an

incredible amount of new oil in the market," said Sam Ori, executive director of the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago. "The big challenge facing the oil industry is oil prices."

Oil analyst Carl Larry of Frost & Sullivan said the only way to increase domestic production would be to cut back imports by taxing them. "Unless you find a way to stop imports, American oil production doesn't have a great future," he said. Reviving the coal industry, meanwhile, faces a similar dynamic: Fracking also opened up huge supplies of cleaner, easier-to-transport natural gas, making coal less desirable.

Independent from Obama's policies, coal has fallen from more than one-half to just one-third of US power generation. Cleaner natural gas is preferred not only by federal but also by state and local policies. US coal production actually remains quite high, to supply existing coal-fired power plants. The 100,000 lost mining jobs Trump promises to restore are almost all in the eastern Appalachian coal region, where mining costs are 10 times those of Wyoming, which has cleaner, more easily mined coal, and where the industry is highly mechanized. At best, said Ori, you can only slow the coal industry's decline. "Nothing a Trump administration does is going to change that," he said.

## Wind, Solar Under Threat?

Trump's stance has worried many over the plight of energy renewables like wind and solar, which have for years benefitted from substantial subsidies. But experts say that equipment prices have fallen so much that renewables are now competitive on their own. For example, without particular support, Texas, the capital of the US oil industry, now relies heavily on wind and solar energy for electricity. "The renewables sector is really competing on a cost basis and doing so effectively," said Greg Wetstone, president of the American Council on Renewable Energy. "None of that changes with the election."

The threat, he cautions, is a further fall in natural gas prices which would make it more competitive against renewable sources. But the Trump administration needs to understand that the renewables industry employs 300,000 people. "This is mainstream business and there's no reason to undermine growth and jobs." —AFP

## PRESIDENT ON TOP IN VENEZUELA CRISIS TALKS

Crisis talks in Venezuela last weekend left President Nicolas Maduro on top and the opposition floundering in its bid to remove him from power, analysts say. Here are five cards the socialist president holds to trump the opposition during the Vatican-backed talks over the economic and political crisis.

## Block the Vote

The two sides vowed in a declaration on Saturday to find a "democratic, peaceful" way out of the crisis, tackle food shortages and discuss electoral reform. But Maduro rejected his rivals' key demand for a vote on removing him before his term expires in 2019. He has resisted pressure so far with the backing of the high court and electoral authorities, which the opposition says he controls. "The MUD has been left in a very uncomfortable situation with regard to its voters, because the most essential issues are not mentioned" in Saturday's declaration, said Benigno Alarcon, a political scientist at Andres Bello university.

## Weakened Opposition

To sit at the negotiating table, the opposition suspended its threat of street protests and a political trial against

Maduro. The move brought to the surface divisions in the opposition MUD coalition. Half of the 30 groups that make up the coalition have boycotted the talks. "As far as appearances are concerned, the government clearly won this round by a knockout," said Luis Vicente de Leon, head of polling firm Datanalysis. "It managed to calm people, confirm its status as a negotiator with international involvement and accentuate the divisions in the opposition."

## International Caution

Alarcon said Maduro had successfully played for time. Staging the talks has staved off pressure from the international community. Members of the Organization of American States have talked about sanctioning Venezuela. But while the dialogue is under way, "no one will call for that," Alarcon said. Meanwhile, "the opposition finds itself in a difficult position given the fact that it is under immense pressure from the Vatican and international actors to continue the talks," the Eurasia Group consultancy said.

## Military Allegiance

With Maduro blocking their drive for a vote, Alarcon judged that the opposition "are going to have no choice

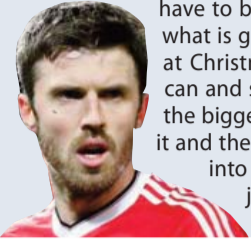
but to return to a strategy of street protests and legislative pressure," which Maduro has so far resisted. Eurasia judged that "the continuation of the dialogue bodes well for Maduro and reinforces our view that he will be able to remain in power until the end of his term, barring a more acute social explosion that brings masses to the streets." Confrontation in the streets is a high-risk strategy for the opposition, since Maduro has the public support of the military high command. MUD secretary general Jesus Torrealba admitted on Monday that "when it comes to resorting to violence, (Maduro) is in control."

## Debt Cushion

The opposition blames Maduro's economic policies and mismanagement for the crisis. He says it is a US-backed capitalist conspiracy. Economic analysts have wondered whether the government will be toppled if it defaults on the billions of dollars of debt Venezuela owes to China and other foreign investors. But last month PDVSA, the state firm that handles the oil exports on which the country relies, gained much-needed breathing room. It restructured 39 percent of its debt in a bond swap. —AFP

## UNITED DAYS COULD SOON BE UP: CARRICK

**MANCHESTER:** Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick says this could be his last season at the club and backed world-record signing Paul Pogba to showcase his "very special" talent. The veteran playmaker has mainly been used in cup competitions this season under Jose Mourinho, although he did start United's last league game and is in contention for only his second Premier League start of the campaign this weekend against Arsenal. Asked if he would like to remain at Old Trafford beyond this season, the former England international told Sky Sports: "Yeah, but I'm 35 now and I have to be realistic. "I'm not going to make predictions about what is going to be happening next season. "We are not even at Christmas yet and I just want to play as many games as I can and see how I'm feeling, how the body is feeling. "That is the biggest gauge to see if I can still do it, if I feel I can still do it and the manager feels that. "There is a lot of things to come into the equation, so I'm not going to be making any rash judgements just yet." —AFP



## JAMIE MURRAY STEPS UP BID FOR DOUBLES TOP SPOT

**LONDON:** Jamie Murray maintained his pursuit of the end-of-year doubles number one ranking with Brazilian partner Bruno Soares as they beat American greats Bob and Mike Bryan 6-3 6-4 at the ATP World Tour Finals yesterday. Briton Murray, who with Soares won the Australian Open and US Open titles this year, could emulate younger brother Andy who is in a race with Serbia's Novak Djokovic to top the year-end singles rankings. French pair Nicolas Mahut and Pierre Huges Herbert lead the doubles standings but are under pressure after losing their opening match at the Tour Finals in London. Murray and Soares have two wins from two in group play and are close to sealing a semi-final spot. They are 175 points behind Herbert and Mahut who play their second group match today against Spaniards Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez. —Reuters

## HULL SUFFER WILL KEANE INJURY BLOW

**LONDON:** Striker Will Keane will miss the rest of the season because of a serious knee injury, adding to the problems of English Premier League strugglers Hull City. The 23-year-old, who joined from Manchester United in August having spent most of his professional career on loan to other clubs, is due to undergo surgery on his damaged knee ligaments yesterday. Some reports suggest Keane, who won England caps at every age level including Under-21, could be sidelined for up to a year. Manager Mike Phelan, who knew Keane from his time as assistant manager at United, said it was a big blow for Hull, who are third from bottom in the Premier League and have been dogged by injuries. "Everybody at the club wishes Will well for a full recovery ahead of what is going to be a long road back to action," said Phelan. "To lose a player of Will's quality and potential for such a long period of time is a big blow, but I'm sure his determination and mind-set will see him through the tough journey ahead." Hull are already without Uruguayan international striker Abel Hernandez, who will be out for another three weeks with a groin problem. —AFP



## KUWAIT TENNIS TEAM WINS GOLD IN QATAR TOURNEY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Tennis National team added yet another achievement by winning the gold medal in the under 16 and 12 category during the Gulf Juniors Tournament that was hosted by Qatar under the supervision of the GCC Tennis Organizing committee from Nov 7-11. Kuwait won first place in the U16 after defeating Oman

2/1. In the first match Kuwait's Fuad Behbehani lost to Oman's Abdallah Al-Barwan, 4/6 - 3/6, while in the second match Kuwait's Abdelaziz Antar defeated Zakariya Suleimani 6/2 - 6/2, while the deciding doubles match was won by Kuwait with the score of 6/2, 2/6, 7/6. Qatar ended in third place.

Kuwait won second place and the silver medal in the U12 category after losing to Qatar 1/2.

President of the Arab and Kuwait Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah said he was happy with this achievement and lauded all players and the level they showed during the tournament. He thanked

the QTF President and members for the good organization and all what they have offered to the Kuwaiti delegation during their stay.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber thanked the Public Authority for sports, for the support KTF receives both in and out of Kuwait.

## BOSSES URGE BRAZIL TO SEND HICKEY HOME

**DOHA:** Olympic bosses made an impassioned plea to Brazilian authorities yesterday to allow Irish Olympic Committee President Patrick Hickey to return home while awaiting trial over an alleged ticketing scam. Hickey, who is also the head of the European Olympic Committee, was arrested by Brazilian police during the Rio Olympics in August as part of a raid into an illegal ticket sales scheme.

He denies any wrongdoing but has been formally charged, along with nine others, with ticket-touting, ambush marketing, theft, tax evasion, money-laundering and criminal association. He has stepped down from both posts while the investigation continues.

The trial date has still not been set but could take up to two years to be heard, according to his lawyers.

The 71-year-old Hickey remains under house arrest in Brazil but has had his passport confiscated and has been banned from leaving the country. His lawyers and Olympic officials have asked that he be allowed to return home to Ireland until the case is heard.

Hickey was a noticeable absentee from the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) general assembly in

Doha yesterday but several officials mentioned his case.

"Patrick Hickey is still detained in Brazil and not allowed to leave the country," said Janez Kocijancic, who is currently serving as acting president of the European Olympic Committee.

"He was charged with criminal offences and we do not think he committed them.

"He is 71 and has heart problems. We hope he will be allowed home to prepare to prove his innocence.

"We do not ask for mercy but for a human approach." The ANOC President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, referred to Hickey as our "dear VP" while the International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, a lawyer himself, also touched on the subject of Hickey's case in his keynote address, but chose his words carefully. "We have to put the system into place for prevention, and, if that fails, for sanctioning and appropriate measures. We should never claim the sports world is immune.

"Patrick Hickey is still in Brazil concerning the sale of tickets," Bach said. "We have to say, clearly, that as long as there is no result, our colleague enjoys the presumption of innocence." —AFP

## LA 2024 BID TEAM TRIES TO SOOTHE NERVES OVER TRUMP

**DOHA:** Los Angeles 2024 bid officials sought yesterday to reassure the "Olympic family" following the election of Donald Trump, claiming the US was an "outward looking" country. The American city, alongside rivals Paris and Budapest, unveiled for the first time details of their bids to host the Summer Olympics in eight years' time to the Association of National Olympic Committees' General Assembly being held in Qatar.

Although they did not mention the president elect by name the LA mayor Eric Garcetti and six-time Olympic gold medalist Allyson Felix tried to address concerns delegates might have about a US bid following comments made by Trump during the presidential election.

"My vision of America is a country that is informed by the Olympic vision," said Garcetti.

"An America that remains actively engaged in the world. "An America that is outward looking, ready to play its role alongside the competing nations to address our world's most pressing challenges." Minutes earlier, Felix told delegates that America needed the Olympics "now more than ever".

She also told delegates "don't doubt us". There has been speculation that Trump's election victory could harm Los Angeles' chances.

His remarks on policy issues during the campaign, especially regarding a potential ban on Muslims going to America and calling illegal Mexican immigrants rapists, are seen by some as being potentially harmful to LA's bid outside the US.

Each city gave a 30-minute presentation on their 2024 bid to some



**PHILADELPHIA:** In this July 28, 2016 file photo, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti speaks during the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. With 10 months before the vote in the race for the 2024 Summer Games, bid leaders from Los Angeles, Paris and Budapest, Hungary, have traveled to Doha, Monday, to pitch their case to the general assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees. —AP

1,000 delegates gathered in Doha.

LA went first and were followed by outsider Budapest, which claimed it only needed to build three more arenas to be ready for the games. The chairman of Budapest's bid, Balazs Furjes, played on the relative small size of the Hungarian capital, claiming a "mid-size global city" should be awarded the Olympics.

"We offer something totally different, it's the right city at the right time," he said. "A real alternative.

Last up was Paris, which included contributions from Tony Estanguet, a three-time Olympic canoe slalom champion and Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo. She emphasised the cultural aspects of the French bid and said: "At Paris 2024, we will swim in the River Seine, we

will travel in driver-less vehicles. "We will open our doors and hearts to the world, to share our love of life and love of others. I know, each of you has a unique history with Paris." Los Angeles and Paris are seen as the favourites to host the 2024 games.

The International Olympic Committee will make its final decision in September. —AFP

## WADA SUSPENDS DOHA TEST LAB FOR FOUR MONTHS

**MONTREAL:** The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has suspended the main Qatar drug testing analysis laboratory in Doha for four months for failing to meet tougher guidelines. The suspension, which began on November 7, prohibits the laboratory from any anti-doping measures, such as analysis of urine or blood samples. Those must now be transported to another WADA-accredited lab. A WADA announcement said the lab accreditation was suspended due to stringent new quality assessment procedures. The Qatar lab has 21

days from the serving of notice to appeal the ban to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Details of exactly what areas the Qatar lab failed to measure up were not revealed. Speaking yesterday ahead of the Association of National Olympic Committees' general assembly in Doha, WADA deputy director general Rob Koehler said the suspension was not to do with foul play. "It's nothing to do with cheating, it's a procedural issue that we have found that needs to be corrected," he said. —AFP

## ITALY MAKE FOUR CHANGES FOR SOUTH AFRICA CLASH

**MILAN:** Coach Conor O'Shea underlined his long-term plan for Italy by making only four changes, two of them injury-enforced, from the side hammered 68-10 by New Zealand for the second November Test against South Africa. New-look Italy's hopes of making an impact against a youth-filled All Blacks side were kept in check by a 10-tries-to-one rout in Rome last weekend.

But Irishman O'Shea, who signed a four-year contract in the summer, refused to berate his players after the heavy defeat. "The team that played against the All Blacks deserved another chance," O'Shea said after announcing his starting XV yesterday.

"Playing is the only way to gain experience and I

think in a few years, when we look back at last Saturday's game, we'll see it as a starting point.

"We made mistakes but they are not difficult to remedy and against such a strong team as New Zealand we were made to pay dearly. "But our defensive structure was very good and we kept the intensity of the game high.

"It will sound strange after a defeat like Saturday's, but against the All Blacks we laid some foundations that we intend to fully develop with the players here who will represent the future of the squad."

Italy have played South Africa 12 times and lost on each occasion, but this is a Springboks team on a

wretched run. The Boks' first defeat to England in a decade came at Twickenham last week, adding to a record 57-15 defeat by New Zealand last month.

Underpressure coach Allister Coetzee said: "We need to get a win. That is one important thing for any team. You can work as hard as you want, but for belief in structures and the team itself, you need to win." Italian hooker Leonardo Ghiraldini and prop Andrea Lovotti both suffered injury in Rome and have been replaced by Treviso's Ornel Gega and Calvisano's Sami Panico respectively for Saturday's clash in Florence.

Giovanbattista Venditti has been called into the squad to replace Angelo Esposito on the left wing

while Francesco Minto comes off the bench to replace Maxime Mbanda in the third row.

Italy have yet to announce their replacements. The 'Boks will name their starting XV on Thursday but it will be without Eben Etzebeth, who is suffering from concussion.

Italy team to play South Africa at the Stadio Artemio Franchi in Florence on Saturday.

Edoardo Padovani; Giulio Bisegni, Tommaso Benvenuti, Luke McLean, Giovanbattista Venditti, Carlo Canna, Giorgio Bronzini; Sergio Parisse (capt.), Simone Favaro, Francesco Minto; Andries Van Schalkwyk, Marco Fusser; Lorenzo Cittadini, Ornel Gega, Sami Panico. —AFP



**LONDON:** Britain's Andy Murray reacts after winning his round robin stage men's singles match against Croatia's Marin Cilic on day two of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament in London on Monday. Murray won the match 6-3, 6-2. —AFP

## MURRAY MARKS RISE TO THE TOP WITH TOUR FINALS ROMP

**LONDON:** Andy Murray celebrated his rise to the top of the world rankings with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Marin Cilic on Monday as the Scot made a strong start to his bid to win the ATP Tour Finals.

Murray was officially confirmed as the first Briton to reach number one last Monday and he marked his first match since that historic moment by dispatching Cilic at the prestigious season-ending event at London's O2 Arena.

The 29-year-old took only 90 minutes to extend his remarkable winning streak to 20 matches as he looks to add to the four consecutive titles he won in Beijing, Shanghai, Vienna and Paris.

It was exactly the start Murray needed because to guarantee ending 2016 in pole position, he must win the Tour Finals title for the first time, with anything less than that giving Novak Djokovic the chance to overhaul him depending on the deposed number one's own results.

"It's a great atmosphere and I think I played one of my best matches here. I'm going to keep working hard to give people moments like this," Murray said. "I have confidence from winning matches and I was a little bit more solid when I had opportunities."

Murray has enjoyed an incredible 11 months in which he has won Wimbledon for the second

time, claimed a second Olympic singles gold medal and become a father for the first time.

So it was fitting that Murray's first appearance as the world's best player came within an hour's drive of his family home in Surrey.

While Murray has amassed a combined seven titles across London at Wimbledon and Queen's, he has failed to reach the final of the Tour Finals in six attempts and this was one of his better displays at the O2.

Murray emerged to huge cheers from the sell-out 17,000 crowd but, clearly in businesslike mood, he responded only with a shy wave.

### TURNED THE TABLES

Life at the top carries the added burden of motivated opponents keen to take down the main man, but Murray has always relished a challenge and he quickly stamped out the threat of an uprising from Cilic.

He staved off two break points to hold serve in the first game and then turned the tables to break for a 2-0 lead when Cilic blasted a backhand into the net.

Murray was having a few problems locating his serve and Cilic break back in the next game, but the Wimbledon champion responded with another break of his own to remain in charge.

Cilic was sporting an extraordinarily lurid

pair of shorts that looked more suited to the beach and his error-strewn play suggested he was already thinking of his holiday plans as Murray closed out the set with ease.

Murray pressed home his advantage with a pair of sublime winners to break in the fifth game of the second set and another break in the seventh meant it wasn't long before he was soaking up the applause of his fans.

In the other match in Murray's group, Kei Nishikori avenged his painful US Open loss to Stan Wawrinka as the Japanese star routed the world number three 6-2, 6-3.

Nishikori was denied a second Grand Slam final appearance in September when Wawrinka defeated him in the US Open semi-finals and the world number five got his own back with a dominant display.

"I was very solid from the first game and very confident. I played a good game today," Nishikori said.

Florida-based Nishikori harbours hopes of overhauling Wawrinka in the race to finish the year in third place in the ATP rankings and this victory keeps him on course.

"That is my goal for this week, to win matches and reach number three. I see the opportunity to go up the rankings and I've been playing well so I hope to keep it up," Nishikori said. —AFP

## THIEM DOWNS MONFILS TO KEEP TOUR FINALS HOPES ALIVE

**LONDON:** Austria's Dominic Thiem kept alive his hopes of reaching the semi-finals of the ATP Tour Finals with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 victory over Gael Monfils yesterday.

Thiem lost his opening group stage match against Novak Djokovic, but the Tour Finals debutant could still make the last four after seeing off flamboyant Frenchman Monfils at London's O2 Arena.

The 23-year-old will need to defeat Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic in his last group match on Thursday to reach the semi-finals.

Monfils is certain to be eliminated after losing his first two matches at the prestigious season-ending event.

"It was a very close match but luckily he helped me in the last game. Maybe I was the lucky one today," Thiem said.

"I am very happy there's still a chance for me to reach the semi-finals, but Milos Raonic is an amazing opponent.

"I can't wait to get back out here in this amazing arena."

Thiem is regarded as an emerging star after a breakthrough season and the Austrian had shown no signs of being intimidated by the Tour Finals stage when he took a set off defending champion

Djokovic. His gutsy effort and aggressive stroke-play also earned a famous fan in Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho, who met Thiem after the match and gave him an autograph.

Thiem should garner plenty more backers around the world if he continues to develop at his current rapid pace.

Thiem was too powerful for the error-prone Monfils in the first set, securing the only break in the sixth game and using his thudding serve to stay ahead.

But, after seeming to be hampered by injury in the first set, Monfils suddenly found his rhythm in a one-sided second set, while Thiem lost his way.

Monfils broke twice in the first four games with some eye-catching groundstrokes, including a majestic winner down the line from an improbable position wide behind the baseline.

Thiem folded in similar fashion against Djokovic, but he was far more focused in the final set against Monfils and clinched the win with a break in the ninth game after a string of double faults from the Frenchman.

Raonic faces Djokovic in the other group match later. —AFP



**LONDON:** Austria's Dominic Thiem returns against France's Gael Monfils during their round robin stage men's singles match on day three of the ATP World Tour Finals tennis tournament in London yesterday. —AFP

## MCILROY SEEKS WIN IN DUBAI, AIMS TO RECLAIM NO 1 RANKING

**DUBAI:** Rory McIlroy is resigned to losing his Race to Dubai crown, but his motivation this week is to successfully defend his DP World Tour Championship title and move one step closer to regaining the world No. 1 ranking.

McIlroy could have replaced Jason Day atop the rankings by winning the European Tour's season-ending tournament, but Russell Knox's decision to withdraw last week reduced the strength of the field and lowered the number of points available.

If Knox, ranked No. 18, had remained in the field, the winner of the tournament would have gained 54 points - enough for McIlroy to surpass Day. Instead, the winner will earn just 52 points, leaving McIlroy short even with a victory.

His chances of contending this weekend seem high. McIlroy, the defending champion and also the 2012 winner at Jumeirah Golf Estates, has finished outside the top 10 only once in seven appearances, tying for 11th in 2011.

"It's always good to be back here," he said. "I have great memories from this place, feel like my game is in pretty good shape. I've played this golf course pretty well in the past, and hopefully, I can play it just as well, if not better, this week. (It) would be a good way to finish the year on a high and get a victory and lift the trophy and hopefully make the turkey taste a bit better at Christmas."

McIlroy acknowledged that he can finish the season atop the European Tour rankings, but knows it's unlikely.

He must win and needs Henrik Stenson, Danny Willett and Alex Noren, each above him in the Race to Dubai standings, to struggle.

"I can win mathematically, but it's not going to happen," McIlroy said. "I wouldn't hold my breath. I think the three guys that are ahead of me are playing very good golf, especially the two Swedes, Henrik and Alex."

"Alex, with what he's done over the past few weeks; Henrik has had a fantastic year, and so has Danny, obviously, so I don't expect those guys to play badly this week. I'm just concentrating on trying to win the golf tournament, and if I can do that, I'll be very happy."

McIlroy pulled out of the Turkish Airlines Open, citing security concerns, shortly before the event began earlier this month. That decision virtually ruled him out of the Race to Dubai as well.

However, McIlroy, from Northern Ireland, said he has no regrets. "I'm very happy with my decision," he said. "I've been here for the last couple of weeks. I've done a bit of practice, enjoyed myself. So, no, no regrets at all."

"I'd rather have gone to Turkey wanting to go there and winning the golf tournament, rather than going there not wanting to and finishing tied 40th. What good does that do to the tournament?"

Although the next European Tour season begins in December, and the next U.S. PGA Tour season is already underway, McIlroy confirmed the DP World Championship will be his last event of the year. He last played in a December event in 2013. —AP

## REJUVENATED SPIETH FIRED UP FOR AUSTRALIAN OPEN

**SYDNEY:** Former world number one Jordan Spieth says he feels rejuvenated entering his first event in seven weeks at the Australian Open in Sydney starting tomorrow.

The 23-year-old double major winner hasn't played since last month's Ryder Cup and is the headline act at the Royal Sydney Golf Club along with local favourite and world number seven Adam Scott.

"I feel renewed. I feel mentally in a good place right now going into the end of this year and next year," said Spieth, who is currently ranked fifth. "I've had some tremendous time off, been able to feel like I'm completely rested, get to do some things in the swing that I've been trying to work on for a year now."

The American is chasing his second Australian Open title in three years. A final round 63 propelled him to a six-shot victory in 2014 and his title defence last year fell one shot short when he and Scott were joint runners-up behind Australian Matt Jones, who is not defending his crown this week. Spieth has two worldwide victories in 2016 and has been unable to recapture his remarkable form from 2015 when he won five times on the US PGA Tour including back-to-back majors at the US Open and US Open. "I wanted to come back here," he said. "This tournament is very important."

It was a springboard two years ago."

Spieth is searching for his first victory since May and tees off early tomorrow alongside former US Open winner Geoff Ogilvy and reigning US Amateur and Asia-Pacific Amateur champi-



**Jordan Spieth**

on Curtis Luck.

Ogilvy is fresh off a tie for fourth two weeks ago at the US PGA Tour's Shriners Hospitals for Children Open in Las Vegas and is confident he can add to his Australian Open win in 2010.

"I feel capable of playing better than I ever have," the 39-year-old Australian said.

"Whether that actually eventuates for scores or not, I don't know, but I feel like I know my game better than I ever have. Golf-wise I feel better than I ever have."

Scott's 2009 Australian Open champion-will headline the tomorrow afternoon field when he tees off alongside Venezuelan Jhonattan Vegas and fellow Aussie Aaron Baddeley.

The 2013 Masters champion returns to Royal Sydney for the first time since his memorable duel three years ago with Rory McIlroy when the Northern Irishman birdied the 72nd hole to defeat Scott by one shot. Scott is vying for his first victory since back-to-back wins on the US PGA Tour in February and March. —AFP



## ONLY FOUR SAFE IN SHATTERED AUSTRALIA: LEHMANN

**HOBART:** Coach Darren Lehmann declared only four players were sure to keep their places in the Australian team after another demoralising batting collapse handed South Africa a crushing series victory in Hobart yesterday.

In what is becoming a regular occurrence, the Australians folded spectacularly losing eight wickets for 32 runs in just under 20 overs for an innings and 80-run defeat to the Proteas before lunch on the fourth day. The batting freefall has intensified scrutiny on Steve Smith's embattled side after their fifth straight heavy Test defeat this year, all by 100 runs or more.

Lehmann, whose coaching position is also under scrutiny after it was extended to 2019 only last August, said there will "definitely" be changes

for next week's final day-night Test in Adelaide.

As a consequence of the early-finishing Hobart Test, all batsmen, including wicketkeeper Peter Nevill and spinner Nathan Lyon, but not the three pace bowlers, will be required to play in this week's round of domestic Sheffield Shield before the Test squad is named on Sunday. Lehmann, who also sits on the selection panel, said that only Smith, David Warner and pace pair Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood would be sure of keeping their spots. "We've got to stop the rot, we've got to work out what the best XI is," Lehmann told reporters.

"Guys playing in this Test match, some were disappointed in their performances and they get the chance to play the Shield games to put their hand up. I thought Hazlewood was great, Starc's getting

back to his best and then you've got Smith and Warner.

"Outside of that everyone's got to make some runs and take some wickets.

It's a really important four days of Shield cricket." Those looking down the gun are 37-year-old batsman Adam Voges, opener Joe Burns and Callum Ferguson, who both came in for the Hobart Test. Spinner Lyon is another whose place is at risk after taking just two wickets at 120.50 each in the South Africa series.

"Like everyone else, Adam's been a very good player for us for 20-odd Test matches. End of the day he's got to go back and make runs like everyone else," Lehmann said.

The coach said there was a desolate mood in

the dressing room after the defeat.

"Everybody is hurting in the rooms. I haven't seen it as quiet after a loss and that's understandable because of the performances," he said. "We pride ourselves on playing for our country and we haven't done that well enough over the last three and a half days." He said former greats were talking with the shattered players, offering advice and support going forward.

"Mark Taylor and Shane Warne have been chatting to the guys one on one. Ian Healy, Tom Moody, Simon Katich, Brett Lee, we've had a lot of the legends come in," he said.

"The young guys who are playing today looked up to them. It's great to have them in the rooms and speaking to them." —AFP

## FIVE INFAMOUS BATTING COLLAPSES BY AUSTRALIA

**HOBART:** Five batting collapses by Australia, who lost the second Test against South Africa by an innings and 80 runs yesterday:

### Cape Town, November 2011

Australia crash to their worst total in more than a century as they collapse to 47 all out in the second innings against South Africa in Cape Town. Bowlers Peter Siddle and Nathan Lyon are the only players to reach double figures as Australia lose the first Test by eight wickets. It clocks in as Australia's fourth lowest total, the other three coming against England in a 14-year span from 1888 to 1902. "Yes, it's Australia and not Austria," jokes former Australia leg-spinner Bryce McGain.

### Trent Bridge, August 2015

Australia make just 60 in 18.3 overs, the shortest completed first innings in history, to lose the fourth Test against England and surrender the coveted Ashes trophy. Only two players—captain Michael Clarke, and fast bowler Mitchell Johnson—reach double figures, and Australia's highest single scorer is extras, with 14. Social media makes hay as Australia's entire innings, ball by ball, can be repeated in a single, 140-character tweet, with room to spare. For England, fast bowler Stuart Broad takes an astonishing eight wickets for just 15 runs. It isn't Australia's first collapse in the series, after they lost 5-25 and 6-50 in the first Test, and 5-60 and 4-30 in the third. Clarke announces his retirement after the 'Terror at Trent Bridge', handing the baton to Steve Smith.

### Galle, August 2016

Australia lose nine wickets for 52 runs in the first innings before slumping to a 229-run defeat in the second Test against Sri Lanka. The visitors are on 54 for 1 before Usman Khawaja is bowled by Dilruwan Perera, precipitating their rapid demise to 106 all out. The eventual defeat hands Sri Lanka an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the three-match series, and the hosts later win the third Test to complete a 3-0 sweep.

### Perth, November 2016

Australia reach 158 without loss, well placed to overhaul South Africa's first innings 242 when David Warner is dismissed for 97, the first of 10 wickets to fall for 86 as they finish just two runs ahead on 244, despite strike bowler Dale Steyn's departure with a broken shoulder. The visitors then slam 540 in their second innings and canter to victory by 177 runs.

### Hobart, November 2016

A collapse in each innings sets the seal on South Africa's series victory and indicates a crisis for Australia, who suffer their fifth straight Test defeat. In the first innings, Smith's unbeaten 48 accounts for more than half of Australia's 85 all out. Vernon Philander takes 5-21 for South Africa.

There's no improvement from Australia in the second innings as they lose their last eight wickets for 32 runs to go down by an innings and 80 runs in just two days and one session of play, after the second day was washed out. —AFP



**HOBART:** South Africa's paceman Kagiso Rabada (C) jumps in the air to celebrate the wicket of Australia's captain Steven Smith with teammates on the fourth day's play of the second Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Hobart yesterday. —AFP

## SOUTH AFRICA CLINCHES SERIES WITH EMPHATIC WIN

**HOBART:** South Africa clinched its three-test series in Australia with a match to spare yesterday, leaving Steve Smith's team facing the prospect of an unprecedented sweep on home soil after yet another woeful batting performance.

With the 177-run win in Perth and the innings and 80-run victory in Hobart, South Africa secured its third consecutive test series win in Australia - following victories in 2008-09 and 2012-13 - and handed Smith a fifth straight test defeat as Australia captain.

The Australians were ranked No. 1 until being swept 3-0 in Sri Lanka in July. South Africa entered the series without inspirational captain A.B. de Villiers, was ranked No. 5 and lost strike bowler Dale Steyn early in the opening match in Perth.

Yet it's the Australians who are in disarray.

Selectors are scrambling to assemble a team that can bat for a day in time for the third test, a day-night match which starts Nov. 24 in Adelaide. It's only the second day-night test ever played in Australia, 12 months after a low-scoring win over New Zealand in the first. It also presents the South African pacemen with an ideal chance to exploit the brittle batting lineup that has been exposed in this series with collapses of 10-86 in Perth, 85 all out on the opening day in Hobart, and 8-32 yesterday.

Australia has never been swept in a test series on home soil, and is in grave danger of ending that streak. "Australia is one of the toughest places to come and win," said Faf du Plessis, who was standing in for de Villiers as captain. "We are looking to go for places that may have seemed unlikely. This is a very special moment. There is an opportunity to play the pink ball and beat Australia 3-0."

The Australians resumed on day four of the second test at 121 for two, still needing 121 to make South Africa bat again.

Usman Khawaja top-scored with 64 but was out swiping at a ball from Kyle Abbott and edging behind, triggering the staggering collapse. Australia slumped from 129-2 to all out for 166 before lunch. Abbott, who was called up to replace Steyn for the second test, returned 6-77 and Kagiso Rabada, playing his 10th test and already showing promise well beyond his experience, had 4-34 in conditions that were good but not unnaturally advantageous for swing or seam movement.

It was almost a repeat of day one, when South Africa sent Australia in to bat and had the hosts 8-4 before Smith's unbeaten 48 helped the home team narrowly avoid some unwanted records. The South Africans replied with 326, with Quinton de Kock scoring 104 and sharing a 144-run partnership with Temba Bavuma (74), to set up a 241-run lead.

It was all over in 19.2 overs on day four, with rain preventing any play on Sunday, and other disruptions for showers or bad light, the Hobart test was decided inside only seven sessions.

"We've got to find a way to be a bit more resilient and turn things around because we're not in a great place. Whether it's seaming, swinging or spinning we're having some trouble," Smith said.



**HOBART:** Australia's captain Steven Smith (R) and Joe Mennie wait for third umpire's decision on leg-before-wicket appeal by South Africa's paceman Kagiso Rabada on the fourth day's play of the second Test cricket match between Australia and South Africa in Hobart yesterday. —AFP

"We've lost five consecutive test matches - that's not good enough for an Australian team.

"We need to find a way to have a bit more fight and hunger, and a bit more pride." Australia's worst recent run was around the tumultuous end to South African Mickey Arthur's tenure as Australian coach, when it was swept 4-0 in India and the team was riddled with acrimony.

Darren Lehmann took over and lost the first two tests in England before the losing streak ended. Since then, the Australians have been

rebuilding but cracks have appeared recently, and South Africa had the right ingredients to exploit them. Now the whole set up, from Lehmann to the top administrators, is under pressure.

"It's definitely attitude. It's an aggressive attitude that makes sure you're always in the opposition's faces," du Plessis explained of South Africa's approach to the series. "If you want to beat Australia, you have to play that sort of game. I think we did that better than them." —AP



Lokesh Rahul

## RAHUL RETURNS TO INDIA SQUAD

**MUMBAI:** India received a boost yesterday with the news that opener Lokesh Rahul has recovered from injury and is in contention to face England in this week's second Test. "Rahul has fully recovered from his right hamstring injury and would be joining the squad today," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in an emailed statement.

The right-handed batsman, 24, missed the opening Test in Rajkot in India's western state of Gujarat-which finished in a draw on Sunday.

The second of what is a marathon five-

match Test series starts in Visakhapatnam, in Andhra Pradesh, tomorrow. Rahul's timely return threatens the spot of veteran opener Gautam Gambhir, who disappointed in the first Test.

Gambhir is trying to re-establish himself in the team after two years in the international wilderness but could only notch 29 before an embarrassing duck in the second innings.

India held on for a tense draw with four wickets in hand while chasing 310 and will be looking to secure a first win of the series in Visakhapatnam. —AFP

## SCOREBOARD

**HOBART:** Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day in the second Test between Australia and South Africa on yesterday in Hobart, Australia.

<b>Australia 1st innings 85</b> (V. Philander 5-21).	J. Hazlewood not out	6
<b>South Africa 1st innings 326</b> (Q. de Kock 104, T. Bavuma 74; J. Hazlewood 6-89)	N. Lyon c Philander b Abbott	4
Australia 2nd innings (Overnight: 121-2)	Extras (lb-1 nb-1)	2
D. Warner b Abbott	Total (all out, 60.1 overs)	161
J. Burns c de Kock b Abbott	Fall of wickets: 1-0 J. Burns, 2-79 D. Warner, 3-129	
U. Khawaja c de Kock b Abbott	U. Khawaja, 4-135 A. Voges, 5-140 C. Ferguson, 6-	
S. Smith c de Kock b Rabada	150 P. Nevill, 7-150 J. Mennie, 8-151 S. Smith, 9-	
A. Voges c Duminy b Abbott	151 M. Starc, 10-161 N. Lyon	
C. Ferguson c Elgar b Rabada	Bowling: K. Abbott 23.1-3-77-6; V. Philander 16-6-	
P. Nevill c Duminy b Rabada	31-0(nb-1); J. Duminy 1-0-8-0; K. Rabada 17-5-34-	
J. Mennie lbw b Rabada	4; K. Maharaj 3-0-10-0.	
M. Starc c de Kock b Abbott	Result: South Africa won by an innings and 80	
	runs.	

# GANGS STAY AHEAD IN SPORT'S ILLEGAL GAMBLING WAR

**LONDON:** Gangs are using instant messenger services to pass on match information to illegal gamblers and sport needs to act to catch up, the head of world cricket's anti-corruption unit told AFP.

Ronnie Flanagan, former chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and its successor the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), said sports criminals are also crossing into new sports having already become a thorn for cricket, football and tennis.

"They are becoming more inventive in how they communicate with each other and circumvent our measures," the head of the International Cricket Council's anti-corruption unit told AFP.

"They use WhatsApp and other forms of social media to communicate," he said after addressing the World Rugby Conference in London.

"We have to keep a step ahead of them." Gangs have long stationed agents at cricket and football matches to try and get game information for illegal bets.

Even a split-second advance on a goal being scored in football or a six being hit in cricket can make syndicates a fortune. Messenger services can easily delay television images.

Flanagan, who replaced another former senior police chief, Paul Condon, in 2010, said the creation of anti-corruption units in English, Australian and Indian cricket has been "very positive."

The 67-year-old Northern Irishman said the ICC unit was working increasingly closely with the national bodies.

But gambling is like sports doping, regulators close down one avenue and the criminals find another to exploit.

"They are increasingly determined," he said. "While international cricket has become a harder target for them they have improvised and targeted all types of televised matches."

"They don't care if it is England v Australia for the Ashes or Kent v Sussex just so long as it is televised so it facilitates betting illegally."

## 'EFFECTIVE AND VIBRANT PARTNERSHIPS'

Flanagan, who on taking up the role in 2010 was thrust into the Pakistan spot-fixing scandal in England, said sharing intelligence with other sports is crucial in the battle with the criminals.

"Organised criminals are operating on a transnational basis in getting money through corruption in sport," said Flanagan.

"I am certain also these corrupters do not confine themselves to one sport. "The fact they're moving across sports means for us we must engage and liaise with other sports bodies sharing intelligence, tactics and to learn from each other." The ICC unit does not have police powers and relies on national authorities to arrest and prosecute suspects.

"Policing, as it is I believe similarly with fighting corruption, can only dream of being successful if it involves effective and vibrant partnerships between themselves and local stakeholders. — AFP



**SYDNEY:** This file photo taken on February 06, 2015 shows Ronnie Flanagan, head of the ICC's anti-corruption and security, speaking at a press conference in Sydney on February 6, 2015. — AFP



**LOS ANGELES:** Los Angeles Clippers center Diamond Stone, left, shoots and scores his first NBA basket as Brooklyn Nets forward Chris McCullough defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, in Los Angeles. The Clippers won 127-95. — AP

# CLIPPERS CRUSH NETS FOR SEVENTH STRAIGHT VICTORY

**LOS ANGELES:** Chris Paul had 21 points and nine assists while Blake Griffin added 20 points as the Los Angeles Clippers blitzed the Brooklyn Nets 127-95 on Monday night to improve to an NBA-best 10-1 with a seventh straight victory. Los Angeles came in having outscored opponents by an average of 15.1 points, largest in the league. Brooklyn quickly found itself relegated to the Clippers' quickly growing scrap heap. Bojan Bogdanovic led the Nets with 18 points and Sean Kilpatrick added 14. Brooklyn's season-high 22 turnovers led to 35 points by the Clippers. J.J. Redick added 18 points, Luc Mbah a Moute scored 11 points and DeAndre Jordan had 14 rebounds for the Clippers, who shot 53 percent from the floor while extending the best start in franchise history. Their 127 points were a season high.

## SPURS 94, HEAT 90

Kawhi Leonard had 24 points and 12 rebounds and LaMarcus Aldridge added 18 points, leading San Antonio to the victory. San Antonio's projected starting five of Leonard, Aldridge, Pau Gasol, Tony Parker and Danny Green made its home debut after injuries to the starting backcourt led to five different starting lineups in the team's first nine games. Gasol had 12 points, Parker added 11 points and six assists and Green was limited to three points in 15 minutes. The Heat lost their fifth straight game. Dion Waiters, who hurt San Antonio in the playoffs last season while with Oklahoma

City, had 27 points for Miami. Hassan Whiteside had 23 points and 17 rebounds.

## PELICANS 106, CELTICS 105

Anthony Davis had 25 points, 16 rebounds, four steals and two blocks as the New Orleans Pelicans won for only the second time in their first 11 games, 106-105 over the Boston Celtics in the National Basketball League on Monday night. Langston Galloway scored a season-high 21 points, while Terrence Jones added 15 points and a season-high 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which has won two of three after an 0-8 start. Isaiah Thomas scored 37 for Boston, including a driving scoop that tied the game with 7 seconds left. But Boston's Kelly Olynyk fouled New Orleans guard Tim Frazier with 2.5 seconds left, and Frazier sank one free throw for the margin of victory. Avery Bradley had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Marcus Smart scored 15 points for Boston.

## PACERS 88, MAGIC 69

C.J. Miles made four 3-pointers and scored 16 points as the Pacers spoiled Frank Vogel's return to Indiana. Vogel coached the Pacers for more than five seasons before he was let go in May. He was quickly scooped up by Orlando. The crowd cheered when Vogel was introduced before the game. Paul George had 13 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Pacers, who pulled away in the second half. Monta Ellis also scored 13 points, and Jeff Teague finished with

11. Orlando shot 32 percent from the field. Evan Fournier led the Magic with 14 points on 4-of-15 shooting, and Aaron Gordon had 11.

## ROCKETS 115, 76ERS 88

James Harden scored 23 of his 33 points in the first quarter, helping Houston to the easy win. Harden, who posted a triple-double in his previous two games, added nine assists and seven rebounds. The Rockets had a three-point lead with five minutes left in the first quarter when Harden took over, scoring all of Houston's points in a 17-9 run to make it 35-24. The Sixers were led by Joel Embiid and Ersan Ilyasova, who had 13 points apiece.

## KNICKS 93, MAVERICKS 77

Carmelo Anthony and Kristaps Porzingis each scored 24 points as the Knicks rolled after a halftime lineup change. The Knicks benched Joakim Noah, their \$72 million free-agent signing, starting guard Justin Holiday and moved Porzingis to center in a small lineup. They responded by scoring 31 points in the third quarter after managing just 36 in an ugly first half. Anthony scored 17 in the third quarter and 20 in the second half after shooting 1 for 6 in the first half. Porzingis finished with 11 rebounds. Harrison Barnes scored 20 points and J.J. Barea had 17 for the Mavericks, who are still without Dirk Nowitzki and Deron Williams.

## PISTONS 104, THUNDER 88

Tobias Harris scored 22 points and Aron Baynes added 20 points and eight rebounds to help the short-handed Pistons beat the Thunder. The Pistons (6-5) improved to 5-0 at home despite being without their two best players. Reggie Jackson hasn't played this season due to knee tendinitis, and Andre Drummond was sidelined with a sprained ankle. Russell Westbrook had 33 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for Oklahoma City (6-5), which has dropped four in a row. Victor Oladipo finished with nine points, but he was the only other starter to score more than four. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 17 points for Detroit.

## GRIZZLIES 102, JAZZ 96

Marc Gasol scored a season-high 22 points, powering Memphis to the road win. The Grizzlies used a 9-2 run sparked by Mike Conley's 3-pointer and a 3-point play by Gasol to take a 94-88 lead with 1:25 remaining. Memphis led by as many as 13, but the Jazz kept answering with big plays from Joe Ingles and Trey Lyles. Conley had 18 points and seven assists for Memphis, and Zach Randolph added 18 points and 10 rebounds. Ingles scored a career-high 20 points and Lyles finished with 18. — AP

# VASILEVSKIY STOPS 34 SHOTS, LIGHTNING BEAT ISLANDERS 4-0

**NEW YORK:** Andrei Vasilevskiy faced 20 shots in the third period Monday night, so there wasn't much time for him to worry about the status of his shutout.

The Tampa Bay Lightning goalie was more worried about a victory, anyway. Vasilevskiy made 34 saves for his third career shutout. J.T. Brown and Ryan Callahan scored 42 seconds apart in the first period and the Lightning beat the New York Islanders 4-0 on Monday night.

"We get two points, that's most important," Vasilevskiy said, "and the shutout is a little bounce."

The goalie said he expected the Islanders to press in the third after being outshot 17-4 in the second.

"Usually when a team plays not that good (in the second period), they make a push in the third," Vasilevskiy said. "We did a good job on the (penalty kill) and the game overall, blocked shots and good play. I just want to say thank you to our guys for the shutout."

Nikita Kucherov and Vladislav Namestnikov scored as the Lightning won for the fourth time in seven games (4-2-1) following a three-game skid.

Steven Stamkos had two assists to help Tampa Bay complete a sweep of the three-game season series with the Islanders - all within the last 14 days - by a combined 14-2 margin.

"We sat back probably a little too much in the third and put Vasy in a tough position to make some big saves," Stamkos said. "He earned the shutout for sure." Jaroslav Halak had 27 saves for New York, which was shut out for the first time this season and fell to 1-3-3 in its last seven.

"Obviously we don't want to be in the spot we are in," Islanders captain John Tavares said.

"We just have to play positive and get

better. You get up tomorrow and try to get better." Travis Hamonic returned to the Islanders just nine days after suffering a hand injury that was expected to keep him out four to six weeks. However, New York was without fellow defenseman Dennis

Seidenberg after he was placed on injured reserve with a broken jaw after getting hit in the face by a puck in Saturday night's overtime loss at Florida. Scott Mayfield was an emergency recall from Bridgeport of the AHL, and the Islanders used seven defensemen and 11 forwards.

Mayfield fought with Brown about 5 1/2 minutes into the second after Brown hit Tavares. Mayfield received 17 minutes of penalties, getting whistled for instigating and a misconduct in addition to the fighting major.

Kucherov extended Tampa Bay's lead to 3-0 with 5:36 left in the second by completing a give-and-go with Stamkos, snapping the puck past Halak for his sixth of the season. It was Kucherov's fourth goal against the Islanders, including one in each of the team's three meetings.

The Lightning made it 4-0 about 2 1/2 minutes later when Stamkos brought the puck up ice and sent a pass to the right to Namestnikov, who tipped it in for his third.

Brown got the Lightning on the scoreboard with 1:02 left in the opening period, taking a pass from Craig Paquette and flicking the puck past Halak.

Tampa Bay made it 2-0 with 20 seconds remaining when Andrej Sustr fired a shot from the right point that Callahan appeared to deflect with the shaft of his stick over Halak's glove. It was Callahan's first goal of the season and his 349th career point. Kucherov nearly added to the lead in the closing seconds of the first, but the puck ricocheted of the crossbar. — AP



**NEW YORK:** Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman Braydon Coburn (55) shoves New York Islanders' left wing Anders Lee (27) in front of Lightning goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) of Russia during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, in New York. — AP

## NHL RESULT/STANDINGS

Tampa Bay 4; NY Islanders 0.

Western Conference						
Central Division						
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	
Chicago	11	3	2	54	39	24
Winnipeg	8	7	2	50	50	18
Minnesota	8	5	1	41	28	17
St. Louis	7	6	3	37	47	17
Dallas	6	6	4	44	55	16
Nashville	6	5	3	39	37	15
Colorado	6	8	0	27	41	12
Pacific Division						
Edmonton	9	6	1	46	41	19
San Jose	9	6	0	37	35	18
Anaheim	7	6	3	41	40	17
Los Angeles	7	8	1	39	41	15
Vancouver	6	9	1	33	48	13
Calgary	5	10	1	39	59	11
Arizona	5	9	0	38	49	10
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Montreal	13	2	1	53	34	27
Boston	10	6	0	41	38	20
Ottawa	9	5	1	35	35	19
Tampa Bay	9	6	1	50	42	19
Detroit	8	7	1	41	43	17
Florida	7	7	1	40	39	15
Toronto	6	6	3	44	55	15
Buffalo	5	6	4	29	37	14
Metropolitan Division						
NY Rangers	12	4	0	65	36	24
Pittsburgh	10	3	2	47	39	22
Washington	9	4	1	37	34	19
New Jersey	8	3	3	35	30	19
Columbus	7	4	2	45	32	16
Philadelphia	7	7	2	55	59	16
NY Islanders	5	8	3	40	51	13
Carolina	4	6	4	38	46	12

**Note:** Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

## NBA RESULTS/STANDINGS

Indiana 88, Orlando 69; NY Knicks 93, Dallas 77; Detroit 104, Oklahoma City 88; New Orleans 106, Boston 105; Houston 115, Philadelphia 88; San Antonio 94, Miami 90; Memphis 102, Utah 96.

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	7	2	.778	-
Boston	5	5	.500	2.5
NY Knicks	4	6	.400	3.5
Brooklyn	4	6	.400	3.5
Philadelphia	1	9	.100	6.5

#### Central Division

Cleveland	8	1	.889	-
Chicago	6	4	.600	2.5
Milwaukee	5	4	.556	3
Detroit	6	5	.545	3
Indiana	5	6	.455	4

#### Southeast Division

Atlanta	7	2	.778	-
Charlotte	6	3	.667	1
Orlando	4	7	.364	4
Miami	2	7	.222	5
Washington	2	7	.222	5

### Western Conference

#### Northwest Division

Portland	7	4	.636	-
Utah	7	5	.583	0.5
Oklahoma City	6	5	.545	1
Minnesota	3	6	.333	3
Denver	3	7	.300	3.5

#### Pacific Division

LA Clippers	10	1	.909	-
Golden State	8	2	.800	1.5
LA Lakers	6	5	.545	4
Sacramento	4	7	.364	6
Phoenix	3	8	.273	7

#### Southwest Division

San Antonio	8	3	.727	-
Houston	6	4	.600	1.5
Memphis	5	5	.500	2.5
Dallas	2	7	.222	5
New Orleans	2	9	.182	6

# REFUGEE BOOM SEES GERMAN FA LAUNCH ADVICE GUIDE

**BERLIN:** A major refugee influx has had a knock-on effect on football pitches across Germany with four times as many foreigners now playing in the home of the world champions.

The German Football Association (DFB) says 42,000 foreigners—many of whom are refugees seeking shelter here—applied for a licence to play here in the last 12 months, after Germany took in almost 900,000 asylum seekers.

There are 6.5 million registered players in Germany, organised by over 26,000 clubs. To help new arrivals, the DFB has produced a brochure "At home in football" designed to help German clubs and refugees alike.

The brochure offers refugees advice on how to learn the language and integrate in clubs, while it

suggests ways German clubs can help any new arrivals who may have endured trauma in their former homeland.

The brochure, which was presented to German Chancellor Angela Merkel at an Integration Summit in Berlin on Monday, is fronted by Paris Saint-Germain winger Lira Alushi.

The 28-year-old is a Germany international who fled Kosovo as a four-year-old, but says football helped her integrate.

"We were foreigners (in Germany) and had to deal with rejection," she said. "As children, we nevertheless made contacts quickly. Football helped me make friends and gave me new self-confidence."

Nearly 3,000 football clubs across Germany are participating in a "1:0 for a welcome", a DFB cam-

paign to encourage clubs to recruit refugees in both sexes. The impact of refugees in German football is felt from grassroots levels up to the top tier.

Players such as Bakery Jatta, 18, of Hamburg and Werder Bremen's Ousman Manneh, 19, have signed for Bundesliga clubs this season having originally arrived as refugees from Gambia.

"For many refugees, football means a lot and thousands of football clubs in Germany have understood that and invited people from Syria, Afghanistan or Eritrea to football matches," said Jatta, who has signed a three-year contract with Hamburg.

"Football made it possible for me to learn the language, to come into contact with Germans and escape the boredom of being stuck in a home.

"I grew up without parents in Gambia and in 2015, my 6,000 kilometres journey to Germany began.

"I felt the special atmosphere in Hamburg, (the club's bosses at the start of the season) Dietmar Beiersdorfer and Bruno Labbadia were friendly, ready to help and interested in me.

"It was a great feeling to have been welcomed with open arms. I can't, and don't want to be, a role model for other refugees, but I am proud of the football in my new homeland, Germany."

Jatta has so far only played for Hamburg's reserves, but Manneh, 19, who arrived here in 2014, has played in six Bundesliga matches this season and scored his first German league goal in October. — AFP

## LA GALAXY CONFIRM GERRARD DEPARTURE

**LOS ANGELES:** Former England midfielder Steven Gerrard has left Major League Soccer side LA Galaxy, the club confirmed yesterday, but he indicated that he is not yet ready to retire from playing.

"The LA Galaxy announced today that midfielder Steven Gerrard will not return to the club for the 2017 MLS season," read a statement issued by the Galaxy.

"Gerrard departs from LA following the conclusion of his contract in Major League Soccer at the end of the year."

The 36-year-old had joined the Galaxy in July 2015 following his departure from Liverpool, where he starred for 17 years.

Having previously been tipped to see out his playing days in the United States, he suggested that he will now move on to another club before hanging up his boots.

"When I left Liverpool, I came to Los Angeles with the goal of helping the Galaxy lift another MLS Cup," said Gerrard, who was eliminated in the Western Conference semi-finals with Galaxy by Colorado Rapids earlier this month.

"I am of course disappointed to have not achieved that objective, but I can look back at my time at the club with pride at what we accomplished, including two straight playoff appearances and countless memorable moments on the pitch."

He added: "I am now looking forward to spending time with my family as I consider the next stage of my career."

Gerrard scored five goals in 34 appearances for the Galaxy.

While he will continue to work as a tele-

vision pundit for BT Sport in the United Kingdom, his comments will be of interest to numerous potential suitors, including Scottish champions Celtic. Managed by Gerrard's former boss at Anfield Brendan Rodgers, they have been installed as the favourites with bookmakers at odds of 2/1 to be his next port of call.

Speaking to Galaxy TV, he added: "Although I'm going back to England to live, it's certainly not the end of me in football terms. I've got a lot of things to consider over the coming weeks and months, and I'm sure I'll be back involved in the game."

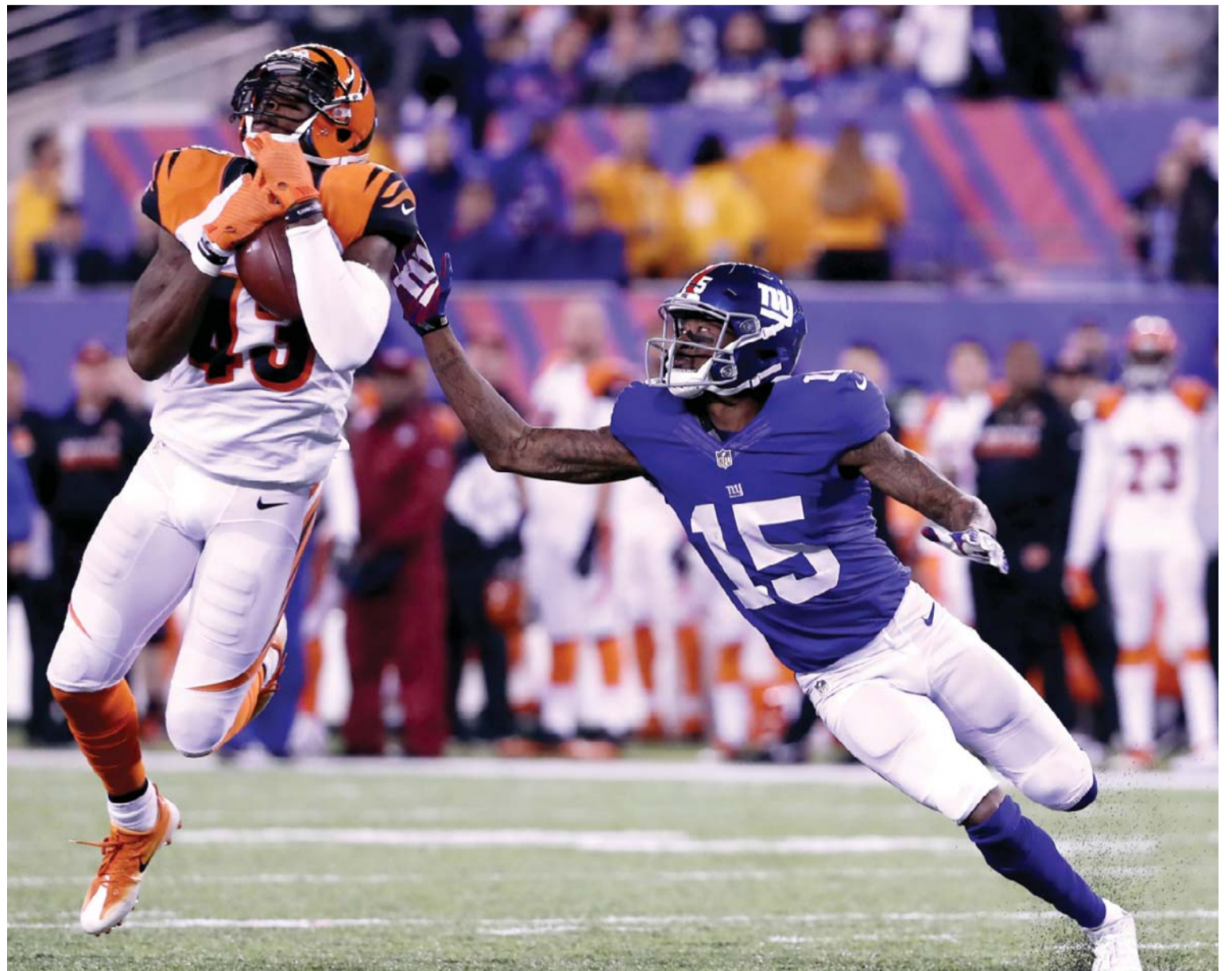
"I've got options on the pitch, off the pitch. I've got a lot of thinking to do over the next two or three weeks. I'm not ready to make a decision or finalise anything that I'm going to be doing moving forward."

"What I will say is that I'm going home to spend some time with my family and basically go over my options and decide which is the best next challenge for me."

Gerrard's departure comes a day after New York City F.C. confirmed his ex-England team-mate Frank Lampard, 38, will leave the club when his contract expires at the end of the year.

Capped 114 times by England, Gerrard skippered home-town team Liverpool for 12 years, famously lifting the Champions League trophy in 2005 after an unforgettable comeback against AC Milan.

He also won two FA Cups, three League Cups and the UEFA Cup at Liverpool, but he never laid his hands on the Premier League trophy. — AFP



**NEW JERSEY:** George Iloka #43 of the Cincinnati Bengals intercepts a ball intended for Tavarres King #15 of the New York Giants during the fourth quarter of the game at MetLife Stadium on Monday in East Rutherford, New Jersey. — AFP

## MANNING GUIDES GIANTS TO VICTORY OVER BENGALS

**EAST RUTHERFORD:** Ben McAdoo has shown a willingness to gamble in his first season as the Giants coach, and New York is riding his hot hand for a run at their first postseason berth since winning the Super Bowl in 2011.

Eli Manning threw his third touchdown pass of the game on a fourth-down, fourth-quarter roll of the dice by McAdoo, and the Giants beat the Cincinnati Bengals 21-20 on Monday night for their first four-game winning streak since 2013.

"We like the position we're in. We've just got to keep going. We can't slow down," said Manning, who was 28 of 44 for 240 yards and two interceptions. "We can't relax for a second. Every game we've been playing is tight. I'm proud of the way the team is fighting."

Manning threw scoring passes of 10 yards apiece to rookie Jerrell Adams and Odell Beckham in the first half, and a game-winning 3-yarder to rookie Sterling Shepard on a daring call with New York (6-3) down 20-14 early in the fourth quarter.

The six wins match the Giants' total in each of the last two seasons under Tom Coughlin, and it bodes well with Chicago (2-7) and Cleveland (0-10) on tap the next two weeks.

The key to this one was McAdoo's decision to play for a TD early in the fourth. The third quarter ended with New York at the Cincinnati 9, facing a second and goal.

When Manning came to the sideline, McAdoo told him they were in four-down territory.

"I don't know if I've heard it before," Manning said of being told before the second-down play.

"Obviously on third down, they tell you. We had the quarter change, so I think he had some time to think and wanted me to know and to tell the offensive guys the circumstances." The fourth quarter started with an incomplete pass intended for tight end Will Tye. A 6-yard pass to Tavarres King set up the fourth-down pass to Shepard, who cut across the field on a shallow route and beat the linebacker.

"We knew it was going to take touchdowns to beat this team," McAdoo said. "It's a good football team and we felt like we needed to score touchdowns."

The Giants defense took over from there, closing it out on Landon Collins' fourth interception in the past three games and two stops, the last on consecutive sacks of Andy Dalton with less than five minutes to play.

Dalton threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Green and Jeremy Hill scored on a 9-yard run that was set up by an 84-yard kickoff return by Alex

Erickson to start the second half.

Mike Nugent kicked two field goals for Cincinnati (3-5-1), the second giving the Bengals a 20-14 lead early in the third quarter.

Dalton said the Bengals just couldn't get anything going after taking the lead. They missed a short third down play in the fourth quarter and then never threatened.

"We just needed one play to get us going and we never got it," said Dalton, who was 16 of 29 for 204 yards.

The Giants had a 14-10 halftime lead. Manning capped an 80-yard opening drive with his pass to Adams. He hit Beckham (10 catches for 97 yards) on New York's final drive of the half.

A 71-yard pass from Dalton to tight end Tyler

Eifert set up Green's touchdown, and an interception by Dre Kirkpatrick led to Nugent's first field goal, which was disappointing since Cincinnati had first-and-goal at the Giants 7 after the return.

### INJURIES

Giants second-year G Brett Jones made his first NFL start and lasted one series before leaving with a strained calf. New York WR-KR Dwayne Harris (toe) left in the second half, as did the Bengals DE Wallace Gilberry (calf).

### RING OF HONOR

The Giants inducted two-time Super Bowl-winning coach Tom Coughlin, defensive end Justin Tuck and former general manager Ernie Accorsi into their Ring of Honor. Coughlin, who stepped down after last season, was the last to be introduced, and he started by saying he wasn't going to be "cheated" in giving his acceptance speech. He wasn't. He spoke so long the teams had to wait for the second half to start. — AP

### NFL RESULT/STANDINGS

NY Giants 21, Cincinnati 20.

American Football Conference						
AFC East						
	W	L	OTL	PF	PA	PCT
New England	7	2	0	241	163	.778
Miami	5	4	0	204	206	.556
Buffalo	4	5	0	237	203	.444
NY Jets	3	7	0	179	244	.300
AFC North						
Baltimore	5	4	0	182	160	.556
Pittsburgh	4	5	0	214	206	.444
Cincinnati	3	5	1	187	210	.389
Cleveland	0	10	0	175	301	0
AFC South						
Houston	6	3	0	161	188	.667
Tennessee	5	5	0	264	251	.500
Indianapolis	4	5	0	239	256	.444
Jacksonville	2	7	0	174	239	.222
AFC West						
Kansas City	7	2	0	205	168	.778
Oakland	7	2	0	245	223	.778
Denver	7	3	0	239	189	.700
San Diego	4	6	0	292	278	.400
National Football Conference						
NFC East						
Dallas	8	1	0	258	170	.889
NY Giants	6	3	0	182	184	.667
Washington	5	3	1	212	209	.611
Philadelphia	5	4	0	226	160	.556
NFC North						
Detroit	5	4	0	205	206	.556
Minnesota	5	4	0	175	152	.556
Green Bay	4	5	0	223	234	.444
Chicago	2	7	0	141	215	.222
NFC South						
Atlanta	6	4	0	320	283	.600
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	216	242	.444
New Orleans	4	5	0	265	263	.444
Carolina	3	6	0	221	226	.333
NFC West						
Seattle	6	2	1	193	158	.722
Arizona	4	4	1	202	160	.500
Los Angeles	4	5	0	139	173	.444
San Francisco	1	8	0	187	283	.111



**CARSON:** This file photo taken on July 11, 2015 shows Steven Gerrard of the LA Galaxy warming up with teammates before making his debut for the MLS side against Club America in their 2015 International Champions Cup match in Carson, California. Former England midfielder Steven Gerrard has left Major League Soccer side LA Galaxy, the club confirmed yesterday. — AFP

## INJURED ROONEY OUT OF ENGLAND'S SPAIN TEST

**LONDON:** Skipper Wayne Rooney has been ruled out of England's year-ending friendly against Spain at Wembley yesterday because of a knee problem, the English Football Association confirmed.

"The striker sat out this morning's session at Tottenham Hotspur's training ground as a precaution due to a minor knee injury," the FA said.

"Rooney has been allowed to return to his club for further assessment."

England's interim manager Gareth Southgate had earlier said that Rooney would be rested from the starting line-up in any case, with Liverpool's Jordan Henderson filling in as captain.

Rooney returned to England's start-

ing XI for Friday's 3-0 win over Scotland in World Cup qualifying, having started the previous game-a 0-0 draw away to Slovenia-on the bench.

Left-back Ryan Bertrand, who also missed training on Monday, remains in contention to feature in the game at Wembley.

Harry Kane had already been ruled out of Tuesday's match, the Tottenham striker having returned to his club as he continues his recovery from an ankle ligament problem.

The game against Spain is the fourth and final match of Southgate's tenure as interim manager, but he is expected to be offered the role full-time. — AFP

**Live Matches on TV**  
(Local Timings)

### WC2010 S American Qualification

<b>Ecuador v Venezuela</b>	<b>0:00</b>
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
<b>Chile v Uruguay</b>	<b>2:30</b>
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
beIN SPORTS 3 HD FR	
beIN SPORTS 16 HD FR	
<b>Argentina v Colombia</b>	<b>2:30</b>
beIN SPORTS 15 HD FR	
beIN SPORTS 2 HD FR	
<b>Peru v Brazil</b>	<b>5:15</b>
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
beIN SPORTS 15 HD FR	
beIN SPORTS 2 HD FR	

Kuwait tennis  
team wins gold  
in Qatar tourneySA clinches  
series with  
emphatic win

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

GANGS STAY AHEAD IN SPORT'S ILLEGAL GAMBLING WAR Page 18



KUNMING: China's Huang Bowen (L) and Zheng Zhi (R) compete for the ball with Qatar's Rodrigo Barbosa Taba (C) during their 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying match in Kunming, in China's Yunnan province yesterday. — AFP

## CHINA HELD BY QATAR, JEDINAK SAVES AUSTRALIA

**KUNMING:** Marcello Lippi's dreams of taking China to the next World Cup received a reality check yesterday, while Asian champions Australia were made to sweat in a near-nightmare in Bangkok.

China's 0-0 draw with Qatar did nothing to boost their dwindling hopes of reaching Russia 2018, even after World Cup-winning coach Lippi was appointed last month.

Mile Jedinak scored twice from the spot as Australia came from behind to draw 2-2 with Thailand, dropping

out of Group B's automatic qualifying places as a result.

Elsewhere Japan eased the pressure on coach Vahid Halilhodzic with a 2-1 win over Saudi Arabia, while South Korea needed Koo Ja-Cheol's late winner to overcome Uzbekistan 2-1.

Lippi arrived in China with great fanfare and reportedly, a huge pay cheque—but he was unable to start with a win which would have lifted them off the bottom of Group A. The Italian admits ambitious China need a "miracle" to reach Russia, which would be only their sec-

ond World Cup after their sole appearance ended pointless and goalless in 2002. China enjoyed more chances but they were unable to find the breakthrough against 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar, who remain second from bottom and also unlikely to qualify for 2018.

In Bangkok, Teerasil Dangda's double left Australia on the brink of a shock defeat, before Socceroos captain Jedinak scored his second penalty of the night on 65 minutes.

The draw demoted Australia from second to provi-

sional third in their group, a point behind Saudi Arabia and Japan, with only the top two winning automatic qualification for Russia.

### 'WE HAD TO STAY STRONG'

"I think to come away with less than three points here is a real shame, a big disappointment," said Aston Villa's Jedinak. "We have to move forward, we need to assess what's gone wrong here and try to rectify it quickly." — AFP



SAITAMA: Saudi Arabia's goalkeeper Assaf Alqarni (C) makes a save attempt against Japan during their football match in Group B of the 2018 World Cup Asian qualifier at Saitama Stadium in Saitama yesterday. — AFP

## SAUDI FURY AS JAPAN BOOST WORLD CUP HOPES

**SAITAMA:** Japan beat Saudi Arabia 2-1 in a foul-tempered qualifier yesterday as a debatable Hiroshi Kiyotake penalty boosted their hopes of qualifying for a sixth successive World Cup in 2018.

The Blue Samurai drew level with the Group B leaders on 10 points after a tempestuous clash in Saitama, where Kiyotake's spot kick and a Genki Haraguchi effort eased the pressure on under-fire coach Vahid Halilhodzic.

Saudi Arabia pulled a late goal back through Omar Othman but it was not enough for the visitors to rescue a draw.

"Credit to the players for beating a good Saudi team," said Halilhodzic, whose future has been plunged into doubt after a poor run of form during the Asian qualifying campaign.

"This is a big victory for us but it was a deserved one," added the Franco-Bosnian after his side improved to 10 points from five games, with five remaining.

"We have had to stay strong to come back from some difficult situations and no doubt there will be more to overcome before we get to Russia."

Kiyotake converted on the stroke of half-time after Saudi defender Abdulmalek Al Khaibri was adjudged to have handled, despite replays showing Kiyotake's initial shot had struck him in the chest. The Saudis protested furiously to referee Muhammad bin Jahari of Singapore and scuffles broke out between the players, which continued as they disappeared down the tunnel at the interval. Haraguchi effectively killed off

Saudi's hopes of pinching a point with a sharp finish after 80 minutes following a deft flick from substitute Shinji Kagawa.

Othman's 90th-minute strike crept across the line in a moment of cruel irony for Japan, who had a similar effort disallowed in a 2-1 defeat to UAE in September.

Saudi's chances of pulling off an improbable escape evaporated when captain Osama Hawsawi saw red for a clumsy challenge in injury time. Saudi Arabia, who have failed to qualify for the last two World Cups, could have opened a six-point lead over Japan. "It's difficult to accept losing but we have to be honest and say that Japan deserved to win," said Saudi Arabia coach Bert van Marwijk. "We have the same points and the group will be close." — AFP

## S KOREA SNATCH LATE WIN OVER UZBEKISTAN

**SEOUL:** South Korea gave coach Uli Stielike the perfect birthday gift with a 2-1 win over Uzbekistan yesterday that breathed new life into their World Cup qualifying campaign.

The victory lifted South Korea above the Uzbeks into second spot in Group A at the midway point of Asia's final qualifying round, level on 10 points with Iran.

The top two sides in Group A and B qualify automatically for the 2018 World Cup in Russia while the third-placed teams meet to decide who goes into a CONCACAF-Asian Zone playoff for a place at the finals.

The Koreans have looked a shadow of the side that reached last year's Asian Cup final and went in at halftime trailing 1-0 after Marat Bikmaev pounced on goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu's poor clearance to curl the ball into an empty net from 25 metres.

The hosts had dominated possession in the opening 45 minutes without looking remotely dangerous but showed greater urgency after the break and equalised in the 67th minute.

Defender Park Joo-ho dashed down to the line and his looping cross arced to the far post where Nam Tae-hee crashed home a header.

Stielike, celebrating his 62nd birthday, sent on towering target man Kim Shin-wook and defender Hong Chul and the substitutes combined to set up the winner. Hong crossed deep from the left, Kim held off a defender to nod the ball back across goal and Koo Ja-cheol raced in behind the defence to slam home five minutes from time.

After losing 1-0 to Iran in their last qualifier, Stielike was delighted his side had managed to break down the stingy Uzbek defence, which had conceded just two goals over their last seven matches.

"We knew how difficult this game would be before we started," the German told reporters. "I'm satisfied with how the players turned it around. We deserved the victory." South Korea face a trip to

China when World Cup qualifying resumes in March while Uzbekistan play Syria.

Meanwhile, Asian heavyweights Iran splashed to a 0-0 draw against Syria in World Cup qualifying yesterday on a swampy Malaysian pitch that will raise questions over why the match was allowed to proceed.

Neither side mounted much sustained pressure in the dreary contest as their keepers easily picked off what few serious shots they encountered due to the slow pace of play.

The result leaves Iran still atop Group A but ruing a failed chance to take three points against war-torn Syria, who are unable to host games due to the bloody conflict back home.

The Syrian side has adopted Malaysia as a temporary home ground, but yesterday's match exposed the pitfalls of the situation. The subpar pitch in a town outside Kuala Lumpur soaked up a heavy pre-game tropical downpour like a sponge, swallowing passes and making players look as if they were moving at half-speed.

The Iranians dominated play, however, and Saeid Ezatollahi nearly put them ahead with a header in front of goal in the 34th minute that leaked just past the right post.

The match settled into a war of attrition, with neither squad able to put much pace into their shots due to the quicksand footing.

With the pitch drying a little by the late second half the bigger Iranians, their white jerseys now brown, upped the pressure with a series of attacks.

But a missed 89th-minute header by Alirez Jahanbakhsh on a dangerous cross from Milad Mohammadi-right in front of goal with the keeper beaten-summed up the night for Iran.

The result continues the semi-charmed run of the homeless Syrians, who have lost twice but also have beaten China and drawn with South Korea. — Agencies

# Kuwait Times 55th Anniversary

# BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

**Eurozone economy absorbs  
Brexit shock; Germany hit**

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**Al Babtain celebrates  
winners of aftersales contest**

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**Ambitions steadfast  
as Lexus garners  
recognition**

Page 25

## OPEC TAKES CENTER-STAGE AS MARKETS AWAIT OUTPUT DEAL

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**GUWAHATI:** Indian villagers wait in a queue outside a bank to deposit and exchange 500 and 1000 rupee notes in Chandrapur Village, some 30 km from Guwahati yesterday. — AFP

## ORDINARY INDIANS SUFFER AMID DEEPENING CASH CRUNCH

### BANKS TO USE INDELIBLE INK TO STOP REPEAT CASH EXCHANGES

**NEW DELHI/MUMBAI:** Indian banks will use indelible ink to ensure that people only change old notes for new ones once under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheme to fight "black money", resorting to a tactic used to prevent multiple voting in elections.

The step comes a week after Modi ordered the withdrawal of large denomination banknotes from circulation, in a shock "demonetization" drive to fight tax evasion, corruption and forgery. The government only gave people a few hours' notice before cancelling old 500 and 1,000 rupee banknotes that accounted for 86 percent of cash circulating in Asia's third-largest economy.

The sudden move has caused huge disruption to daily life, especially for poor people who live in the cash economy. There were lengthy queues at banks in New Delhi and Mumbai as people waited in hope that cash dispensers would be refilled. But people going about their daily business in the country's two biggest cities said they were willing to put up with the hassle - as long as it doesn't last too long.

Hari Kishan, who runs a clothing stall in Delhi's bustling Karol Bagh district, said his

business normally turns over up to 60,000 Indian rupees (\$900) a day but was making just a sixth of that now. "People will forget all this inconvenience. When currency returns, by December, the situation should normalise," said the 40-year-old merchant. "Credit has to go to the prime minister."

#### STATE ELECTION ISSUE

A top finance ministry official said the use of indelible ink - also used to stop multiple voting in Indian elections - would prevent "unscrupulous persons" from sending people from one bank branch to the next to exchange old notes. Individuals are allowed to swap 4,500 rupees (\$66.50) just once. "You find the same people coming back again and again," Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das told a briefing, saying huge queues were preventing honest people from getting the cash they need.

Campaigning to win power in 2014, Modi had pledged to flush out corruption by forcing people to bring their hidden money back into the system. And with an important state election just months away, he is again campaigning to justify the demonetization drive.

"After demonetization, the poor are enjoying a sound sleep while rich are running from pillar to post to buy sleeping pills," he told a rally on Monday in Uttar Pradesh, which goes to the polls next spring.

Opposition politicians have rounded on Modi, accusing him of tipping off workers from his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and creating an unfair campaign advantage. Party leaders have denied any such leak.

Modi's black money drive is expected to dominate the reopening of parliament for its winter session today and he was due to attend an all-party meeting later in the day to discuss the matter. Economists say the cash crunch will cause a short-term hit to activity, mainly because a significant chunk of old money will be wiped out and it will take time to print and circulate new 500 and 2,000 rupee notes.

The purple 2,000 rupee notes are smaller than India's existing banknotes, and it also will take up to three weeks to reconfigure the country's 200,000 ATMs to handle them.

In a blog post, N R Bhanumurthy of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy estimated that growth could be depressed by

0.6 of a percentage point in the current fiscal year to March 2017. But an increase in bank deposits and the "multiplier" effect of that money being re-lent, could lift growth in 2017/18 by up to 0.7 of a percentage point, estimated Bhanumurthy, whose think tank is affiliated to the finance ministry.

#### NEPAL VOICES CONCERN

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal called his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi yesterday to find out how Nepalis could exchange Indian rupees they hold in the now banned denominations. The two countries share a long border and close cultural ties, and many Nepalis hold large amounts of cash in Indian rupees.

They have been left in the lurch after Modi's surprise announcement last week to withdraw the two largest denomination notes from circulation in a bid to tackle corruption and tax evasion. "Our prime minister called Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday evening and requested him to arrange exchange facility of the notes in Nepal," press advisor to the prime minister, Govinda Acharya, told AFP. "Prime

Minister Modi was positive about easing the situation and our finance ministers are already in conversation."

Nepal's Central Bank said that banks in Nepal hold around 33.6 million Indian rupees (\$496,000) in the now banned 500 and 1,000 bills but it is not clear how much is kept by individuals. Local media reported scenes of panic in border towns, where traders and pilgrims regularly move between the two countries. There were also reports of retired Gurkhas, who served in the Indian army and have bank accounts in the country, being paid by desperate Nepalis to exchange their banned notes.

"There is a sense of panic within the public and we reached out to the Reserve Bank of India with our details five days ago," said Nepal central bank spokesman Narayan Prasad Poudel. "However, we have not yet received a response on how to manage the exchange." In India, people can deposit their 500 and 1,000 notes into their bank accounts or exchange them for new notes until the end of the year, but huge queues and a shortage of cash has hampered the process. — Agencies

## US CENTRAL BANKER SAYS DEC RATE HIKE 'PLAUSIBLE'

**WASHINGTON:** The prevailing view that the US Federal Reserve will raise the key interest rate next month is "plausible," a voting member of the monetary policy committee said yesterday.

"Absent significant negative economic news over the next month, the market's assessment of the likelihood of tightening in December seems plausible," Boston Federal Reserve Bank President Eric Rosengren said in a speech in Portland, Maine. The policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will next meet December 13-14 and is widely expected to increase rates for the first time since December 2015.

Rosengren, though previously supportive of very low rates, dissented in September when the FOMC decided to leave rates unchanged. But at the November 1-2 FOMC, he voted with the majority to again maintain the status quo just before the presidential election.

"At the FOMC meeting earlier this month, however, I felt that the changes in the FOMC statement were well aligned with the notion (and the market perception) of a high likelihood of tightening in December. As a result, I did not dissent," Rosengren said.

He said with unemployment at 4.9 percent in October, the labor market is close to full employment. Inflation also is approaching the Fed target and is expected to reach 2 percent next year.

"Progress to date and the expectation of further progress likely explain, in part, why markets have priced in a high probability of a rate

hike in December."

Rosengren's is one of a barrage of about a dozen Fed speeches this week, including Fed Chair Janet Yellen tomorrow, Vice Chair Stanley Fischer later yesterday and New York Fed

President William Dudley Friday. Fischer last week said the Fed expects the US economy to continue to recover and that there is a "quite strong" case to raise interest rates gradually, although they will remain relatively low. — AFP



The US Federal Reserve building in Washington, DC. — AFP

## SAUDI, EGYPT CONTINUE PULL-BACK, UAE DOWN

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Stock markets in Saudi Arabia and Egypt continued pulling back yesterday after big rallies earlier this month, while some individual stocks in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar moved sharply after MSCI adjusted its indexes.

The Saudi index, which had jumped 22 percent between mid-October and Sunday before profit-taking began on Monday, dropped 2.1 percent to 6,493 points yesterday in heavy trade, pulling back from technical resistance on the July peak of 6,703 points. However, the index ended well off the day's low of 6,346 points. Among major losers, National Commercial Bank, the biggest lender, dropped 4.5 percent. Petrochemicals held up relatively well.

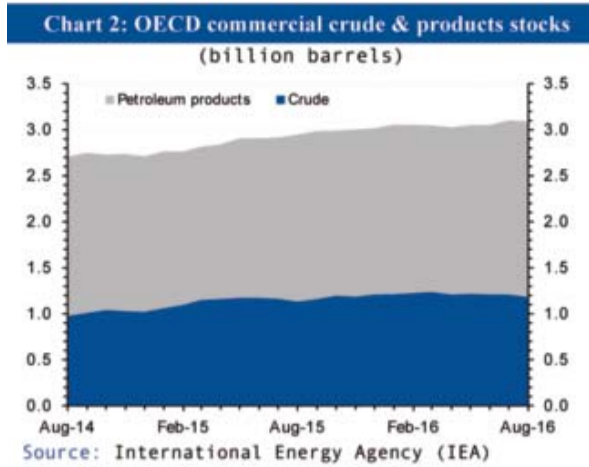
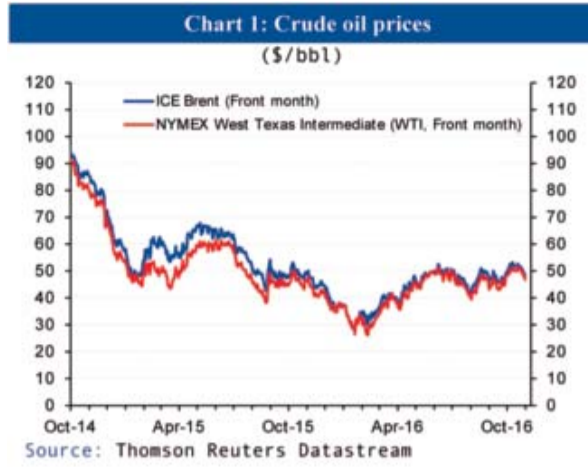
A Saudi fund manager said the market had been supported by local and government funds and when these stopped buying yesterday, profit-taking pressure quickly pushed stocks down.

Some investors had been hoping that international index compiler MSCI would announce, along with its index revisions, that it was starting the process of upgrading Saudi Arabia to

emerging market status, two fund managers said. There was disappointment when this did not happen.

Riyad REIT, which jumped its 10 percent daily limit when it listed on Sunday and did so again on Monday, rose a further 3.7 percent, but heavy trading volume showed some investors were keen to take profits. Egypt's blue chip index dropped 0.5 percent, though it remains up more than 25 percent on hopes for inflows of foreign funds since the central bank floated the Egyptian pound on Nov. 3. Trading volume remained very heavy.

Nine of the most heavily traded stocks rose and some financial stocks continued to surge, such as investment bank EFG Hermes which added 4.2 percent. The index was mostly pulled back by a 1.5 percent decline in the biggest lender, Commercial International Bank, down 1.5 percent, and a 1.7 percent loss by Global Telecom. Exchange data showed foreign investors remaining net buyers of stocks, as they have been since the currency float, though the net amount yesterday was small, only about \$5 million. — Reuters



News

in brief

**Kuwait oil price down to US dollar 39.32 pb**

**KUWAIT:** The price of Kuwaiti oil went down by 71 cents to \$ 39.32 per barrel (pb) Monday after it was at \$40.03 pb last Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The price of the Brent Crude also went down by 32 cents, hitting \$44.43 pb. The American crude also went down eight cents to \$43.32 pb. Meanwhile, the OPEC daily basket price stood at \$40.94 a barrel Monday, compared with \$41.54 the previous Friday, the organization said. The annual average of the OPEC basket price for 2015 hit \$49.49 pb, it said in a statement yesterday. During their recent meeting in Algiers, OPEC oil ministers had agreed to cut the production level between 32.5 and 33 million barrel per day, in order to accelerate the ongoing drawdown of the stock overhang and bring the rebalancing forward.

**Shuaa gets regulatory nod for ADFG to buy stake**

**DUBAI:** Dubai's Shuaa Capital said yesterday it has received regulatory approvals allowing Abu Dhabi Financial Group (ADFG) to buy a 48.36 percent stake in the investment bank. Alternative investment firm ADFG agreed in June to acquire the stake from Dubai Banking Group, a subsidiary of Dubai Group. Shuaa received approval from both the central bank and the stock market regulator, the bourse statement said, adding that it expected ADFG to execute the transaction on the Dubai stock exchange soon, without providing a date.

**CBC becomes DGCC's settlement bank**

**DUBAI:** Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), the world's largest bank by assets, has become a settlement bank for the Dubai Gold & Commodities Exchange (DGCC), the exchange said yesterday, allowing more investors to clear transactions in yuan. ICBC becomes the second Chinese bank to join DGCC's wholly-owned subsidiary, Dubai Commodities Clearing Corporation, as a clearing and settlement bank. Bank of China became a member in March. The four other settlement banks are Dubai-based Emirates NBD, Standard Chartered, HSBC and India's Bank of Baroda.

**SODIC to raise housing prices 20-30% on pound float**

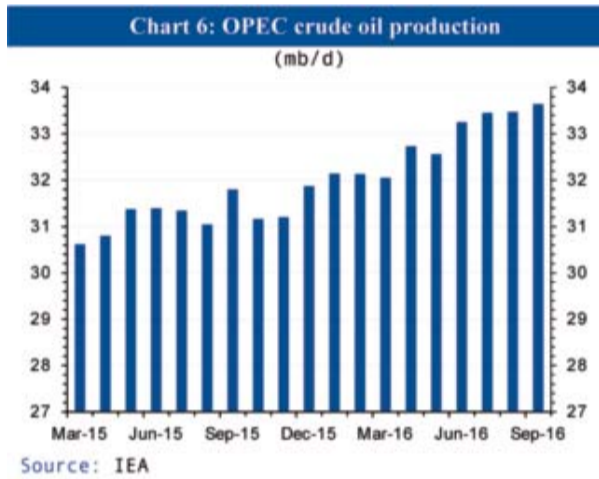
**CAIRO:** Egyptian developer SODIC will raise prices on residential units by 20-30 percent yesterday in the wake of the central bank's floatation of the pound on Nov 3, Chief Executive Maged Sherif said. Egypt's third-largest listed real estate developer has also decided to delay three new projects to the first half of 2017 from the fourth quarter of this year, he said. Egypt removed its peg of 8.8 pounds per dollar and floated the pound in a surprise move aimed at overhauling its dollar-starved economy and unlocking foreign investments. The pound was trading at around 15.5 to the dollar yesterday. "We took the decision to raise prices last Thursday after the floatation of the pound," Sherif said, adding that the decision to delay three of their projects to next year came as the company had already achieved this year's sales targets and to take into account the floatation of the pound.

# OPEC TAKES CENTER-STAGE AS MARKETS AWAIT OUTPUT DEAL

**KUWAIT:** More than a month after OPEC's surprise announcement that it would contemplate its first production cut in 8 years and the oil markets remain gripped by a sense of expectation ahead of the group's next meeting at the end of November. Volatility was indeed lower in October, but judging by the decline in oil prices since the third week of the month, the omens do not look good that an agreement can be finalized by the next OPEC meeting. By the 31 October, after two consecutive days of losses, Brent closed at \$48.3 per barrel (bbl), down 1.5 percent since the start of the month. The reversal from Brent's earlier gains in the month was stark. Indeed, during the first half of the month Brent was trading in the \$51-53/bbl range, at a 12-month high, buoyed by declines in US crude stocks and in OECD commercial crude inventories, before its price dropped well below the \$50 level. Similarly, West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the US marker, fell to \$46.8 by October's close of play, having been as high \$51.6 at one point during the month.

**Financial strain**

Optimism regarding a potential OPEC deal to rein in supply began to fade after Iraq announced that it, too, should be exempt from oil production cuts due to its ongoing conflict with the so-called Islamic State (IS). Iraq insisted that the financial strain of the war precluded a



**NBK ECONOMIC REPORT**

cut in production and hence oil revenues. With OPEC's second largest producer expecting to join Iran, the group's third largest producer, Libya and Nigeria on the sidelines, it would be left once more to Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, to shoulder a disproportionately large share of the cuts, something the kingdom has been reluctant to do.

According to their 28 September Algiers communique, OPEC is looking to bring its production down from around 33.6 million barrels per day (mb/d) at present, according to International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates, to within a range of 32.5-33.0 mb/d. A cut of 0.6 to 1.1 mb/d would indeed be sufficient, elevated global crude stocks notwithstanding, to bring the market to balance given that, according to the IEA, the surplus of supply over demand had narrowed to 0.3 mb/d in the last quarter from a high of 1.5 mb/d in 4Q15.

If Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies pare back production by the 4 percent they suggested at the recent technical conference in Vienna, and this is extended to the rest of OPEC excluding Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and Libya, then the market could plausibly move even beyond balance and into a supply deficit of -0.5 mb/d in 4Q16. This scenario assumes that exempt OPEC members, with the exception of Libya, maximize production to near sustainable capacity limits and non-OPEC countries, such as Russia, do not boost their own production in the meantime. Should no output cut agreement be forthcoming at the next OPEC ministerial meeting, then producers will likely continue pumping at will to maximize market share; with demand growth expected to slow, to 0.3 mb/d in 4Q16, the supply surplus could widen to 0.7 mb/d in the same quarter. Rebalancing would once more extend into the second half of 2017 as the rate of stock drawdowns slows. The impact on oil prices would be obviously negative, as producers remain locked in a metaphorical race to the bottom. In the absence of consensus between OPEC members regarding the magnitude, distribution and policing of any proposed cuts, and the uncertain participation of non-OPEC Russia, all this remains hypothetical, however.

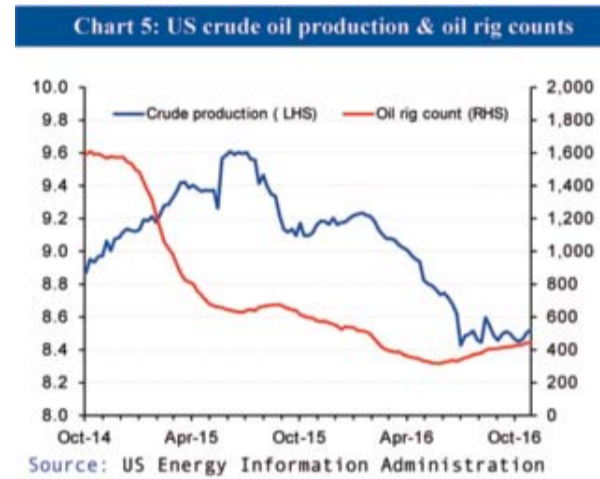
Market optimism was also tempered in the last few days by production data indicating that not only is

Nigerian and Libyan supply ramping up after a prolonged period of outages, but that US output may also be recovering after almost a year and a half of being under pressure. This would seem to be backed by increases in the number of drilling rigs, in the US and, indeed, worldwide, which is often taken as a proxy for production. The US has been steadily bringing rigs back online since May, when rig counts were down by 80 percent from their 2014-high at a low of 318.

While the data is preliminary, it nevertheless illustrates the scale of the challenge facing OPEC oil producers, and particularly Saudi Arabia, upon whom the largest cuts will have to be borne.

**OPEC production surges**

Production from 14-member OPEC broke a new record in September, climbing by 170 kb/d to 33.64 mb/d. Boosted by returning crude flows from Libya and rising Iraqi production, OPEC output in September (excluding new members Indonesia and Gabon) stood almost 0.9 mb/d higher than a year ago. Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE continue to pump at or near record levels. Meanwhile, supply from Iran continues to increase, reaching 3.67 mb/d in September. Iran has brought back online around 760 kb/d of crude supply so far in 2016, which is the fastest source of OPEC growth this year.



## EGYPT SET TO HOLD RATES; DIVISION OVER MOVES IN COMING MONTHS

**CAIRO:** Egypt's central bank is seen holding interest rates steady tomorrow, a Reuters poll showed, and economists expect it will wait to gauge the impact of a surprise rate hike this month and might then move rates in either direction. On Nov. 3, the bank ditched its peg of 8.8 percent and hiked rates by 300 basis points to stabilize the newly floated pound. Its initial guide level was 13 to the dollar and on Tuesday it allowed the pound to drift to about 15.50.

The move has helped Egypt secure a \$12 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund to support a plan to overhaul its dollar-starved economy and unlock foreign investment. All 15 economists polled by Reuters expected the monetary policy committee (MPC) on Nov. 17 to hold overnight deposit rates at 14.75 percent and overnight lending rates at 15.75 percent. Their forecasts for the next few months were divided. Some expect a cut by the end of the year while others expect more hikes. Most expect the central bank to wait and see what effect floating the pound and raising

rates has before it acts. "The central bank has already taken some action to counter stronger price pressures stemming from a weaker currency," Capital Economics said in a research note.

"Rates have now been raised by a cumulative 550 basis points this year. Accordingly... policymakers are likely to stand pat at this month's meeting and await evidence of the impact from the pound's float." Egypt's core inflation jumped in October but annual urban consumer price inflation eased for the second consecutive month after hitting an eight-year high in August.

As part of its deal with the IMF, however, the government is pushing through with economic reforms that are expected to raise inflation. It has imposed a Value Added Tax, cut electricity subsidies and raised fuel prices in the last few months alone. Among those polled, Capital Economics forecasts an additional 150 basis point rate hike over the next six to 12 months while Signet Institute, a Cairo-based think tank, expects a reduction toward the end of this year. — Reuters

## EASYJET ANNUAL PROFIT HIT BY SLUMPING POUND



**GENEVA:** An Airbus plane of British low cost airline EasyJet taking off under heavy clouds in Geneva. British low-cost airline EasyJet warned yesterday it faced further financial turbulence from a Brexit-driven slump in the pound after terror attacks and labor disputes took their toll on annual profits. — AFP

**LONDON:** British low-cost airline EasyJet warned yesterday it faced further financial turbulence from a Brexit-driven slump in the pound after terror attacks and labor disputes took their toll on annual profits.

Pre-tax profit tumbled by 28 percent to £495 million (\$618 million, 574 million euros) in the year to September 30 compared with 2014-15 "mainly due to the decline in revenue and foreign exchange impact", EasyJet said in an earnings statement. It added that currency fluctuations would cost it around £90 million during the current financial year, with £70 million in the first half. EasyJet said it planned cost savings but gave no firm details.

"EasyJet achieved a resilient performance in 2016, in the face of significant challenges including a series of external events and foreign exchange headwinds," group chief executive Carolyn McCall said in the statement. EasyJet has also been hit over the past year by industrial action and unrest in key markets Egypt and Turkey.

Markets had expected the latest financial results after EasyJet posted a profit warning in October. In morning deals yesterday, its share price was up 1.55 percent on London's rising benchmark FTSE 100 index. The pound has meanwhile tumbled following Britain's shock June 23 vote in favour of leaving the European Union, striking 31-year dollar lows and 7.5-year troughs against the euro.

The collapsing value of the pound weighs on EasyJet's performance because it makes dollar-priced jet fuel more expensive, ramping up the cost of running aircraft. — AFP

## EXCHANGE RATES

**AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.**

**ASIAN COUNTRIES**

Japanese Yen	2.853
Indian Rupees	4.580
Pakistani Rupees	2.906
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.064
Nepali Rupees	2.835
Singapore Dollar	217.980
Hongkong Dollar	39.231
Bangladesh Taka	3.865
Philippine Peso	6.235
Thai Baht	8.663

**GCC COUNTRIES**

Saudi Riyal	81.201
Qatari Riyal	83.633
UAE Dirham	780.800
Bahraini Dinar	808.560
UAE Dirham	82.893

**ARAB COUNTRIES**

Egyptian Pound - Cash	22.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	19.091
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.222
Tunisian Dinar	135.240
Jordanian Dinar	428.860
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.029
Syrian Lira	2.170
Morocco Dirham	31.210

**EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

US Dollar Transfer	304.300
Euro	333.060
Sterling Pound	385.550
Canadian dollar	226.250
Turkish lira	94.170

Swiss Franc	310.670
Australian Dollar	232.790
US Dollar Buying	303.100

**GOLD**

20 Gram	249.81
10 Gram	127.83
5 Gram	64.76

**DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD**

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	304.200
Canadian Dolla	225.044
Sterling Pound	383.455
Euro	329.642
Swiss Frank	301.458
Bahrain Dinar	805.769
UAE Dirhams	83.216
Qatari Riyals	84.433
Saudi Riyals	82.003
Jordanian Dinar	429.495
Egyptian Pound	19.620
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.065
Indian Rupees	4.498
Pakistani Rupees	2.902
Bangladesh Taka	3.875
Philippines Peso	6.189
Cyprus pound	160.643
Japanese Yen	3.826
Syrian Pound	2.427
Nepalese Rupees	3.860
Malaysian Ringgit	72.482
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.243
Thai Bhat	9.664
Turkish Lira	94.850

**BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL**

**CURRENCY BUY SELL**

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
<b>Europe</b>		
British Pound	0.375484	0.385484
Czech Korune	0.004134	0.016134
Danish Krone	0.040061	0.045061
Euro	0.0322945	0.331945
Norwegian Krone	0.031973	0.037173
Romanian Leu	0.072895	0.072895
Slovakia	0.009106	0.019106
Swedish Krona	0.029260	0.034260
Swiss Franc	0.300393	0.311393
Turkish Lira	0.090355	0.100655
<b>Australasia</b>		
Australian Dollar	0.221285	0.233285
New Zealand Dollar	0.209399	0.218899
<b>America</b>		
Canadian Dollar	0.219045	0.228045
Georgina Lari	0.137551	0.137551
US Dollars	0.300450	0.305150
US Dollars Mint	0.300950	0.305150
<b>Asia</b>		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003389	0.003973
Chinese Yuan	0.043316	0.046816
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037164	0.039914
Indian Rupee	0.000298	0.004191
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025

Japanese Yen	0.002745	0.002925
Kenyan Shilling	0.002989	0.002989
Korean Won	0.000249	0.000264
Malaysian Ringgit	0.067832	0.073832
Nepalese Rupee	0.002827	0.002997
Pakistan Rupee	0.002702	0.002992
Philippine Peso	0.006105	0.006405
Sierra Leone	0.000051	0.000057
Singapore Dollar	0.209720	0.219720
South African Rand	0.015156	0.023656
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001655	0.002235
Taiwan	0.009408	0.009588
Thai Baht	0.008290	0.008840

**Arab**

Bahraini Dinar	0.801254	0.809754
Egyptian Pound	0.015530	0.024783
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000187	0.000247
Jordanian Dinar	0.425404	0.434404
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019984	0.043984
Nigerian Naira	0.000364	0.000999
Omani Riyal	0.784618	0.790298
Qatar Riyal	0.082841	0.084291
Saudi Riyal	0.080127	0.081427
Syrian Pound	0.001291	0.001511
Tunisian Dinar	0.131103	0.139103
Turkish Lira	0.090355	0.100655
UAE Dirhams	0.081493	0.083193
Yemeni Riyal	0.001377	0.001457

## WORLD'S YOUNGEST STOCK MARKET STRUGGLES IN MYANMAR



**YANGON:** In this Oct 25, 2016, photo, visitors view the new Yangon Stock Exchange board at the exchange headquarters in Yangon. — AP

**YANGON, Myanmar:** The day's trading is about to begin on the world's youngest stock exchange, and the MYANPIX index and opening share prices flash across an electronic screen, but barely a footfall or a voice are heard within the cavernous, colonial era building in the bustling heart of Myanmar's commercial capital. A gilded bell hangs silently above the almost empty floor, engraved with a single word: "Success."

Not yet. Only three companies are listed on the board and at the end of the day just 7,221 shares were traded, compared with nearly 839 million the same day on the New York Stock Exchange. Since the YSE, a joint venture between Myanmar, Japan's Daiwa Institute of Research and the Japan Exchange Group, began trading in March, only 20,000 investors have ventured into the market. Regulators complain that those who do take the plunge rely largely on

rumors, herd psychology and even the stars.

Martin Zhang, an account executive with KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities, said one client offered him an astrological chart to help guide his investment decisions. The Amsterdam stock market, the world's first, opened its doors 428 years ago. The New York Stock Exchange, the world's largest, was born in 1817, Thet Htun Oo, senior manager of the Yangon exchange, reminded a recent group of visiting journalists.

"We are only a seven-month-old baby," he said. A half-century of harsh military rule in this Southeast Asian country of 55 million brought economic ruin and isolation from the international community and global financial trends. But Myanmar remains a cornucopia of natural resources, and it is welcoming foreign investment as one of Asia's last economic frontiers. The former British colony's eco-

nomics growth is forecast at 8 percent this year, among the fastest in the region.

### Expectations belied

Just a week after trading began on the Yangon exchange, a democratically elected government headed by former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi took power. Since then, the United States has lifted nearly all of the economic sanctions it had imposed on the former military regime, freeing up remittances from abroad which experts say may help fuel the market.

"We shall see. It's conditional. If our economy prospers, the stock market will also do well," said Khin Maung Nyo, an economist and author. For the time being, he advised caution for "Mr.

Average." With the three listed companies mostly trading below their initial price levels, many investors have fared poorly. — AP

## BRITISH INFLATION SLOWS DESPITE SLUMPING POUND

**LONDON:** British annual inflation surprisingly slowed in October from a two-year high, data showed yesterday, but it is widely expected to accelerate in the coming months on the back of Brexit. The 12-month inflation rate declined to 0.9 percent compared with 1.0 percent in September, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

That undershot market expectations for a slight increase to 1.1 percent, as inflationary pressures subsided somewhat on smaller-than-expected hikes in the cost of clothing and university tuition fees.

The ONS added that there was "no clear evidence" that the plunge in the value of the pound since the shock EU exit referendum was bumping up shop prices. However, Bank of England governor Mark Carney stressed that this did not change the overall outlook for rising inflation on the back of the Brexit-driven slump in the pound against the euro and dollar.

"Inflation was lower than we expected for the month of October," Carney admitted in a grilling before lawmakers. But he also warned that "inflation is going up (and) that's a consequence of a very large move" in the exchange rate.

And the ONS also revealed that the price of goods leaving factories in Britain jumped further last month-and partly

blamed the sliding pound which has lifted imported raw material costs for UK firms.

Producers' output prices advanced 2.1 percent in October from the same month a year earlier, accelerating from 1.3 percent in September. That was the fourth consecutive monthly gain, after two years of falling prices, and represented the largest increase since April 2012.

"The increase in producer price inflation over the past several months can be partly attributed to the changes in the sterling exchange rate," the ONS noted.

Rising producer prices signalled mounting inflationary pressures, according to economists. "Today's surprise fall looks like a blip, as sterling weakness continues to raise the cost of inputs for UK businesses," noted Ben Brettell, senior economist at stockbroker Hargreaves Lansdown.

"It should be only a matter of time before this feeds into higher consumer prices." The Bank of England now expects inflation to hit 2.7 percent next year, but some analysts are predicting it will reach 4.0 percent as sterling weakness pushes up import costs," he added.

The pound tumbled following Britain's shock June 23 vote in favour of leaving the European Union, striking 31-year dollar lows and 7.5-year troughs against the euro. — AFP



**PARIS:** Public finance officers wave flags of French trade union CGT as they gather in front of the Ministry of Finance to protest against job cuts yesterday in Paris. — AFP

## EUROZONE ECONOMY ABSORBS BREXIT SHOCK; GERMANY HIT

### UNCERTAINTY ABOUT TRUMP'S TRADE POLICY CLOUDS OUTLOOK

**BERLIN:** The eurozone economy grew steadily in the three months after Britain's shock vote in June to leave the European Union but US President-elect Donald Trump's protectionist rhetoric is clouding the outlook for 2017.

Uncertainty about the trade policy Trump will pursue once he takes office is weighing on euro zone sentiment, increasing the likelihood that the European Central Bank will retain its loose monetary policy to support growth in the 19-country bloc. Gross domestic product (GDP) in the eurozone expanded by 0.3 percent in the third quarter, on a par with April-June, the EU's statistics office said yesterday, confirming an earlier flash estimate.

The data showed "the pace of growth in Spring could be maintained despite the Brexit vote in June," NordLB analyst Christian Lips said. "That was far from self-evident." But "we now have the election of Donald Trump as the new US President, whose policy is less predictable and whose political inexperience and impulsiveness are likely to be a consistent source of irritation," Lips added.

Uncertainty about the length and outcome

of Brexit negotiations between London and Brussels is also expected to limit the euro zone's medium-term growth prospects while Trump's talk of protectionism has unnerved big exporters like Germany. Europe's largest economy eked out weaker-than-expected growth of 0.2 percent in the third quarter as foreign trade slowed.

"Positive impulses on the quarter came mainly from domestic demand," the German Federal Statistics Office said. "Both household and state spending managed to increase further."

Higher investment in construction also contributed to overall growth, suggesting the ECB's record-low interest rates are supporting the economic recovery. "In our view, the latest less dynamic growth figure is not a reason to be concerned," UniCredit economist Andreas Rees said, adding that most forward-looking data suggested the Q3 slowdown was a bump in the road, not a signal of longer-lasting weakness. DekaBank analyst Andreas Scheuerle agreed, saying the signs for the final quarter were positive as global demand for German goods was picking up again.

Supporting this view, a survey by the Mannheim-based ZEW institute showed that the mood among German investors improved more than expected in November.

ZEW President Achim Wambach attributed the fourth consecutive monthly rise in the economic sentiment indicator to positive data in the United States and China. "The election of Donald Trump as US president and the resulting political and economic uncertainties have, however, had an impact," Wambach said, adding that responses received after Trump's victory were less upbeat than those before.

### PROTECTIONISM

In Berlin, Chancellor Angela Merkel told a business conference the German economy was doing fine and had shown it could adapt to a changing global environment. In a thinly veiled warning to Trump, she cautioned against protectionism. Anton Boerner, head of the BGA trade association, said a trend towards isolation and protectionism would pose a threat to euro zone exporters. "Growth is declining, uncertainties are rising," he added, referring to Germany. — Reuters



**ALLAHABAD:** An Indian woman (R) holds out her daughter's wedding invitation as she waits during an attempt to meet the bank manager, outside a bank in Allahabad yesterday. India is to use indelible ink to prevent people from exchanging old notes more than once, the government said, a week after the withdrawal of high-value banknotes from circulation in a crackdown on "black money". — AFP

## TATA REMOVES MISTRY AS BEVERAGE GIANT CHAIRMAN

**NEW DELHI:** Indian conglomerate Tata removed Cyrus Mistry as the chairman of the tea giant Tata Global Beverages Limited yesterday, weeks after dumping him as group chief in a move that stunned the country's business world.

Mistry was unceremoniously sacked last month as chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of India's most famous family conglomerate—the \$103 billion steel-to-salt Tata Group.

TGBL said in a statement to the Bombay Stock Exchange that Harish Bhat had replaced Mistry as the chairman, after seven out of 10 company directors voted for his removal during Tuesday's board meeting. "The board of directors resolved to replace Cyrus Mistry as Chairman of the company," TGBL said.

TGBL is the maker of one of India's leading tea brands - Tata Tea and British Teteley Tea and coffee brand - Eight O'Clock. Last week, IT giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), removed Mistry as the chairman of India's biggest IT outsourcing firm as company patriarch Ratan Tata reasserts his authority over the sprawling conglomerate.

Mistry was sacked on October 24 with Tata unhappy at the direction he was taking the company in. The 78-year-old Tata, who led the group for more than two decades, has taken interim charge until a successor is found. The pair have traded barbs since Mistry's ouster, plunging the group into bitter infighting with directors firmly placed in either camp.

Removing Mistry from various boards is not going to be easy however as he is heir to the multi-billion-dollar construction giant the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, which is the largest single shareholder in Tata Sons, owning 18.4 percent.

The Tata Group was founded under British colonial rule in 1868. It operates in more than 100 countries and owns high-profile companies such as Anglo-Dutch steel firm Corus and Britain's Jaguar Land Rover. — AFP

**KNET 2-Factor Authentication**

One Time Pass (OTP) : 123456  
2016-11-14 12:09:00

**Billing Information**

Merchant: Knet Merchant Name  
Website: http://www.knetpayment.com.kw  
Amount: KD 25.000

**Card Information**

Card Number: \*\*\*\*\*8888  
Expiration Month: 11  
Expiration Year: 2016  
PIN: \*\*\*\*  
One time Pass (OTP): [masked]

Submit Back Cancel

To further enhance the security of your online payments, One Time Password (OTP) has been incorporated as a new feature within the existing process of Knet Payment Gateway.

# GLOBAL STOCKS FLAT AS FOCUS SLOWLY SHIFTS FROM TRUMP

**LONDON:** Global stock markets traded in fairly narrow ranges yesterday as investors slowly turned their focus away from what President-elect Donald Trump will do in office to more fundamental drivers, such as whether the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates next month.

In Europe, Britain's FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was up 0.6 percent at 6,791 while Germany's DAX fell 0.1 percent to 10,687. The CAC-40 in France was 0.2 percent higher at 4,517. U.S. stocks were poised for a steady opening, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.1 percent.

The focus in markets in the past few sessions has been on the upcoming Trump presidency,

which will begin on Jan 20. Analysts say his promises of tax cuts and higher infrastructure spending could boost economic growth but also spur inflation. That's seen a rally in stocks, a sell-off of US bond yields and a concurrent rise in the dollar. His threats of sanctions against China and other trading partners that he accuses of acting unfairly have rattled trade-dependent Asian economies, in particular.

Yesterday, attention was turning onto other factors. A shortfall from the anticipated 0.6 percent monthly rise in retail sector could jolt confidence over the state of the US economy going into the transition period from one president to another. Whether it will dent speculation

of an interest rate increase from the Federal Reserve in December is another matter. Comments from a raft of Fed policymakers, including Vice Chair Stanley Fischer, will be digested in that context.

"For what feels like the first time in a long time, fundamentals get a look in today after the overriding dominance of political markets drivers," said Fiona Cincotta, market analyst at City Index. That focus on more fundamental factors appeared to be impacting on currency markets, too. The dollar, which has been one of the main beneficiaries from Trump's victory last week, was relatively flat. The euro was unchanged at \$1.0767 while the dollar rose 0.4 percent to

108.27 yen. "Risks are elevated, and we are expecting further increases in volatility as markets attempt to second-guess the policies that might eventually come out from the US," Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney, told Bloomberg News.

### Fed in focus

The dollar dipped back from a five-month high of 108.54 yen, but traders suggested it could test the 110 yen mark as soon as this week, with eyes on Fed chief Janet Yellen's congressional testimony later this week. The central bank is widely expected to hike borrowing costs next month but her remarks Thursday will be pored over for clues about its plans for next year. "By all accounts, there appears no stopping the US dollar's recent ascent based on the current interest rate trajectory," Stephen Innes, senior trader at OANDA, said in a note. And Takuya Kanda, a senior researcher at Gaitame.com Research Institute said: "The dollar is currently rallying on expectations only. But the policies Trump has called for are all dollar-positive. After pausing around 107 to 108, the dollar will resume its uptrend toward 110 yen by year-end."

### Asian emerging markets up

Most Asian emerging markets rose yesterday after the previous day's heavy losses while the dollar dipped against most peers but traders remained on edge over Donald Trump's plans for global trade agreements. While shares in developed economies have rallied and safe-haven sovereign debt prices have fallen, many trading floors in Asia have taken a hit recently over worries Trump will throw up tariffs to the world's

biggest economy. His plans for huge spending and tax cuts at home have also fanned expectations the Federal Reserve will hike interest rates more sharply than initially planned, sending the dollar soaring and fuelling an exodus from emerging markets.

However, after a two-day retreat on most regional bourses, there was a tentative recovery with Manila up 0.3 percent, Jakarta 0.5 percent higher and Bangkok added 0.2 percent.

There were also gains of 0.7 percent in Singapore and a 0.5 percent rise in Wellington while Hong Kong gained 0.5 percent. However, Tokyo was marginally lower, having surged more than eight percent to a nine-month high since Thursday on the back of a rally in the dollar against the yen. Shanghai was off 0.1 percent, while Sydney and Seoul each shed 0.4 percent. The dollar sank against higher-yielding currencies, with the South Korean won, Australian dollar, Thai baht and New Zealand dollar all well up. The euro rose after hitting an 11-month low of \$1.0709 on Monday.

And Mexico's peso was two percent higher, having hit record lows this week on worries about Trump's warning he will tear up a trade deal with the country and send back millions of migrants.

However, China weakened its yuan fix to the dollar to an eight-year low. Bets on a sharper rise in US rates have sent bond yields soaring in the US and Australia as traders shift out of them because sovereign debt usually offers lower rates of interest. Prices and yields move inversely from each other. Australian debt yields are at their highest since April, according to Bloomberg News. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Tuesday 15 November 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index	▲ 21.95	5,491.30	5,469.35	5,491.30	5,460.48	
Weighted Index	▲ 6.00	370.36	364.36	370.36	364.11	
KSX 15	▲ 18.36	878.35	859.99	878.35	859.90	

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
MARIN	84	75	100010	7,501	2	84 ▲ 4.0
IKARUS	36.5	34.0	250,648	8,957	24	36.5 ▲ 2.0
IPG	365	365	5,300	1,935	4	365 ▲ 15.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	790 — 0.0
ENERGYH	42.5	40.0	45,500	1,821	3	42.5 — 0.0
GPI	39.0	38.0	1,649,806	63,495	44	39.0 ▲ 0.5
ABAR	91	91	500	46	1	91 ▲ 5.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>2,051,764</b>	<b>83,754</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>766.40 ▲ 19.89</b>
KFOUC	176	174	148,000	25,999	11	174 ▼ -2.0
BPCC	470	465	201,321	93,884	8	465 ▼ -10.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	570 — 0.0
ALQURAIN	212	210	113,985	24,102	11	212 ▲ 2.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>463,306</b>	<b>143,765</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>918.59 ▼ -3.84</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390 — 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310 — 0.0
CABLE	385	380	513,854	196,886	25	385 ▲ 5.0
SHIP	156	154	27,000	4,164	6	154 ▼ -2.0
PCEM	950	940	194,771	183,280	6	950 — 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255 — 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66 — 0.0
ACICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270 — 0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300 — 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	118 — 0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190 — 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190 — 0.0
EQUIPMENT	45.0	43.5	148,600	6,515	6	45.0 — 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50 — 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100 — 0.0
SALBOOKH	55	54	7,800	428	2	54 ▼ -2.0
AGLTY	550	520	4,038,856	2,159,261	126	540 ▲ 20.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	192 — 0.0
CLEANING	39.5	39.0	272,438	10,885	11	39.5 ▲ 0.5
KGL	48.5	48.5	100	5	1	48.5 ▲ 0.5
KPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170 — 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,820	1,800	74,600	134,294	23	1,800 — 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	180 — 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390 — 0.0
GFC	31.0	30.0	5,501	167	4	31.0 — 0.0
MAYADEEN	28.0	27.5	384,900	10,027	8	28.0 — 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	640 — 0.0
MTCC	56	55	257,489	14,274	14	56 ▼ -1.0
UPAC	700	680	8,780	5,973	5	680 ▼ -20.0
ALAFCO	214	214	21,000	4,494	1	214 — 0.0
MUBARRAD	54	52	47,505	2,489	6	54 — 0.0
LOGISTICS	75	75	157,500	11,813	9	75 — 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79 — 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75 — 0.0
QIC	70	70	55,887	3,912	3	70 — 0.0
PCEM	85	84	439,415	36,917	10	85 ▲ 1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93 — 0.0
SPEC	79	79	1,300	103	2	79 ▲ 1.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>6,636,796</b>	<b>2,785,645</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1213.75 ▼ -0.74</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	136 — 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84 — 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90 — 0.0
CATTL	234	214	12,405	2,666	10	234 ▲ 10.0
DANAH	89	88	83,071	7,385	4	89 — 0.0
POULT	178	178	10,000	1,770	2	178 — 0.0
FOOD	2,620	2,620	158,000	413,960	8	2,620 — 0.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>263,476</b>	<b>425,781</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1125.55 ▲ 8.78</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	230 — 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920 — 0
YIACO	246	234	180,565	38,752	9	246 ▲ 10
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>180,565</b>	<b>38,752</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1135.90 ▲ 7.19</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	950 — 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	265 — 0
SULTAN	57	54	414,431	23,106	14	57 ▲ 3
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61 — 0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385 — 0
IFAHR	140	140	200	28	1	140 ▼ -10
OLUFAJEL	116	112	156,965	17,938	17	114 ▼ -4
MUNTAZAHAT	77	73	870,253	49,844	25	77 ▲ 4
JAZERA	820	810	6,600	5,411	2	810 ▼ -20
SOOR	114	110	88,578	9,956	12	114 ▲ 2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	114 — 0
ALRAI	196	196	20,000	2,720	3	196 ▼ -2
ZIMAH	42.5	41.0	1,704,318	70,975	60	41.5 — 0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170 — 0
Mezzan	980	970	28,053	27,212	8	980 ▲ 10
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>3,089,398</b>	<b>207,189</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>911.79 ▲ 0.33</b>
ZAIN	420	405	7,374,509	3,040,451	138	420 ▲ 15
OREDDO	1,100	1,080	4,355	4,618	5	1,100 ▲ 20
HITSTELEC	41.0	39.5	1,233,295	49,216	22	40.0 — 0
VIVA	880	850	80,787	51,705	28	880 ▲ 10
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>8,672,946</b>	<b>3,145,989</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>603.15 ▲ 9.52</b>
NBK	650	630	6,484,973	4,134,510	120	640 ▲ 10
GBK	236	232	854,400	199,928	15	236 ▲ 2
CBK	420	410	181,295	75,187	13	420 ▲ 20
ARBK	310	310	371,148	115,056	12	310 — 0
ALMUTAHED	415	405	187,072	68,527	15	415 ▲ 10
KIB	204	202	1,875,165	380,992	57	204 ▲ 4
BURG	325	315	2,123,546	677,040	46	325 ▲ 5
KFIN	530	510	4,528,503	2,354,317	133	530 ▲ 20
BOUBAYAN	400	395	286,163	113,872	28	400 ▲ 5
AUB	194	190	1,838,086	352,984	26	194 ▲ 2
ITIHM	37.0	35.5	2,813,822	102,158	58	37.0 ▲ 2
WARBANK	220	214	1,444,458	314,819	102	220 ▲ 6
<b>Banks</b>			<b>22,966,630</b>	<b>8,889,391</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>839.57 ▲ 17.90</b>
KINS	230	230	4,000	920	1	230 ▲ 2
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	620 — 0.0
AINS	435	435	42,210	18,361	1	435 — 0.0
WINS	112	108	28,965	3,243	4	112 ▲ 2.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	188 — 0.0
FTI	49.5	49.5	1,500	74	1	49.5 ▼ -0.5
WETHAQ	28.5	27.5	1,191,930	33,735	30	28.0 ▼ -0.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355 — 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>1,268,605</b>	<b>56,333</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>950.08 ▲ 0.47</b>

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last
SOKOUK	32.0	31.5	151,988	4,794	6	32.0 — 0.0
KRE	56	55	578,000	31,948	11	55 ▼ -1.0
URC	98	98	1,100	108	1	98 ▲ 2.0
NRE	87	83	3,844,594	328,802	70	87 ▲ 4.0
SRE	365	360	83,000	29,930	3	365 — 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	475 — 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	156 — 0.0
MASSALEH	35.5	35.5	990	35	1	35.5 ▼ -2.5
ARABREC	29.0	27.5	1,080,488	30,231	31	28.5 ▲ 0.5
ERESCO	40.0	40.0	10,000	400	2	40.0 ▲ 0.5
MABANEE	830	820	306,893	254,690	12	830 ▲ 10.0
INJAZZAT	71	70	357,676	25,047	6	71 ▲ 2.0
INVESTORS	21.0	20.5	1,874,001	38,417	21	20.5 — 0.0
IRC	27.5	26.0	196,100	5,173	11	27.5 ▼ -0.5
ALTIJARIA	82	81	302,450	24,849	11	82 — 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0 — 0.0
AAYANRE	67	62	119,705	7,595	12	67 ▲ 5.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70 — 0.0
ALAQARIA	23.0	23.0	463	11	1	23.0 — 0.0
MAZAYA	114	112	13,270	1,504	2	112 — 0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0 — 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0				





# AMBITIONS STEADFAST AS LEXUS GARNERS RECOGNITION

LEXUS TRANSFORMED THE INDUSTRY 27 YEARS AGO, LEXUS IS DOING IT AGAIN

**KUWAIT:** Lexus scored 95 problems per 100 (PP100) vehicles and the overall industry average was 152 PP100 this year, compared with 147 PP100 last year. The 2016 US Vehicle Dependability Study was based on responses from 33,560 original owners of 2013 model-year vehicles after three years of ownership.

The study, now in its 27th year, examines problems experienced during the past 12 months by original owners of 2013 model-year vehicles. Overall dependability is determined by the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100), with a lower score reflecting higher quality.

"Reliable Brand" 4th year in a row: Lexus was also ranked among the more reliable brands in Consumer Reports' latest survey. As per the 2017 ranking Lexus earned a top score with an average reliability score of 86 with all nine Lexus models had above-

average reliability ratings. CT 200H hybrid from Lexus was named the most reliable vehicle, the highest among the more than 300 models rated by Consumer Reports readers. Consumer Reports predicts the reliability of 2017 model-year brands and individual vehicles based on survey responses from its subscribers. The magazine collected subscribers' comments on vehicles they own from the 2000-2017 model years. Around 500,000 subscribers responded to this year's survey.

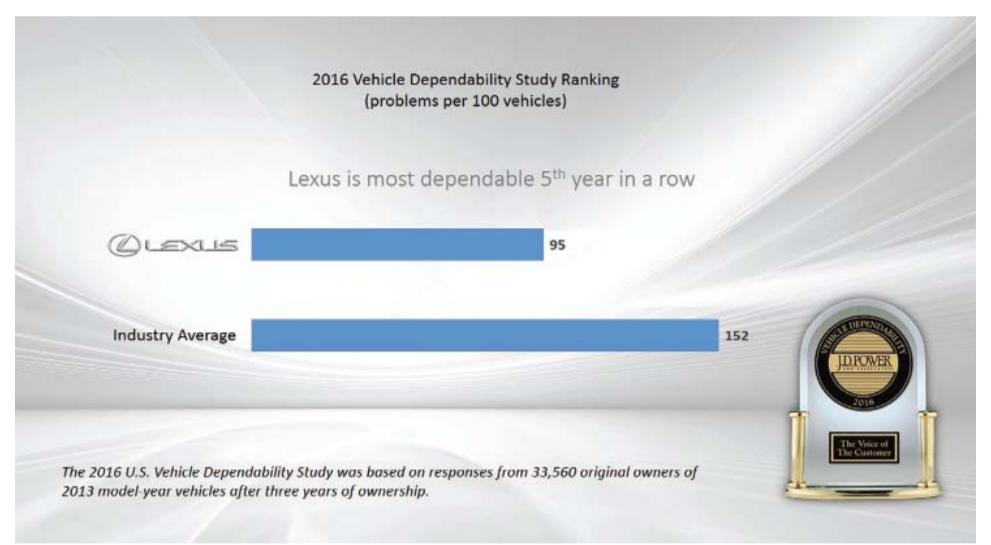
### Enduring Efforts To Transform The Luxury Automotive Landscape

Since inception some 25 years ago Lexus has dared to be different, dedicated to craftsmanship, consistently looked forward, focusing on sustainable-technologies and has been about a different kind of luxury - pro-

gressive luxury. 2016 continues to be a great year for Lexus benefiting from added advantages of new great vehicles such as LX, RX, and NX. Lexus will redefine the transformation as it moves towards a new chapter.

### Towards a New Era: On the Path of Global Transformation

According to Mahmoud Abou Zahr Business Director at Lexus Mohamed Naser Al Sayer "Lexus is on a trajectory being starting out in a territory as a more conventional luxury brand towards becoming a lifestyle luxury brand. Globally the brand is aiming to be brave, thoughtful and imaginative. In Kuwait we are committed to supporting this global transformation through Turbo, F and Hybrid Power of Lexus as well as 7 star customer service towards deliver amazing experiences."



**SILIGURI:** Indian village youth use handmade fishing nets to catch fish in the Sahu River, on the outskirts of Siliguri yesterday. Rice and fish are staples of the diet in the eastern state of West Bengal, contributing 37 percent of India's pond resources of which 70 percent are utilized for fishing. — AFP

# ASIA-PACIFIC LEADERS TO TALK TRADE AFTER TRUMP VICTORY

LEADERS TO LOOK FOR SIGNALS ON FUTURE OF OBAMA'S 'REBALANCE'

**LIMA:** Top world leaders will meet this week to chart a future for free trade-almost a dirty word in a world upended by Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election.

US President Barack Obama, China's Xi Jinping, Japan's Shinzo Abe and Russia's Vladimir Putin will be among the leaders in the room in Lima, Peru for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit from tomorrow to Sunday.

APEC summits, which gather leaders from 21 Pacific Rim economies, are meant to forge unity on free trade in a region that accounts for nearly 60 percent of the global economy and nearly 40 percent of the world's population. But this year's event may be unlike any other, coming on the heels of Trump's shock win in the November 8 election.

The brash billionaire has unleashed deep uncertainty about the postwar world order with his attacks on free trade, immigration and the US role as "policeman of the world."

By successfully tapping the anger of working-class whites who feel left behind by globalization, Trump has amplified a sense of malaise that began in June with Britain's "Brexit" vote to leave the European Union-another shock victory for a populist politics of disillusionment with an increasingly borderless world.

President-elect Trump will not be at the APEC summit, but he may well be the dominant presence in the room. "I think APEC will be about two things-huge questions about what a Trump presidency will mean for trade and work on all non-US pathways forward to advance free trade,"

said Deborah Elms, executive director of the Asian Trade Centre in Singapore.

"The US has apparently chosen to hunker down, raise barricades and return to a glorious past of splendid isolation."

### Obama's 'rebalance' in doubt

It risks being an awkward summit for Obama, who will wrap up his final foreign tour as president in Peru after stops in Greece and Germany. Obama, who campaigned against Trump as "unfit" to succeed him, must now reassure colleagues that a Trump presidency will not in fact spell disaster.

Leaders will be looking for signals on the future of Obama's much-vaunted "rebalance" to Asia and the Pacific. American allies such as Japan and South Korea are worried the Republican president-elect will cut back the US military, economic and diplomatic presence in the region-leaving them exposed to a dominant China and belligerent North Korea.

Trump has caused concern in the region by suggesting Japan and South Korea get nuclear weapons to defend themselves, calling climate change a Chinese "hoax," and warmly embracing Putin. The Latin American leaders in the room, including Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, will also be looking nervously to the new US administration. On the campaign trail, Trump insulted Mexican immigrants as "criminals" and "rapists," vowed to build a border wall with Mexico to keep out illegal migrants and threatened mass deportations.

### TPP obituary?

Obama's signature trade initiative in the Asia-Pacific, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), meanwhile faces near-certain death. Trump has called the proposal a "terrible deal."

China, which was pointedly excluded from the 12-member TPP, will be pushing its own alphabet soup of proposed trade deals: the APEC-wide Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) and the 16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which notably includes India but not the United States. Both are seen as giving China an edge over the US in the battle for regional influence.

### Whither free trade?

The very future of free trade will be up for discussion in Lima, analysts say. The world will be looking to the summit for "a strong statement" to counter Trump's anti-trade arguments, said Eduardo Pedrosa, secretary general of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council. "The evidence is not that strong that free trade is responsible for taking away jobs from countries, but that's how people feel and you have to deal with that perception," he said.

Trump's win means free trade is "in trouble," said Robert Lawrence, a trade expert at Harvard University. Not only is the US role in promoting economic integration "severely compromised," he told AFP, American protectionism could now become a brake on world trade. "Trump trade policy, if it proceeds as advertised, is going to be very disruptive," he said. — AFP

## AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD WEEKLY DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on November 09 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: Hiba Abdulaziz Alhasan.

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Fahad Hindaz Aldhafaeri, Yasser Khaled Al Salman, Saoud Mustafa Al Derbas, Abdulkareem Abdulqader Almezyan, Feras Mohammed Alkhalidy, Lulwa Ali Mohammed, Hassan H H Aljazzaf, Fatemah Abdulkareem Mousa, Mousa Murtaza



Behbehani, Issa Deloum Aldeloumi, Sabah Hasan Zaidan, Fedhah Zaid Alkehailan, Divya Binod Kollammavadi, Saleh Nemma R Al-Shimar, Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Hajeri, Sameehah Marzouq Almarzouq, Ashraf Mohammad Alshawwa, T Abdulla Radhi Marhoon, Mohammed Saleem Alaaldin, S Baqer Saleh Shubbar, Karima Abdhussain Alhelli, Mariam Abdulla AlDoy, Isa Khalifa Mohd, Radhi Ali Abdulla, Hussain Ali Mohd. The Prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

## ATTACKS ON CENTRAL BANKERS ARE 'MASSIVE' BLAME GAME: CARNEY

**LONDON:** Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said yesterday that verbal attacks by politicians on central banks, such as criticism by US President-elect Donald Trump of the US Federal Reserve, were a "massive blame-deflection exercise".

Carney has faced political criticism in Britain for the BoE's low interest rates while Trump, during the US presidential election campaign, accused the Federal Reserve of keeping rates low due to pressure from the Obama administration. "The President-elect has voiced some views on the Fed and the stance of monetary policy," Carney said in response to questions from lawmakers in parliament.

Carney said it was "very important" to explain that the causes of ultra-low interest rates in rich countries went far beyond decisions made by central bankers. "An excessive focus on monetary policy in many respects is a massive blame deflection exercise," he said.

Carney has previously said interest rates are low because they reflect weaker demand and investment, a trend that has been developing since the 1980s due to factors such as the impact of technology and ageing populations. The BoE cut interest rates to a record low of 0.25 percent in August to help the British economy cope with the impact of the decision by voters to leave the European Union in June.

Also yesterday, Carney said he would not consider a further extension of his time in charge of the British central bank, which is now due to end in June 2019. "I will leave June 30, 2019," Carney said in response to a question during a regular meeting with lawmakers in parliament.

The Canadian said on Oct. 31 that he will stay in his job for an extra year to help smooth Britain's departure from the EU, but he will depart two years short of a full term.

Carney came under heavy criticism from pro-Brexit politicians for warning before June's EU membership referendum of the economic risks of voting to leave the bloc.

Some British media have speculated that Carney might stay on beyond June 2019 if the government fails to conclude its exit from the EU by that date. Carney said his decision to extend his time at the BoE by only one year had nothing to do with comments made by British Prime Minister Theresa May who in October criticized the "bad side effects" of low interest rates. — Reuters



**WASHINGTON:** A view of Home Depot in Washington, DC. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened in negative territory yesterday as US markets continued to adjust following last week's tumultuous post-election trading sessions. — AFP

## AFTER FRANTIC RALLY, CHINA COMMODITIES FALL HARD

**MANILA/BEIJING:** Commodities from coal to soybeans slumped in China yesterday as speculators cashed out of futures markets because of concerns that regulators may tighten curbs to tame price swings. A selloff in steel and steelmaking raw materials iron ore and coking coal spread to base metals and agricultural products with coke tumbling nearly 9 percent and steel and iron ore each sliding 6 percent. Chinese investors renewed their push into commodity futures this month and increased their bets shortly after Republican Donald Trump's shocking US presidential win on Nov 8 amid a sell-off in global markets. However, that shock proved fleeting and global risk assets surged.

Tuesday's sharp, broad fall in Chinese commodities "suggests that the crazy jump last week cannot be sustained and so we're seeing self-correction," said Wang Di, analyst at CRU consultancy.

Iron ore on the Dalian Commodity Exchange, which rose as high as its exchange-set ceiling in the previous four trading sessions, fell 6 percent to close at its downside limit of 591 yuan (\$86) a ton. Rebar steel and coking coal also each slid 6 percent while coke, made from coking coal, dropped 8.6 percent.

A flurry of measures from Chinese commodity exchanges from Dalian to Zhengzhou and Shanghai over the past week including increased transaction fees and margins has fuelled a "panic among investors," said analyst Wang Fei at Huanan Futures. "With a cap on trading limit, big institutional investors started the sell-off, which was followed by smaller retail investors," said Wang.

The latest curbs reduced market liquidity, accelerating the price falls, said a Shanghai-based analyst who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak with media.

"Hot money from the stock market and programmed trading entered the futures market at the height of the rally. These investors are not familiar with China's futures market. They are the major force in the selloff today and on Friday," he said. Chinese commodity exchanges and regulators took similar steps earlier this year to stamp out speculative trading that was also behind the boom and bust cycle in its stock markets last year. Going forward, prices of coal and iron ore could remain elevated amid tight Chinese coal supply that has increased appetite for high-grade iron ore, said Wang at CRU.

Chinese copper futures were not spared from yesterday's sell-off either, falling 4.3 percent. Tin was down 3.3 percent and aluminium dropped 3 percent.

In agricultural markets, soybeans slid 4.4 percent, cotton fell 3.6 percent and rapeseed meal slipped 3 percent. — Reuters



## AL BABBAIN CELEBRATES WINNERS OF AFTERSALES CONTEST



**KUWAIT:** Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain Co (AABC), the sole agent and distributor of Nissan in the State of Kuwait, held the Nissan Aftersales contests to select the top technician, service advisor and parts executive who will represent Kuwait at the Regional Contests in Dubai in 2017.

An elaborate event was organized at the Nissan Service Centre, Shuwaikh; to test the skills of the Nissan Service Advisors; Service Technicians and Parts Executives in three different categories: Nissan Service Advisor Excellence Competency Award (NISAC); Nissan

Service Technician Excellence Competency Award (NISTEC) and Nissan Parts Executive Excellence Competency Award (NIPEC).

Top three winners from each category were selected and awarded certificates, trophies and prizes by AABC top management. Gold medal winners for the Year 2016 are: Majo Thomas (NISAC); Ramesh Rajan (NISTEC) and Jethin Jose (NIPEC).

More than 300 attendees including Al Babbain Group top management, senior management and staff were present to witness and motivate the contestants, along with represen-

tatives from business partners like TOTAL Lubricants & Standox Paints. Nissan Gulf FZE (NGF) Aftersales Director Mr. David Graves and his team as well as Nissan Middle East FZCo. (NMEF) Aftersales Training Manager Gilbert Galinato graced the event with their presence.

"Step Up -Raise the bar" was the theme of this year's aftersales contests. The final contest held on 21st October was a culmination of the written test rounds attended by over 225 staff, practicals and role play sessions held over a month. Mohammed Shalaby, COO Al Babbain Group said in his opening address,

"Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain co is committed to develop staff skills that lead to an enhanced customer experience "Our group is investing heavily on developing its learning and development capabilities in addition to the operational infrastructure. These contests are a good opportunity to challenges the staff to develop their skills in a competitive environment."

Shalaby added, "Congratulations to the team spirit and enthusiasm of the aftersales team" Al Babbain Group HR & Administration GM Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al Babbain said

"Human capital is the most important resource of any organization as it has a direct and significant impact on the organization's success. That is why Al Babbain is committed to continuous staff training and development programs that increase the technical know-how and competency of its workforce. I wish to commend and congratulate all participants and organizers for their efforts and contributions."

NGF & NMEF representatives also expressed their appreciation of the enthusiastic participation which really was a big "Step Up" in this year's Nissan contests.



### CBK STARTS TWO NEW CAMPAIGNS FOR CBK-BRITISH AIRWAYS CARDHOLDERS

**KUWAIT:** The Commercial Bank of Kuwait is re-launching two new exclusive campaigns targeting its existing and new CBK British Airways cardholders.

In fact, after the success of its first promotion "Double Welcome Avios" during the launch of the cards, CBK is kicking off the same campaign again, to expand their customers' base and attract new customers. All customers who successfully apply for a CBK British Airways card between 1st of November and 31st of December 2016, will have the chance to double their welcome bonus Avios by spending a pre-defined amount during the first three months after card issuance date, a total of AVIOS points that might reach a full flight from Kuwait to London (Tax and Fees excluded).

The second campaign is a newly introduced offer targeted towards existing holders of CBK British Airways cards and consists of a "Double Local Avios" promotion. All customers holding a CBK British Airways card will get the chance to double their Avios when using their card during the months of November and December 2016 in Kuwaiti Dinar, at any point of sale or online website.

As the only MasterCard British Airways-branded cards in the Middle East, the products combine a world-leading card concept with a global loyalty program, offering cardholders the opportunity to collect Avios points (the reward currency of the British Airways Executive Club) and redeem them for flights and upgrades.

The cards are loaded with benefits that MasterCard provides to customers as Lounge access, global travel Insurance, Free nights in more than 1200 hotels of luxury Starwood hotels around the world (SPG hotels). Customers will be able to collect Avios on purchases, from booking flights to paying for dinner or fuel or everyday shopping and spend them to pay for flights worldwide with British Airways and oneworld airline partners.

The new co-branded credit cards features a number of value-added benefits, including access to MasterCard Priceless Cities, which offers VIP treatment and unique experiences in entertainment, dining, hotels and shopping in cities around the world. MasterCard World and Platinum cardholders also benefit from lounge access, travel insurance and concierge services.

### HARD OR SOFT TRUMP? EX-WTO HEAD LAMY SEES TRADE REALITIES TRUMPING RHETORIC

**PARIS:** US President-elect Donald Trump will have little choice but to adopt a softer line on trade than the one he has flagged during his campaign, although flare-ups with some partners are likely, former WTO chief Pascal Lamy said. With financial markets wondering whether Britain will opt for a hard or soft Brexit, Lamy said that there was a similar scenario for trade under a Trump presidency.

"If I look at Trump and trade, the big question is whether soft Trump or hard Trump. I think there are elements on both sides,"

Lamy, who headed the World Trade Organization from 2005 to 2013, told Reuters in an interview. "Overall if I had to bet I would bet more on soft Trump," he added, noting that stock market gains since Trump's election suggested investors were making a similar calculation.

Lamy, now an honorary president of the pro-EU Delors Institute, said in an interview that a Republican-dominated Congress would help ensure the Trump administration would not do anything bad for US companies. —Reuters

## NREC'S REEM MALL AND DUBAI HOLDINGS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

### JOINT VENTURE TO BRING NEW RETAIL OFFERING TO ABU DHABI

**KUWAIT:** Reem Mall, Abu Dhabi's upcoming fashion, entertainment and dining destination in the heart of Abu Dhabi, and a joint venture between NREC and UPAC, announced this morning that it has signed terms of agreement with Dubai Holding Group.

Commenting on this latest development for the much-anticipated \$1 billion project, Shane Eldstrom, Chief Operating Officer for Reem said: "We are very pleased to announce this new partnership with Dubai Holding Group, and the exciting new brands joining our retail offering. Today's announcement is yet another milestone for the project which bears testament to the ambitions of Reem Mall. Our leasing program is well underway, with a number of leading retailers and global dining and lifestyle brands poised to become a part of Reem Mall's prime shopping, gastronomic and entertainment portfolio."

Dubai Holding Group represents some of the finest international fashion and lifestyle franchise stores in the region, and is one of the Middle East's most progressive and fastest growing retail organizations representing famous brands such as Zara, Zara Home, Flamant, Promod, Stradivarius, Women's Secret, Gerard Darel, Sfera and Delvaux.

Ali Bin Saeed Al-Shamsi, Chairman of Dubai Holding Group, said: "Reem Mall's vision to create a stylish, bustling and best in class shopping and lifestyle center for the region has inspired us to bring our portfolio of international brands to this outstanding development. Reem Mall has gone beyond traditional conceptions of a mall to create a mixed-use development with a sense of place and community cohesion built in - a center for social life and gathering as well as shopping and dining."

Reem Mall, developed by NREC and UPAC, is a 2 million sq. ft. retail, leisure, dining and entertainment destination, located on Abu Dhabi's Reem Island. Construction on Reem Mall commenced at the end of 2015, at the entrance of the new master-developed residential and commercial zone on the eastern side of Abu Dhabi's mainland.

Reem Mall will bring to the capital a diverse assortment of family-focused retail, leisure and entertainment offerings, with 450 stores including 85 food and beverage outlets and a wide range of edutainment and entertainment anchors. Reem Mall will also house the world's largest indoor snow-play park, a 125,000 sq. ft. indoor amusement space, characterized by unique entertainment for the entire family including sledding, zorbing and luge.



## WHATSAPP ADDS SECURE VIDEO CALLING AMID PRIVACY CONCERNS

**SAN FRANCISCO:** One of the world's most popular means of communication, Facebook's WhatsApp, is adding fully encrypted video calling to its messaging app on Monday, a move that comes as privacy advocates worry about the potential for stepped-up government surveillance under a Trump administration. WhatsApp, which boasts more than a billion users worldwide, adopted end-to-end encryption early this year, making it technically impossible for the company or government authorities to read messages or listen to calls.

The new video calling service will thus provide another means for people to communicate without fear of eavesdropping though WhatsApp does retain other data such as an individual's list of contacts. WhatsApp co-founder Jan

Koum said in an interview that video calls will be rolled out to 180 countries within hours after the feature is introduced at an event in India.

"We obviously try to be in tune with what our users want," Koum said at the company's unmarked Mountain View, California headquarters building. "We're obsessed with making sure that voice and video work well even on low-end phones."

Koum told Reuters that improvements in phone cameras, battery life and bandwidth had made the service viable for a significant proportion of WhatsApp users, even those using inexpensive smartphones. Apple Inc offers its FaceTime video calls to iPhone users, and Microsoft Corp's Skype offers video calls on multiple platforms. But WhatsApp has

built a massive installed base of mobile customers and has been steadily adding more features to what began as a simple chat applications.

### PRICE OF ALLEGIANCE

WhatsApp has operated with some autonomy since Facebook bought it in 2014. Koum and co-founder Brian Acton, longtime Yahoo engineers who started the company in 2009, now have 200 staff, mostly engineers and customer support, up from 50 when Facebook bought it. Koum said Facebook has allowed WhatsApp to use its servers and bandwidth around the world for voice and now video. That support will help spread the souped-up WhatsApp much farther and faster, he said.

But the corporate allegiance also has

a price. After years of pledging that it would not share information about users with Facebook, which already has digital dossiers on its own 1.7 billion users, WhatsApp revised its privacy statement in August to say it would do exactly that. That means Facebook knows whom WhatsApp users contact and their phone numbers. Some users complained, but Koum said that he had not seen a shift in behavior. "In terms of security and privacy, what people care about the most is the privacy of their messages," he said.

The video service is well integrated and adds a few twists. Users can move around the thumbnail video showing what their correspondent sees and flick a video call in progress to the side to minimize it while checking texts or email. Koum said WhatsApp remained commit-

ted to security after the US election of Donald Trump as president last week heightened fears of increased surveillance. Trump, along with some leading congressional Republicans and FBI Director James Comey, has advocated requiring tech companies to turn over customer information in many circumstances, a position which, if put into law, could require companies including WhatsApp to completely redesign their services.

Other countries including China and the United Kingdom also take a dim view of encryption. But Koum said he not see a major threat to his service, noting that diplomats and officials use WhatsApp in many countries. "It would be like them shooting themselves in the foot." — Reuters



**SAUMUR, France:** A man looks at his cellphone as people visit a room of cabling servers in an underground datacenter yesterday near Saumur, western France. The underground datacenter is built in a former quarry in order to maintain a low temperature for the servers and consume less electricity. —AFP

## STARZ PLAY SECURES FUNDING FROM SEQ AND DELTA PARTNERS

**DUBAI:** STARZ Play, the on-demand video streaming service available in 19 countries across the MENA region, yesterday announced a new multi-million dollar funding investment. This investment is led by existing investors including SEQ Capital Partners and new investors including Delta Partners Capital, an emerging market centric advisory and investment platform for the telecoms, media and digital space.

STARZ Play, which commenced operations just 18 months ago, welcomed more than 17 million site visitors in October 2016 with its portfolio of movies and TV series including Power, Black Sails and Ash vs Evil Dead from original investor, Starz. The service has grown exponentially, achieving double digit month-on-month revenue and subscriber growth since launch. The service can be accessed in 19 countries across the

We've also made subscribing to STARZ Play easier and even better value than ever by introducing mobile phone bills as a payment option and creating attractive offers through telecom service providers.

"This funding demonstrates the continued confidence our current investors have in STARZ Play. We've raised the bar for subscription video on demand services in this region and these new funds will enable us to further enhance our content and technology offering," Maaz continued.

Kaj-Erik Relander, Partner at SEQ, said: "The SVOD industry is evolving rapidly and companies are competing aggressively to meet their customers' requirements and demands. STARZ Play has done an extremely impressive job of providing a convenient viewing experience for SVOD users in the MENA region. We are proud to be an investor in such an ambitious and fast growing company and we intend to equip this business to maintain its leading industry position."

Kai-Uwe Ricke, Chairman of Delta Partners Group, said: "STARZ Play has demonstrated its unique capability to adapt the traditional SVOD business model to the specifics of emerging markets. We are very excited to become part of STARZ Play's journey and we intend to leverage the expertise and network of Delta Partners Group to help the management in forging deeper and more successful win-win partnerships with telecom operators in MENA and beyond."

John Penney, Chairman of the Board of STARZ Play Arabia and Chief Strategy Officer of Starz, added: "Starz has been very pleased with the progress shown by STARZ Play and its investment in the venture. Maaz and his team have established a great foundation for the business to grow throughout the region. We are delighted to see additional investment come in from smart partners and view this as an endorsement of the vision we had when establishing the business, and the positive outlook we see going forward for the MENA marketplace."

STARZ Play features more than 5,000 hours of the best Hollywood movies, TV shows, documentaries, children's entertainment and same-day-as-the-US series, all streamed in HD or 4K. The service also contains 1,200 hours of dedicated Arabic content while French speakers can enjoy more than 2,200 hours of movies and series dubbed into French. New content is added all the time and the service is currently streaming exclusive day-and-date series.



**Maaz Sheikh, CEO of STARZ Play**

MENA region and the investment will be used to finance STARZ Play's continued expansion of its services and partnerships. The funding will also allow further content acquisition, allowing STARZ Play to license additional titles to sit alongside its popular series, which include Showtime's Billions and Ray Donovan together with award winning titles such as Vikings, Grey's Anatomy, Top Gear, Quantico and The Walking Dead.

Maaz Sheikh, CEO of STARZ Play, commented: "Strategic partnerships with leading studios, major telecom groups and device manufacturers have proven our long term business model. We now enjoy a six-figure subscriber base of customers in MENA who enjoy the affordable, on-demand experience our service provides.

## ESTONIAN FIRM'S 3D PHOTO POD PROMISES PERSONALIZED VR AVATARS

**TALLINN:** For gamers fed up with being just another avatar when playing with their friends, an Estonian firm has come up with a photo booth that creates a 3D image of your face. At Wolfprint 3D's white egg-shaped pod in a suburban shopping mall in Tallinn, six cameras and a touch screen allow people to create a high resolution 3D face and enter the increasingly personalized world of virtual reality (VR).

By 2017, Wolfprint aim to make getting a personalized avatar into games as quick and easy as changing clothes or equipment in existing games and interactive VR platforms. But unlike other 3D

scanning, which usually involves a full body scan and requires a trip to a studio at a cost of some \$500, the Luna Scanner can be installed almost anywhere. For now, the scans in the Tallinn booth are offered for free as the company tests the unit and collects biometric data.

Minutes after the photo is taken, a link to the 3D image is sent to the user's nominated email account and can be viewed on a VR viewer app on a mobile phone.

And at a science museum in Helsinki a Luna Scanner allows people to almost instantly put their faces on a virtual astronaut and start exploring VR space. — Reuters

## GOOGLE, FACEBOOK MOVE TO CURB ADS ON FAKE NEWS SITES

SHIFT COMES AS GOOGLE, FACEBOOK AND TWITTER FACE BACKLASH

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Alphabet Inc's Google and Facebook Inc on Monday announced measures aimed at halting the spread of "fake news" on the internet by targeting how some purveyors of phony content make money: advertising. Google said it is working on a policy change to prevent websites that misrepresent content from using its AdSense advertising network, while Facebook updated its advertising policies to spell out that its ban on deceptive and misleading content applies to fake news.

The shift comes as Google, Facebook and Twitter Inc face a backlash over the role they played in the US presidential election by allowing the spread of false and often malicious information that might have swayed voters toward Republican candidate Donald Trump.

The issue has provoked a fierce debate within Facebook especially, with Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg insisting twice in recent days that the site had no role in influencing the election. Facebook's steps are limited to its ad policies, and do not target fake news sites shared by users on their news feeds. "We do not integrate or display ads in apps or sites containing content that is illegal, misleading or deceptive, which includes fake news," Facebook said in a statement, adding that it will continue to vet publishers to ensure compliance.

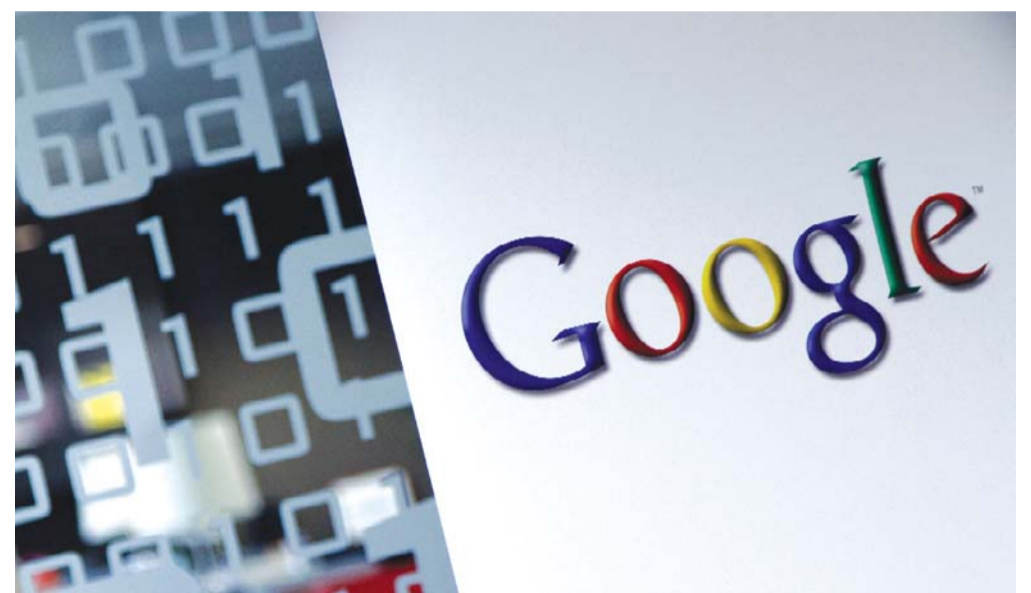
Google's move similarly does not address the issue of fake news or hoaxes appearing in Google search results. That happened in the last few days, when a search for "final election count" for a time took users to a fake news story saying Trump won the popular vote. Votes are still being counted, with Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton showing a slight lead.

Nor does Google suggest that the company has moved to a mechanism for rating the accuracy of particular articles. Rather, the change is aimed at assuring that publishers on the network are legitimate and eliminating financial incentives that appear to have driven the production of much fake news.

"Moving forward, we will restrict ad serving on pages that misrepresent, misstate, or conceal information about the publisher, the publisher's content, or the primary purpose of the web property," Google said in a statement. The company did not detail how it would implement or enforce the new policy.

### MACEDONIA NEWS

AdSense, which allows advertisers to place text ads on the millions of websites that are part



**BRUSSELS:** The Google logo is seen at the Google headquarters in Brussels. Google's search engine is highlighting an inaccurate story claiming that US President-elect Donald Trump won the popular vote in the Nov 8, 2016, election, the latest example of bogus information spread by the internet's gatekeepers. —AP

of Google's network, is a major source of money for many publishers. A report in BuzzFeed News last month showed how tiny publishers in Macedonia were creating websites with fake news - much of it denigrating Clinton - which were widely shared on Facebook.

That sharing in turn led people to click on links which brought them to the Macedonian websites, which could then make money on the traffic via Google's AdSense.

Facebook has been widely blamed for allowing the spread of online misinformation, most of it pro-Trump, but Zuckerberg has rejected the notion that Facebook influenced the outcome of the election or that fake news is a major problem on the service. "Of all the content on Facebook, more than 99 percent of what people see is authentic," he wrote in a blog post on Saturday. "Only a very small amount is fake news and hoaxes." Google has long had rules for its AdSense program, barring ads from appearing next to pornography or violent content. Work on the policy update announced on Monday began before the election, a Google spokeswoman said. The company uses a combination of humans and artificial intelligence to review sites that apply to be a part of AdSense, and sites continue to be monitored after they are accepted, a

former Google employee who worked on ad systems said. Google's artificial intelligence systems learn from sites that have been removed from the program, speeding the removal of similar sites. The issue of fake news is critical for Google from a business standpoint, as many advertisers do not want their brands to be touted alongside dubious content. Google must constantly hone its systems to try to stay one step ahead of unscrupulous publishers, the former employee said. Google has not said whether it believes its search algorithms, or its separate system for ranking results in the Google News service, also need to be modified to cope with the fake news issue. Fil Menczer, a professor of informatics and computing at Indiana University who has studied the spread of misinformation on social media, said Google's move with AdSense was a positive step.

"One of the incentives for a good portion of fake news is money," he said. "This could cut the income that creates the incentive to create the fake news sites." However, he cautioned that detecting fake news sites was not easy. "What if it is a site with some real information and some fake news? It requires specialized knowledge and having humans (do it) doesn't scale," he said. — Reuters

## VIACOMMS TELECOM AWARDED DIAMOND-LEVEL DESIGNATION

HIGHEST LEVEL IN NEW AVAYA EDGE PARTNER PROGRAM

**KUWAIT:** Avaya has awarded Viacomms Telecom Diamond Level designation, the highest level available, under its new Avaya EdgeSM partner program. Avaya Edge, introduced on November 1, is designed to give partners the flexibility to meet their customers' needs in today's fast-paced digital marketplace, while providing greater rewards for those partners that deliver exceptional value.

This new program will help drive mutual profitability and better equip Viacomms Telecom with the skills needed to help customers achieve their Digital Transformation objectives.

**The new Avaya EdgeSM Diamond (Enterprise VAR Track) designation will support Viacomms in:**

- Enabling the delivery of exceptional customer experience
- Growing business in software, services and cloud-based solutions
- Rewarding for value, competency, growth and customer satisfaction
- Supporting Viacomms' go-to-market model based on targeted customer segments

and expertise

- Keeping customers' success and satisfaction at the heart of the business
- Streamlining requirements and reducing administrative complexity

"Viacomms is excited for having achieved this new milestone and is fully committed to advancing Avaya business in Kuwait by continuing investing in human resources, training and certifications, and refreshing lab equipment. The Avaya Edge Diamond designation will empower us to position Avaya's cutting-edge solutions thus helping our customers meet their digital transformation objectives," Jolian Ibrahim, CEO, Viacomms Telecom KSCC.

"We introduced the Avaya Edge program in response to the feedback provided by our partners and customers. This new program ensures that channel partners like Viacomms Telecom are better equipped to take our innovative solutions into the marketplace and help our customers achieve their digital business goals," Fadi Moubarak, Channel Leader, Europe and AMEA, Avaya.



**Jolian Ibrahim**

## FACEBOOK HAD TOOL TO WEED OUT FAKE NEWS

**WASHINGTON:** Facebook had a tool to weed out fake news circulating on the social network this year but declined to deploy it for fear of offending conservatives, a report said Monday.

The report by the online news site Gizmodo comes with Facebook under fire for allowing hoaxes and misinformation to go viral and according to some critics-boost the efforts of Republican Donald Trump in his successful presidential run.

Facebook denied the report. Gizmodo, citing unnamed sources

said to be knowledgeable about Facebook's decision-making, said the tool was shelved after a controversy over reports saying the social network suppressed some conservative voices in its "trending topics" earlier this year. "They absolutely have the tools to shut down fake news," Gizmodo quoted one source as saying. "There was a lot of fear about upsetting conservatives after (the uproar over) trending topics."

A Facebook statement said that the claims made in the article were "not true." "We did not build and

withhold any News Feed changes based on their potential impact on any one political party," the statement from Facebook said. "We always work to make News Feed more meaningful and informative, and that includes examining the quality and accuracy of items shared, such as clickbait, spam and hoaxes." Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg has rejected the idea that bogus stories shared at the social network paved a path of victory for Trump. "The idea that fake news on Facebook, which is a very small amount of the content, influenced the

election in any way I think is a pretty crazy idea," Zuckerberg said during an on-stage chat at Technonomy, a technology trends conference in California. In a weekend posting, Zuckerberg said dealing with hoaxes and fake news is complex. "This is an area where I believe we must proceed very carefully," he said. "Identifying the 'truth' is complicated. While some hoaxes can be completely debunked, a greater amount of content, including from mainstream sources, often gets the basic idea right but some details wrong or omitted." — AFP

## WEST NILE VIRUS CAN KILL YEARS AFTER INFECTION

**MIAMI:** West Nile virus may be three times more deadly than previously thought, because many deaths associated with the mosquito-borne virus occur years after the initial infection, researchers said Monday. The findings were based on a study of 4,144 people in Texas, and were presented at the 2016 Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) in Atlanta, Georgia. Among this group of people who became ill with West Nile virus between 2002 and 2012, 286 people died in the first three months.

Another 268 people who survived the

initial infection died over the next decade due to complications associated with the virus, researchers found. "While we understand the current focus on Zika virus, for many people in the United States today, West Nile virus is the much more serious mosquito-borne threat and that threat may persist even for patients who appear to have survived the infection unscathed," said lead author Kristy Murray of Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital.

The Texas study showed a 13 percent fatality rate. Nationwide, about four percent of people are believed to die of West

Nile in the acute phase of the illness, or in the first three months, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The virus causes no symptoms at all in up to 80 percent of people. Some people report fever, rash, body pain, headache, vomiting or diarrhea. In rare cases, brain swelling and neurologic infections can occur. Researchers said the delayed deaths in the Texas study were more common among patients who had suffered significant neurological complications early on. Also, kidney disease was a statistically significant cause of delayed death. Murray said the study shows West

Nile virus can cause health problems years after the initial infection. "For several years, we had followed smaller groups of patients and felt that many had died prematurely," Murray said. "We saw many people who were otherwise healthy until they had West Nile virus and then their health just went downhill."

The causes of death came from the Texas state death registry. Researchers also had access to medical records that showed the progress of patients post-infection. West Nile virus was introduced into the United States in 1999, and from the same family of viruses as yellow fever

and Zika, which can cause microcephaly in infants. "In much the same way that research into Zika virus is showing a more destructive virus than originally thought, we are still discovering previously unreported long-term destructive effects of West Nile," said Stephen Higgs, PhD, president of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. "Those of us in the tropical medicine community have long been concerned that West Nile is a significant public health problem and that US federal investments are warranted in finding better ways to treat and prevent it."—AFP



**TOWNSHIP, Pennsylvania:** In this file photo, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, left, stands with then-Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump as he buys cookies during a visit to Eat 'n Park restaurant in Moon Township, Pa. —AP

## FAST-FOOD FAN TRUMP COULD REMAKE HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES

**WASHINGTON:** Will President-elect Donald Trump remake school lunches into his fast-food favorites of burgers and fried chicken? Children grumbling about healthier school meal rules championed by first lady Michelle Obama may have reason to cheer Trump's election as the billionaire businessman is a proud patron of Kentucky Fried Chicken and McDonald's while promising to curb federal regulations. The Obama administration has made healthier, safer and better labeled food a priority in the last eight years, significantly raising the profile of food policy and sometimes drawing the ire of Republicans, farmers and the food industry. The first lady made reducing childhood obesity one of her signature issues through her "Let's Move" campaign.

In addition to the healthier school meal rules, the administration ushered a sweeping food safety law through Congress, pushed through several new food labeling regulations, started to phase out trans fats, added calorie labels to menus and suggested new limits on sodium in packaged foods. The White House has also fended off efforts in the Republican Congress to trim the nation's food stamp program. "Food advocates are already nostalgic for the Obama era and will be playing defense for the next four years," says Sam Kass, a former White House senior adviser on nutrition and personal chef for the Obamas.

A look at some of the food regulations that could be scrapped - or tweaked - in the new administration:

### Making school meals great again

Trump himself hasn't weighed in on school meal regulations. But Republicans, school nutrition directors and some in the food industry have balked at parts of the administration's rules that set stricter fat, sugar and sodium limits on foods in the lunch line and beyond. While many students have now gotten used to the healthier foods, some schools still complain that they are costly and that it's difficult to meet the standards.

"I would be very surprised if we don't see some major changes on the school lunch program" and some other food issues, said Rep. Robert Aderholt of Alabama, the Republican chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees

Agriculture Department spending. Aderholt, who sits on Trump's agriculture advisory committee, says the Obama administration's approach was "activist driven" and people who voted for Trump are looking for a more common-sense approach. One of many names that have been floated as a possible agriculture secretary is Sid Miller, the Texas Agriculture Commissioner who repealed a state ban on deep fryers and soda machines at schools. Miller recently got in trouble when he used a profanity on Twitter to describe Democrat Hillary Clinton; he blamed a staffer and the tweet was deleted.

### The food police

In September, the Trump campaign pitched rolling back food safety regulations in a fact sheet, arguing they are burdensome to farmers and criticizing increased inspections of food manufacturing facilities as "overkill." The sheet referred to the "food police" at the Food and Drug Administration. The campaign later deleted the proposal from its website. Congress passed new food safety regulations in 2010, a year after a salmonella outbreak linked to a Georgia peanut company killed nine people. Michael Taylor, former FDA deputy commissioner for foods who oversees the food safety rules, says it wouldn't be popular with consumers to roll them back. "Consumers are only getting more focused on safety, health and wellness," Taylor says. Trump himself is a self-professed germaphobe who prefers eating at fast-food restaurants because he believes they have higher food safety standards.

### Food stamps

Congressional Republicans have been examining food stamps since the program's cost grew to almost \$80 billion annually after the recession. Participation and costs have dipped since its 2013 high, but conservatives have suggested tightening eligibility standards or increasing work requirements. House Speaker Paul Ryan has for years championed an overhaul to the program. Democrats in the Senate have consistently objected to any changes to the program, and will still wield influence. But they won't have the backing of a Democratic White House.

## DISASTER LOSS ESTIMATES IGNORE HIGHER COST TO THE POOR

**MARRAKESH:** Natural disasters have a more devastating impact on the poor than widely thought, forcing some 26 million people into poverty each year and setting back global spending on goods and services by the equivalent of \$520 billion annually, the World Bank said. The human and economic costs of disasters, caused by extreme weather and earthquakes, have been underestimated by up to 60 percent because they ignore the high toll on the consumption and related well-being of the poor, the bank said in a new study. "Severe climate shocks threaten to roll back decades of progress against poverty," said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim in a statement. "Building resilience to disasters not only makes economic sense, it is a moral imperative."

Stephane Hallegatte, lead author of the report, said poor people tend to suffer more from disasters as they often live in places that are hit more often, and lose a bigger share of their income. They also receive less support from governments, friends and family, he added. The report notes that a flood or earthquake can be disastrous for poor people but have a negligible impact on a country's overall wealth or production if it affects people who own almost nothing and have very low incomes.

But for them, disasters can have dam-

aging long-term effects, such as forcing families to take a child out of school or to spend less on healthcare, it adds. Among Guatemalan households hit by tropical storm Agatha in 2010, per capita consumption fell 5.5 percent, hiking poverty by 14 percent, according to research cited by the bank.

"Dealing with climate change and natural disasters and resilience is an important component of poverty reduction policy," Hallegatte told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. If the value of assets threatened by disasters is the main factor in planning how to reduce risks, the majority of support will go to better-off countries and communities, he said.

The aim of the report - produced in response to demand from governments - is to help states balance protecting financial returns with taking care of the poor. The World Bank plans to use the findings to steer policy discussions with countries on managing risks across the board. The research could also guide countries on putting into practice their climate change action plans, submitted for the Paris Agreement that took effect on Nov 4, Hallegatte said. "If we select priorities based on our measure of the impact of natural disasters on well-being, we will be able to spend not only efficiently but also help the poorest," he said. —Reuters

## EGYPTIANS FACE MEDICINE SHORTAGES AS POUND PLUNGES

**CAIRO:** Fatima was already struggling to find cancer drugs for her father when a devaluation of the Egyptian pound this month caused the imported medicine to disappear altogether. "Before, I could still find it if I searched in several pharmacies. Today I can't," said the 34-year old teacher, who asked not to be named in full. A dollar crunch over the past year had already driven up prices for imports including drugs, causing shortages in medicines to treat diabetes, heart and kidney diseases.

That turned into a crisis this month after Egypt floated its currency as part of an economic reform package linked to a \$12-billion IMF loan. The Egyptian pound, which had been pegged at 8.89 to the dollar, now trades at banks for up to 17 pounds a dollar.

"Right after the central bank decision, distribution companies informed us there would be a quota for imported medicines each pharmacy can get," said Maryse Michel, who works at a pharmacy on a busy street in Cairo. "Every day people come asking for medicines I don't have—maybe 40 percent of clients," she said.

Distributors say importing drugs or their ingredients has become more expensive, but they cannot pass on the extra costs to clients as the government has set prices for the medicines. The health ministry in turn accuses distributors of stockpiling the medicines to jack up prices.

### 'Too costly'

Medicines are the latest products affected by the falling pound, with shortages in other imports as Egypt embarks on a painful austerity program after years of unrest that have battered its economy. Egypt has a large pharmaceutical industry, but it also relies on imported ingredients. "Ninety-nine percent of components of medicines manufactured in Egypt are imported," said Mohi Hafiz, a board member on the pharmaceutical division of the Federation of Egyptian Industry.

"When the official dollar price goes from 8.8 to 17.7, it becomes too costly," he said. "The state has to intervene," he said. "If we don't find a solution in two or three months, we'll have a real problem." Health ministry spokesman Khaled Megahed said the government would not raise drug prices as distributors are demanding. "The companies want to continue making a profit of 2,000 percent," he said. "They spread rumors, say there is no more insulin, they stop distributing to pharmacies and impose quotas."

His ministry has issued reassuring statements, saying for example that the country has enough insulin to last seven months. Hoda, a 52-year-old pharmacist, accuses distributors of "starving the market for drugs which they will then sell at a high price." Hafiz denies this, but says distributors have set quotas. "The distributors need to

control the flow of products put on the market. Otherwise they will have shortages in their stocks," he said.

Ordinary Egyptians, meanwhile, are struggling to cope. Fatima, who teaches in a private school, says she can get medicines from abroad whenever she leaves the country or if a friend

visits Egypt. Zeinab, a 25-year-old biomedical engineer, says she has to scour the black market for medicine for her mother, who suffers from kidney failure. "The medicine costs 250 pounds. Last month, I bought it for 1,200. This month, I can't find it, and I hear that the price is 2,000 pounds," she said. —AFP



**CAIRO:** An Egyptian pharmacy employee reaches out to grab a box of medicine in a pharmacy in the capital Cairo. —AFP photos



**CAIRO:** An Egyptian pharmacy employee sells medicine to a customer in a pharmacy in the capital Cairo.

## TRUMP VICTORY COULD IMPERIL ROE V WADE ABORTION RULING

**NEW YORK:** Roe v Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion nationwide, could be in jeopardy under Donald Trump's presidency. If a reconfigured high court did overturn it, the likely outcome would be a patchwork map: some states protecting abortion access, others enacting tough bans, and many struggling over what new limits they might impose. Trump, who will have at least one Supreme Court vacancy to fill, has pledged to appoint "pro-life" justices who potentially would be open to weakening or reversing Roe. With one seat vacant, the high court now has a 5-3 majority supporting abortion rights, and thus one of those five would need to vacate his or her seat to give the court an anti-abortion majority.

Trump broached that possibility in an interview aired Sunday night on CBS' "60 Minutes," suggesting that a reversal of Roe would return the matter to the states, leaving it up to their legislatures to decide the future of abortion access. Asked about the likelihood that some women would face abortion bans in their states, Trump replied, "Well, they'll perhaps have to go, they'll have to go to another state."

Supporters of abortion rights concurred with that analysis. "If Roe were overturned, we would likely return to a patchwork quilt of laws, which would force women onto the road even more than at present," said Dr. David Grimes, a North Carolina obstetrician-gynecologist. Grimes was alluding to the fact that many states under Republican control already have forced closure of some abortion clinics, confronting some women with the

need for long-distance travel in order to obtain an abortion. While affluent women might be able to afford such travel, it can be an insurmountable burden for some low-income women. "Is that the world we want, where women's ability to get the care she needs depends on her ability to go to another state?" asked Jennifer Dalven, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project.

### Impose bans

Anti-abortion leader Clark Forsythe, acting president and senior counsel for Americans United For Life, predicted that the states would break into three basic cate-

gories if Roe were overturned: Perhaps a dozen states would continue to make abortion widely accessible, another dozen or so would ban virtually all abortions unless the mother's life were at stake, and roughly two-dozen more states would thrash out their response with debate among the public and in the legislatures. Forsythe suggested that some of those states might allow abortions in the first trimester of pregnancy, while restricting or banning later abortions.

Among the states likely to maintain full access to abortion are those on the Pacific Coast and in the Northeast. South-central and southeastern states would be

among those likely to impose bans, potentially leaving women in a huge, contiguous chunk of the United States with no nearby access to abortion providers. "For many women, it's not possible to traverse across multiple state lines," said Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights. "This could have tragic consequences."

She said one consequence might be an increase in the number of women seeking to self-induce an abortion. Florida, compared to other Southern states, has a large number of abortion clinics - more than 70, according to the most recent count by the Guttmacher Institute, a research group which supports abortion rights. Laura Goodhue, executive director of the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, said the state legislature has been increasingly hostile to abortion rights, yet she was uncertain what would happen if Roe were overturned.

"A majority of Floridians support access to abortion, and don't want to see it go away," she said. In the decades since the Roe decision, several states have kept or added anti-abortion laws that could take effect immediately if the ruling were overturned. Among them is Wisconsin. Nicole Safar, director of government relations for the state's Planned Parenthood affiliate, said a statute has been on the books since 1849 making it a felony for a doctor to perform an abortion in Wisconsin. Abortion is likely to remain legal in neighboring Illinois, but Safar said even that trip might be out of reach for many low-income women in Wisconsin. —AP



**WASHINGTON:** In this file photo, marchers carry a banner during the March for Life 2016, in front of the US Supreme Court in Washington, during the annual rally on the anniversary of 1973 'Roe v Wade' US Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. —AP

## ORGANIC FARMS HELP THAILAND WELCOME CRANES LOST FOR 50 YEARS

**BURIRAM:** A fuzzy-headed baby sarus crane hatched on a rural farm this fall offers a glimmer of hope for wildlife conservationists, organic farming advocates and a nation grieving after the death of their beloved king. That's because this chubby chick named Rice is the first of its auspicious species to survive after hatching in the wild in Thailand in 50 years.

The tallest flying birds in the world, 70 incubator-hatched, hand-fed sarus cranes have been raised and released over the past five years in Thailand's farm-rich north-east province of Buriram, whooping their startling two-toned song at dawn. "The older generations told us about these cranes, they said they bring luck, but when I actually saw one in my field I was so excited," village leader Thongpoon Unjit said. He and dozens of other farmers stopped using pesticides and parked their noisy tractors to help the birds survive. They hand-harvest for acres and leave large swaths untouched around nests. Already the birds have brought good fortune: The farmers' organic rice sells for a premium at Bangkok supermarkets.

Forty-two of the cranes released in the wild have survived so far, and eight are living in monogamous pairs. But until now none have managed to successfully reproduce. Rice, now about a month old, likely pecked its little sibling to death, but that's to be expected, say the experts. "It's been really fun to watch this family," said visiting ornithologist George Archibald, spying on the yellow-brown hatchling and its magenta-topped parents through a spotting scope. "I've been really touched by the intimacy of the parents to their juvenile. They're just continually watching that chick."

Archibald, co-founder of the International Crane Foundation, has advised Thai animal scientists throughout their efforts to reintroduce sarus cranes, 6-foot-tall birds listed as vulnerable globally and extinct in Thailand. "There are many challenges facing these cranes," said Archibald. "Will the farmers tolerate a little bit of damage in their rice fields? Will there be too many powerlines? Will the cranes fly into them? Will this landscape that has been absolutely transformed by modern man have a place that's safe for these enormous birds?"

To bring them back, scientists borrowed a few sarus cranes from neighboring Cambodia, where a rare flock lives in a refuge. The United Nations Development Program helped pull together more than

\$1.5 million for sarus cranes and two other endangered species in Thailand. But raising any type of crane to survive in the wild is a delicate matter, in large part because the birds tend to imprint on humans around them. Wildlife biologists who feed, care for and transport the birds from zoo incubators to temporary outdoor habitats wear fake crane suits to stop the birds from bonding.

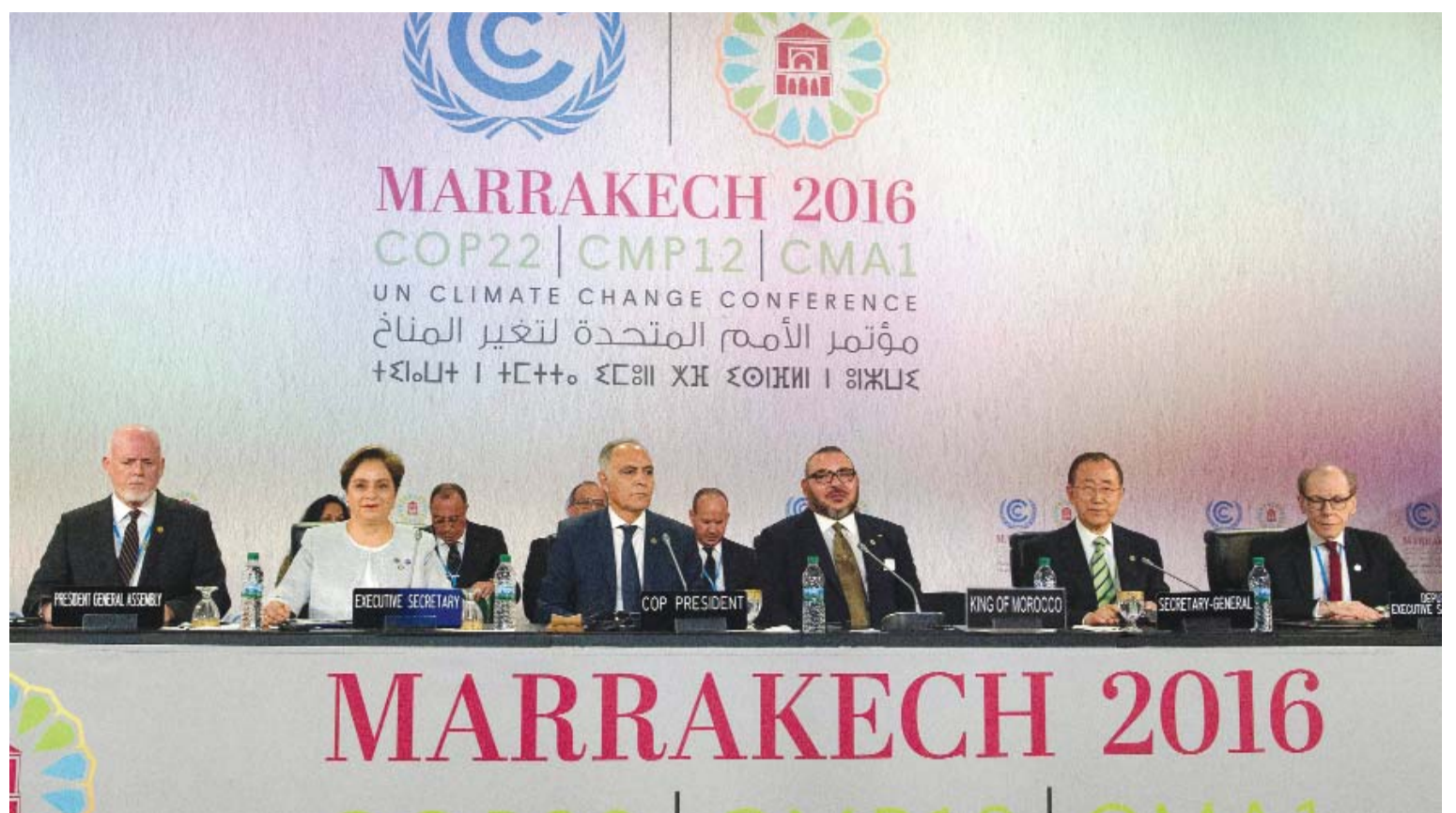
At the Korat Zoo last week, birdkeeper Sarawut Wongsombat, sweating in his white gown, opened and closed a large Sarus crane puppet mouth in his right hand while waving a tiny tilapia in front of the beak of an 8-day-old chick that wobbled on its skinny legs. The little bird refused the fish again and again, shaking its head and hopping away. But when Sarawut took a break, the curious chick gobbled a few mealworms it found in a bowl, followed by some pink vitamin water. "He did OK for his first meal," said Sarawut, pulling off the costume.

About 100 miles north, two sarus cranes were released just one day earlier, hopping into a wetland from the arms of their "Mom and Dad," animal scientists Tanat Uttaraviset and Natawut Wanna, wearing gray-white gowns with hoods and fabric flapping wings. The shaky fledglings, who had spent the past three months in a temporary mesh shelter in the wetland, hopped around and flapped their wings before launching on their first flights. Standing thigh-high in a bog next to an organic rice paddy, conservationists watched nervously as the birds they'd help raise each flapped a large loop over the field. It's a dicey moment when a sarus crane first flies: Sometimes they crash into trees. Other times they face plant on touch-down.

On this day both aced their landings. More of these releases are slated for later this month. Organizers plan a ceremony with the Environmental Ministry to introduce nine adolescent sarus cranes into the wild, honoring King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died Oct 13 at age 88. The birds are considered good luck, and better yet, the number nine honors the king, who was known as Rama IX for his place in the nation's dynasty. Bhumibol's legacy includes his concern for upcountry rice farms, where he introduced sustainable, environmentally friendly methods. "It will be a great way to honor the king, with these special birds," said Nathanik Klaklangsmorn of the UN Development Program.—AP



**THAILAND:** In this file photo, a sarus crane takes its first flight as its released above a wetland acclimating center in Buriram, Thailand.—AP photos



**MARRAKECH:** Morocco's King Mohammed VI (center right), United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (second right), Morocco's Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar (third left), UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa of Mexico (second left) are seen prior to the opening session of the UN climate conference yesterday. — AFP

## BAN VOICES 'HOPE' AS LEADERS TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE IN TRUMP SHADOW

CLIMATE IS A 'COMMON AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY'

**MARRAKECH, Morocco:** UN chief Ban Ki-moon voiced hope yesterday that Donald Trump will "vary" his stance denying climate change as world leaders gathered in Morocco to keep a planetary rescue plan on track. A week after the election to the White House of Trump, who has called global warming a "hoax" and has threatened to "cancel" the global pact, Ban said: "I am sure he will make a good, wise decision." He has spoken to the president-elect, the UN secretary-general said, and he was "optimistic" that the business mogul "will hear and understand the seriousness and urgency of addressing climate change."

Ban was addressing journalists in Marrakesh before opening the "high-level segment" of an annual UN climate meeting—the first since last year's adoption of the Paris Agreement to stave off calamitous global warming. Trump's election has been uppermost on the minds of many delegates and negotiators gathered since last Monday to thrash out a roadmap for putting the agreement into action. "I have explained at length about our expectations and our hope that... president-elect Mr Trump will hear and understand the seriousness and urgency of addressing climate change," said Ban.

"As the president of the US I am sure he will understand this, he will listen, he will vary his campaign remarks," he added. It was usual for campaigning politicians to engage in rhetoric, but a president had to understand "the reality of the whole world's problems," said the UN chief. "No country, however resourceful or powerful, is immune from the impacts of climate change," he added. "My sense is that as a very successful business person in the past... I believe that he understands that there are market forces already at work on this issue." The hard-fought Paris Agreement set an objective of limiting average global warming to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-Industrial Revolution levels by cutting planet-heating greenhouse gases from burning coal, oil, and gas.

### 'No Planet B'

Many fear that withdrawal by the United States, a champion of the deal under President



**MARRAKECH, Morocco:** Ban Ki-moon, the UN Secretary-General, speaks at the UN World Climate Change Conference 2016.

Barack Obama, would shatter the political goodwill built up over years of negotiations, and put the very planet-saving goals of the deal at risk.

While waiting for Trump to make his position clear, many now look to the rest of the world to strongly restate their commitment to the pact—with or without the US. All eyes was on Marrakesh yesterday, where about 60 heads of state and government were scheduled to address the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22 for short) of the UN's climate convention, which gathers 196 nations and the EU bloc. To date, 109 of the 197 parties have officially ratified the Paris Agreement, which entered into force on November 4 after crossing the threshold of 55 ratifications by countries representing 55 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

They included the United States, which represents about 14 percent of global emissions,

and China which accounts for 25 percent. Beijing's climate envoy Xie Zhenhua stressed Monday that tackling climate was a "common and shared responsibility." "International cooperation is a must for us to address climate change," he said in Marrakesh. Scientists say warming over 2 C will yield dangerous sea level rise, harsher storms and droughts, disease spread and conflict over ever-scarcer resources. "We have only one planet," Ban stressed. "We don't have a Plan B, because there is no Planet B."

Among the speakers on yesterday's agenda are Sudan's Omar al-Bashir, for whom the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur. "If even al-Bashir can contribute to the global climate effort, then president-elect Donald Trump will have no excuse," commented climate activist Mohamed Adow of ChristianAid. —AFP

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## 2 AUK TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE ARAB COLLEGIATE PROGRAMMING CONTEST

**A**UK participated in the 4th Kuwait Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-KCPC 2016), which was held at Arab Open University (AOU) - Kuwait, on October 13th and 15th, 2016. The contest provides an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills in programming and problem solving, in addition to meet fellow students from other academic institutions. The contest fosters creativity, teamwork and enables students to test their ability to perform under pressure. This year, 24 teams,

coming from the American University of Kuwait, Australian College of Kuwait, Gulf University for Science & Technology, Arab Open University and Kuwait University, participated in the contest.

Two teams from the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at AUK won the fourth and fifth places, which qualifies them to go for the next regional round for the Arab Collegiate Programming Contest (ACM-ACPC 2016) that will be hosted by the Arab Academy for Science and Technology

(AAST), and will be held at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 14 November, 2016. "Innovation" team, the fourth place winner, consisted of the engineering students; Omar Khalil, MarwaKandil, and Shahad Al-Mousa, while "Syndicate" team the 5th place winner team consisted of the engineering students Ali Kelkawi, Batool Hasan, and Yara Al-Quorashy. AUK will sponsor the two teams during the ACM-ACPC.

The teams were supervised and coached by AUK Electrical and Computer Engineering professors Mounib Khafer and

Mohammed El-Abd, who were also chosen to be members of the Steering Committee for future KCPCs. The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is an independent, private, equal opportunity, and co-educational liberal arts institution of higher education. The educational, cultural and administrative structure, methods and standards of AUK are based on the American model of higher learning. The language of instruction is English. More information on the American University of Kuwait can be found at [www.auk.edu.kw](http://www.auk.edu.kw)

## RASHTRIYA EKTA DIWAS CELEBRATED

**R**ashtriya Ekta Diwas was celebrated in the Embassy Auditorium on 3rd November 2016 on the occasion of the 141st Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The objective was to recall Sardar Patel's contribution to India's freedom struggle and to the founding of united and Independent India. The function was attended by more than 150 persons. Speakers from Intergrated Indian School, Indian Educational School, Delhi Public School, Indian Community School (Senior Wing-Salmiya) and Indian Community School- Khaitan emphasized contribution of the "Iron Man of India". A 40-minute documentary film, titled, "A Man of silence" was screened.



## NSH LAUNCHES FUTURE PILLARS

**N**SH Global Village Harmony has announced the formation of FUTURE PILLARS, a social responsibility initiative. NSH continues to support Kuwait ambitions with the awareness events such as anti-alcohol program in connection with the United Nations International Day against Drug Abuse, UNESCO's International Literacy Day, World Heart Day, Master Brain, Partners of Environmental protection, Knowledge Development and Sharing, etc. This recent initiative, FUTURE PILLARS will enlighten the children and will be an inspiring force to horn their skills.

With the formation of NSH's FUTURE PILLARS program, our company is happy to contribute for the development of the children, said Vice President Sabu, and added that it would be instrumental in bringing out the talented. Their performance such as singing, mono act, drama, speech, drawing, storytelling was very thrilling. Earlier, HR Manager Pani J Anthony handled the session on developing self confidence. This is an ongoing event to hone the skills of the kids by NSH Global Village Harmony, an association registered in the Indian Embassy in Kuwait.





# BARAKAT FOODS COMPANY CLEANS UP SULAIBIKHAT BEACH WITH K'S PATH



**B**arakat Foods Company has recently teamed up with the Kuwait Society for the Protection of Animals and their Habitat (K'S PATH) to spearhead a campaign aiming to clean up Kuwait's beaches. This team initiative was keenly adopted by the company's staff, who collaborated with the personnel at K'S PATH, to initiate efforts aimed at conducting a cleanup of Sulaibikhat beach.

The first cleanup at Sulaibikhat beach saw 45 employees from Barakat Foods collect 850kg terrestrial marine waste in 2 hours across 160 bags. The removal of waste including tires, driftwood and discarded bedding from this fragile marine habitat is aimed at protecting Kuwait's biodiversity and making the environment and beaches cleaner and healthier for the community. Barakat Foods also joined K'S PATH's anniversary beach clean-up held in late September and is currently planning another clean-up to be held in spring 2017.

Barakat Foods has been a constant participant in various annual events and voluntary activities, as well as local and national campaigns. One of its most recent efforts in this domain involved the national campaign for cancer

awareness earlier this year, which was instigated via the distribution of leaflets at company business units in various branches and outlets. This is in addition to taking part in other activities such as blood donations, annual walkathons to combat diabetes and numerous other events and campaigns.

Thanking Barakat Foods for their support, K'S PATH Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Sheikha Fatima Al Sabah says, "It is encouraging to see companies like Barakat Foods care for the environment. Our beach clean-ups together show that we can make a real difference in protecting Kuwait's environment. A few hours efforts goes a long way and sets an example for the community. We look forward to more community activities with Barakat Foods employees."

Worth noting is that Barakat Foods Co has signed an initiative with K'S PATH calling for the participation in activities promoting voluntary work and social citizenship. These include beach cleanups, animal safety workshops, caring for some of the society's animals, together with other initiatives pertaining to social development; while contributing as necessary to make the campaign a success.



## SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL FORUM TO HOLD CHILDREN'S SCIENCE CONGRESS

**S**cience International Forum - Kuwait (SIF), a platform that aims to 'ignite the minds of tomorrow' by encouraging scientific temperament among the young, is pleased to announce that this year's Kuwait Children's Science Congress (KCSC) will take place at Bharatiya VidyaBhavan (new campus) on Friday, 18th November, from 9.30am to 5pm.

The annual science exhibition has become a much-awaited event among students as it provides children of 10 to 17 years of age a unique opportunity to showcase their scientific knowledge and aptitude. The program has students forming five-member teams to undertake a project based on an assigned theme. The team has to explore and analyze problems around the project theme and find a suitable solution to overcome the challenges. The second iteration of the annual KCSC will witness over 150 child scientists from all the major Indian schools in Kuwait, exhibiting their projects based on the theme, 'Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development'.

As part of this year's KCSC, three innovative science spot

contests are also being arranged where students can walk-in with their ideas, participate in the competitions and win exciting prizes. Competitions are arranged in three groups: Sub-Juniors (Classes 5, 6 and 7), Juniors (Classes 8, 9 and 10) and Seniors (Classes 11 and 12). In the 'Sci-Fie' contest, competitors have to observe their surroundings to find some exciting scientific fact and capture it via a 'selfie' on a mobile camera. They then have to take a print out of the picture and write a description about the science behind their observation, before submitting their entries at the KCSC event before 3pm.

The 'Art of Science' is a pencil-drawing competition where contestants will draw an image on the theme 'Rising India - Science and Technology'. Students will have to register for the competition between 9.30am and 2pm and the drawing competition will extend for one hour and half. In the third spot competition, titled 'Math Genius', students will be tested on their mathematical analytical and logical skills. Competitors can walk-in between 9.30am and 2pm to participate in this competition.



**KUWAIT:** The History Department at Kuwait University organized a lecture on Islamic culture. Visiting guests along with Kuwaiti doctors including Dr Abdallah Atiya lectured on the principle of culture and Islamic art.



## EXPERIENCE 'KEBAB SPECIALS' AT ZAFRAN

**Z**afran Indian Bistro, the award-winning contemporary Indian restaurant recently launched its limited time menu - The Kebab Specials. Kebab lovers are invited to experience a variety of mouth-watering kebabs made from the finest spice blends, marinated and char-grilled to perfection. The Kebab Specials offers a fine mélange of vegetarian and non-vegetarian delectable kebabs that are amongst the much-celebrated North-West Indian favorites.

The tempting menu includes the flavorful, juicy "Raan-e-Zafran" - lamb leg cooked with Indian spices, "Gosht Gilawat" - minced lamb medallions infused with aromatic spices and several other kebab varieties specially put together by the Zafran master chefs. Vegetarians are in for a treat with crave-worthy option such as the "Paneer Gulbadan" - cottage cheese stuffed with spinach, marinated with hung curd and cheese, "Seekh Kurkuri" - medley of corn, green peas and Indian spices and "Subz Gilawat" - delicate medallions of mushroom and cauliflower infused with aromatic spices.

The fragrant tender meat and delicious vegetables ooze authentic flavors that have been put together by the master chefs in a signature Zafran style. The Kebab Specials is Zafran's way of taking foodies in Kuwait on a journey that showcases the true quintessence of the authenticity, diversity and the richness of some North-West Indian favorites whilst you enjoy the relaxed ambience.

Be amazed by the Zafran interior which is stylish, comfortable and inviting. The setting is contemporary and casual, allowing guests to enjoy the experience and create their own spe-



cial moments. The interior highlights unique features, the most prominent of which is the 'wow' kitchen, where guests are able to watch Chefs prepare their food right before their eyes. The fascia of the kitchen is made of carbonized wood with brass detailing which replicates the char-grilling of the tandoor, creating a beautiful visual. The 'wow' kitchen is a signature element of the venue allowing our guests really experience a true taste of Zafran.

Prices start at a very reasonable 2.500 KD and this menu will be available from now until the end of December at Zafran. The 150 seat restaurant is open to guests for lunch as well as dinner from 12 pm - 12 am every day. Located in the Lights complex, Mahboula, Zafran has fantastic external seating with ample parking and easy access. To make a reservation please call: 00965 97281007. For added convenience Zafran offers a take-out and delivery service as well.



**OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**

- 00:00 The Quick And The Dead
- 02:00 Alien Outpost
- 04:00 Con Air
- 06:00 Hidalgo
- 08:30 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem
- 10:00 Divergent
- 12:30 Ladder 49
- 14:30 Blackhat
- 16:45 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem
- 18:15 Divergent
- 20:45 Brick Mansions
- 23:00 Deja Vu

**OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**

- 01:30 Cas & Dylan
- 03:30 Before I Disappear
- 05:30 Abandoned
- 07:00 A Mother Betrayed
- 09:00 Penthouse North
- 11:00 Cas & Dylan
- 13:00 Before I Disappear
- 15:00 Jappeloup
- 17:30 Penthouse North
- 19:00 The Better Angels
- 21:00 Very Good Girls
- 23:00 Two Mothers

**OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**

- 01:00 Paddington
- 03:00 Snow Day
- 05:00 Open Season: Scared Silly
- 07:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
- 09:00 Hotel For Dogs
- 11:00 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
- 12:30 Scooby-Doo! And The Beach Beastie
- 13:00 Paddington
- 15:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...
- 17:00 Storm Rider
- 19:00 Goosebumps
- 21:00 Strange Magic
- 23:00 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Voyage Of The Dawn...

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 02:00 Cut Bank
- 03:30 The Age Of Adaline
- 05:30 Before We Go
- 07:15 Zootropolis
- 09:00 The Longest Ride
- 11:15 Creed
- 13:30 Barely Lethal
- 15:15 Spooks: The Greater Good
- 17:00 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
- 19:00 Bravetown
- 21:00 There's Always Woodstock
- 23:00 The Revenant

**OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**

- 01:00 Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded
- 01:30 Child Of God
- 03:30 Birdman
- 05:30 Monkey Kingdom
- 07:00 The Signal
- 09:00 Song For Marion
- 11:00 Monkey Kingdom
- 12:30 The Rainmaker
- 14:45 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
- 17:00 Song For Marion
- 19:00 War Horse
- 21:30 Masaan
- 23:15 Heaven's Gate

**OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**

- 00:00 Road Trip
- 02:00 Superfast
- 04:00 Shanghai Noon
- 06:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 08:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
- 10:00 Shanghai Noon
- 12:00 Superfast
- 14:00 Vampire Dog
- 16:00 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey
- 18:00 Blue Streak
- 20:00 Playing It Cool
- 22:00 For A Good Time, Call

**OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**

- 01:00 Worms
- 02:30 The Unbeatables
- 04:15 Jingle All The Way 2
- 06:00 Jetsons: The Movie
- 07:45 Memory Loss
- 09:15 Space Warriors
- 11:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble

- 12:45 The Unbeatables
- 14:30 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 16:00 Jock The Hero Dog
- 18:00 Space Warriors
- 20:00 Savva
- 22:00 Bamse And The City Of Thieves
- 23:30 Jock The Hero Dog

**OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**

- 00:00 Chocolate City
- 02:00 Step Up Revolution
- 04:00 My Stepdughter
- 06:00 The Imitation Game
- 08:00 Spare Parts
- 10:00 Her Infidelity
- 12:00 The Imitation Game
- 14:00 Perfect Match
- 16:00 Spare Parts
- 18:00 About Alex
- 20:00 Miss You Already
- 22:00 Moonwalkers

**OSN MOVIES HD**

- 00:00 Runaway Bride
- 02:00 Rob Zombie's Halloween
- 04:00 Pretty Woman
- 06:15 The Woman In Black
- 08:00 Haven
- 10:15 Shall We Dance
- 12:00 Monster
- 14:00 Runaway Bride
- 16:00 What Women Want
- 18:15 Rob Zombie's Halloween
- 20:00 The One
- 21:30 First Snow
- 23:15 Traffic

**SUNDANCE CHANNEL**

- 01:05 Return Of The Secaucus 7
- 02:55 The Wolfpack
- 04:25 Pink Floyd: Story Of Wish You Were Here
- 05:30 Touchy Feely
- 07:00 Proof
- 08:40 Liar's Dice
- 10:25 The Love We Make
- 12:00 Dream School
- 13:00 Movie Talk
- 13:30 The Scapegoat
- 15:15 Proof
- 16:55 The Love We Make
- 18:30 Help Us Find Sunil Tripathi
- 19:50 Mrs. Parker And The Vicious Circle
- 22:00 Pinero
- 23:35 Mrs. Brown

**OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**

- 00:30 Scrubs
- 01:30 Ballers
- 02:30 You're The Worst
- 03:00 2 Broke Girls
- 03:30 The Simpsons
- 04:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 George Lopez
- 06:00 Galavant
- 06:30 Community
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 08:30 George Lopez
- 09:00 2 Broke Girls
- 09:30 Crowded
- 10:00 Modern Family
- 10:30 Community
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 Galavant
- 12:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 13:00 George Lopez
- 13:30 Community
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 Crowded
- 15:00 Modern Family
- 15:30 Scrubs
- 16:00 Scrubs
- 16:30 Galavant
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 2 Broke Girls
- 18:30 The Simpsons
- 19:00 Crowded
- 19:30 Modern Family
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Scrubs
- 22:00 Ballers
- 23:05 You're The Worst
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers

**OSN FIRST HD**

- 00:00 Mr. Robot
- 01:00 Pitch
- 02:00 Supergirl
- 03:00 American Horror Story: Roanoke
- 04:00 Live Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 07:00 Chicago Fire
- 08:00 Bones

- 09:00 The Voice
- 11:00 Pitch
- 12:00 Bones
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Chicago Fire
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Bones
- 19:00 The Voice
- 20:00 The Flash
- 21:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 22:00 Scream Queens
- 23:00 American Horror Story: Roanoke

**OSN FIRST HD Home of HBO**

- 00:00 In Treatment
- 00:30 In Treatment
- 01:00 Banshee
- 02:00 Game Of Thrones
- 03:00 Queen Of The South
- 04:00 Entourage
- 04:30 Entourage
- 05:00 If These Walls Could Talk
- 07:00 Conspiracy
- 09:00 Undeclared
- 10:45 Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee
- 13:00 Longford
- 15:00 Poole Springs
- 16:45 Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee
- 19:00 In Treatment
- 19:30 In Treatment
- 20:00 Code Black
- 21:00 Game Of Thrones
- 22:00 Animal Kingdom
- 23:00 Hung
- 23:30 Funny Or Die Presents

**BBC FIRST**

- 00:10 Doctors
- 00:40 One Of Us
- 01:35 Ripper Street
- 02:30 Silent Witness
- 03:25 Mad Dogs
- 04:10 Doctors
- 04:40 Doctors
- 05:10 Call The Midwife
- 06:00 Doctors
- 06:30 Doctors
- 07:00 Holby City
- 08:00 Father Brown
- 08:50 The Musketeers
- 09:45 Call The Midwife
- 10:40 Doctors
- 11:10 Doctors
- 11:45 Father Brown
- 12:35 The Musketeers
- 13:30 Call The Midwife
- 14:25 Doctors
- 14:55 Doctors
- 15:25 Father Brown
- 16:10 The Musketeers
- 17:05 Call The Midwife
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Father Brown
- 20:00 The Durrells
- 21:00 Last Tango In Halifax
- 21:55 Silent Witness
- 22:50 Mad Dogs
- 23:40 Doctors

**COMEDY CENTRAL**

- 00:00 Tosh.0
- 00:25 I Live With Models
- 00:50 Brotherhood
- 01:15 Tosh.0
- 01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 02:05 Joe Rogan: Rocky Mountain High
- 03:00 Workaholics
- 03:25 Ridiculousness
- 04:15 Key And Peele
- 04:40 Impractical Jokers
- 05:05 Ridiculousness
- 05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 06:20 Tosh.0
- 06:50 Tosh.0
- 07:15 Urban Tarzan
- 08:05 Impractical Jokers
- 08:30 Ridiculousness
- 08:55 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 09:45 Workaholics
- 10:35 Ridiculousness
- 11:25 Coaching Bad
- 12:15 Nathan For You
- 13:05 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 13:55 Impractical Jokers
- 14:20 Ridiculousness
- 14:45 Urban Tarzan
- 15:35 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 16:30 Workaholics
- 16:55 Workaholics
- 17:50 Frankenfood
- 18:39 Tosh.0
- 19:27 Frankenfood
- 20:13 Impractical Jokers
- 20:37 Ridiculousness
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 The Meltdown With Jonah And Kumail
- 21:54 Idiotsitter
- 22:18 Chappelle's Show
- 22:42 South Park
- 23:05 Tosh.0
- 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

**FOOD NETWORK**

- 00:00 Man Finds Food
- 01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:00 Chopped
- 04:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
- 06:00 Chopped
- 07:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 08:00 The Kitchen
- 09:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 09:30 Anna Olson: Bake
- 10:00 Chopped
- 11:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:00 Man Fire Food
- 14:00 Chopped
- 15:00 The Kitchen
- 16:00 Anna Olson: Bake
- 17:00 Chopped
- 18:00 Iron Chef America
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Chopped South Africa
- 21:00 Kitchen Casino
- 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 Chopped

**ITV HD CHOICE**

- 00:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 01:45 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coronation Street
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Chase
- 03:25 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
- 04:20 5 Star Family Reunion
- 05:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 06:10 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 07:05 The Chase
- 08:00 Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans
- 09:00 5 Star Family Reunion
- 10:00 Murdoch Mysteries
- 10:55 Who's Doing The Dishes?
- 11:50 The Chase
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 13:45 Coronation Street
- 14:15 Who's Doing The Dishes?



- JINGLE ALL THE WAY 2 ON OSN MOVIES KIDS HD**
- 15:10 The Chase
  - 16:00 Victoria
  - 16:55 Royal Stories
  - 17:20 Catchphrase
  - 17:50 Murdoch Mysteries
  - 18:45 Emmerdale
  - 19:15 Coronation Street
  - 19:45 Coronation Street
  - 20:10 The Chase
  - 21:00 Victoria
  - 21:55 Royal Stories
  - 22:20 Catchphrase
  - 22:50 Emmerdale
  - 23:15 Coronation Street
  - 23:40 Coronation Street

- 00:00 Crime Stories
- 01:00 Ms. Murder
- 02:00 Killer Kids
- 03:00 The Jail: 60 Days In
- 04:00 Crime Stories
- 05:00 Ms. Murder
- 06:00 Killer Kids
- 07:00 The First 48
- 08:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 09:00 Homicide Hunter
- 10:00 The First 48
- 11:00 It Takes A Killer
- 11:30 Frenemies
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 13:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
- 14:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 15:00 Homicide Hunter
- 16:00 It Takes A Killer
- 16:30 Frenemies
- 17:00 The First 48
- 18:00 Britain's Biggest Heists
- 19:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 20:00 Beyond Scared Straight
- 21:00 It Takes A Killer
- 21:30 Frenemies
- 22:00 Homicide Hunter
- 23:00 Deadly Wives

- 00:30 Unchained Reaction
- 01:20 Playhouse Masters
- 02:10 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
- 02:35 Guinness World Records Smashed New Zealand
- 03:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 03:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 04:40 How It's Made
- 05:05 How It's Made
- 05:30 Dirty Jobs
- 06:20 Mythbusters
- 07:00 Kids vs Film
- 07:25 Doki
- 07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 Unchained Reaction
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Dirty Jobs
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:50 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor
- 13:40 How It's Made
- 14:05 How It's Made
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 Kids vs Film
- 16:35 Doki
- 17:00 Buggin' With Ruud
- 17:50 The Lion Queen
- 18:40 Unchained Reaction
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Buggin' With Ruud
- 22:00 The Lion Queen
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor

- 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 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 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 School Of Rock
- 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 Rabbids Invasion
- 17:48 Breadwinners
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 School Of Rock
- 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



THE REVENANT ON OSN MOVIES HD



# CLASSIFIEDS



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (10/11/2016 TO 16/11/2016)			
<b>SHARQIA-1</b> SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE NO FRI+SAT TROLLS FRI+SAT TROLLS SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM	DOCTOR STRANGE DOCTOR STRANGE	10:00 PM 12:30 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b> OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	<b>FANAR-2</b> SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM
<b>SHARQIA-3</b> SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi DOCTOR STRANGE SHUT IN	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM	<b>FANAR-3</b> AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	11:30 AM 2:30 PM 5:30 PM 8:30 PM 11:30 PM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b> SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi SAHASAM SWASAGA SAGIPO -Telugu SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE OPERATION CHROMITE JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK THU	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 5:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:30 PM 1:00 AM 1:00 AM	<b>MARINA-1</b> JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK KILL KANE TROLLS TROLLS KILL KANE DOCTOR STRANGE KILL KANE	1:00 PM 3:30 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:15 PM 11:45 PM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b> KILL KANE KILL KANE TROLLS SAHASAM SWASAGA SAGIPO - Telugu TROLLS TROLLS THU+FRI+SAT KILL KANE NO THU+FRI+SAT DOCTOR STRANGE KILL KANE	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM	<b>MARINA-2</b> SABER GOOGLE AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE LAF WA DAWARAN	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
<b>MUHALAB-3</b> OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE	11:30 AM 2:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 12:05 AM	<b>MARINA-3</b> TROLLS OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE TROLLS OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
<b>FANAR-1</b> ROCK ON 2- Hindi DOCTOR STRANGE DOCTOR STRANGE ROCK ON 2- Hindi	1:15 PM 1:45 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM	<b>AVENUES-1</b> JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi ROCK ON 2- Hindi AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi JACK REACHER: NEVER GO BACK	12:30 PM 3:00 PM 6:15 PM 9:15 PM 12:30 AM
		<b>AVENUES-2</b> DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX TROLLS - 3D 4DX TROLLS - 3D 4DX TROLLS - 3D 4DX DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D 4DX	12:30 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:15 AM
		<b>AVENUES-3</b> SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM
		<b>AVENUES-4</b> OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE SABER GOOGLE OPERATION CHROMITE	11:45 AM 2:00 PM 4:15 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:45 PM
		<b>360-1</b> DOCTOR STRANGE DOCTOR STRANGE DOCTOR STRANGE DOCTOR STRANGE- 3D DOCTOR STRANGE DOCTOR STRANGE	12:00 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:45 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM
		<b>360-2</b> SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN SHUT IN	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:30 AM
		<b>360-3</b> UNDER THE SHADOW KILL KANE UNDER THE SHADOW KILL KANE UNDER THE SHADOW KILL KANE UNDER THE SHADOW	1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:15 PM 11:15 PM 1:15 AM
		<b>AL-KOUT.1</b> OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE OPERATION CHROMITE	12:00 PM 2:30 PM 5:00 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
		<b>AL-KOUT.2</b> SHUT IN SHUT IN TROLLS TROLLS SHUT IN SHUT IN	12:15 PM 2:15 PM 4:15 PM 6:15 PM 8:15 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM
		<b>AL-KOUT.3</b> SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE SABER GOOGLE	1:30 PM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 9:00 PM 11:30 PM
		<b>AL-KOUT.4</b> SCARE CAMPAIGN	1:00 PM

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, Jujar Abbasbhai**  
 Dahodwala s/o Abbasbhai  
 Dahodwala holder of Indian  
 Passport No. H8465779 and  
 Civil ID No. 268111401621  
 has change my surname to  
 Jujar Abbasbhai Dalrotiwala  
 here in after. In all my deal-  
 ings and documents I will  
 be known by name of Jujar  
 Abbasbhai Dalrotiwala.  
**C 5231)**

**I, Shaik Mushtaq s/o Shaik**  
 Yousuf holder of Indian  
 Passport No. G3955355 Civil  
 ID No. 276030802124 has  
 changed my name to Shaik  
 Mukhtar herein after in all  
 my dealings and doceme-  
 nts. I will be known by  
 name of Shaik Mukhtar s/o  
 Shaik Yousuf. **(C 5232)**  
**16-11-2016**

**EMERGENCY**  
  
**112**

**Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988**

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>04:50</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>06:12</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:33</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>14:32</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>16:53</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>18:13</b>

**REQUIRED FOR A MANUFACTURING CO. ACCOUNTANT**

- Bachelor degree in accounting
- Experience in computer software chemist
- Bachelor degree in chemistry
- Experience in computer software

1. Forklift drivers with (construction driving licence).
2. Drivers With (Kuwaiti driving license & knowledge of Kuwait areas).
3. Assistant store keeper

The candidate should be below 35 years, having transferable residence, with 2 years experience, read & write English.

Contact No. 24710120 Or Send C.V To Fax No. 24761261

**An Online E-commerce Company in Kuwait searching for Web Administrator**

**Conditions:**

- 1- At least Five to Ten years Experience in the field of online E-commerce
- 2- Arabic and/or English language skills (written and Talking)
- 3- Educated with degree
- 4-Valid driver's license is a must with car
- 5- Transferable Residence

Please send your CVs to [onlinemarket272@gmail.com](mailto:onlinemarket272@gmail.com)

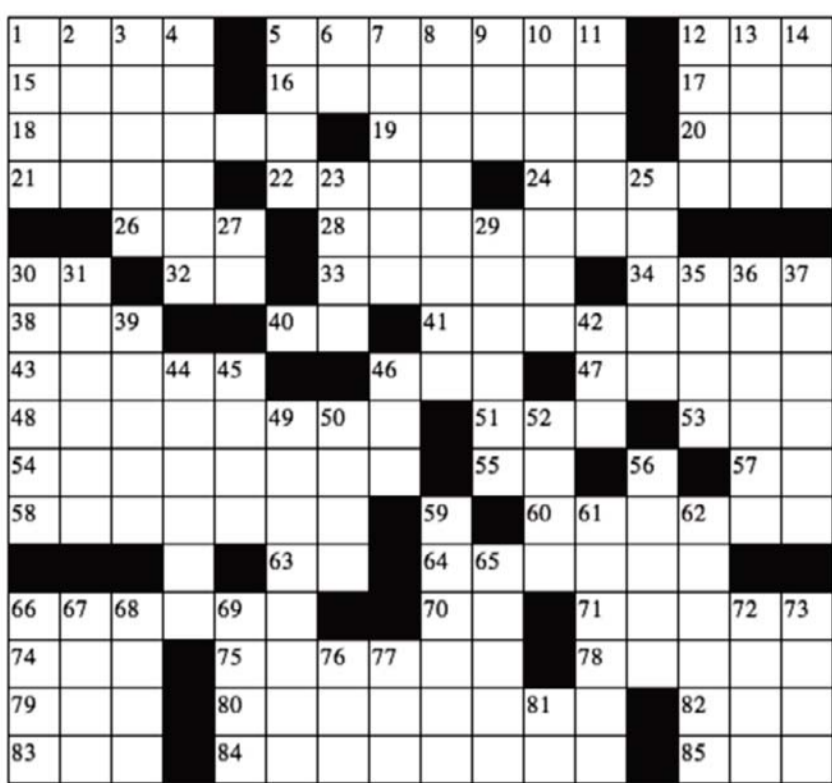
**Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)**

**Flight Schedule**

**DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION**

Arrival Flights on Wednesday 16/11/2016				Departure Flights on Wednesday 16/11/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
KAC	102	London	00:55	KAC	693	Muscat	14:30
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	KNE	382	Taif	14:50
FDK	803	Damascus	01:00	KAC	561	Amman	15:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	673	Dubai	15:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	FDB	060	Dubai	15:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	KAC	785	Jeddah	15:15
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:25
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	IRC	6512	ABD	15:30
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	QTR	1079	Doha	15:40
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	KAC	619	Doha	16:00
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	KAC	777	Riyadh	16:00
KAC	204	Lahore	07:15	JZR	554	Alexandria	16:10
FDB	053	Dubai	07:45	KAC	283	Dhaka	16:15
IAW	155	Baghdad	08:00	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	OMA	646	Muscat	16:35
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	16:50
KAC	362	Colombo	09:05	SAW	706	Damascus	16:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	SVA	505	Madinah	17:00
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	JZR	266	Beirut	17:05
KAC	352	Kochi	09:10	JZR	240	Amman	17:15
TZS	720	Sharjah	09:30	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	QTR	1073	Doha	17:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	363	Colombo	17:40
IRC	6511	ABD	09:55	KAC	858	Dubai	17:45
MSC	415	Sohag	10:15	JZR	538	Cairo	17:45
IRA	665	Shiraz	10:40	RJA	641	Amman	17:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	18:00
JZR	1335	Al Najaf	11:05	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	KAC	353	BLR	18:15
AXB	889	Mangalore/Bahrain	11:10	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
IRM	1188	Mashhad	11:15	JZR	184	Dubai	18:40
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:05
IRC	526	Mashhad	11:40	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	UAE	876	Dubai	19:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	12:00	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	744	Dammam	12:10	QTR	1081	Doha	19:50
JZR	1331	Al Najaf	12:15	ABY	124	Sharjah	20:05
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	20:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	FDB	058	Dubai	20:35
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	KNE	232	Riyadh	20:55
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15	SYR	342	Damascus	21:00
KAC	614	Bahrain	13:30	KAC	545	Cairo	21:00
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	OMA	648	Muscat	21:10
KAC	788	Jeddah	13:45	KAC	205	Islamabad	21:25
KAC	514	Tehran	13:55	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	21:30
KNE	231	Riyadh	13:55	QTR	1089	Doha	21:35
QTR	1078	Doha	14:10	DLH	634	Doha	21:35
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:15	MSR	619	Alexandria	21:45
FDB	059	Dubai	14:20	KAC	171	Bahrain	21:50
KAC	414	Bangkok	14:35	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:50
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:40	JAI	571	Mumbai	21:55
IRC	6521	Lamerd	14:40	KAC	351	Kochi	22:00
KAC	542	Cairo	14:45	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:15
KAC	672	Dubai	14:50	KAC	203	Lahore	22:15
KNE	529	Jeddah	14:55	KAC	413	Bangkok	22:15
				MEA	403	Beirut	22:20
				ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
				JZR	528	Asyut	22:25
				GFA	220	Bahrain	22:30
				KAC	381	Delhi	22:45
				KAC	301	Mumbai	22:45
				UAE	860	Dubai	22:55
				JZR	502	Luxor	22:55
				ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
				QTR	1083	Doha	23:20

CROSSWORD 1432



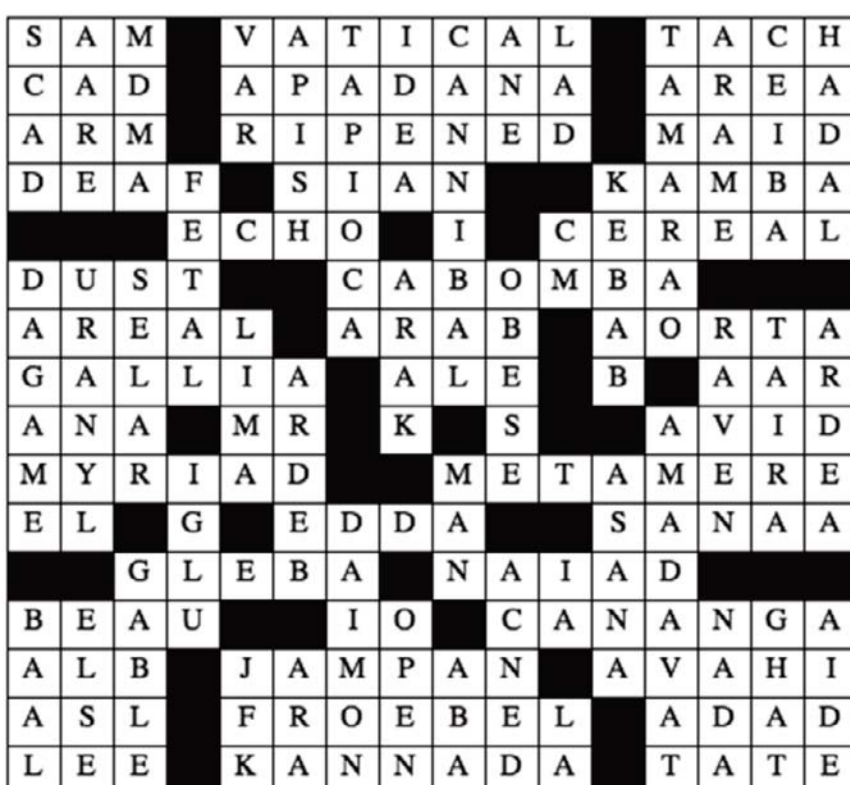
ACROSS

1. Acute ulceration of the mucous membranes of the mouth or genitals.
5. Small bitter fruit of the marasca cherry tree from whose juice maraschino liqueur is made.
12. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
15. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
16. A citizen who has a legal right to vote.
17. Take in solid food.
18. Mar or spoil the appearance of.
19. Brought from wildness into a domesticated state.
20. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
21. The 16th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
22. The lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
24. A variable quantity that can be resolved into components.
26. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
28. A person who lacks confidence, is irreligious and wishy-washy.
30. Before noon.
32. A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
33. A small Asian country high in the Himalayas between India and Tibet.
34. An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
38. A local computer network for communication between computers.
40. A light strong brittle gray toxic bivalent metallic element.
41. A health facility where patients receive treatment.
43. A Hindu goddess who releases from sin or disease.
47. (archaic) Of persons.
48. In former classifications a major division of Mammalia comprising all hoofed mammals.
51. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
53. An enzyme that catalyzes the oxidation of many body compounds (e.g., epinephrine and norepinephrine and serotonin).
54. Having accumulated or become more intense.
55. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
57. A chronic progressive nervous disorder involving loss of myelin sheath around certain nerve fibers.
58. Inability to make purposeful movements.
60. Medium-sized penguins occurring in large colonies on the Adelie coast of Antarctica.
63. A metric unit of volume equal to one thousandth of a liter.
64. The amount that a container (as a wine bottle or tank) lacks of being full.
66. When dried yields a hard substance used e.g. in golf balls.
70. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
71. The basic unit of money in Nigeria.
74. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
75. The largest city in Kazakhstan and the capital until 1998.
78. An oily colorless liquid obtained by the condensation of two molecules of acetaldehyde.
79. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
80. Lead someone in the wrong direction.
82. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
83. A condition (mostly in boys) characterized by behavioral and learning disorders.
84. A great raja.

DOWN

1. A quantity of no importance.
2. An endorsement.
3. A crime syndicate in the United States.
4. A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
5. (archaic) A fitting reward.
6. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
7. Go into retirement.
8. A genus of herbs and shrubs belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae.
9. What you can repeat immediately after perceiving it.
10. All the people living at the same time or of approximately the same age.
11. A unit of dry measure used in Egypt.
12. A notable achievement.
13. Herb of the Pacific islands grown throughout the tropics for its edible root and in temperate areas as an ornamental for its large glossy leaves.
14. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
23. An inflammatory disease involving the sebaceous glands of the skin.
25. Someone who is critical of the motives of others.
27. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
29. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
31. Biennial weed in Europe and America having large pinnate leaves and yellow flowers and a bitter and somewhat poisonous root.
35. (physics and chemistry) The smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element.
36. Highly seasoned fatty sausage of pork and beef usually dried.
37. A monosaccharide sugar that contains the aldehyde group or is hemiacetal.
39. An African river.
42. Committee formed by a special-interest group to raise money for their favorite political candidates.
44. Type genus of the Tupaia.
45. A large genus of dicotyledonous trees and shrubs of the family Aquifoliaceae that have small flowers and berries (including hollies).
46. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
49. Taxonomic kingdom comprising all living or extinct animals.
50. A bluish shade of green.
52. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
56. Established by or founded upon law or official or accepted rules.
59. Usually restricted to the Andean condor.
61. Fairly small terrestrial ferns of tropical America.
62. A city in the western Netherlands.
65. Genus of western United States annuals with showy yellow or white flowers.
67. In bed.
68. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on land.
69. Russian physicist (1895-1971).
72. Having a dusty purplish pink color.
73. On or toward the lee.
76. A hormone secreted by the anterior pituitary gland that controls the degree of pigmentation in melanocytes.
77. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
81. A person who announces and plays popular recorded music.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is the best time to buckle down and tend to the business at hand. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility will guide you and you will find successful results from your efforts. Your career is most solid at this time. Creative endeavors come to you naturally and you may be admired for your talents. Independence and originality come to you naturally. You will make more than one decision today that leads to a very fortunate outcome. If you are single, your love life will be better than ever. If you are married, a deepening of the relationship should be expected. You are most charming this evening when unexpected company drops by your home. There are plenty of compliments for you and your guests. You enjoy the visit.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Someone comes to your attention today as an outstanding individual and you may spend time in thought as to how that person got to where he or she is now. Ambition and achievement can be tough taskmasters just now. You really want power and popularity and you have quite a talent for acquiring it. You win reward, recognition and authority through hard work and knowing the score. A tremendous sense for taking care of business is upon you. Those in vip roles will agree with your ideas. The promise of an increase in pay will be good, but not when you expect it. People come to you for help-give them money and advice. Tonight, gather everyone in your household together for a look through the family albums. Be thankful for each other.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You need plenty of space today as demands on your time and expertise may be monumental. Before the day even begins, plot your breaks carefully so that you will be sure to make good use of them. These breaks are essential when you try to squeeze so much work into so little time. There are deadlines to be met and you may find yourself working overtime so that a delivery date can be met or a project can be completed. Circumstances may urge you to hard work-do not overdo and try to go too far too fast. Let others help and let things take their natural course after you have done your part. Everything should fall into place, just as you planned. You may have flashes of insight regarding your deepest feelings of love concerning a sweetheart.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

An opportunity to make good decisions and clear choices is yours today. You have to give something in order to get something, however, and that is what the message is today. Begin to research and find ways to increase the number of customers or to improve customer service. Now, you're cooking-higher-ups will listen. Investments can start small and grow beyond your wildest dreams-be on the lookout for opportunities of this sort. Sacrifice leads to gain in more ways than one; some of them not so obvious at the outset. Communicating and getting your message across to others is important. Your timing should be perfect and ideas flow with ease. Be patient with young people; you can teach them how to compromise their wants.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

It is tempting to want to rebel or break away today. It may even seem as though you are on a different planet from everyone else. Today, keep your patience, then as quickly as possible, get into an organization with some group where the members are of high intelligence. This could be a science group or some discovery group-photography, computer, etc., etc. The next time you become aware of that rebellious feeling, you will be unable to resist a project with which your group is working. This may be a good time to step back and reconsider your aims and goals. This may take some time. Your analytical powers are superb, however, and you will enjoy finding new avenues of inner growth. New ideas come from young people this evening.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You could be an actor or actress, a radio talk show person or some other person in the limelight. Whatever the case, the ability to perform and please others is high on your list of things you can do to create an income. If you decide you do not care to be in the public eye, having your own creative internet site could become a very lucrative business. Today it is necessary that you know you have these talents because there are temptations to give up on some work and move on to other things. See your projects through to the end and enjoy the results. Friendships are in a state of transformation and that is appropriate just now. Tonight you find time to write letters and keep in touch with those that are at a distance.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Working hard is smart, but working smart is better. You develop a knack for organizing things and people as a sense of ambition takes hold. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you now. With very little effort, you are getting good at earning money. There are big changes in the forecast-good ones! Now is the time to seek new employment, if you want it. Happiness can be found at home with your loving family. Don't forget to buy a lottery ticket-this is a lucky time. Take time to evaluate a situation before making a serious decision. Your timing should be perfect and those around you should find you most natural and energetic. Your mind could be quite clear. Plans for the end of the year are in the making and you will be pleased.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have a strong, elusive, magnetic quality and people just flock to your side to get the full scoop of a story. Very few of us can resist a good story. Yesterday and today, people seem to be busy with gossip. Perhaps your profession is in creating the news for others to read or in writing stories. Today is a very productive day, no matter what your vocation. You are positive, upbeat and gain a great deal of attention all day long. Considering you are in the public most of the day, you must realize you are in a position to set examples that others will follow. If you are planning a family get-together soon, ask the young people what they would enjoy. You have a knack for understanding the difficulties of different age groups. Celebrate!



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

One person says one thing and another person says something else-you work to stay out of the confusion. This seems to be the only difficulty of the day. You handle the important projects and let the frivolous things work out naturally. Others like your stamina and resolve. Increased confidence may be the key that opens many a new door in your career. You are encouraged to assert yourself. An appreciation for ideas and thoughts that are quite otherworldly is upon you. A social occasion this evening will find you in a comical mood. It is easy for you to love and be compassionate and to value what life offers. You have a sense of unity and brotherhood that will stay with you always-you teach others through the example you set.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

In the workplace, this is the perfect time to ask for a raise. A clear-minded insight into your own plans is available and if you review them with your boss, you may find that there is a willingness to help you. This is a very good time to communicate your goals-a good time for decisions. A surprise is coming to you through the mail-this could be a greeting from someone you have not seen in quite a while. You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity to the needs of others just now and are in a good position to communicate concerning others. You may be tempted to join a group at this time-this could be a choir or a hobby group. Creativity-the arts, theater and sports are of interest to you. You enjoy being with others that have similar interests.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You will find this an insightful day as you place yourself among people in higher positions at work. Some sort of research or learning curve occurs that will help you grow within your company. This could mean a conference or a lecture or learning how to help newcomers to your company. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you. You are at your most practical when it comes to dealing and working with others. Later today you will hear of an important legal matter that will finally be resolved the way you think it should be resolved. If this pertains to you, you might receive some monetary compensation. This evening it is your turn to cook the family meal. A game this evening keeps family members together.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You make a good impression on everyone. If you have your own business, you will have many customers knocking at your door! In-depth discussions find you at your mental best. Work issues are easy to solve and your day goes much better than you expected. This afternoon you may find a glitch when you open your mail at home. Some goofy person in another state has sent you an item that you did not order and you may become a bit flustered until you figure out that a mistake is a mistake and you send the item back to the sender. Internet and e-mail has its plus side in that it makes solving issues faster when communications can go back and forth to settle or answer a question. Your evening is easier and it is nice to relax with friends.

WORD SEARCH

Fruit

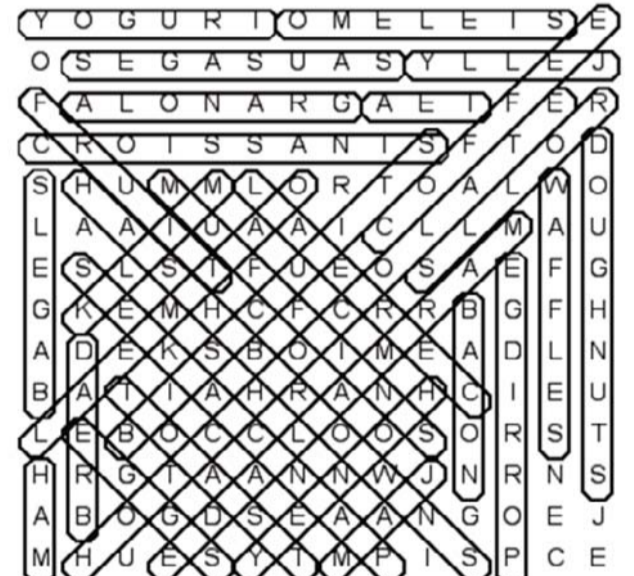
Find and circle all of the fruit that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell an additional fruit.



- |              |            |             |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| APPLES       | DATE       | ORANGE      |
| APRICOT      | FIG        | PAPAYA      |
| AVOCADO      | GRAPEFRUIT | PEACH       |
| BANANA       | GRAPES     | PEAR        |
| BLACKBERRY   | KIWIFRUIT  | PERSIMMON   |
| BLUEBERRY    | KUMQUAT    | PINEAPPLE   |
| CANTALOUPE   | LEMON      | PLUM        |
| CERRIES      | LIME       | POMEGRANATE |
| CHOCOCHEERRY | LYCHEE     | RASPBERRY   |
| COCONUT      | MANGO      | RHUBARB     |
| CRABAPPLE    | MULBERRY   | STRAWBERRY  |
| CRANBERRY    | NECTARINE  | WATERMELON  |

Yesterday Solution

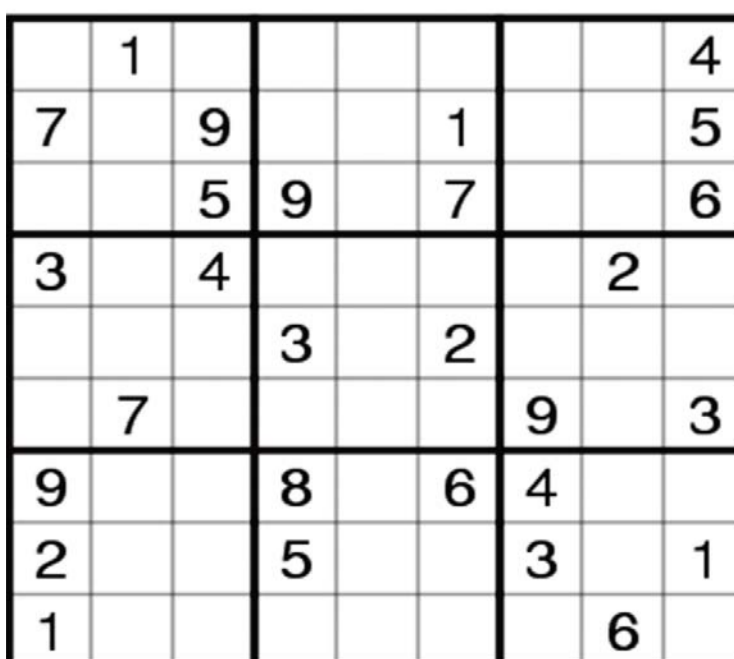
Breakfast



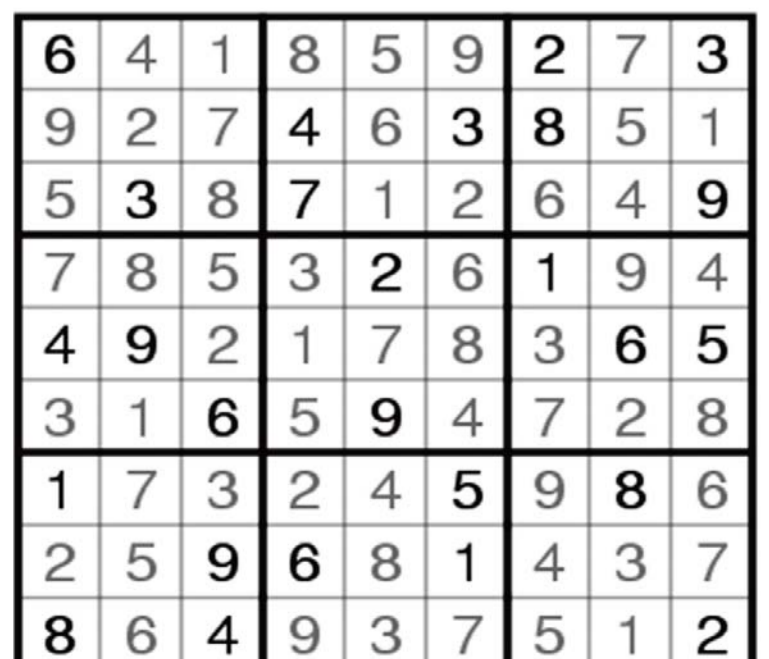
- |            |               |           |          |
|------------|---------------|-----------|----------|
| BACON      | EGGS          | JELLY     | ROLLS    |
| BAGELS     | FRUIT         | MARMALADE | SAUSAGES |
| BISCUITS   | GRANOLA       | MILK      | TEA      |
| BREAD      | HAM           | MUFFINS   | TOAST    |
| CEREAL     | HASH BROWNS   | OATMEAL   | WAFFLES  |
| COFFEE     | HONEY         | OMELETS   | YOGURT   |
| CROISSANTS | HOT CHOCOLATE | PANCAKES  |          |
| DOUGHNUTS  | JAM           | PORRIDGE  |          |

The hidden message is: ORANGE JUICE

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### 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
Khalidiya	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
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630  
Fax: (+965) 24348714  
www.met.gov.kw

### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 15/11/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 32 °C

**By Day:** Sunny with light variable wind to light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h and some scattered clouds will appear.  
**By Night:** Cool with light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 16 km/h and some high clouds will appear.

SFC. CHART



### Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather				
Min Temp °C	13	12	14	11
Max Temp °C	32	31	29	27
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to south easterly	southerly to south easterly	variable wind changing to south easterly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	06 - 28	10 - 32	06 - 26	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC °C	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	19		30
KUWAIT AIRPORT	11		32
ABDULY	13		31
BUBYAN	12		27
JAHRRA	16		32
FAILAKA ISLAND	14		30
SALMIYAH	22		26
AHMADI	20		26
JAL ALIYAH	14		30
QAROH ISLAND	24		26
UMH AL-MARADEH	23		27
NUWAISIB	15		30
WAFRA	12		32
MANAGISH	14		30
SALMY	14		29
HUTRIBA	11		33

### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	31
Min Temp (°C)	12
Max Rel Hum (%)	41
Min Rel Hum (%)	15
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	21 W
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

### Sunrise

Sunrise	06:11
Sunset	16:53

### Prayer Times

Fajr	04:49
Sunrise	06:11
Zuhr	11:33
Aar	14:32
Sunset	16:53
Isha	18:13

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



### PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25637555
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

MUSIC & MOVIES



Rikiya Mifune, grandson of Toshiro Mifune with father Shiro Mifune attends the posthumous star ceremony for Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune in Hollywood. — AFP



Rikiya Mifune, grandson of Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune attends the posthumous star ceremony for Toshiro Mifune.

## Hollywood honors Japanese samurai actor **Toshiro Mifune**

Hollywood celebrated the life of legendary Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune on Monday, honoring him with a star on its iconic Walk of Fame two decades after his death. Mifune rose to stardom through Akira Kurosawa's classics, including "Rashomon" (1950) and "Seven Samurai" (1954), with masculine portrayals of powerful warlords that earned him a reputation as the world's best samurai actor. He died in Tokyo at that age of 77 in 1997. He had been mostly confined to his home since suffering a heart attack five years earlier. His death shocked Japan's cinema industry, which took pride in him as its most presentable actor in international cinema, fondly calling him "Mifune of the world."

Kurosawa cast Mifune in leading roles in all but one of 17 films he made between 1948 and 1965. "Rashomon," in which Mifune played a cynical bandit, won the Grand Prix award at the 1951 Venice Film Festival. Mifune played a peasant-turned samurai leading farmers' resistance against bandits in "Seven Samurai," which inspired two Western remakes, both titled "The Magnificent Seven" (1960 and 2016).

Born in Qingdao, China, on April 1, 1920, to a photographic studio owner, Mifune joined film company Toho

Co. in 1946 after serving six years in an Imperial Japanese Army aerial photography unit during World War II. He appeared in around 170 feature films, including such foreign productions as Terence Young's "Red Sun" (1972) and Steven Spielberg's "1941" (1979). He also starred in the 1980 popular US television mini-series "Shogun," based on James Clavell's bestselling book. Mifune's last role on the silver screen was in "Fukai Kawa (Deep River)" in 1995, in which he portrayed a man tortured to the last moment of his life by his experience eating one of his comrades during war.

He left assets of 630 million yen (then \$5.4 million), according to local tax officials. "My grandfather passed away when I was nine so the memories I have of him are mainly as a grandfather figure, but I remember him as a gentleman at home," said his grandson, the actor Rikiya Mifune. "He would talk in a gruff and manly manner and always have perfect posture, like a true samurai, even at home." His life is the subject of documentary "Mifune: The Last Samurai," screened at the American Film Institute's AFI Fest this year. It is set to be released in US theaters on December 2. — AFP

## Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson named 'sexiest man alive' by People

Whatever Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson is cooking these days is piping hot. Or so says People magazine, which yesterday named the wrestler-turned-actor this year's "sexiest man alive." Johnson, 44, whose famous catch phrase in the ring is, "Can you smell what The Rock is cooking?," said learning about his new title put him in a quandary. "What went through my mind was just how cool and exciting it is," Johnson told People. "And then I thought, 'Wow, we've pretty much reached the pinnacle. I'm not quite too sure where we go from here.'" Johnson rose to mainstream fame in the mid-1990s as a contender with World Wrestling Entertainment Inc and later became an actor and Hollywood producer.

Johnson, who stands 6 feet 5 inches (1.96 meters) and weighs 245 pounds (111 kg), is known for his herculean appearance. In fact, he played the mythological character in the 2014 feature film "Hercules." In his latest project, the actor is featured in the upcoming Disney animated film "Moana" as the voice of demigod Maui. "I've made big sweeping changes in my career over the years, which have served me nicely," he said. "But I feel that the big sweeping changes that happened in my life, in my relationships, of being a dad, of being a partner, and the things that I was and the things that I am, has really lent itself to a confidence."

Johnson has an 11-month old daughter, Jasmine, with his longtime girlfriend Lauren Hashian, and a 15-year-old daughter with ex-wife, producer Dany Garcia. The entertainer recently said he was poised to make another major change and eventually trade in show business to enter the political ring. "The Fast and the Furious" franchise star told Reuters that the excitement surrounding last week's presidential election had renewed public interest in his running for office. "Especially now, leadership is so important," Johnson said. "Great leadership is so important; respected leadership is so important." — Reuters



Actors Dwayne Johnson and Auli'i Cravalho attend the Disney Premiere 'Moana' in Hollywood, California. — AFP



This image released by STX Films shows Hailee Steinfeld, left, and Woody Harrelson in a scene from "The Edge of Seventeen." — AP photos



Kelly Fremon Craig, second from right, writer/director of "Edge of Seventeen," poses with cast members, from left, Blake Jenner, Hailee Steinfeld and Kyra Sedgwick at a special screening of the film at the Regal LA LIVE theaters in Los Angeles.

Review

## STEINFELD'S ANGST SHINES IN 'THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN'

When's the last time you saw a truly fresh talent on screen? Someone so charismatic that you couldn't wait to find out who they are, what they've done before and why you've never noticed? That's what it feels like to watch Hayden Szeto as the sweetly dorky love interest to Hailee Steinfeld's lead in "The Edge of Seventeen," a charmingly sardonic coming-of-age story from the promising writer-director Kelly Fremon Craig in her feature debut. There are other reasons to go see "The Edge of Seventeen," of course. Szeto, a relative newcomer, is just one of them.

He actually has a fairly small part. But it's the kind of introduction to a should-be star that's not to be missed. Also, that the small "love interest" role had such an impact is a testament to the care with which this movie was put together. From the first shot of a grungy maroon sedan door splattered with mud screeching to a halt outside of a high school where our heroine Nadine (Steinfeld) informs her teacher (a terrific Woody Harrelson) that she plans to kill herself, it's clear that this is no sanitized high school nostalgia trip. It's a movie with a bite and one for the people who would never actually want to go back to that part of life.

Nadine (Steinfeld) is a sarcastic, often inappropriate, occa-

sionally blue and perpetually aggrieved young woman who exists on the peripheries of the high school ecosystem. It's been this way since childhood for her, and hasn't been helped by the fact that her brother Darian (Blake Jenner) is at the top of the social ladder. He's handsome and popular and good at sports and would probably be real annoying if it weren't for the fact that he's also a decent, kind person who seems to have his head on straight. But he's the bane of Nadine's existence, and just a consistent reminder how other she is. It certainly doesn't help when her best friend Krista (Haley Lu Richardson) takes up with her brother, but that pivotal moment does send her into a story-propelling spiral of action, screw-ups and self-discovery.

### Reasonable job

There is, of course, the perpetual problem in the Hollywood treatment of high school outcast stories whereby we're asked to believe that beautiful movie stars are capable of being invisible, but "The Edge of Seventeen" even does a reasonable job making us buy into Nadine's apartness. She had some unfortunate skin and haircuts when she was younger and never quite got comfortable with kids her own

age. Sure, she can throw down with her mom, her brother, her teacher and her friend, but at a party with peers, she slinks out to the porch alone where another loner likens her to the Danny DeVito in "Twins."

Steinfeld carries the movie effortlessly, walking that fine line of making a somewhat bratty, entitled and self-absorbed character endearing, funny and even empathetic. Her comedic timing is first-rate and reminiscent of Emma Stone's star-turn in "Easy A" just a few years ago. Sure, some of it is cliché, and Nadine's troubled relationship with her widowed mother (Kyra Sedgwick) is underdrawn for the amount of emotional depth the movie seems to be wanting the audience to glean from it. Perhaps it should have stayed lighter. But "The Edge of Seventeen" also has enough good that it might just become a new classic in the high school comedy genre. "The Edge of Seventeen," a STX Entertainment release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sexual content, language and some drinking - all involving teens." Running time: 104 minutes. Three stars out of four. — AP

## DuVernay's 'A Wrinkle in Time' gets Spring 2018 release date

Disney has set Ava DuVernay's "A Wrinkle in Time" for release on April 6, 2018. DuVernay made the announcement on her Twitter account with the film's star, newcomer Storm Reid. The director posted a two-minute video of the cast and crew of "A Wrinkle in Time" as part of its very own take on the Mannequin Challenge. The time-travel tale also stars Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Zach Galifianakis, Chris Pine,

Gugu Mbatha-Raw, and Mindy Kaling. Jennifer Lee, who wrote and co-directed "Frozen" with Chris Buck, is penning the adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's book for Disney. Shooting will begin later this month in Los Angeles. The story follows a group of children as they travel through time and visit strange worlds in order to find their missing father. Reid plays the oldest daughter, Meg Murray, in the movie. — Reuters



Ava DuVernay



Tim Story

## 'Corduroy' movie adaptation in works with director Tim Story

CBS Films has begun development on "Corduroy," based on the classic children's novel, with "Ride Along" helmer Tim Story in negotiations to direct. Based on the Don Freeman book, the story follows a department store teddy bear who goes on an adventure to relocate his lost button so that he can ultimately find the home and the friend that he's always wanted. Corduroy has sold tens of millions of copies and is a fixture on "greatest children's books" lists, among them the New York Public Library's 100 Great Children's Books From the Last 100 Years and Parents Magazine's All-Time Best Books for Children. The book has reportedly seen a resurgence in recent years with sales rising 30% since 2009.

No writer is currently attached to project. Mark Ross and Alex Ginn are overseeing the project for CBS Films. Story most recently helmed "Ride Along 2" after directing the original box office hit. He's also the director behind the "Think Like the Man" franchise. His other credits include "Fantastic Four," starring Chris Evans, and "Barbershop." — Reuters

## Hardy's 'Taboo' series to premiere in January on FX

FX's Tom Hardy drama "Taboo" will premiere on Jan 10 at 10/9c, Variety has learned. The eight-episode series, set in 1814, follows James Keziah Delaney (Hardy) as he returns to his hometown of London from Africa after a voyage so long, he's been presumed dead. James is set to inherit his father's shipping empire, which sounds like a boon until all of the Delaneys' enemies begin scuttling out of the woodwork and he finds himself having to navigate an increasingly fraught, complex world in order to save his own skin.

FX has also released the first key art for the series: "Taboo" is created by Steven Knight with Tom Hardy and his father Chips Knight, who is also the show's consulting producer. Hardy and

Knight had previously worked on Netflix's "Peaky Blinders" and the film "Locke." Hardy is coming off an Oscar nod for "The Revenant." Executive producers on "Taboo" are Ridley Scott and Kate Crowe for Scott Free, Tom Hardy and Dean Baker for Hardy Son & Baker, and Steven Knight, with Timothy Bricknell producing. The series is directed by Kristoffer Nyholm (episodes 1-4) and Anders Engstrom (episodes 5-8). "Taboo" is produced by Scott Free and Hardy Son & Baker for FX and BBC One with Sonar Entertainment distributing worldwide outside the UK. — Reuters



Tom Hardy

MUSIC & MOVIES

## Now you can visit the Rolling Stones' 1962 apartment



Photo shows Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones poses for a portrait in New York. — AP photos

When Mick Jagger was coming up with ideas for an exhibition highlighting The Rolling Stones' five-decade long career, he wanted to re-create the mood of the band in its early years. So, he had a team recreate the first London apartment he and his band mates shared in 1962, complete with dirty dishes, beer bottles and blues records placed throughout the flat. "That was the weirdest thing really. ... The building is still there - it's not a building that's been knocked down or anything, it's right around the corner from where I actually live now," Jagger said. "It's very redolent of the space ... and it smells like it and feels like it. "I just remembered how it really was," he added. "There were a lot of places like that in the early '60s ... you wouldn't want to live there now," Charlie Watts said.

The Stones also re-created their recording studio, complete with original instruments, for "Exhibitionism - The Rolling Stones," the band's exhibit that debuted at Industria in New York City on Saturday after launching in London earlier this year. It includes colorful tour outfits, Jagger's lyric book, Keith Richards' 1963 diary, Watts' toy drum kit and various photographs, from posters to magazine covers. "None of it made me cry particularly. Some of it made me laugh," Jagger said of the memorabilia. The exhibit run in New York through March 12,

2017. Some of the pieces are works by Andy Warhol, Alexander McQueen and John Pasche, who designed the Stones' iconic tongue logo.

"It's like bumping into memories everywhere you look for me," Richards said. "You turn the corner (and say), 'Oh, that's where I left it. Whether it's a guitar or a piece of clothing, everything sort of rings a bell somewhere.'" Ronnie Wood, who joined the group in 1975, said he enjoyed seeing the "little motifs" throughout the exhibit, and added that one of his favorite memories was joining the band for his first public performance - on his birthday.

"I had to learn the entire Stones back catalog to get ready to go onstage on June 1, my birthday, for my first public show with them," he said, smiling. Of his highlights, Richards said, laughing: "I can pick out a few lows but we won't bother with them, but otherwise, it's been pretty much a high all the time." The Stones will release a new album of blues cover songs called "Blue & Lonesome" on Dec 2. When asked what his future goals are for the band, Watts said: "Staying alive I think is the biggest thing at the moment, or getting up in the morning." — AP



One of two art installations promoting The Rolling Stones touring exhibit 'Exhibitionism', is displayed outside of Industria in New York. — AP



This file photo taken on November 09, 2013 shows Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler performing during the 2013 Miss Universe competition in Moscow. — AFP

## Pet Shop Boys strip back to go full electric

One of the pioneering acts in electronica, Pet Shop Boys blurred the line between music and theater with elaborate, quirky concerts that made crowds dance and chuckle at once. Thirty-five years since Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe formed the duo in London, electronic dance music with extravagant shows has become the norm on the live scene and Pet Shop Boys are again charting their own way. "Super," the 13th album by Pet Shop Boys, is their second straight release that is purely electronic, with none of the instrumentation from piano to strings to Latin drums that sprinkled earlier work. The first single, "The Pop Kids," sets the tone for the latest Pet Shop Boys period with singer Tennant and keyboardist Lowe embracing the joys of club life yet unabashedly taking the vantage point of elders.

"We stayed out 'til late five nights a week / And felt so chic / They called us The Pop Kids," Tennant sang of the London club life of yesteryear in his quickly recognizable voice, high-pitched and elegantly understated. In touring for the album released earlier this year, Pet Shop Boys are also stripping back. Performing Saturday night in New York, the duo presented the musical roots of electronica, performing not as showmen but as a full-fledged band. "At the end of this strange and significant week, what better place to be than among friends?" asked Tennant, referring to the shock presidential election victory of Republican tycoon Donald Trump. "Tonight, New York, you are The Pop Kids."

### Theatrics, but music focus

Tennant and Lowe entered The Theater at Madison Square Garden with typical pizzazz, with each of them strapped to an oval white screen that flipped 180 degrees to face the crowd. Sporting oversized metallic helmets, Pet Shop Boys opened with "Inner Sanctum," a steamy house club track off "Super," before going straight into "West End Girls," the duo's very first single. The duo quickly drew open a curtain to transform itself into a five-piece act, with two percussionists and another keyboardist joining the show.

As if reinforcing the idea that electronica can be a band affair, the stage transformed for "Left to My Own Devices," the three back-up musicians gliding upfront even as the beat went deeper into the club vibe. In contrast to much dance music, Pet Shop Boys songs nearly always possessed a deeper layer of irony or melancholy.

For "Home and Dry," a forlorn tale of the loneliness of long-

distance love, the back-up musicians encircled Tennant to accompany him as a mini-choir. On "Love Comes Quickly," Pet Shop Boys updated another early hit into the contemporary club age, with a sultrier synthesized backdrop. The stage visuals ran from bright illuminated balloons to projections of pink-and-psychedelic revolving cubes.

But the show focused on the music rather than the theatrics, with none of the wild choreographed routines or animal costumes that characterized Pet Shop Boys' previous "Electric" tour. In evidence of the dedication to the music, Tennant abruptly stopped one of the new tracks, "Twenty-Something," noticing that a keyboard patch had gone awry. "There's no point doing it wrong," Tennant said, noting wryly a lyric he had just sung: "Life is much more simple when you're young." — AFP

Musician Neil Tennant of Pet Shop Boys performs onstage at The Theater at Madison Square Garden in New York City. — AFP



## Aerosmith announces Europe 'farewell' tour

Hard rock chart-toppers Aerosmith on Monday announced a "farewell" tour for 2017, although they stopped short of saying the shows will be their last. The nearly half-century-old band behind rock classics such as "Dream On," "Walk This Way" and "Janie's Got a Gun" said it would start the tour on May 17 in Tel Aviv. The Boston-bred group scheduled shows across Europe, including at a series of summer festivals, through July 5 in Zurich. The rockers in a statement said they would "embark up on this, their 'farewell' tour, saying 'Aero-Vederici Baby!'" But the band, which recently completed a series of dates in Latin America, did not definitively say that the tour would be its last or announce dates for North America.

Both guitarist Joe Perry and singer Steven Tyler have repeatedly mused about retirement in recent years. Tyler, 68, earlier this year said Aerosmith-whose albums include one named "Permanent Vacation"—could go on a "final" tour that lasts indefinitely. Perry, 66, collapsed on stage in July while performing with Hollywood Vampires—a side project with glam metal pioneer Alice Cooper and film star Johnny Depp joining on guitar—although he returned to the tour after around two weeks. Aerosmith was notorious in its heyday for infighting between Perry and Tyler, although the pair has gradually found ways to work together. — AFP

## PORTMAN PRAISES JACKIE KENNEDY'S GENEROSITY WITH PUBLIC

She is famous for jealously guarding her privacy, favoring a small wedding to a lavish celebrity ceremony and taking her grandmother's maiden name to shield her family from the limelight. But Natalie Portman said Monday portraying grief-stricken Jacqueline Kennedy had taught her the virtue of celebrities giving more of themselves to the public. "Jackie," Chilean filmmaker Pablo Larrain's first English-language feature, is a searing and intimate portrait of the first lady in the week after John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

Portman told journalists at the American Film Institute's AFI Fest in Los Angeles, where "Jackie" was getting its US premiere, how she admired the stoic and dignified face Jackie put on for the public. "It's understanding that even when she was going through something incredibly private, it meant something to other people how she presented herself publicly," Portman, 35, said. "It's like other people share in whatever you're going through and that's really impressive that she was able to do that," she added.

Born Neta-Lee Hershlag in Jerusalem to a doctor father and an artist mother, Portman has taken on tough roles since start-

ing her big-screen career. She got her break at age 11 in "The Professional," the tale of a hitman-for-hire (Jean Reno) who becomes the mentor to a young girl. But she turned down 1996's "Romeo + Juliet" because of the age difference between her and Leonardo DiCaprio, and rejected the 1997 remake of "Lolita," which she deemed "sleazy." She also signed on to "Anywhere But Here" (1999) with Susan Sarandon only after a nude scene was dropped.

### 'More than sex symbol'

"I value my private life and security way more than getting parts by flashing my boobs on some magazine or being a sex symbol in films," she said in a 2000 interview. Portman won a best actress Oscar for 2010's psychological ballet thriller "Black Swan." It was on the set of that film she met her future husband, French dancer and choreographer Benjamin Millepied, with whom she is expecting a second child. She has been tipped for a second Oscar for her performance in "Jackie," with critics raving about how accurately she managed to capture Kennedy's voice and personality.

"The easier things were... the more superficial details like the way she talked and the way she moved and looked," Portman said on the red carpet at Hollywood's TCL Chinese Theatre. "Those are things you spend a lot of time on but it's really the way she felt that takes the imagination and the real searching. The other stuff is like learning a skill as opposed to exploring your own depths." "Jackie" peaks with the first lady's real-life strategy of painting a fairy-tale picture of JFK by using "Camelot" as a sobriquet for the Kennedy administration, an epitaph which stuck.

"I loved that she defined herself as a wife primarily, but then lived a life that was very counter to that where she was her own woman," said Portman. "It was like she didn't know how to be any other way, except exactly herself—very strong, very able to author her own story. And (she) really became the author of her own story and his story."

Fox Searchlight Pictures is scheduled to release "Jackie" in the United States on December 2. — AFP

## Samuel L Jackson joins Brie Larson's directorial debut



Samuel L Jackson

"Pulp Fiction" star Samuel L. Jackson is to join the cast of Oscar-winning actress Brie Larson's directorial debut "Unicorn Store," producer Rhea Films announced on Monday. Jackson, nominated for an Academy Award and four Golden Globes over a 44-year acting career, will play opposite Joan Cusack ("Working Girl," "School of Rock") and Bradley Whitford, star of Amazon's "Transparent." Based on an original script by Samantha McIntyre, "Unicorn Store" centers on a woman who moves back in with her parents and receives an invitation to a store that will test her ideas of what it really means to grow up.

The comedy just began principal photography in Los Angeles. Larson—who won her best actress Oscar in February for Lenny Abrahamson's "Room"—recently worked with Jackson on "Kong: Skull Island," which Warner Bros is due to release in March next year. Cusack, who was Oscar-nominated for "Working Girl" (1988) and won an Emmy in 2015 for Showtime's "Shameless," will next be seen in Netflix's upcoming series "A Series of Unfortunate Events" with Neil Patrick Harris. Whitford—who rose to fame White House Deputy Chief of Staff Josh Lyman on NBC drama "The West Wing"—most recently starred alongside Bryan Cranston in HBO's "All The Way." — AFP



Actress Natalie Portman attends the premiere of "Jackie" during the American Film Institute (AFI) Festival in Hollywood, California.



Director Pablo Larrain (left), actresses Natalie Portman (center) and Greta Gerwig attend the premiere of 'Jackie' during the American Film Institute (AFI) Festival in Hollywood, California, on Monday. — AFP photos

FEATURES



Ivorian painter Adoudia poses in front of his painting displayed during his exhibition "Mogo Dynasty" at the foundation Fakhoury's gallery in Abidjan.



Ivorian painter Adoudia stands near an artwork displayed during his exhibition 'Mogo Dynasty'.



Ivorian painter Adoudia poses in front of his painting displayed during his exhibition 'Mogo Dynasty'. — AFP photos

# Ivorian artist draws on roots in 'Mogo Dynasty' show

"Some people said I'd wasted my life, that I should be a doctor, do something else," recalls Aboudia, an Ivorian painter with international fame and a big show this month in Abidjan. Aboudia grew up as Abdoulaye Diarrasouba, a youth who still readily speaks Nouchi, the street dialect of working-class districts in Ivory Coast's economic capital. Though today he often abandons his easel in the city for cramped aircraft seatback tables and art galleries in Paris, London and New York, Aboudia remains close to his roots and his current exhibition hosted by the Fakhoury Foundation is called "Mogo Dynasty". "I'm still of Nouchi culture. 'Mogo' in Nouchi means lad, the people," he told AFP in the midst of his work, sometimes in black and white and sometimes in lurid color, portraying human heads, skulls or robots with teeth everywhere. The show runs until November 20.

**'The Africa of today'**

"My paintings are the Africa of today," Aboudia asserts in front of a piece called "The Death of the King". "In this one,

they're trying to give the king medicine... This too is Africa, where there's tradition, people who struggle to live. I wanted to tell that, the Mogos." While proud of his African identity, Aboudia refuses to be categorized. "I consider myself to be an artist, an artist who comes from Africa. People label things like 'African artists' and 'European artists'. But if you were to see my work in China or Japan, you wouldn't know that it's African." The painter acknowledges, nevertheless, that it is most likely harder for an African to break through to success in a world where art is often regarded as a futile activity and a difficult way to earn money.

"It's tough everywhere, but there is the culture (of art). The majority of Africans lack this culture. Some understand, but this isn't like places where art is readily welcomed. Here you need to fight to make people understand. That's not necessarily a bad thing, it depends on the kind of culture you learned at an early age," he says. Though Aboudia was "very young (when he became aware) of a talent for drawing—still in primary school with his chalks—he moved on to football and school theatricals. "At least I knew what that was... It was in

growing up and reaching high school that I realized that there was a school for design, for art.

"Curiosity led me to the school (a regional conservatory) and every time I saw these children there drawing or painting, I stopped going to my high school... At home, I dressed as if I was going to school, but I spent the whole day with them, just watching. That's how one day I asked whether I could join the class. They looked at what I'd done and they said 'Why not? You could be an artist later.'"

**'I undress people'**

Aboudia studied at the regional conservatory of arts and crafts in Abengourou and the technical center for applied arts in Bingerville, then moved on to the Higher National Institute for Arts and Cultural Action (INSAC) in downtown Abidjan. His work won him renown at a very young age at the height of a political and military conflict in 2010-2011 that claimed several thousand lives. The chaos was reflected in paintings of that time. The Ivorian has often been likened to Haitian-American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat (1960-1988) both for stylistic traits

and their precocious emergence. The Brooklyn-born artist moved on from street art graffiti to paintings shown across the United States and in Europe in his early 20s.

"That doesn't bother me," Aboudia said of the comparison. "People say it to me a lot. At the time, I didn't know him. I like his work very much—a great artist. But as for me, I am Aboudia." Today, Aboudia has broadened his range to montages, notably including a wall tapestry made of the bits and pieces of everyday life. "Clothes, shoes, dolls, teddy bears... It's the whole ensemble that comes from humankind and children that I took to make a composition. 'I undress people, I take their clothes and I make another canvas. This follows on from the paintings, but in another form. I count on doing more and even big ones. My definition of art is the search for new sensations.'" — AFP



In this file photo contestants perform during the Miss Transgender Indonesia pageant in Jakarta, Indonesia.



In this file photo a contestant waits backstage during the Miss Transgender Indonesia pageant.



In this file photo, Qienabh Tappii, center, holds her trophy as she stands on the stage with first runner up Sefty Castanyo, left, and third place winner Amanda Sandova, right, after winning the Miss Transgender Indonesia pageant in Jakarta, Indonesia.



In this file photo a contestant performs during the Miss Transgender Indonesia pageant. — AP photos

## Colorado skiers eagerly await return of train to the slopes

For decades, a train chugged into the Rocky Mountains west from Denver, snaking through 29 tunnels and crossing the Continental Divide before delivering eager skiers to the base of Winter Park Resort at an elevation of 9,000 feet. Insurance woes doomed the service in 2009, but now - with some help from Amtrak - the ski train is back. The return of the Winter Park Express marks one of the more exciting developments for Colorado skiers in years, and resort officials say it's already attracting attention worldwide. Steve Hurlbert, a spokesman for the Denver-owned ski resort, said people from as far away as the United Kingdom and Australia have shown interest in the train, which is set to resume seasonal weekend passenger service Jan 7.

"You don't have to worry about traffic. You can just sit back and enjoy the view," he said. "It's just a really relaxing way to get to the mountains." Powered by two 4,250-horsepower diesel-electric engines, the train is pulled from Denver's historic and newly renovated Union Station about 60 miles and 3,700 vertical feet into Colorado's snow-swept mountains. It drops passengers off about 100 yards from the lifts after passing through the 6.2-mile Moffat Tunnel, which was finished in 1928 and is credited with opening Denver up to western commerce.

Also featured are Amtrak's Superliner double-decker cars, which are designed for longer distances and are roomier than normal passenger train cars. The train can carry more than 500 passengers and can be resized depending on demand. But downsizing might not be an issue. Hurlbert said tickets for two test runs of the service in March 2015 sold out in about 14 hours.

"We knew all along that there was a huge demand to bring this train back, and that really illustrated to Amtrak that the demand is substantial," he said. So far, Amtrak has sold more tickets than expected for the train, fueled in part by frustrated skiers and snowboarders who dread making the painfully slow trip to the slopes on traffic-choked Interstate 70.

The train, which shares tracks with Amtrak's California Zephyr that runs between Chicago and San Francisco, has been a draw since it started running in 1940, the same year the ski resort opened. After the service was discontin-

ued for a few years during World War II, it ran almost every ski season from 1947 until 2009, when billionaire investor and then owner Philip Anschutz shut it down. "It just became cost prohibitive to run because some insurance rates went up," Hurlbert said. "Our sense was that it would never come back."

**Available equipment**

Marc Magliari, a spokesman for Amtrak, said Denver-based employees proposed resurrecting the ski train a couple of years ago, and a conversation began with Winter Park Resort and Union Pacific, which owns the tracks. It turns out, "the employee-borne idea had some legs to it," Magliari said. "We have the available equipment. We have a willing host in Union Pacific and we have a great partner in Winter Park." A major piece of the puzzle was put in place when funding came through for a \$3.5 million heated platform that is designed to accommodate athletes at the National Sports Center for the Disabled, which is based at the resort. Contributors included the resort, the city of Denver, the town of Winter Park, the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Colorado Rail Passengers Association.

But perhaps a more serendipitous development for the ski train was the recent completion of a passenger rail line between Denver International Airport and Union Station. "This is the only service of its kind in the United States," Hurlbert said. "This is the only place you can go from the airport to the mountain by rail. It's a very European model. ... That's what really makes this exciting. It's so much bigger in scope. It really kind of opens of the state to a lot of international travelers."

**If You Go...**

WINTER PARK EXPRESS: Amtrak train from Denver to Winter Park, Colorado. Round-trips will run Saturdays and Sundays between Jan 7 and March 26, with an additional trip on Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day. Adult tickets cost as low as \$39 each way and already are on sale. The trains will leave Denver's Union Station at 7 am. Mountain time and will arrive at the resort at about 9 am. They will leave the resort at 4:30 pm and arrive in Denver at 6:40 pm. — AP



The Winter Park ski train is shown outside Winter Park, Colo.

# Indonesia Miss Transgender crowned in a slap for hardliners

Transgender people from across Indonesia have defied a wave of hatred against sexual minorities to crown a Miss Transgender at a national pageant held in absolute secrecy. A handful of journalists were notified just a few hours in advance of the location of the event, held in the capital, Jakarta, to prevent any attempts by Islamic hard-liners to shut down the pageant. And because of the risk of discovery and violence, organizers asked those present not to post anything on social media during the contest.

Qienabh Tappii, a 28-year-old representing Jakarta who wore a figure-hugging, iridescent metallic gown, triumphed over more than 30 other contestants Friday night to be crowned Miss Waria Indonesia 2016. She will represent Indonesia at an international pageant to be held in Thailand next year. "Waria" is the Indonesian word for transgender, a term for people whose sense of their gender is different from their sex at birth. "I'm very happy. I feel like I want to cry," said Tappii, standing next to a 2-meter (6.5-foot)-tall gold and red trophy while cradling a smaller one. "Tonight is the beginning of my struggle for my rights as a waria," she said. "I want waria to be accepted, appreciated and understood in our society, and to be equal with other Indonesians. I will work really hard to achieve it."

The successful staging of the pageant was an important morale boost and self-affirmation for a community that is increasingly under siege. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, is often held up as practicing a moderate form of Islam. But that reputation for tolerance has been undermined in the past year as the media and religious and political leaders stoked prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, framing them as a threat to the nation. It was in part a backlash against the worldwide advance of LGBT rights, and in particular the success of the gay marriage movement in the US and the high-profile battles there over whether transgender people can use the public bathrooms of the gender they identify with.

Indonesia's conservatives want to push LGBT people back into the margins of society and deny them legal rights. It's an agenda that has capitalized on low levels of awareness in a society where open discussion of sexuality is often frowned upon. But it also clashes with the traditions of some cultures in ethnically diverse Indonesia that have for centuries allowed space for different genders and sexual identities. "If the public knew in advance that there will be such an event, those who use religion as



In this file photo a contestant checks her mobile phone during Miss Transgender Indonesia pageant.

their mask could attack us. That's why we kept it secret until the last minute," said pageant organizer Nancy Iskandar. "The radicals are very arrogant. I'm afraid that it could erupt into physical confrontation," Iskandar said. "We don't want them to step on us forever. What's in it for them anyway? We're not doing any harm."

**Cultural events**

Opposition from hard-liners prevented the long-running event, which is organized by Putri Waria Indonesia Foundation and Indonesian Waria Communication Forum, from being held twice in recent years. Indonesia's police often side with or look the other way when Islamic hard-liners attack or intimidate LGBT groups, religious minorities, women's rights groups and any cultural events they take exception to.

Fitri Pabentengi, a member of the Bugis ethnic group, which recognizes five genders, said he traveled from Makassar on Sulawesi island - 1,400 kilometers (870 miles) to the east - for the pageant. In his community he is "bissu," one of the five genders, which roughly corresponds to androgynous. Bissu are traditionally priests or shamans. "I came all the way from Makassar to show my solidarity," said Pabentengi. "We Indonesian waria have the same feelings, what they feel in Jakarta we also feel it in Makassar."

About 200 people filled the small theater for the finale of the high-energy showcase of idealized feminine beauty. Thirty-four transgender women vied for the title, competing over three days, though four dropped out because they feared the event might be disrupted. Aside from Miss Transgender, there were a slew of other titles up for grabs, including most sexy, most intelligent and most beautiful skin. "We want to show that waria can also do positive things," said Miss West Java, Dinda Syariff. "People said that we are the scum of the society - that's so not true," Syariff said. — AP



Old and new boats rest on the Elbe river in Hamburg, northern Germany.

# Visiting Hamburg: Chocolate, coffee and trade, then and now



Tourists admire the Chile Building in Hamburg, northern Germany.



A young tourist looks at a model representing the day the Berlin Wall fell at Miniatur Wunderland, a vast exhibition of hand-made dioramas in Hamburg, northern Germany. — AP photos



Old and new boats rest on the Elbe river in Hamburg, northern Germany.



A group of day-trippers stand under a bright blue sky in front of the harbor panorama with the Elbphilharmonie, the scene reflected in a puddle, in northern Hamburg.

**F**or centuries, the port city of Hamburg was a powerhouse in maritime trade. These days, Germany's second-largest city is still the country's main entry point for exotic goods. But it's also a magnet for foodies, fans of the arts and folks who prefer to wander rather than powerwalk their way around a new destination. Attractions include a chocolate museum, a historic warehouse district and river boat rides. Just remember in Hamburg you're never far from the water - including the kind that falls from the sky, so go with the flow and bring an umbrella.

#### Feast your eyes, tickle your tastebuds

Maybe you want to start small. Really small. In Hamburg's old warehouse district an indoor model railway called the Miniatur Wunderland stretches across two floors and takes visitors on a humorous journey around the world.

The warehouse district, or Speicherstadt, was once a free port and its distinctive red brick buildings on timber foundations helped the area gain UNESCO World Heritage status in 2015. It's hardly a museum though. The warehouses are still used to store goods from around the globe and with a little patience visitors can watch Persian carpets and sacks of spices being loaded and unloaded using old-fashioned pulley hoist systems.

Hamburg has a long tradition of appreciating coffee. Enjoy a good brew at one of several coffee roasters around town, including Nord Coast Coffee Roastery. At Hamburg's chocolate museum, Chocoversum, learn about the origins of chocolate, what makes a good bean and even try your hand at creating a unique bar of your own. Tours during the week are in German but English-language tours are available weekends.

#### A day on the water

Start exploring mankind's complicated relationship with the sea on dry land at the International Maritime Museum in the warehouse district. It features replicas of ancient ships, including a Phoenician galley and a Viking dragon boat, as well as equipment that helped sailors navigate the seas before GPS and satellite phones.

Once you're ready to set sail - so to speak - walk or take a subway to the Landungsbruecken. During the week these piers are used by commuters traveling into Hamburg on public boats. For a modest fare, hop on the No. 62 for a ride down the river Elbe, passing some of Hamburg's impressive maritime industry and not a few towering cargo ships along the way.

Step off at Neumuehlen and head downriver past the charming old sailboats to the Oevelgoenne beach for pizza and a hoppy beer, or coffee and cake, at a riverside cafe or bar.

#### A night on the town

The Reeperbahn is Hamburg's notorious red light district. At night it transforms from a quiet street into a gaudy, neon-lit affair filled with bars, live music venues and seedy entertainment. Near the Reeperbahn light rail stop is a square dedicated to the Beatles, who spent their journeyman years in Hamburg. For a less touristy and more family friendly evening head to the Schanzenviertel, a former working class district that became hip a few years ago. There's cheap food aplenty and a thriving bar culture. Sternschanze is the closest S-bahn stop.

From there, walk to one of Hamburg's best-known clubs at Feldstrasse 66. Don't worry, you can't miss it. Known to the Nazis as Flakturm IV, this massive over-ground bunker was too difficult to destroy after World War II and so it was left standing. Nowadays it's home to media companies and the club Uebel und Gefaehrlich - which roughly translates as Nasty and Dangerous.

If you're out all night, greet the day at Hamburg's legendary Altona fish market. Business starts at 5 a.m. April to October, in winter the market opens at 7 a.m. Don't arrive too late as stalls shutter around 9:30 a.m.

#### Grand burgers and high culture

For centuries Hamburg was dominated by a tight-knit ruling class known as the First Families, whose members had acquired a superior form of citizenship that made them Grossbuerger - 'grand burgers.' With the title came lucrative economic and political rights that they used to amass great fortunes and shape the city in ways that can still be seen in Hamburg's center with its Venice-like arcades and bridges, fancy shopping streets and lakeside promenade. From the underground stop Rathaus, take a stroll past the imposing town hall toward the Binnenalster, or Inner Alster, a reservoir inside the old city perimeters.

For a bit of high art, head to the underground stop Jungfernstieg and take the U1 two stops to Steinstrasse. From there it's a short walk to one of Europe's largest contemporary arts centers. The Deichtorhallen, situated in two former market halls built in late art nouveau style, host several simultaneous art and photography exhibitions.

For a grand finale, end your trip at the Elbphilharmonie concert hall. Completed six years behind schedule and at 10 times the original price, this billion-dollar venue is due to start hosting concerts beginning Jan. 11. If you can't nab tickets it's worth visiting for the architecture, which features a wave-shaped roof, stunning glass facades and a panoramic view of the harbor. — AP

## HISTORIC GEMS TO STAR AT GENEVA JEWEL AUCTIONS

**R**ussian diamonds that reputedly helped broker peace between warring empires three centuries ago will go to the highest bidder at the Geneva jewel auctions this week. The Swiss city's twice-annual sales of rare jewels are often dominated by stones the size of door-stoppers. But this week, gems enriched by the weight of history will share centre-stage with those valued by their weight in carats. Christie's began the auction season yesterday at the luxury Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues on Lake Geneva, where a line of Bentleys or Porsches typically builds in the runup to the autumn sale.

Rival Sotheby's takes its turn today across the road at the five-star Hotel Beau Rivage. Among Sotheby's showcase offers is a parure featuring diamonds once owned by Russian empress Catherine I that were given to her by her husband, Czar Peter the Great, who led Russia until his death in 1725. In 1711, Catherine was worried that a raging conflict with the Ottoman Empire posed an existential threat to Russia and ordered her husband-in the middle of the night-to draft a peace treaty, Sotheby's said, citing historical records.

Without telling Peter, Catherine sent the peace proposal and all the jewels she was travelling with to the Ottoman Sultan Ahmed III. The Sultan "accepted these and was obviously delighted, and the truce was given and the (Russian) empire was saved", David Bennett, head of Sotheby's International Jewelry Division, told AFP. The parure featuring Catherine's diamonds is expected to sell for between \$3 million (2.8 million euros) and \$5 million. In an auction heavy on Russian imperial treasures, Sotheby's is also offering a diamond necklace with a detachable clasp owned by Empress Catherine II-Catherine the Great, who ruled Russia from 1762 to 1796. It is similarly valued at up to \$5 million.

#### \$30 million bling?

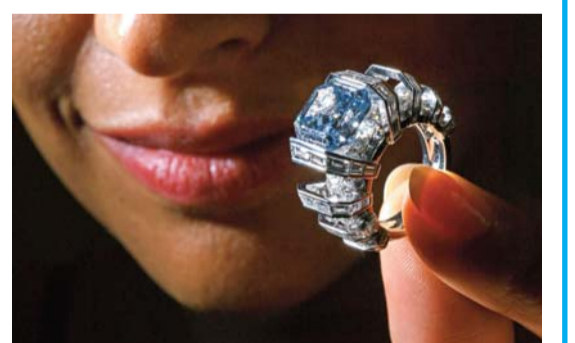
Tuesday's top seller will almost certainly be a set of earrings made of two flawless white diamonds weighing 52.55 carats and 50.47 carats, valued by Christie's at \$20 million-\$30 million for the pair. Tobias Kormind, head of the 77 Diamonds firm that tracks the global diamond market, said elite collectors of rare gems are typically more attracted to loose stones and may shy away from the earrings. "These earrings are far more likely to be a gift for someone to wear for special occasions," he said, noting that the list of people interested in socialising with more than 100 carats worth of diamonds on their ears is limited.

"The buyer is highly likely to be a newly minted Russian or Chinese billionaire oligarch or business tycoon, who does not shy from flaunting their wealth," Kormind said. While interest in the white diamond earnings may prove strong, they are unlikely to approach the eye-popping records set by coloured stones at recent sales. Christie's set the current mark in May, selling the 14.62-carat "Oppenheimer Blue" for \$57.54 million.

That beat a record set a year ago by Sotheby's, when Hong Kong billionaire Joseph Lau's bought the 12.03-carat "Blue Moon of Josephine" for \$48.4 million. Christie's is aiming to capitalize on the still-limited coloured stones market with a 9.14-carat Fancy Vivid Pink estimated at \$16-\$18 million. The rare "Fancy Vivid" classification is awarded by the Gemological Institute of America to signify a stone's exceptional color and clarity. Sotheby's top coloured gem going under the hammer this week is the 8.01-carat "Sky Blue Diamond", with a pre-auction estimated price of \$15-\$25 million. Sotheby's has estimated its 342-lot auction at a total of \$100 million. Christie's is offering 220 lots, with an estimated value of \$80 million. — AFP



File photo shows a model poses with a parure of antique coloured diamond jewels during a press preview by Sotheby's auction house in Geneva.



File photo shows a model presents the 'The Sky Blue Diamond', a fancy, vivid blue diamond ring created by Cartier, during a press preview by Sotheby's Auction House.



File photo shows a model poses with a diamond necklace with a stunning and delicate bowknot clasp during a press preview by Sotheby's auction house on November 9, 2016 in Geneva.— AFP photos

# Lifestyle

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2016

Visiting Hamburg:  
Chocolate, coffee and  
trade, then and now

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A Pakistani cyclist rides past a mural on the wall of a government girls' school in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP

## BERLIN'S WILD CHARMS MAKE IT FIRST CHOICE FOR SYRIAN ARTISTS

From sculptors to actors and filmmakers, Berlin has become a magnet for Syrian artists fleeing their country's brutal violence to a place where they can express themselves without fear. While Beirut and Paris have long been the destinations of choice for Arab artists, the German capital has in recent years earned a reputation as a more adventurous, progressive alternative for exiled creators. As well as offering affordable spaces to live and work, Berlin is "the city of anarchy and rock", says Ziad Adwan, an actor and director who arrived two years ago after spells in jail back home.

Once divided by its infamous wall, reunification energized Berlin as young people who grew up yearning to escape the stifling former East Germany met West German peers who had moved to the city for its special status that exempted them from military service. The combination produced an open-minded atmosphere and an uninhibited party culture that continues to lure artists from all over the world. Syrians have proved to be no exception. "The Berlin cultural scene has certainly taken on a new tone," says Syrian Ali Kaaf, who has lived in Berlin for the past 16 years and teaches at the well-regarded Weissensee fine arts school. He helps around 20 refugee students each semester to find places in art schools, put together portfolios or recreate those lost in the chaos of their escape and arduous journey to Europe.

### 'Just like Damascus'

Once the essentials of life—having a place to sleep and food to eat—are out of the way, many of the new arrivals find themselves among familiar faces. "Some of my students from the Damascus drama school where I used to teach now live in refugee homes," says Adwan. "It's just like Damascus here," agrees photographer and journalist Doha Hassan, who has found old friends and acquaintances from the Syrian capital among her 600,000 compatriots who have fled to Germany since the war broke out in 2011.

Still, Egyptian Basma El-Husseiny says that "it can be very hard for those who have just arrived to find their way" to resuming their studies or exhibiting works in German institu-



Syrian artist Ali Kaaf poses in front of his paper artwork Rift II and Rift I at his studio in Neukoelln district in Berlin. — AFP photos

tions. An activist with two decades of experience in the arts, she founded the charity Action for Hope that helps refugee artists through the thicket of German bureaucracy. Meanwhile, Adwan and German publisher Mario Muenster have come together to produce an English-language magazine, A Syrian Look, aimed at linking up the new Syrian diaspora with young German artists.

### Out in the open

What refugee artists have to express is often marked by the war within Syria's borders—and by their own experiences on the long road to escape that conflict. Under Syrian President



Syrian writer and journalist Rasha Abbas poses close to her residence in Berlin.

Bashar al-Assad, the ruling Baath Party ideology was forced on art schools, and some artists say the institutions were also riddled with corruption. "Artists used to use symbols" to criticize the powerful for fear of the censors, Adwan says. "Today, they can just try things out openly." One of the works by artist Sulafa Hijazi shows a woman's naked body, supine and legs splayed as she gives birth to a rifle.

Another illustration features a skull-topped sewing machine stitching red thread into a camouflage uniform. Some creative have gone through subtler transformations. "I used to write dark, depressing pieces," muses Rasha Abbas, a writer who won a grant from a foundation in Stuttgart. "It

seems strange but since I'm here, my writing is full of humour," she says, a smile playing across her face framed by waves of dark hair. Some comfort on the path into an unknown future is the fact that they are living in a city, Berlin, which has had to reinvent itself from scratch. "Damascus today is how Berlin was at the end of the war," Muenster says. "No one can imagine that Damascus could be a capital of culture in 50 years, but no one could have imagined that for Berlin in 1945." — AFP

## New show 'Circus 1903' brings back live elephants, sort of

Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus may have retired their iconic elephants but there's still a way to see the huge beasts onstage. The new touring show "Circus 1903," which makes its American debut next year, features two life-size elephants - one baby, one massive mamma - created by the puppeteers and model makers of Significant Object, who made the lifelike horse featured in the hit play "War Horse."

The show makes its US bow in Los Angeles at

the Pantages Theater on Feb 14 and then makes stops in Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Denver and New York City. Tickets go on sale Monday. Painter, who has had great success with his magician supergroup franchise "The Illusionist," said he's hoping to revive the panache and bravery of the past, "where showmanship was front and center."

It's an attempt to jettison the Cirque Du Soleil-led drive for narratives in favor of highlighting the acts themselves, which often tried to outshine the others. "Every single person needs to win the crowd. Every act should be almost the closing act," Painter and his team consulted circus historians and picked 1903 because that's when Barnum & Bailey's so-called Greatest Show on Earth returned from a five-year tour of Europe. It traveled almost daily with a mind-boggling 1,200 people, 200 wagons and 700 animals.

"The way that they would get you to come - the whole town - was by promising these acts that

were beyond anybody's imagination. And that's what we've tried to do," said Painter. "We've made a massive effort to cast a net as far as possible, just like they did over 100 years ago." Many of the acts in the show are being performed by members of the same family, who have passed down their skills over generations and so knew what their ancestors did 100 years ago. For other acts, Painter had to teach the performer new skills - and unlearn tricks from 2016. "This is, honestly, the show I've wanted to make for 15 years," he said. In addition to Painter, the producers include Tim Lawson and MagicSpace Entertainment. — AP

This image released by DKC shows two life size elephants created by puppeteers and model makers for the new touring show 'Circus 1903.' — AP photos

