

**Central Bank chief says govt efforts integral to protect banking**



**Eight hurt in Ohio campus attack, one suspect killed**



**Like his hero Tupac, Israeli Arab rapper's music provokes**



**'Relaxed' Bolt says final season for the fans**



## CABINET RESIGNS; INAUGURAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON DEC 11

### OPPOSITION URGED TO UNITE FOR SPEAKER'S POST



Max 22°  
Min 10°  
High Tide 12:44 & 23:28  
Low Tide 06:23 & 18:01

## KUWAIT TO BUY 28 US F-18 JETS

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait will buy 28 Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornets to replace a fleet of earlier versions of the US fighter jets, a top official said yesterday. The value of the deal is not expected to exceed \$5 billion, the KUNA state news agency reported the head of armament and procurement at Kuwait's defense ministry as saying. Maj Gen Lafi Al-Azmi said the deal stipulates the supplier will repurchase the old Hornet fighter jets from Kuwait. He added that details of the sale would only be disclosed after it is officially signed. "Given Kuwait's proximity to turbulent locations, we certainly need effective military equipment," he was quoted as saying.

The US State Department this month said it has authorized the deal, as well as the sale of 72 F-15 Strike Eagle jets to Kuwait's Gulf neighbor Qatar at an estimated value of \$21 billion. In April, Kuwait signed a contract with Italy's Finmeccanica for the purchase of 28 Eurofighter Typhoon warplanes for under \$8 billion (\$8.5 billion).

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**KUWAIT:** HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (right) submits the Cabinet's resignation to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak

**KUWAIT:** The Cabinet tendered its resignation to HH the Amir yesterday following the parliamentary elections as required under the Kuwaiti constitution. The action is not linked to the strong showing of the opposition groups in the snap general election, but is a procedural requirement. After the Amir holds customary consultations with former Assembly speakers and premiers expected to start from today, he will either reappoint outgoing Prime Minister HH Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah or ask another senior member of the ruling family to form the next Cabinet. Before stepping down, the Cabinet approved an Amiri decree calling for the new National Assembly to hold its inaugural session on Dec 11 after forming the new Cabinet. The new Cabinet is expected to undergo a great change to reflect the results of the Assembly election, especially with the opposition and its allies winning nearly half of the 50 seats. This

will enable the opposition to grill and even vote ministers out of office because they need a maximum of 25 votes. They also can grill the premier and vote him out of office. The new Cabinet is expected to be formed next week. There have been demands by many election candidates, some of whom won Assembly seats, for appointing new faces in the Cabinet.

In the meantime, the battle for the next speaker appears to have started. Opposition leader and former Islamit MP Faisal Al-Mislem called on the three opposition aspirants for the post - MPs Abdullah Al-Roumi, Mohammad Al-Mutair and Shuaib Al-Muwaizri - to select one candidate between themselves to face the speaker of the outgoing house Marzuq Al-Ghanem.

The support of the government, which will have its 16 members as one bloc, is critical for the next speaker. Without the government votes, it is extremely difficult for anyone to win.

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## News

in brief

### Mol slaps curbs on camera drones

**KUWAIT:** Remote controlled drones with built-in cameras will no longer be allowed to fly over personal properties, Interior Ministry Undersecretary Sulaiman Al-Fahd said yesterday. He said drones with cameras attached to them have hovered over houses, military compounds and other sensitive locations, which is strictly prohibited. Those found complicit in such unlawful activities could face either three years in jail or a maximum fine of KD 3,000. Fahd also stressed the need to get the ministry's consent before operating these drones, which are typically seen at weddings and other joyous occasions, highlighting the fact that these drones have recently been used for illicit activities. Fahd noted the drones represent an encroachment of personal privacy and a flagrant violation of state laws, warning that security forces reserve the right to down all drones spotted without proper permits by any means possible.

### Dec 8 holiday for Prophet birthday

**KUWAIT:** The Civil Service Commission (CSC) yesterday said Dec 8 (Thursday) would be a public holiday marking the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), citing a relevant Cabinet decree. Civil servants at all state bodies and agencies will resume work on Dec 11 (Sunday), it said in a press statement.

## BOMB DEFUSED NEAR MANILA US EMBASSY

PAGE 7

## IS YOUR T-SHIRT CLEAN OF SLAVERY? DNA CAN TELL

PAGE 14

## IN MAJOR BLOW, REBELS LOSE NORTHEAST ALEPPO

**ALEPPO:** Syria's rebels lost all of the northern neighborhoods of their stronghold in east Aleppo yesterday, as the army made significant advances in its offensive to recapture the entire city. The regime gains have prompted an exodus of thousands of desperate civilians, some fleeing to districts held by the government or Kurdish forces, others heading south into areas still under opposition control.

"The situation is disastrous," said Ibrahim Abu Al-Leith, a spokesman for the White Helmets rescue group in the Ansari neighborhood. "There is mass displacement and morale is in the gutter," he said, his voice cracking with emotion. "People are sleeping in the streets. They don't have anything to eat or drink, but neither do we," he told AFP.

The loss of eastern Aleppo would be a potentially devastating blow to Syria's rebels, who seized the area in 2012. The opposition has steadily lost territory since Russia began an intervention to bolster President Bashar Al-Assad in Sept 2015. Yesterday, government forces seized the Sakhur, Haydariya and Sheikh Khodr districts, and Kurdish fighters took

the Sheikh Fares neighborhood from rebels, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said. "This is their (the rebels') worst defeat since they seized half the city in 2012," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman. The advances left all of northeast Aleppo under government control.

On Sunday night, the Observatory said nearly 10,000 civilians had fled the east, with around 6,000 moving to the Kurdish-held Sheikh Maqsd neighborhood and 4,000 to government-held west Aleppo. State television showed footage of families disembarking from the green coaches used to transport civilians and surrendering rebels from retaken territory. Kurdish officials published a video they said showed civilians crossing a field to Sheikh Maqsd, where local forces helped people lift baggage over a makeshift berm as they arrived.

Syria's Kurds are officially aligned with neither the government nor the rebels, but the opposition views them as effectively allied with the regime in its bid to recapture Aleppo city. Civilians were also fleeing south to the remaining rebel-held

Continued on Page 13



**ALEPPO:** Syrian pro-government forces walk amidst heavy destruction in the Bustan Al-Basha neighborhood yesterday. — AFP

## SCORES RALLY AGAINST INDIAN CURRENCY BAN

**KOLKATA:** Tens of thousands of people joined nationwide protests yesterday against India's ban on high-value banknotes, which organizers say has caused a "financial emergency" in a country that operates almost entirely on cash. India is still reeling from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's shock decision nearly three weeks ago to pull 86 percent of the currency from circulation overnight, triggering a chronic shortage of cash. Many ordinary Indians say they support the scheme if it forces the rich to pay their taxes by making them bank declared income, but economists have warned it could hit growth hard.

Around 25,000 people took to the streets of the eastern city of Kolkata, capital of West Bengal state, whose left-wing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has warned of "riots and epidemics" if the ban continues. Protester Sumit Sen said he had been forced to close his grocery shop after business slowed to a trickle. "Running my grocery shop became impossible," the 45-year-old told AFP, urging the government to reverse the move.

An estimated 6,000 rallied in Mumbai, India's western commercial

hub, police said. "We are protesting against the undeclared financial emergency imposed by the government and the hardships people across the country are facing because of this illegal decision," said Manish Tiwari of the opposition Congress party. "The decision to demonetize high-value currency was done without any authority and legislation and is clearly illegal."

Owners of the banned 500 and 1,000 rupee (\$7.30, \$14.60) notes have until the end of the year to deposit them in a bank, and can only directly exchange a small number for new currency. But authorities have struggled to print enough new notes to meet demand and economists say the ensuing cash crunch will hit growth.

Former prime minister Manmohan Singh, a respected economist, said last week it would shave at least two percentage points off growth, which topped seven percent in the first half of the financial year.

"I do not disagree with the objectives but it is a monumental case of mismanagement," the Congress party lawmaker told parliament.

Continued on Page 13



**KUWAIT:** A picture taken from Hamra Tower, the highest building in Kuwait, shows Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) aerobatic team The Red Arrows performing near the Kuwait Towers during a show yesterday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 4)



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann, in the presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —Amiri Diwan photos



**KUWAIT:** Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah and Swiss Assistant Undersecretary and Director of Middle East Affairs Ambassador Wolfgang Amadeus sign a memorandum of understanding between two countries.

## SWISS PRESIDENT: SWITZERLAND, KUWAIT CHERISH FREEDOM, OPEN TO THE WORLD KUWAIT, SWITZERLAND SIGN AGREEMENT

**KUWAIT:** Visiting President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann said yesterday that Switzerland and Kuwait cherish their freedom, are open to the world and actively contribute to strengthening international peace. He said in a statement on the sidelines of his ongoing visit to Kuwait that both countries are committed to preserving the harmonious coexistence of the diverse components of their respective national societies.

He said he was so happy to have the opportunity to pay this State visit to Kuwait and to celebrate fifty years of official relations between both countries, adding that talks with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other Kuwaiti officials were most substantial. He noted that just as significant, however, is the fact that they took place in the very spirit of cordiality and friendship that has always characterized mutual ties, be it at official level or simply in day-to-day con-

tacts. "This visit has convinced me that there is something special about our relations. It seems to me that despite certain obvious and natural differences determined by distance, geography and history, as well as cultural backgrounds and traditions, we do understand each other very easily, with a genuine feeling of familiarity and mutual benevolence," he said.

### Hospitality

The Swiss president added that Kuwait's tradition of hospitality and openness to the outside world plays a major role here - it is after all an ancient trading nation where people from all origins, backgrounds and walks of life have met for centuries, done business together and established partnerships and friendships. Ties with Switzerland are no exception: although officially established in 1966, our mutual relations date back much further.

"For instance, the renowned quality of

Swiss educational institutions has attracted Kuwaiti families for decades, and I am proud to note that several Kuwaiti alumni of Swiss schools and universities have gone on to play a decisive part in establishing an advanced and flourishing Kuwait. Today, Kuwaitis - including many of the country's leaders, politicians and businesspeople - have a deep attachment to Switzerland, as I have been able to see for myself during my talks. Many have even chosen Switzerland as their second home," he noted. He concluded by saying that friendship and mutual understanding stems from shared values and beliefs between the peoples of Switzerland and Kuwait.

President Schneider-Ammann arrived in Kuwait on Sunday for a state visit to Kuwait where he has already met with His Highness the Amir and several other senior officials. Kuwait and Switzerland have signed a memorandum of understanding on political talks, in the presence of His Highness the Crown

Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann. The agreement was signed by Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah and Swiss Assistant Undersecretary and Director of Middle East Affairs Ambassador Wolfgang Amadeus. The Swiss President also met yesterday with First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, State Minister of Planning and Development Dr Hind Al-Subaih, Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Mohammad Thunayan Al-Ghanem and Managing Director of Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Bader Mohammad Al-Saad. Later during the day, Highness the Crown Prince hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting president and his delegation. President Schneider-Ammann also visited the

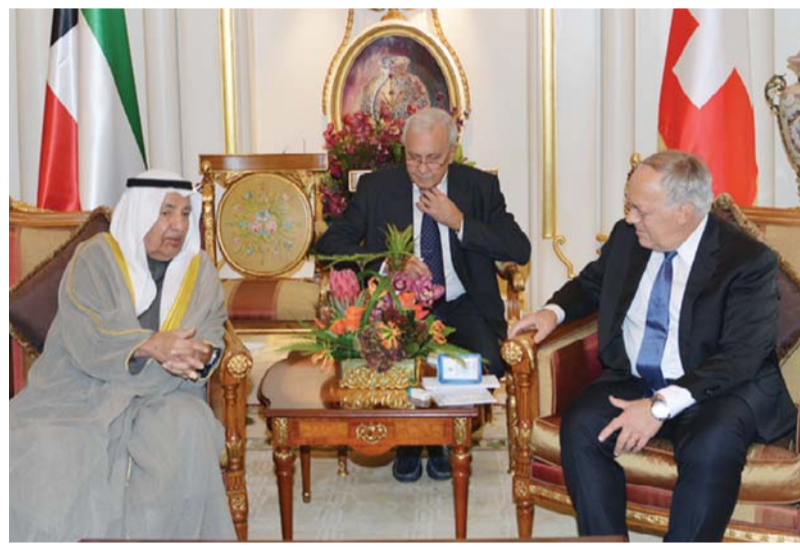
Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center, where he toured this historic landmark.

### Distinctive ties

President Schneider-Ammann's visit represents a quantum leap in the two countries' distinctive ties, Kuwait's Ambassador to Switzerland Bader Al-Tunaib affirmed Sunday. The visit is part of the 50th anniversary of the Kuwaiti-Swiss diplomatic relations, Tunaib stated. The two countries share common grounds in the political action such as democracy, state of law, and parliamentary authority, he said, adding that Kuwait and Bern also share mutual interests in the humanitarian action in conflict-stricken countries. The Kuwaiti-Swiss ties have also gone beyond commercial and economic fields to reach joint political dialogue in a number of regional issues, Tunaib noted, pointing out Switzerland's mediating role in the region, notably as the representative of Iran's interests, in addition to hosting talks on Syrian and Yemeni crisis. —KUNA



**President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann visits the Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Cultural Center.**



**President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann meets with Chairman of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Ali Mohammad Thunayan Al-Ghanem.**



**President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann meets with First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.**



**KUWAIT:** Lord Mayor of London Dr Andrew Charles Parmley arrived in Kuwait yesterday on an official visit to the country. He was received by Governor of Hawally retired Lieutenant-General Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. —KUNA

## GOVERNOR SAYS GOVT EFFORTS INTEGRAL TO PROTECT BANKING

**KUWAIT:** Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel underscored yesterday the government's role in developing the nation's banking sector. In a statement to the press after meeting with the heads of local banks, Hashel noted that the meeting is part of the banking sector's efforts to continue stockpiling achievements and enhance its resilience to cope with economic challenges. Moreover, he spoke of CBK's efforts to expand its financial and inspective prowess in order to preserve stability, adding that banks have to embrace the



**Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel**

latest technologies to better serve society. On financial cooperation, Hashel added that banks have to work together to protect the needs of their clientele and to ensure persistent growth. The CBK Governor also urged local banks to introduce more measures that aim to maximize efficiency and skill through specialized training programs. Hashel also spoke of CBK's open-door policy, where it seeks to facilitate interaction with other banks to discuss issues of mutual concern, which will prove beneficial to the banking sector and the national economy. —KUNA

## KUWAIT, CHINA DISCUSS BOOSTING TIES

**BEIJING:** Kuwait's Ambassador to China Samih Johar Hayat met with Director General of the Department of West Asian and North African affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Deng Li to discuss bilateral ties. Kuwait is willing to boost the 45-year-old diplomatic ties with China on all levels, said Hayat in statement yesterday. He added that the two sides

will hold further talks in the near future on academic, military, cultural, and energy cooperation. Moreover, they will boost negotiations on the free trade agreement between China and the Gulf countries and join efforts to execute the "Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Maritime Silk Road" initiative, said Hayat. —KUNA

## ICRC APPRECIATIVE OF KUWAIT'S COMMITMENT IN SUPPORTING HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN THE REGION

On 22nd Nov 2016, the state of Kuwait has made a generous contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to assist its efforts in responding to the dire humanitarian situation in the region.

The ICRC Head of Regional Delegation in Kuwait, Yahia Alibi, expressed his gratitude to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for Kuwait's generosity. He stated that, "Kuwait's commitment

to support the ICRC in its efforts to respond to the continuously evolving humanitarian challenges in the region has helped alleviate the suffering of thousands of people affected by armed conflicts."

Over the last few years and through regular donations, the State of Kuwait has become one of the most important ICRC donors. This highlights the ties and collaboration the ICRC has developed with the State of Kuwait and

the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in the world.

The ICRC has been in Kuwait since the 1990-91 Gulf War. It focuses on humanitarian needs remaining from that war or arising from current armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the wider region. The regional delegation in Kuwait covers the six countries belonging to the Gulf Cooperation Council.



**KUWAIT:** The Cuban Embassy received condolences yesterday on the death of Fidel Castro, who passed away on Friday. Several diplomats and other dignitaries paid tribute to the late Cuban leader. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



## FORMER MPs MULL CONTESTING RESULTS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

**KUWAIT:** Former MP and fifth constituency candidate Abdullah Ibrahim Al-Tamimi criticized what he described as violations committed during the parliamentary elections. He added that along with his legal team, he was considering contesting the election results at the constitutional court. He also urged the interior and the justice ministers to investigate what took place during the poll count. Meanwhile, former MP and fourth constituency candidate Dr Hussein Al-Qawaia also intends to contest the election results at the constitutional court.

### Son-in-law stabbed

A citizen was arrested for attempting to stab his son-in-law at the Ahmadi court. The man accused his son-in-law of 'stalling' procedures to divorce his daughter. He also accused him of verbal assault. Meanwhile, a citizen who had been indicted of murder in a case that took place at 360 mall, and sentenced to 10 years in prison was yesterday acquitted by the court of appeal. Separately, the court of appeal yesterday rejected the first instance court's contests of decisions made by the speaker of the house on appointing three citizens at the National Assembly.

### Poultry banned

The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) issued a temporary ban on importing live poultry, eggs and chicks from Algeria, where the avian flu virus H7N1 has been detected. PAAAFR also banned similar imports from Poland and Switzerland due to detecting the H5N8 virus there. The decision was made as a preventive measure taken according to World Organization for Animal Health regulations as well as the GCC veterinary quarantine. The decision also mandated importers of any infected shipments to re-export them at their own expense.

### PhD degrees

Lawyer Khaled Al-Qahtani announced that the court of appeals yesterday cancelled Education Minister Bader Al-Essa's decision banning studying for masters and PhD degrees in law abroad. Notably, Essa had refused to accredit these degrees of postgraduate students who had studied abroad.

## KUWAIT LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO AID DISPLACED IN SYRIA

**HATAY:** Kuwait's Al-Rahma (mercy) International Association sent yesterday 62 trucks carrying aid to those in need inside Syria, through the Turkish city of Hatay. This is Al-Rahma's biggest-ever humanitarian aid inside Syria, aiming to ease the suffering of Syrians during extremely cold weather, said the organization's Secretary General Yahya Al-Aqeeli in a press conference.

The aid includes food, blankets, clothing, coal, mattresses and heaters for over 10,000 Syrian families, he added. Al-Rahma has provided over \$57 million worth of aid since the outbreak of the Syrian crisis, said the official. The organization is also funding schools, water distillation project, and psychiatric treatments programs for Syrian refugees, he noted. — KUNA



**KUWAIT:** His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

## CABINET PRAISES KUWAIT'S DEMOCRATIC SPECTACLE, HIGHLIGHTS MINISTRIES' EFFORTS DURING ELECTIONS

### PREMIER THANKS OUTGOING MINISTERS

**KUWAIT:** During a weekly routine meeting at Seif Palace yesterday, chaired by His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet reviewed the government's resignation that was submitted earlier to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The resignation goes in line with Article 57 of the Kuwaiti Constitution which provides that the cabinet 'shall be re-constituted — at the beginning of every legislative term of the National Assembly,' Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who is also Acting Minister of Justice and Acting Minister of National Assembly Affairs added.

His Highness the Prime Minister thanked the outgoing cabinet members and highly appreciated their hard and sincere efforts and cooperation while in office, fulfilling their duties and responsibilities for serving the nation and the people.

### Smooth elections

During yesterday's cabinet meeting, the first after the parliamentary elections, His Highness the Prime Minister addressed the ministers boasting the democratic spectacle Kuwait witnessed on Saturday, which reaffirmed the unity and cohesion of the Kuwaiti people

under His Highness the Amir, said Sheikh Mohammad.

His Highness the Premier lauded the outstanding arrangements and organization that to the smooth elections, thanks to sincere efforts lavished by the judiciary and members of the Public Prosecution members, as well as the entire personnel of the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education, the Kuwait Municipality and all other involved state bodies. He highlighted the atmosphere of absolute integrity and transparency that dominated the voting.

His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak stressed the hard work by the Interior Ministry's personnel who offered all possible facilities so that people could fulfill their national duty, namely casting their votes. His Highness the Premier extolled the distinct efforts and coverage by the Ministry of Information, which provided detailed minute-to-minute live coverage of the event.

The ministers boasted the good spirit of competition that dominated the scene among all candidates, and the electorate, which reflected the fact that the democratic practice in Kuwait is deep-rooted, as well as the country's civilized image. The cabinet congratulated the new MPs winning confidence of the Kuwaiti people, wishing them success to serve the nation and realize

expectations of the people.

The ministers urged joining efforts of all to fulfill His Highness the Amir's directives, namely boosting the constructive cooperation between the legislative and executive powers to push ahead the wheel of sustainable development and achieve the aspired goals of the nation.

### Climate change

As yesterday's meeting started, the ministers were apprised of His Highness the Amir's participation in the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22) recently held in, Marrakesh, Morocco, and the Fourth Africa-Arab Summit, Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea.

First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers on the outcome of the Malabo gathering and the content of His Highness the Amir to summit.

The cabinet highly appreciated His Highness the Amir's humanitarian initiatives for consolidating ties with the friendly African nations in all fields, hoping the summit's outcome would lead to improving the living conditions on the continent.

In the meantime, His Highness the Prime Minister offered the ministers a brief account of the current visit to

Kuwait by President of the Swiss Confederation Johann Schneider-Ammann, focusing on means to foster bilateral ties in all fields.

The ministers were also notified of a letter from the Civil Service Commission that Thursday 8 December 2016, will be a public holiday for the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birthday instead of Sunday December 11.

Reviewing the political developments on the Arab and international scenes, the cabinet congratulated President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the country's 45th National Day Anniversary. It wished the UAE further progress and perpetual prosperity.

### Terrorist attacks

Meanwhile, the cabinet condemned the recent terrorist attacks that hit Iraq, targeting a fuel station, and Egypt, striking a military checkpoint in the Sinai Peninsula, and Turkey, where blasts killed and wounded a number of people in the east.

The ministers reiterated Kuwait's rejection of such acts of terrorism that go contrary to all ethical values, as well as all forms of terrorism. They voiced condolences to the three countries, urging the international community to rapidly take strict measures to avoid any more of these acts and to maintain the world's peace and stability. — KUNA

# SHRIMP FIESTA COMBO



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KUWAIT: Photos taken from the Hamra Tower in Sharq show stunts performed by the British Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team 'the Red Arrows' yesterday. —Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

## GULF BANK GOLD SPONSOR OF 33RD NUKS-USA CONFERENCE

### COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING YOUTH AND EDUCATION

**KUWAIT:** Gulf Bank is proud to have been the gold sponsor of the 33rd National Union of Kuwaiti Students (NUKS) USA conference, the largest annual gathering of Kuwaitis outside Kuwait. Entitled "A Conscientious Generation for an Everlasting Nation," this year's conference was attended by around 4000 Kuwaitis and was held under the Patronage of Dr Bader Al-Essa, the Minister of Education and

Higher Education. The conference was launched on 24 November at the Marriott Marquis in San Francisco, California. The conference's opening ceremony started with a speech by Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait's Ambassador to the USA, who expressed his gratitude and appreciation to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and to His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Ambassador Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah addressed the young students by saying: "Your presence in the US is an opportunity that is not available to many as you are enrolled in the most prestigious universities worldwide. You should take advantage of your experience so that we build a prosperous and developed future." Ambassador Al-Sabah also added: "The number of Kuwaitis in the US reached its highest level, you are part of our country outside the country; you are Kuwait's ambassadors. Kuwait is waiting for your return, it is waiting for you to invest what you have learned and acquired. Kuwait is proudly waiting for what you will be able to offer to our nation."

Fahad Al-Jadaan, the NUKS-USA President, commented on this occasion: "A conscientious generation for an everlasting nation is not just a slogan, but also a message that our valued attendees will carry back to our nation after the conclusion of this conference." Jadaan highlighted the potential that Kuwait withholds and explained: "There is no lack in the potential of our youth, no lack in our employers' readiness to invest in the youth and employ them, and no lack in our women's responsibilities and capacities."

The speeches were followed by the night show, sponsored by Gulf Bank, where 'The Concert' performed. This popular musical group includes a member of the Gulf Bank family, Mohammad Al-Sarraf.

During the night show, Mijren Al- Mijren, Assistant Manager at Gulf Bank, conducted the always popular and exciting raffle with cash prizes. The winners of the Gulf Bank raffle were: Ahmad Al-Nour, Mubarak Al-Atiya, Sayed Abulrahman, Albatoul Al-Nasser, Abulrahman Al-Saidi, Abdulrahman Al-Rushaid, Ahmad Al-Azmi, Sultan Al-Ajmi, Sultan Al-Anzi, Ali Abdullah Ali, and Nawaf Al-Shami.

The second day marked a series of workshops and lectures where Gulf Bank showcased its strong commitment to Kuwaiti youth by having a large booth in the career fair area which appealed to hundreds of students.

Gulf Bank is strongly committed to organizing, sponsoring, and participating in events that benefit Kuwait and empower the next generation of Kuwaitis. For more information on Gulf Bank, please visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com](http://www.e-gulfbank.com), Gulf Bank's bilingual website, or visit its social media channels.



## INFORMATICS AWARD HONORS VOLUNTEERS

**KUWAIT:** Under the auspices of Sheikh Mubarak Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Director of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and with the presence of Sheikhha Ayeda Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, head of the board of trustees of HH Sheikh Salem Al-Ali's Informatics Award (SAIA), the award's organizing committee recently honored its volunteers for this year's edition, which concluded during a recent ceremony held

at the Bayan Palace. The committee gave special diamond medals for volunteers who have been with them for twelve years, gold medals for those who have been volunteering for nine years, silver medals for those who have been volunteering for six years, bronze medals for those who have been volunteering for three years and certificates of appreciation for those who only volunteered this year.

## SMART KITCHEN, GREEN FLAME JOIN HORECA 2017

**KUWAIT:** Preparations for the Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition are steadily progressing, and the event is attracting more companies to take part, since it is an event which provides a golden opportunity to exchange expertise to meet the local market's needs and future expansion plans.

In this regard, Smart Kitchens and the Green Flame companies announced their intention to take part in the exhibition. Smart Kitchen's General Manager Waleed Mansour said that Horeca Kuwait enhances the company's expansion efforts, especially since it is a newly established company. He added that Smart Kitchen offers a wide variety of commercial Kitchen equipment and supplies, including large equipment such as display cases, ovens and mixers from the best international brands such as Omega, Maxxcold, Tecnoeka, Bralyx, Lotus and Apwyyot.

Meanwhile, Green Flame Gas Company's (GFGC) Board Chairman Bashar Al-Qattan said that his company was the sole agent of



Waleed Mansour



Bashar Al-Qattan

14 international companies working in the field of cooking gas supplies. He added that one of the major cooking gas projects executed by GFGC were in the Mais Al-Ghanim restaurant, Carrefour, the Holiday Inn, Kuwait Sheraton, Safir Hotel, Al-Shaab Crowne Plaza, Al-Qurain Lulu HyperMarket, Al-Yarmouk Club, Ampia Complex, the Sultan Center and many other projects.

Qattan added that Flame Gas was awarded the ISO 9001 in 2009 and 2008 in addition to being member of the International Classifications Council (ICC) since 2007 and the National Association for Fire Protection (NFPA) since 2008.

The Horeca Kuwait 2017 exhibition is organized by Leaders Group in collaboration with Hospitality Services Company at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref on January 16-18, 2017. It takes place under the patronage of Minister of Information, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.



Ambassador Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah at the Gulf Bank booth.



Students registering for the Gulf Bank raffle.

# KUWAIT AIRWAYS ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH AMADEUS TO TRANSFORM ITS BUSINESS PROCESSES

'TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY' CONTINUES WITH TECHNOLOGY, CONSULTING FROM AMADEUS

**KUWAIT/MADRID:** Innovative. Modern. Unique. Ambitious. These are some of the characteristics that Kuwait Airways is embracing as part of the national carrier's five-year 'Transformation Plan'. Under the stewardship of Chairperson and CEO, Rasha Al-Roumi, the Middle East's first female airline CEO, Kuwait Airways has undertaken to implement a bold new strategy designed to revive the airline's once pioneering legacy in regional aviation, with clear infrastructural changes and new technologies that will see it become the preferred airline linking Kuwait to the world, by 2021.

This transformation process was announced in September this year, followed by the launch of the new livery and branding in October. While the rebranding represents a clear visual change, Kuwait Airways' management is keen to stress that the transformation is not just "cosmetic". With the help of the technology and business processes offered by Amadeus, Kuwait Airways is completely transforming its approach to business, in an effort to double its growth over the next five years.

announcing its adoption of a complete suite of Altea solutions including Revenue Management, e-Commerce, Loyalty Programs, Inventory, Reservation, Departure Control, Payments, as well as Mobile and Travel Intelligence. This extensive portfolio will help the airline create more personalized travel experiences and adapt its offering to customer demand and preferences - in real-time.

Unique to the implementation of this project, Amadeus will be working throughout the Altea implementation, to support Kuwait Airways with best practices and new business procedures, and to help ensure a cost-effective and timely upgrade from the existing (legacy) system.

In order to keep pace with the exponential growth of the aviation industry across the Gulf Region, Kuwait Airways' comprehensive overhaul of many of its business processes will see the airline working its way back to being the dominant carrier in its home market with opportunities for further expansion in the years to come.

**Pioneering legacy**

"Kuwait Airways is currently undergoing a wide-reaching program of change and this

comprehensive transformation process must be driven by the mission to reassert our pioneering legacy in the region's aviation industry. By working with Amadeus we are not just appointing a technology partner, we are working alongside a trusted provider with long-standing experience and expertise in the airline business. We are confident that the changes we are making will be the foundation blocks for Kuwait Airways' success in the near and long-term future," said Rasha Al-Roumi, Chairperson and CEO of Kuwait Airways.

"With this partnership with Kuwait Airways, Amadeus is starting a new chapter not just as a technology provider, but as a business consultant as well. In addition to providing some of the best technology on the market, we want to help airlines reach their best results by sharing the experience and knowledge we've acquired through our 30 years in the airline business," said Maher Koubaa, Vice President, Head of Airline Group, Middle East and Africa at Amadeus. The implementation of the new business processes is estimated to be a six month project, with the 'cut over' planned at the beginning of Q2 2017.



**Altea solutions**

It is to this end that, today, the airline is

## ZAIN KEY SUPPORTER OF YOUTH INNOVATION INITIATIVES: ROUDHAN AS PART OF NUKS - USA 33RD CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONY



**Eaman Al-Roudhan, Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer delivers her opening speech at the 33rd annual NUKS - USA conference.**



**Zain officials are pictured with Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwaiti students.**

**KUWAIT:** Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced its participation in the opening ceremony of the 33rd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the United States (NUKS - USA). The event was held with the presence of many national figures in San Francisco, California.

The conference, which comes under the patronage of the Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, witnessed the attendance of the Minister of Education's representative, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the US Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who visited Zain's booth during the careers fair. The company's Platinum sponsorship of the conference comes in line with its Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategy towards the youth and education sectors.

**Most valuable asset**

During her opening speech addressing the students, Eaman Al-Roudhan, Zain Kuwait's Chief Executive Officer, said: "we are extremely proud to be this event's

main supporter for over 13 consecutive years. Our strategic partnership with this conference over the years is a testament of Zain's commitment towards the youth; our country's most valuable asset."

Roudhan continued: "your tireless efforts to make this event a success every year gives us confidence that a generation of young, ambitious innovators will lead our beloved country in the near future. Zain has long considered the support and development of youth as a main priority, especially in the areas of technological innovation and entrepreneurship."

During her speech, Roudhan also announced the launch of a new annual program to empower and support Kuwaiti entrepreneurs studying in the US. The program will include a competition that will receive and evaluate their projects and small businesses in the areas of technological innovation. The winner will receive a two to four-week paid trip prize to Zain's strategic partners who are technology innovators, including Cisco, Ericsson E&Y, and Huawei. This year's competition will be in partnership with Huawei, where they

will host the winner in their main headquarters in China for an amazing internship program.

**Private sector's role**

Roudhan concluded: "we at Zain strongly believe in the role of the private sector in supporting the efforts and plans of the public sector to bring positive change into our everyday lives, especially efforts that empower innovative ideas. Zain has adopted many programs and initiatives to empower and support the youth's innovative ideas through the years."

Zain's presence in the event conveys its enthusiasm to interact with the future generations of Kuwaiti youth, especially those who pursue their education abroad, as the NUKS - USA conference is one of the largest gatherings of Kuwaiti students outside of Kuwait.

Participating in this event affirms Zain's role as a leading national company that takes the development of young people seriously, with the ultimate intention to induce positive change within the Kuwaiti society.

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### KFH TAKES PART IN JOB FAIR FOR NUKS - USA

**KUWAIT:** Kuwait Finance House (KFH) took part in the job fair held in San Francisco, California within the framework of the 33rd annual conference of the National Union of Kuwaiti Students NUKS - USA Branch as part of the bank's social responsibility and efforts to support the Kuwaiti youth and students.

The job fair witnessed huge students' turnout. It demonstrated training and job opportunities for students studying abroad in the USA. Moreover, it showcased the work nature of Islamic banks and the importance of working in the privates sector, not to mention the career path and career progression.

KFH participated in the opening ceremony of the annual conference convened under the sponsorship of Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa in the presence and participation of Kuwait Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and a number of senior members of the diplomatic corps.

The conference is viewed as the largest annual gathering of Kuwaiti students who study in the USA. It encompasses a plethora of cultural and entertaining activities while offers the opportunity for further students engagement in the different activities of the NUKS.

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Crime

Report

CROSS DRESSER ARRESTED

**KUWAIT:** A male cross dresser was arrested by Hawally police and sent to vice detectives for further legal action. Police approached the suspect's car after reports of loud music and public nuisance were made. The man was found inside the car, dancing and wearing women's clothes and makeup. It is illegal in Kuwait to 'cross dress' (wear the clothes of the opposite gender).

Death at sea

A man died yesterday in the Ras Al-Ardh sea area in a maritime accident. The fire department received a call about a collision mid-sea, marine rescuers rushed to the area and discovered a man had drowned following the crash. His body was recovered and handed to the coroner. No further details were immediately available.

Man imprisons wife

A citizen punished his wife for going out shopping without his permission by beating and imprisoning her. The woman called police and told them what happened. Police went to the house and the husband opened the door for them. The police then removed the woman from the home and took her to the station where she filed a complaint against her husband, who admitted the charges.

Stabbing in Ishbliya

A citizen was stabbed by a compatriot during a fight in Ishbliya area. The fight began over an argument regarding the sale of a motorcycle. The injured man was taken to hospital, while the attacker was taken to the police station.

Missing girl arrested

Hawally police arrested a girl in her 20s, who was reported missing by her family for more than two weeks following an argument. The woman was staying with a female friend of hers. The friend was also arrested for questioning. Despite constitutionally-guaranteed equality, women in Kuwait still face discrimination in many aspects of their lives, and large legal gaps remain in protections for women. Kuwait has no laws prohibiting domestic violence, sexual harassment, or marital rape. Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis, unlike Kuwaiti men, cannot pass on their citizenship to their children or spouses. Kuwaiti law also prevents a woman marrying a partner of her choice without her father's permission.



ABK's communications team is pictured with the foundation's members.

ABK SPONSORS FOUNDATION OF HOPE'S ANNUAL CONCERT

**KUWAIT:** The Foundation of Hope's annual concert, sponsored by Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK), took place in front of a packed audience of 300 at the Jumeirah Messila Beach Hotel and Spa on Friday 25 November 2016.

The festive and light hearted evening featured popular Arabic and European classical and contemporary music and songs provided by an orchestra of local musicians and choristers. There was also a stand-out performance from the Kuwait English School choir which included children with special needs.

The concert has been organized by the Foundation of Hope, which is a Kuwait-registered charity, each year since 2003 as part of its efforts to raise funds for its program to support people in Kuwait's community who have mental health challenges.

ABK is committed to working with the community, particularly in supporting programs which assist people with special needs. The Bank is keen to encourage the overall well-being of the community and especially to champion the needs of those who need extra help.

VIVA SPONSORS 4TH E-GOVERNMENT FORUM 'E-SERVICES PERSPECTIVES'

**KUWAIT:** VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced that will sponsor the fourth E-Government Forum "Information Management and Security", organized by Nouf EXPO, in collaboration with the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT),

held under the patronage of Prime Minister, His Highness Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, represented by Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the Board of the Central Agency for Information Technology, at Arraya Ballroom, from 27 to 29 November 2016.



Ayman Al-Mutairi

Commenting on this sponsorship, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Senior Manager Corporate Communications at VIVA, said: "VIVA, leader provider in internet, e-services and information system, was keen to participate in this forum since its first chapter as it has interest in the world of technology." He added: "We hope that our participation in this forum will be an added value and help enhancing Kuwait's rank on global technology map."

Discussions during the forum will emphasize on electronic services which are the main product targeted by e-governments, in addition to the different suggested solutions to improve those e-services. Difficulties and challenges facing Kuwait in the development of electronic services will include the discussions, which are considered an integral part of the nature of contemporary technology, when these e-services include all the various computers and smart mobile devices.



الجريدة

Al-Anbaa

YOU WON - NOW CLEAN UP THE ASSEMBLY

By Mudaffar Abdullah

I would like to make some remarks about parliamentary work if we really want to reform this institution. The remarks are as follows:

1 Immediate action must be taken to reduce the total number of secretaries for each MP from 15 to a number that is enough to scientifically and research-wise help an MP. The current number is nothing but profiteering by campaign staff and their relatives.

2 New lawmakers must be subjected to a training course on parliamentary work to enlighten them with regards to legislation and understanding the meanings of the constitution, because previous experiences showed that many of them are ignorant in this regard and contributed in passing unconstitutional laws.

3 Stop paraphrasing the text of the inaugural oath and adding phrases to show off.

4 As gesture of sympathizing with the problems the 2013 parliament gave to citizens in the summer, immediately cancel the free fuel coupons given to MPs.

5 As a reaction to the deteriorating economic situa-

tions, immediately change the lease contracts of MPs' luxury vehicles and substitute them with more economical ones.

6 Form a special values committee to handle MPs' financial, administrative and ethical mistakes during their membership.

7 Grant the public access to information about session agendas and minutes, MPs' absences and their role in legislation and monitoring as a means to enhance public supervision of their performance.

8 In view of the mistakes committed by the Assembly's TV channel, it must be shut down, because the parliament's performance must be monitored by private media, in addition to the role already played by state-owned media.

9 Stop using the parliament's papers for political reasons, as what has already happened.

We hope these remarks find their way to implementation and are not used to strike bargains amongst MPs - CLEAN UP the National Assembly!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FUNDING

By Dr Bader Al-Daihani

In democratic countries, an independent authority supervising the elections sets a maximum limit on the cost of an electoral campaign per candidate, then in collaboration with the integrity and corruption combating authority, they audit each campaign and examine the details of such funding, so that the high cost of electoral campaigning does not deprive people with limited income and the poor from competing with rich and wealthy candidates who can address voters and affect and alter their choices.

This authority also questions the sources of extravagant spending during the short period of the elections. In addition, it demands financial disclosure from all the winners in order to prevent them from utilizing their public positions in making personal gains and illegal fortunes.

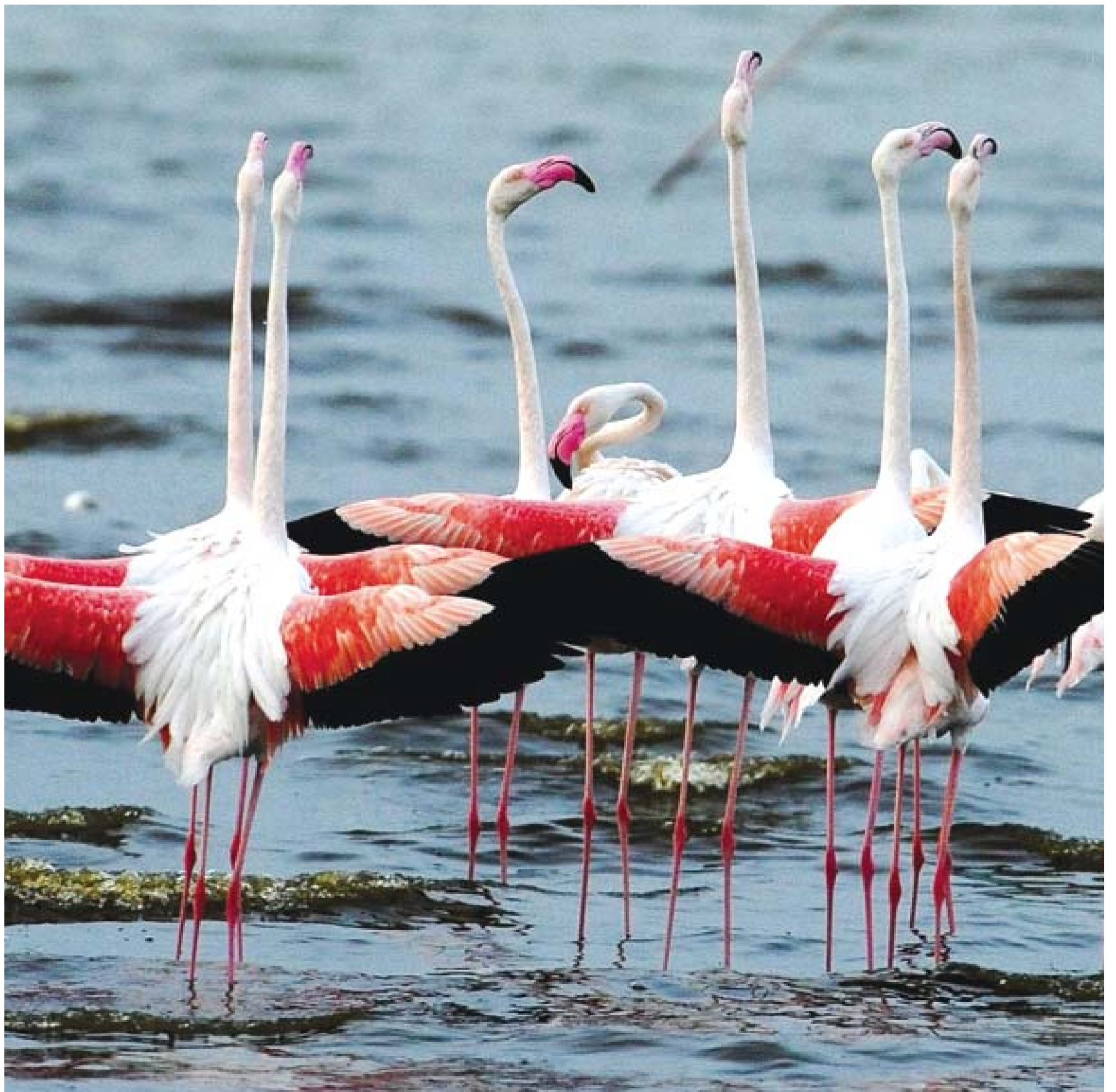
Things are very different here in Kuwait. There is hardly any control on how funds are spent during the elections. Nobody knows the sources of these funds, which spoils the election process and does not make it a real reflection of the people's will, because the chances of richer candidates who own fortunes with unidentified official sources are incomparable with those of others. In addition, we are always in an awkward position in view of the unfair election law, the political chaos, government interference, political money and sectarian polarization, with the result that the outcome of the process does not really reflect the people's will.

Questioning the sources of funding and the purpose of spending those fortunes gains a great deal of importance if we take into consideration that some electoral campaigns cost over a million dinars. In other words, what makes some candidates spend KD 1 million or even KD 200,000 on a campaign? Some of them never give up and keep trying again and again, though the salary they will get if they succeed is not more than KD 3,000 a month, a total of KD 144,000 during a full tenure if the parliament does not get dissolved earlier!

Is this because most candidates know that the new position will earn them double of what they will ever spend, especially in the absence of the 'Where did you get that from' law? The new position will also give some of them the prestige they seek in order to achieve personal gains and distribute economic benefits according to power balances. Previous experiences have proved that profiteering from public funds prevails within certain groups and that people who had nothing to do with politics or public work and who had been financially and socially modest before the elections suddenly become millionaires once they make it to the parliament. How come?!

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Photo of the day



KUWAIT: Flamingo birds pictured at Kuwait Bay. — KUNA photo



**Woman screams in pain during caning**

**TURKEY TARGETS FOSTER FAMILIES IN POST-COUP CRACKDOWN**

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**BOMB DEFUSED NEAR US EMBASSY IN PHILIPPINES**



**MANILA:** Photographers take pictures of an 81mm mortar shell which was detonated after it was found inside a suspicious package near the US Embassy in Manila, Philippines yesterday. —AP

**MANILA:** Police defused a bomb near the US embassy in the Philippine capital yesterday, with militants who had declared allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group likely behind the attempted terrorist attack, authorities said. A taxi passenger dropped the mortar bomb with a mobile phone detonator in a rubbish bin about 200 meters from the embassy along one of Manila's busiest roads, but a street sweeper found it and alerted authorities, police said.

"This is an attempted act of terrorism," national police chief Ronald dela Rosa told reporters, adding he believed the Maute Islamic militant group currently facing a military offensive in the southern Philippines was the prime suspect. "Because of an ongoing police/military operation there, (the militants) have many casualties. We can theorize that this is a diversion to loosen our operations," Police said they detonated the bomb just over an hour after it was discovered.

The Maute gang was also blamed for a bombing in President Rodrigo Duterte's home town in the southern city of Davao in September that killed 15 people. The military has since Thursday been battling dozens of Maute gang members holed up in an abandoned government building in the mainly Muslim rural town of Butig on Mindanao island, about 800 kilometers south of Manila. Thirteen soldiers have been injured in the fighting, military spokesman Brigadier General Restituto Padilla told reporters.

He said 19 militants had been killed, although none of those bodies had been recovered and the death toll could not be verified. Fighting continued yesterday. Padilla supported the police theory of who was behind yesterday's attempted bombing. "It is possible that these groups are doing this to help their fellow terrorists and divert (government) attention," Padilla said. Muslim groups have waged a decades-long armed independence struggle in the south of the mainly Catholic Philippines that is believed

to have claimed more than 120,000 lives. The main rebel groups are in peace talks with the government.

**Rising threat**

But the Maute gang is one of several to have declared allegiance to IS and continued fighting. The Abu Sayyaf, infamous for kidnappings for ransoms, is another. Leaders of the main rebel organizations have repeatedly warned that the failure of previous peace efforts, including with Duterte's predecessor, could lead to disaffected youth joining more extreme groups such as the Maute gang. The Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict also said last month that deepening cooperation among the Maute gang, the Abu Sayyaf and other pro-IS groups meant more deadly violence was "a matter of when, not if".

The Philippine military has staged a series of deadly battles against the Maute gang in its mountainous and remote strongholds around Butig in recent months. Eight Maute gang members were captured in August, but fellow militants easily broke them out of a local jail. The Davao bombing prompted Duterte to put the nation under a "state of emergency" which allowed the military to do law enforcement with police. His office said security measures would be increased further after the attempted bombing at the US embassy, particularly at airports, seaports and other transport terminals. Most of the Islamic militant-related violence has been limited to the southern Philippines, and foreign governments warn their citizens against travelling there because of the threat of kidnapping or being caught up in conflicts. However militants have also staged attacks in Manila, a megacity of more than 12 million people. The Abu Sayyaf was blamed for the bombing a ferry in Manila Bay in 2004 that killed 116 people, in the nation's deadliest terrorist attack. —AFP




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## TURKEY TARGETS FOSTER FAMILIES IN POST-COUP CRACKDOWN

### RIGHTS GROUPS, EU RATTLED BY EXTENT OF CRACKDOWN

**ANKARA:** Turkish authorities are investigating foster families for suspected ties to a failed coup and may remove children from homes if their guardians are found to be supporters of the putsch, a government official said yesterday. The government has so far detained or dismissed 125,000 people over alleged links to the network of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based Muslim cleric accused by Ankara of orchestrating the July 15 coup.

Gulen, who lives in self-imposed exile in the state of Pennsylvania, has denied involvement in the putsch and condemned it. The scope of the crackdown has alarmed human rights groups and Turkey's Western allies who fear President Tayyip Erdogan is using the coup as a pretext to curtail dissent. The government says its investigations are necessary to stamp out the influence of

Gulen's network, which it refers to as the "Gülenist Terror Organisation", or "FETO".

"It would not be right for a child to remain with a (foster) family if links to FETO are confirmed as a result of the examinations," the official from the Ministry of Family and Social Policy said. The official, who declined to be identified, said the investigations had been going on since August 23. "This is a slow process in which detailed examinations are being carried out. So it is out of the question for children to be suddenly ripped away from their families," the official said, adding that the psychological health of the children was being closely monitored.

#### Investigation

Around 5,000 foster families and some related institutions are being investigated,



**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan shakes hands with his supporters on Nov 26, 2016. — AP

the pro-government Yeni Safak newspaper reported. The government has also cut off cooperation with four childcare-related NGOs as part of its investigation, the newspaper said. Last week European lawmakers voted for a temporary halt to EU membership talks with Turkey, citing Ankara's "disproportionate" reaction to the coup over the past four months.

Luxembourg's foreign minister said this month that Turkey's handling of dismissed civil servants reminded him of methods used by the Nazis and that eventually the EU would have to respond with sanctions. Such comments have infuriated Ankara, which has criticized Europe for a lack of solidarity following the coup. Erdogan last week warned the EU that Turkey could unleash a new wave of migrants on Europe if relations deteriorated further. — Reuters



**ALEPPO:** A member of Syrian pro-government forces inspects an area in the Masaken Hanano district in eastern Aleppo, a day after they retook it from rebel fighters. — AFP

## FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SYRIA'S ALEPPO

**BEIRUT:** Syria's one-time economic hub, Aleppo city and the surrounding countryside have suffered some of the heaviest fighting of the nearly six-year civil war that has now cost more than 300,000 lives. The armed opposition seized the east of the city in July 2012 and government forces have been battling to recapture it ever since. Forces loyal to President Bashar Al-Assad made a major breakthrough on Monday, capturing all of the city's northern neighborhoods previously under rebel control. Here are five facts about Aleppo:

#### Ancient city

Aleppo is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, dating back to at least 4000 BC. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986, Aleppo's citadel is a jewel of medieval Islamic architecture. It was damaged by a blast in July 2015. Two years earlier, fighting destroyed the 11th century minaret of the city's famed Umayyad mosque. There has also been extensive damage to the city's ancient covered market.

#### War comes to Aleppo

In April and May 2011, thousands of students demonstrated in the city, echoing similar protests against Assad's government that broke out in other parts of Syria in March. The protests were brutally crushed but rebel fighters took control of several areas of the countryside which they used as launchpads for their entry into the city in July 2012. The army fought back with tanks and retained control of western districts, leaving the city divided. The first air strikes on rebel areas followed shortly afterwards.

#### Four-month siege

Much of the once-flourishing city has been reduced to a wasteland by air and

artillery bombardment. Since December 2013, the army has dropped hundreds of barrel bombs—crude unguided explosive devices that cause indiscriminate damage—on east Aleppo. The rebels have retaliated with rocket fire on government-held neighborhoods. Since July 17, rebel districts have been under near-continuous siege by the army, after troops cut off the last supply route from other rebel-held territory. Some 250,000 civilians in east Aleppo have faced food and fuel shortages and heavy regime bombardment has targeted nearly all hospitals in the area.

#### Regime offensive

Government forces have pressed several offensives to retake east Aleppo and regain control of the whole city in the past months. The latest assault launched on November 15 made major gains at the weekend and Monday, when regime forces overran all of northeast Aleppo. The regime's advance has prompted an unprecedented exodus of thousands of desperate civilians—either to districts held by the government or Kurdish forces, or the areas still under rebel control further south.

#### Strategic prize

Aleppo was Syria's most populous city before the war, and lies at the crossroads of key routes, making it a strategic prize for both sides. Analysts say Assad is determined to retake Aleppo to deal a decisive blow to the rebels before US president-elect Donald Trump takes office. If Assad's forces control both the capital and Aleppo in January when Trump is inaugurated, "he may say replacing the regime is categorically out of the question," political analyst Mathieu Guidere said. If Aleppo falls, Assad will control the country's five largest cities, leaving him with the upper hand if UN-brokered peace talks resume, analysts add. — AFP

## IRAQI SPECIAL FORCES SCREEN MOSUL MEN IN HUNT FOR SUICIDE BOMBERS

### NEARLY 40,000 WANTED MEN IN IRAQ

**MOSUL:** One by one, hundreds of Mosul residents raised their shirts to prove they did not have suicide bombs strapped to their bodies, closely watched by Iraqi Special Forces fearful of the threat posed by Islamic State, even in areas they now control. The men then handed over their identification cards so their names could be checked against a database of wanted Islamic State members, part of the painstaking process of clearing jihadis from each neighborhood of their Mosul stronghold.

Every time Iraqi forces capture a section of Mosul in their offensive against Islamic State, it can take up to a week to ensure it is clear of militants. Some hide in the network of tunnels they have constructed, while others mix with thousands of displaced people or stay behind to form sleeper cells in the crowded neighborhoods of Mosul, a city of more than one million people.

Iraqi security officials say they have seized a large area of eastern Mosul in the biggest ground operation in the country since the US-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003. Iraqi leaders hope the Mosul campaign will bring stability after years of sectarian bloodshed followed by the arrival of Islamic State, an ultra-hardline Sunni group, in 2014. While the Iraqis seem confident of victory, the security clamp-down in the Shuqaaq Al-Khadra'a district of Mosul suggests Islamic State still poses a threat even as it loses territory.

#### Intelligence

Iraqi special forces were on patrol when their intelligence division heard from local people that Islamic State militants were still in the area. Special forces and intelligence officials ordered residents to gather at a square with their identification documents. "Lift up your shirt now," one officer yelled at a man, acutely aware that suicide bombers are one of Islamic State's most effective weapons.

The residents, many with beards of the size required by Islamic State, sat in rows as their names were called. From time to time, a mortar bomb exploded nearby or shooting rang out. Sitting at computers, special forces officers compared the names on identification cards to a long list of wanted men. "There are about 39,000 wanted men in Iraq," said Mohamed Ali, a National Security officer. About 80 percent, he



**MOSUL:** Iraqi Special Forces soldiers, take their positions on a rooftop, during a battle against the Islamic State militants, in the Bakr front line neighborhood, in Mosul. — AP

added, are "terrorists," the term Iraqi officials use to describe Islamic State and other militants. As identification cards were handed over, senior intelligence official Hussein Za'alan lectured the men sitting on the ground about the "evils" of Islamic State, hoping they would provide information on the militants.

"They brought foreign fighters, criminals to this country," he said. "They just take women, impregnate them." Another officer also sought to win the trust of the residents of predominantly Sunni Mosul, where Islamic State won support initially because of widespread discontent with the Shi'ite-led government in Baghdad. "We need your cooperation. Don't be scared. Remove fear from your hearts. Daesh is finished," he said, using a derogatory Arabic acronym to describe Islamic State. "Look what they do. They turn your young children into suicide bombers."

The officer didn't have to look far to see how easy it is for Islamic State to recruit young Iraqis. Omar Abdullah, 51, one of the men being processed, sat beside his 16-year-old son, Ibrahim. The teenager attended Islamic State

indoctrination lectures on religion for 10 days before Abdullah managed to persuade him to leave the group. But he was not so lucky with another son, who is an Islamic State fighter in the nearby city of Tal Afar. "He wanted to get married but he didn't have the money because times are tough," said Abdullah. "Daesh brainwashed him, gave him money and promised him virgins in heaven. I lost my son."

An elderly man who did not immediately admit his son had joined Islamic State was chastised in front of the group. "You lied to me. You are Islamic State," a Special Forces officer shouted. As intelligence officials lectured the men, some residents identified one of those in the square as an Islamic State member. With a hood put over his head, he was handcuffed and questioned. "Talk, talk," yelled an interrogator.

"We are investigating. He could be Daesh, or the people that rattled him out may just have something against him and are trying to get him in trouble," he told Reuters. Four more suspected jihadis sat nervously in a room, awaiting their turn. — Reuters



**WABERI:** Somali soldiers walk through the wreckage after a car bomb that targeted a police station in the Waberi neighborhood. — AP

## THIRSTY SOMALIS TREK 60 KM FOR WATER; DROUGHT, CONFLICT BITE

**NAIROBI:** A second poor rainy season in Somalia has pushed livestock herders in the drought-hit Puntland region to trek an average of 60 km to fetch drinking water, aid agencies said yesterday, calling for rapid action to prevent renewed famine. Five million Somalis, or more than four out of ten people, do not have enough to eat because of poor rains and fighting between the Islamist militant group Al Shabaab and Somalia's African Union-backed government.

"Somalia went through a very similar situation in 2011 where two failed rain seasons, overlapping shocks, restricted action and a late response resulted in large-scale human catastrophe," 38 aid groups, including Oxfam, Action Aid and the Norwegian Refugee Council, said in a statement. "We have been repeatedly promising

to not let this happen again... What are we waiting for?" It called on humanitarians and donors to revise existing projects to focus on life-saving support for women, children and other communities hard-hit by the drought. "It is our responsibility as donors, as implementers, as national and local authorities, as Somali business community... to see that this drought does not lead to a famine," it said.

Somalia's 2011 famine, which killed 260,000 people, was caused by drought, conflict and a ban on food aid in territory held by Al Shabaab. Charities have repeatedly warned about the threat of renewed famine as the Horn of Africa nation continues to be plagued by poor rains and conflict, as well as shortages of aid. Humanitarian access to the Al Shabaab strong-

holds of Lower and Middle Juba regions remains limited, agencies said, with satellites monitoring rainfall trends showing those areas to be "the most worrying in all of Somalia."

International attention has shifted away from the drought to Somalia's elections, Kenya's plan to close Somali-dominated Dadaab refugee camp, conflict and the withdrawal of peacekeepers from more than eight areas, the agencies said. Thousands have been displaced in recent weeks by fighting between the warring Galmudug and Puntland semi-autonomous regions and around the central town of Afgoye. Al Shabaab has seized control of several towns in central Somalia after they were abandoned by Ethiopian contingents in the Africa Union peace-keeping force. — Reuters

## AUSTRIA'S PRESIDENTIAL RIVALS CLASH IN DEBATE

**VIENNA:** The two candidates in Austria's longest ever presidential race clashed Sunday over the European Union, Donald Trump, and migrants as they faced off in a TV duel a week before the runoff. Greens-backed contender Alexander Van der Bellen accused his far-right rival Norbert Hofer of stirring insecurity by threatening to pull Austria out of the EU.

Hofer of the anti-immigration Freedom Party (FPÖ) has said he would call a referendum on EU membership if Turkey joined the 28-member club or if Brussels tried to centralize power further. "The FPÖ has been toying with Austria's exit for 20 years. Many politicians in Europe are worried that the mere speculation could trigger... an avalanche of right-wing populism," said 72-year-old Van der Bellen during the live debate broadcast on private channel ATV. "The most important thing is the solidarity between member states, otherwise we won't be able to assert ourselves in the face of Russia or the United States."

But Hofer, 45, dismissed the allegations as media-led "scare-mongering". "There won't be an 'Oexit'. I've repeatedly said that I want a positive development of the EU," he said. While Van der Bellen stressed Austria's important relationship with its largest trade partner Germany, Hofer vowed to seek closer ties with eastern and

central European neighbors and, primarily, Russia. He denounced German Chancellor Angela Merkel for "causing serious damage to Europe" with her open-door policy, which he said has allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants "including terrorists to trek through Austria" since last year.

Hofer also attacked Van der Bellen for criticizing the US election win of Donald Trump. "It is not clever to describe a president as a rabble rouser," he said. Van der Bellen hit back saying politicians across Europe felt "anxious" about the arrival of a US president-elect who has been accused of sexist attacks on women and threatening the rights of minorities. Like Trump as well as other populist groups in Europe, the FPÖ has boosted support by stoking concerns about immigration and what it portrays as an out-of-touch elite.

Hofer hopes to become the EU's first far-right head of state on December 4, after nearly 350 days of campaigning. In May, he lost by a paper-thin margin to Van der Bellen, but the FPÖ got the result overturned due to procedural errors.

A re-run set for October was again postponed because of faulty glue on postal vote envelopes.

Opinion polls suggest next Sunday's race is too close to call. Hofer said he would not contest the outcome this time. — AFP



# POLICE SHOOTINGS ECHO THROUGH CRIMINOLOGY CLASSROOMS IN US

## JUSTICE NOW, BUT JUSTICE HOW?

**NEW YORK:** A new crop of ads on New York City subway cars reads "Justice now, but justice how?" The words evoke the tone of street protests over police killings of black men across the United States during the past three years. But the ads are not a plea from civil rights activists. They are a recruiting pitch from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan. One of them reads, "If the system is ever going to change, this is the place where change will begin."

John Jay is one of a number of schools that are making academic changes in the wake of the high-profile killings of black men and boys by police in recent years in places like Cleveland, Chicago, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Ferguson, Missouri, that have fueled a debate about racial bias in the US criminal justice system. At the same time, police have been targeted by gunmen in places like Dallas, Baton Rouge, New York, Philadelphia and Des Moines, Iowa.

Scores of US colleges and universities offer undergraduate and graduate course work in criminology. Graduates end up in a variety of jobs, from police detectives to social workers to corporate investigators. Some schools, like the State University of New York at Albany, are trying to help more black, Hispanic and other minority researchers advance in their careers by creating jobs for those just out of graduate school.

One school, the University of California, Irvine, said it was considering a new course that would teach future police officers to empathize with people who have been arrested. Professors at other schools said they were changing how they address race in existing courses by adding material related to bias. Some criminal justice professors may reorient their research to focus more on police-related deaths, said James Lynch, a University of Maryland professor and president of the American Society of Criminology. That is especially likely as the FBI and the US Justice Department undertake a new effort to collect data on police use of force, he said. "There's some change coming, and that's positive," Lynch said. Not all schools offering criminology course work are making changes in light of recent events. But some, like John Jay, are making a direct appeal to a generation that has watched or even joined protests by groups like Black Lives Matter that criticize police use of force against minorities. "We wanted to go out there with an ad campaign that's fierce, that's bold, that conveys the passions of our students and supports them," said Rama Sudhakar, a spokeswoman for John Jay, a college named after America's first chief justice.

**'Dragged away by police'**  
With police shootings in the news, some criminology students appear more willing to share personal experiences. "Students are saying, 'I was racially profiled,' or, 'I saw my father



**SAN ANTONIO:** San Antonio police investigate the scene of a shooting in the Wal-Mart parking lot in San Antonio. — AP

dragged away by the police," said Teresa Dalton, who teaches criminology at the University of California, Irvine. The criminal justice school at the State University of New York at Albany is adding six post-doctoral fellowships, temporary jobs for people who recently received doctoral degrees, for scholars who are minorities. William Pridemore, the school's dean, said the recent shootings motivated the push.

"In general in criminology we don't have a lot of minority scholars, and I think it's important that we change that," Pridemore said. The University of California, Irvine is considering a course centered around the perspective of people who are arrested, rather than from the perspective of law enforcement, Dalton said. It would cover subjects such as obtaining bail and what it is like to be in jail. "The purpose is to give cops perhaps a little more empathy in their discretionary decisions: You could arrest this person, or you could not arrest this person, but what will it mean?" she said.

Many police-related encounters involve officers and civilians of different races and back-

grounds, so officers may benefit from learning about implicit bias, said Cory Haberman, a University of Cincinnati professor. Implicit bias is a term used by social scientists to describe subtle associations or stereotypes that people make about groups, such as the idea that members of one race are more likely to be violent than those of another. "These issues are definitely in the forefront of all the students' minds," said Haberman, who said he has added materials on implicit bias to a policing course he teaches.

Only about 15 percent of the 12,000 local US police departments require officers to have attended college, according to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics. But many officers go. About 45 percent have at least a bachelor's degree and another 43 percent have taken some college courses, according to a 2015 research paper in the Journal of Criminal Justice Education, citing survey data from 2007-2008. Officers who went to college are significantly less likely to use force than officers who did not, according to a 2010 study published in the academic journal Police Quarterly. — Reuters



**MIAMI:** People wave as they carry a big Cuban flag past La Carreta restaurant on Calle Ocho in Miami's Little Havana, following the announcement of former Cuban leader Fidel Castro's death. — AP

# CUBANS IN MIAMI PARTY AFTER DEATH OF CASTRO

**MIAMI:** Cuban-Americans who loathed Fidel Castro celebrated tirelessly Sunday to mark his death, dancing, singing and honking car horns for the second full day. Crowds first spilled into the streets of Little Havana Friday night as news of the 90-year-old revolutionary leader's death in Cuba spread. The revelry has not stopped since. "I'm not tired of celebrating because I can't believe it. I never thought that this moment would arrive," said a woman named Delsy who declined to give her last name. She celebrated with a large crowd outside the Cafe Versailles, where exiles met in the Cold War's heyday to plot the overthrow of the Castro regime. Some two million Cubans live in the United States, nearly 70 percent of them in Florida. The vast majority of those live in Miami and many saw Castro as a brutal tyrant.

Streets that had been closed because of the festive crowd reopened Sunday as authorities tried to restore a semblance of normality. But then they had to close them down again. Among the cacophony of car horns, drums, loud music and singing, a chant rang out: "Fidel, you tyrant, take your brother too!" Fidel Castro may be gone, but his younger brother Raul, 85, remains in power as president of the Americas' only one-party Communist-run state. A rally demanding freedom and democratic reforms in Cuba has been convened for Wednesday in Little Havana.

It will coincide with the start of a four-day procession in which Castro's remains will be taken around the island of 11 million for people to pay their respects. "The tyrant is dead but the tyranny continues,"

said activist Orlando Gutierrez of the Cuban Resistance Assembly. Several blocks to the east, the popular Ball & Chain salsa nightclub offered discounts and a new drink: "Adios Fidel" (Farewell Fidel). The place was bursting with people Saturday night. The street outside, full of Cuban restaurants and bars, was packed with late-night pedestrians and customers. At a nearby corner, Cuban retirees sat outside, enjoying the warm and humid night as they discussed the island's future.

"Now we Cubans have hope that without Fidel, communism will fall, and if God allows it, we can return to our free country," said Vicente Abrez, 65. However, Leticia Gallo, a 44-year-old therapist who arrived in Miami from Cuba seven years ago with a young son, doesn't believe Castro's death will immediately change much. Still, "it's light at the end of the tunnel," she said. A small group of women from the Ladies in White movement-founded by the wives and other female family members of former Cuban political prisoners-marched on Sunday on a street named for them in Miami.

### Pray for Cuba

An especially large crowd gathered for mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, the patron saint of Cuba, where Miami Archbishop Thomas Wenski led the Saturday service. "Fidel Castro has died. Now he awaits the judgment of God, who is merciful but also just," Wenski said, urging the faithful to pray "for peace for Cuba and its people." The Mass was solemn and the scene far from celebratory. Some women wiped away tears. — AFP

# MALAWIAN HOUSEMAID WINS US HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE

**LONDON:** A Malawian woman trafficked to the United States by a diplomat, confined to a house for three years and forced to work long hours for little pay has been awarded \$1 million in damages in a human trafficking lawsuit against her former employer. Fainess Lipenga began working for Jane Kambalame as a housemaid in her Malawi home in 2002, according to the case memorandum. When Kambalame accepted a diplomatic position at the Malawian embassy in Washington in 2004, she asked Lipenga to move with her.

"I was so excited," Lipenga told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview. "She (Kambalame) told me that I could finish my education in the US and that she would help me find another job." She signed a contract written in English, which she did not fully understand, which stated Lipenga would be paid \$980 per month for working 35 hours per week and would be paid over-

time. But the reality was quite different. For the first few months she received nothing, and after that was paid between \$100 and \$180 per month.

"She made me work from 5.30 am to 11 pm on most days, and I had to sleep on the basement floor," said Lipenga. "She said I couldn't sleep in a room upstairs like the family because I would make them sick." Nearly 21 million people are victims of forced labor globally, 1.5 million of them in developed countries like the United States, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO). Over half are women and girls. Forced labor among migrant domestic workers in particular is widespread, with women exploited even before they have left their home country and later abused by their employers abroad.

In 2006 Kambalame installed a lock on the door of the family home in Washington DC, confining her domestic servant to the house, Lipenga said. "She

listened on the phone whenever I talked to my family, and would disconnect it when she left the house - I was trapped," she said. According to the lawsuit, Kambalame subjected Lipenga to psychological abuse, such as by humiliating her in front of visitors and threatening to deport her. "She told me: 'I'm a diplomat, you'll never get me in trouble,'" Lipenga said. "I just believed her."

### Escape

Lipenga managed to escape the Kambalame household in 2007. "I thought: I will die if I stay here, they will take my body and dump it in the trash," she said. "I stole my passport and my contract when the family were out of the house, and left in the morning when they were sleeping - I could not stop shaking." Lipenga was admitted to hospital and diagnosed with tuberculosis and depression, which had gone untreated for years. — Reuters

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# LIGHT, WATER, HEAT A LUXURY FOR MILLIONS IN SPAIN

**BARCELONA:** Pedro and Mohamed await every utility bill with much angst. To reduce the money they have to pay, they live in the dark, without heating, or shower just once a week—victims like millions in Spain of energy poverty. Welfare

associations have for years warned against this situation, but the death earlier this month of 81-year-old Rosa in a fire caused by a candle she used for light has brought the issue firmly to the fore. Socialist lawmaker Pilar Lucio asked

the ruling conservative government to immediately implement a "winter truce" on companies cutting power to those who cannot pay—a measure with majority support in parliament and encouraged in a 2009 EU directive. Last year, according to Spain's National Statistics Institute, 10.6 percent of Spaniards were unable to properly heat their homes—more than four million people—compared to just 5.9 percent in 2008, when an economic crisis and widespread loss of jobs it caused, as well as a 30- to 50-percent rise in utility prices since 2006.

### 'Luxury items'

Pedro Martinez, 48, has been in this situation for several years. Unemployed since 2013, when the furniture company he was working for closed, he survives on a pension of 426 euros (\$450) a month, and what remains of the compensation he received for being fired. Divorced, he lives with his 20-year-old son and 23-year-old mentally impaired daughter in a working-class district of Barcelona, without heating and using electric light only when absolutely necessary.

"It's tough in winter. We just have an electric heater, which we rarely switch on for fear of the bill," he says. "The cold

chills you to the bone. We wear coats and at night we use all the blankets we have." Tere Bermudez, spokeswoman for the Roman Catholic charity Caritas, says that "for many families, water, light and gas are luxury items." She says that from 2007 to 2015, the organization multiplied by 30 the number of utility bills it helped pay.

One of its beneficiaries is Mohamed Chairi, a 37-year-old Moroccan. Unemployed, his family lives off the monthly 250 euros from his wife's cleaning work as well as help from charities. "We shower once a week, on Fridays, so that the kids are clean at the weekend," the father-of-three says. In the corner of the living room of his small flat in Badalona near Barcelona, his youngest son plays with a broken electric radiator. Chairi has just received his electricity bill - 24 euros for the month, a small sum for Spain but huge for him. "The rent alone is 440 euros," he says. "If I have to suffer from hunger or go without light or water, I don't care, but the kids..."

### Burning canvas shoes

According to the European Commission, Spain's gas and electricity prices were the third and fourth highest respectively in the European Union last year. "We are above the European aver-

age (in terms of fuel poverty) despite having much better weather," says Jose Luis Lopez, spokesman for the Association of Environmental Science.

There is no nationwide law on the issue, but several regions have implemented measures to try and address it. In the northeastern region of Catalonia, for instance, a law stipulates that utility companies must notify social services before cutting electricity or gas, and if the family or person struggling to pay is classified as vulnerable, they are banned from doing so. But the law is not always respected, as was the case for Rosa, with utility firm Gas Natural acknowledging it had not contacted social services. Lopez estimates that some 7,100 people die every year due to fuel poverty.

Firefighters in Catalonia have also warned of the security risks involved. "We have come across people heating themselves with small fires made from newspapers or even canvas shoes," said union spokesman Antonio del Rio. Spain may be emerging from the crisis, but at least 600,000 households saw their electricity supply cut off last year, according to the Facua consumer association. "There's a lot of talk about recovery, but on the street you don't see it anywhere," said Pedro Martinez. —AFP



**BARCELONA:** 'El Banc dels Aliments' (Food Bank Foundation) volunteers classify food to be distributed among the poor, at a warehouse in Barcelona during a national charity campaign to fight hunger. —AFP

# CAN CONSERVATIVE FILLON KEEP THE FRENCH FAR-RIGHT AT BAY?

FRANCE'S ELECTION - A TEST FOR NATIONALIST AND POPULIST POLITICS

**PARIS:** Francois Fillon, having clinched the presidential nomination for the right-wing Republicans party, will now join a far bigger battle for the future of France, the European Union and mainstream politics in the West. After Donald Trump's stunning victory in the United States, France's election next April and May has become a test for how far a rising tide of nationalist and populist politics will rise. If polls are to be believed, Fillon's biggest

the nationalist language of his opponents.

His conservative social views and appeal to rural voters as a devout Catholic from provincial France might also shield him from charges of being an out-of-touch metropolitan liberal. "It appears your imminent victory is worrying Marine Le Pen," Bruno Le Maire, a rival-turned-supporter in the Republicans party, boomed at Fillon's final campaign rally in Paris last Friday. Le Maire, a

was a major blow, the withdrawal of France, a founding member, could deliver the European project a coup de grace. The FN under Le Pen has worked hard to try to shed the party's historic racist image and hopes to capitalize on economic gloom and concern about Europe's biggest migrant crisis since World War II.

In the northeastern Parisian suburb of Raincy, a group of FN activists buoyed by Trump's victory and the Brexit vote gathered

Secondly, his program "is unprecedented in its violence. It's a real attempt to smash the social system," Bardella added. Fillon has vowed to cut 500,000 public sector jobs, scrap the 35-hour working week, and introduce social security and healthcare cuts designed to reduce France's chronic over-spending. The 62-year-old, who grew up in a chateau near the town of Le Mans, has also expressed admiration for ex-British leader Margaret Thatcher, an advocate of globalisation, deregulation and free markets. "Today the world is going totally in the opposite direction," FN vice president Florian Philippot said last Thursday. "For me, Fillon is Thatcher but 30 years too late."

### Unpredictable race

Two new polls published on Sunday evening forecast that the Republicans party candidate will face-and beat-Le Pen in a second-round run-off vote in May. This would be a re-run of the 2002 election when Le Pen's father Jean-Marie made it into the second round against the rightwing candidate Jacques Chirac. Voters on the centre-right and left united in a so-called "Republican front" to keep Le Pen out. This pattern was repeated in regional elections in France last December when centrist voters came together to prevent the FN winning a single council despite a strong showing in the first round. Fillon's defeated rival Alain Juppe had argued that his program of more gradual reform and less traditional views on abortion or gay rights would make him more palatable to leftist voters.

Jean-Yves Camus, an author and expert on the far-right in Europe, says that the election remains highly uncertain, with the Socialist party yet to nominate its candidate and the role of independents still unclear. He says the attack on Fillon's economic program will be the FN's most effective line, particularly among the sort of working class voters who helped propel Trump to the White House. "At the end of the day, I still think the 'Republican front' will work," he said. "I don't see French people making Marine Le Pen president of the Republic." —AFP



**PARIS:** Winner of the right-wing primaries ahead of France's 2017 presidential elections, Francois Fillon (right) shakes hands with mayor of Bordeaux and defeated candidate Alain Juppe after the announcement of the results of the second round of the centre-right primaries ahead of France's 2017 presidential elections. —AFP

rival is the far-right National Front (FN) leader Marine Le Pen who sees herself as part of a spreading revolt against globalization and the political elite.

Fillon's backers in the Republicans party believe his hard-right positions on protecting French culture, fighting Islamic extremism and combating crime will help to neuter Le Pen's appeal. "When you enter someone else's house you do not take over," Fillon said in a message to immigrants last week in a sign that he is not scared to adopt

former minister defeated by Fillon in the first round of the Republicans primary, declared Le Pen was right to be scared to cheers from the mostly white, middle-class crowd.

### A symbol of the past?

The stakes for France and Europe are high. As well as pledging a crackdown on immigration, Le Pen has promised to pull her country out of the euro and organize a referendum on France's membership of the European Union. While Britain's planned departure from the EU club

Sunday morning to hand out leaflets. Local councilor Jordan Bardella rehearsed the attack lines on Fillon which are likely to be at the core of the party's pitch. Firstly, he argued that Fillon's time as prime minister from 2007-2012 and various ministerial roles mean he is the sort of discredited establishment face that angry voters are keen to reject. "He symbolizes the past and I think French people want to turn the page," the 21-year-old rising figure in the party said in front of a fruit and vegetable market.

# RESETTLED IN BALTICS, REFUGEES FLEE FOR WEALTHIER LANDS

**RUKLA:** In early November, 34 Syrian and Iraqi refugees boarded buses heading for Germany from Lithuania, the country where they had been resettled. No one expects them to return. Only a tiny number of refugees from war in the Middle East have been sent to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, among the European Union's poorest countries. The Baltic states were nobody's first choice. "When we left from Turkey to Greece, our final goal was Germany or Holland," said Mohamed Kamel Haj Ali, 52, once a shopkeeper in Syria, who for the time being still lives in Rukla in Lithuania.

"But the land route from Greece was already closed, so we had no choice but to enter the relocation program, which brought us here." Seventy-two out of the 90 Syrians and Iraqis resettled to Lithuania from Greece or Turkey, and granted refugee status under its EU quota, have since left, according to official figures. "The ones who left (for Germany) said they left Syria out of fear of death from bombs, but here they feared they would die from hunger," said Haj Ali. "So they took the risk and left."

### Under EU rules, refugees are forbidden to work or claim

refugee in other member states. Some destroy their identity documents after leaving the Baltics, in the hope of claiming refugee status anew in richer countries like Germany. But Haj Ali, who is in touch with some of the refugees who took the buses from Lithuania to Germany, says things are better there. "They are satisfied living in a German refugee centre, and are receiving everything they are entitled to," he said.

More than half of the 63 refugees given asylum in Latvia under its EU quota have left, according to an estimate by the Latvian Red Cross. The European Union is struggling to implement its 2015 agreement to share 160,000 refugees across 28 member states. Only about 7,500 have been resettled so far. Poland has refused to accept its quota of 7,000, and Slovakia has called for the scheme to be scrapped. "We can't hold them here by force," said Rihards Kozlovskis, interior minister of Latvia. —Reuters



**PARIS:** Two women hold a sign reading 'Paris, city of raids, not refuge' during a demonstration in support of migrants and refugees in Paris. —AFP



**LONDON:** Former UK Independence Party (UKIP) leader, Nigel Farage (right) reacts as he poses with newly-elected leader of the UK Independence Party (UKIP), Paul Nuttall, following the leadership announcement in central London yesterday. —AFP

# UKIP NAMES NEW LEADER TO REPLACE TRUMP ALLY FARAGE

**LONDON:** Britain's anti-EU party UKIP elected former history lecturer Paul Nuttall as its new leader yesterday to take over from Brexit firebrand Nigel Farage, a political ally of US President-elect Donald Trump. Nuttall promised to unite the party—a driving force behind Britain's vote to leave the EU—which has been under threat from bitter infighting and a plunge in funding following Farage's departure announcement.

In his farewell speech, Farage promised he would not be a "backseat driver" in the party but would see out his term as European Parliament lawmaker until 2020 and continue with his Brexit campaigning. Farage said the European project was now "fatally weakened", predicting setbacks in Austria, France, Italy and the Netherlands in the coming months. "Be in no doubt that it is UKIP that is seen as the leading eurosceptic group across the entire continent," Farage said at a conference in London where the result of the leadership ballot of party members was announced.

Tensions within UKIP burst into the open when newly-elected party leader Diane James stepped down in October just 18 days after winning a previous leadership ballot. A fight then broke out between UKIP MEPs in the European Parliament in Strasbourg that put then leadership favorite Steven Woolfe in hospital. Nuttall, 39, stressed the need for unity in the party and said his role would be to ensure that there will be no backsliding on Brexit by the government.

### 2016 a 'great historic year'

Since announcing his resignation following the EU referendum in June, Farage has ridden the wave of his campaign's success to the United States where he appeared at a Trump rally in Mississippi. Despite holding no public office, the beer-drinking "man of the people"—as he is often described—became the first British

politician to meet Trump following the Republican's shock election win. Trump even recommended his anti-establishment ally as US ambassador, in a tweet that ruffled feathers in Downing Street, with British Prime Minister Theresa retorting that there was "no vacancy".

Swapping his usual pint of ale for champagne at a party at London's plush Ritz hotel this week, Farage reveled in the suggestion, holding up a tray of Ferrero Rocher chocolates in reference to the ambassador's reception in an often parodied television advert. In a speech to guests posted on YouTube he said 2016 had been "the year of the big political revolution". "When people look back in 100 years, 200 years, 2016 will stand out as one of those great historic years," he added.

Farage's exuberance cannot mask the turmoil engulfing his party, however. Adding to the leadership fiasco, UKIP was accused this month of using EU funds to finance its Brexit campaign, in breach of party funding rules. Britain's Electoral Commission has also said it will investigate possible breaches of UK election law. The right-wing party has failed to capitalize on the success of the Brexit campaign, suffering a huge loss in financial support since the referendum, with chief donor Arron Banks voicing doubts about its future.

Donations totaled £42,943 (\$53,432, 50,446 euros) between July 1 and September 30, a fall of 97 percent from £1,252,891 in the previous three months, quarterly Electoral Commission figures show. UKIP emerged from the fringes of British politics after playing a key role in the push for a referendum on EU membership. Advocating an anti-immigration agenda, the party scored the third-highest number of votes in the 2015 general election, taking 12.7 percent of the vote. However, the party won only one constituency, making Douglas Carswell UKIP's only MP. —AFP

# GERMANY WARY OF FILLON'S COSY ATTITUDE TO RUSSIA

**BERLIN:** Francois Fillon, frontrunner to become France's next president, has sparked unease in Germany with his friendly attitude toward Russia, which could make him an uncomfortable ally for Chancellor Angela Merkel. Fillon secured the nomination of the French conservative Republicans on Sunday with a resounding victory over his more moderate challenger Alain Juppe. Opinion polls currently predict that he would handily beat far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen in the knock-out finals of next May's presidential elections.

That in itself is cause for relief in Germany, France's traditional core EU partner, which has been rattled by the US election of Donald Trump, the Brexit vote and the rise of right-wing populism in Europe. "Any French president who is not Marine Le Pen is good news for the German government," said Stefani Weiss, analyst on

European issues at think tank the Bertelsmann Foundation. There are other reasons why a Merkel-Fillon duo at the heart of Europe should at first glance be a good fit. Both are from the conservative political family and rooted in the Christian faith, he a Catholic and she a Protestant.

The Frenchman's pledges to drastically shake up the economy and slash state spending are welcomed by the German government, which staunchly preaches austerity and balanced books. Fillon, a self-professed Thatcherite, is depicted in Germany like a French version of former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who drove home painful social welfare reforms in the early 2000s. While deeply contested in those days, the policies of Schroeder, a Social Democrat, have since been credited with bringing down unemployment and making the German economy more competitive. —AFP

# JANTAR MANTAR: INDIA'S PROTEST STREET

**NEW DELHI:** At one end of a backstreet in downtown Delhi a group of women hold a vigil to demand rapists be executed, while at the other acolytes of a spiritual leader arrested for sexual assault demand his release. Anyone seeking a glimpse of the bewildering range of issues animating voters in the world's largest democracy should stroll past parliament and head a few hundred yards north to Jantar Mantar. Here on any given day, everyone from retired generals to landless widows can be seen holding forth in a tree-lined avenue tucked behind some of the city's swankiest hotels and most famous landmarks.

Some protests attract crowds in their thousands while other causes are championed by lone campaigners who hand out leaflets to curious passersby. A stone's throw from India's corridors of power and fenced off with barricades, Jantar Mantar carries echoes of Speaker's Corner in London or the Occupy movement's takeover of McPherson Square in Washington. But as the smell of freshly-cooked dosas and other street food wafts down the road, mingling with the smoke of hand-rolled bidi cigarettes it has a uniquely Indian aroma. The mishmash of malcontents includes some who turn up day after day for years and others who camp out overnight to air their grievances.

A veteran demanding reforms to army pensions poisoned himself to death in early November and in 2015, a farmer hanged himself from a tree in front of horrified onlookers. Santosh Singh has been protesting here for four years to persuade authorities to return land that he says was effectively stolen by his own family by declaring him dead. Singh says his family destroyed all his records and then told the authorities he had died because they wanted his land for themselves. "The media is witness to the fact that I'm alive," Singh said when asked what motivated him day after day.

### Show of strength

Anjit Kumar, an official in the Aam Aadmi anti-corruption party who is a regular visitor in support of a string of causes, says Jantar Mantar is a good place to catch the eye of journalists milling around parliament. "You can show your strength there," he said. Civil protests have a rich history in India, with Mahatma Gandhi's campaigns of non-violence, such as the 1930 Salt March, playing a vital part in shaping opposition to British colonial rule. In the early 1990s, protestors in Delhi used to be able to march up and down Rajpath, the thoroughfare which sweeps past the presidential palace and major government ministries that were built by the



**NEW DELHI:** Activists from 'Save the Cow' tie a cow to a tree at protest venue, Jantar Mantar in New Delhi. — AFP

British. But authorities then began imposing restrictions, eventually designating Jantar Mantar as one of the few places where protestors could gather. Local historian Sohail Hashmi said it was shameful politicians had shunted their critics into a sidestreet. "Those mass mobilizations on Rajpath were an

opportunity for the people to communicate their anger directly to the government. Now it's no longer possible to do anything more than have a symbolic protest," said Hashmi. "How can a government, an elected government, refuse to meet people who have brought them to power?" While ministers

and lawmakers rarely deign to visit, the ranks of outside broadcast vans attest to the media's appetite for the protestors' stories.

### Drum for Trump

When Donald Trump won the US presidency, cameramen were on hand to capture a group of ultra-nationalist Hindus celebrate by banging drums. Some campaigners are less interested in publicity but rather want to demonstrate commitment to a cause, whatever the personal sacrifice. One group of women has been campaigning for nearly four years to demand the death penalty for anyone convicted of rape, including minors, since a deadly gang-rape on a bus in Delhi in December 2012. Some initially quit their jobs but "life became very difficult to manage and they had to go back to work," said one of the protestors who comes in the evenings after a day in the office. Further down the line is an equally passionate group whose demand is for the release of Asaram Bapu, a self-proclaimed Hindu godman or guru, who has been in custody since 2013 on charges of sexual assaulting a 16-year-old girl. Several hundred of the 75-year-old Bapu's supporters clashed with police in May-one of the rare occasions when Jantar Mantar's general culture of lively but peaceful protest degenerated into violence. — AFP

## News

in brief

### Malaysia police release anti-PM protest leader

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Malaysian police yesterday freed the head of a pro-democracy group which organized a mass rally calling on Prime Minister Najib Razak to resign over a massive corruption scandal. Maria Chin Abdullah, chair of the pro-reform NGO alliance "Bersih", was detained on November 18 on the eve of the rally and kept in solitary confinement. Her arrest under a law designed to combat terrorism sparked international criticism including from the US State Department. Despite her arrest, some 20,000 Malaysians clad in the yellow of the reformist Bersih campaign flooded Kuala Lumpur for the second time in 15 months. They were venting anger over allegations that billions of dollars were stolen from state investment fund 1MDB, Najib's brainchild. "Chin has been freed. She is cheerful," her lawyer Gurdial Singh Nijar said. "The police freed her because they have no grounds for her detention." Chin could not be reached for comment but was expected to address her supporters at Independence Square. They have been holding nightly vigils demanding her freedom.

### Venezuela to charge 11 soldiers over 12 deaths

**CARACAS:** Venezuela's state prosecutor said on Sunday it would charge 11 members of the military for responsibility in the death of 12 civilians following a security raid last month in the violent country's coastal state of Miranda. Leftist President Nicolas Maduro last year launched a security campaign known as "Operation to Free the People," or "OLP" to fight crime and gangs in Venezuela, which has one of the world's highest murder rates. Rights groups and residents say authorities have murdered innocent people, arrested thousands, and destroyed private property without legally-mandated court orders. In the Miranda case, 12 bodies were discovered between Friday and Saturday in a mountainous area of the state, the state prosecutor's office said in a statement. "The state prosecutor will attribute several crimes to the arrested officials, including the violation of fundamental rights," the statement read, adding that the 11 members of the military included a lieutenant colonel.



**MALINAU:** Indonesian pilot Abdi Damain (right-lying down) is being rescued as they fly from Malinau to Tarakan in North Kalimantan. — AFP

### Indonesia army chopper pilot saved, 3 crew dead

**JAKARTA:** The pilot of an Indonesian army helicopter was rescued alive three days after the aircraft crashed on Borneo Island, an official said yesterday, but three other crew members were found dead. The injured airman was discovered along with the wreckage of the Bell 412 helicopter Sunday, after the aircraft went down on Thursday as it was transporting supplies to a remote army post near the Malaysian border. "The pilot had to be lifted with a rope because the crash location was difficult to reach," army spokesman Sabrar Fadhillah said, adding he had been taken to hospital for treatment. Search teams yesterday found the bodies of three other male crew members following the discovery of the wreckage in mountainous terrain in North Kalimantan province, Fadhillah said. Rescuers are still searching for a fifth man who remains missing in the remote area. It is just the latest crash for Indonesia's accident-prone military. Twelve people were killed in March when a military helicopter went down in bad weather on Sulawesi in central Indonesia.

# GUNS FALL SILENT, BUT TENSIONS HIGH BETWEEN INDIA, PAKISTAN

## NUCLEAR-ARMED NEIGHBORS AMP UP ARTILLERY

**NEW DELHI:** An uneasy calm has fallen over the de facto border between the Indian and Pakistani-controlled portions of Kashmir after months of deadly firing and signs that the two countries were engaged in a brinkmanship not seen for decades. Though guns have gone silent for the past five days, analysts say the two nuclear-armed neighbors have displayed unprecedented aggression this year without pursuing any real lines of diplomacy. They've amped up the artillery they've used and targeted infrastructure instead of just military outposts. The corpses of soldiers killed in battle have been found mutilated. "The level of retaliation was definitely more intense than what India has done in the past," said defense analyst C Uday Bhaskar of the New Delhi-based think tank Society for Policy Studies.

"There is a danger of it spiraling out of control," Bhaskar said. "If both sides decide that neither side will blink, then the collateral damage will only increase." That could also mean recalling diplomats, halting the buses ferrying people back and forth across the border, or stopping all trade. In 2015, bilateral trade amounted to just \$2.6 billion - far below the \$10.9 billion Indian government economists say is possible under normal relations. India and Pakistan have long been foes, fighting two of their three wars over their rival claims to the Himalayan region of Kashmir. Countless rounds of peace talks have yielded scant results.

The two sides reached a cease-fire agreement in 2003 which held for the first few years, but has seen frequent violations since then. Meanwhile, India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri rebels fighting to oust India from the Muslim-majority region. Pakistan denies the allegation, saying it offers the rebels only moral support, and accuses India of an illegal military occupation of the disputed mountain territory. Tensions began building this year as Kashmiri civilians on the Indian-controlled side rose up in rebellion, demanding independence or a merger with Pakistan. Violent street protests and clashes with Indian forces left 90 civilians dead and thousands injured.

### 'Surgical strikes'

The situation escalated further in September after anti-India rebels launched an attack on an Indian army base in the western Kashmiri town of Uri, killing 19 soldiers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised "a befitting reply to those who dare to attack India," and India retaliated by sending small groups of military commandos across the border for what it called "surgical strikes" on terror bases. India said a dozen suspected rebels were slain, which Pakistan denied.

Pakistan's outgoing military chief, Gen. Raheel Sharif, promised that "India will be taught a lesson." The two sides then spent two months firing aggressively at each other. As days turned to weeks, villagers were evacuated from areas near the



**KASHMIR:** Indian army soldiers patrol near the highly militarized Line of Control dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan, in Palianwal sector, about 75 kilometers (46.8 miles) from Jammu, India. — AP

Line of Control, the de facto border that divides Kashmir into the separate territories administered by India and Pakistan. Pakistan, along with some residents near the border, accused India of using the Uri attack to ramp up border hostilities in order to distract attention from the public protests within Indian-controlled Kashmir.

### Bollywood films banned

As the shelling intensified, schools near the frontier were shut down indefinitely. Farmers abandoned their crops to rot. Pakistani cinemas banned Bollywood films, while Indian filmmakers vowed to never hire Pakistani actors. Last week, the body of one of three Indian soldiers killed by rebels was found mutilated, a month after another Indian soldier was found beheaded. Indian military officers, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military rules, acknowledged the tensions have escalated to the highest level since the cease-fire came into effect. "Our reaction time is swift and severe. It's no more wait and watch, no more hold your fire to see what the higher bosses have to say," an army officer in Kashmir said. — AP

### SIKH MILITANT COMMANDER RECAPTURED AFTER JAILBREAK

**NEW DELHI:** A top Sikh militant commander was recaptured by police in the Indian capital Delhi yesterday, a day after he was freed in a dramatic jailbreak by a gang wearing police uniforms. Harminder Singh Minto, who heads a Sikh separatist group, was arrested on the outskirts of Delhi some 200 kilometers from the high-security prison in Punjab where he had been remanded on terror charges.

"He was caught near Delhi yesterday and will be brought to Punjab," A S Chahal, a senior local police official said. Four other inmates who also escaped during the breakout-members of a local criminal gang jailed for murder-are still at large, Chahal added. Minto, leader of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) - a militant group fighting for a Sikh homeland in Punjab-was arrested in 2014 and was in jail awaiting trial for terrorism offences.

He was freed in an early morning raid on Sunday by at least 10 armed men wearing police uniforms. They stabbed one guard and opened fire before fleeing with the prisoners in cars.

Three policemen were injured in the assault, which prompted a massive hunt for the fugitives. A woman was killed on a highway a few miles from the prison when police opened fire on her car after the driver allegedly failed to stop at a checkpoint. Police later said she had no connection with the escapees. A 2.5 million rupee (\$36,000) reward was offered for information on Minto's whereabouts. It was not clear if the bounty had played any part in his recapture yesterday.

Three top prison officers were sacked or suspended following the jailbreak. Sunday's raid was the second major prison break in India in less than a month. In October eight Islamist militants escaped from a jail in central Madhya Pradesh state. They were gunned down hours later in a shootout. The Sikh separatist insurgency in Punjab largely waned in the late 90s, but several groups remain committed to the Khalistan movement and dozens of alleged Sikh militants are in prison. The bloody campaign-launched in the 1970s-claimed more than 20,000 lives, mostly civilian. — AFP

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# NORTH KOREA MOURNS CASTRO: A DISTANT 'COMRADE'

**PYONGYANG:** North Korea began three days of official mourning yesterday for late Cuban leader Fidel Castro, remembering him as a "close friend" and heroic ally in a joint struggle against US aggression. Flags flew at half-mast at official buildings across the country as a mark of respect for the revolutionary icon, despite a relationship that was often warmer in rhetoric than reality. In the Pyongyang subway, commuters in one station crowded around a glass case containing a Castro obituary published by the ruling party newspaper, Rodong Sinmun.

Alongside a picture framed with a black border and showing a head-and-shoulder shot of a bearded Castro in full military dress, the obit recalled his visit to North Korea in 1986 when he met founder-leader Kim Il-Sung. It noted that the Cuban leader was awarded the title of "DPRK (North Korea) Hero" for his efforts to strengthen relations between two countries "fighting in the outposts of the anti-

US, anti-imperialist struggle." Kim Hong-Chol, 76, a retired literary researcher in Pyongyang, said he clearly remembered Kim's visit. "He was a great revolutionary. Until the last minute he supported and defended our revolution, and fought intensely for anti-imperialist independence and against America," Kim said.

Asked about the historic restoration of Cuba-US diplomatic relations last year, Kim said Havana had acted "tactically for Cuba's revolutionary benefit". Ordinary North Koreans usually express only officially-sanctioned views when questioned by foreign news organizations. North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un sent a condolence message on Castro's death, calling him a "close friend and comrade" of the Korean people. An official delegation led by senior Kim aide and vice chairman of the ruling Workers' Party Central Committee, Choe Ryong-Hae, left for Havana yesterday to attend memorial events.

Castro only made the one visit to the



**PYONGYANG:** A general view shows the Pyongyang city skyline. — AFP

North. The fact that it came decades after the Cuban revolution and Kim's ascent to power was partly a reflection of a geographical, cultural and often ideological divide that a shared hatred of the "US enemy" could never fully bridge. Neither

Kim Il-Sung nor his son and successor Kim Jong-Il who had a profound fear of flying-ever made the trip to Havana. During the 1970s they were rivals in the Non-Aligned Movement, with Castro favoring the Soviet Union while Kim Il-Sung kept an equal distance from Moscow and Beijing in a bid to play the communist giants off each other.

When Castro attended a NAM summit in Malaysia in 2003, he stopped off in China, Japan and Vietnam-but not North Korea. But if personal chemistry was lacking, the two countries remained allies, with Cuba one of the few countries willing to flout the international sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear weapons program. In 2013 Panama seized a North Korean ship carrying an undeclared Cuban arms shipment of Soviet-era weapons and fighter jets hidden under sacks of sugar. North Korea insisted the weapons were being shipped for repair, prior to their return. — AFP

## CITY OF LONDON WILL BOUNCE BACK DESPITE BREXIT: MAYOR

**LONDON:** The Brexit vote has shaken the City of London but will not destroy it despite creating uncertainty, the newly-installed Lord Mayor of the financial hub said. Speaking at his offices opposite the Bank of England, Andrew Parmley spoke of his concerns about attracting high-skilled workers and how City firms will be able to do business in the European Union after Britain leaves. 'Storms come around but we weather them every time,' 60-year-old Parmley, the City's 689th Lord Mayor in eight centuries, said in an interview at his official residence Mansion House.

The Lord Mayors rule over the Square Mile, an area with 8,000 residents which every day hosts some 450,000 employees, mainly in the financial services sector. Parmley officially took up the post on November 11 in an environment that he

said presented 'some challenges', following Britain's vote on June 23 to leave the EU. The referendum result was a shock for the City, raising fears that it could lose its top-flight global status alongside New York.

The main concern for the City is the loss of passporting rights, a money-saving mechanism that allows financial products approved by a single regulator in a member state to be sold in the entire European Union. Losing this advantage could push some companies to move at least some of their activities to continental Europe in order to be able to continue to do business.

'Some businesses have undoubtedly made plans to relocate,' Parmley said, although he added there have been no major announcements as 'most people are still waiting.' — AFP

## INDONESIA POLICE, MUSLIM LEADERS AIMING FOR 'SUPER PEACEFUL' RALLY

**JAKARTA:** Indonesia's police chief said that a rally to be held by Muslim groups on Friday calling for the ouster of Jakarta's Christian governor would be "super peaceful" and confined to a park to help prevent a repeat of protest violence earlier this month. More than 100,000 Muslims, led by hardliners, took to the streets on Nov 4 to protest against Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, who is accused of insulting the Quran. One person was killed and more than 100 were wounded when the protest, the biggest in the city in recent years, briefly turned violent, and police fired tear gas and water cannon.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population and is home to Christian and Hindu communities. National Police Chief Tito Karnavian said authorities had agreed with organizers that the rally would be held in a park in central Jakarta, rather than on streets running through traffic-clogged central Jakarta. "We will prepare everything, so we hope everything will be orderly and super peaceful," Karnavian told a news conference. In a sign of greater coordination between authorities and protest organizers, Muslim leaders also attended the news conference.

Habib Rizieq, the head of the Islamic

Defenders Front (FPI), a hardline group backing the recent rallies, said it wanted the governor to be arrested immediately but pledged the demonstration would be peaceful. Karnavian said he hoped that other groups, such as trades unions, would delay protests planned for the same day and that no third party would try to disrupt the demonstration. President Joko Widodo has blamed "political actors" for fanning violence without naming anyone and the police chief has also said some demonstrators may try to use the rallies to storm parliament.

The trigger for the recent religious tensions was a comment that Jakarta governor Purnama, the first Christian and ethnic Chinese in the job, made about his opponents' use of the Koran in political campaigning. Police have named Purnama a suspect in the blasphemy probe. He faces up to five years in prison if found guilty. Police have concluded their investigation and given the dossier to the Attorney General's office, which will decide whether to proceed. Purnama, popularly known as Ahok, is running for re-election in February against two Muslim candidates. He denies any wrongdoing but has apologized for his comments. — Reuters



**JAKARTA:** Indonesian Muslims hold a rally outside of Myanmar embassy against 'ethnic cleansing' in Myanmar of Rohingya Muslims, in Jakarta. — AFP



**BANDA ACEH:** A religious officer canes an Acehnese man 100 times for having sex outside marriage, which is against sharia law, in Banda Aceh yesterday. — AFP

# INDONESIAN WOMAN SCREAMS IN PAIN DURING ACEH CANING

THE LATEST IN A GROWING NUMBER OF WOMEN PUBLICLY FLOGGED

**BANDA ACEH:** An Indonesian woman screamed in agony yesterday as she was caned in Aceh, the latest in a growing number of women to be publicly flogged for breaking the province's strict Islamic laws. Aceh is the only province in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country that imposes sharia law. People can face floggings for a range of offences-from gambling, to drinking alcohol, to gay sex. In the latest caning, five people-two women and three men-were flogged in front of a cheering crowd at a mosque in the provincial capital Banda Aceh.

The 34-year-old woman who yelled in pain had been found guilty of spending time in close proximity with a man who was not her husband in contravention of Aceh's Islamic regulations. She was lashed seven times with a rattan cane by a man wearing long robes and a hood, with just slits for the eyes. "It hurts so bad," the woman said, raising her arms into the air, as she was beaten. The 32-year-old man with whom she was caught was also flogged seven times. Two university students, both 19, received 100 lashes of the cane after they confessed to sex outside marriage. They stared at the ground as they were flogged, showing little emotion.

A man found guilty of sex outside marriage was flogged 22 times although his partner, who is two-months pregnant, is still waiting to learn her fate after facing trial at an Islamic court. However Aceh authorities typically spare pregnant women from canings. Aceh, on Sumatra island, began



**BANDA ACEH:** A religious officer canes an Acehnese woman for spending time in close proximity with a man who is not her husband. — AFP

implementing sharia law after being granted special autonomy in 2001, an attempt by the central government in Jakarta to quell a long-running separatist insurgency. Islamic laws have been

strengthened since the province struck a peace deal with Jakarta in 2005, and there has been a particular increase in the number of women being caned in recent times. — AFP

# POVERTY AND DESPAIR BREED NEW GENERATION OF PHILIPPINE REBELS

**SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS:** In the late-night hours and amid the chirp of crickets, Katryn welcomed a huddle of exhausted Filipino journalists in cheerful spirits like she was home. "Coffee?" she asked with a comforting smile. Comrade Katryn is her nom de guerre, however, and for her, home is a rebel encampment concealed in the rain-soaked wilderness of the Philippines' Sierra Madre Mountains. The 24-year-old walked away from her family two years ago to join one of the world's longest-raging Marxist rebellions.

Mostly in their 20s and 30s, a few dozen New People's Army guerrillas lugged M16 rifles and grenade launchers on a plateau where red hammer-and-sickle flags adorned a makeshift hall. Most wore mud-stained boots while cooking over wood fires or guarding the peripheries of the encampment, just 3 kilometers from the nearest army camp. They're part of a new generation of Maoist fighters who reflect the resiliency and constraints of an insurgency that has dragged on for nearly half a century through six Philippine presidencies while Cold War-era communist insurgencies across much of the world have faded into memory. They are driven by some of the same things as their predecessors, including crush-

ing poverty, despair, government misrule and the abysmal inequality that has long plagued Philippine society.

"The New People's Army has no other recruiter but the state itself," a young rebel, Comrade May, told The Associated Press. She joined the rebellion two years ago after her fiancé died of kidney failure because his family was too poor to afford the expensive dialysis treatment. A lowly paid factory worker, May couldn't do anything. Government hospitals overwhelmed by swarms of indigent patients failed to give him immediate care. "His family gave up and reserved the remaining money for his coffin," said May, who now serves as a rebel medic for fellow guerrillas and destitute villagers beyond the government's reach.

Katryn came from a middle-class family that could afford a car, a house and education. She wanted to become a journalist, but got profoundly disaffected by a government and laws she said could not protect the working class, including her father, who lost his job as an engineer for joining a trade union. She said she went underground as a left-wing activist and bid goodbye to her father, her mother, who was a former teacher, and a life of modest comforts. "It was difficult. I cried," she said.

### Flow of insurgency

Now adjusted to rebel life, Katryn said she'll stay for good. She agreed to face news cameras with just a dash of red and blue paint - the colors of the revolution - to camouflage her identity. The rebellion's longevity is best personified by Jaime Padilla, or Comrade Diego, who was introduced as the new rebel commander and spokesman in a region that has seen the ebb and flow of the insurgency. Now 69, he took up arms when then-dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972, largely to quell the spreading communist insurrection that began four years earlier.

Donning a newly designed ceremonial khaki uniform topped by a Mao cap, the folksy rebel leader with a ready smile gave an upbeat assessment of the rebellion. The military, however, says it has largely beaten back the guerrillas in most of the provinces south of Manila where Padilla's rebel forces have had a presence. Battle setbacks, surrenders and infighting have weakened the rebel group, which is blacklisted as a terrorist organization by the United States. A confidential Philippine government assessment obtained by the AP says the guerrillas had declined to 3,800 fighters with more than 4,500 firearms in the first half of the year, with about 700 of the country's

42,000 villages affected by the insurgency. The insurgent group "remains as a threat to national security due to its stance of not abandoning the armed struggle," the report said.

### Ups and downs

"It's true that the armed struggle has gone through ups and downs, that's a part of history," Padilla said. But he added that the rebellion "will not disappear because of the fundamental needs of the people. The problems have persisted, and that's the platform of the rebellion." Founded in 1968, the rebels' communist party has held peace talks with six Philippine presidents, including Rodrigo Duterte, whose rise to power in June sparked rebel optimism due to his searing anti-US rhetoric, populist pro-poor stance and appointments of at least two left-wing Cabinet members. Both sides declared separate and indefinite cease-fires in August.

But the guerrillas found themselves in a dilemma after Duterte was accused of gross human rights violations for his anti-drug crackdown, which has left a large number of poor suspected drug users and dealers dead. Some of the slain suspects were rebel followers who were never involved in drugs, Padilla said. Duterte's recent decision to allow Marcos' burial at a

heroes' cemetery, his walking back on his angry threats to scale down Philippine engagements with the US military and rebel allegations of military violations of its own cease-fire have dampened the optimism. About a month ago, Padilla's rebel command offered to provide security to Duterte, calling him a patriot and suspecting that American forces may covertly take steps to kill or oust him over his anti-US stance.

After Marcos' burial at the heroes' cemetery, the communist party denounced Duterte for showing "gross disrespect and insensitivity to the Filipino people's sufferings under the brutal martial law rule" and urged him "to reverse this historical wrong" or risk facing mounting protests and political isolation. But Padilla said the guerrillas will remain sincerely engaged in Norway-brokered peace talks that have given them respite from decades of fighting that is estimated to have left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead. "While in a cease-fire, we continue to consolidate our ranks, our recruitment of our forces from the mass bases who are ready to revolt," Padilla said. "We can talk to (the government) at the table to resolve the people's problems," he said, but added, "We're always prepared for any breakup and continue our armed struggle." — AP



COLUMBUS, Ohio: Law enforcement officials are seen outside a parking garage on the campus of Ohio State University as they respond to an active attack yesterday. —AFP

## EIGHT HURT IN OHIO STATE CAMPUS ATTACK, ALERT OVER

**CHICAGO:** Eight people were injured when an attacker apparently drove into a crowd at Ohio State University yesterday, triggering an hours-long lockdown before authorities declared the campus secure. Law enforcement shot and killed one suspect, according to local television station WBNS, which reported that police led two people out in handcuffs from a garage they had surrounded on the university's main campus in Columbus.

A witness suggested that a suspect was driving a red SUV. The incident was called an active shooter situation, but it was unclear whether any of the victims had suffered firearm injuries. Some reports suggested the attacker or attackers used a knife. "Shelter in Place lifted. Scene is now secure. ALL classes are canceled on Columbus campus for the remainder of the day," the OSU emergency management services tweeted as it declared the incident over.

Television footage showed students leaving school buildings as Rebecca Diehm, spokeswoman for the Columbus fire department, said eight people had been transported to hospital. One was in critical condition, and

the rest were stable, she said. OSU Wexner Medical Center tweeted that it was treating four victims, none with life-threatening injuries.

### 'Everybody Was Running'

Earlier the university's emergency management service had urged students and staff to shelter in place amid reports of an active shooter, as SWAT teams fanned out across the facility. "Buckeye Alert: Active Shooter on campus. Run Hide Fight. Watts Hall. 19th and College," the service said in a tweet. A second tweet moments later told the public to "Continue to shelter in place. Avoid area of College." Details were murky as the situation unfolded. One student told MSNBC she was walking along a road on campus when a car plowed into a group of people, including a police officer.

Another student, Joseph Noll, said he heard a fire alarm, but no shooting - and also said a car had driven into the crowd. "I was right there, and there was no one shot," he told WBNS. "Someone DID run over a crowd of people with

their car. I can tell you that for sure." "I just heard some screams, and I saw people running," he said. "And everyone just fled the scene immediately."

Student Cydney Ireland told ABC she was walking out of class when she also heard screams. "And then after that - which this is kind of strange - there was a whistle almost like a referee whistle. I wondered if a sports team was practicing. That's kind of an unusual thing to hear in the aca-

demie area," she said. "Probably five seconds after that, there were three gunshots. Everybody was running in any direction they possibly could, students were running out of the classroom building," she said from her hiding spot in a locked bathroom. Ohio State is one of the largest universities in the United States, with roughly 60,000 students on the main campus in Columbus, which sprawls across more than 1,900 acres. — AFP

## KUWAIT TO BUY 28 US F-18 JETS

Continued from Page 1

The National Assembly in March approved spending an additional \$500 million as an advance payment for the jets. That funding came on top of \$10 billion additional defense spending already approved by parliament in January to

upgrade the country's military. Kuwait is a member of the US-led coalition bombing Islamic State group targets in Syria and Iraq, and is also taking part in a Saudi-led coalition pounding Iran-backed rebels in Yemen. Last year, it bought 24 Caracal military tactical transport helicopters and French light armored vehicles. — Agencies

## CABINET RESIGNS; INAUGURAL ASSEMBLY...

Continued from Page 1

The government's likely choice should be Ghanem, who cooperated very well with it in the previous Assembly, but new political realities could change the picture. The opposition members are expected to start holding meetings to form a bloc or a number of blocs in the Assembly and coordinate the election of the next speaker. Meetings are expected to take place before this weekend.

The National Democratic Alliance, a liberal opposition grouping, yesterday said it will not participate in the next government. The group, which normally participated with more than one minister, said its decision is based on the previous government's performance, defending ministers with suspicions around them and the absence of

accountability.

NDA also called for reading well the results of the election and set priorities for the new Assembly. It said its top priority is to work out a new election law which has political and popular support, completing the judicial independence legislation, reconsidering a draft law for political parties and scrapping the DNA testing and political exclusion laws. The alliance strongly criticized the existing voting system, saying it has fragmented the Kuwaiti society.

Islamist opposition MP Jamaan Al-Harbash, tipped to lead the opposition bloc, said the results of the election have strongly annoyed the government because of the failure of its voting system to produce a government majority, and also because of a strong opposition.

## SCORES RALLY AGAINST INDIAN CURRENCY BAN

Continued from Page 1

"The way demonetization has been implemented, it will hurt agricultural growth and all those people working in the informal sector."

Over 90 percent of transactions in India are conducted in cash and many of the country's poorest have no access to banking. Many have been left without enough cash to buy food or daily essentials, while farmers have been unable to buy seeds and small traders say business has

fallen off a cliff. Nonetheless Modi has repeatedly defended the scheme, accusing its detractors of being tax evaders and urging all Indians to switch to non-cash payment methods.

Yesterday, the government proposed introducing a penalty of 85 percent for anyone caught with undeclared money, but said it would charge anyone who comes forward voluntarily a lower rate of 50 percent. Parliament has yet to approve the proposal, which is contained in an amendment to the existing tax laws. — AFP

## IN MAJOR BLOW, REBELS LOSE NORTHEAST ALEPPO

Continued from Page 1

districts with little more than the clothes they wore, an AFP correspondent said. He said dozens of families arrived in southern Aleppo overnight, and they were being housed in empty buildings left behind by earlier waves of fleeing residents.

People in southern neighborhoods were donating blankets and other items to the new arrivals, who had travelled on foot, exhausted, cold and hungry. The United Nations said it was "deeply concerned" about the plight of civilians in the east, which has been besieged for more than four months, with international aid exhausted and food stocks desperately low. The UN has appealed for access to the east many times, but has failed to secure the necessary guarantees to enable aid deliveries.

The government advances mean the regime now controls at least a third of eastern Aleppo, just under two weeks into its renewed bid to recapture the city. State television said the army had captured the key Suleiman Al-Halabi water pumping station, which controls supply to government-held west Aleppo and has periodically been shut by rebels. And state news agency

SANA said two people had been killed in rebel fire on western Aleppo.

Yasser Youssef, an official from the Nureddin Al-Zinki rebel group, said the government's advance was the result of support from Moscow and Tehran, both staunch allies of Damascus. "For all the past years, we have resisted with the primitive means we have had, but today we're resisting Iran and Russia," he said. The assault has been waged with heavy air strikes, barrel bomb attacks and artillery fire that has killed at least 225 civilians, including 27 children, in east Aleppo, according to the Observatory.

Rebel fire into the government-held west has also killed at least 27 civilians, among them 11 children, since Nov 15, the monitor says. Syria's Al-Watan daily, which is close to the government, said the next stage of the operation would be "to divide the remaining (rebel-held) area into... districts that will be easily controlled and to capture them successively". Fabrice Balanche, a Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said the regime retaking east Aleppo "would be a turning point" as it would then hold "the five largest cities in Syria" including the capital. — AFP

Kuwait Times

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P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.  
E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net  
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

## Focus

ALEPPO KEY TO  
REGIME VICTORY

President Bashar Al-Assad is determined to retake Syria's second city Aleppo to deal a decisive blow to the rebels ahead of a possible change in US foreign policy, analysts say. Assad's regime has in recent months been pressing a series of offensives to seize control of the devastated city's east, which has been in rebel hands since 2012. The latest assault made a major breakthrough on Saturday when government forces seized the largest of the city's opposition-controlled neighborhoods.

For Assad's regime, taking Aleppo would be "one of its greatest victories", Middle East expert Mathieu Guidere says, stressing the city's "extraordinary historical, political and geopolitical prestige". "It was one of the first cities to be taken by the armed opposition," he adds. Syria's former economic capital and industrial hub lies at a strategic commercial crossroads near the border with Turkey. The city has been roughly divided since 2012 into a rebel-held east and a government-controlled west.

Fabrice Balanche, a Syria expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, says the regime retaking east Aleppo would be a turning point "as it would then control 'the five largest cities in Syria'. Assad's forces already control the capital Damascus, the central cities of Homs and Hama and the coastal city of Latakia. Bringing Aleppo under their control would also give regime forces a better chance at taking back the north-western province of Idlib, which is almost entirely held by rebels and militants.

## 'Balance of Power'

Bassam Abu Abdallah, an analyst close to the Damascus regime, says east Aleppo's fall would "tip the balance of power in the conflict". Regime forces have since July 17 besieged east Aleppo, where some 250,000 civilians face severe food and fuel shortages and nearly all hospitals have been damaged by bombardment. "The aim is to push these (rebel) groups towards a scenario like in Homs," Abu Abdallah says, referring to Syria's third city where rebels were defeated in 2014 after two years of regime siege and bombardment.

The current offensive will either lead to a truce or to rebels being evacuated towards other opposition-held areas in Syria, he says. The latest regime push comes after days of intense bombardment of the east, which has been pounded with air strikes, shells and barrel bombs. Analysts say the relentless bombing also aims to push war-battered, hungry residents to turn against the armed opposition.

More than 4,000 civilians fled rebel-held districts into regime-held areas this weekend in the first exodus of the kind in east Aleppo since 2012. Assad's regime "can only take back a territory if its population no longer backs the rebels", Balanche says. The government regaining control of Aleppo would mark the end of fighting on a major battlefield in a war that has killed 300,000 people since it started in 2011 with the brutal repression of anti-government protests.

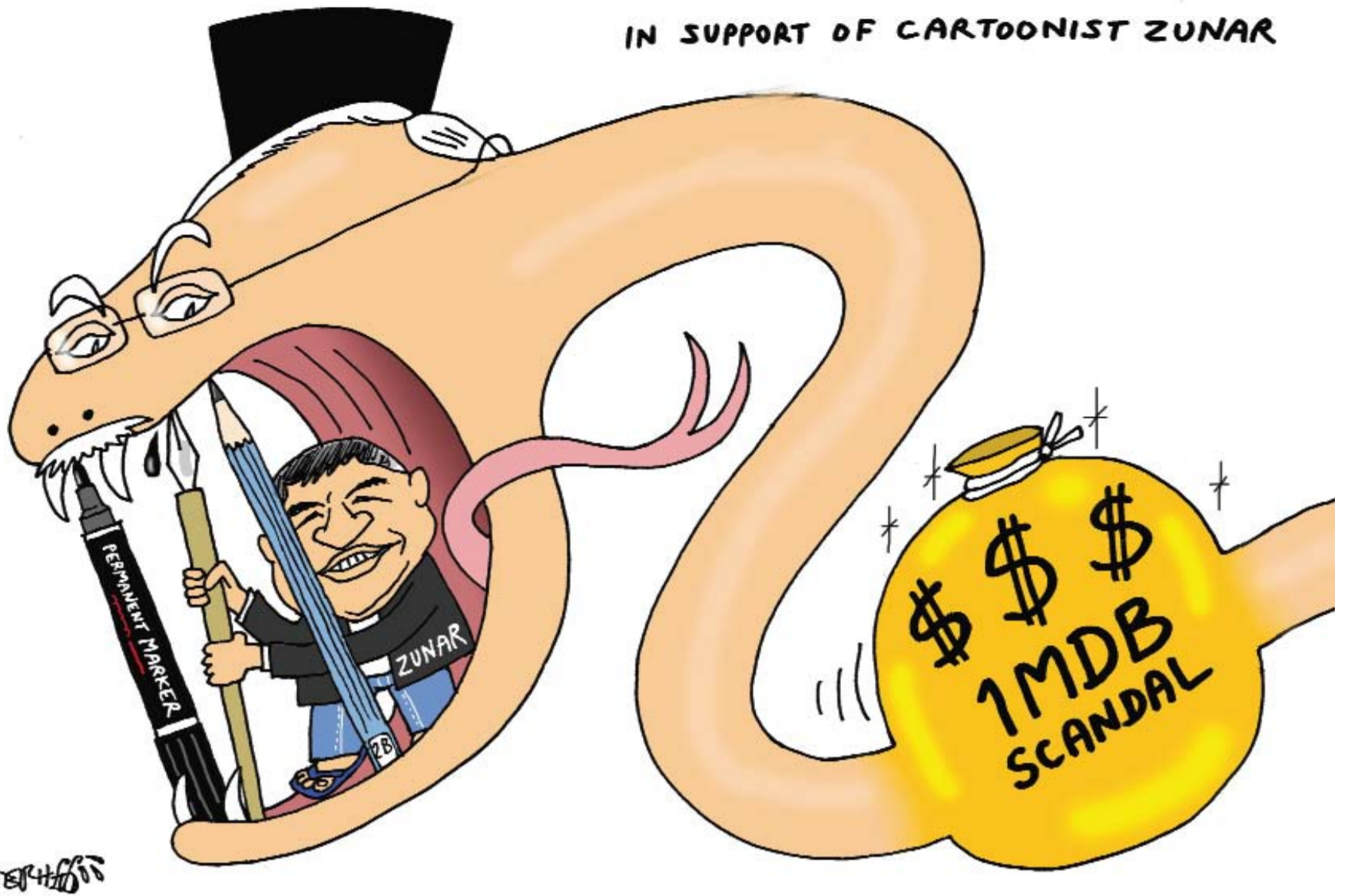
## Upper Hand in Talks

Rebels would then control pockets of territory only in the southern province of Daraa, the birthplace of the uprising, and near Damascus where they have lost their previous bastions of Daraya and Moadamiyeh Al-Sham. A defeat in Aleppo would mean rebel groups "are no longer able to maintain the population under their control or protect them", Guidere says. Balanche says the insurgents losing Aleppo would show the "opposition is incapable of a major military success" and dash its hopes of presenting itself as a viable alternative to the Damascus regime.

Aleppo's fate will be key in any resumption of stalled peace talks to end the five-and-a-half-year war after three failed attempts at UN-brokered dialogue this year. Guidere says the regime would have the upper hand and "tend to want to negotiate even less" if it seized east Aleppo. US president-elect Donald Trump taking up office in less than two months' time and a possible subsequent change in American foreign policy could also give Assad the advantage.

If Damascus controls both the capital and Aleppo in January when Trump arrives in the White House, "he may say replacing the regime is categorically out of the question", Guidere says. Balanche agrees: "We know Trump doesn't really want to invest himself in Syria. If Aleppo falls... it will no longer be worth supporting the opposition." — AFP

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## IS YOUR T-SHIRT CLEAN OF SLAVERY?

Shoppers lured by a bargain-priced T-shirt but concerned about whether the item is free of slave labor could soon have the answer - from DNA forensic technology. James Hayward, chief executive of US-based Applied DNA Sciences Inc. that develops DNA-based technology to prevent counterfeiting and ensure authenticity, said his researchers have been working in the cotton industry for up to nine years.

He said this was prompted by rising concerns about the global cotton industry, that provides income for more than 250 million people, using child and slave labor in harvesting the crop and the during the production process to make clothes. Hayward said cotton was one of the most complex supply chains he had come across because it was grown in more than 100 countries and goes through a multi-stage transformation process before emerging in "fast fashion" that is cheap and disposable.

"Often each country (is) performing a single function in the transformation of a mature cotton fibre, a single cell into a finished product like a cotton shirt... along the way there are many opportunities for cheating," said Hayward. "Our primary aim is to cleanse the cotton supply chain and by that, I mean eliminating any diversion, any mislabelling, any counterfeiting that can take place throughout the cotton supply chain," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Hayward said an ideal way to ascertain the true identity of a natural commodity was to use the DNA that nature

gave that commodity or to mark it with a manufactured DNA. This could allow the cotton can be traced to where it was picked before it went into the ginning process that cleans away seed and other debris for packaging into bails to ship around the world for spinning, dyeing and to make into clothes.

## Origins Traced

During this process mislabelling can happen and substitute fibres added to cotton, with retailers and governments increasingly aware of this. Hayward said a key issue is where the substitute fibres originate from as some countries have used state-sponsored slavery to collect that cotton. Modern slavery has become a catch-all term to describe human trafficking, forced labor, debt bondage, sex trafficking, forced marriage and other slave-like exploitation.

An estimated 46 million people are living as slaves, according to the 2016 Global Slavery Index by the Walk Free Foundation, which said Uzbekistan - the world's fifth-largest cotton exporter - Turkmenistan and Tajikistan were forcing people to work in the annual cotton harvest. Over 264 brands have signed up to a global pledge set up by the Responsible Sourcing Network (RSN), run by the California-based charity As You Sow, vowing not to use Uzbek cotton until the government stops using forced child and adult labor.

"I think many consumers would be appalled to con-

template the notion that their garment they're wearing could be the product of human trafficking," Hayward said. He said Applied DNA Sciences was primarily working with two different types of DNA - an engineered DNA made from a botanical source that allowed it to track that fibre back to its origin. It was also trying to identify the natural DNA found in cotton fibre that allowed researchers to know which species the cotton fibre is and where it comes from.

He said this gave hints that could provide a trail from finished goods back to the crop although the level of analysis had not gone far enough yet to be truly forensic. But he said it would let a retailer or brand owner pick up their level of attention and investigate a bit further into their supply chain - particularly as they are facing mounting pressure from governments to ensure supply chains are clean. "We do expect that in the next year or two it will be forensic and we will be able to distinguish the global cultivars of cotton based on their point of origin," he said.

"While our project is not yet complete we can certainly discern the differences between some Uzbek strains of cotton versus American sources of a similar cotton ... the DNA tells a story and it's very commercially and also relevant to humanity," Hayward said unravelling the complex cotton supply chain could set an example on how to tackle other industries. "If we can help fix that we can help fix much easier to sort our supply chains like pharmaceuticals," he said. — Reuters

## RENZI FACES PRESSURE TO STAY IN OFFICE

When a handful of European leaders met Barack Obama in Berlin this month to say their goodbyes, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi informed the group that he may well lose power before the US president. While Obama leaves office on Jan 20, Renzi has promised to resign if he does not win a Dec 4 referendum on constitutional reform, opening the way for renewed political instability in the eurozone's third largest economy. "I have no desire to hang around if I lose," Renzi told the gathering, according to a diplomatic source who was at the low-key Nov 18 meeting.

Opinion polls now predict Renzi's defeat, in what would be the third big anti-establishment revolt by voters this year in a major Western country, following Britain's unexpected vote to leave the European Union and the US election of Donald Trump. Pressure is mounting on Renzi to drop his threat and instead agree to remain in power to deal with the fallout from a 'No' vote, including the risk of a full-blown banking crisis.

Obama himself said in October that Renzi should "hang around for a while no matter what" and a number of businessmen and senior government officials contacted by Reuters said they feared the worst if the prime minister abandoned his post. "My personal opinion is that Renzi should stay," Industry Minister Carlo Calenda said in an interview on Friday. "What needs to be considered ... is what is good for the country." Three centre-left politicians who are in regular contact with Renzi told Reuters that he would honor his word and immediately resign if he is beaten, worried that failure to do so would do irreparable damage to his political image.

## Impulsive

The Italian president could appeal to Renzi's sense of responsibility and ask him to seek a new mandate from parliament. His response might depend on the size of any defeat, with one advisor saying the 41-year-old premier could quit politics altogether if he suffers a huge snub next Sunday. "He is young and impulsive," said the official, who declined to be named. "If the result is terrible, he might decide to call it a day and do something else with his life."

The referendum proposes constitutional reforms to strengthen the lower house of parliament and reduce the authority of the upper house Senate. Regions would lose some decision-making powers to bolster

central government. Renzi says the project is necessary to make Italy, which has had 63 governments since 1948, governable enough to enact reforms needed to revive its moribund economy. Opponents say it would reduce democratic checks and balances.

In the first week in December, Italy's third largest bank Monte dei Paschi di Siena has to launch a A5 billion (\$5.3 billion) cash call. Investors are not expected to jump in if political instability prevails, meaning the state will almost certainly have to intervene swiftly to stave off collapse. Although business leaders support Renzi's reforms, they have kept quiet during the referendum campaign, fearing they would prove the kiss-of-death in an era of anti-establishment angst.

But they are increasingly alarmed by the prospect of heavily indebted Italy drifting once more into political paralysis. "I am afraid that if he loses the referendum (Renzi) really will give up," Ferruccio Ferragamo, chairman of fashion house Salvatore Ferragamo, told Reuters. "Italy can react to anything, but this really would be a step back."

## No Safety Car

Opinion polls cannot be legally published in the final two weeks of campaigning, but the last 40 surveys released before the Nov 18 cut-off showed the 'No' camp ahead by up to 11 percentage points. A source in Renzi's Democratic Party (PD) said on Friday that private polls suggested this gap had closed to five points with a quarter of voters still undecided, meaning victory was still possible. Initially the plan was backed by 70 per cent of Italians, but when an over-confident Renzi said at the end of 2015 he would resign if defeated, opposition parties turned the referendum into a de facto ballot on his 2-1/2 years in office.

His record is mixed. Despite many reforms, Italy is set to have the third lowest growth in the 28-nation European Union in 2016 and the second lowest next year, according to EU forecasts. Unemployment is stuck above 11 percent and wages are stagnant. A loss would provide more evidence of voter fury in Europe ahead of elections in France and Germany next year. And Renzi's exit could benefit populist comedian Beppe Grillo, who wants to ditch

the euro currency and whose Five Star movement won more than a quarter of the vote in Italy's last general election in 2013.

Renzi acknowledges that personalizing the vote was a mistake and in August he changed tack, refusing to discuss his future while on the campaign trail. But with polls showing no sign of recovery, the prime minister has doubled down on his original threat over the past two weeks. "I'm not willing to take part in old-style political games. Either we change or I have no role to play," Renzi said this month - a line he regularly repeats at the frenzied round of rallies and media interviews he is undertaking before Dec 4.

If he quits, it is not immediately clear what would happen next. The straightforward answer would be for Italy to hold national elections a year ahead of schedule. But Renzi was so confident of victory in the referendum that he introduced a new electoral law in 2015 just for the lower house, believing the Senate would no longer be in play. To avoid using different electoral systems for the two houses, parliament would have to devise a new election law, which could take much of 2017.

President Sergio Mattarella, the supreme arbiter of Italian politics, could ask Renzi to oversee this reform as head of a so-called "single-purpose government", but the prime minister's allies say he would never agree to such a limited mandate. "Renzi can't serve as a safety car," PD lawmaker Matteo Richetti told Reuters, referring to the car that takes to the track after accidents in Formula One motor racing. If Renzi is not prepared to be a figurehead leader, government officials contacted by Reuters said Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan or Senate speaker Pietro Grasso were the most likely candidates to step into the breach.

Padoan, a former official at the International Monetary Fund, would be seen as particularly market-friendly in what are likely to be turbulent times. But a Padoan or Grasso government could not take office without Renzi's blessing, because it will need the backing of his PD party to survive. Renzi's allies fear he will be held responsible for its actions even if he is not prime minister.

"All those who are demanding a 'No' vote should support a government that prepares the way for elections. But that won't happen. They are going to create an almighty mess and expect us to clear it up," said Richetti. — Reuters



A demonstrator holds a placard picturing former Cuban President Fidel Castro during a "Ce chi dice NO" (some say no) rally in central Rome on Sunday calling to vote "no" in the upcoming referendum focused on constitutional reform.

ALBA DOUBTFUL  
FOR CLASICO

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona suffered a fresh injury blow yesterday as left-back Jordi Alba is a huge doubt for Saturday's showdown clash with Real Madrid after suffering knee and ankle knocks. Alba battled on to finish the 90 minutes in Sunday's 1-1 draw at Real Sociedad despite suffering the injuries before half-time. "The tests carried out this morning reveal that Jordi Alba has heavy bruising on his right knee and a strain of his left ankle," Barca said in a statement. "How he evolves will determine his availability for the next few games." Barca desperately need to end Madrid's 31-game unbeaten run at the Camp Nou after falling six points behind their eternal rivals at the top of La Liga. Should Alba not recover in time, French international Lucas Digne will deputise at left-back. The Catalans also hope to recover Samuel Umtiti and captain Andres Iniesta from injury in time for Madrid's visit. — AFP



**TOKYO:** Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike delivers a speech during the opening plenary session of the IOC Debriefing of the Olympic Games Rio 2016, in Tokyo, yesterday. The three-day IOC debriefing started yesterday to share knowledge and experiences between the Rio Olympic Games organizers and future host cities, including Tokyo which will host the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics. — AP

IOC URGES 'UNWAVERING  
COMMITMENT' BY GAMES HOSTS

**TOKYO:** Tokyo and other upcoming Olympic host cities must make an "unwavering commitment" to achieving a successful Games, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) urged yesterday, as cost overruns plague the run-up to Tokyo's 2020 event.

In a video message to a debriefing in the Japanese capital on the Rio Olympics, IOC chief Thomas Bach hailed them as "marvellous games" held in a "marvellous city."

"Organising the Olympic Games is an intensive process that requires creativity, discipline and collaboration with many people and stakeholders," he said.

"Most importantly, it requires unwavering commitment." The three-day debriefing has drawn senior officials from the IOC and Olympic organisers from Rio and Tokyo as well as the hosts of the Winter Games in 2018, South Korea's Pyeongchang, and 2022, which are being held in Beijing.

Among others taking part were Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike and Rio de Janeiro mayor Eduardo Paes. Bach has previously praised the Rio Games, which were generally seen as successful despite Brazil's political and economic crisis and security and attendance problems.

Koike, now spearheading a cost-cutting fight, told the meeting that she wants to learn from Rio, where she said materials for some facilities were recycled to build a school.

Koike said that Tokyo wants to introduce a spirit of avoiding wastefulness by

"drawing on efforts in Rio as well as the IOC's long experience, wisdom and knowledge".

The debriefing came as negotiations over options for moving some Tokyo 2020 venues intensified. Tokyo is eyeing ways to save money after warnings that costs could hit an eye-watering \$30 billion-four times the initial estimate and almost triple that of the 2012 London Olympics.

Options include relocating venues for canoeing and rowing as well as volleyball, and scaling back plans for a new swimming venue. Koike and Bach agreed last month to set up a working group to try to control costs.

IOC official Christophe Dubi said earlier this month the rowing and canoeing could take place in Miyagi prefecture, 250 miles (400 kilometres) north of Tokyo, and the volleyball in Yokohama south of the capital, following recommendations from a Koike-appointed panel of experts.

But Tokyo officials have faced resistance from 2020 organisers, who argue that moving some events to Miyagi, which was badly hit by Japan's 2011 tsunami disaster, could actually cost more because the region lacks the proper infrastructure.

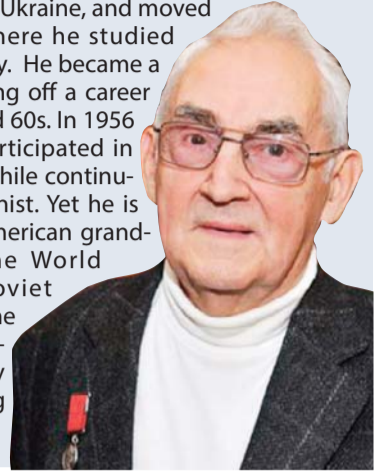
Dubi said Sunday in Tokyo that detailed options for moving some Tokyo venues would be presented at a meeting involving the IOC, Tokyo 2020 organisers, the Tokyo metropolitan government and the Japanese government today. — AFP

MOUSSA SISSOKO MUST  
PROVE WORTH AT SPURS

**LONDON:** Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino has warned French midfielder Moussa Sissoko he must raise his game if he wants to win a place in the first team. Sissoko joined Spurs from Newcastle United in a club record-equaling 30 million pounds (\$37.3 million, 35.1 million euros) deal during the close season. But he has made only four Premier League starts this season and was left out of the squad for Spurs' last two league games, the latest of which was Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Chelsea. "Football is not about money," Pochettino said in comments published by British newspapers on Monday. "You show on the training ground you are better than another team-mate and you deserve to be involved. "I need to take a decision and I believe the players that start on the bench deserve to be involved in the game (against Chelsea). It is not another thing to focus on." Sissoko publicly contradicted Pochettino after Spurs' Champions League elimination by Monaco, saying the club should play their Europa League games at White Hart Lane rather than their temporary European home of Wembley. — AFP

SOVIET CHESS LEGEND  
TAIMANOV DIES AT 90

**SAINT PETERSBURG:** Mark Taimanov, a chess grandmaster who was ostracised by the Soviet authorities after losing to American Bobby Fischer during the Cold War, has died aged 90, Russia's chess federation said yesterday. Taimanov was born in 1926 in Kharkiv, Ukraine, and moved to Leningrad, now Saint Petersburg, where he studied piano at the prestigious music conservatory. He became a chess grandmaster at the age of 26, kicking off a career which flourished throughout the 1950s and 60s. In 1956 he became the Soviet champion, and participated in the Soviet championship some 23 times while continuing a professional career as a concert pianist. Yet he is best known for his stinging 0-6 loss to American grandmaster Bobby Fischer in 1971 at the World Championship Candidates match. Soviet authorities during the Cold War viewed the US-Soviet chess matches as holding symbolic importance, and punished Taimanov for the embarrassing failure, suspecting that he had lost on purpose. — AFP

MERCEDES TO CONFRONT  
ROSBERG-HAMILTON 'ANARCHY'

**ABU DHABI:** Mercedes' celebrations over Nico Rosberg's first world title have been overshadowed by "anarchy" between the world champion and Lewis Hamilton.

Some reports have said the team could even punish the Briton for slowing down the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday in the hope that arch-rival teammate Rosberg could be overtaken and lose the title.

Hamilton twice rejected team instructions to speed up as Rosberg came under threat from Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel.

Mercedes chief Toto Wolff said "It's very simple: anarchy does not work in any team and in any company. A precedent has been set." "Undermining a structure in public means you are putting yourself before the team."

According to Wolff, Mercedes will "look at the overall situation and say 'what does it mean?' Everything is possible. "Maybe we want to give them more freedom next year, or go with the harsher side where we feel the values were not respected. I am not sure yet where my finger is going to point or the needle is going to go."

Hamilton has said Mercedes should have just let the teammates race out their rivalry. "I don't think I did anything dangerous, I don't think I did anything unfair," said Hamilton. "We were fighting for the championship, I was in the lead so I control the pace."

But Hamilton's behaviour and future relationship with Rosberg will be only one of a host of new challenges next season when Formula One ushers in a raft of rule changes and faster cars.

With the sport now owned by US giant Liberty Media, the prospect of its number one box office attraction leaving the champion team is not likely.

## F1 Chicanery

Wolff may be more worried by the prospect of a revived challenge from Red Bull and Ferrari after the rules are changed.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner has made clear he believes his team will mount a serious title bid next year.

"It's been an amazing season," Horner said. "Our expectations at the beginning of the year were to get in the top-five so as to emerge as the nearest challenger to Mercedes."

Things went far better than that. The team ended "second in the constructors, won two grands prix, in Barcelona, Max the youngest ever winner in F1, Daniel achieving a one-two finish in Malaysia plus 14 other podiums, it's been an incredible year for us," said Horner.

"There's no guarantees, Mercedes will be firmly the favourites next year, again, but we're hoping to close that gap down and hopefully during the course of next year take the challenge to them."

The 2017 season will see heavier, faster cars, by up to five seconds a lap, with wider wings and tyres. Many paddock observers believe this will give Red Bull's highly-rated designer Adrian Newey a chance to create another race-winning machine.

Horner believes the changes will up the pressure on Mercedes, who have won the last three drivers' and constructors' championships following an era of Red Bull domina-



**ABU DHABI:** Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain, right, congratulates Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg of Germany, left, during the podium ceremony after the Emirates Formula One Grand Prix at the Yas Marina racetrack in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Sunday. — AP

tion when four-time champion Vettel won his titles.

Mercedes won 19 of this year's record 21 races with Red Bull winning the other two races, one by Dutch teenager Max Verstappen, who became the youngest race winner in history, and one from Australian Daniel Ricciardo.

But at the end of the year, Red Bull were nearly 300 points adrift of the dominant Silver Arrows - a result that hit hopes for a more competitive championship to stop the fall in television viewing figures. Official reports indicate the sport has lost 200 million viewers since 2008.

Formula One ringmaster Bernie Ecclestone believes two shorter races should be considered as a replacement for one longer event, following a spike in viewing for the Brazilian Grand Prix.

Horner, and others prefer a more traditional approach. "I think there's only one Wimbledon final or one grand slam final. Two races, I don't think is the way to go, you just need to make the one race a good one." With Hamilton determined to get ahead of Rosberg again, new rules, faster cars and unrest about the sport's structure, Formula One's future may take many twists next season. — AFP

## SHIFFRIN CONTINUES TO DOMINATE W CUP SLALOM

**KILLINGTON:** Reigning Olympic champion Mikaela Shiffrin captured her 10th straight slalom title by winning the World Cup race on Sunday at the Killington Resort in Vermont. The 21-year-old American clocked a combined time of one minute, 27.95 seconds to finish 0.73 seconds ahead of runner-up Veronika Velez Zuzulova of Slovakia. Swiss Wendy Holdener was third in 1:28.81.

"I put a lot of pressure on myself," Shiffrin said. "Knowing that I've been performing so well in slalom, I really had a great chance of winning the slalom here."

Shiffrin has now won the last 10 World Cup slaloms she has competed in dating back to 2015. The two-time reigning World Cup slalom champion Shiffrin led by 0.65 seconds after the first run on the

Superstar Trail course. She is just two wins shy of matching Switzerland's Vreni Schneider for the women's record of consecutive wins for a single discipline.

Schneider won 12 straight World Cup slaloms from 1988 to 1990. Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark won 15 consecutive men's World Cup giant slaloms from 1978-1980.

Shiffrin can catch Schneider if she can win slalom races next month in Sestriere, Italy and Semmering, Austria. If you count her two national championships and the 2015 world championship then Shiffrin has won 13 straight races she has competed in. Last year Shiffrin missed five slalom races with a knee injury. Shiffrin won the first slalom of the season earlier this month in Levi, Finland and now leads the slalom standings with 200

points, as well as the overall standings with 325 points.

Zuzulova had the second fastest time after the first slalom run but was unable to close the gap in the second run.

Holdener posted her sixth career podium finish in slalom. "She [Shiffrin] is dominant and I think the other girls and I are on the right way to get closer. I think it will get thrilling this season," Holdener said.

The next stop for the ladies on the World Cup circuit will take place in Lake Louise, Canada starting on Friday with two downhill and a super-G scheduled for the weekend.

Shiffrin's American teammate Lindsey Vonn will not compete in Lake Louise after suffering a serious arm injury during a training run in Colorado. Vonn says she is hoping to return to the World Cup in January. — AFP



Mikaela Shiffrin

# ARGENTINA BEAT CROATIA TO WIN FIRST DAVIS CUP TITLE

**ZAGREB:** Argentina won its first Davis Cup title on Sunday when Federico Delbonis swept past Ivo Karlovic in straight sets to complete a stunning 3-2 comeback win over Croatia. Delbonis dropped to the ground after his 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory. His teammates fell into each other's arms and celebrated in front of thousands of Argentine fans in the packed Arena Zagreb.

Players danced around the huge Davis Cup trophy and fans, including soccer great Diego Maradona, chanted and waved Argentinian flags. This was the first Davis Cup title for Argentina in the fifth final it has played since 1981. Croatia won in 2005.

Going into the reverse singles Sunday, the Croats were leading 2-1 in the best-of-five-series after winning the doubles on Saturday.

Juan Martin Del Potro then rallied from two sets down to beat Marin Cilic 6-7 (4), 2-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-3 as Argentina drew level at 2-2. "Delpo showed his huge heart after turning around the match that looked lost," said Argentina team captain Daniel Orsanic. "Federico played a perfect match under huge pressure. I'm really proud to be part of this fantastic team."

With the victory, Argentina became only the third team to come back from 2-1 down in the final since the World Group Davis Cup format was introduced in 1981. Delbonis went up a break in the first two sets and added two more in the third when Karlovic sent a forehand wide for the victory.

The 41st-ranked Argentine passed the big-serving Croat veteran at ease throughout the 2:09 hour match. "This is fabulous," Delbonis said. "We somewhat felt we could do it despite trailing after the doubles."

Karlovic, who returned to the Croatian

team after a four-year absence, said he was "hugely disappointed."

"Maybe I'll feel better tomorrow, but tonight it is awful," he said. The comeback started with Del Potro's heroics that included a finger injury in the fifth set against Cilic.

"I was calm, I hoped all the time that I could win and I did it," said Del Potro, displaying a bandage on his little finger on his non-racket left hand.

He said the injury happened in the fifth set while he was trying to catch a ball. "I'm very happy to hand my team a chance of a victory," Del Potro said. The match at Arena Zagreb that lasted nearly five hours saw plenty of drama created by two players with similar styles.

"It is very difficult to lose such an important match," Cilic said. "I feel a lot of disappointment." Cilic had a furious start to race to a 3-0 lead including a break in Del Potro's first service game. The Croat capitalized on the first of three break points with a cracking forehand winner.

Del Potro fought back in the seventh game with Cilic under pressure at deuce. Two ground strokes, first a forehand long then a looping backhand, saw Del Potro break at the sixth attempt.

In the tiebreaker, Cilic raced to a 5-0 lead to seal the game with a slice backhand down the line that Del Potro could not control. Under pressure after losing his fourth straight tiebreaker during the finals, Del Potro started the second set slowly and dropped his serve in the fifth game with a double fault and another in the seventh at love.

At that point, Cilic seemed to be cruising toward victory with some spectacular ground strokes that the tired-looking Argentine watched in disbelief. But then Del Potro, who



**ZAGREB:** Argentina's players lift the trophy after winning the Davis Cup final in Zagreb, Croatia, Sunday. Argentina defeated Croatia 3-2 in the Davis — AP

has recovered after two injury-hit years, showed the form he displayed in beating now top-ranked Andy Murray as Argentina knocked out holder Britain in the semifinals.

He broke Cilic in the 12th and 10th games

in the third and fourth sets respectively to send the match into the decider. "After losing the third set, I was still confident I could win as he looked tired," Cilic said. "I started pushing a bit too hard, handing him a chance for a

comeback." Trailing 15-40 in the eighth game of the final set, Cilic sent a forehand beyond the baseline to give Del Potro the decisive break. He served out the match to keep Argentina alive. — AP

## RUGBY: NORTHERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS ON THE RISE

**LONDON:** New Zealand will end another stellar year as rugby's undoubted number one team but the gap between northern and southern hemisphere nations has shrunk considerably after an autumn of unprecedented success for Europe.

Following the northern hemisphere's humiliation at last year's World Cup, when they failed to supply one semi-finalist in a tournament played in Britain, the southern nations have been hunted down and picked off with rare frequency in 2016.

The scoreboard between the Six Nations and the Rugby Championship reads 8-6 to the Europeans, with just England against Australia to come on Saturday.

That turnaround does not seem to be a flash in the pan either. Ireland's notable victory over New Zealand meant that they have beaten the southern Big Three in the same year for the first time.

England are seeking a fourth successive victory over the Wallabies while Italy and Wales secured historic wins over an ailing South Africa, and Argentina lost to Scotland, Wales and England.

The lesson from Ireland's 40-29 win over the All Blacks in Chicago was the value of ambition. For 80 minutes New Zealand were harried into mistakes and they buckled under the pressure.

The All Blacks restored order two weeks later by beating up the Irish - some would say literally - in Dublin, but they are no longer the sport's invincibles and last week France ran them close before going down 24-19 in Paris.

Of course, a clash with England would have rounded the year off nicely, but Twickenham will have to wait at least another year for that one.

More immediately, the 2017 Six Nations looks like being extra-competitive with Vern Cotter's Scotland improving rapidly after two autumn wins, France gloriously unpredictable as ever and Italy buoyed by their greatest victory, over South Africa.

Fittingly, the two most impressive European performers this year - England and Ireland - meet in the tournament's 15th and final match in what will be a thunderous atmosphere in Dublin. — Reuters

## 'RELAXED' BOLT SAYS FINAL TRACK SEASON FOR THE FANS

**LONDON:** Nine-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt dedicated what is set to be his last track season to his fans, with the Jamaican sprint star saying his training regime was now "more relaxed".

However, the 30-year-old insisted yesterday that his will to win was undimmed. "It's more relaxed, me and my coach will discuss, we're going to change my training regime, different things so it's not going to be as intense as the seasons before," Bolt said yesterday ahead of the London premiere of 'I am Bolt', a documentary film charting his career in the 18 months leading into this year's Rio Olympics.

Bolt, who is set to bring the curtain down on his brilliant career at the 2017 World Athletics Championships in London in August, added: "It's mainly because my fans are...there's a few people who are my friends, my close friends and a few other of my fans said that they really never see me competing live so I am giving people opportunity now to come and see me at my last world championships or maybe in Jamaica, my last run in Jamaica and stuff like that.

"So it's mainly for the fans this season." Nevertheless, he added: "I never want to lose, in any way. Even a simple board game I don't want to lose so for me the fact that I say it's for my fans, I still want to go out and compete at my best. But it's not so much pressure as it is like for the past eight years

where I have to consistently win. "I know I have to win but for me it's much more simpler, less stressful, less pressure so I am just training hard as I always do and go compete at my best as always."

### 'NOT EASY'

At Rio, Bolt completed the 'triple triple' by winning golds in the 100 metres, 200m and 4x100m relay, just as he had done at both the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games in Beijing and London respectively.

Bolt said he hoped the documentary would show just how hard he had worked to become one of the greatest sprinters of all time. "Most people say to me when they see me like: 'Oh you make it look so easy' but it's not. So I wanted to make people see what I went through to get where I am at today," he explained.

Meanwhile Bolt, who has often spoken of his desire to become a professional footballer, said he planned to do some training with top German club Borussia Dortmund.

Both Bolt and Dortmund use kit made by Germany-based sports manufacturing giant Puma, who put the athlete and the club in touch with one another. "Why not?," said Bolt on Monday. "It's something I have always wanted to try and see if I were any good at, so at the end of the season I will go there (Dortmund) and do a little trial, not a trial but a little training." — AFP



**ISTANBUL:** A picture taken on November 22, 2016 shows a wax statue of Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt at the world's 21st Madame Tussauds wax museum in Istanbul. —AFP



**PHILADELPHIA:** Cleveland Cavaliers' Kyrie Irving (2) goes up to shoot between Philadelphia 76ers' Nik Stauskas (11) and Sergio Rodriguez (14) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, in Philadelphia. — AP

# IRVING STEPS UP TO LEAD CAVS OVER 76ERS

**PHILADELPHIA:** Kyrie Irving scored 19 of his season-high 39 points in the fourth quarter and LeBron James had a triple-double in the Cleveland Cavaliers' 112-108 NBA victory over Philadelphia on Sunday. James had 26 points, 10 rebounds and 13 assists, and Kevin Love added 25 points and 11 rebounds. The defending champion Cavaliers have won four straight to improve to 13-2. Joel Embiid had 22 points and nine rebounds for the 76ers, who have lost three straight.

### ROCKETS 130, TRAIL BLAZERS 114

James Harden had 38 points and 10 assists to help Houston beat Portland. Eric Gordon added 26 points, including six 3-pointers for the Rockets. They have made at least 10 3-pointers in 16 straight games to match the NBA record set by Golden State and Cleveland last season. They finished the night with 17. CJ McCollum scored 28 points and Damian Lillard had 27 for the Blazers.

### PACERS 91, CLIPPERS 70

Glenn Robinson III and Myles Turner each scored 17 points as Indiana handed the Los Angeles Clippers consecutive losses for the first time this season. Al Jefferson added 16 points and eight rebounds to help Indiana win two straight for the second time this season. Blake Griffin had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Clippers. They dropped to 14-4.

### KINGS 122, NETS 105

DeMarcus Cousins had 37 points and 11 rebounds while Rudy Gay added 22 points, eight rebounds and eight assists as Sacramento routed Brooklyn. Darren Collison added 18 points for the Kings in their first win in Brooklyn. Sean Kilpatrick scored 22 points, Brook Lopez had 17 and Bojan Bogdanovic added 13 for the Nets, who have lost seven straight games. The Kings' Matt Barnes was ejected for a flagrant foul 2 on Kilpatrick with 9:34 left.

### LAKERS 109, HAWKS 94

Lou Williams scored 13 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and Jordan Clarkson added 18 points as Los Angeles overcame the absence of two injured starters to beat Atlanta. Julius

Randle and D'Angelo Russell missed another game due to injuries, but the Lakers compensated for the absence of two starters with a balanced offensive effort. Kent Bazemore scored 21 points and Dwight Howard added 19 points and nine rebounds amid constant boos for the Hawks. They have lost five of six after a 9-2 start to the season.

### NUGGETS 120, SUNS 114

Wilson Chandler scored 25 points and Jameer Nelson added 21 as Denver held off Phoenix. Eric Bledsoe led Phoenix with a career-high 35 points. Devin Booker added 30. The Nuggets led by 20 at the half but Booker and Bledsoe led a rally that cut the lead to three early in the fourth quarter. Denver gained a slightly larger cushion from there before the Suns cut it to four in the final minute but they got no closer. Booker scored 25 points in the second half, Bledsoe 21.

### MAVERICKS 91, PELICANS 81

Wesley Matthews scored 21 points, includ-

ing eight during a fourth-quarter rally that gave Dallas the lead for good, as the Mavericks beat New Orleans. Matthews made a 3-pointer and another basket to give Dallas a 72-71 edge with 5:39 remaining. New Orleans regained the lead on Anthony Davis' two free throws, but Matthews made another 3-pointer to put the Mavericks ahead to stay. Dallas improved to 3-13, still the NBA's worst record. The Pelicans fell to 6-12. Harrison Barnes led the Mavericks with 23 points. Davis had 36 points and 13 rebounds.

### BUCKS 104, MAGIC 96

John Henson scored 20 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 18 points and nine rebounds to help Milwaukee beat Orlando. Michael Beasley had 13 points to help the Bucks beat the Magic for the second time in a week. Evan Fournier led Orlando with 27 points and seven assists. Serge Ibaka scored 19 points, and Nikola Vucevic added 17 points and 16 rebounds. — AP

## NBA Results/Standings

Cleveland 112, Philadelphia 108; Denver 120, Phoenix 114; Sacramento 122, Brooklyn 105; Milwaukee 104, Orlando 96; Indiana 91, LA Clippers 70; Dallas 91, New Orleans 81; Houston 130, Portland 114; LA Lakers 109, Atlanta 94.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference			
Atlantic Division				Northwest Division			
W	L	PCT	GB				
Toronto	10	6 .625	-	Oklahoma City	10	8 .556	-
Boston	9	7 .563	1	Utah	9	8 .529	0.5
NY Knicks	8	8 .500	2	Portland	9	10 .474	1.5
Brooklyn	4	12 .250	6	Denver	7	10 .412	2.5
Philadelphia	4	13 .235	6.5	Minnesota	5	11 .313	4
Central Division				Pacific Division			
Cleveland	13	2 .867	-	Golden State	15	2 .882	-
Chicago	10	6 .625	3.5	LA Clippers	14	4 .778	1.5
Indiana	9	9 .500	5.5	LA Lakers	9	9 .500	6.5
Milwaukee	7	8 .467	6	Sacramento	7	10 .412	8
Detroit	8	10 .444	6.5	Phoenix	5	13 .278	10.5
Southeast Division				Southwest Division			
Atlanta	10	7 .588	-	San Antonio	14	3 .824	-
Charlotte	9	7 .563	0.5	Houston	11	6 .647	3
Orlando	6	11 .353	4	Memphis	11	6 .647	3
Washington	5	10 .333	4	New Orleans	6	12 .333	8.5
Miami	5	11 .313	4.5	Dallas	3	13 .188	10.5



## NEW-LOOK AUSSIES 'COPPED A LOT', SAYS LEHMANN

**ADELAIDE:** Australia coach Darren Lehmann said his players "copped a lot" of criticism before they emphatically halted a run of Test defeats against South Africa, adding that he'd love to keep his new-look team together.

Lehmann said he was delighted for the experimental side, which featured five changes including three debutants, as Australia's selection gamble paid off in the third Test against South Africa.

The Australians ended a five-Test losing streak with a commanding seven-wicket victory over the Proteas, after being well beaten in the previous two games of the three-Test series.

"Well, we won," he said, when asked what the difference was compared to the first two Tests, which left Australia on the verge of their first ever home Test series whitewash. "I'm just pleased for the players. The players have copped a lot over the last few weeks and they've responded really well. Obviously a change of players as well. "You feel sad for the blokes who missed out in this Test match but the guys who came in did a really good job... a new young group going forward, really pleased for them."

Lehmann said the door wasn't closed for the players who were dropped, but added that he'd like to keep the new

group together-if that is possible, with varying playing conditions and peaks and troughs in form. "You'd love to have continuity all the time (but) in this day and age sometimes that's not possible," Lehmann said. "But you'd love to keep a group together, a younger group especially with David Warner being our oldest at 30. "If you can keep the group together for five years or so, or whatever it is until the older guys go-it makes it easier. "But then you've got different conditions and blokes in and out of form. So you just have to sum it up along the way, but yeah it'd be lovely to do that."

### 'DAMNED IF YOU DO'

Lehmann's coaching role was under the spotlight during the run of defeats, which prompted chairman of selectors Rod Marsh to step down calling for some "fresh thinking".

One key criticism was the decision to rest fast bowlers Mitchell Starc and John Hazlewood for the 5-0 ODI defeat in South Africa, with Proteas skipper Faf du Plessis suggesting it gave his side a mental edge.

In Adelaide, Starc and Hazlewood hit form as they took 12 wickets between them to bowl Australia to victory in the day-night third Test in Adelaide.

Lehmann said there were no plans to

rest them for the upcoming, three-match ODI series against New Zealand-although he wasn't sure if they would play every game. "(They will) play. We get in trouble if we don't play (them)... They're going to play. At some stage," he said.

Lehmann added: "We gave them a break, didn't we? So they should get through the (Australian) summer.

"But we got in trouble for that as well. You're damned if you do, damned if you don't." Straight-talking Lehmann also brushed off high performance manager Pat Howard's call for him to "reinvent", saying: "I was going to wear a suit to the press conference. I didn't. "I chose not to"—AFP

## FOCUSED TAYLOR HELPS SET PAKISTAN BIG TARGET

**HAMILTON:** Ross Taylor shrugged off his eye problems to score a superb unbeaten century as New Zealand set Pakistan a formidable 369-run target to win the second Test yesterday. Taylor finished 102 not out despite only being cleared to play two days before the Test after scarring on his left eye threatened his vision. He was due to have surgery tomorrow.

New Zealand declared late on the fourth day in Hamilton at 313 for 5 and Pakistan were one without loss after facing three overs before stumps. Both sides vowed there would be no holding back on the final day with Pakistan needing to win to keep their world number two ranking and New Zealand looking to improve on seventh place.

"All going well that last session could be really entertaining," said Taylor, who was pleased he made the decision to play. "There were definitely thoughts going through my mind not to play so it was nice to draw on a bit of experience-I've been in that situation before-and put the team in a good place.

"Probably for the past year, for the first five to 10 balls of the innings I haven't picked up the balls as I would have liked."

### WIN OR BUST

Pakistan quick Mohammad Amir dismissed talk of playing for a draw. "We like to be among the top teams in the world and we will try our best to retain that," he said. "We will definitely try to go for the target. The first session will be very important." The tourists will have to better the record fourth-innings successful run chase at Seddon Park of 212 for 4 by Australia in 2000 to win on Tuesday's final day and save the two-Test series.

The highest fourth-innings total on the ground is 344 for 6 by Sri Lanka in a drawn Test nearly 26 years ago. New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson declared after a trademark cut to the boundary from Taylor took

him to his century.

Earlier Tom Latham laid the foundations for the declaration with a battling 80 in a welcome return to form and Williamson made 42. Pakistan made an early breakthrough when they dismissed Jeet Raval for two with the New Zealand score on 11, but they struggled to assert themselves despite the wicket continuing to show life.

### SIDE-ON SUCCESS

Williamson and Latham fell in the middle session, and Henry Nicholls (26) and Colin de Grandhomme (32) went after the tea interval. New Zealand, having won the first Test, need only a draw to beat Pakistan for the first time in 13 Test series dating back to 1985. Taylor and Latham had both struggled for runs through recent South Africa and India tours as well as the first Test against Pakistan. Taylor showed no sign of his vision problems when he opened his account with a four off Imran Khan, setting the tone for an innings that contained 16 boundaries.

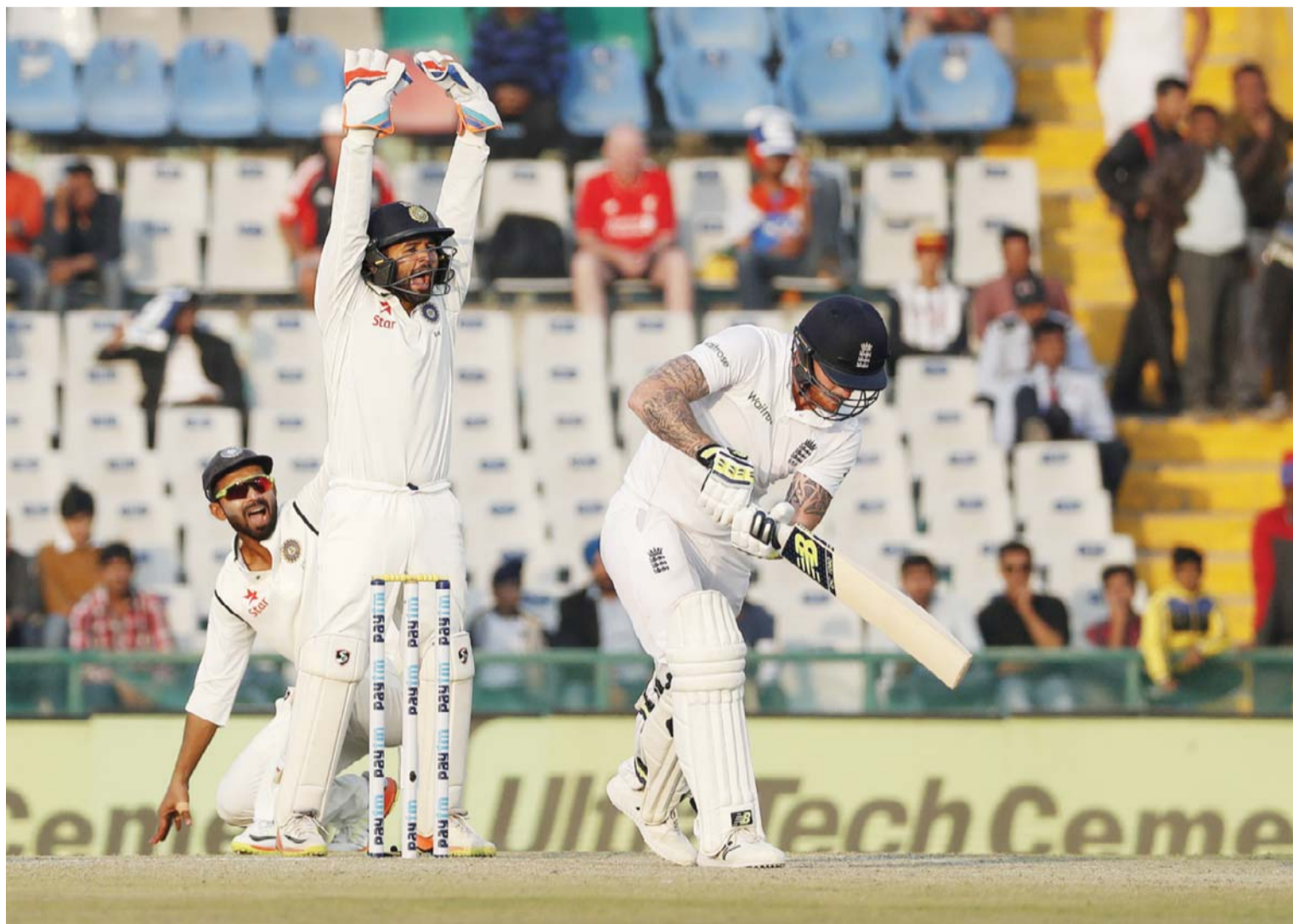
He survived an lbw appeal on 16 in what was otherwise a chanceless knock. Taylor said he had changed his technique to allow for his vision problems and it paid off.

"I wanted to get a bit more side on. I didn't go out there to play the cut shot any more than I have in the past. It's just surprising how I was a little more side-on that shot came naturally."

Latham lived on the edge. He survived a runout appeal and had a moment of apprehension when the big screen mistakenly put up the word "out". On 41 he was dropped by Sami Aslam.

But his luck deserted him trying to fend off a Wahab Riaz bouncer and the ball looped off his gloves to Sarfraz Ahmed behind the stumps.

The wicketkeeper also snapped up Williamson who feathered a good-length Imran delivery to break a 96-run stand with Latham. — AFP



**MOHALI:** India's Ajinkya Rahane, left, and Parthiv Patel, center, make a successful appeal against England's Ben Stokes, right, on the third day of their third cricket test match in Mohali, India, yesterday. —AP

## ASHWIN'S TRIPLE STRIKE LEAVES ENGLAND REELING

**MOHALI:** Ravichandran Ashwin's fine all-round performance put India firmly in control of the third Test yesterday, as he followed up a dominant innings of 72 with three wickets to leave England reeling on 78 for four.

The visitors, who conceded a 134-run first-innings lead, trailed their hosts by 56 runs with six second-innings wickets remaining at stumps on day three in Mohali.

Joe Root (36) and nightwatchman Gareth Batty (0) were at the crease. Root opened with Alastair Cook in the absence of teenager Haseeb Hameed with a hand injury.

He will bat later in the innings but could miss the rest of the series, depending on what X-rays reveal. Ashwin drew first blood by getting Cook bowled for 12. The England skipper had been living dangerously, with two lbw calls against him going for reviews, first by India and then by the batsman himself. But he survived only to see his stumps shattered later on. Ashwin kept up the pressure from his end as he bamboozled Moeen Ali (5) with a flighted delivery, causing the batsman to give away a catch to mid-on.

Root sought to steady the innings with Jonny Bairstow, but the wicketkeeper-batsman's resistance did not last long. Off-spinner Jayant Yadav got Bairstow, who top-scored with a dogged 89 in England's first innings of 283, caught behind for 15. An unrelenting Ashwin, the world's top-ranked Test bowler, then trapped Ben Stokes lbw for five as the visitors slipped further.

"We've lost a few wickets this evening, which was not ideal, that was not the plan," Bairstow told reporters. "However, we still got Root out there in the middle, we still got Jos (Buttler) to come, we still got Woakesy (Chris Woakes) to come and (Adil) Rashid scored a heck of a lot of runs. There's still a lot of batting within the shed." Earlier India's first innings saw five half-centuries before the hosts, who resumed the day on

271-6, were bowled out for 417 in the afternoon. "They have won today. I think up until this morning, it was evenly poised... they played well this morning. Give them credit," said Bairstow.

### BOWLERS FRUSTRATED

Ravindra Jadeja top-scored with 90 while Jayant Yadav's 55 — his maiden fifty in only his second Test-gave the England bowlers a frustrating two sessions of play.

Seam bowler Stokes claimed his third Test five-wicket haul while leg-spinner Rashid took four wickets. Jadeja, who registered his career-best Test score surpassing his 68 at Lord's in 2014, fell 10 runs short of his maiden Test ton. But his 80-run stand with Jayant Yadav under-

pinned India's impressive lower-order performance. The left-handed Jadeja, who started the day on 31, took over responsibility for piloting the innings after the fall of his overnight partner Ashwin. Ashwin's wicket ended a 97-run seventh-wicket stand between him and Jadeja. The pair had lifted India after the loss of four wickets in the final session on Sunday.

"Any team will have a plus point if its lower-middle order is contributing. If the last 7-11 (batsmen) can give 50 to 100 runs extra for the team it's a bonus," said Jadeja.

Skipper Virat Kohli (62) and Cheteshwar Pujara (51) also contributed half-centuries. India lead the five-match series 1-0 with one game drawn. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**HAMILTON, New Zealand:** Scoreboard at the end of the New Zealand innings on the fourth day of the second Test against Pakistan at Seddon Park in Hamilton on yesterday.

<b>New Zealand first innings 271</b> (J. Raval 55, B. Watling 49 not out; Sohail Khan 4-99, Imran 3-52)	C. de Grandhomme c Azhar by Imran 32
<b>Pakistan first innings 216</b> (Babar Azam 90 not out, Sarfraz Ahmed 41; Southee 6-80, Wagner 3-59)	B. Watling not out 15
	Extras: (lb6, w6, nb2) 14
	Total (5 wks dec; 85.3 overs) 313
<b>New Zealand second innings</b>	Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Raval), 2-107 (Williamson), 3-159 (Latham), 4-219 (Nicholls), 5-254 (de Grandhomme)
J. Raval lbw b Amir 2	Bowling: Amir 22-4-86-1 (2w), Sohail 17-2-69-0, Imran 20.3-4-76-3, Riaz 19-3-53-1 (2nb), Azhar 6-0-19-0, Shafiq 1-0-4-0.
T. Latham c Ahmed b Riaz 80	
K. Williamson c Ahmed b Imran 42	
R. Taylor not out 102	
H. Nicholls c Ahmed b Imran 26	



**HAMILTON:** New Zealand's Ross Taylor takes a quick run during day four of the second cricket Test match between New Zealand and Pakistan at Seddon Park in Hamilton yesterday. — AP

### SCOREBOARD

**MOHALI, India:** Scoreboard at stumps on day three of the third cricket Test between India and England in Mohali on yesterday.

<b>England 1st innings 283</b> (J. Bairstow 89, J. Buttler 43; M. Shami 3-63)	Bowling: Anderson 21-4-48-0, Woakes 24-7-86-0, Ali 13-1-33-0 (nb1), Rashid 38-6-118-4, Stokes 26.2-5-73-5 (w3), Batty 16-0-47-0.
<b>India 1st innings</b>	
M. Vijay c Bairstow b Stokes 12	
P. Patel lbw b Rashid 42	
C. Pujara c Woakes b Rashid 51	
V. Kohli c Bairstow b Stokes 62	
A. Rahane lbw b Rashid 0	
K. Nair run out (Buttler) 4	
R. Ashwin c Buttler b Stokes 72	
R. Jadeja c Woakes b Rashid 90	
J. Yadav c Ali b Stokes 55	
U. Yadav c Bairstow b Stokes 12	
M. Shami not out 1	
Extras (b8, lb4, w3, nb1) 16	
Total (all out, 138.2 overs) 417	
Fall of wickets: 1-39 (Vijay), 2-73 (Patel), 3-148 (Pujara), 4-152 (Rahane), 5-156 (Nair), 6-204 (Kohli), 7-301 (Ashwin), 8-381 (Jadeja), 9-414 (J. Yadav), 10-417 (U. Yadav)	
<b>England 2nd innings</b>	
A. Cook b Ashwin 12	
J. Root not out 36	
M. Ali c J. Yadav b Ashwin 5	
J. Bairstow c Patel b J. Yadav 15	
B. Stokes lbw b Ashwin 5	
G. Batty not out 0	
Extras (b 4, lb 1) 5	
Total (4 wickets; 38 overs) 78	
Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Cook), 2-39 (Ali), 3-70 (Bairstow), 4-78 (Stokes)	
Bowling: Shami 7-2-17-0, U. Yadav 1-0-7-0, Ashwin 12-3-19-3, Jadeja 12-4-18-0, J. Yadav 6-1-12-1.	
To bat: H. Hameed, J. Buttler, C. Woakes, A. Rashid, J. Anderson	

## PAKISTAN RESIST CHANGE IN SQUAD FOR AUSTRALIA

**KARACHI:** Pakistan resisted the temptation to change and retained the same 16-man squad which is currently on tour in New Zealand for their upcoming series in Australia, their chief selector said yesterday.

The two-Test series in New Zealand will be completed today, and the Pakistan team will leave for Australia a day later where they play the first of three Tests—a day-night affair in Brisbane—from December 15. Chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq said continuity is necessary. "We have kept the same 16-member squad for the tour of Australia because we believe in continuity and think that the same team has done well in England so it will do well in Australia as well," Inzamam told AFP.

Pakistan drew a four-match series 2-2 in England in August this year, which briefly lifted them to number one in the Test rankings for the first time in their history. However, they are in danger of losing their first Test series against New Zealand in 31 years after failing the first Test in Christchurch by eight wickets.

They were set a daunting 369-run target by New Zealand in the second Test in Hamilton yesterday. Inzamam said a lot of names were considered but after consultation with captain Misbah-ul-Haq and coach Mickey Arthur the same squad was retained.

Former Test wicket-keeper Kamran Akmal, Usman Salahuddin and Asif Zakir were unlucky to not be in the squad after scoring big in an ongoing domestic tournament.

Akmal, who played the last of his 53 Tests at Lord's in London in 2010, has piled up 826 runs, while Zakir has 811 and Salahuddin 813.

The remaining two Tests will be played in Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 3-7). Pakistan will also play five one-day internationals in Australia, a squad for which will be announced later. Squad: Misbah-ul-Haq (captain), Azhar Ali, Sami Aslam, Babar Azam, Younis Khan, Asad Shafiq, Sharjeel Khan, Sarfraz Ahmed, Mohammad Rizwan, Yasir Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Amir, Wahab Riaz, Rahat Ali, Imran Khan, Sohail Khan. —AFP



Misbah-ul-Haq

## ABUSE SCANDAL COACH IN HOSPITAL OVER 'FEAR FOR WELFARE'

**LONDON:** The paedophile coach at the centre of an abuse scandal that has rocked English football has been taken to hospital by police responding to a "fear for welfare incident" it was announced yesterday.

Barry Bennell has been at the centre of numerous revelations after former Crewe Alexandra player Andy Woodward came forward to reveal he was abused by the convicted child molester in the 1980s. A statement issued by Thames Valley police yesterday referring to Bennell said: "Police officers attended an address in Knebworth Park, Stevenage (northwest of

London) just before 11:00pm (2300 GMT) on Friday, November 25 in connection with a fear for welfare incident. "A 62-year-old man was located and was taken to hospital in order to receive medical treatment, where he remains.

"At this stage of enquiries, it would be inappropriate to comment further." The Guardian newspaper, the first to interview Woodward, reported that Bennell had been found unconscious.

Bennell, who worked for Crewe, Manchester City and Stoke City, sexually abused young boys across three decades from the 1970s onwards. He was given a

four-year sentence for raping a British boy during a football tour of Florida in 1994 and a nine-year sentence for 23 offences against six boys in England in 1998.

He was jailed again in 2015 for abusing a boy at a football camp in Macclesfield, northwest England, in 1980. Sunday saw England's governing Football Association react to the recent revelations by announcing it had appointed leading lawyer Kate Gallafent, an expert in child protection, to assist it with an internal review of the allegations. The FA said the review would find out "what information the FA was aware of at the relevant times

around the issues that have been raised in the press, what clubs were aware of, and what action was or should have been taken".

Gallafent will then make recommendations "to ensure these situations can never be repeated". Gordon Taylor, chief executive of England's Professional Footballers' Association, said the number of players who had made similar allegations was now over 20, with up to seven clubs concerned.

"From that time, of those who became apprentices and senior players, over 20 players have come forward," Taylor told

BBC Radio 5 Live. Asked to name the clubs touched by the allegations, Taylor said: "We'd start at Crewe, go to Man City, Stoke, Blackpool, Newcastle, Leeds..."

"I'm expecting there will be more. I think we have six or seven clubs." Four English police forces—London's Metropolitan Police, Hampshire Police, Cheshire Police and Northumbria Police—are looking into the allegations.

Crewe announced on Saturday they had appointed an external lawyer to carry out an independent review into the way they dealt with allegations involving Bennell.—AFP

## COUTINHO BLOW A TEST FOR LIVERPOOL: ORIGI

**LONDON:** Liverpool's Divock Origi says his team-mates must step up in the absence of Philippe Coutinho as they prepare to face Leeds United in the League Cup quarter-finals today. The influential Coutinho sustained suspected ankle ligament damage during Liverpool's 2-0 win over Sunderland on Saturday and could now be out until next year. After replacing Coutinho, Origi scored Liverpool's opener and the Belgian striker believes there is sufficient quality in the squad to compensate for the unavailability of their Brazilian talisman.

"It's unfortunate with Philippe because everyone knows how good a person he is and I think he was in top form, so I hope it's not too bad," Origi told the Liverpool website. "But I'm sure he will come back stronger and I always said that we have a strong group. Everybody has to help each other. I'm always ready. I believe I can help the team a lot this year and I believe I have the qualities to start in this team." With Adam Lallana and Daniel Sturridge doubtful and Roberto Firmino unlikely to be risked after taking a kick to his calf against Sunderland, Origi seems certain to start against Leeds.

Sturridge scored twice as Liverpool, who lost to Manchester City in last season's final, overcame Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 in the fourth round. Leeds, fifth in the second-tier Championship, overcame Norwich City on penalties and are the lowest-ranked team left in the competition. There could be an upset on the cards in Tuesday's other fixture, where Premier League strugglers Hull City entertain Rafael Benitez's Newcastle United, who are flying high at the Championship summit. Newcastle saw an eight-game winning streak ended by a 1-0 loss at home to Blackburn

Rovers after Benitez made a raft of changes and he called on his team to raise their game for the trip to the KCOM Stadium. "I think we have to take the positives. We were so good for so many games and that has to be the way to go forward," said the Spaniard. "We have to analyse quickly what we did wrong and be ready for the next game in three days. That is a positive thing."

### UNITED TORPOR

Manchester United will hope to shake themselves out of their domestic torpor on Wednesday when West Ham United return to Old Trafford just three days after the sides' 1-1 Premier League draw there.

United have drawn their last four home league games and have scored just four goals in their last five domestic fixtures on their own patch. Speaking after the draw with West Ham, in which United manager Jose Mourinho was again sent to the stands, midfielder Ander Herrera expressed disbelief at the team's current woes.

"We're playing the right way and doing things the right way," said the newly capped Spain international, whose side beat holders City 1-0 in round four, in a Sky Sports interview. "I think West Ham are a good side and they didn't get the ball for more than one minute (at a time), so it's unbelievable that we aren't winning these games.

"It's the first time in my career that I've felt something like this." United will be without midfielders Paul Pogba and Marouane Fellaini through suspension.

Having started on the bench against West Ham on Sunday, Wayne Rooney will hope to return to the starting XI as he chases a record-equaling 249th United goal.—AFP



**BOSTON:** Tampa Bay Lightning's Ondrej Palat (18), of the Czech Republic, tries to get a shot off on Boston Bruins' Tuukka Rask (40), of Finland, during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Boston, Sunday. — AP

## HAYES SCORES AS BRUINS BEAT LIGHTNING 4-1

**BOSTON:** Jimmy Hayes capped Boston's three-goal second period with his first of the season and Tuukka Rask stopped 30 shots as the Bruins beat Tampa Bay 4-1 on Sunday to snap a three-game skid. Rask allowed only Victor Hedman's goal with 2:39 to play. David Pastrnak had his team-leading 13th goal, and David Backes and Dominic Moore also scored. Claude Julien coached his 726th game with the Bruins, tying Milt Schmidt - the oldest living member of the Hall of Fame at 98 years old - for second in team history. Ben Bishop made 26 saves for Tampa Bay.

### COYOTES 2, OILERS 1

Jamie McGinn broke a tie with 3:44 left and Mike Smith made 41 saves in Arizona's victory over Edmonton. McGinn was left all alone in front and beat goalie Cam Talbot to the stick side. Radim Vrbata also scored to help the Coyotes complete a home-and-home sweep. They edged the Oilers in a shootout Friday night in the desert. The Coyotes have won three of their last four to improve to 8-10-2. Arizona is 21-0-4 against Edmonton in the last 25 meetings between the two teams. Milan Lucic scored for

the Oilers, and Talbot stopped 21 shots.

### HURRICANES 3, PANTHERS 2

Jeff Skinner had a goal and an assist for Carolina, and the Florida Panthers fired coach Gerard Gallant after the game, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. Tom Rowe, who was promoted to general manager before the season, will assume the coaching duties, said the source who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't announced the moves. Carolina goalie Michael Leighton stopped 31 shots in his first NHL game this season. Cam Ward started the previous nine games for Carolina. Viktor Stalberg and Derek Ryan also scored for Carolina, with Ryan getting his first of the season. Jonathan Marchessault and Aaron Ekblad scored for Florida.

### FLYERS 5, FLAMES 3

Anthony Stolarz made 29 saves for his first NHL victory in Philadelphia's win over Calgary. Stolarz also became the first New Jersey native to appear in goal in an NHL game. The 22-year-old was born in Edison, about 60 miles northeast

of Philadelphia. Michael Raffl, Jakub Voracek, Chris VandeVelde, Wayne Simmonds and Roman Lyubimov scored to help the Flyers snap a two-game losing streak and improve to 10-10-3. T.J. Brodie, Matthew Tkachuk and Alex Chiasson scored for the Flames.

### SENATORS 2, RANGERS 0

Craig Anderson made 32 saves for his third shutout of the season as Ottawa beat New York for its fourth straight victory. Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Mark Stone scored in the second period. Rangers goalie Antti Raanta made 18 saves in his first loss of the season.

### JETS 3, PREDATORS 0

Connor Hellebuyck made 42 saves, Drew Stafford scored his first goal of the season and Winnipeg beat Nashville to end a five-game losing streak. Hellebuyck had his second shutout of the season and fourth overall. Mark Scheifele and Adam Lowry added empty-net goals for the Jets. Rookie Juuse Saros made 21 saves for Nashville. The Predators beat Winnipeg 5-1 on Friday night in Nashville with Hellebuyck in net. — AP



**ANFIELD:** Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho is carried off the field on a stretcher after picking up an injury during their English Premier League soccer match against Sunderland at Anfield, Liverpool, England. — AP

## REAL MADRID'S FORGOTTEN MAN JAMES GETS ANOTHER CHANCE

**MADRID:** Real Madrid's James Rodriguez, the golden boy of Colombian football, has struggled to establish himself at Real Madrid since he burst into the limelight at the 2014 World Cup.

However, with Toni Kroos, Alvaro Morata and Gareth Bale all out until next year with injuries, the door has opened for the 25-year-old winger to try to win over coach Zinedine Zidane.

James came under scrutiny on Saturday after failing to muster a shot on goal during his third Liga start of the season in the 2-1 win at Sporting Gijon but Zidane defended him. "I don't consider him to be disinterested," the Frenchman said. "He played well, as did the others. He may lack a bit of rhythm, but I'm happy that he got some playing time". James will be hoping to get more minutes under his belt at Barcelona in Saturday's first 'El Clasico' of the season after his career in Madrid started brightly but then faded.

Having won the Golden Boot as the World Cup's top scorer with six goals, the winger secured a dream 80 million euros (\$84.71 million) move to the Spanish giants from Monaco.

He shone in his first season under Carlo Ancelotti, starting 46 games in all competi-

tions, with 17 goals and the same number of assists, as he began to repay some of his transfer fee.

Since the Italian's departure, however, James has slumped from first choice at the Bernabeu to forgotten man. In 2015-16 under Rafael Benitez and his replacement Zidane, James made 21 starts in all competitions, with eight goals and 10 assists, although a thigh injury limited his opportunities. He was the subject of transfer speculation in the close season but, under contract until June 2020, he stayed put.

James' experience at Real is the opposite to his time at Monaco, where he endured a slow start in the 2013-14 campaign having joining the French side after three seasons at Porto.

He eventually scored nine goals with 12 assists to help Monaco finish runners-up to Paris Saint-Germain in Ligue 1.

At Real, the fierce competition did not seem to affect him in his first season but Zidane has Casemiro, Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio ahead of him in the pecking order. He is only 20th in minutes played for Real this season with 570, having made 12 appearances in all competitions, scoring once with six assists. Saturday would be a good time to shine. — Reuters



James Rodriguez

## MOURINHO FACING MORE HOT WATER

**MANCHESTER:** Jose Mourinho faces disciplinary action from the FA, and an almost definite touchline suspension, after being sent to the stands by referee Jon Moss during a 1-1 Premier League home draw with West Ham.

It is the third time in less than two months that the fiery Manchester United manager will face disciplinary action from the sport's ruling body. In late October, he was suspended for one game, and fined 8,000 pounds (9,400 euros/\$10,000), for an altercation with referee Mark Clattenburg during a draw with Burnley.

That incident followed a 50,000-pound punishment for comments made about the decision to allow referee Anthony Taylor to officiate the game with Liverpool.

The latest flashpoint also involved a referee with whom Mourinho has recent history. Last season, while in charge of Chelsea, Mourinho had an altercation with the same official in a game at West Ham which resulted in a one-match stadium ban for the Portuguese.

A year on, against the same opposition and with the same referee, Mourinho kicked a water bottle fully 20 yards to protest Taylor's decision to caution Paul Pogba for simulation after 27 minutes, a card that rules the French international out of United's League Cup quarter-final tie against West Ham at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"I think everyone saw his frustration was shown in that situation," said assistant manager Rui Faria after Mourinho refused to speak post-match. "It should have been a free-kick for us and it ended with a yellow card for Paul and he is out of our next match.

"So there are maybe reasons to express some frustration. After that, things that are part of the game and the referee took a decision.

"But I think everything comes from a decision that should be the opposite way."

By that stage Zlatan Ibrahimovic had equalised an early opening goal from Diafra Sakho. But, as has been the norm recently, Mourinho's team could not find a winner as they recorded a fourth consecutive home league draw—the first time since 1990 they have gone four home games without victory.

More worrying yet, United have now recorded their worst start to a season, after 13 games, since 1989-90, the season that saw Sir Alex Ferguson famously win the FA Cup after surviving strenuous calls for his dismissal from supporters. "We were the best team on the pitch," said Faria. "We didn't have any tactical issues during the game. Defensively we were very compact. Offensively we created the chances to win.

"We are showing that as a team we are a strong side and we can do very good things. We create chances that in a normal way should be goals and the game should be in a comfortable way. "It is not happening. We get frustrated. The only thing we need to do is keep working because then things will change for us."

West Ham manager Slaven Bilic sympathised with his opposite number for his latest disciplinary problems.

"I don't know if he deserved to be sent off, I don't know the rules," said Bilic. "I don't want any manager, especially him, to be sent off. It is hard to judge from our angle if it is a dive or a foul so I can understand it but I don't want him to be sent off. "I have seen him. We didn't talk about the mood but he is a gentleman. I like him."

But the West Ham manager saw promising signs of recovery in his team's display at Old Trafford. "It is a difficult season and I am not trying to avoid saying that," said Bilic, whose side is

just a point above the drop zone.

"I am not happy with the position, we are still paying the price for September, when we had injuries—lost against Watford, West Brom, Southampton, Middlesbrough.

"But recently there are really good performances from us. It is only a matter of time when we get the points. We could have lost today but still I would say the same thing." — AFP



Jose Mourinho

**SOCCER STANDINGS**

EPL standings						Serie A standings							
Standings	P	W	D	L	F	APts	Standings	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Chelsea	13	10	1	2	29	10 31	Juventus	14	11	0	3	29	12 33
Liverpool	13	9	3	1	32	14 30	AS Roma	14	9	2	3	33	16 29
Man City	13	9	3	1	29	12 30	AC Milan	14	9	2	3	25	18 29
Arsenal	13	8	4	1	28	13 28	Lazio	14	8	4	2	27	14 28
Tottenham	13	6	6	1	19	10 24	Atalanta	14	9	1	4	23	14 28
Man United	13	5	5	3	18	15 20	Torino	14	7	4	3	31	17 25
Everton	13	5	4	4	16	15 19	Napoli	13	7	3	3	23	14 24
Watford	13	5	3	5	17	21 18	Fiorentina	12	5	5	2	18	11 20
Bromwich	13	4	5	4	17	16 17	Genoa	13	5	4	4	17	15 19
Southampton	13	4	5	4	13	12 17	Sampdoria	14	5	4	5	17	20 19
Stoke City	13	4	4	5	14	19 16	Cagliari	14	6	1	7	22	31 19
Bournemouth	13	4	3	6	15	19 15	Inter Milan	13	5	3	5	18	16 18
Burnley	13	4	2	7	12	21 14	Chievo Verona	14	5	3	6	14	16 18
Leicester City	13	3	4	6	16	22 13	Bologna	14	4	4	6	14	21 16
Middlesbrough	13	2	6	5	12	15 12	Udinese	14	4	3	7	18	23 15
West Ham Utd	13	3	3	7	14	24 12	Sassuolo	13	4	1	8	16	25 13
Crystal Palace	13	3	2	8	21	26 11	Empoli	14	2	4	8	7	21 10
Hull City	13	3	2	8	11	28 11	Pescara	14	1	4	9	11	26 7
Swansea City	13	2	3	8	16	26 9	Crotone	14	1	3	10	11	27 6
Sunderland	13	2	2	9	12	23 8	Palermo	14	1	3	10	10	27 6

La Liga standings						Ligue 1 standings							
Standings	P	W	D	L	F	APts	Standings	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Real Madrid	13	10	3	0	36	11 33	Nice	14	10	3	1	26	10 33
Barcelona	13	8	3	2	33	14 27	Monaco	14	10	2	2	43	15 32
Sevilla	13	8	3	2	24	18 27	PSG	14	10	2	2	28	8 32
Atletico Madrid	13	7	3	3	28	11 24	Stade Rennes	14	7	3	4	15	17 24
Real Sociedad	13	7	2	4	22	14 23	Guingamp	14	6	5	3	19	14 23
Villarreal	13	6	4	3	19	10 22	Bordeaux	14	6	5	3	19	16 23
Eibar	13	6	3	4	20	16 21	Lyon	14	7	1	6	22	18 22
Athletic Club	12	6	2	4	16	13 20	St Etienne	14	5	6	3	16	12 21
Celta Vigo	13	6	2	5	21	23 20	Toulouse	14	5	4	5	17	13 19
Malaga	13	5	4	4	21	19 19	Angers SCO	14	5	3	6	13	14 18
Espanyol	13	4	6	3	17	17 18	Metz	14	5	3	6	16	25 18
Las Palmas	12	4	4	4	21	20 16	Marseille	14	4	5	5	13	17 17
Alaves	13	4	4	5	13	16 16	Montpellier	14	3	7	4	20	27 16
Real Betis	13	4	2	7	14	25 14	Dijon FCO	14	3	5	6	18	21 14
Leganes	13	4	1	8	11	25 13	Caen	14	4	2	8	11	23 14
Valencia	13	3	2	8	17	24 11	Bastia	14	3	4	7	11	14 13
Deportivo	13	2	4	7	13	23 10	Nantes	14	3	4	7	9	18 13
Sporting Gijon	13	2	3	8	12	27 9	Nancy-Lorraine	14	3	4	7	8	19 13
Osasuna	13	1	4	8	12	26 7	Lille	14	3	2	9	10	19 11
Granada CF	13	0	5	8	11	29 5	FC Lorient	14	2	2	10	12	26 8



**SAN SEBASTIAN:** Real Sociedad's defender Carlos Martinez (L) vies with Barcelona's Brazilian forward Neymar da Silva Santos Junior during the Spanish league football match Real Sociedad vs FC Barcelona at the Anoeta stadium in San Sebastian, on Sunday. —AFP

# BARCA STUMBLES AGAIN AT SOCIEDAD WITH 1-1 DRAW

**BARCELONA:** Barcelona failed to break its soccer curse at Real Sociedad on Sunday in a 1-1 draw in the Spanish league, its seventh straight visit to Anoeta Stadium without a win.

Lionel Messi's equalizer could only salvage a point against a less talented but more inspired Sociedad side that left the titleholders six points behind leader Real Madrid.

Sociedad dominated the match throughout, going ahead through striker William Jose after halftime and coming close to getting the win when Carlos Vela hit the woodwork twice in the final minutes.

Luis Enrique's Barcelona must now prepare for Madrid's visit next weekend in a "clasico" match that the Catalan club must win to keep in touch with its fierce rival.

Luis Enrique said that the draw was a "positive" result because "we took a point from a match that it was practically impossible to take a point from."

He said Barcelona was inferior in all areas to Sociedad. "Sociedad was infinitely superior to us, with the ball, without the ball, in every facet of the match," Luis Enrique said. "This is the first time we were clearly inferior to an opponent this season."

Sociedad, coached by former Barcelona player and reserve team coach Eusebio Sacristan, continued its excellent start to the season. The draw ended its four-round winning streak as it remained in fifth place.

No ground- not Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu, not Atletico Madrid's Vicente Calderon, not Sevilla's Sanchez Pizjuan- bedevils Barcelona like Anoeta Stadium in San Sebastian. It hasn't won here since 2007, with a record since then of five losses and two draws.

Barcelona, a team that is synonymous with control of the ball and precision of pass, was unrecognizable.

Sociedad's pressure completely unnerved Barcelona, reducing a team of stars that was only missing the injured Andres Iniesta into a jittery, error-prone squad that couldn't stop the steady

stream of chances for the hosts. "You can rarely say this about Barcelona, but very little, actually nothing, went our way today," Barcelona defender Gerard Pique said. "It was our attitude. We won't win the league playing like this."

Sociedad's David Zurutuza, Xabi Prieto, Vela and Inigo Martinez all threatened to score before the half-hour mark, and Sociedad generated eight corner kicks before Barcelona even managed its first.

For all the verve Sociedad showed going forward, Barcelona's trio of Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez barely received the ball from their rattled teammates.

The closest Barcelona came to mustering a shot on goal before halftime was Suarez's desperate long strike that flew wide when a loose ball fell to him. Neymar finally forced goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli into action to parry his free kick in the 50th.

But that was only a prelude to William Jose's header that Pique tried to clear from the goal line only to send it into the top of the net in the 53rd. Vela had linked up with William Jose to draw a save from Marc-Andre Ter Stegen, leading to William Jose's header.

Messi leveled the match six minutes later with his ninth goal of the campaign after Neymar finally broke down the left flank and squared the ball to the Argentina forward to rifle in with his left foot.

But Sociedad wasn't shaken and went close several times to getting a second goal. Vela hit the bar in the 76th with the ball ricocheting off the goal line- and struck the upright in the 83rd.

"We deserved more," Vela said. Barcelona's second draw in a row left it in second place, level on points with Sevilla. Catalan television reported that Neymar was in a minor car accident in Barcelona before he and the team traveled to San Sebastian. He started the match and appeared unaffected by the incident.

**OSASUNA 0, ATLETICO MADRID 3**

Diego Simeone's Atletico stopped its slide

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

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP		
Liverpool v Leeds United	22:45	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Hull City v Newcastle United	22:45	beIN SPORTS 8 HD
FRENCH LEAGUE 1ST DIV		
Lorient v Stade Rennes	21:00	beIN SPORTS
Lille v Caen	21:00	beIN SPORTS
Dijon v Monaco	23:00	beIN SPORTS 6 HD
SPAIN COPA DEL REY		
Leganes v Valencia	22:00	beIN SPORTS 3 HD
Alcorcon v Espanyol	23:00	beIN SPORTS
Sporting Gijon v Eibar	23:00	beIN SPORTS

down the table with a convincing victory to return to the top four.

Goals by Diego Godin, Kevin Gameiro and Yannick Carrasco came after the former pacesetter had stumbled badly with losses to Sociedad and Madrid.

**OTHER ACTION**

Alaves got goals from Ibai Gomez and Victor Camarasa to pull off a surprising 2-0 win at Villarreal, which fell into sixth place. Celta Vigo striker Iago Aspas opened a 3-1 win that kept last-place Granada winless. —AP

# MINNOWS DREAM AS SPAIN'S BELEAGUERED CUP RETURNS

**MADRID:** Spain's lesser-known sides are dreaming of their day in the sun, but the return of holders Barcelona and 18 other La Liga sides to the Copa del Rey this week has a familiar flat feel. Unlike England's FA Cup, Spain's knockout competition is a two-legged affair until the final and seeded in the early rounds. Whilst that secures a glamour tie and some much needed cash for those lowest down the pyramid lucky enough to make it to the last 32, upsets are few and far between.

"We don't have competition in the Cup," La Liga president Javier Tebas has argued and admits reforms to the competition will be studied after a new three-year television deal runs out. Barcelona haven't been eliminated by anyone other than Real Madrid in six seasons. Yet, despite that record, even Barca boss Luis Enrique is in favour of a change to the rules. "I would like a one-off game in all ties of the

Copa del Rey," he said last season.

The record 28-time Cup winners begin their defence at Hercules of the third tier. However, with a hugely important league meeting with Madrid to come in La Liga on Saturday, the fans in Alicante are unlikely to catch a glimpse of the likes of Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez or Neymar.

Hercules won on their last visit to the Camp Nou, shocking Pep Guardiola's all-conquering Barca side 2-0 in 2010.

But they have since tumbled down the league ladder since with two relegations in four years. "It is a great joy, especially for the fans that have suffered a lot in recent years," said Hercules captain Paco Pena.

The financially-stricken Hercules also hope to make 600,000 euros (\$635,000) through gate receipts and TV money from the tie. Real Madrid are already well on their way to

the last 16 as they host Cultural Leonesa at the Santiago Bernabeu tomorrow boasting a 7-1 lead from the first leg.

Zinedine Zidane is expected to reserve all of his star names with the Clasico in mind, but Brazilian midfielder Casemiro could come into contention for the Camp Nou clash as he will start for the first time in two months after recovering from a broken leg.

Gujijelo will be dressed to impress as they seek to shock Atletico Madrid. The municipality in the Salamanca province is famous for its Iberian ham and Gujijelo will don a special shirt divided into Atletico's famous red and white strips and strips of ham.

Meanwhile, Sevilla will have to catch a boat from Ibiza for their clash with Formentera, an island better known in football circles as a favoured holiday destination for Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. —AFP



**DECINES:** Paris Saint Germain's Edinson Roberto Cavani, down, challenges for the ball with Lyon's Mapou Yanga Mbiwa, up, during their French League One soccer match in Decines, near Lyon, central France, Sunday. — AP

# FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED IN THE ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

**LONDON:** Chelsea stayed top, Manchester City registered a gritty win at Burnley, Manchester United lost more ground following yet another home draw and Liverpool were left sweating on Philippe Coutinho. Here are five things we learned in the Premier League this weekend:

**CHELSEA CAN MIX IT TOO**

Chelsea stormed to the top of the Premier League with a run of six successive wins in which they generally outclassed their opponents. But Saturday's 2-1 comeback victory over Tottenham Hotspur showed they are also capable of going toe-to-toe with teams who prove themselves to be on the same level. Christian Eriksen gave Spurs an 11th-minute lead and Mauricio Pochettino's side were truly dominant in the first half, but goals either side of half-time by Pedro Rodriguez and Victor

Moses turned the game on its head. Chelsea got to grips with Spurs' high press and withstood the visitors' physicality in midfield to reclaim their place at the league summit. They visit Pep Guardiola's Manchester City next weekend looking to record an eighth successive league victory for the first time since 2010.

**MAN CITY HAVE DEPTH IN RESOURCES AND SPIRIT**

Manchester City's scruffy 2-1 win over Burnley on Saturday might have scored low on style points, but for Pep Guardiola, the trip to Turf Moor underlined the importance of his squad's strength in depth. The City manager made five changes to his starting line-up following the mid-week Champions League draw against Borussia Moenchengladbach as he wanted "fresh legs". The switches included leaving out defender John Stones and putting

key midfielder Kevin De Bruyne on the bench. Burnley took a 14th-minute lead through Dean Marney's volley, but City hit back to win via a pair of scrappy Sergio Aguero goals either side of half-time. City showed character to survive Burnley's late pressure and record successive league wins for the first time since September.

**LIVERPOOL MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITHOUT COUTINHO**

Liverpool's 2-0 win over Sunderland came at the cost of an injury to Brazilian playmaker Philippe Coutinho, who could be out until the New Year with suspected ankle ligament damage. The 24-year-old has been Liverpool's key attacking player to date this season, supplying five goals and six assists and reportedly attracting interest from Barcelona. With fellow schemer Adam Lallana currently nursing a groin injury and

Sadio Mane set for Africa Cup of Nations duty with Senegal in January, manager Jurgen Klopp finds himself without Coutinho at a particularly unfortunate juncture.

**MAN UNITED'S SCORING PROBLEMS ARE CHRONIC**

They may boast one of the most star-studded squads in world football, but Manchester United are currently experiencing a damaging goal shortage in the Premier League. Their 1-1 draw with West Ham United on Sunday was their fourth home league stalemate in succession-something they last experienced in 1980 — and in those games they have scored just three goals. United showed they know where the goal is in Thursday's 4-0 Europa League win over Feyenoord, but their profligacy in the league is costing them. They currently stand in sixth place, a gaping 11 points below leaders

Chelsea after just 13 matches.

**WALCOTT IS A HAPPY DAD**

Theo Walcott might be in for a few sleepless nights after the birth of his second child, but the Arsenal winger produced a welcome delivery of his own to put his side on course for a 3-1 win over Bournemouth. Walcott's partner Melanie did the hard work in bringing baby Arlo into the world on Friday and the England international marked the occasion with the crucial second goal at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday. Callum Wilson cancelled out Alexis Sanchez's opener for Arsenal with a contentious penalty, but Walcott produced a rare header from Nacho Monreal's 53rd-minute cross-celebrating with a 'rock the baby' gesture to restore the hosts' lead. Sanchez's second goal secured victory as Arsenal ended a run of three straight draws. —AFP

# Sports

Argentina beat Croatia to win first Davis Cup



Ashwin's triple strike leaves England reeling



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DENVER: Tight end Travis Kelce #87 of the Kansas City Chiefs shakes off free safety Darian Stewart #26 of the Denver Broncos after catching a pass in overtime at Sports Authority Field at Mile High on Sunday. — AFP

## BRADY WINS 200TH GAME AS CHIEFS RALLY PAST BRONCOS

DENVER: Cairo Santos' 34-yard field goal hit the left upright and bounced through as time expired to give the Kansas Chiefs a 30-27 overtime victory over the Denver Broncos in the NFL on Sunday night. That avoided the third tie in the NFL this season, something that hasn't happened since 1973 before the league introduced overtime. The winner followed a risky move by Broncos coach Gary Kubiak, who sent his kicker out for a 62-yard attempt with 1:01 left only to see Brandon McManus come up short. That gave the Chiefs possession at the Denver 48 with one timeout and just over a minute remaining. The Chiefs reached the Denver 16 before Santos ended the snoozerturned-thriller in perfect fashion. The Chiefs (8-3) kept up with the Oakland Raiders (9-2) in the AFC West race and the Broncos (7-4) could find themselves fighting for a wild card now. Both teams kicked field goals on their opening possession of overtime, McManus from 44 yards and Santos from 37. That followed Kansas City's amazing tying drive in the final 3 minutes of regulation. Alex Smith threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to rookie Tyreek Hill and a 2-point conversion pass to tie it at 24.

### GIANTS 27, BROWNS 13

Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes to Odell Beckham Jr. and Jason Pierre-Paul returned a fumble for a TD as the New York Giants extended their winning streak to six and kept the Browns winless. Manning had three TD passes. They don't overwhelm anyone, but the Giants (8-3) do just enough to win and are in position to make the playoffs for the first time since winning the Super Bowl in 2011. Manning threw a 32-yard TD pass to Beckham in the second quarter and added a 4-yarder to the star wide receiver with 5:10 left to finally put away the Browns (0-12). Cleveland has lost 15 in a row since last season. It is 3-30 since ending the 2014 season with five consecutive losses.

### BUCCANEERS 14, SEAHAWKS 5

Jameis Winston threw a pair of touchdown passes to Mike Evans as Tampa Bay's rejuvenated defense shut down Russell Wilson and Seattle. Evans scored on receptions of 3 and 23 yards in the opening quarter, a grieving Alterraun Verner had one of two interceptions off Wilson, and the Bucs sacked the Seattle quarterback six times. The Bucs (6-5) have won three straight to climb back into contention for a playoff berth. In addition to stopping Seattle's three-game winning streak, they remained one game behind first-place Atlanta in the NFC South. The Seahawks are 7-3-1. Playing two days after the death of his father, Verner picked off Wilson to stop a promising drive in the final minute of the opening half. The reserve cornerback was embraced on the sideline by teammates, who continued to play inspired defense in the second half.

### RAIDERS 35, PANTHERS 12

Derek Carr came back from an injured finger to lead another fourth-quarter comeback as the

Raiders won their fifth straight game. Carr threw for 315 yards and two touchdowns despite missing a series after the injury, leading the Raiders (9-2) back from an eight-point deficit in the fourth quarter to clinch their first winning season since 2002. After leading a tying drive earlier in the fourth quarter, Carr hit Michael Crabtree on a 49-yard pass on third-and-9 to help set up Sebastian Janikowski's 23-yard field goal with 1:45 left. Cam Newton led the Panthers (4-7) into Oakland territory on the final drive. But Greg Olsen dropped a pass on third down that would have put Carolina in field goal range, and Khalil Mack stripped Newton on a fourth-down sack to seal the win. The Panthers scored the first 25 points in the second half after Carr left the game when he damaged the little finger on his right hand while fumbling a snap on the second play from scrimmage in the third quarter.

### PATRIOTS 22, JETS 17

Tom Brady tied Peyton Manning for the most wins by a quarterback in NFL history, getting his 200th by throwing a go-ahead 8-yard touchdown pass to Malcolm Mitchell with 1:56 left. Trailing 17-16 with 5:04 remaining and the ball on the Patriots' 17, Brady led an efficient drive by completing six passes. After James White stretched for 4 yards on fourth-and-4, a 25-yard catch by Chris Hogan put the ball at the 8. Brady then zipped a pass to Mitchell to put the Patriots (9-2) ahead. A 2-point conversion try by White was initially ruled good, but the call was reversed because the ball didn't cross the goal line - giving the Jets (3-8) a final chance. But Chris Long hit Ryan Fitzpatrick before he could throw, resulting in a fumble that was

recovered by Trey Flowers. It was the 500th win in franchise history for the Patriots, who became the first original AFL franchise to reach the mark.

### FALCONS 38, CARDINALS 19

Taylor Gabriel took two short passes for touchdowns as the Atlanta Falcons returned from a bye week to add to Arizona's misery. Gabriel, cut by the winless Browns before the season, scored on plays of 35 and 25 yards that showed off his speed. His second score finished the Cardinals, who began the season touted as a Super Bowl contender but have been one of the NFL's most disappointing teams. The Falcons (7-4) began the day leading the NFC South and moved a step closer to their first playoff berth since 2012. The Cardinals (4-6-1) have lost two straight and three of their past four, putting them in danger of missing the postseason a year after reaching the NFC championship game. Coach Bruce Arians was on the sideline after falling ill and being briefly hospitalized early in the week, but it did little to inspire his team.

### CHARGERS 21, TEXANS 13

Philip Rivers threw for 242 yards and three touchdowns against the mistake-prone Texans. Dontrelle Inman had 119 yards receiving and a touchdown to help San Diego (5-6) to the victory. The Texans (6-5) lost in Houston for the first time this season after winning their first five here. Playing a large part were four turnovers, including three interceptions by Brock Osweiler. The Chargers were up by four in the fourth quarter when Rivers evaded the rush and delivered a 25-yard pass to Inman. Kareem Jackson was flagged for unneces-

sary roughness for a helmet-to-helmet hit on the play, leaving San Diego at the 12-yard line. Rivers delivered a touchdown pass to rookie Hunter Henry on the next play to push the lead to 21-10. Osweiler's second interception came after that when he badly overthrew C.J. Fiedorowicz and Dwight Lowery made the easy grab. Houston added a field goal with 37 seconds left and recovered an onside kick. But Osweiler's first shot at the end zone was knocked down, and the second one was intercepted as time expired.

### TITANS 27, BEARS 21

Marcus Mariota threw for 226 yards and two touchdowns to help Tennessee hang on and beat the depleted Chicago. The Titans (6-6) gave their playoff hopes a boost, though they watched as Chicago (2-9) cut a 20-point lead to six in the fourth quarter. The Titans moved a half-game out of first place in the AFC South. Matt Barkley, starting for the injured Jay Cutler, led the late surge. The Bears had a first down at the Tennessee 7 in the final minute when Josh Bellamy dropped a pass in the end zone on first down. Barkley's next three attempts fell incomplete, preserving the win for Tennessee. Mariota, putting together one of the best seasons ever by a Titans quarterback, came through with another solid performance. The second-year pro completed 15 of 23 passes.

### SAINTS 49, RAMS 21

Drew Brees passed for 310 yards and four touchdowns and Mark Ingram scored twice. Playing 10 days after being knocked unconscious in a Thursday night loss at Carolina, Ingram rushed

for 146 yards on 14 carries, including a 61-yard scamper and a 10-yard touchdown on a fourth-and-1 play. He also scored on a 21-yard screen to the right side of the field, which was wide open as the Rams (4-7) tried to pressure Brees. Two of Brees' scoring strikes went to rookie Michael Thomas, whose touchdowns of 6 and 21 yards were part of a nine-catch, 108-yard performance. Brees' other touchdowns went to Ingram and Brandon Coleman from 6 yards for New Orleans (5-6). Saints coach Sean Payton also victimized his former defensive coordinator, Gregg Williams, with some razzle-dazzle that produced a 50-yard touchdown pass from receiver Willie Snead to running back Tim Hightower.

### DOLPHINS 31, 49ERS 24

Ndamukong Suh tackled Colin Kaepernick 2 yards short of the goal line as time ran out as the Dolphins handed San Francisco a franchise-record 10th consecutive loss. Ryan Tannehill threw for 285 yards and three scores to compensate for a sputtering Miami ground game. With the 49ers trailing by seven, Kaepernick moved them from their 38 to the 6 in the final 1:44. But he threw incomplete on first down, and then was tackled from behind by the 305-pound (138 kilogram) Suh on the final play. The Dolphins (7-4) extended their winning streak to six games, their longest since 2005. Kaepernick passed for three TDs, but the 49ers (1-10) still haven't won since the season opener.

### RAVENS 19, BENGALS 14

Justin Tucker kicked four field goals as Baltimore shut down the Bengals' depleted offense. Joe Flacco threw for 234 yards and a touchdown to help Baltimore (6-5) snap a five-game losing streak against the Bengals (3-7-1), whose playoff hopes took another serious blow. The victory was not assured until Cincinnati quarterback Andy Dalton fumbled when sacked by Elvis Dumervil, and defensive end Lawrence Guy recovered at the Baltimore 21 with 1:05 left and the Ravens up 19-12. Cincinnati got a safety on the final play when Baltimore punter Sam Koch ran out of the end zone while his blockers intentionally held Cincinnati rushers. A game can end on an offensive penalty. At this point, the Bengals will need a sensational finish to extend their run of consecutive playoff appearances to six.

### BILLS 28, JAGUARS 21

LeSean McCoy scored twice, including a career-best 75 yard run. Tyrod Taylor's 16-yard touchdown pass to Justin Hunter with 10:46 remaining put the Bills ahead for good during a second half in which the lead changed five times. Taylor also scored on a 7-yard run in helping keep Buffalo in the playoff hunt. The Bills (6-5) won for the second straight week when trailing at halftime after doing so just once last season. Taylor also produced just the second fourth-quarter comeback of his career. The Jaguars (2-9) lost for the sixth straight game, their longest skid since opening the 2014 season at 0-6. —AP

### NFL results/standings

Tennessee 27, Chicago 21; Buffalo 28, Jacksonville 21; Baltimore 19, Cincinnati 14; Atlanta 38, Arizona 19; NY Giants 27, Cleveland 13; New Orleans 49, Los Angeles 21; Miami 31, San Francisco 24; San Diego 21, Houston 13; Tampa Bay 14, Seattle 5; Oakland 35, Carolina 32; New England 22, NY Jets 17; Kansas City 30, Denver 27 (OT).															
American Football Conference					National Football Conference										
AFC East					NFC East										
W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT	W	L	T	OTL	PF	PA	PCT		
New England	9	2	0	0	293	197	.818	Dallas	10	1	0	0	316	213	.909
Miami	7	4	0	0	249	240	.636	NY Giants	8	3	0	0	231	213	.727
Buffalo	6	5	0	0	281	236	.545	Washington	6	4	1	0	280	264	.591
NY Jets	3	8	0	0	196	266	.273	Philadelphia	5	5	0	1	241	186	.500
AFC North					NFC North										
Baltimore	6	5	0	0	218	201	.545	Detroit	7	4	0	0	247	238	.636
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	0	266	222	.545	Minnesota	6	5	0	1	218	192	.545
Cincinnati	3	7	1	0	213	245	.318	Green Bay	4	6	0	0	247	276	.400
Cleveland	0	12	0	1	197	352	0	Chicago	2	9	0	0	178	264	.182
AFC South					NFC South										
Houston	6	5	0	0	194	236	.545	Atlanta	7	4	0	1	358	302	.636
Tennessee	6	6	0	0	308	296	.500	Tampa Bay	6	5	0	1	249	264	.545
Indianapolis	5	6	0	1	270	301	.455	New Orleans	5	6	0	0	334	307	.455
Jacksonville	2	9	0	0	214	293	.182	Carolina	4	7	0	0	276	281	.364
AFC West					NFC West										
Oakland	9	2	0	0	307	275	.818	Seattle	7	3	1	0	224	187	.682
Kansas City	8	3	0	0	252	214	.727	Arizona	4	6	1	0	245	228	.409
Denver	7	4	0	1	266	219	.636	Los Angeles	4	7	0	0	170	236	.364
San Diego	5	6	0	1	313	291	.455	San Francisco	1	10	0	0	228	344	.091



Ford and Alghanim Auto's Truck Tour drives excitement in Kuwait



HARARE: Zimbabweans wait in a bank queue following the introduction of new notes by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe in Harare yesterday. (Inset) man holds bond notes released by the Reserve Bank Of Zimbabwe.— AP/AFP

# ZIMBABWE ROLLS OUT 'SURROGATE' DOLLARS

## BOND NOTES SPARK FEARS OF HYPERINFLATION

**HARARE:** Zimbabwe yesterday started issuing "bond notes", its own currency equivalent to the US dollar, in a bid to ease critical cash shortages, but the move sparked fears of a return to hyperinflation.

The crisis-hit southern African country has used multiple foreign currencies, including the greenback, since 2009 after a rate of inflation that peaked at 500 billion percent rendered the Zimbabwe dollar unusable. The introduction of \$2 and \$5 bond notes into circulation follows the issuing of bond coins over a year ago to ease shortages of change in smaller denominations.

The country has experienced a severe shortage of US dollar banknotes in recent months which prompted President Robert

Mugabe's government to print what locals have dubbed "surrogate money". "The government is only treating the symptoms without attending to the problems and it's not going to solve anything," Antony Hawkins, an economist at the University of Zimbabwe's Business School, told AFP.

"The problem is we are not earning enough foreign currency and bond notes are not going to solve that. It will make the situation worse." "There is a saying in economic that says 'bad money drives away good money', and that is what's going to happen."

The central bank has launched a media advertising blitz trying to allay people's fears, saying retailers and businesses have agreed to accept the bond notes. But the illiquid

Zimbabweans say they have no choice but to accept the pseudo currency.

### 'Stop-gap'

"We had no solution. We were caught between a rock and a hard place. This is a good stop-gap measure. Let's embrace it," Timothy Salimu, a former bank manager told AFP outside the banking hall in the capital.

Yet "for people needing money to do business outside this will present challenges," he added, "but it's too early to cry." But even as Lovemore Chitongo, 40, a curbside shoe salesman, accepted payments in bond notes and coins yesterday morning, he remained skeptical. "We are expecting little change," he told AFP. "There is no way the bond note will be

equal to the US dollar. The market will determine the exchange rate." Chitongo himself was charging \$20 per pair of shoes-but \$25 in bond notes. He would use the difference to buy cash on the black market, he said. The introduction of bond notes stoked fears of gas shortages over the past week and queues surfaced at some fuel stations. The government sought to calm panicking drivers, saying the country has enough fuel stocks. "We wish to assure the nation that there is no basis for alleging that the country will go dry in terms of fuel supply," it said in a statement at the weekend. Depositors would be limited to a maximum withdrawal of \$150 a week. The 2009 switch to foreign currencies saw relative economic stability before the economy began to falter again as government

policies deterred investors. The economic decline has worsened in recent months with banks running short of cash and desperate depositors sleeping overnight outside branches to be sure of accessing their money. Those businesses that have weathered Zimbabwe's successive economic storms are grinding to a halt as the government repeatedly fails to pay soldiers and civil servants on time. The introduction of bond notes has also stirred anger that has erupted into street protests. In the past fortnight several activists were beaten up and arrested ahead of a planned street protest to oppose the introduction of the notes.

The government said the new notes will be backed by a \$200 million support facility provided by the Cairo-based Afreximbank.— AFP

## SECOND-TIER STOCKS BOOST SAUDI INDEX, KUWAIT RISES

### MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

**DUBAI:** Strength in second-tier stocks favoured by local retail investors boosted Saudi Arabia's stock market yesterday, while foreign buying helped Egypt partially rebound from a drop on Sunday and most other Middle East bourses fell.

Saudi Arabia's index climbed 0.9 percent to 6,904 points, rising above major technical resistance on its April peak of 6,876 points. A second consecutive close above that level would be very bullish technically and point to the index reaching around 8,400 points in the long term. The Saudi market has been strong since the kingdom's \$17.5 billion international bond issue in late October partly eased concern about Riyadh's ability to cope with an era of cheap oil.

Banks and petrochemicals led the market in the initial stages of its rally, but underperformed on Monday with activity focused on unusually heavy trade in second-tier stocks such as Tabuk Agricultural Development Co, which was up 6.2 percent. Real estate developer Jabal Omar gained 4.2 percent after saying it had ended a contract with builder Saudi Binladin Group, settling an outstanding 196 million riyal (\$52.3 million) debt to Binladin by transferring to it ownership of units in a project. One blue chip which rose sharply was real estate developer Dar Al Arkan, the most heavily traded stock, which surged 4.4 percent. The mood was more subdued elsewhere, with little fresh corporate news to spur buying. Dubai's

index fell 0.8 percent as Union Properties, the most heavily traded stock, pulled back 4.6 percent after Sunday's 11.4 percent rise. Abu Dhabi's index dropped 1.0 percent as telecommunications blue chip Etisalat fell 1.4 percent, while Qatar slipped 0.5 percent as Qatar National Bank lost 1.1 percent. Kuwait's index edged up 0.1 percent, showing little initial reaction to parliamentary elections at the weekend in which opposition candidates were estimated to have won around 20 seats out of 50. But Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, said the opposition's strong showing might dampen Kuwait's growth in the medium term, since major economic projects could be delayed by political friction.

"These results point to the possibility of a more contentious relationship between the government and the National Assembly than was seen between 2013 and 2016, when the opposition was a minority," she wrote. The Egyptian index, which had tumbled 1.8 percent on Sunday as its rally in response to the Nov. 3 float of the Egyptian pound lost steam, rebounded 1.0 percent on Monday.

Exchange data showed foreign investors were net buyers to the tune of about \$11 million, an unusually large margin. Raya Holding for Financial Investment jumped 8.1 percent after saying it was close to finalizing an agreement for Egyptian Gulf Bank to take a 20 percent stake in its new Aman e-payments unit.— Reuters

# OPEC MAKES LAST-DITCH BID TO SAVE OIL DEAL

**VIENNA:** OPEC was trying yesterday to rescue a deal to limit oil output as tensions grew among the producer group and non-OPEC member Russia, with top exporter Saudi Arabia saying markets would rebalance even without an agreement. OPEC experts started a meeting in Vienna at 0900 GMT and were due to make recommendations to their ministers on how exactly the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries should reduce production when it meets on Nov. 30.

Meanwhile, the Algerian and Venezuelan oil ministers were to travel to Moscow on Monday and Tuesday in a final attempt to persuade Russia to take part in cuts instead of merely freezing output, which has reached new highs in the past year.

In September, OPEC, which accounts for a third of global oil production, agreed to cap output at around 32.5-33.0 million barrels per day versus the current 33.64 million bpd to prop up oil prices, which have more than halved since mid-2014. The meeting on Nov. 30 was expected to rubber-stamp that deal, with Russia and some other non-OPEC producers such as Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan also contributing. But doubts emerged in recent weeks as OPEC's No2 and 3 producers, Iraq and Iran, expressed reservations about the mechanics of output reductions and Saudi Arabia voiced concern about Russia's willingness to cut. On Friday, OPEC cancelled an experts meeting with non-OPEC producers scheduled for Nov 28 after Saudi Arabia said the



VIENNA: Iraq's Minister of Oil Jabar Ali Al-Luaibi speaks to journalists at a hotel in Vienna yesterday.—AP

organisation needed to sort out its differences first. Over the weekend, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said oil markets would rebalance even without an output-limiting pact. He had previously said Riyadh was keen for a deal.

Doubts about OPEC's ability to deliver promised cuts sent Brent crude down 2 percent initially on Monday to less than \$47 a barrel. Prices later recovered to trade up 1 percent after Iraq's oil minister said he remained optimistic.

Some analysts including Morgan Stanley and Macquarie have said oil prices will correct sharply if OPEC fails to reach a deal, potentially going as low as \$35 per barrel.

As OPEC experts turned up at the group's headquarters on Monday, one delegate who had previously stated that a deal would be done, said this time: "I am not sure." Another delegate, when asked about the prospects for a deal, said: "Nobody knows yet." Iraqi Oil Minister Jabar Ali Al-Luaibi, upon arrival in Vienna, declined to say whether Iraq was ready to cut output: "We are optimistic. We hope we (will) have agreement. We will cooperate with OPEC members to reach agreement acceptable to all."

OPEC ministers started arriving in Vienna on Sunday for the group's regular twice-yearly talks but Saudi Arabia's Falih was not expected to land before Tuesday evening, leaving little time for traditional pre-meeting discussions with peers. Iranian semi-official news agency MEHR published an editorial on Sunday accusing Saudi Arabia of declaring a new "war on oil prices" and reneging on its promises to limit output. The tone contrasted with Iranian news agencies' more upbeat coverage of OPEC's informal meeting in September in Algeria, when the initial deal was reached.— Reuters

# ACCOUNTING MEETS RELIGION IN CHALLENGE FOR ISLAMIC BANKS

## ISLAMIC BANKS ADAPTING TO IFRS ACCOUNTING RULES

**LONDON:** Reconciling accounting standards and religious principles is challenging Islamic banks and regulators as they adapt to new international book-keeping rules due to come into force in 2018.

The new rules, known as IFRS 9, will leave their mark on all major products used by Islamic banks - from simple savings accounts to Islamic bonds - and impact their bottom-lines. Banks around the globe are gearing up to implement IFRS 9 from January 2018, posing a particular challenge for many Islamic finance contracts as they change the way financial assets are classified and measured, requiring lenders to book expected losses in advance. The problem for most Islamic financial products is that their accounting treatment can often diverge from the actual economic substance of a transaction, a key concept behind IFRS 9.

This has prompted the Bahrain-based Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) to set up a working group to look at ways to revise its rules for Islamic financial institutions, which now hold assets worth around \$2 trillion. AAOIFI issues guidelines that are followed wholly or in part by Islamic financial institutions across the world, so its efforts would help

align the industry to global practices.

The working group is revising AAOIFI's accounting standard for provisions and reserves and developing a new one for impairments and expected losses, secretary-general Hamed Merah told Reuters. These changes will be discussed at a workshop in Jordan on Dec. 14 and at a meeting of AAOIFI's accounting board starting on Dec. 26, with an exposure draft expected to be released for public comment early next year, Merah said.

AAOIFI will also look at amendments to its standard for investment accounts and a new standard covering Islamic derivatives such as waad and khayar, Merah added.

### LACK OF GUIDANCE

A potential clash with Islamic principles could make IFRS implementation tricky for Islamic banks when it comes to accounting of provisions and impairments. "We still see diverging practices in a number of aspects," Abdelilah Belatik, secretary-general of the General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions, a Bahrain-based non-profit organization, said.

"Some of these different practices are due to regulatory reasons, and in other cases to the lack of guidance," Islamic

banks' credit ratings, profitability and the cost of funding to customers could be affected by IFRS, Hamad Abdulla Eqab, chairman of AAOIFI's accounting board, said during the organisation's annual conference earlier this month.

For instance, while IFRS 9 requires recognition of expected losses, AAOIFI rules only permit recognition of incurred losses. Islamic law does not allow customers to be charged for a future event or a future loss, said Eqab, who is also group chief financial officer at Albaraka Banking Group.

Another issue related to IFRS 9 is how some Islamic finance transactions are classified, such as murabaha and musharaka. Murabaha is a cost-plus-profit arrangement widely used to structure Islamic loans, while musharaka is a partnership contract where two or more parties share profits according to a stipulated ratio.

They could be deemed trading activities depending on the specific details of each contract, Belatik said. Islamic bonds, or sukuk, may also be affected.

A popular sukuk structure is a sale and lease-back contract known as ijarah. However, some sukuk could be classified as leases and therefore fall under a different standard, IFRS 16. — Reuters

## News

in brief

### Oman's ORPIC shuts Sohar oil refinery

**KHOBAR:** Oman Oil Refineries and Petroleum Industries Co (ORPIC) has shut down its 116,000 barrel per day Sohar oil refinery because of technical issues, the company said via its official Twitter account yesterday. "Sohar Refinery is experiencing a total safe shutdown due to technical issues, this will result in irregular flaring," ORPIC said without giving other details or specifying how long the shutdown might last. It added that a maintenance team had started to resolve the issue. An ORPIC official, contacted by telephone, said the shutdown might last up to a few days, but did not elaborate and declined to comment further.

### OPEC oil price stands at \$44.88 pb

**VIENNA:** The OPEC daily basket price was down last Friday by 34 cents to stand at \$44.88 per barrel, compared with \$45.22 last Thursday, the organization said yesterday. OPEC bulletin published that the annual rate of its basket price for 2015 was \$49.49 pb. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

### European Bank to lend Tunisia 400 million euros

**TUNIS:** The European Investment Bank (EIB) has agreed to grant loans to Tunisia worth 400 million euros for youth and infrastructure projects, the Tunis government said yesterday. The deal will be signed during an international investment conference in Tunis today, the prime minister's office said in a statement. It quoted EIB President Werner Hoyer as saying the money would be provided for projects targeting youth, children, and schools, as well as a bridge project in the northern city of Bizerte. The projects will have an "immediate impact", it said. The statement added that the EIB had made a commitment to provide a total of 2.5 billion euros worth of funding to the North African country, without giving details. Tunisia's economy has been hit by social unrest and militant attacks following a 2011 uprising that toppled former leader Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, leaving many young people frustrated at a lack of economic opportunities.

### Turkey's Garanti Bank signs \$1.3bn loan deal

**ISTANBUL:** Turkey's Garanti Bank said yesterday it had signed on Nov. 23 a 367-day syndicated loan deal worth \$1.3 billion in two tranches of \$626 million and \$615.5 million euros. The deal was reached with 34 banks in 15 countries, with an all-in cost of Libor +1.10 percent and Euribor +1.0 percent, the bank said in a statement to the Istanbul stock exchange. Turkey's economic confidence index rose 7.4 percent in November to 86.55, data from the Turkish Statistics Institute showed yesterday. In October, the index had dropped to 80.56 from 87.81 a month earlier. The index indicates an optimistic economic outlook when above 100 and a pessimistic one when below 100.

## OIL PRICES GYRATE AS OPEC BOSSES HEAD TO VIENNA

**LONDON:** Oil prices gained more than one percent yesterday in volatile trading after falling as much as 2 percent, recouping the losses as the market reacted to the shaky prospect of major producers being able to agree output cuts at a meeting tomorrow.

Brent crude futures were 38 cents higher at \$47.62 per barrel by 1238, after falling in early morning trade, clawing back losses and falling again. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures also fluctuated widely before trading at \$46.36, 30 cents higher.

Trading turned choppy after prices tumbled more than 3 percent on Friday as doubts grew over whether the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would reach agreement to help curb a global supply overhang that has more than halved prices since 2014.

Market watchers expected prices to remain reactionary until OPEC's tomorrow meeting offers the market a definitive answer as to whether the cartel would make cuts. "There's going to be speculation until the meeting that makes prices very difficult to predict between now and Wednesday," said Hamza Khan, head of commodities strategy at ING. "Whatever small fundamental news we get will be drowned out by the shouting from Vienna."

On Sunday, Saudi Arabian Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said the oil market would balance itself in 2017 even if producers did not intervene, and that keeping output at current levels could therefore be justified. The statement stoked simmering disagreement between OPEC and non-OPEC crude exporters such as Russia over who should cut production by how much.

By Monday, OPEC was scrambling to rescue the deal, with analysts warning of a sharp price correction if they fail, and prices spiked as Iraq's oil minister said the country would cooperate with the group to reach an agreement "acceptable to all."

A meeting scheduled for yesterday between OPEC and non-OPEC producers was called off after Saudi Arabia declined to attend, while concerns over the feasibility of a deal pushed the crude oil volatility index close to a nine-month high. Others warned that even if some form of an output restriction is announced after producers meet in Vienna on Wednesday, the details matter greatly.

"Do not take an announcement of a headline cut of 1 million barrels per day (bpd) at face value. It could still imply an OPEC production level considerably in excess of 33 million bpd, depending on developments in Libya and Nigeria and the speed and rigor of compliance," David Hufton, managing director of brokerage PVM Oil Associates Ltd. said in a note.

Even if a cut is agreed, oversupply may not end soon. The US oil rig count rose by three last week, and Goldman Sachs said that "since its trough on May 27, 2016, producers have added 158 oil rigs (+50 percent) in the US." — Reuters



**TOKYO:** A woman walks past the electronic board showing Nikkei stock Index (left) at a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. Asian stock markets were mixed Monday after oil prices slid on unease about this week's meeting of OPEC members to discuss possible output cuts.—AP

## SAUDI BRINKMANSHIP AIMS TO REGAIN LEVERAGE WITHIN OPEC

**LONDON:** Saudi Arabia is trying to re-establish some negotiating leverage within OPEC by threatening to block an output cutting deal unless other members share more of the burden. Saudi negotiators made a mistake at the organization's last meeting in September by appearing too eager to secure a deal, which has emboldened other members to harden their own positions.

Now the Saudis are trying to push others into making concessions by raising the prospect that if they do not there will be no deal, an outcome that would be worse for everyone.

For two years between mid-2014 and mid-2016, Saudi Arabia took the hardest line within OPEC, insisting it would only cut output if joined by all other OPEC and major non-OPEC producers. For reasons that remain unexplained, the Saudi position shifted significantly between the OPEC meetings in June 2016 and September 2016, and the kingdom became much more interested in reaching an agreement.

The shift may have been the result of a change in oil minister, the continued drawdown of the kingdom's foreign currency reserves, and the deteriorating economic situation at home.

It may also reflect the previous strategy's failure to rebalance the oil market within a reasonable time frame and the prospective share sale in the national oil production company. Whatever the reason, Saudi negotiators went into the last round of OPEC talks in September determined to obtain a provisional agreement and willing to show enough flexibility to obtain it.

But by appearing eager, almost desperate, for a deal, Saudi Arabia signalled it wanted an agreement more than its major rivals within OPEC, Iran and Iraq, and its major outside competitor, Russia.

In response, all three have hardened their positions and resisted pressure to join Saudi Arabia in cutting their own production. Russia has offered a freeze dressed up as a cut from a planned increase in 2017. Iraq

has hinted at a cut which really appears to be a freeze. Iran's position remains ambiguous but it insists it will not limit its output.

OPEC members and observers understand that in any realistic deal, Saudi Arabia and its close allies the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait will do most of the real cutting.

Past experience shows Saudi Arabia and its allies always provide most of the real reductions, with other members frequently cheating on quotas. For an agreement to produce a significant tightening of the supply-demand balance and lift oil prices, Saudi Arabia and its allies will have to contribute very large output cuts.

The market will not assign much credibility to promises of cutbacks by other members given their history of non-compliance. The Saudis need token cuts from other producers, or at least a credible freeze, however, to provide them with diplomatic cover for what is a humiliating climb down and to sell the deal to a domestic audience. — Reuters

## ADNOC PLANSTO TRIPLE PETROCHEM OUTPUT

**DUBAI:** State-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (ADNOC) plans to almost triple its petrochemical production to an annual 11.4 million tons by 2025 from 4.5 million tons at present, group chief executive Sultan Al-Jaber said yesterday. "To achieve this we will seamlessly integrate our petrochemical and refining business, and as supplies of gas become tighter, we will expand our feedstock beyond ethane to include naphtha," Jaber said in a speech at an energy industry conference. Jaber did not give any details of ADNOC's expansion plan but said the company aimed to take advantage of a shift in demand from lower-growth markets in the West to high-growth markets in Asia.

He also suggested that petrochemical producers in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council should explore new ways of working together, including joint investments in projects. "By working together, leveraging our combined strengths, aligning our interests and investing together, we can extend our reach, increase our competitive advantages and grow our market share."

ADNOC's petrochemicals are produced by Abu Dhabi Polymers Co (Borouge), which makes polyolefin, and Ruwais Fertilizer Industries (Fertil), which produces urea and ammonia fertilisers. — Reuters

## EXCHANGE RATES

### AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

#### ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.707
Indian Rupees	4.477
Pakistani Rupees	2.922
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.067
Nepali Rupees	2.795
Singapore Dollar	215.720
Hongkong Dollar	39.456
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.140
Thai Baht	8.614

#### GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	81.654
Qatari Riyal	84.101
ani Riyal	795.218
Bahraini Dinar	813.070
UAE Dirham	83.356

#### ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	23.900
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	17.300
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.229
Tunisian Dinar	133.920
Jordanian Dinar	431.080
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.040
Syrian Lira	2.182
Morocco Dirham	31.066

#### EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	306.000
Euro	325.890
Sterling Pound	384.030
Canadian dollar	227.850
Turkish lira	89.600

Swiss Franc	305.080
Australian Dollar	231.340
US Dollar Buying	304.800

#### GOLD

20 Gram	242.52
10 Gram	124.18
5 Gram	62.93

### DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	305.200
Canadian Dolla	227.200
Sterling Pound	383.305
Euro	326.920
Swiss Frank	303.935
Bahrain Dinar	809.060
UAE Dirhams	83.485
Qatari Riyals	84.705
Saudi Riyals	82.315
Jordanian Dinar	431.630
Egyptian Pound	17.698
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.059
Indian Rupees	4.450
Pakistani Rupees	2.911
Bangladesh Taka	3.880
Philippines Peso	6.129
Cyprus pound	167.610
Japanese Yen	3.725
Syrian Pound	2.430
Nepales Rupees	3.780
Malaysian Ringgit	69.650

Chinese Yuan Renminbi	44.870
Thai Bhat	9.580
Turkish Lira	89.625

### BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY WLL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.376083	0.386083
Czech Korune	0.004012	0.016012
Danish Krone	0.039626	0.044626
Euro	0.319381	0.328381
Norwegian Krone	0.031775	0.036975
Romanian Leu	0.084806	0.084806
Slovakia	0.009174	0.019174
Swedish Krona	0.029180	0.034180
Swiss Franc	0.295978	0.306978
Turkish Lira	0.085882	0.096182
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.426542	0.232364
New Zealand Dollar	0.209847	0.219347
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.220981	0.229981
Georgina Lari	0.138207	0.138207
US Dollars	0.301900	0.306600
US Dollars Mint	0.302400	0.306600
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003377	0.003961
Chinese Yuan	0.042875	0.046375
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037368	0.040118
Indian Rupee	0.000096	0.004607

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002633	0.002813
Kenyan Shilling	0.003147	0.003147
Korean Won	0.000249	0.000264
Malaysian Ringgit	0.064916	0.070916
Nepalese Rupee	0.002840	0.003010
Pakistan Rupee	0.002709	0.002999
Philippine Peso	0.006005	0.006305
Sierra Leone	0.000068	0.000074
Singapore Dollar	0.209170	0.219170
South African Rand	0.015761	0.024261
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001642	0.002222
Taiwan	0.009486	0.009666
Thai Baht	0.008255	0.008805

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.805100	0.813600
Egyptian Pound	0.015640	0.024893
Iranian Riyal	0.000085	0.000086
Iraqi Dinar	0.000188	0.000248
Jordanian Dinar	0.426542	0.435542
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000148	0.000248
Moroccan Dirhams	0.020137	0.044137
Nigerian Naira	0.001268	0.001903
Omani Riyal	0.788384	0.794064
Qatar Riyal	0.083239	0.084689
Saudi Riyal	0.080513	0.081813
Syrian Pound	0.001298	0.001518
Tunisian Dinar	0.129790	0.137790
Turkish Lira	0.085882	0.096182
UAE Dirhams	0.081888	0.083588
Yemeni Riyal	0.001013	0.001093

## GREECE SEEKS TO FIX BORROWING COSTS IN DEBT RELIEF TALKS

**ATHENS/LONDON:** Greece is pushing its creditors to fix the borrowing costs on its massive debt pile at current low levels in a bid to save millions of euros in coupon payments if interest rates rise. The priority is to fix the repayments on the largest chunk of the 228 billion euros owed to official creditors from its three financial rescue packages.

The 162.7 billion euros is owed to the European Financial Stability Facility and the European Stability Mechanism, created by eurozone governments to help countries in difficulty during Europe's debt crisis, a government official said. The EFSF and ESM borrow money to lend to Greece. Because they plan to borrow the money over a long period of time and pass on the costs to Greece, the government is worried that the repayments will rise if rates go up as expected. The government would like to swap it for fixed rate debt and has consulted primary dealers in the bond market to get

an idea of the kind of rate it could expect, three dealers said. It hopes that this information can be used in talks with eurozone officials on Dec 5, they said.

The government official told Reuters that lowering the floating rate portion is necessary to help get the debt on a sustainable path. "Swapping a portion of floating-rate debt into fixed would help avoid a potential vicious cycle if interest rates rise in the longer term," he said.

"If interest rate risk is not neutralized we could face a Sisyphus-type situation (on debt repayments)." Included in the 162.7 billion euros is 31 billion euros of EFSF floating rate notes that were given to Greek banks.

Greece is trying to persuade officials to let it to swap these for new fixed-rate, longer maturity paper. "This way we could lock this amount to a 30-year fixed rate," the official said. In the medium term the government also hopes to renegotiate a further 52.9 billion euros of

the official debt. This is bilateral debt owed to eurozone creditors and was the first tranche of the rescue package.

That debt also has a floating rate. The rest of the 228 billion euros, about 13 billion, is owed to the International Monetary Fund. The official also said Greece is hoping that the remaining funds in the third ESM bailout will be issued "as much as possible longer maturity, fixed rate paper."

### DEALERS CONSULTED

Greece also has 57 billion euros in outstanding bonds and 14.5 billion of outstanding T-bills. These are traded in financial markets but they already carry a fixed interest rate. Three primary dealers of Greek debt told Reuters that government officials had been asking them about the cost of swapping floating rate notes for fixed rate notes in the derivatives market. "It may sound like wishful thinking from Greece, but the issue here

is debt sustainability. If it becomes impossible for Greece to pay back its debt, the whole thing falls apart," one primary dealer said. The ESM and EFSF, created in the wake of the euro zone debt crisis, are guaranteed and backed by eurozone members and fund bailouts by issuing bonds themselves, and they pass their own borrowing costs to their debtors. The ESM has been tasked by euro zone finance ministers with coming up with proposals for debt relief and will present its recommendations at the Dec. 5 Eurogroup meeting.

"We are looking at all EFSF and ESM assets related to Greece. ESM Managing Director Klaus Regling aims at presenting concrete proposals to the euro area finance ministers at their meeting in December," an ESM spokesman told Reuters. Greece has the backing of the International Monetary Fund: it recommended in May that EU authorities fix all of the borrowing costs at current levels.

If this is applied, along with two other measures recommended by the IMF - extending the maturity of the debt and deferring payments - it would reduce Greece's debt by 53 percent of GDP by 2040 and 151 percent by 2060, the fund has said.

However, the IMF has acknowledged the political difficulty of implementing these. "This would clearly be highly controversial among member states in view of the constraints, political and legal, on such commitments within the currency union," the IMF said in a report analyzing Greece's debt sustainability. As Europe's largest economy, Germany has the most exposure to ESM/ESF and bilateral debts. Mindful of criticism from voters at home, the government also took a tough line with euro zone countries in financial difficulty during the debt crisis. Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble restated his opposition to debt relief for Greece last week. — Reuters



**BANGALORE:** Indian visitors use virtual reality devices that can be used with a cellphone at the Bengaluru ITE Biz Information Technology Expo in Bangalore yesterday.—AFP

## CHINA WILL STICK TO 'GOING OUT' STRATEGY AMID OUTFLOW

### OUTFLOW ENCOURAGES HEALTHY OUTBOUND INVESTMENT

**SHANGHAI:** China said yesterday it will stick to its opening up policy and "going out" strategy on investment even while a slide in the yuan to 8-1/2-year lows revives worries about capital fleeing the country. Officials from the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce, the People's Bank of China and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange said the country will continue to encourage healthy development of outbound investment, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday that China plans to tighten controls on companies looking to invest abroad in an effort to slow surging outflows. While Beijing has been busily damming up official channels for money to leave China, more funds than ever are leaking out through shady means as investors flee the country's slowing economy and weakening currency, financial industry executives say.

The onshore yuan strengthened to 6.9024 per dollar by midday from Friday's closing price of 6.9170, with traders saying state-owned

banks were seen selling dollars. The yuan has fallen more than 6 percent versus the dollar this year, but has been relatively stable against a basket of currencies. The surge in overseas investment heightens foreign exchange risks but also poses potential threats to China's financial system if these deals start to go bad, analysts at China International Capital Corporation said in a note yesterday.

"Emerging markets' experience has repeatedly shown that one-way currency bets, on appreciation or depreciation, tend to be followed by substantial losses to local financial institutions," CICC analysts wrote. "In other words, reckless overseas investment could threaten financial stability."

Though still the world's largest, China's foreign currency reserves have fallen to their lowest since March 2011, with the PBOC widely believed to have sold dollars to cushion the yuan's decline.

Pressure on the yuan and other emerging market currencies has intensified in recent weeks as the dollar surged on expectations that

US President-elect Donald Trump will ramp up fiscal spending to boost the economy. China's central bank has urged commercial banks in Shanghai to guard against money outflows via the Shanghai Free Trade Zone (FTZ) disguised as foreign investment, two sources with knowledge of the instructions said on Friday.

The central bank said it was unable to comment on reports of tighter controls on overseas investments. Financial news outlet Caixin reported on Saturday the PBOC is also considering including cross-border yuan business into risk assessments for banks, quoting an unidentified banker as saying the move would force banks to "do more incoming yuan business, and less yuan outflow activities."

In comments on Sunday, PBOC Vice Governor Yi Gang predicted that capital outflows seen after August 2015's surprise devaluation of the currency would start to reverse.

"As China's economy recovers and institutional reform improves the business environment, the money that has left will come back," Yi said. — Reuters



**DHARMANAGAR:** The railway station is deserted during the 'Bharat Bandh' - nationwide strike - called by the Communist Party of India (Marxist), CPI(M) party, in Dharmanagar, in north-eastern Tripura state yesterday.—AFP

## TRUMP ELECTION POINTS TO US GROWTH BOOST: OECD

**PARIS:** President-elect Donald Trump's big-spending plan and tax cuts are expected to help double the US economic growth rate by 2018, the OECD said yesterday. The US economy will grow by 2.3 percent in 2017 and 3.0 percent in 2018, said the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, revising its earlier forecast.

That compares to gross domestic product growth of 1.5 percent this year, according to the OECD.

The Republican property tycoon's team has said he will devote \$550 billion to rebuilding decrepit infrastructure. The incoming president also campaigned on promises for major corporate tax cuts as part of a wide-ranging blueprint for the limping US economy.

"GDP is projected to return to a moderate growth trajectory in 2017 and strengthen in 2018, mainly due to the projected fiscal stimulus, which takes effect particularly in 2018," the OECD said in its report. "Indeed, projected fiscal support will boost GDP growth by just under 0.5 and 1 percentage point in 2017 and 2018 respectively," it added.

Global growth will also benefit if the US president-elect's avowed spending and tax plans boost domestic investment and consumption, the Paris-based body said.

It now sees world GDP growth rising to 3.3 percent next year and 3.6 percent in 2018 but stuck to its 2016 forecast of 2.9 percent. For Britain, the OECD said it was less pessimistic than it was in September when it halved its 2017 growth forecast in the wake of British voters opting to leave the European Union.

It revised up its forecast for this year to 2.0 percent and to 1.2 percent for 2017. "The unpredictability of the exit process from the European Union is a major downside risk for the economy," the report said. The OECD also suggested that fiscal initiatives could be the answer for other governments to help drive the global economy after a "low-growth trap" for the last five years. "Durable exit from the low-growth trap depends on policy choices beyond those of the monetary authorities—that is, of fiscal and structural, including trade policies—as well as on concerted and effective implementation," OECD chief economist Catherine Mann said in the report. — AFP

## CHINA APPROVES \$36BN RAILWAY PLAN FOR JING-JIN-JI MEGACITY

**SHANGHAI:** China has approved a 247-billion-yuan (\$36-billion) railway plan to improve transport links between the capital Beijing, the port city of Tianjin, and the neighbouring province of Hebei, part of plans to integrate the three areas into a mega-city.

The plan will span nine projects that total 1,100 km (683 miles) in length, the country's powerful economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission, said in an online statement yesterday. The projects will be built over the years to 2020, and are part of a wider plan that will stretch to 2030, it added. The current population of the three areas is estimated at around 110 million, and by the time the plan is complete, the so-called Jing-Jin-Ji project will span 212,000 sq km (82,000 sq miles), or more than twice the size of South Korea.

The expanding railway networks have

cut commute time in the region significantly, said Steven McCord, research head at real estate service firm Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL).

"It was not possible to go all the way from Beijing to Binhai and that's a one-hour trip now. It's now also possible to go between Tianjin and Tangshan in less than 30 minutes, which was previously several hours' drive," he said. "I think there are few places in the world that have that kind of integration. It has made it much easier to do business."

The news helped push up shares of firms that stand to benefit from the plan. Shares of China State Construction Engineering Corp soared 10 percent in Shanghai trading, while China Communications Construction Co surged 6.5 percent.

Shares of China Railway Construction Corp rose 5.5 percent and China Railway Group Ltd gained 4 percent. — Reuters



**MARSEILLE:** Journalists of the left-wing newspaper "La Marseillaise", founded during the Resistance, show copies of the newspaper as they gather outside the courthouse in Marseille yesterday during a closed hearing of the daily newspaper. The judges gave an "observation period" of six months to "La Marseillaise" which was in bankruptcy since five days.—AFP

## UNIONS, GIG-ECONOMY FIRMS GEAR UP FOR NEW YORK BENEFITS BATTLE

**NEW YORK:** Faced with a barrage of lawsuits from workers demanding benefits and recognition as employees, some companies in the fast-growing 'gig economy' are looking to settle the issues through legislation. Joseph Morelle, the number two Democrat in the New York State Assembly, said he has been talking about portable benefits with such companies, which use occasional workers to provide rides, deliveries, house-cleaning and other services through websites and apps.

He said he plans to introduce legislation early next year, which would be the first of its kind in the United States and is likely to draw scrutiny from organized labor. In advance of that effort, online home-cleaning company Handy has circulated a draft bill, seen by Reuters, that would establish guidelines for a portable benefits plan for New York workers at gig-economy companies. A key element of the draft bill is that it classifies workers at companies choosing to participate in the program as independent contractors rather than employees under state law, as long as the companies' dealings with their workers meet certain criteria.

Morelle would not say whether his proposed law would be based on the draft bill circulated by Handy, only that he was focused on passing some form of legislation to address the issues it raises. "The gig economy is something more and more people will gravitate towards, and we clearly want to make sure they can get benefits," he said.

### EMPLOYEES OR CONTRACTORS?

Handy, ride-hailing service Uber Technologies Inc and other companies in the vanguard of the gig economy - also known as the 'sharing' or 'on-demand' economy - have ignited a national debate about how to classify and provide benefits to people who work flexible schedules and irregular hours.

Several labor unions and some of the workers themselves have argued they should be considered employees, and therefore entitled to guaranteed wages, employer-provided insurance and other benefits. The companies have maintained their workers are independent contractors. Court actions brought by workers at Handy, Uber and other similar firms hoping to establish themselves as employees have not been finally resolved. If New York lawmakers move forward, they would be the first in the nation to authorize industry-wide portable benefits, and could serve as a model for other states, particularly if a bill draws support from organized labor.

The legislation could also make it more difficult for workers at gig-economy companies to convince courts they should be considered employees. The draft bill circulated by Handy requires participating companies to contribute at least 2.5 percent of the fee for each job to an individual account for the worker, which he or she could then use to buy health insurance or other benefits.

### STARTING POINT

On its website, Handy says its "top professionals" make more than \$1,000 per week. Under the

terms of the draft bill, Handy would be required to contribute at least \$1,300 per year for benefits for workers making \$52,000 per year. Companies would be allowed to pass along the cost to their customers. Since workers at participating companies would be classified as independent contractors, they could not join unions to collectively bargain for better benefits.

Larry Engelstein, executive vice president of 32BJ Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which represents thousands of janitors, said under contracts the union negotiates employers contribute an annual average of \$18,000 per employee for healthcare costs.

"The amount of money that's supposed to be put into these portable benefit funds seems so meager," Engelstein said. "The actual benefit a worker is getting hardly warrants what the worker is giving up." The SEIU is a backer of the four-year-old "Fight for \$15" campaign, which aims to raise pay and expand the right to join a union for low-wage workers including fast-food servers, home care aides, airport baggage handlers and others. For the first time on Tuesday, some Uber drivers plan to join the campaign's protests. A source familiar with the Handy proposal said it was meant to be a starting point for discussions, not a final bill. In a statement, Handy said "it's our view we need both regulatory change to clarify the law, and we are in favor of some form of portable benefits." Uber and Morelle declined to comment on the Handy proposal. Morelle said he plans to draft the bill next month and introduce it in January. — Reuters

# OPEC AND ITALIAN UNEASE WEIGH ON GLOBAL STOCKS

**LONDON:** Uncertainty over whether OPEC countries will back an oil production cut at their meeting this week, as intended, weighed on global stock markets yesterday. Worries over next week's constitutional referendum in Italy also kept investors at bay.

In Europe, Germany's DAX index was down 0.7 percent to 10,630 while the CAC 40 in France fell 0.5 percent to 4,526. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was 0.3 percent lower at 6,819. US stock markets were poised for a lower opening with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.2 percent. On Friday, the Dow and the S&P both hit fresh highs.

Major oil producers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries meet tomorrow to discuss output cuts to shore up prices, but Iran and Iraq have so far failed to agree to a reduction, raising doubts over the Vienna meeting's outcome. OPEC's top producer, Saudi Arabia, has suggested it might be open to no output cut, departing from previous statements in a move analysts said makes an agreement less likely. The Saudis also pulled out of a meeting with Russia and other large non-OPEC producers, leaving all decisions to the Vienna meeting. Oil prices have been exceptionally volatile amid the uncertainty, falling sharply in early Monday trading before recovering. The benchmark

New York rate was up 34 cents at \$46.40 a barrel while Brent, the international standard, was 54 cents higher at \$48.79.

### Italian vote

On Dec 4, Italians vote on constitutional changes that would limit the power of the upper house and make it easier for governments to pass legislation. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has said he will resign in case of a "no" result. New elections, if held, could bring to power the Five Star Movement, which has said it wants to hold a referendum on euro membership.

"Equities have started the week on the back

foot, with investors concerned about Wednesday's OPEC meeting being a waste of time and next Sunday's Italian referendum having potential to send shivers through Europe's banking sector," said Mike van Dulken, Head of Research at Accendo Markets.

China's yuan rebounded from an eight-year low against the US dollar after a central bank official said Beijing wants it to remain stable. The yuan's exchange rate is based on a basket dominated by the American currency and has been dragged up by the dollar's rise while other developing country currencies have weakened. Yesterday, the middle point of the narrow band in which the yuan is allowed to fluctuate against the dollar rose by just over 0.1 percent to 6.9042 to the dollar. That came after Yi Gang, a deputy central bank governor, was quoted on the bank's website as saying the yuan has "characteristics of a strong and stable currency" and was likely to "remain relatively stable at a reasonable and balanced level."

The Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.5 percent to 3,277.00 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also advanced 0.5 percent to 22,830.57. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 gave up 0.1 percent to 18,356.89 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 retreated 0.8 percent to 5,464.40. Benchmarks in Manila and Jakarta also declined. Seoul's Kospi added 0.2 percent to 1,978.13 and India's Sensex rose 0.1 percent to 26,343.54.

### Most Asia markets up

Hong Kong led a gain in most Asian markets yesterday after officials announced the

start of a long-awaited link-up with Shenzhen, but the dollar retreated against most of its peers after its recent surge. Crude prices also saw fresh losses, after both main contracts slumped around four percent on Friday owing to disagreements over plans to cut output, with Iran and Iraq pressing to be excluded and Russia suggesting it will only freeze output.

Officials on Friday's said the tie-up between the Hong Kong and Shenzhen markets will start on December 5. The scheme will give Hong Kong traders access to the mainland's second stock exchange, the world's eighth largest with a market capitalisation of \$3.3 trillion as of September.

The tie-up follows a similar "stock connect" between Shanghai and Hong Kong launched two years ago, which gave foreigners new access to Chinese companies not quoted elsewhere, and enabled mainlanders to trade in Hong Kong.

The city's Hang Seng Index soared more than one percent in the afternoon, though Shenzhen slipped 0.1 percent by the close. Shanghai ended up 0.5 percent.

Most other regional stock markets were up, extending last week's gains on bets Donald Trump's spending plans will ramp up growth in the US economy. Seoul rose 0.2 percent, Singapore added 0.8 percent and Wellington added 0.1 percent but Sydney dipped 0.8 percent. Tokyo shed 0.1 percent after a seven-day winning run that took it to an 11-month high, with exporters hit by a slight recovery in the yen against the dollar. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Monday 28 November 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price Index	▲ 4.77	5,539.76	5,534.99	5,544.37	5,524.34	
Weighted Index	▲ 0.36	368.03	367.67	368.99	367.27	
KSX 15	▲ 2.67	862.02	859.35	867.03	857.34	

Volume	Value (KWD)	Number of Trades
89,426,597	11,395,932	2,214

Trades						
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	86	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	35.5	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	365	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	790	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	41.0	▲ 0.0
GPI	40.5	40.0	1,589,499	63,860	30	▲ 0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	96	▲ 0.0
<b>Oil &amp; Gas</b>			<b>1,589,499</b>	<b>63,860</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>▲ 0.0</b>
KFOUC	170	170	96,000	16,150	5	▲ 0.0
BQCC	460	465	39,595	18,113	5	▲ 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	590	▲ 0.0
ALGOURAIN	212	210	181,252	38,363	12	▲ 2.0
<b>Basic Materials</b>			<b>315,847</b>	<b>72,626</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>▲ 0.31</b>
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	420	▲ 0.0
REFRI	310	310	6,578	2,039	1	▲ 0.0
CABLE	370	370	7,000	2,590	2	▲ 0.0
SHIP	156	156	14,250	2,223	2	▲ 2.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	940	▲ 0.0
PAPER	300	260	19,329	5,027	2	▲ 25.0
MRC	68	62	33,000	2,064	6	▲ 1.0
ACICO	265	265	5,000	1,325	1	▲ 0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	310	▲ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	118	▲ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
NICBM	206	196	2,000	396	3	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	45.0	43.5	843,003	37,203	36	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	50	▲ 0.0
GYPSSUM	95	95	6,645	631	1	▲ 5.0
SALBOOH	0.0	0.0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
AGLTY	560	530	5,982,446	3,263,111	131	▲ 40.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	192	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	44.5	43.5	464,356	20,502	14	▲ 1.0
KGL	53	50	678,250	34,697	43	▲ 0.0
KPCP	160	160	29,250	4,680	2	▲ 10.0
HUMANISOFT	1,980	1,960	6,000	11,780	5	▲ 40.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	212	▲ 0.0
SFPWAN	390	385	50,000	19,350	2	▲ 5.0
GFAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	39.0	▲ 0.0
MAYADEEN	28.5	28.0	183,100	5,127	6	▲ 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	640	▲ 0.0
MTC	0.0	0.0	0	0	56	▲ 0.0
UPAC	670	660	1,515	1,000	3	▲ 10.0
ALAFCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	222	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	56	53	5,007,299	273,704	120	▲ 3.0
LOGISTICS	69	67	1,481,671	100,714	33	▲ 3.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	77	▲ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	74	▲ 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
FCEM	80	80	2,000,000	160,000	18	▲ 1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	82	▲ 0.0
<b>Industrials</b>			<b>16,820,692</b>	<b>3,948,163</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>▲ 0.22</b>
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	140	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	95	▲ 0.0
CATTL	218	210	2,000	428	3	▲ 4.0
DANAH	89	86	541	47	2	▲ 0.0
POULT	176	176	2,000	352	1	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,640	2,620	77,403	202,811	5	▲ 20.0
<b>Consumer Goods</b>			<b>81,944</b>	<b>203,638</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>▲ 4.92</b>
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	230	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	430	405	14,100	5,868	5	▲ 0.0
<b>Health Care</b>			<b>14,100</b>	<b>5,868</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>▲ 0.0</b>
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	940	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	265	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	58	55	759,500	43,295	27	▲ 3.0
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	61	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	130	130	500	65	1	▲ 0.0
OULAFUAT	116	114	12,405	1,431	6	▲ 2.0
MUNTAZAHAT	78	75	42,100	3,158	4	▲ 7.0
JAZEERA	800	800	2,910	2,328	1	▲ 10.0
SOOR	114	114	12,897	1,470	8	▲ 0.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	114	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	142	142	2,000	284	1	▲ 2.0
ZMAH	41.0	40.5	75,000	3,058	6	▲ 0.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	170	▲ 0.0
Mezzan	940	940	110,000	103,400	10	▲ 0.0
<b>Consumer Services</b>			<b>1,017,312</b>	<b>158,489</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>▲ 5.24</b>
ZAIN	410	400	1,643,131	664,946	52	▲ 0.0
QOREDOO	1,160	1,080	4,056	4,456	6	▲ 1.00
HITSTELEC	44.5	43.0	1,173,500	50,930	38	▲ 0.0
VIVA	880	870	25,859	22,597	33	▲ 0.0
<b>Telecommunications</b>			<b>2,846,546</b>	<b>742,930</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>▲ 6.03</b>
NBK	640	630	790,337	503,658	27	▲ 0.0
GBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	236	▲ 0.0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	415	▲ 0.0
ABK	305	295	65,619	19,462	4	▲ 0.0
ALMUTAHED	395	385	217,495	84,150	24	▲ 5.0
KIB	204	202	130,846	26,451	4	▲ 2.0
BURG	315	315	485,000	152,775	21	▲ 0.0
KFIN	520	510	1,379,914	703,756	65	▲ 0.0
BOUBYAN	390	390	72,889	28,427	12	▲ 0.0
AUB	194	192	284,000	54,536	6	▲ 0.0
ITHMR	37.5	37.0	554,250	20,518	23	▲ 0.0
WARBANK	218	216	322,551	70,002	69	▲ 2.0
<b>Banks</b>			<b>4,302,901</b>	<b>1,663,735</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>▲ 0.38</b>
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	230	▲ 0.0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	620	▲ 0.0
AINS	460	435	3,328	1,501	2	▲ 25.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	99	▲ 0.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	186	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	49.5	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	30.5	30.0	6,000	181	3	▲ 0.0
BKQWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
<b>Insurance</b>			<b>9,328</b>	<b>1,682</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>▲ 8.91</b>

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	31.5	31.0	70112	2,199	3	31.5	▼ -0.5
KRE	55	55	27,946	1,537	1	55	▼ -1.0
URC	95	94	49,684	4,698	4	95	▼ -1.0
NRE	91	84	10,490,224	925,155	139	90	▲ 4.0
SRE	380	360	63,266	22,776	9	380	▲ 10.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	470	▲ 0.0
AREEC	172	162	197,184	33,540	10	172	▲ 10.0
MASSALEH	39.0	39.0	4,000	156	1	39.0	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	28.0	27.5	78,510	2,159	5	28.0	▲ 0.0
ERESCO	41.0	40.0	1,022,000	41,357	19	40.5	▲ 0.5
MABANEE	830	820	74,471	61,796	7	830	▲ 0.0
INJAZZAT	73	73	5,000	365	1	73	▲ 0.0
INVESTORS	21.0	20.5	3,006,353	61,690	27	20.5	▲ 0.0
IRC	26.0	25.5	368,500	9,574	12	26.0	▲ -1.0
ALTUARIA	81	80	200,600	16,049	3	81	▲ 0.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	63	62	71,160	4,412	7	62	▼ -2.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	70	▲ 0.0
ALAGARIA	22.0	22.0	1,500	33	1	22.0	▼ -1.0
MAZAYA	116	112	25,526	2,868	3	116	▲ 2.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	▲ 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	89	▲ 0.0
TUARA	41.0	39.5	100,020	3,951	2	41.0	▲ 0.0
TAAMEER	0.0						



# 'Drive the Future of Tough'

Ford and Alghanim Auto's Truck Tour drives excitement in Kuwait



**KUWAIT:** Ford Middle East and Alghanim Auto recently concluded the latest round of the 2016 Truck Tour in Kuwait City, bringing the award winning Built Ford Tough F-150 and Ranger trucks, in addition to the Expedition, Ford's largest utility vehicle, closer to Kuwaiti consumers.

Taking place at Sirbb Circuit from November 24th to 26th, Ford fans and motoring enthusiasts gained unrivalled access to a host of unique activations over the three day event, including first-hand experience of Ford's world-class and award-winning truck and SUV offerings.

The line-up of activities for the 2016 Drive the Future of Tough Truck Tour included various engagement activities such as interactive gaming, remote-controlled Ford F-150 Raptor model racing and 3D ground art, which were a spectacular success, and complemented the Ford Ranger and F-150 Drive, and the Expedition displays to the delight of visitors.

"Drive the Future of Tough" also treated Ford fans and truck fanatics to amazing "Waterforaging," "Drive Over" and "Articulated Frame" demos, as well as a direct head-to-head competition pitting the new Ford Ranger against its greatest rival, with Ranger demonstrating its award-winning durability and ruggedness.

"Ford Middle East introduced a number of new vehicles throughout the region in 2016," said Thierry Sabbagh, managing director, Ford Middle East.

"Together with Alghanim Auto, Ford's Drive the Future of Tough Truck Tour activity has been a great platform to introduce Kuwaiti customers to the world-class trucks and utilities that Alghanim Auto offers and to learn and experience what our 'Built Ford Tough' trucks are capable of."

Fleet customers were invited by Alghanim Auto and treated to the Future of Tough Truck Tour activity, attaining first-hand experience of Ford's durable capabilities and class-leading technologies available throughout the impressive range of legendary F-150s and Built Ford Tough Ranger pick-up trucks.

Tim Zimmerman, Vice President, Alghanim Auto, added: "Alghanim Auto is determined to provide service excellence to Ford customers, and it's been a pleasure to be able to bring such an exceptional truck



event to Kuwait. Allowing current and potential customers to get up close and personal with Ford trucks and SUVs, and their class-leading features and exclusive technologies will ensure that Ford remains top of mind when you think of 'Built Ford Tough'.

Alghanim Auto is the only importer authorized by Ford Motor Company to import Ford and MotorCraft products in Kuwait.

Ford Middle East reminds Ford and Lincoln customers they can get immediate access to original Ford and MotorCraft parts as well as Ford Manufacturer warranty and Extended Service Plan (ESP) contract maintenance and repairs, in addition to maintenance and body shop repair services by Ford-trained and certified technicians at the dedicated Alghanim Auto Ford service centre in the Shuwaikh Industrial Area, opposite the Classical Car Museum and Sirbb Circuit.

The main service centre working hours are 7 am to 7 pm from Saturday through Thursday. For added convenience, the Express Service working hours are 7AM to 10PM Saturday through Thursday, and 2PM to 7PM on Friday.

#### Ford F-150

The F-150 delivers an impressive combination of power, capability and efficiency - from advanced materials that improve durability and inhibit corrosion, to faster processors that enhance driving performance, to breakthrough cargo management and towing solutions. A range of three engines provides more power to meet almost any customer need. A new 3.5-litre V6 engine with twin independent variable camshaft timing join the proven 3.5-litre EcoBoost and 5.0-litre Ti-VCT V8. Both the exterior and interior design of Ford F-150 reflect decades of listening to customers and understanding their occupational and recreational needs. The exterior is characterised by a new shape that suggests capability, with a wider Built Ford Tough stance, prominent wheel arches and chiselled grille.

Comfort, utility and refinement define the truck's interior. Ergonomically optimised seating for the front row positions enhances comfort, while extending legroom for rear passengers. Buttons and controls are optimised so they can be operated while wearing work gloves. The all-new Ford F-150 con-

tinues the tradition of offering the broadest selection of trim levels in the full-size pickup segment. Six primary trims are available: XL, XLT, Lariat, Platinum, King Ranch, and Limited.

#### Ford Ranger

The new Ford Ranger Pickup has proven itself as one of the toughest and most capable vehicles in its class. With an exceptional 800 mm water wading depth, and with 230 mm of ground clearance, it is designed and engineered to handle the most extreme terrains with ease. Thanks to a 28-degree approach angle and 25-degree departure angle, drivers in the new Ranger can feel confident when taking on steep obstacles. The new Ranger proudly takes this legacy even further with upgraded engines, the adoption of electric power steering and improved ride quality and comfort.

The new, modern look lends a powerful presence on the road, and immediately conveys a sense of capability. The design is defined by a strong new trapezoidal grille, flanked by imposing chiselled projector headlamps that are shaped to flow into the

front wings. This clearly accentuates the width and strong stance, thus making the new Ranger instantly recognisable with a bold, technical look. The Ranger Pickup's impressive performance, capability, payload and towing capacity are made possible thanks to the latest generation of powerful, more refined and fuel-efficient Duratorq TDCI diesel engines, as well as the proven Duratec petrol unit.

The Ford Ranger is available in a wide range of models and specification levels such as Base, XL, XLT, Limited, and the range-topping WildTrak to cater to customer needs whether for work or play. Ranger is available in single cab, Rap Cab and Double Cab variants.

#### Ford Expedition

Expedition, which was introduced in its first generation in 1996, is Ford's largest utility vehicle, with seating for eight adults and a five-star Overall Vehicle Score from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Expedition takes full-size utility vehicle design to a higher level with a diverse line-up of vehicles, each featuring a distinct look and feel to give customers more choices.

The Expedition comes with an EcoBoost engine that also powers the industry-leading Ford F-150, and a quieter cabin with more technology than previous-generation vehicles. Using direct injection and twin turbochargers the EcoBoost engine provides more power, efficiency and performance.

The Expedition features the latest technologies, including available SYNC with MyFord Touch, passive entry with push-button start and Blind Spot Information System with cross traffic alert.

The Expedition line-up is now available in Kuwait in five trims - including XL, XLT, King Ranch, Platinum, and Limited series. The design team incorporated specific themes to define the look for each series and reflect a different consumer lifestyle. This thoughtful planning means customer can select from the sporty XLT; the confident, elegant Limited; the sophisticated, urban Platinum; or the rural, rugged King Ranch. Each series has unique finishes specially selected to reflect the lifestyle and desires of the customer.



Winner's Name	Prizes
Khaled Fahad Mohammad Alajmi	Cash amount worth KD 3000
Abdalah Mohamed Rashed Almeiaa	Cash amount of KD 2500
Huda Abdulla Ammesh Almutairi	Cash amount worth KD 2000
Yaqoub Ishaq Abdullah	Cash amount of KD 1500
Soud salem Dekheel Alqnaisi	Cash amount worth KD 1,000
Fayzah Shafi Obaid Alajmi	Cash amount worth KD 1,000
Nawaf Kaleel Eid Abdalrhemam	Cash amount worth KD 1,000
Khaznah Owayed Qunafeth Alsulaili	Cash amount of KD 500
Azary Rady Homud Alzafiry	Cash amount of KD 500
Fahd Abd Alrahman	Cash amount of KD 500
Hamad Farooq Ebrahim Alawadhi	iPhone 7 32 GB
Dheyaa Abdulrahman Saleh Malallah	iPhone 7 32 GB
Muneerah Ghazi Tulaihan Al Enezi	iPhone 7 32 GB
Walla Mohammad Abu Almhasen Mostafa	TCL 55-inch TV
Awad Faisal Ekaab Abbase	TCL 55-inch TV
Ahmed Faleh Dhaudan D Almutairi	TCL 46-inch TV
Ahmad Mohamed Mahmoud Ahmed Saleh	TCL 46-inch TV
Abdullah Ahmed Abbas Kakouli	iPad Mini 16 GB
Jaber Marjy Dalel Alsalili	iPad Mini 16 GB
Ahmed Mohamed Nasser Alabdulaali	iPad Mini 16 GB

## EVERY CUSTOMER IS A WINNER WITH TOYOTA

AL-SAYER ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF OCTOBER RAFFLE DRAW

**KUWAIT:** Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons (MNSS), one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies organized a raffle draw in cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry for Consumer protection on 7th November to announce winners of the October promotion.

According to Johan Heislitz Senior Business Director "Congratulations to all the winners of the October promotion raffle draw. We are glad to see the positive results of Toyota promotions and Al-Sayer will continue to offer our customers such unique offers for a great peace of mind Toyota ownership experience."

The best just got better with



October promotion which was valid between 1st and 31st of October, entitled customers a chance to win attrac-

tive cash prizes or gifts. Winners of the October raffle draw are as below:

### Unbeatable offers continued in November

Special Toyota promotion will continue between 1st to 30th November 2016, packed with unmatched benefits for customers including a chance to enter raffle draw to win accessorized Land Cruiser or brand new Prado Urban Cruiser along with guaranteed scratch and win gifts in addition to extended registration benefits such as 5 years warranty, 3rd party insurance, car registration, T-Connect service for 3 years and Musaada roadside assistance.



## TAWASUL TELECOM MEETS INDUSTRY LEADERS AT CAPACITY EUROPE 2016

**KUWAIT:** Tawasul Telecom, the leading provider of MPLS networking services in the GCC and Middle East regions, sponsored the 16th annual conference, Capacity Europe 2016 - the largest carrier event in Europe. Set in Paris from November 7 to 9, the conference welcomed over two thousand senior-level attendees, industry leaders and decision makers from around the world.



**Salem Almulaifi, Chief Marketing & Strategy Officer-Tawasul Telecom**

Tawasul's Chief Marketing and Strategy Officer, Salem Almulaifi, underlined the importance of the company's participation in such events and its keen interest in sponsoring them as a leading player in the industry. He remarked that these events are crucial for developing the telecom sector.

He also added, "These are pivotal gatherings and essential meeting points for all commercial businesses, so as the carrier of choice for providing data connectivity serv-

ices to the GCC and Middle East regions, it is our responsibility to support our industry's premier events".

Furthermore, he stated, "We believe that these are valuable forums to network with our customers and peers in the telecom industry. Capacity Europe is a fitting platform to showcase our latest and exclusive services with ease and flexibility."

The conference provided attendees with key insights that influence business strategy. It also included symposiums and lectures on how the market is shaped and what lies ahead for the carrier industry and technology as a whole.

Tawasul Telecom has been at the forefront in sponsoring industry events worldwide. The company's initiative stems from its ongoing efforts to serve the business community with unparalleled connectivity solutions in the MENA region and across the globe that are designed to augment their growth.

Tawasul Telecom has successfully pioneered the provisioning of IP-based services across multiple borders in the GCC and Middle East. The company has successfully engaged with regional carriers and international Tier 1 operators, and has established a unique pan-gulf, next generation IP network.

Tawasul Telecom provides its partners with a one-stop-shop for a fully-redundant highly-available end-to-end solution, which empowers them to tackle any challenges faced by their clients today. Tawasul Telecom's unique offerings are the preferred choice among its regional and international partners. From its supplier-neutral stance, Tawasul Telecom provides a non-stop, reach-anywhere dimension covering the region and beyond.

## PWC ENHANCES ITS DIGITAL, MOBILE AND CLOUD SERVICES

**DUBAI:** PwC, one of the world's leading professional services firms with offices across the region, announced yesterday that it has entered into an agreement to acquire NSI DMCC, an industry-pioneering technology consulting firm headquartered in Dubai.

The acquisition of NSI will complement PwC's digital transformation capabilities and enhance its ability to deliver innovative solutions across all channels, platforms and devices. The acquisition further enhances PwC Middle East's ability to deliver a suite

of cross-industry, cloud-based front-office solutions to the marketplace.

Since 2010, NSI has helped organizations across the Middle East accelerate the adoption of cloud computing. With over 60 staff, NSI assists organizations by supplying experienced technology consultants, solution architects, developers, and project delivery personnel. NSI has forged a very successful working relationship with Salesforce.com, becoming Salesforce's largest implementation partner in the Middle East region.

## HUAWEI TO LAUNCH MATE 9 IN KUWAIT ON DEC 1

**KUWAIT:** The Huawei Consumer Business Group in Kuwait announced today that its awaited Mate 9 flagship smartphone will be launched in Kuwait on December 1st, in an event held at the Xcite showroom in The Avenues at 5pm.

The Mate 9 is Huawei's newest innovation already receiving worldwide appraisals for its glamorous design, revolutionary battery life and SuperCharge technology, and most importantly, for the most advanced Kirin 960 processor which ensures that the Huawei Mate 9 is fast and stays fast.

The Huawei Mate 9 also inherits the revolutionary collaboration between Huawei and photography leader Leica, reinventing smartphone photography

through a ground-breaking dual-lens camera.

Huawei Technologies Kuwait CEO, Trevor Liu, said: "We can't wait to introduce our latest revolutionary smartphone to Kuwait. The Huawei smartphones have gained great success locally thanks to their strong performance and advanced features, making them the ideal smartphones to support business users and complementing the lifestyle of consumers in general. Following the success of the Huawei Mate 8 and P9 smartphones, the Mate 9 will surely not disappoint. We invite Huawei users, tech-savvy consumers and the public in general to join us in unveiling the awaited Mate 9 next Thursday."



**Kerry Logistics' Sammy Mak receives 150,000 CargoConnect miles from Etihad Cargo's Manager Sales Andrew Baartscheer (L) and Head of Cargo Sales Roberto Casabianca.**

## ETIHAD CARGO RECORDS BIGGEST MONTHLY UPLIFT

**ABU DHABI:** It has been a month of milestones for Etihad Cargo. The freight division of Etihad Airways recorded its busiest month ever in October, uplifting 53,785 tons of cargo and surpassing its previous best, achieved in November 2014, by 501 tons.

This reflected growth in perishables traffic from Africa, US inbound and outbound traffic, and volumes from Europe to Asia Pacific. Just a few days after achieving this record, Etihad Cargo enrolled its 4,000th member into its CargoConnect loyalty program.

David Kerr, Senior Vice President of Etihad Cargo, said: "Customer loyalty plays a big part in the success of Etihad Cargo operations worldwide. We're delighted to have the ongoing support and commitment of our partners who have contributed to the record levels of uplift during October."

CargoConnect members earn one mile for every US\$2 net revenue on General Cargo and four miles for every US\$2 net revenue on Premium Cargo. Miles can be redeemed for a range of things from office equipment to flights to smart phones, and more.

The program has achieved a redemption rate of 30 per cent so far in 2016, one of the highest amongst similar loyalty reward schemes in the industry.

To mark the achievement, Etihad Cargo hosted a ceremony during this past weekend's 2016 Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix with the 4,000th customer, Kerry Logistics.

Sammy Mak, Senior Vice President Logistics and Carrier Procurement at Kerry Logistics, accepted 150,000 CargoConnect miles as a token of recognition on behalf of his company.

## CANON CENTRAL AND NORTH AFRICA RECOGNIZES WINNERS OF ITS FIRST ANNUAL PARTNER CONFERENCE AWARDS IN KENYA

**KUWAIT:** Canon Central and North Africa (CCNA), celebrated the achievements of its partners in Africa by recognizing them at a glittering awards ceremony on the conclusion of its first Annual Partner Conference held at Enashipai, Lake Naivasha, Kenya.

The awards night saw over 100 Canon partners from 44 African countries attend the function. Eleven of them won awards in different categories including Media Diffusion who won the Canon Presidential Award for overall growth and performance. The award was received by Mohamed Mondher Bouattour and Kaies Bouattour.

The evening also served as a platform to highlight CCNA's achievements in 2016 and to outline the strategic growth priorities and opportunities in 2017. In the Africa region, CCNA's mission is to work closely with its partners to become a true value-added sales and service company and to achieve the No.1 position in all markets by sustaining market share growth and growing the market size.

Roman Troedthandl, Managing Director of CCNA, said: "We expect big opportunities in emerging markets like Africa where the GDP is expected to grow by more than six per cent in the next decade - double than the rest of the world. Our partners on ground are part of that growth and have shown their commitment to the brand this year by outperforming their previous year's achievements. The awards evening was an opportunity for us to appreciate their efforts during 2016 in aligning their mission with that of Canon's."

"CCNA's first Annual Partner Conference was also instrumental in helping us to establish our foothold within the region and come closer to our customers. I congratulate all the winners who have demonstrated and excelled in their respective areas of business."

Future partnerships too are a big part of CCNA's plans in the region.

Troedthandl added: "We believe it is advisable for us to take advantage of strong partnerships, wherever possible, as technologies and markets are moving quickly for one organization to hold all the answers; strong and differentiating partnerships will be essential, especially when it comes to complementing one another."

Canon's relentless attention to innovation is one of the key reasons why it is the market leader. The company continues to offer what its customers demand and so has a futuristic vision for the brand.

The annual conference was also an occasion where CCNA and its partners discussed a new phase of continuous innovation within the industry, which constitutes the company's vision for the future and the direction in which the industry at large is heading.



# Fourth e-Government forum kicks off

## E-Kuwait targets top quality e-services: Sheikh Mohammad



KUWAIT: Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah delivering his speech. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



Qusai Al-Shatti, acting director general of CAIT, speaks.



Yousef Al-Marzouq, GM of Nouf Expo.

By Faten Omar

**KUWAIT:** The 4th E-Government Forum titled 'Electronic Services Perspectives' kicked off yesterday at the Arraya Ballroom. Several companies and institutions are participating in the forum and presenting various solutions for ministries and government institutions in order to help achieve the desired e-government goals including securing data and government systems. The forum is organized by Nouf Expo and sponsored by various institutions.

During his opening speech, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Minister of Justice Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said that the government datacenters play an important role in keeping

pace with latest technology. "This forum presents the latest technologies, and we request that all the government datacenters set their plans to acquire and develop their human resource professionals and at the same pace upgrade the technologies in accordance with the e-government plans," said Sheikh Mohammed.

He added, "We believe that improved electronic services help build a more transparent government that in turn helps achieve the ultimate strategic goal represented by e-Kuwait, where all can enjoy quality e-services at all times wherever they are." He underlined the need to achieve greater cooperation and professionalism among each of the Central Agency for Information Technology, the General Authority

for Communications and Information Technology and Information Centers in government entities and other bodies of national security.

Sheikh Mohammed pointed out that the world is changing at a fast pace and it is no longer acceptable to do simple paper work in a long line in the ministries. Explaining that the world is currently developing the technology fast, he said, "The Internet, social networks, and smart devices come with more challenges on the level of information security, which has become the head of the list of concerns in all the national security agencies in the countries of the world as a whole. It is not possible to separate the information security and the security of Kuwait and its people from each other," he said. Qusai Al-Shatti, Acting

Director General of the Central Agency for Information Technology (CAIT), said that electronic services are a natural product of the e-government programs implemented by Kuwait in order to improve government services provided to citizens and residents.

Al-Shatti added that the Central Agency for Information Technology is making great efforts for the development of e-government services through the official portal of Kuwait. "EGOV4 will focus on electronic services. We all realize that e-services are the final target product of e-government programs," he added.

He noted that CAIT is looking forward to working along with all the government agencies to improve more electronic services on par with the developed countries, indicating

that they will introduce outstanding electronic service award from this year.

Shatti expressed confidence that the institutions and companies' participation in this forum will be a great asset to the Central Agency for Information Technology which will in turn help in better cooperation and interaction between government and the corporate and local technology organizations.

International companies specialized in the field of information technology participated in the forum included Microsoft, Symantec and Cisco in addition to local companies such as Kuwait Finance House, VIVA and others. The 4th E-Government Forum runs from November 27 to 29 November, 2016 at Arraya Ballroom of the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Kuwait City.



## Putting technology in infra and cloud

### Microsoft addressing mobility: Nahas

By Ben Garcia

**W**hen we talk about digital and modern technology, everyone will surely agree that Microsoft is among the leaders in this field. Microsoft General Manager Charles Nahas spoke to Kuwait Times in an exclusive interview about product and Service Solutions.

**KT: What is Microsoft's role in the E-Gov forum?**

**Nahas:** Microsoft is known to all governments around the world. We are the most trusted brand in digital and electronic solutions, probably the reason why we are at the forefront of e-government programs for many governments around the world, which includes Kuwait. Our role is to help agencies modernize and adapt to technology for better services. We provide them with the necessary tools.

We've been launching new products and services to help reduce government cost and deliver better services to people - we've been doing this for years now for the ministry of finance, ministry of health, ministry of education and almost all government agencies in Kuwait. We are at the forefront of modernizing their serv-

ices to cope with the fast-changing world.

**KT: What is the latest technology at Microsoft these days?**

**Nahas:** We've been launching several new technologies - we are addressing mobility and making sure that we can provide applications and services to any type of mobile. We are putting technology in the infra and the cloud, so that it can launch services. Digital transformations nowadays are powered by the cloud; it powers businesses, governments and empowers communities and people. We are investing greatly to meet the demand and bring customers choice and flexibility.

**KT: What are your achievements so far in Kuwait and the Middle East?**

**Nahas:** The achievement we can really be proud of is the continuous trust and confidence of every satisfied customer over our products and services. We have more than 130 partners in Kuwait, from local Kuwaiti companies to the government. We are also committed to transfer knowledge to be able to serve customers the best. The good thing about my job is that we understand our customers' needs. We are happy

that the government of Kuwait is realigning itself to the plans already in place for the digital world.

**KT: How is Microsoft coping with the current political situation in some parts of the Middle East?**

**Nahas:** Here in the region, it is a part of daily life - probably we are immune to it now; there are always ups and downs in everything. Whatever happens, we are bound to navigate around that. It is sad, but we always hope for the best. In short we are coping and doing business regardless of the political situation on the ground. In fact, we are growing despite political issues in some countries in the Mideast.

**KT: How many Microsoft employees work for ME/MENA operations?**

**Nahas:** Plenty. More than 2,000 Microsoft employees are present in the region including Africa.

**KT: How are smaller competitors working with Microsoft?**

**Nahas:** The market is already prepared for this. We treat them as our competitors regardless



Charles Nahas, Microsoft General Manager during the interview.

whether they are small or big. There is always competition in the market and this is good. It's very healthy and you are actually forcing yourself to provide better services and products to valued customers. At the end of the day, competition makes people happy and we are proud that Microsoft is a known provider of products and services with quality.

**KT: Can we see a wider expansion in the next 5-10 years?**

**Nahas:** We are growing rapidly. This is the market that we really putting our strengths and we also see a lot of desire from the consumer's side.

**KT: What about training and development?**

**Nahas:** My team is constantly training for products knowledge and services. This is the way to let them understand the customers' landscapes. This is what we do with our partners; we do a lot of trainings and seminars as well to help them. For example, at the Ministry of Education, we've been training teachers on the use of new technology, how to share, how to do the job easier and faster. The teachers will also share their knowledge with their students.

**KT: What's the difference between your previous jobs to the Microsoft one?**

**Nahas:** All jobs have their own interesting chal-

lenges. For me, Kuwait is completely new, but this job is the most exciting one. Kuwait has vast opportunities. With my small team ever-ready to do the job and perform any task necessary, Kuwait has turned out to be a wonderful country to live in.

Kuwait has been making an impact on my personal life and career, and meeting new people and facing them individually is really amazing. I've been in Kuwait for the past three years, but the experience is really great! I have been with Microsoft for the past 10 years and my current position takes me to serving the Levant area, Middle East and Africa.

We have a very strong team that has been working very hard to achieve our goals. I think to be successful, you need to make sure that your team is motivated to work and provide learning facilities so that we can all move in the same direction.

**KT: What about Microsoft CSR within the community?**

**Nahas:** We are building our CSR based on two pillars: 1) Education: We are focused on developing programs to especially educate the youth, like how to use technology, how to start a business and how to make a business plan. 2) Enabling government to provide better services, so we are helping the government provide better services to its people and citizens.



## TRAFFICKED FISHERMEN RISK THEIR LIVES TO FEED FAMILIES

**ROME:** When Bruno Ciceri was a chaplain to seafarers in Taiwan's city of Kaohsiung, every evening he took crates of beer, soft drinks and newspapers to share with the fishermen who came into port. While chatting to them, he came across many cases of trafficking and forced labor - men toiling away for up to 18 hours a day in dangerous conditions, unable to come to shore for months, sometimes years, and given little or no pay.

He has helped to rescue many people during his 13 years in Taiwan, and 11 years in the Philippines before that, but said that poverty repeatedly forces people into the work "and we cannot do much about it." "I remember one episode

when we helped a fisherman in Taiwan to get out of a situation of abuse and ... forced labor. He returned to the Philippines, but after several months he was back," the Italian Catholic priest said from his office in Rome. "He said: 'Father, the problem was I need money for my family ... so I tried my luck again.'" The men often say they prefer to risk their lives in fishing in order to feed their families, than to stay at home without a job, Ciceri said.

Ciceri left Taiwan in 2009, and is now director of the Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) International which has chaplains and volunteers in about 350 ports worldwide. "If you want to solve the problem of trafficking, not only in the fishing

industry but trafficking in general, you have to go to the root cause," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. More than 15 million people work full-time on board fishing vessels, and some 24,000 people in the industry die every year, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). It is unknown how many fishers are trafficked or in forced labour, but it occurs in many countries and affects a "significant number" of people, the ILO says.

### Fish stocks

Last week, the Vatican and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) together urged governments to do more to tackle forced labor and trafficking in

the fishing industry, and end illegal fishing. Illegal fishing often goes hand in hand with forced labor and trafficking, as well as destruction of wild fish stocks, experts say.

"We have to guarantee that the seafood reaching our plates has been produced not only in an environmentally sustainable manner, but also in a manner that supports the socio-economic well-being of those who harvest and process it," FAO's director-general Jose Graziano da Silva said at the joint event. International agreements on the issue exist but need greater support and implementation, they said. FAO's Port State Measures Agreement to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fish-

ing came into force in July. And the ILO's Work in Fishing Convention 2007 will come into force in November next year after Lithuania become the tenth country to ratify it.

However, major fishing players like Thailand and Japan have not yet joined it. Tackling the problem requires not just international laws, but also governments to implement them, companies to adopt codes of conduct, and consumers to become aware of what they are buying, said Ciceri. "I find it ridiculous that sometimes you find on packages of fish it says: 'This tuna was caught without harming any turtle or dolphin.' Maybe fishers had an accident or died, but that's not important," he said. — Reuters

## GUINEA-BISSAU ISLANDS FEELING THE BITE OF ANTIVENOM CRISIS

### BIJAGOS ISLANDS REPUTED FOR THEIR SNAKES

**SOGA:** The vivid red wound at the base of Gina's ankle has remained open for three months and refuses to heal, leaving the Guinea-Bissau islander in constant pain. "I thought it was from a piece of wood," she said, recalling the day when a snake sunk its fangs into her leg. "They had to carry me back home because I couldn't walk," she said, sitting in front of a thatched hut decorated with white sea shells.

Gina lives on Soga, a tiny speck of land that is one of the 88 islands of the Bijagos archipelago, an Atlantic paradise home to dolphins, tortoises and forests full of deadly snakes. Home to some 30,000 people, the islands are recognized by the UN's world heritage body (UNESCO) for their exceptionally diverse ecosystems, but there is one creature in particular that thrives among the mangroves. "The Bijagos islands are reputed for their snakes. All the deadliest species live there, including mambas and cobras," says Aissata Regolla, a researcher at Guinea-Bissau's Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Marine Areas (IBAP).

"On certain islands, our staff can't walk more than five minutes without seeing one." Gina should perhaps count herself lucky. Every year around 125,000 people die after being bitten by a snake, 30,000 of them in sub-Saharan Africa. Many more are left with life-changing injuries or amputations. But finding an antivenom which is affordable is becoming increasingly difficult, prompting a warning from the World Health

Organization last year. "The price of some antivenoms has dramatically increased in the last 20 years, making treatment unaffordable for the majority of those who need it," the UN health agency said.

### Long and complex process

On the continent, antivenom treatments are not generally cost-effective for the drug companies that make them. In 2010, French pharmaceuticals giant Sanofi stopped producing its widely-used Fav-Afrique serum, which is effective against the venom of 10 different snake species, with the last batch expiring in June of this year. Sanofi Pasteur, its vaccines division, said it had been edged out by cheaper competitors. But several studies have shown these low-cost rivals are far less effective in treating bites, while the delicate process of cultivating an antivenom further complicates delivery.

"Antivenom is a biological product. You have to buy the venom, draw out the antibodies, purify them... it's an arduous and complex process," explains Jean-Philippe Chippaux, a snake bite expert at France's Institute of Research for Development (IRD). "Governments, local authorities and companies should all make a contribution. Today no ministry is capable of saying where the problem lies, how many bites there are or where they took place." Worst hit are children and farmers working the land. Cacutu Avis

earns his living cutting down trees in the forest between the coast and the village of Eticoba. "The cacubas are the most deadly, generally if they bite you, you are a goner," he says, using the local word for mambas. "They are often in the trees and palm leaves."

### Reliance on healers

Soga is half an hour from the larger island of Bubaque, which has a basic hospital, and more than five hours from the capital, Bissau. But with a single dose of life-saving antivenom costing up to \$150 (141 euros) - often more than a month's salary-many are forced to turn to traditional healers. "People have died in front of me at the healers' places, but others have survived," said Jose Nactum, director of the hospital in Bubaque. "We don't have antivenoms adapted for different species and we have a lot of difficulty identifying the type of snake," he admits.

Antivenom must also be kept chilled in the fridge, yet only 10 percent of the country has access to electricity. Even for the new players in the market, making the antidotes cost-effective is a huge challenge. "Antivenoms don't bring in enough for the big pharma houses compared with other products," says Juan Silanes, president of Mexico's Inosan Biopharma, now Africa's top provider of snakebite serum. "But if there is a product that's fairly good, and at a good price, that could change things," he adds. — AFP



**NARATHIWAT:** Vietnamese fishermen are seen in a boat after being detained by the Royal Marine Police in Thailand's southern province of Narathiwat. Police arrested the nine Vietnamese men for illegal fishing in Thai waters. — AFP

## CLIMATE CHANGE 'THREATENS' FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL FISHING

**SAMUT SAKHON:** Climate change threatens to undermine Thailand's efforts to combat illegal fishing and avoid a potential European Union ban on exports by the multi-billion dollar seafood industry, environmental groups say. They warn that climate change is slowing the recovery of fish stocks in traditional fishing grounds, prompting boats to venture outside Thai waters in search of fish. "Overfishing plays a major role in the decimation of the fish stock in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, but climate change is just as big a threat," said Suchana Chavanich, a marine biologist at Chulalongkorn University.

"Warmer oceans mean that fish don't grow to their full length. Coral bleaching caused by climate change means fish nurseries and their food sources are also under threat," Suchana said. Thailand's fish stocks peaked in 2006 at 856,212 tons of fish caught in the Gulf of Thailand, according to One Shared Ocean, a group that monitors marine issues. Four years later it was down to 617,568 tons, the last year for which the group has data. The EU issued a "yellow card" to Thailand in April 2015, warning the country should clean up its poorly regulated fishing industry or face a ban on seafood exports.

Thailand is the world's third-largest seafood exporter, shipping \$7 billion worth of fish and seafood products in 2013, according to fisheries department data. Exports to the EU were 481 million euros (\$511 million) last year, EU figures show. Since the EU "yellow card", the Thai government said it has registered most of its fishing fleet and banned ships fitted with push nets and bottom trawling equipment from

going to sea. As a result, more than 3,500 fishing boats have been unable to leave port for at least a year, according to the Thai Overseas Fisheries Association. Earlier this month, the last of 48 boats seized during operations against illegal fishing were sunk off the Thai coast in an effort to create artificial coral reefs for tourism.

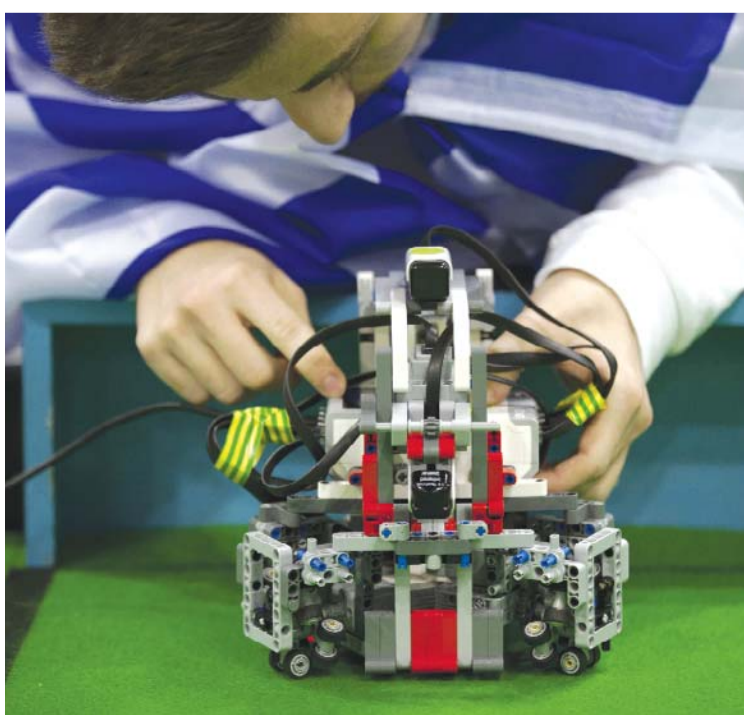
The EU said it is working with Thailand on implementing an action plan and no deadline has been set for a decision. "The dialogue with the Thai authorities is ongoing," Enrico Brivio, spokesperson for Environment, Maritime and Fisheries, said in an emailed statement. While the government has sought to avoid an EU ban, it has not done enough to address the effects of climate change on marine aquaculture, said Anchalee Pipattanawattanakul, an ocean researcher at Greenpeace Southeast Asia. "Any recovery made by fish stocks from the government's new illegal fishing initiatives are threatened in the long term by warming oceans," Anchalee said.

Officials at the Department of Fisheries said climate change was an issue for the cabinet and parliament to address. Meanwhile, the fishing industry is skeptical about the government's assurances that the measures it has introduced to combat illegal fishing will lead to a recovery in fish stocks. More than 300,000 people are employed in Thailand's seafood sector, many of them migrant workers from neighboring countries. "A lot of the fishermen have come to me for advice about changing industries and what other things they can do," said Abhisit Techanitisawad, President of the Thai Overseas Fisheries Association. "They just don't see their long term future within this industry." — Reuters



**NEW DELHI:** Participants and spectators watch robots displayed at the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. — AP

## WORLD STUDENTS FACE OFF IN ROBOT GAMES IN INDIA



**NEW DELHI:** A participant from Greece gets his robot ready for a game of soccer at the World Robot Olympiad in New Delhi, India. The weekend games brought more than 450 teams of students from 50 countries to the Indian capital. — AP

**NEW DELHI:** Whizzing around a green felt table chasing a soccer ball beaming infrared light, the boxy robot shoots - and scores - and wins its Taiwanese teenage creators first prize at this year's student robot games. The two bread-box-sized scooters, playing goalie and kicker, from the team called "Wings of Storm" were up against another Taiwanese team's robots in the "Football" category of the World Robot Olympiad held over the weekend in the Indian capital of New Delhi.

"We have been practicing since primary school," said Liaw Jia-wun, 15, thrilled to have won with his teammate. "We never in our lives could think that we would win the world championship." Other categories at the robotics championships - attended by more than 450 teams from 50 countries - asked participants to create robotics solutions to reduce or recycle waste, leading teams to build robots that emptied trash bins or scooped up building debris for future use. Some participants were as young as 6 years old, while others were

approaching university graduation.

In the more advanced robotics category, robots had to be pre-programmed for the automated challenge of picking up mini bowling balls and knocking down pins. That meant the robots had to sense where the target was and hit it without any intervention from their creators. The idea is to teach students computer programming as robotics moves beyond factory applications to everyday functions, said engineer Dominic Bruneau, the head coach for the Canadian teams.

"More and more, we will be interacting with robots" in our daily lives, Bruneau said. The student engineers are not just working on theory but are "doing practical work of building real stuff and trying to solve problems." South African teacher and coach Nicky Du Plessis said the games helped kids develop key skills. "We start with the fundamentals. We believe that if kids can start from a very young age ... it teaches them how to build," she said. "Then it teaches them logical thinking. How to change something quickly." — AP

## SOLAR IRRIGATION CUTS DROUGHT RISK AND EMISSIONS FOR KENYAN FARMERS

**HOUA BAY:** In the scorching sun, Alphonse Abok keeps an eye on his fields of watermelons growing near the banks of the Sound River, one of the major channels feeding into Lake Victoria. "I hope with enough water this time around I will harvest my watermelons," said the farmer from western Kenya. Not so long ago, he said, his efforts failed as he couldn't get enough water to the crop. In July, however, he purchased a solar-powered irrigation pump that he now hopes will give him a much more reliable harvest.

The equipment, from Futurepump, which imports irrigation kits from India, draws energy from an 80-watt solar panel mounted on a metal frame. The solar power then drives a motor that pulls water from a river, well or storage tank. Abok used to use a diesel irrigation pump that cost nearly \$10 a day in fuel to run, and often drained his budget, as well as being noisy and smoky, he said. His new \$637 pump required a \$414 down payment, with \$25 a month repayments until it is paid off.

The price tag can make the pumps hard to afford for many small farmers, but Futurepump, based in Kisumu, has set up loan programs with banks and micro-finance institutions to help buyers acquire the equipment, said Charles Ahenda-Bengo, the company's general manager. The firm also hopes to eventually begin manufacturing the solar irrigation kits locally, to help cut costs, Ahenda-Bengo said.

### Cheaper than losses

The solar pump was designed specifically for small-scale farmers who can't afford the irrigation technology used by large farmers, but who increasingly need to irrigate their crops as rainfall becomes

more irregular, he said. So far, the company has sold 200 pumps in Kenya. Another 350 have been sold in other East African countries, Ahenda-Bengo said. Rachael Opiyo, another farmer who bought one of the solar pumps with her savings this year, fears the high up-front cost may keep many farmers from investing in the technology.

But Ahenda-Bengo said the kit, which is guaranteed for five years, is less expensive if considered over its potential lifespan - and cheaper than losing crops repeatedly. Joshua Okundi, another farmer who has bought a solar pump, said the device is saving time as well as cash, as the diesel pump engine levels don't need to be topped up. "With the solar irrigation pump my work is easier since I don't have to monitor it every time. I just place the kit in the farm and leave it to continue pumping water," he said.

### Government irrigation push

Patrick Nduati, the principal secretary for irrigation in Kenya's Ministry of Water, said the government is not charging value-added tax on such solar kits, and that the country's draft National Irrigation Policy proposes offering more incentives to farmers to buy such devices, including lower import taxes. Irrigation has the potential to boost and protect production on many small farms, Nduati said. Already the country has about 3,600 smallholder irrigation projects covering 168,000 acres, or about 42 percent of the country's total irrigated area. But while solar pumps are a welcome addition in Kenya, Nduati said, they have not always worked in conditions where the sun doesn't shine. Farmers like Abok and Okundi believe adding a rechargeable battery to the kit could help solve the problem. — Reuters



## FIRST ROBOTIC HAIR TRANSPLANT TECHNOLOGY IN KUWAIT

**KUWAIT:** Dr Reemclinic, announced in a press conference yesterday the installation of ARTAS - the first hair transplant Robotic System in Kuwait. The ARTAS Robotic System is the first and only FDA-cleared, physician-controlled, computer-assisted technology for hair transplantation. Artas' advanced technologies provide accurate results, enabling patients to view and adjust the outcome prior to the procedure. This technology has eliminated the drawbacks typically associated with traditional transplant methods, opening the door for a new age of hair transplant procedures.

This cutting edge technology gives patients the exact result they are seeking. This is achieved using an advanced virtual hair studio program, which enables patients to view and adjust the final outcome they want. Hair is transplanted without stitches or noticeable scarring, and recovery time is fast, with most people returning to work or other activities immediately after the procedure.

Artas' superiority is driven by its accuracy in selecting and harvesting the healthiest grafts, which is vital for a successful hair transplant procedure. Advanced algorithms are employed to analyze each hair follicle, in order to select the healthiest grafts, increasing the

chances of their regrowth. The robot's flexible arm then starts to accurately harvest, targeting each follicle in its optimum angle, to ensure harvesting a healthy follicle, with the surrounding tissue needed for regrowth in the recipient area.

Artas' innovative approach to hair transplantation starts during the consultation stage. Using photographs of the patient's head, ARTAS Hair Studio Technology creates a customized 3D model of the transplant design, allowing the patient to see and adjust the end results beforehand. Because every patient's requirements are different, ARTAS

Hair Studio Technology enables the physician to show the patient the final outcome, including number of hair grafts required, direction of the implanting final hair style, enabling the physician to achieve the results the patient wants, eliminating any guesswork.

Artas' advanced technologies offer patients an unprecedented accuracy in designing and implementing the desired result. A virtual hair studio that shows the patient the end result, a digitized harvesting as per the approved design, a robotic site creation, all combine to produce an accurate result that is identical to the virtual pictures shown to the

patient. Using high-resolution digital imaging, the ARTAS Robotic System extends physician capability, removing the potential for human error attributable to fatigue. The physician-assisted technology uses state-of-the-art image guidance and intelligent algorithms to optimize individual follicular unit harvesting, resulting in precise procedures and consistent results. Physicians can harvest thousands of follicular units from the surrounding needed tissues in a single session, performing the procedure with uniformed results. The ARTAS Robotic System has reached the 30 million follicle milestone all over the world.

## 'HACKER ATTACK' HITS 1M GERMAN HOMES

**FRANKFURT AM MAIN:** Internet service for almost one million households in Germany was disrupted by likely deliberate hacking, provider Deutsche Telekom said yesterday. Around 900,000 customers using specific models of router have been affected since Sunday afternoon, the firm said, with some unable to connect at all while others suffered intermittent problems. "We believe that influence was exerted on the routers from outside," a Telekom spokesman said, saying software had been installed on the devices that prevented them from connecting to the company's network. It did not provide details of which models of router-network hardware that connects households to their internet and telephone service provider-were affected.

Deutsche Telekom said that its engineers and colleagues from the companies that produce the devices had been working through the night to find a solution. Customers affected have been advised to disconnect their routers from the network since the problems began on Sunday afternoon. Germany has been the target of repeated cyber attacks in recent years. In September, several political parties were targeted with fake emails purporting to be from NATO headquarters but which in fact contained a link that installed spying software on victims' computers.

Meanwhile, hackers targeted the Bundestag (German parliament) in a 2015 attack that security services have since blamed on Russia. With federal elections slated for autumn 2017, Germany has anxiously eyed the impact of leaked documents obtained by hackers on the US presidential polls this year. US authorities have accused Russia of orchestrating the leak of emails from the Democratic National Committee that embarrassed candidate Hillary Clinton. A cyber attack in October also made large portions of the US internet unavailable for millions of users worldwide. — AFP

## MINIATURE MONKEYS REUNITED AFTER ZOO THEFT IN AUSTRALIA



**SYDNEY:** Photo shows a keeper carries a baby puggle in Sydney. Sydney's Taronga Zoo is celebrating its first successful echidna births in 30 years with three healthy babies, known as puggles, from three different mums hatching within days of each other. — AFP

**SYDNEY:** Two men were charged yesterday with stealing rare pygmy marmosets from an Australian wildlife park as a baby was reunited with her mum and the hunt continued to find dad. Three of the monkeys, the world's smallest, were snatched from their enclosure at the Symbio Wildlife Park south of Sydney on Saturday, with police and zookeepers launching a desperate bid to locate the suckling infant. There were fears it would die if away from its mother for more than 24 hours while keepers also worried its twin would perish because their mother was too stressed to feed. After a tip-off from the public, two men, aged 23 and 26, were arrested and charged yesterday with dealing with the proceeds of crime.

Police found the unnamed four-week-old infant in the men's car and a 10-month-old female, Sophia, at another address. But the father, Gomez, remains missing. It was not clear why the monkeys, which are native to South America and usually about 20 centimeters (eight inches) tall, were taken, but Symbio park manager Matthew Radnidge said there would have been a financial motivation. "But in terms of value, an animal has a value of whatever someone perceives, so within the zoo and wildlife park industry, no money ever changes hands with these animal transfers," he told ABC radio.

Sydney's Daily Telegraph said marmosets, also known as thumb monkeys, were in demand on the black market as pets, commanding prices of up to Aus\$5,000 (US\$3,700). The wildlife park said the hungry and scared baby had been reunited with its mother and sister. "Mum cradled the baby straight into her arms and bub immediately began to feed," the park said on its Facebook page. "Early observations this morning are promising, with two bright eyed twins observed on mum's back-so a great result." — AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem  
ر. فهد علي المخيزيم

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



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

# GUST'S PACE, BOUBYAN BANK CONCLUDE FIRST LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WITH DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Gulf University for Science and Technology's (GUST) Professional Advancement and Continuing Education (PACE) has successfully concluded the first customized leadership training program for Boubyan Bank employees on its campus. The program, entitled "Emerging Leaders Program", helped strengthen the leadership skills of 50 aspiring leaders within Boubyan Bank.

The program was led by Dr Erin Nelson, Dr Nezh Altay, and Dr Charles E. Naquin from DePaul University in the United States, and represents its first venture into the Kuwaiti market. The program was pitched at a master-class level. The collaborative synergy between Boubyan Bank, GUST, and DePaul University ensured the delivery of a high quality program in the market.

General Manager of Human Resources Group at Boubyan, Adel Hammad, said, "We are delighted that GUST is a partner that offers the best possible training to equip our leaders with the right skills to succeed in their professional journey. We as an institution are committed to the growth and development of our up and coming crop of leaders, and with GUST as our preferred professional development partner, we are confident of our future!"

PACE's mission within GUST is to offer high-quality, continuing and professional education, lifelong learning opportunities, and innovative



**Sadegh Zobeidi, Director of Professional and Continuing Education Center**

learning solutions to individuals and corporations in a stimulating environment. By linking two prestigious institutions, PACE solidifies itself as a market leader in providing tailor-made training based on market needs to help propel organizations to growth and success.

PACE Director at GUST, Sadegh Zobeidi said, "Our aim is to deliver the best leadership programs to the Kuwait market in cooperation with



**Adel Abdullah Al-Hammad from Boubyan Bank's Human Resources Group**

the best universities. In the future, we hope to conduct a similar event to the public so that more people can benefit from such a reputable and effective program."

GUST's PACE is constantly chosen amongst other entities to execute such programs. This is due to its strong reputation locally for providing high quality training to a number of organizations. It is also known for its role as an



**Dr Charles Naquin from DePaul University**

accredited training center for course such as CFA and CMA, and is internationally recognized as a standardized testing center for exams such as IELTS.

Over the last few years, PACE's portfolio of public courses has significantly expanded to include GMAT, CMA, CPA exam preparation, Healthcare Management and Quality, and even a Private Pilot's License Program.



## HILTON KUWAIT RESORT CELEBRATES 2016 ANNUAL CORPORATE NIGHT

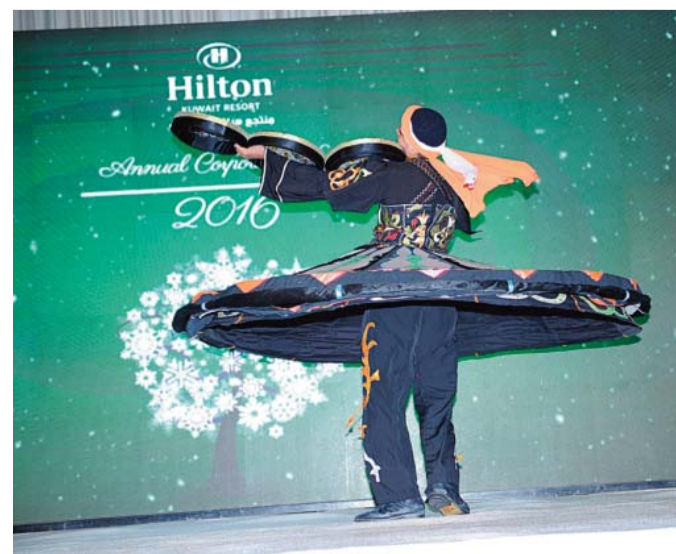
Hilton Kuwait Resort celebrated a successful year with guests and corporate partners at the hotel's 2016 Annual Corporate 'Winter Heaven' themed gala. Ziad Tantawi, General Manager of Hilton Kuwait Resort along with Fady Iskandar, Director of Business Development and Karim Fattouh, Assistant Director of Sales sided by the Sales, PR and Marketing team gave a warm welcome to the elite guests wishing them a pleasant time.

During the event, Ziad Tantawi, The General Manager of Hilton Kuwait Resort gave an engaging speech,

commended the business partners for their efforts and support throughout 2016. He commented "I felt a great sense of pride celebrating the successful year the Hilton Kuwait Resort has had with the people who have contributed to our success. This event provided us with the perfect opportunity to thank those individuals and companies who have showed continuous support throughout the year."

The party also served to honor company's representatives from prominent Kuwaiti businesses that have supported and contributed to Hilton Kuwait Resort's successful year.

In addition to the delicious cuisine and world-class entertainment guests enjoyed throughout the evening, a raffle draw also took place with guests winning valuable gifts including complimentary night stays in Hilton Hotels and Resorts around the world as well as precious gifts from Hilton Kuwait Resort. The event was sponsored by Al-Mulla and Behbehani Automotive Company. The company was so grateful to Hilton team for giving the opportunity to display a Grand Cherokee 2017, one of its well-known brands to the audience during the event.



## THE BISTRO MAIS LAUNCHES 'BISTRO SIGNATURE DISHES' MENU

The Bistro Mais Alghanim Restaurant has just announced its latest promotion; the launching of a 'Bistro Signatures' menu, with a carefully chosen variety of scrumptious dishes to be available to patrons in Miral Mall - Mangaf, providing customers with a memorable and inimitable experience whilst the celebration of its 2nd anniversary.

The promotional menu features Pizzas, Tabliyahs, Main Courses and Desserts that are the conception of its most experienced chefs.

The new palatable offerings include Turkey Supreme prepared with Hand Tossed Pizza Dough topped with Smoked Turkey, Fresh Mushrooms, Black Olives, Mozzarella Cheese, and Homemade Tomato Sauce; Garden Veggie prepared with Hand Tossed Pizza Dough topped with Capsicum, Eggplant, Baby Marrow, Artichokes, Mozzarella Cheese, and Our Homemade Tomato Sauce; Kabbab Tabliyah in Lebanese Bread with French Fries, Cucumber Pickles, Hummus and Arabic Salad served in Traditional Lebanese Style. And also Shish Taouk Tabliyah in Lebanese Bread with French Fries, Cucumber Pickles, Hummus and Coleslaw Salad

wrapped and served in the Lebanese traditional serving Tabliyah.

The scrumptious selection of main dishes consists of three main proteins namely meat, chicken and seafood. Meat includes Soujuk Kabbab which comprises of Succulent Lamb Kabbab spiced with our Homemade Soujuk Spices, served with Saffron Rice and Dakkous Sauce. Besides this is the Stuffed Lamb Chops prepared with Charcoal Grilled Lamb Chops stuffed with Haloumi Cheese topped with Gravy Sauce and served with Roasted Potato Slices. From the poultry we have the Chicken Parmigiana prepared with Breaded Chicken Breast topped with our Special Cheese Blend and Marinara Sauce, served with Coleslaw Salad and French Fries and the Chicken Spirals which are Succulent Grilled Chicken Tenders served with our Special Dipping Sauce and French Fries. In the seafood section we will be serving the Shrimp Noodle Sizzler with Tender Kuwaiti Shrimp, Noodles, and Vegetables on a Sizzling Platter and the Grilled Salmon with Chef Sauce made with Grilled Salmon Filet Infused with our Special Balsamic Orange Marinade,

served with Saffron Rice and Grilled Sautéed Vegetables.

This is in addition to an assortment of delicious Crepe Sweets with 4 different flavors including Nutella Banana, Osmaliyeh Crepe Parcel; Raheesh Nutella Banana served with roasted Marshmallow and the splendid Crepe Exotic with fresh Strawberry.

The Bistro Mais, will be consistently promoting a series of innovative and exciting offerings, the most recent of which is the Bistro Signature Dishes, brought to customers as part of the Bistro's legacy to satisfy every palate, exceed all expectations and bring memorable flavors to your dining experience.

Located at Miral Mall in Mangaf, The Bistro Mais Alghanim directly overlooks a spectacular sea view of the Arabian Gulf, and welcomes patrons wishing to relax while sampling some of the most delectable dishes combining Middle Eastern and International cuisines. The restaurant also features a variety of flavors for hookah enthusiasts, making any visit to this stunning location a memorable one. Worth noting is that this promotion is available through Talabat website by the "Bistro To Go" home delivery service.



Hadeel Mohammed Al-Shaikh and Ahmed Al-Ejairi celebrated their engagement recently in a joyful ceremony held at Al-Zumurruda Ceremonial Hall, and attended by friends and family from both sides. Congratulations to Hadeel and Ahmed, and wish you a long happy life together.



Arab Media Forum's Secretary General Madhi Al-Khamis speaks during the ceremony.



Kuwait Journalists Association's Treasurer Adnan Al-Rashid delivers a speech.



Information Ministry's Undersecretary Tariq Al-Mizrim honors Arab Media personalities who served the Kuwaiti media for more than 20 years.



## VETERAN MEDIA PERSONALITIES HONORED

The Arab Media Forum held ceremony recently to honor several Kuwaiti and Arab Media personalities who served the Kuwaiti media for more than 20 years. Information Ministry's Undersecretary Tariq Al-Mizrim, who represented Information Minister, State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, said it is necessary to "join this group of Arab and Kuwaiti media personalities who served Kuwait's media in all fields."

"Those who gave a lot deserve thanks and appreciation for their efforts and we expect more contributions from them in the future," he said, adding that the honored individuals gave a lot through television, radio and the press, and stressed that Kuwait always thanks those who serve it.

Meanwhile, the Arab Media Forum's Secretary General Madhi Al-Khamis said the forum is keen on hosting the event every year, and thanked Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud for supporting all media-related

activities. "The honored personalities set an example for us and we were looking up to them with love as we tell them today 'thank you,'" he said.

Kuwait Journalists Association's Treasurer Adnan Al-Rashid thanked the forum's officials for organizing the celebration, as he lauded efforts of all Arab Journalists and media personalities who helped Kuwait assume a pioneering position in press and media. "they brought out a Kuwaiti generation that is able to continue the march," he said, describing the honored individuals.

The winners of Cairo Mondial of art and information works were also honored with a plaque, which was presented to the director of programs department at Kuwait Radio Saad Al-Findi on behalf of Information Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Radio Affairs Sheikh Fahad Mubarak Abdallah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as Kuwait won first place in the Mondial.

The honored media personalities who



spent 20 years in the field included the Information Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for New Media sector and Information services Yousuf Mustafa,



Deputy Director General of KUNA for editorial sector managing editor Saad Al-Ali, KUNA Journalists Jamal Behbehani, Mohammad Shams-el-Deen and Faisal

Hareedi, in addition to other media personalities including Ayesha Al-Yahya, Majid Al-Shatti, Hussein Mulla Ali, Nathira Al-Awadhi and Amani Al-Fiqi.



## UNPRECEDENTED DEMONSTRATION OF ART OF PASTRY AND CHOCOLATE 'PASTRY LIVE AND BEYOND CHAPTER IV/ 2016'

Under the theme of "Pastry live and Beyond Chapter IV", the leading FAME Co (France and Middle East Co), hosted its fourth annual Haute Couture event, featuring a live demonstration of top notch pastry and chocolate making-of at the Radisson Blu Hotel with the participation of pioneer chefs who have joined the event coming all the way from France and Kuwait. The event which has been a true demonstration of stylish and fashionable products has gathered attendees amongst the "crème de la crème" of industry leaders and media representatives.

For more than three hours Chef Benoit Visbecq, Chef Sadiqa and Chef Omar Addihaoui, have excelled in moving

the audience to a virtual world of unparalleled art of pastry and chocolate making-of which resulted in a true "Chef - d'Oeuvre" that indulges the sight and the savvy-tastes simultaneously.

Commenting on FAME "Pastry Live and Beyond Chapter IV", Sophie Parou, CEO of FAME Co said: "Since its inception in Kuwait in 2001, FAME has been at the forefront in spreading out the true French culture of pastry, chocolate and bakery which is well renown worldwide for its authenticity and unique taste." "Our prime objective out of this event is to share with the industry partners as well as the audience, the quality of FAME products which are marked with uniqueness and easiness of usage but which will also

enable true pastry enthusiasts to not only create but also innovate!"

Sophie Parou further elaborated that accordingly, FAME is keen to constantly launch new trends in the market and not just copying what others do. Hence this renders FAME to being one of kind. Originally established in France, FAME expanded its roots to Kuwait in 2001; the company has tremendously succeeded in spreading premium French bakery, pastry and chocolate ingredients, décor and small equipment across Kuwait and imported all the way from France but also Europe. Accordingly, FAME has become the preferred shopping destination for industry leaders who are looking for distinguished products.

And to top it all, throughout its journey in Kuwait, over the years, FAME has diversified its offerings to further cater to the market need and via consultancy for new or old business establishment looking to improve their current range of chocolate, pastry or bakery but also via individual pastry classes given by an accredited French Chef who is part of FAME Co team.

Sophie Parou ended: "FAME truly changed the landscape of the industry while revolutionizing the concept of bakery, pastry and chocolate production with trendy, innovative and noble products which perfectly cater to the need of the Kuwaiti longing for out-of-the-box ingredients custom-made in order to elevate their taste senses."

**OSN MOVIES**  
**ACTION**

- 00:00 Forbidden Empire
- 02:00 Shark Lake
- 04:00 Batman Unlimited: Monster Mayhem
- 06:00 Divergent
- 08:30 Close Range
- 10:15 Six Days Seven Nights
- 12:00 Hidalgo
- 14:15 Divergent
- 16:45 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise
- 18:30 Six Days Seven Nights
- 20:15 Faster
- 22:00 Cat Run 2

**ANIMAL PLANET HD**

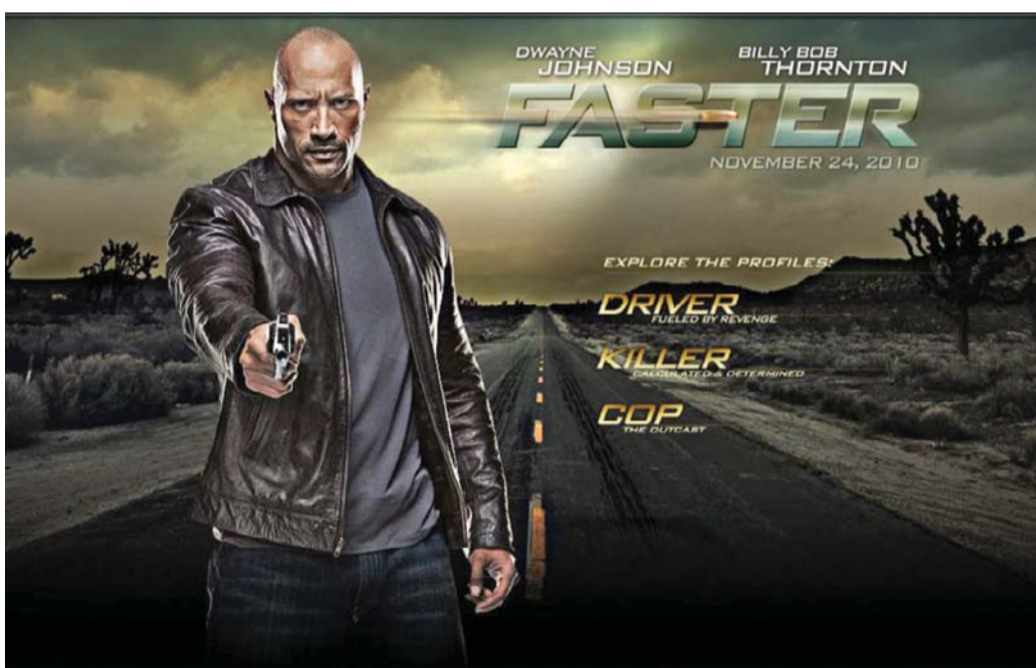
- 00:50 River Monsters
- 01:45 Bondi Vet
- 02:40 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 03:35 Tanked
- 04:25 Into The Pride
- 05:15 Gator Boys
- 06:02 River Monsters
- 06:49 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 07:36 Swamp Brothers
- 08:00 Swamp Brothers
- 08:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 09:15 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 10:10 Mutant Planet
- 11:05 Tanked
- 12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
- 12:55 Bondi Vet
- 13:50 Dr. Dee: Alaska Vet
- 14:45 Gator Boys
- 15:40 Mutant Planet
- 16:35 Tanked
- 17:30 Into The Pride
- 18:25 River Monsters
- 19:20 Lone Star Law
- 20:15 Tanked
- 21:10 Into The Pride
- 22:05 Mutant Planet
- 23:00 Lone Star Law
- 23:55 Gator Boys

**Discovery Family**

- 00:30 Prototype This
- 01:20 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 01:45 Kids Do The Craziest Things
- 02:10 Pick A Puppy
- 02:35 Pick A Puppy
- 03:00 Untamed & Uncut
- 03:50 Ultimate Survival
- 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 America's Cutest Pets
- 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 America's Cutest Pets
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival

**BBC FIRST**

- 00:40 The Collection
- 01:35 Class
- 02:30 Orphan Black
- 03:15 The Kettering Incident
- 04:10 Casualty
- 05:05 Call The Midwife
- 06:00 Eastenders
- 06:30 Eastenders
- 07:00 Casualty



**FASTER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION**

- 07:50 Casualty
- 08:50 Father Brown
- 09:35 Dickensian
- 10:20 Call The Midwife
- 11:15 Casualty
- 12:10 Father Brown
- 12:55 Dickensian
- 13:40 Call The Midwife
- 14:35 Casualty
- 15:30 Father Brown
- 16:15 Dickensian
- 17:05 Call The Midwife
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Doctors
- 19:05 Father Brown
- 20:00 Ripper Street
- 21:00 Ripper Street
- 21:55 Orphan Black
- 22:45 The Kettering Incident
- 23:40 Doctors

- 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 Playhouse Masters
- 17:50 Incredible Food Race
- 18:40 Prototype This
- 19:30 How It's Made
- 19:55 How It's Made
- 20:20 Mythbusters
- 21:10 Playhouse Masters
- 22:00 Incredible Food Race
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival



- 00:40 Six Degrees Of Murder
- 01:30 Deadly Women
- 02:20 Killer Instinct With Chris Hansen
- 03:10 Las Vegas Law
- 04:00 Six Degrees Of Murder
- 04:48 I Almost Got Away With It
- 05:36 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 06:24 Heartbreakers
- 07:12 Southern Fried Homicide
- 08:00 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
- 08:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 09:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 10:30 Id Kill For You
- 11:20 Southern Fried Homicide
- 12:10 Evil Online
- 13:00 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
- 13:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 14:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 15:30 Heartbreakers
- 16:20 Southern Fried Homicide
- 17:10 Your Number's Up
- 18:00 Tabloid With Jerry Springer
- 18:50 I Almost Got Away With It
- 19:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
- 20:30 Heartbreakers
- 21:20 Southern Fried Homicide
- 22:10 Disappeared
- 23:00 Las Vegas Law
- 23:50 Killer Confessions



**COMEDY CENTRAL**

- 00:00 Another Period
- 00:25 Idiotstatter
- 00:50 Chappelle's Show
- 01:15 Tosh.0
- 01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition
- 02:05 John Oliver's New York Stand Up Show
- 03:00 Workaholics
- 03:25 Ridiculousness
- 03:50 Ridiculousness
- 04:15 Key And Peele
- 04:40 Impractical Jokers III Jokers Wild
- 05:05 Ridiculousness
- 05:30 Disorderly Conduct: Video On Patrol
- 06:20 Tosh.0
- 06:50 Tosh.0
- 07:15 Catch A Contractor

- 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

**Discovery Channel HD**

- 00:20 Wheeler Dealers
- 01:10 Gold Rush
- 02:00 Deadliest Catch
- 02:50 Catching Monsters
- 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 Deadliest Catch
- 06:50 Wheeler Dealers
- 07:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 08:30 Gold Divers
- 09:20 What's In The Barn?
- 09:45 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 10:10 How Do They Do It?
- 10:35 Gold Rush
- 11:25 Deadliest Catch

- 12:15 Catching Monsters
- 13:05 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 13:30 Storage Hunters
- 13:55 What's In The Barn?
- 14:20 Alaskan Bush People
- 15:10 Gold Divers
- 16:00 Deadliest Catch
- 16:50 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre
- 17:40 Wheeler Dealers
- 18:30 How It's Made: Dream Cars
- 18:55 How Do They Do It?
- 19:20 Gold Divers
- 20:10 Storage Hunters
- 20:35 What's In The Barn?
- 21:00 Survive That!
- 21:50 Dive Wars Australia
- 22:40 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theatre



- 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
- 08:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 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
- 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
- 19:50 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
- 22:35 Boyster
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA

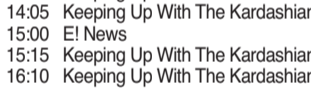
- 00:00 Mouk
- 07:00 Jessie
- 07:25 Jessie
- 07:50 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 08:15 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 08:20 Elena Of Avalor
- 08:45 Bunk'd
- 09:10 Austin & Ally
- 09:35 Shake It Up
- 10:00 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:25 A.N.T. Farm
- 10:50 That's So Raven
- 11:15 That's So Raven
- 11:40 Good Luck 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 Descendants Wicked World
- 18:30 Liv And Maddie
- 18:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:00 Jessie
- 19:25 Star Darlings
- 19:30 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:55 Descendants Wicked World
- 20:00 Dog With A Blog
- 20:25 Tsum Tsum Shorts
- 20:30 Jessie
- 20:55 Liv And Maddie
- 21:20 Austin & Ally
- 22:10 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



- 00:00 Doc McStuffins
- 00:30 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 00:35 Zou
- 00:50 Loopidoo
- 01:05 Art Attack
- 01:30 Henry Hugglemonster
- 01:45 Calimero
- 02:00 Zou

- 00:00 Mystery Diners
- 00:30 Mystery Diners
- 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

- 00:05 WAGs Miami
- 00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 01:50 E! NYC
- 02:50 E! NYC
- 03:40 Hollywood Cycle
- 04:35 Hollywood Cycle
- 05:30 Botched
- 06:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 06:55 E! News
- 07:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 08:10 E! News
- 09:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 10:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 11:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 12:00 E! News
- 12:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 13:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 14:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 15:00 E! News
- 15:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 16:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 17:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 E! News
- 20:00 Celebrity Style Story
- 20:30 Celebrity Style Story
- 21:00 Rob & Chyna
- 22:00 WAGs Miami
- 23:00 E! News
- 23:15 Celebrity Style Story
- 23:40 Celebrity Style Story



- 00:00 Aussie Pickers
- 01:10 Storage Wars
- 01:35 Storage Wars
- 02:00 Storage Wars
- 02:25 Storage Wars: Best Of
- 02:50 Leepu And Pitbull
- 03:40 American Restoration
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 06:00 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 06:25 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 06:50 American Pickers
- 07:40 Pawn Stars
- 08:05 Pawn Stars
- 08:30 Storage Wars Texas
- 08:55 American Restoration
- 09:45 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 10:35 Shipping Wars
- 11:00 Shipping Wars
- 11:25 Billion Dollar Wreck
- 12:15 Swamp People
- 13:05 Ax Men
- 13:55 Ozy & Jack's World Detour
- 14:45 Aussie Pickers
- 15:35 Pawn Stars
- 16:00 American Pickers
- 16:50 Storage Wars
- 17:15 Storage Wars: Best Of



- 00:00 Mystery Diners
- 00:30 Mystery Diners
- 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



- 00:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 01:00 Ancient Aliens
- 02:00 Missing In Alaska
- 03:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 03:50 WWII: Europe's Secret Army
- 04:40 Monster Quest
- 05:30 America's Book Of Secrets
- 06:20 Cities Of The Underworld
- 07:10 Ancient Discoveries
- 08:00 America's Book Of Secrets
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- 19:00 Ancient Aliens
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- 21:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 22:00 WWII: Europe's Secret Army
- 23:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence

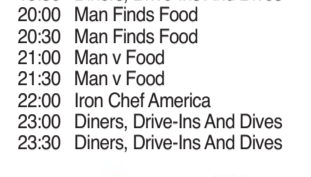


- 00:20 Natural Born Monsters
- 01:10 Man V. Monster
- 02:00 Crows Of Katuma
- 02:50 Wild Case Files
- 03:45 Unlikely Animal Friends
- 04:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 05:35 Crows Of Katuma
- 06:30 Wild Case Files
- 07:25 Unlikely Animal Friends
- 08:20 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 09:15 Safari Brothers
- 10:10 How Big Can It Get
- 11:05 Dangerous Encounters
- 12:00 Killer Shrew
- 12:55 Game Of Lions
- 13:50 Wild Case Files
- 14:45 Unlikely Animal Friends
- 15:40 The Incredible Dr. Pol
- 16:35 Safari Brothers
- 17:30 How Big Can It Get
- 18:25 Dangerous Encounters
- 19:20 Unlikely Animal Friends



- 00:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 01:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil
- 02:00 Born To Kill
- 03:00 Tbc
- 04:00 Robbie Coltrane's Critical Evidence
- 05:00 Gangsters: America's Most Evil
- 06:00 Born To Kill
- 07:00 The First 48
- 08:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 09:00 Crime Stories
- 10:00 The First 48
- 11:30 Frememies
- 12:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 13:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 14:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 15:00 Crime Stories
- 16:00 It Takes A Killer
- 16:30 Frememies
- 17:00 The First 48
- 18:00 Killers: Behind The Myth
- 19:00 Crimes That Shook Britain
- 20:00 Fred Dinenage: Murder Casebook
- 21:00 It Takes A Killer
- 21:30 Frememies
- 22:00 Crime Stories
- 23:00 The Jail: 60 Days In

- 08:00 The Kitchen
- 09:00 Cooking For Real
- 09:30 Cooking For Real
- 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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 19:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 20:00 Man Finds Food
- 20:30 Man Finds Food
- 21:00 Man v Food
- 21:30 Man v Food
- 22:00 Iron Chef America
- 23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



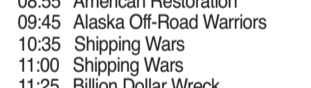
- 00:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Coronation Street
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 The Chase
- 03:25 5 Star Family Reunion
- 04:20 Surprise Surprise
- 05:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 06:10 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 07:05 The Chase
- 08:00 Broadchurch
- 09:00 5 Star Family Reunion
- 10:00 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 10:55 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 11:50 The Chase
- 12:45 Emmerdale
- 13:15 Coronation Street
- 13:45 Coronation Street
- 14:15 Sunday Night At The Palladium
- 15:10 The Chase
- 16:00 Broadchurch
- 16:55 Doc Martin
- 17:50 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:15 Coronation Street
- 19:45 Coronation Street
- 20:10 The Chase
- 21:00 Broadchurch
- 21:55 Doc Martin
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Coronation Street
- 23:40 Coronation Street



- 00:10 Home Strange Home
- 01:00 What's For Sale?
- 01:25 What's For Sale?
- 01:50 Around The World In 80 Dishes
- 02:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 03:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 03:55 Route Awakening
- 04:20 Route Awakening
- 04:45 Places We Go
- 05:10 Places We Go
- 05:35 Carnival Eats
- 06:00 Carnival Eats
- 06:25 Hook It, Cook It
- 06:50 What's For Sale?
- 07:15 What's For Sale?
- 07:40 Around The World In 80 Dishes
- 08:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 09:20 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 09:45 Route Awakening
- 10:10 Route Awakening
- 10:35 Places We Go
- 11:00 Places We Go
- 11:25 Carnival Eats
- 11:50 Carnival Eats
- 12:15 Hook It, Cook It
- 12:40 What's For Sale?
- 13:05 What's For Sale?
- 13:35 Around The World In 80 Dishes
- 14:30 Cruise Ship Diaries
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- 15:50 Route Awakening
- 16:20 Route Awakening
- 16:45 Places We Go
- 17:15 Places We Go
- 17:40 Carnival Eats
- 18:10 Carnival Eats
- 18:35 Hook It, Cook It
- 19:05 Raw Travel
- 19:30 Miguel's Tropical Kitchen
- 20:00 Route Awakening
- 20:25 Route Awakening
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- 22:05 Carnival Eats
- 22:30 Hook It, Cook It
- 22:55 What's For Sale?
- 23:20 What's For Sale?
- 23:45 Around The World In 80 Dishes



- 00:00 America's Book Of Secrets
- 01:00 Ancient Aliens
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- 19:00 Ancient Aliens
- 20:00 Missing In Alaska
- 21:00 Ancient Discoveries
- 22:00 WWII: Europe's Secret Army
- 23:00 Ancient Aliens: The Ultimate Evidence



- 00:10 Dawn Of Humanity
- 01:00 Big Fix Alaska
- 02:00 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 02:55 Explorer
- 03:50 Dawn Of Humanity
- 04:45 Ultimate Survival Alaska
- 05:40 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 06:05 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 06:35 Live Free Or Die
- 07:30 Big Fix Alaska
- 08:25 America's Lost Treasures
- 09:20 Born To Ride
- 10:15 Taiwan: Island Of Fish
- 11:10 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 12:05 Air Crash Investigation
- 13:00 America's Lost Treasures
- 14:00 Big Fix Alaska
- 15:00 Live Free Or Die
- 16:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
- 17:00 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 18:00 Air Crash Investigation
- 19:00 Live Free Or Die
- 20:00 Years Of Living Dangerously
- 20:50 Wicked Tuna: North vs South
- 21:40 Air Crash Investigation
- 22:30 Live Free Or Die
- 23:20 Cruise Ship Diaries
- 23:45 Cruise Ship Diaries



- 00:00 A Long Way Down
- 02:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 04:00 Caveman
- 06:00 Superfast
- 08:00 The Bad News Bears (2005)
- 10:00 Caveman
- 12:00 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 14:00 Big Ass Spider!
- 16:00 The Bad News Bears (2005)
- 18:00 A Lot Like Love
- 20:00 Hot Pursuit
- 22:00 Road Trip



- 00:00 Cocaine Cowboys: Reloaded
- 05:00 Romeo & Juliet
- 07:00 Searching For Bobby Fischer
- 09:00 Gone With The Bullets
- 11:00 Tracks
- 13:00 Romeo & Juliet
- 15:00 Second Coming
- 17:00 Gone With The Bullets
- 19:00 What Maisie Knew
- 21:00 The Judge
- 23:30 Men, Women & Children



- 00:15 Mangle



# CLASSIFIEDS



**Kuwait Times**  
 Now you can browse  
[www.kuwaittimes.net](http://www.kuwaittimes.net)  
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



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

Time	Movie	Time	Movie	Time	Movie
11:30 AM	SHARQIA-1	11:30 AM	MUHALAB-1	11:30 AM	360°-1
1:45 PM	SHARQIA-2	1:45 PM	MUHALAB-2	1:45 PM	360°-2
4:15 PM	SHARQIA-3	4:15 PM	MUHALAB-3	4:15 PM	360°-3
6:15 PM	FANAR-1	6:15 PM	FANAR-2	6:15 PM	AL-KOUT.1
9:15 PM	FANAR-3	9:15 PM	FANAR-3	9:15 PM	AL-KOUT.2
11:45 PM	FANAR-4	11:45 PM	FANAR-5	11:45 AM	ALLIED
	FANAR-5		MARINA-1	11:45 AM	ALLIED
	MARINA-2		MARINA-3	12:15 AM	ALLIED
	MARINA-3		AVENUES-1	12:15 AM	ALLIED
	AVENUES-2		AVENUES-3	12:30 AM	ALLIED
	AVENUES-3			12:30 AM	ALLIED

**A specialized concrete repair company is looking for Supervisors & Nozzle Men**

With experience in concrete strengthening, shotcrete and the application of carbon fiber.

Email CV to: [recruitmenttogo@gmail.com](mailto:recruitmenttogo@gmail.com)

**CHANGE OF NAME** Kolata Dadapeer. (C 5243) 29-11-2016

**FOR SALE**

I, Mohan Lal Jangir old name S/o Omkar Ma Jangir holder of Indian Passport No. M8397095 and Civil ID No. 268020305095 has changed my from Mohan Lal Jangir to Mahaveer Prasad Jangir hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Mahaveer Prasad Jangir. (C 5242)

**SITUATION WANTED**

I, Daba Peer Kolata S/o Kolata Meah Saheb holder of Indian Passport No. J-3963274 & Civil ID No. 281042501712 has changed my name from Daba Peer Kolata to Shaik Kolata Dadapeer hereinafter in all my dealings and documents, I will be known by name of Shaik

**EMERGENCY 112**

**PRAYER TIMINGS**

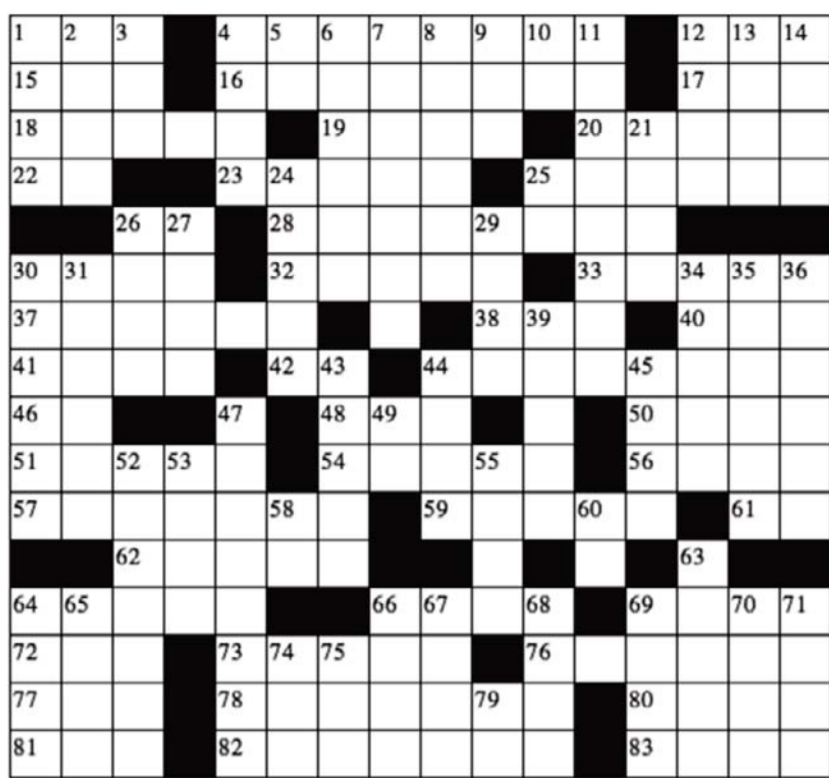
Fajr:	04:58
Shorook:	06:21
Duhr:	11:36
Asr:	14:30
Maghrib:	16:50
Isha:	18:11

## Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

### Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 29/11/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 29/11/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	405	Sohag	00:05	AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	00:20	FDB	072	Dubai	00:40
KAC	776	Riyadh	00:20	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:50
JZR	539	Cairo	00:40	MSC	406	Sohag	01:00
THY	772	Istanbul	00:55	BBC	144	Chittagong/Dhaka	01:30
MSC	411	Asyut	01:00	KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:35
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	MSC	412	Asyut	01:55
KAC	102	London	01:25	KAC	417	Manila	02:00
THY	764	Istanbul	01:50	THY	773	Istanbul	02:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:55	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:55
AXB	395	Kozhikode	02:00	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:55
PGT	858	Istanbul	02:00	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	03:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	02:05	PGT	859	Istanbul	03:35
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:30	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
UAE	853	Dubai	02:30	KKK	6505	Istanbul	03:55
OMA	643	Muscat	02:55	OMA	644	Muscat	03:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:55	THY	765	Istanbul	04:00
FDB	069	Dubai	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:10	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	612	Cairo	03:10	KAC	167	Paris	04:25
QTR	1076	Doha	03:30	QTR	1077	Doha	04:40
KAC	358	Kochi	03:30	LMU	5511	Cairo	05:00
LMU	5510	Cairo	04:00	QTR	1087	Doha	05:50
KAC	544	Cairo	04:10	JZR	560	Sohag	06:05
KAC	418	Manila	04:25	FDB	070	Dubai	06:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	04:55	THY	6376	Istanbul	06:30
THY	6675	Istanbul	05:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:50
JZR	529	Asyut	05:15	KAC	153	Istanbul	06:50
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:20	JZR	164	Dubai	06:55
KAC	354	BLR	05:20	GFA	212	Bahrain	07:15
KAC	344	Chennai	05:35	KAC	541	Cairo	07:15
KAC	332	Trivandrum	05:45	KAC	773	Riyadh	07:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:55	KAC	787	Jeddah	07:45
KAC	384	Delhi	06:05	KAC	171	Frankfurt	07:55
KAC	364	Colombo	06:05	KAC	563	Amman	08:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	06:20	KAC	679	Dubai	08:10
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	06:25	BAW	156	London	08:40
BAW	157	London	06:40	FDB	054	Dubai	08:55
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	07:00	KAC	691	Muscat	09:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	791	Madinah	09:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	08:20	KAC	117	New York	09:00
UAE	855	Dubai	08:40	KAC	101	London	09:35
KAC	382	Delhi	08:45	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	UAE	856	Dubai	09:55
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05	KAC	671	Dubai	10:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:30	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:10
IRC	6507	Shiraz	09:30	IRC	6508	Shiraz	10:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	FDB	056	Dubai	10:35
SVA	512	Riyadh	10:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:40
AAG	141	Sharjah	10:00	SVA	513	Riyadh	11:00
AVV	651	Asyut	10:10	AVV	652	Sohag	11:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KAC	617	Doha	11:10
IRA	675	Lar	10:40	KAC	501	Beirut	11:15
SYR	341	Damascus	11:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:25
KAC	774	Riyadh	11:05	IRA	674	Lar	11:40
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:15	RBG	554	Alexandria	11:55
MSC	403	Asyut	11:15	SYR	342	Damascus	12:00
JZR	165	Dubai	11:30	KAC	661	Abu Dhabi	12:05
MEA	404	Beirut	11:55	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:05
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	MSC	404	Asyut	12:15
JZR	561	Sohag	12:40	MEA	405	Beirut	12:55
UAE	871	Dubai	12:50	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
KAC	680	Dubai	12:55	JZR	176	Dubai	13:45
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:10	AAG	141	QA	14:00
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:10
KAC	564	Amman	13:40	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15

CROSSWORD 1445



ACROSS

1. A fatal disease of cattle that affects the central nervous system.
4. (India) Flat pancake-like bread cooked on a griddle.
12. A writing implement with a point from which ink flows.
15. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
16. Sometimes placed in genus Scilla.
17. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
18. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
19. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
20. Closed with a lace.
22. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
23. Not invited or requested.
28. Hypothetical universal solvent once sought by alchemists.
30. The basic unit of money in China.
32. A game in which numbered balls are drawn and random and players cover the corresponding numbers on their cards.
33. A resident of Iowa.
37. A member of an Athapaskan people that migrated to Arizona and New Mexico and Utah.
38. A room equipped with toilet facilities.
40. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
41. Using speech rather than writing.
42. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
46. A unit of magnetic flux equal to 100,000,000 maxwells.
48. The cry made by sheep.
50. For fear that.
51. Either of two large African antelopes of the genus Turotragus having short spirally twisted horns in both sexes.
54. (Philippine) A dish of marinated vegetables and meat or fish.
56. The largest continent with 60% of the earth's population.
57. Any object that is left unused or still extant.
59. Food mixtures either arranged on a plate or tossed and served with a moist dressing.
61. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
62. An inquiry into unfamiliar or questionable activities.
64. The univalent hydrocarbon radical C2H5 derived from ethane by the removal of one hydrogen atom.
72. Of or relating to a member of the Buddhist people inhabiting the Mekong river in Laos and Thailand.
73. The younger brother of Edwy who became king of Northumbria when it renounced Edwy.
76. Make lighter or brighter.
77. Seed vessel having hooks or prickles.
78. (British) A conspicuous mistake whose effects seem to reverberate.
80. The act of scanning.
81. The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
82. A bony fish of the subclass Teleostei.
83. An island of central Hawaii (between Molokai and Kauai).

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
2. Fastener consisting of a resinous composition that is plastic when warm.
3. Liquid containing proteins and electrolytes including the liquid in blood plasma and interstitial fluid.
4. The imperial dynasty of China from 1122 to 221 BC.
5. (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
6. (of farmland) Capable of being farmed productively.
7. A tricycle (usually propelled by pedalling).
8. A port city in southwestern Iran.
9. (Brit) A tough youth of 1950's and 1960's wearing Edwardian style clothes.
10. A soft gray malleable metallic element that resembles tin but discolors on exposure to air.
11. Based on or having the nature of an illusion.
12. Either of two large muscles of the chest.
13. A fencing sword similar to a foil but with a heavier blade.
14. A quantity of no importance.
21. Of or being the lowest female voice.
24. A wealthy man (who made his fortune in the Orient).
25. A very light colorless element that is one of the six inert gasses.
26. An island in Indonesia south of Borneo.
27. The basic unit of money in Iran.
29. An opening into or through something.
31. A lumpy abscess under the hide of domestic mammals caused by larvae of a botfly or warble fly v. 1.
34. Commodities offered for sale.
35. Inability to walk.
36. (Sumerian and Akkadian) A demon personifying death.
39. An oily colorless liquid obtained by the condensation of two molecules of acetaldehyde.
43. Lower in esteem.
44. A member of the Pueblo people living in northern New Mexico.
45. Showing or causing joy and pleasure.
47. The language or speech of one individual at a particular period in life.
49. A public promotion of some product or service.
52. An ancient jar with two handles and a narrow neck.
53. (used with singular count nouns) Colloquial for 'not a' or 'not one' or 'never a'.
55. German organist and contrapuntist (1685-1750).
58. A soft gray ductile metallic element used in alloys.
60. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
63. Annual to perennial herbs of the Mediterranean region.
65. Pulled or drawn tight.
66. Long coarse hair growing from the crest of the animal's neck.
67. Formerly a large constellation in the southern hemisphere between Canis Major and the Southern Cross.
68. Channel into a new direction.
69. In addition.
70. A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
71. A list of dishes available at a restaurant.
74. A chronic skin disease occurring primarily in women between the ages of 20 and 40.
75. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
79. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Work and routine are beginning to be boring. You intuitively know that things do not stay the same for very long. You bide your time until the next life challenge or work issue changes your routine, or you decide to instigate a few changes. Spicing up your time away from work will bring some amusing conversations to your day. A class in hang gliding or scheduling in a hot air balloon ride may be just the thing. You give some time to planning for the holidays and may decide to do a bit of shopping this afternoon. This evening could be a creative time in that you try your hand at some story writing or composing poetry. A loved one enjoys sharing your ideas and may also have some creative input. Negotiations are in order with this loved one.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may find this day beginning with a customer or project that needs your attention. You do all the things that are in your power to do in order to please a customer or complete a particular project. You are relentless about completing tasks. Deciphering problems and finding the right solution takes on a special significance. This could also involve some legal or financial matters. Getting things organized into a rational system is a part of this. There is much mental busyness. Today you will see the energies open up in a natural way. All of a sudden, choices and opportunities are easy to decide upon. This evening you have fun putting some effort into getting a few students interested in some form of art or sports activity.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

With a challenging day ahead of you-you report for duty early! You may be especially dynamic and assertive just now. You encourage others to high-energy accomplishments. There is a lot of energy available for the work you want to do and you have a strong drive to move forward. Pace yourself and take the usual breaks-these are important. Close relationships offer a lot of potential for growth this evening. By observing the emotional upheavals of others, you may find one similarity connecting each event-fear. When you uncover fears, you promote healing. Use this information wisely; it will resurface several times in the next few years. You are able to encourage many healings. This evening is good for identifying the stars and planets.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

It is likely that you will be in charge of others during your working life. This may include teaching or having your own company, tutoring or having a job that deals with the hiring of others. Whatever the case, you may find that people with no desire to do anything but earn money, soon lose interest in a particular project or profession. This Monday morning you encourage co-workers to find the positive points of their current work. Finding the positive things about a job, as well as acknowledging the capabilities behind the job, will encourage enthusiasm. You will persuade others to add some kind of volunteer work to their lives' interests. By finding talent and desire, one finds the incentive to move forward and create.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have an urge to strike out on your own in a new direction and to take on new challenges, no matter what the risk. You can be a bit impatient at times. This is a period emphasizing an enhanced sense of personal possibilities. There is tremendous psychological growth, which can lead to great personal success if you follow through with it. You might also find that you will put on the pounds if you are not careful. There is a bout of philosophy or even a little religion now that could have an enormous effect on your career. Lasting values and whatever you find to be true will guide you now-opening up avenues that have remained blocked. There is support all around you for whatever you want to accomplish.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Making your mark on the world has a special significance for you. Achieving your goals is an important factor. Organizing and administering people and projects will become central to your lifestyle. At this time you might really consider being ship coordinator for entertainment or you could be the person to see when auditioning for a movie. My... You have a fine talent for knowing the right personality that is needed to get a particular job done. You certainly can direct people to the right job or the right activity. Friendships and involvement in group activities play a more important part for you this afternoon. Friends are our only true riches, and the satisfaction that comes from accomplishing things in cooperation with others is precious.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today is a good time to concentrate on your career goals. A new employee or an employee that could be leaving may put the office in a flux at this time. There may be an abundance of paperwork to wade through. You work to complete any task that is set before you now so that there will be no overtime. You have an activity this evening that calls for some concentration and effort. This may mean an extended education class on a heavy subject such as economics or business finance. A majority of the energy available to you now is in the area of established values. You know and understand more than you let on and life changes seldom surprise you. It may be time to create some positive attention toward your personal goals.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Many alumni from your school have gone on to receive notability in their particular skill. You may decide to take the leap and create your own business. Perhaps you will go for a better job within the company for which you work. You could start a special savings that will allow you to quit work for several months and write your novel. Yours is a passionate life. Secretive perhaps, but you are not at all superficial-you always get to the heart of things. This is good for business and politics. You have a sense for power, wealth and passion. You have a genuine regard for young people and one business you might decide to put together is one in which you can help connect young people to a work program. Flowers decorate your table tonight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You consider working in a more technical business and plan to update your resume this evening. Work may go better than you expected. You may feel that you are in harmony with others today-communication is easy. The support you need for whatever you want to accomplish is available at this time. A conference with a teacher this afternoon will give you some insight into how you can assist the self-expression of a young adult. You enjoy your job and return to work to complete any unfinished tasks. Circumstances may stimulate appreciation and enjoyment of your life situation. That purchasing eye of yours is in an awareness state. Others may find you selecting the best buys with perhaps, a surprise for that young adult.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may bear the expense of moving your household goods and family to another city in search of a job. This will actually be a good move and takes the kind of strong will that someone like you naturally has. You have a good support system and your final choice is a wise one. Pay attention to the benefits before you sign on the dotted line. You choose a work environment that is the most practical of environments. Almost every idea or situation will be put to good use. Emotions are seldom a priority and you are always very practical and ambitious. Your career is central to everything you do. Farsighted and traditional, you enjoy success and the successful. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance for you.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

This is a great time to work and be with others. An authority figure may seek you out as just the person for a particular job. This is a busy but rewarding workday. Outside of your own good works, you encourage others to high standards. Making your home situation more pleasant and attractive plays a part in this and the sale or purchase of real estate could bring you much gain before this cycle ends. You find time to volunteer and choose your service in a hospital. You may work at the information desk and you probably do very well in that endeavor as you like to do what you can to ease the troubles of others. You feel especially kind toward a loved one this evening. A sense of support and harmony make this a happy time.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

In today's high-powered work environment, people need every advantage they can get. Perhaps you are teaching a few employees in a large company how to use new software or some other tool of business. Your particular job becomes more important as the technical equipment becomes more complicated. A new level of appreciation and recognition emerges. This afternoon you give or attend a lecture, a creative class or a business show. The results certainly spur your imagination into new areas of discovery. Radical and inventive ideas hold the key to realizing your ambitions and advancing your status but careful-an unexpected change could be in the works. Most of the outcome here is from the attitude. Good luck surrounds you this evening.

WORD SEARCH

Back to School

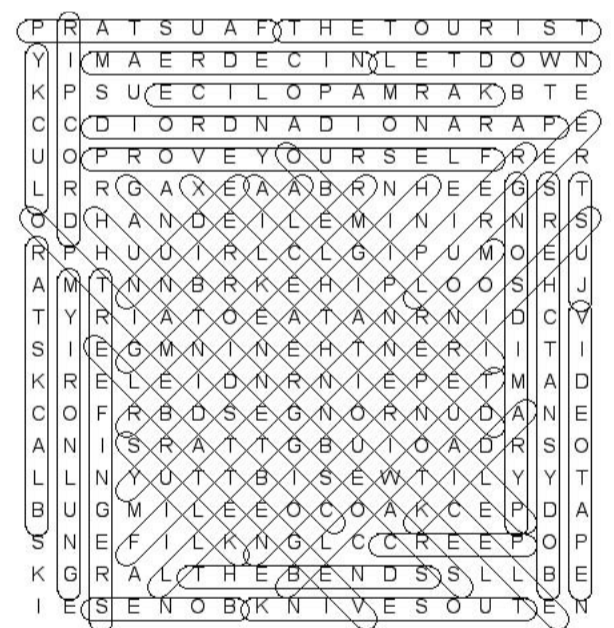
Find and circle all of the School related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a Mark Twain quotation.



- |             |               |             |                |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| ASSIGNMENTS | ERASER        | LUNCHROOM   | ROLL CALL      |
| BACKPACK    | EXAMS         | MATH        | RULES          |
| BATHROOM    | FIRST DAY     | NEW FRIENDS | SCHOOL BUS     |
| BELL        | GYMNASIUM     | NOTEBOOK    | SCHOOL OFFICE  |
| BINDER      | HALLWAY       | NURSE       | SCHOLYARD      |
| CAFETERIA   | HOMEWORK      | OLD FRIENDS | SCIENCE        |
| CHALKBOARD  | INTERCOM      | PADLOCK     | SECRETARY      |
| CLASSROOM   | JANITOR       | PAPER       | SEPTEMBER      |
| CLOCK       | LANGUAGE ARTS | PENCILS     | SOCIAL STUDIES |
| COURSES     | LEARNING      | PENS        | STUDENT        |
| DESK        | LIBRARY       | PRINCIPAL   | STUDY          |
| DOORS       | LOCKER        | QUIZZES     | TEACHER        |
| ENROLL      |               |             |                |

Yesterday Solution

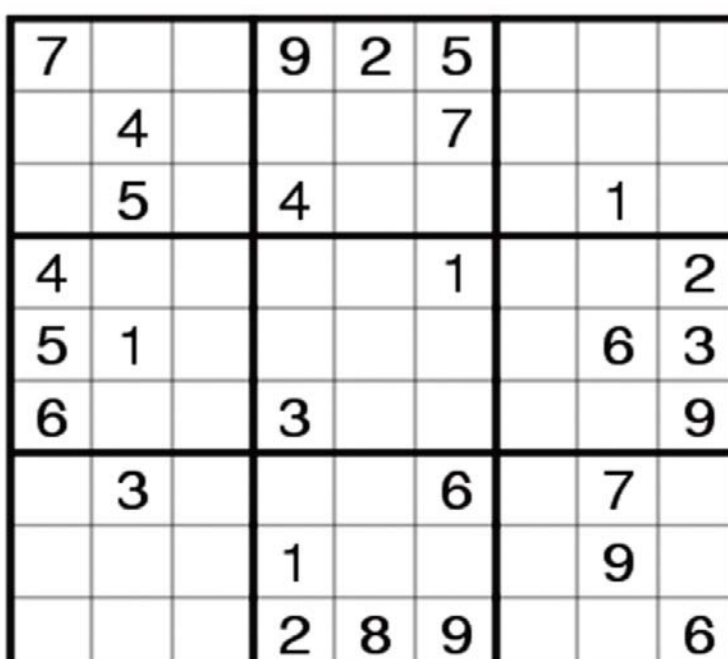
Radiohead Songs



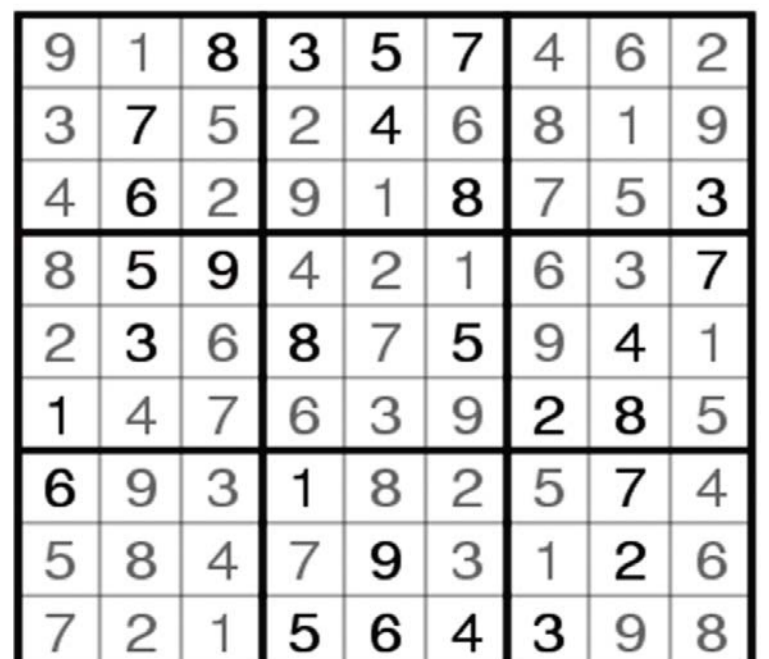
- |                |               |                  |              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| AIRBAG         | HIGH AND DRY  | MORNING BELL     | PYRAMID SONG |
| ALL I NEED     | HUNTING BEARS | MY IRON LUNG     | RECKONER     |
| BLACK STAR     | IN LIMBO      | NICE DREAM       | RIPCORD      |
| BLOW OUT       | JUST          | NO SURPRISES     | SULK         |
| BODYSNATCHERS  | KARMA POLICE  | NUDE             | THE BENDS    |
| BONES          | KID A         | OPTIMISTIC       | THE TOURIST  |
| CREEP          | KNIVES OUT    | PARANOID ANDROID | TREEFINGERS  |
| ELECTIONEERING | LET DOWN      | PLANET TEXEL     | VEGETABLE    |
| FAUST ARP      | LUCKY         | PROVE YOURSELF   | VIDEOTAPE    |
| FITTER HAPPIER | LURGE         |                  |              |

The hidden song is: SUBTERRANEAN HOMESICK ALIEN

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:  
Call MSAL hotline 128

### Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

### Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



### PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khalidiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khalidiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

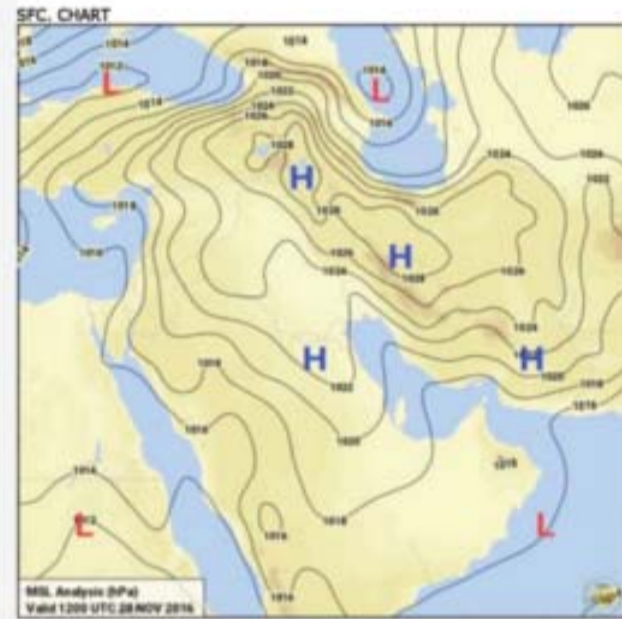
### STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

#### Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 28/11/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr  
MIN Temperature 14 °C  
By Night :Partly cloudy with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 08 - 28 km/h  
By Day : Mostly sunny with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 26 km/h



#### Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	Mostly sunny	partly cloudy+scattered rain	cloudy+scattered thundery rain	partly cloudy+scattered rain
Min Temp °C	11	14	15	15
Max Temp °C	23	23	26	25
Wind Direction	north westerly to northerly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	south easterly	southerly changing to north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 26	12 - 35	15 - 40	10 - 32

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

#### Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

#### Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	11	22
KUWAIT AIRPORT	11	22
ABDALY	10	22
BUBYAN	11	23
JAHRA	12	23
FALLAKA ISLAND	15	22
SALMIYAH	15	21
AHMADI	16	22
JAL ALIYAH	10	22
QAROH ISLAND	17	22
UMH AL-MARADEM	18	21
MUWAISIB	14	22
WAFRA	13	22
MARIAGISH	12	21
SALMY	10	20
MUTRIBA	10	23

#### Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	21
Min Temp (°C)	10
Max Rel Hum (%)	79
Min Rel Hum (%)	14
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	28 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	06:22
Sunset	16:49

#### Prayer Times

Fajr	04:58
Sunrise	06:22
Zuhr	11:36
Aer	14:30
Sunset	16:49
Isha	18:11

### INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faeroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



### PRIVATE CLINICS

<b>Ophthalmologists</b> Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabea 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223 <b>Ear, Nose &amp; Throat (ENT)</b> Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510 Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660 Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478 Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996 Dr. Mohammad Al-Daary 25731988 Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166 Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426 <b>General Practitioners</b> Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem 23926920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea 25333501 <b>Urologists</b> Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534 Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955 Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi 22616660 Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120 Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427	<b>Plastic Surgeons</b> Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 <b>Family Doctor</b> Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 <b>Psychiatrists</b> Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 <b>Gynaecologists &amp; Obstetricians</b> DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 <b>General Surgeons</b> Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 <b>Internists, Chest &amp; Heart</b> Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	<b>Paediatricians</b> Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarooof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 <b>Dermatology</b> Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 <b>Dentists</b> Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 <b>Neurologists</b> Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 <b>Gastrologists</b> Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	<b>Endocrinologist</b> Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 <b>Physiotherapists &amp; VD</b> Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 <b>Rheumatologists:</b> Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 <b>Internist, Chest &amp; Heart</b> DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 <b>Consultant Cardiologist</b> Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC 2611555-2622555 Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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Psychologists /Psychotherapists

Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center 25716707

Noor Clinic 23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

# Kylie Jenner could face legal action

**K**ylie Jenner could face legal action over her cosmetics line. The 19-year-old reality star has been accused of ripping off the photos Vlada Haggerty uses to promote her work on social media in her holiday advertising for Kylie Cosmetics and now the Los Angeles-based make-up artist and her photographer are reportedly planning to file a lawsuit due to the similarity between the images, TMZ reports. Vlada shared a comparison between her pictures and Kylie's ads on Instagram earlier this month and wrote: "Really @kyliecosmetics? Haven't you gotten enough 'inspiration' from me already? Left is a the work @juliakuzmenko, @britrafuson and I shot a few months ago and right is @kyliecosmetics new campaign. (sic)" This isn't

the first time Vlada has accused the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star of copying her ideas, as she slammed her last year for stealing an image of lips dripping with gold. At the time, she said she was excited to see her work being showcased by Kylie, but was upset she didn't receive a credit or even get any contact from the reality star or her team. She said: "Crediting artists is essential, but this goes beyond that. 'It's theft; this is our livelihood... I see these things happen too many times to artists." Kylie recently admitted she always dreamed of having her own store at the Topanga Westfield Mall, ahead of her pop up shop opening there next month. Sharing a picture of the outside of her store, she wrote: "It was all just a dream coming soon to the Topanga

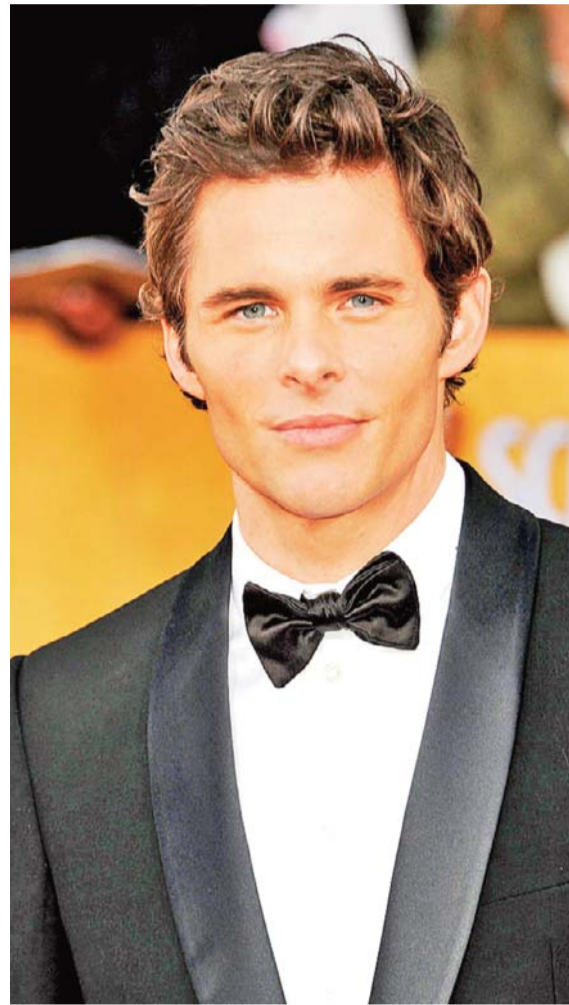
Westfield Mall. I grew up at this mall .. Crazy 12.9.16 (sic)." The beauty mogul - who had been working on Kylie Cosmetics for two years prior to launching her e-store earlier this year - has given a sneak peek as to what the interior will be. Alongside a picture of her discussing her plans with her creative team, and her colleague holding a laptop with a design layout on the screen, she wrote: "MY VISION. I can't wait for you guys to see what goes on inside my mind & what I've been working on. 100% Kylie. (sic)."



## ELLE MACPHERSON

washes her underwear with shampoo

**T**he 52-year-old model-turned-lingerie designer would "die of embarrassment" if she put her bras and briefs into hotel laundry, so if she's away from home, she cleans them with her toiletries in her bathroom. She said: "Put my underwear in the hotel laundry? I'd die of embarrassment. "I don't want to spend the money either. "I rinse it out every day in the shower with some gentle body wash or shampoo. "At home I put it all in a lingerie bag on a gentle program." Elle's latest collection, Elle Macpherson Body, is more understated than some of her previous efforts and she thinks it proves there are "subtle" ways to be sexy. She told the Daily Telegraph newspaper: "I wanted to do bras that work under T-shirts, that feel appropriate with a school uniform. "Personally, I feel I have to try less hard in many ways now to be seductive and I want to reflect the more understated perspective in the collection." But the Australian beauty still wants to look good for her husband, Jeff Soffer. She said: "I still want my husband to think I look hot. I still worry about fat squidding out over the back of my bra, and side-boob..." Every piece in the collection is initially fitted on Elle and then sized up or down and she is proud to use "traditional" techniques when it comes to manufacturing her products. She said: "I come from old-school corsetry. "I know how to make what's called a cut-and-sew bra, and although there's a lot of new technology that makes lingerie much easier to produce, nothing beats knowing the traditional techniques."



## James Marsden stalked Dame Helen Mirren

**J**ames Marsden has admitted to "stalking" Dame Helen Mirren. In an appearance to be broadcast today on 'The Ellen Degeneres Show', the 43-year-old actor confesses to having a "massive crush" on the 71-year-old Hollywood legend, who just so happened to be appearing as a guest on the same episode. Speaking to host Ellen, the 'Westworld' actor said: "I just love her, I do. I've had a massive crush on her for years." The 'X-Men' star - who has three children, Jack, 15 and Mary, 11, with former wife Lisa Linde, and three-year-old William with model Rose Costa - went on to explain how he had "followed" 'The Queen' actress after they shared a flight to Rome. He continued: "I was on a flight with her once to Rome, and when I got off the flight, I followed her ... to baggage claim, and in a very creepy voyeuristic way, I took a photo of her while she was walking." When Ellen then pulled up the sly picture James had taken, he couldn't stop himself from cringing with embarrassment. He said: "Very creepy. I was avoiding seeing her backstage because I didn't want her to know that I was stalking her in the Rome international airport." In a twist that came as a shock to the 'Second Noah' actor, Ellen then urged Helen to "come on out" to meet James. The 'Caligula' star then treated James - who is 28 years her junior - to a peck on the lips, as well as posing for photos with the star-struck actor. Before leaving the stage, Helen said to James: "Very nice to meet you. You're brilliant, and you're so handsome."

## Rachael Ray 'nervous' about Gilmore Girls appearance

**R**achael Ray was "nervous" about appearing in 'Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life'. The 48-year-old television chef makes a cameo appearance on the Netflix reboot of the classic drama series when she's drafted in to work at the fictional Dragonfly Inn whilst Sookie - played by Melissa McCarthy - is out of town. Speaking to 'Entertainment Tonight', the '30 Minute Meals' host said: "I was so nervous. I mean, I'm not an actress. "Everything we do is unscripted, but I was so impressed that the food stylist made all my food...She made all my real food, so it was kinda cool!" Rachael's character finds herself getting fired from the fictional kitchen, and whilst she was "embarrassed" to be let go, she's glad it meant Melissa, 46, could reprise her role. She added: "I've only been real-fired once in life, and I was kind of embarrassed that I got fake-fired on the show, but if it brought back Melissa McCarthy, that's fine with me." Despite feeling nervous before

stepping onto the film set, Rachael said 'Gilmore Girls' veteran Lauren Graham - who plays Lorelai on the show - helped her "feel at ease". She said: "Lauren I've known for years, she's one of our favorite guests [on 'The Rachael Ray Show'], and I just think she's such a delight to be around. "She makes everybody feel at ease. She's so lovely and a great actress, [and she] calmed me right down on set!" Meanwhile, the celebrity cook said keeping her cameo appearance a secret was easier than she expected, as people only ever asked her questions about her work on cooking shows. She revealed: "I work all summer over at Food Network. People just ask me food questions, so it was pretty easy to keep it a secret."



## Shay Mitchell collaborates with Smashbox

**S**hay Mitchell has produced an eye shadow collection for Smashbox Cosmetics. The 'Pretty Little Liars' actress six Cover Shot: Eye Palettes will be available on Cyber today on Sephora.com, but then will be withdrawn from sale until December 15. The 29-year-old beauty is "super stoked" with the range because she has always loved Smashbox's products. She said: "I've always loved make-up. For me, when I get to play around with it, especially eye shadows, I play a different character. "I've always been a fan [of Smashbox], so it was really a perfect fit. "I think a primer was the first thing that I ever bought from them. They have great lip glosses and lipsticks, but I am super stoked about these palettes because they're different than anything I've seen before." The palettes each feature six eye shadows and two base shades, and Shay loves the different looks each one can create. She said of Smoky: "I probably use this and the matte palette the most. But this one is my favourite because I tend to do smoky eyes a lot. "With the Matte palette, you can create a natural look or go really smoky, which I love because with matte eye shadows you can get away with a little bit more because there's no shimmer." The 'Mother's Day' actress recommends Metallic or Bold for those who want to be adventurous. She told People Style: "This [Metallic] palette is so fun. One of my make-up artists uses eye shadows to actually highlight like cheekbones, and I think you can do with the shades in this palette. "[Bold] is great for festivals or parties. It's truly is a rainbow palette and so bright. It's something you really want to have fun with and use to make a statement with your eyes." Of the three other palettes, Shay thinks the "warm tones" of Ablaze can be good for a simple every day look, or made more "bold" for a stunning evening look, while she thinks Softlight is a perfect simple and natural collection. And she thinks the matte and shimmer shades found in Golden Hour are great for every occasion. She said: "This palette is awesome because it's bendable. You can create a softer smoky eye, or use the shades [in combination] with the other palettes."



## Britney Spears dating Sam Asghari

**B**ritney Spears is reportedly dating fitness model Sam Asghari. The 34-year-old singer cast the hunk in the music video for her new single 'Slumber Party', and the pair have since been spotted heading out for dinner together, sparking romance rumors in the process. Taking to his Instagram on Saturday, Sam posted a picture of himself and the blonde beauty looking cost at a dinner table, captioned with a series of sushi based emojis which suggested the pair enjoyed a Japanese themed meal together. Fans of the 'Toxic' hitmaker quickly began to comment on the possibility of a budding romance between the pair, and Sam later deleted the picture from his account. Previously, Sam spoke out about how he was "shy" when he was younger, but has learned to be confident in himself as that's what he believes women like. He said: "I was a very shy person growing up. "I've learned that there's nothing a woman likes more than a confident man, not too cocky, just a very humble gentleman. No girl I know likes cocky." And Sam's humble nature may prove to be a hit with the 'Make Me' singer - who has two sons Sean, 11, and Jayden, 10, with former husband Kevin Federline - as she claimed last month she was tired of men playing "mind games". She said: "A lot of men are about games. It's just the mind game with guys, the calling back and texting, it's just too much, it's silly. Actually, I'm not looking for men right now, I'm really happy with myself. I'm not looking for anything. I'm fine with the way I am. "I like someone that's just nice overall, just a nice guy really is groundbreaking in this world."



## Emma Stone says cast of La La Land were like 'worker chickens'



**E**mma Stone says the cast of 'La La Land' were like a team of "worker chickens". The 27-year-old actress stars with Ryan Gosling, John Legend and J. K. Simmons in the romantic musical comedy and Emma admits the cast developed a wonderful bond. Recently, Emma had listened to a TED Talk on Margaret Heffernan's 2015 presentation about chicken behaviour, which revealed the difference between 'worker chickens' and 'super chickens' and she insists there were no egotistic super chickens on the set of Damien Chazelle's movie. Speaking to Backstage magazine, she said: "There are worker chickens and super chickens. They did this study, and the worker chickens, by the end of it, had gotten all this stuff done. But the super chickens, all but three had pecked each other to death. I guess I relate to that in the sense that it feels good for me to collaborate with people and be in a community. It's

hard for me to be, like, this sole person doing something. [With] theatre or something like 'La La Land,' we all were such a team the whole time. "Is this a really weird roundabout discussion? I'm not a super chicken!" Emma and Ryan had to perform several song and dance numbers for 'La La Land' and despite their extensive stage and screen backgrounds the pair had to be taught a lot of basic dance steps, but they had fun doing it. She said: "Our first six weeks of rehearsal, our choreographer [Mandy Moore] taught us tap and ballroom things that they would teach a 7-year-old who's taking tap for the first time. In getting to know what our strengths and weaknesses were, she shaped and reshaped these dance numbers to make sure that we could do them in a way that was, hopefully, exciting but not embarrassing."

GOSSIP



## Shirley Manson blames women for 'erosion' of rights

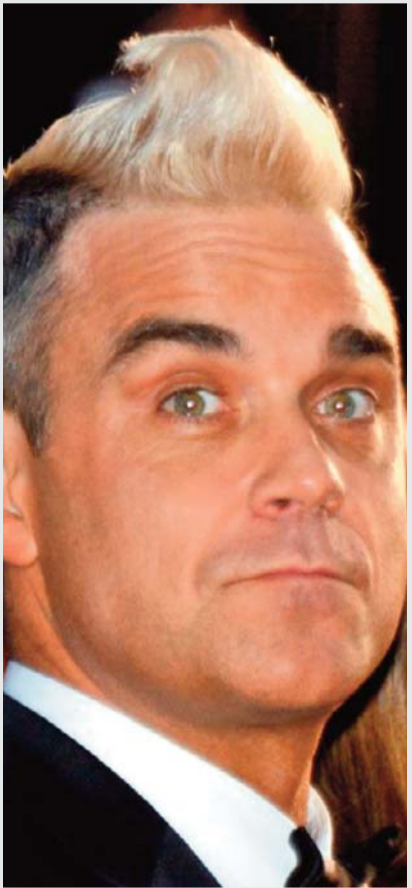
Shirley Manson blames women for their rights being "eroded". The 50-year-old singer thinks too many females have taken equality for rights and don't realize the issue is ongoing and continually needs to be addressed, leading to a gap in the present day. The Garbage frontwoman told Australian news show '7.30': "I think it's a result, in some ways, of a generation that followed the '90s, and women took for granted their rights, their human rights. "[They] thought they were there to stay, not really understanding that human rights get eroded constantly and you always have to be really vigilant to make sure that these rights that women have fought so hard for remain in place." The 'Stupid Girl' singer likened women's attitudes toward their rights as "living in the Garden of Eden", and said a disassociation from the word "feminism" has caused problems for the progression of women's rights. She added: "We got a whole generation of young

women who maybe thought they were living in the Garden of Eden. I'm not entirely sure what went wrong or what's happened but they divorced themselves from the idea of feminism. "Why any woman would want to divorce themselves from the idea of equality is beyond my understanding." And the 'I Think I'm Paranoid' musician also blamed the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre in September 2001 for making the world more "conservative", which she believes affected women. She said: "With September 11 I think the world got really conservative. And whenever the world gets conservative, women get affected. "There's definitely a global movement towards eradicating women's rights. You'll see it in Poland, you'll see it in Argentina, you're seeing it in the States. I mean, it's just everywhere."

## Williams 'didn't know how to talk to anybody' during a 'weird' summer

Robbie Williams "didn't know how to talk to anybody" during a "weird" summer. The 42-year-old singer - who has children Teddy, four, and Charlton, two, with wife Ayda Field - spent months feeling "isolated" earlier this year

after being gripped by depression, but is thankful that his "demons are quiet" now after doctors put him on a new medication. He told Radio Times magazine: "I had a really weird summer. Just couldn't connect with anybody, apart from my wife. "I didn't know how to talk to anybody, even people who are with me every day. I was isolated, in my head. "It was troublesome and sad. Then I tried this anti-depressant and things have changed. The demons are quiet." The 'Party Like a Russian' singer has previously battled addictions to drugs and alcohol so insists he won't touch narcotics or booze again in the future. He said: "I definitely can't drink. I definitely can't do coke. I can't do ecstasy. And I don't fancy heroin. Or M-Cat (mephedrone) or ketamine or any of those things. "But maybe there's a once-a-year special voucher that I get for good behavior. But not for any of those things. I'll leave it to your imagination." Robbie previously admitted he "would be dead" without the support of Ayda, who he married in 2010 after four years together. He said: "I would be dead [without therapy] I went to rehab a couple of times and a lot of therapy. Me masking what was going on inside or medicating it lead to some very dark places in my head. I was close to not being on the planet, but I recognize that. "Get sober or die. Consciously knowing that that is your only choice is what I did. She [Ayda] did [help]. My life is way much better because Ayda is in it full stop."



## GAGA'S GRANDMOTHER WARNED HER NOT TO BECOME 'OBSESSED' OVER DEATH OF AUNT

Lady Gaga's grandmother urged her not to "have an obsession" with her aunt's death. The 30-year-old singer's new album 'Joanne' is a tribute to her late aunt Joanne Germanotta - who died of lupus at just 19 before the pop megastar was born - and the star admitted playing the music from her album to her family was "emotional". Speaking on 'Sunday Morning' on US news channel CBS, the 'Perfect Illusion' hitmaker said: "Playing the music for my father for the first time was very powerful, and my grandma, too. "It was interesting: My father was very, very emotional. And my grandmother was too, but she held my hand and she said, 'I hope, my dear, that you won't be too maudlin while you're putting this music into the world.' "What I think she meant by maudlin - it's an old word - she didn't want me to have an obsession with the death of my aunt." The

'Poker Face' musician - whose real name is Stefani Germanotta - says source of "encouragement" to pursue her career. She said: "The reason that I'm here at all is because of my relationship with my family and their encouragement of me to be a musician and to work hard. So as long as I stay there, in that space, I can do anything - that's my truth." Meanwhile, Gaga has admitted she feels as though she is "growing up", and has decided to leave behind the controversial fashion statements she was previously known for. She said: "I think that when people see me with less make-up on and less of what I was doing before ... "I don't know that you can put a label on growth, you know? I'm just me. I'm just growing up. I'm 30, you know; this is what I want to do now."



## Hugh Hefner has returned to Twitter

The 90-year-old media mogul hasn't posted on the social media site for two months, but over the weekend he retweeted a post from his son Cooper Hefner, which featured them sharing a family moment at Thanksgiving. Cooper had shared the picture of himself and his dad - who is married to Crystal Harris - along with his fiancée Scarlett Byrne and a female family friend and wrote: "Happy Thanksgiving all." The Playboy founder - who was wearing his trademark red robe in the picture while tucking into a bowl of soup - didn't add his own comment when he retweeted the image. Hefner's last posting came in September, when he slammed speculation about his ailing health. He quipped: "I wish the tabloids had informed me a little earlier in the week that I'm sick. "I might have cancelled my weekend plans." However, he hasn't been seen in public since May, and last month his ex-girlfriend Kendra Wilkinson-Baskett admitted she worries about his health "every day". She said: "Hef and I talked and saw each other actually a couple weeks ago. "I'm not a medical person or any of that stuff...honestly he was there and we had a great talk and we were very happy to see each other." And iconic former Playmate Pamela Anderson recently admitted she finds it hard to see her pal these days because he is so frail. She said: "I remember when I first met him. He walked into the room and stole the show. It was beyond rock-star. "Hef has always been a pioneer, setting the stage for all of us. When I saw him not too long ago, it was hard to see him in a walker. "He's always been this strong person - and I know that he's still strong, but to see his body fall apart is hard." Last year, British glamour model Carla Howe claimed the entrepreneur was too sick to take part in his famous hedonistic parties. She said: "Hef is so frail, he goes everywhere with a group of nurses." She added that he "never leaves home" and goes to bed at 7pm after watching old movies.

## Prinsloo will not walk this year's Victoria's Secret Fashion Show

Behati Prinsloo will not walk this year's Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in Paris. The 27-year-old supermodel - who has strutted down the event's catwalk for nine consecutive years - has decided to sit out of the forthcoming glitter extravaganza, which is being held in the French capital for the first ever time, tomorrow because she only gave birth to her daughter Dusty Rose two months ago. Taking to her Instagram account on Sunday night, she said alongside a photograph of her opening the show in 2015: "Opening the #vsvfashionshow for the first time was a dream come true opening twice in a row was just NUTS, still pinching myself. To the girls and crew, good luck in Paris, me and Dusty Rose will be cheering." Although she's decided to sit this year out, the brunette beauty praised her fellow models - Lily Aldridge, Kendall Jenner and sisters Bella and Gigi Hadid - for the hard work they've put in ahead of the upcoming event and, although she doesn't know what the future holds, she assured fans she will be back next year to open the show again. She explained: "I know the blood sweat and tears that goes into the making of this show and also being in it, this would have been my 10th year I can't believe it. Love you all, have fun in Paris and see you next year!!!! @victoriassecret @10magazine @ed\_razek @johndavidpfeiffer @monica.mitro (sic)." Behati walked her first Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in 2007, which was held in Los Angeles, and has walked every one since, and she became an Angel in 2009.



## Kim helping to feed Kanye in hospital

Kim Kardashian West has been "helping to feed" Kanye West whilst he's in hospital. The 39-year-old rapper was admitted to UCLA Medical Centre in Los Angeles last week for treatment for exhaustion and sleep deprivation - which led him to cancel the remaining dates on his 'Saint Pablo Tour' - and the 36-year-old 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star has been helping him along the way ever since. A source told US Weekly magazine: "Kim has been amazing. She knew he couldn't keep going the way he was. She has been by his side through all of this, helping to feed him and laying by his side." And, although the Kim is sticking by husband, their two children - North, three, and Saint, 11 months - have no idea of their father's condition. An insider said previously: "North and Saint [West] just think their dad is away now. Kanye wants to get better, so that's a big part in this healing process. "Kanye is trying to get better, but he has not been released yet because he and the doctors feel he needs more time to recover. "Kim is by his side now and will stand there till everything gets better." Supporting the 'Famous' rapper is important for Kim, as she is keen to show him the same support he showed her when she was robbed at gunpoint in Paris, France, last month. Another source said: "She is just holding things down like Kanye did for her when she needed support. "Kim is doing much better and is strong. This shall pass she believes. "Their time together was just about support. Kanye will be ok. He has a good set of doctors and the main thing is he wants to get through this." Previous reports claimed the 'Gold Digger' hitmaker was released from hospital yesterday but it is not yet known whether he will be well enough to do so.

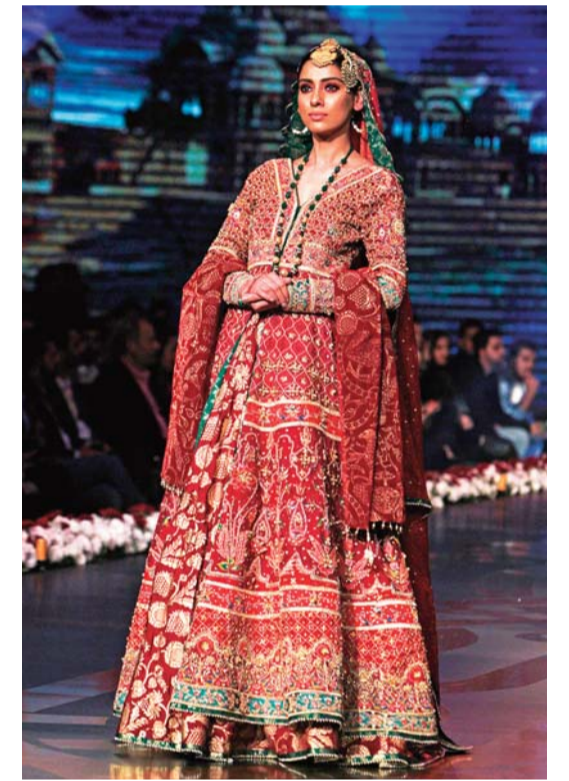
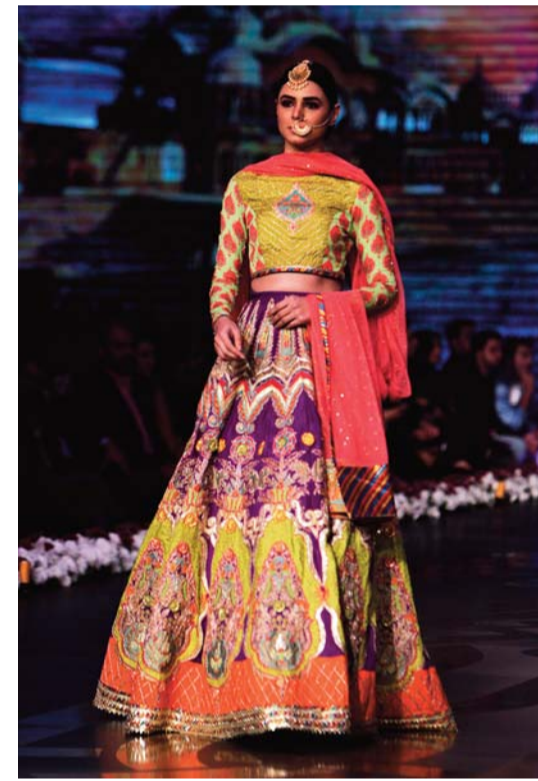
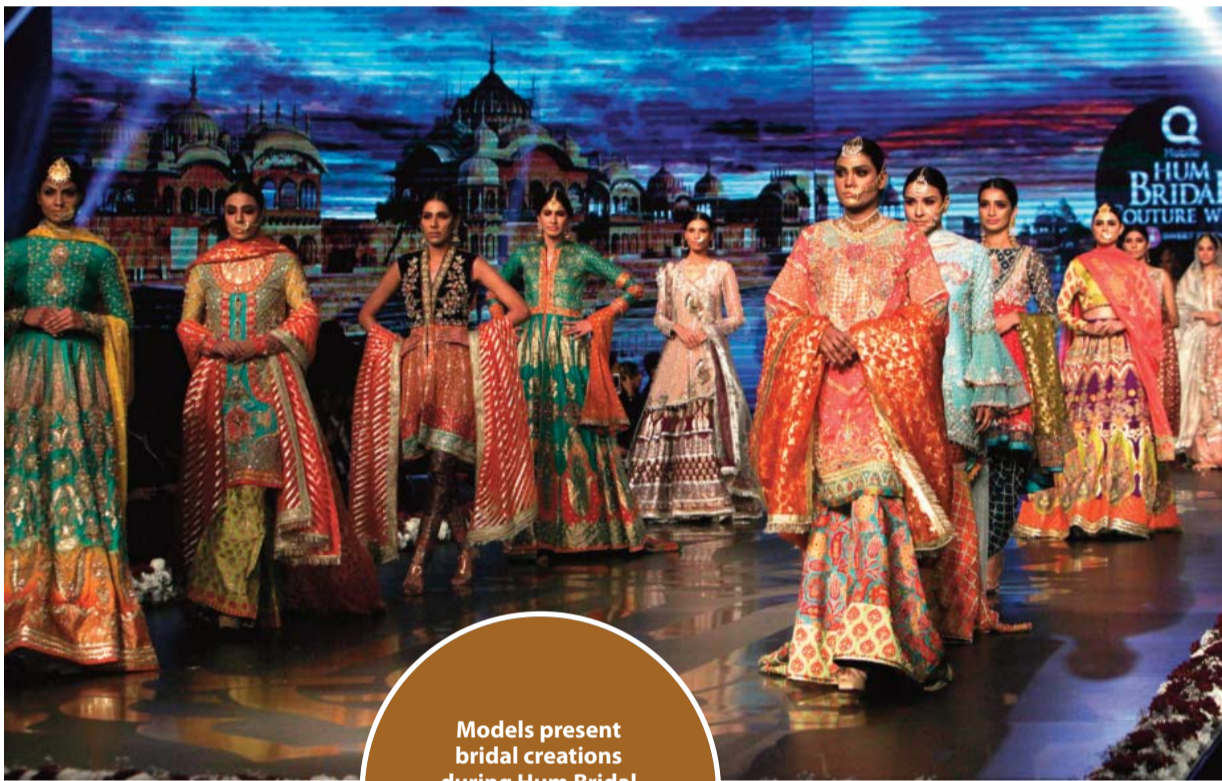


## WILLIAMS INFLUENCED ADELE'S DECISION FOR SECOND CHILD

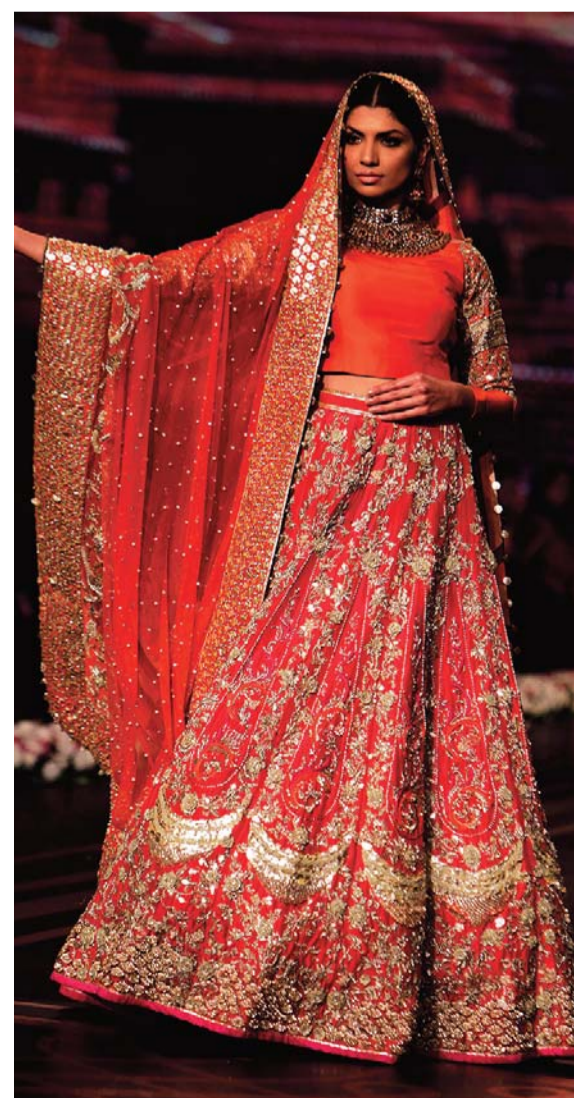
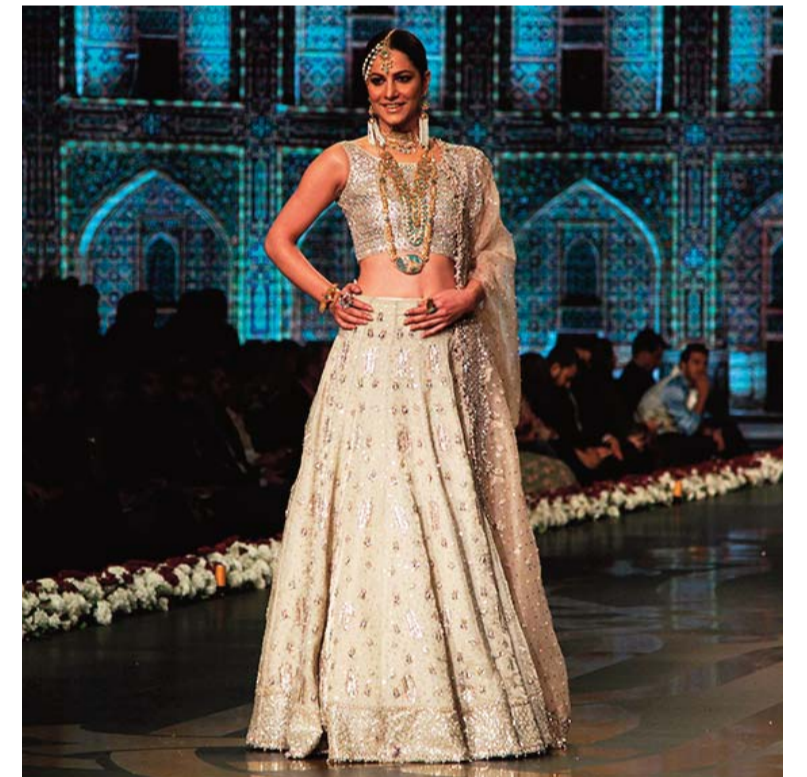
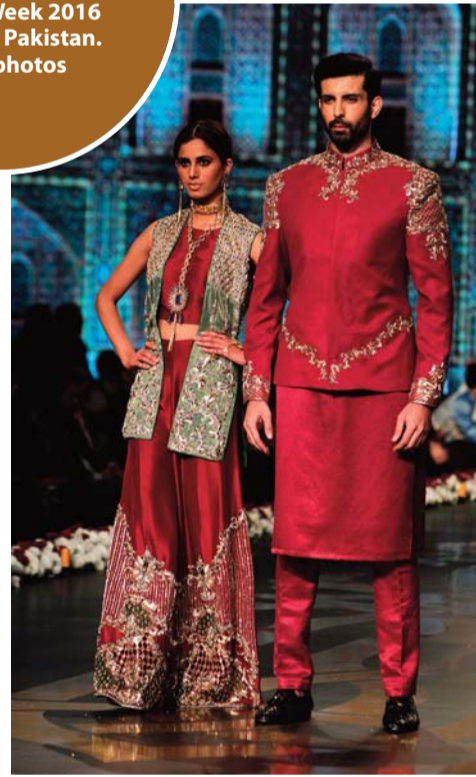
Robbie Williams influenced Adele to have more children. The 28-year-old singer recently revealed that she would like a second child with her long-term partner Simon Konecki - with whom she already shares four-year-old son Angelo - once her tour has finished, and sources now claim the 'Hello' hitmaker made her decision after seeing Robbie's growing brood. Adele has been spending time with the part-time Take That singer, 42, his wife Ayda Field, 37, and their two children, daughter Teddy, four, and two-year-old Charlton family, which has made the 'Someone Like You' singer "very broody". A source told The Sun newspaper: "Adele has got really close to Robbie out in LA. "She and Simon were going on double dates with him and Ayda before her tour kicked off in the US, and spending time with Charlton has made her very broody. "As a result, she started thinking seriously about giving Angelo a little brother or sister and brought it up with Simon." However, Adele is said to be focused on weighing up whether to send her son Angelo to school in the US or the UK before she can think about her next child. The source added: "Adele is an only child and her mum threw her into social groups so she always had mates-that's where she got her huge personality from. "But it is more difficult for her to do the same with Angelo due to her fame, so she thinks a sibling will be good for him. "Now she is just trying to decide whether to school Angelo in the UK or in the US. It's a huge decision that she is having to weigh up." The 'Rolling in the Deep' musician first told fans she was thinking of having another baby in October, when she told audiences in Nashville, Tennessee, that her womb was "starting to ache". She said: "I'm starting to get very emotional about it because I feel like once they turn four, they're not really your actual baby anymore. "So my womb is starting to ache a little bit. It's like, 'Baby, baby, baby. Need a baby, need a baby.' I'm not pregnant. I won't get pregnant until the end of the tour."



# HUM BRIDAL COUTURE WEEK 2016



Models present bridal creations during Hum Bridal Couture Week 2016 in Lahore, Pakistan. — AP photos



# What changes in your marriage when you have kids

By Yalda Golsharifi

**H**assan and I constantly get asked how we maintain a healthy and happy marriage now that we have two beautiful daughters in the picture. How do we take care of our children, take care of ourselves, and connect as a couple?

Becoming parents was honestly the biggest blessing to us, but it also came with a lot of challenges along the way. It was very emotionally overwhelming at first and there was a lot of fear involved. Because of the busy lives we lead, during our free time all we want to do is spend as much time as we can with our kids. However, the more time you spend on your kids, the less time you have to focus on the well being of your partner as well as your marriage. Being so busy, it becomes easy to start neglecting each other.

To maintain a strong marriage you will have to take

the first critical step: You must be willing to put in time, effort and thought. The surprising thing is that this doesn't have to take any extra time in your busy schedule; all you need is a change in attitude and a committed focus.

Finding time to spend with each other is crucial to a healthy marriage. We find that spending quality time together even if it's as simple as just talking or laughing, whatever it is as long as we're having fun together, can make such a huge difference. Don't set the romance expectations too high on a day-to-day basis. Simply sitting on the same couch while watching TV counts as quality time. Also, planning date nights is something we love to do. When you do go out, try talking about things other than your kids. The point of getting out is to remind yourself that you're more than just parents. Connecting with each other is the best way to refresh and allow you to be a better and more loving parent.

There's also a lot of stress involved with parenting

and if issues aren't dealt with properly, this can allow you to take it out on each other which could potentially hinder the marriage. In any relationship there will always be disagreements or conflict. The key is to decide which issues are worth fighting about and which are better off ignored. Take a minute and think to yourself "How important is this? Is it worth picking a fight over?" Make it a habit to ignore the little annoying things and choose to focus on the things that make you smile. By doing this, you'll find much less negative energy between you.

If your marriage is strong, your whole family will be strong and you'll be a better parent. At the end of the day, the best thing you can give your child is a good relationship with your partner so never take it for granted.



Refugees take part in a flirt workshop in Dortmund, Germany.

— AP photos



Essam Kadib al Ban, second from left, takes part in a flirt workshop for refugees in Dortmund, Germany.

## Germany's 'Mr Flirt' teaches refugees how to pick up women

**T**he subject was pickup lines, and Germany's "Mr Flirt" offered a few examples to his class of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. "I really love the scent of your perfume," he suggested. "You have a beautiful voice." He invited his students to take a stab. Essam Kadib al Ban, 20, raised his hand. "God created you only for me," he said, then tried another: "I love you. Can I sleep over at your place?" Horst Wenzel winced, but caught himself quickly. "Don't tell them you love them at least for the first three months of your relationship, or they'll run away," he explained patiently. "German women don't like clinginess." Wenzel, 27, makes his living teaching wealthy but uptight German men how to approach women. But this year, he decided to also volunteer his skills to help Germany as it struggles to integrate more than 1 million refugees who have arrived over the past two years, most of them from war-torn Muslim countries with vastly different relations between the sexes.

"Finding a relationship is the best way to integrate, and that's why I'm giving these classes," Wenzel said. Last week, in downtown Dortmund, he offered his third installment of "How to fall in love in Germany," taking 11 young men through the paces. The students conceded they had a lot to learn. Omar Mohammed, a shy, 24-year-old goldsmith from Syria with spiky black hair and almond shaped eyes, said he's attracted to German women, with their Nordic looks and punctuated accents. But they remain a mystery to him, and he has no idea how to approach them.



Refugees take part in a flirt workshop called "how to fall in love in Germany" in Dortmund, Germany.

**Hostility targets**  
"It's hard to meet a girl when you don't speak the language well and can't really talk to them," he said. "There are a lot of differences, not only the culture and religion - we just don't have this total freedom at home." Still, he said, "I'd love to marry a German woman and live with her. She could help me with the language, and she knows the place and the laws much better than I do." Some German women were receptive to the idea. Jasmin Olbrich, having a quick lunch of French fries at a food truck outside the educational center, said she liked the Middle Eastern looks and complained that German men "drink too much beer, watch way too much soccer and are just so white!"

But across Germany, hostility to asylum seekers has been on the rise since groups of foreigners - mostly young men from northern Africa - robbed and groped dozens of women on New Year's Eve in Cologne. Most of the hostility targets young male asylum-seekers from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, who make up the majority of the migrants reshaping Germany. Last year alone, 890,000 people applied for asylum, with hundreds of thousands more applying this year. Violent crimes against migrants and arson attacks on asylum shelters and mosques have increased in frequency, and refugees say they have experienced discrimination and abuse since the Cologne attacks. The anti-foreigner sentiment is reshaping German politics as well, with the populist Alternative for Germany party surging as it campaigns against Chancellor Angela Merkel's decision to welcome the migrants.

The flirting class, participants said, offered a way to get beyond the adversity. "We are really benefiting from the class," Kadib al Ban said. "The teacher is telling us how German women think, how to talk to them ... and understand their traditions." Wenzel usually charges 1,400 euros (\$1,500) for a private one-day class, or 4,000 euros for a group. The tall blond is an authority in Germany when it comes to the art of seduction, giving flirting advice on TV and radio. He says a half-million Germans follow his "flirt university" blog on how to find Mr or Mrs Right. For the migrants, Wenzel is volunteering his time in occasional classes across the country. "A lot of the guys are absolute beginners when it comes to flirting, dating and sex," he said.

### Regular clientele

The class got off to a rocky start. The migrants, unsure what to expect, sat with their coats on and their arms crossed, eyeing their cheerful coach suspiciously. Wenzel chatted about pick-up lines, paying compliments and original ideas for first dates. Impress and entertain the girls, Wenzel advised. Invite them to the theater, rock climbing, a concert, or take them on a trip to London or Amsterdam. That last piece of advice would probably work better for Wenzel's regular clientele of rich Germans; asylum seekers aren't allowed to leave the city they're registered in, and don't have the money to travel in any case. Then he moved on to sex.

"Men and women have sex all the time - on the first, second or third date, that's normal," Wenzel said. "It's not a big deal in Germany." The men in the room giggled, but snapped to attention. When Wenzel moved onto the differences between male and female orgasms and how to arouse a woman, they fell silent again. Several men blushed and others looked down at the floor in embarrassment. One of the students became indignant, whispering in Arabic to his neighbor: "But having sex before marriage is a sin; it's haram!" But there were moments of realization as well.

Asked how to impress a German woman, one student suggested getting ripped at the gym. Wenzel countered that most women don't go for the body-builder type. Another suggested picking up a date in a Ferrari. Wenzel said that would attract women interested only in money. The students readily agreed, perhaps because most were thin and quite always from being able to afford a sports car. When class let out, most of the men said they'd learned a lot and were eager to put their new skills to use. But Kadib al Ban, the perky Syrian with the flowery pick-up lines, remained somewhat unconvinced. "I'd happily have a German girlfriend," he said. "But when I get married, I want to have a girl from my country who shares my culture and my traditions." — AP

## Nostalgic customers still seeking out LL Bean's ol' boots

**L**L Bean is kicking it up a notch as demand continues to surge for its iconic boot. The Maine-based outdoors retailer has leased a larger, 110,000-square-foot building and plans to install a third injection-molding machine to manufacture the rubber soles. It's also hiring 100 more workers in the new year to make the boots. Annual sales have grown from fewer than 100,000 a decade ago to more than 600,000 this year. The company expects to top 700,000 next year and 1 million in 2018.

A combination of form, function and nostalgia is behind the demand, said Willie Lambert, Bean's merchandising manager for footwear. "It'd kind of like everything old is new again," Lambert said. "They're gravitating to the past and anchoring themselves into it." The original leather-and-rubber "hunting shoe" was designed by Leon Leonwood Bean 104 years ago. The formula hasn't changed - they're still handmade in Maine - but Bean might roll over in his grave over some of the colors offered these days. There have been red, blue, white - even purple - versions in recent years. And the new manufacturing capacity that will come online in the new year will provide greater flexibility to provide funky colors, said Donna Berube, production facility manager.

The success is rolled up in a retro trend that strikes a chord both with baby boomers and younger consumers who missed out on phonographs and tape recorders. The Urban Outfitters store in Manhattan currently has record players, old-school vinyl albums and tape decks in the front window this holiday season, Lambert noted. Doc Martens, Levi's jeans and Stanley thermoses are all items that have benefited from the trend. Currently, some

of the hottest-selling shoes are Adidas Stan Smith and Superstar sneakers, designs that saw their heyday 40 years ago, said Dan Hess, CEO of Merchant Forecast, an independent research company.

But retailers like L.L. Bean should take a measured approach to growth, because it's likely double-digit sales growth cannot be sustained over the long haul. "There can be times when true classics become trendy," Hess said from New York. "Teenage girls in Malibu are not always going to be wearing L.L. Bean boots, but they are right now." When it comes to footwear, other brands have enjoyed a meteoric rise only to fade, including recent examples like Vibram's FiveFingers and Crocs. But Lambert believes the Bean boot is different, more akin to classic Converse's Chuck Taylor sneakers that remain popular year after year.

The "Made in the USA" label affixed to the boots is rare in footwear. Well-known Maine brands like G.H. Bass, Cole Haan, Sebago and Dexter are now made abroad. Bean is committed to making the boots in Maine at production plants in Lewiston and Brunswick. The new building will double the size of the operation in Lewiston; the new molding machine - the third - will be installed this summer at a cost of \$1 million. Lambert joked that the company needs to be careful what it wishes for with expanded production. He said that past shortages and backlogs have only added to the hype surrounding the boots. "People always want what they can't have," Lambert said. — AP



Talitha Donaldson displays a label that will be glued onto the back of an L.L. Bean boot, at a facility in Lewiston, Maine.



Eric Rego stitches boots in the facility where LL Bean boots are assembled in Brunswick, Maine. — AP photos

## Bollywood star's literary faux pas sparks Twitter meme

**B**ollywood actress Shilpa Shetty shot to fame when she won Big Brother in 2007, but yesterday she unwittingly betrayed her ignorance of George Orwell's work when she said Indian schoolchildren should read Animal Farm to learn how to care for animals. Far from being a cuddly children's book the 1945 novella is a dystopian satire on twentieth-century dictatorship. The star's literary faux pas quickly sparked a new meme in India, where Twitter users

came up with hundreds of alternative suggestions under the hashtag #ShilpaShettyReviews. "Fifty Shades of Grey is an amazing coloring book. Children will love it #ShilpaShettyReviews" tweeted Vishal Purohit.

"Nineteen Eighty Four is a book about discos, cocaine and lava lamps #ShilpaShettyReviews" posted Navin Noronha under the hashtag, which was the number one trending topic in India. Shetty's comments appeared in a

Times of India newspaper article about a new school syllabus for English literature. Welcoming new additions such as Harry Potter, she said it was important to cultivate children's imagination and added that "Animal Farm should be included as it will teach the little ones to love and care for animals".

Shetty, 41, is one of Bollywood's most talked-about and photographed figures despite not having broken through in

any major film roles. She won fame when she was subjected to allegedly racist taunts on Britain's "Celebrity Big Brother" reality television series, named after the fictional character in George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-Four. Together with her husband she owns a stake in the Indian Premier League cricket team Rajasthan Royals. — AFP

# Lifestyle

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Traditional Christmas goat is unveiled in Gavle, Sweden, Sunday. — AP

## Big birthday, but no candles for Sweden's Christmas goat

Sweden's Christmas Goat - a giant decorative goat made of straw and wood - is celebrating its 50th birthday, but revelers are being asked to keep the candles away. Every Christmas season since 1966, the city of Gavle in central Sweden builds a giant version of the straw goat - an ancient Scandinavian Yuletide character that precedes Santa Claus as a bringer of gifts.

But it also attracts arsonists and seldom survives the season without someone trying to burn it down. To improve its odds this year, the goat set up on Sunday was equipped with closed-circuit TV. After the Gavle goat was torched last year, police arrested a drunken suspect wearing clothes covered in soot and reeking of lighter fluid. — AP



Arab-Israeli rapper Tamer Nafar (right) performs on-stage during a festival in the northern Arab-Israeli town of Sakhnin. — AFP photos



Arab-Israeli rapper Tamer Nafar poses for a picture with two female audience members after a performance.



Arab-Israeli rapper Tamer Nafar performs on-stage.

## Like hero Tupac, Israeli Arab rapper's music provokes



Audience members cheer as Arab-Israeli rapper Tamer Nafar performs on-stage.



Arab-Israeli rapper Tamer Nafar poses on-stage for a picture with audience members after performing.

Israeli Arab rapper Tamer Nafar's politically-charged lyrics have sparked the same kind of controversy that may have made his hero Tupac Shakur proud. Nafar, from the pioneering political rap group DAM, has touched a nerve with songs like "Who's the Terrorist?" skewering what he and others say is discrimination against Arabs in Israel. He has become a star among Israel's Arab population and Palestinians, but Israeli Culture Minister Miri Regev, a former military censor with a combative style, is not a fan. She has singled him out for criticism, accused him of incitement and sought to have one of his recent performances cancelled, helping make him a target of rightwing protesters.

Speaking to AFP in a recent interview, the 37-year-old, who wears a hoody, baggy pants and simple gold chain, dismissed her remarks, saying: "Regev is nothing but a government mouthpiece spreading racist poison." Speaking after a concert in the Arab-Israeli city of Sakhnin attended by about 1,000 people, many of them teenagers, he pledged to continue with his strident lyrics matched with infective beats. Regev accuses Nafar of taking it too far, reportedly saying he "chooses at every opportunity and before every possible audience to come out against the idea of the state of Israel and its existence as the state of the Jewish people." She charges that some of his lyrics justify "terrorism."

### 'Country of my ancestors'

Arab Israelis like Nafar are descendants of Palestinians who remained after Israel was created in 1948, and they currently make up around 18 percent of the country's population. They tend to sympathize with the Palestinian cause and Nafar refers to himself as Palestinian. Growing up in the 1990s in Lod, a mixed Israeli city southeast of Tel Aviv, Nafar listened to Tupac, the provocative American hip-hop star murdered in 1996. Nafar said he saw similarities between

the African-American struggle for equality and the Israeli-Arab experience. "The imagery in Shakur's videos was similar to our reality in Lod-how the police were chasing them in the streets," he said. "I found out we had something in common. I didn't speak English and I used to search for the lyrics in English, print them and sit in school with a dictionary translating them." DAM-an acronym for Da Arabian MCs but which also means "blood" in Hebrew and "lasting" in Arabic-performs songs that are explicitly political.

### 'Go to Gaza, terrorist!'

In his song "Who's the Terrorist?" Nafar says: "They call me a terrorist but I live in the country of my ancestors." In another, he rails against so-called honor killings in Arab communities. Israeli media said Regev, whose spokesman did not respond to a request for comment, took particular objection lyrics saying: "Democracy? Why? It reminds me of the Nazis. You've raped the Arab soul, and it became pregnant, giving birth to a child called 'terror attack'. And then you call us terrorists."

The controversy peaked last month when Nafar was to perform at a government-funded festival in the northern Israeli port city of Haifa. Regev called on Haifa's mayor to withdraw his invitation. Despite the pressure, the gig went ahead, although the atmosphere was charged with rightwing activists wrapped in Israeli flags blocked by police from approaching the stage. Nafar said he was "scared" by dozens of protesters outside. "They were yelling 'terrorist', 'go to Gaza' and 'son of a bitch.'" "It is not normal to go to a concert surrounded by 15 security guards for my own protection," he added.

"There is Tamer the artist who gets on stage and raps, challenging rightwingers and fascists, but there is also Tamer the father and husband who loves his wife and chil-

dren and worries about himself and them, and takes fascist threats seriously." He says he has Arab and Jewish friends who helped him through the concert. A spokeswoman for the Haifa municipality said the event reflected the city's diverse culture.

### 'From that ghetto'

Nafar is not the only artist or entertainer to be targeted by Israel's culture minister in recent months. Regev, who belongs to what is seen as Israel's most rightwing government ever, has taken on Israel's largely leftwing Jewish cultural elite. They have accused her of seeking to muzzle them, including by promoting a bill to cut subsidies to cultural institutions deemed not "loyal" to the state. She was booed on arrival at a recent cultural conference, and hit back from the podium. "As the famous Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu once said: 'Cut the bullshit,'" she said. In September, she walked out of a film award ceremony as Nafar and a Jewish performer read out a poem by Mahmoud Darwish, considered the Palestinian national poet.

"Everything I have done came from the reality in the streets of Lod, from that ghetto," Nafar said of the part of the city where he grew up. "My job is to document my generation and I am not ashamed of using some Hebrew words in my songs." He recently finished a film, "Junction 48," which he co-wrote and starred in under direction by Israeli-American Udi Aloni. It tells the story of an Arab-Israeli rapper, his lover and their feelings of desolation inside Israel. The film was to have been shown earlier this month at a youth club in the northern city of Karmiel, but the screening was cancelled by the local municipality. — AFP