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## Shrimpy



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# ELECTIONS 2016: UNDERSTANDING THE CONSTITUENCIES

By B Izzak

**K**uwaitis head to the polls tomorrow to elect a new 50-seat national assembly to replace the outgoing house which was dissolved by the Amir after almost three and a half years, becoming the longest-surviving assembly since 2003.

It is the seventh parliamentary election since mid-2006. The previous six assemblies were either dissolved by the Amir over political disputes or by the court due to procedural flaws. The past decade has been one of the most unstable in Kuwait's history. There are 483,200 voters, over 52 percent of them are females. Kuwait's election law bars military and police personnel from voting. Age of voting in Kuwait is 21. The country is divided into five electoral districts with each one of them electing 10 MPs. In total, around 300 candidates including 13 women are competing. The following is a brief look at the main races in the five constituencies:

### First Constituency:

The main areas include Bayan, Meshref, Rumeithiya, Salmiya, Salwa, Shaab, Dueiya, Sharq and others.

Voters: 78,643 including 41,660 women and 36,983 male.

Candidates: 52 candidates are contesting. They include 10 members from the dissolved house and nine former MPs. The district has three major voter sections: Sunnis, Shiites and Awazem tribe which is Sunni Bedouins. In the last polls, five Shiites and five Sunnis were elected. The Sunnis included two Awazem.

### Second Constituency:

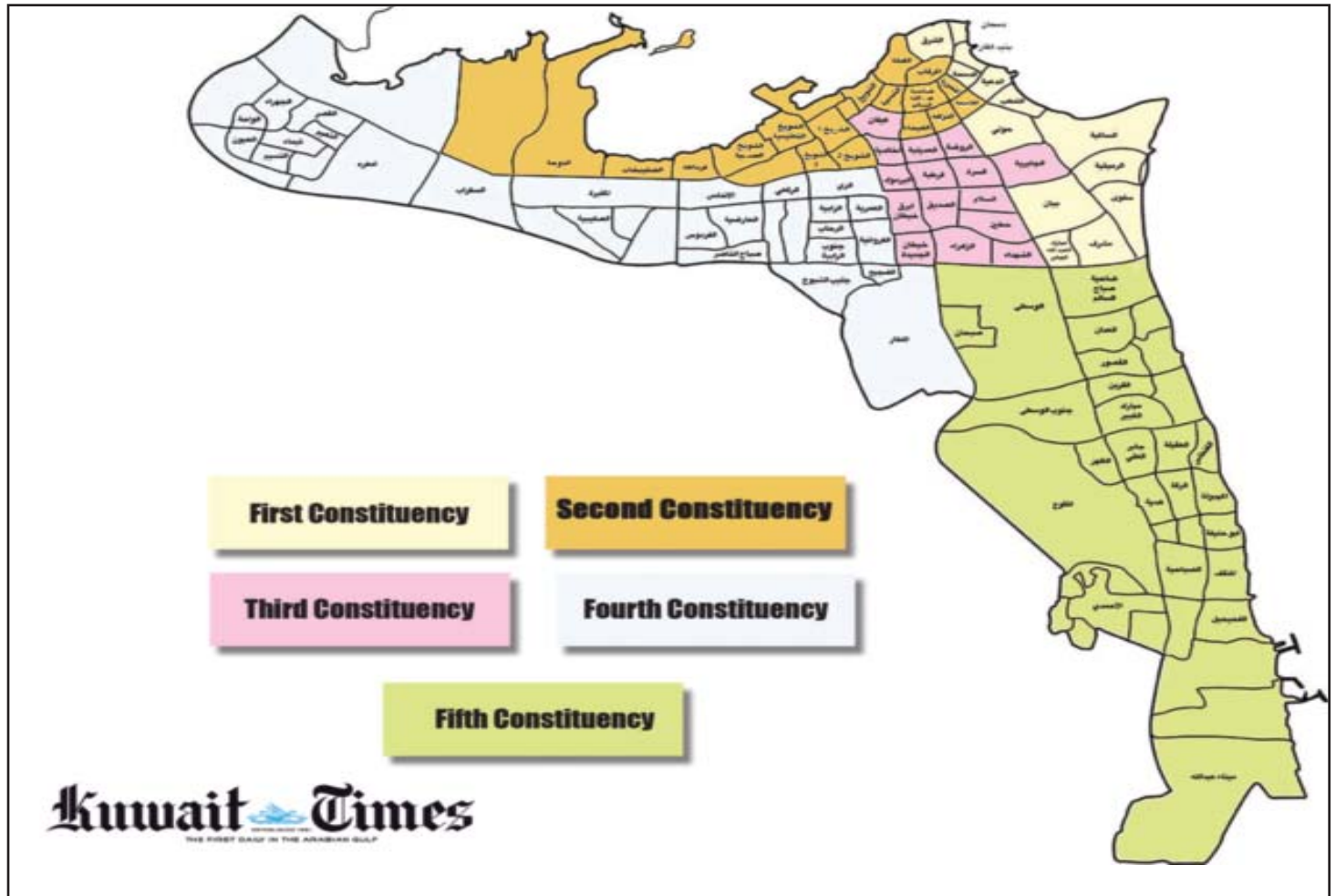
The main areas include: Qadsia, Mansouriya, Nuzha, Faiha, Sulaibkhat, Shamiya, Dahiyat Abdullah Al-Salem and Doha. Voters: 55,376 including 29,026 women and 26,350 men. Candidates: 44 candidates including seven members from the previous assembly and eight former MPs. This constituency is basically urban Sunni with strong Shiite and tribal contingents.

### Third Constituency

Main areas include: Kifan, Khaldiya, Jabriya, South Surra, Khitan, Udailiya and others.

Voters: 86,247 including 46,572 women and 39,675 men.

Candidates: 54 candidates who include nine members from the dissolved assembly and seven former MPs including five opposition figures. There are at least six new young faces that have made their presence strongly felt during the campaign. This is described as the most politicized constituency in Kuwait. It is mainly Sunni but with good pres-



ence for Shiites and tribes, mainly the Oteibi tribe.

The district has five opposition figures all of them were former MPs and they have a strong support. Normally, eight seats are divided between Islamists and liberals and the remaining two seats are taken by tribes and Shiites. The composition is expected to hold this time.

### Fourth Constituency:

Main areas include Farwaniya, Juleeb Al-Shiyookh, Ardhiya, Ferdous, Andalus, Rabiya, Ishbiliya and Jahra.

Voters: 127,408 including 67,914 women and 59,499 men. Candidates: 68 candidates who include eight members of the dissolved house and eight former MPs, all of them from the opposition including three of whom Islamists and the rest are nationalists.

This is a predominantly tribal constituency with Mutairi and Rashidi tribes are the main voters. In

addition, there are strong sections from other tribes like Shemmari, Ajmi, Dhafiri and also some Shiite voters.

Mutairi tribe is the largest voter base followed immediately with Rashidis. In the past, the two tribes used to get four seats each and the remaining two seats divided among others. Tribal factors and the number of candidates in each tribe are the main crucial factors for winning seats.

### Fifth Constituency

Main areas include Fahaheel, Ahmadi, Sabahiya, Dhaher, Hadiya, Fintas, Mangaf, Umm Al-Haiman,

Sabah Al-Salem and others.

Voters: 135,512 including 67,584 women and 67,928 men. It is the only district where male voters are more than females.

Candidates: 69 candidates including seven from the previous house and six former MPs all of them from the opposition.

This is another tribal constituency with some small presence for Shiites and urban voters. Awazem and Ajmans are the main tribes which used to bag four seats each. Under the present system, it is unlikely to happen.

## KUWAITIS HEAD TO ELECTION HOPING TO STOP AUSTERITY

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaitis vote tomorrow for a new parliament they hope will halt austerity measures forced by falling oil revenues in the emirate, known for its cradle-to-grave welfare system. With the return of opposition groups after a four-year boycott, the outcome of the snap elections is seen as crucial for shaping the domestic politics of the oil-rich Gulf state. The seventh polls in a decade follow one of the most intense election campaigns seen in Kuwait, with opposition and pro-government candidates trading barbs over corruption and other allegations.

The opposition is being tipped to make a strong showing, with many members of the previous parliament expected to lose their seats, but is likely to fall well short of a majority. "The return of opposition groups is the most significant development in this election," said analyst Ayed Al-Manna. "The opposition comeback could lead to a national reconciliation after years of bitter disputes," the political scientist said. Kuwait's parliament is considered the most powerful in the Gulf Arab states thanks to its legislative and monitoring capacities, but most of the political clout still lies with the ruling family.

HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, 87, dissolved the parliament in October after a dispute between lawmakers and the government over petrol price hikes of up to about 80 percent. The government said the move was taken to reduce subsidies, boost non-oil revenues and plug the emirate's first budget deficit after 16 years of surpluses. Economic issues dominated the campaign but other issues like political reforms and public freedoms were also highlighted by the 300 candidates who include 14 women. Many running for office lashed out at the government for raising charges and fuel prices while failing to fight corruption. They have pledged to prohibit such hikes.

Almost all opposition groups boycotted the previous two elections, in December 2012 and July 2013, in protest after the government unilaterally amended the voting system. Around 30 opposition candidates, including several former MPs, and a number of their allies are vying for places in the 50-seat parliament. Political analyst Anwar Al-Rasheed said he expects that "between 70 percent and 90 percent of the outgoing lawmakers will not be re-elected because the voters are very upset with their perform-

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# KUWAITIS MUST BRING ORIGINAL CITIZENSHIP CARD TO CAST BALLOT



by Abrar Al-Khelaifa

**KUWAIT:** Kuwaiti voters who visit polling stations tomorrow to vote in the 2016 parliamentary elections are requested to bring their original citizenship cards to be stamped by the judge according to the law in this regard. Every Kuwaiti who has lost his or her citizenship card can obtain a temporary

one for a single day use on the polling day. The Interior Ministry has completed all its administrative and security preparations ahead of the upcoming elections slated for November 26.

Security officers of the polling stations are expected to transfer the ballot boxes to the electoral committee headquarters and hand them to the heads of committees.— Kuna



The National Assembly

# ELECTION SILENCE IN EFFECT TODAY

'KD 5,000 FINE FOR VIOLATORS

**KUWAIT:** A day ahead of the National Assembly (parliament) elections, for the 15th Legislative Term, due tomorrow, election silence takes effect in Kuwait as of today.

The law provides that the media, even electronic media, is not allowed to practice any activities regarding the candidates' electoral campaigns. Nominees themselves will have to bring their campaigning to a complete halt. Anyone, including the media, caught breaking the mandated silence will be subject to a KD 5,000 fine, according to a Ministry of Interior official who asked not to be named.

Pre-election silence aims to give voters a chance to carefully consider their choice for the election day. The media can only offer messages to educate the voters on elections, or urge them to positively take part in the vote.

According to the Ministry of Information's relevant decree, broadcasting, re-broadcasting or publishing any interviews, programs or reports with candidates for the National Assembly elections or the Municipal Council, is prohibited on the polling day, and the day before it. The National Assembly was dissolved by an Amiri Decree on October 16. — Kuna

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Al-Jabriyah - Al-Salmiya



Local Spotlight

# WHEN FOOD IS A CULTURE SHOCK



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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I had an interesting discussion a few days back with a foreign couple who are new in town, and it was about food. Sometimes food can cause culture shock, especially if you crave certain foods and drinks that are not available or forbidden in Kuwait, and are introduced to new kinds of food that are not part of your cuisine back home. They asked me about Kuwaiti food, as they had heard it is delicious.

There are some popular cuisines like Chinese or Indian readily available here, so many expats in Kuwait are not familiar with our food. Most ancient and traditional countries also have their own herbs, spices and dishes.

Pork is preferred by some expats, which is something they like to have at least once a week, but it is banned here as Islam forbids eating the flesh of swine. This may be hard for some, so the next choice is to accept the fact

The problem in Kuwait is that we don't exercise enough, either due to work or being occupied with kids and school requirements.

that they will be introduced to new dishes, which they may or may not like. Among these new dishes are local ones like majboos, the king of Kuwaiti cuisine. This traditional Kuwaiti dish consists of meat and basmati rice cooked in a spicy gravy and served with tomato and Tabasco sauce.

For those of you who have not yet been introduced to this magical dish, let me tell you what it is. There are two kinds of majboos: Lamb and chicken - the most popular. Some people try to avoid eating red meat for health reasons, so chicken is their favorite alternative. Besides, mutton is expensive compared to the cheap and stable price of chicken all year long. You can easily fill your belly and go to sleep satiated.

But be careful - don't fall under the spell of food here. You can easily gain weight if you don't watch how much you eat. The problem in Kuwait is that we don't exercise enough, either due to work or being occupied with kids and school requirements. Also, the weather is foul nearly most of the year - too hot or too cold or too dusty. So I really can't blame people when they gain weight and don't do enough exercise.

It might be a struggle for some to find the food they normally eat and drink back home. Some try to recreate their recipes here, but I doubt it will taste the same. So when it comes to getting traditional food, this can be a challenge for expats.

For newcomers to Kuwait who miss their favorite food, my tip is to ask Mr Google about your favorite cuisine in the area where you are staying. Perhaps you can find a restaurant nearby where you can get the food of your country. Or ask your compatriots, and they will give you all the info you need. In Kuwait, you don't have to suffer a lot over food, because there are all kinds of foods available, and the expat community is always ready to give you a tip. When it comes to food, nothing is impossible!

PHOTO OF THE DAY



A man takes a break and smokes shisha. — Photo by Ali Al-Roumi

IN MY VIEW

# WE ARE ALL DONALD TRUMP



By Nejouad Al-Yagout

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We complain about Donald Trump. But we are all Trump. Can we find the injured parts of us that judge people of other religions, races, social statuses; the parts of us that are averse to individuals because our governments are at war with one another; the parts of us that feel entitled because we are more fortunate than others or richer; the parts of us that believe, and this is truly heartbreaking, that the Divine loves us more?

Our institutions are simply a manifestation of our tendency to polarize others. And Trump is a projection of the collective, our collective. And until we drop the ego and remember that we are born into this ideological and cultural matrix, then we will continue to blame Trump and other politicians, other countries, other religions and other people for our own demons. Always the other, never ourselves. Trump is here to remind us that this is what we will see in the world unless we transcend our intolerance towards each other. And voters will never stop voting for those perceived as crooked as long as this conditioning resonates within us.

Trump did not galvanize voters; he merely brought them to the surface for all to see. Each time he said something injurious to love and acceptance, his ratings went higher and higher. In essence, Trump in power is the world's fault. And racism is our fault, not Trump's. And it is certainly, certainly - might I add certainly - not the fault of Americans. We have no right to blame American voters for issues we have around the planet. Nor can we label Trump voters as racist. The whole world is a yin and yang of racist and open people. Everywhere.

We have the same issues of racism and superiority here in the Arabian Gulf; a Gulf we refuse to call Persian, because of our belief that human beings - or institutions, for that matter - own a body of water. We impose many restrictions on immigrants and those of other nationalities and religions too. We may not threaten to build a wall to stop them, but declining a visa to people of certain ethnic backgrounds is a wall, metaphorically speaking. Many expatriates here are very upset because their families cannot visit them as their salaries are too low or their countries are considered security threats. This is our version of a wall. And now we are banning expats from a certain area

in the departure zone at the airport, fueling resentment and divisiveness towards us, as nationals are exempt from this law. Again, our version of a wall.

Trump is everywhere

Not just in America and the Middle East. Trump is in Africa, South America, Australia, Asia and Europe too. If we had human communities in Antarctica, we would have a Trump there as well. And Trump infiltrates our social circles and schools as well. But most importantly, we must remember that Trump was born inside of us, and he will continue to live among us for as long as we either create or are slaves to matrices that teach human beings that the world is a paradigm of us versus them; for as long as we continue to believe our thoughts and act upon them; for as long as we continue to go to war with a perceived outer enemy. Trump is within us, disguised as beliefs. And we have become immune to the toxicity of these beliefs, because many others in our respective communities adhere to them too.

So instead of criticizing Trump, we should be grateful for all the Trumps of the world, for they guide us to our inner world. They shake us out of complacency. They provoke us to transform and heal. They provide us with an awareness of the innate prejudices that pollute us and our societies. And instead of criticizing racists and bullies, we invite them to embrace differences by shifting our own thought processes. We are invited to heal one another instead of ostracizing those who shatter our dreams of universality. How much more trauma do we need to remember that we are all sentient beings? How much more fear do we need to transcend to love?

We are the other

Fellow humans: We don't need to be more open to the other; we need to remember we are the other. And that we can only change our collective nightmare and eradicate racism when we become flashlights in our own diamond mines and stand peacefully against ideologies that teach us otherwise. And please world, let us stop blaming Americans for the darkness within all of us. We are all hurting. Americans are us. We all share this planet together with our fellow creatures. And we can only transcend as one.

As for those who feel they have already transcended their darkness, this is your time to shine, oh beacons of light! The world welcomes your work now more than ever to assist us in collective healing. Viva the shift!

Nejouad Al Yagout - Photo by Djinane Alsuwayeh





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A Wonderful World





**KUWAIT:** File photos show an area of the Kuwait desert where tents have been set up for people to enjoy the cooler winter months. Kuwait's camping season runs from November until end of March. — Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

# HOW TO GET A LICENSE TO CAMP

By Athoob Al-Shuaibi

**T**he camping season begins in Kuwait in early November with the arrival of mild weather and the onset of winter. This used to be bad news for the desert, as camps were randomly pitched and campers often destroyed desert flora and fauna. This prompted the government to designate 15 areas of the Kuwaiti desert where people can enjoy camping safely, while protecting our natural treasures.

Two years ago, the Municipality established an online service to apply for camping licenses. It enables users to book and pay online and receive the license later from the affiliated governorate department. Kuwait Times went through the registration procedure to determine the extent of its practicality.

Unfortunately the website is not very user-friendly. Firstly, it is in Arabic only. The process is also a bit clunky and a user will have to know what to do because there are no specific instructions.

It takes two clicks to reach the camp licensing page, where you type in your personal information. An interactive satellite map will then open up, enabling you to pin your preferred camping spot. The map clearly shows 15 camping sites across the desert and spots that have already been booked. But the user is advised to first check the physical site in person to ensure its availability for camping before booking, and note its coordinates.

If you are a new user, the procedure will definitely be confusing. In addition to no instructions, the website doesn't tell

you how much will you pay for the permit and the additional insurance fees until you reach the payment page. Furthermore, any change in the camp's location can only be done by a new registration.

It's worth noting that the website will ask whether you're married, single, divorced or widowed as a part of the required data, in addition to your name, civil ID and nationality. After collecting your license from the affiliated governorate department, it must be at hand in your tent, as inspection tours are regularly conducted in the camping grounds.

**NOTE:** The camping season will continue until the end of March. For more information, call the Municipality hotline #139 or visit [www.baladia.gov.kw](http://www.baladia.gov.kw)







## NEW SERVICE CENTER CATERS TO SME ENTREPRENEURS

By Nawara Fattahova

**KUWAIT:** The Al Siddiq Center for Small and Medium Enterprises was officially launched yesterday. The launching ceremony was attended by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Planning and Development Affairs Hind Al-Subaih and other officials representing the institutions that are operating in this center.

All services provided by the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) will be automated by April 2017. "PAM is adding more electronic services consecutively, which is appreciated by the businessmen. PAM is adding new service every month in order to finish the paperwork of the entrepreneurs and employees online," said Al-Subaih during the launching.

Al Siddiq Center is supervised by PAM and provides different services of various ministries for the entrepreneurs. "These include the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Commerce, PAM, Public Authority for Civil Information, Manpower Restructuring



Program, and Social Security. providing all these services under one roof aims to facilitate the paperwork for entrepreneurs to issue their licenses in one place," she further said. "The center was built according to highest standards,

which allows easy moving inside the building. This Center will even be developed to increase the number of small enterprises that are served by PAM. These small and medium enterprises encourage young people to work in the private sector, in addition to activating economy of the country," stated Al-Bubeih.

A decision for supporting small enterprises in the coops was issued recently. "These include kiosks and shops. There is another proposal under study now, which should allow small entrepreneurs access to 20 percent of public tenders," she concluded.

Abdullah Al-Mitoteh, Acting Director General of PAM noted that this center provides complete service for small and medium enterprises. "Al Siddiq Center serves entrepreneurs from all areas. It provides excellent service for them starting from issuing the license, to issuing work permits, renewing licenses, and registering Kuwaiti manpower in these projects. Currently we have 1500 files of small and medium enterprises registered at the PAM and 2700 licenses," he explained.

# ISLAMIC MISSIONARY VISITS KUWAIT

By Faten Omar

**B**eing a Muslim is not only about long beards and short dishdashas, according to Dr Mohammad Stefan Leca. Leca is a Romanian who converted to Islam in 1993 when he went to Turkey and was hosted by a Muslim who shared his house with him and treated him kindly, as mandated by Islam. Leca, a father of two, then decided to go on a global journey to teach about Islam, along with his supportive wife. The Romanian couple is on a mission, and their main objective is spreading the message that "Islam is Peace".

Leca was invited to Kuwait by his Kuwaiti friend Nader Al-Essa after his car broke down in Sudan. Essa and his mother Shafeqa Al-Mutawa welcomed Leca to give him the support he needs to continue his trip. Kuwait Times spoke to Leca to learn more about his spiritual journey to promote a better understanding of Islam.

**Kuwait Times: When did you become a Muslim and why?**

**Leca:** I converted to Islam on January 17, 1993 after a Muslim presented the real Islam by his actions and sharing his house with me. After that, I started to read about Islam - I read the Holy Quran and discovered that Islam completes the Bible. A true Christian knows that the Bible forbids eating pork and drinking wine. In the Bible, Jesus (PBUH) said "someone will come after me", while Mary (PBUH) dressed like Muslims. A lot of other things made me reach the conclusion that Islam is the right religion.

**KT: Is your family Muslim? How many children do you have?**



**Dr Mohammad Stefan Leca visiting the Kuwait Times to discuss his missionary work and visit to Kuwait. — Photo by Joseph Shagra**

**Leca:** Yes, my family is Muslim now and I have two children.

**KT: How many countries have you been to?**

**Leca:** I have been to 156 countries.

**KT: What does it mean to be a Muslim in Romania today?**

**Leca:** Islam has been in Romania since ancient times. You can find some haters, but no one listens to them. We have half a million Muslims in Romania.

**KT: How do you plan to serve Islam?**

**Leca:** I'm trying my best to deliver the mes-

sage of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He was a man of peace who never destroyed a temple and never killed an innocent person. Islam is not about having a long grubby beard and thick scary voice, or accusing people of not being Muslim if they make a mistake. Islam is about love and peace. I hope to plant the seed of knowledge to a better understanding of our wonderful faith.

**KT: How many people have you converted to Islam?**

**Leca:** I can't give you an exact number, but a lot of people around the world have been amazed by what I offer, and sometimes peo-

ple get my email address from my car and ask me about my mission. When I go to any country, it takes me 10 days to study the people and their culture, language and religion. Only then do I speak with them about Islam.

I'm not a man of religion - I'm not a sheikh. I see some Muslim missionaries have good intentions, but they are offering Islam in a boring and alarming way. Muslims should not tell a Christian that "my religion is better than yours" and talk to him with the "angry eyebrows" look.

**KT: What has been your impression of Kuwait?**

**Leca:** My Kuwaiti friend Nader Al-Essa supports most of my trips and helped me in improving my Arabic to call the azan. He was there to correct my Arabic pronunciation when everyone else accused me of not being a Muslim because of one mistake. When I visited Kuwait after the invasion, people were nicer. Now all they do is play with their mobiles. I was at a diwaniya, and people asked me to speak about my trips, but then got busy with their phones. That was my first and last time in a diwaniya.

**KT: What bothers you about Muslims?**

**Leca:** I'm bothered that Muslims are the main obstacles I face while spreading Islam. They accuse me of using Islam for personal interests. They talk about me behind my back, and stopped funding to build a mosque in Romania, which is 70 percent complete.

**KT: What are your future plans?**

**Leca:** I'll put my car up for auction, and use the money to complete my mosque in Romania.





## FIRE IN FARWANIYA BUILDING

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

**KUWAIT:** Fire broke out in a flat at a Farwaniya building yesterday. The fire started on the second floor. Farwaniya and Ardhiya centers responded immediately to put out the fire which engulfed the entire flat. Two persons suffered smoke inhalation.

### KFSD ready for polls

Public Relations and Information Department at KFSD said Acting Director Major General Eng Khalid Al-Tarkeet said the

directorate has raised its preparedness in preparation for the elections that will be held tomorrow, and all leaders and officials are on duty.

### Ministry denies rumors

Interior Ministry Relations and Security Information Department has described the post on the social media about Al-Midyaf location in Al-Abdally - describing it as false news. The Department said that security men are always vigilant, and they know their duties very well. It said that concerned authorities have not noticed any violations in Al-Midyaf.



Abandoned cars removed

Relations and Security Information carried out campaigns at the Shuwaikh Industrial area. 450 abandoned vehicles were removed.



## KUWAITIS USED LOW GRADE MATERIALS TO BUILD ROCK-SOLID HOUSES IN OLDEN DAYS

**KUWAIT:** Old Kuwaiti houses used to be constructed and designed with low grade materials usually gathered locally or imported from neighboring countries. In their book on the construction of old Kuwaiti houses, authors Mohammad Ali Al-Khers and Maryam Al-Aqroqa said that houses of old were built using materials such as 'Al-Bascil' and 'Jandal' (wood and hay). These substances were used to protect ceilings from rain, dust, and other weather elements, said the authors.

The authors added that there were other materials used in the past like 'Al-Juss', a hybrid of burned sand and plant parts mixed with water to form solid bricks used in construction. Solid mud and other materials were also used in building old Kuwaiti houses, the authors affirmed. With urban development transforming Kuwait into the current modern state, most of these classical houses have disappeared; however, there are still some remnants of these dwellings that tell stories of the beautiful past. —KUNA

## News

in brief

### Ministry inks contract for the 7th Ring Road

**KUWAIT:** The Ministry of Public Works has signed a contract for the maintenance and development of the 7th Ring Road, it said yesterday. The ministry statement added that Minister of Electricity and Water and Minister of Public Works and Acting Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Ahmad Al-Jassar signed the contract that will cover the completion, and maintenance of the existing part of the 7th Road. Maintenance will include developing the Road, starting from the western part, connected with the Regional Road, till intersection 71 on Al-Fahahil highway. In addition, it covers upgrading all the seven intersections of the Road, with total length of 22 km, in addition to three pedestrian overpasses and four stops for public transport.

### Payment system connection project submitted to leaders

**RIYADH:** A project for connecting the financial payment systems of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states together has been submitted to the Supreme Council's 37th for approval and implementation, a GCC senior official said yesterday. The project includes mandating the central banks and monetary agencies in the member states to own and manage it through founding an independent company, GCC Assistant Secretary General for Economic and Development Affairs Abdullah Al-Shebyly added in a press release. The company will be owned by the banks and the agencies. The project is part of the bloc's leaders to achieve the expectations of the GCC peoples in a safe and a stable environment for fast financial transfers, Al-Shebyly added. This will also boost the financial and economic status of the GCC on the regional and international scenes, the official said. The project will contribute to laying down the technical infrastructure that guarantees safe and fast transfer of financial payments, which will consolidate bilateral and multilateral trade among the GCC countries, he concluded.

### Kuwait keen on supporting UNIDO's development goals

**VIENNA:** Kuwait has reiterated its support to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and its development goals for 2030 which mainly focuses on building infrastructures and encourages innovation. These remarks were made by Acting Director of Kuwait's Public Authority for Industry's (PAI) Abdulkarim Taqi during the 44th UNIDO session. Taqi said that Kuwait was also looking forward to increase its cooperation with UNIDO and its programs. The current UNIDO meeting coincides with the organization's 50th anniversary. The anniversary event is attended by high-level representatives from UNIDO's 170 Member States, international organizations, the private sector, and leading world figures. UNIDO believes in the need for a successful integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions in order to fully realize sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

### Bahrain launches the 'Arabian Gulf Radio'

**MANAMA:** The Arabian Gulf Radio has been officially launched in Manama. Speaking in the launching ceremony, Bahraini Information Affairs Minister Ali bin Mohammed Al-Romaihi said the launching epitomizes strong fraternal and historic bonds between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders and peoples and supports aspirations to achieve the Arabian Gulf Union. "This is The Arabian Gulf Radio" which started transmission as Bahrain gears up to host the 37th GCC Summit next month, the Bahrain news agency (BNA) quoted the minister as saying. He pointed out that the new radio, an affiliate to the GCC General Secretariat, would send a message of unity and reflect firm commitment to Arab and Islamic identity, and pride in the Arabic language and cultural and civilisational heritage. He stressed the importance of media in defending national security and stability, preserving development achievements and reflecting people's aspirations to building the Gulf Union.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PUBLIC AND OTHER CRIMES

**KUWAIT:** A citizen followed his wife around Kuwait because he suspected her of having an affair. When she caught him and confronted him, he beat her in a public place. While sitting in a public mall in Salmiya, the woman noticed her husband watching her from a distance, when she approached him, he said he suspected her behavior so she became angry and they started arguing. Then the man started beating the woman. Police were called and the two taken for questioning. Instances of domestic violence are common in Kuwait but only rarely do they occur in public.

### Missing youth found

A missing minor girl was found in the presence of a citizen on the chalets road. The man is being held for questioning and may face legal action. The woman had been reported missing by her family in Sulaibiya police station. In an unrelated matter, Hawally police freed a young woman who said she was kidnapped, detained and raped repeatedly until she became pregnant. The prosecutor general ordered the suspect be sent to the central prison.

### Reckless driver caught

A reckless driver in Jahra was

caught by police who found him wanted to serve a four year jail sentence on a felony case. He was taken to the sentences implementation department, and his car was impounded.

### Deportee stopped at airport

A Bangladeshi man who was deported two years ago, failed in his attempt to re-enter the country with a forged passport, and was sent for deportation once again. The discovery was made when his fingerprints were taken, and his original name was found to be different from that on the man's current passport.

### Drug dealers busted

Farwaniya detectives arrested two Indian men in possession of shabu and heroin. A detective made an agreement with the two to buy drugs then they were arrested.

### Expats brawl

Three expats were arrested by criminal detectives because the beat up a compatriot, causing a 50% loss of his vision. A police source said the victim reported the matter to the police. He was attacked over a KD 20 loan he borrowed from one of the attackers. Police are looking for the other two men.

—Translated from the Arabic press

## EXPORT CREDIT ENLISTED TO KEEP GULF'S MEGA PROJECTS FUNDED

**DUBAI:** Gulf governments are increasingly turning to export credit agencies (ECAs) to finance billions of dollars of infrastructure projects as low oil prices squeeze liquidity in the region. Bankers say that since oil prices fell more than two years ago, eroding state revenues and drying up funding from local and international banks, borrowers are considering ECA finance for everything from airports to oil refinery expansion. The extent of its use in the future is difficult to predict, but at least a portion of the estimated \$2 trillion of projects planned in the Gulf Cooperation Council are likely to require ECA involvement.

"As the credit environment tightened, so did the ability of banks to take large tickets without the benefit of credit risk mitigation. As a result, the drivers of infrastructure spends, such as sovereigns and large public sector entities, are evaluating alternate modes of financing, including ECA financing," said Yusuf Ali Khan, managing director and trade head, Middle East, North Africa, Pakistan and Turkey at Citigroup. ECA-backed financing structures enable the export and supply of domestic goods or contractors through loan guarantees, or in some cases even direct lending, from the agencies to an overseas borrower.

"ECA funding is not only a matter of credit risk mitigation, it also enables projects to access a much larger pool of liquidity," said Alarik d'Ornhjelm, head of structured trade and export finance, Middle East and Africa, at Deutsche Bank. Projects in Dubai such as expanding Al Maktoum International Airport, destined to be the world's largest when complete, or the expansion of the red line metro to the World Expo 2020 site, will both require debt funding backed by guarantees from international ECAs. Also in Dubai, the government is expected to need roughly \$7 billion for projects linked to the Expo 2020, and ECA-backed financing is likely to represent a large part of this.

Marco Ferioli, head of UAE and MENA at the Italian export credit agency SACE, confirmed to Reuters that ECA financing will have a role in projects related to Expo 2020, and that SACE will be available to support Italian firms involved. SACE has also expressed interest in providing a credit line worth 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) to support Italian firms involved in expanding the Al Maktoum airport, he said. Beyond the UAE, a clean fuels project, promoted by the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, will require an ECA-backed loan of over \$5 billion, and in Saudi Arabia the development of a six-line Riyadh metro system - expected to cost more than \$20 billion - will also use ECA-backed debt. —Reuters



**KUWAIT:** Kuwaitis attend an election campaign meeting for the upcoming parliamentary election, in Kuwait City, late on November 23, 2016. A total of 287 candidates, including 14 women, have registered to stand for election to the 50-seat parliament tomorrow. —AFP

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** The oil-rich Gulf state of Kuwait, which holds parliamentary elections tomorrow, has been ruled by the Al-Sabah family for two and a half centuries. Here are five facts about the country of 4.4 million people, who include 3.1 million foreigners:

### An active political scene

Kuwait was the first Gulf Arab state to adopt a parliamentary system in 1962. The constitution provides for a 50-member National Assembly, elected for four years. While parliament enjoys legislative and monitoring powers, the government is formed from unelected MPs and is headed by a senior member of the Al-Sabah family, with the Amir, Crown Prince and Prime Minister all senior family members. Political parties are banned under Kuwaiti law but many Islamist, nationalist and liberal groups operate freely as de facto parties. From mid-2006 to 2013 the country went through a period of political turmoil, due to disputes between lawmakers, mainly from the opposition, and the government.

### New elections

Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, 87, in power since January 2006, dissolved parliament in October - a year

before its term was to expire, amid a dispute over petrol price hikes. The November 26 election sees the return of major opposition groups and individuals, ending a four-year boycott in protest against the government for amending the voting system.

### Oil, OPEC

A member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Kuwait pumps about 3.0 million barrels per day and sits on seven percent of the world's proven crude reserves. Before crude prices began to slide in mid-2014, Kuwait earned around 95 percent of its income from oil and gas. But the country's oil revenues dropped from a massive \$97 billion in 2013-2014 to \$40 billion last fiscal year, according to finance ministry figures.

### Rich monarchy with deficit

The emirate of 17,818 square kilometers (6,880 square miles) has a high standard of living with per capita income of \$28,500 in 2015, according to the International Monetary Fund. It has provided a generous cradle-to-grave welfare system to its 1.3 million nationals. Kuwait

quickly recovered from the 1990 invasion by neighboring Iraq, which led to a US-led operation to expel the Iraqi forces in February 1991. However, in 2015-2016, it posted its first budget deficit of \$15 billion after 16 years of surpluses, due to the fall in crude prices. During its previous surpluses, Kuwait amassed reserves worth \$600 billion invested mostly abroad. Kuwait has responded by raising power and water charges and hiking petrol prices.

### Security concerns

On June 26, 2015, an Islamic State group suicide bomber struck a Shiite mosque in the capital during Friday prayers, killing 26 people in the worst ever attack in Kuwait. Deteriorating relations between Iran and the Gulf Arab states have also affected Kuwaiti Shiites, who account for 30 percent of the native-born population. The minority reacted angrily in January 2016 when two Shiites - a Kuwaiti and an Iranian - were sentenced to death for spying for Iran and Lebanon's Shiite group Hezbollah. In January, Kuwait recalled its ambassador to Tehran after relations were broken off between Saudi Arabia and Iran. —AFP



# International

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2016

**Israel enlists help from allies as fires rage across country**



**Lost 4-year-old migrant from Africa finds mother in Italy**



**Hurricane Otto nears the coasts of Nicaragua and Costa Rica**



## IRAQ FORCES IN FIERCE MOSUL FIGHTING WITH JIHADISTS

### ELITE FORCES GAINED NEW GROUND

**MOSUL, Iraq:** Iraqi forces battled the Islamic State group deep inside Mosul yesterday, piling pressure on jihadists who have no more escape routes but leaving trapped civilians in the crossfire. Elite forces gained new ground in east Mosul, looking for fresh momentum

as stiffer-than-expected IS resistance threatened to bog down the five-week-old offensive against the jihadists' last major stronghold in Iraq.

Maan al-Saadi, a commander with the Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS), told AFP on

the front line in Mosul that his forces were battling IS in the neighborhood of Al-Khadraa in Iraq's second city. "They cannot flee. They have two choices—give up or die," he said.

Over the past few days, Iraqi forces have cut off the main supply line running from Mosul to the western border with Syria, where IS still controls the city of Raqa. The US-led coalition also bombed bridges over the Tigris river that splits Mosul in two, reducing the jihadists' ability to resupply the eastern front. An old British-era bridge, which cannot be used by heavy vehicles, is the only one still standing in the city. "The Iraqi advance on the south and southeast of the city has started to pick up some steam, which we think is a really great development," coalition spokesman Colonel John Dorrian said. "They're going to have to react to that advance. That thins out their defences," he said. A senior CTS commander said Wednesday that 40 percent of eastern Mosul had now been retaken.

(Popular Mobilization), an umbrella for paramilitaries dominated by Tehran-backed militias. They have focused their operations on Tal Afar, a large town still held by IS west of Mosul and on Wednesday announced they had cut the main road between it and Syria.

That will make it very long and dangerous for IS if it attempts to move fighters and equipment between Mosul and Raqa, the last two bastions of their crumbling "state". The eastern side of the city was expected to offer less resistance than the west bank but CTS forces have faced a torrid time.

#### Trapped civilians

IS fighters moving in an intricate network of tunnels have used snipers, booby traps and a seemingly endless supply of suicide car bombers to stop Iraqi forces. The authorities have not released casualty figures since the start of the offensive but fighters have admitted being surprised by how fierce IS resistance has been. The intensity of the fighting has been one of the factors preventing civilians from fleeing to the safety of some of the camps being set up around Mosul. The United Nations had expected around 200,000 people to flee their homes in the first few weeks of the offensive, but only about a third of that number have been displaced so far. The International Organization for Migration said Thursday that around 76,000 people had been displaced since October 17. It said that about 7,000 people had already returned to their homes, leaving roughly 69,000 still displaced, most of them in camps. — AFP

#### 'Brutal' fighting

"It is extraordinarily tough fighting, just brutal, but there is an inevitability to it. The Iraqis are going to beat them," Dorrian told AFP. Iraqi forces launched a major offensive on October 17 to retake Mosul, where jihadist supremo Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed a caliphate in 2014. They are also edging towards the city from a northern front as well as from the south, where they are within striking distance of Mosul airport.

Among the forces deployed south and west of the city are the Hashed al-Shaabi



#### Announcement from Ministry of Commerce & Industry Consumer Protection Department

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**MOSUL, Iraq:** An Iraqi soldier stands guard in front of scores of male residents rounded up by the Iraqi army and urged to come out with information of any Islamic State members among them in Gogjali neighborhood yesterday.—AP



## ISRAEL ENLISTS HELP FROM ALLIES AS FIRES RAGE ACROSS COUNTRY

**HAIFA, Israel:** With backing from several other countries, Israeli firefighters yesterday battled blazes around the country for the third day as flames damaged homes and prompted the evacuation of thousands of people. Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said police were investigating all possible causes, including arson. Windy and hot weather have helped fan the flames.

Residents of eight neighborhoods in the northern city of Haifa were told evacuate their homes on yesterday afternoon, he said. Rosenfeld did not know how many people were affected but media said it was tens of thousands of people.

The military said it "deployed two Search and Rescue battalions in order to assist civilian efforts." It also called up about 500 reserve soldiers to back up the police and fire departments. The rash of fires is the worst since 2010, when Israel suffered the single deadliest wildfire in its history. That blaze burned out of control for four days, killed 42 people and was extinguished only after firefighting aircraft from as far away as the United States arrived and brought it under control.

### Fires spread

This week's fires were spread in different places across the country. In Haifa, several roads and schools were closed in some areas. Haifa Mayor Yonah Yahav told Channel 2 TV there were several fires in his city.

Yahav also said there were indications one of the fires was caused when "someone tossed a cigarette in an area full of oil and flammable fluids" in an industrial zone. Thick smoke billowed over homes as high flames scorched trees and greenery nearby.

A spokesman for Israel's fire and rescue service, Yoram Levy, told the station that firefighters were working around the clock. He said the fires in Haifa "are probably arson." He said there was also an attempt to set ablaze a fire station.

Police said the blazes started early Tuesday morning at Neve Shalom, a community outside Jerusalem where Israelis and Arabs live together. Later, fires erupted in the northern Israeli area of Zichron Yaakov and elsewhere near Jerusalem. In all, hundreds of homes have been damaged and thousands of people have been evacuated. About a dozen were treated for smoke inhalation.

Several countries - including Cyprus, Russia, Italy, Croatia and Greece - are assisting the Israeli firefighters with equipment as the fires continue. Turkey later also joined the aid effort. Israel and Turkey recently struck a reconciliation deal that ended six years of animosity.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin, thanking him for his help in dealing with the fires. The premier's office said on Thursday that Russia is sending two large firefighting aircraft to Israel. — AP



**HAIFA, ISRAEL:** Men hose down wildfires yesterday. — AP



**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin (R), accompanied by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, meets with UN Secretary-General designate at the Kremlin yesterday. — AFP

## YEAR AFTER CRISIS, TURKEY AND RUSSIA FORGE UNEASY ALLIANCE

'RECOVERY IN RELATIONS HAS BEEN RAPID AND STUNNING'

**ISTANBUL:** One year after the crisis that plunged relations between Russia and Turkey to a post-Cold War low, Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan have overseen a spectacular revival in ties at a time when both are facing new tensions with the West.

The shooting down of a Russian military jet over the Syrian border by the Turkish air force on November 24 2015 was the culmination of months of tensions over the civil war, prompting Moscow to impose retaliatory sanctions on Ankara.

Erdogan accused Russia of war crimes in Syria in its support of President Bashar al-Assad while Putin said the Turkish strongman would make Turkey's modern founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk "roll in his grave". But after a reconciliation deal in June that saw Turkey express regret for downing the jet, the recovery in relations has been rapid and stunning.

Erdogan visited Putin's home city of Saint Petersburg in August and then hosted the Russian strongman for talks at an energy forum in Istanbul in October. At that forum, Putin and Erdogan clinched an accord to build a pipeline under the Black Sea that will pump Russian gas to consumers in Turkey and Europe. Meanwhile, even though both countries remain on opposing sides in the Syrian civil war, Ankara's criticism of Russian support for Assad in pushing rebels out of Aleppo has become remarkably muted.

### 'Re-evaluating its position'

Analysts say Turkey's rapproche-

ment with Russia is a clear signal to Washington and the European Union that the key NATO member and long-standing EU candidate has other potential strategic allies.

The EU criticized the magnitude of Ankara's crackdown in the wake of the July 15 attempted coup while Erdogan is furious Washington has so far failed to extradite the alleged mastermind, the US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen. "Ankara is using this movement towards Russia to re-evaluate its position towards the Western countries, especially the Americans," said Jean Marcou, Turkey expert at Sciences Po in the French city of Grenoble.

Erdogan recently even suggested that Turkey could join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a military-economic bloc led by China and Russia, in a move that could end its EU bid and NATO membership. But Marcou said the rapprochement between Ankara and Moscow was above all "tactical" and, for now, did not amount to a turning point that could cause a rupture with the EU or NATO.

### 'No strategic realignment'

Analysts said Erdogan's biggest priority was to re-establish full economic cooperation at a tricky moment for the Turkish economy and end sanctions on its key tourist industry that saw Russian visitor numbers plummet.

As well as the pipeline plan, half of Turkey's natural gas imports come from Russia while Moscow is supposed to build the country's first nuclear power

station. Meanwhile, there is a long list of issues that will continue to cause problems in ties—notably the Syrian conflict and Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea which has raised alarm over the welfare of the Turkic Tatar minority on the peninsula. "An aim was to redress the economic and energy collaboration and seek the termination of the Russian sanctions that have negatively affected Turkey's economy and particularly its tourism industry," said Sinan Ulgen, chairman of the Istanbul-based Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy (EDAM).

"But the rapprochement between Turkey and Russia should not be read as a strategic re-alignment," he said, adding Erdogan was keen to show the West his displeasure over its reaction in the wake of the coup.

### 'One man rule'

The Kremlin rushed to back Erdogan on the night of the coup and since then has not uttered a whisper of criticism about the magnitude of the crackdown, unlike Turkey's Western allies. Aykan Erdemir, senior fellow at Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, said that with Erdogan firmly eyeing a presidential system in Turkey, an alliance with fellow strongman Putin had become a far more tempting prospect. "Erdogan knows that as he marches to one-man rule, he will be much more comfortable among a group of authoritarian regimes to the East rather than facing the scrutiny and criticism of the European family of nations." — AFP



## ALEPPO REBELS AGREE UN AID PLAN; RUSSIA, SYRIA YET TO APPROVE -UN

**GENEVA:** Syrian rebels in besieged east Aleppo have agreed to a UN plan for aid delivery and medical evacuations, but the United Nations awaits a green light from Russia and the Syrian government, humanitarian adviser Jan Egeland said yesterday.

With freezing winter conditions setting in, some 275,000 people are trapped in east Aleppo, where the last

UN food rations were distributed on Nov. 13.

Hundreds of trucks are ready in Turkey and government-controlled west Aleppo to bring aid to the eastern sector, but the United Nations needs 72 hours once it has all approvals to prepare a "big, complex and dangerous operation", Egeland said. "We do now have written approval in principle

by the armed opposition groups of east Aleppo," he told reporters, specifying that he was referring to rebels with whom the UN is in contact - which do not include former Nusra Front militants.

"We have verbal support also from the Russian Federation on our four-point plan. We need written support and we need unconditional support

also from Russia and we are waiting still for the answer from the government of Syria."

Hundreds of wounded are awaiting evacuation for treatment under the plan, Egeland said. Asked about any 'Plan B', he replied: "In many ways Plan B is that people starve. And can we allow that to happen? No, we cannot allow that to happen."—Reuters



ADANA, Turkey: A fireman extinguish fire on cars after an explosion yesterday. —AFP

## TWO KILLED IN BOMB ATTACK IN SOUTHERN TURKEY 'ACCURSED TERROR'

**ISTANBUL:** A car bomb exploded in the car park of the governor's office in the southern Turkish city of Adana yesterday killing two people and wounding 33, officials said, in the latest attack to rock Turkey this year.

The explosion sparked a fire, with a cloud of dark smoke spewing into the sky, and caused damage to the governorate itself, state-run Anadolu news agency said, describing the blast as a "terror attack". The attack is believed to have been carried out by a woman, Adana governor Mahmut Demirtas was quoted as saying by Anadolu, without providing further details.

Energy Minister Berat Albayrak, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's son-in-law, said two people were killed and 33 wounded, including one in critical condition. Speaking to reporters after inspecting the site, Albayrak condemned the attack and said: "We have no fear from anything other than Allah."

As has been the case with previous attacks, Turkish authorities immediately slapped a broadcast ban on footage from the scene.

### 'Accursed terror'

"This accursed terror continues to target our people," Turkey's EU Affairs Minister Omer Celik, a ruling party MP

from Adana, wrote on Twitter. "We will fight against terror until the very end in the name of humanity," he added. Celik who later visited Adana claimed the atrocity targeted the governor himself.

With a population of almost two million, Adana is one of Turkey's largest cities, located around 100 kilometers from the Syrian border. The US consulate in the city had in September warned its citizens of a potential threat targeting US-branded hotels there. "We strongly condemn the outrageous terrorist attack in Adana," the US embassy in Ankara said on Twitter, adding that the United States stands "with Turkey against terror".

Incirlik air base, just outside Adana, is used by American and coalition forces as a hub for air raids against Islamic State (IS) jihadists in neighboring Syria. The attack came on the same day that three Turkish soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in an air strike in northern Syria that Turkey blamed on the Syrian regime.

Turkey has experienced a bloody year of militant attacks in its two biggest cities that have left dozens dead and put the country on high alert. Kurdish militants have twice struck in Ankara, while suspected IS suicide bombers have hit Istanbul on three occasions.

In June, 47 people were killed in a triple suicide bombing and gun attack at Istanbul's Ataturk airport, with authorities pointing the finger at IS. Another 57 people, 34 of them children, were killed in August in a suicide attack by an IS-linked bomber at a Kurdish wedding in the southeastern city of Gaziantep.

The country is also still reeling from a failed July 15 coup blamed on the US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen that has been followed by a relentless purge of his alleged supporters from all state institutions.

### Battle against PKK

There was no immediate indication of who was behind the latest attack. The Turkish military has stepped up operations against Kurdish militants after a fragile ceasefire broke down in the summer of 2015. Since then, there has been a dramatic surge in violence that shows no sign of ending.

The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), designated as a terror group by Turkey and its Western allies, generally concentrates its attacks in the south-east of the country. Although located in southern Turkey, Adana lies to the west of the southeastern region that has been the main theatre of conflict with the PKK.—AFP

## DESERT INDUSTRIAL CITY POINTS TO SAUDI ECONOMIC FUTURE

**RAS AL KHAIR, Saudi Arabia:** In the desert, far from the skyscrapers and busy streets of its big cities, oil-dependent Saudi Arabia is looking to build its future on two other natural resources. Phosphate minerals, used to produce fertilizer, and bauxite, the chief ore in making aluminum, are at the core of an effort to make mining a pillar of a diversified Saudi economy. About 80 kilometers north of Jubail on Saudi Arabia's Gulf Coast, the Ras Al Khair Industrial City has risen from the barren sands of the desert over the last eight years. After an investment of nearly \$35 billion, the project will be officially inaugurated by Saudi King Salman next week—a symbol of how the world's largest oil exporter seeks to lessen its reliance on petroleum. "This place we are in did not exist in 2007," Khalid Al-Mudaifer, CEO of Saudi mining company Ma'aden, told AFP during a government-organised rare visit by foreign journalists to the site.

"There was nobody at all, other than a good number of camels." Saudi Arabia—the world's largest oil exporter—has seen its revenues hit hard by the fall in global oil prices by more than half since 2014. In April the kingdom announced a wide-ranging reform plan, Vision 2030, that seeks to diversify the economy by promoting a wider variety of private industries and businesses employing more Saudis. With reserves including phosphate, bauxite, copper and uranium, Saudi Arabia is rich in minerals but the Vision plan noted that the mining sector "has yet to meet expectations". The government sees mining as the eventual third pillar of its economy after petroleum and petrochemicals. It wants the sector to contribute 97 billion riyals (\$26 billion) to Gross Domestic Product by 2020, roughly double the current proportion. The scale of Vision 2030 has raised doubts over whether it can all be achieved but officials say Ras Al Khair is helping diversification.

### From mine to market

"This project is the first project to use phosphate in Saudi Arabia. The phosphate has been there for 35 million years but it required infrastructure, and now the infrastructure is there," Mudaifer said. Ma'aden Phosphate, a venture with Saudi petrochemicals giant SABIC, is one component of the integrated Ras Al Khair development.

Phosphate rock mined west of Arar city in the far north near Iraq is transported by rail 1,450 kilometers across the desert to Ras Al Khair, where it is turned into fertilizer. The product is loaded onto ships for export to farmers in India and other countries from the project's own port, accounting for 10 percent of global phosphate fertilizer output. Trains also transport another major raw material, pinkish bauxite rock mined in central Saudi Arabia, to the industrial city. Ma'aden Aluminium, a joint venture with US giant Alcoa, operates a Ras Al Khair refinery that converts the bauxite into alumina. — AFP



JUBAIL, Saudi Arabia: A picture taken on November 23, 2016 shows a phosphate rock production site at the Maaden Aluminium Factory in Ras Al-Khair Industrial area.—AFP



## NIGERIA'S PEACE TALKS WITH OIL REBELS DEADLOCKED

**WARRI, Nigeria:** Just weeks ago, Nigeria's junior oil minister said output was almost back to normal after a year of devastating attacks against the major African oil producer. But now it seems Emmanuel Kachikwu spoke way too soon about the 2.1 million barrel per day figure.

Hours after President Muhammadu Buhari held talks with representatives from the oil-producing Niger delta in the capital Abuja on November 1, the attacks resumed in spectacular fashion. A blast on the Trans-Forcado pipeline just 48 hours after it reopened was a brazen provocation, casting doubt on the Nigerian government's ability to secure peace in the region. Forcados produces 215,000 barrels per day. Then on November 5, the major pipeline was hit again by the Niger Delta Greenland Justice Mandate, a group that has stepped up its attacks in recent months.

In the middle of the month, the Niger Delta Avengers, the main group in the restive region, claimed to have bombed three Nembe creek trunk lines. The Avengers said the ongoing sabotage was in response to the Nigerian navy's "Operation Sharkbite" in the region aimed at stopping attacks by militants and pirates. "We are determined to continue this war by all means necessary," the Avengers said. The Nigerian army launched "Operation Crocodile Smile" in the oil hub of Warri earlier this year in an attempt to stop the pipeline sabotage hammering the economy. But regional leaders say that the presence of the troops is stoking tension in a frustrated region, caught between violent militants and heavy-handed soldiers. Shootouts here have led to high-profile casualties. In October, a Nigeria Premier League defender Izu Joseph was accidentally shot dead when soldiers raided his hometown of Okaki in southern Bayelsa state. — AFPP

## LOST 4-YEAR-OLD MIGRANT FROM AFRICA FINDS MOTHER IN ITALY

### RESCUED BY POLICE

**ROME:** A lost four year-old who made the perilous boat journey from Northern Africa to Italy alone will be reunited with her mother from Ivory Coast thanks to an extraordinary coincidence. Oumoh, who had been taken from her father's family by her mother under the threat of female genital mutilation, was rescued at sea and brought to the Italian island of Lampedusa on November 5, along with around 15 other migrants.

But not one of the other passengers—mostly women and children—seemed to know who she was, according to police inspector Maria Volpe, who is charged with looking after migrant minors arriving in Sicily. "Mamma Maria", as she is known, went to the island off the coast of Africa to retrieve the youngster and on November 9 Oumoh was entrusted to a children's community in Palermo. "She had arrived a few days earlier, she seemed quite calm," Volpe, who has 20 years' experience with child migrants, told AFP. Fate then intervened in the guise of Nassade, an eight year-old rescued last week off the coast of Libya and brought to Lampedusa along with her mother and baby brother. At the island's reception centre, a police officer who wanted a chance to speak to Nassade's mother without interruption let the child look



**AGRIGENTO, Italy:** This handout picture released by the Italian police (Polizia di Stato) on November 23, 2016, shows police officer Maria Volpe taking care of Oumoh, 4, a young Ivorian migrant. —AFP

through the photographs on her mobile phone to distract her. "It's Oumoh, it's Oumoh!" she suddenly exclaimed.

#### Set sail without her

It appears Nassade had met the young girl from Ivory Coast in a reception centre in Tunis. And to the police officer's astonishment, Nassade's mother was able to provide the phone number for Oumoh's mother. Through her tears, the four year-old's mother said she had taken Oumoh away from home after her husband's family insisted the little girl must undergo female circumcision. They had travelled to Tunis, where she had left Oumoh with a friend while she returned to the Ivory Coast to collect some belongings. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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PANAMA CITY: Workers cut a tree that fell and killed a boy outside a school on Tuesday. —AP

## HURRICANE OTTO NEARS THE COASTS OF NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA

### UNUSUALLY STRONG LATE-SEASON STORM

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua:** Hurricane Otto strengthened to a Category 2 hurricane as it churned toward the sparsely-populated Caribbean coast border of Nicaragua and Costa Rica early yesterday as an unusually strong late-season storm. Heavy rains from the storm were blamed for three deaths in Panama. Otto was forecast to make landfall Thursday in Nicaragua, just north of the Costa Rican border. Officials in Costa Rica ordered the evacuation of 4,000 people from its Caribbean coast and called off school nationwide for the rest of the week. Heavy rain was already causing flooding in some areas and the president announced that public employees would not have to work Thursday or Friday.

#### Landfall in Costa Rica

The country's National Meteorological Institute noted that a hurricane had never made landfall in

Costa Rica since record-keeping began. Nicaragua also closed schools and was evacuating more than 10,000 people from communities in the storm's path. Heavy rains were expected to affect the entire country on Thursday and Friday, raising the possibility of flooding and landslides in the interior.

The US National Hurricane Center said the storm had regained hurricane strength late Wednesday night after fluctuating between tropical storm and hurricane status earlier this week. By Thursday morning, Otto's maximum sustained winds had increased to near 105 mph (165 kph) with additional strengthening possible before landfall.

The storm caused heavy rains in Panama as it moved roughly parallel to that nation's northern coast.

Jose Donderis, Panama's civil defense director, said a landslide just west of Panama City early Tuesday trapped nine people. Seven were rescued but two

were pulled from the mud dead. In the capital, a child was killed when a tree fell on a car outside a school.

Panamanian authorities canceled school and began to release water from the locks and lakes feeding the Panama Canal. Costa Rican President Luis Guillermo Solis said Otto could damage the country's important coffee and agriculture sectors.

Nicaragua also feared damage for impoverished farmers and to coffee crops that are almost ready for harvest. Otto "could seriously jeopardize food security for small-holder farmers who rely on maize, beans, cocoa, honey, coffee and livestock for their livelihoods," said Jennifer Zapata, a regional director for Heifer International, a US-based anti-poverty group. Thursday morning, Otto was moving west near 8 mph (13 kph) and was centered about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of Limon, Costa Rica, the hurricane center said. —AP

## GREEN PARTY RAISES \$2.5 MILLION FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RECOUNT IN WISCONSIN

**MILWAUKEE:** Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein yesterday reached her goal to raise \$2.5 million to request a recount in Wisconsin, one of three states where she plans to seek an audit of US presidential election results, her campaign said. Stein will ask Wisconsin to verify vote totals tallied by electronic machines that her campaign called "highly vulnerable to hacking and malicious reprogramming" in a statement on its website. She is also trying to raise an additional \$2 million to request recounts in Michigan and Pennsylvania, where deadlines are next week to file the required paperwork.

Election experts have identified Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania as states where "statistical anomalies" occurred, according to the Stein campaign. "We deserve elections we can trust," the campaign said.

Republican Donald Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton by slight margins in the three battleground states on his way to an upset in the presidential election on Nov. 8. Leading up to

the election, many polls had Clinton defeating Trump. Although Clinton won the popular vote, Trump is well ahead in Electoral College votes, the determining tally in winning the presidency in the United States. Stein won a little more than 1 percent of the popular vote. "Our effort to recount votes in those states is not intended to help Hillary Clinton," the Stein campaign said.

Election experts are calling for Clinton to seek a manual review of paper ballots and voting equipment in the three states, University of Michigan computer science professor J. Alex Halderman wrote in an essay. Such an examination would "help allay doubt and give voters justified confidence that the results are accurate," Halderman wrote on Medium.com, a site where users can self-publish articles and essays. The most likely explanation for the polls wrongly predicting a Clinton win was that they were "systematically wrong" rather than that the election being hacked, he wrote. —Reuters

## PRESIDENT DANCES SALSA WHILE VENEZUELA CHURNS

**CARACAS:** Venezuelans are running short of food, medicine and patience, but fear not: President Nicolas Maduro is here to cheer them up-by dancing salsa.

Grinning under his black mustache, the burly, towering socialist swivels his hips and twirls his wife Cilia Flores in front of the cameras. "People say I'm crazy for dancing salsa," he said on one recent broadcast. "Hands up everybody who dances salsa! Admit it, we're all crazy!" With hunger and violent crime gripping the country and the opposition calling for his head, this is Maduro's new strategy for winning hearts and minds. That is an uphill battle; most Venezuelans would like him to leave power.

Wednesday was a case in point as Maduro celebrated his 54th birthday with a live performance by old-school salsa greats El Gran Combo de Puerto Rico. "What a surprise!" the president exclaimed before taking the first lady for a spin, dancing to the classic "Me libere."

#### 'Ridiculous'

A former bus driver, Maduro has often sung and danced at campaign rallies. But his continued capering amid the crisis, and his recent launch of a dedicated salsa radio show, seem like bad taste to some weary citizens. "He is ridiculous. It's offensive. He is laughing at the people," said Euro Bermudez, 62, coming out of a bank in Caracas after collecting his pension. "Instead of spending money on television programs, he should be bringing us medicine." Spoof photo "memes" of Maduro online have shown him dancing in various inappropriate settings: at the scene of a crime or in a long queue for food. But truck driver Orlando Zacarias, 49, said he saw Maduro's dancing as a necessary means of continuing the "socialist revolution." "Little by little, he is reaching out to each and every Venezuelan to transmit his message," Zacarias said.

#### Salsa time

Maduro launched his radio show "Salsa Hour" late last month on the same day that opposition lawmakers called for a political trial against him. They say mismanagement and corruption in his government have plunged the country into crisis. The opposition won control of the legislature in elections a year ago. Now Maduro is using salsa's popular beats to reach out to ordinary Venezuelans who deserted him in that vote, says social psychologist Ricardo Sucre. "He wants to show himself to be confident and relaxed, not as though his government is about to fall." Maduro himself brands the crisis a US-backed capitalist conspiracy. He casts his programs as a counterweight to media that he says are out to discredit him.

#### Dancing through scandal

The last edition of his television program "In Touch With Maduro" lasted four hours and featured a live salsa band. With his long broadcasts, Maduro is carrying on a tradition of his late mentor and predecessor Hugo Chavez. Chavez's weekly television show "Alo Presidente" was an outspoken and unpredictable spectacle. Maduro lacks Chavez's charisma, Sucre says, but all the same "Chavez chose him as his successor because he could get through difficult times without looking nervous." — AFP



CARACAS: Handout picture released by the presidential press office depicting Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro (L) during his radio broadcast "La Hora de la salsa" (Salsa Time) in Caracas, on November 22, 2016.—AFP





**MIAMI:** Miami-Dade police officer William Cook and police dog Ringo guard the terminal at Miami International Airport, Wednesday, Nov 23, 2016. —AP

## DURING THANKSGIVING FEAST, SOME AMERICANS HOLD POLITICS

**CHICAGO:** As Americans prepared to gather yesterday for Thanksgiving turkey, football and togetherness, many planned to avoid talk of the rancorous election between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Sitting on their suitcases at a departure lounge at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Sharyn Ioffe and her brother Saul Ioffe said there's a good chance politics will intervene this Thanksgiving when they arrive home in New York. "I'm pretty anxious about it," said Sharyn Ioffe, 27, who supported Clinton, while others in her family sided with Trump. "I'm still very emotional about the election. I know you have to try and understand the other side. But I'm not there yet."

### Change the subject

She said her strategy would be simple: Change the subject. "I won't bring it up. But if someone else does, I'll say I don't want to discuss it," she said. Americans took to the roads, air and railways Wednesday for what is expected to be the busiest Thanksgiving travel period in almost a decade. Almost 49 million people are expected to travel 50 miles or more between Wednesday and Sunday, the most since 2007, because of lower gas prices and an improving economy, according to AAA.

The weather appeared to be cooperating for the most part, with no significant issues in the majority of the country, the National Weather Service said. The National Weather Service issued winter weather advisories for parts of northern Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan as well as western and central Montana and central Idaho, New York and Pennsylvania for Wednesday night. A winter storm warning was in effect for parts of northwest Washington state, with heavy snow expected through Thanksgiving Day. Lines of cars, taxi cabs and buses dropping travelers off and picking others up at O'Hare terminals grew longer by early evening. Crowds grew steadily inside, too, as travelers pulled suitcases into departure terminals decked out with giant wreaths. A light, cold rain fell outside, but most flights as of evening were listed on big boards as "on time."

Elizabeth Thompson said she couldn't wait to leave the big city behind and decompress over the Thanksgiving holiday at her grandmother's house in rural south-central Indiana. But first she had to get there. On Wednesday, Thompson, 23, missed her Amtrak train from Chicago to Galesburg, Illinois, where she'd planned to catch a ride with a family member the rest of the way to Edinburgh, Indiana. "It's just where we go to unplug and escape," said Thompson, who was deciding whether to wait several hours for the next train or hop on a bus and get going.

And a big part of the plan is banning election talk. "My mother specifically said, 'We're not going to talk about it,'" for her grandmother's sake, Thompson said. Although nobody in her family supported President-elect Trump, "my grandmother is sick of hearing about it." —AP

## WOMEN FOR TRUMP CABINET: HALEY PICKED FOR UN, DEVOS FOR ED DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM THE 'ALT-RIGHT'

**PALM BEACH:** Injecting the first diversity into his Cabinet-to-be, Donald Trump selected two Republican women on Wednesday who had unflattering things to say about him during the presidential campaign: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to serve as US ambassador to the United Nations and charter school advocate Betsy DeVos to lead the Department of Education.

Gov. Haley has little foreign policy experience, yet Trump praised her as "a proven dealmaker." DeVos, like Trump, is new to government but has spent decades working to change America's system of public education.

DeVos and Haley are the first women selected for top-level administration posts as the president-elect works to shape a White House team from scratch. Haley is the daughter of Indian immigrants, so she also would be his first minority selection after a string of announcements of white men.

Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson said "an announcement is forthcoming" on his role, which would make him the first black choice - possibly as secretary of Housing and Urban Development - but he also suggested he'd be thinking about it over the Thanksgiving holiday. "I feel that I can make a significant contribution particularly to making our inner cities great for everyone," Carson wrote on his Facebook page.

### Holiday selections

Wednesday's picks came as Trump worked to distance himself from the "alt-right," a movement of white supremacists who continue to cheer his election. He announced his two new choices in a statement released as he gathered with family behind closed doors at his Palm Beach estate for Thanksgiving. He's spending the holiday there after a week of interviews of potential appointees in New York, punctuated by announcements of members of his national security team.

In a Thanksgiving message posted on social media, Trump acknowledged that the nation "just finished a long and bruising political campaign." "Emotions are raw and tensions just don't heal overnight," he added. "It's my prayer that on this Thanksgiving we begin to heal our divisions and move forward as one country strengthened by shared purpose and very, very common resolve."

Bad blood between Trump and his new Cabinet selections had been evident through much of this year's campaign. "The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Trump wrote in March. Haley denounced several of his campaign comments and urged voters to "reject the siren call of the angriest voices."

DeVos, from Michigan, told The Associated Press in July, "A lot of the things he has said are very off-putting and concerning." On Wednesday, Trump said of his UN selection: "Gov. Haley has a proven track record of bringing people together regardless of background or party affiliation to move critical policies forward for the betterment of her state and our country." She said she loved her South Carolina post but "when the president believes you



**COLUMBIA, South Carolina:** In this Jan 14, 2015 file photo, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is escorted down the steps of the Capitol by her husband Michael. —AP

have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed."

### Republicans reactions

While Republicans praised Haley's selection, DeVos faced criticism from left and right. The president of the National Education Association, Lily Eskelsen Garcia, said in a statement that for years DeVos "has lobbied for failed schemes, like vouchers - which take away funding and local control from our public schools - to fund private schools at taxpayers' expense."

And Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, tweeted, "Trump has chosen the most ideological, anti-public ed nominee since the creation of the Dept of Education." At the same time, some conservatives warned that the longtime Republican donor, who has spent millions of dollars - along with her husband - to promote candidates who favor charter schools and school vouchers, also supports the Common Core education standards that Trump railed against during the campaign. Conservatives already were grappling with Trump's Tuesday concession that climate change may be connected to human activity and his reversal of a campaign vow to pursue a criminal investigation into Democratic rival Hillary Clinton. DeVos addressed criticism head-on, posting a "Q&A" statement that said directly about Common Core: "I am not a sup-

porter - period." "I do support high standards," she said. But along the way Common Core "got turned into a federal boondoggle."

Just two weeks ago, Trump shocked the political world - including many in his own party - by winning the presidential contest. The billionaire New Yorker has yet to take any formal steps to separate from his international business empire as experts in both parties warn of potential conflicts of interest.

Trump will be sworn into office in less than 60 days. Beyond his Cabinet, he must fill hundreds of high-level administration posts. Spokesman Jason Miller said Trump now is focusing on his choice for secretary of state in particular. Among those under consideration: former New York Mayor and Trump loyalist Rudy Giuliani and 2012 GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, formerly an outspoken Trump critic.

After secretary of state, the UN ambassador is the highest-profile diplomatic position, often serving as the voice for US positions on the international stage. As for DeVos, her family has been active in Republican politics for decades, especially as donors. Her husband, Dick, is an heir to the Amway fortune and a former president of the company. The American Federation for Children Action Fund, which DeVos chairs, and its state-affiliated PACs invested in 121 races in 12 states in the general election, spending spent \$210,000 to support "pro-school choice" candidates in Oklahoma alone. — AP





**CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, India:** Indian police detain a member of the Communist Party of India outside a bank during a protest against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the withdrawal of high-value banknotes from circulation, in Chennai yesterday. —AFP

## NEPALI MIGRANT WORKERS UNWITTING VICTIMS OF INDIA CASH CRACKDOWN

**KATHMANDU:** When Bishnu Pandey, a Nepali migrant working in India, returned home two weeks ago, he had hoped to clear a loan taken by his family to rebuild its village home with his savings. But the 35-year-old New Delhi restaurant worker had his dreams shattered after the bank refused to exchange cash worth \$440 because of a crackdown on "black money" ordered by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The shock announcement to ban 500 and 1,000 rupee bills - worth \$7.50 and \$15 - seeks to flush out billions of dollars in unaccounted wealth and hit the finances of militants suspected of using fake currency to fund operations. "I don't think I am the target but I became a victim," Pandey told Reuters outside a bank branch in Kathmandu, showing stacks of the old Indian notes

that are no longer legal tender.

"I have no money now to return to work and I have no way to pay back the family debt," he said, referring to \$275 his father borrowed to repair his house damaged in earthquakes last year that killed 9,000 people and destroyed nearly one million homes. The tall, lanky Pandey, from Naubise village in Dhading district, 24 km (15 miles) from Kathmandu, is one of hundreds of thousands in the desperately poor Himalayan country hit by the currency ban announced two weeks ago.

Families of migrants like Pandey, students seeking admissions in Indian colleges, those seeking medical treatment, pilgrims and those visiting families across the open border have all been hit. Unlike people in India, they can't deposit or swap old notes at banks that will accept them until Dec

30. Pashupati Murarka, chief of the Federation of the Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), estimates that dud banknotes worth as much as 10 billion Indian rupees (\$146 million) may be held by individuals and the informal sector.

Nara Bahadur Thapa, an official at the central bank, said Nepal received 70 billion rupees (\$640 million) in remittances from migrant workers in India every year. Thousands of Gurkha soldiers retired from the Indian army also get their pensions paid in the Indian currency. Nepali Prime Minister Prachanda, a former Maoist rebel commander, spoke to Modi over phone last week seeking arrangements for the exchange of Indian cash held in Nepal, his aides said. Modi pledged to resolve the issue, but no arrangements have been made yet, they said. —Reuters

## TWELVE ARRESTED IN INDIA BABY TRAFFICKING RING

**KOLKATA:** Twelve people have been arrested in eastern India for trafficking newborn babies, who were smuggled out of clinics in biscuit boxes, police said yesterday. Police busted the illegal adoption racket after they found three newborns inside a cardboard box being taken from a clinic north of Kolkata on Monday night. The clinic owner and seven others were arrested on Monday, and four others were detained Wednesday after raids on other clinics. One of the stolen babies, a girl, has been reunited with her parents, while the mothers of the other two were still being identified, senior police officer Bharatlal Meena told AFP.

All the babies were between three and five days old, he said. "We fear that at least 45 newborns were trafficked by the gang over the past two years," Meena said, adding the clinics were paid 200,000 rupees (\$2,900) for a boy and half that for a girl. "Some of the women admitted to the nursing home (clinic) were told that they have given birth to stillborn babies," he said. "If a mother wanted to see her baby, the nursing home employees would tell her that it would be a scary sight. Most of the time parents would return home without seeing their babies."

The babies were stolen from at least four clinics in the area and were kept in boxes before being handed over to a charity.

The charity passed the babies to an agent who worked for prospective adoptive parents, Meena said. "Investigators have obtained evidence that babies born in this nursing home had been trafficked to several cities, including one in the US." Last year, police in New Delhi busted a charity that had allegedly sold two dozen babies and toddlers to couples for up to 550,000 rupees each. Kidnapping and trafficking children in India has long been a major problem, with many sold to unscrupulous employers for use as cheap labor.

The racket in Delhi involved prospective adoptive mothers being admitted to private clinics where they were given a false record of having delivered a baby as well as a birth certificate for their "newborns".

Experts say couples wanting to legally adopt in India are often frustrated by lengthy bureaucratic delays and complex rules, pushing them towards the thriving illegal adoption market. Desperately poor parents also sometimes sell their children, while others are kidnapped by traffickers, experts say. India has an estimated 30 million orphans. But only 4,362 children were legally adopted in 2014 and 3,677 in 2015, according to the government's central adoption authority. —AFP



**BADURIA, India :** Local residents stand in front of the Sohan Nursing Home and Poly Clinic after an officer from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the West Bengal police sealed the main Nursing Home, in Baduria around 65 kms west of Kolkata. —AFP

## AFGHANISTAN VOWS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

**KABUL:** Afghan ministries yesterday signed an agreement to eliminate violence against women, a largely symbolic effort in a country that foreign observers still consider one of the worst in the world to be female. The Afghan attorney general's office recorded more than 3,700 cases of violence against women in the first eight months of 2016, with 5,000 cases recorded in the whole of 2015. "We are seeking ways to cooperate, and for an effective and lawful fight against the existence of violence against women in the country," attorney general Farid Hamidi said at the signing ceremony between his office and four govern-

ment ministries at the presidential palace in Kabul.

He said the Afghan government was determined to fight against corruption and combat violence against women in the country. The campaign was launched on the eve of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. "Unfortunately, violence against women is on the rise," Maleha Hassan, deputy attorney general, told reporters in Kabul. "The situation is getting worse," she said, calling it "shocking and disappointing". Gender equality in Afghanistan has improved somewhat since a US-led coalition toppled the hardline

Taliban regime in 2001. Women-particularly from cities-have taken up professional jobs and hold more than a quarter of all seats in parliament. President Ashraf Ghani has also pledged to place women's rights at the top of his agenda, but major challenges remain as they continue to suffer oppression and abuse, including forced marriages and child marriages. In March 2015, a 27-year-old woman known as Farkhunda was beaten to death in Kabul after being falsely accused of blasphemy, a case that became a symbol of the endemic violence that women still face. —AFP



## TENSIONS SOAR AS INDIAN FIRE HITS BUS IN KASHMIR, KILLING 10

**MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan:** Indian troops fired on a Pakistani passenger bus in Kashmir on Wednesday, killing 10 civilians in one of the deadliest incidents in weeks of violence in the disputed Himalayan region, stoking tensions between the nuclear-armed rivals. Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called the shelling "naked aggression," and the government summoned an Indian diplomat to lodge a protest. The Pakistani army contacted its Indian counterpart over a crisis hotline, saying

"we reserve the right to respond at the place and time of our choosing." The Pakistani military said it had already fired back at Indian positions, killing seven soldiers, but there was no word on casualties from the Indian side.

The Indian military said in a statement that Lt. Gen. Ranbir Shah had spoken to his Pakistani counterpart and expressed "grief" over the civilian casualties. But he insisted that India's "retaliatory" fire had only been directed at locations where Pakistan had fired first.

Kashmir is split between Indian and Pakistani areas of control and claimed in its entirety by both countries. The South Asian rivals fought two of their three wars over Kashmir, and it remains one of the world's most intractable conflicts.

Waheed Khan, a Pakistani police official in the region, said the Indian shelling also hit villages near the Line of Control separating the two sides, killing another two civilians and causing others to flee. At least three Pakistani soldiers were also killed, the military said,

adding that Indian troops had fired on an ambulance.

The latest exchange of fire came a day after the mutilated body of an Indian soldier was found in Kashmir. The Indian military did not say whether the soldier was killed by Pakistani soldiers or Kashmiri rebels, who have been fighting against Indian rule since 1989. "Retribution will be heavy for this cowardly act," Col. Rajesh Kalia, an Indian army spokesman, said after Tuesday's attack. — AP

## PROTESTS FLARE IN EASTERN INDIA AFTER CHANGES TO DECADES-OLD LAND LAWS

**BHUBANESWAR, India:** Protests over land rights flared for a second day in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand, as activists and indigenous people took to the streets after the state assembly approved amendments to colonial-era land laws despite strong opposition. The state assembly on Wednesday approved changes to two laws that will allow the state to buy protected tribal land to lease to investors, as well as use agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

Unruly scenes unfolded in the assembly in state capital Ranchi, with an opposition member hurling a shoe at the speaker, while police used teargas and water cannons to disperse protesters outside. State government officials say amendments to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act and the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act will help lure investment to one of the country's poorest states.

Easier access to land in the resource-rich state will also help create critical infrastructure including roads, hospitals and schools, state officials said. "The changes to the laws will help people use the land for commercial purposes; it will benefit them," Revenue Minister Amar Kumar Bauri told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We did it after wide consultations," he said, denying the opposition parties' charge that consultations were not held. — Reuters



ISLAMABAD, Islamabad Capital Territory : Pakistan's National Security Advisor Sartaj Aziz (left) shakes hands with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson prior to their meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad yesterday. —AFP

## BRITAIN AND PAKISTAN TO INCREASE TRADE, SECURITY

'IT IS UP TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO FIND A 'LASTING SOLUTION'

**ISLAMABAD:** Britain is in talks to boost trade and security cooperation with Pakistan, Foreign Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday, part of London's efforts to improve trade links with emerging market countries. Britain has been seeking to bolster global trade ties following its June referendum vote to leave the European Union, with the government seeking to broaden relations with fast-growing economies outside Europe. On a visit to Pakistan, Johnson said talks were progressing on plans to increase annual trade beyond 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.11 billion) per year.

"Consider the size of the Pakistan economy, how fast it's growing, look at the size of the UK economy, we could do so much better," Johnson said in Islamabad before meeting Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The two countries have had strong cultural ties since Pakistan gained independence from

Britain in 1947, with more than one million people of Pakistani origin currently residing in Britain. Pakistan's sputtering economy has rebounded in recent years, helped by improved security in the country, and growth is expected at just over 5 percent this fiscal year, the highest rate since 2008.

Economic expansion is set to increase due to a \$54 billion investment from China in a network of road, rail and energy projects that will form an economic corridor linking western China with Pakistan's Arabian Sea port at Gwadar. However, despite improved security Islamist militant groups continue to pose a threat and have carried out several large-scale attacks in recent months.

Britain has also long been concerned about radicalized Islamists with links or training in Pakistan carrying out attacks on British soil. Three of the four bombers who carried out the attacks on

London transport network in July 2005 that killed 52 people were of Pakistani origin and the fourth had travelled to Pakistan before the attacks.

Sartaj Aziz, Pakistan's top foreign policy official, said the two nations were discussing how to improve security cooperation. Aziz said Prime Minister Sharif has invited his British counterpart Theresa May, who visited India this month, to travel to Pakistan next year to further boost ties. Johnson also said the United States' President-elect Donald Trump was right to urge members of NATO to pay more towards the military alliance, which is heavily reliant on the United States. Johnson urged other member nations to pay 2 percent of their budget towards defense spending. "We need a strong NATO alliance, and I think that the president-elect is quite right to draw attention to the need to finance that alliance properly," Johnson said. —Reuters

## PAKISTAN PROVINCE CRIMINALIZES 'FORCED CONVERSIONS'

**KARACHI:** A Pakistan province yesterday passed a law making "forced conversions" punishable with a life sentence and forbidding minors from changing their religion, a bid to protect minorities in the conservative Muslim country. The new bill, passed by legislators in southern Sindh province, also mandates a 21-day waiting period for any person who wants to convert. "It is necessary to criminalize forced conversions and provide protection for those who are victims of this abhorrent practice," an excerpt of the bill, seen by AFP, reads.

Forced conversions, particularly of Hindus to Islam, are an issue in Sindh and throughout the Muslim nation of some 200 million, where minorities have long fought for their rights. In 2014, an advocate group which campaigns against religious violence in Pakistan told US Congress that forced conversions generally involved the abduction of girls or young women who were made to convert to Islam and married. The Movement for Solidarity and Peace said girls were often raped or beaten and, when the family complained to police, the abductor claimed the girl had willingly converted.

Exact figures are unverifiable, but hundreds of people are believed to undergo such conversions each year. The legislation bans anyone under the age of 18 from changing their religion. It calls for a minimum sentence of five years and maximum of life imprisonment for anyone found to be forcing people to convert. "It is a historic law we have carved and passed," Nand Kumar Goklani, a Hindu legislator and author of the law, told AFP. "This will end the plight of minority Hindus, who will feel more protected now," he said. —AFP



## XINJIANG RESIDENTS MUST TURN IN PASSPORTS

**BEIJING:** All residents in China's restive region of Xinjiang must hand in their passports to local police stations for "examination and management", the Global Times newspaper said yesterday. "Anyone who needs the passport must apply to the police station," an anonymous police officer in Aksu prefecture told the paper, adding that the policy had been implemented throughout Xinjiang. Many members of the more than 10 million-strong Muslim Uighur minority in the region complain of discrimination-including denials of passport applications-as well as controls on their culture and religion. The Global Times article followed numerous reports from cities

across the region of tightened passport controls.

In mid-October, the public security bureau of Shihezi city posted a directive on a verified social media account asking residents to hand in their passports to police, stating: "Those who refuse to hand them in will bear the responsibility themselves should there be consequences such as being forbidden to go abroad." The post was later deleted. Photos of other notices posted on social media showed police stations in various counties and in the regional capital Urumqi requesting citizens hand in passports or stating that new documents would no longer be issued. Angry questions about the new

restrictions abounded on Chinese social media. "I didn't spend time and money getting a passport to become the focus of the government's safeguarding or to ask for their instructions every time I go out on holiday," said one incensed user, from the border district of Tacheng, on the Twitter-like Sina Weibo platform, adding: "If citizens cannot enjoy even basic rights, how can we live? Would the government please give me a sensible reason for this?"

A second said: "Xinjiang is becoming stranger and stranger, regressing as time goes on." In June, local state-run media reported that the mostly Kazakh residents of a Xinjiang border district had to give police DNA samples, finger-

prints, voiceprints and a "three-dimensional image" in order to apply for certain travel documents, including passports. A Xinjiang official told the Global Times that the new policy tightening was intended to maintain social order in the region. Beijing regularly accuses what it says are exiled separatist groups such as the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) of being behind attacks in Xinjiang, which has seen a wave of deadly unrest. But many independent experts doubt the strength of overseas Uighur groups and their links to global terrorism, with some saying China exaggerates the threat to justify tough security measures in the resource-rich region.—AFP



**FENGCHENG, China:** Workers search for survivors in the debris of a collapsed platform in a cooling tower at a power station at Fengcheng, in China's Jiangxi province yesterday.—AFP

# CHINA POWER PLANT COLLAPSE KILLS 67

'INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ARE COMMON IN CHINA'

**BEIJING:** At least 67 people were killed when part of a power station under construction in China collapsed yesterday, state media reported, the latest industrial accident in a country with a dismal safety record. A cooling tower platform plunged to the ground in the early hours, trapping an unknown number of people beneath it, the official Xinhua news agency said. State broadcaster CCTV put the toll at 67, with local reports saying one person was still missing and two others injured.

Pictures of the scene in Fengcheng, in the central province of Jiangxi, showed a grey mass of concrete slabs, steel girders and twisted metal splayed in a heap on the ground inside a large round structure. Hard-hatted rescue workers in neon jumpsuits carried bodies out from the site on stretchers wrapped in orange sheeting. A total of 32 fire engines and 212 military personnel had been deployed to the scene, the Jiangxi provincial fire department said on a verified social media account.

The construction of two 1,000-megawatt coal-fired power units at the Ganneng Fengcheng power station

began last July and was expected to be completed by early 2018, the local Yichun city government said on a verified social media account last year. The expansion was budgeted to cost a total of 7.67 billion yuan (now \$1.1 billion), it added. The main investor for a previous expansion project at the plant suspended trading in its shares on the Shenzhen stock exchange yesterday afternoon, stating that "significant events" that could not be disclosed could impact its share price.

Its shares had fallen 3.41 percent by midday. The State Administration of Work Safety has dispatched a team to investigate the cause of the accident, Chinese media reported. Many companies cut corners with workplace safety to reduce their costs and widespread corruption in China also allows firms to sidestep oversight. The Administration's former chief, Yang Dongliang, has been accused of accepting more than 28 million yuan in bribes. His trial started yesterday, Chinese media said.

### Poor safety

Industrial accidents are common in

China, where safety standards are often poorly enforced.

In August a pipeline explosion at a coal-fired power plant in the neighboring province of Hubei killed 21. Earlier this summer more than 130 people were taken to hospital after chemicals leaked from a plant in eastern China. In April a chemical fire burned for 16 hours in the coastal province of Jiangsu after an explosion at a facility storing chemicals and fuel, requiring 400 firefighters to quell the flames.

Last December, the collapse of a gypsum mine in the eastern province of Shandong left one person dead and 13 others unaccounted for, with four miners only rescued after being trapped underground for 36 days. A total of 19 people had been found responsible for the incident, Xinhua said yesterday, with three managers arrested and 16 other local officials "punished". The agency did not give further details. The owner of the collapsed mine committed suicide by drowning himself at the scene soon after the collapse, Xinhua said. He will not be subject to criminal liabilities, it cited investigators as saying.—AFP

## CHINESE TRAVEL SITE CTRIP BUYS SKYSCANNER FOR \$1.7 BN

**SHANGHAI:** China's largest online travel agency Ctrip will buy British flight search app Skyscanner for \$1.7 billion, the companies said, as it steps up its overseas ambitions. The travel service provider will pay £1.4 billion, mainly in cash, for the Edinburgh-based firm, they said in separate statements late Wednesday. NASDAQ-listed Ctrip, partly owned by Chinese search giant Baidu, provides online booking for airline and railway tickets as well as hotels, and describes itself as China's largest travel company. It generated more than 350 billion yuan (\$51 billion) in gross merchandise value last year, the firm said on its website, referring to a measure of online sales. Gareth Williams, Skyscanner chief executive, said: "Ctrip is the clear market leader in China and a company we can learn a huge amount from." The acquisition took Skyscanner "one step closer to our goal of making travel search as simple as possible for travellers around the world", he added. Skyscanner provides similar services to Ctrip and has 60 million monthly active users, mainly in Europe.

Ctrip co-founder and executive chairman Liang Jianzhang said: "This acquisition will strengthen long-term growth drivers for both companies. Skyscanner will complement our positioning at a global scale." Skyscanner will remain operationally independent with its current management team, the statements said. In its third-quarter results, announced Wednesday, Ctrip said it had also acquired "two large US tour operators specialized in serving Chinese travellers", without naming them. "The Skyscanner deal, as well as the buying of US travel agencies, is part of Ctrip's effort to expand its overseas business," Zhang Min, analyst with Shanghai-based consulting firm Business Connect China, told AFP. "Ctrip is already the leader in the domestic market in both ticket and hotel booking, so its future growth lies in overseas expansion." Average hotel rates were higher overseas, she added, so the deal would help improve Ctrip's margins.

The Skyscanner purchase, already approved by boards of both firms, is still subject to customary closing conditions and is expected to be completed by the end of 2016. Shanghai-based Ctrip merged with another major Chinese online agency Qunar last year to create the country's biggest internet travel service.—AFP



**BEIJING:** Tourists walk with their luggage at Beijing International Airport yesterday.—AFP



# Lifestyle

Friday Times

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2016

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



This picture shows an employee displaying a rubber mask of US President-elect Donald Trump at the Ogawa Studios mask factory in Saitama, north of Tokyo. — AFP

## IRANIAN FILMMAKER IMPRISONED FOR A YEAR OVER HIS WORK



# Asghar Farhadi on war, peace and writing from the heart

Asghar Farhadi stepped out into the biting winter Tehran air clutching his Oscar, taken aback by the huge crowd waiting at the airport to crown him Iran's next national hero. Cinema in the Islamic republic had been winning critical plaudits for decades but had failed to break into the mainstream until the celebrated auteur brought home the country's first ever Academy Award in 2012. "I tried to go surreptitiously, precisely to avoid any kind of scene, and somehow they had managed to glean what day I was arriving and there were crowds at the airport," Farhadi remembers.

"The numbers were so huge that I began to be concerned about crowd control." The best foreign language win for Farhadi's "A Separation" prompted nationwide celebration as millions of Iranians burned the midnight oil to watch the director, then 40, accepting the award. It came as huge morale boost to many Iranians whose lives were overshadowed by civil unrest following the Arab Spring in nearby Egypt and Tunisia, the ever-present threat of conflict and crippling economic sanctions.

"It was a period of time when politicians both in Iran and the United States were talking about war," Farhadi tells AFP on a promotional visit to the US ahead of the awards season. "I was so

happy that they were now speaking about culture. I had this impression that it was the people of the two countries that were in communication rather than the politicians talking." The filmmaker once again finds himself as a cultural go-between, representing Iran in Hollywood with his latest film, "The Salesman," picked by his country as its 2017 entry for the foreign film Oscar.

## Visceral

A taut, visceral morality tale about a married couple thrown into turmoil after the wife is attacked in their home, it picked up two major awards at the Cannes Film Festival. As with "A Separation," Farhadi's new film presents a nuanced Tehran that looks beyond the firebrand mullahs and morality police seen on Western televisions and into the lives of ordinary people. Farhadi doesn't feel he has to address American misconceptions about Iranian society, but he recognizes that his work is becoming something of a dialogue between his own people and US popular culture.

"When I sit and down and start writing a script I don't say to myself this is a film that's going to be viewed by foreign audiences and, because foreign audiences are going to be see-



Asghar Farhadi

ing it, I should maybe do some extra things," he says. "I approach it thinking the audience could be anyone anywhere and I write what my heart dictates." Farhadi, now 44, made his first short

film at age 13 in a youth cinema club. A theater studies graduate of the University of Tehran, he went on to read for a masters in stage direction at Tarbiat Modares University and started work immediately, directing television series he himself had written.

In 2002, he wrote and directed his first feature film, "Dancing in the Dust," before winning acclaim for "Fireworks Wednesday" a vivid portrait of marriage against the backdrop of a Persian New Year.

## 'Closer to peace'

Psychological drama "About Elly" followed in 2009 before "A Separation" burst into the international public consciousness, winning best film at the 61st Berlinale and going on to pick up prizes at festivals across the world. As well as winning the best foreign language film Oscar and Golden Globe, it was nominated by the Academy for its screenplay, earning the director a place among the filmmaking elite. Farhadi's work has been praised for showing life in all its moral complexity, not judging his characters but inviting audiences to draw their own conclusions. — AFP



An undated photo provided by Iranian filmmaker Keywan Karimi, shows Karimi during work on a scene in the movie 'Drum', in the Iranian capital Tehran early in 2016. — AFP

## Iranian filmmaker imprisoned for a year over his work

Iranian filmmaker Keywan Karimi has begun serving a year-long prison sentence handed down over footage authorities deemed insulting, his production company confirmed yesterday. The charges against the 30-year-old stemmed from a film he directed called "Writing on the City" that focuses on political graffiti in Iran from the country's 1979 Islamic Revolution to the contested 2009 election. He was initially sentenced to six years behind bars after being found guilty of "insulting sanctities" in October 2015.

In February, an appeals court reduced the sentence to one year but kept the requirement that Karimi endure 223 lashes as stipulated in his original sentence. Speaking to The Associated Press earlier this week, Karimi said he hopes to use the time behind bars to complete the script for his next film. "Be sure, I'm strong. Inside, and mentally, I'm ready," he said. Karimi was arrested by the Revolutionary Guard and held in solitary confinement in December 2013 after a trailer for "Writing on the City" was posted on YouTube, according to Paris-based production company Les Films de l'Après-Midi. It confirmed he began his sentence at Tehran's Evin Prison on Wednesday.

The production company is releasing Karimi's first feature film, "Drum," which premiered this summer at the Venice International Film Festival. Iranian authorities could not immediately be reached for comment. Karimi is one of several artists, poets, journalists, fashion models and activists who have been arrested in a crackdown on expression led by hard-liners who oppose President Hassan Rouhani's more moderate policies and efforts to promote greater openness with the outside world. Karimi said he is determined to remain in Iran despite the challenges. "I want to reconstruct Iran based on my dream. Maybe it's crazy," he said. "But I'm thinking about the future, our children's future." — AP

## ZARADASHT AHMED'S 'NOWHERE TO HIDE' TAKES TOP PRIZE AT IDFA

Although the documentary world had plenty of recent upsets to concern itself with - not least the rise of nationalism across Europe and America - the fallout from the Iraq war was not forgotten at this year's IDFA. The award for Best Feature-Length Documentary went to "Nowhere to Hide," a Norway-Sweden co-production directed by Zaradasht Ahmed that tells of the experiences of a male nurse named Nori Sharif who worked in a hospital in Jawala, part of the "triangle of death" in central Iraq, from the time the U.S. army left in 2011 until he was forced to leave the area by the arrival of ISIS in 2014. Said the jury: "There are those films which are wonderful to see and there are films that the world needs to see. The film we [chose] is both of these things. The experience was immersive and left us deeply touched. The director respected the unique perspective that only the subject could have and in doing so he gave us an unprecedented window into the real-life lasting consequences of war."

In the same category, the Special Jury Award went to "Still Tomorrow" (pictured) by Jian Fan, an intimate portrait of a Chinese woman named Xiuhua Yu, who, unexpectedly, became an internet sensation via her poetry. From a poor rural background, and disabled with cerebral palsy, Yu finds her newfound success a means to escape from her situation, but with bittersweet results.

## Other awards

Best Dutch Documentary  
"Radio Kobani," Reber Dosky, Netherlands  
Special Jury Award For Dutch Documentary  
"Stranger in Paradise," Guido Hendriks, Netherlands  
Mid-Length Documentary  
"Death in the Terminal," Tali Shemesh, Asaf Sudry, Israel Special Jury Award, Mid-Length Documentary:  
"Come Back Free," Ksenia Okhupkina, Estonia  
First Appearance Award  
"Who We Were," Sine Skibsholt, Denmark  
Special Jury Award, First Appearance (Dedicated To The Memory Of Peter Wintonick)  
"Plastic China," Jiu-liang Wang, China  
Idfa Doclab Award, Digital Storytelling  
"DeathTolls Experience," Ali Eslami, Iran  
Scenic Idfa Doclab Immersive Non-Fiction Award  
"Deprogrammed," Mia Donovan, Canada  
Beeld En Geluid Idfa Award For Dutch Documentary  
"Radio Kobani," Reber Dosky, Netherlands  
Arri Idfa Award, Best Student Documentary  
"When Will This Wind Stop," Aniela Astrid Gabryel, Poland

## Spike Lee sued for failing to pay union health contributions

Filmmaker Spike Lee and his companies are being sued by the directors of three union benefit plans who contend he didn't make sufficient health and pension contributions. The lawsuit was filed Wednesday against Lee, Forty Acres and a Mule Filmworks and Black Butterfly Productions. It claims an audit found nearly \$45,000 in unpaid contributions between September 2007 and March 2010. The suit said Lee controlled Black Butterfly, a signatory to collective bargaining agreements, and treated its assets, which include the 2008 film, "Miracle at St Anna," as his own while failing to pay its debts.

"Despite multiple demands, Black Butterfly has failed to pay the claims asserted by the Plans. Black Butterfly refuses, and continues to refuse, to pay the amounts due for unpaid contributions disclosed by the audit," the lawsuit says. The plaintiffs manage plans for the American Federal of Musicians, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Studio Transportation Drivers. They are seeking all unpaid damages, interest, audit costs and legal fees. Lee is a writer, director and actor. His films include "Do the Right Thing," and "Malcolm X." His most recent movie, "Chi-Raq," is about gun violence in Chicago. A message left with Forty Acres wasn't immediately returned. — Reuters



In this file photo, Spike Lee attends the NYU Tisch School of the Arts 50th Anniversary Gala in New York. — AP





This photo shows actors from the Jinyuan Opera Company performing in a temple in White Horse town in Daying, in China's southwest Sichuan province. — AFP photos



Actors from the Jinyuan Opera Company eating after a performance in White Horse town in Daying, in China's southwest Sichuan province.

# Fat lady sings for Chinese rural opera



Actors from the Jinyuan Opera Company performing in a temple in White Horse town in Daying.



Villagers watching a performance by the Jinyuan Opera Company in a temple in White Horse town.



Actors from the Jinyuan Opera Company performing.

When he dons his flowing robes and vivid makeup, Wu Yunhong is transformed from a laborer who toils on Chinese mountains under a beating sun into an evil general commanding an army of warriors. Wu was raised in the Jinyuan Opera Company, co-founded by his grandfather in 1984. He started performing when he was only eight and is the third generation to carry on the tradition-but may be the last. With crowds ageing and performers dying off, the Sichuan style of opera performed around the southwestern city of Chongqing is threatened with extinction-even as officially-sanctioned forms flourish in the state-controlled arts environment.

Some Chinese opera styles such as Peking and Canton have been elevated to "national treasure" status by the government, winning millions in funding, but others are left to wither on the stage. "Sometimes the only young people at the performances are my wife and children when they travel with us," said Wu, 26. He and his fellow players receive no official funding, and between shows the actors must still tend to their own fields, growing corn and rice in a mountainous area where temperatures can easily reach 42 degrees Celsius (107 degrees Fahrenheit) in summer.

"We don't get any support from the government, all of our fees come from the farmers who pool their money together for a performance," said troupe member Lyu Guiying. "We make a little extra money performing, but we can never get rich performing."

### 'Poor peasant'

The Beijing style of opera, mostly known as Peking Opera in the English-speaking world, was popularized under the Qing Dynasty, which was brought down by the Chinese Revolution of 1911. It had ample support from the court and spread because it was sung in a language widely understood across China, while regional varieties such as Cantonese, Shanghaiese and Sichuanese opera stuck to their own dialects and songs. The Communist leadership remained keen on Peking Opera after it took power in 1949, and the central government decreed every province should form its own Peking Opera troupe, even at the expense of local varieties. A crippling blow came with the destructive decade of the Cultural Revolution, when Mao Zedong's wife Jiang Qing launched a campaign to cleanse the arts-all plays, films, operas, ballets and music considered "feudalistic and bourgeois" were banned.

Only eight "model plays" were allowed, chosen by the former

actress declared a patron of culture, who took close control over the few troupes authorized to produce them. It took until the 1980s before private theatre companies began to form again in China. For a short time they flourished, but have since had to compete with new forms of entertainment that came with China's economic boom. "Every society has a desire to preserve its own folk cultures, however in China you have to add the very powerful political power," said Ruru Li, a professor of Chinese theatre studies at the University of Leeds.

"First there was the Cultural Revolution and now there's state investment, but it doesn't include the majority of opera styles," she told AFP. Without official support niche styles are disappearing at a steady drum beat. "In the 1960s there were more than 300 varieties of Chinese opera, today there are about 200," Li said. "In 10 years' time, maybe there will only be 100 varieties left." Those who still perform them have had to contend with shrinking audiences and a lack of new fans, as many young people shun farming and leave China's countryside to look for better-paying jobs in the cities. "I don't want my son to grow up learning opera like I did, he needs to go to school, hopefully he can go to university," said Wu. "He needs to learn to be cultured, not in opera, but the culture of books, or else he will just be a poor peasant like me." — AFP



Actors from the Jinyuan Opera Company eating after a performance in White Horse town in Daying.



Actors from the Jinyuan Opera Company looking at photos on a smartphone after a performance in White Horse town in Daying.



A member of the Jinyuan Opera Company preparing for a performance in a temple in White Horse town in Daying, in China's southwest Sichuan province.





Children's booties from the 1780's belonging to James Davenport of Dorchester, Mass are seen in a storage box at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.



English holster pistols carried by Brigadier General Peter Muhlenberg during the American Revolution are rearranged in a storage box.



An epaulette belonging to Sgt James Davenport of the Continental Army is shown in a storage box at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. — AP photos

## Smell the Revolution: Old scented mug among museum's items

History buffs will be able to peer into the eyes of a "most excellent likeness" of George Washington and get an actual whiff of the Revolutionary War when Philadelphia's Museum of the American Revolution opens next year. Curators have scoured the country for the priceless artifacts to display in the museum, including a 1770s-era creamware mug that still smells of rum, due to the material it's made of. The vessel was created to celebrate Boston's fight for liberty.

"It's like having a little surround-smell of the revolution," said R. Scott Stephenson, the museum vice president of collections, exhibitions and programming. The museum is set to open April 19, the anniversary of the opening battles in 1775 between British troops and American colonists in Lexington and Concord and the "shot heard round the world."

The 118,000-square-foot museum just two blocks from Independence Hall will feature a collection of art, printed works, immersive exhibits and objects from the Revolutionary Period. One of the marquee exhibits will be Washington's headquarters tent during the Valley Forge winter of 1777-78. It will be in a sealed environment but viewable through a glass wall.

Museum staff unpacked the museum's 3,000-object main collection, which was shipped from a secret storage location in suburban Philadelphia, in phases and are making final conservation efforts and placing objects for display. About 500 of those objects will be on display for the public on a revolving basis. Recently unpacked was a terra cotta and plaster bust of Washington that hadn't been publicly displayed for generations.

"He's been hiding away," Stephenson said of



In this photo, construction continues on the exterior at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

the bust, which was in a Philadelphia store and then passed through a number of city families. "When it was exhibited it was noted in the press at the time that people who had known Washington said that was a 'most excellent likeness.'" For Stephenson, some of the greatest material in the collection came from private collectors. "These pieces have come from all over, and our lenders are literally everything from descendants and families to collectors who have hidden these pieces away in bank vaults and in studies and basements and think, 'But what's the point in having all of this stuff if I can't share it with the world?'" he said.

Descendants of a Massachusetts soldier have donated a newborn's shoes made from a British red coat brought back at the end of the war and preserved through generations. Written accounts tell the story of the young man, who went off to war in 1775, rose to the position of sergeant in 1783, lost his brother in an attack that ended in a mass grave burial, and returned home to marry and have a child. "It all seems so cut and dry now, life liberty and pursuit of happiness. Who wouldn't be into that? But there was danger and heartbreak, and we want to capture that," he said. — AP



In this photo, under a spotlight, Gary Davis, hangs a mural depicting the Battle of Bunker Hill as construction continues at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.



Dr R Scott Stephenson, vice president of collections, exhibitions and programming, shows a terracotta and plaster bust of George Washington, made by William Rush in 1817, to reporters.



A 1700's English-made creamware mug with a fanciful depiction of Boston rests alongside a bag of paper pulp used in conservation of the mug and smelling of rum.





In this Thursday, Nov 26, 2015, file photo, Dancers move down Central Park West during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.



A dancer with the Chengdu (China) Panda float is assisted by a fellow dancer before the start of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York, yesterday.



In this Thursday, Nov 26, 2015, file photo, the balloon Angry Bird is moved through Sixth Avenue during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. — AP photos

## Balloons, floats and police at Macy's Thanksgiving Parade

A giant Charlie Brown balloon will join 1,000 clowns and a dozen marching bands along a parade route lined with spectators and police in plainclothes for the 90th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Charlie Brown balloon is one of three new giant character inflatables in this year's parade, and joins returning favorites including Thomas the Tank Engine, Hello Kitty and SpongeBob SquarePants. The popular event draws millions of spectators as it makes its way through the streets of Manhattan before finishing up at Macy's flagship store.

Among the celebrities expected to attend are Tony Bennett, Aloe Blacc, Sarah McLachlan and Olympic gold medalists Laurie Hernandez, Claressa Shields and Michelle Carter. Organizers say the opening number will include Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy and

other Muppets. But attendees also will see some somber sights, like the more than 80 sanitation trucks filled with sand that will be placed at intersections and other places as barriers against any kind of attack. There also will be a heavy police presence, including bomb-sniffing dogs and officers in uniform with assault weapons and portable radiation detectors. Officers in plainclothes will be among the crowds of people.

Authorities say there is no confirmation of any credible threat and have urged spectators to come out for the parade. One prominent person who won't be in New York City is President-elect Donald Trump, who is spending the holiday at his home in Palm Beach, Florida. — AP



Children and adults watch as balloons are inflated and prepared prior to yesterday's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Parade balloons are seen during the 90th Anniversary Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Volunteers help prepare the Thomas the Tank Engine balloon.



Parade balloons are seen during the 90th Anniversary Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade - Inflation Eve.



# How far can you reduce sugar in a **pavlova**? Surprisingly low

By Melissa d'Arabian

**P**avlovas are dreamy. For the uninitiated, a pavlova (named after the famed ballerina's fluffy tutu) is essentially a meringue shell baked at low heat until the outside is barely golden crisp, but the inside remains soft and billowy, like a creamy marshmallow. The shell then is typically filled with whipped cream, custard, or fruit compote.

And, as mentioned, the result is a dream-come-true. Pavlovas are a splendid choice for entertaining, because contrary to what we might think of a delicate meringue, these guys are pretty hardy, and you can make them a day or two in advance no problem. Just be sure to keep them in an airtight container so that they don't absorb ambient air moisture and lose their delightful crisp texture, and top just before serving.

As you probably know, meringues are primarily two ingredients: egg whites and sugar. In this the good cop/bad cop pairing, sugar is definitely the bad cop, while egg whites are considered downright health food by many folks who look like they know what they are talking about at the gym. (They aren't wrong, by the way, one egg white has 5 grams of protein, at only 25 calories and no fat.) The sugar is what gives the pavlovas their luscious interior. So I wondered: Just how low I could go on the sugar without ruining the texture and creating just a weird protein puff that only my gym-friends would want to eat?

The answer: surprisingly quite low. A typical pavlova recipe might have a ratio of 1/4 cup of sugar per egg white in the recipe. I found that I could cut the sugar in half with no noticeable impact on texture and taste. So I kept testing and reducing the sugar. And the very lowest that yielded a reasonable result was a ratio of 2 teaspoons of sugar per egg white, or one-eighth the typical amount of sugar.

At that level of sugar, the pavlova becomes less flowy, and more airy and crisp, almost styrofoam-y. Two of my kids actually preferred this version! Most of us felt like a little extra sugar was worth the nutritional profile impact, and so I'll share that version - with 4 teaspoons of sugar per egg white, or 1/4 cup sugar to 3 egg whites as the recipe is written. Still, a dessert victory if you ask me.

## TANGY RASPBERRY PAVLOVA WITH BALSAMIC GLAZE

### Ingredients

Start to finish: 90 minutes, including inactive time

Servings: 8

3 egg whites

1/4 cup sugar (The recipe will work with as little as 2 tablespoons of sugar, but texture of pavlova will be less lush.)

1/2 teaspoon white vinegar

1 teaspoon corn starch

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/4 teaspoon almond extract (optional)

Topping:

1 cup light sour cream

2 tablespoons maple syrup

1 cup raspberries (or other fruit)

1-2 tablespoons balsamic glaze (reduced balsamic vinegar) for drizzling fresh mint leaves, chopped, for garnish (optional)

### Preparation

Preheat oven to 275 F. In a stand mixer fitted with a whisk attachment, beat eggs on medium speed until foamy, about 1 minutes. Add the sugar and continue to

beat on medium high speed until stiff peaks form. Add the vinegar, corn starch and extracts and beat on low until well mixed. (You can use a hand mixer, but times may be a little longer.)

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spoon the meringue into 8 even, round piles. Use the back of a tablespoon to spread the meringue into circles about 1/2-inch tall, and approximately 3-inches wide. Use the spoon to create a gentle depression in the center of the meringue. Bake for 20 minutes.

Keeping the oven door closed, turn off the heat but leave the pavlovas in the oven for another hour. Remove the pavlovas from the oven and allow to cool completely. Stir the light sour cream and maple syrup together in a small bowl. Remove from the parchment paper gently. Place the pavlova on a plate and spoon 2 tablespoons of the cream into the center. Top with berries and a drizzle of balsamic glaze. Top with a sprinkle of mint leaves, if desired.

**COOK'S NOTE:** Pavlovas can be kept in an airtight container for up to three days. If they get soft from sitting out on the counter too long, you can crisp them up by heating in 275 degree oven for 15 minutes and then cooling.

Nutrition information per serving: 99 calories; 24 calories from fat; 3 g fat (2 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 10 mg cholesterol; 42 mg sodium; 15 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 12 g sugar; 4 g protein. — AP





# RECIPE FOR SALMON POACHED IN GREEN SALSA AND TOPPED WITH BAKED CHIPS

By Sara Moulton

**T**he French love to cook fish by poaching it in a flavored liquid, usually a combination of white wine and water, leeks or onions, and some herbs. It's a notably lean way to roll because there's no fat involved. And the finished product is reliably tender because it has been cooked at a low temperature.

So, it's lean, tender and... quite boring. I crave more flavour and texture. So here's a recipe for poached salmon that adds the missing elements.

Typically, poaching calls for a lot of liquid. The fish is supposed to be submerged as it cooks, after which the liquid usually is tossed. I wanted a way to poach the fish in a small amount of liquid, which then could do double duty as a sauce. Given that fish generally requires a spritz of acid to brighten it up, the ideal liquid needed to be acidic and intensely flavored. Green salsa - that is, tomatillo salsa with chilies and lime juice - struck me as a likely candidate.

The salmon wouldn't have to swim in a vat of the salsa. I made a modest batch and cooked the salmon in a smallish skillet with the salsa rising halfway up the sides of the fillets. I covered the pan tightly to trap the heat and flipped over the salmon half way through its cooking time to make sure it cooked evenly.

How do you know when the salmon is finished cooking? If you slide a knife

into it and the blade sails through the fillet with no resistance, it's done. And be sure to pull it off the heat when there's still a tiny bit of resistance left, which will allow for carry-over cooking time.

For crunch, I sprinkled tortilla chips on top; they are salsa's classic partner. But these were my own healthy baked tortilla chips, which take only 15 minutes to prepare. On the whole, this recipe is pretty quick and easy to make, but you can streamline it even further by picking up green salsa and baked tortilla chips at the super-market.

By the way, there were leftovers the second time we tested this winner. When we polished them off the next day, we discovered that this dish is just as delicious cold as hot.



## Ingredients

Start to finish: 40 minutes  
Servings: 4

### For the tortilla strips:

2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 teaspoon chili powder  
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin  
Four 6-inch corn tortillas  
Kosher salt

### For the salmon:

8 ounces fresh tomatillos, husked, rinsed and quartered  
1/2 cup coarsely chopped scallions (white and light green parts)  
1/3 cup coarsely chopped fresh cilantro  
1 tablespoon lime juice  
1/2 jalapeno or serrano chili, seeds removed if desired  
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1/2 cup finely chopped red onion  
Kosher salt and ground black pepper  
1 1/2 pounds centre-cut salmon fillet, cut into 4 equal portions

## Preparation

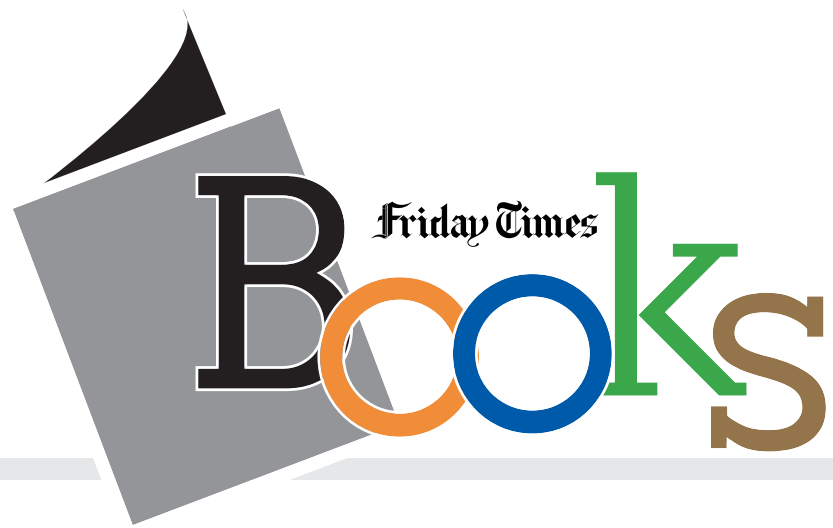
1. To make the tortilla strips, heat the oven to 400 F.
2. In a small bowl, stir together the oil, chili powder and cumin. Brush the oil mixture over both sides of each tortilla. Using a knife or pizza wheel, cut the tortillas into thin strips. Arrange the strips in a single layer on a

rimmed baking sheet. Bake the strips on the oven's middle shelf for 6 to 8 minutes, or until crispy. Sprinkle with salt, let cool completely, then break them up slightly. Set aside.

3. To prepare the salsa, in a food processor, combine the tomatillos, scallions, cilantro, lime juice, chili and garlic. Pulse until the ingredients are almost smooth with a few small chunks.
4. In a medium skillet over medium, heat the oil. Add the onion and cook, stirring, until softened, about 5 minutes. Add the tomatillo mixture and simmer gently, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes. If the mixture gets too dry, add 1/2 cup of water. Season with salt and pepper. Add the salmon to the skillet, skin sides down, then cover the skillet tightly and simmer gently for 5 minutes.
5. Turn the salmon over, cover tightly and simmer gently until the salmon is almost cooked through, about another 5 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat and let the salmon stand for 3 minutes, covered, before serving.
6. To serve, transfer a portion of salmon to each of 4 plates, then top each with sauce and tortilla strips.

Nutrition information per serving: 470 calories; 240 calories from fat (51 per cent of total calories); 27 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 110 mg cholesterol; 370 mg sodium; 18 g carbohydrate; 3 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 40 g protein. — AP





# FROM FASHION TO FILM, GIFT-WORTHY COFFEE TABLE BOOKS ABOUND

Come holiday time, there's never a shortage of splashy coffee table books to please just about any aficionado.

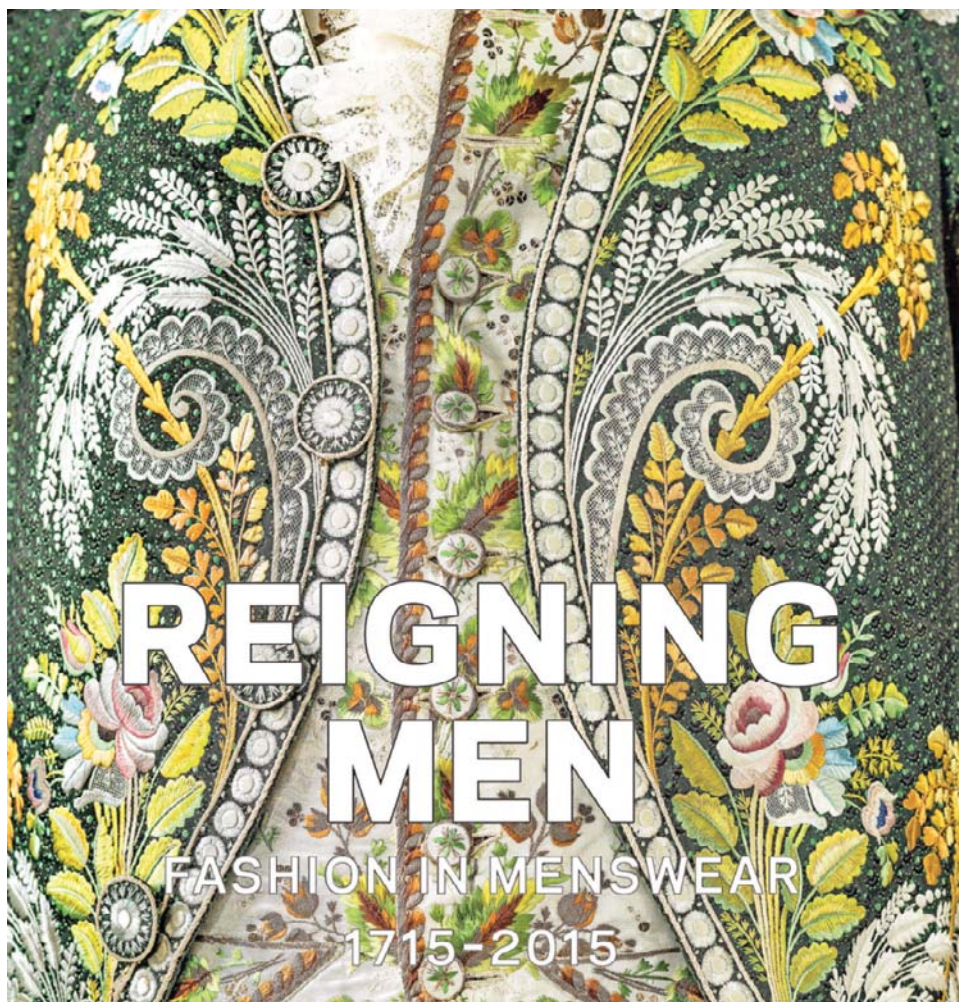
## Some suggestions:

### Fashion & style

"Fashion Made Fair," by Magdalena Schaffrin and Ellen Köhler, Prestel, \$49.95. Know someone deeply committed to sustainability in fashion? Taking a truly world view, this book dives deeply into companies that do it well. In Zurich, for instance, look to the brothers Freitag, Daniel and Markus. They're bag makers who launched F-abric, a line of compostable workwear. "Reigning

Men, Fashion in Menswear, 1715-2015," by Sharon Sadako Takeda, Kaye Durland Spilker and Clarissa M. Esguerra, DelMonico Books, \$55. Going back to the 18th century, this tome celebrates all aspects of men's dressing, from the French court to Speedo. Among contemporary high points: An intricately bleached denim suit by Vivienne Westwood and a futuristic ruffle suit by Rei Kawakubo for Comme des Garçons.

"Francois Nars," by Francois Nars, Rizzoli International, \$85. With some of the most famous faces in fashion represented, the visionary behind NARS Cosmetics tells his story in beautiful close-up color, with snippets of remembrances and inspirations. He includes the communion looks of both his parents and makes it clear beauty begins with beautiful skin.

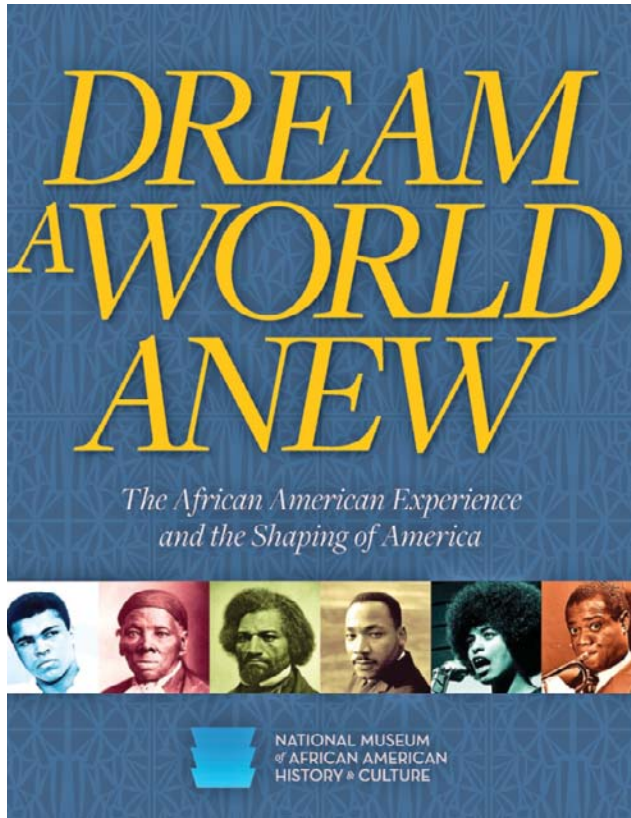


This book cover image released by DelMonico Books shows 'Reigning Men, Fashion in Menswear,' a guide to the history of men's fashion. — AP photos



This book cover image released by Prestel shows 'Fashion Made Fair,' a guide to sustainable fashion. Consider gifting a coffee table book to just the right recipient this holiday season.



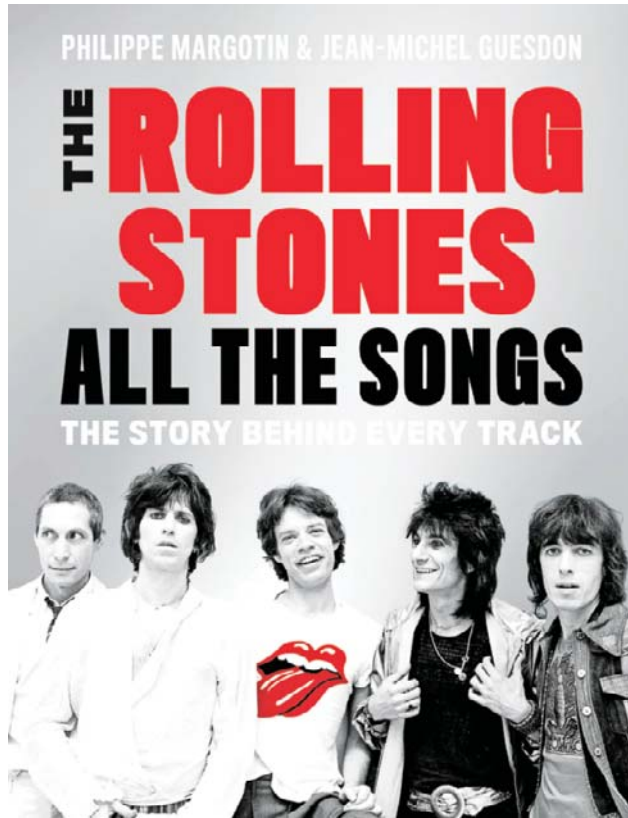


This book cover image released by Smithsonian Books shows 'Dream a World Anew,' by the National Museum of African American History and Culture, an illustrated guide that tells the African American story through extraordinary objects and stories from the museum's collection.

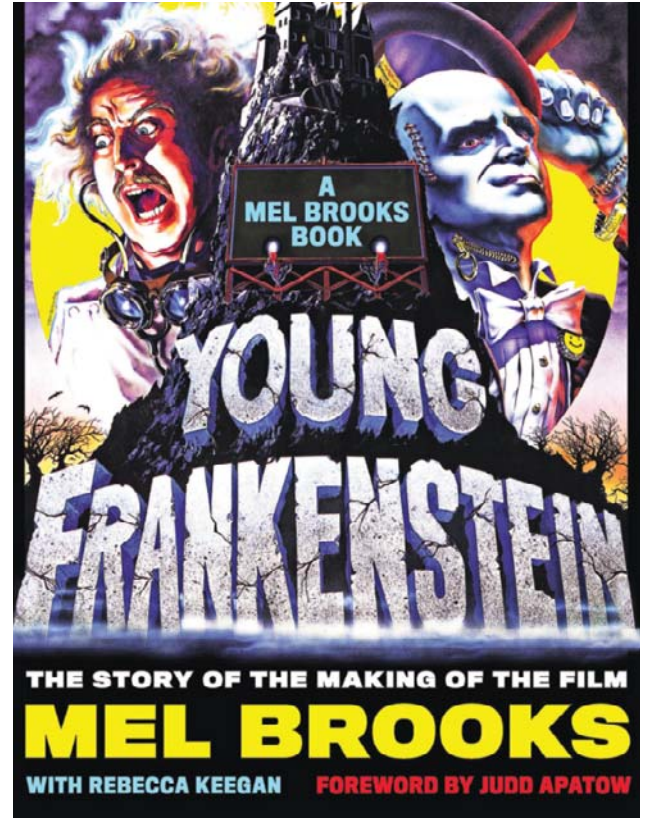
### The music life

"The Lyrics: 1961-2012," by Bob Dylan, Simon & Schuster, \$60. The Nobel Prize-winning man of the hour, and of oh-so-many hours, has released 36 studio albums that have sold more than 120 million copies. This book includes lyrics from his first album to "Tempest," released in 2012. Dylan has edited dozens of songs for the book, to reflect the words he uses as he performs them now. "The Rolling Stones: All the Songs, the Story Behind Every Track," by Philippe Margotin and Jean-Michel Guesdon, Black Dog & Leventhal, \$50. The book covers 50 years and 340 songs, beginning with the band's 1963 debut album. More than 500 photos are included, along with details like what instruments were used in the studio.

"David Bowie Play Book," by Matteo Guarnaccia and Giulia Pivetta, ACC Art Books, \$29.95. What better way to honor the icon who died in January than with a color, cut and play set. Includes paper dolls and his favorite footwear spanning his ever-changing look and a coloring page of the people who inspired him, from Dylan to Marlene Dietrich.



This book cover image released by Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers shows 'The Rolling Stones: All the Songs, the Story Behind Every Track,' a guide to the songbook of the iconic rock band.

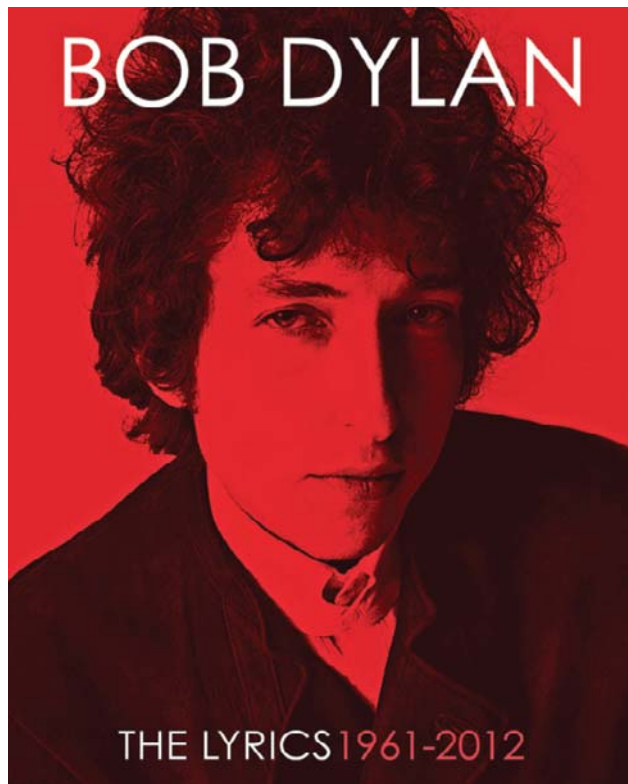


This book cover image released by Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers shows 'Young Frankenstein, the Story of the Making of the Film,' a guide to the comedy classic written by Mel Brooks.

### Wildly miscellaneous

"Young Frankenstein, The Story of the Making of the Film," by Mel Brooks, Black Dog & Leventhal, \$29.99. Whether you're a first-generation "Young Frankenstein" fan or trying to nudge along the next, nobody does this 1974 classic better than Brooks himself. With a foreword by Judd Apatow ("Even Gene Hackman is funny in it") and behind-the-scenes photos, a great to hear the now 90-year-old Brooks in his own voice. "Shop Cats of New York," by Tamar Arslanian, photos by Andrew Marttila, Harper Design, \$21.99. To heck with that Yelp reviewer who dissed the bodega cat. This book shows that shop life can work for felines, with a warning that not all may be treated like kings and queens. Dwelling in wine shops, bookstores, dry cleaners and yes, The Algonquin Hotel, think "Humans of New York," only cats.

"Dream a World Anew: The African American Experience and the Shaping of America," by National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian Books, \$40. As much a primer on the slave trade and racial discrimination as a celebration of early black entrepreneurs, musicians, writers, activists and athletes in a nuanced, global context. Marks the opening of the new museum in Washington, DC, great for tweens and teens. — AP

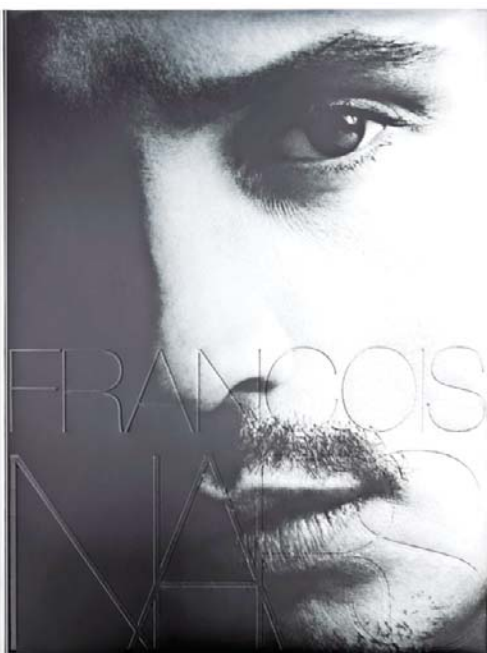


### The big screen

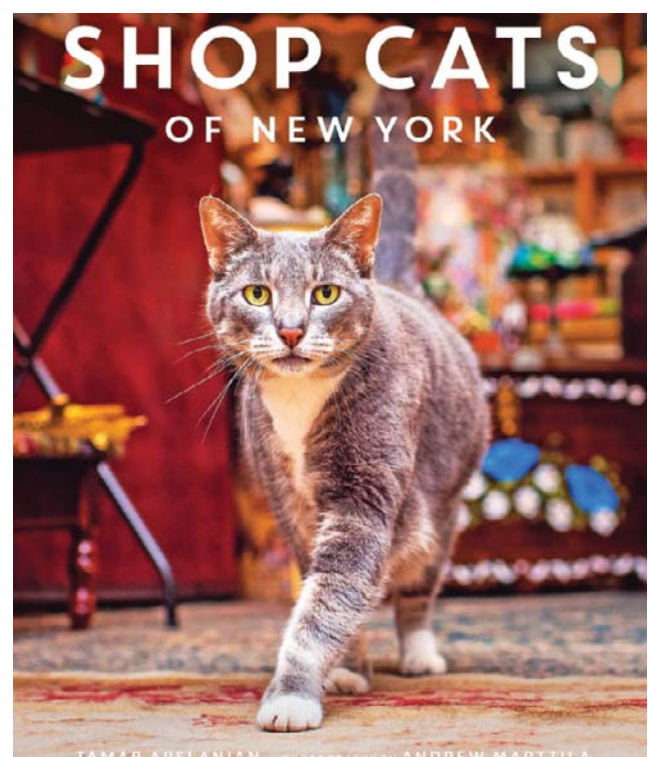
"Hollywood Icons," by Robert Dance, ACC Editions, \$65. Stunning studio portraits of film icons from the 1930s through the '60s from the collection of the John Kobal Foundation. Kobal was a film journalist and historian who amassed a huge collection of Hollywood portraits and set images. Look for Bette Davis, shot by George Hurrell for Warner Bros in 1939.

"My Elizabeth," by Firooz Zahedi, Glitterati, \$75. Friend and acclaimed photographer Zahedi offers a private peek into Taylor's life from 44 into her 70s. Includes the Washington, DC, years, jaunts in Montauk, New York with Halston and Andy Warhol and intimate photos of her children and stepchildren. There's Taylor making fried chicken, on a boat in Venice, on a trip to Iran.

"The Malkovich Sessions," by Sandro Miller, Glitterati, \$95. "Being John Malkovich" is so 1999. In this book, rather than on film, John Malkovich gets to be himself, in all his goofy, creepy glory. And he gets to recreate some of the world's most iconic portraits, with the help of photographer Miller, in a book that offers both pathos and whimsy.



This book cover image released by Nars Cosmetics shows "Francois Nars," a guide to the life and work of makeup artist Francois Nars.







# Friday Times Travel



This undated photo provided by Destination Davos Klosters shows a downhill skier in the Madrisa ski area above Klosters, Switzerland. — AP photos

## KLOSTERS offers great alpine skiing and royal connection too

It's easy to find a beautiful small town hidden away high in the Swiss Alps, one with fine food, challenging slopes and a welcoming, fireside atmosphere. It's not so easy, however, to find one favored by British royals, a place where you might find yourself sharing a cable car with the future king of England, Prince Charles, or one of his dashing offspring, Prince William and Prince Harry, who first learned to ski here. The royal connection - one of the cable cars is even named after Charles - has shaped the public's perception of the tiny town of Klosters in Switzerland, but it's only one of many reasons to visit. It's actually traditional, not flashy, and offers skiers, hikers and those simply seeking rest and relaxation a quiet sense of tranquility not found in many glitzy,

more crowded Alpine resorts.

That may be what has drawn Charles, with his well-documented distaste for impersonal, high-rise modern architecture, a scourge that afflicts some of the newer ski havens in France and Italy. Klosters has remained largely unchanged over the decades, effortlessly maintaining its small town charm. It's fun after skiing just to walk the back streets and admire the beautifully carved doors and other wood decorations that adorn many of its older houses. The town has a sense of unhurried history - tourists started coming some 150 years ago, centuries after the first monastery was built here - and it's so snow-oriented that inexpensive wood sleds are stacked high outside the main grocery store.

### Groomed slopes

Klosters is connected to the larger, more built up town of Davos, known for the annual World Economic Forum - and for its excellent mountaintop restaurants. In skiing terms, the two towns comprise one huge resort. The combined skiing is magnificent, and the slopes are often uncrowded. The mix of terrain focuses on mid-level skiers, with an emphasis on neatly groomed slopes, and it's always exhilarating to ski to a new village or find a new restaurant tucked away on the lesser known runs. The high altitude hiking is phenomenal.

Part of what sets Klosters apart from resorts in other countries is the unmatched Swiss railways, which make getting to Klosters a true pleasure. It's a joy to arrive at Zurich Airport,





**A cross-country skiers traversing a trail in a valley outside of Klosters, Switzerland.**

catch a train that skirts two beautiful lakes, then, after a simple switch, arrive in Klosters roughly two hours later. It's the best way to acclimate, to enjoy the mountain views and the rushing rivers without the hassle of renting a car and managing new roads.

It's a perfect example of what makes European travel so alluring: Instead of sitting isolated in a car trying to decipher road signs in an unfamiliar language, you spend time in a train often filled with other skiers, including, inevitably, some English-speaking locals with well-informed opinions about the best place to ski, eat and drink. It's also very easy to use the trains to travel to nearby towns at the start of the ski day, providing convenient access to new terrain. The scenery along the way can be astonishing, and it's hard not to admire the audacious engineering that went into the construction

process. Needless to say, the trains run on time.

#### Clear indication

The easy run from Zurich makes Klosters an attractive day trip for youthful skiers eager to get in a day's skiing without having to pay for lodging. Passengers on the early morning trains tend to be wearing ski gear and munching energy bars as the trains climb toward Klosters and other nearby ski towns. Klosters also has an excellent bus system to take skiers from their hotel, or the rail station, to several chairlifts - and one of the main lifts is actually just around the corner from the train station. Klosters has played a discreet role in royal romance. It was here in 2006 that Prince William was first photographed kissing Kate Middleton, who was then his girlfriend. The public kiss was interpreted - correctly - by royal observers as a clear indication that their relation-

ship was serious and deemed to have a future.

The university sweethearts briefly broke up after that, but when Kate returned to Klosters with William in 2008 - and they were photographed on the slopes together - it was taken as affirmation that they were very much a couple again. They married a few years later and now have two children. The royal link has also been marked by tragedy. In 1988 Charles was skiing with a close friend, Major Hugh Lindsay, when an avalanche struck as they were skiing off-piste high above Klosters. Charles was unhurt, but Lindsay was killed. It was also here that Charles in 2005 dropped his typically very correct public persona and let slip his true feelings about a reporter assigned to the royal beat, describing the BBC's Nicholas Witchell as "so awful" during a brief, uncomfortable meeting with the press at the start of the royal holiday. — AP



**The town of Davos looking in the direction of Tinzenhorn in Switzerland.**



In this file photo, a snowboarder makes his way down the mountain at Attitash ski area in Bartlett, NH. — AP photos

# Six ways to score deals and discounts on ski trips this winter

**W**ant to bust your winter vacation budget? Buy a one-day lift ticket at a ski resort on a holiday weekend. That's "the most expensive way to go skiing. And that's what people hear about - the \$140 lift tickets," said Mary Jo Tarallo, executive director of Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month. Don't get fleeced wearing your fleece. Here are six ways to score deals and discounts on ski trips this winter.

## Online deals

Buy tickets online, not at the window. Check out ticket prices and deals at GetSkiTickets.com, Liftopia.com and Ski.com. Consider renting gear and clothing from GetOutfitted.com.

## Programs with benefits

January is Learn to Ski and Snowboard Month, when many resorts offer deals that typically include a lesson, gear rental and a lift ticket to the beginner slopes. Another program, Bring A Friend, offers incentives to pass-holders and other frequent skiers for introducing newcomers to the sport. Together, Learn to Ski and Bring A Friend programs have more than 200 resort partners in 34 states, according to Tarallo.

Some states also have "ski passport" programs that offer bargains at participating ski areas for kids in fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

## Coupons and discounts

Many regional ski areas distribute coupons through grocery stores, sporting goods stores, chains like Costco and even local eateries. And don't forget the usual discounts offered at many resorts for AAA, kids, students, members of the military and seniors.

## Passes

If you have a favorite resort, season passes save a bundle. But they're cheapest when purchased in spring for the following winter. If you like to vary your ski destinations, consider passes that offer access to different resorts. The MaxPass can be used at 39 mountains in North America. The Epic Pass can be used at 44 ski resorts around the world, from Colorado and Utah to the European Alps.

## Destination strategies

Drive-to regional ski areas are usually cheaper than big-name resorts. And if you can drive or take a bus to the slopes, you'll save on food by packing lunch and snacks. At Caberfae Peaks in Michigan, skiers bring slow-cookers and let their meals cook indoors while they're on the slopes.

If you're flying to major ski regions like the Rockies, be flexi-

ble on destinations and timing for best deals, according to Ski.com. Flights to small mountain airports fill quickly, especially at peak times like holiday weekends. Consider flying into big airports like Denver and driving from there. But be sure to check car rental rates, which can be steep, and weigh the potential downside of snowy roads if your drive is far. Among the most affordable ski destinations in the Western U.S., according to Ski.com, are:

- Winter Park, Colorado, with January lodging under \$100 a night.
- Salt Lake City, where the Salt Lake Super Pass offers a choice of skiing at Alta, Brighton, Snowbird, and Solitude.
- Heavenly, in South Lake Tahoe, California (fly into Reno, Nevada and stay in a casino-hotel off-hill for under \$100 a night).
- Banff and Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada, where the U.S. dollar is worth \$1.35 Canadian.
- Schweitzer Mountain in Idaho, which offers free skiing on

arrival day if you show a boarding pass from flights into nearby Spokane, Washington.

Ski.com also advises comparing ski rental fees with airline baggage fees for transporting your equipment. Some package deals include equipment rentals.

## Timing is everything

Midweek is cheaper than weekend skiing. Holidays are expensive and crowded. Ski.com analyzed weather data, costs and arrivals using 25,000 reservations, and came up with Jan. 9-14, 2017, as the best week for a ski or snowboard trip. Crowds are down, snow conditions are likely good and costs are 45 percent cheaper at top resorts compared to Christmas week, spring break or Presidents Day week, Ski.com found.

For example, a five-night trip for two to Telluride, Colorado, that week costs \$1,154 per person for a room at Hotel Columbia and lift tickets, according to Ski.com. The same trip during March spring break runs \$1,889. — AP



In this file photo, Anna Marie Migl, from Denver, steps into her bindings before taking a run on opening day of ski season at Arapahoe Basin Ski Area in Colorado.





**Aries (March 21-April 19)**

You may feel emotionally frustrated today. This could be caused by your own busy schedule or by someone interrupting your schedule. It is commendable that you are so cooperative. The way you deal with necessities and obligations, health and work in particular, is in a state of transformation. Your patience is admired and you will see positive results from your efforts. A trusted confidante advises you on the state of affairs in the president's office. A new diet or exercise program can improve your life and your outlook at this time. Beautiful surroundings help relax you after a day of office tension. You are in a frisky mood this evening. Love and compassion are wonderful friends tonight. Love waits on welcome, not on time.



**Taurus (April 20-May 20)**

When you request a loan or a raise, you are so thorough in your reasons for how much you think you might need and how you can pay it back, that your request is well received. When asking for money, you might hold out for a lower interest rate. Homeless shelters, recreation programs and various other causes are an interest for you this winter. You may decide to do some sort of canvassing in the neighborhood this afternoon so as to collect items for a church to give to the homeless. You may even take turns with the sorting or the delivery. You find yourself involved more in community and religious projects. A trip to the pet store this evening may open you up to a fun new pet that sings and talks. You may decide to pitch in for a few new pet toys.



**Gemini (May 21-June 20)**

Lessons learned in business are very valuable. Acknowledge your teachers, who will come in many forms. A colleague appears more informed than he or she really is. Once your critical mind is in gear, a lack of information may cause you to become dissatisfied. Take some time before you step up to speak. When you do some research, you will open a door of opportunity that will help increase your finances. Your health improves. You may find that circumstances are quite different from one day to the next. A little shopping this afternoon will take you into a music store. Choose music that matches your current mood for some good relaxation therapy this afternoon. Charm and romance are strong tonight-an adventure is on the way. Make a wish.



**Cancer (June 21-July 22)**

Events can never get any stranger than they are now. You could easily feel confused and misdirected. Avoid the tendency to be deluded by taking things more slowly-avoid the temptation to rush. Take a deep breath and give yourself plenty of time before making a final decision about heavy-duty projects. You might find that things magically change in a few days. Things are happening and your career or path depends upon your own ambition and drive, which are strong now. There is a heightened artistic inspiration that may manifest itself in creative work or just the urge to experience the beauty of nature. Your good cheer today enhances your social life and may intensify romance. Your intuition is sharpened and may lead you to new insights.



**Leo (July 23-August 22)**

You are full of energy and enjoy having a busy life. Parental advice, no matter how old you are, is valid. Listen to the voice of experience and avoid making costly mistakes. You should probably begin to consider securing the advances you have made recently. It may be best to begin to dig in and strengthen your current position rather than expand outward too much. You will find your mind beginning to turn away from the external or the material and to be concerned with more inward and spiritual ideas. All of this will become clear soon. You tend toward mental pursuits and admire intelligence. There is an emphasis on communication, expression of ideas and the connections between things, places and people. Your mind will motivate you.



**Virgo (August 23-September 22)**

You are an action person who gains the attention of others and seems to get things moving in the right direction. The circumstances of your life suggest occasional extroversion. Self-discipline is important-it is what stabilizes your work, as well as your relationships. Today you may be looking for a new vehicle. A better means of transportation has been needed for some time and now is the time to look around and make some decisions. There are opportunities to improve your career through travel, writing or studying some new technique. General good feelings and a sense of support and harmony make this a happy time. A family meeting keeps you on your toes this evening, so to speak. If you have children, it may be time to set a teacher conference date.



**Libra (September 23-October 22)**

Starting over, backing up and making changes may take up most of your morning-patience. A customer or a higher-up has changed his or her mind now and you are the one that has to do the work. You make the changes and tend to details. The conditions this afternoon are independence, creativity and initiative. Yesterday, you made a contact that has good financial potential for your company. You could be leading a group discussion this afternoon that deals with academic crusades. Science, philosophy and religion are likely to be subjects you will enjoy taking or teaching. It has been said that when we teach, we tend to learn new things and in your case, you enjoy the subjects. You enjoy long conversations with loved ones tonight.



**Scorpio (October 23-November 21)**

This is a great time to be with others and to work together. You can expect a little boost, some extra support or recognition from those around you at this time. At home this afternoon, you may decide to rearrange furniture and update some of your possessions. If you are living in a family, you will take others' likes and dislikes very seriously. Psychological values and material possessions become very important for you-there is a state of change. Style and colors are also in a process of change. Financial gain and material wellbeing are among the brighter prospects looming before you now as you focus in on how much things really mean to you. Careful-there may be a tendency to emphasize the material too much.



**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)**

Your work moves along as usual this thursday, but new puzzles will keep popping up from time to time. When this happens you will be wise to keep a focus on your own desired outcome. Sometimes puzzles and side roads are set up on purpose but you will keep the work in progress. A past struggle may come to mind when you think about how far you have advanced. This afternoon, you may be eager to join in an exchange of ideas with friends. You are popular-be smart in scheduling your activities. The more muscle you have the more calories you are burning. You requested exercise equipment for your birthday and are determined to enter into the new birth year with a healthy body plan. Fun celebrations are ahead.



**Capricorn (December 22-January 19)**

A forgotten meeting could derail your work so check your schedule book to stay with the program of the week. You want to set clear goals. Anything that cannot wait for you to check it out is a false lead-drop it! There are new opportunities to gain recognition in your job. You have plenty of enthusiasm and warm up to people quickly. A superior may want to add to your schedule this week but you may have no room for new projects. You might ask for a suggestion as to what they would want you to scratch in order to handle this new project. This would serve several purposes and give the responsibility to delay action on a few projects to someone other than you. After work, you may try your hand at repairing a technical piece of equipment.



**Aquarius (January 20- February 18)**

Although you like a little excitement in your life from time to time, you are happy when everything is comfortable and ordinary. You are active and inspired today to encourage changes in the guidelines for employees or some other system that would be most beneficial. Spending a little money to appease the employees will help increase sales that will more than make up for the money spent on the employees. A contest might be in order. Your mind may still be busy thinking about new ideas. In order to relax, you may be happier if you just go ahead and write down your ideas for later speculation. The evening brings a relief from this busy day. You spend quality time with family members. Those close to you are loving and supportive.



**Pisces (February 19-March 20)**

You prepare to move on to a brand-new professional endeavor at this time. Your attitude this day is that you would like to try out something before you sign your name on the dotted line. You become an unstoppable entity as you endeavor to go where people have never gone before, or do things that few have done before. You have the desire and the energy to move forward with your goals. Your curiosity and intelligence will help you move into a different type of job or life style, if that is what you need. Building a new type of home, living in space or living under the sea, you enjoy the innovative experiences that you have been allowed to enjoy at this time in your life. You may be happy to see that family members are making the effort to cooperate with you.

**COUNTRY CODES**

Afghanistan	0093	Jamaica	001876
Albania	00355	Japan	0081
Algeria	00213	Jordan	00962
Andorra	00376	Kazakhstan	007
Angola	00244	Kenya	00254
Anguilla	001264	Kiribati	00686
Antigua	001268	Kuwait	00965
Argentina	0054	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Armenia	00374	Laos	00856
Australia	0061	Latvia	00371
Austria	0043	Lebanon	00961
Azerbaijan	00994	Liberia	00231
Bahamas	001242	Libya	00218
Bahrain	00973	Lesotho	00266
Bangladesh	00880	Lithuania	00370
Barbados	001246	Luxembourg	00352
Belarus	00375	Macau	00853
Belgium	0032	Macedonia	00389
Belize	00501	Madagascar	00261
Benin	00229	Majorca	0034
Bermuda	001441	Malawi	00265
Bhutan	00975	Malaysia	0060
Bolivia	00591	Maldives	00960
Bosnia	00387	Mali	00223
Botswana	00267	Malta	00356
Brazil	0055	Marshall Islands	00692
Brunei	00673	Martinique	00596
Bulgaria	00359	Mauritania	00222
Burkina	00226	Mauritius	00230
Burundi	00257	Mayotte	00269
Cambodia	00855	Mexico	0052
Cameroon	00237	Micronesia	00691
Canada	001	Moldova	00373
Cape Verde	00238	Monaco	00377
Cayman Islands	001345	Mongolia	00976
Central African	00236	Montserrat	001664
Chad	00235	Morocco	00212
Chile	0056	Mozambique	00258
China	0086	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Colombia	0057	Namibia	00264
Comoros	00269	Nepal	00977
Congo	00242	Netherlands	0031
Cook Islands	00682	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Costa Rica	00506	New Caledonia	00687
Croatia	00385	New Zealand	0064
Cuba	0053	Nicaragua	00505
Cyprus	00357	Nigar	00227
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Nigeria	00234
Czech Republic	00420	Niue	00683
Denmark	0045	Norfolk Island	00672
Diego Garcia	00246	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Djibouti	00253	North Korea	00850
Dominica	001767	Norway	0047
Dominican Republic	001809	Oman	00968
Ecuador	00593	Pakistan	0092
Egypt	0020	Palau	00680
El Salvador	00503	Panama	00507
England (UK)	0044	Papua New Guinea	00675
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Paraguay	00595
Eritrea	00291	Peru	0051
Estonia	00372	Philippines	0063
Ethiopia	00251	Poland	0048
Falkland Islands	00500	Portugal	00351
Faroe Islands	00298	Puerto Rico	001787
Fiji	00679	Qatar	00974
Finland	00358	Romania	0040
France	0033	Russian Federation	007
French Guiana	00594	Rwanda	00250
French Polynesia	00689	Saint Helena	00290
Gabon	00241	Saint Kitts	001869
Gambia	00220	Saint Lucia	001758
Georgia	00995	Saint Pierre	00508
Germany	0049	Saint Vincent	001784
Ghana	00233	Samoa US	00684
Gibraltar	00350	Samoa West	00685
Greece	0030	San Marino	00378
Greenland	00299	Sao Tome	00239
Grenada	001473	Saudi Arabia	00966
Guadeloupe	00590	Scotland (UK)	0044
Guam	001671	Senegal	00221
Guatemala	00502	Seychelles	00284
Guinea	00224	Sierra Leone	00232
Guyana	00592	Singapore	0065
Haiti	00509	Slovakia	00421
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Slovenia	00386
Honduras	00504	Solomon Islands	00677
Hong Kong	00852	Somalia	00252
Hungary	0036	South Africa	0027
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	South Korea	0082
Iceland	00354	Spain	0034
India	0091	Sri Lanka	0094
Indian Ocean	00873	Sudan	00249
Indonesia	0062	Suriname	00597
Iran	0098	Swaziland	00268
Iraq	00964	Sweden	0046
Ireland	00353	Switzerland	0041
Italy	0039	Syria	00963
Ivory Coast	00225	Serbia	00381



## OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

00:00 Let Us Prey  
02:00 The Borderlands  
04:00 Apocalypse Pompeii  
06:00 Surrogates  
08:00 The Berlin File  
10:00 Deep Rising  
12:00 Hercules Reborn  
14:00 Surrogates  
16:00 The Berlin File  
18:00 Deep Rising  
20:00 X-Men: The Last Stand  
22:00 The Dead Lands

## ANIMAL PLANET HD

00:50 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants  
01:45 Bondi Vet  
02:40 Wildest Europe  
03:35 Tanked  
04:25 Wildest Africa  
05:15 Gator Boys  
06:02 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants  
06:49 Wildest Europe  
07:36 Call Of The Wildman  
08:00 Call Of The Wildman  
08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized  
09:15 Wildest Europe  
10:10 Mutant Planet  
11:05 Tanked  
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized  
12:55 Bondi Vet  
13:50 Wildest Europe  
14:45 Gator Boys  
15:40 Mutant Planet  
16:35 Tanked  
17:30 Wildest Africa  
18:25 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants  
19:20 Big Fish Man  
20:15 Tanked  
21:10 The Real Lion Queen  
22:05 Mutant Planet  
23:00 Big Fish Man  
23:55 Gator Boys

## BBC FIRST

00:00 The Detectorists  
00:30 Doctors  
01:00 Eastenders  
01:30 Holby City  
02:30 Benidorm  
03:30 The Detectorists  
04:05 Doctors  
04:35 Eastenders  
05:05 Call The Midwife  
06:00 Holby City  
07:00 Doctors  
07:30 Doctors  
08:00 Eastenders  
08:30 Eastenders  
09:05 Casualty  
10:00 Stella  
10:50 Lapland: Christmas 2011  
12:10 New Tricks  
13:05 Casualty  
14:00 Holby City  
15:00 Doctors  
15:30 Eastenders  
16:00 Stella  
16:45 Lapland: Christmas 2011  
18:00 Doctors  
18:30 Doctors  
19:05 The Coroner  
20:00 Undercover  
21:00 The Collection  
21:55 War And Peace  
22:45 Hunderby  
23:15 Him & Her  
23:45 Doctors

## COMEDY CENTRAL

00:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
01:00 Killer Kids  
02:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
03:00 Tbc  
04:00 Crimes That Shook Australia  
05:00 Killer Kids  
06:00 Britain's Darkest Taboos  
07:00 The First 48  
08:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
09:00 Crime Stories  
10:00 The First 48  
11:00 It Takes A Killer  
11:30 Frenemies  
12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
13:00 Killers  
14:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
15:00 Crime Stories

16:00 It Takes A Killer  
16:30 Frenemies  
17:00 The First 48  
18:00 Killers  
19:00 Crimes That Shook Britain  
20:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook  
21:00 It Takes A Killer  
21:30 Frenemies  
22:00 Crime Stories  
23:00 50 Ways To Kill Your Lover

## crime & investigation network

00:00 South Park  
00:25 Tosh.0  
00:50 Tosh.0  
01:15 Tosh.0  
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
02:05 Chris D'Elia: White Male, Black Comic  
03:00 Ridiculousness  
03:25 Ridiculousness  
03:50 Workaholics  
04:15 Workaholics  
04:40 Ridiculousness  
05:05 Key And Peele  
05:30 Workaholics  
05:55 Workaholics  
06:20 Tosh.0  
06:50 Tosh.0  
07:15 Workaholics  
07:40 Workaholics  
08:05 Workaholics  
08:30 Key And Peele  
08:55 Tosh.0  
09:20 Tosh.0  
09:45 Nathan For You  
10:10 Nathan For You  
10:35 Ridiculousness  
11:00 Tosh.0  
11:25 Hungry Investors  
12:15 Workaholics  
12:40 Key And Peele  
13:05 Key And Peele  
13:30 Tosh.0  
13:55 Tosh.0  
14:20 Tosh.0  
14:45 Workaholics  
15:10 Workaholics  
15:35 Tosh.0  
16:00 Tosh.0  
16:30 Workaholics  
16:55 Nathan For You  
17:25 Tosh.0  
17:50 Coaching Bad

18:39 Ridiculousness  
19:03 Ridiculousness  
19:27 Key And Peele  
19:50 Key And Peele  
20:13 I Live With Models  
20:37 Brotherhood  
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah  
21:30 Another Period  
21:54 Broad City  
22:18 South Park  
22:42 Ugly Americans  
23:05 Chappelle's Show  
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah

## Discovery Family

00:30 Prototype This  
01:20 Secret Space Escapes  
02:10 How The Universe Works  
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 Animal Planet's Most Outrageous  
08:40 How It's Made  
09:05 How It's Made  
09:30 Prototype This  
10:20 Mythbusters  
11:10 Dirty Jobs  
12:00 Animal Planet's Most Outrageous  
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 Battle Bots  
17:50 Now That's Funny  
18:40 Prototype This  
19:30 How It's Made  
19:55 How It's Made  
20:20 Mythbusters  
21:10 Battle Bots  
22:00 Now That's Funny  
22:50 Untamed & Uncut  
23:40 Bear Grylls: Born Survivor  
IDX HD

## Disney Channel HD

00:10 Hank Zipzer  
00:35 Binny And The Ghost  
01:00 Violetta  
01:45 The Hive  
01:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
02:40 Hank Zipzer  
03:05 Binny And The Ghost  
03:30 Violetta  
04:15 The Hive  
04:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
04:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
05:10 Hank Zipzer  
05:35 Binny And The Ghost  
06:00 Violetta  
06:45 The Hive  
06:50 Mouk  
07:00 Jessie  
07:25 Jessie  
07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts  
08:20 Disney Cookabout  
08:45 Bunk'd  
09:10 Austin & Ally  
09:35 Shake It Up  
10:00 A.N.T. Farm  
10:25 A.N.T. Farm  
10:50 That's So Raven  
11:15 That's So Raven  
11:40 Good Luck Charlie  
12:05 Good Luck Charlie  
12:30 Jessie  
12:55 Disney Mickey Mouse  
13:00 The 7D  
13:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
13:40 Hank Zipzer  
14:05 Star Darlings  
14:10 Austin & Ally  
14:35 Austin & Ally  
15:00 Dog With A Blog  
15:25 Jessie  
15:50 Rolling To The Ronks  
16:15 Hank Zipzer  
16:40 Bunk'd  
17:05 Star Darlings  
17:10 Elena Of Avalor  
17:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir  
18:25 Pocahontas  
20:05 Dog With A Blog  
20:30 Jessie  
20:55 Liv And Maddie  
21:20 Austin & Ally  
21:20 Girl Meets World  
22:35 H2O: Just Add Water  
23:00 Binny And The Ghost  
23:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch  
23:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch

## Disney Junior

00:00 Doc McStuffins  
00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons  
00:35 Zou  
00:50 Loopdidoo  
01:05 Art Attack  
01:30 Henry Hugglemonster  
01:45 Calimero  
02:00 Zou  
02:15 Loopdidoo  
02:30 Art Attack  
03:00 Calimero  
03:15 Zou  
03:30 Loopdidoo  
03:45 Art Attack  
04:10 Henry Hugglemonster  
04:20 Calimero  
04:45 Loopdidoo  
05:00 Art Attack  
05:25 Henry Hugglemonster  
05:35 Calimero  
05:50 Zou  
06:00 Loopdidoo  
06:15 Art Attack  
06:35 Henry Hugglemonster  
06:50 Calimero  
07:00 Zou  
07:20 Loopdidoo  
07:35 Art Attack  
08:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
08:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
09:00 The Lion Guard  
09:30 Miles From Tomorrow  
09:40 Goldie & Bear  
10:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
10:10 Doc McStuffins  
10:30 PJ Masks  
10:40 Jake And The Neverland Pirates  
11:00 Sofia The First  
11:30 Doc McStuffins  
12:00 Goldie & Bear

12:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
13:00 Loopdidoo  
13:15 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
13:45 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
14:15 Henry Hugglemonster  
14:30 Doc McStuffins  
15:00 Sofia The First  
15:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
16:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
16:30 Doc McStuffins  
17:00 The Lion Guard  
17:30 PJ Masks  
18:00 Sofia The First  
18:30 Goldie & Bear  
19:00 Miles From Tomorrow  
19:30 Welcome To Moustuffinsville  
20:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse  
21:00 PJ Masks  
21:30 The Lion Guard  
22:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
22:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates  
23:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West  
23:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse

## Discovery Channel HD

00:20 Wheeler Dealers  
01:10 Salvage Hunters  
02:00 What On Earth?  
02:50 British Treasure, American Gold  
03:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre  
04:30 What's In The Barn?  
05:00 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
05:30 How Do They Do It?  
06:00 You Have Been Warned  
06:50 Incredible Engineering Blunders: Fixed  
07:40 Magic Of Science  
08:05 Magic Of Science  
08:30 Railroad Australia  
09:20 Survive That!  
10:10 Dive Wars Australia  
11:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls  
11:50 Car vs Wild  
12:40 Telescope  
13:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre  
14:20 Sacred Steel Bikes  
15:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
15:35 How It's Made: Dream Cars  
16:00 Street Outlaws  
16:50 Street Outlaws  
17:40 Street Outlaws  
18:30 Street Outlaws  
19:20 Street Outlaws  
20:10 Street Outlaws  
21:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre  
21:50 Sacred Steel Bikes  
22:40 Street Outlaws  
23:30 Telescope

## Disney XD

06:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil  
06:25 K.C. Undercover  
06:50 The 7D  
07:00 Phineas & Ferb  
07:15 Atomic Puppet  
07:40 Danger Mouse  
07:50 Counterfeit Cat  
08:05 Future Worm  
08:10 Gravity Falls  
08:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
09:00 Supa Strikas  
09:25 Supa Strikas  
09:50 Danger Mouse  
10:20 Annedroids  
10:45 Annedroids  
11:10 Counterfeit Cat  
11:35 K.C. Undercover  
12:00 K.C. Undercover  
12:30 Gravity Falls  
12:55 Lab Rats Elite Force  
13:20 Lab Rats Elite Force  
13:45 Phineas And Ferb  
14:10 Disney Mickey Mouse  
14:15 Supa Strikas  
14:40 Supa Strikas  
15:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island  
15:30 Danger Mouse  
15:55 Kirby Buckets  
16:25 K.C. Undercover  
16:50 Annedroids  
17:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
17:40 K.C. Undercover  
18:05 Future Worm  
18:10 Gravity Falls  
18:35 Counterfeit Cat  
19:00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures  
19:25 Supa Strikas  
19:55 K.C. Undercover  
20:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything  
20:45 Mighty Med  
21:10 Pickle And Peanut  
21:40 Disney Mickey Mouse  
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy  
22:10 Marvel Ultimate Spider-Man vs The Sinister



THE BERLIN FILE ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2016

22:35 Booster  
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



00:05 Catching Kelce  
01:50 E! News  
02:50 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
03:40 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
04:35 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry  
05:30 Botched  
06:00 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
06:55 E! News  
07:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
08:10 E! News  
09:10 Fashion Police: The 2015 American Music...  
10:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
11:05 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
12:00 E! News  
12:15 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
13:10 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
14:05 Kourtney And Khloe Take The Hamptons  
15:00 E! News  
15:15 Catching Kelce  
16:10 Catching Kelce  
17:05 Catching Kelce  
18:00 Catching Kelce  
20:00 WAGs Miami  
21:00 Fashion Police: The 2015 American Music...  
22:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians  
23:00 E! News  
23:15 WAGs Miami



00:00 Private Chef  
00:30 Private Chef  
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
02:00 Man Fire Food  
02:30 Man Fire Food  
03:00 Chopped  
04:00 Guy's Grocery Games  
05:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin  
05:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin  
06:00 Chopped  
07:00 Barefoot Contessa  
07:30 Barefoot Contessa  
08:00 The Kitchen  
09:00 Barefoot Contessa  
09:30 The Pioneer Woman  
10:00 Chopped  
11:00 Guy's Big Bite  
11:30 Guy's Big Bite  
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives  
13:00 Man Fire Food  
13:30 Man Fire Food  
14:00 Chopped  
15:00 The Kitchen  
16:00 Cooking For Real  
16:30 Cooking For Real  
17:00 Chopped  
18:00 Iron Chef America  
19:00 Cutthroat Kitchen  
20:00 BBQ Crawl  
20:30 BBQ Crawl  
21:00 Bite This With Nadia G  
21:30 Bite This With Nadia G  
22:00 Iron Chef America  
23:00 Cutthroat Kitchen



00:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium  
01:00 Emmerdale  
01:30 Coronation Street  
02:00 Coronation Street  
02:30 The Chase  
03:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
03:55 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
04:20 Gino's Italian Escape / Gino's Hidden Italy  
04:45 Together  
05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
06:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium  
07:05 The Chase  
08:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
08:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs  
09:00 Gino's Italian Escape / Gino's Hidden Italy  
09:30 Together  
10:00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
10:55 Sunday Night At The Palladium  
11:50 The Chase  
12:45 Emmerdale



THE MARTIAN ON OSN MOVIES HD

13:15 Emmerdale  
13:45 Coronation Street  
14:15 Sunday Night At The Palladium  
15:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
16:00 Broadchurch  
16:55 Broadchurch  
17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries  
18:45 Emmerdale  
19:15 Emmerdale  
19:45 Coronation Street  
20:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials  
21:00 Broadchurch  
21:55 Broadchurch  
22:50 Emmerdale  
23:15 Emmerdale  
23:40 Coronation Street  
00:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
01:00 Ancient Aliens



02:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
03:00 Ancient Discoveries  
03:50 Heroes Of War  
04:40 Your Bleeped Up Brain  
05:30 America's Book Of Secrets  
06:20 Cities Of The Underworld  
07:10 Ancient Discoveries  
08:00 America's Book Of Secrets  
09:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
10:00 Ancient Discoveries  
11:00 Heroes Of War  
12:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain  
13:00 Ancient Aliens  
14:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
15:00 Ancient Discoveries  
16:00 Heroes Of War  
17:00 Your Bleeped Up Brain  
18:00 Ancient Aliens  
19:00 Ancient Aliens  
20:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved  
21:00 Ancient Discoveries  
22:00 Heroes Of War  
23:00 Serial Killer Earth



00:20 Billion Dollar Wreck  
01:10 Lost In Transmission  
02:00 Storage Wars  
02:25 Storage Wars: Best Of  
02:50 Counting Cars: Best Of  
03:15 Counting Cars: Best Of  
03:40 American Restoration  
04:30 Pawn Stars  
05:00 Time Team  
06:00 Time Team  
06:50 Time Team  
07:40 Hoard Hunters  
08:30 American Restoration  
08:55 Alone  
09:45 Swamp People  
10:35 Ice Road Truckers  
11:25 American Restoration  
12:15 Counting Cars  
12:40 Counting Cars  
13:05 Aussie Pickers  
13:55 Time Team  
14:45 Battle 360  
15:35 Hoard Hunters

16:25 Counting Cars  
16:50 Time Team  
17:40 Pawn Stars Australia  
18:05 Pawn Stars Australia  
18:30 Alone  
19:20 Ice Road Truckers  
20:10 Mountain Men  
21:00 Pawn Stars  
21:25 Pawn Stars South Africa  
21:50 Ozzy & Jack's World Detour  
22:40 Sean Bean On Waterloo  
23:30 Time Team



00:10 Mega Food  
01:00 Bangkok Airport  
01:50 The Food Files  
02:15 Eat Street  
02:40 Hotel India  
03:30 Hook It, Cook It  
03:55 Hook It, Cook It  
04:20 Eat Street  
04:45 Eat Street  
05:10 Eat Street  
05:35 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
06:00 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
06:25 Route Awakening  
06:50 Bangkok Airport  
07:40 The Food Files  
08:05 Eat Street  
08:30 Hotel India  
09:20 Hook It, Cook It  
09:45 Hook It, Cook It  
10:10 Eat Street  
10:35 Eat Street  
11:00 Eat Street  
11:25 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
11:50 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
12:15 Route Awakening  
12:40 Bangkok Airport  
13:35 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia  
14:00 The Food Files  
14:30 Hotel India  
15:25 Hook It, Cook It  
15:50 Fish Of The Day  
16:20 Fish Of The Day  
16:45 What's For Sale?  
17:15 Raw Travel  
17:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
18:10 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
18:35 Route Awakening  
19:05 The Food Files  
19:30 Hook It, Cook It  
20:00 Fish Of The Day  
20:25 Fish Of The Day  
20:50 What's For Sale?  
21:15 Raw Travel  
21:40 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
22:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia  
22:30 Route Awakening  
22:55 Bangkok Airport  
23:45 Tripping Out With Alie & Georgia



00:10 Explorer  
01:00 Classified: Secret Service Files  
02:00 Locked Up Abroad  
02:55 Air Crash Investigation

03:50 Explorer  
04:45 Science Of Stupid  
05:10 Science Of Stupid  
05:40 Car SOS  
06:35 Dawn Of Humanity  
07:30 Savage Kingdom  
08:25 WWII's Greatest Raids  
09:20 Science Of Stupid  
09:45 Science Of Stupid  
10:15 The Human Family Tree  
11:10 The Border  
12:05 Kung Fu Motion  
13:00 WWII's Greatest Raids  
14:00 Nazi Megastructures  
15:00 Classified: Secret Service Files  
16:00 Locked Up Abroad  
17:00 The Border  
18:00 Taboo  
19:00 Classified: Secret Service Files  
20:00 Locked Up Abroad  
20:50 The Border  
21:40 Taboo  
22:30 Classified: Secret Service Files  
23:20 Car SOS



00:20 Animal Fight Club  
01:10 Bear Nomad  
02:00 Animal Armory  
02:50 Deadly Game  
03:45 Swamp Men  
04:40 My Life Is A Zoo  
05:35 Animal Armory  
06:30 Deadly Game  
07:25 Swamp Men  
08:20 My Life Is A Zoo  
09:15 Animal ER  
10:10 Killer Hornets  
11:05 America's National Parks  
12:00 Dinofish  
12:55 Deadly Super Cat  
13:50 Deadly Game  
14:45 Swamp Men  
15:40 Shane Untamed  
16:35 Animal ER  
17:30 Dragon Island  
18:25 Last Devils  
19:20 Swamp Men  
20:10 Shane Untamed  
21:00 Animal ER  
21:50 Dragon Island  
22:40 Last Devils



00:30 Scrubs  
01:00 Scrubs  
01:30 Baskets  
02:00 Baskets  
02:30 Difficult People  
03:00 2 Broke Girls  
03:30 The Last Man On Earth  
04:00 Fresh Off The Boat  
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
05:30 George Lopez  
06:00 Hank  
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 The Last Man On Earth  
10:00 Young & Hungry  
10:30 Community  
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
12:00 Hank  
12:30 Fresh Off The Boat  
13:00 George Lopez  
13:30 Community  
14:00 The Last Man On Earth  
14:30 The Last Man On Earth  
15:00 Young & Hungry  
15:30 Scrubs  
16:00 Scrubs  
16:30 Hank  
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers  
18:00 Black-Ish  
18:30 The Goldbergs  
19:00 The Goldbergs  
19:30 New Girl  
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon  
21:00 Scrubs  
21:30 Scrubs  
22:00 Man Seeking Woman  
22:30 Man Seeking Woman  
23:00 Difficult People  
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers



01:00 Peter Pan  
03:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend  
05:00 Little Man Tate  
07:00 The Good Dinosaur  
09:00 Gulliver's Travels  
11:00 Despicable Me 2  
13:00 Home  
15:00 The Unbeatables  
17:00 Big Fat Liar  
19:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid  
21:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian  
23:00 The Unbeatables



01:00 Terminator Genisys  
03:15 Big Game  
05:00 The Good Lie  
07:00 Louder Than Words  
09:00 Big Game  
10:45 The Man From U.N.C.L.E.  
12:45 Believe  
14:45 Steve Jobs  
17:00 Fantastic Four  
18:45 Star Wars: The Force Awakens  
21:00 The Martian  
23:30 No Escape



00:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything  
02:00 The Invention Of Lying  
04:00 Sunshine On Leith  
06:00 Confessions Of A Shopaholic  
08:00 Passed Away  
10:00 Sunshine On Leith  
12:00 The Invention Of Lying  
14:00 Jack  
16:00 Passed Away  
18:00 The Proposal  
20:00 The Brass Teapot  
22:00 Horrible Bosses 2



01:30 Jamie Marks Is Dead  
03:30 Unbroken  
06:00 Les Miserables  
09:00 One Fine Day  
11:00 Fearless  
13:00 The Railway Man  
15:00 Foreverland  
17:00 One Fine Day  
19:00 The Village  
21:00 Mystic River  
23:30 Black Swan



01:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case  
02:30 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion  
04:15 Memory Loss  
06:00 Baby Geniuses And The Treasures Of Egypt  
07:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots  
09:30 Jetsons: The Movie



Word Search Puzzles

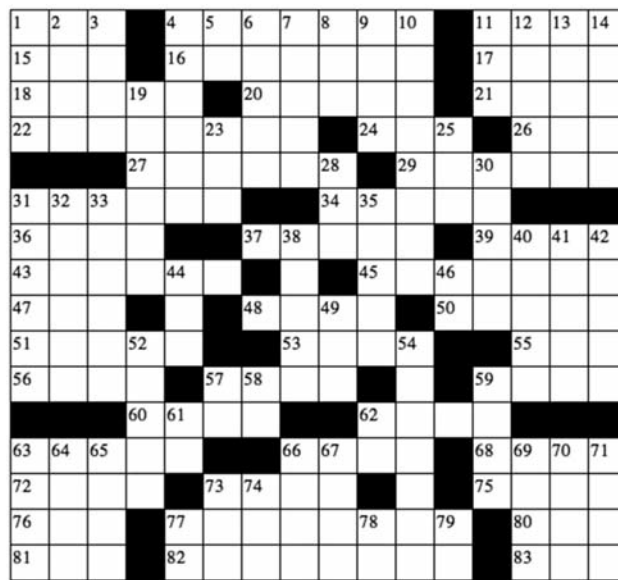
Happy New Year

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell the name of a popular location for celebrating New Years Eve.

SEIBABNEWYEARSEVEY  
GCHAMPAGNETYIMNSTT  
ENSSUETHCDANCEDRHR  
SQINFETOODMUAYOEIA  
EFCGFINASLSUERFKRP  
DHEFNFRRRRIASEDATS  
AIUSEIASEBRDNIEMYK  
RBBTTESMTIESAFCEFR  
AMTAYIANNORLAYESIO  
PISWLEVROEFTTEEMIRW  
NDEARLEINIHIJVCBOSE  
DNENTRONTETHEASBSTR  
AISWIAAORINASNROHI  
YGYEOBITNTEIRRUKCF  
OHWINEITSSKSIHATS  
NTYLIMAFNOISACCORT  
ETSAEFSNOITULOSERY  
SREZITEPPAYFRIENDS

- |            |                  |               |                |
|------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| APPETIZERS | DECORATIONS      | HATS          | PARADES        |
| BABIES     | END OF DECEMBER  | HOLIDAY       | PARTY          |
| BALLOONS   | EVENTS           | HORNS         | PUNCH          |
| BANNERS    | FAMILY           | KISS          | RESOLUTIONS    |
| BUFFET     | FATHER TIME      | MIDNIGHT      | SINGING        |
| CELEBRATE  | FEAST            | MUSIC         | STREAMERS      |
| CHAMPAGNE  | FESTIVITIES      | NEW YEARS DAY | THIRTY FIRST   |
| CONFETTI   | FIREWORKS        | NEW YEARS EVE | TIARAS         |
| DANCE      | FIRST OF JANUARY | NOISEMAKERS   | WINE           |
| DAY ONE    | FRIENDS          | OCCASION      | YEAR IN REVIEW |

CROSSWORD 1441



ACROSS

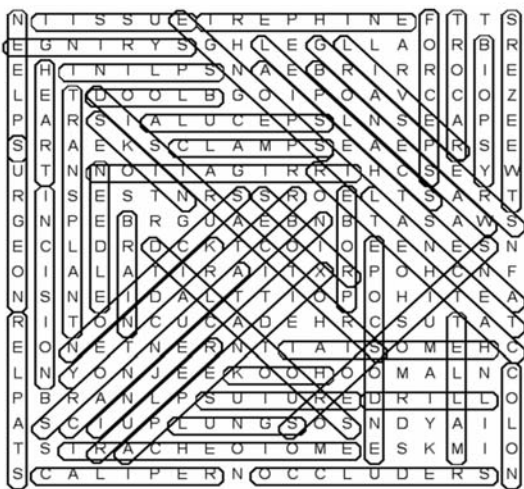
- A former monetary unit in Great Britain.
- Perennial or biennial herb cultivated for its delicate usually blue flowers.
- An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Sweden or its people or culture or language.
- A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
- The process of leaching.
- Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
- A small cake leavened with yeast.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Morocco or its people.
- (British) The dessert course of a meal ('pudding' is used informally).
- Artists or writers whose ideas are ahead of their time.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- A member of the Dravidian people living in southern India.
- Showy perennial herb with white flowers.
- Jordan's port.
- The central area of a church.
- An ancient city in Asia Minor that was the site of the Trojan War.
- Cleanse (one's body) with soap and water.
- Relating to or characteristic of Arabs.
- 1 species.
- Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
- Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- The locus of feelings and intuitions.
- Highly concentrated or intense.
- Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
- The 26th letter of the Roman alphabet.
- A complex red organic pigment containing iron and other atoms to which oxygen binds.
- English writer and a central member of the Fabian Society (1858-1943).
- Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- An narrative telling the adventures of a hero or a family.
- Support resembling the rib of an animal.

DOWN

- Any of various aromatic resinous substances used for healing and soothing.
- A spread made chiefly from vegetable oils and used as a substitute for butter.
- Massive plantigrade carnivorous or omnivorous mammals with long shaggy coats and strong claws.
- A bin that holds rubbish until it is collected.
- A radioactive transuranic element synthesized from californium.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- Horny projecting mouth of a bird.
- A program under which employees regularly accumulate shares and may ultimately assume control of the company.
- Denoting a quantity consisting of 1,000 items or units.
- Light informal conversation for social occasions.
- An anti-TNF compound (trade name Arava) that is given orally.
- An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
- (Hindu) A manner of sitting (as in the practice of Yoga).
- Filaments from a cobweb.
- Affectedly modest or shy especially in a playful or provocative way.
- A light touch or stroke.
- The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
- A numerical quantity measured or assigned or computed.
- The capital and largest city of Zimbabwe.
- Evergreen Indian shrub with vivid yellow flowers whose bark is used in tanning.
- Sluggish tailless Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
- The sacred city of Lamaism.
- Affect with wonder.
- Any of various small insectivorous American birds chiefly olive-gray in color.
- Having been taken into the mouth for consumption.
- Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydrizid) used to treat tuberculosis.
- A gonadotropic hormone that is secreted by the anterior pituitary.
- (informal) Of the highest quality.
- Fastened with stitches.
- Small short-billed auk abundant in arctic regions.
- A small pellet fired from an air rifle or BB gun.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- Type genus of the Anatidae.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
- (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
- An island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
- A lyric poet.
- 100 lwei equal 1 kwanza.
- Any competition.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Anything that serves as an enticement.
- An emergency procedure consisting of external cardiac massage and artificial respiration.
- 10 hao equal 1 dong.
- A metallic element having four allotropic forms.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.

Yesterday's Solution

Surgery



- |             |            |            |             |
|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| ANESTHESIA  | DRILL      | LUNGS      | SPLINT      |
| APPENDIX    | ENDOSCOPE  | MALLET     | SPONGE      |
| BIOPSY      | FORCEPS    | NEEDLE     | STAPLER     |
| BLOOD       | GRASPERS   | OCCLUDERS  | SUCTION     |
| BONE SAW    | HEART      | PROBE      | SURGEON     |
| BRAIN       | HEMOSTAT   | RETRACTORS | SUTURE      |
| CALIPER     | HOOK       | RIBS       | SYRINGE     |
| CANNULA     | INCISION   | RULER      | TISSUE      |
| CATHETER    | INJECTION  | SCALPEL    | TRACHEOTOME |
| CLAMPS      | IRRIGATION | SCISSORS   | TRANSPLANT  |
| COLON       | KIDNEY     | SKIN       | TREPHINE    |
| DILATORS    | LANCET     | SPECULA    | TROCAR      |
| DISTRACTORS | LIVER      | SPLEEN     | TWEEZERS    |

The hidden message is: THE LARGEST ORGAN OF THE HUMAN BODY IS SKIN

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



## DECIPHERING TRUMP'S MIXED SIGNALS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**PARIS:** Donald Trump's stay of execution for pulling the United States out of a landmark climate pact was welcomed Wednesday by diplomats and experts, even as they fretted about appointments and decisions yet to come. In a wide-ranging conversation with executives and journalists Tuesday from the New York Times, the president-elect said repeatedly that he had an "open mind" about the UN Paris Agreement and, more broadly, whether global warming was caused by human activity.

"I think there is some connectivity," he said at the Times headquarters in Manhattan, according to the paper's own account. "I'm looking at it very closely. I have an open mind to it." At the same time, Trump questioned the overwhelming scientific consensus on climate change, saying there are "lots of cases for different views." An international climate summit in Marrakesh tasked with implementing the first universal action plan for curbing global warming ended on Friday, shadowed by Trump's campaign promise to "cancel" the deal inked last December in the French capital.

Ahead of his surprise win in the November 8 vote, the brash New York billionaire had also vowed to dismantle domestic regulations for curbing CO2 emissions which, he claimed, put US companies at a competitive disadvantage. "It's good news that he's moving in the direction of thinking things through," said Laurence Tubiana, France's top climate negotiator and a main architect of the 196-nation Paris deal, which went into force earlier this month. "It is a more open and realistic position," she told AFP. "But the big question remains: what will US national policy be?"

### Shoot the messenger

Under the Paris Agreement, the US has agreed to cut its CO2 pollution 26-28 percent by 2025, measured against 2005 levels. The Obama administration also promised some three billion dollars for a fund to help poor countries make their economies greener and cope with unavoidable climate impacts, such as heatwaves, droughts and storm surges. —AFP

## SWEAT IT OUT! SKIN PATCH AIMS TO TEST SWEAT FOR HEALTH

**WASHINGTON:** Breaking a sweat? Researchers are creating a skin patch that can test those droplets while people exercise and beam results to their smartphones, possibly a new way to track health and fitness.

The experimental gadget goes well beyond activity monitors like the Fitbit. A little larger than a quarter, it's almost like a tiny lab stuck to the skin - and a study published Wednesday found it worked on sweaty bicyclists, sticking even during a long-distance race in Arizona.

If you think of perspiration as just a drippy nuisance, think again. "Sweat has biochemical components within it that tell us a lot about physiological health," said John A Rogers, who directs Northwestern University's Center for Bio-Integrated Electronics and led the new research. Today's wearable technology helps people track their calories, activity and heart rate. A wearable biosensor would be "radically different," Rogers said.

For simple fitness purposes, it could give an early warning that it's time to replenish electrolytes before someone starts to feel dehydrated. But eventually with additional research, Rogers envisions more sophisticated use of such devices, such as real-time monitoring of how the body adjusts during military training, or even to screen people for diseases such as diabetes or cystic fibrosis. Rogers, who did much of the research while at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has long worked to develop electronic devices that can stretch and twist with the body.

The skin-like sweat patch adds a capa-

bility called microfluidics, capturing and analyzing tiny amounts of body fluid. How it works: Stick the patch on the skin and start moving. Tiny channels collect perspiration and route it to different compartments where it interacts with chemicals that change color to reflect sweat loss, the perspiration's acidity level, and concentrations of chloride, glucose

and backs of 21 healthy volunteers. Nine rode exercise bikes in a gym to compare the sweat patches' performance with the decidedly lower-tech method of sweat-testing used today - taping on absorbent pads and carting the resulting wet samples to a laboratory. For a more real-world test, the other 12 bicyclists wore the patches while competing in a long-



**This photo shows a soft, skin-mounted microfluidic device for capture, collection and analysis of sweat. Time to break a sweat: Researchers are creating a skin patch that can test droplets of sweat to track health while people exercise, beaming results to their smartphones. —AP**

and lactate. Together, those measurements can indicate such things as hydration levels or electrolyte loss. Hold a smartphone over the patch, and an app takes a picture of the colors and interprets what they mean.

In two studies reported Wednesday, Rogers' team stuck patches to the arms

and backs of 21 healthy volunteers. Nine rode exercise bikes in a gym to compare the sweat patches' performance with the decidedly lower-tech method of sweat-testing used today - taping on absorbent pads and carting the resulting wet samples to a laboratory. For a more real-world test, the other 12 bicyclists wore the patches while competing in a long-distance outdoor race in Tucson. The patches stayed in place and worked even in the challenging outdoor race, and the patches' biochemical test results agreed with the indoor bikers' conventional sweat tests, the researchers reported in the journal Science Translational Medicine. —AP

CLINIC  
PAGE



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THE LEADING INDEPENDENT NEWS IN THE GULF REGION

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
استشاري أطفال  
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAF. PEM

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## KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (24/11/2016 TO 30/11/2016)

<b>SHARQIA-1</b>		TAHT AL TARABEZA	6:30 PM
ARRIVAL	11:30 AM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:00 PM
ARRIVAL	1:45 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:30 PM
TROLLS	4:15 PM		
DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	6:15 PM	<b>MARINA-1</b>	
ARRIVAL	9:15 PM	ALLIED	12:15 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:45 PM	ALLIED	2:45 PM
		TROLLS	5:30 PM
		ALLIED	7:30 PM
		ALLIED	10:00 PM
		ALLIED	12:30 AM
<b>SHARQIA-2</b>		<b>MARINA-2</b>	
TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:30 AM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:45 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	1:30 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	3:00 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	3:45 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	5:15 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	6:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	7:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	8:15 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:45 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	10:30 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:05 AM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:45 AM		
<b>SHARQIA-3</b>		<b>MARINA-3</b>	
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	11:30 AM	ARRIVAL	11:30 AM
ALLIED	2:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	1:45 PM
ALLIED	4:45 PM	ARRIVAL	4:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	7:15 PM	ARRIVAL	7:00 PM
ALLIED	10:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:30 PM
ALLIED	12:30 AM	ARRIVAL	12:15 AM
<b>MUHALAB-1</b>		<b>AVENUES-1</b>	
TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:30 AM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:45 AM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	1:45 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	2:00 PM
ARRIVAL	4:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	4:15 PM
DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	6:30 PM	GHOST COINS	6:30 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	9:30 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	8:45 PM
ARRIVAL	12:15 AM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:00 PM
		GHOST COINS	1:15 AM
<b>MUHALAB-2</b>		<b>AVENUES-2</b>	
ALLIED	12:30 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM-3D	12:15 PM
TROLLS	3:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM-3D	3:00 PM
ALLIED	5:00 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM-3D	5:45 PM
ARRIVAL	7:45 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM-3D	8:30 PM
ALLIED	10:15 PM	FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM-3D	11:15 PM
ALLIED	12:45 AM		
<b>MUHALAB-3</b>		<b>AVENUES-3</b>	
TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:45 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	11:30 AM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	3:00 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	2:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	5:15 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	5:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	7:30 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	8:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:45 PM	DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	11:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:05 AM		
<b>FANAR-1</b>		<b>360°-1</b>	
ARRIVAL	11:45 AM	ALLIED	11:30 AM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	2:15 PM	ALLIED	2:00 PM
ARRIVAL	5:00 PM	ALLIED	4:30 PM
ARRIVAL	7:30 PM	ALLIED	7:00 PM
GHOST COINS	10:00 PM	ALLIED	9:30 PM
ARRIVAL	12:05 AM	ALLIED	12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-2</b>		<b>360°-2</b>	
ALLIED	11:30 AM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:45 PM
ALLIED	2:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	3:00 PM
ALLIED	4:30 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	5:15 PM
FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM	7:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	7:30 PM
ALLIED	9:45 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:45 PM
ALLIED	12:15 AM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-3</b>		<b>360°-3</b>	
DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	11:45 AM	THE WHOLE WORLD AT OUR FEET	11:30 AM
DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	2:45 PM	ECHOES OF WAR	1:30 PM
AE DIL HAI MUSHKIL -Hindi	5:45 PM	THE WHOLE WORLD AT OUR FEET	3:45 PM
DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	8:45 PM	ECHOES OF WAR	6:00 PM
DEAR ZINDAGI -Hindi	11:45 PM	THE WHOLE WORLD AT OUR FEET	8:15 PM
		ECHOES OF WAR	10:30 PM
		THE WHOLE WORLD AT OUR FEET	12:45 AM
<b>FANAR-4</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.1</b>	
TAHT AL TARABEZA	1:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:45 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	3:30 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	3:00 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	5:45 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	5:15 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	8:00 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	7:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	10:15 PM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	9:45 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:30 AM	TAHT AL TARABEZA	12:05 AM
<b>FANAR-5</b>		<b>AL-KOUT.2</b>	
TAHT AL TARABEZA	11:30 AM	ALLIED	12:30 PM
TAHT AL TARABEZA	2:00 PM		
TROLLS	2:00 PM		
FRH-SAT			
TROLLS	4:30 PM		

## APARTMENT FOR RENT

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### 2. AL JABRIYA AREA

- ◆ Featured Site
- ◆ Near Royale Hayat Hospital

### 3. AL SALMIYA (Hamad Al Mubarak Street)

- ◆ Features Site, Near from Al Mowasat Hospital, near from seaside.

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- ◆ Featured Site, near from Fifth Ring Road

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**24-11-2016**

### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Mohamed** Sadiq Riyasat, holder of Indian Passport No. M6103097 has changed my name to Sadique Riyasat Pathan. Herein after in all my dealings and documents I will be known by name of Sadique Riyasat Pathan. (C 5240)  
**24-11-2016**

**I, Hassan** S/o Zoyabali Mithawala holder of Indian Passport No. Z3199917 and Civil ID NO. 292070202684 has changed my name to Hassan Zoyabali Mithawala herein after in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Hassan Zoyabali Mithawala. (C 5237)

**I, Hozefa** S/o Shabbir holder of Indian Passport No. Z3201289 and Civil ID No. 277021101304 has change my name to Hozefa Shabbir herein after in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Hozefa Shabbir. (C 5238)

**I, Ayesha** D/o Sequeira Elias Pascal holder of Indian Passport No. P6318774 and Civil ID No. 279012301733 has changed by name Ayesha Bano herein after in all my dealings and documents. I will be known by name of Ayesha Bano.  
**22-11-2016**

### PRAYER TIMINGS

<b>Fajr:</b>	<b>04:56</b>
<b>Shorook</b>	<b>06:20</b>
<b>Duhr:</b>	<b>11:35</b>
<b>Asr:</b>	<b>14:31</b>
<b>Maghrib:</b>	<b>16:50</b>
<b>Isha:</b>	<b>18:11</b>

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Swimming pool,  
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Deluxe  
Flat For  
Family  
(2 BR + 2 Bathrooms)**

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# Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2016



US businesses cheer overtime ruling, many already upped pay

Page 41

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SUDDEN CURRENCY MOVE SPOILS BUSINESS AT INDIAN FOOD MARKET



**BEDMINSTER, New Jersey:** In this Sunday, Nov 20, 2016, file photo, President-elect Donald Trump, left, stands with investor Wilbur Ross after meeting at the Trump National Golf Club Bedminster clubhouse. —AP

## TRUMP TAPS WILBUR ROSS FOR COMMERCE SECRETARY KNOWN AS 'KING OF BANKRUPTCY'

**WASHINGTON:** Wilbur Ross, the billionaire investor considered the "king of bankruptcy" for buying beaten-down companies with the potential to deliver profits, is President-elect Donald Trump's choice for commerce secretary, a senior transition official said.

The official isn't authorized to publicly discuss the matter and requested anonymity. Reputed by Forbes to be worth nearly \$3 billion, Ross would represent the interests of US businesses domestically and abroad as the head at Commerce. His department would be among those tasked with carrying out the Trump administration's stated goal of protecting US workers and challenging decades of globalization that largely benefited multinational corporations.

With a Florida home down the road from Trump's Mar-a-Lago retreat, the 78-year-old Ross played a role in crafting and selling the president-elect's tax-cut and infrastructure plans. Ross has suggested that much of America is disgruntled because the economy has left middle-class workers behind and says Trump represents a shift to a "less politically correct direction." "Part of the reason why I'm supporting Trump is that I think we need a more radical, new approach to government -

at least in the US - from what we've had before," Ross told CNBC in June, referring to Trump's blunt tone and sweeping promises to reinvigorate economic growth.

### Embrace of populist rhetoric

Despite his embrace of populist rhetoric, Ross has enjoyed a patrician lifestyle. He frequently commutes between his offices in New York and home in Palm Beach, Florida, according to Haute Living magazine. He maintains an art collection worth more than \$100 million that includes works by the Belgian surrealist Rene Magritte. A graduate of Yale University, he pledged \$10 million to help build its management school.

For 24 years as a banker at Rothschild, Ross developed a lucrative specialty in bankruptcy and corporate restructurings. He founded his own firm, W.L. Ross, in 2000 and earned part of his fortune from investing in troubled factories in the industrial Midwest and in some instances generating profits by limiting worker benefits. That region swung hard for Trump in the election on the promise of more manufacturing jobs from renegotiated trade deals and penalties for factories that outsourced their work abroad.

A specialist in corporate turnarounds, Ross buys distressed or bankrupt companies at steep discounts, then seeks to shave costs and generate profits. Some of those cost reductions have come from altering pay and benefits for workers. Since 2000, his firm has invested in more than 178 companies.

Ross most prominently created four companies through mergers and acquisitions that focused on steel, textiles, autos and coal. In some cases, Ross has sold the companies he packaged to even larger globe-spanning companies. In 2005, he sold the International Steel Group, which included the former Bethlehem Steel, to the Indian steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal.

And while his investments appear to have proved generally lucrative, they have also at times brought troubling publicity. In early 2006, the Sago coal mine owned by Ross exploded, triggering a collapse that killed a dozen miners. Federal safety inspectors in 2005 had cited the West Virginia mine with 208 violations.

Ross said afterward that he knew about the safety violations but that the mine's management had assured him that it was a "safe situation." "Oh, my God, it's the worst week of

my entire life," Ross told ABC News days after the collapse. If confirmed by the Senate as commerce secretary, Ross would oversee nearly 47,000 employees and a budget of roughly \$8 billion.

Among its responsibilities, the Cabinet department provides data on the economy through the Census Bureau and monitors the environment through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One former commerce secretary, Donald Evans, noted that a prime responsibility is opening up markets around the world for US companies and workers. "What you are is ambassador to the world from America," said Evans, who served under President George W. Bush. "It's critically important when you go to other countries that, first and foremost, you care about them, the citizens of their country."

That advice clashes somewhat with the promises made by Trump, who campaigned on the doctrine of putting "America first." The president-elect told voters that Mexico, China and other countries had played US trade negotiators for fools. "Under a Trump administration, no American citizen will ever again feel that their needs come second to the citizens of foreign countries," Trump said in April. —AP





WASHINGTON: In this Oct. 26, 2016, file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, accompanied by, from left, Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump, Trump, Melania Trump, Tiffany Trump and Ivanka Trump, speaks during the grand opening of the Trump International Hotel-Old Post Office. — AP

## A LOOK AT 5 TRUMP BUSINESS TIES THAT POSE CONFLICTS INTERESTS CALLED INTO QUESTION

**NEW YORK:** After Ivanka Trump appeared on CBS's "60 Minutes" wearing a \$10,800 bracelet from her jewelry line, someone at her company sent photos from the interview to fashion writers to drum up free publicity. A firestorm of criticism erupted over the impropriety of profiting off the presidency, and the company apologized. If only the bracelet brouhaha was the end of it.

Experts on government ethics are warning President-elect Donald Trump that he'll never shake suspicions of a clash between his private interests and the public good if he doesn't sell off his vast holdings, which include roughly 500 companies in more than a dozen countries. They say just the appearance of conflicts is likely to tie up the new administration in investigations, lawsuits and squabbles, stoked perhaps by angry Oval Office tweets. "People are itching to sue Donald Trump and stick him under oath," said Richard Painter, chief White House ethics lawyer for George W. Bush.

In an interview with The New York Times on Tuesday, Trump insisted that the "law's totally on my side," and ethics experts agree that federal conflicts of interest rules don't apply to the president so he can run his business pretty much the way he pleases while in office. His company, The Trump Organization, had no comment on the conflicts issue, other than a statement reiterating its plans to transfer control of the company to three of the president-elect's adult children.

Painter doesn't think that goes far enough. In a letter to Trump last week, he joined watchdog groups and ethics lawyers from both Democratic and Republican administrations in predicting

"rampant, inescapable" conflicts that will engulf the new administration if the president-elect does not liquidate his business holdings.

A look at five areas where conflicts may arise:

### New hotel

For use of the government-owned Old Post Office for his new Washington hotel, Trump agreed on annual rent to the government in a contract that was signed more than three years ago. So what possibly could be the problem now? Plenty, according to Steven Schooner, a professor of government procurement law at George Washington University who has studied the contract. In addition to base rent, the president-elect agreed to additional annual payments based on various financial measures of how well the hotel is doing. Schooner says such payments typically require drawn out negotiations each year.

"How can anyone expect a government employee to negotiate with the Trump family at arm's length and treat the Trump family like any other contractor?" Schooner asks.

Schooner thinks Trump should terminate the contract because, even if the Trump family acts honorably, the appearance a conflict will spread doubt throughout the contracting system. Federal rules prohibit government employees and elected officials from striking contracting deals with the government for just this reason, though the president is exempted. "The US government pays over \$400 billion in contracts a year," Schooner says. "Why should other contractors have to follow the rule if the

President of the United States doesn't have to?"

As president, Trump will have the authority to appoint a new head to the General Services Administration, the federal agency that signed the lease with Trump and will negotiate the rent each year.

Business at the hotel could get a lift if foreign dignitaries decide to stay at the new hotel to curry favor with the new president. In addition to the Washington hotel, Trump Organization leases land from some local governments, including for a golf course in New York City and one in Florida.

### Foreign affairs

Trump's extensive operations abroad raise the possibility that his foreign policy could be shaped by his business interests, and vice versa. Trump has struck real estate deals in South Korea, the Philippines, Indonesia, Uruguay, Panama, India and Turkey, among other countries.

In June, Turkish media reported that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called for Trump's name to be removed from the Trump Towers in Istanbul because of what Erdogan characterized as anti-Muslim comments by the candidate. A NATO member, Turkey is a key ally in fighting the Islamic State group in Syria.

In India, the newspaper Economic Times reported that Trump held a meeting in New York a week after his election with business partners who put up the Trump Towers Pune in the western part of the country. The president-elect also has a Trump-branded residential tower in nearly Mumbai with another company. — AP

## BUSINESS BOOMS AT TRUMP TOWER, NEARBY RETAILERS HIT BY SECURITY AND CROWDS

**NEW YORK:** Bailey White, 13, stood patiently in line with her little brother Keaton at the gift store inside the Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue on Wednesday afternoon, each clutching a stuffed terrier named Charlie that cost \$35 per item.

The beagle, with a Trump monogram on its white bandana, was modeled on the pet dog of Eric Trump, the son of President-elect Donald Trump. It was one of the few items left on the shelves of the store, which had sold out of that morning's fresh batch of red "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN" t-shirts by noon.

Bailey and Keaton, 10, however, were happy with their score. The children, who had traveled to New York from Florida originally for the Thanksgiving Day Parade, told Reuters they were huge fans of Donald Trump, listing at the top of their reasons his commitment to reduce illegal immigration. Or, as the younger brother puts it, "To stop bad guys from getting in our country."

As businesses around the president-elect's glitzy New York home have had to deal with extra security and crowds reducing foot traffic sales in the lead up to Fifth Avenue's busiest shopping weekend, Trump souvenirs have been flying off the shelves at the billionaire's gift store.

Trump supporters like the White siblings and their mom Laura have proven to be a boon for at least one of the his businesses in the immediate aftermath of the US presidential election.

### All campaign merchandise out of stock

In just one hour, a Reuters reporter counted at least 100 people crowding the shop located on the lower level of the Tower to buy hats, pins and more. Many were disappointed to find the \$30 dollar red "MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN" hat and all campaign t-shirts out of stock.

Just one door over, a single salesman sat in dim lighting in the middle of the day at a New York City souvenir store, also in Trump Tower, greeting visitors with, "Looking for Trump merchandise?" before redirecting them.

When asked if the number of visitors inside the Trump Tower had increased since the presidential results, a security guard in the building replied: "One hundred percent." Outside, where some of the world's most well-known retailers spend more on rent than in just about any other city, shoppers had to fight through security, crowds and media packs to enter the Gucci store or tony jeweler Tiffany's.

Rosalia Betancourt, 69, first trekked to Trump Tower two days after Trump was elected in search for the eponymous red hat. They were sold out. When Betancourt, who moved to New York from Venezuela more than four decades ago, braved holiday crowds a week later on Wednesday, she had to leave empty-handed once again. "It's all right" she said. "I guess I'll go online. It just has to be red."

Sari Nielsen, 71, was waiting at the Trump Cafe next door to the shop for the crowds to die down. "I want to buy my nephew Pete a Trump golf hat for Thanksgiving," said Nielsen, who moved to New York in 1975 from Argentina.

Shoppers also had the option of buying Trump cufflinks, blankets, bags, perfume, candy, books authored by members of the family and more. The line shortened somewhat during lunchtime when visitors turned their attention to the Trump Grill, which does not offer reservations but a \$25 dollar fixed-price meal.

Trisha Williams, 50, of San Jose, California also made the trip to New York for the parade with her son Cayden, 8, who stayed up and watched the election. The two stood outside the Trump Tower with their gold Trump store bags.

"We wanted to experience it all and buy some merchandise," Trisha said. But many of the items she wanted to buy were not available. "They didn't really have very much," Trisha said noting that a saleswoman at the store gave her a card outlining how she can make purchases online and that she's already followed her advice. "I wanted a jacket with a Trump logo and a t-shirt, but they didn't really have anything left." — Reuters



## GERMAN ECONOMY 'UNFAZED' SO FAR BY TRUMP ELECTION

**BERLIN:** The German economy has shrugged off the shock election of Donald Trump as US president, with business confidence holding at a two-year high and consumption expected to rise in December. "The economic upturn in Germany remains intact. The German economy seems to be unfazed by the election of Donald Trump as US President," said the Munich-based Ifo economic institute in a statement on Thursday.

The Ifo's headline business confidence index reached 110.4 points in November, unchanged from the October reading, and the highest level since April 2014. Separately, a poll by market research firm GfK on consumer sentiments suggest that the mood will show an uptick in December—a good sign for retailers in the run up to Christmas.

While acknowledging that the German economy is currently "in a good shape", analysts warned that challenges loom in 2017. Commerzbank analyst Ralph Solveen said the "higher pace is unlikely to prove lasting" because foreign demand, which has picked up lately, would probably weaken as many emerging markets are still battling structural problems.

ING chief economist Carsten Brzeski also called for caution when interpreting the Ifo index, as a "slowdown in global trade should hinder economic growth" from living up "to its full potential in the period ahead".

### 'Less dynamic export prospects'

Trump's taking of the White House has sent shockwaves through the global economy, with export-dependent economies particularly jittery as the populist president-elect has pledged to reverse free trade treaties. This week, he promised to drop the Trans-Pacific Partnership—a vast agreement between 12 countries including Japan, Australia and Peru. Although Trump has not spoken specifically about a planned free trade deal between the EU and the US, German Chancellor Angela Merkel admitted last week that the accord would now not be completed.

While the construction and wholesaling sectors reported optimism in the Ifo survey, manufacturing was more downbeat about the coming six months, "mainly due to less dynamic export prospects". Although the German economy was once heavily weighted towards exports, domestic consumption has in recent months become a main driver of growth.

With unemployment sinking to a record low and wages steadily rising, spending power has been rising in Europe's biggest economy. The arrival of almost 900,000 asylum seekers last year alone has also prompted the government to invest heavily in infrastructure for the newcomers.

On Thursday, federal statistics office Destatis confirmed that growth reached 0.2 percent in the third quarter, held up mainly by domestic consumption.

Domestic spending rose 0.4 percent and state expenditure by one percent compared to the preceding quarter, but gross investment and imports experienced negligible growth and exports fell by 0.4 percent. — AFP



**FRANKFURT, Germany:** This Oct 30, 2014, file photo shows the Deutsche Bank headquarters. — AP

## US BUSINESSES CHEER OVERTIME RULING, MANY ALREADY UPPED PAY 'A LITTLE LATE FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE'S TASTE'

**LAS VEGAS:** Businesses around the country on Wednesday cheered a court decision blocking the Obama administration's sweeping new overtime rules, but many had already raised salaries or ordered employees to stick to a strict 40-hour workweek to avoid costs they expected to incur starting next week.

An injunction issued Tuesday by the federal court in the Eastern District of Texas prevents the Department of Labor from mandating overtime pay for salaried employees who make less than about \$47,500 a year — a dramatic jump from the old threshold of \$23,660. More than 4 million workers would have been newly eligible for time-and-a-half pay under the rule, which now faces far more uncertainty from Donald Trump's incoming administration.

### A little late

The ruling giving businesses a reprieve "is a little late for a lot of people's taste," said Tom Gimbel of Chicago-based LaSalle Network, a recruiting and staffing firm that advised companies on how to prepare for the new rule. "A lot of companies had already rolled it out."

Among them was Opportunity Village in Las Vegas, a nonprofit that teaches vocational skills to people with disabilities and raises its money through private donations and running a thrift store. Some salaries of clerical workers had already been increased, and Opportunity president Bob Brown said it would be demoralizing for him to take away the pay raises from those workers. "It's put us in a difficult situation — you're spending money you wouldn't have been spending," he said.

The Department of Labor last May ordered the changes to give overtime to many more American workers, saying they would "go a long way toward realizing President Obama's commitment to ensuring every worker is compensated fairly for their hard work."

Inflation had weakened the US overtime law passed decades ago, which the agency dubs "the crown jewel of worker protections in the United States." Overtime protections applied to 62 percent of US full-time salaried workers in 1975 but just 7 percent today.

The court agreed with the rule's opponents that the labor department overstepped the authority it has from Congress and that the rule could cause irreparable harm if it took effect Dec. 1 as scheduled. The department is now considering its legal options, but Trump will be in charge of the department after taking office on Jan. 20.

While the rule was not a big issue in the presidential campaign, Trump did tell the news site Circa in August that hoped small businesses would get an exception from the overtime rule or be granted a delay in having to comply with it.

The rule's supporters are now grappling with the major setback and its implications for workers who had been budgeting for more overtime pay starting next week. They're troubled that low-level retail and restaurant managers who make \$25,000 a year but work 60 hours a



**WASHINGTON:** In this June 22, 2016, file photo, Labor Secretary Thomas Perez speaks at a news conference at the Treasury Department. — AP

week can't log overtime pay.

"This is about the worst news they could get heading into Thanksgiving and the holiday season," said Vicki Shabo, vice president of the National Partnership for Women & Families. The fight for overtime pay among administrative, salaried workers has been quiet compared with efforts to raise the minimum wage.

### Good impression

Workers who want to make a good impression on their employers, feel compelled to cover for absent co-workers or are passionate about their jobs often put

in far more than 40 hours a week and end up making a sub-minimum wage.

Advocacy groups say the hours those employees spend working for free translate into lost time they could spend with their families or advancing their education to get better paying jobs.

Employers and business groups that stridently opposed the rule have the upper hand over employees who don't want risk losing their jobs, the advocates say. "Especially in a bad economy, employers hold a lot of power," Shabo said. "I think people legitimately have a lot of anxiety about where they stand and how secure their jobs are." — AP

## OLIVE BUSINESS ROOTS YOUNG FARMERS IN DRYING RURAL MOROCCO

**SIDI BADHAJ, Morocco:** Standing amid rows of healthy fava bean plants, El Badaoui Abdelatif explains how his team of young technicians has helped farmers in rural Sidi Badhaj, at the foot of the Atlas Mountains, grow more olives — and earn more money — despite a drying climate.

Pruning, the use of electronic equipment and more precise irrigation have increased yields from 20 kg (44 lb) per tree to 100 kg or more. And the quality of the oil from the olives has improved because farmers take them for pressing within 24 hours of harvest rather than storing them for a month or two, as in the past.

But a boost to the income of local farmers — 90 percent of whom have adopted the new techniques — isn't the only benefit. The work performed by Abdelatif's team of seven men and three women, replicated in other municipalities of Al Haouz province, south of the city of Marrakesh, means fewer young people are migrating to urban areas in search of work. "I thought about leaving for the city too," said the 30-year-old. "But with all the training and equipment we have received, the situation is more

stable for young people here, our quality of life is better, and I don't think about going anymore."

### Services provided

The services of his team — which advises on tree health, helps with the harvest, and lends out modern equipment such as battery-powered pruning shears and vibrating tree rakes — are in high demand among local farmers, he added.

Khalid Batrah, 42, is one of the farmers participating in the project to develop agricultural value chains, backed by the Moroccan government and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN agency that supports rural people.

Thanks to a drip irrigation system, which delivers water directly to the plants' roots, Batrah has branched out into melon, pea and bean production on his 10-hectare (24.7-acre) olive farm, roughly tripling his revenues.

Putting in drip irrigation — with the support of a government subsidy — improved his harvests in only a year, he said. He now employs three permanent workers and as many as 100 people during the olive harvest. — Reuters





BEIJING: A magazine featuring a cover story about US President-elect Donald Trump is seen at a news stand in Beijing on November 23, 2016.—AFP

## TRUMP'S TPP WITHDRAWAL GIVES CHINA CHANCE TO REDRAW TRADE MAP

### LIKELY DEMISE OF THE TPP WELCOMED BY CHINA

**BEIJING:** China will be handed the opportunity to reshape the rules for global trade and profit from a more isolated US if President-elect Donald Trump carries out his pledge to abandon the landmark TPP pact, observers say.

The likely demise of the Trans-Pacific Partnership has been welcomed by state media in China, where the deal had been criticized as a naked attempt to boost US influence in the region and contain the Asian giant. The TPP's goal, the Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily said in a Thursday commentary, had been "to establish America's economic dominance by excluding and suppressing China with economic containment".

Trump's new course will "see China benefiting most from increased US protectionism", the often nationalist Global Times newspaper said, adding the world's second-largest economy could "pick up the slack" and "lead free trade". The real estate mogul's insurgent presidential bid was built in part on a pledge to overturn trade deals that he says have drained American jobs and destroyed its industrial heartlands. He duly promised this week to declare a withdrawal from the TPP—a vast, arduously negotiated agreement between 12 countries that does not include China — on his first day in office. US allies, who spent years selling the TPP to some reluctant electorates in the hope of yoking America closer to several like-minded Pacific democracies, are clearly disappointed. The pact is the economic plank of

Barack Obama's strategic rebalance to Asia, and a US departure would render it "meaningless", said Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

#### Superpower tussle

China and the US have jockeyed for influence on the global diplomatic stage in recent years, as Beijing seeks a diplomatic heft to match its growing economic might. It regularly refers to its relationship with Washington as a "new model of major power relations", implicitly putting itself on an equal footing with the US. "If the United States walks away from the TPP, it could open the door for China to develop its own Asian free-trade area," analysts with IHS Global Insight said in a note.

Several countries including Australia have already expressed interest in alternative trade deals such as the Beijing-backed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). RCEP brings together the 10 members of the Southeast Asian grouping ASEAN plus China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand, but notably excludes the US. China's President Xi Jinping touted deepening trade links on his recent visit to South America. In the Peruvian capital Lima he called on Asia-Pacific countries to build the larger Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) pushed by Beijing and "continue our involvement in economic globalisation".

#### Trade as a weapon

But China's putative position as a cham-

panion of free trade contrasts with domestic restrictions that prevent foreign companies from competing in a variety of sectors, often forcing them to partner with local competitors and share vital technology. Authorities have also frequently shown their willingness to use trade as a cudgel to punish countries who run afoul of Beijing, de facto banning banana imports from the Philippines during a dispute over the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

The TPP is the product of years of tough negotiations, and the high environmental and labor standards it imposes on members—unlike RCEP—meant that many of the governments that signed up had to wage political battles to do so. There is the clear potential for fallout if the deal fails because of a change of heart by its prime instigator.

Instead, Washington's Asian allies may seek to build a more stable and long-lasting partnership with China, whose governing party has not changed since 1949. That could give Beijing more sway in both economic and strategic disputes, such as over the resource-rich South China Sea.

Beijing will "press ahead with the economic integration process" in the Asia-Pacific region, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters Wednesday. But he denied any ulterior motives. "We should prevent politicising of free trade arrangements, and we hope that all countries can stop reading too much into the free trade arrangements through a geopolitical perspective," he added.—AFP

## IVANKA TRUMP SEPARATES PERSONAL, BUSINESS SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

**NEW YORK:** Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka, accused of a potential conflict of interest as she helms her own brand while making frequent appearances with her president-elect father, is separating her business and personal social media accounts.

In a "letter" that appeared Tuesday on her Twitter and Instagram feeds, the businesswoman's team said that her existing @IvankaTrump accounts—which have 2.4 million and 1.9 million followers, respectively—will now be for "personal" use. All information related to her clothing and jewelry brands, meanwhile, will appear on @IvankaTrumpHQ accounts. "As a private citizen, with full awareness of her heightened visibility, she will broaden her efforts to take a stance on issues of critical importance to American women and families," the statement said.

"Our company's mission is not political—it never was and it never will be—however, Ivanka, personally, has an increased opportunity to advocate for women and be a positive force for change," it added.

Ivanka Trump, The Trump Organization's vice president of development and acquisitions, and her two brothers, vice presidents at the conglomerate, have been called upon to manage their father's fortune and affairs during his tenure at the White House. She stirred controversy when images released by the Japanese government showed the 35-year-old and her husband, real-estate developer and publisher Jared Kushner, standing and chatting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when he met with the president-elect at Trump Tower in Manhattan last week.

She also participated in a telephone conversation when Argentina's President Mauricio Macri called her father, although the head of Argentine diplomacy has assured that she and the president only exchanged pleasantries. Donald Trump has also indicated that his son-in-law, Kushner, who is largely absent from social media, could help broker a deal to bring peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Kushner is from an Orthodox Jewish family. The businessman and investor was a close adviser to Trump during the election campaign.—AFP



NEW YORK: Ivanka Trump, daughter and part of the executive committee of US President-elect Donald Trump's transition team arrives at Trump Tower on another day of meetings on November 21, 2016.—AFP





**SIENA, Italy:** This file photo taken on July 2, 2016 shows a statue of priest Sallustio Bandini at Piazza Salimbeni, the headquarters of the Monte dei Paschi di Siena bank.—AFP

## TUSCAN CITY FORCED TO LIVE WITHOUT ITS HONEYPOT

**SIENA, Italy:** The fates of the world's oldest bank and the Italian medieval city of Siena—home to the celebrated Palio horse race—have been tightly linked for over 500 years. But while the Monte dei Paschi di Siena (BMPS) is clinging to hope a last-ditch rescue scheme will prevent it from being wound down after years of ills, Siena is having to learn to live without its patronage. “The whole city felt the crisis,” local businesswoman Susanne Michel told AFP. “The ‘Monte’ was a lung that many depended on.” Pensioner Laura, 57, who did not want to give her last name, agreed: “The Monte crisis has ruined Siena.” “The bank used to help businesses and associations, but all that’s gone. We’ve had to cut spending. It’s changed everyone’s lives.” BMPS—which was founded in 1472 as a charitable “mount of piety” and went on to become Italy’s third largest financial institution—has recorded abysmal losses and was found to be Europe’s weakest major bank in tests this year.

### ‘Symbiosis’

It has been plagued by years of bad management: severely weakened by the disastrous acquisition in 2007 of the Antonveneta bank, for a sum double the estimated going price, it was then hit by scandal, its leaders accused of fraud and embezzlement. The foundation linked to the bank—which pumped generous donations into Siena to fund everything from the restoration of dilapidated Renaissance buildings to the sponsoring of football clubs—saw its resources collapse.

As the controlling shareholder of BMPS, the foundation for a long time had cash to splash, from financing academic scholarships to sponsoring the city’s prized Palio horse race. The twice-yearly event sees bareback jockeys sprint around the Piazza del Campo in what is a major tourist attraction.

In the 10 years following 2000, it handed over around 150 million Euros (\$159 million) a year, with a peak of 233 million in 2008. But squeezed hard by the crisis, the foundation, which now holds just 1.49 percent of the bank, was forced to sharply reduce the amounts given to the city. It received just 3.0 million a year in 2015 and 2016. The turnaround plan for the bank will go to a shareholder vote on Thursday and the city’s 50,000 residents fear job losses if it fails.

### ‘Incestuous’

“There was a symbiosis between the city and the bank,” said Carlo Alberto Carnevale Maffe, professor at Milan’s Bocconi University. “The Monte is the only big company in Siena. It was a ‘company town’, with a role like that of the car for Detroit” in the US, he said. But the relationship became “incestuous”, creating “conflicts of interest with the political sphere”, he added. City council representatives sat on the foundation’s board, while several mayors became presidents of the bank. BMPS “distributed tens of millions of Euros in dividends that it should probably have used to strengthen its capital,” Carnevale Maffe said. Deputy mayor Paolo Mazzini, who came to power with the centre-left administration in 2013 following the scandal, said the bank’s power “became too much for such a small city”. “The city was self-centered,” and the foundation’s money allowed it to do “many things, perhaps too many, with sports teams competing on a national level, expensive exhibitions,” he said. Now the council has to go hat in hand to the regional authorities and ministries in Rome to get the funds to finance projects. Francesco Frati, rector of Siena university—founded in 1240 and which has 18,000 students—said the city will have to rethink its objectives. — AFP

## SUDDEN CURRENCY MOVE SPOILS BUSINESS AT INDIAN FOOD MARKET

### 80 PERCENT OF INDIA’S BANKNOTES USELESS

**NEW DELHI:** The scale of India’s cash economy can be seen in the Azadpur Mandi wholesale fruit and vegetable market. Trucks bring load after load of fresh produce to its grimy lanes every day. Then a complex web of wholesale merchants, smaller traders and retailers delivers the produce to most of north India. Almost every transaction, like most in India, is done in cash. And business at the massive New Delhi market is evaporating, the food spoiling and wasted, two weeks after the government’s surprise currency move made more than 80 percent of India’s banknotes useless.

By withdrawing all 500- and 1,000-rupee notes from circulation, the government is trying to clean India’s economy of “black money,” or untaxed wealth. Its success remains to be seen, but for now the move has created serpentine queues outside banks and ATMs of people replacing their rupee notes or making small withdrawals.

Few people have access to banks, however. The vast majority of Indians

earn and spend in cash, and more than half of the country’s 1.3 billion people have no bank accounts. In Azadpur people are upset: The impossibly wiry laborers who transport fruit and vegetables in handcarts around the 90-acre market, the big traders who conduct hundreds of thousands of rupees of business in a day and the small retailers who buy a few baskets or crates of food to sell each day. Stopping to talk to a reporter would have been impossible a month ago, but business at the market was so thin on a recent day that groups of traders and workers were free to speak. A look at how India’s currency move has impacted people at one crucial market.

### Worried about their next meal

Jitendra Prasad sits propped on one edge of his wooden handcart. Flies buzz over bunches of ripe bananas but few customers stop to even ask his price. People are holding on to their precious 10s and 100s out of fear of when they’ll be able to make their next withdrawal, he says. Banks and ATMs are dispensing the

new 2,000 rupee bill but smaller bills are scant. For Prasad the big bills are useless: “We don’t have enough money to give them change.” So his fruit sits unsold or has to be thrown away. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has claimed the currency move had the support of India’s poor, since it was aimed at corrupt wealth. “The poor are sleeping soundly. It is the rich who are looking to buy sleeping pills,” he declared a few days after the switch.

### Prasad for one isn’t sleeping well

“We are worried day and night. We are worried about having food to eat.” Handcart puller Jagat came to Azadpur Mandi to find work when he was 14. He has done every odd job the market has. And he says it’s never been harder to make enough to scrape by. “I would make 1,000 rupees a day (\$14.50). At this time in the morning I would be so busy I wouldn’t have time to stop and talk. But now making even 200 rupees (\$3) is hard.” Some days there is no work at all.

For now small loans, from other laborers in the market, is helping a little. “But if this doesn’t end soon we will starve. What else?”

### Struggling to do business

Everywhere in the market groups of traders have time on their hands. “Nothing is going on here. Our suppliers have stopped buying. So, we are not getting any produce. What are we going to sell to our customers? Our investments are stuck. The new currency bills are not easily available,” says Sanjay, a wholesale buyer of sweet limes, who uses just one name. “Things are so bad that I’m actually taking the old currency notes from the few people who show up to buy,” he says pointing to the sacks of fruit piled in his shop. He knows that it’ll be a while before he can deposit the bundles of old notes in the bank, “but what can I do? Throw it all away?” Amit Kumar hasn’t had a customer hail his auto rickshaw all morning, a rarity on usual days. — AP



**NEW DELHI:** In this Friday, Nov. 18, 2016 photo, a laborer sits on his cart waiting for work at Azadpur Mandi, one of Asia’s largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables. —AP

## GLOBAL MARKETS MIXED IN QUIET TRADING ON US HOLIDAY

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Global markets were mixed Thursday in quiet trading on the Thanksgiving holiday in the US, with Japanese stocks buoyed by a lower yen.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Britain’s FTSE 100 was almost flat at 6,817.71 in early trading after a government report indicated that the government’s borrowing needs may be larger than expected over the next five years. Germany’s DAX gained 0.2 percent to 10,688.47 and France’s CAC 40 was also up 0.2 percent at 4,538.58.

**WALL STREET:** The Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor’s 500 indexes again set records Wednesday in pre-holiday trading. Machinery and equipment makers climbed but technology companies fell. US markets were closed Thursday and will close early on Friday.

**ANALYST’S TAKE:** “Volumes have been poor through US equity markets and that’s hardly a surprise given the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday but the juggernaut that is the bull market continues, albeit slowly,” Chris Weston of IG said in a report.

He said the Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks, where the real momentum is, gained for the 14th day in a

row. Weston said the US Federal Reserve is expected to go ahead with an interest rate hike in December, especially after the release of a slew of strong economic data. Mizuho Bank in Singapore said the strong dollar continued to be the dominant theme, putting most currencies under selling pressure.

**ASIA’S DAY:** Japan’s Nikkei rose 0.9 percent to 18,333.41. Sydney’s S&P-ASX 200 and Shanghai Composite Index were flat at 5,485.10 and 3,241.74 respectively. Seoul’s Kospi lost 0.8 percent to 1,971.26 and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng shed 0.3 percent to 22,608.49. Benchmarks in New Zealand and Singapore rose but Taiwan, India and Indonesia retreated.

**CURRENCY:** The dollar rose to 112.878 yen from Wednesday’s 112.60 yen, while the euro strengthened to \$1.0568 from \$1.0549.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark US crude rose 12 cents to \$48.08 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract slipped 7 cents on Wednesday to close at \$47.96. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added six cents to \$49.01 in London. The contract lost 17 cents in the previous session.—AP



# PREDATORS OVERWHELM STARS 5-2

**NASHVILLE:** Pekka Rinne doesn't want November to end. Filip Forsberg, James Neal and Ryan Johansen each had a goal and an assist to lead the Nashville Predators over the Dallas Stars 5-2 on Wednesday night. Rinne made 33 saves for Nashville, improving to 7-1-2 this November. After he made eight saves in the first, Dallas put 22 on the Finn in the second, and he denied them all. He stopped 3 of 5 in the third. "They came hard that period, they shot the puck a lot," Rinne said of the second. "For the most part, I was able to see it. I felt good all night, and that was a busy period. Obviously now looking back, that was a big period just being able to defend that."

Mike Fisher and Craig Smith also scored for Nashville, winners of three of four. Patrick Sharp and Brett Ritchie scored and Kari Lehtonen made 16 saves for the Stars, who have lost two of three. "There was a lot of good stuff in the game," Dallas coach Lindy Ruff said. "Our energy was good. I thought the second period on, our break-outs coming out of our own end were good." Forsberg scored the game's first goal with 5:08 left in the opening period. With the puck above the right faceoff circle, P.K. Subban sent a pass to Forsberg in the lower part of the left circle. There, Forsberg squeezed the puck in between Lehtonen's right skate and the right post. "It was a really nice play by Subby to find me back door and I just tried to hit the net," Forsberg said.

It was Forsberg's second goal of the season. In 2015-16, Forsberg matched a franchise record with 33 goals. Subban has points in four consecutive games. Fisher doubled the lead with 3:54 left in the second. His initial attempt from the left side was blocked by Jason Spezza, but Fisher regained control of the puck, skated behind the net and beat Lehtonen with a backhanded wraparound. A lengthy video review determined the puck had completely crossed the goal line, giving the Nashville captain his fourth goal of the season.

Sharp got Dallas on the scoreboard at 5:32 of the third with a short-handed goal. It was the first of the season for Sharp, who missed 14 games with concussion-like symptoms before returning Nov. 17. "Yeah, disappointing third period," Sharp said. "We kind of put ourselves in a good spot there on the road trailing by one against a tough team. It's not a bad spot to be in, but a couple of mistakes ended up being the difference in the game."

## Lightning beat Flyers 4-2

Alex Killorn and Ryan Callahan scored 12 seconds apart in the third period, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Philadelphia Flyers 4-2 on Wednesday night. Tampa Bay also got goals from Victor Hedman and Nikita Kucherov. Andrei Vasilevskiy, coming off consecutive shutouts, stopped 29 shots. Dale Weise and Ivan Provorov scored for the Flyers, who were coming off a 3-1 win Tuesday night at Florida. Philadelphia is 4-1-1 in the second of back-to-back games. Steve Mason made several quality stops when the Flyers were short-handed three times in the first 12 minutes of the third before Killorn (13:28) and Callahan (13:40) scored to give Tampa Bay a 3-2 lead.

Mason finished with 25 saves. Kucherov made it 4-2 late in the third. Provorov put the Flyers up 2-1 with 54.7 seconds to go in the second on his first NHL goal. Weise tied



**WASHINGTON:** Tom Wilson #43 of the Washington Capitals draws a penalty on David Perron #57 of the St. Louis Blues during the first period at Verizon Center on November 23, 2016 in Washington, DC. — AFP

it 6:06 into the second, stopping Vasilevskiy's shutout streak at 178:02. Weise has goals in consecutive games after not getting one in his first 15 this season. Hedman opened the scoring on a power-play goal with 3 seconds left in the first. Tampa Bay outshot the Flyers 12-2 during the first. One of the Philadelphia shots came on Weise's breakaway that Vasilevskiy denied with a nice save.

## Wild beat road-weary Jets

Alex Ovechkin stretched out his arms in celebration, teammates mobbed him along the boards and jubilant fans launched their hats onto the ice. This was the performance they had waited to see. Ovechkin scored his first hat trick this season and 16th of his 10-year NHL career to lead the Washington Capitals over the St. Louis Blues 4-3 on Wednesday night. In the process, the three-time MVP and six-time goal-scoring champ showed the attitude that echoed his best seasons. "He played with excitement again," Capitals coach Barry Trotz said of Ovechkin, whose 12 goals now tie him for second in the league. "I think sometimes we say he's not scoring enough and all that."

I've been reducing the minutes a little bit and spreading them out. He's fresher and I think it will pay off in the long run." The 31-year-old Ovechkin played fewer than 16 minutes but had a goal in each period to move one hat trick ahead of Florida's Jaromir Jagr for the most among active players. Ovechkin's second multi-goal game this season also propelled the Capitals to their

third win through four games of a five-game homestand. "Sometimes you just feel right away when you have an opportunity to shoot the puck," Ovechkin said, "and obviously feel the puck on your stick and just go out there and use the momentum."

Capitals linemate Evgeny Kuznetsov also scored and added an assist for Washington, which held a lead throughout the final two periods. "The biggest thing is they were moving their feet and they were making plays, and they were decisive in what they were doing," Trotz said of the line that also included Andre Burakovsky. Vladimir Tarasenko got his eighth and ninth goals of the season for St. Louis, which scored twice in the final 75 seconds. Alex Pietrangelo added a late goal for the Blues, who had won four straight. The Blues fell behind after a first period in which they committed four penalties, the last of which led to Ovechkin's first goal.

"When you don't use your legs, you end up using your stick, and that's what's happened," St. Louis coach Ken Hitchcock said. "There's too many of them early in the game. It sends the wrong message to the rest of the team." Ovechkin had already scored twice before Kuznetsov's goal made it 3-1 early in the third. And after a replay review found Ovechkin not to be guilty of being offside, he sent the home crowd into a frenzy only 24 seconds later. From a face-off in the Caps' end, he got the puck near his own blue line on the left and pushed forward quickly. With a man open to his right, Ovechkin instead unleashed a ferocious shot

at full stride that caromed off goalie Carter Hutton's glove and into the top left corner. "It's fun to watch when he's making the shot and when he's feeling it," Kuznetsov said. "It's tough to stop him."

## Penguins shut down Rangers

Sidney Crosby got angry, and then the Pittsburgh Penguins got even in a big way against the division-leading New York Rangers. Following a first-period skirmish with Ryan McDonagh, Crosby had two goals and an assist during a five-goal second period and the Penguins shut down the Rangers in a 6-1 rout on Wednesday night. The Penguins held New York without a shot on goal over 23:59 spanning the second and third periods. Scott Wilson, Conor Sheary, Phil Kessel and Matt Cullen also scored for Pittsburgh, and Matt Murray had 16 saves.

The Penguins moved two points behind New York for first place in the Metropolitan Division. "This is as good of a game as we've played all year," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. The Rangers won at Pittsburgh 5-2 on Monday behind a breakout second period, and the Penguins exacted revenge Wednesday in nearly the exact same fashion. "We learned from (the last) game," Crosby said. Pittsburgh trailed 1-0 after 20 minutes, but then the defending Stanley Cup champions took control, chasing Henrik Lundqvist after four goals on 17 shots. "It starts with scoring," Sheary said. "I think we've been having chances and we're putting the puck in the net the last few games. I think tonight we got a little puck luck. — Agencies





**YAMOUSSOUKRO:** Children play golf at the golf course in Yamoussoukro, during an introduction day for children aiming to promote this sport in Ivory Coast. — AFP

## I COAST PENNILESS CHILDREN TRY GOLF, GAME OF THE RICH

**YAMOUSSOUKRO:** Plucked out of poverty, 1,000 children in Ivory Coast are being given a unique chance to learn golf, and 10-year-old Jessica likes the idea. "I love golf and my dream is to become an international golfer and work for the World Bank," says the girl, who comes from the poor and often dangerous Dioulabougou district of Yamoussoukro, the country's administrative capital. Wearing a t-shirt and black leggings, Jessica is one of 120 children in the first wave of new golfers to Le President Golf Club, which is normally reserved for Ivory Coast's elite and wealthy.

The visit is part of a "Golf for All" project which saw the STL golf academy travelling across Korhogo, one of Ivory Coast's poorest regions, and around Yamoussoukro's most deprived districts and orphanages looking for potential players. The sons and daughters of peasants, farm and factory workers were wide-eyed when they took to the 18-hole course that was built by late president Felix Houphouet-Boigny as part of his campaign to turn his home village into an international city.

Designed by former Welsh professional Dave Thomas, the course is spread over 90 hectares (225 acres) of resplendent, lush land with century-old trees lining the fairways. "The aim is to get them out of poverty through golf and give a chance to all children in Ivory Coast, no matter what their social level," says Jean-Claude N'Da, a golf instructor who works on the project. A key partner is golf coach Henrik Lundqvist, who spent four months travelling across Sweden to collect 20 tons of equipment to donate to the project, and who believes that teaching children is the best way to introduce the sport to

Africa. "We are going to train up young Ivorians so they can make golf popular," says the Swedish golfer. "Ivory Coast exports footballers like Didier Drogba so there is no reason they should not do the same in other sports," says Francis Hollogne, a Belgian who heads the STL academy.

### Boost for the capital

Golf was one of the ways that Houphouet-Boigny, the country's founding president who died in 1993, wanted to put Yamoussoukro on the map. Initially just a small farming town where the late president was born, Yamoussoukro was only named capital in 1983, replacing Abidjan, Ivory Coast's largest city and also its economic hub. In a bid to boost its standing, Houphouet-Boigny ordered the construction of one of the world's biggest cathedrals, a towering white marble edifice called Our Lady of Peace, which is as big as St Peter's in The Vatican.

"Mr Houphouet-Boigny wanted to make Yamoussoukro a tourist attraction through golf and sell it as a project: Play in the sun and escape the European winter," said Ivory Coast tourism expert Tom Aboudramane Coulibaly. Yamoussoukro also hosted the Ivory Coast Open at the President Golf Club, which was held between 1980 and 1991 - with a Felix Houphouet-Boigny Prize. International stars Gary Player of South Africa and Briton Ian Woosnam played there. Former US president Richard Nixon also went round. Like other sectors, the sport was cast aside however by the civil wars and political strife that tore Ivory Coast apart from 2002 until 2011. Now it has a chance to get back in the swing. — AFP

## SPAIN TAKE EARLY LEAD IN WORLD CUP OF GOLF

**MELBOURNE:** A miraculous putt from Rafa Cabrera Bello on the 18th green gave Spain the lead after a challenging opening round of the World Cup of Golf in Melbourne yesterday. Cabrera Bello and his youthful team-mate Jon Rahm executed a flawless game plan in the blustery conditions, which made foursomes-alternate shot-play difficult for the two-man teams at Kingston Heath. With only six countries returning scores under par, the Spanish combination took a one-shot lead over the USA, France and China-courtesy of the late birdie that resulted from Cabrera Bello's snaking 15-foot putt. Rahm drove the ball magnificently and Cabrera Bello did the rest around the greens as the pair gelled well to notch a three-under par 69 ahead of Friday's fourballs.

Cabrera Bello said he could not believe his last putt had dropped. "I thought I had holed it, then it looked like it was going to miss right and then, I don't know how, maybe someone upstairs put some backspin on it to go in the hole," the two-time European Tour winner said. Spain will be grouped on the second day with France whose Victor Dubuisson and Romain Langasque returned a two-under par round of 70. The USA, with Rickie Fowler and Jimmy Walker, justified their pre-tournament tag of favourites as they made the most of every opportunity card a 70.

US PGA champion Walker holed a sensational bunker shot on the 13th to ignite a run of two more birdies. It was another "unbelievable" putt on the 18th green from China's Wu Ashun that helped he and Li Haotong emerge as crowd favorites in a round of two-under 70. The China pair had the galleries cheering as they drained a series of long putts and celebrated each with jumping chest bumps. Hosts Australia battled all day just to stay at two-over 74, five shots behind leaders Spain. Playing alongside the Americans, world number seven Adam Scott and Marc Leishman lacked struggled to get the ball close to the pin. South African pair Jaco van Zyl and George Coetzee stumbled seven shots behind the leaders with a four-over par 76. — AFP



**MELBOURNE:** Spain's Rafa Cabrera Bello gestures after sinking a birdie putt on the 18th green during his match at the World Cup of Golf at Kingston Heath in Melbourne, Australia yesterday. — AP

## MANAGING BIG BUCKS IS AMONG NFL PLAYERS' MAIN CHALLENGES

**NEW YORK:** Playing in the NFL brings many challenges. Money management might not seem to belong on that list. Yet experts say it should be a high priority even for players just entering the league. No one is suggesting the fans who spend their hard-earned wages to support American football should sympathize with guys who might waste the big bucks on bad investments or unwise spending. But they should recognize that millions upon millions of dollars can bring dozens upon dozens of problems for NFL players.

"We all have different vices," said former NFL linebacker Bart Scott, who's helping Morgan Stanley Global Sports & Entertainment's financial education program for players. "Some have entourages, friends, family they support, or they

overextend themselves buying a house too early, or the career is not going the way you need it to, or you have child support. "I've seen guys lose money in a multitude of ways, so we're trying to give them more information, provide checks and balances."

Players can get money management guidance from programs like Morgan Stanley GSE, as well as through the NFL and the players' union. It's essential education, whether for a rookie making the six-figure minimum or the star earning eight figures a year. The union, for example has an online learning center where players can complete assessments to determine where they stand financially, and identify their key vulnerabilities. That site also provides them with additional information to help meet their financial goals and objectives. They also can

get access to counselors, webinars, and in-person seminars and workshops.

The NFLPA provides bi-weekly communications to the players to keep them informed on hot topics. "The biggest issue for players is the sudden wealth factor," said Dana Hammonds, senior director of player development for the union. "Many players are coming from ethnic poverty and all of a sudden are thrust into this industry where they are paid millions of dollars and it literally happens overnight. There are very few individuals in society prepared to handle the sudden wealth. It is the emotional side they have to deal with, along with a quick and steep learning curve. And the career is 3 1/2 years on average, so a lot of that goes on very quickly." — AP



# LOVE'S 34-POINT QUARTER POWERS CAVALIERS

**LOS ANGELES:** Kevin Love scored 34 points in the first quarter, the second-most points in a quarter in NBA history, in the Cleveland Cavaliers' 137-125 victory against the Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday. Love made eight 3-pointers in the quarter, setting franchise records for points and 3s in a period, and finished with a season-high 40 points. LeBron James had 31 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for his 44th career-triple double for Cleveland. Damian Lillard scored 40 points, passed for 11 assists and grabbed seven rebounds for Portland. Love's outburst trails only the 37 points scored by the Warriors' Klay Thompson in the third quarter against the Sacramento Kings two seasons ago. It allowed the Cavaliers to set the NBA record for most 3-pointers in a half (16) while the team tied franchise records for points in a quarter (46) and 3-pointers in a regular season game (21).

## Clippers 124, Mavericks 104

Austin Rivers scored a team-high 22 points and Los Angeles got its season-long, six-game road trip off to a rollicking start with a demolition of Dallas. The Clippers are off to their best start in franchise history and left little doubt why against the Mavericks with a 68-point first half on 61.0 percent shooting from the field that included 64.3 percent — 9 of 14 — from beyond the 3-point arc. Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki played his first game since missing the first eight of the season with an Achilles injury. He was on an undisclosed minutes limit and finished with 10 points on 3-of-10 shooting from the field and six rebounds in 20 minutes for the Mavericks (2-12), who own the NBA's worst record.

## Spurs 119, Hornets 114

Kawhi Leonard scored 30 points and San Antonio remained unbeaten on the road by defeating Charlotte for the seventh straight victory overall. The Spurs are 8-0 on the road this season with the eight straight road wins tying a franchise record. LaMarcus Aldridge finished with 23 points and seven rebounds. Leonard was 14 for 21 from the field. Kemba Walker led the Hornets with 26 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

## Hawks 96, Pacers 85

Dwight Howard had 23 points and 20 rebounds and Paul Millsap added 18 points and 11 rebounds as Atlanta handed Indiana its third straight loss. The Hawks (10-5) bounced back from an 18-point Tuesday night home loss to New Orleans to dominate struggling Indiana, including 56-37 in rebounding. Thaddeus Young led the Pacers with 24 points and seven rebounds. Monta Ellis added 19 points and Paul George scored 18, but he was only 6 of 22 from the field, including 2 of 11 from 3-point range.

## Celtics 111, Nets 92

Isaiah Thomas scored 23 points and Boston Celtics pulled away in the fourth quarter for a victory over Brooklyn. Avery Bradley added 22 points and seven rebounds for the Celtics, who shot 45.9 percent. Al Horford contributed 17 points, eight assists and five rebounds as Boston won its third in a row since he returned from a concussion. Reserve Sean Kilpatrick scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half for the Nets, who never led and dropped their fifth straight.

## Pistons 107, Heat 84

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 22 points and Andre Drummond racked up 18 points, 15 rebounds, four blocks and four steals as Detroit Pistons snapped a four-game losing streak with a victory over Miami. Tobias Harris tossed in 17 points and Beno Udrih supplied 12 points and five assists for the Pistons. Jon Leuer grabbed his 1,000th career rebound while chipping in 11 points and four boards. Tyler Johnson's 18 points, James Johnson's 15 and rookie Rodney McGruder's 12 paced Miami.

## Raptors 115, Rockets 102

Behind a third-quarter eruption from DeMar DeRozan and a swarming defense that reversed a recent trend of ineffectiveness, Toronto rolled over Houston. DeRozan

## Grizzlies 104, 76ers 99 (2 OT)

Marc Gasol scored 27 points and Mike Conley added 25 points, nine rebounds and nine assists as Memphis defeated Philadelphia in double overtime. Zach Randolph contributed four of his 11 points in the second extra period for the Grizzlies, who won their sixth straight. JaMychal Green generated 10 points and 11 rebounds. Ersan Ilyasova had 22 points and 12 rebounds to pace the 76ers, who saw their two-game winning streak end. It was the first time the Sixers won back-to-back games since March 2015.

## Suns 92, Magic 87

Alex Len recorded 17 points, 12 rebounds and two blocked shots to lead Phoenix over Orlando. Len scored a career-high 31 points and grabbed 15 rebounds

the game shooting 7 of 29 in his last two games, continued his slump, going 2 of 19 from the floor and finishing with 13 points in 30 minutes.

## Warriors 149, Lakers 106

Stephen Curry bombed in four first-quarter 3-pointers as Golden State ran off to a double-digit lead 3:33 into the game and coasted to a victory over Los Angeles. Golden State's point total was an NBA season high, bettering the 133 the Warriors scored against Phoenix in their previous home game on Nov 13. Curry finished with 31 points, Kevin Durant 28 and Klay Thompson 26 for the Warriors, who shot an NBA season-best 61.6 percent from the field overall and 19 of 36 on 3-pointers. Brandon Ingram and backups Jordan Clarkson and Lou Williams had 16



**NEW ORLEANS:** Minnesota Timberwolves guard Kris Dunn (left) attempts to strip the ball from New Orleans Pelicans guard Buddy Hield during the second half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans on Wednesday, Nov 23, 2016. —AP

scored a team-high 24 points, including 21 in the third quarter, to help the Raptors snap a nine-game losing skid in Houston. DeMarre Carroll added 20 points on 9-for-14 shooting for Toronto. James Harden recorded 29 points, 15 assists and a season-high 12 turnovers for the Rockets.

## Jazz 108, Nuggets 83

George Hill scored 22 points in his first game back from a thumb injury, and Gordon Hayward added 22 to help Utah cruise past Colorado. Rudy Gobert scored 19 points and collected 13 rebounds for his eighth double-double of the season, while Rodney Hood chipped in 16 points for the Jazz, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Jamal Murray scored 23 points off the bench and Wilson Chandler added 13 to lead the Nuggets.

last season when the Suns drilled the Magic in Orlando. Eric Bledsoe had 16 points, nine rebounds and five assists for Phoenix, while Brandon Knight added 12 points and Devin Booker 11. The Magic were led by Evan Fournier with 25 points. Center Nikola Vucevic had 21 points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

## Pelicans 117, Timberwolves 96

Anthony Davis scored a franchise-record 21 points in the first quarter and finished with a game-high 45 points and 10 rebounds to lift New Orleans to its fourth consecutive victory. Davis made 17 of 27 from the floor, sparking the Pelicans to their fifth victory in six games. The Timberwolves were led by Zach LaVine, who had 16 of his team-high 26 points in the first half. Minnesota's Andrew Wiggins, who entered

points apiece for the Lakers.

## Kings 116, Thunder 101

DeMarcus Cousins scored 36 points, and Rudy Gay added 15 of his 17 points in the second half to lead Sacramento past Oklahoma City. The two Kings forwards did their best work in the second half, combining for 30 points and nine rebounds to help Sacramento overcome another huge night by Russell Westbrook. The NBA's leader in triple-doubles with five, Westbrook finished with 31 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists in 33 minutes. Cousins' performance was just as impressive. He set the tone immediately, bullying first Steven Adams, then Enes Kanter down low when Oklahoma City refused to double him. He scored 16 points and grabbed six of his 13 rebounds in the opening quarter. —Reuters



## FIFA GOAL OF THE YEAR'S NOMINEE KEKANA STARS

**JOHANNESBURG:** FIFA Goal of the Year contender Hlompho Kekana scored with a cheeky back-heel as African champions Mamelodi Sundowns beat Golden Arrows 3-0 Wednesday in the South African Premiership. Kekana and Barcelona superstars Lionel Messi and Neymar were among 10 scorers named this week as candidates for an award that honors deceased Hungarian football icon Ferenc Puskas. The South Africa midfielder scored from his own half against Cameroon in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier last March with the lofted drive dipping behind the goalkeeper and into the net. His 42nd-minute goal in Pretoria, which ended the deadlock against Arrows at the Loftus Versfeld stadium, was scored from just outside the penalty area.

After Kekana had a trademark long-range shot brilliantly tipped over by Namibia goalkeeper Maximilian Mbaeva, he back-heeled the resulting cor-

ner into the net. "It was a very different goal from the one I scored in Cameroon, but they all count," said the 31-year-old, who is among five contenders for the 2016 Africa-based African Footballer of the Year award. "No African has won the FIFA Goal of the Year so I am urging every football supporter between Cairo and Cape Town to vote for me," he said of a competition to be decided by an online poll. "The goal in Cameroon was the best of my career, but I never believed it would be a contender for Goal of the Year," he added.

Kekana was a key cog in the Sundowns side that won the CAF Champions League last month for the first time, defeating Zamalek of Egypt 3-1 on aggregate in the final. Playing in Africa prevented the champions fulfilling all their Premiership fixtures and the win over Arrows came in only their fifth league outing of the season while many rivals have played

10 games. Bottom of the table at one stage, Sundowns rose four places to eighth after a third straight victory lifted them to 10 points from five matches. Recently signed Sibusiso Vilakazi doubled the lead less than a minute into the second half and Themba Zwane got the third goal on 74 minutes.

Wits regained first place on goal difference from Cape Town City despite being held 2-2 at home in Johannesburg by lowly Highlands Park. Mothobi Mvala snatched a 95th-minute equalizer for Highlands, who had a one-man advantage throughout the second half after Wits defender Sifiso Hlanti was red-carded. Kaizer Chiefs' winless league run stretched to four matches following a 1-1 draw with visiting SuperSport United in Soweto. Wits and Cape Town have 20 points each after matchday 10, SuperSport and Arrows 17 apiece and Chiefs and Orlando Pirates 16 each. —AFP

## RUSSIA SQUAD FEAR HOME WORLD CUP HUMILIATION

**MOSCOW:** Soul-searching following Russia's miserable performance at the 2016 Euro led to one inescapable conclusion: The squad has a long way to go to avoid humiliation on home turf at the 2018 World Cup. Russia crashed out of Euro 2016 without a win, its short run at the tournament tarnished by hooliganism among its fans and scandals in its dressing room.

Former manager Leonid Slutsky, who resigned after the Euro debacle, confessed to Russian media that he had confronted his players with the state of affairs, telling them bluntly: "We are shit." Since then Russian Football Union chief Vitaly Mutko, who also serves as a deputy prime minister, has vowed to rebuild the team from scratch. The country appointed ex-Legia Warsaw boss Stanislav Cherchesov in August, handing him the daunting task of preparing the team for the World Cup.

His major test before that will be the Confederations Cup in June and July next year, Russia's dry run for the World Cup which includes teams from Germany, Portugal and Mexico among others. Russian Cherchesov, 53, selected rookie-filled rosters for his first friendlies as head coach, calling up 22-year-old Roman Zobnin, as well as 23-year-old Ilya Kutepov of Spartak Moscow. Despite efforts to rejuvenate his squad, Cherchesov has a limited pool from which to select his players—a problem exacerbated by structural problems in Russian football.

Football pundit Igor Rabiner at Sports Express newspaper said that the current generation of Russian players is "very poor" in terms of talent, a situation made worse by Russian Premier League rules that stifle competition—including a limit of six foreign players on the pitch at one time. "Because of the foreign-player limit, (Russian) players don't face competition for a spot in their club's line-up," Rabiner said, adding that the national squad was not accustomed to pushing its limits.

### 'No weak opponents'

Russia has tried to fill the gaps on its national squad by naturalizing players with Russian roots or veterans of its domestic league. They include twice-capped Germany international Roman Neustadter—who was born in Ukraine during the Soviet era—received a Russian passport in May, and Brazilian-born goalkeeper Guilherme of Lokomotiv Moscow. But fresh blood has done little to reinvigorate the team.

Russia has had two wins, two losses and one draw in the five friendlies played under Cherchesov. The team suffered a demoralizing 2-1 loss this month to 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar, 91st in FIFA rankings, in the capital Doha. Striker Alexander Kokorin—who was punished by his club Zenit Saint Peterburg for a champagne-fueled party after Russia's exit from the Euro—missed a penalty that could have earned his side a draw in the 86th minute. "The match against Qatar showed that there are no weak opponents for the Russian team in its current state," Rabiner said.

Mutko has appealed to Russian fans to be patient and cut Cherchesov some slack. "Forming a new squad is a long process and the coach needs time to come up with a competitive line-up," Mutko told TASS news agency after the Qatar defeat. The Russian squad bounced back a few days later with a 1-0 win against Romania with a stoppage time goal by Magomed Ozdоеv of Rubin Kazan. Cherchesov hopes the teams can learn from their mistakes. —AFP



**LONDON:** Paris Saint-Germain's Belgian defender Thomas Meunier (right) tangles with Arsenal's French striker Olivier Giroud during the UEFA Champions League group A football match between Arsenal and Paris Saint-Germain at the Emirates Stadium on November 23, 2016. —AFP

## ARSENAL LOSING MOMENTUM, ADMITS FRUSTRATED WENGER

**LONDON:** Arsene Wenger admits Arsenal have lost momentum and look destined for a frustrating second-placed finish in their Champions League group after being held to a 2-2 draw against Paris Saint-Germain. Wenger's side were on course to wrap up top spot in Group A when they led 2-1 late in the second half at the Emirates Stadium on Wednesday. But Lucas's 77th minute header was deflected into his own net by Gunners winger Alex Iwobi and Arsenal were unable to find a winner. That leaves the north Londoners level on points with PSG but behind them on a head-to-head record, meaning the French team will take first place if they win their last group match, against minnows Ludogorets on December 6.

Arsenal travel to Basel on the same night and Wenger conceded it doesn't look likely they will take pole position following their third successive draw in all competitions, meaning they will probably get a tougher tie in the knock-out stages. "It's not over, but we have a

90 percent chance to finish second," Wenger said. "We wanted to finish first. We haven't lost a game in this group so we have done well, but we haven't finished the job. "We dropped off after it was 2-1. We didn't maintain the pressure and paid for that. "It's frustrating. We were a bit passive on the corner for their second goal."

### Frustrating

Arsenal know only too well how damaging it can be to finish second as a series of tough draws have led to six consecutive last-16 exits. But Wenger tried to remain upbeat and insisted the quality of some of the teams finishing second meant even group winners couldn't be guaranteed an easy draw. "Will it be bad for us? We have to wait and see," he said. "If you finish first you play the second game at home, but you look at the groups and it's difficult to tell what is better. "For me it's more frustrating not to win the game but they are a team with top technical quality."

After a strong run that raised hopes of sustained challenges for silverware at home and abroad, Arsenal have looked lethargic in lucky draws against Manchester United and PSG. Wenger knows his side have been below their best over the last week, but he doesn't expect the dip to last. "We have not lost but we have lost a winning momentum a little bit," he said. "There is a special spirit in the squad. We are unbeaten for 18 games and sometimes you go through a period where you are a little bit less effective. "It's up to us to transform the draws into wins, but there is no reason to panic."

PSG could easily have finished with victory as Edinson Cavani squandered two late chances, but boss Unai Emery was happy enough with a polished performance that puts his side's European destiny in their own hands. "If we are to analyze the two matches against Arsenal I think that we deserve to be first at the moment," he said. "It was a good test and I'm pleased with the way the team responded. —AFP



## STEVEN GERRARD, HEROISM AND HEARTBREAK

**LONDON:** Steven Gerrard, who retired from professional football yesterday, will be remembered almost as much for his agonizing near-misses as for his extraordinary achievements. The 36-year-old captained home-town club Liverpool for 12 years famously lifting the Champions League trophy in 2005 after an unforgettable comeback against AC Milan. But coveted successes elsewhere escaped him. Although he also won two FA Cups, three League Cups and the UEFA Cup, he never laid his hands on the Premier League trophy and met with nothing but heartbreak in his 14-year England career. He left Liverpool in 2015 after a 12-month period that reflected the latter years of his career in microcosm-glorious opportunity, followed by crushing disappointment.

Gerrard was poised to capture his first Premier League crown in 2014, but his cruel slip during a loss to Chelsea at an expectant Anfield tilted the momentum in the title race in Manchester City's favour. The pain was all the keener for

Gerrard as it coincided with the 25th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster, in which his 10-year-old cousin, Jon-Paul Gilhooley, was the youngest of the 96 Liverpool fans who died. Weeks later, Gerrard went to Brazil hoping to salve his wounds at the World Cup, only for England to crash out after two matches in what would prove his final international tournament.

"It's probably been the worst three months of my life," he admitted afterwards. He finished his career with a sun-kissed 18-month stint in California, following in the footsteps of former England colleague David Beckham by signing for the LA Galaxy. Stateside silverware would elude him, however, and he admitted to finding the amount of travel involved difficult. Gerrard endured more than his fair share of disappointment after inspiring Liverpool to glory in the 2006 FA Cup, with the 2012 League Cup the only major honor he won subsequently. Playing for England, which he did on 114 occasions,

captaining the team at three major tournaments, scarcely offered respite.

### 'Best in the world'

But taken as a whole, in his club career which began when he walked through the doors of Liverpool's academy at the age of eight—he scaled nearly every summit. From the header that sparked the comeback to end all comebacks against Milan in Istanbul to the jaw-dropping 35-yard thunderbolt against West Ham United that took the 2006 FA Cup final to extra time, Gerrard swaggered through his Anfield career with the audacity of a comic-book hero. A turbo-charged midfield dynamo in his pomp, he came third in the voting for the Ballon d'Or in 2005 and was voted the greatest player in Liverpool's history by fans in a 2013 poll.

No less a judge than Zinedine Zidane observed in 2009: "Is he the best in the world? He might not get the attention of Messi and Ronaldo, but yes, I think he might be." He left Anfield as Liverpool's third-high-

est appearance-maker, behind only Ian Callaghan and Jamie Carragher, and with a claim to the title of the club's greatest-ever player that only Kenny Dalglish can contest. "Because of what he has done for the club, I believe he is the best," Carragher, Gerrard's fellow Scouser and former team-mate, told the Daily Telegraph in 2012. "Dalglish, (Graeme) Souness and Ian Rush all played together in a great team, but because football is a team game, it's been harder for Stevie because he's not always played in great teams.

"People will not fully realize how good he has been until he stops playing." Unlike Beckham, Gerrard shied away from the celebrity lifestyle, but at his peak he hogged England's football limelight like few before him. "You are always going to have incredible moments and you are also going to have some cruel lows as well," he has said. "Nobody's journey ever goes smoothly—mine certainly hasn't—but I am certainly proud of it and I wouldn't change it for anything." —AFP

## FORMER LIVERPOOL AND ENGLAND CAPTAIN STEVEN GERRARD RETIRES

**LONDON:** Former Liverpool and England captain Steven Gerrard announced his retirement yesterday a week after confirming he would not be returning to play for MLS side LA Galaxy. "Following recent media speculation surrounding my future I can confirm my retirement from playing professional football," Gerrard, 36, said in a statement. "I've had an incredible career and I'm thankful for each and every moment of my time with Liverpool, England and LA Galaxy." Gerrard spent virtually his entire career at Liverpool having made his debut as a substitute against Blackburn Rovers in 1998. He is third on the club's all-time appearances list with 710, behind only Jamie Carragher and Ian Callaghan.

He scored 120 goals in 504 Premier League games. One of the most highly-regarded midfield players in world football at his peak, he was capped 114 times for England, 40 as captain, and played in six major tournaments. Gerrard left Liverpool in 2015 and spent 18 months with Galaxy, scoring five goals in 34 appearances. While he never managed to win an English league title medal with Liverpool, Gerrard will forever be associated with the Champions League final in 2005 when Liverpool fought back from 3-0 down at halftime to win on penalties in Istanbul.

Gerrard scored Liverpool's first goal and drove the team on to arguably one of the greatest nights in the club's history. Liverpool had looked on course for a first title in 24 years in 2014 after an 11-match winning streak but Gerrard's costly stumble at home to Chelsea in April gifted Demba Ba a goal that put the visitors on the way to a 2-0 victory. The club's title charge fell apart thereafter and Manchester City snatched it. "There's not a day that goes by that I don't think about what if that didn't happen," Gerrard once said.

As well as the Champions League, Gerrard won two FA Cups with



**CARDIFF:** Liverpool's Steven Gerrard scores his sides 3rd goal against West Ham United during the FA Cup Final soccer match at the Millennium Stadium in this file photo. —AP

Liverpool, three League Cups and the UEFA Cup. Individually he was named in third place in FIFA's World Player of the Year in 2005 and PFA Player of the Year in 2006. "I feel lucky to have experienced so many wonderful highlights and I'm proud to have played over 700

games for Liverpool, many as captain, and helping to bring major honors back to the club, none more so than the famous night in Istanbul," Gerrard said in his lengthy statement. He has been linked with a return to Anfield in a coaching capacity. —Reuters

## GERRARD GREATEST LIVERPOOL GAMES

**LONDON:** Former Liverpool and England skipper Steven Gerrard called time on his glittering playing career yesterday at the age of 36. AFP Sport remembers five of the Liverpool legend's finest displays:

### Miracle in Istanbul

(V AC Milan, 2004-05 Champions League final) - Faced with the prospect of a humiliating defeat after falling 3-0 behind against an inspired AC Milan, Liverpool overcame extraordinary odds to win their first European Cup for 21 years thanks to Gerrard, whose never-say-die efforts at the Ataturk Stadium ensured he would forever be regarded as an Anfield icon. In the signature moment of Gerrard's storied career, the midfielder, who admitted he was certain Liverpool would lose at half-time, helped orchestrate a comeback for the ages. He reduced the deficit with a header before winning the penalty that led to Xabi Alonso's equaliser as Rafael Benitez's side scored three times in five incredible minutes. The Reds completed their astonishing triumph in a penalty shoot-out, leaving Gerrard to experience "the best moment of my life" as he lifted the trophy.

### The 'Gerrard final'

(V West Ham, 2005-06 FA Cup final) - Just 12 months after his heroics in Istanbul, Gerrard added to his growing legend by almost single-handedly winning another piece of silverware in a final destined to be remembered for his majestic contribution. Trailing 2-0 after a woeful start at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, Liverpool were dragged back into the match on the strength of Gerrard's talent and tenacity. He set up Djibril Cisse to reduce the deficit before equalizing himself, only for the Hammers to regain the lead. The Reds were seconds away from defeat when Gerrard struck again with a blistering 35-yard drive to force extra-time. Liverpool went on to win in a penalty shoot-out that inevitably featured a successful spot-kick from the captain.

### Last-gasp European heroics

(V Olympiakos, 2004-05 Champions League) - When Rivaldo gave Olympiakos a shock lead at Anfield in a decisive group-stage clash, it appeared Benitez's team were destined for a lacklustre exit. But Gerrard rose to the occasion with an unmatchable fervour that inspired an epic fightback. Goals from Florent Sinama Pongolle and Neil Mellor put Liverpool within a solitary strike of progressing to the knockout stages, setting the stage for Gerrard to fire home with a sweetly struck shot from just outside the penalty area in the 86th minute. —AFP



## GUARDIOLA 'HAPPY' TO AVOID BAYERN IN THE LAST 16

**MONCHENGLADBACH:** Pep Guardiola admits he is glad his Manchester City will avoid his ex-club Bayern Munich in the draw for the last 16 of the Champions League. City booked their place in the knock-out phase on Wednesday with a sluggish 1-1 draw at Borussia Moenchengladbach as both teams finished with ten men. The point confirms City will finish second in their group with one game left to play. Gladbach are confirmed in third-which means the last 32 of the Europa League-after bottom side Celtic lost 2-0 at home to Barcelona, who win Group C.

Bayern will join City in the same pot when the draw for the last 16 is made on Monday December 12 in Nyon. The German giants will also finish second in their group after their shock 3-2 defeat at Rostov with Atletico Madrid progressing as winners. Guardiola says he is delighted to have steered City to the last 16, even more so to have avoided Bayern, who he took to the semi-finals in each of the last three seasons. "In the last 16, all the teams will be tough," said Guardiola. "Bayern Munich, for example, are also second. "The team who gets them is going to suffer and I'm glad we won't play them."

Raffael's goal for Moenchengladbach midway through the first half was cancelled out by City's David Silva on the stroke of half-time at Borussia Park. Gladbach then had captain Lars Stindl sent off on 50 minutes for a second yellow card and subsequent red. But both sides were left with ten men for the final half an hour when City had Fernandinho dismissed for his second yellow after pulling back Raffael. This was not a convincing display from City, who looked a shadow of the side which stunned Barcelona 3-1 in Manchester three weeks ago.

They looked vulnerable in defense in the first half and have now conceded nine goals on the road, failing to win any of their three away matches in Europe. For all their possession in the second half, their star-studded attack failed to convert their chances. But City are in last 16 for the fourth straight year and Guardiola was delighted to have progressed.

### 'So happy'

"I know how hard it is to win away from home, we have to be so, so happy because some big teams will not be in the second round," said Guardiola. "Hopefully we can do well and qualify for the quarter-finals. "Four years ago, the second stage was a bit easier, but now all the teams are so strong and anything can happen." Guardiola said the Premier League will be their focus until their European campaign resumes in February with their final match at Celtic now a dead rubber.

"We will prioritize our games in the Premier League," he said. "We have Burnley and Chelsea before we have to think about Celtic in ten days time. "We have qualification in the bag, so that's decided until February and we can focus on other things." Gladbach are winless in their last six games, but punched above their weight to hold City at home, especially having been routed by Guardiola's side 4-0 in the away fixture last September. The result relieves some of the pressure on coach Andre Schubert, whose team is mid-table in Germany's top flight. "Overall, we are very happy with the third place," said Schubert. "In the first half we played an outstanding game and could have scored a second goal." —AFP



**PARIS:** The ball slams into the back of the net after Barcelona's Argentinean striker Lionel Messi (2nd right) scored a penalty for Barcelona's second goal during the UEFA Champions League group C football match between Celtic and Barcelona on November 23, 2016. —AFP

## BARCA, CITY CRUISE INTO LAST 16 MESSI BAGS DOUBLE AS BARCA SEE OFF CELTIC

**PARIS:** Lionel Messi fired Barcelona into the last 16 of the Champions League on Wednesday after a 2-0 win at Celtic as they were joined in the knockout rounds by Pep Guardiola's Manchester City. The Argentine star returned from illness to score both goals at Celtic Park the second from the penalty spot-to send the five-time European champions through as winners of Group C. City recovered from a goal down in Germany to earn a 1-1 draw at Borussia Moenchengladbach as both sides finished with 10 men.

Raffael grabbed the opening goal for Gladbach on 23 minutes, but David Silva poked in Kevin De Bruyne's cross just prior to the break before Lars Stindl and Fernandinho saw red in the second half. "We controlled the game but it wasn't enough to win. We're just happy that we're through to the last 16," said Belgian international De Bruyne. French champions Paris Saint-Germain seized control of their own destiny in Group A with a 2-2 draw away to Arsenal. Edinson Cavani turned in Blaise Matuidi's cross at the far post to hand PSG an 18th-minute lead at the Emirates Stadium.

But the Gunners hit back on the stroke of half-time as Alexis Sanchez was brought down by Grzegorz Krychowiak and Olivier Giroud rolled home the resulting spot-kick. Arsenal looked to be

in pole position to finish top of the group when an attempted clearance from Marquinhos ricocheted off an unfortunate Marco Verratti and squirmed past Alphonse Areola for a fluke own goal. But Lucas ensured Unai Emery's side departed with a point as his header from Hatem Ben Arfa's corner flicked off Alex Iwobi and flashed past David Ospina 13 minutes from the end.

"We had good spells in the game but we could not dominate. Tonight my concern is that we were 2-1 up and allowed them to come back at us. It's difficult to understand how easy we gave away a goal at a corner," said Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger. Both PSG and Arsenal have 11 points with one match to play, but the French outfit own the head-to-head edge on away goals after the reverse fixture at the Parc des Princes in September finished 1-1.

### Bayern stunned in Russia

Bayern Munich crashed to a shock 3-2 defeat in Rostov and could face a daunting draw in the next round after Atletico Madrid's 2-0 victory over PSV Eindhoven guaranteed Diego Simeone's men first place in Group D. Douglas Costa rifled Bayern ahead on 35 minutes in Russia, but Rostov equalised through Sardar Azmoun on the stroke of half-time

before going ahead courtesy of a Dmitri Poloz penalty.

Juan Bernat swiftly levelled for the Germans, but Ecuador international Christian Noboa fired competition debutants Rostov to a first group stage victory with the winner on 67 minutes. In Madrid, French duo Kevin Gameiro and Antoine Griezmann netted second-half goals as Atletico-runners-up twice in the past three seasons-registered their fifth win in as many matches in the Champions League. Besiktas launched a remarkable second-half recovery as they fought back from three goals down against Benfica to draw 3-3 in Istanbul.

Benfica, champions of Europe in 1961 and 1962, appeared to be sailing through to the last 16 after cruising 3-0 ahead inside barely half an hour through goals from Goncalo Guedes, Nelson Semedo and Ljubomir Fejsa. But the Turks pulled one back on the hour courtesy of Cenk Tosun before two goals in the final seven minutes from Ricardo Quaresma and Vincent Aboubakar revived their qualification hopes. Napoli were held 0-0 at home by Dynamo Kiev and must take at least a point from their trip to Benfica in a fortnight, while Besiktas will punch their ticket to the knockout stages if they win in Ukraine. —AFP

## FIFA FACES LAWSUIT OVER RULES BANNING TRANSFER OF MINORS

**ZURICH:** FIFA is facing a lawsuit in a Zurich court over regulations that ban the transfer of players under the age of 18. The case was filed at the Zurich Commercial Court on Wednesday on behalf of a 17-year-old African player and his parents, who say that the rules make FIFA's transfer regulations unlawful. A spokesman for Zurich law firm Nater Dallafior Rechtsanwaelte, which has brought the case, said in a statement that the player, who had represented his country at youth level, was unable to move to a club in the European

Union because of the rules.

"Thereby, he and his family miss the probably unique chance of a professional and social advancement," said the statement issued yesterday. FIFA bans the international transfers of players under the age of 18 unless their parents have emigrated for reasons not connected to football or both the player and club are based within 50 kilometers of a national border.

The only other exception is for transfers within either the EU

or European Economic Area (EEA), where the minimum age is 16. In those cases, clubs must still ensure that the player continues his education and studies for an alternative career, as well as making sure he has a high living standard. "FIFA implemented these regulations on the pretext that young football players such as the claimant must be protected," said the statement. "In reality, however, these regulations lead to a discrimination of football players from third countries outside the European Union." This, it said, made them unlawful. —Reuters





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